

IAMS



MAKER
BHAVAN
FOUNDATION

INDIAN ACADEMIC MAKERSPACES SUMMIT 2025

SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2025

Surendra C Sheth Learning Theatre



IIT GANDHINAGAR

Program Highlights



Dr Hemant Kanakia is the Founder and Chairman of Maker Bhavan Foundation and a retired serial entrepreneur based in Washington, DC. He served on the Boards of Trustees at Case Western Reserve University, Virginia Tech, and TiE Global. Since 2010, he has invested in 20 early-stage companies in India across education, technology, and healthcare. Earlier, he was a partner at a US venture firm and founded Torrent Networking (acquired by Ericsson for \$500M), co-founding Photuris and Gemplex.

He holds a BTech from IIT Bombay, MS from Case Western, and PhD in Electrical Engineering from Stanford.



Dr Vincent Wilczynski is Deputy Dean of the Yale School of Engineering & Applied Science, overseeing academic initiatives and facilities since 2010. He was the James S. Tyler Chair and Director of Yale's Center for Engineering Innovation and Design, leading efforts in collaboration, creativity, and design. Formerly Dean of Engineering at the U S Coast Guard Academy, he also served as VP of ASME and was named U S Professor of the Year in 2001 by the Carnegie Foundation. He is Treasurer of FIRST Robotics, Acting Executive Director of FIRST Global, and co-founder of the Higher Education Makerspace Initiative.

He holds a B S from the U S Coast Guard Academy, M S degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture from MIT, and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from The Catholic University of America.



Prof Timothy A Gonsalves is an Indian computer scientist, Founding Director of IIT Mandi (2010–2020), and Professor Emeritus at IIT Mandi. A co-founder of the TeNeT Group, he contributed to startups such as n-Logue Communications, Nilgiri Networks, and NMSWorks Software, where he developed flagship telecom products. He played a key role in India's first mobile payment standards and has consulted for SBI and SEBI. At IIT Mandi, he spearheaded efforts that doubled female B.Tech. enrolment across IITs. Post-retirement, he founded the LEAP programme and co-leads CSEDU.

He holds a BTech from IIT-Madras, M S from Rice University, Houston and PhD from Stanford University, California.



Dr Craig Forest is a Professor and Woodruff Faculty Fellow in Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech, with program roles in Bioengineering and Biomedical Engineering. His research develops miniaturized robotic instruments for neuroscience and genetics, spanning bioMEMS, optics, and microfabrication. He co-founded the InVenture Prize, one of the largest U.S. undergraduate invention competitions, and founded The Invention Studio, a major student-run makerspace.

A former Harvard Medical School fellow, he earned his PhD and MS from MIT and BS from Georgia Tech. Honors include Georgia Engineer of the Year in Education (2013) and an inaugural NIH BRAIN Initiative Grant.

Day 1: Saturday, September 27, 2025

8:30 AM

Registrations

9:00 AM

Welcome Address

Prof Pratik Mutha
General Chair, IAMS 2025
Dean, Institutional Advancement, IIT Gandhinagar

9:15 AM

Opening Address

Prof Bhaskar Datta
Dean, Academic Affairs, IIT Gandhinagar

9:30 AM

Inaugural Address

Dr Hemant Kanakia, Founder and Chairman, Maker Bhavan Foundation

10:00 AM

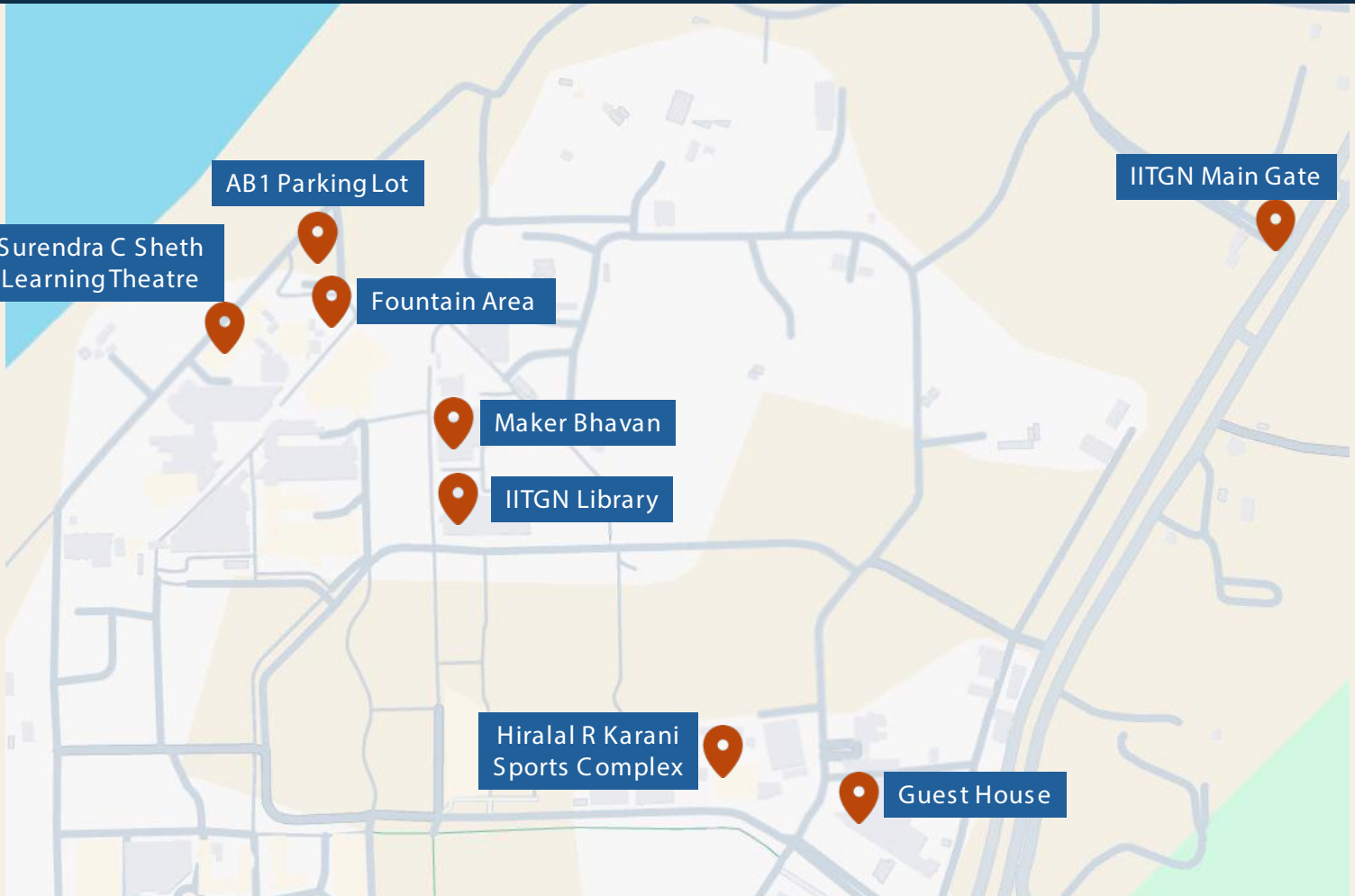
Keynote Talk "Innovations in Academic Makerspaces"

Prof Vincent Wilczynski
Deputy Dean and Professor, Yale School of Engineering & Applied Science

11:00 AM	Group Photograph Break Maker Fair Sponsors
11:30 AM	Keynote Talk <i>"Tinkering with Indian Engineering Education"</i> Prof Tim Gonsalves Founding Director and Professor Emeritus, IIT Mandi
12:30 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Invited Talks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Nithin George, Professor and Dean of General Administration, IIT Gandhinagar • Ms Ashima Mittal, District Collector, Jalna, Maharashtra • Prof Amit Sheth, Professor, Plaksha University • Ms Jyoti Sinha, Chief Innovation Officer - SNIoE Dassault Systems Centre of Excellence • Prof Jay Dhariwal, Associate Professor, IIT Delhi
3:30 PM	Break Maker Fair Sponsors
4:00 PM	Panel: <i>"The Promise of Academic Makerspaces: Transforming Higher Education"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Siddharth Tallur, Associate Professor, IIT Bombay • Ms Damayanti Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer, Maker Bhavan Foundation • Dr Aditya Vishwanath, Co-Founder and Director, MakerGhat • Mr Alekh Velayudhan, Research Scholar in Educational Technology, IIT Bombay Moderator: Prof Aditi Kothiyal, IIT Gandhinagar
5:30 PM	Tours of IITGN Makerspaces
7:00 PM	Gala Dinner Fountain Area, Near Jasubhai Memorial Auditorium

Day 2: Sunday, September 28, 2025

10:00 AM	Keynote Talk <i>"Enabling student ownership of making, invention, and entrepreneurship"</i> Prof Craig Forest Professor, Georgia Tech and Associate Director, CREATE-X
11:00 AM	Break Maker Fair Sponsors
11:30 AM	Panel: <i>"Our Journey in Making: Student Perspectives on Collaboration, Creativity, and Career Paths"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Shruti Dalvi, 4th year Undergrad, IIT Kanpur • Ms Ashita, 2025 Graduate, IIT Bombay • Mr Arsh Arora, 3rd year Undergrad, IIT Hyderabad • Mr Suyash Patidar, 2020 Graduate IIT Gandhinagar Moderator: Prof Malay Dhamelia, IIT Gandhinagar
12:30 PM	Industry Talks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Anand Pujari, Senior Manager, Autodesk Education • Mr Pratik Gadkar, Director and CEO, Technoventor Innovations Pvt Ltd
1:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Panel: <i>"Tinker vs. Thinker: Balancing Hands-On Making with Analytical Skills"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Amber Shrivastava, Associate Professor, IIT Bombay • Prof Udit Bhatia, Associate Professor, IIT Gandhinagar • Prof Ankit Dubey, Associate Professor, IIT Jammu • Ms Meenal Majumdar, Founder and CEO, The Innovation Story Moderator: Prof Aditi Kothiyal, IIT Gandhinagar
3:30 PM	Break Maker Fair Sponsors
4:00 PM	Awards and Closing Remarks



SPONSORS



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Password: iams2025

IAMS 2025 Map

