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IIT-Gandhinagar plans to introduce new curriculum

Changes will be effective from next academic session

Paras K Jha

With the commencement of its second academic year with a batch of nearly 110 students, the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-G), is planning to usher in a change by means of a new curriculum. Although the new curriculum will come into effect only from the next academic year (2010-2011), brainstorming workshops discussing the new course of study have already started on IIT-G's Chandkheda campus. The first one of its kind was held on July 18.

As many as 31 academicians from IITs across the country and other premier institutes were present in the workshop at Chandkheda. "IIT-G is a new institute, so we plan to have our own curriculum. As of now, the institute is following the IIT, Bombay," said Sonam Shrivastava, research engineer at IIT-G. "The new curriculum will have the essential components from all the other IITs, but will also have some uniqueness of its own," she added.

Sudhir Kumar Jain, director of IIT-G, outlined the vision for the institute, using the experience of the more established IITs for creating a road map.

He emphasised on the development of research schools, introducing newer disciplines and a stronger focus on relevance to society and institutional management by professionals.

"There will be more workshops for developing the curriculum; the final course will be decided only during the 3-4 day workshop, which will be organised in December. During the workshop held on 18th, a number of young faculty members suggested some out-of-the-box ideas; we plan to incorporate them all. The new curriculum will be ready by the end of the year," said prof Urjit Yajnik.

The participants deliberated at length on diverse issues. This apart, the need to widen the curriculum through engineering sciences and core engineering skills across all disciplines was also evaluated.

The domain-specific engineering inputs required were examined in the context of rapid development and availability of powerful IT tools.

Other issues that were critically examined were the advanced elective courses, short research projects and minors components.

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