

Dear well-wishers of IIT Gandhinagar,

Happy new year! As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I am thrilled to reflect on the remarkable journey we've had in 2023—a year defined by success, growth, and the unwavering support and belief in IIT GN that you, our invaluable friends, have generously bestowed upon us. To express our gratitude for your steadfast support, we took a moment during the 12th Convocation on July 29, 2023, to recognize key contributors to IITGN's growth. The **Institute Fellow Awards** were introduced and presented for the first time, honoring **Mr. Kushal Sacheti and Mr. Rajesh Mashruwala** for their pivotal roles.

## Elevating Achievements

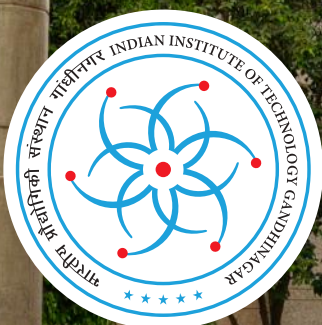
IITGN achieved remarkable strides in academic excellence, climbing to the 18th spot in the engineering category and ascending 13 positions to rank 24th overall in the India Rankings 2023 by NIRF. **Prof Vimal Mishra**, from the Civil Engineering department, earned the prestigious **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2022** for groundbreaking research on examining the role of human activities and natural factors on climate extremes and water resources in India. Meanwhile, **Prof Indranath Sengupta**, in Mathematics, received the **National Teachers' Award 2023** for his unwavering dedication to higher education, presented by Hon'ble President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu. Notably, Prof Sengupta also received the esteemed '**INSA Teachers Award**' for the year 2022, adding to the accolades in both research and teaching excellence.

## Academics & Research

In 2023, IITGN achieved remarkable academic and research milestones, with **20 PhD** scholars securing coveted positions in the **Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF)** scheme during the May 2023 cycle, taking the total count of PMRF fellows to an impressive 67. The institution's commitment to cutting-edge research was underscored with the inauguration of two state-of-the-art laboratories: the 'Gordhanbhai B Gelot Laboratory for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science' and the 'Sarita G Gelot Laboratory for Intelligent Rehabilitation & Affective Computing Systems.'

Additionally, strategic moves by IIEC (IIT Gandhinagar Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre) included redeeming equity in MiCoB, a 3D concrete printing startup, yielding Rs 1.3 crore in valuation funds. The Research Park expanded its ecosystem as Biotech Vision Care Pvt Ltd joined during the third quarter, with ongoing discussions to welcome more industries.

On the academic front, the Institute introduced two new courses, BTech in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and BTech-MTech Dual Degree in Mechanical Engineering, starting from the Academic Year 2023-24, thereby adding approximately 80 new seats to the undergraduate programs at IITGN.



## Visitors to IITGN

In 2023, IITGN had the opportunity to host distinguished visitors, notably, the former First Lady and Secretary of State of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who participated in an interactive town hall, "Insights from Her Journey," and appreciated the impactful collaboration between the Desai Foundation and IITGN's social outreach programs, NYASA and NEEV, in nurturing the rural youth, women, and communities through skilling, entrepreneurship, and health programmes. Tokyo Governor Ms. Koike Yuriko, accompanied by a Japanese delegation, graced IITGN on July 8, engaging in discussions with the institute's leadership, interacting with supported deep tech startups, and exploring the innovative spaces of Maker Bhawan and the Centre for Creative Learning (CCL).


## Philanthropic Support

The philanthropic support extended to IITGN in 2023 has led to the establishment of the "ASI Archaeology Chair" at the Archaeological Sciences Centre. Along with promoting research in various aspects of archaeology through collaborative and scholarly activities, the resources under this Chair will also be used to deepen research in multiple facets of the ancient Harappan/Indus/Sindhu-Saraswati Civilisation. BIS Standardisation Chair, established by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) aims to develop collaborative activities for research and development and teaching and training in the field of Standardisation and Conformity Assessment in various areas of engineering, development and management of water resources and renewable energy projects, infrastructure development, medical biotechnology and nanotechnology, and biomaterials. The BIS Standardization Chair has been awarded to Amit Prashant, Professor in Civil Engineering. In a further boost for our research, L&T Technology Services Limited has provided CSR funding to undertake R&D on Smart Farming of Cotton using Aerial imagery and Computer Vision. Philanthropic efforts by IITGN alumni have been creating lasting impacts. In 2023, Ameya Joshi, a 2014 BTech alumna, established **three endowed scholarships** supporting second-year undergraduate students of **Electrical Engineering** annually. Abhiroop Mishra, a 2019 BTech alumna, created the '**Dr Maya and Dr Vishwanath Tiwary Scholarship**' honoring his maternal grandparents. This scholarship supports one undergraduate female student of Materials Engineering annually.

## Partnerships and Opportunities

Early in 2023, IITGN signed an **MoU with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** to welcome international students under the ICCR scholarship programs, reinforcing the institute's commitment to a diverse and inclusive academic environment. Further expanding its international reach, IITGN partnered with the **University of Cambridge**. This MoU aims to enhance mutual academic ties through collaborative efforts in mapping archaeological heritage in South Asia, training students





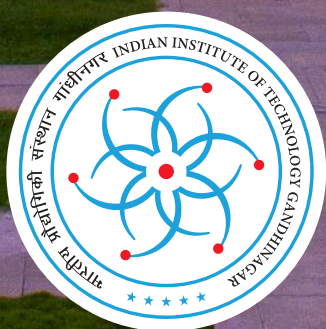
and researchers in GIS-based mapping and field surveying techniques, and conducting research in archaeological sciences. Additionally in November, an MoU was established with **Deakin University, Australia**, marking a significant milestone in academic and research collaboration. The partnership facilitates knowledge exchange, enabling students, faculty, and staff from both institutions to engage in collaborative research, teaching, and learning in areas of common interest. These MoUs underscore IITGN's commitment to global academic excellence and collaborative research initiatives. Further extending its network, IITGN joined hands with the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** to enhance student skills through internships and research scholarships. This collaboration involves enrolling interns from institutions in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, as well as AICTE-accredited institutions, under the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme.

On the industry front, IITGN signed a significant **MoU with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Limited**, facilitating collaborative research, exchange of scholars, internships for students at TCS Innovation Labs, and participation in TCS call for proposals addressing specific industry problems. It partnered with the **National Internet Exchange of India-CSC Data Services Limited (NIXI-CSC)** to leverage various IT and Cloud Services under the Government of India's "Digital India" mission. This collaboration includes the provision of advanced IT services such as cloud services, managed Kubernetes, online security, disaster recovery, active archival, application modernization, and high-performance computing.

Lastly, an **MoU with the Directorate General - Fire Services, Civil Defence & Home Guards (DG - FS, CD & HG)** was signed to establish collaboration and cooperation in the field of Fire Engineering. This joint effort is geared towards promoting research, development, and capacity building to contribute to building a fire-safe India.

## Hosting InterIIT Aquatic and Sports Meet

With the ethos of competition and sportsmanship, IIT Gandhinagar played host to the 37th Inter IIT Aquatics Meet from October 4 to 8, 2023, and the broader Inter IIT Sports Meets 2023 from December 14 to 22, 2023. The 56th Inter IIT Sports Meet for students, jointly organized by IIT Gandhinagar and IIT Bombay, while the 28th Inter IIT Staff Meet and the Inter IIT Aquatics meet were exclusively hosted by IITGN, spanning from December 24 to December 29, 2023. Over 3000 students and staff members from all 23 IITs nationwide showcased their athletic prowess at the state-of-the-art Sports Complex at IITGN. In a resounding triumph, the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) secured its position as the highest medal winner, clinching a total of **10 medals, including 5 Gold, 3 Silver, and 2 Bronze**, across



various swimming championships for **Men and Women at the Aquatics Meet**. The **28th Inter IIT Staff Sports Meet** at IIT Gandhinagar provided a platform to witness the athletic prowess of faculty and staff members. IIT Gandhinagar earned a **Gold** medal in **Squash** and a **Silver** medal in **Shot Put**.

## CCL

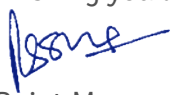
The Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) at IIT Gandhinagar had a remarkable year, making significant strides in promoting STEM education and garnering international recognition. Showcasing 500 STEM-based toys and models. CCL's experiential STEM education models captured the attention of distinguished figures, including the Prime Minister of India and Education minister of Australia. Nationally, CCL continued its commitment to STEM education through diverse programs, reaching students and teachers across the country with innovative training initiatives, STEM kits, online series, and YouTube outreach, reaffirming its dedication to advancing STEM education in India.

## Campus Development

Adding another accolade to its repertoire, IIT Gandhinagar secured the International Green University Award 2023 from Green Mentors, USA, a non-governmental organization holding special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Recognized for its comprehensive approach to sustainable practices and the cultivation of eco-conscious values among students. Further attesting to its architectural prowess, IITGN's Central Arcade-Student Activity Centre earned the '32nd JK Architect of the Year Award' in the public building category.

Additionally, the institute's new Academic Block complexes have become operational, hosting the central library and Maker Bhawan, which have already commenced operations. The relocation of labs and faculty offices to the new complex marks a significant step in expanding and optimizing the institute's academic infrastructure. As we reflect on the remarkable journey of IIT Gandhinagar in 2023, I am filled with optimism and confidence in our collective ability to shape a future of excellence and innovation. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you. Together, we have made a significant impact, and as we step into the new year, I am confident that our shared commitment will propel IITGN to even greater heights. Wishing you all a year filled with joy, success, and continued achievements.

Wishing you a promising and fulfilling 2024!



Rajat Moona  
Director, IIT Gandhinagar

