

Conservation plan: IIT-I to conduct study on Narmada

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Indore: Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, (IIT-I) will conduct a detailed study on Narmada River and prepare a report on erosion hotspots, flood-prone areas, sewerage and drainage network as part of the National River Conservation Plan, aimed at cleanliness of river and addressing water related challenges.

A team of six professors from IIT-I will work on the project for an initial three years. The study is part of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and academic institutions of the country under the National River Conser-

vation Plan.

The ministry had signed agreements with 12 different technical institutes including IITs, NITs, and NEERI for preparing the outlines of river basin management plans for Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery, Periyar, and Mahanadi.

IIT-I in collaboration with IIT Gandhinagar will conduct an extensive study of the 98,796 sq km widespread Narmada River basin.

Professor Manish K Goyal from IIT-I said "IIT Indore will provide a detailed water budget report and identify sediment-contaminated regions and erosion hotspots. Detection and prediction of the flood-prone area and suggesting measures for asses-

sing and sustaining the aquatic biodiversity in the region will be focussed upon."

IIT-I will conduct a detailed analysis of the soil, rock, and water quality availability in the region and provide a proper sewerage and drainage network plan, sanitation mapping. The institute will also study the potential of integrated solid waste management practices and viability of sustainable biological treatment techniques in the Narmada River Basin.

The Mahanadi River basin will be studied by NIT Raipur and NIT Rourkela, the Godavari River basin by IIT Hyderabad and NEERI Nagpur; the Cauvery River basin by IISc Bengaluru and NIT Trichy, the Periyar River basin by IIT Palakkad and NIT Calicut. These institutes will indulge in research, monitoring and gathering technical knowledge required for the condition assessment and management plan in basin management of the six rivers.