

# Connections

A newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar



2025-2026, Volume XVIII, Issue II  
October - December 2025

## INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS

### IITGN AWARDED BEST CAMPUS FOR WATER CONSERVATION

IIT Gandhinagar received the First Prize in the Best Institution (Inside-Campus) category at the 6th National Water Awards 2024 from the Hon'ble President of India, **Smt Droupadi Murmu**, on Nov 18, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The award, conferred by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, recognises IIT Gandhinagar's sustained efforts in water conservation, efficient water management and environmentally sustainable campus practices.



### IITGN WINS CII GOLD FOR INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATION

IIT Gandhinagar was awarded the CII Award for Industry-Academia Partnership (Gold, Government Institute Category, 2025), recognising its impactful collaborations with industry in research, technology commercialisation, IP creation and skill development. The award was conferred at the CII Global Summit on Industry-Academia Partnership 2025, New Delhi on Dec 5, 2025.

### NEW INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES

At its 43rd BoG meeting held on Dec 10, 2025, the Board approved the establishment of a Department of Maritime Engineering at IITGN and endorsed new research and innovation support schemes, including postdoctoral fellowships, patent and grant facilitation and incentives to strengthen research and collaboration across the Institute.




## SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTE

### LILA WATI NAYYAR SCHOLARSHIP

Mr Mohinder L Nayyar has instituted the Lila Wati Nayyar Scholarship. The scholarship of Rs 1 lakh per year will support the undergraduate students. Mr Nayyar is an internationally recognised expert in piping, valves, materials and engineering codes and standards, Mr Nayyar has been honoured by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), including the Melvin R Green Medal.



### COLLABORATION WITH ENPHASE SOLAR ENERGY PVT LTD

On Oct 28, 2025, IIT Gandhinagar entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with  ENPHASE.

### GUJARAT'S FIRST GEN-Z THEMED POST OFFICE INAUGURATED AT IITGN

Gujarat's first Gen-Z themed Post Office was inaugurated at IIT Gandhinagar on Dec 5, 2025, under a nationwide initiative envisioned by Hon'ble Union Minister of Communications **Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia**.

The transformed, student-centric and tech-enabled space was inaugurated by **Shri Ganesh V Sawaleshwarkar**, Chief Postmaster General, Gujarat Circle, and **Prof Rajat Moona**, Director, IITGN, in the presence of senior postal officials. A special cover and permanent pictorial cancellation were also released to commemorate the occasion.



### NINTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE RESEARCH PARK & IIEC

On Nov 20, 2025, IITGN held the Ninth Advisory Council meeting of the Research Park and IITGN Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (IIEC) to review progress, new startups, funding milestones, student/faculty ventures, accelerator programmes and strategies to strengthen corporate partnerships, venture-capital engagement and mentorship networks.

### MILESTONES IN SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

IIT Gandhinagar achieved several significant milestones in 2025, reflecting its commitment to sustainable and future-ready campus development. Further strengthening its sustainability credentials, IITGN received the **4-Star GRIHA** Provisional Rating Plaque at the 17th GRIHA Summit on Nov 3, 2025, for its Guest House, Hostels and Director's Residence. Additionally, IITGN was honoured with the **Bhumi Campus Awards 2025** in the Most **Eco-Friendly Campus** category on Dec 6, 2025, recognising its exemplary waste management initiatives.

Enphase Solar Energy Pvt Ltd to collaborate on a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project titled 'Smart ESD (Energy Storage Device) Safety Diagnostic System.' The collaboration is part of the broader umbrella initiative 'Empowering Research in Indigenous Development of EV Sub-systems (E-RIDES)' and aims to advance research and development in energy storage safety diagnostics.

### GoG MoU FOR SEMICONDUCTOR RESEARCH HUB

During the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference held in Mehsana on Oct 9, 2025, IIT Gandhinagar (IITGN) entered into a MoU with the Government of Gujarat to establish the Silicon and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research and Training Hub (SAMARTH) at IITGN. The MoU was signed by **Prof Rajat Moona**, Director, IITGN and **Ms Neha Kumari**, IAS, Mission Director, Gujarat State Electronics Mission.



## VIETNAM ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

IITGN signed an MoU with Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics and Finance (UEF) on Oct 11, 2025 to enhance academic and research collaboration between India and Vietnam. The partnership focuses on joint research, student and faculty exchanges and innovation initiatives. The ceremony featured remarks by **Prof Amit Prashant**, Dean, External Relations and **Prof S P Mehrotra**, Dean, Faculty Affairs. The Vietnamese delegation was led by **Dr Nguyen Thanh Giang**, President, UEF.



## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP

Strengthening its global academic collaborations, IITGN entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Queen's University Belfast on Nov 3, 2025, to collaborate in education, research and innovation. With Queen's University establishing its international campus at GIFT City, the partnership focuses on faculty and student exchanges, joint research initiatives and interdisciplinary learning, strengthening academic linkages with the Queen's International Branch Campus.



## INDIAN ARMY MoU FOR DEFENCE INNOVATION

As part of its strategic engagement with defence institutions, IITGN signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army at the EME School, Vadodara, on Nov 4, 2025. The partnership focuses on defence research, academic exchange and technology development through joint initiatives aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat.



## C-DOT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTRE

Strengthening its engagement in telecommunications research, IITGN entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) on Nov 8, 2025. The MoU enables the establishment of an Academic C-DOT Research and Innovation Centre at IITGN, focusing on collaborative research and indigenous technology development.



## NAGOYA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

As part of its international academic collaborations, IITGN entered into a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nagoya Institute of Technology



Technology (NITech), Japan, on Nov 13, 2025. The MoU was signed by Prof Rajat Moona, Director, IITGN and Dr Makoto Obata, President, NITech, to promote joint research and student and faculty exchanges.

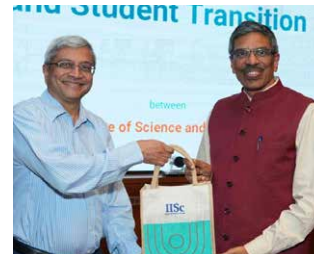
## CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD COLLABORATION

IITGN signed an MoU with the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), West Central Region, Ahmedabad on Nov 14, 2025 to advance joint research and technical collaboration in groundwater management. Signed by Prof Vimal Mishra, Dean (R&D), IITGN and Dr Ratikanta Nayak, Regional Director, CGWB, the partnership focuses on data-driven studies, scientific research and policy-relevant solutions.



## IISc BANGALORE ACADEMIC LINKAGE

IITGN entered into an MoU with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore on Nov 14, 2025 to enhance academic and research collaboration. Under the agreement, third-year BTech students from IITGN may directly join IISc's Master's programme through a competitive selection process. The collaboration also includes joint research projects, workshops and shared research infrastructure.



## GMRICS / GMDC MOU ON CRITICAL MINERALS

With a focus on advancing research and capacity building in critical minerals, IITGN entered into an MoU with the Gujarat Mineral Research Industrial Consultancy Society (GMRICS), promoted by GMDC, on Nov 18, 2025. The partnership focuses on joint research, internships, training programmes and knowledge exchange supporting India's evolving critical mineral ecosystem.

## COLLABORATION WITH IFSCA AND STRENGTHENS VIETNAM TIES

As part of its engagement in financial services research and policy, IITGN entered into an MoU with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) on Dec 16, 2025. The collaboration focuses on research, knowledge exchange and capacity building in international financial services and policy. The institute also strengthened India-Vietnam academic cooperation through its MoU with UEF following the October 2025 delegation visit.

## FACULTY NEWS

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- **Dr Nipun Batra**, Associate Professor, Computer Science & Engg received the ACM eEnergy Test of Time Award for NILMTK and won the ACM SIGEnergy Rising Star Award 2025.
- **Prof Naran Pindoriya**, Professor, Electrical Engg received the CII Industry-Academia Partnership Award 2025 (Gold) under the Pioneering Faculty category.
- **Dr Abhinav Jha**, Assistant Professor, Mathematics, received the DST INSPIRE Faculty Award in Mathematical Sciences.
- **Prof Jugal K Verma**, Visiting Professor, Mathematics, received the Growth Impact Award 2025 from Springer Nature.
- **Prof Mukesh Dhanka**, Assistant Professor, Biological Engg and his team won the Young Scientist Award (Life Sciences) at NBRCOM-2025, AIIMS Jodhpur, also received the Wilson Greatbatch Memorial Award at the INDO-TAIWAN BioHeal 2025 Conference for his patented injectable hydrogel technology.
- **Prof Sharad Kumar Jain**, Visiting Professor, Civil Engg was inducted into the Apex Advisory Committee for R&D, THDC India Ltd.
- **Dr Biswajit Mondal**, Assistant Professor, Chemistry, joined the Early Career Board of EES Catalysis (RSC Journal).

- **Prof Kasivisvanthan Chelvakumar**, Visiting Professor, Mechanical Engg, represented the institution as an invited speaker at a CII-FICCI business interaction with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, **Dr Harini Amarasuriya**, discussing Indo-Sri Lankan collaboration in sustainability and digital innovation.

### PATENTS FILED

- Protection-induced time-shift method for quantifying temporal redistribution of urban flood risk: Inventors include **Ashish Kumar** and **Prof Udit Bhatia**.
- A system and method for non-contact screening and classification of sleep apnea: Inventors include **Adhikary Rishiraj**, **Shrivastava Ayush**, **Prof Goel Mayank**, **Prof Batra Nipun** and **Mittal Saurabh**.
- Betamethasone crystals, a process for its preparation and a pharmaceutical formulation prepared therefrom: Inventors include **Prof Mukesh Dhanka**, **Efttesum Rahaman** and **Aniruddha Dan**.
- Nanosized co-crystals and a process for their preparation: Inventors include **Prof Mukesh Dhanka**, **Hitasha Vithalani** and **Harshil Dave**.
- A hydrogel and a process for its preparation: Inventors include **Prof Mukesh Dhanka**, **Banoth Keerthana**, **Harshil Dave** and **Hitasha Vithalani**.
- Drug delivery system and a method for its preparation: Inventors include **Raghu Solanki**, **S K Shahvej**, **Prof Unnati Modi** and **Prof Dhiraj Bhatia**.
- Microbeads for micronutrient delivery and a process for the preparation of microbeads: Inventors include **Prof Mukesh Dhanka**, **Prof Subramanian Sankaranarayanan**, **Hitasha Vithalani** and **Subhojit Ghosh**.
- A biomaterial and a process of preparation thereof: Inventors include **Prof Mukesh Dhanka** and **Prasanna Kumari B**.

- A sewer system and a method for the management of sewage: Inventor **Prof Arora Sudhir Kumar**.
- A process for the deposition of a superconducting thin film: Inventors include **Dushyant Dabhi** and **Prof Emila Panda**.
- Self-healing nanocomposite hydrogel and a process for preparing the same: Inventors include **Prof Mukesh Dhanka**, **Manisha Meena** and **Prasanna Kumari B.**
- A process for the preparation of  $\alpha$ -hydrazino alcohols: Inventors include **Prof Chandrakumar Appayee**, **Ronak Mehta**, **Rohtash Kumar**, **Avinash** and **Prof Yogesh Kumar Meena**.

- System and method of multimodal elevator control: Inventors include **Ramanand Kumar** and **Prof Biswajit Saha**.
- A system for electrochemical detection of bacteria: Inventors include **Ajinkya Hariram Dabhade** and **Abinaya Sridharan**.

## SPONSORED AND CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

[https://iitgn.ac.in/newsletter/projects/q2\\_2026](https://iitgn.ac.in/newsletter/projects/q2_2026)



## NEW FACULTY

Name	Designation	Department/ Discipline	PhD/Last Degree	Date of Joining
Dr Praharsh Mohanlal Patel	Assistant Professor	Humanities and Social Sciences	Pennsylvania State University, USA	01/10/2025
Dr Manab Mukherjee	Assistant Professor	Earth Sciences	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur	13/10/2025
Dr Abhishek Singhal	Assistant Professor	Civil Engineering	Tampere University, Finland	6/11/2025
Dr Harkirat Singh	Assistant Professor	Mechanical Engineering	Brown University, USA	10/11/2025
Dr Lokesh Malik	Assistant Professor	Civil Engineering	Indian Institute of Technology Madras	13/11/2025
Mr Mahendra D Toke	Artist-in-Residence	Humanities and Social Sciences	Guru Gobind Singh College of Engineering	03/11/2025
Dr Rohil Jain	Assistant Professor	Biological Sciences and Engineering and Mechanical Engineering	Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA	15/12/2025
Dr Kuljeet Kaur	Assistant Professor	Chemistry	Virginia Tech, USA	16/12/2025
Prof Manu Awasthi	Associate Professor of Practice	Computer Science and Engineering	University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT	12/12/2025
Prof Amarjit Singh	Visiting Professor	Civil Engineering	Purdue University, USA	29/12/2025

## ACTIVITIES AT IITGN

### VIDYUTAI HACKATHON 2025



IITGN hosted a 24-hour AI hackathon on Oct 4–5, 2025, where teams developed solutions for EV battery safety and smart energy management. IITGN teams won the EV Safety and Energy Management categories. The event was coordinated by **Prof Pallavi Bharadwaj**.

### NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

The **KPCSD** hosted National Wildlife Week on Oct 6–8, 2025, featuring creative origami, guided nature walks, wildlife sessions and a photography competition, promoting conservation and environmental awareness.

### CLEANLINESS DRIVE UNDER SWACHHATA PAKHWADA

IITGN's Green Campus Committee and Green Club organised a campus-wide cleanliness drive and waste segregation activity, engaging students, faculty and staff on Oct 11, 2025.

### FINNOVATE HACKATHON 2025

IITGN's IIEC hosted a 24-hour fintech hackathon on Nov 7–8, 2025, engaging students across Gujarat in industry-driven problem statements and mentorship from **Adani Group leaders**, promoting innovative digital finance solutions.

### CLEAN AIR FORUM

The **Dr Kiran C Patel Centre for Sustainable Development** convened experts on Nov 13, 2025, to address South Asia's air pollution

challenges, AI-based monitoring, VOCs, indoor air quality and integrated policy solutions.

### YOUNG ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARD 2024

IITGN hosted the Young Alumni Excellence Awards (YAEA) ceremony on Dec 5, 2025. **Sumitava Mukherjee** (PhD/CG/2014), currently Associate Professor at IIT Delhi, received the Outstanding Academic Achievement award. The Outstanding Professional Achievement award was conferred on **Vishnu Kumar Gupta** (MTech/ME/2016), Senior Vice President at Testbook. The Outstanding Entrepreneurship Achievement awards were presented to **Nisarg Shah** (BTech/EE/2014), Co-Founder & CEO, Affable.ai, **Abhik Patel** and **Ajinkya Kulkarni** (BTech/ME 2012), Co-Founders, Wint Wealth.

### INDIA KI KHOJ



IITGN hosted a seven-day cultural and academic programme from Dec 15–21, 2025, for participants from Caltech, USA and institutions, covering Indian knowledge systems, history, science, arts, architecture and heritage sites. The event was coordinated by **Prof Madhav Pathak**.

### BHARAT INNOVATES NATIONAL BASECAMP 2025

IIT Gandhinagar hosted the Bharat Innovates National Basecamp 2025 from Dec 18–20, bringing together around 400 startups and research-led innovations from across India.

Organised under the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, the programme focused on deep-tech sectors including AI, healthcare, semiconductors, and advanced computing.

### HOMECOMING 2025



IIT Gandhinagar hosted Homecoming 2025 on Dec 20–21, bringing alumni back to campus to reconnect and celebrate their shared journey. **Prof Sudhir Jain**, Founding Director of IITGN, attended the event as the Chief Guest and addressed the alumni at the inaugural session, reflecting on the institute's founding values and learning culture.

### IIT GANDHINAGAR LAUNCHES REVAMPED OFFICIAL WEBSITE

IIT Gandhinagar unveiled its new and enhanced website on Dec 31, 2025, launched by Prof Rajat Moona, Director, IITGN. Featuring a refreshed design, improved navigation and an integrated AI-powered chatbot, the website offers a smarter, more engaging user experience with faster access to information on academics, research, campus life and institutional updates.

### ON-CAMPUS ई-पत्र (EPATRA) – INSTITUTE EMAIL SERVICE

IITGN launched the On-Campus ई-पत्र (ePatra) email service providing secure, open-source institutional email accounts hosted entirely on-campus, ensuring data sovereignty, security and cost-effective administration for students, faculty and staff.

## WORKSHOP

- IITGN hosted ORBIT – Solar Edition on Nov 8, 2025, an industry-academia meet on India's solar energy ecosystem and collaborative R&D, coordinated by **Prof Soumyadip Sett**.
- On Nov 3, 2025, NEEV, IITGN launched a new batch of its Basic Computer Skills Training Course, with 23 participants completing training in digital literacy and MS Office.
- IITGN and CGWB Ahmedabad organised a Workshop on Groundwater Data Usage on Nov 14, 2025, including an MoU signed by **Prof Vimal Mishra and Dr Ratikanta Nayak**, with 100+ participants.

- On Nov 17, 2025, IITGN strengthened its IP and startup ecosystem through a Patent Accelerator Workshop led by Dr T Pavan Kumar and a talk by **Prof Rohit Srivastava**.
- IITGN welcomed 17 officials from nine countries on Nov 19, 2025, under the ITEC programme, for discussions on geo-informatics and emerging technologies.
- In Dec 2025, the Dr Kiran C Patel Centre for Sustainable Development conducted a five-day MoEFCC-supported training for 12 IFS officers on GIS, AI and drone technologies, coordinated by **Prof C N Pandey**.
- IITGN hosted **Dr Sukumar Brahma** (Clemson University, USA) for the IEEE PES Gujarat Chapter

- Flagship Lecture on Dec 15, 2025, focusing on grid integration and power system protection.
- At the Centre for Creative Learning, IITGN conducted a Hands-on Workshop for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) students on Oct 30–31, 2025, followed by the DICDL-CSR Teachers Workshop from Nov 8–12, 2025, along with a specialised programme for KGBV Gujarat teachers. This was followed by an Exposure Visit for KGBV Gujarat teachers from Dec 10–15, 2025 and the Winter Workshop Series from Dec 16–21, 2025, which included a six-day workshop on Computational Thinking and Art-based Learning.

## STUDENT AND STAFF

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- At CTRG 2025, **Rubayet Jahan** (MTech, Civil Engg) received the Best Student Paper Award, while **Ankita Singh** (PhD/CE/2023) and **Dr Sumit Nandi** (Former Postdoctoral Fellow) were honoured with the Best Overall Paper Award under the Pavements & Materials theme.
- Rajdeep Singh Devra** (PhD/ME/2019) was recognised for work on Filament-Free 3D Printing for Plastic Recycling under **Prof Amit Arora** and **Prof Madhu Vadali**, supported by IITGN IEC, NIDHI-PRAYAS (DST), i-Hub Gujarat, KCPCSD and Milacron India.
- Md Modassir Firdaus** (PhD/ME/2019) won two GYTI TECHPEDIA 2024 Appreciation Awards for research on a Tendon-Driven Flexible Surgical Robot (MIS) under **Prof Madhu Vadali**, supported by the Gujarat Council on Science & Technology.
- Jash Pasad** (BTech, Chemical Engg) and **Aakash Venkatesan** (BTech Mechanical Engg) represented India at Ubun Ratchathani University, Thailand, participating in a month-long exchange programme supported by IITGN's International Students Office and UBU.
- Galanto Innovations Pvt Ltd, incubated at IITGN IIEC by alumni **Dr Chandan Kumar Jha** (PhD/EE/2021) and **Rupsha Mukherjee** (Mtech/BE/2020), received the BIRAC BIG Grant.
- Sustainable Construction Materials Research Group, mentored by **Prof Siva Chopperla**, won 2nd prize at CemHack for Green Infra, India's first national hackathon on cement and construction.
- Ankur Garg** (PhD/EE/2025) received the Vigyan Yuva – Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 (Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award).
- Gayatri Priyadarsini** (PhD/CSE/2021) was awarded the 2025 Google PhD Fellowship.
- CodeEd Hackathon 2025:
  - » **Team ElevateEd** (**Yuvraj Rathod, Mitesh Chauhan**) secured 2nd place at the national level, winning ₹1 lakh and incubation support from upGrad.

- » **Team Matrix Breakers**, represented by **Satvik Kadian, Vansh Goel, Ranji Purwar and Arpan Gupta**, finished 4th at the national level.

### AMALTHEA 2025



The 16th edition of India's largest student-run tech summit was held at IIT Gandhinagar on Nov 8–9, 2025, themed "Orchestrating Origins." The summit featured a wide range of competitions, hackathons, tech expos, expert talks on AI, robotics, and innovation, along with the Boeing National Aeromodelling Competition, where teams showcased aircraft designed and fabricated by them.

### INTER IIT HIGHLIGHTS

At Inter-IIT, IIT Gandhinagar showcased strong performances across cultural and technical categories. In the cultural segment, Vinteo secured 9th position in the 51 Hours Filmmaking Competition. In the Technical segment, the institute won Gold in Algorithmic Optimisation (**Anurag Singh, Nishchay Bhutoria**), Silver in Game Development (**Divyansh Sharma, Hem Tilva, Nilay, Shubham**) and ISRO Geospatial (**Umang, Karan, Laksh, Romit, Shreyans, Viraj**) and Bronze in Jilo Health (**Ridham, Umang**).

also secured fourth place in Men's Badminton, reached the quarterfinals in Men's Football and Women's Table Tennis and competed up to the pre-quarterfinals in Men's Cricket, showcasing commendable all-round participation and performance.

## SPORTS

### INTER IIT SPORTS MEET 2025

The IIT Gandhinagar contingent delivered strong performances at the Inter IIT 2025. **Kshitij Giri** won a Bronze medal in Men's 100 m, while several teams secured fourth-place finishes in the Men's 4×100 m and 4×400 m Relays, Women's Javelin, Weightlifting and Men's Basketball. IITGN teams also reached the quarterfinals and pre-quarterfinals across multiple disciplines, reflecting consistent performances in both individual and team events.



Kshitij Giri

### INTER IIT STAFF SPORTS MEET 2025

At the Inter IIT Staff Sports Meet 2025, held at IIT Hyderabad from Dec 24–29, IITGN's 59-member contingent added two Bronze medals to its tally in Squash and Women's Shot Put (Ms Laxmi Hirani). The contingent



Squash Team (Left to Right: Prof Pratyush Dayal, Prof Gaurav Srivastava, Prof Jaision A Manjaly and Mr Shashank Yadav)



Ms Laxmi Hirani