

NEW YEAR AT IIT-GN: ART OF THE STATE: INNOVATION

Students From Other States Choose IIT-Gn Because of Its Focus On Setting Trends



Students and parents at IIT-Gandhinagar campus for admissions on Wednesday

Ahmedabad: Student innovators from across the country are making a beeline for Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) this year. As numerous students from across the country registered themselves for an engineering degree at IIT-Gn on Wednesday, many said that they chose the institute because of its focus on innovation.

A total of 120 students registered for the 2012–2016 batch of IIT-Gn’s undergraduate programme. This year there were nine girl students in the batch. Officials said that based on students’ preferences and admission cutoff of IIT JEE ranks, IIT-Gn stood second among the eight new IITs with IIT Hyderabad at the top of the list.

“I tried to find out about activities and other information on various IITs through their websites and other sources. I found out that no other IIT matched the innovative projects being carried out at IIT Gandhinagar,” said Palak Sadani, who is from Madhya Pradesh, while registering. “I found that the institute provides its students immense freedom to think creatively and this is why I chose Gandhinagar.”

Siddhartha Reddy, a student from Hyderabad said, “My father recently studied at IIM-A for a year. We chose IIT-Gn over other IITs because of the emphasis on innovation,” said Reddy.

Students of IIT-Gn are reported to have churned out innovative ideas and taken them up as projects to develop into prototypes.

“Students here have carried out groundbreaking projects like a walking stick for the blind that will detect and warn of puddles and obstacles. There was a device to remove pomegranate seeds,

wheelchairs that can climb stairs, a device to extract oil from fried foods and so on,” said director of IIT-Gn Sudhir Jain.

“We have also set up centres like our Grassroots Innovations Design Studios (GRIDS) and signed MoUs with partners like Ricoh Innovation Inc (RII), a California-based unit of Japanese group Ricoh, to jointly work on technology development.”

“IIT Gandhinagar is just four years old and cannot be compared to decades-old IITs in various aspects. However we stand out from other IITs in the country because of our numerous innovations. Rather than just mathematics and physics, we introduce our students to arts and humanities and various other facets of life,” said Jain.

Mentoring, the antidote to ragging

As new students from different states landed at the campus on Wednesday, on registering at the reception, each was allotted to a senior student who showed them the campus and to help them settle in to their rooms. This is a part of the initiative launched by the IIT-Gn to make the juniors feel at home. “This process is like an antidote to ragging. This kind of icebreaking with seniors on the first day helps build confidence,” said director of IIT-Gn Sudhir Jain. Last year, senior students were sent to the railway station and airport to receive the freshers.

86 students to graduate

The first convocation of Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar will be held on Sunday at the campus of Vishwakarma Government Engineering College, Chandkheda. NR Narayana Murthy, chairman emeritus of Infosys Technologies will be the chief guest of the event and will deliver the convocation address. A total of 86 students, will be awarded certificates for successfully completing their degrees. The number of graduating students include 20 students of chemical engineering, 40 of electrical engineering and 26 of mechanical engineering.

Only 8 Gujaratis at institute this year

Ahmedabad: The Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGn) gave admission to only eight Gujarati students this year. This is a major drop from 24 Gujarati students admitted last year — the highest number of local students joining the institute ever, since its inception four years back.

IIT-Gn director Sudhir Jain said 120 students have joined the institute in 2012 on Wednesday. Officials said that the number of Gujarati students has dropped this year as a number of Gujarati students who scored big in IIT-JEE have opted for the IITs in Mumbai, Delhi and Kanpur.

Kushal Salecha of Nava Wadaj, is one such students who opted for IIT-Gn. “I got 94.5 per cent in SSC and was ranked 3,111 in IIT-JEE. I chose IIT Gandhinagar over Jaipur, Patan and Hyderabad as I wanted to remain close to my family and roots,” said Kushal whose father is in the garment business. He later wants to pursue an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad and become an IAS officer.

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