

Cotarli land for IIT Goa gets Centre's approval

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PANAJI: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Goa, inches closer to getting its permanent campus in the state, with the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry issuing its approval order for the land in Sanguem taluka. The land was finalised for the IIT by the Goa government. IIT Goa director B K Mishra said the state government is expected to hand over the land to the institute in the next two months, following which the IIT will begin work on its permanent campus.

Most part of the 320 acres identified for the IIT's permanent campus falls in Cotarli in Sanguem taluka, while a smaller portion is in Nagvem in Quepem taluka. "Most of the land is in the state government's possession, but few patches are under private ownership. The state government is expected to complete acquisition of these patches and hand over the land to the IIT in two months.

Mishra said once the ecological survey and contour mapping of the land is complete, an architect will be appointed immediately to draw a master plan for the campus. "Once the land is handed to us, the campus will be ready within two years," said Mishra.

IIT Goa, which became operational in 2016, is currently running from the Goa Engineering College campus at Farnagudi.

The IIT will be carrying out an ecological survey and contour mapping of the land for its campus as the institute has taken a conscious decision to keep its permanent campus green by setting a cap on its expansion plan.

The IIT is expected to get around 240 acres of built-up space to construct its buildings. As the land available is limited, the IIT plans to rent out premises from local residents from Cotarlim and Nagvem for its faculty members and other such uses. This arrangement is aimed at helping resolve the issue of land availability, provide revenue to locals, and also promote integration of the IIT with the local population.