

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

EXCLUSIVE OF PUNE TIMES

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## FTII students to get chance to direct docus for Films Division

Laxmi Bira|dar | TNN

**Pune:** A tie-up between the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and the Films Division (FD), Mumbai, will provide maiden professional job opportunities in the form of documentary film-making to students of direction from the 2006 batch.

In this first-ever systematic placement initiative for students of the direction department, the FD will also provide a fee of Rs 15,000 to every candidate on board for a ten-minute documentary.

"Interested students of direction will begin submitting their proposals on potential ideas to the FD, after which they will begin work. This is FTII's maiden attempt at providing a soft career launch to its direction students, who otherwise find it difficult to obtain professional assignments upfront in the industry," said FTII director DJ Narain.

The initiative materialised after Narain met FD director

### ESG approaches FTII for film courses

The Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), which organises the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), has approached the FTII to offer film-related courses. "Like every year, the FTII participated in the IFFI and the ESG has approached us to establish a film school and start film courses in Goa. It's too early to comment on what kind of a partnership we can have, but we will be having discussions with the ESG to take this matter forward," said FTII director, DJ Narain.

general Bankim Kapadia last month. Kapadia is also a member of FTII's governing council and has worked in the institute's administration in the past.

"This is the first time FD has associated with us for our students. This tie-up will provide initial job opportunities to all those students of direction currently on campus who submit their final year diploma films, starting with those from the 2006 batch," Narain said.

Till last year, there was no institutional effort for the placement of the direction students. "The FTII doesn't keep a record of such a thing. But such a tie-up will provide exposure and responsibility to students who

will make socially-relevant documentaries for the FD. It can also help them showcase their talents and establish themselves professionally, especially through screenings of their works at film festivals," Narain added.

More importantly, this effort will also boost documentary film training at the institute, he said. "The effort will give a fillip to this area of film-making, which has the potential to be fine-tuned further."

Similar discussions are underway with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). "We also hope to have a similar tie-up with NFDC for our students," Narain said.