

IIT-Gn to design sturdy barricades

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amfeedback@timesgroup.in

To contain unruly crowd, the state police will soon be equipped with sturdy barricades to be designed by students of IIT-Gandhinagar.

Vikas Sahay, deputy director general of Raksha Shakti University, said: "The current barricades can be easily pulled or floored by crowd. We have given them a prototype of barricade but its design is heavy and it's costly also. So we have briefed them about our requirement of a sturdy yet cost-effective barricade."

Assistant professor (design) Bhaskar Bhatt, who is heading the project, said: "Raksha Shakti University has approached us to design strong barricades."

The existing ones are heavy, not stackable and difficult to transport. "The existing barricades can't be quickly placed due to their design. We want to design barricades which can easily be erected as crowd is unpredictable," said the professor.

A CONTEST

"It's a competition, open to all IIT-Gn students. It began on January 1 and will close in April. We will mentor each team that will participate in the contest. The final two designs will then be sent to the university," said Bhatt.

"Let us see what kinds of designs we get. If they are really good, we shall think of using them at other places, too," said the varsity's deputy director general.

The two winning teams will get Rs 25,000 each, added the professor.