

## Dear well-wishers of IIT Gandhinagar,

As we bid farewell to 2024 and prepare to welcome a promising new year, it is worthwhile to take a moment to reflect on 2024 and all that it brought for IIT Gandhinagar. This year was marked by several milestones for the Institute across various fronts. From setting new benchmarks in education and innovation to fostering meaningful collaborations and driving societal impact, 2024 has been a year of growth, recognition, and impactful initiatives for the Institute. With a vibrant community of over 2800 students, 176 faculty, and more than 500 staff members, the Institute is on a growth path.

### Campus Development

Marking a new chapter in IITGN's growth, we were honoured to have Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi lay the foundation stone of student hostels and staff residences of IITGN for Phase 2A construction of the Institute, via video conference. I am pleased to share that the construction work under this project is progressing smoothly.

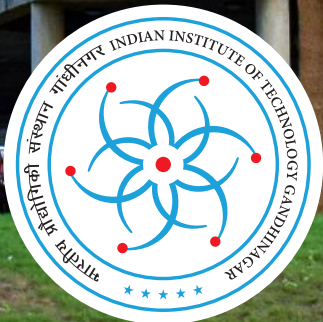
The past year has been remarkable for IITGN, bringing numerous accolades that highlight our achievements across various domains. Among these, we bagged the prestigious Star Campus Award 2024 in water conservation and management category. This accolade presented by Earth Day Network – India, celebrates our innovation and sustainable practices in water conservation and environmental stewardship. Furthermore, IITGN's green initiatives at its campus, under the theme of 'Sanitation' has been recognised with the 'HUDCO Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment 2023-24.' This achievement showcases our dedication to sustainability and the green initiatives implemented on campus. Most recently, IITGN was awarded the CII Award for Industry-Academia Partnership as the Gold Winner in the Government Institute Category for 2024. Instituted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), this honour recognises institutions that excel in fostering collaborations with industry to drive innovation and societal progress.

In another proud moment, IIT Gandhinagar's Guest House designed by Architect Neeraj Manchanda won the Architectural Excellence Award of 2024 for its unique and novel design. Continuing our efforts in environmental conservation, the IITGN community came together to plant 8,000 saplings during the 2024 planting season in a tree plantation programme.

### Academics & Research

Underscoring our commitment to cutting-edge research, IITGN launched the **Erach and Meheroo Mehta Fintech Initiative** to create academic and research opportunities for faculty and students. This initiative, established with the generous support of Shri Ruyintan (Ron) Mehta, a longtime well-wisher of the Institute, will offer internships, support startups, and facilitate collaborations between IITGN, industry, and government to drive technological advances in fintech.

Our students and faculty continue to expand horizons and develop meaningful and innovative solutions. In 2024, IITGN researchers developed 'Ganga-1B', an AI language model designed specifically for Hindi. This pre-trained model,



created from scratch using Hindi datasets, supports both Hindi and English, as well as a mix of the two languages. Additionally, a group of IITGN students successfully developed a fully-functional autonomous vehicle capable of operating without a driver. The students transformed an electric golf cart into a cutting-edge driverless vehicle that can navigate the campus independently, connecting the hostels to the academic area.

Exemplifying our responsiveness to the evolving needs of the industry, we introduced new BTech/Mtech and PhD programmes in 'Integrated Circuit Design and Technology (ICDT)' as part of the Electrical Engineering department from the academic year 2024-2025. Additionally, the Institute launched a new e-Master's degree programme in Composites, which offers in-depth exploration of composite materials, equipping professionals to excel in aerospace, automotive, and other high-performance sectors. Furthermore, IITGN in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand launched a Double Degree Master's Programme (DDMP) in August 2024. The collaboration offers students an opportunity to earn two separate master's degrees, one from IITGN and another from AIT.

We also hosted our 13th Convocation ceremony in 2024 which witnessed the largest ever contingent of 530 students receiving their degrees. During the convocation, IITGN also conferred the Institute Fellow awards to **Mr Mahesh R Patel**, Former Principal, Vishwakarma Government Engineering College, and **Mr Ruyintan Mehta**, Former President, IITGN Foundation in the United States, for their lasting contributions to the advancement of the Institute. Our students and faculty continue to excel, earning recognition for their contributions to research and innovation.

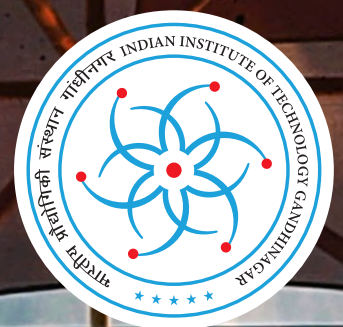
## Visitors at IITGN

We had the privilege of hosting several eminent personalities from India as well as overseas this year which explored several opportunities for collaboration. A special delegation from various Japanese organisations visited IITGN on January 12, 2024, to explore possibilities for industry research collaboration and understand innovation-related best practices at the Institute. We also welcomed Consul General Mike Hankey from the US Consulate General, Mumbai. His visit aimed to explore bilateral cooperation in higher education between the USA and India. Another high-level delegation from the Govt of Karnataka headed by Dr M C Sudhakar, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Govt of Karnataka, visited the Institute and held engaging discussions on various aspects of academics and research. The officials were also given a campus tour and explored the state-of-the-art sports facilities, hostels, and academic area.

Additionally, we hosted Lt Governor of New Jersey, Tahesha Way, who was accompanied by an esteemed delegation of guests from the New Jersey-India Commission and the US Consulate Mumbai, along with noted professionals from industry and academia.

## Philanthropic Support

We remain ever grateful to all our well wishers who continue to extend remarkable support for the Institute and the overall development of the students. This year we received contributions from our alumni with 50.7% of



alumni making financial contributions totalling Rs 72 lakhs to the Institute during the Financial Year 2023-2024. This marks the fifth consecutive year that IITGN has surpassed the 50% mark in alumni donations. In 2024, Dr Purna Singh, a 2017 BTech alumna, instituted the '**Sadhana and Prithivi Pati Singh Scholarship**' at IITGN, in honour of her parents. The scholarship worth Rs 1 lakh, supports an undergraduate student at IITGN every year. Additionally, Manikanta Mandlem, a 2019 BTech alumnus, set up the '**Sugunamma and Sarojamma Scholarship**' in honour of his paternal and maternal grandmothers. The scholarship, worth Rs 1 lakh, supports one undergraduate student at IITGN every year.

In another significant milestone, the Institute witnessed an exceptional **161% increase in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support** during FY 2023-24, as compared to FY 2022-23. This surge in CSR funding reflects a growing recognition of IITGN's excellence in education, research, and societal impact.

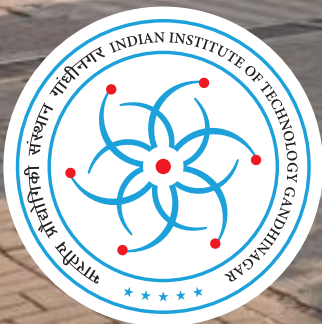
## Partnerships and Opportunities

This year we forged several meaningful partnerships and MoUs with renowned universities across the globe and industries to foster collaboration in research, education, and innovation.

In the beginning of 2024, IITGN signed an **MoU with the University of San Diego, USA**, to collaborate in various academic, research, capacity building, training, and faculty/staff development activities. We also partnered with the **Graduate School of Science, Tokyo Metropolitan University** to enhance collaboration in staff exchange, joint research, student exchange and cooperation in various research activities like symposia, conferences, information exchange, publication, and data sharing. In February 2024, we joined hands with **California Institute of Technology** to establish a comprehensive student exchange programme for 2024-2028. Adding to our collaborations with global universities, IITGN inked an MoU with **City University of London**. This agreement will facilitate the development of dual degree MSc programmes in Cyber Security, and Financial Technology and Systems.

Furthermore, IITGN signed an MoU with **Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST)** to develop educational and scientific exchange and cooperation. Under the agreement, both the organisations will conduct joint research projects, exchange academic publications and reports, and will collaborate to organise joint symposia, workshops, lectures, and conferences. Most recently, we collaborated with **National Changhai University of Education, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan, and Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan, USA**, to promote academic exchanges and cooperation.

Expanding our reach, IITGN signed an MoU with **Samagra Shiksha, Uttar Pradesh** to foster collaborative activities to enhance learning experience of children attending PM Shri schools in Uttar Pradesh. As part of the agreement, CCL, IITGN will provide STEM toys, models and activities for Science and Maths, including out-of-the-box thinking puzzles and games. Furthermore, with an MoU with the **Desai Foundation Trust (DFT)** we aim to establish long term relationships to conduct programmes focussed on uplifting the health



and livelihood of women, youth, and children to serve communities.  
Under the agreement, DFT and IITGN will collaborate on multiple projects.

Solidifying our industry connect, we partnered with **Adani Defence and Aerospace** to collaborate in areas of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and Large Language Models (LLMs) for defence applications. Another MoU with the **Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)** marked a significant milestone in the advancement of high-tech security products, as ECIL, renowned for its cutting-edge contributions, established its presence within IITGN's Research Park. IITGN will collaborate with ECIL to develop advanced Under Vehicle Surveillance (UVS) Systems. Additionally, we collaborated with **L&T Semiconductor Technologies (LTSCT)** to foster collaborative research and development in the semiconductor sector. IITGN signed another agreement with **Milacron India** as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to further our efforts in providing scholarships for differently-abled students.

Moreover, IITGN inked an MoU with **Shah Bhogilal Jethalal and Bros.** to enhance the fire engineering research facilities at the Institute. As part of this agreement, Shri Mukeshbhai Shah has generously pledged to fund the construction of a new laboratory building dedicated to fire research.

IIT Gandhinagar is thrilled to partner with **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Ahmedabad University, and UC San Diego** to launch the GIFT International Fintech Institute (GIFT IFI). The launch of the GIFT IFI brings an inspiring opportunity to redefine education, research, and entrepreneurship in the Indian FinTech domain through curated skill development and training programmes.

NEEV and Nyasa continue doing impactful work uplifting the lives of several people around the campus and beyond. I am pleased to share that NEEV recently celebrated 10 years of its inception. With a humble inception in 2014, the programme now serves 6000 beneficiaries spread across over 40 villages in Gujarat. Similarly, the Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) at IITGN has achieved remarkable outreach through its Curiosity Programme. Now spanning 12 states, it has positively influenced over 2,00,000 young girls from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs). The programme features 80 live biweekly online STEM sessions that make fundamental science and mathematics concepts engaging, accessible, and enjoyable.

We take immense pride in the strides IITGN has made toward fostering excellence, innovation, and inclusivity. The accomplishments of this year are a testament to the unwavering dedication of our students, faculty, staff, and supporters. Looking ahead, we remain committed to building on this momentum, driving impactful change, and scaling new heights of success.

Wishing you all a prosperous new year!



Rajat Moona  
Director, IIT Gandhinagar

