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IIT-Gandhinagar to establish archaeology R&D centre

TNN & AGENCIES

Ahmedabad: The Indian Institute of Technology at Gandhinagar (IIT-GN) will establish a center for research and development (R&D) on archaeology here, with a view to facilitate protection of national heritage.

IIT-GN would join hands with other institutes like Pune's Deccan College, Chennai-based Sharma Centre for Heritage Education, MS University, among others in the field, to develop synergy on R&D, and to offer a national facility eventually for conducting cutting-edge research in the arena.

"A lot of new technologies have come, which has changed the way archaeology is being practiced. We think we can offer a continuum approach right from basic archaeology all the way to science and technology," IIT-GN director Prof Sudhir Jain told media persons.

"A small initiative has been taken to establish a R&D center on archaeology here, in this direction. We shall be working in coordination with other varsities and institutes," he said, adding that it is important to protect our past. IIT-GN will collaborate with these institutes in next few months, for which preliminary work has already begun.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), My-



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sore, has a branch that works on deciphering text or languages discovered from ancient sites called, Epigraphy. In a bid to revive archaeological practices by providing a technological interface, IIT-GN has proposed to start offering few post-doctoral fellowships to archaeologists and commence a minor programme on archaeology from the next academic session.

IIT-GN's Prof Jaison A Manjaly said, "We are trying to offer post-doctoral fellowship to archaeologists, as archaeology today requires a lot of modern tools and science."

"We plan to start a minor programme in archaeology, which consists of six courses, to be completed within three years. They can be taken up by BTech students," he said.