

Prof. Dipankar Deb Appointed External Independent Member of the Apex Committee for R&D Board of Coal India Limited

Mandi, Himachal Pradesh | 1, July 2026

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi is pleased to announce that **Prof. Dipankar Deb**, Professor, Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), has been appointed as an **External Independent Member of the Apex Committee for the Research & Development (R&D) Board of Coal India Limited (CIL)** for a tenure of **two years**.

The appointment follows a national selection process initiated through the nomination of the Hon'ble Director, IIT Mandi. In this role, Prof. Deb will contribute independent technical expertise towards evaluating and prioritizing strategic R&D proposals and advising on the research and innovation roadmap of Coal India Limited. The committee supports CIL in ensuring that its R&D initiatives remain scientifically robust, technologically relevant, and aligned with national priorities.

Coal India Limited has significantly strengthened its R&D ecosystem in recent years, with focus areas including AI and machine learning for smart mining, mine safety, sustainability, clean coal technologies, renewable energy, mineral processing, waste-to-wealth initiatives, and indigenous technology development. The establishment of the National Centre for Coal and Energy Research (NaCCER) further reinforces CIL's commitment to technology-driven transformation.

This appointment reflects IIT Mandi's growing national contribution in advanced research, artificial intelligence, robotics, control systems, sustainable technologies, and strategic technology development for nation-building.