

IIT-I may power state soon

ON THE CARDS Institute to generate 6 MW solar electricity on Simrol campus; 1 MW for own use, MP to get the rest

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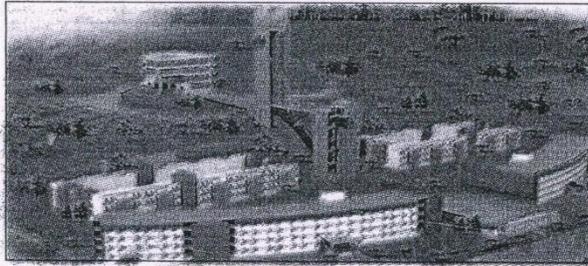
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INDORE: If things go as per plans, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore would not only be producing engineers but also power. Under its ambitious plan, it proposes to generate nearly six megawatts of solar power on its sprawling Simrol campus, and as it would need only one megawatt for itself, the rest would be supplied to the power-starved state.

According to the current estimate, the institute would need less than one megawatt and with all the solar panels and systems in place it would be generating 6 megawatts of electricity in the next 20 years.

When HT spoke to director Pradeep Mathur about the funds, he said, "We are confident that the Human Resource and Development ministry would provide us with the requisite funds. This fund would be separate from that which would be provided for construction. An expert who has worked on solar projects in the state would help us with designing and implementation."

Talking about the plan to generate power by setting up solar



■ The plan of IIT, Indore campus at Simrol.

panels on the Simrol campus, dean academics N Jain said, "We have realised that there is a huge potential to generate solar power in Indore as the sky is clear for nearly 11 months in a year. This would help us in being self-sufficient." The director, however, added that there is currently 'status quo' as the institute has been allotted nearly 500 acres of land of which 70 acres needs forest clearance until which construction and formal transfer of land cannot take place.

IIT-I was one of the seven new IITs that were set up during the 11th five-year plan period (2007-

12). Since its inception in 2009, it has been operating from IET campus of DAVV and another building on FACL campus- both almost 20kms apart. Last year, IIT-I spent nearly Rs 3 crore on infrastructure at its 'temporary campus' and this expense grows every year.

The college has its master plan in place and the work is expected to start once the last hurdle of forest clearance is cleared. "We are running at present. We are not happy. We want to be galloping ahead without having to deal with the space constraint," said the director.

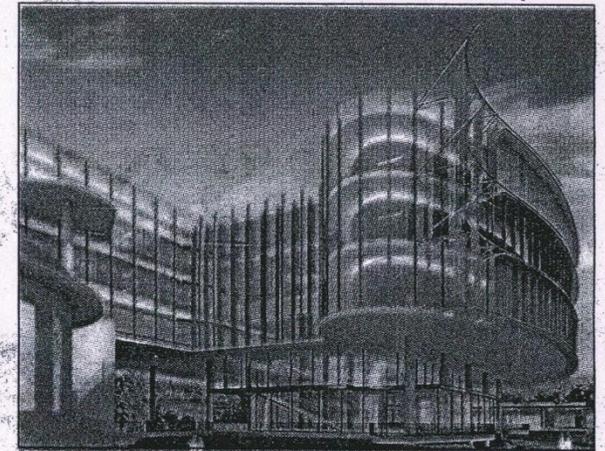
Learning Resource Centre to be an iconic structure

SHOWING the master plan of IIT-I during a press meet Mathur said the Learning Resource Centre will be the iconic structure for which the Indore campus would be recognised in the years to come.

"We would invest more funds in the landmark structure. It will have flaps for sunset control, environment control and it would be a complete glass structure which will have free access of light," said Mathur.

He added that this building would be positioned in such a fashion that the students have to pass through it to go from one side of the campus to the other which would ensure interaction between students from different faculties.

"Science and engineering are treated as two disciplines and our effort is to provide inter-disciplinary knowledge and to make



■ The proposed Learning Resource Centre (Library) at IIT-I.

the students realise that by combining science and technology they can develop

their skills and add to their research and projects," said Mathur.