

Connections

A newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar



2023-2024, Volume XVI, Issue III
January - March 2024

INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS

DEDICATION OF PHASE 1B INFRASTRUCTURE AND FOUNDATION STONE LAYING OF PHASE 2A

Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** dedicated Phase 1B infrastructure and laid the foundation stone of student hostels and staff residences of IITGN for Phase 2A construction of the Institute on Feb 20, 2024, via video conference. Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, **Shri Acharya Devvrat**, was the guest of honour for the event at IITGN. IITGN's new Academic Buildings house the Institute Library, classrooms, laboratories, faculty chambers, and a Maker Space. One Jal Mandap and 4 lawn tennis courts were also constructed under Phase 1B.



11TH AAC MEETING

The 11th Academic Advisory Council (AAC) of IITGN, held on Jan 8, 2024, brought together around 20 academicians from India and overseas and several faculty members from IITGN to debate and share their expertise on significant matters for the Institute's growth in the coming years. Some focus areas included faculty evaluation and growth, promoting student well-being, holistic staff development, new academic programmes and initiatives, and fostering industry-academia partnerships.

12TH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

The 12th Leadership Conclave (LC) of IITGN was held on Jan 9, 2024. About 40 eminent thinkers, industry stalwarts, academicians, venture capitalists, and startup mentors from India and abroad brainstormed and recommended strategic actions for far-reaching growth and expansion of

the Institute. Some key areas included creating leadership for academia, continuous engagement with the government, and fostering industry-academia partnerships.

GENEROUS ALUMNI CONTRIBUTION

Showcasing remarkable support to their alma mater, **50.7%** of IITGN alumni made financial contributions totalling Rs 72 lakhs to the Institute during the Financial Year (FY) 2023-2024. This marks the fifth consecutive year that IITGN has surpassed the 50% mark in alumni donations. Notably, 83% of all IITGN alumni, since the Institute's inception, have participated in giving at least once.

JAPANESE DELEGATION AT IITGN

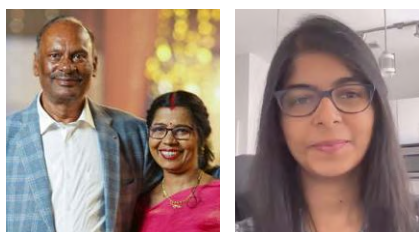
A special delegation from various Japanese organisations visited IITGN on Jan 12, 2024, to explore possibilities for industry research collaboration and understand innovation-related best practices at the Institute. The delegation met with **Prof Rajat Moona**, Director, IITGN and held engaging discussions. The visit was coordinated by **Career Development Services, IITGN**, for potential collaboration with Japanese companies for internships and placements.



SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTE

SADHANA AND PRITHVI PATI SINGH SCHOLARSHIP

Dr Perna Singh, a BTech alumnus of 2017, has instituted the **Sadhana and Prithvi Pati Singh Scholarship** at IITGN, in honour of her parents. The scholarship worth Rs 1 lakh, will support one undergraduate student at IITGN every year. After graduating in Civil Engineering from IITGN, Perna did her MS and PhD from Georgia



Institute of Technology, USA, in Infrastructure System Resilience. She is currently working as a Research Fellow at Transitions Research, exploring multi-disciplinary research on climate, technology, and policy.

MoU WITH UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

IITGN entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of San Diego, USA, on Jan 12, 2024, for collaboration in various academic, research, capacity building, training, and faculty/staff development activities. The MoU was signed and exchanged by **Prof Chell Roberts**, Dean, Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering (SMSE), University of San Diego, and **Prof S P Mehrotra**, Professor-in-Charge, External Relations, IITGN, in the presence of **Prof G B Singh**, Academic Director, University of San Diego, and **Prof Rajat Moona**, Director, IITGN.

COLLABORATION WITH AIT, THAILAND

IITGN signed three agreements with Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand on Jan 8, 2024 to collaborate in academic, research, capacity building, training, and faculty development activities. The institutes will jointly develop Master's and Doctoral double degree programmes, joint academic programmes, research projects, organise seminars and conferences, specialised trainings for staff and faculty, and short-term internships for students.

PARTNERSHIP WITH NIT JAMSHEDPUR

IITGN has inked an agreement with the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Jamshedpur on Mar 4, 2024 to facilitate academic and research collaboration between the institutes. The agreement includes student exchange for summer research internships, semester study opportunities at IITGN for NIT Jamshedpur students, Start Early PhD programme opportunity, research engagement for NIT Jamshedpur faculty at IITGN, and other academic collaborations.

FACULTY NEWS

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Prof Projesh Nath Choudhury** received the Indian Mathematical Society's Subhash Bhatt Award for 2023 for his paper titled 'Characterising total positivity: Single vector tests via linear complementarity, sign non-reversal, and variation diminution,' published in the Bulletin of the London Mathematical Society.
- **Prof Sivapriya Kirubakaran** was awarded the Alumni Excellence Award from the Ethiraj College for Women, University of Madras, in recognition of her outstanding achievements as part of their 75th-anniversary celebrations.
- **Prof Srinivas Reddy**, Guest Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, was awarded a Fulbright Academic and Professional Excellence Award and will be in India for the 2024-25 academic year.

PATENTS GRANTED

- Carrier for anti-cancer Drugs and a Process for Preparing the Same: Inventors include **Prof Chinmay Ghoroi**, **Jai Prakash Chaudhary**, and **Sophia Varghese**. The patent number is: 511700.
- Additive Manufacturing Using Selfcompacting Concrete: Inventors include **Prof Manish Kumar**, **Shashank Shekhar**, and **Rishabh Mathur**. The patent number is: 518855.
- An Apparatus for Cancelling Acoustic Feedback and a Method

MoU WITH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, TOKYO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

IITGN signed an MoU with Graduate School of Science, Tokyo Metropolitan University on Mar 15, 2024 to enhance collaboration. This includes staff exchange, joint research, student exchange and cooperation in various research activities like symposia, conferences, information exchange, publication, and data sharing.

COLLABORATION WITH CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

IITGN signed an MoU with California Institute of Technology on Feb 21, 2024 to establish a comprehensive student exchange programme for 2024-2028. Under this, IITGN students will undertake individual research projects with Caltech faculty mentors as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) programme. Additionally, Caltech students will have the opportunity to participate in a cultural exchange trip based on the topic 'India Ki Khoj'.

Thereof: Inventors include **Prof Nithin George**, **Pradhan Somanath**, and **Vinal Patel**. The patent number is: 507174.

- Photochromic Organic Compounds and a Process for their Synthesis: Inventors include **Prof Chandrakumar Appayee** and **Venkata Mani Duppalapudi Padmaja**. The patent number is: 498888.
- A Cool Flame Reactor for Diesel Reformer: Inventors include **Prof Atul Bhargav** and **Sagardeep Bhakta**. The patent number is: 499543.

PATENTS FILED

- A System For Performing Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS): Inventors include **Prof Madhu Vadali** and **Mohammad Modassir Firdaus**.
- Fluorescent Styryl Compounds and a Process for its Preparation: Inventors include **Prof Sriram Kanvah** and **Deeksha Rajput**.
- Film Composition and a Process for its Preparation: Inventors include **Prof Prachi Thareja**, **Manjot Singh**, and **Manasi Jinugu**.
- Phenothiazine Derivatives and a Process for their Preparation: Inventors include **Prof Sivapriya Kirubakaran**, **Prof Vijay Thiruvekatam**, **Gaurav Rai**, and **Bhanu Priya**.

SPONSORED AND CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

Please follow this link: https://iitgn.ac.in/newsletter/projects/q1_2024 or scan the QR code to find the list of sponsored and consultancy projects.



NEW FACULTY

Name	Designation	Discipline	PhD/Last Degree	Date of Joining
Dr Krishna Siva Teja Chopperla	Assistant Professor	Civil Engineering	Oregon State University, USA	16/02/2024
Prof Premalatha Chelvakumar	Visiting Professor	Centre for Biomedical Engineering	University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine	09/01/2024
Dr Manisha Padala	Assistant Professor	Computer Science and Engineering	International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad	27/03/2024
Dr Anezka C Sebek	Visiting Professor	Design and Innovation Centre	The New School for Social Research	09/01/2024

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Name	Discipline	Last Degree	Date of Joining
Mr Don Chacko Palathara	Humanities and Social Sciences	International Film School, Sydney	19/03/2024
Mr Sarnath Banerjee	Humanities and Social Sciences	Goldsmiths College, University of London	19/03/2024

ACTIVITIES AT IITGN

IITGN AWARDED THE ACS STUDENT CHAPTER

The American Chemical Society (ACS) chartered IITGN as an ACS International



Student Chapter in Feb 2024. As members, IITGN students can organise conferences and interact with renowned scientists. The student leaders include **Deepika Khasa**, **Anjila Siddiqui**, **Tarisha Gupta**, **Gaurav Rai**, **Haritha D**, and **Snehanjali Behera**. **Prof Sivapriya Kirubakaran** is the faculty advisor, while **Prof Biswajit Mondal** is the faculty co-advisor for the student chapter.



WORKSHOP ON STUDENTS' MENTAL WELL-BEING

IITGN hosted a two-day workshop on students' mental well-being titled 'Building Scalable Systems for Student Wellbeing in Residential Programs' on Mar 4-5, 2024. The workshop aimed to create robust systems in place in higher education institutes to ensure early identification of mental health issues, effective strategies, and best practices to foster supportive environments prioritising students' mental health and emotional well-being. Mental health professionals, psychologists, psychotherapists, neurologists, and academicians participated in the workshop.

SCIENCE CAMP FOR GIRL STUDENTS

IITGN organised a two-day residential science camp for 91 girl students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) of Gujarat region on Jan 8-9, 2024. This programme was organised as part of the DST-Vigyan Jyoti Initiative and aimed to develop students' experimental, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, and inspire them to pursue their curiosity and creativity in science.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

The IITGN community celebrated India's 75th Republic Day on Jan 26, 2024, with great patriotic fervour. The Institute released a book titled IIT Gandhinagar in News- a compilation of all the significant news about the Institute covered by media houses during 2023. The Faculty Excellence Awards were conferred to **Prof Udit Bhatia** for Excellence in Teaching, **Prof Nithin George** for Excellence in Research, **Prof Abhijit Mishra** for Excellence in Institution Building, and **Prof Naran Pindoriya** for Excellence in Outreach Activities. The Staff Excellence Awards were given to: **Mr Rahulendra Bhaskar**, **Mr Rajendra Vaishnav**, **Mr Shailesh Patani**, **Mr Nirav Bhatt**, **Ms Jinal Panchal**, **Ms Bharti Makwana**, **Mr Jignesh Kapadiya**, **Mr Sureshsinh A Rathod**, **Mr Tinku**, **Ms Chandrikaben Parmar**, **Mr Hashmukh Gurjar**, and **Mr Vasudev Lalbhai**. Campus Development Awards were given to: **Mr Narayan Singh**, **Mr Narendrasinh Chauhan**, **Ms Kailashben Vaghela**, **Mr Sanjaykumar Baria**, **Mr Raksheetkumar Parmar**, and **Mr Prashant Makwana**.

PROGRAMME ON SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION OF INDIA

IITGN's students, faculty, and staff participated in a virtual interaction via video conferencing



with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on Mar 13, 2024. The Prime Minister's address was based on the Semiconductor Mission of India. More than 500 students, faculty, staff, and school students from Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad took part in the programme from IITGN.

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

IITGN celebrated National Science Day on Feb 28, 2024 by organising a 'Science Day' and showcasing a series of scientific demonstrations and exciting exhibits explaining several scientific concepts in a fun and engaging manner. Approximately 1000 students from various schools and colleges visited the IITGN campus and participated in the event.

ART AND COGNITION CONFLUENCE 2024

The Curiosity Lab at IITGN, together with the Cognitive Science Society, Art@IITGN, and the departments of Cognitive and Brain Sciences and Humanities and Social Sciences, organised the 'Art and Cognition Confluence 2024' on Feb 10-11, 2024. The two-day residency brought together a unique blend of artists and researchers from India and abroad for a series of immersive expert talks. The event was coordinated by **Prof Jaision Manjaly** and **Prof Argha Manna**.

WORKSHOP ON INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICS IN INDIA

IITGN organised a workshop for school teachers titled 'An Introduction to Mathematics in India' on Feb 12-14, 2024. Sponsored by the History of Mathematics in India Project, IITGN and co-sponsored by the Indian Knowledge Systems division of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, it drew over 100 teachers from Gujarat and Maharashtra. The event included hands-on activities and sessions by eminent experts from India and abroad.

COLAB 2024

Over 150 industry participants joined 'CoLab 2024', IITGN's flagship Industry Open House on Mar 2, 2024, promoting sustainable industry-academia partnerships. The event showcased dynamic panel discussions led by industry experts and academic leaders, exploring trends, challenges, and opportunities. Attendees also toured IITGN's cutting-edge facilities like the Central Instrumentation Facility, Center for Creative Learning, Marker Bhavan, Research Park, and labs.

INDIA-JAPAN INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM

IITGN organised an India-Japan Innovation Symposium on 'Advancing Research, Networking, and Industry Partnerships' on Mar 11, 2024. The symposium, supported by New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) Japan, explored potential collaboration opportunities among representatives from Japanese Industries, universities, government bodies, Gujarat-based industry members, and IITGN. Over 60 representatives from industries, universities, and government organisations were keen on collaborating with IITGN.

BOOK LAUNCH- 'LEADERSHIP TRANSITION FOR ENGINEERS'

A book launch ceremony for the book 'Leadership Transition for Engineers' authored by **Prof Rajeev Ranjan Sharma**, Adjunct Professor of Strategic Leadership at IITGN, was held on Feb 9, 2024 at IITGN. The chief guest for the occasion was **Prof Rajat Moona**, Director, IITGN, who launched the book.

HACKATHON ON SMART TRANSPORTATION

In collaboration with NEDO Japan, IITGN organised a hackathon on smart transportation: 'Hack the Future 2024' from Mar 10-12, 2024 at the IIT Gandhinagar Research Park. It aimed to innovate transportation for a smarter, safer, and more sustainable future, and witnessed participation from 50 students from universities from across the country.

MATHEMATICS TEACHER ORIENTATION CAMP

IITGN together with Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, TIFR, Mumbai, hosted a Mathematics Teachers Orientation Camp on Mar 11-15, 2024. Teachers of classes VIII to XII from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli attended the event.

COMICS CONCLAVE 2.0

Comics Conclave 2.0 at IITGN on Mar 16-17, 2024, brought together comics enthusiasts, artists, writers, and scholars for an immersive exploration of visual storytelling. Organised by Art@IITGN and the Curiosity Lab, it featured sessions by renowned comics figures from India and showcased a graphic narratives exhibition.

WORKSHOP ON FOSTERING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

A half-day workshop on fostering student engagement and learning to create learner-centric massive open online courses (MOOCs) was held at IITGN on Mar 16, 2024. It was conducted by **Prof Sameer Sahasrabudhe**, Professor of Practice, Design. This workshop was organised by the Commissionerate of Technical Education, Gujarat and was attended by 104 faculty members.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

NEEV, the community outreach programme of IITGN, organised a 'Mahila Haat' on Mar 7, 2024, to mark the International Women's Day. The event featured an array of stalls showcasing the entrepreneurial ventures of village women trained by NEEV. Excellence Awards were given to four outstanding women alumni for their success in turning skills into sustainable income.

NURTURING FUTURE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Nurturing Future Leadership Program (NFLP), a component of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP)



initiated by the Ministry of Education was held at IITGN during Mar 18-22, 2024. The programme, conducted by the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI), aimed to support faculty members at various career stages. A total of 24 participants from various higher education institutions across India participated in the programme.

WORKSHOPS

- Fun With Words and Visuals by **Library IITGN**, Jan 7, 2024.
- Hands-on CNC Milling Workshop by Department of Mechanical Engineering, Feb 24, 2024.
- The Colourful Creations: Bookmark Making Workshop and Competition by **Library IITGN**, Feb 25, 2024.

- CNC Wood Crafting Workshop by **Department of Mechanical Engineering**, Mar 2, 2024.
- Metal Casting- Lost Wax Technology in Archaeology by **Archaeological Sciences Centre**, Mar 2-3, 2024.
- Current Trends in Active Matter Physics 2024 by **Laboratory of Soft and Living Materials**, Mar 7, 2024.

TRAININGS BY NEEV

During Jan-Mar 2024, NEEV IITGN, in partnership with Desai Foundation Trust, organised nine projects and activities, including skill development courses, workshops, and awareness sessions for 286 youth and women hailing from rural areas in Gandhinagar.

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

IITGN celebrated Swami Vivekananda Jayanti as National Youth Day on Jan 12, 2024. Prof Umashankar Singh was the chief guest, and other distinguished speakers shared their insights on Swami Vivekananda's teachings and philosophy.

LECTURES AND SHORT COURSES

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



STUDENTS AND STAFF

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Camellia Biswas**, PhD Scholar, Humanities and Social Sciences, received the Cultivating the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant, which will support a four-month dissemination project from her PhD thesis. Additionally, she was selected to receive the International Society For Anthrozoology (ISAZ) 2024 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Award.
- **Prasanth P Nair**, PhD Scholar, Mechanical Engineering, was selected for India's Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship Program (OVDF) at Purdue University.
- **Camellia Biswas** and **Ahana Ghosh**, PhD Scholars in the department of Humanities and Social Sciences, were awarded the

prestigious INTACH Research Scholarship for 2023-24.

- **Satadru Chakrabarty**, PhD Scholar, Chemical Engineering, bagged the first prize in the INYAS Saransh: Three Minutes Thesis Competition 2023 in the engineering sciences category.
- **Vysakh R**, PhD Scholar, Humanities and Social Sciences, received the Harvard-Yenching Fellowship for 2024-2025 for one year of doctoral study at Harvard University.

YOUNG ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Young Alumni Excellence Awardees were felicitated on Jan 8, 2024, the awardees included: **Aishwarya Agrawal**, Assistant Professor, University of Montreal, for Outstanding Academic Achievement; **Silky Agrawal**, Founder, GeoCarte Radar Technology, for

Outstanding Entrepreneurship; **Surya Prakash**, Co-Founder & CEO, Recko, for Outstanding Entrepreneurship; and **Prashant Borde**, Co-Founder & CTO, Recko, for Outstanding Entrepreneurship.

The programme included the dedication of the Jibaben Patel (Kanisa) Memorial Auditorium, honouring **Dr Jagadish Patel**, who has given a generous donation to IITGN to establish two faculty chairs and to name the Auditorium.

SPORTS

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- IITGN students **Nikhil Borase** and **YS Raghu** secured prizes at the Khel Mahakumbh competition 2024. Nikhil won the first position in the javelin throw at the zone level and 4th position at the district level. Raghu secured first position in 200m at zone level and 2nd position at the district level.
- IITGN students won a total of 8 medals at the Gujarat National Law University Justice League held from Feb 10-13, 2024. **Komal**, **Abhijanyu**, and **Vivek Yadav** won the first positions in different categories in powerlifting. **Pranav Patil** and **G Gunjyal**

bagged the third prize in the tennis mixed event. **Nikhil Borase**, **Ashwini Shankar**, and **Ankesh Kumar** won prizes in athletics.

- **Nikhil Borase** and **Hemant Poonia** secured the first and second positions in javelin throw and discus throw, respectively.

HALLABOL

IITGN hosted Hallabol 2024 during Feb 3-14, 2024 with over 1500 participants across various games. Teams, including students, faculty, staff, caretakers, guards, and interns, competed in twelve games.

AARAMBH

The inaugural Annual Staff Sports competition, 'Aarambh 2024', organised by the Staff

Development Cell, was organised during Feb 20-24, 2024 and saw participation from approximately 134 staff members. Aarambh 2024 featured Treasure Hunt, Seven Stones, Gully Cricket, Futsal, Dodgeball, 3x3 Basketball, Doubles/Mixed Doubles Badminton, and Tug of War.

DISHA CUP 2024

The Physical Education Section organised the 7th edition of Disha Cup, the annual sports tournament for the Institute's outsourced human resources, during Mar 15-20, 2024, with a week-long celebration of sportsmanship and camaraderie across various sporting events. The theme for this year's Disha Cup was 'Say No to Smoking'.