

IIT Indore and SFRI Jabalpur Join Hands to Address Human-Wildlife Conflict Using AI and Advanced Technologies

In a landmark step towards wildlife conservation and sustainable forest management, the **State Forest Research Institute (SFRI), Jabalpur**, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore**. This collaboration aims to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other cutting-edge technologies to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, particularly in areas affected by railway line expansion projects and other linear infrastructure activities near wildlife habitats.

SFRI has long played a vital role in forestry and wildlife research in Madhya Pradesh, while IIT Indore, a premier technology institute in Central India, has been at the forefront of developing innovative solutions for societal welfare. This partnership represents a significant milestone in advancing forestry and wildlife research in the region.

The MoU signing ceremony was attended by **Mr. Pradeep Vasudeva**, Director, SFRI and **Dr. Aniruddha Majumdar**, Scientist, SFRI, along with **Prof. Suhas S. Joshi**, Director, IIT Indore, **Prof. Abhirup Dutta**, Dean of Research and Development, and **Dr. Saurabh Das**, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Astronomy, Astrophysics and Space Engineering.

Prof. Joshi expressed deep concern over the growing threats to wildlife and reaffirmed IIT Indore's full support to SFRI's mission of protecting biodiversity and reducing human-animal conflict. Mr. Vasudeva emphasized that partnering with IIT Indore will strengthen forest management in Madhya Pradesh, enhance forestry and wildlife research, and promote the application of modern technologies to resolve critical challenges.

Under the leadership of both institutions, the collaboration will focus on integrating research excellence, innovative technological solutions, and field-level implementation to create tangible impact. Following the signing ceremony, Mr. Vasudeva and Dr. Majumdar delivered detailed presentations showcasing SFRI's past achievements and ongoing initiatives in preserving forests and wildlife across the state.

