

IISER ties up with UK univ for studies in atomic physics

Pune: Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, is partnering with scientists from the UK to develop talent and innovation in a progressive branch of atomic physics.

IISER, Pune, has collaborated with University of Birmingham's School of Physics and Astronomy to develop a curriculum, computer-based learning and experimental tool design and knowledge transfer in the area of ultra-cold atoms, a statement released jointly by IISER and the University of Birmingham on Wednesday said.

This complex field of study is concerned with cooling atoms down to some millionth of a degree above absolute zero through the use of laser technology. Research in ultra-cold atoms has gained enormous momentum in the last decade.

Experimental and theoretical investigations have opened a broad range of possible applications, including high pre-

cision atomic clocks, for use in everything from communications to satellite navigation.

The statement said the Birmingham-IISER partnership will pave the way for students to acquire the highly-developed experimental and theoretical skills and knowledge of cutting-edge technologies required for research in this discipline.

In addition, it will bridge the gap between academia and industry through a workshop to be held in India this summer involving education and business partners.

"A major barrier in reaching excellence in ultra-cold atoms research is the availability of suitably trained manpower," Kai Bongs, collaborator from the University of Birmingham, said.

"The project with IISER aims to create an emerging group of international researchers to boost industrial research and development and innovation in this area," he said. TNN