

## IISER to start course in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences soon

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**Pune** : Strengthening their tie-up with the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) is all set to start a course in Earth and Atmospheric Science from next year. While the course will be introduced at the core level, it will be offered to IISER students in the advanced course with the help of IITM.

At a function to commemorate the 52nd foundation day of IITM, Prof KN Ganesh, Director, IISER said the course will help students have a better understanding on atmospheric sciences. He acknowledged contributions made to the areas of atmospheric sciences, climate change research, and monsoon prediction.

“IITM has taken a lead role in various cutting-edge research areas, especially monsoon prediction. Predicting monsoon is a tough job. However, IITM fraternity is doing it with great success, which is remarkable,” said Ganesh. With a course in offing for IISER students, he said they would rope in faculty from meteorological sciences to help them understand the course better.

Speaking on the issues related to science education in India, he said, “We require excellence in science education right from school to post doctoral level which can be achieved by developing world class research and development infrastructure, a good ambience and work culture, global collaboration, and infusion of team work among students.”

He emphasised the need for attracting talented people in science teaching profession. “Our education should focus on problem-solving while students learn at home through media,” he said.

Prof Wojciech Grabowski, a senior scientist at National Centre for Atmospheric Research, USA, was also present.

While giving a lecture on, Clouds, Climate and Climate Change, he highlighted the key role played by clouds in the climate system and how they drive the atmospheric circulations by heating the atmospheric column. He said quantifying the role of clouds in the climate system could pave a way to understand the role of clouds on climate change.

Prof BN Goswami, Director, IITM, gave an overview of the achievements of the institute. “While the quality and quantity of IITM’s research publications has increased four times, the impact has gone up eight fold,” he said. Among the achievements he listed dynamical systems in seasonal and extended range prediction of monsoon by using coupled forecast models, air quality forecasting, high performance computing, and high altitude cloud physics laboratory at Mahabaleshwar.