India school modeled after US type

By Mike Rodburg

India's Institute of Technology at Kanpur is a new kind of school for India, but Technion might find it vaguely reminiscent of a school near the Charles instead of the Ganges.

Though India has five institutes of technology, Kanpur promises to be far different from the others. Patterned after MIT and other United States technical schools with science, humanities, and social science courses paralleling the engineering courses—it provides the broad base necessary for well-rounded education and research.

Prof. Holt Ashley, MIT Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and a consortium of nine American universities financed by the Agency for International Development helped apply this new concept in foreign aid to advanced education in developing nations.

A study is now progressing to build the Institute into the fast-growing industrial complex in the Kanpur region by encouraging industry-oriented research and training.

Dr. Ashley and his colleagues introduced many American concepts and techniques to the project. One student was heard to comment, "American professors encourage free thinking. We get interested." Dr. Ashley studied at Cal Tech as an undergraduate. He came to MIT for graduate work after the war.

At Kanpur both Dr. and Mrs. Ashley were active in campus life. Dr. Ashley coached the basketball team, while his wife worked on the student newspaper, Spark, and an embryonic Student Placement Office.

The consortium of colleges involved in the project includes California Institute of Technology, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Case Institute of Technology, Colorado State University, Princeton University, the University of California, the University of Michigan, and MIT's Educational Services, Inc., at Watertown, Mass., served as the contracting agency for the group.

The group approach was decided upon so that the Kanpur project would not overly the resources of a single university. The consortium provides a pool of highly-specialized experts to Kanpur, through financing by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). The Kanpur Institute is an integral part of the U.S. foreign aid program in India, hut President Kennedy called it a birthday gift to Prime Minister Nehru, who happened to be in the U.S. on a state visit on his 73rd birthday in 1961.

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