**1st Student Year Book-Director’s Desk\_2012**

**Director’s Message: Student Yearbook 2012**

Dear Friends:

As we prepare for the Convocation to hand over to you your well-earned degrees, and as you prepare this “Year Book” to remember your days at the Institute, let me recall some moments with you:

* The “open house” in which I met you the first time in March 2009, well before I took office at IITGN. I returned to Kanpur admiring your leadership and initiative. I also noted your unhappiness about IITGN not offering “Minors” and “Honours” due to faculty constraints. It is heartening to see a very good percentage of you graduating with Minor(s) and / or Honours.
* Some of you marketing IITGN outside the Convocation Hall in IIT Bombay in June 2009 to the students coming for JEE Counseling. No wonder I enrolled myself as a member of your fan club.
* How after Blithchron in January 2010 I wondered loudly if my faculty colleagues and I could only match your dedication and commitment.
* Prof Nitish Thakor interviewing three of you in March 2010 for one slot of internship at the Johns Hopkins and ending up taking all three. It later became a habit for me to receive positive feedback on your internships, and I start to claim for myself some credit for your great performance (my bachchaas, of course!).
* The unpleasant episode when we spent late night hours at the Chandkheda police station in our pursuit for dignity and justice.
* My spontaneous announcement to Prof Jaison and Maj General Aga while on a visit to the Boys Hostel under construction in July 2010: let us move the Pioneer Batch here since only they can take the hardship of a hostel that still did not have toilets. You stood by me, moved into the hostel and did not protest even once.
* Your dignified protest by putting black boxes on your Facebook pages, and the subsequent conversation with your leadership in the night in the A-block meeting room. My confidence in your maturity (well beyond your young age) was not betrayed and we all came out as winners from that crisis.
* I challenging myself if I can address your farewell event “Udaan” without emotionally breaking down and successfully meeting the challenge (almost).

You came to IITGN in August 2008 with a dream in your eyes. I too came to IITGN with a dream (albeit a somewhat different one) ten months later. Soon we both found that the route to our dreams was the same and as co-travelers on that route for three years we grew together and had some great fun, some good camaraderie, and some valuable learning from each other. Not many people are as fortunate as you and I to get an opportunity to create a new university, and all of us at IITGN understood it rather early and started to make best out of this opportunity.

As you prepare to leave for a bigger world that awaits you outside, I must continue to work on our common mission of building a great school here: a Nalanda, a Taxila. And, I hope that the future generations of IITGN students too will have your kind of commitment and passion. As you chase your dreams, with each success you bring glory to your alma mater and help me reach nearer my goal.

You get only one life to live and life does not have a rewind button. I wish you the courage and the wisdom to take what life has to offer you.

Sudhir K. Jain

**2nd Student Year Book-Director’s Desk\_2013**

**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

**3rd Student Year Book-Director’s Desk\_2014**

**Director’s Message: Student Yearbook 2014**

Dear Friends:

In the past, it has not been easy for me to see my bachchaas leave the Institute after being here for four years, and this year is no exception. Of course, must you go and be part of solutions to the huge challenges that our country faces. In that sense, on one side it is painful for me to let you go, and on the other side, I am happy that IITGN is graduating yet another crop of most accomplished graduates that are sensitive to the needs of the society. You have received excellent education and training in an excellent environment, and you are destined for extraordinary achievements in the years ahead.

Yours is the third batch of undergraduates that IITGN is proud of graduating. The maturity and accomplishments of your batch can be a matter of envy to any institute or university anywhere, including the 15 other IITs in our country. Through your hard work, leadership and teamwork, you have set very high standards and have taken further the agenda set by your senior batches: the agenda of turning IITGN into the Nalanda and the Taxila of the 21st century India.

I have a very unique relationship with your batch, something that I do not share with any other batch of IITGN undergraduates: I had the pleasure of teaching a course to the Mechanical and Chemical Engineering students of your batch. I absolutely enjoyed the experience and used to look forward to go to your class.

I have often said that alumni of a university are its biggest stakeholders. The directors are appointed for five years and the faculty works for 20 or 30 years but has the option to move to another university. However, the alumni must mention the university in their resume all their life. Therefore, if IITGN does well, it will help you do well. I am look forward to your continued lifelong engagement with the Institute and I hope you will maintain a regular engagement with the institute and find time and resources to help your alma mater and your junior students.

Life has its own twists and turns, and you will be called upon to take decisions, some more important than the others. I wish you all the wisdom to take those decisions and all the courage to face the world as it unfolds before you…I wish you very happy and fulfilling life.

Sudhir K Jain

**4th Student Year Book-Director’s Desk\_2015**

**Director’s Message: Student Yearbook 2015**

Dear Friends:

It is with a mixed feeling that I see you leave IITGN: happy to see another batch of extremely talented and accomplished complete their studies here, and sad to have my ‘bachchaas’ leave. Yes, there is a contradiction here. On one side I take great pride that we treat our undergraduates as responsible adults, as our colleagues, and as our equals. On the other hand, I call undergraduates ‘bachchaas’. But, did I ever say that life is always rational!

You are a very special group of students. It is on your batch that we first implemented our very uniquely designed undergraduate curriculum. The 5-week Foundation Programme was first tried on your batch and its success has brought a lot of appreciation for the Institute from academia in and outside the country. As you have heard me say often, the objective of IITGN education has been to prepare engineering leaders; individuals that will address societal needs and will make an impact on the lives of our people. Hence, our curriculum is designed to provide a T-shaped education, wherein the students must *“know something about everything, and everything about something.”* It has strong interdisciplinary focus and a very sizeable content of Humanities and Social Sciences. Your success in life will be a strong endorsement of this very innovative curriculum and we all will look at you in the years ahead with great anticipation.

If today IITGN provides possibly the best undergraduate education in the country, it is not only due to a great curriculum and extremely engaged and enthusiastic faculty, but also due to its highly mature and responsible students such as you. Your batch will be particularly known for its maturity, engagement and leadership: the other day, my faculty colleagues mentioned that your batch did not have “a few leaders” but that everyone in your batch was a leader. Your batch has shown extraordinary passion for societal concerns, for entrepreneurship, and for studies; what more could I ask of you?

As you enter into the real world, I am sure you will find that you are very well equipped in taking decisions and in keeping yourself grounded to the realities. Life is not always fair and rational, and one must navigate through numerous challenges. I hope that you will bring pride to your family, your teachers and well wishers, and to your alma mater.

Having given you its best, IITGN does expect that you will continue to remain engaged as alumni and will contribute to the Institute in whatever capacity so that its students in the future will continue to receive the best possible education that 21st century can provide to youngsters.

And finally, I hope that you will not only have the wisdom and courage to handle your failures well, but that you will also manage your successes well; success is not always easy to handle. My best wishes.

Sudhir K Jain

**5th Student Year Book-Director’s Desk\_2016**

**Director’s Message: Student Yearbook 2016**

Dear Friends:

So, it is time for you to go… time to leave IITGN after spending some wonderful four years at the Institute. During the Udaan of your batch, someone remarked that he was glad he did a few problems wrong in the JEE and ended up at IITGN rather than at one of the older IITs; this got me emotional. What more I could ask for? If my “bachchaas” feel good about what IITGN gave them, my years at IITGN have been spent well.

Indeed, it never stops surprising me how far we all have travelled together in creating a great environment for learning and growing. It amazes me to see how responsible our students have been to take care of not just their own needs, but also the needs of the entire IITGN student body. How easy it is to communicate with our students and seek their help in solving a problem.

Your batch was a pioneer: pioneer in terms of moving into the Palaj campus when we had so many teething problems in the new hostels, in the class rooms, internet was a huge challenge… and the Institute operated from two locations. It could have exasperated any other group of students and there would have been complaints on social media. Not at IIT Gandhinagar. The student leadership here was a part of the solution, fully aware of the challenges, fully partnering with us in addressing those difficulties.

There are so many of our well wishers outside the Institute, that have provided time, money and resources, so our students could have extra-ordinary opportunities to learn and grow. They have had great faith in future of the Institute and it is now incumbent on you to prove them right in their confidence in us.

May I therefore suggest that you remain connected with IITGN, and see in what way you can provide support and help in the years ahead. In my Udaan speech, I asked that each one of you must send a small sum every year as a gift for future generations of students. Such symbolic (and substantial) gestures will not only help IITGN reach greater heights, but will also give you pride in the Institute.

It is personally sad for me to let you go, but that is the way of the world. I hope that the great qualities that I see in you, the leadership and maturity that you have displayed will enable you to lead a fulfilling life, to tackle the challenges that may come in your way, and to make a positive impact to the environment around you.

Life has its own turns and twists and every one must go through the good and the not-so-good times. More than taking the right decisions, it is important to learn to live with our decisions and make a success of what we have. I hope you have not just learnt to take the right decisions, but also to ensure successful outcome of your decisions.

My best wishes,

Sudhir K. Jain

**6th Student Year Book-Director’s Desk\_2017**

**Director’s Message: Student Yearbook 2017**

Dear Friends:

Yours is the sixth batch of undergraduates leaving the campus. You have perhaps heard me say that IITGN is a system in which enthusiastic and brilliant children enter, and four years later young adults exit. The challenge is to make this transition effective and smooth. Objective is to turn the ‘bachchaas’ into responsible citizens that are capable of leading a fulfilling life, of taking good care of themselves, of their families, of their surroundings and of the society. Of course, this is not to undermine the studies, the curriculum; but that is a given in an IIT.

I have been a great fan of the student body of IITGN ever since I joined here in June 2009. The maturity and leadership shown by the students of IITGN is exceptional and has been extremely energizing for me personally. The Institute has taken a certain view on managing the student affairs and the student body has responded enthusiastically to the same.

The sense of responsibility that your batch has displayed here has been exceptional. The way your batch has conducted itself in difficult moments is unprecedented. Your speeches at ‘Udaan’ is a clear reflection of how well you have grown, how well you have learnt to take life head-on, how well you have prepared yourself to negotiate the twists and turns of events as you enter into the real world. I have no doubt that you are destined to do well and bring good name to the Institute.

I challenge you to continue the great tradition established by your senior batch wherein a very large percentage of them have started to make modest monthly donations to set up the Class-of-2016 Scholarships. Your monthly donations of whatever amount (small or large) become substantial when pooled together. More importantly, such a gesture keeps you connected and engaged with the Institute.

As you are aware, IITGN is unique in terms of fully funded internships, scholarships and other need-based financial aid. This has been possible due to our well-wishers providing philanthropic funds with the premise that in due course our own alumni will become the main source of donations. A gesture by our young alumni of starting to donate a small amount also inspires the confidence of such well-wishers.

It is perhaps not so easy for you to leave IITGN after spending your four most impressionable years with the Institute. It is certainly not easy for us to let you go. I hope you will remain engaged with the Institute as you move on to newer opportunities. The social media and other tools these days make it so much easy to remain in touch. I look forward to receiving your news from time to time and will watch your success with great anticipation. We will also benefit enormously from your feedback on how you look back at the education and experience you received at IITGN. There may be many things that you will realize down the road that IITGN did right or did not do right and we will like to know about those.

Your lives will have ups and downs and I hope more ups than downs. I hope you have the courage to take decisions, the wisdom to take the right decisions, and the strength to live with your decisions.

My best wishes,

Sudhir K. Jain

**7th Student Year Book-Director’s Desk\_2018**

**Director’s Message: Student Yearbook 2018**

Dear Friends:

As you prepare to leave the Institute, I imagine you are experiencing two conflicting emotions. On one hand, you are excited about the new opportunities that await you. On the other, you are likely somber about leaving the Institute that was your home for four impressionable years, during which you built many deep and lasting friendships.

You are the last batch of “bachchaas” to spend time at both our temporary campus in Chandkheda and our permanent campus in Palaj and thus have experienced the transition. More importantly, you have experienced our expansion, not just in size, but also in the curriculum, faculty, systems and institutional culture. In a short span of 10 years, the Institute has developed a formidable reputation on the strength of its innovations, its beautiful campus, and the outstanding performance of its alumni.

A college is not defined by its buildings, laboratories, or administration. It is above all a collective of students and faculty who learn and share knowledge and wisdom together. IITGN’s growing reputation to a significant degree has been built on the exceptional maturity, leadership and passion of its student body, for which we will always be grateful.

I have often wondered: what made IITGN students so mature and responsible? Some day, I hope a scholar will undertake a study to answer that question. For now, I can only reiterate what you have often heard me say — that I am a big fan of the “bachchaas” and my admiration for the IITGN student body grows every year.

IITGN has been exceptional in the financial support it provides to its students in the form of scholarships, loans, grants, and funding for internships in India and overseas. This has been possible thanks to the extraordinary generosity of well-wishers, who have shown faith in the future of the Institute with their donations, even though they had no association with the Institute or its student body. Their support is a tribute to the exciting innovations underway at IITGN and the potential they saw in you, our students.

As we grow, the onus of this support will shift increasingly to our alumni, which is the case with academic institutions globally. Already many of our alumni have stepped up to the challenge and have initiated regular contributions. I challenge the Class-of-2018 to become a leader in the proportion of alumni making monthly donations, however small or large. This will ensure that your juniors can receive the same opportunities that you were blessed with. We are also counting on your continued engagement with the Institute in the years ahead in our joint ambition to elevate IITGN to the ranks of a world-class university.

Nothing gives us greater happiness than to see our alumni shine. Already IITGN ‘bachchaas’ have brought us glory by their successes in academia, entrepreneurship, corporate jobs, or pursuing unconventional paths. I am confident that you too will be equally successful and I hope you will remain in touch with us and share your personal and professional journeys. I personally will love to hear from you in the years ahead.

Life will bring its ups and downs and force difficult choices upon you from time to time. I am confident that IITGN has prepared you not just academically, but holistically, to navigate life’s detours successfully.

I wish you courage and wisdom in the choices and decisions you make.

Sudhir Jain

**9th Student Year Book-Director’s Desk\_2020**

**Director’s Message: Student Yearbook 2020**

Dear Friends:

You are graduating from the Institute in the most challenging times that humanity has experienced in the last 100 years. In my own life time, there have been many major crises: wars, earthquakes, cyclones, tsunami, terrorist attacks, and the like. But, none on such a scale. None was as global in its adverse impact. None posed such uncertainty as this one. We do not know what the world will be like in a few years, but we do know that it will be very different from what it is today. The way many things will be done in the future, will be different from how things were done in the past.

It is always difficult for me to see another batch of “Bachchaas” leave the institute. It is not only because of the nostalgia and attachment to them, but also due to some anxiety about how they will navigate the change. I tend to worry how our graduates will deal with the real-world outside campus. What challenges they will come across, and how the external world will judge them and judge IITGN.

My anxiety is multiplied manifold this time with your batch, since you will be entering the real world in these extraordinarily difficult times. You will transition from the student life in a campus to a professional life in the real world; that is a given and has been the case with all batches before you. In your case, however, you will also need to navigate the turbulence that the society and the world will be going through for the next several years, and that too, from the first day of leaving the institute.

In dealing with student matters (and with young faculty of IITGN), I have been guided by a guru-mantra I learnt from my teacher Prof George W Housner. He would often remark to me that the older generation always underestimates the younger generation. When I think with my rational mind, I realize that you are very well prepared in terms of values, attitudes and capabilities to take on the most difficult challenges of today as well as those you will encounter in the future.

The maturity, hard work, and team work that you have displayed over the years at IITGN gives me great pride and confidence. It reinforces my confidence in building IITGN into a best-of-the-class institute in the world, and in our common mission of developing IITGN as the Nalanda and the Taxila of the 21st century India.

I believe that alumni and faculty (in that order), and not the director, are the biggest stakeholders in the future of a university. Even today, 41 years after graduating in 1979, I am introduced as a graduate of Roorkee. You will always be known as a graduate of IITGN. If IITGN does not do well in the future, it will not reflect well on you either. Hence, it is critical that you remain engaged with the Institute for rest of your lives, and contribute your time, talent and treasure to help IITGN and your junior students.

Life will have its own ups and downs in the years ahead, and you will face difficult choices from time to time. I wish you all the wisdom and courage to take decisions -- and to bear their consequences.

May you lead a very happy and fulfilling life.

Sudhir K Jain

**10th Student Year Book-Director’s Desk 2021**

**Director’s Message: Student Yearbook 2021**

Dear Friends:

The first batch of “bachchaas” at IITGN graduated in 2012, so yours is our 10th graduating batch. So much has transpired over this past decade, especially during this past year.

Leaving college and entering the real world is among the biggest transitions in life, and a cause for celebration. You have benefitted from one of the finest education that an academic institution can offer. For us at IITGN, “education” is not just about books and courses (that is, “how much a person knows”). For us, “education” is about a person transforming for the better. We aspire for “life changing education” that empowers our graduates with a sense of purpose in life, the motivation to achieve it, and the capabilities and tools to accomplish their goals.

I often worry about how well we perform in this mission and wonder how well our graduates will do upon leaving the campus. With the repeated successes of past graduating batches, my anxieties have diminished with time and I am gaining ever more confidence that the “bachchaas” have been prepared well for the future and will do very well indeed.

Any significant changes in life and routine, good or bad, bring their own stresses and anxieties in humans. The process of young students leaving college to enter into the real world is always stressful: with hopes on one side and anxieties on the other. Your batch has experienced an exceptionally traumatic period in the past 15 months of the pandemic, something that earlier batches didn’t. If some of you find graduating in these extraordinary times to be particularly stressful, I am not surprised.

However, particularly challenging times often have also enabled human civilization to leap forward and develop higher levels of resilience. This pandemic has forced you to navigate uncertainties and frequent changes. We could not have managed the campus as well as we did by not requiring students to vacate the campus, which many of our peer institutes did, without the exceptional maturity, team work and leadership demonstrated by our student community.

We have still not emerged out of the tunnel of this pandemic, so you and your classmates will face greater uncertainties and turbulence than graduating students typically do. But I am supremely confident that you are well prepared to face the future however it manifests itself.

Alumni success and alumni engagement are the most important parameters to judge any academic institution, and we will follow your successes with great interest. I urge you to remain engaged with the Institute and contribute in any manner to its continued success. Just as your success brings glory to the Institute, the reverse also is true. If IITGN does well in the years and decades ahead, it will reflect well on you too. Remember, you will always be introduced as a graduate of IITGN.

Life will not always be easy and will require making difficult choices from time to time. I wish you all the wisdom and the courage to take decisions and bear their consequences.

May you lead a very happy and fulfilling life.

Sudhir K Jain