

After Centre's fund push, CUJ hopes to shift to new campus

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Ranchi: With the Union cabinet's decision to grant Rs 3,600 crore to 13 central universities of India, hopes are high that Central University of Jharkhand would now finally shift to its permanent campus.

Apart from fund crunch, the matter of CUJ has been riddled in controversy as the CBI has been probing into the role of contractors for over expenditure. Talking to **TOI**, NK Yadav, the vice-chancellor of the university, said, "We haven't received any official communication regarding the grant for the construction, but since the cabinet decision has come we will hopefully be shifting the Humanities and Social Sciences departments to the new campus from the new session starting in



July. We have recently acquired a no-objection certificate from CBI to take over the buildings which have already been constructed on the new campus."

The hue and cry over the alleged irregularities of the expenditures on the new campus of CUJ came into light in 2014 following which the CBI froze the assets of the university after initiating a probe into the contractors involved in the project the same year. Since then, the proposed campus spread over 320 acres has been lying abandoned. The documents were seized by CBI and none of the

completed structures were handed over to the university.

"Earlier, CBI refused to grant access to the disputed projects, but we have managed to get an NOC from the CBI Court a few months ago. Since then, we have communicated our budget demands for completion of the campus with University Grants Commission and HRD ministry. We are almost about to finish the survey of the construction work in the new campus to get a correct idea of the pending work," said Yadav.

Yadav added that the last estimate for the campus construction has crossed the Rs 700 crore mark. "Construction of around Rs 200 crore is complete, but we will require an additional Rs 500 crore to finish the campus construction on the current budget estimates," he added.