



# The Palantir

The Student Newsletter of IIT Gandhinagar

## “It's not about whether we can, it's about how we will!”

The morning of the 1st of August '08 was one which none of the 90 students who are proud to call themselves a part of the Pioneer Batch of IIT-GN can ever forget. It was the day of the first ever orientation programme of this newly established IIT. The administration was seen to be running around hither and thither to set up all things right for the comfort of the historical first batch of students. Days have passed by since then and today IIT-GN has made a promising statement of achieving unprecedented excellence in all fields, be it academic or extra-curricular.

The brain-batteries of the students seem to keep going full guns and new ideas are what keep the cheerful spirit of IIT-GN going. The greatest evidence in support of this is our first ever cultural festival-BLITHCHRON '09 which proved to be a mega-success! It sets the stage for students to gain a deeper insight into the underlying physical principles of all the technology that the students are being enlightened about in the formal courses. The entrepreneurial skills are honed in  $\Sigma\Gamma\Delta$ . After a hectic day at college, students are more than excited to pick up their favorite sport from a wide spectrum of them provided as part of the Students' Gymkhana and excel in them. From inter-departmental sports tournaments to twenty-20 cricket matches, from setting up football clubs to bidding for players, the excitement never seems to die down.

Literary, music, arts, dramatics and dance

clubs have been established to tap the potentials of the students and to channelize them to achieve excellence. The undying interest of the students in engineering methods has given form to the various talks and seminars that have been held at IIT-GN. The social mingling of the students comes to the forefront with IIT-GN starting its annual blood-donation programme Jeevan Tarang.

The administration has been constantly involved in the development of the facilities and the rate of work has increased gradually.



The hostels have been transformed from simple rooms to comfortable apartments with its very own SAC and a night canteen. The entire hostel has been connected via a wi-fi network, an analogy to the student unity seen in IIT-GN. IIT-GN is a practical example of Unity in Diversity

following the principles set out by our constitutions' preamble word-to-word.

Despite all the hardships, drawbacks and inconveniences of being the pioneer, we have made ourselves at home. We have made our presence felt in the city and the state and to some extent in the country.

We have gone ahead full blast with our aspirations and high hopes of success, but at the back of our minds, our faith in ourselves has never died. And finally, IT IS NOT ABOUT WHETHER WE CAN, BUT ABOUT HOW WE WILL.....

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## A portal to IIT GN is created

The Palantir emerged as an initiative that was long awaited by all of the students at IIT Gandhinagar, after the initial disagreement that led to a few delays, all of the students at IIT Gandhinagar united to turn this vision into reality with the official newsletter of IIT Gandhinagar. This is a joint venture of the The Literary Guild and the Entrepreneurial Technocrats Association, both of these clubs have set upon the creation of a Master Plan for this venture and its development into a phenomenon that describes IIT GN and life here.

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## IIT GN the beginning- by Prof. Yajnik, Dean S.A./A.P. IIT GN

It was long awaited, the opening of some more IITs. But when it came it came like a heavy downpour of Mumbai monsoon. Eight new IITs got approved between February and May 2008. Not only that, they were supposed to start functioning forthwith. IIT Gandhinagar is the only one of the new IITs to have been proposed in May and to yet to have started directly within the urban area in the vicinity of which it was meant to start. This is a tribute to both, the Government of Gujarat and the mentor institution, IIT Bombay, and also to the continued support of the Government of India.

But most of all we also laud the decision of so many bright JEE rankers to have opted for this new institution and their parents who permitted them to sign up for a residential academic institution that had no student residences to speak of at the time of paying fees. At breakneck speed, with a brand new building provided by the patronage and generosity of a local industry house, we got busy setting up a hostel. It was amusing to see parents arrive on July 27 asking to see where the hostel was, and the undersigned, knowing that water and electricity were not yet connected, would smugly say : your date of reporting is July 31, 4 pm. Our institution was working on war footing and I had no hesitation playing my cards thus.

From within these chaotic beginnings emerged the dedicated spirit of learning of our new entrants. All of them keenly attended every lecture class and every evening lecture arranged by the two special interest clubs that had got going from the first week itself!. In no time an

elected students council was in place, sports equipment arrived and football was being kicked around on hitherto unused lawns of VGEC. When 15th August arrived we had a student give a speech, and when October 2 arrived, we had songs, presentations, and by 26th January 2009, all of those and also a skit With an intensive guidance on how to organise their games teams and how to practice for competitive sports, IIT Gandhinagar team was rearing to go to the inter-IIT sports at IIT Madras in December 2008. Not that the seniors were willing to indulge them too easily but Team Gandhinagar did well at the meet.

All the while, someone or the other wanted to attend a cultural or technical fest being hosted by engineering colleges within Gujarat, coming back with some victories and some special mentions. And soon it was the turn of IITGN (so the name had evolved), to organise one during the second semester. Barely waiting for the mid-semester exam week to be over, they put up a blistering show, "Blithchron" ... yes, I have to double check the spelling though the reader may not even know the difference. So as an alumnus of IITB familiar with the cool name Mood Indigo, I was witnessing the birth of one more hot festival. Its highlights were a classical night of carnatic violin and a rock night, both of which saw some heads swaying, not always gently.

We must acknowledge the strong initiative and the unstinting support of the Government of Gujarat, its Education, Revenue and the Roads and Buildings secretariats, and most warmly, the hosting college

Vishwakarma Government Engineering College, which made the new born institution very comfortable. The long standing query of the students, "Will we see the actual campus?" was meant to be answered in the affirmative. And the State put its best foot forward in procuring for us a gentle pasture within a short distance from urban Ahmedabad, within the district of Gandhinagar. The mentor institution in turn has had serious brainstorming in the preceding semester and produced.

A vision document, a conceptual blueprint for IIT Gandhinagar, envisioning the organization of its intense academics and cutting edge research and its soothing and secluded physical environs. We now look forward to seeing this vision come true on the land earmarked, such that the pioneer batch which has entered is able to complete at least some of its academic requirements, on the actual campus.

Dear reader if you are searching for that precious word academics, we had a 10 pointer in the first semester and several AP (outstanding performance grade, only one awarded in the whole class), but by the second semester the competition had heated up. This semester we have had four students above 9.9 and two of them the perfect 10, with AP awarded in every subject.

I will not try the patience of the reader but pray that he or she leaf through these pages to find scattered in its nooks and corners and reportage and graphics what all this pioneering batch already achieved and what its lofty aspirations aim for in the years to come.

# Here I am, This is ME !

## 90 students announce their arrival through-



**A** vision was conceived in the minds of the



students of IIT GN, to create something that would make them stand out in history, being the only IIT to organize an inter-college cultural festival in its first year! The students embarked on a journey that helped them gain a lot along the way. It was the first time that all of the factions at IIT



GN worked together for a common goal. Apart from

the unity it created, each student earned extra skills along the way, apart from the usual engineering knowledge synonymous with IITs. This vision emerged as "Blithchron '09" meaning the time of festivity, which was the name



chosen by the students after much debate. It was a 2 day mega event held in the temporary campus of IIT GN at VGEC, Chandkheda. A website with URL: [www.blithchron.com](http://www.blithchron.com) was built by the students. The major attractions in the festival were the events "The Butler did it!", "Jobless" and "String Theory" - the band wars. The event also had a classical night organized in co-operation with SPIC- MACAY which featured a famous violinist duo of Ganesh and Kumaresh. Their soulful renditions left the crowd speechless. The dignitaries present for the performance could not help but

appreciate the effort put in by the mere 90 students. Other events that turned Blithchron into a success were Solo Impromptu - a dance competition which required spunk panache on your feet. "Synchronize"- the group dance

emphasized on the coordination between the troupe and the heat they created on stage with their chemistry.



"The Game Drome"- the gaming competition featured gaming enthusiasts screaming their lungs out while their reflexes did the actual talking. "Parley"- the group debate and other fun events like face painting, break-up letter writing and cartoon making were all a part of the events that created this huge success. The entire event gathered a footfall of 1000+ students; it also received extensive media attention. For a group of 90 first year students with no prior experience in budgeting, HR



management, printing or anything else required to organize a successful event, they did a pretty good job. Blithchron '09 served as a growing experience for the students who are eagerly awaiting to get their hands onto Blithchron '10.

## String Theory (Band Wars @ Blithchron '09)

This was the “official icing on the cake” for Blithchron, organized on the final night of Blithchron. The prelims to String Theory were conducted on the previous day and out of the multitude of



Souls of Centaur burning the stage

bands that enrolled only three were selected to fight for the final prize of Rs 20,000. The three selected bands were “Manefus”, “Souls of Centaur” and “Sweet Blame”. The first to perform were “Souls of Centaur” followed by “Sweet Blame”. The band to perform next was “Manefus” whose sound check song “Pappu Yaar” was the hum for all the audience for days to follow. This was followed by the head line act by the popular band Purple Flowers, who performed

popular songs of Jimmy Hendrix, Pink Floyd and other popular Hindi songs such as 'tum ho toh' and 'socha hai'. The popularity of the band with the adrenaline filled crowd of 700 was such that “Purple Flowers” was not allowed to step off the stage. The final touch to the night was a finishing performance (special act) by the death metal band “Darkside” nearly resulting in an all-out mosh in the audience. After “Darkside”'s performance ended, the judges announced the winners of the band wars – “Manefus” who accepted the prize money of Rs 20,000 with glee appreciating the work the IIT GN students had put for the show despite this being their first attempt. One of the highlights of the event was the quality of the sound system doled out by the IITians which all bands agreed was the one of the best they have ever played on. One thing was an obvious fact, the crowd was going to return to String Theory '10 and in greater multitudes.

## IIT GN students “mock” the job scenario

An event that stands testimony to the ingenuity of the students at IIT GN is “Jobless” which was a mock job interview where the contestants faced three rounds of intense competition. The first round was a group discussion which separated the meek from the aggressive and the bold from the timid. This was followed by a round in which half of the students were given fictitious resumes and asked to be the interviewees, whereas the rest of the students assumed the role of the interviewers. The last round featured the judges interviewing the remaining participants in a stress interview to crown a winner. The event was also adopted by other colleges participating in Blithchron due to its take on the current job crisis. The organizing committee of Blithchron has promised to make Jobless a much bigger rendition of the Job interview that is an integral part of every students college life.

## The Butler Did It!



This much appreciated event in Blithchron was a crime scene investigation, where an entire crime scene was recreated accompanied by a video created by the students describing the series of events that led to the murder. The story was entirely created by the students which revolved around Deepankar Khosla and Prof.

Banerjee who was the victim. The case was assigned to the budding detectives due to the mysterious disappearance of

the previous detective Mr. X. The event received an overwhelming response in terms of registrations and the organizers were kept on their heels with the large number of entries. The event gained great acknowledgment from the media because of its innovative take on crime scene investigation.

*“All glory comes from daring to begin.”*

*“The beginning is the most important part of the work.”*

## Humble Beginnings

Starting student activities in any new college is a difficult task which requires an initial impetus. The students at IIT GN felt the best way to have a kick start was to gather a group of like-minded people and form an association which colleges normally call “clubs”. A defining trait of the students at IIT GN was their urge to achieve; enabling them to establish clubs like ETA, Phiop and CineFlux in the first month of their journey towards overall development through their respective four year courses. The initial momentum grew stronger with student involvement resulting into more clubs like LFP, Planet Sangeet, The Dramatics Club and The Literary Guild.

## Building a hierarchy

A student body needs to be defined by leaders who can represent the students among the administration as well as other student bodies. This created a need for the IIT GN students to pick their representatives which would ensure the proper communication of their needs to the authorities, allowing IIT GN to develop at a rapid pace defined by the enthusiasm of the students and the dedication of the authorities. The first elected council consisted of a General Secretary, two Councilors to assist the General Secretary, a Mess, a Maintenance, a Sports and a Cultural Secretary. The



*The newly elected student council of IIT-GN*

second council elected towards the end of the year removed the post of the councilors as the initial unfamiliarity among the students was removed and one overall representative seemed sufficient. This present council will function till towards the end of the academic year 2009-2010. The elections for the year 2009-2010 consisted of a series of speeches and debates with a plethora of new ideas emerging through constructive criticism. The election commission has also set up an impeachment law to keep the council on their feet. The student body has unanimously expressed their hopes that the present student council ensures rapid development of IIT GN.

## Night Canteen

IIT hostels are infamous for their “night life”. For this very reason, students felt the need to have a canteen right in their hostel to cater to their nocturnal appetites. Initially faced with many logistical hassles, the student council finally made it possible to provide us with food till about 2 a.m. into the night. The caterers being the same as the ones in the IIT Gandhinagar mess, the night canteen provides an extended menu serving snacks and beverages. It opens at 10 p.m. and closes at 2 a.m. (extendable upto 3 a.m. during examination days). The night canteen is often the center of student interaction. Most of the decisions of the student body were thus usually made over a masala maggi or coffee from the night canteen.

## S.A.C.

With a view of having a place where all the extracurricular activities can be carried out Student Activity Centre was established in the hostel. It also has the computer centre and student library Biblioteca del Estudiante. It is also the center for the different club activities.

## Sports facilities

The rapid development of the sports facilities in IITGN has stunned many but for the students of IITGN rapid is not fast enough. At present though the sports facilities of IITGN presents a promising form, it is much evolved form to the one that greeted IITGN students at the start of their year. The development of sports facilities started with the IITGN students being given permission to play in the field in front of the A block. The IITGN students were also given permission to utilize the badminton and table tennis facilities available in the VGEC



campus. The pressure exerted by IITGN students and the student council on the authorities made them finally relent and set up a volleyball court right outside the IITGN mess. This was shortly followed by the development of a cricket field and a basket ball court in the campus. It has also been finalized to set up a basket ball court in the hostel. The future facilities that are aimed to be provided to the students of IITGN include a swimming pool.

### [www.iitgn.ac.in](http://www.iitgn.ac.in)

## Internet

Little did the guys at DARPA know what they made, would evolve into. The world wide web today is an immense resource-house for information on basically everything a world citizen is required to stay abreast of. In fact, it also serves the double purpose of providing platforms to practice coding and web designing, which are part of the current IIT curriculum. The current computer laboratory is equipped with world class computers with exceptional computing capabilities. We currently have a leased business connection from BSNL providing very good bandwidth to work. The students in the first year enjoyed wi-fi connectivity in the campus as well as in the hostel.

Essential to every educational institute is its online presence and outreach to prospective students, faculty, general public, or the citizens who dwell more on the internet than on *terra firma*. The Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar now has a fully functional website. Designed by Prof Abhijit Sarkar, the professional looking website contains exhaustive information about IIT Gandhinagar. It contains information regarding the educational programs offered by IIT Gandhinagar, information about the faculty, the campus, FAQs etc. Also, it contains a link to [www.bliithchron.com](http://www.bliithchron.com), the website of the already famous

## NSO

In the first semester the NSO sessions were organized by Dr. Jha who was delegated to conduct the NSO sessions in IITGN from IITB. Two NSO sessions were organized (morning and evening) over a period of 20 days. The morning sessions were mainly aimed at increasing the physical endurance, fitness and stamina of the students while the evening sessions were aimed at developing the general acumen and skills of the students in various sports of their interests.

In the second semester similar NSO sessions were conducted by Dr Appaji, who also incubated the NSS scheme here as part of our social footprint.

cultural extravaganza organized by IIT Gandhinagar students. Shortly, you will also be able to see issues of the Palantir on the student corner of the website. To know more about OUR very own website, point your web browsers to [www.iitgn.ac.in](http://www.iitgn.ac.in).

## Wifi

Our new hostels will soon be complete wi-fi enabled buildings. Squish with SQUID proxy server is going to be used. So, downloading freaks get ready to be "squished"! We would also work on having a secure ftp server with nodes in our hostels.

## Trip to the Water Park

The sports in charge Dr. S. N. Jha organized an outing for the students to Swapna Shrishti Water Park in the first semester. The entire group of students collected early in the morning and boarded a bus taking them to their first college excursion. The students enjoyed the



wide range of water activities

available at the theme park, including a rain dance that was engraved in the memory of students who let loose on that day. The students returned late in the evening and all enjoyed a well deserved sleep after a hard day's "work" of merrymaking.

## Biblioteca Del Estudiante

Due to absence of non-academic books in the campus library, the student council has set up a student library in the hostel S.A.C. The B.D.E. has a wide collection of fictional and non fictional books such as *Who moved my cheese*, John Grisham catering to varying literary needs of the hostel students. The main aim of the B.D.E. for the next academic year is to acquire books of better quality.

## Synching technology with the land of entrepreneurs

ITs have always been known for production of people with unique ideas and a will to see their ideas



reaching the masses. This frame of mind in the students of IIT Gandhinagar saw the emergence of a new club the Entrepreneurial Technocrats

Association (ÓÃÄ). With the help of the student advisor Prof Abhijit Sarkar, for this club the students organized a special guest lecture by Prof. Shashikant Suryanarayanan a faculty of IIT Bombay's Mechanical Engineering Department and a successful entrepreneur. He spoke to the members on "The Birth of Entrepreneurship". The club was also responsible for the birth of this newsletter. The council for ÓGA has stated that they have major plans for The Palantir in the coming semester and hope this will be its first successful project.

## Φιoρ

The Forum for Interaction On Physics was formed to channelize productive discussions on physics, enhance the existing knowledge of the students, and encourage them to search deeper in the realm of physics. As part of Ó&ñ, the inaugural lecture was delivered by the Dean, Prof. U.A.Yajnik which was anticipatory to the

construction of the Large-



Hadron collider at CERN. The lecture concentrated on elementary particle physics issues. There was also a

discussion on the "Higg's Boson". The students' excitement knew no bounds. This club has matured and matured enough from just guest lectures to complete course lectures. As part of its activities, Prof. Ameeya Bhagwat of the Physics department delivered lectures on Quantum Mechanics in the Spring of 2009 as part of Ó&ñ.

## Agaaz- A Beginning

**A**gaaz was the last event on the calendar of IIT GN that marked the end of the first path defying year of the

pioneer batch. It was the Pioneers Party that was organized for the students by the students. This party



came to a close with the DJ playing some groovy dance numbers, which enthralled the pioneers of IIT GN.

## Cineflux

**f**eatured events such as a random couple event, the crowning of Mr. Fresher and declaration of the Best Sportsman of the year 2008-

2009. The party

came to a close with the DJ playing some groovy dance numbers, which enthralled the pioneers of IIT GN.

**T**his is the official cinematic club of IITGN. The main function of the club is to collect movies, movies and more movies. It started with the screening of English movies every Saturday and has developed into screening of multilingual and international language movies throughout the week. It also manages a movie database in the hostel which can be accessed for free of cost by the students.

## There is too much blood in my caffeine system!

**I**t is often humorously alluded that at IIT hostels, the body clocks of students get reversed. This is true, to some extent especially during examinations when the sins of our past bunking over the semester come to haunt us. The most notable activity before an examination is the “night before”. Recently enlightened that there is an examination the next day, most students intend to prepare for a semester long course content all squeezed into a night’s effort. They begin with a silent prayer and take the plunge with utmost reluctance and disgust. They soon give up hopes of understanding it after a heroic 5

minutes and 12 seconds on an average and fall to the advice of likeminded peers- “rat le na...”. Studying with utmost attention requires energy. Some who had already planned upon staying up all night tend to stock-up on food, Red-Bull, caffeine and a chit containing the suicide prevention helpline’s number. One can’t eat and directly jump back to studies: so, students often check their email/social networking website profiles etc. before getting back to the study table. They keep the computers powered on- just in case they need to refer or cross verify something they come across in the course syllabus. And this

contingent situation does arise!...only a few minutes after resuming studies. (“But hey! I’m just using the computer to study...”). Frantic swearing and fervent turning of pages indicates the attainment of this stage. Like brave soldiers who laid their lives defending their land, one by one, the student sees his friends drop off into the sweet promises sleep whispers into their ears. He struggles to resist, few can, most join their fellow “martyrs”. Irrespective of the time of sleeping, students who make it to the examination hall cannot help commenting “*Kya sahi night-out mara yaar!*” upon observing the bloodshot eyes of their friends.

## “Let there be no light”-for a greener cause

**T**he WWF has successfully set up an hour dedicated to the earth where all households and buildings are requested to turn off their lights and other electrical appliances to create awareness about the need to take action against the climate change. IIT Gandhinagar also tried

to create awareness about this day, turning off all lights and creating an IIT GN out



90 students with candles celebrating earth hour.

of candles held by all of the 90 students of IIT Gandhinagar on the ground outside the hostel. This ensured each student developed an outlook that is pro green revolution and each student is aware of the impending climatic changes if something is not done.

**T**he festival of colors is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in Indian culture and the students of IIT upheld the tradition on the 11th of March with a version of Holi synonymous with the IIT's. This involved the use of a pit of mud created that turned into a dunking ground of unsuspecting victims dragged

out of their beds. There was an all out color shower sprayed on the hostel premises leaving the authorities wondering how wild the student activities would get in the future. This was a colorful display of unity among the students that left a lasting impression on the minds as well as the walls. The students who were not present to enjoy this event were



“green” with jealousy and have vowed never to miss a Holi at IIT GN.

## Dassera



**O**n the last day of Navratri, celebrating the triumph of virtue over evil, an artistically handcrafted, explosive-laden effigy of Ravana was burnt (of course with necessary safety precautions). The students squeezed the age old traditional “Raam Leela” into their pike-sized comic version of the lore. Unstoppable bouts of laughter ensued.

## Burning the dance floor

**A**s a build up to Blithchron, the students at IIT GN decided to organize one of the events of Blithchron as an intra event, to assure themselves of their organizational skills. The entire college turned up for this event that displayed the amazing talent of the students of IIT GN that might have gone unnoticed. The participants showed off their moves on a Hindi and English song given to them randomly. The dance floor was set ablaze and the audience mesmerized by the talent, soon jumped onto the dance floor. The event transformed into a DJ Party after the results were announced.

## Republic Day

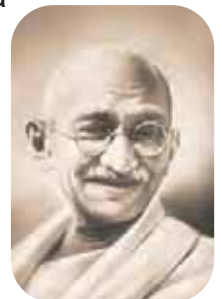
**P**atriotic fervour was at an all time high again on the 59th Republic Day at IIT Gandhinagar. The flag hoisting was followed by speeches by the Dean (AP and SA) Prof U A Yajnik, Retd. Major General Aga and students of IIT GN. This was followed by an insightful play created entirely by the students of IIT GN titled “What We Have Done” which highlighted our flaws as a nation and delivered the message that all is not lost if we truly show the spirit that India as a nation is supposed to embody.

## All Rounders

**T**alent hunt had begun at IIT GN with the event “All rounders”. This was conducted floor wise and the participants were not informed about the events till the programme commenced. The events were Dumb-charades, Mono acting, JAM (Just A Minute) and a dare competition. Mono acting received a huge response from the audience. After 2 continuous hours of entertainment, with a lot of “zeal and enthu” from the students, they returned to the hostels talking about the event the rest of the day.

## Remembering The Father of the Nation

**G**andhi Jayanti is a day that brings a feeling of patriotism and nostalgia among the folk of India. IIT GN celebrated this day with discussions and speeches on the life of the great national hero. This was followed by screening of Richard Attenborough's Oscar winning movie 'Gandhi'.



## IIT GN collaborates with SPIC MACAY

IIT GN's association with SPIC MACAY, a popular movement to promote Indian Classical Music amongst youth also started off in this very eventful year. A Sitar recital by Padma Bhushan Pt. Debu Chaudhary was organized on 4th of February which was appreciated by one and all. Pt. Debu



Pt. Debu Chaudhary at IIT GN

Chaudhary gave the students a brief insight into some of the nuances of Indian Classical Music along with his performance. He taught the students 5 ragaas in an interactive manner. The first glimpse of SPIC MACAY in IIT GN developed into a bond that was re energized by the performance of artists of SPIC MACAY in Blithchron '09.

### NSS Program

“One act of beneficence, one act of real usefulness, is worth all the abstract sentiment in the world.”

#### Jeevan Tarang-the red revolution



It was the first NSS venture of IITGN and well organised events of the year. A collaboration was made with the V. S. Clinic to conduct the camp and the camp was popularised and marketed as much as possible. Most of the students donated blood. All necessary precautions regarding the safety of syringes and well being of the donors were looked into

#### An insight of Students

With the guidance and support from Dr. Appaji, we have come up with an initiative “Pragya” to teach the slum children. Many students have volunteered to teach slum kids. We have also found three schools catering to underprivileged classes in Motera and they have agreed to join us in the initiative.



### Planet Sangeet



IIT GN's very own music club that envisages to bring together all the music lovers to promote interaction among themselves. This club helps its members in realizing the latent talent within them and provides them with adequate opportunities and facilities to polish the talent that they possess. At the very onset the club has laid down a set of goals it intends to achieve. Arranging instructors for teaching vocal as well music, arranging instruments and other requirements for developing music, periodically organising musical events for its members to pick out the best singer as well as best instrumentalist for the semester are all part of what Planet Sangeet aims to give the students.

## INTER DEPARTMENTAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The tournament was contested by the three departments with their respective teams. The matches were held at the football ground in front of the A block of the campus. The first round was a round robin between the three teams (Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical departments). These matches witnessed tenacity, bonding and rivalry that bespoke of professionalism and a burning desire to emerge triumphant. The first match was between Chemical and Mechanical that witnessed a scorching display of skill and talent by the Chemical forwards that saw the Mechanical team go down 3-1. The second match of the round robin stage was between the Mechanical and Electrical teams. The Mechanical team won the



match against Electrical team 1-0. The next match was between the hot, in-form Chemical team against the Electrical team which again saw resplendent fireworks by the Chemical team forwards. This resulted in them raking two goals within the first five minutes of the match beginning but however the Electrical team defenders displayed resoluteness and prevented from further goals from being conceded. This gave time for the electrical forwards to pull

one back and result in the 2-1 score line in favor of the Chemical team allowing the Mechanical team to qualify for the finals against the so far rampaging Chemical team. The pre match build-up for the finals was nerve-wracking with both the mechanical team and the Chemical team think tanks working overboard to get a strategy in place ....but the chemical team were the favorites due to the form of their scintillating forwards. The finals came and the Chemical team's forwards were at it again but they were halted by the resolute defense which ended in both the teams going to the break without drawing first blood. The second half opened to see the Mechanical team coming out all guns firing to put the pressure back on the chemical team scoring a goal and then holding their own to win the tournament.

### Inter IIT sports

Due to admirable efforts on the part of the administration and the students holding office, it was made possible for IIT Gandhinagar to send a contingent of players to participate in the inter IIT sports meet in Chennai.



But unfortunately the IIT Gandhinagar contingent was allowed to participate in athletic events alone and only with the new IITs. The official version was the perceived lack of facilities. Despite the onset of adversities stacked neatly and cleanly in front, the IIT Gandhinagar contingent proved their mettle by emerging as the single highest medals winner

amongst the new IITs with 2 golds, 4 silvers and 3 bronzes. It has come to light under comparison that some of the records set by IITGN students were comparable to the ones existing in the inter-IIT sports meet. Hopefully IITGN will get a crack at the other IITs this time around and maybe we will set new records.

### Volleyball

The first inter college tournament IITGN had participated in was a tournament organized by the IPTG Gandhinagar. This tournament saw participation from all colleges in the region including IIM-A, DAICT. In this tournament IITGN was cast into a pool along with other 4 colleges (GNLU, IIM-A, VSEC, IPTG). Despite IITGN losing its ground in the initial stage of the tournament it was able to impress one and all with its raw talent, tenacity, and never say die attitude which made all to wonder what this team would be able to achieve had they availed the facilities of a proper coach and preparation.

## IFL Spring '09 (IITian's Football League Spring '09)

This was a novel idea initiated under the ambit of the LFP (the league of football players) and the student council. The entire model of the tournament was organized in a similar way to the IPL (Indian Premier League) and the EPL (English Premier League).



This model included the purchase of players by using credits (each team would be distributed an equal number of credits before the tournament's auction of players) and the transfer system of the players in

the transfer season. The total number of the teams competing in the first season was set at three (Club Gallantos, Aeolus, 8 Hooligans) and the players were purchased from the pool by the managers in accordance with

their strategy and vision for their respective teams. This innovative idea saw people from teams who played against each other in the inter-departmental football tournament were now in the same side. The matches were then held throughout the semester and the team with the highest points won the league.

The standings were:

Club Gallantos	12pts
8 Hooligans	8 pts
Aeolus	5 pts

## Tournaments



The success of the football tournament was followed up with thrilling competitions in badminton, cricket, volleyball and table tennis. With enthusiastic participation and nail biting finales, these tournaments

together highlighted the sports fever in IITGN in the first year. The cricket and volleyball tournaments followed the same pattern as the Football tournament with Electrical bagging the top place in both games. Chemical and Mechanical were the runners up in the games respectively. Badminton and table tennis consisted of a singles event which was general for all branches.

## Students dunk in a new sport

The growth of the major sports facilities in IIT GN inspired some basketball enthusiasts to urge the authorities to establish a functional basketball court for the students of IIT GN. This culminated into a half court which became an instant hit among the students with basketball being added to the list of sports IIT GN students enjoyed in their spare time. The basketball enthusiasts during NSO sessions also trained and established a basketball team for IIT GN. The students hope that this team can become a force to reckon with in the Inter IIT as well as other Sports Tournaments.

## IIT GN ends its search for a director

The first year of IIT GN also saw a first glimpse of its future Director Prof. Sudhir Kumar



Jain who has taken charge at the beginning of this academic year. He is a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Roorkee (IITR/BT/CE/1979), he holds a Masters and Doctoral degrees

from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. He is a professor in Civil Engineering at IIT Kanpur and has served as the head of the department from 2001 to 2003. In addition to the teaching and building a strong research program at IIT Kanpur, Dr. Jain believes in practicing what he preaches. He is responsible for development of several seismic codes for the country. He also works as a seismic consultant for a number of major railway bridge projects in high seismic regions of the

country. He has also been associated with Gujarat as he had visited the state during the time of the Bhuj Earthquake in 2000. Prof Jain has been instrumental in setting up various organizations dedicated towards research into earthquakes as well as earthquake management. His appointment was much appreciated amongst all of those associated with IIT GN as the presence of a Director is expected to bring with it great development in IIT Gandhinagar.

### Prof U. A. Yajnik

Prof. U. A. Yajnik is the Dean of Academic Programmes and Student Affairs at IIT Gandhinagar. He did his M.Sc (Integrated) from IIT Bombay in the year 1980 and obtained his Ph.D in Elementary Particle Physics from the University at Texas at Austin. His research interests are: Grand Unification



, Supersymmetry ,Cosmology applications of Grand Unification -- Cosmic strings, Baryogenesis ,Quantization of Gravity and Superstring Theory. He is active member of the F?? and is known among the students for his calm and warm behavior. He actively participates and encourages cultural activity at IIT-GN.

### Prof. Jaison Manjaly- Hostel Warden

A hostel warden is required to monitor and regulate student activities. Prof Jaison Manjaly stepped up to the task of bearing this additional responsibility.

Prof Manjaly, Assistant Professor at IIT Gandhinagar obtained his PhD in Philosophy from IIT Kharagpur and his MA in Philosophy from the University of Calicut. His field of work is centered around the metaphysical issues of the mind and cognition. He takes



keen interest in extra-curricular activities with the students. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that he plays numerous sports, some of which are basketball, volleyball, football, badminton. He learns playing the guitar with the students. He screens critically acclaimed multilingual movies every Friday. With such a multifaceted warden, the students of IIT GN, in keeping with the IIT tradition, have someone to inspire them to look beyond just academic achievement.

### E-Lectures

IIT-Gandhinagar became the first among new IITs which established links with National Knowledge Network. The NKN is aimed at interconnecting all the knowledge institutes of the country through an electronic digital broadband network. The link with NKN (National Knowledge Network) has provided video conferencing facility to IIT-G. Plugging into the National Knowledge Network (NKN), IIT Gandhinagar students had a new experience of a "classroom". Pilot e-lectures were conducted for the Departmental Introductory Course- Introduction to Electrical Engineering. The students were lectured from Mumbai by Prof Soman. The high bandwidth provides for real-time streaming of video and sound of HD quality on the 53 inch screen. This new and innovative project is definitely a jump start to what may be the future of education.

## What the new comers have to say- quotes taken by interviewing 5 juniors

"Filling the choice sheet, i was also told that the Gujarat government is perhaps the most active government of our country, which meant that all the promises made, regarding the campus, would be looked upon properly . This encouraged me to put IIT GN before any other new IIT."

"Some professors shared their personal experiences of having taught at IIT GN for a year. It was encouraging to know that IIT GN had showed tremendous enthusiasm and progress in the very first year of its establishment."

This is what they had to say after listening to Prof. Jain's speech at IIT Bombay during the counseling " What I gathered at the end of his talk, was that he is a charismatic personality, who knew exactly how we students were thinking that day. It was like, through his talk he made us decide on what to do ourselves. And an institute under someone like him has to do well! So I was quite clear about what I wanted to do."

"The IIT GN brochure, the 'Life at IIT GN' video, told me about how it is there and what the lifestyle is like. And besides a sprawling campus, I did not mark anything missing in it."

"A decent campus, more than well furnished hostel rooms, quite a bit of greenery around n CCD right in front of your eyes. I don't think any of us can ask for more."

"The video does provide a lot of useful information about the campus life and the campus itself. The environment around the campus looks great in the video. It speaks a lot of all the fun one can have during college life. The video influenced my decision to a

large extent, after watching it I was sure that life at IIT GN is far better than one can demand."

"Every little thing seems so perfect for a proper IIT. The posters, the fests, the t-shirts , the all night canteen..all this speaks so much of the extremely successful 1 year that IIT GN has seen."

"I guess I couldn't have asked for anything better than this place. My views have changed already. Now I realize that it is indeed better to have just a small group of students around you, to have a single senior batch so that you can go unrestrained on everything and you are not forced to think twice before approaching them, to have a batch of few people so that every faculty knows you by name and to top it all..its indeed better to be with few people so that by the end of the most beautiful four years of your life, you are not forced to scratch your head and try hard to recall their names.."

" We all need to work in tandem. Together we can give the initial push to the institute, and it will propel us along 3, 4 yrs down the line! I have heard about how some of my seniors work, study n play.. it sounds balanced out. Maybe the incoming batch can prove helpful in this purpose. It would be nice if we maintained good relations with our seniors and professors. "

"We need to understand every individual's talent and use it in the betterment of the institute."

"The coming years will witness an exponentially developed IIT GN and we will be the ones making it to the top by our full fledged participation."

"IIT Gandhinagar- this caption doesn't just describe a college- it describes a whole new life, a

culture, a new era of your own enhancement"

"Perhaps its true that the institute doesn't make students...students make the institute."

"Here I am, this is me, and there's nowhere else on earth I'd rather be"

## Reviews

### The Associate-by John Grisham

**Y**ou might think that John Grisham's 22nd book, *The Associate*, has little chance of being any good. According to its jacket copy, it's practically a rewrite of his 1991 blockbuster, *The Firm*. Time magazine cheerfully dismissed it as "John Grisham's Charming Novel About Nothing." And the book's hand-wringing about the outrageous excesses of fancy Wall Street law firms seems, in this winter of our hardship, so suddenly last summer.

. You might think all these things, but you would be wrong.

.With an unforgettable cast of characters and villains from Baxter Tate, a drug-addled trust fund kid and possible rapist, to Dale, a pretty but seemingly quiet former math teacher who shares Kyle's "cubicle" at the law firm, to two of the most powerful and fiercely competitive defense contractors in the country and featuring all the twists and turns that have made John Grisham the most popular storyteller in the world, *The Associate* is vintage Grisham.