

## IISER to focus on futuristic science research

- ST Correspondent

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**PUNE:** The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune on Thursday said it is setting up its centres of excellence (CoE) which would focus on doing research in futuristic science areas like neuroscience, surface science amongst others.

"The IISER Pune has garnered significant research funds from national/international agencies. We have two CoEs - one in nanoscience supported by Department of Science and technology nanoscience Initiative and the other from Department of Biotechnology in Epigenetics. New centres in the areas of energy, earth and climate sciences, High Performance Computing, Surface science and neuroscience are in planning stages," director IISER Pune, K N Ganesh told reporters here.

According to Ganesh, under nanoscience, important technologies like nano semiconductor dots for energy generation and polymer nanomaterials for drug discovery.

"Epigenetics is an emerging field of research that holds great potential to uncover the secrets of the blueprint of life. Whole future of biology is now. We are hence actively looking to pursue research in neuroscience area," he said.

The Government of India, through the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), has established five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER). These institutes are located in Bhopal, Mohali, Pune, Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram.

The IISERs represent a unique initiative in India where teaching and education are totally integrated with state-of-the-art research nurturing both curiosity and creativity in an intellectually vibrant atmosphere of research. Each IISER is an autonomous institution awarding its own Masters and Doctoral degrees.

"The students are taught not only in basic science subjects, but also interdisciplinary and allied subjects such as computer science, earth and climate science, social sciences, ethics, history and heritage of science, thus ensuring all inclusive learning of science," Ganesh said.

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