

IIT-K students develop nano satellite

THE SATELLITE, to be launched by ISRO, will be used to collect information for flood, drought and disaster management

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KANPUR: Students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-K) have succeeded in developing the first indigenous nano satellite at the Institute in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

The fully developed nano satellite is likely to be handed over for launch to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) sometime in November, as part of the year-long golden jubilee celebrations at IIT-K beginning from August.

The nano satellite, developed by a team of students led by Santanu Agarwal, entailed an expenditure of Rs 2.5 crore, said director of the IIT-K Dr Sanjay G Dhande.

The nano satellite has been named as *Jugnu* and it will be used to collect information for flood, drought and disaster management. It can also be used for gathering security related information. It will be fitted with high definition cameras to capture detailed images to enable data analysis.

According to Prof. N. S. Vyas

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of the Mechanical Engineering Department, who has taken the lead in a joint IIT-K-ISRO programme for developing and launching *Jugnu*, the nano satellite will carry an indigenously developed imaging system, a GPS system and MEMS based inertial measurement unit as payloads.

A ground-station is being built at IIT Kanpur for monitoring its activities and for data communication. The data from the nano-satellite will be used for multiple purposes.

IIT Kanpur and ISRO have envisaged a long term association with more such satellite launches in future, he said.

An MoU was signed with ISRO on January 8 this year to support the design, development and launch of the nano satellite.

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