

IIT Hyderabad and Coal India Limited Join Forces to Establish Centre of Excellence on Clean Coal Energy & Net Zero

Highlights:

- *Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, in collaboration with **Coal India Limited (CIL)**, has taken the initiative to establish the “**Centre of Clean Coal Energy & Net Zero (CLEANZ)**”.*
- *IIT Hyderabad was selected for this prestigious project, with the grant approval sanctioned by the Coal Finance Division (CFD) of Coal India Ltd.*
- **CIL and IITH Collaboration:** *Coal India Limited and IIT Hyderabad join hands to establish a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence for Clean Coal Energy & Net Zero (CLEANZ).*
- **Financial Commitment:** *CIL to provide ₹98 crores in funding for setting up CLEANZ at the IIT Hyderabad campus.*
- **National Impact:** *The initiative aligns with India's energy transition goals and the commitment to net-zero emissions.*

Hyderabad, 7th March 2025: In a significant step towards advancing research and innovation in the coal and energy sector, Coal India Limited (CIL) a Public Sector Undertaking, Government of India and the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Centre of Clean Coal Energy & Net Zero (CLEANZ) on 7th March, 2025 CGO Towers, Secunderabad, today. This Centre of Excellence (CoE) will focus on cutting-edge research, technology development, and skill enhancement for sustainable energy solutions.

Prof BS Murty, Director IITH and Shri PM Prasad, Chairman & Managing Director, CIL signed an MoU to establish CLEANZ in the august presence of **Shri G Kishan Reddy, Honourable Minister of Coal and Mines**, reinforcing the commitment of both institutions to collaborative research and industry-driven technological advancements in clean coal and Net-zero technologies. Executives from CIL and faculty members from IITH have participated for this event.

The Ministry of Coal (MoC) has placed a strong emphasis on enhancing research capabilities within the coal sector. As part of this initiative, a strategic collaboration was established with premier institutions like the IITs to drive innovation in clean coal technologies. IITH was selected for this prestigious project, with the grant approval sanctioned by the Coal Finance Division (CFD) of Coal India Ltd. during its 368th meeting.

Key Highlights of the Collaboration:

- CIL will provide financial support of **₹98 crores** towards the establishment and operation of CLEANZ.
- The CoE will focus on multiple thematic research areas, including:
 - Enhanced Coal Bed Methane/Coal Mine Methane Recovery
 - Carbon Capture Technologies and Critical Mineral Beneficiation
 - Coal Liquefaction, Gasification & Syngas Utilization



- AI & ML applications in the energy sector
- Circular economy and waste management
- CLEANZ will be located within the IIT Hyderabad campus and will be linked to the National Centre of Coal and Energy Research (NaCCER) in Ranchi through high-bandwidth communication for seamless collaboration.
- The CoE will provide training, R&D facilities, and joint projects for students, faculty, and professionals from both organizations.

Speaking at the occasion, the Shri G Kishan Reddy said: *“Critical minerals play a strategic role in our economy, and IIT-H is conducting cutting-edge research in this field. We, through our Ministry, will provide any necessary support.”*

Prof BS Murty added, *“This partnership with CIL marks a significant step in India’s energy transition through CLEANZ. IITH has always been at the forefront of research and development. With this collaboration, we look forward to pioneering new-age solutions for clean energy and carbon neutrality.”*

The establishment of CLEANZ aligns with India’s commitment to **net-zero emissions** and sustainable energy development, reinforcing the pivotal role of academia-industry partnerships in shaping the country’s energy future.

About IIT Hyderabad:

IITH, established in 2008, as one of the second Generation IITs, has reached a respectable position in both academics, research, technology development and startups in the short span of 16 years. In the recent Indian National Ranking (NIRF-2024), IITH is placed at 3rd in Innovation and 8th among Engineering institutes in India.

It has 325+ full-time faculty, 5,350+ students (PG+PhD students accounting for about 60%). The institute has a strong research focus with Rs. 1400+ Cr of R&D funding (Rs. 250 Cr funding in 2023-24), 11,500+ publications, 490+ Patents (210 patents in 2024 and a commitment to “Patent a Day: Mission 365” for 2025 to earn 365 patents by the end of 2025), and about 260+ startups (that have generated 1100+ jobs and a revenue of Rs. 1500+ Cr).

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