IIT Kharagpur at 75: Google's $5 million for AI; ₹75 coin unveiled

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News

As IIT Kharagpur – India's first IIT – celebrated its 75th year (Platinum Jubilee), Google announced on 21 November 2026 funding of 5 million US dollars (about ₹46 crore) for advanced artificial intelligence (AI) research (PTI – Business Standard). The money will support three pillars: research in AI for Indic languages, materials science, agriculture and educational technology; AI training and curriculum development for students and faculty; and AI frameworks and tooling across the campus. Google CEO Sundar Pichai is an alumnus of the institute. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who visited the campus the same day, interacted with 75 students under '75 Voices for Viksit Bharat' and unveiled a special ₹75 commemorative coin marking 75 years (PTI). The 40-gram coin of 99.9% pure silver bears the National Emblem on one side and the IIT Kharagpur Platinum Jubilee logo on the other (PTI); according to the Union Finance Ministry's notification (G.S.R. 547(E), 12 August 2025) it is 44 mm in diameter with 200 serrations, and it is struck at the Kolkata Mint (IANS). West Bengal Governor R.N. Ravi, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar accompanied the PM (PTI).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Institute	IIT Kharagpur – 1951, India's first IIT
Location	Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal

Point	Details
Google funding	USD 5 million (about ₹46 crore), 21.11.2026
Three pillars	AI research, educational opportunities, AI capacity building
Research areas	Indic-language AI, materials science, agriculture, edtech
Commemorative coin	₹75; 99.9% silver; 40 g; 44 mm; 200 serrations (G.S.R. 547(E), 12.08.2025)
Minted at	India Government Mint, Kolkata
PM visit	21.11.2026 – '75 Voices for Viksit Bharat' interaction
Director	Prof. Suman Chakraborty

Background

- History: IIT Kharagpur began in 1951 in the Hijli Detention Camp building near Kharagpur. A 1956 Act of Parliament declared it an 'Institute of National Importance'. IITs are now governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.
- Coins: in India the Central Government is responsible for designing and minting coins (Coinage Act, 2011), while the RBI puts them into circulation. SPMCIL, a central PSU, runs the four India Government Mints at Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Noida. Commemorative coins are generally not for circulation and are sold to collectors.
- Science and technology: Sundar Pichai studied B.Tech in Metallurgical Engineering at IIT Kharagpur. Indic-language AI and AI for agriculture match the goals of the IndiaAI Mission, approved by the Union Cabinet on 7 March 2024 with an outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore (PIB). Google said the programme will help realise the PM's vision of AI benefits reaching everyone.

Tamil Nadu link: Sundar Pichai grew up in Chennai. In August 2024, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released a ₹100 coin in Chennai marking the birth centenary of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi (News On AIR). West Bengal Governor R.N. Ravi earlier served as Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Institute: IIT Kharagpur – 1951, India's first IIT; Location: Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal; Google funding: USD 5 million (about ₹46 crore), 21.11.2026; Three pillars: AI research, educational opportunities, AI capacity building.

What is the background to this news?

History: IIT Kharagpur began in 1951 in the Hijli Detention Camp building near Kharagpur. A 1956 Act of Parliament declared it an 'Institute of National Importance'.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Google CEO Sundar Pichai, an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur, did his B.Tech there in which branch?

A) Metallurgical Engg

B) Computer Science

C) Electrical Engg

D) Mechanical Engg

Answer: A – Explanation: Metallurgical Engineering. He later did an MS at Stanford and an MBA at Wharton, becoming Google CEO in 2015.

2. The ₹75 commemorative coin for IIT Kharagpur's Platinum Jubilee is made of:

A) 99.9% pure silver

B) Cupro-nickel

C) Nickel-brass

D) 22-carat gold

Answer: A – Explanation: 99.9% pure silver – 40 g, 44 mm, 200 serrations (Finance Ministry notification G.S.R. 547(E), 12 August 2025). Cupro-nickel and nickel-brass are base-metal coin alloys.

3. The IndiaAI Mission, whose goals this AI research funding supports, was approved by the Union Cabinet in which year?

A) 2024

B) 2021

C) 2023

D) 2025

Answer: A – Explanation: 2024 – approved on 7 March 2024 with an outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore (PIB).

4. Kharagpur, home of IIT Kharagpur – India's first IIT – lies in which district of West Bengal?

A) Purba Medinipur

B) Paschim Medinipur

C) Bankura

D) Howrah

Answer: B – Explanation: Paschim Medinipur (West Midnapore). IIT Kharagpur began in 1951 in the old Hijli Detention Camp building.

5. In which district of West Bengal is IIT Kharagpur located?

A) Purba Medinipur

B) Paschim Medinipur

C) Bankura

D) Hooghly

Answer: B – Explanation: Paschim Medinipur (West Midnapore). Kharagpur is also a major Indian Railways junction.

Sources: Business Standard (PTI), 21 Nov 2026; OrissaPOST (PTI), 21 Nov 2026 (coin unveiled); ThePrint (PTI), 20 Nov 2026 (PM programme, accompanying dignitaries); IANS, 21 Nov 2026 (Google fund) and 2025 (coin); e-Gazette G.S.R. 547(E), 12 Aug 2025

(coin specifications); IIT Kharagpur Platinum Jubilee site (iitkgp.ac.in/pj); PIB (IndiaAI Mission, 7 Mar 2024); News On AIR, 18 Aug 2024; SPMCIL; India Code – Coinage Act, 2011. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.