

'Neutrino project won't affect tiger corridor'

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The diversion of forest land for the proposed India-based Neutrino Observatory at Pottipuram in Theni district is only notional, and there will never be any construction or other activity, Prof. Gobinda Majumder, Project Director, Pottipuram Research Center, said.

Prof. Majumder said the tunnel entrance would begin on revenue land and would be several metres deep before it enters

forest land. "The tiger corridor lies completely within the forest land. Hence, there will be no obstruction to tiger movement on the forest surface as there will be no activity on forest land," he added.

The only activity would be deep under the forest (hill) and about three hectares of forest land would overlap with the demarcation of the tiger corridor above the ground. "The surface facilities are purely restricted to the 26.825 ha of revenue land

and lie completely outside the adjoining reserve forest. We reiterate that the research centre is committed to building a model project with no damage to the environment, no displacement or obstruction to the local people and their activities, and no radioactivity or toxic emissions," he said.

Earlier, Nobel laureates, scientists and academicians wrote to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, urging him to approve the project.