

major issues need to be addressed for the completion of the line, he said.

One is the removal of encroachments between the Jessore Road and Dum Dum Cantonment stations.

The unauthorised structures are mostly in the forms of stalls and shanties under

year.

The first leg is likely to be operational by this March.

The second leg, till Sector V, is chasing a December 2024 deadline. This stretch has the viaduct in place, barring small gaps.

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In another matter, the same bench asked the SSKM authorities to inform the court about Bhadra's ailments.

The order follows a case moved by a BJP lawyer claiming that the SSKM authorities were not providing an exact report on the health condition of Bhadra.

sought a clarification from the universities regarding the "legal expenses incurred on account of the engagement of all advocates to defend the chancellor" in connection with a special leave petition that the state government has filed challenging the chancellor's authority to appoint offi-

a representative of the (audit) department.

Wednesday's notification is a follow-up to a letter signed by the special commissioner, which was addressed to the registrars of all state-aided universities on December 18, said an official of the depart-

and the state government nominee to JU and another state-aided university, said: "The committee has been constituted with experts to stem such misuse and unauthorised use of public money by ad-hoc VCs."

CALIFORNIA-BASED FORMER STUDENTS RAISED Rs 32 LAKH FOR ALMA MATER

New-age labs set up at JU with funds from alumni

SUBHANKAR CHOWDHURY

Jadavpur: A platform of former students of Jadavpur University based in the US has contributed Rs 32 lakh so students get the opportunity to engage in new-age research in a university struggling with outdated facilities.

Representatives of the California-based group of former Jadavpur University students, which launched a fund-raising drive to help the cash-strapped university, were present on the campus on Thursday to inaugurate the Analog and Mixed Signal VLSI lab and IOT (Internet of Things) and Embedded ML (Machine Learning) Laboratory.

The labs, set up with the contribution from the Global Jadavpur University Alumni Foundation, will function under the

Integrated Circuit Centre of Excellence, which is part of JU's electronics and telecommunication engineering (ETCE) department.

The funds have been used to procure computers and software licences, said Shubhankar Basu, a former student who lives in San Francisco.

The centre of excellence, which is looking forward to producing new-age semiconductor professionals, requires support so the infrastructure deficiencies can be addressed, Basu said.

"Through these labs, we intend to create a full ecosystem for semi-conductor IC design capability on the campus. India today has a lot of needs for the semiconductor. These labs, the infrastructure and software licences are all required to train students so they can create a complete integrated circuit designed at JU," said Basu.



(From left) Dwipen Ghosh of the Global Jadavpur University Alumni Foundation; Sayan Chatterjee, professor in JU's electronics and telecommunication engineering department; Ranjit Chakravorti and Shubhankar Basu of the foundation; Bhaskar Gupta and Sheli Sinha Chaudhuri, professors in the department, at the inauguration of the labs on Thursday. Picture by Pradip Sanyal

The president of the foundation, Ranjit Chakravorti, a 1961 chemical engineering graduate, said they stepped in because JU does not have any resources to undertake such an ambitious programme.

"The state government has stopped providing re-

sources other than the salaries of faculty and administrative staff. The Union government stopped providing grants like those under Rusa (Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan) and others. A team of the foundation, in cooperation with the ETCE department, sought donations

from JU alumni worldwide," Chakravorti said.

He said the centre of excellence would need Rs 1.6 crore over three years to build the necessary infrastructure.

In June 2023, the head of the electronics and telecommunication engineering department had written to the foundation for "substantial funding" because the department was finding it difficult to maintain and upgrade its laboratories owing to a decline in support from the state and the central governments.

The head, Manotosh Biswas, said they needed to upgrade their computers and other facilities because the world of communications had undergone a sea change.

"The inauguration of the labs provides an excellent opportunity to arm the students with the skill sets needed for the upcoming semiconductor manufactur-

ing revolution in India. But this requires funds which the foundation is providing," said Sayan Chatterjee, a professor of the department who heads the centre.

"Gone are the days when a student would equip themselves with the skill sets while working in the industry. Now they need to acquire the skills while studying. Only then will the industry hire," Chatterjee said.

He said that while the placement scenario has been "quite satisfactory" at JU, some industries have been staying away over the years.

"Once the word goes out that JU students are working in critical areas in these labs, those industries will resume hiring," said Chatterjee.

In October last year, Ravi Prasad, a former student of chemical engineering, gifted JU a chemical reactor worth Rs 35 lakh.