

IIT-I still grappling with land issues

Counterparts Shift To Permanent Campus

Ashish Gaur | TNN

Indore: It has literally been baby steps for the Indian Institute of Technology, Indore (IIT-I) with regard to shifting its operations to its permanent campus.

At a time when the institutes of similar stature including IIT-Mandi and Central University of Rajasthan (CUR) have shifted to their main campus, IIT-I has not even started construction work.

Established in 2009 and mentored by IIT-Bombay, IIT-I is still operating from the rented campus at IET building for which Union ministry of human resources and development had sought extension till 2015. The reluctant Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV) had permitted the institute to run from IET till December 2012 but had to consider the letter of union ministry.

However, the IIT-Mandi, the youngest of all IITs, has shifted residential and academic facilities on the main campus whereas IIT-I is yet to

In April this year, the institute director while receiving allocation and transfer of land from the state government had vowed to start construction work soon, but to no avail, sources said

sort out land possession of nearly 37 acres.

On September 23, 2012, 108 B.Tech IInd year students shifted to the main campus. About 20 faculty members, staff and their families, besides a few research scholars, have accompanied them to the Kamand Campus. Meanwhile, CUR too started constructions of its permanent campus in 2011 to the allocated site and shifted in the new campus this year.

Strikingly, the older IITs such as IIT-Hyderabad, IIT-Gandhinagar and Rajasthan among the new ones which were established a year earlier than IIT-I are either on the

verge of completing construction work and shift to campus or have started construction work.

IIT-Gandhinagar, also mentored by IIT-Bombay, has engaged several architectural firms to create the buildings on the campus. "The construction work of IIT-Rajasthan too has started. Gandhinagar will shift to main campus soon.

IIT-Mandi has already shifted to its campus whereas IIT-I is lagging behind of all. Land possession has yet not completed. Even district administration has handed over the land to it nothing has happened so far," said a source.

According to the source in April this year, the institute director while receiving allocation and transfer of land from state government had vowed to start construction work soon but to no avail. The institute has to start construction amounting to Rs 388 crore.

The institute has already received funds of Rs 760 crore in first phase but its pace is too slow.