

CM announces 440 acres land for IIT-Gandhinagar

GANDHINAGAR: Chief minister Narendra Modi formally announced handing over 440 acres of land in Gandhinagar district, on the banks of Sabarmati, to the [Indian Institute of Technology](#), Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn).

"While a notification for handing over the land to IIT-Gn was issued a year ago, it could not materialize, as 208 acres of land belonged to the Forage Research Institute, Union ministry of agriculture. The institute wanted an alternative site. The cabinet cleared an equal size of land in Sabarkantha district last Wednesday, enabling the institute to let go the land," a senior state government official told TOI.

"The IIT-Gn, on its part, had also refused to take possession of rest of the land, which belonged to the state government's roads and buildings department, as it insisted it should get the entire piece of land to kick-start its project," the official said. Currently, the IIT-Gn is operating from the Vishwakarma Engineering College campus, Chandkheda, Ahmedabad.

Making the announcement at the technology summit of IIT-Gn on Friday, Modi said, "The IIT-Gn has been handed over 440 acres of land on 99 years lease at the token rate of Re 1." To be set up on land belonging to Palaj and Basan villages, costing Rs 1,522.48 crore initially, it was decided to hand over the land to the IIT-Gn on a 30-year lease.

The initial agreement to hand over 440 acres of land to IIT-G was reached on September 7, 2010 between officials of the state R&B department, the Forage Research Institute, the state education department, IIT-G and the Gandhinagar district collectorate.

"10 years ago just four per cent of the state's population used to get tapped water. However currently, 74% of the state's population avails tapped water. All 18,000 villages have been given three-phase 24 hours power. As a result, migration from rural areas to urban areas is down by 33%," Modi said.

Under the agreement, the IIT-G was obliged to free 10 acres of land for constructing road, even as creating proper drainage facilities to ensure that rainwater reaches Sabarmati river via the current ravines, as today, without any obstruction.

Source: The Times of India, 16 October 2011