

# Small firms need tech tonic from IITs, says minister

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**Indore:** Micro and small-scale industries look up at top institutes like Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) to feed them solutions and upgraded technology to enhance efficiency, said Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) minister Om Prakash Saklecha on Saturday at IIT, Indore.

"We should focus on the problems of the medium scale industries as they look up to institutes like IITs to provide them with quality research. There is a lot of responsibility on top institutes of the country like IITs to minimize the import bill of the country," said Saklecha.

Saklecha was addressing

a meeting at IIT, Indore to discuss vision and plan of MP Vigyan Sammelan and Expo 2021 (MPVS-2021) being conducted by IIT-Indore in association with Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology (MPCST) and Vijnanabharati (VIBHA) from May 11 to 13, 2021.

He said, "Linking industries with technology and addressing their solutions to reduce cost of production will help in competing with China and reducing imports." MPVS will have sessions addressing and covering topics on limitations in agriculture, seed conservation at large scale, modern and traditional methods of farming, maintaining quality of dairy and bridging the

gap between industries and academia.

Professor Neelesh Kumar Jain, director (Officiating) said, "IIT Indore is working on Industrial Research Park which would work on creating an ecosystem for innovation, incubation, entrepreneurship so that research in laboratory can be taken to the finished product in the market with proper commercialization." Jain said "Education system should be learning centric. Teaching should be research driven which will lead to innovation which in turn will provide patents and property rights. Educational Institutes create the future of the nation hence it should be represented by all sections of the society."