

Edu programme focus on Bengal students

Shounak.Ghosal

@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Shortly after the results for IIT-JEE were declared this year, **Anand Kumar**, the man behind the Super 30 training centre in Patna, had expressed his wish to turn it to 'Super 100'. On Saturday, he'd be a step closer to that goal as he seals a deal with a private university in Bengal.

Super 30 is a celebrated education programme that selects 30 students from underprivileged families and trains them for the entrance exam to IITs free of cost. It boasts of a nearly perfect



score every year, with 25 out of 30 students qualifying this time. He hastied up with the university that will help him screen maximum 30 students across Bengal, making it perhaps Super 60, with half the classroom from Bengal.

This year, Neeraj Kumar Jha, whose father drives a cab in Kolkata, was among those to qualify. While Kumar had expressed his interest, this will be the first time he will be actively engaging with Bengal students.

"Yes, it is a first for me in Bengal, and in future hopefully there will be more such engagements. I'm planning centres at Kolkata, Siliguri, Burdwan and Midnapore in

the years to come. Bengal is celebrated for its art and culture. There is no dearth of talent. We will run screening tests, and the BPL students who qualify will join us in the classroom," Kumar told TOI on Friday.

Samit Ray, chairman of RICE Group and chancellor of Adamas University, that will fund the food, lodging and training cost of the students' programme, said: "Countless students have cracked IIT from Kumar's centre. But in the last 15 years, the numbers for Bengal has not been significant. In the last 10 years, the numbers have dwindled even in IIT-Kharagpur, while students from south and north India have surged ahead."