

# Peer deeper into space and fetch masters degree

## IIT soon to launch dedicated PG course in Astronomy

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If celestial objects like sun, moon and stars fascinate you and you want to know more about them enrol yourself in a master's degree course in Astronomy soon to be offered by Indian Institute of Technology Indore.

IIT Indore has announced plans to launch a postgraduate degree course exclusively in Astronomy this year.

"IIT Indore already offers courses related to astronomy and space navigation for undergraduate, post-graduate and PhD level students. Now, a dedicated master's programme in astronomy is scheduled to start from 2018," said IIT Indore.

The course will be offered by Centre of Astronomy at the elite technical institute located about 30 kilometre away from Indore. Students of this programme will be able to use state-of-art facilities at the centre, including radio telescope commis-



Radio Telescope at IIT Indore FILE PHOTO

terious lives of galaxies & galaxy clusters.

Centre of Astronomy is an interdisciplinary centre at IIT-Indore focusing on a wide range of topics related to Astronomy and Space

weather and navigation studies. This centre was initiated in December, 2015.

This interdisciplinary centre is a unique department among all IITs that offers a dedicated and focused plat-

## CENTRE OF ASTRONOMY ACTIVITIES

Centre of Astronomy is involved in developing a number of high-end research facilities. Facilities that are being developed in the centre include AL-band observing facility under an approved DST SERB grant Ionospheric monitoring facility (ISRO project); planned high-performance computing facility, Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receivers capable of receiving IRNSS (L5 and S band), GPS (L1, L2), Glonass and Galileo signals. Alongside several ongoing projects the centre has currently about Rs 180 lakhs of external funding and also, active collaborations with University of Colorado Boulder, University of Turin, MPIA, Sabanci University and many others. MoUs have been signed with several international institutions and organisations including SKA, UW Madison and University of Colorado Boulder towards research and development. Apart from various research activities the department is also extensively involved in teaching as well.

form to pursue research in Astronomy. Currently, it has four core members, one visiting faculty and three asso-

ciate members from other disciplines.

"We have varied research interests in radio astronomical instrumentation, observational cosmology, atmospheric corruptions and ionospheric turbulences, computational astrophysics, MHD simulations, high energy astrophysics and compact object physics," said centre head Abhirup Datta.

Since February, 2015 the institute is also one of the founder members of the Square Kilometer Array - India (SKA-I) consortium. IIT Indore faculty members are actively involved in SKA-related research.