Parliamentary Question
2023-24

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINAGAR

Subject: Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. No.1621 for 03.08.2023 regarding the Establishment of the Archaeological Chair at Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) raised by Shri Kartikeya Sharma, Hon'ble Member of Parliament

The para-wise information is provided hereunder in respect of IIT Gandhinagar.

Sl. No.	Question	Reply
a)	The key motivations behind establishing Archaeology Chair at IITGN specifically focusing on Harappan/Indus/Sindhu-Saraswati civilization, and in what manner Government aims to enhance the understanding of this ancient civilization through this initiative;	The primary objective of ASI Chair at IIT Gandhinagar is to promote excellence and leadership in teaching, research and development in the streams of archaeology, material science, chemistry, civil engineering, geology, image processing, etc.
b)	An overview of the research areas of focus that scholars will delve into under the Archaeology Chair at IITGN in relation to Harappan/Indus/Sindhu-Saraswati civilization; and	
c)	Whether Government has collaborated with renowned national and international archaeologists, historians, and experts in the field to guide and mentor scholars associated with the Archaeological Chair initiative at IITGN regarding the establishment of the Archaeological Chair at IITGN?	Yes. The Archaeological Sciences Centre (ASC) at IITGN was established in December 2012 and has had extensive interaction, consultation and collaboration with a large number of national and international archaeologists of repute.

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e)	An overview of the research areas of focus that scholars will delve into under the Archaeology Chair at IITGN in relation to Harappan/Indus/Sindhu-Saraswati civilization; and	
f)	Whether Government has collaborated with renowned national and international archaeologists, historians, and experts in the field to guide and mentor scholars associated with the Archaeological Chair initiative at IITGN regarding the establishment of the Archaeological Chair at IITGN?	Yes. The Archaeological Sciences Centre (ASC) at IITGN was established in December 2012 and has had extensive interaction, consultation and collaboration with a large number of national and international archaeologists of repute.

Subject: Admitted Lok Sabha Question No. 326 (Dy. No. 969) for 05.02.2024 regarding "Programmes to Promote Skill Development in Rural and Underserved Areas.

Sr. No.	Question	Reply
1.	Whether any initiatives or programs has the government undertaken to promote skill development across different sectors and industries:	Following programs have been undertaken by IITGN: 1. **NEEV**: NEEV is an IIT Gandhinagar community outreach program. It is actively working to bridge the knowledge and communication gap by offering comprehensive training and mentoring to facilitate enhancing the employability and entrepreneurship mind set of the surrounding communities. NEEV's focus beneficiaries include youth and women from rural and urban localities from the areas surrounding IIT Gandhinagar. The training is provided in the areas of stitching, carpentery, electrician, chocolate making etc. 2. **FLY**: Find the leader in you, is a program with an unconventional approach of immersive activity-based methodology, this initiative prepares leaders of tomorrow. This program is sponsored by Competitive Mindset institute (CMI) which is a nonprofit organization based in Kendall Park, NJ USA.CMI's FLY programs are designed to offer training in not generic, non-cognitive skills. 3. **TEQIP**: A summer training program for faculty of engineering colleges that helps improve the quality of technical education in the country which is supported by the Government of India. 4. **Centre for Creative Learning**: CCL at IITGN create and disseminate inspiring and engaging STEM curriculum. It makes toys and conduct workshops for teachers and students and produce videos and publications for learning. They have also proposed a course in the name of New Age Skill Development which will cater to around 500 ITI's in various and help them to hone their skills which is in the final approval stage. 5. **DST –STUTI**: IIT Gandhinagar carried out various training programs on behalf of DST under the Synergistic Training Program Utilizing the Scientific and Technological Infrastructure' (STUTI) scheme. Under the program hands-on-training was imparted to students and faculties and sensitization of the state-of-the-art equipment as well as sharing and ensuring transparent access to S&T facilities. 6. **Scientific Social Responsibility Grant**: Science and Engineering Research Board has adopted Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) Policy to imbibe a culture of social commitment among SERB Grantees. The policy intends to effectively utilize scientific infrastructure and expertise of SERB grantees to benefit other S&T stakeholders especially the less-endowed researchers and the society. It is expected that the combined efforts of all the SERB Grantees would lead to development of rich research culture of integrated scientific and social commitments in the country. 7. Various other workshops and trainings are conducted throughout the

		year to impart skills and expertise in different fields of study.
3.	The details on geographical reach of skill development programs and whether there are any targeted efforts for rural and undeserved areas	The different skill development programs have different target groups, such as the NEEV program focuses on beneficiaries including youth and women from rural and urban localities from the surroundings. It empowers women and youth from under-served communities through skills development, entrepreneurship, and livelihood programs. Since 2014, NEEV has conducted 125 projects and activities for 4000 beneficiaries from the Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar areas, including 15 nearby villages. The FLY program targets school & college students & working professionals. The TEQIP and STUTI programs mentors colleges and students to upgrade their skills set and progress in future. The CCL at IITGN provides training to teachers from different states and also provide skill training to ITI students from various states.