

Connections

IIT Gandhinagar



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Connections is the quarterly newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar

Institute News

First Senate Meeting

The Senate is a statutory body responsible for all academic matters of the Institute including monitoring, modifications and improvements. The Senate of the Institute was constituted on April 5, 2010 and the external members nominated to the first Senate are from IIT Bombay, Physical Research Laboratory Ahmedabad, and the Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University Gandhinagar. In his opening remarks at the first Senate meeting held on April 24, 2010, Professor Sudhir Jain, Senate Chairman, highlighted the critical role the Senate has to play in shaping the academics of the Institute and in guiding it to achieve a global reputation of excellence in education and research. In this meeting, the Senate considered several important issues such as strengthening of the PhD programme, starting a vibrant MTech programme, defining Minors courses, Excellence-in-Research Fellowships for young faculty, etc.



Prior to its constitution, the functions of Senate were performed by an Academic Council consisting of Heads of the concerned Departments at IIT Bombay, this being the mentor institute. The Academic Council held five meetings between July 2008 and November 2009, and steered academics of the Institute very effectively.

First Building & Works Committee Meeting

All major capital works in the Institute are the responsibility of the Building & Works Committee (BWC) of the Institute constituted by the Board of Governors and working under its overall direction. The first BWC was constituted as follows:

- ♦ Prof Sudhir K Jain, Director (ex-officio), Chairman
- ♦ Shri Kiran S Wagh, Chief Advisor (Civil infrastructure), IIT Bombay
- ♦ Shri R Subramanian, former Engineer-in-Chief, Delhi PWD and former Additional Director General, Central PWD
- ♦ Prof N Chhaya, Dean, Faculty of Architecture, CEPT University, Ahmedabad
- ♦ Shri M B Bhalala, Chief Engineer (Capital), R & B Dept, Govt. of Gujarat, Ahmedabad
- ♦ Ms Pratima Dikshit, Director (Tech), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt of India
- ♦ Sri B S Punalkar, Registrar, IIT Bombay (Secretary)

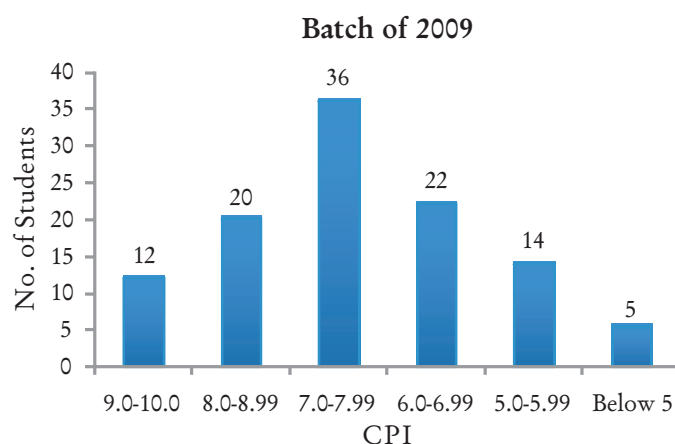
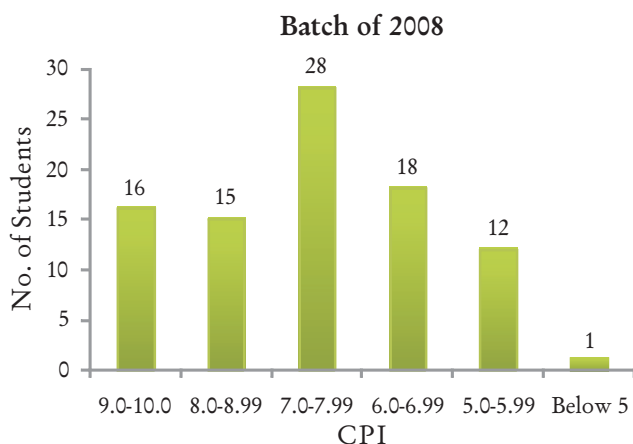
The BWC held its first meeting on May 25, 2010. Mr. Rajiv Garg, Superintending Engineer, IIT Kanpur, Prof D P Roy, Professor In-charge, Engineering Disciplines and Major Gen (Retd.) Vijay Aga, OSD, also attended the meeting as special invitees. Two issues of immediate importance were considered: space requirements in the temporary campus at Chandkheda and the required course of action, and the process of selection of master planner/ architects for the permanent campus of the Institute.

IITGN makes history in Branch changes

IIT Gandhinagar is very liberal in granting change of branch to students based on academic performance after completion of their first year studies. It is highlighted by the fact that this year all the students who requested a change in branch before starting their second year studies were not only granted change of branch but all of them got the branch of their first preference. Thus, IITGN set a record in branch change policy – probably the first in the history of the IIT system.

Academic Performance of Students

At the end of the academic year 2009-10, a total of 16 second year students out of 90 secured a Cumulative Performance Index (CPI) of 9.0 and above, with **Swetava Ganguli** scoring highest CPI of 9.96. Twelve first year students, out of 109, secured a CPI of 9.0 and above, with **Vipul Goyal** securing highest CPI of 9.67.



Activities at IITGN

Distinguished Visitors



Prof Raghunath K Shevgaonkar, Vice Chancellor, Pune University visited IITGN on April 16, 2010 to participate in Electrical Engineering Selection Committee. He had been associated with IITGN earlier while he was the Deputy Director of IIT Bombay.



Mr. Kushal Sacheti, CEO, Galaxy USA Inc., visited IITGN on May 3, 2010. Mr. Sacheti obtained his M. Tech from IIT Kanpur in 1972.



Prof Devang Khakhar, Director, IIT Bombay visited the Institute on April 14, 2010 to participate in Chemical Engineering Selection Committee. Taking advantage of his presence on the campus, a meeting of the IITGN faculty was organized for interaction and exchange ideas with Prof Khakhar. Prof Khakhar has been the mentor Director of IITGN earlier.

Short Courses/ Symposia/ Workshops

- ◆ A workshop on **Cosmology (COSMO-2010)** was organized by IITGN in collaboration with Cosmos Safari (New Delhi) during April 10-11, 2010. The workshop comprised of lectures, film shows and star gazing sessions. More than 100 students from various institutes including IITGN, DAIICT and Nirma University participated in the workshop. Distinguished speakers included **Dr Santosh Vadawale** (PRL, Ahmedabad), **Prof Atul Gurtu** (TIFR, Mumbai), **Dr C K Raju** (Centre for Studies in Civilizations, New Delhi), **Dr Arvind Paranjape** (IUCAA, Pune), **Dr Arvind Ranade** (Vigyan Prasar, New Delhi), **Dr P Janardhan** (PRL, Ahmedabad), **Prof D S Kulshreshtha** (Delhi University), **Dr Anil Kulkarni** (ISRO, Ahmedabad), **Sandeep Nigam** (Cosmos Safari, New Delhi) and **Amitabh Pande** (Amateur Astronomy Association, New Delhi). **Dr Ameeya Bhagwat** and **Dr Pallavi Ghalsasi** of IITGN coordinated the event.
- ◆ A workshop on **Computational Methods in Chemical Engineering using MATLAB** was conducted by **Dr Nitin Padhiyar** of Chemical Engineering in coordination with **Prof Z Z Painter**, VGEC, Chandkheda for VGEC students during April 15-16, 2010.
- ◆ A workshop on **Digital Prototyping using Autodesk Inventor** was conducted by **Mr. Ramesh S Pudale** of Autodesk India (P) Ltd. for IITGN students during May 2-5, 2010. The Institute intends to forge a strong relationship with Autodesk.



- ◆ **Indo-UK Workshop on Critical National Infrastructure Protection** was jointly organized by C-DAC Mumbai, IIT Gandhinagar and City University London, in Mumbai during May 14-15, 2010. **Prof Dhiren Patel** of IIT Gandhinagar was the Program Chair. More than 90 delegates represented organizations such as Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata, IITs, TCS, ABB, IBM, C-DAC, NIA, DIT, Air Tight Networks, HDFC Bank, Secure-matrix, and City University London.
- ◆ **A summer course on Processor Architectures** was jointly organized by IITGN and Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (DA-IICT) Gandhinagar from June 7, 2010 to June 26, 2010 for Electrical Engineering students of both the Institutes. The course faculty included **Prof R N Biswas** (NIIT University, Rajasthan and formerly of IIT Kanpur), **Prof D Nag Choudhuri** (DA-IICT and formerly of IIT Delhi) and **Dr Kaushik Saha** (ST Microelectronics). **Prof S Chatterji**, Dean (AP), DAIICT and **Prof Joyce Meki**, IITGN coordinated the course.

Lectures at IITGN

- ◆ **Issues in Natural Circulation Based Nuclear Reactors** by **Dr S K Gupta**, Distinguished Scientist and Director, Safety Analysis and Documentation Division, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Mumbai on April 8, 2010.
- ◆ **Brain Machine Interface** by **Prof Govindan Rangarajan**, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on April 21, 2010.
- ◆ **Action Perspectives in Engineering Education and Research** by **Prof V Giri**, Electrical Engineering Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison on June 29, 2010.

Faculty and Staff News

New Faculty

The following persons joined IITGN faculty during this quarter:

Name	Designation	Discipline	Ph.D.	Date of joining
Arup L Chakraborty	Assistant Professor	Electrical Engg	University of Strathclyde, 2010	26.05.10
Bireswar Das	Assistant Professor	Computer Sc & Engg	IMS, Chennai, 2010	27.06.10

Guest Professors

IITGN has been seeking participation of eminent academics around the world in its pursuit of excellence. Recently, two distinguished experts have agreed to be Guest Professors of IITGN and committed to spend at least 10 days per year at the Institute:

Dr Nikhil Balram is a world renowned expert on display technology and consumer electronics. He has served in several companies including Faroudja, Sage, Genesis Microchip, SONICblue, National Semiconductor and Marvell Semiconductor. He has numerous patents, technical papers and books. He has a BS, MS and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, all from Carnegie Mellon University.

Prof Vijay Gupta is well known for innovations in teaching and evaluation methods and for his publications and teaching aids. During his long tenure at IIT Kanpur, he taught a wide range of courses and held many important positions, including the Dean of Academic Affairs. He is currently Vice-Chancellor, Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar. He did his B Tech from IIT Delhi and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1972.

New Staff

The following persons have joined the Institute against regular non-teaching positions:

Employee Name	Designation	Joining date	Employee Name	Designation	Joining date
Vinod R Prasad	Assistant Registrar	02.03.10	Ankur Navdiwala	Jr Lab Assistant	21.01.10
Pijush Majumdar	Assistant Registrar	10.03.10	Sanjaykumar K kachiya	Jr Lab Assistant	19.02.10
Santosh Raut	Jr Superintendent	02.03.10	Darshan Patel	Jr Assistant	15.01.10
Shreejit B Menon	Jr Superintendent	16.03.10	Piyush Vankar	Jr Assistant	15.03.10
Ravinder P	Sr Lib Inf. Assistant	18.02.10	Prajapati Ramanand L	Jr Lab Attendant	16.02.10
Harshad kumar Patel	Jr Accountant	22.03.10	Supresh S Thaleshari	Jr Lab Attendant	08.06.10

New Sponsored Projects at IITGN

- ◆ **Synthesis of monodispersed magnetic nanoparticles for biomedical application and to develop lab facilities** with **Dr Kinnari Parekh** as the Principal Investigator and sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi.
- ◆ **Seismic Studies on In-field Pipeline of Bhagyam Field**. Sponsored by L & T – GULF Private Ltd. and is being executed jointly by IITGN, IIT Kanpur and IIT Kharagpur with **Prof S K Jain** as coordinator.

Reaching Out

Professor Sudhir Jain participated in two meetings at the World Bank in Washington DC (USA) during June 1-4, 2010 (a) **Understanding Risk** Conference on Innovation in Disaster Risk, organized by the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) of the World Bank, and (b) **Outreach Meeting** of the Global Earthquake Model (GEM). During this visit, Dr. Jain visited the University of Maryland and met the graduate students and faculty there. He also met with the Pan IIT Leadership of the Washington DC area to brief them on the developments at the Institute. These meetings were facilitated by Prof Nitish Thakor of the Johns Hopkins University who is a friend of the Institute. Dr Jain also met the three IITGN undergraduate students (Neel, Anusha and Nishant) working in Professor Thakor's laboratories as the summer intern. He met with prominent IIT Kanpur alumni in the New Jersey area at a dinner organized by Dr Ram Misra, President of IIT Kanpur Foundation. Professor Jain spent a few days at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale De Lausanne (EPFL) Switzerland, where he discussed potential collaborations between EPFL and IITGN. He addressed the Indian graduate students and post doctoral fellows to encourage them to consider applying for faculty positions at IITGN. Professor Jain also held meetings in Paris with Ecole Centrale Paris and Telcom Sud-Paris for future collaborations.

Student Activities

IITGN Students Obtain Summer Internships

IITGN actively helps its students to obtain summer internships in industry, research organizations and academic institutes within India and abroad to help them gain exposure to different environments. Fourteen second year and four first year students obtained internship at research labs at five International Organizations including Johns Hopkins University, Washington University, and Underwriters Laboratory in USA, ENSAM France, and Nanyang Technological University Singapore. Twenty four students are doing their internship at different Indian Institutes including IITs, IPR and PRL. Thirty two students are doing their internship at industrial organizations including Tata Motors, Fluidyn Bangalore, and TCS.

IITGN Faculty Offers Summer Internships

IITGN faculty provided summer internships of 2 to 8 weeks duration to 10 of its own students and 8 students from other educational institutes including PDPU, NIT Surat, CEPT University, NIT Suratkal and JNCASR. Majority of the interns had completed their second or third year of studies, while one intern was a post graduate student. The interns were guided at IITGN by Dr S K Jain, Dr V Narayanan, Dr D Modi and Dr S Dalvi.

Adventure Trip

A group of 30 students under the leadership of the Student Counselor **Jasbir Kaur Thadhani** went on an excursion from May 5 to May 20, 2010. Their activities included Trekking, Paragliding, River rafting and other adventure sports. The entire group reached the trekking destination of **Kedar Kanth Peak** in Himalayas, at a height of 12,500ft.



Sports News

Inter Departmental Tournament Championships, 2010

Sport	Date	Final Match	Captain
Football	April 5, 2010	EE won against CheE (5-4)	Shashank Sheohare
Basketball	April 6, 2010	CheE won against ME (39-36)	Yogesh Goyal
Volleyball	April 7, 2010	EE won against CheE (3-1)	B Rajashekhar
Table Tennis	April 7, 2010	CheE won against ME	Chetas Joshi
Badminton	April 8, 2010	EE won against CheE (3-1)	Harsh Paliwal



Individual Championships

Badminton : **Harsh Paliwal**
Table Tennis : **Chetas Joshi**
Chess : **Akshay Navlaka**

Distinguished Awards in Sports

Sports Person Of the year : **Vishvendra Joshi**
Best Athlete of the year : **Suresh Chaudhary**
General Championship : **Electrical Engineering**

IITGN Wins Invitational Match

IITGN Basketball team won a closely fought invitational match against 21 Rajput Regiment held at Sports Authority of India, Gandhinagar on April 3, 2010. It was a team effort with all the players contributing towards the win. Vishvendra Joshi and Suresh Chaudhary deserve special mention.