

Finally, IIT Indore's satellite campus in Ujjain may be a reality

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Now that he is the Chief Minister, Mohan Yadav's most ambitious project of getting a satellite campus of IIT Indore in his hometown is likely to become a reality.

The proposed satellite campus in Ujjain, which was supposed to commence classes from the academic session 2022-23, had gone on the back burner due to lack of funds.

While IIT Indore, which already has more than Rs 300 crore loan to repay to the central government, was unwilling to borrow Rs 500 crore for setting up the satellite campus, the MP government could not fund a central government project until it got direct benefit for the state.

In October 2011, Yadav—who is an MLA from Ujjain South constituency—revealed that IIT Indore had planned a satellite campus

in the ancient town, which is located around 50 kilometres from Indore.

The IIT Indore had confirmed the news stating that the satellite campus would start with some PG courses.

Vikram Vishwavidyalaya had announced that it would provide space for a transit campus of IIT Indore until the institute's premises, proposed on 100 acres at an outlay of Rs 500 crore, was set up.

As the cash-strapped IIT Indore could not do it on its own, the MP government got into talks with the Union Ministry of Education to share the budget required for setting up the satellite campus in the ancient town.

The idea was that the institute would also run skill-development programmes from the satellite campus so that investing money for the state government in a central institution could be justified.

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"Once the state's percentage is finalised with the Centre, the proposal for funding the establishment of the satellite campus can be placed before State Cabinet for its approval. Now that Yadav himself will chair the cabinet, it is almost certain that the campus will be set up in Ujjain," an officer in the MP Department of Higher Education said. As per sources, the DPR sent by IIT Indore for a satellite campus proposes that they would bear 40 per cent of the project cost and were looking for 60 per cent of funds from the state government.

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