

**WITH EASE** WIN GOLD AT THE MEDICAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE HELD IN IIT BOMBAY

# IITGn students develop spoon for Parkinson's patients

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In a great relief to patients suffering from Parkinson's disease, a group of students from the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, have developed a spoon that reduces food spillage due to tremors. The students have won a gold prize for their design which is cost-effective, at the seventh edition of the Inter IIT Tech Meet held at IIT Bombay.

As part of the tech meet, a medical innovation challenge was organised where engineering students from across the country were given problem statements faced

by Indians, to solve.


Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disease, characterised by symptoms that make the daily life of a patient challenging. As the disease progresses, motor symptoms such as tremors or shaking, stiffness, slow movements, and unsteady balance can make it difficult to accomplish everyday tasks.

First year students of mechanical engineering, chemical engineering and material science worked on finding cost-effective solutions to the tremor management problem faced by patients of Parkinson's disease.

Speaking about the design, Shireesh Shelke, a second



The spoon costs Rs 45 including manufacturing costs as against existing solutions like Liftware spoon, ELISpoon which cost around Rs 10,000 to 20,000 each

 Neutra spoon is a passive device consisting of a simple gimbal mechanism, a support that allows the rotation of an object about a single axis

**Shireesh Shelke**, student of mechanical engineering, IITGn

year student of mechanical engineering said, "Parkinson's disease patients find it challenging to eat with normal spoons due to unavoidable tremors. Also, the existing solutions are too costly or not effective enough to solve this problem. We designed a cheaper, more efficient and user-friendly spoon called Neutra Spoon which works on simple torque balancing mechanism. The Neutra spoon is a totally passive device which consists of a simple gimbal mechanism. A gimbal is a support that allows the rotation of an object about a single axis."

Full report: [www.dnaindia.com](http://www.dnaindia.com)

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