

## IIT LAND-USE PLAN SENT TO FOREST DEPT

**INDORE:** Land-use plan for setting up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus at Simrol in the district has been submitted to the divisional forest authorities on Saturday.

Chief conservator of forest (CCF) territorial PC Dubey confirmed that a land use plan was submitted by engineers who have drawn up a blue print for infrastructure of the institute at 5 pm at his Navratanbagh office.

Talking to HT, Dubey said, "Earlier, 7600 green trees were to be cut for accommodating buildings on the campus. Now, as per new plan, only 1100 trees are required to be felled. In addition, the institute designers have taken an undertaking of planting 20,000 saplings for greenery on the campus."

IIT was granted nearly 500 acres of land at Simrol some 25 km from Indore about two years back by the state government. The Union Environment Ministry has raised objection to transfer of nearly 86 hectares of forestland. The ministry had expressed displeasure at the ratio of trees felled and planted and importantly, the poor quality of land being granted in exchange of forestland by the state government.

At present, IIT, without its own campus, is functioning at the Institute of Engineering Technology (IET), a university teaching department (UTD) of Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya but the rent lease for the same is about to expire.

**HTC**