

Connections

IIT Gandhinagar



Connections is the quarterly newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar

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Institute News

Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam visits IITGN



Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, visited IITGN on November 11, 2011 and delivered a characteristically inspirational speech to the students, staff and faculty members on the Development of India by 2020 and National Missions. Through personal recollections he emphasized to the students the need for hard work, dedication and integrity. On this occasion Dr Kalam also presented the first set of Faculty Excellence Awards to four faculty members. The recipients of the award for Excellence in Teaching were **Prof. Sameer V. Dalvi** (Chemical Engg) and **Prof. Sharmita Lahiri** (Humanities). **Prof. Jaison A. Manjaly** (Humanities) and **Prof. Supreet Saini** (Chemical Engg) were the recipients of the award for Excellence in Institution Building.



Prof. Dalvi



Prof. Lahiri



Prof. Manjaly



Prof. Saini

Leadership Conclave



IITGN held its second **Leadership Conclave** on December 2, 2011. It was attended by **Prof. Bakul Dholakia**, **Prof. Paul Jennings**, **Dr Anil Kakodkar**, **Shri Sanjay Lalbhai**, **Dr Achal Mehra**, **Prof. Richard Miller**, **Shri Kamal Nanavaty**, **Shri Kushal Sacheti**, **Shri S. P. Singh**, **Shri Maheshwar Sahu**, **Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi**, **Shri Arvind Singhal**, **Prof. Suhas Sukhatme** and **Prof. Satish Tripathi**. The Conclave discussed various aspects related to the overall positioning of Institute vis-à-vis the

aspirations of IITGN, issues related to infrastructure development (in particular the new campus), fund-raising strategies and forging partnerships with various academic, industrial and government agencies. Further details are available at http://www.iitgn.ac.in/administration_leadership.html.

Academic Advisory Council Meeting



The Institute held the first meeting of the newly formed **Academic Advisory Council** on December 1, 2011. The council comprises eminent academicians from India and abroad, and includes **Prof. Bakul Dholakia**, **Prof. Paul Jennings**, **Prof. Richard Miller**, **Prof. K. N. Panikkar**, **Prof. Surendra Prasad**, **Prof. Rangarajan**, **Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi**, **Shri Prafull Anubhai Shah**, **Prof. S. P. Sukhatme**, and **Prof. Satish Tripathi**. During the day-long deliberations, the group discussed issues related to faculty recruitment, role of young faculty in administration, feedback mechanisms on the Institute's progress, development of an academic master plan, and administrative structures at IITGN. Further details are available at http://www.iitgn.ac.in/administration_aac.htm.

Ph. D. fellowship for top undergraduate students

In order to attract students of IITs, NITs, and certain top engineering colleges in the country to its Ph. D. programme, the Institute is offering direct admission to fourth year B. Tech. students regardless of whether they have qualified GATE. An additional fellowship of Rs 10,000 per month will be given to the students who qualify GATE.

Children's Education Fund

In keeping with its strong sense of commitment to the well-being of its community members the Institute has set up the **Children's Education Fund** for children who are otherwise not eligible to receive the Institute's support but whose parents provide essential services to the effective functioning of the Institute. The beneficiaries include daily wage labourers and persons employed by the contractors. This fund provides Rs 5,000 to every family per year to cover the cost of school education up to class 12.

Young Researchers Conclave (YRC)



With a view to attracting outstanding graduate students and post doctoral researchers to Indian academia, in general, and to IIT Gandhinagar in particular, about 50 young researchers of Indian origin from around the

world participated in the first Young Researchers Conclave (YRC) at IITGN on December 27-28, 2011. The participants of the Conclave were apprised of the fast-changing scenario in research in India and the excellent research and teaching opportunities that are available. Some of the eminent resource persons who participated in the Conclave include **Prof. Surendra Prasad** (IITD), **Prof. Sanjay Mittal** (IITK), **Prof. Jaywant Arakeri** (IISc), **Dr Manish Gupta** (IBM), **Shri Uday Chand** and **Shri S. P. Singh** (Reliance). Several young faculty members of

IITGN also participated in various sessions during the Conclave. The Conclave was organized by **Prof. Supreet Saini** (IITGN), **Shri Sourindra Choudhuri** (Graduate Student, Princeton) and **Shri Niranjan Srinivas** (Graduate Student, Caltech) and was partly sponsored by Government of Gujarat. Further details are available at <http://www.iitgn.ac.in/YRC/YRC.html>.

PRL and IITGN to Collaborate Seamlessly



Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) Ahmedabad and IITGN have agreed to share their academic and research resources with each other in a seamless manner. The students of one

Institute may credit courses and use research facilities at the other Institute. An MoU to this effect was signed on November 17, 2011. Further details are available at <http://www.iitgn.ac.in/pdf/News-2011-1118-Times.pdf>.

Activities at IITGN

Lectures and Visitors at IITGN

- ▲ **Story of optimal control** by **Prof. Mythily Ramaswamy**, TIFR, Centre for Applicable Mathematics, Bangalore, October 13, 2011.
- ▲ **Uncomfortable truths about contemporary Britain: Black and South Asian British theatre in the UK** by **Prof. Geoffrey Davis**, RWTH Aachen University, Germany, October 18, 2011.
- ▲ **Research informatics: A view inside the biotech industry** by **Mr Sebastian Jayaraj**, CEO, 10BioSystems, October 19, 2011.
- ▲ **Photovoltaics: Fundamentals and future prospects** by **Prof. S. Ashok**, Pennsylvania State University, November 3, 2011.
- ▲ **Petrol, diesel, and ethanol biofuels from grasses and plants** by **Prof. Ram B. Gupta**, Auburn University, USA, November 16, 2011.
- ▲ **From the ground up: A comprehensive systems approach to the redesign of engineering education** by **Prof. Richard Miller**, President, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, USA, November 30, 2011.
- ▲ **Lessons from the Christchurch earthquake 2011** by **Dr S. R. Uma**, GNS Science, New Zealand, December 20, 2011.
- ▲ **Research opportunities & challenges in selected food engineering processes** by **Prof. Mukund Karwe**, Rutgers University, USA, December 30, 2011.

Other visitors

A workshop on **Autodesk Inventor** was conducted by **Mr Ramesh S. Pudale**, Education Solutions Specialist, Autodesk India (P) Ltd on October 9, 2011.

Prof. Youseph Yazdi, Executive Director, and **Prof. Soumyadipta Acharya**, Graduate Program Director, Center for Bioengineering Innovation and Design (CBID), Johns Hopkins University, USA.

Picnic to Thol Lake

The annual picnic of IITGN organized on November 6, 2011, saw enthusiastic participation from faculty, staff and their family members as they enjoyed an outing to Thol Lake which is 40 kms north-west of Ahmedabad, in Mehsana District. The Thol Lake

and Bird Sanctuary is a picturesque place that is frequented by avid bird-watchers for the nearly 200 species of birds that migrate to this area particularly in winter months.

Students organize Conclave on Infrastructure: Present Scenario and Future Scope

AMALTHEA-2011, a two-day conclave on **Infrastructure: Present Scenario and Future Scope** was organized during October 15-16, 2011. The Conclave was inaugurated by **Shri Narendra Modi**, Chief Minister of Gujarat on October 14, 2011. Shri Modi gave an eloquent and inspiring speech in which he articulated how the prosperity of a region is closely linked to the development of local infrastructure. The events included lectures by eminent persons and panel discussions on topical issues. The speakers included **Shri Mukesh Bhandari**, Chairman, Electrotherm India Ltd; **Shri Jayesh Buch**, Director, Essar; **Shri S. B. Dangayach**, Managing Director, Sintex; **Shri Pravin Gandhi**, Director, Co-ordinate Research, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.; **Mr Jamey Graham**, Ricoh Innovations; **Shri Sanjay Gupta**, Chairman, Neesa Group; **Shri Sushil Handa**, Founder and Chairman, Fifth Veda Entrepreneurs; **Shri Subir Hazra**, Associate Vice President & Head, Strategic Planning, Delhi International Airport (P) Ltd; **Shri Satish Jha**, President and CEO, One Laptop Per Child India; **Dr Malay Mahadevia**, Director, MPSEZ; **Shri D. J. Pandian**, Principal Secretary, Energy and Petrochemicals Department; **Shri Santosh Rai**, Sales Head - Transport Business, HCC Ltd; **Prof V. S. Raju**, Former Director, IIT Delhi; **Shri Mangu Singh**, Director (Works), Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and **Shri Sameer Sinha**, Joint MD, Savvy Infrastructure. Thirty-five companies including public sector enterprises such as ISRO, NPCIL and NDMA participated in the exhibitions. The core organizing team consisted of **Arjita Sharma**, **Bhaskarjyoti Das** and **Rohit Chouksey**. Further details are available at <http://amalthea.iitgn.ac.in>.



Life Skill Series Workshop

A workshop on **Stress Management** was conducted by **Dr M. Parikh (MD)**, a leading Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist of Ahmedabad on October 22, 2011. It was attended by about 30 students and members of staff.

India-Ki-Khoj: An inter-institutional interaction



Ten undergraduates each from Caltech and IITGN each participated in **India-Ki-Khoj** at IITGN during December 12-21, 2011. It included a vast range of themes such as caste and community structures in India, ancient Indian civilization, challenges of globalization and liberalization, science and technology, media and advertising, economic reforms and their impact on the cultures of self and market, democratic institutions

and non-governmental organizations. The programme was inaugurated by the eminent dancer and activist **Dr Mallika Sarabhai**. Lectures by leading academicians and thinkers such as **Mr Michel Danino**, **Prof. Suguna Ramanathan**, **Mr Santosh Desai**, **Prof. Howard Spodek**, and **Dr Sandeep Pandey** were followed by field-trips. India-Ki-Khoj was coordinated by **Prof. Rita Kothari** and **Prof. Jaison Manjaly** from IITGN and **Ms Athena Castro** from Caltech. Further details are available at <http://www.iitgn.ac.in/pdf/News-20111031-IBN.pdf>.

Mehfil-e-Adab: An Evening of Urdu Poetry



An evening of Urdu Poetry on November 20, 2011 marked the closing of two eight-week courses on Urdu Script and Poetry by **Ms Hamida Banu Chopra** (University of California, Berkeley). Ms Chopra and some of her students at IITGN recited poetry by famous Urdu poets. Well-known Urdu poets of Ahmedabad **Sadiq Noor Pathan**, **Jayant Parmar** and **Tanvir Aijaz Siddiqui** also recited their poems.

Faculty News

New Sponsored Projects

- ▲ **Studies of structure-property relations in polymer nanocomposites using molecular simulations**, sponsored by Department of Science and Technology. Principal Investigator: **Prof. Suchira Sen**, Chemical Engineering.
- ▲ **Engineering stable and bio-compatible microbubble formulation for biomedical applications**, sponsored by Department of Biotechnology. Principal Investigator: **Prof. Sameer Dalvi**, Chemical Engineering.
- ▲ **Thermodynamically stable pickering emulsions**, sponsored by Department of Science and Technology. Principal

Investigator: **Prof. Mukta Tripathy**, Chemical Engineering.

Awards and Recognition

Prof. Nikhil Balram, a Guest Professor at IIT Gandhinagar, President and CEO of Ricoh Innovations Inc., was conferred the 2011 Alumni Achievement Award by Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh.

Prof. Rita Kothari has been nominated as the Reviews Editor for **Interventions**, a high impact Routledge journal in Humanities and Social Sciences.

New Faculty

The following persons joined IITGN faculty during this quarter:

Name	Designation	Discipline	Ph. D./Last Degree	Date of Joining
Hamida Banu Chopra	Visiting Faculty	Humanities	Adeeb Kamil, Jamia Urdu, Aligarh, 1971	10.10.11
Amit Arora	Assistant Professor	Metallurgical Engg	Pennsylvania State University, 2011	31.10.11
Shashank Pathak	Assistant Research Professor	Civil Engineering	B. Tech., M. Tech., IIT Kanpur, 2010	01.11.11
Pawan J. Lingras	Visiting Professor	Computer Science	University of Regina, Canada, 1991	30.11.11
Sachin Goyal	Assistant Professor	Mechanical Engg	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2006	07.12.11
Anulekha Dhara	Assistant Professor	Mathematics	IIT Delhi, 2010	08.12.11
Ashwini Kumar	Visiting Professor	Civil Engineering	University of Waterloo, Canada, 1974	12.12.11
Ambarish Kunwar	Assistant Professor	Physics	IIT Kanpur, 2006	13.12.11
Brijesh Eshpuniyani	Visiting Assistant Professor	Mechanical Engg	Purdue University, 2003	13.12.11
Harish P. M.	Assistant Professor	Mechanical Engg	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2007	21.12.11
Bhaskar Datta	Assistant Professor	Chemistry	Carnegie Mellon University, 2004	22.12.11
Prachi Thareja	Assistant Professor	Chemical Engg	University of Pittsburgh, 2008	22.12.11
Ramesh Gaonkar	Visiting Professor	Electrical Engg	Syracuse University, New York, 1975	26.12.11
N. V. Suryanarayana	Visiting Professor	Mechanical Engg	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1970	26.12.11
Tannistha Samanta	Assistant Professor	Social Sciences	University of Maryland, 2011	26.12.11
Chandrakant S. Desai	Visiting Professor	Civil Engineering	University of Texas, Austin, 1968	27.12.11
Naoufel Cheikhrouhou	Visiting Associate Professor	Mechanical Engg	INPG, Grenoble, France, 2001	27.12.11
Subhash Deodhar	Visiting Professor	Chemical Engg	Syracuse University, New York, 1975	29.12.11
Prakash K. Paranjape	Visiting Professor	Chemical Engg	IIT Bombay, 1990	30.12.11

Reaching Out

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain and **Prof. Subhash Deodhar** represented the Institute in the Pan IIT Alumni Meet 2011 in New York (September 30 - October 2, 2011) and networked with eminent alumni of the IIT system. Prof. Jain also addressed graduate students and postdocs at Columbia University and MIT with a view to seeking outstanding faculty candidates for the Institute. He visited Olin College to explore opportunities for close cooperation between the two institutes considering the reputation for innovations in engineering that Olin College has acquired in a relatively short period. Prof. Jain also participated in the Young Investigators Meeting (YIM), Boston (October 8-10, 2011), an annual event to connect aspiring faculty candidates of Indian origin in the US with academic institutions in India. IIT Gandhinagar was one of the main sponsors of the YIM this year.

Student and Staff Activities

Inter-IIT Gymkhana Summit 2011

The fourth Inter-IIT Gymkhana Summit was organized at IITGN by the Student Gymkhana (October 22-23, 2011). Student representatives of eight IITs (Guwahati, Rajasthan, Mandi, Ropar, Indore, Madras, Hyderabad and Gandhinagar) participated in the discussions at the summit. IIT Kanpur and IIT Bombay also joined the sessions online. A major highlight of the summit was a brain-storming session with **Mr Sunil Parekh**, founder and head of Pan IIT Gujarat Association, and **Prof. Utpal Sharma**, CEPT University.

Visit to Mundra Supercritical Power Station

Fourth year Mechanical Engineering students visited the Mundra Power Station on October 29, 2011 to get a feel for the complexities of operation of the most modern power plant in India. The visit was coordinated by **Prof. Vedanth Kadambi**.

Intra-College Cultural Festival

Jashn, the first Intra-College Cultural Festival of IIT Gandhinagar was organized during November 4-6, 2011. The three-day festival comprised innovative as well as traditional events such as Art Exhibition, Photography Competition and performances from the Dance, Drama and Music clubs of IITGN.

The key members of the organizing committee were **Nishank Jain** (Convener), **Ankit Suchanti**, **Nitai Bajaj** and **Atharva Patil**.

International Year of Forests

To mark the year 2011 as the International Year of Forests (IYF) a community tree-plantation drive was organized around the IIT Gandhinagar hostels on December 29, 2011 and about 60 trees were planted. The chief guests were **Prof. Sudhir K. Jain**, Director IIT Gandhinagar and **Mr Pushkar Ganesh Vaidya**, Indian Astrobiology Research Centre and IYF programme head. The tree-plantation was followed by a lecture by Mr Vadiya on "Forests and Astrobiology - Why this Kolaveri Di?". Organizers of this event were **Susmitha Purnima Kotu** (Campus Ambassador-IYF 2011) and **Blithchron Green Initiative 2012**.

Consultant psychologist at the Institute

Dr Amrita Narayanan (Psy. D., Stanford University) has been appointed a consultant psychologist to the Institute. A practicing psychologist of Ahmedabad, she offers psychotherapy through personal inquiry and self discovery and is available for consultation to IITGN students, staff and faculty on Fridays from 5-7pm.

Sports News

IITGN student wins two medals at the 47th Inter-IIT Aquatic Meet



Parth

Parth Sane Vishwas of first year became the first IITGN student to win a Gold medal when he won the 50m Butterfly event at the Inter IIT Aquatic Meet held during October 2-5, 2011. He also won a Silver medal in 100m Back stroke. **Vrushiket Patil** secured fourth position in the 200m Back stroke event. The IIT Gandhinagar team secured 5th position among eleven participating IITs.

IIT Gandhinagar Basketball Teams win Gold medals at Khel Mahakumbh

Both IITGN Basketball Teams (Boys & Girls) won in their events at the Khel Mahakumbh organized by the Gujarat Government on December 1, 2011. Every player of the two teams was given a cash prize of Rs 3000 for their performance. **Suresh Choudhary**, **Vishvendra Joshi**, **Ritu Gavasane**, **Divya Bansal**, **Shivani Rani**, **Mishita Jaishwal** and **Ankita Sharma** distinguished themselves by their excellent performances.

47th Inter IIT Sports Meet 2011 (December 12-19, 2011)



Shivani



Bhargav



Suresh

Shivani Rani (M. Tech.) won a Silver medal in Shot Put Throw with a throw of 7.92m and a Bronze medal in discus throw event with a

throw of 23.06m. **Bhargav Kumar Thadem** (4th year B. Tech.) won a Gold medal in Javelin Throw with a throw of 46.10m. **Suresh Chaudhary** (3rd year B. Tech.) won a Silver medal in 5000m Track event with clocking an impressive time of 17:38:70.

Other Events

IITGN Faculty & Staff Team won 3-0 against Ph. D. and M. Tech. Students Team in a friendly volleyball match on October 17, 2011. The **Boys Volleyball** team won 3-0 against DAICT, Gandhinagar on October 18, 2011.

Bhavin Chauhan of 3rd year won a bronze medal at the All-Gujarat Karate Tournament held in Baroda, December 10-11, 2011.