



## **SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

**PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS**

SDG 16 is one of the vital SDGs as it is interlinked with several other SDGs. The Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN) focuses on strengthening its efforts related to SDGs, promotes international relations, and collaborates with a range of stakeholders through several projects and initiatives.

### **RESEARCH**

One of the projects in Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) discipline at the Institute, “Effects of reverse migration among the indigenous communities following India's Covid-19 induced lockdown” focuses on indigenous communities and another research group focuses on human-animal relations and community based conservation projects in Arunachal Pradesh, especially Dibang valley and the Idu Mishmi community.

### **EDUCATION**

The institute has introduced some courses that relate to SDG 16 such as HS 644 - Critical Perspectives in Sociology and Anthropology, HS 424 – Indian Systems of Ethics, and HS 327 - Anthropology, Citizenship, and Human Rights.

IITGN has effectively established Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with esteemed institutions to promote academic collaboration, research initiatives, and student exchanges. A few examples are mentioned below:

**Partnership with NIT Sikkim and NIT Hamirpur:** Signed MoUs to facilitate student exchange, academic cooperation, and research collaboration between NIT Sikkim, NIT Hamirpur, and IITGN. This partnership allows meritorious students from these NITs to engage in IITGN's programs, encouraging academic growth and research advancements.

**Partnership with IIT Madras:** Through an MoU signed on May 12, 2022, a project named "Kotak-IITM Save Energy Mission (KISEM) - IITGN" was initiated, aiming to drive the decarbonization of Indian industries through research, consultancy, education, and training.

**Partnership with Durham University, UK:** Through an MoU signed on Nov 17, 2021, both institutions aim to foster cultural, educational, and scientific cooperation, enhancing student and faculty exchanges. A joint seminar on the challenges of world heritage sites and the role of Archaeology in the global context marked the inception of this partnership.

## **OPERATIONS**

The institute has formed several groups and committees with elected representatives from students. Examples include Student Council, Student Senate, NYASA, etc. Students also serve as volunteers across several groups at the Institute including Special Volunteer Force (formed during Covid-19), volunteers for campus animals, etc.

The institute has a dedicated Counselling Centre, consisting of faculty in charge of counselling services, counsellors, and student guides. The institute counsellor along with student volunteers and faculty counsellors offers free advice and assistance to students to address academic, personal, or interpersonal issues.

The institute undertook several initiatives during Covid for the entire IITGN community and nearby communities including villages in Palaj and Basan. Some examples include supply of food items and cooked food, distributing sanitary napkins, recharging mobile phones, and such others, which helped face the challenges posed by the pandemic.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The institute conducts several events which aim at fostering collaborations between IITGN faculty and other organisations. An example includes Sustainability Fair organised by Centre for Sustainable Development, which serves as a platform for government bodies, NGOs, industries and other organisations.

IITGN conducts workshops and events to foster academic discourse and knowledge sharing. A few examples include:

- Workshop on “Captive Mind”: The Institute, in collaboration with the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, organised a thought-provoking online workshop discussing intellectual imperialism in the Asian academic context. Attended by scholars, students, and researchers globally, this event served as a platform for intellectual exchange and discussion.
- Workshop on Ultrasound Contrast Agents: With support from GSBTM, a two-day workshop was conducted, focusing on applying gas-filled microbubbles in Biomedical Engineering. The workshop included lectures and virtual lab demo sessions, engaging 80 participants and instructors from various parts of the world.