

## IIT-G to double up research facility

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In a bid to enhance research activities, the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) is doubling up its research capacities.

The institute, which functions from a temporary campus near Ahmedabad, is adding another 2,000 sq mtrs of research facilities and laboratories.

"We had developed 2,000 sq mtrs of research facilities ever since inception of IIT Gandhinagar. By August, we will be adding another 2,000 sq mtrs of research building that will have advanced laboratories and other equipment," said Sudhir Jain, director of IIT Gandhinagar, refusing to divulge investment details for the same.

A tender for construction had been floated for the research building which is expected to be completed by August. "We have started to develop some very fine laboratories which comprise brand new equipment and technology as compared to other 30 year old laboratories," said Jain. The research facilities will house latest technology and equipment that can be used by chemical, civil, mechanical and other engineering streams alike.

Meanwhile, having already built up a corpus of Rs 50 lakh through its charitable foundation in the US and another Rs 1.20 crore on its way, the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) hopes to build a corpus of Rs 15-20 crore through endowments in couple of years. The three-year old institute intends to use the corpus for attracting quality faculty by offering higher salaries, apart from enhancing research facilities. On its part, the government has already provided the institute with a grant of Rs 35 crore that will be used up at IIT-Gn's own campus.

"The land of around 400 acres has been allotted to us and we are yet to take possession of it. Once we do that, tenders will be floated to select a developer who will construct the new campus building for us," said Jain.