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**OPTCL and IIT Bhubaneswar ink MoU for power sector development in Odisha**

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Representative Image

BHUBNESHWAR: State public sector undertaking Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar for the foundation of OPTCL Chair in the premier engineering institute. The MoU was inked on Friday, January 29.

D S Mishra, Minister of Energy, Government of Odisha, said that it is indeed a historic moment for Odisha to collaborate with a premier institute like IIT for development of Odisha's power sector. Mishra said that the department is happy to know that IIT is not only confined to educational services but also extended its arm for the development of the state. This industry-institute interface will be a golden mean situation for both with regards to research and development.

Sourav Garg, OPTCL Chairman, on Friday, January 29, said that IIT would act as a problem solver for various technical issues surfacing in the power sector. He added that it is a dream come true and they feel proud to collaborate with the best brains of the nation. Garg said that the student from IIT will have an opportunity to have a practical exposure on real-time projects; at the same time OPTCL engineers will have an advantage to interact with IITians and enhance their knowledge in the process.

"Apart from education, IIT Bhubaneswar is committed to the local area and social development through structured intervention. This Chair will act as an extended arm of the R & D wing for the Odisha power sector," IIT Bhubaneswar Director Prof RV Raja Kumar said.

"These synergies are sure to create lasting impact in addressing key issues pertaining to the power sector. We also assure that the proposed Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy, SMART Grid will provide an amalgamation to both academics and industry in general," he said.

The core objectives of establishing the Chair Position of OPTCL in IIT Bhubaneswar are knowledge sharing, skill enhancement and research and development. A Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy, Smart Grid will be established under the umbrella of this Chair position, he said.

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