

ASI to fund a new carbon dating lab at IIT Gandhinagar

IIT Gandhinagar will soon get a new lab for carbon-dating which will be funded by The Archeological Survey of India (ASI). A centre for archeological science has already been set up in the institute and it will see a multi disciplinary approach to archeology, along with the establishment of a carbon-dating lab.

According to a news report, the first senior faculty joining the centre at IIT-Gn is VN Prabhakar, who was superintending archaeologist with the ASI. "He will be interfacing with the archaeology industry, scientists and students. We will also have Padma Shri Dr R S Bisht joining us as guest faculty," said Prof SP Mehrotra, Dean, Research and Development, IIT-Gn.

According to Dr Sudhir Jain, Director, IIT-Gn, to understand the heritage and roots of the country, science and technology will be used. the centre will focus on application of archeological sciences through number of disciplines, like civil, mechanical, electrical, chemical and material engineering and metallurgy.

About carbon dating:

Carbon dating is a radiometric dating technique that uses the decay of carbon-14 to determine the age of organic materials like wood, leather, etc. as old as 58,000 to 62,000 years. The date of one such sample costs around Rs 58,000 - Rs 60,000 .