

Connections

IIT Gandhinagar



Connections is the quarterly newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar

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Institute News

First Board of Governors of IITGN Formed

The Board of Governors of the Institute is now constituted and consists of very eminent academics and researchers, industry leaders, and administrators. The Institute is singularly fortunate to have such eminent persons guide and supervise its growth in the early critical years.



Dr R A Mashelkar

Dr R A Mashelkar, FRS Chairs the Board. A renowned academician, Dr. Mashelkar is presently the Chairman of National Innovation Foundation and President of Global Research Alliance. He is credited with the famous transformation of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in India, as its Director General. He was the President of Indian National Science Academy (INSA). Dr Mashelkar has received 27 Honorary Doctorates from the institutions of higher learning around the world, besides numerous fellowships, prizes, awards and top civilian honours: Padmashri (1991) and Padmabhushan (2000).

Three very eminent industrialists of India are on the Board: Mr. Suresh Neotia (Chairman Emeritus, Ambuja Cements), Mr. Deepak Puri (Chairman & Managing Director, Moser Baer India Ltd.), and Mr. Malvinder Mohan Singh (Group Chairman, Religare & Fortis Healthcare Ltd.). Two seasoned administrators, Shri A K Joti (Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat) and Sri Ashok Thakur (Additional Secretary, in Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt of India) are included in the first Board. Prof D V Pai and Prof S L N Murthy are the faculty representatives on the Board, while Prof Sudhir K Jain, the Director is an ex – officio member. Until IIT Gandhinagar has its own Registrar, Sri B S Punalkar (Registrar, IIT Bombay) will act as the Secretary of the Board.

First Meeting of the Board of Governors



The IITGN Board held its first meeting in the temporary premises of the Institute on December 18, 2009. The Chairman Dr Mashelkar decided to start the Board meeting ahead of time and the meeting closed 15 minutes before the stipulated time; symbolic of the Institute's resolve to complete its major projects ahead of time. Besides discussing routine matters, the Board emphasized its commitment to academic excellence at the Institute. To cultivate and support excellence by the faculty and students, the Board approved several proposals including a Faculty Development Plan, provisions to encourage young faculty obtain exposure to the reputed international institutes of teaching and research, liberal rules for faculty and students to participate in national and international scientific gatherings etc.

Distinguished Honorary Professors

To help the Institute in its tryst with excellence, India's two distinguished academics Prof S P Sukhatme and Prof J B Joshi have joined the Institute as Distinguished Honorary Professors.



Prof S P Sukhatme did his BSc (Engg) from Banaras Hindu University (1958), and S.M. (1961) and Sc.D. (1964) both from MIT. He taught at IIT Bombay from 1965 to 2000 and was its Director (1995 – 2000). He was also the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (2000 – 2005). He was honoured with “Padmashri” in the year 2001 and received the prestigious S. S. Bhatnagar Prize in the year 1983.

Prof J B Joshi received his B.Chem.Engg (1971) and Ph.D. (1977) both from the Mumbai University. A renowned Chemical Engineer, Prof Joshi taught at the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai until recently and was its Director from 1999 to 2009. He has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the prestigious S. S. Bhatnagar Prize in the year 1991. Prof Joshi holds a unique Indian record - engineer with the largest number of citations (more than 4000).



Support To The Institute

First Major Gift to IIT Gandhinagar

Mr Raj Mashruwala, one of the Founder Directors of the IIT Gandhinagar Foundation in the US, has made a gift of US\$ 100,000 to support and encourage excellence at the Institute. The Institute gratefully acknowledges the gift from Mr Mashruwala. It also acknowledges the support from IIT Bombay Heritage Fund and the IIT Bombay administration for facilitating this gift.

Board Approves Proposals for Supporting Excellence by Faculty and Students

The Board of Governors approved several proposals to encourage excellence by faculty and students. These include Faculty Chairs, Fellowships for Outstanding New/Young Faculty, Summer Fellowships for Faculty, Pioneer Leadership Programme, International Travel Support to Faculty and Students, Overseas Research Experience for PhD Students and Young Faculty, and the Pioneer PhD Scholars Programme. The Board has desired to immediately initiate fund raising efforts to support these programmes.

Student Internship

Professor Pratim Biswas, Stifel and Quinette Jens Professor and Chair of the Department of Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL) has offered summer internships to three second year BTech students of IITGN for 10 weeks in the WUSTL laboratories. The understanding between the Institute and Prof Biswas developed during the Pan IIT Alumni Global Conference in Chicago.

Reaching Out

Professors Sudhir K Jain, S L Narayanamurthy and B D Agrawal participated in the Pan-IIT Alumni 2009 Global Conference at Chicago during October 9 to 11, 2009. IITGN was the only new IIT to have set up a booth in the mega event. Prof Jain and Prof Narayanamurthy met several potential faculty candidates. Prof Jain and Prof Narayanamurthy visited the Northwestern University on October 12, to meet potential faculty candidates. Prof Jain visited University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on October 8 and the State University of New York at Buffalo on October 13 to address Indian students and post-doctoral researchers with a view to encourage them to consider IITGN for a faculty position. He also met with the President and Provost of SUNY Buffalo.



Activities at IITGN

UG Curriculum Development Committee

IIT Gandhinagar has initiated efforts to develop its niche B Tech curriculum. The knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship will be key drivers of development in an increasingly globalized world characterized by paradigm shifts in developmental strategies, and with focus on energy, environment and intelligent utilization of scarce resources. The Curriculum Development team proposes to develop a curriculum which factors in these major developments and prepares its graduates to face the challenges of their last jobs and not just the first jobs. This challenging assignment is being entrusted to a team of academics spanning domain expertise, experience tenures

and geographical borders, consisting of:

- ✂ Prof S L N Murthy, IIT Gandhinagar, Chairman
- ✂ Prof Ravi Mazumdar, Prof and University Research Chair, University of Waterloo, Canada
- ✂ Prof Pratim Biswas, Washington University, St. Louis, USA
- ✂ Prof Dheeraj Sanghi, IIT Kanpur
- ✂ Prof Subhash Bhatnagar, IIM Ahmedabad
- ✂ Prof Uday N Gaitonde, IIT Bombay
- ✂ Prof Sudhir Ghorpade, IIT Bombay
- ✂ Prof Sharmita Lahiri, IIT Gandhinagar
- ✂ Prof K Ragavan, IIT Gandhinagar, Member Secretary

Short Courses for Undergraduate Students

The Institute has introduced the provision of 1-unit (8 lectures) “short courses” to be delivered by either an IITGN faculty or a visitor. The courses are designed to expose the students to different topics that are not normally covered through the routine curriculum. These will be Pass/No Pass (P/NP) courses and will appear in the grade card of the students.

First Robotics Workshop

The Robotics Club of IIT Gandhinagar 'ROMPOTIKS has been started. The active members of Rompotiks attended a workshop at Mumbai that THINKLABS (an organization known for Robotics) organized exclusively for the students of IITGN. These members then organized a workshop for other members at IITGN during November 7-8, 2009. The activities included a competition for making XCAVATORS during the workshop.



Distinguished Visitors

Prof Satish Tripathi, Provost at the State University of New York at Buffalo visited the Institute during December 22-24, 2009. He is an internationally accomplished computer scientist, has published more than 200 scholarly papers and supervised 25 doctoral theses. Prof Tripathi had elaborate discussions with IITGN faculty on the challenges and current trends in higher education.



ISEA Workshop on Cyber Security

A workshop on Cyber Security (October 01, 2009) was jointly organized by IIT Gandhinagar, NIT Surat, VGEC Chandkheda and was sponsored by C-DAC Hyderabad. Mr Devesh Jinwala, Asst Professor, NIT Surat and Prof Dhiren Patel, Visiting Professor, IIT Gandhinagar conducted the workshop at the Institute. Further details are available at <http://www.iitgn.ac.in/ws-isea.htm>.

Popular Lectures

✦ **Prof Bipin Indurkha** of IIIT Hyderabad. “Cognitive Robotics: Eliza Effect and a Therapeutic Role for Robots” on November 05, 2009.

✦ **Dr Shimon Modi** of Purdue University. “Biometrics and its Applications” on November 19, 2009.

Institute Lectures

✦ **Dr Sandeep Pandey** National Convener, National Alliance of People's Movements and President, People's Union for Human Rights gave a talk on “Our Role in Society” on November 3, 2009. He is a renowned social worker and Magsaysay Award winner.

✦ **Prof J B Joshi** gave a talk on “Generation of National Wealth Through Education and Research” on November 12, 2009. He is an eminent professor of Chemical Engineering and Distinguished Honorary Professor at IITGN.

Public Lecture

Mr Jitendra Bothara of Beca Carter Hollings and Ferner Ltd, New Zealand gave a lecture on “Reducing Seismic Risk: A New Zealand Approach” on December 7, 2009. Besides the faculty and students of IITGN, the lecture was also attended by about 30 structural engineers and academics from Ahmedabad and around.

Faculty News

The Ever-expanding IITGN Faculty

As of December 31, 2009 the following faculty were added to the already distinguished IITGN faculty.

Name	Designation	Discipline	Ph.D.	Date of joining
Debi Prasad Roy	Visiting Professor	Mechanical Engg	Tech Hoch, Germany, 1976	03.11.09
G K Sharma	Visiting Professor	Mechanical Engg	MPEI, 1974	09.11.09
M H Divekar	Adjunct Professor	Chemical Engg	IIT Bombay, 1977	07.12.09
Sameer V Dalvi	Assistant Professor	Chemical Engg	IIT Bombay, 2007	29.12.09
K V V Murthy	Visiting Professor	Electrical Engg	IIT Bombay, 1977	29.12.09
Joyce Mekie	Assistant Professor	Electrical Engg	IIT Bombay, 2009	30.12.09
V Sriram K Gundimeda	Assistant Professor	Chemistry	IIT Bombay, 2001	31.12.09

Prof U A Yajnik, Dean Academic Programme and Student Affairs, returned to IIT Bombay in December 2009.

Dr Chinmay Ghoroi of IITGN has proceeded on a one – year leave to carry out research in the Department of Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), USA.

New Projects

✦ **Development of a Rapid Visual Screening Method for Seismic Assessment of RC Frame Buildings in India.** Sponsored by the Seismology Division, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India, New Delhi. Prof Sudhir K

Jain is the Principal Investigator and the collaborators are Prof Durgesh C Rai from IIT Kanpur, Prof Keya Mitra from BESU Calcutta, and Prof Mehul Shah from CEPT Ahmedabad.

✂ **R&D of Equipment for Peeling of Husk from Cashew Kernels.** Sponsored by Olam Exports India Ltd, Quilom, Kerala. Prof N Ramakrishnan is the Principal Investigator.

✂ **“Hybrid calix[n]phyrin(s) with pyridine moiety: New block of macrocycles as potential candidates for anion sensing and metal coordination”.** Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi. Dr Iti Gupta is the Principal Investigator.

Other Events

A Stint with Nature

The faculty and staff of IITGN along with their family members went for an outing on November 8, 2009 to **Thor Lake and Bird Sanctuary** located on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. It was a perfect opportunity for the IITGN family to



bond together and have a great time. At the end of the day, everybody looked forward for similar events in the near future.

Session on Urdu Poetry Reading

A session on Urdu Poetry Reading ['Gulistan-e-Nazm': Garden of Poems] was organized in the Institute Auditorium on December 19, 2009. **Ms. Hamida Banu Chopra**, an Urdu litterateur based in Berkeley (USA), read out poems which were appreciated by one and all.

A Journey to Excellence

“Footprints – A Journey to Excellence”, a promotional film, has recently been produced by IITGN. It gives a holistic view of the Institute, its faculty, students and more than that its ideas and aspirations for the future. The film can be viewed on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSLX2pGsXmM> and can be requested on a CD by writing to infocell@iitgn.ac.in.

Student Activities

Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations

Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations at IIT Gandhinagar on October 2, 2009 included a Quiz competition on Mahatma Gandhi, followed by high tea and screening of the film "Gandhi". The winners of the quiz **Santosh Raut, Bharat Shara, Manu Bansal** and **Chinu Ravi Teja** were given book vouchers.

Inter IIT Sports -09

Vrushiket Patil of IITGN bagged the 4th place in two events: 200m Backstroke and 200m Breaststroke at the “Inter IIT Aquatic Meet” held at IIT Kanpur during October 2-5, 2009.

Suresh Choudhary earned a Bronze medal for IITGN in 5000 m long run in the 45th Inter IIT sports meet hosted by IIT Kanpur, during Dec 11 – 18, 2009. **Swati Verma** and **Shruti Jain** secured fourth position in the Women's Badminton.



Vrushiket Patil



Suresh Choudhary



Swati Verma



Shruti Jain

Fresher's Party

The thumping night finally arrived on October 30, 2009 with Fun-n-Flames at the Fun Republic. Dressed on the theme of Rock-n-Roll, everyone was better than the last. The limelight of the Fresher's Party was the selection of Miss Fresher and Mr Fresher on the basis of talent, looks, style, humour, attitude, situation management skill, interaction with the seniors, group discussion, and participation in the college activities. After a tough fight and a tougher decision on part of the judges **Shruti Jain** was declared Miss Fresher and **Deep Kumar Dinesh** Mr Fresher for 2009.

Green Gang

The Green Gang, a club of students interested in positive contributions to the environment has started with a strength of 86 members. It promotes the idea of creating an environment friendly biosphere, free from anxiety of energy crisis. The Club focuses on development of non-conventional energy resources. The Club has conducted a survey and distributed pamphlets in the nearby areas educating the people about the importance of non-conventional resources. The Club has also held talks with counterparts from Caltech where sustainability issues were discussed at great lengths.