FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

The Foundation programme (FP) is a unique academic programme that the first year BTech students undergo at IIT Gandhinagar. The programme is designed to enhance the abilities of the target group of students in five aspects: (i) Social awareness (ii) Communication, Teamwork and Leadership (iii) Values and ethics (iv) Creativity (v) Physical fitness and sports.

The five-week long Foundation Programme this year was held during July 24 - Aug 26, 2016. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Maheshwar S Sahu, former IAS officer, along with IITGN alumni Kislay Pankaj, Senior Electrical Engineer at Ather Energy and Nisarg Shah, Technology Analyst, Goldman Sachs.

Shri Senapathy “Kris” Gopalakrishnan, co-founder Infosys and the Chief Guest for this occasion encouraged students to serve the nation with sincerity and dedication. He welcomed the graduates to the legend called IITs. Director Prof Sudhir K Jain in his speech for the graduating batches appreciated the great support and maturity of the students in helping build a new campus. He spoke about the great opportunities that IIT Gandhinagar provides to its students.

Pradhika Pramod Patil was awarded the President’s Gold Medal for BTech, Nanditha J S received the President’s Gold Medal for MTech, and Sini Varghese received the President’s Gold Medal for MSc and MA batches. The Director’s Gold Medal for PhD went to Dr Payel C Mukherjee, Directors Gold Medal for BTech went to Yash Pratap Singh, and Director’s Gold Medal for MSc and MA went to Ratna Bharti. Institute Medals and awards in several categories were conferred upon the meritorious students.

The program included sessions on photography, caricature, origami, warli painting, music, painting, model making, metal sculpture, mean mechanics, juggling, Lego, toys from trash, creative thinking, yoga, sports, heritage walk, theatre activities, railway station cleaning and tree-planting. Several engaging talks on leadership, team spirit, gender sensitivity, ethics and value education were also organized to encourage the students to open up their minds. The programme concluded with Eureka, a cultural evening organized by freshers’ where they showcase their talent and potential to the rest of the IITGN community with performances of dance, drama, music, poetry recitation, and other activities.

The program was coordinated by Prof Atul Dixit, Prof Arnab Dutta, Prof Ketki Sharma, Prof Umatshankar Singh and Prof Dilip Sundaram.
FINANCIAL AID FROM TATA MOTORS LTD
A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, Tata Motors Ltd, and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay Alumni Association to support undergraduate students at IITGN who need financial support. Tata Motors Limited will provide significant seed funding to take care of tuition and other fees of students needing financial support over a period of four years. IIT Bombay Alumni Association facilitated the arrangement.

Faculty News

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
- Prof Virupakshi Soppina has been selected for the DBT Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship.
- Prof Pratik Mutha, Dr Neeraj Kumar and Nishant Rao’s work has won the Best Poster Award at the Motor Control 2016 conference in Wisla, Poland.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
- Patent on Detection of Organophosphorous Herbicides, Application No. 201621013049, Indian Patent Office, was filed by Sanjay Kumar; Pramila Sharma, and Bhaskar Datta.

SPONSORED PROJECTS
- Reusable and Field-Deployable Nanobiocatalysts for Detection of Pesticides and Herbicides sponsored by IMPRINT Principal Investigator: Prof Bhaskar Datta.
- Advanced nanotracers for product life cycle assessment and product monitoring sponsored by IMPRINT Principal Investigator: Prof Superb Misra.
- Scale-up of Diesel Autothermal Reformer from 5kWe to 30kWe for Naval Applications sponsored by IMPRINT Principal Investigator: Prof Atul Bhargav.

CONSULTANCY PROJECTS
- Verification of design of LPG Bottling Shed at IOCL for Projects and Development India Limited Principal Investigator: Prof Gaurav Srivastava.
- Verification of gantry girder and hoist for Techno Industries Principal Investigator: Prof Gaurav Srivastava.
- Construction of Railway Over Bridge in Lieu of LC-105-B on Surendranagar Gate – Joravarnagar Railway Station of Bhavnagar Division of W. Rly. Area of Surendranagar Nagarpalika for Principal Investigator: Prof Dhimant Basu.
- GPU accelerated Computer Vision Tools for the Smart Kitchen for Principal Investigator: Prof Ravi Hegde.
- Research Advisory Services for Providing Technical support to TCS for Principal Investigator: Prof Uttama Lahiri.

NEW FACULTY
The following faculty members joined IITGN during this quarter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>PhD/Last degree</th>
<th>Date of joining</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Ramanathan</td>
<td>Visiting Professor</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>Bombay University</td>
<td>08.07.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaustubh Sunil Rane</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>University of Buffalo</td>
<td>15.07.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambika Aiyadurai</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>National University of Singapore</td>
<td>17.08.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krishna Kanti Dey</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>IIT Guwahati</td>
<td>22.08.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.N Pandey</td>
<td>Visiting Professor</td>
<td>Earth Sciences</td>
<td>North Gujarat University</td>
<td>02.09.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiao Dong</td>
<td>Visiting Faculty</td>
<td>Chinese Language</td>
<td>Yunnan University</td>
<td>02.09.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamida Banu Chopra</td>
<td>Visiting Faculty</td>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Urd University Alihar</td>
<td>20.10.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manu Awasthi</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Computer Science and Engineering</td>
<td>University of Utah</td>
<td>03.11.16</td>
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Activities at IITGN

INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA CONCLAVE: CONNECTIONS 2016

IITGN hosted an Industry Conclave on Sept 30 - Oct 1, 2016. The event provided an opportunity for the academic community at IITGN to interact with several top functionaries from different groups of industries. Apart from talks and panel sessions, the event also included a campus tour and a “Walk by the Wall” poster session.

SERC PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN THEORETICAL HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS (THEP)

The High Energy Physics community in India organizes SERC Schools in Theoretical High Energy Physics (THEP) since 1985. The Preparatory School 2016 was organized at IIT Gandhinagar from September 5 to October 1, 2016. The school was attended by 50 participants. The objective of these schools is to train PhD students in subjects one needs to learn to do research in THEP and to expose them to recent developments in the field.

70TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

IIT Gandhinagar celebrated the 70th Independence Day on its new campus on August 15, 2016. The celebrations began with flag hoisting, singing of the national anthem, and distribution of faculty excellence awards. The following faculty members received the faculty excellence awards for their outstanding contribution: Dr K. Ragavan, Excellence in Teaching Award for the year 2013-2014; Dr Chinmay Ghoroi, Excellence in Institution Building Award for the year 2013-2014; Dr Kabeer Jasuja, Excellence in Teaching Award for the year 2014-15; Dr Vimal Mishra, Excellence in Research Award for the year 2014-2015; Dr Pratyush Dayal, Excellence in Institution Building Award for the year 2014-2015; Dr Amit Prashant, Excellence in Outreach Award for the year 2014-2015. The Dean’s List for students of all the Undergraduate batches who have excelled in academics were also announced during this event.

REFLECTIONS ON SIX YEARS OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT – 2009

A two-day long workshop on Reflections on Six Years of Right to Education Act- 2009, organized by IIT Gandhinagar and sponsored by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, was held on July 22, 2016. Eminent academics, government officials, NGO’s, school teachers, and students discussed the challenges of Right To Education (RTE) and ways of addressing them in this national workshop.

SHORT COURSES/WORKSHOPS/PANELS

- Short course on International Health & Community Development by Dr. Sonia Gulati, University of Ottawa, Aug 9-10 & 13, 2016.
- Short course on Introduction to Computer Networking by Mr. Amit Saha, OpenStack group in Cisco, Sept 7-11, 2016.
- Short course on Promoting Evidence-Based Policy to Reducing Poverty by Mr. Pradip Khaladkar, J-PAL South Asia, Aug 27 & 28, Sept 3 & 4, 2016.
- Short course on An Introduction to the Kautiliya Arthasastra by Dr Vikas Kumar, Azim Premji University Bangalore, Sept 8, 9, 12, 14 & 16, 2016.
- Short course on Development Studies by Dr. Sandeep Pandey, IIT Gandhinagar, Aug 13-14.

LECTURES

- Dr R A Mashelkar, Padma Vibhushan, Former Director General CSIR, the Founder Chairman of Board of Governor of our Institute delivered the Nani Palkhivala Lecture titled From Incremental to Disruptive Innovation: The Vision and Strategy on Sept 17, 2016.
- Shri A S Kiran Kumar, Chairman, Space Commission and ISRO delivered the fifth Roddam Narasimha Lecture titled Space Technology – Contribution to India’s Development on Aug 10, 2016.
- Prof B B Lal, Padma Bhushan, former Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India, delivered a public talk titled How Deep are the Roots of Indian Culture? An Archaeologist Inquires on Sept 6, 2016.

OTHER LECTURES

- Black holes in String theory by Prof Gautam Mandal, Tata Institute for Fundamental Research (TIFR), July 4, 2016.
- Using Zotero (Reference Management Software) for managing references-a hands-on session for beginners by Dr. TS Kumbar, Librarian, IIT Gandhinagar, July 11, 2016.
- Talk on The use of polymeric materials in the chemical industry and current research challenges by Mr Pradip Khadakar, Head, Plastics, Elastomers and Composites Technology (PECT) at DuPont Engineering Technologies (DuET), United States, July 19, 2016.
- Integration of Research, Education and Outreach- A perspective of a Materials Scientist and Engineer by Dr B L Ramakrishna, Arizona State University, July 23, 2016.
- Performance of Free-Space Optical Systems

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Date of joining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lyndsay Baines</td>
<td>Director, Global Military Veteran &amp; Family Studies, Cambridge, United Kingdom</td>
<td>13.08.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surya Pratap Vanka</td>
<td>Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, USA</td>
<td>13.08.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shungo Kawanishi</td>
<td>Head, Department of Global Communication Education and Department of Advanced Liberal Arts Education, Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Japan</td>
<td>24.08.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Fundamentals of Optical Communication Systems by Dr Imran Shafique Ansari, Postdoctoral Research Associate (PRA), Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ), July 27, 2016. Skilled Reading in Indian Writing System: Case of Hindi/Devanagari by Dr Anurag Rimzhim, Assistant Professor at Central Connecticut State University, August 1, 2016.
• Development of multifunctional lightweight Mg based alloys and their microstructural engineering to optimize the property profile for lightweight, bio-implant and aerospace applications by Dr Saurabh Nene, IIT Bombay, August 3, 2016.
• The capabilities of COMSOL Multiphysics® 5.2a and Application Builder by Garima Singh, COMSOL, August 4, 2016.
• Cell Death by Dr Chandrima Shaha, Director of National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, August 5, 2016.
• Computational Biomedicine, Leveraging the Window of Opportunity by Dr Tavpritesh Sethi, Wellcome Trust/DBT India Alliance Fellow at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, August 8, 2016.
• Speeding Innovations by Dr Vikram Rao, Executive Director, Research Triangle Energy Consortium, August 9, 2016.
• Defeating Gender Discrimination by Prof Madhu Purnima Kishwar, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, August 10, 2016.
• Disruptive Innovations and Pitching for Funding by Mr Shekhar Chandra, YouLEAD, August 12, 2016.
• A public lecture by Dr Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog at IIM Ahmedabad, August 17, 2016.
• Global stability analysis of spatially developing boundary layers by Ramesh Bhoranaya, PhD candidate, Mechanical Engineering, IIT Gandhinagar, August 29, 2016.
• Franzon Fanon and Mahatma Gandhi by Prof P C Kar, former Professor of English with MSU Baroda, August 31, 2016.
• Talk on Franzon Fanon and Mahatma Gandhi by Prof P C Kar, Director of Center for Contemporary Theory, Baroda, Aug 31, 2016.
• Viscoelastic Properties of Colloidal particles in Liquid Crystals Composites and Liquid Crystal Anchoring Transitions at Interfaces by Siddharth Kulkarni, PhD candidate, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Gandhi nagar, Sept 5, 2016.
• Linking science to practice: Tools to assess river status and guide rehabilitation to optimize river basin management by Prof Brierley, Chair of Physical Geography, University of Auckland, New Zealand, September 8, 2016.
• Innovative Teaching for the Global Era by Prof Shungo Kawanishi, Director of Institute of General Education, Sep 9, 2016.
• Electrical conductivity and Charge Diffusion in hot QCD Medium by Dr Sukanya Mitra, Postdoctoral Fellow in Physics at IIT Gandhinagar, September 16, 2016.
• Generic Dynamics on the Cantor Space by is Prof Dario Darji, Professor of Mathematics, University of Louisville, September 16, 2016.
• Band structure and electronic properties of semiconductors by Dr Avishhek Saha, Chemistry, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, September 20, 2016.
• Human race facing an inevitable apocalypse? By Dr Arnab Dutta, September 21, 2016.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

• Pratik Chimane, an MTech student, received the first prize in the category Best Poster Award at the 7th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress - 2016 (WRETC-2016), conducted at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, Aug 21-23, 2016.
• Vaishnavi Patil, Sai Krishna, and Sai Vootla won the third prize at the Intel Cup Embedded systems design contest held in China from July 26 - 29, 2016 for the project titled Smart Medical Network, 164 teams from 74 universities and 8 countries participated in the 2016 Intel Cup Undergraduate Design Conference.
• Mukta Gundi (PhD student in Social Sciences) has been selected as a top finalist in the Dance Your PhD contest 2016 (PhD students depict their PhD thesis through a dance) organized by the Science Magazine.
• A team of IITGN PhD students (Sanjay Kumar, Pallavi Chilika) and project students (Vinod Maurya, Nakshi Desai) placed 1st in the Vibrant Gujarat Start-Up Grand Challenge 2016, a part of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, for their plan for: Efficient and Reusable Nano-Biocatalyst for Extracting Valuable Bioactive Compounds from Agro/Food Waste.
• Three students received Best Paper Awards at the International Geotechnical Engineering Conference on Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering Practices and Related Urban Issues organised by Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS), IGS Mumbai Chapter and International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) from Sept 23 - 24, 2016 in Mumbai. Saloni Prashant Pandya and Debanjana Bhattacharya received the first prize and Seethalakshmi P received the second prize.

THE FIRST UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONCLAVE

The First Undergraduate Research Conclave (UGRC) was held at IIT Gandhinagar on September 3, 2016. The Conclave saw the participation of 17 undergraduate students from IITGN, who did their summer internships at prestigious institutions within or outside the country (including Caltech, Duke, IIT Gandhinagar and ISRO). The Conclave was organized by Prof Manish Kumar, Prof Shankunigamanathan Raman, and Prof Vineet Vashista. The winning poster was by Mr Vinip Prajapati and was titled Fully printed carbon nanotube - thin film transistors for pressure and sensing applications. The students who were selected for the oral presentations were Srinivasan A, Suraj Bhosale, Garima Chaudhary, Deepak Dharwal, Amber Kothari and Vipin Prajapati.

SWACCH BHARAT DRIVE

The first-year students of IIT Gandhinagar went on a Swachh Bharat Drive on August 14, 2016, Sunday to clean Kalupur (Ahmedabad) railway station. All 180 students joined the cleaning initiative as a part of institute’s Foundation Programme. This activity was planned in collaboration with Western Railways. The aim was to involve students in generating respect for the cleaning staff working under adverse conditions and to spread the message of keeping our environment clean.

Sports News

IIM SHOURYA INTER-COLLEGIATE SPORTS FEST

The IITGN’s Boys Table Tennis team (Nikhil Sharma (c), Sowill Dave, Amber Kothari, Bharg Mehta) won a Gold medal. They defeated IIM-A by 3-1 in the finals.