



# Tennessee TECH

<https://www.tntech.edu>

<https://www.tntech.edu/engineering/news-events/news/2013-2014-coe-news/baja-team-travels-to-india>

## Baja Team Makes Plans to Visit India in August 2014



This summer, a group of students and faculty from Tennessee Tech University's College of Engineering will visit India for approximately two weeks, where they will advise Indian teams on building a competitive SAE Baja car and go on technical visits, sightseeing and cultural exchanges.

The Baja team will be accompanied by TTU professors, Dale Wilson, of mechanical engineering, and Satish Mahajan, of electrical and computer engineering.

"Our students will be giving workshops in three different places that will be attended by over 1000 students from India. Our students are excited and looking forward to the visit," Dr. Wilson said. "This will be our first trip to that part of the world and we are going to rely on Dr. Mahajan to guide us throughout our trip with do's and don'ts with Indian culture, food and etiquette." The trip's cultural exchange will include

sightseeing visits to Mahabalipuram and the stone sculptures near Chennai and the Golden Temple at Vellore.

The tentative plans are for nine TTU students and two faculty advisors to visit India and conduct workshops at three different universities on how to design and build a Baja vehicle that wins competition. The TTU Baja vehicle that won first place in the 2011 race will be shipped before the students arrive to India for demonstrations and racing.

In addition to conducting workshops on winning strategies and demonstrating the vehicle, the students will tour Cummins and John Deere tech centers in Pune, India. The trip is made possible by grants and support from TTU's study abroad program, College of Engineering, and Cummins Corporation, Cookeville.

After a recent visit from K.C. Vora, deputy director of the Automotive Research Association of India, TTU entered into a memorandum of understanding that lays out plans for partnership in academics, research and funding. ARAI, founded in 1966, is India's premier institute for automotive standards, research and information.

"We are establishing a one-of-a-kind 4-way global collaboration among the four constituents involved namely, TTU, Cummins, COEP and ARAI, and I am very excited about this opportunity," Rao said. "This will benefit students from both countries, in this globally connected world."

Collaboration between TTU and India has been growing for some time. In addition to Dr. Vora's two recent visits, TTU was visited by Anil Sahasrabudhe and Mukul Sutaone from College of Engineering, Pune, India in Oct. 2013 to sign an agreement between COEP and TTU. Mohan Rao, TTU's chairman of mechanical engineering, visited Pune in January 2014 to further cement the relationship.

Various initiatives were discussed, including Baja exchange, research, and senior design projects co-op student exchange. Later in April 2014, Philip Oldham, president of TTU, Bharat Soni, vice president for research and economic development, and Terry Saltsman, assistant to the president, visited India to finalize the collaboration.

*Last edited 2015.03.19 by unknown.*