

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

Welcome to the third edition of our annual update letter in which we reflect on the year. 2018 marks IIT Gandhinagar's Decennial, as we completed 10 years in August. The inaugural event of the Decennial celebrations was held on 10 August with Shri Pankaj Patel, Chairman, Cadila Healthcare Ltd. (Chairman, Board of Governors of IIT Bhubaneswar) as the Chief Guest.



► Shri Pankaj Patel at the Decennial event marking a decade of IIT Gandhinagar

In our first decade, we have achieved several notable achievements. IITGN is today among India's most globalized campuses. More than 40% of our undergraduate students receive study abroad opportunities, perhaps the highest in India and three times the average of U.S. universities. 80% of IITGN faculty have overseas degrees or post doc experience. 15% of the faculty are visiting faculty from India and abroad. We have exchanges with institutions across all continents.

Our cutting-edge curriculum, informed by the latest pedagogical practices, emphasizes project-oriented learning, the humanities and social sciences, and core requirements in the life sciences, design and innovation. Our transformative 5-week immersion Foundation Program for incoming freshmen on creativity, leadership & communication, ethics, social awareness, and physical fitness, is widely lauded and increasingly emulated. Our academic programs offer students unmatched choices. We have implemented student participation in governance structures in all aspects of Institute affairs, including academic and student life and discipline.

We have succeeded in assembling an exceptionally diverse and talented community. Our students represent 28 states/union territories and 5 countries. 34% of graduate students and 20% of faculty are female. 15% of faculty are visiting faculty from India and abroad; 6% of regular and contractual faculty are international. Our faculty includes 6 Ramanujan Fellows, 2 Ramalingaswami Fellows, and 9 Inspire Fellows.



IITGN

Our exciting and novel programs have attracted innovators and well-wishers around the world, enabling us to build a fundraising scale that matches many older IITs. **We will exceed philanthropic receipts worth Rupees 10 crore in the current financial year.** Nearly 23% of IITGN's annual budget comes from R&D and endowment income. Even though our alumni are still in their early stages of their professional careers, we are especially proud that **20% of our alumni already contribute regularly and 50% have contributed at least once to IITGN,** exceeding the participation rates of some of the world's most prestigious institutions. It is a tribute to the affection with which they hold the institution and the value they place on their experience here.

Our campus, India's first 5 Star GRIHA-LD rated, which earlier won three national HUDCO Design Awards, received the Yes Bank Natural Capital Award 2018 under the Eco-Campus category this year. **The second phase of construction is now underway,** which will double the capacity for faculty, staff and students. Several new office and lab spaces in our academic area, a central arcade, and a sports complex are also being built.

Partnerships and Opportunities

The **Centre for Water & Sanitation (WATSAN) at IIT Gandhinagar Research Park was inaugurated earlier this year,** supported by the US-based WHEELS Global Foundation (WGF), and their India-arm, the WHEELS India Niswarth (WIN) Foundation. The center will focus on developing new, cost-effective ways to treat water, reduce water contamination in rivers, and work to improve policies related to drinking water. IIT Gandhinagar also signed an agreement with the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and the Government of Gujarat, under which **NASSCOM will set up a Centre of Excellence for Internet of Things (IoT)** at the IITGN Research Park.



► A still from Invent@IITGN

IIT Gandhinagar also hosted the maiden intensive seven-week summer program, Invent@IITGN, from June 18 to July 27. **The program originated in the U.S. as 'Invention Factory' and was organized in India for the first time at IITGN.** Invent@IITGN is aimed at encouraging student inventors in India to think creatively and invent solutions to day to day technical problems in life. 20 students were selected from IITs across the country, and they received guidance from the founders of the original U.S. program, Cooper Union Professors Alan Wolf and Eric Lima, and IIT Gandhinagar Professors Vineet Vashista and Nithin George on how to invent and develop their ideas into practice.

Achievements at IITGN

We are delighted to share recognitions that members of the IITGN fraternity received this year. We are especially delighted by the outstanding achievements of our alumni.

Yogesh Goyal, a BTech student of the first batch of Chemical Engineering, has been awarded the prestigious **Schmidt Science Fellowship**. He is among 14 Schmidt Science fellows selected from across the world. Under this program, Yogesh will work to address critical medical challenges in society using novel theoretical and computational approaches. Yogesh had received the institute gold medal from IIT Gandhinagar in 2012, after which he graduated from Princeton University in 2017 with a PhD in Chemical Engineering.



► Yogesh Goyal, BTech 2012, Chemical Engineering

The 11th Dimension, a book authored by **Manu Chaudhary**, a 2017 batch alumnus, was published this year. The book covers the stories of 10 IITians who have chosen unconventional careers.

Ms Ayatri Singha, a student of MSc Physics, has been awarded the prestigious **Ronald Drever Scholarship** to pursue doctoral studies in gravitational waves at the University of Glasgow. **Ms Neha Manav**, a PhD student in Chemistry, has been awarded the 2018-2019 **Shastri Research Student Fellowship (SRSF)** for Doctoral Students. During her research fellowship tenure of about 26 weeks, Neha will be hosted by Prof Gang Zheng in the Department of Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Prof Uttama Lahiri and Prof Prachi Thareja, received the **Prof. Indira Parikh 50 Women in Education Leaders** award. **Prof Dhiraj Bhatia**, Assistant Professor in Biological Engineering was awarded the **Ramanujan Fellowship**. **Prof Kabeer Jasuja** was selected for the **Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) Young Engineer Award**.

IIT Gandhinagar also announced the appointments for the recently instituted Faculty Chairs, which recognize and reward excellence, and help retain outstanding faculty.

The [Jasubhai Memorial Chair](#), setup in honor of Mr. Jasubhai Shah by his son Mr. Maulik Jasubhai, is currently occupied by [Prof Jaison Manjaly](#) (Associate Professor, Philosophy and Cognitive Science). The [B S Gelot Chair](#), setup in honour of late Shri Bakshirambhai S Gelot by his son Shri Gordhanbhai B Gelot, is currently occupied by [Prof Chinmay Ghoroi](#) (Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering). The [TEOCO Chair](#) is currently occupied by [Prof Nithin George](#) (Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering). TEOCO ('The Employee Owned Company') is a leading global organization providing cost, routing, revenue and network management solutions.

Outreach and Social Impact

IITGN places considerable emphasis on social engagement, both through its programs and outreach activities. Nearly 100 students this year participated in the novel six-week summer Explorer Fellowship, under which they discover India's incredible cultural diversity by travelling to a minimum of six states (at least one each on North, South and Northeast) on a shoestring budget of just Rs 900/day for travel, accommodation, food and other living expenses.

Nurture & Empower Entrepreneurial Ventures (NEEV), our community outreach program, conducted seven Skill Development Courses and six Entrepreneurship Development Workshops and awareness sessions, reaching out to 550 participants overall, from a variety of neighboring villages, including Palaj, Basan, Ratanpur, Shahpur, Lavarpur, Prantiya, and Lekevada. Among these, three stitching courses were conducted exclusively for rural women. [NYASA, a student-driven initiative, supports educational programs for the children of the migrant construction workers.](#) It runs an open-air school, which offers midday meals. The 2018 annual health mela, *Sanjeevani*, attracted over 650 people. The Center for Creative Learning (CCL) reached over 20,000 students and 2000 teachers through exhibits and workshops. The team has organized 20 workshops across the country (including seven other IITs), guided the setup of six science centers in other organizations and created over 200 original demonstrations and activities around mathematics, science, and engineering.

Over the last decade, IITGN has been nimble and innovative, and we hope that we can maintain this character as we scale up on all fronts in the years to come. Our journey has been challenging and rewarding in equal measure. As always, we look forward to your guidance, suggestions, and support as we continue our quest to build a world class educational institution.

Best wishes,
Sudhir K. Jain

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