

For fire test, IITGn sets ablaze own campus building

The test was aimed
at developing
appropriate fire
safety mechanisms

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Ahmedabad: In a first, the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar set its three-storey building to fire on its own campus to conduct the country's first full-scale fire test recently.

Experts from the institute and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) set the building on fire to study and develop appropriate advanced fire safety mechanisms in India.

UL, a global safety science organization, has collaborated with IITGN for an innovative project to study the nature of fires in buildings with glass exteriors. The goal of the study, which includes regulators, manufacturers and stakeholders of the fire and security community, is to emphasize the urgent need for developing performance based codes and to align norms governing fire safety with country-specific standards.

To replicate a real world scenario, the test building with a glass façade was equipped with furniture common in contemporary commercial buildings. The entire experiment, captured using sophisticated cameras and drones simulated, measured and recorded the invaluable data on the spread of fire within the building.

Commenting on this Suresh Sugavanam, UL's Managing Director of South Asia said, "Developing standards and evolving newer methods to combat fire hazards has been a core focus of our company, shaping our legacy as the global leaders in fire safety. As increasing urbanization and changing architectural trends add innumerable buildings and skyscrapers with glass facades to our city skylines, it becomes imperative to understand the challenges posed by such infrastructure on the health and safety of its occupants and of those who protect them. Our intention, with this study, is to initiate a dialogue on the need for evolving India specific fire safety standards that address the dangers posed by modern constructions."

IITGN Director Sudhir Jain said, "Considering the frequency and severity of fire-disasters in our country, a lot of work needs to be done in fire engineering.