

Newspaper Clips **June 6-9, 2017**

June 9

IIT JEE Advanced 2017 Results To Be Declared On June 11 @ Jeeadv.ac.in

<http://www.ndtv.com/education/iit-jee-advanced-2017-results-to-be-declared-on-june-11-jeeadv-ac-in-1709745>

NEW DELHI: According to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, the organiser of this year's JEE Advanced, the results of the exam will be declared on June 11. Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced is conducted for admission into various undergraduate programmes across IITs. The JEE advanced results will be declared at the official website on Sunday, June 11, 2017, at 10:00 IST. JEE Advanced paper 1 and Paper 2 examination was held on May 21. 1.7 students have registered for the JEE advanced exam for the IIT admissions 2017.

A link has been opened in the official website of JEE advanced to check the results.

IIT Madras released the JEE Advanced 2017 answer key in the official website on June 4.

Category-wise All India Ranks (AIR) of successful candidates will be available on the online portal after the results are declared. The text messages will be sent to the candidates to their registered mobile numbers.

According to JEE organisers, individual rank cards will not be sent to candidates. However, qualifying in JEE Advanced (2017), filling up choices and/or participating in the joint seat allocation process do not guarantee a candidate to get admission in IITs.

Admission will depend on the availability of seats during various rounds of seat allocation.

5th Edition of a Global Lecture Series hosted by Shell Lubricants in association with CII and IIT Delhi

<http://everythingexperiential.businessworld.in/article/5th-Edition-of-a-Global-Lecture-Series-hosted-by-Shell-Lubricants-in-association-with-CII-and-IIT-Delhi/08-06-2017-119739/>

A panel of industry experts discussed upon the prospects of future mobility and innovations for future energy security.



Following the first four editions of Shell Lubricants' Global Lecture Series at Imperial College, London; Tsinghua University, Beijing, IIT Madras and IIM Bangalore, Shell Lubricants, organised the 5th edition of the lecture series in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industries, at IIT Delhi to envision and deliberate on the theme "Greenovation- The Future of Mobility".

Experts from the government, industry and companies shared ideas on commercially viable, environmentally sustainable and affordable fuel choice. The discussion aimed at analysing the prospects of the future mobility and how green innovation can help to achieve energy security.

Addressing the 5th edition of the Shell Lubricants Global Lecture series, Mansi Madan Tripathy, Country Head -Shell Lubricants India Cluster, said, "Through the Shell Lubricants Global Lecture Series, we aim to partner with companies and academic groups to overcome the most exciting technological challenges. The program is in line with Shell's philosophy of innovation and collaboration and connect well with Shell mission of powering progress together to provide more and cleaner energy products and solutions. It is an excellent opportunity for sharing insights with thought leaders in the industry and getting to know their perspectives on the future mobility debate. To give an example, a new joint research Centre has been established between Shell and China's Tsinghua University to achieve technological breakthroughs, and find viable energy solutions to help tackle mobility challenges. We hope this exchange of ideas will eventually lead to tangible solutions and eventually contribute towards a cleaner and greener future".

Mr. Dan Arcy, Global OEM Technical Manager and Industry Trade Association Liaison, on implementation of emission norms in India and global said, "It is the need of the hour that we as energy dispensers and users, take charge to reduce our carbon footprints. Shell believes in encouraging research and development to discover innovative technologies that present

The event was attended by experts from various platforms that included both academic institutions and the industry. Distinguished speakers across sectors presented their perspectives in a panel discussion. Comments were made back and forth on specific mobility challenges and solutions, the emission norms and recent trends in green energy. Some of the speakers at the event were, Ms. Soma Banerjee Principal - Energy & Infrastructure Confederation of Indian Industry, Mr. IV Rao, Executive Advisor, Engineering & Director, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., Mr. Abhay Bakre, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Mr. Rajendra Petkar, Head, Power Systems Engineering, Tata Motors Ltd., Professor Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Chennai and Co-Chairman, Technology Advisory Group for Electric Mobility (TAG-EM), Government of India and more.

June 8

IIT-Delhi, IIT-Bombay, IISc among world's top 200 universities

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/iit-delhi-iit-bombay-iisc-among-worlds-top-200-universities-4694012/>

The rise of IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay is significant as Indian educational institutions had lost ground in the QS rankings last year

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay has broken into the top 200 club in the latest edition of the 'Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings', to join IIT-Delhi and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, in this group. With this, India, for the first time, is home to three of the top 200 universities in the world.

According to the 'QS World University Rankings 2018', released on Wednesday morning, IIT-Bombay improved its performance by 40 positions, from 219 rank last year to 179 this time. In another first, IIT-Delhi has replaced IISc as the

best ranked Indian institution in the world. So, while IIT-Delhi has risen from 185 rank to 172 this year, IISc slipped over 30 places from 152 to 190.

The rise of IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay is significant as Indian educational institutions had lost ground in the QS rankings last year. But IISc's performance could be a cause for concern as the institution, which dropped out of the top 150 club in the 2017 rankings, has slipped even further instead of recovering lost ground.

However, IISc is rated the sixth best institution in the world in terms of QS's 'citations per faculty' metric. "This metric measures the research intensiveness and research impact of a university by dividing the number of citations that a university's research acquires by the number of faculty members at that university. QS notes that IISc's research papers were cited nearly 82,000 times over the five-year period QS used for this metric," states the QS press release.

The HRD Ministry is currently working on a framework to encourage educational institutions to break into the top 100 club of any of the reputed world ranking metric.

The ranking table this year has provided a list of the world's 959 top universities, which includes 20 Indian institutions — six more than last year. Jadavpur University (ranked in the 601-650 band), University of Hyderabad (601-650), Anna University (651-700), Manipal University (701-750), Aligarh Muslim University (800-1000) and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (800-1000) are the six new entrants.

Delhi University, for the first time, entered the top 500 group, moving up from the 501-550 category to the 481-490 category. IIT-Kharagpur improved its rank from 313 to 308, and IIT-Kanpur rose from 302 to 293 rank. IIT-Madras, however, lost a few places and moved from 249 to 264 rank. IIT-Guwahati moved from 481-490 band to 501-550 band. Banaras Hindu University, Panjab University, University of Mumbai and University of Pune are all ranked in the 801-1000 band.

"India is progressing in our global rankings. Five Indian universities feature among the global 100 for research indicator. However, there is still plenty of room for improvement, especially in the 'employers reputation' indicator, suggesting that a closer collaboration between the corporate world and the leading universities is essential. India is also less competitive than other countries in the international students and faculty indicators, which makes perfect sense given the huge internal demand for higher education," Ben Sowter, Research Director at QS, has been quoted as saying.

In the overall rankings, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) continues its run as the world's best university for the sixth consecutive year. Stanford University and Harvard University follow as the world's second and third best institutions.

Seven New Research Parks to be set up in India to boost innovation

<http://www.biospectrumasia.com/news/49/9008/seven-new-research-parks-to-be-set-up-in-india-to-boost-innovation.html>

The government will be setting up five new bio-clusters, 50 new bio-incubators, 150 technology transfer offices and 20 bio-connect offices in research institutes and universities across India in order to support start-ups in the biotechnology sector.

In a bid to boost the Indian start up scene, the government is all set to fulfill its promise of setting up of seven new research parks with an initial investment of about \$ 15.4 million each. According to the most recent Startup India status report, of these seven, the park at IIT Kharagpur is already under construction.

Around Rs. 90 crore have been sanctioned to set up a research park at IIT Gandhinagar and the Department of Science and Technology has initially disbursed Rs. 40 crore. The Ministry of Human Resource Development and Department of

Science and Technology are setting up other research parks at IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi and IISc Bangalore.

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The fund called BIRAC AcE Fund has been set up in partnership with National and Global Equity Funds in order to provide financial assistance to new biotech startups. The report also states that three Bio-incubators have been supported by the DBT.

IIT-Bombay beats Japanese institution to win competition in US

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/iit-bombay-beats-japanese-institution-to-win-competition-in-us-117060701464_1.html

An IIT-Bombay team beat a Japanese institution to win the 25th Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition held this week in the US, an official said here on Wednesday.

The biggest unmanned ground vehicle competition in the world for university students, it was held at Oakland University in Michigan.

IIT-B's unmanned ground vehicle 'SeDriCa' took part in all the three events and topped the Autonomous Navigation Challenge, while standing second in the Design Challenge and Interoperability Profiles Challenge.

It was placed overall top among 29 competing teams from five countries around the world.

Qualifying on the opening day of the competition, the IIT-B team performed exceptionally in all the three challenges with a near-flawless run in the prestigious event this time.

Scoring 88 points out of the total 96, it beat the first runner-up, a Japanese team by 32 points.

The IIT-B team was mentored by academicians S. N. Merchant from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Ramesh Singh from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at its Powai Campus.

The competing team was led by Ankit Sharma and Rishabh Choudhary with participating members Anjan Kumar Patel, Ravi Jain, Vatsal Kansara, Surya Teja, Krishna Sandeep and Rohit Bhor.

This has been billed as "the best performance till date" by any Indian team and also raises the bar for IIT-B across all similar competitions.

Goa govt calls off proposal to construct IIT at Canacona

<http://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/goa-govt-calls-off-proposal-to-construct-iit-at-canacona/1070066>

Panaji, Jun 7 The Goa government today called off the proposal to construct the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus at Canacona village in northern part of the state after the locals expressed apprehensions about the project

The Goa government today called off the proposal to construct the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus at Canacona village in northern part of the state after the locals expressed apprehensions about the project.

"There are apprehensions in the mind of people from Canacona about having IIT campus constructed there.

"Their apprehensions are wrong but we have decided to search for an alternate place to have this project," Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar told reporters.

Parrikar said the state government has various options to shift the IIT including the proposal to construct it in Ponda taluka, where two huge land plots are already under consideration.

The chief minister said the site for constructing IIT would be finalised by next month.

Parrikar said the project requires huge land of around 10-11 lakh square metres.

"Having such a premium institute in Goa will help the state," he said.

Goa government's proposal to have IIT at Canacona had run into rough weather after a section of locals did not want to part away their plateau for the project.

Meanwhile, the state cabinet that met this morning accorded its approval for transfer of 4,56,767 sq m of land at Cuncolim to Union Ministry of Human Resource Development for setting up National Institute of Technology (NIT), after Ministry assured to reserve 40 per cent seats exclusively for the State.

June 7

IIT-ISM रिसर्च पेपर्स पब्लिकेशन में नंबर वन

<http://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/dhanbad/story-iit-ism-number-one-in-research-papers-publication-1127123.html>

आईआईटी बनने के बाद आईआईटी आइएसएम धनबाद ने अपना स्थान देश के नामी तकनीकी संस्थानों के बीच बनाना शुरू कर दिया है। आईआईटी आइएसएम ने शोध पत्र प्रकाशित करने के मामले में देश के सभी आईआईटी को पीछे छोड़ दिया है।

आईआईटी शिक्षकों के रिसर्च पब्लिकेशन (पर फैकल्टी प्रोडक्टिविटी) में धनबाद ने वर्ष 2016 (कैलेंडर इयर जनवरी से दिसंबर) में 1229 शोध पत्र प्रकाशित किए हैं। यह 4.33 प्रतिशत है। संस्थान में 284 शिक्षक हैं। संस्थान के सेंट्रल लाइब्रेरी ने पांच जून को यह आंकड़ा जारी किया है। बताते चलें कि मार्च 2017 में जारी आंकड़े के अनुसार आईआईटी आइएसएम 4.07 प्रतिशत के साथ पहले व 3.93 प्रतिशत के साथ दिल्ली भी दूसरे स्थान पर था।

वर्तमान में जारी रैंकिंग के अनुसार देश में दूसरे स्थान पर 4.04 प्रतिशत के साथ आईआईटी दिल्ली व तीसरे स्थान पर आईआईटी कानपुर 3.64 प्रतिशत है। हालांकि शोध पत्र की संख्या के अनुसार दिल्ली में 1900 शोधपत्र, कानपुर में 1428 मद्रास में 1924, आईआईटी बंबई में 2089 व खड़गपुर में 2002 शोध पत्र प्रकाशित हुए हैं। आईआईटी आइएसएम धनबाद की तुलना में इन संस्थानों में शिक्षकों की संख्या भी अधिक है। दिल्ली में 470 शिक्षक, मद्रास में 538, मुंबई में 587, खड़गपुर में 617, रुढ़की में 474, कानपुर में 391 शिक्षक कार्यरत हैं। आईआईटी आइएसएम धनबाद ने वर्ष 2016 कैलेंडर इयर में अपना स्थान बरकरार रखा। बताते चलें कि

इंडियन स्कूल ऑफ माइंस धनबाद को छह सितंबर 2016 के प्रभाव से आईआईटी आइएसएम घोषित किया गया है। आईआईटी बनने के बाद संस्थान ने शोध पर अपना ध्यान केन्द्रित कर दिया है। संस्थान में करोड़ों रुपए की लागत से सेंट्रल रिसर्च फैसिलिटी (सीआरएफ) भवन तैयार किया जा रहा है। एनआईआरएफ रैंकिंग में संस्थान को 23वां स्थान हासिल हुआ।

JNU to offer engineering and management courses, UGC nod pending

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/education/jnu-to-offer-engineering-and-management-courses-ugc-nod-pending/story-DPOJDb9kI5zVtrQBMvEgVO.html>

JNU wants to expand its programme to engineering and management, for which officials submitted a proposal and made a presentation to the UGC.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) proposes to offer engineering and management courses, an initiative the University Grants Commission is said to be considering.

If approved, the university will take students for these subjects from 2018.

The New Delhi-based premier institution, established in 1969, is known for its arts and humanities subjects. JNU wants to expand its programme to engineering and management, for which officials submitted a proposal and made a presentation to the country's university regulator, UGC.

The government-run university can't start new courses without the UGC's clearance as these involve fresh or enhanced funding to hire faculty, build infrastructure, and other miscellaneous and recurring expenses.

Sources said a decision will be taken soon and communicated to the university.

The university is likely to start with a bachelor in engineering programme. The management course is still being worked out.

"All the central universities, including JNU, have submitted plans for the next year ... All proposals will be studied before a decision," a senior human resource development ministry official said.

JNU won the annual Visitor's Award for best university in 2017, which was instituted by the government three years ago to encourage healthy competition among central universities.

More than 7,000 students study in the university's graduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes.

JNU has schools of social sciences, international relations, arts and aesthetics, environment science among others.

Academics apart, the university has been in the limelight since last February when three of its students were charged with sedition and arrested after a campus event in which anti-national slogans were allegedly heard.

Education regulator to replace UGC, AICTE

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/615911/education-regulator-replace-ugc-aicte.html>

The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education are soon going to be a thing of the past with the government planning to replace them with a single higher education regulator.

The proposed Higher Education Empowerment Regulation Agency (Heera) is aimed at eliminating overlaps in the jurisdiction and removing irrelevant regulatory provisions.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is working with Niti Aayog on the plan of bringing technical as well as non-technical institutions under one umbrella.

According to sources, a detailed blueprint of the proposed regulator and its legislation is being worked upon. "Both Niti Aayog and MHRD officials are working on the plan. It was felt that multiple regulatory bodies led to excessive and restrictive regulation and hence, contributed to the lack of institutional autonomy," a source said.

The plan to have a single higher education regulator is not new. It has been recommended by various committees set up by the government.

June 6

PM Modi inaugurates 5th international conference of SPIC MACAY at IIT Delhi

<http://www.ddinews.gov.in/Home%20-%20Headlines/Pages/SPICMACAYatIITDelhi.aspx>



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the 5th international conference of the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth at IIT Delhi.

The conference coincides with the 40th year of inception of SPIC MACAY.

Every year SPIC MACAY organizes an International Convention to expose the youth from across the world to the rich and multi-hued culture of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Modi said that organizations like SPIC MACAY which follows 'one life one mission ideology' have cultured people of many generations.

Delhi breathed easier from January to April

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/delhi-breathed-easier-from-january-to-april/articleshow/59011204.cms>



NEW DELHI: Good weather and steps to control air pollution helped Delhi breathe easier through the January April period this year. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data for all four months shows the average levels of PM 2.5 (tiny breathable particles) and the air quality index (AQI) values at most places in Delhi improved over 2016.

This does not mean Delhi's air was 'clean' but only 'less dirty'. For instance, in January, the average PM2.5 concentration at Anand Vihar fell from 428 micrograms per cubic metre (gm3) last year to 322 gm3, which is more than five times the acceptable limit of 60 gm3. At Dilshad Garden, the level reduced from 396 gm3 to 249 gm3.

Average pollution levels were 1.6 to 5.4 times higher than the limit at all the monitored locations--Anand Vihar, IHBAS-Dilshad Garden, Mandir Marg, NSIT Dwarka, Paschim Vihar, RK Puram and Shadipur.

Weather played a major role in reducing pollution during the cold months this year, said Ravinder Vishan, head of Regional Weather Forecasting Centre at India Meteorological Department (IMD).

In January and February, we had northwesterly winds instead of calm conditions or easterlies.

In March and April, pollutants are dispersed easily anyway." Steps taken to stop polluting activities last winter might have also helped. For instance, the coal-burning Badarpur power plant was shut for more than four months after severe smog in November 2016 when the PM2.5 level hit 700 micrograms per cubic metre--12 times the acceptable limit.

Although PM 2.5 concentrations in May were higher than the 2016 levels at Shadipur, RK Puram, Mandir Marg and Anand Vihar, the air could have been dirtier but for reduced crop stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, satellite images showed.

Reduction in truck traffic after Supreme Court imposed an environment compensation charge (ECC) in October 2015 might also be a longterm factor for clean air.

The SC had doubled the ECC amount in December the same year, and South Delhi Municipal Corporation--which is in charge of toll tax collection in Delhi--now earns about Rs 1crore daily as ECC. An official told TOI that truck traffic had reduced by about 30% after the ECC was imposed. The results show strict implementation of rules can clean up the air, said environmentalist Anumita Roy Chowdhury, executive director at Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

"There is much more vigilance this year because of a committee set up by the lieutenant governor and strong orders from the Supreme Court."

The gradual phasing out of Bharat Stage-III and older vehicles after BS-IV norms were made mandatory in April will also improve air quality in the long run.

"There will be a reduction of nearly 80% in emissions from trucks because of BS IV ," Roy Chowdhury said.

Sagnik Dey, associate professor at IIT Delhi (Centre for Atmospheric Sciences), said "rigorous scientific analysis" of the data will show what really brought down air pollution this year--the weather, government action and policies, or both. "If the actions taken recently are contributing to the decrease, next year should also show the same trend." He also advised studying data from Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad and Gurgaon where similar environmental measures were not enforced.

Bennett university ropes in top faculty

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/bennett-university-ropes-in-top-faculty/articleshow/59008418.cms>

NEW DELHI: There is a big movement of faculty to Bennett University from IITs with a unique structure being put in place. While most of the faculty are young PhDs from top Indian and foreign universities, they are also being mentored by super-seniors for both teaching and research such as KK Biswas and Sudhir Chandra of IIT Delhi, and others.

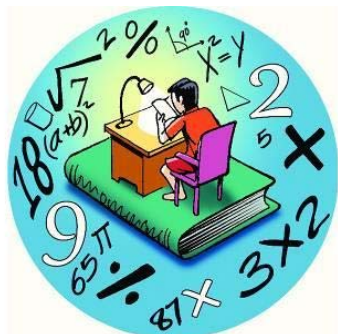
This academic and research based philosophy cuts across all schools and disciplines in engineering on campus.

"The teaching load is lesser here at about 810 hours a week. In the balance time, high profile faculty members can work on their own research," said Yaj Medury, vice chancellor, Bennett University. "They have been very specific about why they're moving here. In addition to getting the same ambience as their existing place of work, they get time to get to concentrate on their research and keep themselves updated." Dr Biswas, professor of computer science and engineering, has had a teaching and research career spanning over 30 years at IIT Delhi.

He has a BTech in electrical engineering from IIT Madras, and an MTech and PhD from IIT Delhi. He is a visiting professor at the University of Auckland in New Zealand and at the University of Central Florida, US, and has worked in collaboration with the University of Oxford and University of Texas, Austin. His area of research is image and video processing, machine learning with applications in activity recognition, salient object detection and logic based knowledge representation in scientific domains Dr Bishnu Pal, professor of physics, said, "That fact that Bennett University has chosen to start a BTech in engineering physics underlines its vision that interaction between engineering and basic sciences, specially physics and mathematics, is the pillar for future developments in technology." Dr Biswas said, "Today's industry needs personnel with exposure to multiple disciplines. There is already a strong demand for management expertise combined with traditional engineering knowledge. We would like to design course structures where computer science graduates would have ample opportunities to seek management electives, and where management and law students would get exposure to currently used tools/practices in the IT industry." A horror movie fan? Catch up with Annabelle online Amazon Prime Video Top university to pursue technical education Hindustan University Recommended By Colombia Founded by The Times of India Group, the multifaculty, research led Bennett University started operations in July 2016 with the promise of making students 'life and career ready'. The university offers programmes across engineering, management, media and law.

IITs to give 11 marks bonus for 3 'ambiguous' JEE (A) questions

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/iits-to-give-11-marks-bonus-for-3-ambiguous-jee-a-questions/articleshow/58990848.cms>



MUMBAI: Premier IITs will give away 11 marks as bonus to all students for three 'ambiguous' questions asked in the JEE (Advanced) on May 21. Two questions were from the mathematics section and one from physics. In two other questions - from physics and chemistry - marks will be given for any of the two answers given by the IITs. The decision was taken after an internal review of question papers by experts from the IITs. The answer key for JEE (A) held on May 21 was released on Sunday.

V V Acharya, a teacher from Pace Junior Science College, said no one could solve the physics question on rotational dynamics. "What was wanted in the question was not clearly known. The IITs have rightly decided to give bonus marks for that question. The other question, which was from the same topic, could have been interpreted in more than one way.

Some students may have wanted to challenge it but the IITs will give marks for both the right answers," said the teacher.

In the mathematics section, one question for which bonus marks will be given, was incorrect; no answer was matching, said a teacher. "In the other question, we were not anticipating bonus marks, but IIT played it safe as there was ambiguity," added the teacher. In one question in chemistry, students will get marks for any one of the two right options.

Shreyas Shashishekhar, a student from Thakur Vidya Mandir Junior Science College, said he was benefiting from only one question for which bonus marks were given as he had tried the other two. He is expecting 272 marks out of 366. Students can send their feedback till 5pm on June 6. If any challenges are valid and genuine, it will be incorporated in the final answer key. Around 1.74 lakh students had registered for the test from across the country. The answer key of the paper was released online after experts reviewed it.

In 2016, students got bonus marks for three questions, and in 2015, they got bonus for only one ambiguous question. The IITs continued to give away partial marks for students who appeared for the test. As per the scheme introduced last year, students will get one mark for each of the correct options in questions which have multiple right answers, provided no incorrect option is selected.

IIT, US varsity to study climate change impact

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/iit-us-varsity-to-study-climate-change-impact-4690785/>

IIT-Kharagpur has joined hands with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) to conduct a study into the effects of climate change on tea production and wetlands in West Bengal.

IIT-Kharagpur will team up with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) to conduct a study into the effects of climate change on tea production and wetlands in the state, said a statement issued by the institute on Monday.

The Department of Architecture and Regional Planning (DARP) in IIT-Kgp and the Department of Geography and Regional Planning in IUP are collaborating as part of the 'Summer Study Abroad Programme' in India.

"Through this study, we are taking a look at what the special factors responsible for giving Darjeeling tea its unique muscatel flavour and exquisite banquet are. From environmental perspectives, we will analyse how climate change has been affecting the tea industry. We will also try to look at how tea gardens are evolving or changing their production process in response to this," said Dr Haimanti Banerjee, principal coordinator of the programme for IIT-Kgp.

Banerjee will be heading the project along with Prof Subrata Chattopadhyay, head of DARP. Seven students and two faculty members of IUP have arrived in Kolkata, and a joint one-day workshop was held at American Centre in Kolkata on Monday.

"Tea is something that the whole world can relate to, even Starbucks has introduced chai latte to their menu. And when we talk about tea, it is the world-famous Darjeeling tea that comes to the mind. This research will focus on the socio-economic and geographic issues of tea plantations, and how they are impacted by climate change. Darjeeling has been selected as the test-bed for this year," said Dr Sudeshna Ghosh, IUP's principal coordinator along with Dr Brian Okey.

Students from both institutes will visit Makaibari Tea Estate and Darjeeling Tea Research & Development Centre at Kurseong this month as part of their field study. "We will also have to collect weather-related data of the region over the past 50 years to understand the extent of climate change, the impact and whether it influences Darjeeling tea's unique aroma," Ghosh added.

IIT-Ropar inks pact with TAL

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/chandigarh/iit-ropar-inks-pact-with-tal/418206.html>

IIT-Ropar has inked a pact with TAL Manufacturing Solutions Limited, a subsidiary of Tata Motors, to set up a robotics and automation laboratory on its campus. The pact is aimed at conducting industrial activities, promoting employment and skill development opportunities and para-professional training courses, said IIT Director Sarit K Das.

It involves promoting mutual interest in the field of robotics and industrial automation and encouraging students to undertake special training in the field, he said.