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DRDO starts work on Centre of Propulsion Technology at IIT-Bombay

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The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laid the foundation stone of the first node of a bi-nodal research centre — the Centre of Propulsion Technology (CoPT) —on Friday at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B). Almost four months after the DRDO signed an agreement to set up the CoPT with IIT-Bombay and Madras, Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre on Friday set off the construction of the first node at IIT-B. The second node will be set up at IIT Madras.

Speaking on the occasion, IIT-B Director Devang Khakhar said that the governing council of the Centre had already drawn up the first phase of projects to be executed by the CoPT, which is aimed at conducting basic and applied research in the areas of aero-propulsion technologies. He said that though IIT-B and IIT-M will be the primary research nodes, the CoPT will also invite participation from other academic institutions and the industry.

IIT-M Director Bhaskar Ramamurthi emphasised the importance of networking of experts from various institutes to make the Centre a complete success. He said that it was important to develop new technology along with the rest of the world and not later.

“Within three years, if we can make a difference with the CoPT and build a working model, it will increase support for more such Centres and funding will come not only from the government but also the industry,” said Ramamurthi

The CoPT will facilitate research of futuristic aero-engines, hypersonic propulsion for long duration flights, solid propellant combustion modeling, morphing aircraft and associated technologies to address the defence needs of the country.

Bhamre, in his address, said such Centres were in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Make In India campaign. “The Centre is targeting high-end research to bring self-reliance in defence,” said the minister.