Foundation Program 2020 (FP-I)

Report

Prepared by:

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About the Program

Foundation Program (FP 2020) continued the tradition of welcoming the incoming B. Tech batch with an immersive 6-week non-academic learning program. Given the unprecedented circumstances, FP 2020 was conducted in online mode for the first time since its inception. Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) places great emphasis on not only educating successful engineers of the future, but also creating well-rounded personalities, who contribute to society, are respectful of and can adapt to their surroundings, and prove themselves to be great thinkers and problem solvers in all avenues of life. The idea behind the program is to introduce a typical student, who has been committed to JEE preparation for the past 3-4 years, to a variety of issues and activities. These would range from issues of national and international significance, ethics, sports and physical exercises, community service, sketching, artwork, and many more. The program is designed keeping in mind the following objectives:

- **Value and Ethics:** Focus on fostering a strong sense of ethical judgment and moral fortitude
- **Creativity:** Provide channels to exhibit and develop creativity by expressing themselves through the arts, craft, music, etc.,
- **Leadership, Communication, and Teamwork:** Develop a culture of teamwork, group communication and leadership to create the next generation of leaders.
- **Social Awareness:** Nurture a deeper understanding of the local and global world and our place in it as concerned citizens of the world.
- **Physical Activities and Sports:** Engage students in sports & physical activity to ensure healthy physical and mental growth.

Given the special and extraordinary situation, the objectives were tailored to meet the **four Es**:

1. **Enable interactions:** Designing ice-breaking sessions; organizing formal and informal interaction sessions with faculty/staff/senior students and alumni
2. **Engagement:** hands-on workshops on paper engineering; design thinking; and gamification
3. **Enhancing awareness:** India Quiz; interactive sessions on IITGN values and ethics; Campus Philosophy
4. **Emotional Connect**: 2-minute video; express your story; Postal kits from IITGN

Team

Coordinators

Coordinators

Prof. Udit Bhatia

Prof. Pradipta Ghosh

Prof. Akshaa Vatwani

Student Guides

Abhiraj Bhasin

Navneet Kaur

Maitreya Thakur

Vagisha

Juhi Parikh

Shivang Pareek

Utkarsh Gangwal

Varun Dolia

Shivani Patley

Yasham Mundada

Krutarth Khot

Kaushik Kumar

Vishal Soni

Sanjay Venkitesh

Shantanu Jana

Vatsal Joshi

Nishant Kamboj

Teaching Assistants

Sujata Kulkarni

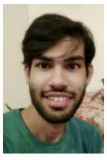
Arindom Gogoi

Subhasis Mishra

Mayank Nautiyal

Ayush Jaiswal

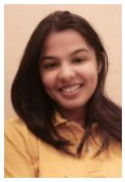
Kamalesh Saha



Pranjal Srivastava

Aditya Natu

Anshul Gour



Bhumika Longakshi

Himanshu

Som Dixit

Diptangshu Paul

Pooja Gupta

Manoj Singh

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The entire IITGN community went beyond their call of duty to help us organize this event. The organization of an event of this scale is not possible without the support of the administrative staff and the system of IITGN. We would like to extend our gratitude and mention those who were instrumental in Organizing FP 2020.

Devarsh, Hatim, Dhara, Shivangi and Tej (Communications)
Dharmesh Kapadia, Sachin Patel (Classroom Assistance)
Saswati Roy, Praveen, Mrugesh and team (Academic Assistance and logistics)

We also thank the faculty and staff who took time away from their busy schedule to deliver a talk or to conduct a session or help us get the right resources:

Prof. Sudhir Jain
Prof.. Kabeer Jasuja
Prof. Dilip Sundaram
Prof. Harish PM
Prof. Jaison Manjaly
Prof. Gaurav Srivastava
Prof. Chinmay Ghoroi
Prof. Chetan Pahlajani
Prof. Madhu Vadali
Prof. T. S. Kumbar
Prof. Bhaskar Datta
Prof. Achal Mehra

Mr. Navniet Sekera
Mr. Saveen Hegde
Mr. Manish Khanolkar
Ms. Roshni Patel
Ms. Khushboo Patel
Prof. Manasi Kanetkar
Mr. Jayesh Prajapati
Prof. Manish Jain
Mr. Gaurav Shukla
Mr. Ayush Gandhi
Mr. Pranay Reddy
Rahul Upadhyay

Prof. Madhu Vadali, Prof. Gopinadhan Kalon, Mr. Dinesh Parmar, Ms. Bharti Makwana and team conducted the PE module in parallel to the FP sessions.

Student Clubs enthusiastically participated by conducting sessions which were appreciated by the students. We thank the following clubs for their participation:

Session on Gender sensitization - Orenda
Addas – Technical Council, Student Council, Cultural Council

Special mentions

Manish Jain: Conducted two well-received sessions “Fall in love with engineering- I and II”
Bhaskar Datta: Conducting two exciting sessions and also was leading the counselling team
Pravinkumar M. P.: Processed all the paperwork required for the Foundation program with great efficiency.
Student Guides: conducted informal sessions (Addas) with great enthusiasm in online mode
Gaurav Shukla: designed a beautiful greeting card to welcome our students
Pranay Reddy: Designed the format of Eureka and conducted a session on leadership vision

Inauguration

IITGN welcomed the new BTech batch of 2020 on November 12, 2020 in virtual mode due to the pandemic. Interacting with the new batch of students through a live streaming, Prof Sudhir K Jain, Director, IITGN, introduced them to the unique qualities and culture of the Institute that provides best education, excellent faculty, extraordinary opportunities, all-round experiences, and exceptional support to its students.

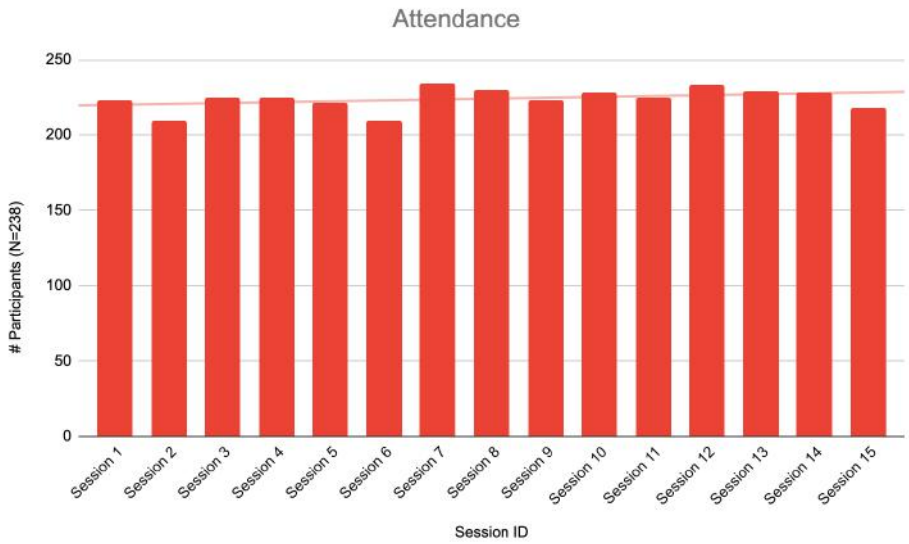
Earlier, Prof Harish PM, Dean of Student Affairs, congratulated all students for overcoming all hurdles and making into an IIT during the time of COVID-19 pandemic. Giving a piece of advice to the students, he said, "*Embrace the struggles because they shape you for life. Explore all the opportunities and experiences fully. You have to start thinking to be a seeker rather than a follower.*" The students were also provided a sneak peek of the IITGN campus through a virtual tour.

A total of 238 students from 20 Indian states have joined the batch of 2020-2024, with the highest number of students coming from Gujarat (52), Rajasthan (52), and Maharashtra (45). These are followed by Uttar Pradesh (18), Madhya Pradesh (10), Kerala (10), Andhra Pradesh (9), Telangana (9), Delhi (7), Bihar (7), among others. The new batch has an increased gender ratio, with around 19% of female students joining the Institute in various disciplines.

Event Rating

Name of the session	Feedback (On scale of 5)
Joy of Engineering (Manish Jain)	4.85
Joy of Engineering-II (Manish Jain/CCL)	4.84
Living the campus life (Navniet Sakera)	4.83
Interaction with Director (Professor Sudhir Jain)	4.78
Gamification (Unbox/Saveen)	4.71
India Quiz (Bhaskar Datta)	4.64
Meet the Dean-I (Harish)	4.61
Meet the Dean-II (Academics)	4.55
Campus Philosophy (Gaurav/Chinmay)	4.55
Vision (Pranay Reddy)	4.54
Design Workshop (Khushboo Shah)	4.53
My Wellbeing my responsibility (Manish Khanolkar)	4.47
ISTF Team (Jaison and Mayank)	4.46
Session by Professor Bhaskar	4.43
Know your library (Dr. Kumbar)	4.38
From home to Hostel (Manish Khanolkar/Roshni Patel)	4.35

Event Participation (Total participants: 238)

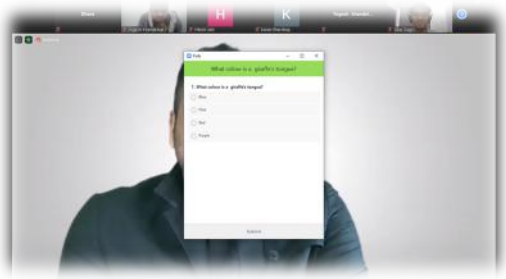


Top Rated Events: FP 2020

Joy of engineering

A session on 'Joy of engineering, come fall in love' was conducted by Prof Manish Jain, Associate Teaching Professor, Center for Creative Learning - CCL, IITGN. The students were left awestruck by the creativity and hands-on methods used to teach the concepts of Math and Science. Below are a few pictures from the day-1 of the session.

Gamification



Mr. Saveen Hegde, a Design Thinking specialist from Unbox Experience and Indian Improv Tribe conducted a Gamification session, enabling students to work together in teams of various sizes, following a pyramid approach. The students were given clues and asked to solve a crime mystery together, thus developing their analytical, communication and teamwork skills.

Living the Campus Life by Navniet Sekera

Navniet Sekera, alumnus of IIT Roorkee and 1996 batch IPS Officer, currently serving as the Inspector General (IG) of Home and welfare, conducted live interactive session with the students and discussed various aspects of campus life, do's and dont's to be a successful person. He also shared his journey from humble background to a decorated officer, which students found quite motivating and inspiring.

Source: Jansatta

Interaction with Director

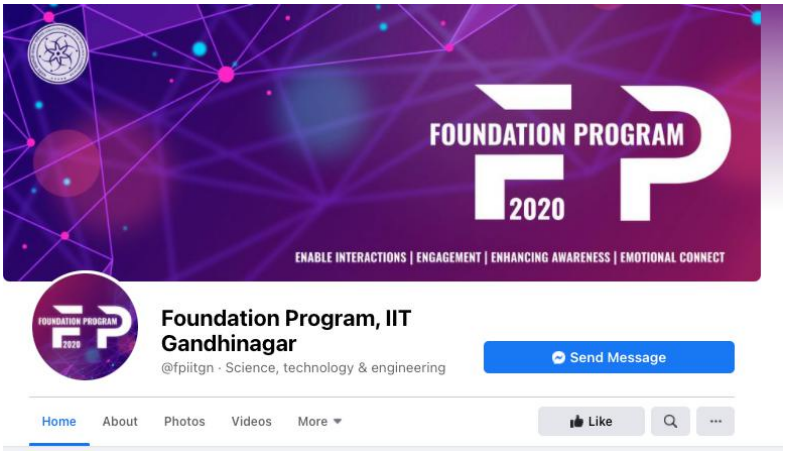
Prof Sudhir K Jain, Director, IIT Gandhinagar interacted with his new batch of 'Bacchaas' as part of the #FP2020. The students were very thrilled and happy to hear Professor Jain discussing his life as a student. Sharing his experiences, he motivated the students to embark on a journey of continuous life-long learning.

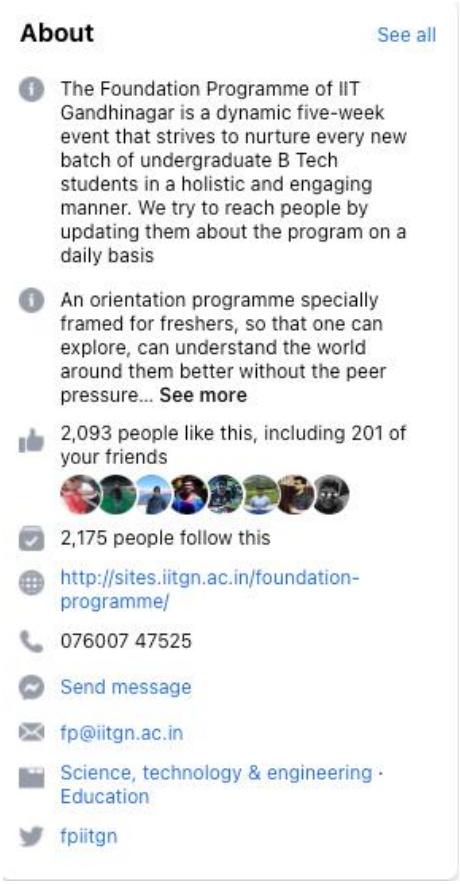
Project Eureka

IITGN is committed to a holistic approach to education by promoting critical thinking and an appreciation of the interdisciplinary character of knowledge. To usher in this thought process for the first year BTech students, we announced ‘Project Eureka’. With line-up of activities such as dance duet, ad enact, book review, board game aficionados, logo designing, painting, among others, the project helped students unleash their creativity and impart critical thinking without precluding fun.

Social Media

The Media coverage was undertaken by the External communication and Media team of IIT Gandhinagar. The team included Mr. Gaurav Shukla, Mr. Devarsh Barbhaya, Ms. Dhara Vora, Mr. Hatim Sham, and Ms. Shivangi Bhatt. FP 2020 Page can be accessed here: https://www.facebook.com/fpiitgn





Innovations

- FP 2020, for the first time in the history of IITGN, was conducted online. Hence, entire event programming was developed from scratch and the concept of 4Es was introduced to meet the learning objectives.
- To keep track of individual students, we introduced the concept of Addas moderated by student guides. On an average, 15 students were assigned to each student guide. This enabled us to stay on top of the feedbacks, challenges, and monitor their participation proactively in real-time despite online mode.
- To enable students, break the ice, Open-mic sessions were organized during the Addas. Student participation was highly enthusiastic.
- To keep students engaged during the sessions, we partnered with Unbox and Indian Improv Tribe to conduct Gamification session. In the gamification sessions, pyramid approach for interactions was followed which enabled students to work in teams in the groups of different sizes.
- Google Classroom was used consistently throughout the program for efficient management and information dissemination. This also helped students to get familiar with online teaching/learning platforms.
- Given that students were learning from home with variable bandwidths, recording of key sessions was shared to help them cover the materials that they might have missed during live sessions.
- To exhibit the creative submissions made by students as part of Project Eureka, we are planning to launch an interactive e-book to celebrate their participation. Prizes will be given to the best entries.

Recommendations

- Having an additional staff, such as Mr. Pravinkumar, helped immensely in properly managing the official paperwork. We recommend this practice for future events.
- This year, we continuously reminded students that attendance was mandatory. Thus, we did not witness any case of serious absenteeism.
- TAs should be asked to document and summarize each event for better record keeping and final report generation.
- It is recommended to assign one Faculty Advisor to 15 Students to enable better monitoring and understand their concerns that they might have while working remotely.