

60 poor students get IIT-Gn boost

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Ahmedabad: Ankita Sudhir-kumar Jha, a mechanical engineering student from Cummins College of Engineering for Women in Pune, was fascinated by machines and engines from an early age. Daughter of a maid servant, her mother struggled to support her dreams after her father's death.

Though her hard work won her entry in the Pune college, Jha lacked technical and communication skills. But now, meritorious students like her from economically-weaker background have to no longer worry for their employability.

Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) has joined hands with a charitable trust Foundation For Excellence Inc. (FFE) to impart technical and communication skills to underprivi-



Ankita will be funded by IIT-Gn

leged students studying in various engineering colleges across the country.

A 20-day summer training programme, which began on Monday, will train 60 students from 26 cities across 13 states. IIT-Gn has provided free accommodation, access to labs and classrooms for the training of these students from mechanical engineering and computer science streams.

Founded by Indian-American researcher and entrepreneur Prabhu Goel, FFE will also provide a scholarship of Rs 1.6 lakh to these students over the period of four years. For

the first time, FFE is going beyond monetary support and increasing students' employability and internship opportunities through mentorship programme, technical and soft skills training.

Jha said: "Going against the patriarchal wishes of my relatives, I opted for mechanical engineering after high school with full support from my father and brother. This programme will boost my prospect of entering air force."

"We're supporting such programmes so that no scholar is left behind due to financial constraints," said IIT-Gn director Sudhir Jain.

FFE chief operating officer Sushma Abburi said: "The mission of FFE is to provide scholarships to exceptionally bright students who have serious financial constraints, enabling them to achieve professional success as engineers."