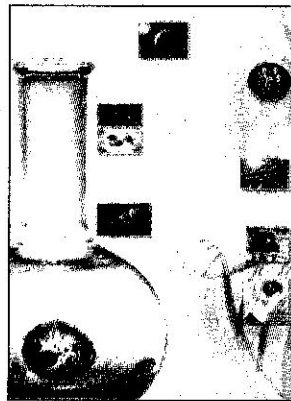# CAF lab to function from March 3

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mohali: The Central Analytical Facility (CAF) laboratory of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) would start functioning from March 3. The facility has 600 Megahertz nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) machine, the first of its kind in north India. This is the first building of the institute completed at knowledge city site in Sector-81 here.

At present, there are two NMR machines of 600 MHz and 400 MHz capacity besides an X-ray powder and a single-crystal machine. More machines would be brought here soon.

While the NMR machines would help in studying the complex structures of proteins, X-ray machines would be used in decoding structures of crystals, sources said.

Around Rs 7 crore has already been spent on the machines installed in the laboratory, that would help 34 PhD scholars and 250 Master's programme students in conducting their research and practical classes.

KNOWLEDGE CITY

Chairman of board of governors of IISER Mohali, Prof P Rama Rao, would inaugurate the CAF, after which, it would start functioning from Mohali campus. At present, IISER is running its class from its transit campus at Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration (MGSIPA), Sector-26, Chandigarh.

The institute has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to execute the construction of campus at knowledge city, Sector-81. In the first phase, two hostels, central analytical facility (labs) and boundary wall will come up.

While the construction of the laboratory building is complete, two hostels would be ready by June. PM Manmohan Singh had laid the foundation stone of IISER on September 27, 2006. Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had established IISER Mohali in 2007 to carry out research in frontier areas of science and to provide quality science education at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.