

IIM-Visakhapatnam deal to be sealed on December 6?

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VISAKHAPATNAM: The Port City's dreams of housing an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) seem to be inching closer to reality with an IIM Bangalore bigwig expected to arrive in the city on December 6 to tie up things with Andhra University (AU) that will play host to IIM-Visakhapatnam till 2016.

According to sources, IIM-B will be taking the responsibility of running IIM-Visakhapatnam at least for the first two years and faculty members will be brought in from there initially to get the institute started. In fact, AU sources, who have been in touch with the staff and management of IIM-Bangalore, said that when IIM aspirants appear for the CAT (common admission test) later this month, they would have an extra option to choose IIM-Visakhapatnam. Highly placed sources in the district collectorate also made it clear that the team to

identify a viable location for IIM-Visakhapatnam that visited the Port City barely a month ago, was quite happy with the 410-acre site shown to them at Gambhiram.

"The committee appointed by the Union government asked for 250 acres of plain land. However, we showed them a 290-acre hillock land and another 120 acres close to the Gambhiram reservoir," confirmed district collector Dr N Yuvaraj.

Stating that the members of the committee have more or less acquiesced to the Gambhiram site, the collector said the director of IIM-Bangalore would be coming down to Visakhapatnam on December 6 to finalise things with the AU top brass as far as the temporary accommodation was concerned.

Confirming that the top IIM-B official was indeed arriving in Visakhapatnam on December 6, AU registrar Professor K Rama Mohan Rao said: "The IIM Bangalore professor is coming on December 6 to finalise the deal with AU, which will house the IIM till 2016. They plan to set up the institute initially in the Andhra Bank School of Business premises, which is a 20,000 sq ft

building." According to the AU registrar, the move would be beneficial to both AU as well as IIM because AU would not just play host but also be a direct beneficiary. "Our students and staff would be exposed to the IIM style of functioning and most importantly, they would help bring the industry closer to academic bodies such as AU." However, sources in IIM Bangalore, while refusing to confirm if the deal was done, said they had zeroed in on the Gambhiram site but were still talking to the AP government.
