

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

IIT-Gandhinagar course to focus on evidence-based feats of ancient India

TNN | Jan 7, 2019, 08.48 AM IST



AHMEDABAD: As the general public's imagination of India's scientific achievements — often reflected by the statements of the public figures — includes advanced aeronautics (vimana), weaponry (daivi astra) and concepts like cloning or IVF, a semester-long course at IIT-Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) wants to focus on 'evidence-based achievements of ancient India's intellectual, scientific and artistic knowledge traditions'.

The four-month or a semester-long course starting January 9 is titled Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems (IICS). This would be third edition of the course offered at the Humanities and Social Sciences discipline.

Prof Michel Danino, coordinator for the course, said that there are so many misconceptions in the popular imagination about technologies of ancient India and they want to provide genuine information. "We are a technology institute and thus we decided to focus on technology. We are covering a vast period from Harappan to Colonial eras to understand the changes," he said.

Some of the topics covered over four months include civil engineering, ceramic, construction technology, water structures, acoustics, metallurgy and glass technology. The lectures would also include testimony of Indian technology by European travellers of that era and metrology (weights and measures) used in India over 2,000 years. The course would be conducted by both IIT faculty members and eminent scholars of respective disciplines.

“Strength of this course is multi-disciplinary approach. Like the past, we have got a number of students from other premier institutes based in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar who wish to understand Indian culture in a better way,” said Prof Danino.