

Tired of red tape, IIT Indore mulls a pre-fabricated campus

Ashish Gaur | TNN

Tied up in legal and procedural knots over setting up its own campus, the Indian Institute of Technology-Indore (IITI) is seriously thinking of housing itself in a movable pre-fabricated structure.

That would make it the first of the country's elite IITs to operate out of pre-fab premises, without a pucca roof over its head.

The IITI, one of the two youngest of its genre to come up in the country in 2009-10 and mentored by IIT Bombay, has been functioning out of a temporary campus at the Institute of Engineering and Technology and PACL.

The state forest department had prevented it from con-



structing on its premises as 198 out of the 500 acre proposed earmarked for the IIT belonged to the department. The state government has also to pay Rs 20 crore to the union ministry for environment to get the mandatory clearance for the land, but it has not.

So the institute now wants

to construct a pre-fab premises on an area of 40,000 sq ft at the site in Simrol using pre-fabricated structures, till it could have a new campus. This proposal has been included in agenda of the meeting of its board of governors meeting next month. Once approved, the institute plans

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to have a panel of civil engineers and architects to set up the pre-fab building, which would help it to have its own roof to function under, even if the environment ministry does not give clearance for pucca construction.

Sources at the IIT-I said there really are not too many other options. “The institute has been waiting since long to have its own campus, but the legal hassles have been many. So, we

decided to build prefabricated structures to shift to the campus. That would be a better way to use up the money that we currently spend on rent,” he added.

Initially the institute had planned to shift to Simrol by the end of 2011 and had ever inked a pact with the Dev. Ahilya Vishwavidhyalaya (DAVV) to use IET campus for its functioning till June 2012. DAVV was initially reluctant to let IIT-I continue to function from IET campus, but agreed to extend the agreement till December 2012.

IIT-I had rented two campuses - of the IET and PACL - for its functioning for three years. The rent agreement with IET would expire this year while the one with PACL still has two more years to go. The institute presently pays about Rs 6 lakh a month as rent to both.

