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Ragging an alien word at IIT G'nagar

Bharat Yagnik, TNN 5 August 2008, 06:32am IST

Here is a college which has no choice but to stick to the Supreme Court's ruling of no ragging. The students of the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-G) have no seniors to welcome them to the institute and ragging is one thing which will not be happening for them for sure.

"Like many other first year students, it is our first week in college. Ragging seems like an alien word. Since we are the first batch of the institute, we are the senior most and the junior most, all at the same time. We have a good infrastructure and the facilities are good. The masti has not yet begun because till now the anxiety levels were extremely high and we did not get a chance to relax" said Yash Marda, a student who has come from Kolhapur.

The academic session at IIT-G started on Monday for students after the induction programme that was conducted on Saturday. The classes commenced for 120 students at 9:30 am.

UA Yagnik, the dean of Academic and Student affairs, said, "Students had an introduction session in the beginning of the day. They were told the philosophy of IIT and all that goes in to making an IITian . The introductions were followed by two lectures . The Hostel Counsel consisting of 10 members was also formed from amongst students which will take care of issues of the hostel and mess" .

Saurabh Nagrecha, who hails from Mumbai, said, "Being the first batch, I had a lot of doubts but after today's interaction with the faculty I am feeling better. What it takes to make such an institute and what contribution one needs to make back to the society and country where my greatest learning from today's sessions" .

Harelal Mahtu, who has come to IIT-G from Jamshedpur, said, "I am finally getting the feeling that school is over for me. It is only now that it has hit me that I have finally made it and I am a part of an IIT. " Sujay Yadav, who is from Jhansi, said, "I am all set to take on this new endeavour but I miss my cricket field. The cricket pitch is not ready yet and for a cricket fan like me, the sport is being missed."

Unavailability of books a problem for new IITians

AHMEDABAD: Students are happy with the facilities and the arrangements of their new college, Indian Institute Technology - Gandhinagar has issues that need to be dealt with on an immediate basis. The session at IIT-G commenced on Monday, but the students sat through the classes without books.

The books needed for the courses offered in IIT-G are not available in the open market . The 120 students, all of those who belong Ahmedabad are facing a problem in acquiring the text books.

Amit Ashar, a student said, "It was the first day of college today, thus we could manage without books, but things are going to get difficult. The library in the college in still small are there are not enough books that all of us can refer independently" .

The dean, UA Yagnik, said, "The library has been made in the institute but it does not have as many books that each an every student can be given a copy for reference. The situation has come to our notice and thus we have requested the IIT-Mumbai to send us whatever extra books can possibly be sent to us. We have also sent in a requisition for new books" .

The reasons why students have not been able to procure books till now is that there are no big book sellers that run operations around where the IIT-G in situated. Secondly , the books needed by the students are very technical and specific in nature and the since the students are from outside Ahmedabad, they have not yet wondered in the city to find book stall that might have them.

Not many interested in IIT-Bombay satellite centre

Ahmedabad: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Bombay, which had initiated its first satellite centre in Ahmedabad with 10 short term courses has been facing trouble running the courses. The officials from the centre confirm that of the 10 courses , four could not be commenced at all, since they did not have enough participants.

The study centre was inaugurated in the beginning of this year with the purpose to bring down experts and senior faculty members from the institute to the city for short term courses for technical development. MR Patel, the principal of Vishvakarma Engineering College, Chandkheda, where the IIT satellite centre was functioning from, told TOI, "The response from the industry has not been how we expected it to be. Of the 10 courses we were not able to start four at all. There was one course on urban planning where we had only two participants. Since the faculty was scheduled to arrive from IIT- Bombay, we immediately had to get 40 faculty members from various engineering colleges to attend the session" . Ashok Misra, director of IIT-Bombay , said at the inauguration, "We have not got the desired response for our first initiative, but that has not made us any less enthusiastic about IIT-Gandhinagar.

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