

'IIT-I convocation will be held at allocated site in Simrol'

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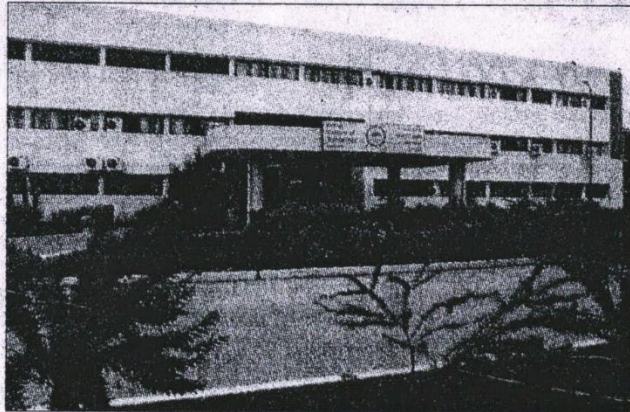
INDORE: With environment clearance and the construction of IIT Indore building at its originally allocated campus in Simrol taking its own pace, IIT-I director Prof Pradeep Mathur has promised the students of its first batch to hold its convocation at the site allocated "even if it has to be conducted in a tent."

The institute has been allotted nearly 500 acres of land of which 70 acres formally needs to be handed over to the institute. "This land was acquired from the farmers and the state has to do some final settlements like compensation and exchange. We are yet to receive this land which is in the middle of the campus land that has been allotted to us. Till we get this, we cannot

start the construction," said Prof Mathur.

Also, till the forest clearance takes place, the construction and formal transfer of land cannot take place. "In a recent development, the environment and forest ministry has given phase one forest clearance and clearance in phase two is likely to happen this month for which the college has to fulfill some conditions according to the rules set by the Centre," district forest officer Saeed Khan said.

However, with some formalities still pending, it seems difficult for the institute's first batch, which will graduate in the next eight months, to get the feel of a 'permanent campus'. IIT Indore was one of the seven new IITs that were set up during the 11th Five Year Plan period (2007-12) and for the last three years since



• IIT Building on PACL campus near Mhow

ARUN MONDHE/HT

its inception in 2009, it has been operating from IET campus of Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya and one building at PACL campus - both at a distance of nearly 20 kilometers.

On its "temporary campus"

last year, IIT-I spent nearly ₹3 crore on rented college building, hostel facility and bus transportation and this expense grows every year. "We did not get much support from the state in terms of providing

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PRADEEP MATHUR, director, IIT-I

low-cost infrastructure for the time being. States like Punjab have done a lot to support IIT Ropar but we also understand that our state has its own compulsions," said Prof Mathur.

With things rolling out well after three years he said, "In the last six months, we have seen tremendous progress in the matter of land. We are grateful to the state officials for that and we hope the final clear-

ances would also be granted soon. We have promised our students that their convocation will be held in Simrol even if it has to be conducted in a tent but we are hopeful there will be some construction at least till that time to hold the ceremony."

Talking on this issue, Mhow SDO Avinash Lavania said, "They have started constructing the boundary wall. Only the mutation certificate to be issued by district collector is awaited."

This certificate states the demarcation of revenue land for compensatory afforestation which is equal to the forest land used by the institute.

The college has its master plan ready and the work is expected to start in full swing in Simrol once the last hurdle of forest clearance is cleared.