



Publicity and Media Cell

Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur

(Formerly Bengal Engineering & Science University, Shibpur)

P.O : Botanic Garden, Howrah – 711 103, West Bengal, India

Telephone: (033) 2668-4561-63, 2668-0521-25, Fax: (033) 2668-0637

Webpage : <https://www.iiests.ac.in>

Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually inaugurated the DST-IEST Solar PV Hub at IEST, Shibpur today. Prof. (Dr.) Parthasarathi Chakrabarti, Director, IEST, Shibpur; Dr. Vasudev K Aatre, Chairperson, Board of Governors, IEST, Shibpur; Shri Gyanesh Chaudhary, Managing Director, Vikram Solar Limited, Vikram Group, India; Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, attended the event.

Prof. Parthasarathi Chakrabarti., Director, IESTS, welcomed all dignitaries and thanked the Union Education Minister, Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank,' for contributing his time and making this a momentous opportunity for IEST. Prof. Chakrabarti has reposed great faith in the high end skill of the faculty members, researchers of this DST -IEST Solar hub. He suggested that this Centre be made a permanent R&D unit of DST so that this may act as a repository of knowledge, technological know-how of Solar Modules, and Systems if India is to emerge and sustain itself as a strong leader in the Solar Mission globally. Its broad objective is to create a state-of-the-art facility for fabrication, characterization, and testing of solar cells, modules, and solar PV systems. He added, that the Hub will aim at helping the local and national-level solar cell and module manufacturing industries to modernize and upgrade their solar energy devices and systems.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the DST-IEST Solar PV Hub, one of its kind in India, has been established at the Centre of Excellence for Green Energy and Sensor System, IEST, Shibpur, through a generous Research and Development Grant from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt of India. He also informed that in 2018, to encourage and support the cutting-edge research by IEST, Shibpur in the field of Solar Energy and Solar Cells, the DST had endowed the Institute with new grants to create a central Hub with the name of “DST-IEST Solar PV Hub”.

This Research and Development Unit will have world class research facilities and act as the central node for dissemination of knowledge in the field of solar energy, solar photovoltaics, including fabrication, characterization and testing of solar cells, solar PV Modules and also Solar PV systems, for the entire Eastern region and the North-Eastern region of India.

This Hub will help in aligning the national as well as local industries, research institutes, and start-ups with the “Make in India Mission” towards a smooth transition from fossil fuel energy to solar energy scenario, he added. With his faith in the one hundred and sixty four years journey of the Institute, the Education Minister felt that the stakeholders of the Institute could align Vision, Skill and Technology and make India self-reliant in the Power of the Solar Research and Solar Powered Grid and Energy.

The Minister highlighted that a number of industries and research organizations in Eastern and North-Eastern regions of India which are engaged in solar energy activities are likely to be greatly benefitted from this Research Unit. Direct interactions with this DST-IEST Solar Hub will enable the transfer of indigenous knowhow and training for the fabrication, characterization

and testing of solar cells and solar PV modules and systems as no such facility is available elsewhere in this region. Several Indian industries like BHEL, Vikram Solar, Sova Solar, Agni Power, Synchrotronics etc. have already signed MOU with IEST for collaboration. Many educational and research institutes including IIT Kharagpur, IIT Mandi, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad,SSN Institute Chennai, Calcutta University,CGCRI,Calcutta,BITS Pilani, Hyderabad,Chitkara University, Manipal University, Sikkim, have already started using the facilities of the DST-IEST Solar PV Hub for their research scholars.

The Minister said that the students and research fellows of higher education institutes of West Bengal and the entire Eastern and North eastern Region will get hands-on experience in this Solar Hub. Well designed training programs offered by the Hub will also be an impetus to the Skill India Mission of the Government of India, he emphasized. These training modules will be arranged to generate and strengthen the knowledge in the field of solar energy and solar photovoltaics so that in future they can contribute to indigenous development and usage of solar energy in India, he opined. In effect the work of the IEST would be to reform, transform and perform for a self - reliant India.

Dr. Nirmalya Kumar Bhattacharyya
Public Relation Officer
IEST,Shibpur