

# FORMATION OF SAMBALPUR EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH CLUSTER HARBOUR (SEARCH)

The formation of Sambalpur Educational And Research Cluster Harbour (SEARCH), a pioneering academic cluster in India, formed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, was launched on December 26, 2025 by the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during the 17th Annual Convocation of VSSUT at Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha. Initiated by VSSUT, this cluster comprises seven prestigious institutions:

- ❖ Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla
- ❖ VSS Institute of Medical Science and Research (VIMSAR), Burla
- ❖ Sambalpur University
- ❖ Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur
- ❖ Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Chipilima
- ❖ Odisha State Open University (OSOU), Sambalpur
- ❖ Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Sambalpur

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on December 26, 2025, at VSSUT, Burla, marking a significant milestone in India's academic landscape.