

Proposal to start KV at NITK abandoned

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Mangaluru: The dream of a coastal district for another Kendriya Vidyalaya at the NITK, Surathkal campus has been permanently abandoned due to administrative and financial reasons.

The Ministry of Education (MoE), then the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), had approved to start the third central school or KV, in 2018. NITK, Surathkal, initially went ahead with the plan, and the same was discussed in its board of governors meeting. MoE had directed NITK to hand over five acres of land to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on its campus for this purpose. However, it has now been completely abandoned. There are two KVs situated in Panambur and Yekkur.

A senior faculty member, who is aware of the development, informed TOI that earlier Kendriya Vidyalayas were completely funded by the ministry. However, the ministry had asked NITK, Surathkal not only to look after the building costs, but also annual maintenance, which includes salary payments to staff, quarters, and other

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aspects. As per an estimate, the initial set-up cost is about Rs 68 crore and Rs 3-4 crore for annual maintenance costs.

"KV has two types of models. The first one is funded entirely by the central government, which includes finance and administration. While second is that the government only provides administration, and finance is looked after by 'host institutions'. NITK, Surathkal was given a second option, but it was not financially viable, and the technical institution could not afford so much funding," said the senior faculty, adding that revenue received from fees is very minimal. "Considering all these factors, the institution decided to abort the plans," the faculty said.

Currently, the NITK, Surathkal has a Kannada and English-medium school on its campus. The KV at NITK, Surathkal, was proposed to help children of central government employees from Moodbidri, Belthangady, and other adjoining regions.