

# IIT-Gandhinagar to host invention marathon for first time in the country

Founders of 'Invention Factory' in US will attend the event and guide 20 short-listed students



Participants from across IITs will develop ideas, file for US patent

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All roads led to Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn), for IITians across the country as it hosted first of its kind of "Invent@IITGn", a six-week summer programme on Monday. The event originated in the United States as 'Invention Factory' and is being organised for the first time in India at IIT-Gn to enable student inventors.

Officials said that 20 students from various IITs, including ones in Kharagpur, Madras, Guwahati, Jammu and Gandhinagar, were selected to participate in the initiative.

Professor Nithin George, Associate Dean of Postgraduate Studies at IIT-Gn said, "Four successful and distinguished US-based BTech alumni of IIT Bombay came to know about Invention Factory at Syracuse University in the summer of 2017. They made a generous donation, in the spirit of "giving back", which has made our initiative possible."

Under the programme, the participating students will work in teams

of two and each team will come up with ten inventions, develop the prototype of their invention, pitch them and file a US patent application. The "Best Invention" will fetch the winning team Rs 2 lakh prize money while the "Second Best Invention" will fetch Rs 1 lakh prize.

The six-week event will kick off on June 18. Founders of the original 'Invention Factory' in the US, Cooper Union Professors Alan Wolf and Eric Lima, will spend over four weeks at IIT-Gn alongside participating students. They will also be joining IIT-Gn Professors Vineet Vashista and Nithin George to train and coach students on how to develop ideas and convert them into inventions. Ruyintan Mehta, an alumnus of IIT Bombay and an entrepreneur in the plastics industry, said, "The programme has received rave reviews in the US. It is now starting at IIT-Gn as 'Invent@IITGN'. We hope it spawns student inventors in India to think creatively and invent day-to-day need solutions."

Each team will also receive a budget of up to Rs 50,000 for materials to design a prototype. Participants completing the programme will also receive Rs 10,000 as stipend.

**Title:** IIT Gandhinagar to host innovative marathon for first time in the country

**Source:** Ahmedabad Mirror (Pg. No. 04)

**Link:** <https://ahmedabadmirror.indiatimes.com/ahmedabad/education/iit-gandhinagar-to-host-invention-marathon-for-first-time-in-the-country/articleshow/64548403.cms>

**Date:** 12-06-2018