

## Number of Guj students at IIT-Gn highest ever

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*Prof Sudhir Jain*

The number of students from Gujarat who secure admission in the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) has been witnessing an upward movement. This year's batch has 194 students, of which 39 are from Gujarat, which is the highest since the institute's inception. The five-week orientation programme for the new batch began on Monday.

According to officials, the institute has got students from 18 states. The maximum students, 45, are from Rajasthan.

In 2016-17, as many as 18 students from Gujarat made it to IIT-Gn. The figure went up to 34 last year and further rose to 39 this year.

Officials said that thanks to special efforts made by the institute to encourage female students, the new batch has an improved gender ratio with 15% females.

Talking about IIT-Gn's philosophy, institute's director Prof Sudhir Jain said, "IITGN always gives highest priority to the students. We strive to shape them not only as skilled engineers but also good citizens who are connected with the society. IITGN tries to take new initiatives in education. The Foundation Program is one such initiative to expose students to different things they may not have done due to academic pressures. It gives them opportunity to explore their passions." Many students say they chose IIT-Gn because of the flexibility to change discipline at later stage. Jessica Satyarthi, a student from Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, said, "I joined IIT-Gn because of its peaceful and safe environment and also the flexibility to choose discipline."