

IIM-V to move into permanent campus by 2020

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The IIM-Visakhapatnam, which today boasts of having a mix of students from about 17 states (now from 19 states) of the country, started its journey in September 2015 from a swanky campus in Andhra University. If things go as planned, the premier institute of the country will soon have its permanent address with nearly 240-acre site in Gambheeram in Vizag outskirts before 2020.

A draft detailed project report has been prepared for the new campus and work will be taken up in three phases.

In his first interview to this newspaper after assuming

the (first) director post of IIM-V, Prof. Mylavarapu Chandrasekhar spoke of the nearly two-year journey of the IIM-V and how it has been faring among the new IIMs across the country.

"A lot of planning will go into the construction of the new campus. We want to raise the bar by constructing a world-class campus for the IIM-V. About 60 per cent work will be completed in the first phase, 25 per cent in the second phase and 15 per cent in the third. Hopefully, we will move to our new campus before 2020. The IIM-V has become a success story in terms of industry, students and society perception," said Prof. Chandrasekhar.

"From the Harvard

University-modelled classrooms and modern teaching aids to hybrid library and best-of-class faculty, the IIM-V offers everything that a management student requires to tap his true potential. The institute had created a conducive environment to ensure 360 degree exposure and development of the student. For example, the summer internships, international immersion programmes (IIP) and other extra-curricular activities give students global exposure.

All students have been to China/Japan as part of the IIP and learned global practices at companies like Lenovo, Volkswagen, Tokyo Stock Exchange, etc. Several prominent person-

alities, including RBI former government Y.V. Reddy, delivered guest lectures to inspire the students," said Prof. Chandrasekhar.

Listing his priorities, Prof. Chandrasekhar says that he wants to make the IIM-V an institute of excellence and with a difference.

"It was a great start for the institute compared to other new IIMs. We want to see it in the top-5 league in MHRD's NIRF rankings in the next few years. The IIM-V has a location advantage and we're in the process of leveraging it. We have been getting an excellent support from both the Ministry of Human Resources Development as well as state government," said Mr. Chandrasekhar.

80 per cent placements completed

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It was a promising start for the IIM-V in terms of campus placements for its first batch of two-year PGP programme (2015-17). Half way into the placement season, about 80 per cent of the students got placements across several industries and sectors. The annual packages of the top quartile of offers accepted (top 11) averaged ₹15 lakh while the next quartile

(top 11) packages averaged ₹12 lakh. In all, the average salary of each student stood at ₹12 lakh.

Head-Academic Programmes and Administration, IIM-V, G. Janaki Ramachandram, who has been with the IIM-V since its inception, was upbeat about its great going. "The IIM-V has availed faculty services and mentorship of IIM-Bangalore, who brought a wide range of expertise to the IIM-V. They have handled the IIM-V on

both institutional and instructional fronts. With 46 eligible students from the first graduating batch, the IIM-V got its early breakthrough when four students bagged pre-placement offers from Directi, KPMG, Sutherland Global, and Technology Frontiers based on their performance in their summer internships. Another 31 students accepted offers in the final placement process. One student will join the doctoral programme at

IIM-Ahmedabad," said Ms Janaki Ramachandram.

Ms Janaki explained that even the state government had recruited 10 of their students for consultant designation roles. "Interview process is in one or the other stage for the rest of the nine students. We have even lost some offers as the students were not much interested in the profiles offered by certain companies. We will place all the students before the convocation," Ms Janaki added.

