

## Ocean observatory likely in Puri

**Bhubaneswar:** The IIT Bhubaneswar signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the ministry of earth sciences (MES) on Monday for establishing a coastal ocean observatory in Odisha, institute authorities said here on Tuesday.

Institute's director R V Rajakumar said the Bay of Bengal Coastal Ocean Observatory would be the first-of-its-kind facility in the country. It would undertake research on air-sea-land interactions, prediction of extreme events, marine seismology and sea-level rise due to climate change and ocean acidification.

The MoU was signed by Rajakumar and MES secretary Dr Shaillesh Naik.

The ministry has approved an initial grant of Rs 9.23 crore for the observatory. The state government had earlier agreed to provide land close to Puri for the facility. TNN