

## Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune

Press Release (20.2.2026)

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, and Bikaner Technical University, Bikaner, Rajasthan

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- MoU signed between IITM and Bikaner Technical University, Bikaner on 20.2.2026 (valid for the period of fifty (50) years)
- Aims to promote collaborative research on climate change and long-term observations of climate variables
- This includes meteorological parameters and climate-active trace gases, such as greenhouse gases and short-lived climate forcers.
- To establish a Climate Observation Station in Bikaner as part of the Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON).
- An effort to create a long-term, high-quality climate dataset to support the frontline climate research in India.
- High-accuracy datasets will be produced through BCON

20.2.2026; *IITM Pune*: The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bikaner Technical University, Bikaner, Rajasthan, on 20 February 2026 through online mode. The MoU was signed by Dr. A. Suryachandra Rao, Director, IITM, and Dr. Akhil Ranjan Garg, Vice Chancellor, Bikaner Technical University.

The MoU aims to promote collaborative research on climate change and long-term observations of climate variables, including meteorological parameters and climate-active trace gases, such as greenhouse gases and short-lived climate forcers. The MOU aims to establish a Climate Observation Station in Bikaner as part of the Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON).

BCON is conceived as a long-term, high-precision observational framework designed to measure all climate variables across India, including meteorological parameters, greenhouse gases, trace gases, and short-lived climate forcers. By establishing a coordinated and quality-assured system of climate-grade observations, BCON will develop a robust national database that supports the detection of long-term trends, advances climate-change research, and strengthens India's capacity for climate assessment and evidence-based policy development. The high-accuracy datasets produced through BCON will also provide the critical validation and benchmarking required for Earth System Models, including India's first ESM, the IITM-ESM, thereby enabling more accurate simulations of the Indian climate change and enhancing future climate projections.

Dr. Suvarna Fadnavis, Dr. Anoop Mahajan, and senior scientists from Centre for Climate Change Research (CCCR), IITM, along with Dr. Ganesh P. Prajapat and Dr. Rituraj Soni from Bikaner Technical University, were also present during the online signing ceremony.

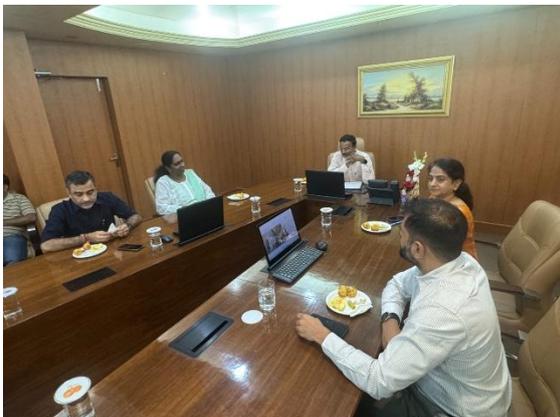
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**Glimpses from MoU signing event:**







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