

# Connections

IIT Gandhinagar



2018-2019, Volume XI, Issue IV  
April - June 2019

Connections is the quarterly newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar

## Institute Activities

### EAT RIGHT CAMPUS AWARD



Achieving one more feat, IITGN has become the first educational institute in the country to receive the Eat Right Campus Award with 5-star rating from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The award was presented at a function held in FDA Bhawan, New Delhi, on June 7, 2019. The Institute is certified as 'Eat Right Campus' based on five parameters i.e. a)

Compliance to food safety and hygiene, b) Healthy diets, c) Food waste management, d) Promotion of local and seasonal foods on campus, and e) Promotion and awareness of food safety and healthy diets in and around campus.

### MOU WITH CPWD

IITGN and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) have entered into an agreement to collaborate for cutting-edge research & development in the housing and urban development sector. As per the MoU signed, the CPWD will set up an R&D Cell at the Research Park of IITGN. This significant partnership between IITGN and CPWD is aimed at fostering collaboration between seasoned engineers of CPWD, faculty and students of IITGN, to enable development and verification of new technologies, and safer, efficient, long-term solutions to the existing problems of the construction industry.

### GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS WITH SPARC

The Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD), Government of India, has approved 13 IITGN international research projects worth Rs 7.93 crore, as part of the 'Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration' (SPARC). Enlarging its global footprint, the Institute will collaborate with faculty and researchers at ten international institutions in seven countries, namely France, USA, New Zealand, South Africa, Israel, Canada, and Australia. These research projects bring together IITGN faculty and world-class scholars to work on fundamental, action-oriented and innovation driven research in emerging areas of impact.



### INVENT @IITGN

IITGN hosted the second edition of Invent @IITGN, a six-week summer program in inventing, from May 16 to June 28, 2019. Cooper Union Professors, **Alan Wolf** and **Eric Lima**, along with IITGN's Professors **Vineet Vashista**, **Nithin George**, and **Madhu Vadali**, mentored a total of 28 participants, who were selected from nine IITs across the country including IIT Bombay, IIT Dhanbad, IIT Dharwad, IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Goa, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, and IIT Palakkad. The students developed solutions for real-life problems or societal needs, with inventions such as robot arm, a wound care device, emergency food aid and so on. **Parul Sangwan** and **Prabal Vashisht** from IIT Palakkad won the title of 'Best Invention' for their household mechanical solar tracker, **R Nambalakshmi** from IIT Bombay and **Prathmesh Deshmukh** from IIT Kharagpur secured the title of the 'Second Best Invention' for designing a leak-proof eco-friendly takeaway container, and the prize for the 'Third Best Invention' was received by two IIT Kharagpur students namely, **Kalash Nibjiya** and **Samruddhi Pataskar** for developing spout-it- a clip-on for pouring liquids easily. Each of the 14 teams have now filed a provisional patent application in India and will subsequently file their provisional US patent application.

## Support for the Institute

### VINAY GUPTA SCHOLARSHIP

**Luv Gupta** (BTech 2012) has set up Vinay Gupta Scholarship of Rs 1 Lakh per year to support the undergraduate students for international internships, projects, and other needs. Luv has set up this scholarship in honor of his father and as an expression of gratitude towards his Alma mater



## SANSKRIT CHAIR

Dr Ushakant Thakkar (Dr Kant Tucker) has set up the **Irma and Ushakant Thakkar Chair in Sanskrit Studies** at IITGN through the Dharma Civilization Foundation, to teach courses on Sanskrit language and literature. The Chair will also support in inviting eminent scholars of



Sanskrit to the Institute as visiting professors or scholar-in-residence for lectures, seminars and other scholarly endeavors. Dr Thakkar is a Los Angeles area based Nephrologist and a philanthropist. He is Chairman of Dharma Civilization Foundation, a non-profit public charity based in Los Angeles, California. He also served on the faculty of UCLA, in the department of medicine. Dr Thakkar is a recipient of the “Spirit Award” in 2009, from the National Kidney Foundation, USA.

## Faculty News

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

**Prof Vimal Mishra**, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering, IITGN, has been selected for the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)-Association of Hydrologists of India (AHI) Young Hydrologist Award for the year 2015-16.

### PATENTS

A lateral DMOS Transistor and Method of Fabricating Thereof: Inventors include **Mandar Suresh Bhoir** and **Prof Nihar Ranjan Mohapatra**.

### SPONSORED AND CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

To find the list of sponsored and consultancy projects at IITGN, please go to this link: [iitgn.ac.in/projects#q2\\_2019](http://iitgn.ac.in/projects#q2_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 Karla P Mercado-Shekhar	Assistant Professor	Biological Engineering	University of Rochester, New York	15-04-19
Dr Himanshu Shekhar	Assistant Professor	Electrical Engineering	University of Rochester, New York	15-04-19

### SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Name	Discipline	Affiliation	Date of joining
Dr Vasco Matos Trigo	Humanities	ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon	17-06-19

## Activities at IITGN



### SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (SRIP)

A total of 144 students from various prestigious institutes across the country were selected for the Summer Research Internship Program (SRIP) to spend eight weeks carrying out their research at IITGN. The program offers opportunities to students from India and abroad to carry out research projects under the mentorship of IITGN faculty members. This time, about 44 faculty members of the Institute guided the participating students on a wide range of research projects.

### JEE OPEN HOUSE

This year, IITGN organised JEE Open House sessions at three different places viz. Delhi, Gandhinagar, and Mumbai for the convenience of JEE Advanced qualified students and their parents. The programs aimed at addressing queries about IIT admission, various disciplines, academic activities and opportunities at IITs, as well as about the IIT Gandhinagar ecosystem.

The sessions at Delhi (on June 22, 2019) and Mumbai (on June 23, 2019) were conducted by the **Prof Harish PM**, Dean of Student Affairs and **Prof Jaison Manjaly**, Coordinator of Alumni Relations, along with students and alumni of IITGN. The event at IITGN on June 23, 2019 included interactive sessions with faculty members, and students and alumni. A campus tour was also organized during the event.

### TEQIP III

The third phase of the Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) was held at IITGN in three different batches from May 20 to 24, May 27 to 31, and June 10 to 14, 2019. More than 200 faculty members from engineering colleges from all over the country participated in the program to learn about Advanced Pedagogy and Digital Tools of Learning.

### RASANAYAM '19

The discipline of Chemistry hosted its first ever Chemistry Festival, Rasayanam '19 during April 6-7, 2019. The two-day extravaganza was marked by a popular talk by Prof Uday Maitra, an eminent chemist at IISc Bangalore, and many other fun-filled events such as quiz, debate, chem charades, dramatics, prayog, and art attack.



### WIN CONFERENCE

WIN (Wheels India Niswarth) Foundation, together with Wheels Charitable Foundation, IIT Gandhinagar and Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar (IIPHG) organised the first WIN Conference 2019 : “Innovate and Empower to Accelerate Social Change” on April 5-6, 2019 at the Institute. The conference was aimed at providing a platform to various stakeholders, with common objective to drive and accelerate change for the under-served communities. The conference focused on 3 domains: (i) Water and Sanitation, (ii) Maternal and Child Health, and (iii) Smart Villages.

### ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON CASTE IDENTITY AND RESOURCES

The HSS discipline at IITGN celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti by hosting a round-table discussion on Caste, Identity, and Resources on April 15, 2019. The panel discussion was followed by a cultural program of poetry

and social justice songs recitation, performed by National Peace Group, Ahmedabad. The program was coordinated by **Prof Ambika Ayadurai**.

## NEW COMPANIES IN RESEARCH PARK

Optimized Solutions Ltd started its operations from the Research Park at IITGN from May 2019. The company works in the area of process development, optics and defense technologies.

## SEMINAR ON SEISMIC DESIGN OF CONFINED MASONRY BUILDINGS

IITGN organised a one-day Seminar on 'Seismic Design of Confined Masonry Buildings' on April 10, 2019. IITGN has successfully pioneered the first large-scale application of Confined Masonry in India in its own campus construction. The seminar aimed to popularize this building technology among practitioners, students of civil engineering, and industrial organizations. The seminar was attended by about 140 participants from different institutes across the country. **Prof Svetlana Brzev** coordinated the seminar.

## DECENNIAL SEMINAR ON CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Building and Works Committee (BWC) of the Institute, which coincidentally took place in the 10th year of IIT Gandhinagar's existence, the Institute organized a Decennial Seminar on Campus Development on April 18, 2019 to reflect on the collaborative journey of development of the IITGN campus. **Smt Usha Batra**, Special Director General (WR), CPWD, **Prof Neelkanth Chhaya**, Former Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, CEPT, Ahmedabad, **Shri Vinod Gupta**, Masterplan Architect for the IITGN campus, **Prof Sudhir K Jain**, Director, IITGN, and other stakeholders of BWC from CPWD and IITGN graced the occasion.



## SECOND DECENNIAL LECTURE

IITGN organised the second lecture under the IITGN Decennial Lecture Series on April 18, 2019. Former Deputy Chief of the Army Staff and currently Member of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), **Lt Gen Subrata Saha** (Retd) delivered his talk on 'India's Emergence as a Superpower – Security Imperatives'.

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

IITGN community celebrated the International Earth Day on April 22, 2019 by organizing a number of activities and to spread the message of "Save the Earth, Save the Environment"

collectively. The celebrations included eco talks on various topics and nature bazaar. A short film on green practices at IITGN was also released on the occasion. The event was coordinated by Green Office, IITGN.

## WORKSHOP ON SEXUAL CULTURES

The Humanities and Social Sciences discipline, IITGN conducted a one-day workshop on 'Sexual Cultures: Youth, Body & the Market' on May 11, 2019 in collaboration with the Population Foundation of India, New Delhi. The topics of the two panel discussions ranged from masculinity to gender equality and dating cultures to aesthetic surgeries. **Prof Tannistha Samanta** was the convener for the workshop.

## WORKSHOP ON REVIEWING FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR METRO RAIL STATIONS

A one-day workshop on Reviewing Fire Safety Standards for Metro Rail Stations was organised at IITGN by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on May 15, 2019. Participants from all major metro rail corporations of India attended the meeting and discussed the fire safety provisions of NBC 2016 pertaining to metro rail stations. Several provisions of the code were deliberated and a set of recommendations were formulated which will be sent to the Bureau of Indian Standards. **Prof Gaurav Srivastava** coordinated the workshop.



## SEMINAR-CUM-WORKSHOP ON SEISMIC CODES

IITGN organised a one-day seminar-cum-workshop on seismic codes IS 1893 (Part 1) and IS 13920 on May 17, 2019. The event was arranged as a part of the World Bank sponsored project to deliberate on proposed changes in the 2016 editions of seismic codes IS 1893 (Part 1) and IS 13920. More than 180 participants including industry leaders, faculty, and students of civil engineering from across the country attended the seminar-cum-workshop. Earlier to this, a workshop on seismic codes was also conducted at the Institute on April 8, 2019 wherein 27 eminent engineers and academics brainstormed about two key seismic codes - IS:1893 and IS:13920. **Prof Sudhir K Jain** coordinated the seminar-cum-workshop.

## VISITORS

- **Ambassador V Ashok**, Indian Foreign Service (retd.), visited IITGN on April 15, 2019.
- A delegation from JAIST visited the Institute on May 20, 2019 to discuss the collaboration between IITGN and JAIST. **Prof Tetsuo Asano**, President, JAIST, presided the meeting.
- British Deputy High Commissioner **Mr Peter Cook** visited IITGN on May 31, 2019.
- **Mr Kris Gopalakrishnan**, Chairman Axilor Ventures and Co-founder of Infosys, visited the Institute on June 2, 2019
- **Prof Nasir Memon**, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the New York University Tandon School of Engineering, visited IITGN on June 3, 2019.

## RFID SYSTEM AT LIBRARY

The Central Library of the Institute has implemented RFID System, and the system has gone live from May 15, 2019. Institute ID Cards of all students, faculty and staff have been enabled to use RFID system. With the implementation of RFID system, issue and return of library books, tracking books in the library, detecting non-issued books being taken out, inventory control, etc. will become much easier and faster. Moreover, users would now be able to perform self checkout and check-in of library books by using a dedicated kiosk.

## SUMMER ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

IIEC (IIT Gandhinagar Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center) conducted a two months long Summer Entrepreneurship Program starting from May 14; wherein students and entrepreneurs from various institutions and organizations worked on validating their ideas and learnt about entrepreneurship in a structured manner. They were provided access to Tinkerer's Lab, co-working space, faculty, and labs of IITGN to make a prototype. A total of 32 participants were selected for the program.

## STEM LEARNING WORKSHOP BY CCL

IITGN hosted 54 participants from all 27 Community Science Centres (CSCs) of Gujarat for an experiential STEM Learning workshop conducted by the Centre for Creative Learning (CCL), IITGN, in collaboration with Gujarat Council on Science & Technology (GUJCOST). The five-day workshop started on May 21, 2019 with an aim to impart Science and Math education to the participants in an interesting and engaging manner.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

With an intention to raise awareness about the importance and benefits of Yoga in our day to day life, IITGN celebrated the fifth International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2019 with a demonstration and practice of various yoga asanas, followed by a lecture on 'Relevance of Yoga in Everyday Life' by **Dr Shikha Saraogi**, a yoga expert.



## NEEV SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM

Like every year, NEEV at IITGN organized eight-week Summer Skill Courses program from

## WORKSHOPS

- Language Beyond Words by **Dr Anagha Bhat**, Artist and Archaeologist, April 12, 2019.
- Biomechanics and Neuroscience of Human Motion by **Varadhan SKM**, IIT Madras; **Pratik Mutha**, IITGN; **Vineet Vashishta**, IITGN; and **Neeta Kanekar**, IIT Bombay, June 04-06, 2019.
- Generative Design with Autodesk Fusion 360 by **Mr Anand Pujari**, Education Account Manager, Autodesk, April 13, 2019.

May 13 to July 05, 2019 to provide vocational skills training to youth and women from the neighbourhood communities of IITGN. More than 100 trainees who participated in the program were awarded certificates in various courses like Vocational Skills in wiring and CNC machining, Computer Skills, Spoken English Skills, Hardware & Networking Skills, and Stitching Skills.

## SHORT COURSES

- Industrial structural design – analysis and design of plate girders by **Prof Gaurav Srivastava**, IITGN, April 1-20, 2019.
- Cards and Combinatorics by **Prof Manish Jain**, **Prof Neeldhara Misra**, **Prof Anirban Dasgupta**, IITGN, April 6-7, 2019.
- Exploring Geodesics, Polyhedra and their Extension in Designing Products by **Prof Manish Jain**, IITGN, April 8-10, 2019.
- Voice Media and Communication by **Mr Shantanu Joshi**,

## NYASA SUMMER CAMP

Nyasa, a social initiative by the IITGN community for the welfare of children of construction workers around the campus, organized the fifth edition of its annual Summer Camp. The ten-day camp started from June 21, 2019 with some enchanting workshops like Fun with CLI, Dance, Magic Show, Storytelling Session, Drama, and many more.

Founder & Director, In Tune Radio Network Pvt. Ltd. & WeKids Network, April 19-21, 2019.

- Building Design for Fire and Life Safety by **Prof Gaurav Srivastava**, IITGN, **Mr Abhay Purandare**, Fire Consultant, **Prof Anil Agrawal**, IIT Hyderabad, **Mr Sandeep Goel**, Founder Proion Consultants, **Mr Brij Bhushan Singh**, Hilti India Pvt Ltd, June 26-29, 2019.

## LECTURES AT IITGN

Follow this link: [events.iitgn.ac.in](http://events.iitgn.ac.in) or Scan the QR code to see the lectures held at IITGN.



## Student and Staff Activities

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Deepika Soni**, a BTech student in Electrical Engineering, has been awarded the prestigious Cargill Global Scholarship for the year 2019-20. Every year, only 10 second-year undergraduate students from all over India make it to the Program.
- **Renika Baruah**, a PhD student in Mechanical Engineering, received the Best Poster Award at the HydrogenDays 2019 conference held at Prague, Czech Republic. Her work has also been selected for the best contribution award at the conference.
- **Abhijeet Ojha**, a PhD student in Biological Engineering, received the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Fellow Award as a recognition for the exceptional performance of PhD students at IITGN as GTFs.
- **Rahul Kumar**, a PhD student in Civil Engineering, received the Outstanding Student Poster and PICO (OSPP) Award at the European Geophysical Union General Assembly, 2019 held at Vienna.
- **Rajdeep Ghosh**, a MTech student in Civil Engineering, has received the Honorable Mention Paper Award at the 13th North American Masonry Conference (NAMC) held in the Salt Lake City, USA.

Institute to work on their prototypes and they have successfully completed their projects.



### UDAAN 2019

Udaan, the formal farewell dinner night for the graduating batch of IITGN was held on April 14, 2019. The event was organised to bid farewell to the 8<sup>th</sup> BTech, 7<sup>th</sup> MTech, 5<sup>th</sup> MSc, 4<sup>th</sup> MA batches and 6<sup>th</sup> set of PhD students of IITGN. Messages, speeches, and performances by the students and faculties, followed by a delicious formal dinner, made the program an evening to remember.

### LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

The Central Library, IITGN, arranged an Open House for the IITGN community on May 29, 2019, with a rich and varied collection of books. The library team also organised games, quizzes, and interactive activities for the community and children, around the theme of books and reading, with some exciting prizes. The event was an attempt to gather everyone at one place

and discuss ways to make the library and its operations more user-friendly.



### SDC- LEAP SESSION

The Staff Development Cell organised another session under the LEAP initiative on May 25, 2019 to promote interpersonal skills, peer-to-peer relations, and teamwork among the non-teaching staff at IITGN. The session was conducted by **Ms Rashmi Datt**, a professional trainer, on the topic of 'Developing Team Agility'.

### FAMILY SPORTS FESTIVAL

The fourth edition of IITGN Family Sports Festival was held from May 31 - June 2, 2019 with an aim to bring together faculty members and staff along with their families to interact and participate in group events and programs. The event included games and activities for all age groups, like Leg Cricket, Women Football, Relay Race, Puppet Show, and Family Fashion Show.

### STUDENTS' SUMMER TECHNICAL PROJECTS (SSTP) 2019

The second edition of Students' Summer Technical Projects (SSTP) was organised during May 13 - July 2, 2019 by the Technical Council of IITGN. The program was conducted exclusively for First Year BTech Students of IITGN, where the students worked on their projects and had experiential hands-on learning. Three teams were given support from the

## Sports News

### FITNESS SUMMER CAMP

The Sports team, IITGN, organized a 30 days fitness camp from May 15 - June 13, 2019 which was attended by over 180 people from the community. This camp was initiated to motivate people to perform daily exercises and convert this into a habit.

### SUMMER HALLA BOL

A Summer Halla Bol was held from June 21-23, 2019 for the entire IITGN fraternity, including the SRIP interns, to play games like 7-Stones, Futsal, Tug-of-War, Carrom Wars, Leg Cricket.