

Raju, Virbhadra inaugurate new IIT Mandi blocks

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LESS than three years after Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi started functioning from a temporary campus in Mandi town, Union HRD Minister M Pallam Raju and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh Saturday inaugurated two new blocks at its upcoming permanent campus at Kamand, 16 km from the town.

While Raju dedicated the newly constructed Advanced Materials Research Centre (AMRC) — a block housing labs and sophisticated instruments worth Rs 20 crore for designing and studying novel material — Virbhadra inaugurated the Prashar Hostel building.

Virbhadra also expressed gratitude towards Centre, including former HRD minister Arjun Singh, for “playing a major role in sanctioning of two important higher education institutes for the state.”

Virbhadra also announced



Virbhadra lights the ceremonial lamp as HRD minister M Pallam Raju (L) looks on. At Mandi, on Saturday. EXPRESS

Rs 10 crore for widening and improvement of Mandi-Kamand road, beside upgradation of High School (Nisu) as Senior Secondary School. A primary health centre at Kotla will be upgraded as community health centre.

The Union HRD minister later said IIT Mandi has made great strides and with the inauguration of the new campus it has attained the distinction of being the first among the new IITs to have full residential and academic facility on the campus.

The 530-acre campus is lo-

cated on the bank of the Uhl River at Kamand. The land was transferred from the Animal Husbandry department's quota.

Earlier, addressing the function, chairman, Board of Governors, M Natrajan said that IIT Mandi was among five IITs, which were developing innovative applications for low cost Aakash tablet.

Director, IIT Mandi, Timothy A Gonsalves, said that vision of the institute was to be a leader in science and technology education, knowledge creation and innovation.