

IIT-GN takes fundraising to US, raises Rs 5 crore

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THE INDIAN Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-GN) has received about Rs 15 crore through donations since 2009. Of this, it raised Rs 5 crore through IIT Gandhinagar Foundation, its charitable trust based in the US.

Even as the 8 older IITs lead the pack in fund-raising efforts through rich alumni networks, with a bulk of their donations being raised in the US, IIT-GN's Foundation, started in 2010 at Palo Alto, California, has put the institute in a serious fund-raising mode among the newer eight IITs. It hired its first executive director, Rajiv Mistry, in April this year.

"Many older IITs have US Foundations, but IIT-GN is the first and at present the only among the new IITs whose well-wishers have established a charitable foundation in the US. We may be the only IIT to have an executive foundation director. We need the philanthropic funds to enable us to recruit most outstanding faculty and students and to support them beyond what is possible with public funds. Some areas supported by donations at IIT-GN include faculty chairs, research fellowships, travel support for students and faculty to partici-

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pate in international conferences or to conduct research, entrepreneurial activities, among others," said Sudhir Jain, director at IIT-GN.

However, Jain, who served IIT Kanpur as Dean of Resource Planning and Generation for three years, said that the size of endowment funds was a "small" component of the institute's current corpus. As per officials, IIT-GN spent close to Rs 640 crore on the new 400-acres Palaj campus, buying new equipment, upgrading laboratories and classrooms in the old campus at the Vishwakarma Government Engineering College (VGEC) through government funds. It moved into the new campus last month.

"We have been successful in raising funds without a strong alumni base. One third of IIT-GN's UG students get international exposure during their studies at IIT-GN at various foreign universities through academic programmes and internships. The Nielsen Company supports our international programmes. Donor funds are used to attract exceptionally talented faculty to the institute," he added.