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Title : US to mentor IIT-Gn; Deal likely during Obama visit

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During President Barack Obama's visit, a joint declaration of intent is expected to be inked on US mentoring IIT, Gandhinagar. This will be the second IIT, after Kanpur, to be mentored by the US.

However, unlike in the case of IIT, Kanpur, US will not be providing any fund for IIT, Gandhinagar. US cooperation will be on faculty exchange, research and expansion of knowledge base. As was done in the case of IIT, Kanpur, US is likely to create a consortium that will draw best faculty from top American universities who will come and teach in Gandhinagar.

Decision has come after months of hectic parleys between the two sides. Earlier, the HRD ministry wanted US to mentor proposed IIT in Goa. However, it was later decided that since the new IIT is yet to be allotted land it would be better that existing IITs should benefit. Therefore, IIT, Gandhinagar, started during UPA, was selected.

Sources at IIT-Gn said Goa's loss is Gujarat's gain. The Centre had sought help of the US to set up an IIT in Goa. But instead of setting up a new IIT, the US has agreed to help IIT-Gn.