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New VNIT director to boost ties with industries

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NAGPUR: Pramod Padole, new director of Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT), plans to strengthen the institute-industry interaction and improve multi-disciplinary research to raise its national ranking. He took charge as director of VNIT on Thursday.

Padole told TOI that he, being an alumnus of the institute, can easily reach out to the alumni all over the world and seek national and international industrial support to raise the bar. The institute has a good track record in multi-disciplinary research like bio-medical engineering. But there is a need to strengthen the field and create research opportunities.

The Centre for Innovation in VNIT (CIVN) is doing a good job but there is a scope for improvement. The city has many institutes like JNARDDC, LIT, Neeri and CIRCOT which can work together in varied fields. Thermal power plants too can be utilized for research in energy sector, said Padole.

To improve interaction, bright undergraduate students will be allowed to work fully with the industry in the last semester. BTech and MTech courses will be designed in such a way that if aspirants could not get the engineering branch of their liking during admission process, they can pursue it in the fourth year. For MTech courses, the third and fourth semesters can be redesigned so that one year can be given to industry.

“For this, we have signed MoUs with certain industries run by the alumni,” said Padole.