

Decks cleared for IIT campus

HT Correspondent

✉ editorbhopal@hindustantimes.com

INDORE: With the district administration issuing cheque of Rs 10,70,30,000 in favour of the forest department, the decks have finally been cleared for handing over 200 acres (80 hectares) of land belonging to the forest department to IIT Indore for developing its campus.

The DFO Indore Saeed Khan said that they received the cheque on Tuesday evening and now the process of formally handing over of the land would be completed soon. "The forest department had agreed to hand over the land in principal to the IIT Indore for its campus, but the formal hand-

The forest dept agreed to hand over the land for IIT Indore campus but the formal handing over was pending.

SAEED KHAN
DFO, Indore

ing over remained pending the receipt of money," he said.

Though in principle the money has been handed over from one government department to another, the development of the IIT campus had been struck without the portion of forest land.

The IIT, Indore is being developed on a 500 acre land of which 200 acres of forest land. Initially,

when the state government sought permission of the environment and forest ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) for diverting forest land for construction of the IIT campus, it had been rejected by the FAC.

Diversion of any forestland needs government's permission under the Forest Conservation Act, except one hectare of forestland for construction of buildings of public importance such as schools, hospitals, dispensaries and community halls. However, later the ministry of environment and forest agreed to allow forest land being used as the district administration said no other land was available around Indore for the campus.