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around indore

IIT-I workshop focuses on building 'healthier' campuses

Our staff reporter
INDORE

Moving beyond the traditional focus on academic performance, higher education institutions need to create campuses where students can learn, adapt, connect and thrive. This was the central message as IIT Indore hosted the two-day Samvardhan: From Academic Excellence to Sustainable Wellness capacity-building workshop on Saturday.

Organised under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP) by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, the workshop focuses on positive mental health, resilience and student wellbeing. The Central and West Region programme, being held on Aug 30-31, has brought together representatives of higher education institutions from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

The initiative aims to strengthen institutional capacity to build healthier, supportive and connected higher education ecosystems. Institutional leaders, faculty members, student affairs professionals, counsellors, mental health experts and delegates from participating institutions are sharing experiences and working on practical approaches to promote student wellbeing.



The inaugural session was attended by Prof Srivathsan Vasudevan, Acting Director, IIT Indore; Devendra Kumar Sharma, Director of Higher Education (Online); Dr Jitendra Nagpal, Director-in-charge, Institute of Mental Health & Life Skills Promotion, New Delhi, and Director, Expressions India; and Dr Jitendra Tripathi, Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission (UGC), among other dignitaries and delegates.

The workshop combines expert interactions with participant brainstorming, recapitulation and feedback, giving institutions an opportunity to learn from each other and develop actionable strategies.

The first day focuses on the psychosocial landscape of higher education, institutional wellbeing initiatives, social belonging and connected campuses, early identification and intervention, life-skills-based peer mentoring, and prevention of lifestyle-related conditions. A dedicated hostel visit and experience-sharing session is also being organised to help participants understand institutional practices and exchange ideas on student wellbeing.

The second day will turn the spotlight on identifying warning signs, specific learning disabilities, substance-use prevention, hostel ecosystems and mentoring networks. Participating institutions will subsequently work on developing institutional/university wellbeing indicators, recommendations and action plans before the valedictory session.

The workshop underlines a broader shift in the approach to higher education—where academic excellence is seen as only one part of student development. Institutions, the organisers said, must create environments that provide students with the support needed to cope with challenges, build resilience, develop meaningful connections and sustain their growth.

Samvardhan seeks to turn that philosophy into institutional action—moving from academic excellence to resilience, from resilience to wellbeing, and ultimately from wellbeing to sustainable growth.