

Connections

IIT Gandhinagar



Connections is the quarterly newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar

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Institute News

Distinguished Visitors

Dr R. A. Mashelkar, FRS, Chairman, Board of Governors, IITGN and an eminent scientist addressed the students, staff and faculty of IITGN on September 3, 2011. In an inspiring speech interspersed with anecdotes, he recounted his scientific adventures and challenges.

Shri N. R. Narayana Murthy, ex-Chairman, Infosys, visited IITGN on July 19, 2011. He obtained his B. E. degree from University of Mysore (1967) and M. Tech. from IIT Kanpur (1969), and later founded Infosys in 1981. He was the President of National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) during 1992-1994. He received the ET Businessperson of the Year award (2000-2001). IIT Kanpur conferred the Distinguished Alumnus Award on Shri Narayana Murthy in the year 1998.



Foundation Programme 2011

IITGN launched its new B. Tech. curriculum starting with a five-week Foundation Programme (July 19 - August 23, 2011) for the batch of 2011. The Programme focussed on social awareness and emphasised values, creativity, sports and physical activities, and team work and communication. The inaugural address of the programme was delivered by Shri N. R. Narayana Murthy, ex-Chairman, Infosys on July 19, 2011. The programme included a wide variety of activities such as debates, discussions, workshops on diverse topics (free hand sketching, clay modeling, origami, photography, and dance & theater), visits to places of special interest, presentations by eminent persons, musical performances and games. Some of the speakers included Ms Kalpana Sharma (Gender Issues), Prof. K. P. Jayasankar (Urban Poverty), Mr Jaideep Hardikar (Farm Suicides), Mr Devinder Sharma (Agriculture Sector), Prof. Sudarshan Iyengar, Prof. P. Balaram, Prof. P. V. Indiresan, and Prof. A. P. Kudchadker. An Indian classical music recital on the Mohan Veena by Pt Vishwamohan Bhatt and a vocal recital by Mrs Arti Anklikar-Tikekar, were held on August 11 and August 18, 2011 respectively. The new students were also introduced to historical places of interest through a field trip to Lothal, a Heritage Walk in the old city of Ahmedabad and a visit to the Calico Textile Museum, Ahmedabad. On the last day of the Foundation Programme, the new students organized a cultural performance to showcase their own talents. The concluding session of the Foundation Programme, attended by students, staff and faculty, was held on August 23, 2011, in which some of the new students shared their experiences of the five weeks. Ajinkya Kulkarni, Student General Secretary led the first year students to take a pledge to abide by the rules of the Institution.



Aditi Dighe brings honours to IITGN

Aditi Dighe, a 3rd year Electrical Engineering student, was a member of the team that won the Caltech Space Challenge competition to design a manned mission to an asteroid by 2025 as envisioned by US President Barack Obama. Caltech, in collaboration with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Lockheed-Martin and Orbital Sciences Corporation, selected 32 students from 12 countries through a three round selection process. Aditi was one of six students selected from India. Each team of 16 students spent five days (September 12-16, 2011) at the Keck Institute of Space Studies, Caltech to come up with the mission design which will put crew of three astronauts on an asteroid. Aditi primarily worked on three aspects: Human Habitat, Electrical Power System and International Cooperation. Other aspects of design included Trajectory, Propulsion, Thermal-Control and Science Experiments.



Summer Research Fellowship for Faculty

To promote research activities on campus during summer, when faculty members generally do not have teaching responsibilities, the Institute has set up Summer Research Fellowships for Faculty. These fellowships will encourage more collaborative research at the Institute, encourage faculty to seek more external funding and spend considerable time on campus engaged in intense research during the summer.

Students to get Financial Support for participation in Conferences

Students (UG/PG) can now get partial financial support from the Institute for participating in international conferences to present their work carried out at IITGN. BOG has recently approved this measure to provide wide academic exposure and experience to the students and encourage excellence.

Activities at IITGN

Short Courses/ Workshops/ Seminar/ Symposium

- ▲ An International Symposium Spaces of Alterity – Literary and Dramatic Representations was organized by Prof. Pia Thielmann during September 9-11, 2011. Twenty two delegates from Botswana, Portugal, Germany and India attended the symposium.
- ▲ A workshop on Autodesk Inventor was conducted by Mr Ramesh S. Pudale, Education Solutions Specialist, Autodesk India (P) Ltd during July 13-15, 2011.
- ▲ A short course on Biology for Engineers was conducted by Mr Vikas Trivedi, a graduate student at the California Institute of Technology, during August 2-4, 2011.
- ▲ A short course on Climate change - politics, policies and facts was conducted by Mr Aditya Ghosh and Mr Chandra Bhushan of Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, September 3-4, 2011.
- ▲ A weekly lecture series on Social Justice and Empowerment was presented by Prof. Sandeep Pandey during August 24 - October 12, 2011. Several students and members of staff and faculty enthusiastically attended these lectures.

Lectures and Visitors at IITGN

- ▲ A career in fiber optics by Dr Arnab Sarkar, Chairman, Advanced Optical Fiber Solutions, USA, August 8, 2011.
- ▲ Granular media micromechanics and higher-order continuum theories by Prof. Anil Misra, University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA, August 14, 2011.
- ▲ Mobilized masculinities in contemporary India by Prof. Mangesh Kulkarni, University of Pune, August 19, 2011.
- ▲ Prof. V. S. Parmar, Center for Innovative Business Design, Ahmedabad University, August 29, 2011.

- ▲ Challenges for optimizing wind turbine performance, operation and maintenance by Dr Surendra N. Ganeriwala, President of Spectra Quest, USA on August 19, 2011.
- ▲ Unlocking the power of your gaming card for computational fluid dynamics applications by Dr Dominic Chandar, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Wyoming, USA, September 1, 2011.
- ▲ Pulsating visions–idioms incarnate by Prof. Anabela Mendes, University of Lisbon, September 16, 2011.
- ▲ Synchronization of thermal and mechanical oscillations by Prof. Mihir Sen, University of Notre Dame, USA, September 15, 2011.

Life Skills Series

A workshop on The Power of Positive Thinking was conducted by Ms Nidhi Kush Shah on August 26, 2011 as part of the Life Skills Series. It was attended by about 35 students and staff.

Other visitors

Prof. Timothy Gonsalves, IIT Mandi; Prof. Raghavan Rangarajan, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad; Prof. Pradyumna Vyas, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad; Ms Pratibha Pandya, SEWA Reception Centre, Ahmedabad; Mr Arvind Singhal, Technopak Advisors Pvt Ltd; Prof. Raj P. Chhabra, Prof. Suchitra Mathur and Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi, IIT Kanpur; Prof. N. J. Rao, Jaypee University of Engineering & Technology; Prof. Ram Puniyani, Mumbai; Mr Rajendra S. Pawar, NIIT Group; Ms Svati Bhogle, Technology Informatics Design Endeavour (TIDE); Ms Madhu Chadda, Hyderabad; Mr Michel Danino, Coimbatore; Dr K. N. Panikkar, Thiruvananthapuram.

Faculty News

Awards and Recognition

Prof. Rita Kothari is a jury member on the Vodafone Crossword Fiction Award for the year 2010-2011. She attended the award ceremony held at NCPA, Mumbai on September 2, 2011.



New Sponsored Projects

- ▲ Short-term generation scheduling in power systems under uncertainty/intermittent characteristics of renewable energy sources (RES) and demands, sponsored by Department of Science and Technology. Principal Investigator: Prof. Naran Pindoriya, Electrical Engineering.

Consultancy Projects

- ▲ The Government of Gujarat has assigned a consulting

assignment to IIT Gandhinagar to act as "National Level Expert Institute" to advise and assist it towards enhancement of technical competence and manpower in the state, and to oversee the scheme on State Level Anchor Institutes in the focus sectors. Principal Investigator: Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Civil Engineering.

- ▲ Design of helium gas circulators for helium cooling loop at IPR, sponsored by Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar. Principal Investigator: Prof. Vedanth Kadambi, Mechanical Engineering.

Faculty Activities

- ▲ Prof. Sudhir K. Jain attended the Board meetings of Gujarat Technical University (GTU) on July 2011 and August 2011, and of the NIIT University, Neemrana on July 14, 2011.

- ▲ Prof. Supreet Saini participated in Workshop on Academic Ethics at Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc), Chennai, July 15-16, 2011.
- ▲ Prof. Sudhir K. Jain has joined as an independent director on the Board of a new section 25 company Gujarat Foundation for Entrepreneurial Excellence (GFEE).
- ▲ Prof. D. V. Pai delivered an invited talk and chaired a session in an International Conference Multi-valued analysis and topology, Varenna, Italy, July 18-22, 2011.
- ▲ Prof. Nitin Padhiyar conducted a training session on Computational Methods for Research in Engineering Programme at L. D. College of Engineering, Ahmedabad, July 28, 2011.
- ▲ Prof. Joyce Mekie attended the National workshop on Biostatistics: Applications of computational statistics in medicine and biology, IIT Kharagpur, September 8-10, 2011.

- ▲ Prof. Arnapurna Rath and Prof. Rita Kothari presented papers at the International Symposium on Spaces of Alterity: Literary and Dramatic Representations held at IITGN during September 9-11, 2011.
- ▲ Prof. Sudhir K. Jain participated in the UL India Fire Security and Signaling Advisory Council Meet 2011 in New Delhi on September 21, 2011.
- ▲ Prof. Supreet Saini gave a lecture on How do cells count? Flagellar regulation in salmonella at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, September 23-24, 2011.
- ▲ Prof. V. Kadambi attended the Indo-US nuclear energy safety summit, IIT Bombay, September 30, 2011.
- ▲ Prof. Sudhir K. Jain has joined the Board of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) Company Ltd as an Independent Director.

New Faculty

The following persons joined IITGN faculty during this quarter:

Name	Designation	Discipline	Ph. D./Last Degree	Joining Date
Emila Panda	Assistant Professor	Met. Engg & Mat. Science	Max Planck Institute, Germany, 2009	15.07.11
Nihar R. Mohapatra	Assistant Professor	Electrical Engineering	IIT Bombay, 2003	15.07.11
Abhijit Mishra	Assistant Professor	Met. Engg & Mat. Science	University of Illinois U C, 2010	15.07.11
Sandeep Pandey	Visiting Professor	Mechanical Engineering	University of California, Berkeley, 1992	15.07.11
Mathai B. Fenn	Visiting Professor	Psychology	IIT Bombay, 1998	15.07.11
V. Raghavendra	Visiting Professor	Mathematics	IIT Kanpur, 1973	18.07.11
D. D. Kale	Visiting Professor	Chemical Engineering	University of Salford, U.K., 1973	22.07.11
K. S. Gandhi	Visiting Professor	Chemical Engineering	University of California, Berkeley, 1971	01.08.11
Leo Bezies	French Instructor	Literature and Languages	M. Ed., Sorbonne University, Paris, 2011	03.08.11
Dhiren Patel	Adjunct Professor	Comp. Sci. & Engg	REC Surat, 2004	05.08.11
Rita A. Kothari	Associate Professor	Literature and Languages	Gujarat University, 2000	01.09.11

Student and Staff Activities

Students on Dean's List Felicitated

On September 8, 2011, a ceremony was held to felicitate 80 students who featured on the Dean's List. The academic requirement for a student to be eligible for this honour is an SPI of 8.5 or more at the end of the semester. Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Director addressed the students and handed over the letters of appreciation and books to the awardees.



Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Safety Seminar

Saurya Prakash Sinha, a 3rd year student, on behalf of UL Project 2 team (Shruti Jain, Ekta Prashnani, Divyank Singh), gave a presentation on Data Centric Approach at UL Safety Seminar, Mumbai, July 19, 2011. Mr August W. Schaefer, UL USA, Mr Rajnikanth Umakanthan, UL Asia Pacific, and Mr V. Anantharaman, UL India attended the event along with representatives of several insurance companies and fire chiefs.

CineApse

CineApse, an event which tests the cinematic knowledge of participants through various rounds such as quiz and dumb charades was held on September 4, 2011. Eight teams competed in four exciting and engaging rounds. The group of second year students Akshay Mall, Nisarg Shah, Sudhamsu Krishna, Ankita Sharma and Manogyna Parimi were awarded a cash prize of Rs1000.

Cognobytes - the science of the mind

Sumitara Mukherjee, a doctoral student in Philosophy, has started a blog entitled CognoBytes (<http://cognobytes.wordpress.com>). The blog aims to create awareness and spread knowledge about the science of the mind, behaviour and the brain. This effort is enthusiastically supported by Prof. Jaison A. Manjaly.



Other Events

Shyamal Kishore and Sushant Kumar Suman, both 3rd year students, conducted a one-day workshop on Internet Awareness for 45 graduate and postgraduate students of L&C Mehta College, Ahmedabad on July 6, 2011.



Shyamal



Sushant

Student publication

Manoranjan Sahu, Bing Wu, Liying Zhu, Craig Jacobson, Wei-Ning Wang, Kristen Jones, Yogesh Goyal, Yinjie J. Tang and Pratim Biswas, Role of dopant concentration, crystal phase, and particle size on microbial inactivation of Cu-doped TiO₂ nanoparticles, Nanotechnology, Vol. 22, 2011. Yogesh Goyal is a final year Chemical Engineering student.



Independence Day celebrations



Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Director hoisted the National Flag on August 15, 2011 to celebrate the country's 65th Independence Day. Events that followed included a cultural event and a debate competition on Lokpal Bill as proposed by Mr Anna Hazare. The debate was won by Ishan Upadhyaya and Shivam Mani Tripathi who received a cash prize of Rs 1000 each. A discussion on Anti-Corruption Movement moderated by Prof. Sandeep Pandey followed.

Cultural Council

Cultural Council members for the year 2011-12 are as follows:

Nishank Jain: Convener of Intra College Cultural Festival

Akshay Mall, Sumit Deshmukh, Mayank Jhalaria: Core Committee of Blithchron

Shrankhla Narya: Dance Club Coordinator

Amit Sahu: Drama Club Coordinator

Deep Karpe: Music Club Coordinator

Sports News

The Boys Basketball team won against Shri Ram School, Gurgaon, Haryana on September 1, 2011 with a commendable performance from Suresh Chaudhary. The team also won against DAIICT (67-18) on September 17, 2011. The Boys Football team played a friendly match against Police 11, Gandhinagar on September 4, 2011. The match ended in a draw with good performances from Himanshu Dewangan, Parag Pradeep, Joy Narang and Abhinav Borker. The team also won against DAIICT (2-1) on September 17, 2011 with Maisum Ali Dairkee putting in an exceptional performance. The Boys Cricket team won against DAIICT on September 18, 2011. Nitish Bhaje, Sujay Yadav, Rutuparna and Ankur Meena were outstanding in the match. The Boys Volleyball team won against PDPU, Gandhinagar (3-0) on September 22, 2011.

Akanksha Jagwani: Arts Club Coordinator

Nihar Kotak, Akshay Jain, Nitya Pawar, Anil Chejara: Event Coordinators

Mean Mechanics 2011



A Robotics workshop-cum-competition was organized on September 4, 2011 for the first year students in which eighty students participated. The members of the winning team comprising Abhishek Sancheti, Gaurav Mahmuni and Vaibhav Mathur, received a 4GB pen drive each. The runners-up team consisting of Aryan, Shaurya Seth, Ujash Dave and Akash K. Singh received a scientific calculator each. The event was organized by Shashank Agarwal, Akshay Jain and Prateek Nyati under the guidance of Prof. N. Ramakrishnan, Prof. Ajanta Sachan, Prof. Girish Singhal and Prof. Amit Prashant.

Musical sensation of the year (MuSTY) 2011

The search for MuSTY started in March 2011. Six participants were selected from a total of 15 for the Grand Finale. On September 7, 2011 the 6 finalists, competed in two rounds. The winner was selected through a voting process in which the audience had to send their votes through SMS during the event. Gourav Dubey of the 3rd year was voted as MuSTY 2011 and was handed over the rolling trophy by Chetas Joshi who was MuSTY 2010. The event recorded 282 valid votes. The event was coordinated by Kaustubh Tirpude, Abhijit Rajiv and Nishank Jain.