

# Connections

A newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar



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## INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS

### 12TH CONVOCATION



IITGN hosted its 12th Convocation on July 29, 2023, by conferring degrees to a total of 456 students. **Dr BVR Mohan Reddy**, Founder Chairman and Board Member, Cyient, a global technology solutions company, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. **Dr Rajiv Modi**, Chairman & Managing Director, Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Chairman of the IITGN Board of Governors, was also present on the occasion. **Prof Rajat Moona**, Director, gave a brief overview of the Institute's activities and achievements during the year. **For the first time, the Institute awarded verifiable and tamper-proof digital degrees, mark sheets, and medal certificates in USB drives** to 73 PhD students, 43 MTech students, 1 BTech-MTech Dual Degree student, 108 MSc students, 23 MA students, 8 PGDIIT students, 3 BTech Dual Major students, 196 BTech students, and 1 BSc (Engineering) student. In addition, the Institute has also uploaded these digital degrees into students' DigiLocker. This year, 48 students received 58 medals, including 42 gold medals and 16 silver medals for excellence in various categories.

**Shrreya Singh** was awarded the President's Gold Medal for BTech, **S Ankita Kumari Jain** secured the President's Gold Medal for MTech, and **Kaushik Khamari** received the President's Gold Medal for MSc and MA. **Isha Bayad** bagged the Director's Gold Medal for BTech, Director's Gold Medal for MTech went to **Riddhi Johri**, Director's Gold Medal for PhD was awarded to **Shanti Shwarup Mahato**, and **Ramyra Warriar** won Director's Gold Medal for MSc and MA. The entire event was also streamed online on IITGN's YouTube channel.

### INSTITUTE FELLOW AWARDS

For the first time, IITGN announced and presented Institute Fellow Awards to **Mr Kushal Sacheti**, serial entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist, and **Mr Rajesh (Raj) Mashruwala**, founder of a number of technology companies and Founding President of the IIT Gandhinagar Foundation in the United States, during 12th Convocation of the Institute on July 29, 2023, to honour their pivotal role in IITGN's growth and development over the years. **Ms Poonam Sacheti** and **Mr Piyush Shah** received the awards on behalf of Mr Sacheti and Mr Mashruwala, respectively.

### GREEN UNIVERSITY AWARD 2023

Adding yet another feather to its cap, IITGN has won the International Green University Award 2023 by the Green Mentors, USA, a non-government organisation with special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), for its holistic approach to sustainable practices and instilling eco-conscious values among students. **Mr P K Chopra**, Registrar, received the award on behalf of

### SHRI SANJIV PURI APPOINTED AS CHAIRPERSON, BOG

**Shri Sanjiv Puri**, Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Limited, one of India's leading conglomerates, is appointed as Chairperson of the Board of Governors of IITGN. His appointment is approved by the President of India for a period of three years with effect from August 25, 2023. An alumnus of IIT, Kanpur and the Wharton School of Business, USA, Shri Puri has held several business leadership positions during his career spanning over three decades at ITC and its subsidiaries. Presently, he also serves as the President-Designate of CII.



### SSB PRIZE 2022 TO PROF VIMAL MISHRA

**Prof Vimal Mishra**, Professor, Civil Engineering, is bestowed with India's topmost science award - the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2022 by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), India, for his outstanding contributions towards examining the role of anthropogenic and natural factors on hydrologic extremes and water resources in India. Prof Mishra is the sole awardee in the Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean, and Planetary Sciences category this year.



### NATIONAL TEACHERS' AWARD 2023 TO PROF INDRANATH SENGUPTA

**Prof Indranath Sengupta**, Professor, Mathematics, is awarded the National Teachers' Award 2023 by the Ministry of Education for his dedication and contribution to higher education and enriching the lives of his students. The award was conferred to him by Hon'ble President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu on Sep 5, 2023.



IITGN on Sep 15, 2023, at the 7th NYC Green School Conference held at Cornell University, USA.

### TOKYO GOVERNOR AT IITGN

Tokyo Governor **Ms Koike Yuriko**, along with a delegation of officials from Japan, visited IITGN on July 8, 2023, and held a meeting with the leadership of the Institute. Following the meeting, Ms Koike Yuriko and the delegation also interacted with a few deep tech startups supported by IIEC and visited Maker Bhawan - a world-class Maker Space and the Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) at IITGN.



## SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTE

### MoU WITH GSV

IITGN has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), Vadodara on Aug 5, 2023. This new collaboration aims to promote research, teaching, and training activities of both institutions and deepen the understanding of the scientific, technological, and management issues relevant to the respective institutions. The MoU will also facilitate organisation of joint events, collaboration in submission for international projects and sponsored research opportunities, and exchange of faculty, students, and staff for research and professional development.



### THREE SCHOLARSHIPS SET UP BY ALUMNUS AMEYA JOSHI



**Ameya Joshi**, a BTech alumnus of 2014, has set up three endowed scholarships in honour of **Profs KVV Murthy, DV Pai, and Ramesh Gaonkar**. The scholarships, worth Rs 1 lakh each, will support three second-year undergraduate students of Electrical Engineering at IITGN every year.

**Prof KVV Murthy Scholarship:** Prof K V Venkatesha Murthy was a visiting professor at IITGN for over seven years. He joined IITGN in December 2009 in the Department of Electrical Engineering. Before joining IITGN, he was a professor in Electrical Engineering at IIT Bombay for about 40 years. Prof Murthy passed away in March 2017.

**Prof DV Pai Scholarship:** Prof DV Pai was one of the initial faculty members at IITGN since its establishment in 2008. He was a visiting professor in Mathematics at IITGN until July 2018. He retired as a professor of Mathematics from IIT Bombay in 1984. Prof Pai passed away in February 2021.

**Prof Ramesh Gaonkar Scholarship:** Prof Ramesh Gaonkar is a Guest Professor at IITGN and Professor Emeritus at Onondaga Community College (OCC) in the United States. He taught at OCC for nearly 40 years. Before his teaching career, Prof Gaonkar excelled as a design engineer and consultant for various prestigious institutions.

After graduating with Electrical Engineering from IITGN, **Ameya Joshi** did an MS in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University. He worked at Apple Inc., USA, for over seven years and has recently embarked on an entrepreneurial journey in the startup landscape. He has three patents to his credit, granted by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

### DR MAYA AND DR VISHWANATH TIWARY SCHOLARSHIP

**Abhiroop Mishra**, a BTech alumnus of 2019, has set up **Dr Maya and Dr Vishwanath Tiwary Scholarship** in honour of his maternal grandparents. The scholarship worth Rs 1 lakh, will support one undergraduate female student of Materials Engineering at IITGN every year. As a BTech student of Materials Science and Engineering at IITGN, Abhiroop pursued a research internship at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA, as an SN Bose fellow. Currently, he is pursuing a PhD at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as a Link Foundation Fellow studying the degradation of Li-ion batteries.



## FACULTY NEWS

### FACULTY CHAIR POSITIONS

Three faculty members were awarded Faculty Chair positions with effect from Sep 5, 2023: **Prof Amit Prashant**, Professor in Civil Engineering (BIS Standardization Chair), **Prof Vimal Mishra**, Professor in Civil Engineering (Vikram Sarabhai Chair), **Prof Gopinadhan Kalon**, Associate Professor in Physics (Kanchan and Harilal Doshi Chair).

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Prof Pankaj Khanna**, Assistant Professor, Earth Sciences, is selected as the only research scientist and Sedimentologist from India to participate in the offshore phase of the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP)'s Hawaiian Drowned Reefs Expedition ("IODP Expedition 389") from Aug 29 to Nov 1, 2023.
- **Prof Aashish Xaxa**, Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, is inducted as a Lifelong Member in the Development Studies Association, UK. This recognition comes after he presented his article titled "Dismantling Colonial Cartography: Indigenous Urbanism as Spatiality, India" at the Development Studies Association International Conference held at the University of Reading, UK. The same article has also been published in a UN Volume on Oct 4, 2023.
- **Prof Arpan Bhattacharyya**, Assistant Professor, Physics, is selected as an Associate of the Indian Academy of Sciences (IASc) 2023.
- **Prof Nipun Batra**, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, is awarded the Young Alumni Award for 2023 by Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi for his notable contribution to knowledge, technological innovation/discipline.

### PATENTS GRANTED

- Physiology-Sensitive System for Managing Physical Behavior and a Method Thereof: Inventors include **Prof Uttama Lahiri** and **Dhaval Solanki**. The Indian patent number is 436853.
- Apparatus and Method for 3D Printing of Concrete Structures: Inventors include **Shashank Shekhar** and **Prof Manish Kumar**. The Indian patent number is 436854.
- An Array of Matched Devices for High Resolution High Speed Digital to Analog Converters: Inventors include **Satyajit Mohapatra** and **Prof Nihar Ranjan Mohapatra**. The Indian patent number is 437042.
- Magnetic Composite and a Process for its Preparation: Inventors include **Prof Manish Kumar Singh** and **Niravkumar Praduman Raval**. The Indian patent number is 455776.

### PATENTS FILED

- Gaze-sensitive Screening Battery System for Cognitive Impairment: Inventors include **Prof Uttama Lahiri, Dharma Rane, Abhijit Das, and Anirban Dutta**.
- Cable Actuation and Routing Unit For Exosuit (Care): Inventors include **Prof Vineet Vashista, Yogesh Singh, Akshayraj Balasaheb Shinde, and Sanjeevi Nakka**.

### SPONSORED AND CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

Please follow this link: [https://iitgn.ac.in/newsletter/projects/q3\\_2023](https://iitgn.ac.in/newsletter/projects/q3_2023) or scan the QR code to find the list of sponsored and consultancy projects.



## NEW FACULTY

Name	Designation	Department	PhD/Last Degree	Date of Joining
Prof Urjit A Yajnik	Visiting Professor	Physics	University of Texas at Austin, USA	07/07/2023
Dr Harini Subramanian	Assistant Professor	Mechanical Engineering	IIT Madras	07/07/2023
Dr Sandip Lashkare	Assistant Professor	Electrical Engineering	IIT Bombay	10/07/2023
Mr Kao, Hao-Tsung	Visiting Faculty	Humanities and Social Sciences	Fu-Jen Catholic University, Taiwan	18/08/2023

## SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Name	Department	Affiliation	Date of Joining
Dr Gabor Ribarik	Materials Engineering	Eotvos University, Budapest, Hungary	18/08/2023
Dr Shungo Kawanishi	Humanities and Social Sciences	formerly with the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST), Japan	30/08/2023

## ACTIVITIES AT IITGN

### FP 2023



A total of 368 students from 20 Indian states and a Union Territory have joined the BTech and BTech-MTech Dual Degree programmes at IITGN this year. **Mrs Annie Joyce**, Deputy Director General, UIDAI, graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest. The Institute welcomed the incoming batch of students with its flagship Founding Programme (FP) from Aug 1 to 25, 2023, which is designed to shape them into well-rounded personalities through a host of exciting activities. FP 2023 was coordinated by **Profs Abinaya Sampath, B Prasanna Venkatesh, Harmeet Singh, Sushobhan Sen, Krista Khiangte**, and **Anupama Pradeepan** and **Sushmit Bagchi** from LDI.

### AAROHAN 2023

IITGN organised Aarohan 2023, the foundation programme for MSc, MTech, MA, and PhD students of the Institute, from July 17-28, 2023. This year, a total of 402 students attended this intensive two-week-long programme and immersed themselves in various exciting events and activities. The programme was coordinated by **Profs Biswajit Saha, Soumyadip Sett**, and **Anupama Pradeepan** and **Sushmit Bagchi** from LDI.

### SINGAPORE-INDIA HACKATHON 2023

IITGN, together with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), hosted the third edition of the Singapore-India Hackathon 2023 from July 14-16, 2023. A total of 12 student teams, with Indian and Singaporean students, competed in person for a 36-hour-long Hackathon to solve real-world global problems around the theme of “Fintech, Sustainability, and ESG”. In addition, 24 global startups



pitched their ideas to an esteemed jury panel. The final award ceremony took place on July 16, wherein **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, Union Minister of Education and Skills Development & Entrepreneurship, and **Mr Lawrence Wong**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Singapore, presented the awards to the winners.

### E-MASTER'S IN ENERGY POLICY AND REGULATION

To cater to skill development as per the evolving demands of the energy sector and foster innovation, IITGN launched its first e-Master's degree programme for working professionals in “Energy Policy and Regulation” (EPR) on Sep 10, 2023. The first batch of the programme will start from January 2024. The two-year programme is designed with a flexible, executive-friendly structure to enable enrolled candidates to concurrently accommodate their work commitments.

### GIAN COURSE

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IITGN, under the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) initiative, conducted a week-long course on “Imagining Mother Tongue: Language, Education, and Identity in South Asia” from Sept 24-30, 2023. The course was guided by **Prof Christina P Davis**, Western Illinois University; **Prof Chaise LaDousa**, Hamilton College; and **Prof Nishaant Choksi**, IITGN.

### COURSE ON THERMODYNAMIC REASONING

Dr Kiran C Patel Centre for Sustainable Development (KPCSD) at IITGN organised a one-day course on “Thermodynamic Reasoning in Sustainability” on Sep 9, 2023. Nearly 100 students from various institutes participated in this course, which was conducted by four

faculty members of IITGN, including **Prof Ravinder R Puri**, Physics; **Prof Atul Bhargav**, Mechanical Engineering; **Prof Kaustubh Rane**, Chemical Engineering; and **Prof Rishi Narain Singh**, Earth Sciences.

### CURIOSITY CONFERENCE

The Curiosity Lab of IITGN, in partnership with the Center for Curiosity, USA, hosted the ‘Curiosity Conference’ at IITGN on Aug 12 and 13, 2023. The two-day conference had a series of expert talks, workshops, poster presentations, and an exhibition by practising professionals to deliberate on the vital role of curiosity in improving education, learning, research, and workplace practices and its importance in driving innovation and progress across various fields. Around 200 researchers, educators, teachers, school principals, and industry professionals from around the world participated in the conference. The event was coordinated by **Prof Jaison Manjaly**.

### HISTORY OF IDEAS

The Institute organised the fourth edition of the ‘Seminar Series on History of Ideas’ on July 15, 2023, with two interesting online talks targeting a wide range of audience. The first seminar on “String Theory: Model and Framework” was delivered by **Prof Sunil Mukhi** from IISER Pune. And the second talk delivered by **Prof Anirban Dasgupta** from IITGN discussed “Thinking Machines and Artificial Intelligence -- the birth of an idea”.



### SYMPOSIUM ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

IITGN hosted a symposium on the “Challenges and Hope for Alzheimer's: Connecting the Dots” on Sep 23, 2023. The event, conducted in collaboration with Parul University, aimed to raise awareness about Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia and bring together diverse stakeholders working in the domain of neurodegenerative diseases. More than 150 students, faculty members, doctors, and scientists attended the symposium. The event was coordinated by **Prof Sharad Gupta**.

## NET-ZERO DIALOGUES

KPCSD, IITGN, in partnership with the 14 Trees Foundation; Chandrakanta Kesavan Center for Energy Policy and Climate Solutions, IIT Kanpur; and Ecological Society, Pune, organised 'Net-Zero Dialogues' - a one-day brainstorming session on various issues related to Climate Change and Sustainability on Sep 2, 2023. Focused on the theme "Policy Pulse, Climate Finance, and Sustainable Transitions", the event brought together nearly 50 experts from all over the country, including policymakers, academia, civil society, and industry representatives.

## TOWN HALL WITH DR SHEKHAR MANDE

IITGN, in partnership with AICTE, organised a Town Hall with Dr Shekhar C Mande, Distinguished Honorary Professor, IITGN, and former Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and Director General of CSIR, Government of India, on the theme - "Achievements of Science and Technology (S&T) in recent times" on Sep 11, 2023. The talk was organised under the "Amrit Kaal Vimarsh Vikasit Bharat @2047" series.

## TALK BY PROF ASHOKE SEN

IITGN hosted Padma Bhushan-awardee Prof Ashoke Sen, a distinguished theoretical physicist, on Sep 29, 2023. He delivered a lecture on "Some Observations on Gravitational Waves". Professor Sen is celebrated for his pioneering contributions to string theory, quantum field theory, and black hole physics.

## BOOK LAUNCH

On Aug 29, 2023, IITGN hosted an event to launch the book titled - "More Than Just Footnotes: Field Assistants in Wildlife Research and Conservation - Some Stories from Arunachal Pradesh". **Dr Asad Rahmani**, former director of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Chief Guest of the event, launched the book along with the co-editors of the book, **Prof Ambika Aiyadurai**, Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, IITGN, and **Ms Mamata Pandya**, Writer and Educator.

## WORKSHOPS

- Explosion and their Characteristics by the **Centre for Safety Engineering**, coordinated by **Prof Gaurav Srivastava**, July 13-14, 2023.
- 'SciFindern' for Scientific & Academic Research by **Mr**

## CCL AT ABSS

The Centre for Creative Learning (CCL), IITGN, with its 500 STEM-based toys and models, participated in the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2023 exhibition held in New Delhi on July 29-30, 2023, to celebrate three years of NEP 2020. CCL-IITGN's experiential STEM education models caught the attention of the **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**; **Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**; and other eminent personalities like **Prof Manjul Bhargava** from Princeton University, and **Mr Sonam Wangchuk**, an innovator and education reformist from Ladakh. Around **1.5 lakh visitors**, including students, youth volunteers, academicians, and researchers, also visited and engaged with CCL's STEM models and exhibits in mere two days of the exhibition.



## FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

IITGN celebrated 15 glorious years of its foundation and an extraordinary journey of academic innovations, remarkable achievements, and building a vibrant green campus on Aug 5, 2023. The Foundation Day celebration was graced by **Ms Rita Teotia**, IAS (Rtd) and former Chairperson, FSSAI, as Chief Guest. The event captured and reminisced the journey of building and nurturing IITGN by all its visionaries and stakeholders, who have contributed to turning it from "an expedition to now an experience". The event also included an exhibition gallery, unveiling of a calendar on the growth of the Institute over the last 15 years, and enthralling cultural performances by students as well as faculty and staff members.

**Sangram Gokhale**, Account Manager and an expert trainer from ACS India, Aug 23, 2023.

- Effective use of 'Web of Science' & 'EndNote' by **Mr Vishav Sharma**, Senior Customer Success Manager, Clarivate, Sep 11, 2023.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY 2023

The Institute community celebrated 77th Independence Day 2023 on Aug 15, 2023, with great patriotic fervour and a number of sports and cultural events. On this occasion, the Institute also felicitated 14 employees (including 10 faculty and 4 staff members) with **Long Service Awards** to honour their dedicated service to the Institute for ten years. This event also saw presentation of **Best Poster Awards** to participants of the Research Showcase event, **Dean's List Awards** to students for achieving a certain level of academic excellence in the last academic term, and **Bhalodia-Khetan Summer Research Excellence Awards** to three interns for outstanding performance during IITGN's flagship Summer Research Internship Programme (SRIP) 2023.

## SWACHHATA PAKHWADA 2023

As a part of Swachhata Pakhwada 2023, IITGN organised a 2.5 km Swachhata Run on Sep 21, 2023, and a mass cleanliness drive "Ek Tareekh-Ek Ghanta" at Palaj village on Oct 1, 2023, to pay 'swachhanjali' to Mahatma Gandhi ahead of his birth anniversary. Hundreds of IITGN community members, including students, faculty, staff, and Director also enthusiastically participated in the events.

## IIEC AND RESEARCH PARK

- IIEC held 4% equity in MiCoB, a startup in 3D concrete printing founded by students and alumni of IITGN, namely **Shashank Shekhar**, **Ankita Sinha**, and **Rishabh Mathur**, which was received as a gift at the beginning of their incubation. IIEC has redeemed this equity and received valuation funds of Rs 1.3 crore from MiCoB.
- **New company in Research Park:** Biotech Vision Care Pvt Ltd has joined the IITGN Research Park during the third quarter of 2023. In addition, discussions are going on with a few more industries to set up their offices at the IITGN Research Park.

## LECTURES AND SHORT COURSES

Follow this link: <https://events.iitgn.ac.in/> or scan the QR code to see the lectures and short courses held at IITGN.



## SPORTS

### INTER IIT SPORTS MEETS- BOARD MEETING

IITGN is the host for the Inter IIT Sports Meets 2023. The Institute hosted Board Meeting of the 37th Inter IIT Aquatics Meet, 56th Inter IIT Sports Meet, and 28th Inter IIT Staff Meet at IITGN on Aug 5-6, 2023. **Ms Bhavina Patel**, a Para Table Tennis Champion, Arjuna Awardee, silver medalist at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, and gold medalist at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, **unveiled the event's Mascot "Neelswara"** (a nilgai/blue bull, which is frequently sighted in Gandhinagar) during the event.

### NATIONAL SPORTS DAY 2023

The IITGN community came together to celebrate National Sports Day 2023 during Aug 21-29, 2023, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the legendary field hockey player Major Dhyana Chand. The festivities, a mix of team sports, individual challenges, yoga asanas challenges, cycling, plank exercises, running etc. and spread over a period of nine days, were centred around the theme of "Sports as an Enabler for an Inclusive and Fit Society". A prize distribution ceremony was held on Aug 29, 2023, in the presence of para athlete **Nimisha CS**.

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