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Humanities Get Firm Hold In Engineering Stronghold

Runa Mukherjee Parikh | TNN

Ahmedabad: The state's engineering mecca is gradually giving the humanities their due. IIT-Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) is geared up to add a comprehensive, stand-alone, two-year Master of Arts in Society and Culture to its repertoire. The degree will be the first to deal with South Asian culture and society at any IIT.

The first batch will begin in July this year and 15 students have been selected for it.



The degree course will follow the four-semester structure

According to Dr Sudhir Jain, director, IIT-Gn, the MA program reflects the strength and eclectic nature of faculty expertise across the social sciences and humanities department, making the programme one-of-its-kind in the country.

"Some of themes we will study are identity and differ-

ence, development and exclusion, local and transnational mobility, population and health, among others," said Dr Srinivas Reddy, assistant professor, South Asian studies, IIT-Gn.

The course will cover subjects like Archaeology of Ideas, South Asia: History, Culture and Society, qualitative and quantitative research methods, musical traditions of India and even cinematic history.

"The focus will be South Asia with India and Bangladesh forming most of the curriculum," said Dr Rita Kothari, associate professor, translation studies.

A thesis at the end of two years will be compulsory.