

Connections

IIT Gandhinagar



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Connections is the quarterly newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar

Institute Activities



DR KIRAN C PATEL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IITGN launched **Dr Kiran C Patel Centre for Sustainable Development** on January 30, 2019. The Centre aims to become the principal resource centre for sustainable development in India and has been set up with a generous endowment from **Dr Kiran C Patel**, a distinguished cardiologist, entrepreneur and philanthropist based in Tampa, Florida, USA. The Centre will advance local and global solutions through cutting-edge interdisciplinary research on water, pollution, waste management, energy, natural resources, and climate change. It will develop a national and global network of leading experts and researchers on sustainability. The Centre will also promote cost-effective and sustainable solutions through its strong outreach and technology-transfer programmes. **Dr Kiran Patel** and his wife **Dr Pallavi Patel** have contributed nearly \$300 million to various philanthropic causes in USA and India.

MAKER BHAVAN



Dr Hemant Kanakia, Co-Founder and former Chief Executive Officer, Gemplex Internet, Inc., USA has committed a large donation to establish Maker Bhavan at the Institute. The Maker Bhavan is envisioned as a multidimensional makerspace on campus to foster experiential learning, design thinking, creativity and innovation among students across all disciplines. It aims to provide the necessary tools, resources, facilities, people, and equipment for both curricular and extracurricular activities.

OVERSEAS INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONCLAVE

IITGN hosted a two-day Overseas Indian Higher Education Conclave on February 22-23, 2019, to collaborate and brainstorm with professional Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and global professionals, on ways to engage more widely and deeply with overseas Indians to advance India's educational stature globally. The program was coordinated by **Prof Achal Mehra**.



KANCHAN & HARILAL DOSHI CHAIR

Kanchan & Harilal Doshi Chair in water and sanitation was inaugurated on January 15, 2019 with a felicitation event for **Mr Navin Doshi** and **Mrs Pratima Doshi**, who have established the chair in honour of Mr Navin Doshi's parents. **Prof Jaichander Swaminathan** has been appointed to the Kanchan & Harilal Doshi Chair.

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD CHAIR

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Chair in Urdu was inaugurated on February 2, 2019, in memory of Maulana Azad, India's first Minister of Education. **Mrs Hamida Banu Chopra** from California, USA has established a generous endowment to support the Chair.



ADVISORY COUNCIL OF IIEC AND RESEARCH PARK

The second meeting of the Advisory Council for IIEC and Research Park took place on February 14, 2019. Eminent personalities from different industries participated in the meeting, including **Mr Kris Gopalakrishnan**, **Ms Soumya Rajan**, **Mr R Gopalakrishnan**, **Mr N G Subramaniam**, **Mr Vijay Kumar Ivaturi**, **Mr H K Mittal**, **M. Ashank Desai**, **Mr Anand Parekh**, and **Mr Sanjay Randhar**.

Support for the Institute

FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS SET UP BY ALUMNI OF IITGN

Four alumni of IITGN have set up four scholarships of ₹ 1 lakh per year, to support the undergraduate students at IITGN. **Sai Chowdhary Gullapally** (BTech 2016) has set up **Vimala Srinivas Scholarship** in honor of his parents. **Rounak Mehta** (BTech 2015) has instituted **Shri Arjunraj Manakraj Mehta Scholarship** in the memory of his grandfather. **Sarthak Jain** (BTech 2012) has set up **Ashok Jain Scholarship** in the honor of his late father. **Akshay Randad** (BTech

2015) has set up **Ajodyabai Gulabchandji Randad Scholarship** in honor of his late grandmother.



Sai Chowdhary Gullapally



Rounak Mehta



Sarthak Jain



Akshay Randad

Faculty News

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Prof Vikrant Jain**, Professor, Earth Sciences, IITGN, has won the prestigious **National Geoscience Award** for the year 2018 in the category of Applied Geosciences.
- Centre for Creative Learning (CCL), IITGN, was awarded the first prize at the Vibrant Gujarat STEM Conference 2019. The paper titled **Making and Maker-Spaces: The Secret Sauce of Future-Proof Learning** was co-authored by **Prof Manish Jain, Prof Neeldhara Misra, Gaurav Kumar, Neeraj Kumar and Pankaj Godara**. Union

HRD Minister **Shri Prakash Javadekar** presented the prize and citation to the team.



SPONSORED AND CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

To find the list of sponsored and consultancy projects at IITGN, please go to this link: iitgn.ac.in/projects#q1_2019 or scan the QR code:



NEW FACULTY

The following faculty members joined the institute during this quarter:

Name	Designation	Discipline	PhD/ Last Degree	Date of joining
Dr Jordan Litman	Visiting Professor	Humanities and Social Sciences	University of South Florida	01-01-19
Dr Svetlana Brzev	Visiting Professor	Civil Engineering	IIT Roorkee	01-01-19
Prof Atul Singh	Visiting Professor	Humanities and Social Sciences	University of Pennsylvania	01-01-19
Dr Udit Bhatia	Assistant Professor	Civil Engineering	Northeastern University	17-01-19
Dr K Chelva Kumar	Visiting Professor	Mechanical Engineering	California Institute of Technology	21-01-19
Dr Sharada V C	Assistant Professor	Archaeology	Deccan College, Pune	01-02-19

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Name	Discipline	Affiliation	Date of joining
Ms Marjorie Greene	Civil Engineering	Consultant, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute	16-01-19
Dr Maria João Amante	Humanities	Information and Documentation Services Director, ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa	01-02-19
Dr Juan Jose	Civil Engineering	Researcher, Institute of Engineering, UNAM	26-03-19

Activities at IITGN

REPUBLIC DAY

IITGN celebrated the 70th Republic Day with flag hoisting and address to the community by **Prof Sudhir K Jain**. The Staff Excellence Awards were given to **Meena Joshi, Saumil Shah, Jigar Shah, Abhishek Gupta, Dharmendra Panchal, Ashok Rathod, Dharmesh Kapadiya, Rajesh Parmar, Viral Chaudhary, and Suresh Airi**. The Faculty Excellence Awards were received by **Dr Sharad Gupta** for Excellence in Teaching, **Dr Vinod Chandra** for Excellence in Research and **Dr Nithin George** for Excellence in Institution Building. Campus Development Awards were

given to: **Julie Chouhan, Amarat Solanki, Rajlaxmi Sharma, Sharvanbhai Thakor, Devarsh Barbhaya, Saksham Singal, and Naginbhai**. The Institute also felicitated the following waste segregation staff members: **Lalabhai Vasudev, Baldev Vaghela, Dashrath Bhangi, Mahesh Bhangi, Kantiji Thakor, and Ramesh Raval**. The program concluded with cultural performances and Dean's list felicitation program and distribution of awards to the Undergraduate Research Conclave (UGRC) winners.



Lalabhai



Baldev



Dashrath



Mahesh



Kantiji



Ramesh

Waste segregation staff members



BADA KHANA

IITGN organized a **Bada Khana** at the campus on January 26, 2019, to celebrate the hard work and dedication of everyone associated with the campus development, including construction workers, staff members, faculty members, students, engineers, architects, consultants, and well-wishers. It provided an opportunity to all the stakeholders to come together as a family and enjoy the meal.

'FLY' PROGRAM ORIENTATION AND TOT

An orientation of **Finding the Leader in You (FLY)** program was organized at IITGN on January 12, 2019. About 80 heads of engineering colleges of Gujarat attended the event. A Training of Trainers (ToT) under the FLY program was also held during January 19-20, 2019 to train about 20 future facilitators (master trainers) for engineering students in Gujarat and high school students in Jaipur. **Mr Harsh Bhargava, Dr Aruna Bhargava, Mr Uday Nadkarni, Dr Amrish Garg** and **Mr Sandeep Sethi** are key facilitators of the FLY program.

MEETING ON NARADA SHILPA SHASTRA

IITGN organized a special discussion meeting with **Prof R N Iyengar**, Distinguished Professor and the Director of the Centre for Ancient History and Culture, Jain University, Bengaluru, on Narada Shilpa Shastra, an important text of Vastushastra, Civil Engineering, and Architecture, on January 16, 2019.

CONFERENCE ON ANCIENT INDIAN GLASS

The Archaeological Sciences Centre, IITGN, organized a five-day Conference-cum-Workshop on History, Science and Technology of Ancient Indian Glass from January 21-25, 2019. The conference was coordinated by **Prof Alok Kumar Kanungo**.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- The discipline of Humanities and Social Sciences, organized panel discussions on the focal theme of **Changing Role of Women in the Age of the Digital** on March 12, 2019 coordinated by **Prof Arnapurna Rath**.
- The Shastrarth Socratic Society arranged a panel discussion on the topic **Secrets of Success in Silicon Valley** on March 19, 2019. The discussion hosted four panelists- **Cody Daniel, Emma Ainge, Daniel Ainge,** and **Camille Noel**.

SANJEEVANI HEALTH CAMP

Nyasa, IITGN organized annual Sanjeevani Health Camp for the residents of nearby six villages, on January 27, 2019, in collaboration with Desai Foundation, Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar (IIPHG), and MS University of Baroda.

IIEC HYPER-ACCELERATOR

IIT Gandhinagar Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (IIEC) organized a unique hyper accelerator program for technology startups during January 28 - February 1, 2019. **Mr Krishna Kunapuli** and **Mr Kamalesh Dwivedi**, guided the participants of technology startups. The event was coordinated by **Mr Anand Pandey**.

FIRST DECENNIAL LECTURE

IITGN organized the first lecture as a part of the IITGN Decennial Lecture Series on February 15, 2019. **Shri K Ananth Krishnan**, Chief Technical Officer, Tata Consultancy Services, delivered the lecture on 'Future Technologies: Innovations at Intersections'.



ALL IIT REGISTRAR'S CONCLAVE

IITGN hosted All IIT Registrars' Conclave on February 15-16, 2019. Registrars of 12 IITs from across the country attended the conclave with a view to discuss some key administrative aspects and challenges related to the IITs.

DST-UKIERI WORKSHOP

The Electrical Engineering discipline organized a two-day workshop on **Design, Optimization and Data-driven Applications of Smart Energy System** on February 18-19, 2019, as a part of the Department of Science and Technology – UK-India Education and Research Initiative collaborative project. The workshop was coordinated by **Prof Naran Pindoriya**.

NEW COMPANIES IN RESEARCH PARK

Pan IIT Alumni Reach for India Foundation (PARFI) started operations from the Research Park from March 1, 2019. PARFI is a not-for-profit social enterprise, managed by Pan IIT professionals and domain experts.

WORKSHOPS IN SRI LANKA BY CCL

The team from the Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) visited Sri Lanka to conduct three different workshops for students, teachers, and the engineering student body and faculty at the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, during February 26 to March 2, 2019.

VISITORS

- **Lt Gen KJS Dhillion**, YSM, VSM Director General Perspective Planning, along with **Maj Gen AK Channan**, SM Additional Director General Perspective Planning were at IITGN on January 5, 2019 to explore R&D application in defence forces.
- **Prof Sanjay Dhandhe**, Former Director, IIT Kanpur visited IITGN on January 24, 2019.
- **Mr Subhash Ghai**, renowned film Director, Producer, Screenwriter and Founder of Whistling Woods International and **Mr Chaitanya Chinchlikar**, Chief Technology Officer, Whistling Woods International, visited IITGN on February 8, 2019.
- **Mr Subramaniam Ramadorai**, former Vice Chairman of Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS), and **Mrs Mala Ramadorai** visited the Institute on February 25, 2019.
- **Prof Devang Khakhar**, Director, IIT Bombay visited IITGN on February 28, 2019.

CLSTL 2019

The Central Library of IITGN organized the 2nd International Conference on Changing Landscape of Science & Technology Libraries (CLSTL 2019) from February 28 - March 02, 2019. More than 150 delegates from all over the world gathered at IITGN. The conference was coordinated by **Dr T S Kumbar**.



IACMAG SYMPOSIUM

IITGN hosted a Symposium of the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG) during March 5-7, 2019. Around 200 participants attended the Symposium. The Symposium was coordinated by **Prof Amit Prashant**.

ENGINEERING INNOVATION WORKSHOPS

Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) successfully conducted two 5-day workshops during January 8-12, and March 12-16, 2019, under the series, **Innovation and Creativity in Engineering** in collaboration with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). It hosted around 50 guests from private and government engineering colleges from all across the country.

INDIA-NEPAL CONFINED MASONRY WORKSHOP

The institute organised a workshop during March 14-15, 2019 on Confined Masonry (CM) technology and its implementation in India and Nepal. More than 20 participants from India and Nepal attended the workshop. The workshop was coordinated by **Prof Svetlana Brzev**.

DESIGN MARCH

Design & Innovation Center had organized

Design March on March 16-17, 2019. There were four parallel theme-based workshops on the topics of Game and interaction design, Automobile styling, Sculpture from metal waste, and Packaging design. The program was coordinated by **Mr Franklin Kristi**, **Prof Vineet Vashista**, and **Prof Manasi Kanetkar**.

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR AT IITGN

The **Dr Kiran C Patel Centre for Sustainable Development** organized a Sustainability Fair

WORKSHOPS

- Drug Discovery and Development by **Dr Narendra Chirmule**, Head of Research and Development, Biocon Ltd, January 4, 2019.
- Blockchain Technology Mythbuster by **Mr Kamalesh Dwivedi**, Business Partner, 3Lines Venture Capital, January 12, 2019.
- English Fundamentals by **Prof Garry Nicol**, Retd Professor, Skyline Community College, California, USA, January 31, 2019.
- Understanding your personality type by **Ms Gargi Basu**, HR, Cadila Pharma, February 17, 2019.
- Communication and presentation skills by **Ms Gargi Basu**, HR, Cadila Pharma, February 17, 2019.

on March 29, 2019. Various organisations and industries shared and demonstrated their sustainable development practices, activities, experiences, ideas, products and services in the areas of sustainability.

GLOBAL EARTHQUAKE MODEL (GEM)

A workshop on Global Earthquake Model (GEM) and the implementation of its seismic hazard & risk assessment platform in India was conducted at the institute during March 18-19,

- How to be successful when preparing a scientific document? Dissertations and Oral presentations by **Dr Maria João Amante**, Information and Documentation Services Director, ISCTE-IUL, February 22, 2019.
- Find your passion by **Mr Sunny Agrawal**, Ex HR, CEAT Tyres, March 3, 2019.

SHORT COURSES

- Looking Around Corners: The Art of Developing Business Perspectives for the 21st Century by **Mr Hari Sankaran**, former Vice Chairman, and Managing Director, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS), January 7-11, 2019.
- Myth & Epistemology by **Dr Srinivas Reddy**, Visiting

2019. The workshop was coordinated by **Prof Svetlana Brzev** and **Prof Manish Kumar** of Civil Engineering

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN CS (ROCS)

The discipline of Computer Science and Engineering organized a one-day workshop on Research Opportunities in Computer Science followed by a panel discussion on March 30, 2019. The workshop was organized by **Prof Neeldhara Misra**.

- Professor, Brown University, January 7-15, 2019.
- Modern applications of mass spectroscopy by **Dr Ajit Datar**, Advisor, Shimadzu Analytical India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, February 9-10, 2019.
- Roles of Big Data and Small Data in Public Policy by **Mr Manu Sharma**, Political analyst, February 11-15, 2019.
- Gothic Cultures of Sexuality: Literature, Society and Psychoanalysis in the 19th and 20th Centuries by **Dr Sigi Jottkandt**, Senior Lecturer, UNSW, Sydney, March 18-20, 2019.

LECTURES AT IITGN

Follow this link: events.iitgn.ac.in or Scan the QR code to see the lectures held at IITGN.



Student and Staff Activities

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

- **Amit Reza**, a PhD student in Physics, IITGN, received the top poster award at the international conference titled 'Multi-messenger astronomy in the era of LIGO-India', at Khandala, India.
- **Dr Oishi Roy**, a Postdoctoral Fellow, Archaeological Sciences, IITGN, has been awarded the prestigious H D Sankalia Young Archaeologist Award at a conference of archaeology by the Indian Society of Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies (ISPQS).
- **Beena Kumari**, a PhD student in Chemistry, IITGN, has received the Best Poster Award at the 4th International Conference on Aggregation-Induced Emission held at Australia.
- **Harini Gunda**, a PhD student in Chemical Engineering, IITGN, has received an AWSAR (Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research)-DST award for her research story. She also got an opportunity to attend the Science Film Training Workshop organized by **Vigyan Prasar**.
- **Rajendra Nagar**, a PhD student in Electrical Engineering, IITGN, has won the Graduate

Student Day Award for his thesis work presented at the 25th National Conference on Communications (NCC) 2019, held at IISc Bangalore.

JASHN 8.0

The eighth edition of the intra-college cultural festival Jashn was conducted during January 4-7, 2019. The four-day festival was filled with lot of fun activities and some power-pack performances by the students.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONCLAVE

The second edition of the Student Leadership Conclave was held on January 5-6, 2019 at IITGN. The conclave witnessed participation of 33 student leaders from 19 IITs.

D-DINE DAY

IITGN celebrated the first D-Dine day with great zeal and enthusiasm on January 18, 2019. The students, faculty, and staff members cooked and served dinner to the mess and outlet workers to show their gratitude towards them. The event was coordinated by **Prof Sivapriya Kirubakaran**.

IGNITE 5.0

The intra-institute technological festival of IITGN, Ignite 5.0, was held during March 16-17, 2019. The two-day event included talks, workshops, quiz, games, laboratory visits, and some unique competitions. About 30 technical projects of students were put on display at the Project Expo.

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL

Entrepreneurship Initiative of IIT Gandhinagar (EI), organized the first edition of Student Entrepreneurship Advisory Council (SEAC) on February 3, 2019. It was attended by 7 E-Cells from various colleges of Gujarat as well as IIT Jodhpur, and IIT Indore.

STRIDES- AN EVENING ABOUT YOU

On March 9, 2019, 'Strides- An Evening about YOU' was organized by the Staff Development Cell (SDC). The IITGN community participated in various events to showcase their talents in dance, song or poem recitation, quiz games, and drama.

Sports News

HALLA BOL '19

Halla Bol, an intra-institute sports festival was organised during March 23 to April 2, 2019. The event comprised of many entertaining games including Futsal, Tug of War, Frisbee, Throwball, Foot Volley, Gully Cricket, 7 Stones, 3 a side Baddy, Dodgeball, Street Hockey, and Kho-Kho.

JUSTICE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

Institute basketball team stood third at the Justice Cup 2019, an annual sports festival of GNLU, Gandhinagar, during February 7-10, 2019.