



Dear IIT Gandhinagar Friends, Alumni, Parents, and Well-Wishers,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our annual update letter, in which we wish to reflect on the year that has gone by, and surmise what we are looking forward to in the year to come. The past has been among the most momentous in the eight-year history of IIT Gandhinagar, and I consider it a privilege to briefly review the activities during this period.

**We shifted into our permanent campus**, starting with hostels and classes, which had moved to Palaj in July 2015. Most laboratories, faculty offices and residences were relocated to the new campus by March 2016. It is a truly remarkable achievement for the Institute to **move into its new campus within three years of awarding of the construction contracts**. Our students exhibited extraordinary leadership in helping stabilize the brand new campus. The batch of 2016 has been a pioneer in this respect and we are extremely proud of them.

IITGN's Palaj campus is the first in the country to receive a **5-star Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment for Large Developments (GRIHA LD)**. The rating system evaluates the environmental performance of large developments like educational campuses, townships, etc.



The Institute has started **several new academic programs this academic year** – B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering; B Tech-M.Tech Dual degree programmes; Dual Major in B.Tech Programme; and M.Tech and PGDIIT in Biological Engineering, and in Earth System Sciences.

The Institute was ranked **8th in the country by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**. Though our overall ranking is 8th, our ranking is 4th in Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR), and 5th in Outreach and Inclusivity (OI).

The Institute received several other recognitions as well during the year. It was awarded "University of the Year" at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Higher Education Excellence Awards 2015 in the category of "institutes in existence for less than 10 years." The staff residences and student hostels in the new campus bagged the First Prize at the HUDCO Design Awards 2015 in the category of "Cost Effective Rural/ Urban Housing including Disaster Resistant Housing."

### *Research, Education and Infrastructure Highlights*

IIT Gandhinagar takes tremendous pride in its innovative curricula and the extraordinary opportunities it provides to its student body for holistic development. Two of our innovative activities, **Peer-group Assisted Learning (PAL)** and the **Foundation Programme** are now receiving national recognition and are being adopted by other universities in the country.

A large number of our students choose to pursue higher studies or entrepreneurship. A substantial number of the students that graduated this year have secured admissions in top universities, such as Stanford, Duke, Toronto, Urbana, and Imperial College. The Institute offers a deferred placement policy, which allows students to defer their placements for up to 2 years to pursue alternative career paths, and the number of students availing it rose to 21 this year, from 9 last year. Again, a substantial increase in the number of students seeking alternate career paths is an indicator of the self-confidence of our students.

The **Summer Research Internship Program (SRIP)** for our own students and those from other institutions is now well institutionalized. This summer, nearly 100 students from outside IIT Gandhinagar participated in this program and conducted research at the Institute.

Since its inception, IITGN has believed that the future of an institution depends on the quality of its faculty and we continue to recruit some of the most outstanding faculty members. As of today, the Institute has **87 career faculty members**, of which more than a dozen have received prestigious national fellowships, such as Inspire, Ramanujam, and Ramalingaswamy.

IIT Gandhinagar is a global partner in the landmark scientific discovery of gravitational waves arising from colliding black holes. A research group at IITGN lead by Dr. Anand Sengupta has been a part of this discovery. Our faculty members are now attracting substantial sponsored research funds. The Institute was recently granted a project on fire safety under Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) with funding of Rs 3.73 crores; a substantial part of it is coming from a private company.

Another major milestone of the year is **the approval from Govt. of India to fund a Research Park at IIT Gandhinagar**. Envisioned as a highly productive physical space, the Park aims to foster powerful interplay between industry and academia, and thereby push the boundaries of innovation and research. Further, in an important development, the **Indian Army signed an MoU with IIT Gandhinagar** on 27 December 2016, initiating a long-term collaboration wherein we will work closely together with Indian Army to find solutions to challenges our forces undergo in hostile terrains.

### *International Partnerships*

This year, we forged a strong partnership with **Duke University**, supported through **USAID** (under an agreement with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India) and assisted by **RTI International**. In January 2016, a 15-member delegation from Duke, RTI and USAID spent four days at the institute, and in June 2016, a 6-member delegation from IITGN followed up with a 5-day visit to RTI and Duke. A number of our students and faculty have also visited Duke during the year as a result of this partnership.

Our international collaborations continue to grow. This year, several IITGN students credited summer courses at the **Parsons School of Design**, under an MOU we have forged with The New School in New York. The fifth edition of India Ki Khoj, held in December 2016, was joined by a team of eight students from **Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST)**, twelve students from the **California Institute of Technology (CalTech)**, and ten students from IIT Gandhinagar.

Of the students that graduated in the 2016 Convocation, **53 BTech, 10 MTech, 6 MA/MSc, and 6 PhD students, had received international experience** through summer internships and participation in international conferences.

### *Community Outreach*

It is important for us to make a difference to our immediate neighborhood. Nurture & Empower Entrepreneurial Ventures (NEEV), our community outreach program, took up several major activities: an entrepreneurship development workshop at Khambhat, Gujarat; a 2-month long training in stitching for women from Palaj village; several awareness programs on entrepreneurship for people from neighbouring villages of Palaj, Basan and Lavarpur; **and a nine-week vocational skills training program for young men from nearby villages in trades such as carpentry, welding and wiring.**

Some of the other outreach activities included a workshop for science teachers (sponsored by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Gujarat); Sanjeevani, a health mela and medical camp for more than 1,400 persons from neighboring villages (sponsored by Desai Foundation); Science Day celebrations, in which over 1,200 school children participated, and a number of events with the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) to support students from low income families studying engineering across the country.



An exhibition featuring the products made by the participants of the vocational skills training program organized by NEEV and supported by the Desai foundation.

IITGN's agenda of excellence critically depends on its ability to raise philanthropic funds, and we have made good progress to this end. To date, the Institute has received more than Rs. 24 crores from well-wishers, and an additional Rs 16 crores has been pledged. Even more importantly, many of our young alumni have now started to make regular monthly donations of modest amounts. In fact, [we shall soon be awarding the first set of scholarships to our students that are entirely funded by our alumni.](#) Philanthropic support is crucial to our ability to provide students with the experiences that define our unique approach to education, which prepares them for making a difference when they are ready for the world at large.

Building a new university is a great privilege and an enormous responsibility. The actions of the initial years have a disproportionate impact on the Institute in the decades ahead. Very few get an opportunity to contribute to building a new university and all of us associated with the Institute are mindful of the singular privilege accorded to us. We must do everything within our means to prove ourselves worthy of the trust that our country and society has placed in us by investing enormous resources on the Institute.

IIT Gandhinagar has made exceptional strides over the past eight years, and yet, we recognize that we have a long way to go. We look forward to your continued support as we take on the challenges ahead of us!

Best wishes,  
Sudhir K. Jain

**IITGN**