



Connections

Connections is the quarterly newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar

2008-2009 Vol I July 2009

The Beginning

IIT Gandhinagar was formally inaugurated on August 2, 2008 with its first batch of 90 B Tech students from Chemical, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering streams. The event was marked by the presence of Prof Ashok Misra, Director, IITB/IITGN together with Prof A K Singh, Convener IITGN Cell at IITB, Prof U A Yajnik, Dean Academic Programme and Student Affairs, IITGN, Prof S Biswas, Dean Academic Programme, IITB, Prof R K Shevgaonkar, Dean Resource Management, IITB. Among the other dignitaries present on the occasion were Shri P Panneervel, Principal Secretary Revenue, Smt Anita Karwal, Principal Secretary Education, Shri Manish Bhardwaj, Director Technical Education of the Govt of Gujarat and Prof Kartic Khillar, Director, PDP, Gandhinagar.

Major General (Retd) Vijay Aga was the first to arrive at Ahmedabad on July 7, 2008 to start IIT Gandhinagar and ensured the timely creation of infrastructure to get the Institute going. He was followed by Prof Urjit A Yajnik who moved from IITB to IITGN as Dean of Student Affairs and Academic Programmes on July 23, 2008.



Maj Gen (Retd)
Vijay Aga



Prof Urjit A
Yajnik

Professor Sudhir K Jain at the helm



Professor Sudhir Kumar Jain joined as the first Director of IITGN on June 4, 2009. Prof Jain received his Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) from University of Roorkee in 1979, the Master of Science from California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Pasadena, USA in 1980, and the Doctor of Philosophy, also from Caltech, in 1983. He joined Civil Engineering faculty at IIT Kanpur in 1984 and in June 2009 moved over to IIT Gandhinagar as its Director.

Professor Jain is an active researcher in earthquake engineering. He has carried out important studies after all the major earthquakes in India since 1988. He has been instrumental in improving state-of-the-practice in the construction industry in India, through development of Indian seismic codes and commentaries, and extremely popular continuing education courses for professional engineers. Professor Jain serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering and is currently its Executive Vice President. He is on the Board of Directors of the World Seismic Safety Initiative, an organization that promotes earthquake risk reduction in developing countries. Professor Jain was elected a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering in 2003.

Campus and Facilities

IIT Gandhinagar is temporarily housed within the campus of Vishwakarma Govt Engg College (VGEC), Chandkheda, in Ahmedabad. An academic infrastructure comprising classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, library, medical facilities, etc., exclusively for the use of IIT Gandhinagar students and faculty has been established in this campus. Student hostels have been created in the multistory residential buildings across the street from the campus. The living conditions at IIT Gandhinagar are of the highest quality, emphasizing the well being of the students through a good mix of academic rigour and sporting activities.



Support to IIT Gandhinagar

Mentoring by IIT Bombay



Prof S S Major Prof Dipan Ghosh Prof A K Singh

As a mentoring institute, IIT Bombay has been providing a very effective academic and administrative support to the Institute. A special unit IIT Gandhinagar Cell based at IIT Bombay has been providing excellent coordination between the needs of IITGN and the resources at IIT Bombay. A senior professor at IIT Bombay acts as Convener of the Cell. Prof Dipan Ghosh (Physics) and Prof A K Singh (Chemistry) have been the past Conveners. Prof S S Major (Physics) is the current Convener.

Government of Gujarat

Gujarat government was prompt in providing the transit location at VGEC campus and essential infrastructural facilities such as classrooms and laboratories. The Roads and Buildings Department of the State Government has been very supportive by carrying out the required modifications in the building infrastructure for use by IIT Gandhinagar.

ADANI Group

Adani Group, a leading industrial house, came forward with a generous gesture of providing a newly constructed unit of 29 one bedroom flats at no charge for the temporary location of the student's hostel during the first year.

VGEC Chandkheda

The VGEC has been very generous in sharing its basic infrastructure and other facilities with IIT Gandhinagar. Prof M R Patel, Principal and his colleagues have been always supportive of the various requirements of IIT Gandhinagar.



Student Hostel



Airconditioned Lecture Hall



Library



Typical Hostel Room



Faculty News

Classes for the academic year 2008-2009 were conducted by several visiting faculty from IIT Bombay and the newly recruited faculty of IIT Gandhinagar. IIT GN is fortunate to have two senior distinguished teachers join the institute post-retirement Professor D V Pai (Mathematics) and Professor S L N Murthy (Chemical Engineering). As of June 30, 2009 the following faculty members have joined the Institute:



Prof S L N Murthy



Prof D V Pai

Name	Designation	Discipline	Ph.D.	Date of Joining
U A Yajnik	Dean AP/SA, Professor	Physics	U. Texas at Autin; 1986	23.07.08
D V Pai	Professor	Mathematics	IIT Bombay; 1972	04.08.08
Abhijit Sarkar	Asst Professor	Economics	IIT Bombay; 2008	20.08.08
Manju Khan	Senior Lecturer	Mathematics	IIT Delhi; 2007	29.08.08
P K Parida	Senior Lecturer	Mathematics	IIT Kharagpur; 2008	29.08.08
Ameeya A Bhagwat	Assistant Professor	Physics	IIT Bombay; 2005	11.09.08
Kinnari Parekh	Assistant Professor	Physics	Bhavnagar University; 1999	11.09.08
Jaison A Manjaly	Assistant Professor	Philosophy	IIT Kharagpur; 2006	16.11.08
Subrata Pal	Senior Lecturer	Chemistry	IISc Bangalore; 2008	15.12.08
SL N Murthy	Professor	Chemical Engineering	U. Of Bradford; 1971	05.01.09
Nitin Padhiyar	Asst Professor	Chemical Engineering	IIT Bombay; 2008	13.04.09
Ragavan K	Asst Professor	Electrical Engineering	IISc Bangalore; 2006	05.05.09
Vinod Narayanan	Asst Professor	Mechanical Engineering	JNCASR; 2006	28.05.09
Sudhir K Jain	Director, Professor	Civil Engineering	Caltech; 1983	04.06.09
Chinmay Ghoroi	Asst Professor	Chemical Engineering	IIT Bombay; 2007	15.06.09

Student News



Student Council Elected

A Student Council was elected to enable the students to manage their day to day activities in an efficient manner and provide an opportunity to the students to develop leadership qualities. The 1st student council included Anchit Gaurav (General Secretary), Sarthak Jain and Kishore R (Councilor), D Vineeth (Maintenance Secretary), Maisum Ali (Sports Secretary), N C Puneeth and Jeenam Jindal (Joint Cultural Secretary), G Naveen (Mess Secretary). The Student Council for the year 2009-10 comprises of Naveen Deepak (General Secretary), Endla Naveen Kumar (Sports Secretary), Tanmay Balwa (Maintenance Secretary), Swati Verma (Mess Secretary) and N C Puneeth (Cultural Secretary).

Academic Performance

The academic performance of the first batch of students at the end of academic year 2008-09 was exemplary. 16 students out of 90 secured a Cumulative Percentage Index (CPI) of 9.0 and above.

Liberalization of Branch Change Rules

In June 2009, the Academic Council decided to liberalize the branch change rules at the end of first year based on academic performance. This will enable many more students to move to their preferred branch and will further improve their motivation for studies. This change enabled 10 students to change their branch, as compared to just one student who would have been able to do so under the earlier rules.

Literary Activities

The first student magazine of IIT Gandhinagar *The Palantir* gave an opportunity to the students to voice their opinions about various events associated with IIT Gandhinagar. The magazine can be downloaded from IITGn home page (<http://www.iitgn.ac.in>).



Sports

Inter Department Football Tournament

The three departments, Mechanical, Electrical and Chemical, competed in the Inter Department Football Tournament held during November 2008. Mechanical Engineering team emerged as the winner.

Inter IIT Sports

IIT Gandhinagar sent a contingent of players to participate in the inter IIT sports meet held at Chennai. The team proved its mettle by emerging as the highest medal winner among the new IITs, with 2 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze medals to its credit.

IITian Football League Spring 2009

Matches were held throughout the year. The standings were as follows: Club Gallantos: 12 points, 8 Hooligans: 8 points, Aeolus: 5 points.



EARTH HOUR Observed by the Students of IITGN



In tune with the lines of WWF the students of IITGN turned off all lights for an hour and assembled at the grounds outside their hostel. This was done in order to create awareness about the need to take action against climate change.



JEEVAN TARANG - Voluntary Blood Donation Camp

The first NSS venture of IITGN in collaboration with V S Clinic was organized on March 29, 2009. A total of 52 students and 3 staff members came forward to donate blood.

SPICMACAY

This popular movement to promote Indian classical music among the youth, initiated its IIT Gandhinagar chapter. A sitar recital by Padma Bhushan Pt Debu Chaudhary on February 4, 2009 was appreciated by one and all.



BLITHCHRON '09

IIT Gandhinagar came to a full circle when it organized its first cultural festival Blithchron '09 during March 14-15, 2009. IITGN thus became the only IIT to organize an inter-college cultural festival in its very first year. The major attractions of the festival were the events "The Butler Did It!", "Jobless" and "String Theory" the band wars. Other events that contributed to Blithchron's success included Solo Impromptu - a dance competition, Synchronize - the group dance, The Game Drome, and Parley - the group debate

