

Digital archive to trace journey of nation's oldest IIM through docus, pics & videos

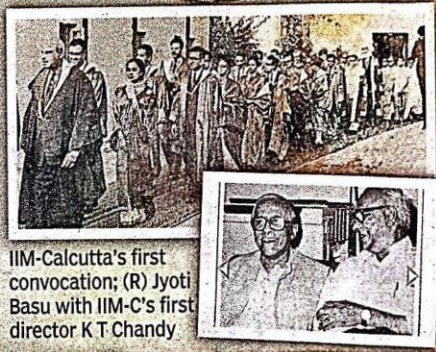
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Kolkata: A correspondence between the first director of IIM-Calcutta, K T Chandy, and the Ford Foundation, requesting financial assistance to buy land for a permanent campus in 1963, an official document revealing there were only two women out of 259 students enrolled at the institute during 1965 and 1966, and rare photographs of the first convocation of the institute in 1966, the Emerald Bower campus on BT Road, professor Ashok Mitra delivering a lecture, Jyoti Basu sharing a moment with Chandy, and Manmohan Singh at the 16th convocation in 1981 feature among history nuggets in IIM-Calcutta's digital archive.

The archive will be inaugurated on Tuesday, the institute's Foundation Day.

LOOKING BACK

- > Established in 1961, IIM-Calcutta is the oldest IIM
- > The administrative wing was on the Emerald Bower campus on BT Road
- > The first classes of junior executive development programme were held at the Barrackpore Air Force base
- > In 1963, classes were shifted to Emerald Bower campus
- > In 1975, IIM-C shifted to the Joka campus



IIM-Calcutta's first convocation; (R) Jyoti Basu with IIM-C's first director K T Chandy

IIM-Calcutta was the first IIM established in 1961 in collaboration with Sloan School of Management (MIT), the Ford Foundation and the state, with support from the business fraternity. It was also recognized as an institute of national importance. "IIM-Calcutta is the second IIM after Ahmedabad to have digital ar-

chives. They will trace the institute's journey through official correspondence, images, videos and audio," said dean (new initiatives and external relations) Manish Thakur, who will chair the digital archives committee.

A letter from then Bengal CM Prafulla Chandra Sen to Chandy in 1962 said it would

cost around Rs 25 lakh-35 lakh to acquire 100 acres of filled land for the IIM. Sen also raised apprehensions of "resistance" as all the plots would be paddy land. In his letter, he said the best course of action would be to "purchase land by negotiation". The archive will also contain transcripts of convocation speeches, like

that of then President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed in 1976, annual reports, proposal to raise funds for the new campus, photographs of campus life, and audio and video of luminaries associated with IIM-C.

During the golden jubilee celebrations, oral historian Indra Chowdhury initiated the process of preservation of official correspondence and photographs by digitizing them. "It was during the diamond jubilee celebrations in 2021 that the idea of the archive was floated and we started collecting material," said N C Ghosh, librarian of BC Roy Memorial Library of IIM-C.

Alumnus and chairman of the archive advisory committee G M Kapur said, "Archives are not just about record-keeping, but should help in disseminating information among the public."