

IIT Gandhinagar to collaborate with Overseas Indians to Advance India's Higher Education Stature Globally



GANDHINAGAR,

Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar is collaborating with professional Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and global professionals to advance India's educational stature on the international stage. The Institute is hosting an 'Overseas Indian Higher Education Conclave,' on its campus, from 22nd to 23rd February 2019.

The Conclave celebrated IITGN's overseas supporters and brainstormed on ways to engage more widely and deeply with professional NRIs and PIOs. Recognising that many overseas Indians contribute their time, talent and treasure already, participants

at the Conclave explored models, challenges and opportunities for partnerships.

Day One (22nd February 2019) of this Conclave witnessed intellectually stimulating discussions on various aspects of overseas Indian contributions to Indian Higher Education through sessions on 'Models for Global Partnerships: Examples and Experiences,' 'Facilitating Global Student and Faculty Exchanges,' 'Global Fundraising: Opportunities and Challenges,' and 'Leveraging Overseas Indians in Fundraising and Institutional Development.'

Speaking about the importance of this Conclave, Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Director, IIT

Gandhinagar, said, "The large number of professional NRIs and PIOs are an incredibly valuable resource that Indian educational institutions can tap for their academic and institutional advancement.

Addressing the Conclave, Prof Nitish Thakor, Professor of Electrical, Computer Engineering and Biomedical Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, U.S., said, "Science and Technology have become a global enterprise. Dr. Jamshed Bharucha, Former President Emeritus of Cooper Union, New York, and Vice Chancellor, SRM University, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, said, "Global exchanges are critical because Indian higher education needs radical reform.

First, while India has tremendous intellectual talent, the systems of education tend to stifle imagination, creativity, originality, innovation, and risk-taking. Second, while Indian higher education is good at deep dives into traditional academic disciplines, the most important emerging areas of knowledge are not within traditional academic disciplines, but rather at cross-disciplinary intersections."

Mr. Samir Desai, Founder and CFO, The Desai Foundation, U.S., said, "Overseas Indians can emulate social programs such as those between The Desai Foundation and IITGN to uplift rural women and children.