

# PAIR grant for IIT-I to lead collaborative research network

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Indore:** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore was recognised as one of seven premier institutions in the country to receive the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) grant.

This substantial funding of Rs 100 crore, awarded by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), aims to drive significant advancements in the fields of sustainability, healthcare, and materials science. The ANRF-PAIR initiative aligns with the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focusing on bridging the gaps in research capacity among Indian educational institutions. Its purpose is to cultivate sustainable research ecosystems through capacity building, resource sharing, research training, and infrastructure enhancement. Professor Suhas Joshi, director of IIT Indore, said, "This grant is a testament to IIT Indore's dedication to advancing interdisciplinary research and creating transformative academic partnerships. Through the SAKSHAM network, we aspire to nurture a collaborative, inclusive, and globally competitive research ecosystem that addresses real-world chal-

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lenges." As part of this initiative, IIT Indore will spearhead the collaborative research network known as SAKSHAM – Scientific Advancements in Knowledge for Sustainability, Healthcare, and Materials. The network will operate on a mentorship-based hub-and-spoke model and will include six partner institutions: Devi Ahilya Vishwa-vidyalaya (Indore), Vikram University (Ujjain), IIIT Bhopal, Bundelkhand University, NIT Kurukshetra, and RTM Nagpur University.

Through the SAKSHAM network, 165 faculty members across 56 departments will work together to conduct interdisciplinary research that aligns with national priorities.

The focus areas of the network will include Advanced Materials, Environmental Sustainability, and Health and Medical Technologies.