



# GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

## POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION, PUBLIC POLICY & UNIVERSITIES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY (GTU-CETEP-21)

### Ninth Seminar under the DSTU\* Project “THE IDEA OF OUR UNIVERSITIES”

*in the context of*  
**THE IDEA OF INDIA**

organized with as the knowledge partner



**Date: Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 | 10.30 AM to 5 PM**  
**Venue: GTU, Chandkheda Campus, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

Since 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011, GTU-CETEP-21 has been engaged in the study and research on ‘Designing the Structure of Technological Universities’ (DSTU). The research project of DSTU started with a study of the status of higher education in Gujarat and with a study of the best of the universities in the world. GTU-CETEP-21 has developed DSTU as an open platform, where experts and leaders of education are invited for discussions and for sharing experiences on different aspects of its learning systems. Till now, more than 150 Vice-Chancellors, Deans and other Leaders of education have participated in the deliberations of the research project.

In the Indian tradition, learning is through questioning. This one-day seminar is designed to answer the question:

***Should the idea of our University be rooted in the idea of India?***

#### **PARTICIPATION:**

Every GTU Innovation Club can nominate two participants. Preferably one of them may be a Faculty Member and the other may be a student. Participation is free. But every participant has to register online.

Please register online at <http://goo.gl/forms/vPZUY9jFVQ> before 4 PM on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016. You will be informed about your selection on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The selection will be on first-come-first-serve basis.



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If a participant wants to have a slot for speaking, he/ she may write at [secvc@gtu.edu.in](mailto:secvc@gtu.edu.in) to the Advisor of the Seminar with a write-up of up to 4 pages. After a review, if found appropriate, the presentations may be published on the web-site. Hence every presentation should ensure that all the references are properly given. It should be having a self-certificate saying that the document is in the words of the author. Moreover an anti-plagiarism certificate from **turnitin** should be attached.

### PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Timing Schedule	Activity
10.00 hrs.	Registration
10.00 – 10.30 hrs.	Inaugural Function
10.30 – 11.30hrs.	<b>Technical Session 1:</b> The idea of our Universities and the idea of India till the Pre-Kalidas era (till the end of 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD)
11.30 -11.45 hrs.	<b>Tea Break</b>
11.45 – 1.00 hrs.	<b>Technical Session 2:</b> The idea of our Universities and the idea of India till the end of Nalanda University (From the beginning of the 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD to the end of 13 <sup>th</sup> century)
1.00 – 2.00 hrs.	<b>Lunch Break</b>
2.00 – 3.30 hrs.	<b>Technical Session 3:</b> The idea of our Universities and the idea of India as of today (From the beginning of the 14 <sup>th</sup> century AD to today)
3.30 - 3.45 hrs.	<b>Tea Break</b>
3.45 - 5.00 hrs.	<b>Valedictory Session</b>



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**BACKGROUND:** Gujarat Technological University (GTU) is a relatively new university, which opened its doors for students in 2008. While GTU was being built, it set up the Post-graduate Research Centre for Technology Education, Public Policy and Universities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (GTU-CeTEPU-21), which is one of the 14PG Research Centres, established by the university in 2011. It was on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011 that Gujarat Technological University (GTU) initiated the research project on ‘Designing the Structure of Technological Universities’ (DSTU).

India has a long tradition of having centers of higher learning. Thus when Alexander from Macedonia, Greece, invaded India in 327 BC, he found in Takshashila, a university which had 64 different fields of study like vedas, grammar, philosophy, ayurveda, surgery, politics, archery, warfare, astronomy, commerce, futurology, music, dance, the art of discovering hidden treasure, decrypting encrypted messages etc. The Chinese monk Fa-Hsi visited India between 399-412 AD and he found a flourishing center of learning at Takshashila. Chanakya, the author of ArthaShastra, Panini, the author of Ashtadhyayi, Vishnu Sharma, the author of PanchaTantra, Charaka, the author of Samhita, Jivak, a famous surgeon, (More than 15,000 manuscripts, written about his surgical procedures are available.) were among the well-known scholars, who taught at Takshashila. However when Xuanzang (also known as Hiuen Tsang) came to Takshashila, during his travels from 630 AD to 643 AD, he found the city was in ruins, since it had been overrun by Huns. The archaeologists have not found regular lecture halls and residences at Takshashila, though information is available about the practices of financial support by the governments of those times to the teachers for learning of hundreds of students at such institutions. From the fifth century CE to 1200 CE, another great university of India attracted students from all over the known-world. It was Nalanda University, near today's city of Patna. It had large libraries, residence halls and lecture halls. ‘Xuanzang visited Nalanda first in 637 and then again in 642, spending a total of around two years at the university. He returned to China with 657 Buddhist texts carried by 20 horses in 520 cases, and translated 74 of the texts himself. In the thirty years following his return, no fewer than eleven travellers from China and Korea are known to have visited famed Nalanda.’<sup>1</sup> Nalanda had been granted the revenue from 100 villages for its expenses. Thus while at Takshashila, the grants were to eminent teachers, at Nalanda, the support was provided to the institution. But in both the cases, the students were fully supported and they were not required to pay anything during their studies.

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<sup>1</sup><https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nalanda>

\* *Designing the technological universities a GTU Research Project.*



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From 1296 to 1857, there were probably no large universities in India. But according to the surveys done by East India Company in the Bengal and the Madras presidencies, till about 1820s, in cities, there were many renowned teachers, who admitted students to their Colleges for post-school education. Each of these 'College-like-institutions' were given grant of the revenues of a couple of villages to meet the expenses. These 'Colleges' were residential and the education was free. After the survey, when the grant of revenues from villages to these 'Colleges' was stopped, these Colleges could not be sustained and closed down.

In 1857, East India Company established three Universities at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, on the basis of the model of the then London University. By 1946, there were 30 universities in India. In 1946, two Indian members of the Viceroy's Council expressed dissatisfaction at the quality of education being offered at the universities in India. The Council established the Sarkar Committee to suggest remedial measures. The Sarkar Committee's Report suggested that universities, based upon the MIT model may be established in India. This report of 1946 led to setting up of the first IIT at Kharagpur in 1956. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, India has 740 universities consisting of 342 State Universities, 46 Central Universities, 125 Deemed Universities and 227 Private Universities.

When we look at the examples of the structure of higher education in the four paragraphs above, it will be seen that in each period, both -the way education was offered and the way the society supported it financially- have changed. Our research shows that this change is intimately related to the way our society visualized itself and organized itself. Or in today's parlance, the structure of our Universities has changed according to the change in the idea of India in the mind of the at least the ruling elites.

The one-day Seminar is designed to understand the idea of our universities in the context of the idea of India so that our society can take decisions based upon the clear relationship between the two.

Advisor for the Seminar: **Dr. AjitSinhRana**, Core Committee Member, DSTU, GTU.

**Coordinator for the Seminar: Prof.KrutikaH. Raval and Ms. Hema P. Rajput**

*For any questions, please contact at [ap2\\_cbe@gtu.edu.in](mailto:ap2_cbe@gtu.edu.in) and [ra\\_dstu@gtu.edu.in](mailto:ra_dstu@gtu.edu.in)*

Prof. Krutika H. Raval  
Tel. (O): 079-23267541

Ms. Hema P. Rajput  
Tel. (O): 079-23267541



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