

# In a first, IIT-I to augment afforestation on 50 ha land

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Indore:** The Indian Institute of Technology, Indore (IIT-I), has been selected by the ministry of environment, forest and climate change for Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), an initiative aimed at promoting urban forestry and tree plantation on vacant land.

IIT-I is the first technology institute in the country and the sole educational institute in Indore district chosen under the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) for the NVY.

An expanse of 50 hectare of forest land will be earmarked for development, focusing on afforestation, enriching forest quality through assisted natural regeneration, amplifying biodiversity, enhancing wildlife habitats, mitigating forest fires, bolstering forest protection, and implementing soil and water conservation measures, IIT-I said in a statement.

A total of Rs 1.98 crore is sanctioned for the project, said IIT-I.

IIT-I director professor



**Ministry of environment, forest and climate change have selected IIT-I under Nagar Van Yojana**

Suhas Joshi said, "IIT-Indore was eyeing this project for quite some time, and we are happy that we have been entrusted with this responsibility. IIT-Indore has been unique in terms of conserving nature, and we have been constantly developing dams, ponds and enhancing the natural habitat. With this Van Vatika coming up, we will have a unique identity as we are the first IIT to get this. Before the grant of this project, IIT-Indore had already been working on such projects, but the grant of this project will further help expedite related activities."

Under the NVY, the govt

aims to establish 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatikas across the nation during 2020-21 to 2024-25.

CAMPA national CEO Subhash Chandra said, "We are aware of the adverse effects of climate change resulting in droughts, flash floods and cloud bursts. The change in the rain cycle is also adversely affecting the productivity of land, resulting in the birth of harmful insects and challenging food security. Through these projects, we intend to arrest soil degradation and improve water content in the rain fed rivers."

"IIT-Indore may look for the feasibility of having an automated weather station on the campus and study rainfall pattern & biodiversity which is crucial for studying nature and climate. The institute should prepare a list of plants, which are aboriginal to this area, and improve the baseline data of the biodiversity and plant around 170 types of trees which are unique in central India. A study should be conducted to see the effect on climate change by developing such biodiversity," he said.