

# Climate research centre gets Rs 66cr

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PUNE: Not a single Pune-specific infrastructure project was announced in the Budget 2012 by the finance minister on Friday. The only solace the city can take is in the Rs 66 crore allocation made for the centrally sponsored climate research initiative, being conducted from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), an institute of the ministry of earth sciences, here.

"The allocation will help us further two key objectives, i.e. development of an earth system model, which will be used for monsoon prediction and development of regional climate models to enable decision-making and risk calculation by the impact assessors," said executive director of the climate change centre, R Krishnan. The ministry of earth science, which was established in 2006, approved the climate research initiative in January 2009 but the centre went operational at the IITM only a year later, in January 2010, he said.

"Our mandate as of now is to develop our own earth system model, which refers to a global fully coupled climate model that takes into account the observation and data from atmosphere, ocean, biosphere, cryosphere etc." he said. This will be used by another group at the IITM for monsoon prediction work, he added. Krishnan said, "People from other sectors like health, agriculture and water management, also need climate projections to make key policy decisions and risk calculation. This brings us to the second important task of scaling down the global coupled models to regional models."

"The resolution of a global model is usually confined to bigger areas covering 100 km or more, whereas the same for the regional model requires smaller areas of 30-odd km to bring out the climate variations from region to region. Once these regional projections are made, they can serve the purpose of the climate change impact assessors from different sectors."

The centre is also a part of the multi-institutional programme for the measurement of greenhouse gases (GHG) including carbon dioxide, he said. "The allocation will be of great help for this programme too," he added. Meanwhile, the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, will benefit from the Rs 70 crore increase in the allocations for the five IISERs set up by the HRD ministry. In 2011 the IISERs were allocated Rs 580 crore. The same has now gone up to Rs 650 crore in Budget 2012. "This (allocation) is good but a little bit more would have been better," IISER, Pune director K N Ganesh told TOI.

While all the five IISERs are going through different phases of construction, the Pune IISER, set up in 2006, has gained a headstart on this front, having spent Rs 170 crore, so far, for its Rs 480 crore upcoming campus at Pashan. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is another city-based central institution which has got an enhanced budget allocation of Rs 185.40 crore as against Rs 149.40 crore in the 2011-12 revised budget.