

Director's Message: Student Yearbook 2013

Dear Friends:

I find it unbelievable that your batch is ready to receive the well-earned degrees, because it means that I too must have been here for four years! It appears only yesterday that I came to Ahmedabad to take over this responsibility. These four years have been the most exciting and the most memorable part of my professional life, full of excitement and adventure. Thanks to wonderful students such as you and the most dedicated colleagues at IITGN, there was not a day in these four years that I did not enjoy being here. I am sure each one of you must be feeling that way too: four years full of growth, learning, excitement and adventure. In these four years, not just you and I but even the Institute itself grew: from a "one of the eight new IITs" to an Institute very proud of its curriculum, innovations, culture, and people.

Four years back, you came here perhaps with regret in your heart for not being able to make it to an "old IIT". Today you graduate with tremendous satisfaction that you came here, that you got to do things that you may not have done elsewhere, and that you experienced the tremendous warmth and affection of the entire community of IITGN. But, equally importantly, you became an important player and a participant in taking this "one of the new IITs" towards the "most innovative IIT", in this historical journey of IITGN towards becoming a "great university".

Some of the unique things that I can recall about your batch:

- The one-week Orientation Programme containing a range of activities, including the workshops on film appreciation, architecture appreciation, and theatre. This became the foundation on which we later developed our 5-week "Foundation Programme" for the incoming undergraduates.
- Your batch had the distinction of perhaps being the only batch in the history of IIT system, where every one of your classmates wanting to change branch at the end of first year, could do so. This became possible not only because of the liberal branch-change rules that we implemented here, but also because of your maturity in seeking branch of your true interest, wherein we saw several "reverse movements" as well.
- Some of you accompanying me to the C G Road in city for paani-puris and ice cream: I cherish that moment very often.
- Your participation in the competition on Fire Safety, and four of you coming out winners. I recall the presentations made by you in front of the top management of Underwriters Laboratories, and how proud I felt seeing capabilities of "my first year bachchaas."
- Your batch doing extremely well in the internships: in fact, you became pioneers for the Institute by filing three patents out of internship work. You and I came to the Institute around the same time with dreams in our eyes, but with our own fears, apprehensions, and skepticism. Soon, we gained confidence and started to work with "moving targets" and today we look back with wonder and surprise: wow, did we ever think that IITGN could become what it became?

While you move out to the big world awaiting you outside the Institute, do not forget our joint historical mission: to make a great university that all of us can be proud of in the years ahead. Do not forget that you have the greatest possible stake in the future of this Institute, and that your "alma mater" expects you to nurture it and support it in the years ahead and as you grow further.

I hope you have the courage and the wisdom to handle life as it unfolds for you. I will be most excited to receive your news from different stations as you undertake your journey of life.

Sudhir K. Jain