

Archaeological Sciences: ASI inks pact with IIT-GN

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THE INDIAN Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-GN) and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have signed an MoU this week to collaborate on multi-disciplinary explorations to strengthen and promote the activities of the Archaeological Sciences Centre (ASC) established at the institute in December 2012.

This MoU was signed at a

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short-term course-cum-workshop on History, Science and Technology of Stone Beads held at IIT-GN this week, that saw the ASI send an entire batch of its students to take part in the workshop.

More than 80 participants, including students, faculty and researchers, from countries like USA, England, Italy, Thailand, Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh took part in the five-day long workshop.

"It's a holistic MoU. However the main areas for mutual collaboration are for material analysis and characterization, composition and prominence of archaeo metal, stone, mortar, plaster that were used in the Asian constructions. Also in aiding in the study of minerals used in ornaments, ceramics and pigments. The broad areas also include study of heritage structures — their structural stability, seismic vulnerability, callio-en-

vironment and sharing of resources and technology available at IITGN for investigation documentation and condition mapping of these sites and heritage structures," said V N Prabhakar, Visiting faculty at the ASC in IIT-GN, who is on deputation from the ASI.

The Centre, which has two regular and two visiting faculty, had signed an MoU with the ASI in February 2015 for carrying out multi-disciplinary studies on Dholavira, an archaeological site at Khadirbet in Bhachau taluka of Kutch district.

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