

# 'IIT faculty not world class'



NEW DELHI, 23 MAY: Union environment minister Mr Jairam Ramesh (*see photo*), an IIT graduate himself, today kicked up a controversy by stating what

some in the know have maintained for a while now: The faculty of the premier IITs and IIMs are "not world class" but the institutions are "excellent because of the quality of students". "There is hardly any worthwhile research from our IITs. The IIT faculty is not world class. It is the students in IITs who are world class. So the IITs and IIMs are excellent because of the quality of students not because of quality of research or faculty," Mr Ramesh said. The outspoken minister is an alumni of IIT Mumbai from where he obtained his B.Tech degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1975.

On his ministry's decision to have a joint

## 'Inability to make BSI autonomous biggest frustration'

NEW DELHI, 23 MAY: Environment minister Mr Jairam Ramesh today said "one of the biggest frustrations" in his two-year stay in the UPA-II government was his "inability" to make Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India autonomous. He also said "maximum resistance" in making these two prestigious institutions independent and autonomous is coming from the scientific community within BSI and ZSI. "One of the biggest frustrations in my two years stay in the ministry is my inability to give autonomous status to these two premier institutions," he said at Stakeholders' Consultations on Biodiversity for Asia and Pacific here. "They want to have this umbilical chord with the ministry. Because this umbilical chord is the chord of security," the minister said. **pti**

venture with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to set up a National Centre for Marine Biodiversity in Jamnagar, he said the decision was taken as a world class research centre cannot be built in a "governmental set up" and can "never attract young people". Asked whether there was any conflict of interest in collaborating with Reliance, the minister said: "Life is one large conflict of interest." "We cannot build a world class research centre in a governmental set up. A governmental set up can never attract

young people. Never. Let us understand our experience in the last 60 years. Government research institutions can never attract young talent. So we want to think differently, we have to think differently... how we are going to organise our research institutions? This is one way of building public-private-partnership," he added. "So I have been to Jamnagar and we are in PPP mode. We have a joint venture with Reliance to set up a world-class national centre for marine biodiversity..." **pti**