

# Connections

IIT Gandhinagar



*Connections is the quarterly newsletter for friends of IIT Gandhinagar*

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## Institute News

### Leadership Conclave

Leadership Conclave, a brainstorming event, was held on December 13, 2010 to discuss the Institute's (a) fund-raising strategies, (b) links with industry and academia, and (c) short- and long-term thrust areas of research. Eminent persons from industry and academia contributed to the Conclave. Notable persons among these were Dr Anil Kakodkar (Atomic Energy Commission), Sri Sanjay Lalbhai (Arvind Mills), Sri Ajay Piramal (Piramal Enterprises), Sri Prashant Tiwari (USV Ltd), Prof. Bakul Dholakia (Adani Group), Dr Hemant Kanakia (Gemplex), Sri Sudhir Mittal (Sukriti Udyog), Sri M Sahu (Principal Secretary of Industries), Sri Arun Pratap Singh (Electrotherm India Ltd.), and Sri Raj Mashruwala (Mashruwala Investments).



### First International Conference at IITGN



An International conference on Cognition, Experience and Creativity was organized during October 29-31, 2010 (Conveners: Prof. Jaison A. Manjaly of IITGN and Prof. Bipin Indurkha of IIIT,

Hyderabad). Inaugurated by Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, it attracted over 80 participants from United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Italy, Bulgaria, Japan, Canada and Portugal, besides India. Forty Five scholars presented their work in nine scientific sessions and one poster session.

An open essay competition, on the topic What is it like for a robot to feel pain? was organized for the occasion. The competition was won by Anu Vivek (B Tech student, IITGN) with a cash prize of Rs 3000 and Amit Goldy (M Sc Cognitive Science student, University of Allahabad) was adjudged second with a cash prize of Rs 2000. Partial financial support for the conference was received from the Department of Science and Technology and Department of Information Technology.

### Pan-IIT Conference

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Director IITGN, led a team of four faculty members, one staff member, and 12 students to represent the Institute at the PAN-IIT 2010 Conclave in Noida during October 29 - 31, 2010. The team shared the Institute's Vision, Mission, and the Values with the visitors at the Institute's booth. The team also shared the Innovations in Education that are being tried out at the Institute. The faculty group actively engaged in building relationships with and inviting distinguished persons to IITGN, fund-raising activities, and identifying potential faculty candidates. The students' music band performed at the conclave.



### First Journal Publications of IITGN Students

The Institute strongly encourages all faculty and students to publish their research in reputed peer-reviewed journals and other publication.

▲ Yogesh Goyal, a third year B-Tech (Chemical Engineering) student became the first undergraduate student of the Institute to publish his work in a peer-reviewed journal. The work was carried out during his summer internship at the Washington University, St Louis, Missouri, USA and was published in the journal "Biotechnology and Bioengineering", a journal of Wiley Periodicals (online 12 November 2010 DOI 10.1002/bit. 22996).



▲ Manish Saini, a Ph.D. student in Chemical Engineering, became the first Ph.D. student to publish his work in a peer-reviewed journal. His work has been published in "Applied Energy", a journal of Elsevier (DOI: 10.1016/j.apenergy. 2010.12.055).



## Activities at IITGN

### Students organize Conclave on Renewable Energy

On their own initiative the students at IIT Gandhinagar organized AMALTHEA-2010, a two day conclave on renewable energy (solar, wind and bio energy) during October 9-10, 2010. The event included lectures by eminent people in the relevant areas and panel discussions. The event was supported by many renewable energy companies through lectures, sponsorships, or both. About 30 scientists, technologists and leaders contributed to the event and encouraged student entrepreneurship through their presence. Some of them are Mr Harsh Manglik (CMD Accenture), Mr Sarthak Behuria (Ex-Chairman IOCL), Mr Jayesh Buch (Essar Director), Mr Madhusudan Atre (MD Applied Materials), Mr K Subramanya (CEO Tata BP Solar's), Mr S B Dangayach (MD Sintex), Sri M Sahu (Principal Secretary of Industries in Gujarat) and Mr Amit Kumar (Associate Director PWC).



### Symposium/ Workshops

- ▲ A National Workshop on Seismic Retrofitting Policy was organized on October 22, 2010 by Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, with sponsorship of Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, New Delhi.



- ▲ A training programme on CADENCE Design systems was conducted by Mr R. Bhanuprakash and Mr Santosh V. R. Avancha of CADENCE from November 30 to December 3, 2010. Apart from 20 students of IIT Gandhinagar, 14 students of DAICT and 3 students from VGEC participated in the training programme co-ordinated by Prof. Joycee Mekie.

### Invited Lectures

The following lectures were delivered in the Institute by invited speakers:

- ▲ World of Materials: Present Practices, Aspirations and Challenges by Prof. S. P. Mehrotra, Professor, Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, October 7, 2010.
- ▲ Security and Privacy Risks in a Networked World – an insight in to undergraduate research by Prof. Atul Prakash, Professor of Computer Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, November 3, 2010.
- ▲ Digital Signal Processing: Road To The Future by Prof. Sanjit K. Mitra, University Of Southern California, Los Angeles, and University Of California, Santa Barbara, December 28, 2010.
- ▲ Becoming a Designer by Prof. Sandeep Puro, Penn State University, December 29, 2010.
- ▲ Why Energy is Challenging for Electronics Systems by Prof. Amara, Paris Institute for Electronics (ISEP), December 30, 2010.

### Short Credit Courses for Students

The following short credit courses were conducted during this quarter. These courses include a minimum of 8 one-hour lectures, and students attending the course earn one credit.

- ▲ Energy Efficiency: An Overview by Mr Virendra S. Kothari, Director, Innotem Services Private Limited, New Delhi, October 23-24, 2010.
- ▲ The Pleasure of Reading: An Introduction to the Study of Literature by Dr Suchitra Mathur, IIT Kanpur, October 11-13, 2010.

### New Research Scholars

Six new Ph.D. scholars Bharat Karbhari Dhotre, Harsha Shukla, Krishnesh Shantilal Mehta, Ravindra Yadavrao Patil, Vijay Ramkaran Tripathi, Awaneesh Kumar Upadhyya have been admitted to the Institute during the Spring Semester 2010-11 in the disciplines of Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Philosophy, Economics and Cognitive Sciences.

### Weekly Faculty Seminar Series

Every Wednesday a faculty member gives a 20-30 minute presentation on his/her research interests. The talk, attended by faculty and research scholars, is tailored for non-specialists. These seminars are very effective in exchange of information on individual research interests, create a more conducive research environment, and promote interdisciplinary research at the Institute. The series is coordinated by Prof. Sriram Kanvah Gundimedda, Prof. Dhiren Modi and Prof. Bireswar Das.

### Picnic to Indroda Park

Faculty, staff and their family members enjoyed a picnic at the Indroda Nature Park, Gandhinagar, on November 13, 2010. About 55 people greatly enjoyed the walks through the park and admired the animals there. The sumptuous lunch was appreciated by everybody.



## Faculty News

### New Faculty

The following persons joined the Institute faculty during this quarter:

| Name                | Designation                  | Discipline                    | Ph.D.                                          | Date of Joining |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Naran M. Pindoriya  | Assistant Professor          | Electrical Engineering        | IIT Kanpur, India, 2009                        | 29.11.10        |
| Amit Prashant       | Associate Professor          | Civil Engineering             | University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA, 2004  | 06.12.10        |
| Ajanta Sachan       | Assistant Professor          | Civil Engineering             | University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA, 2005  | 09.12.10        |
| Jagmohan Tyagi      | Assistant Professor          | Mathematics                   | IIT Kanpur, India, 2008                        | 13.12.10        |
| Pia Thielmann       | Visiting Associate Professor | English                       | University of Kansas, USA, 2000                | 16.12.10        |
| Arnapurna Rath      | Assistant Professor          | English                       | IIT Bombay, India, 2010                        | 24.12.10        |
| Mukta Tripathy      | Assistant Professor          | Chemical Engineering          | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2010 | 27.12.10        |
| Subhash Deodhar     | Visiting Professor           | Chemical Engineering          | Syracuse University, New York, 1975            | 27.12.10        |
| Raghavan Rangarajan | Adjunct Associate Professor  | Physics                       | University of California, Santa Barbara, 1994  | 27.12.10        |
| Axay J. Mehta       | Adjunct Assistant Professor  | Electrical Engineering        | IIT Bombay, India, 2008                        | 29.12.10        |
| Claude Petitpierre  | Visiting Professor           | Computer Sci. and Engineering | EPFL, Switzerland, 1984                        | 30.12.10        |

### Faculty Activities

- ▲ Prof. Chinmay Ghoroi presented two papers at the AIChE Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, November 07 -12, 2010.
- ▲ Prof. Supreet Saini presented a paper at The Future of Biofuels - NextGenFuels2010, Delhi, November 30 - December 2, 2010.
- ▲ Prof. K. V. V. Murthy delivered the Keynote Address Emerging Vistas of Technology in 21st Century at the Second National Conference at Parul Institute of Engineering and Technology, Vadodara, December 04 - 05, 2010.
- ▲ Prof. Subrata Pal gave a presentation at Theoretical Chemistry Symposium-2010, IIT Kanpur, December 08 - 12, 2010.
- ▲ Prof. Kinnari Parekh presented a paper at the International Workshop on Nanotechnology NANO-EEB at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore, December 14-16, 2010.
- ▲ Prof. Naran Pindoriya attended India Energy Conclave 2010, organized by Confederation of Indian Industries and Government of Gujarat in Ahmedabad, December 20, 2010.
- ▲ Prof. D. V. Pai chaired the Planning Committee Meeting of the forthcoming 2011 SERC School on Matrix Methods at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Pala Campus, Arunapuram, Kerala, November 18-19, 2010.
- ▲ Prof. Arup Lal Chakraborty presented a paper at International Conference on Fiber Optics and Photonics - PHOTONICS 2010, IIT Guwahati, December 11-15, 2010.
- ▲ Prof. Sudhir K. Jain participated in the IIT Kanpur Golden Jubilee Celebration event at Hyderabad on 17 December 2010 with theme IITians are job creators and not job seekers. He

participated in the panel discussion on What the IITs are doing and what should they be doing to create more job creators.

- ▲ Prof. Sudhir K. Jain delivered a talk at International Conference on Innovative Building Technologies for Affordable Mass Housing, New Delhi, October 28, 2010.

### Awards and Recognition

- ▲ Prof. Sameer Dalvi, Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering has been awarded the IEI Young Engineers Award for the year 2010-11.
- ▲ Prof. Basudeb Guha-Khasnobis has edited a book Urbanization and Development: Multidisciplinary Perspectives along with Jo Beall, and Ravi Kanbur, published by Oxford University Press (UK), in 2010 ISBN: 978-0-19-959014-8.



### New Sponsored Projects

- ▲ A Novel Process for Precipitation and Stabilization of Drug Nanoparticles in Aqueous Suspensions using CO<sub>2</sub> sponsored by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. Principal Investigator: Prof. Sameer V. Dalvi, Department of Chemical Engineering.
- ▲ An Experimental Investigation to Locate and Assess the Severity of Winding Deformations in Power Transformer sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Principal Investigator: Prof. Ragavan K., Department of Electrical Engineering.

## Student and Staff Activities

### Staff Skill Development Initiative

The Institute has initiated a programme to enable staff to enhance their knowledge and skills through short courses and workshops in person or on-line. Such trainings also help to improve an individual's personality and performance. Staff members are reimbursed registration fee for the training on its successful completion. The following staff members have taken advantage of this initiative during the quarter: Pijush Majumdar (Handling Imports Effectively, Online Certificate Course on the RTI Act 2005, Overall Post Budget view of Provisions of Central Excise, Service Tax and Customs Laws), Ritu Agarwal (Grooming Yourself), Piyush

Vankar (Electronic Records Management (ERM): Encouraging Paperless Operations), Sherry Jain (Cadence Design Systems), Gaurav Shukla, Ankur Navdiwala, Supresh S Thalesri, Ramanand L. Prajapati and Darshan Patel (English for Beginners).

### Community Outreach

A team of eight girl students (Kanchan Patel, Aditi Dighe, Anusha Prasad, Jhinum Jindal, Ekta Prashnani, Swati Verma, Kajori Das and Shruti Jain) promoted awareness of Science and Mathematics among girl students of 6th to 9th grades at the nearby

Sakar School through 13 sessions of 1.5 to 2 hours duration each. The sessions were held at Sakar school on Saturdays and at the IITGN campus on Sundays and were attended by 64 girls students of the school. The IITGN students were guided by Prof. Jayant Kanitkar, Prof. Pallavi Ghalsasi, Prof. Kinnari Parikh, Prof. Joyce Mekie and Prof. Supreet Saini in their efforts to encourage more girl students to pursue science and technology.

### Freshers Party

The freshers party was held on October 22, 2010 at "Cyclone Disco" in R3 Mall, Ahmedabad. Purushottam Lal Suman and Ankita Sharma were selected as Mr Fresher and Ms Fresher. Other titles awarded included Mr Popular – Nuthalapati Sri Harsha, Ms Sweet Smile - Ritu Gavasane, Mr Physique - Chetan Patil, Prince Charming - Nitai Bajaj, Ms Rose - Deepti Chopra.

### First New IITs Gymkhana Summit

The Student Gymkhana of IIT Gandhinagar took initiative and organized a two day New IITs Gymkhana Summit on October 23 and 24, 2010.



Student representatives of all new IITs participated in the discussions at the Summit inaugurated by the Director Prof. Sudhir K.

Jain. Participants at the summit expressed their opinions on the development of academic and extracurricular activities, common grounds of functioning and development of campuses. The exchange of ideas emphasized faster growth and ways to improve each sector of the college.

### Dandiya Night

Students Cultural Committee organized a Dandiya Night on October 15, 2010 during Navaratri Celebrations. For this occasion, the Dance Club of IITGN invited Mr Jitu Chauvan to conduct classes on Garba steps for the students.

### Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations

The students, staff and faculty participated in "Sarvadharm Prarthana" and the social service campaign at Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2010. Later events in the Institute Auditorium included - launching of IITGN T-shirts featuring Gandhiji, launching of social initiative projects by PRAGYA, the Director's address and a screening of a recorded talk by the famed reporter Mr P. Sainath.



## Sports News

### 46th Inter IIT Sports Meet 2010

Suresh Choudhary won a Silver Medal in 5000m race and Ekta Prashnani secured 5th position in the 800m race at the 46th Inter IIT Sports Meet held during December 15 - 21, 2010. The Girls Badminton team (Shruti Jain, Swati Verma and Ekta Prashnani) and Boys Basketball Team both secured 4th position at the Meet. Overall IITGN Boys Team stood 8th and Girls team stood 7th in the General Championship. IITGN secured 3rd Position in the March Past with a 100% attendance of the 83- member contingent.



Suresh Choudhary



Ekta Prashnani



Shruti Jain



Swati Verma

### Inter IIT Aquatic Meet 2010

Vrushiket Patil secured 4th positions in two events, the 100m and 200m Backstroke events at the Inter IIT Aquatic Meet 2010 held at IIT Roorkee during October 1-4, 2010. He also qualified for the Finals in 200m Individual Medley. The Team comprising Anchit Gaurav, Vrushiket Patil, Bajrang Choudhary and Sanjay Meena stood 6th in 400m Medley Relay.



Vrushiket Patil



Anchit Gaurav



Bajrang Choudhary



Sanjay Meena

### Inter IIT Staff Meet

Santosh Raut secured 4th position in the 200m race and 5th position in the 400m race at the Inter IIT Staff Sports Meet held at IIT Delhi during December 23-26, 2010. Supresh Thaleshri secured 5th position in the 1500m race. Overall the 7-member IITGN staff team, participating for the first time, secured 9th position at the Meet.



### Other Sports Events

IITGN students won the following local events:

| Sport      | Date              | Opposition                        | Scores                                          | Star Performers                                                                                 |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Basketball | October 19, 2010  | Pt Deendayal Petroleum University | 45-37                                           | Vishvendra Joshi, Gaurav Rathore, Suresh Choudhary, Pankaj Yadav, Siddharth Gora and Adit Gupta |
| Cricket    | October 23, 2010  | SGVP International School         | IITGN (84/4 in 17overs), SVGP (79/4 in 17overs) | Vivek Kshirsagar, Shree Prakash, and Adnan AhmedAnsari                                          |
| Basketball | November 10, 2010 | H L Commerce College              | 138-117                                         | Gaurav Rathore, Suresh Choudhary, Vishvendra Joshi Adit Gupta and Pankaj Yadav                  |