

**TALKING HEADS** | Meet brought together policymakers

# 'Water security possible only through research, mgmt'

**Our Staff Reporter**

INDORE

Emphasising the urgency of scientific and technology-driven solutions, Indian Institute of Technology Indore Director Suhas S Joshi said water is central to the future and can be secured only through research, innovation and responsible management.

"Academic institutions must lead this mission with evidence-based solutions and sustainable practices," he said

while addressing the inaugural session of the National Water Conference 2026, themed Advancing Water Resources for a Sustainable and Resilient Future, at IIT Indore.

The conference brought together policymakers, academicians, researchers and industry experts. Senior representatives from the Madhya Pradesh government, IIT Delhi and IIT Indore attended the inaugural session.

These included chief guest John Kingsley, an IAS officer and secretary in the state gov-

ernment, and IIT Delhi professor AK Nema.

More than 150 participants from premier institutions across the country took part in discussions on water resource management, climate change, geospatial technologies and sustainable development.

Kingsley emphasised the importance of coordinated action and community-driven initiatives, stating that scientific water management must go hand in hand with public participation. He said sustain-

able water governance requires decentralised models, active involvement of citizens and strong partnerships between government and academic institutions.

Nema highlighted the role of advanced technologies in addressing climate-driven water challenges.

"India's changing hydrological patterns demand smarter, technology-enabled water systems. From AI to remote sensing, integrated digital tools are essential for ensuring long-term water security," he said.