

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