

IIT-Gn students develop search apps

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Ahmedabad: Three students of IIT Gandhinagar have applied for patents for three different innovations. Working in the R&D division of an international company the students developed visual search applications during their summer internship in Bangalore.

Electrical engineering student Ekta Prashnani helped design a visual search application for mobile phones. This app can recognize text with random orientations in an image. The apps that are available now in the market can read the text only from left to right in an image, but Prashnani's app can read text in any form at any angle.

She has applied for a patent along with her mentor Dr Kaushik Pavani, a research scientist. "We wanted to enhance the accuracy and robustness of image recognition for visual search applications on mobile devices. The idea was to provide an enhanced experience for users," said Prashnani.

Two other final year students of IITGN, Adit Gupta and Tarkeshwar Singh, are co-inventors of another application. The app will enhance the use of mobile visual search for online retail.

"With our app you can vote

in a poll or buy items from a retail online store. For example, if you see an image of a wallet you want to buy, all you have to do is simply click the image of wallet and the app for the retail store will give you the product's information. Then you can decide if you want to buy it," said Singh, electrical engineering student.

Gupta and Singh have also developed a second app for social networking. Singh credited the company's work culture for his achievement. All three students developed their apps in a short time span of time during a summer internship at Bangalore. "Whenever an intern begins working at a company, the initial days, sometimes weeks, involve getting used to the environment at the office. I already had some experience in the area of research that I was required to pursue, which helped a lot in cutting short the duration of this initial phase," said Prashnani.

IITGN director Sudhir Jain is pleased with his students' achievements. He said, "Undergraduate students are capable of doing far more than what they are often credited with, and summer internships can be extremely productive in terms of output for the host company or university if managed right."