



Union HRD Minister inaugurates IIT buildings

Friday, 08 March 2013 22:41 Kishori Lal | MANDI

Union Human Resource Development Minister MM Pallam Raju on Saturday inaugurated the new buildings of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi in Kamand Campus.

He said the coming up of the IIT in Himachal Pradesh was a great event and it could be seen as a turning point for the Himalayan State where a world-renowned centre for learning, research and source of innovation technology for solving the unique problems of the Himalayan region is coming up.

Expressing confidence that research scholars and scientists rolling out from this IIT were sure to take India to global leadership during the 21st century. He lauded the efforts of the Director IIT Mandi, Timothy A Gonsalves, for making the institution in a record time. He surprised many who felt that the IIT Komand was an impossible dream to realise. He was the first to shift with his wife to his newly constructed residence at Komand in June, 2012, to accelerate the pace of work.

Raju assured that nothing would be allowed to impede the earliest completion of all phases of IIT Mandi and Central University in Kangra district and added that Chief Minister, Virbhadr Singh, had played a pivotal role in the opening of the two mega institutions in Himachal Pradesh. He said he would ensure the release of timely funds for the prestigious institution which would emerge as global IIT. He said no quality compromise had been made in the infrastructure of the project.

In reply to the emotional pleas by chief minister Virbhadr Singh and health minister Thakur Kaul Singh, from the stage earlier for good road and air connectivity the union minister assured that he would take up the matter with the concerned ministries.

Earlier welcoming the union minister, Director IIT, Gonsalves, said the construction of 1,15,000 sqm of north campus at a cost of Rs500 crores would be taken up soon and was scheduled to be completed by 2015 for accommodating 1600 students and 160 faculty to cope with growth of institution up to 2018.

Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh thanked the UPA government for setting up IIT Komand and Central University in Himachal Pradesh fulfilling the commitment made on October 2, 2007, at Ridge in Shimla.