

Connections

A newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar



2025-2026, Volume XVIII, Issue III
January - March 2026

INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS

IIT GANDHINAGAR SHOWCASES PROGRESS IN RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

Prof Rajat Moona, Director, IITGN, on Mar 16, 2026, provided updates on various academic projects supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. He also briefed about the Research Park established on the institute's campus.



PROJECT SAMARTH

IIT Gandhinagar has launched Project SAMARTH (Silicon and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research and Training Hub), a joint initiative with the Government of Gujarat, MeitY and industry partners. The project focuses on developing a skilled semiconductor workforce through training, indigenous R&D and advanced device and process development.

AI RESILIENCE AND COMMAND (ARC) CENTRE

IITGN inaugurated the AI Resilience and Command (ARC) Centre at its Research Park on Feb 5, 2026, to strengthen data-driven climate-risk management and urban resilience. Combining physics-based modelling with AI, it enables real-time flood assessment, scenario analysis and decision-making, advancing safer, future-ready cities in line with Viksit Bharat 2047.



EXPLORE SEMICONDUCTOR COLLABORATION

IITGN welcomed Prof Li-Chun Wang, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan and Mr Ming-Jer Chen, CEO, Ampak Technology Inc, on Jan 13-14, 2026, to strengthen India-Taiwan collaboration in semiconductor research, IC design, academic exchange, and industry-academia partnerships.

SUPPORT FOR THE INSTITUTION

ODiSI INITIATIVE

The ODiSI initiative has been launched with the support of the "One School at a Time" Foundation, under the leadership of Shri B V Jagadeesh and his family. The initiative reflects a strong commitment to advancing education and technological awareness at the grassroots level.

MODSONIC INSTRUMENTS MANUFACTURING COMPANY PVT LTD

Modsonic Instruments Manufacturing Company Pvt Ltd supported

ACADEMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL & LEADERSHIP CONCLAVE 2026



IITGN hosted the 13th Academic Advisory Council and the 14th Leadership Conclave on Jan 9-10, 2026 respectively, bringing together academicians, policymakers, industry leaders and global experts. Discussions focused on curriculum evolution, research impact, innovation, entrepreneurship and global collaborations.

IITGN ENGAGES MEITY AND ISM LEADERSHIP ON SEMICONDUCTOR CAPACITY BUILDING

IITGN welcomed Mr Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, MeitY and CEO, India Semiconductor Mission, on Jan 22, 2026, to discuss strengthening India's semiconductor ecosystem, focusing on academia-industry-government collaboration, talent development, startup support and indigenous capability building.

COLLABORATION WITH ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY AND CINTANA

IITGN hosted a delegation from Arizona State University and Cintana on Jan 23, 2025, focusing on research partnerships, joint programmes, student and faculty exchanges, skill certification and entrepreneurship support.

HARSHA ENGINEERS INAUGURATES GCC AT RESEARCH PARK

Harsha Engineers International Ltd inaugurated the Harsha Global Capability Centre at the IITGN Research Park on Feb 2, 2026, to drive collaborative research, student engagement and industry-relevant innovation, strengthening industry-academia collaboration and applied engineering research.

advanced ultrasound research at IITGN, strengthening innovation and enhancing research infrastructure.

CBSE SIGNS MoU TO EXTEND NATIONAL STEM PROGRAMME

On Jan 29, 2026, IITGN and CBSE signed an MoU to continue the nationally recognised 3030 STEM and 3030 Eklavya programmes for five more years, strengthening STEM teacher training across India. Led by IITGN's Centre for Creative Learning, the NEP 2020-aligned initiative has engaged over 73,800 CBSE teachers, with the Eklavya series crossing 1.3 million YouTube views.



MoU WITH SVNIT SURAT

IITGN signed an MoU with SVNIT Surat on Jan 31, 2026, to strengthen academic collaboration, student mobility and research partnerships, including a BTech–MTech dual-degree pathway, student exchange, research internships and joint faculty initiatives.



ACADEMIC COLLABORATION WITH TAIWAN

Strengthening global partnerships, IITGN renewed its engagement with TECC through the Taiwan Education Centre on Feb 3, 2026, advancing collaboration in language education, mobility programmes and semiconductor research.

MoU WITH NIT AGARTALA

Further expanding academic ties, IITGN signed an MoU with NIT Agartala on Feb 26, 2026, to strengthen research partnerships and student exchange, including a Visiting Students Programme with credit transfer and a BTech–MTech dual-degree pathway.



IWMI DELEGATION VISIT FOR WATER RESEARCH COLLABORATION

IITGN engaged with Mark Smith, Director General, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and team on Feb 26, 2026, to explore collaboration in water research, climate resilience and policy, including joint initiatives in research, training and internships under a proposed MoU.



ITGN PARTNERS WITH CYIENT TO SUPPORT SEMICONDUCTOR RESEARCH

IITGN partnered with Cyient Foundation and Cyient Semiconductors Pvt Ltd, Mar 6, 2026, to advance education and research in semiconductor technologies, supporting MTech students through fellowships and strengthening industry–academia engagement.



ITGN PARTNERS WITH NAVNEET EDUCATION FOR AI LEARNING

IITGN signed an MoU with Navneet Education on Mar 9, 2026, to strengthen AI education in schools through teacher training, learning resources, student outreach and innovation initiatives such as AI hackathons.



MoU WITH TEJAS NETWORKS LIMITED

Expanding its telecom research footprint, IITGN signed a five-year MoU with Tejas Networks Limited on Mar 27, 2026, focusing on 6G, IoT and non-terrestrial networks, with a Centre of Excellence to support training, collaboration and joint research.



MoU WITH HUDCO FOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

IITGN signed an MoU with HUDCO, on Mar 30, 2026 to advance joint training, research and capacity-building initiatives in urban management, municipal finance and infrastructure development.



FACULTY NEWS

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Prof Mayank Singh**, Computer Science and Engg, co-founder Somet AI, recognised at India AI Impact Summit 2026; startup among 12 presenting to the Prime Minister.
- **Prof Anand Sankar Sengupta**, Physics, with Abhishek Sharma and Divya Tahelyani, advanced the IndIGO-D gravitational-wave mission with IUCAA.
- **Dr Subramanian Sankaranarayanan**, Biological Sciences and Engg, was awarded ANRF ARG for research on pollination in

Arabidopsis thaliana.

- **Prof Sameer Sahasrabudhe**, Design, HSS, won Audience Choice Award at Vindhya International Film Festival 2026.
- **Dr Nipun Batra**, Computer Science and Engg, was awarded DST VAIBHAV Fellowship and ANRF grant on satellite-based brick kiln detection.
- **Dr Amit Kumar Yadav**, Biological Sciences and Engg, received MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship (2025), European Commission.
- **Dr Mukesh Dhanka**, Biological Sciences and Engg, was awarded the Young Scientist Award at Science Conclave 2025.
- **Dr Sharad Gupta**, Biological Sciences and

Engg, received ANRF ARG for research on Tau pathology in Alzheimer's disease.

- **Prof Sandip Lashkare**, Electrical Engg, awarded YFRF under MeitY's Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme.
- **Prof C N Pandey**, Earth Science, nominated Expert Member, National Board for Wildlife.
- **Prof Rusa Mandal**, Physics, received ANRF ARG for ML-driven hadronic modelling in B-Physics.

SPONSORED AND CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

https://iitgn.ac.in/newsletter/projects/q3_2026



NEW FACULTY

Name	Designation	Department	Last Degree/Affiliation	Date of Joining
Dr Premalatha Chelvakumar	Visiting Professor	Centre for Biomedical Engineering	MBA, University of California, Irvine	15/01/26
Prof Anup Kalbalia	Associate Professor of Practice	Computer Science and Engineering	MS (Software Systems), BITS Pilani	01/02/26
Dr Srinivasan Chandrasekaran	Professor	Civil Engineering	PhD, IIT Delhi	02/02/26
Prof Praveen Nahar	Professor	Centre for Design	Former Director, NID Ahmedabad	28/02/26

ACTIVITIES AT IITGN

IITGN-VNU RESEARCH EXCHANGE

IITGN hosted a two-week research exchange with VNU–University of Engineering and Technology, Vietnam, from Jan 8–20, 2026, fostering collaboration in Civil and Mechanical Engineering and paving the way for joint research, co-publications and faculty exchange.

SANJEEVANI 2026

Nyasa hosted the 10th edition of its annual health camp, *Sanjeevani*, on Jan 11, 2026, in Giyod village, providing free medical consultations and essential medicines to over 480 community members. Supported by student volunteers and nine medical professionals across specialities.

MAKER BHAVAN

Maker Bhavan, IITGN, received a Special Recognition Award (Education Category) at



Maker Fest Vadodara Jan 10–11, 2026, showcasing student-led innovations including Fire Fighting Drone, MakerBot, Anvesa Patch Sensor and PulmoEase, guided by **Mr Aniruddh Mali**.

AI-DRIVEN COMPUTATIONAL FLUID DYNAMICS



IITGN hosted a three-day International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence-Driven Computational Fluid Dynamics from Jan 12-14, 2026, bringing together researchers, academicians and industry experts to examine the convergence of AI and CFD.

GANIT SYMPOSIUM

IITGN hosted the GANIT Symposium on Algebraic Geometry, Commutative Algebra and Number Theory on Jan 17-19, 2026, featuring mini-courses, 15 posters and student talks; coordinated by **Prof Indranath Sengupta**.

NFLP

IITGN completed the NFLP from Jan 23-27, Feb 16-20, Mar 23-27, 2026, under its Leadership Development Initiative; sponsored by the Ministry of Education and aligned with NEP 2020, it engaged HEI faculty in interactive sessions on leadership, teamwork, communication and collaborative learning.

77TH REPUBLIC DAY



IITGN celebrated the 77th Republic Day on Jan 26, 2026, with flag hoisting, a parade and an awards ceremony; Faculty Excellence Awards were conferred on Dr Arnab Saha (Teaching), Dr Superb Mishra (Research), Dr Mithun Radhakrishna (Institute Building) and Dr Sriram Kanvah (Outreach), along with Staff Excellence, Campus Development and Sports Achievement Awards, recognitions for Dean's List students, Research Showcase awardees and Inter-IIT Technical Meet winners, followed by Bada Khana and the release of the IITGN in News booklet.

SABARMATI ECONOMISTS' MEET 2026

IITGN's Humanities and Social Sciences Department organised the inaugural 'Sabarmati Economists' Meet on Jan 30-31, 2026, bringing together researchers from central Gujarat; coordinated by **Prof Praharsh Patel**.

NEUROAI CONCLAVE 2026

IITGN hosted the NeuroAI Conclave on Jan 30-31, 2026, bringing together experts from

academia, healthcare and clinical research to explore AI in neuroscience and neurodegenerative diseases; coordinated by **Prof Ashutosh Srivastava** and **Prof Sharad Gupta**.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOUTH ASIAN PALAEOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

IITGN hosted 'Rethinking Deep Time' on Jan 30-Feb 2, 2026, organised by the Archaeological Sciences Centre, coordinated by **Prof Sharada C V** and **Prof Ashutosh Shrivastava**, with global scholars.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S LIFE AND VISION

IITGN, with the Ministry of Culture and Dinkar Smriti Nyas, staged Kathamay Jayate on Jan 30, 2026; directed by Mujeeb Khan, tracing Swami Vivekananda's journey to Chicago.

SPIC MACAY VIRASAT 2026

SPIC MACAY Virasat 2026 at IITGN was a five-day cultural festival celebrating India's classical arts through concerts, workshops, and interactive sessions with renowned artists, organised by the SPIC MACAY Heritage Club.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION AT NEEV

NEEV, IITGN marked Women's Day with sessions for Stitching and Beautician programmes; 55 participants completed training (32 Chhala, 23 Dashela), supported by Desai Foundation and Milacron India.

IITGN TRAINS IFS OFFICERS ON BLUE ECOLOGY

IITGN conducted a three-day workshop (Feb 9-11, 2026) on Blue Ecology, training 27 IFS officers from ten states on ecosystems, fisheries, and blue carbon; coordinated by **Prof C N Pandey** and **Prof Sameer Patel**.

AI DAY @ IITGN

IITGN hosted AI Day on Feb 12, 2026, on responsible AI across sustainability, healthcare and climate, featuring a panel and six project demos. A panel featuring GSBTM, GUJCOST, GUVNL, TCS and GESIA emphasised policy, ethics and collaboration, alongside demos of six AI projects.

DEEPTech INDUSTRY CONNECT 2026

IITGN hosted Day 1 of 8X Ventures' DeepTech Industry Connect on Feb 12, 2026, showcasing deep-tech innovation. Chirag Gupta outlined 8X Ventures' vision, while Rahul Bhasin highlighted India's evolving entrepreneurial landscape.

TEO SUMMIT 2026 AT IITGN

In collaboration with TotalEnergies India, IITGN hosted the TEO Summit on Feb 14, 2026, on student-industry collaboration in energy. Mr Thomas-Olivier Leautier, Chief Economist,

TotalEnergies, shared insights on global energy trends and the net-zero transition.

AI IN MATERIALS PROCESSING

IITGN's AMPRG organised a one-day workshop on AI in Materials Processing on Feb 16, 2026, coordinated by **Prof Amit Arora**, with **Prof Asim Tewari** (IIT Bombay) and **Dr Jitesh Vasavada** (Danieli India) leading sessions for 80+ participants on AI-driven experimentation and decision-making.

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AEROSOL SCIENCE

IITGN hosted a two-day symposium on Feb 18-19, 2026, on aerosol science education, with participants from IITs, BARC, University of Miami; discussions on air pollution, climate and health will inform a White Paper and national implementation; coordinated by **Prof Sameer Patel**.

NEEV

NEEV IITGN conducted sessions in Chhala and Dashela villages on Feb 20, 2026, for 48 participants on banking awareness and women's safety, aligned with FLW 2026-'KYC: Your First Step to Safe Banking.'

WOMEN-FORCE 2026

IITGN hosted Women-FORCE 2026 from Feb 26-28, 2026, bringing together 40+ leading scientists and researchers to highlight advances in cancer therapeutics, climate science, AI and sustainable chemistry, alongside careers in STEM. Coordinated by **Prof Sivapriya Kirubakaran**, **Prof Venkata Sriram Kanvah** and **Prof Harini Subramanian**.



NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

IITGN celebrated National Science Day on Feb 28, 2026, by inviting schoolgirls from Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar to explore its laboratories, interact with researchers and participate in hands-on science demonstrations at the CCL.

ESS SYNERGY 2026

IITGN hosted ESS Synergy 2026: Performance & Safety of Energy Storage Systems at SPEL on Mar 9, 2026. The event featured expert talks, a panel discussion on the need for advanced battery testing facilities and a poster session showcasing innovative research.

WORKSHOP ON STUDENT WELLBEING

The Wellbeing Initiative at IIT Gandhinagar conducted a session on student wellbeing for staff on Mar 18, 2026, in collaboration with the centre for Mental Health Law and Policy, aims to connect students with appropriate professional help.

CURIOSITY CONFERENCE

IITGN hosted the Curiosity Conference on Mar 21–22, 2026, exploring art, science, and technology through interdisciplinary dialogue,

WORKSHOPS

- International Conference on Indian Metals and Metallurgy on Jan 5–9, 2026; Coordinated by **Prof Aklok Kumar Kanungo**.
- IWSEPP 2026 on Jan 7–9, 2026, 45 speakers and 135+ participants; Coordinated by **Prof Atul Bhargav**.
- SPARC Workshop Toward Sustainable Agriculture on Jan 12–13, 2026; Coordinated by **Prof Soumyadip Sett**.
- Lithics and Lives Workshop on Jan 27–29, 2026; Coordinated by **Prof Sharda C V, Prof V N Prabhakar**.
- Workshop on History of Science and Engineering in India in Jan 2026; Coordinated by **Prof Madhumita Sengupta**.

STUDENT AND STAFF

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Jagruti Patil** (PhD, Biological Sciences and Engg) received the CIRE Award at the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) to support graduate studies in acoustics in home countries.
- **Akanksha Sharma** (PhD/CHM/2020) received the GYTI TECHPEDIA 2024 Appreciation Award for her project on photocatalytic green hydrogen production.
- **Dharaben Rameshbhai Thakkar** (PhD/CSE/2019) was awarded the ACM India Doctoral Dissertation Award 2025 for her work on finite group representations under Prof Bireswar Das.
- **Nikhil Kumar Lal** and **Manas Kalal** (BTech, Mechanical Engg) developed an autonomous wire-crawling robot for power line inspection, receiving CSR support and a provisional patent.
- **Dr Mohit Ganeriwala** (PhD/EE/2020) has joined IIT Kanpur as Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering.
- **Hiren Solanki** (PhD, Electrical Engg) won First Prize at Saransh 2025, the national thesis competition by INYAS.
- **Farhan Obaid** (Mechanical Engg), **Samyak Gosalia** (Electrical Engg) and **Atharva**

SPORTS

PARA SPORTS ACHIEVEMENT

Pathan Mohammad Rashid (BTech, CSE), the Institute's first para athlete, won Gold in Table Tennis (Wheelchair Category) at the Sangam Para Sports Event, IIT Delhi and advanced to the second round in Chess.

CHESS TEAM VICTORY

The IITGN Chess Team—Animesh Sharma, Akash Gupta, Neev Bharatkumar Patel, Arindam Mitra, Rudraksh Verma and Subhranil Majumdar, clinched Gold at AU Cup 2026.

HALLABOL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Conducted over 14 nights, HallaBol 2025 saw 5,500+ registrations and

honouring Kushal Sacheti; coordinated by **Prof Jaison Manjaly** and **Argha Manna**.

ANRF+ INITIATIVE

IITGN inaugurated ANRF+, on Mar 27, 2026, a

- **Entrepreneurship Development Workshop** from Mar 9–10, 2026, Chhala, trained women in entrepreneurial, financial and digital skills.
- **CCL Workshops & Outreach** from Jan–Mar 2026, teacher training, online sessions and exposure visits engaged 500+ participants, concluding with a showcase at Science City, Ahmedabad.

LECTURES AND SHORT COURSES

- KPCCSD organised a talk by **Dr J R Bhatt** on Jan 9, 2026, on climate change, sustainability and global decision-making.

Zagade (Chemical Engg) ranked among the Top 5 at the Civil Aviation Innovation Challenge, Wings India 2026.

- **Jigar Mahedu** (MA, HSS), **Naveen Pal** (Computer Science Engg), **Diya Nandan** (Chemical Engg) and **Atharva Zagade** (Chemical Engg) secured 3rd place at the TrueFoundry ProdEdge Competition, GES 2026, IIT Kharappur.
- **Harshil Dave** (PhD, Biological Sciences and Engg) received the Vikram Sarabhai Prize 2026 – Young Scientist Award for biomedical hydrogel innovations.
- **Tarisha Gupta** (PhD, Chemistry) was selected for the CAS Future Leaders 2026 program by the American Chemical Society.
- **Manvendra Singh** (PhD, Artificial Intelligence) was selected for the IndiaAI Fellowship for work on drug discovery using GNNs under Dr Anirban Dasgupta.
- **Priyal Keswani, Praveen Suthar, Hari Krishna R, Raj Bahadur** (MSc Physics), **Tejas Lohia** and **Umang Shikarvar** (BTech, Computer Science and Engg) represented Odyssey at Astrax 2026, securing 2nd in Messier Marathon, 5th in Sky Quest and a Special Mention in Orion Astrothon.
- **Rakesh Choubey** (PhD, Materials Engg) received the Best Oral Presentation Award at EnggCoat 2026, IIT Bombay.

flagship outreach initiative of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, with insights from **Prof Akhilesh Gupta**, **Prof Vimal Mishra** and **Prof Dhiraj Bhatia**.

- IITGN featured **Mr Kanwal Rekhi** on Jan 26, 2026, for a student-led fireside chat on resilience and self-made careers.
- IITGN welcomed **Dr Pratim Biswas**, University of Miami, on Feb 16, 2026, for a lecture on sustainable aerosol-based material processing, coordinated by **Ms Falguni Tailor**.
- IITGN hosted **Prof Paras N Prasad**, University at Buffalo, USA, on Feb 16–17, 2026, for a seminar, lab visits and faculty interactions.
- IIEC, conducted a three-and-half-day masterclass by **Mr Murli Thirumale**, 'Startup Journey: The Founder's Guidebook,' with 50+ participants.

TEDXIITGN 2026

TEDxIITGandhinagar 2026, held on Mar 15, celebrated resilience through its 'Echoes of the Phoenix' theme, featuring inspiring speakers and a LEDTron performance by Glowdiators.

BLITHCHRON 2026



Blithchron 2026, IITGN's cultural festival, spanned four days from Feb 5–8, 2026, with the theme 'Eternal Echoes,' featuring competitions, performances and star acts by Prateeksha Srivastava and Nikhil D'Souza.

FINANCIAL AWARENESS SESSION FOR STAFF

IITGN organised a Financial Awareness Programme for staff members on Jan 12, 2026, aimed to strengthen the understanding of personal financial planning and security. The programme was led by CA Jaimin Goswami, Faculty Member, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Gandhinagar Branch.

1,700 participants. Hostel-wise competition added excitement, with Kyzeel and Emiet leading among boys hostels, and Ijokha and Chimair among girls. Alumni-supported awards and Best Player recognitions further enhanced engagement, making it a well-organised success.

INDIVIDUAL LEAGUES

Sports leagues across badminton, volleyball, squash, table tennis, cricket, football, tennis, aquatics, basketball and chess are running smoothly with enthusiastic participation from students, faculty and staff.

IIT COMMUNITY FEST 2026

Held on Mar 28–29, 2026, the fest brought together 95 participants competing in tennis ball cricket, athletics, badminton and table tennis. Graced by Prof Naran Pindoria and Prof Sanjay Kumar Amrutia and organized by Vikram Kumar Singh.