

31 HP and J&K Class 11 Top-Level Students Complete a 2-week Science & Technology Program (STEP) at IIT Mandi

27 top-level Class 11 students from the Bilaspur, Chamba, Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, and Una districts of Himachal Pradesh, and 4 students from the Samba district of Jammu & Kashmir, were recently selected on the basis of their Class 10 Board results for a 2-week Science & Technology program (STEP) at the IIT Mandi Campus in Kamand in Mandi district. The aim of the program was for the students, to experience the various fascinating areas which are open to those, who go for advanced studies in Science & Technology. Thus, the goal was not only to motivate the students to pursue a bachelor's degree in Science & Technology but to also to go for advance studies and tackle the which our country and world is facing.



H.P. and J&K Class 11 Bright Students in a Laboratory at IIT Mandi

The students had interactive sessions with over 40 faculty members of IIT Mandi and over 20 Ph.D research scholars from a wide range of disciplines, with Prof. Bhavender Paul as the Coordinator. The students gained basic skills such as communication and presentations, computers and e-mail, career planning; learned in depth about civil, electrical, mechanical, and computer engineering, biosciences, computer-aided design, astronomy; and explored areas such as sensors, signal processing and instrumentation, photovoltaic and other renewable energy technologies, potential for medicines from medicinal plants. A substantial portion of their time was in the IIT Mandi laboratories where they learned about 3-D printing, nanomaterials, superconductivity, and electron microscopy. The students even had a chance to experience the operation of a drone (see photo).



H.P. and J&K Class 11 Bright Students Operating & Observing the Operation of a Drone at IIT Mandi

This batch of 31 bright and enthusiastic high school students experienced the life at an IIT by staying in the hostels, having their meals with the IIT students and faculty in the mess hall, and by participating in physical and cultural activities. They appear to have enjoyed the experience so much that they were almost reluctant to leave the IIT campus at the end of their 2-week stay.



Class 11 Bright Students from H.P. and J&K with some of the IIT Mandi Faculty