

Panel moots setting up of vocational varsity

DNA Correspondent

The state government appointed committee to promote vocational courses has made a series of recommendations. The chief of the panel and the director of Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning, Swati Mujumdar, on Friday handed over the findings of the 11-member panel to the state minister for higher and technical education, Rajesh Tope.

The panel has recommended establishing a vocational university. Such a varsity will offer degree programmes exclusively for the vocational sector.

The committee has recommended that a single legislative body should be established to plan, promote, regulate, develop, coordinate and standardise vocational educational, training and skill development at all levels in the state.

To achieve this objective, the committee has drafted a Vocational Educational and Training Act and it has recommended that it must be passed in the state assembly.

The act will pave the way for creation of Maharashtra vocational education commission, Maharashtra vocational education and training quality council as well as an accreditation board.

The panel has suggested that vocational courses be introduced at the school level to enable students to get exposure to such courses.

Tope told media persons that the bill to enact Vocational Educational and Training Act would be placed in the forthcoming session of the state assembly. "The state will have a vocational university



Swati Mujumdar hands over the findings of the panel to minister for higher and technical education, Rajesh Tope, on Friday

'IIIT WILL BE SET UP IN PUNE DISTRICT'

Pune district will soon get an Indian Institute of Information and Technology (IIIT) run by the state government. The state government has shortlisted six sites for the institute.

This was announced by higher and technical education minister Rajesh Tope on Friday while inaugurating the new administrative building of Modern College in Shivajinagar.

"Hinjewadi tops the list. The other venues include

Shirur, Khed, Chakan and others. At this institute under-graduate, post-graduate courses and doctorate programmes will be offered by the government," he added.

He said, "The institute can also be set up on the Modern College campus because there are many advantages. The college has been selected as the best college by Pune University and also has received accreditation of A grade institution by NAAC."

where we plan to run under-graduate and post-graduate courses," he added.

There are four lakh students studying in vocational institutions and training sector in the state and by 2013, Maharashtra will need about four million skilled people. However, there is a major shortfall of skilled

people in the state despite huge demand from the industry.

Majumdar said the panel has also recommended industrial collaboration where industry can contribute in setting up of production oriented labs and participate in training of students and teachers.