### **Report on Expert Lecture**

### "Research Trends in the Field of Chemical Engineering"

**Date:** 30th September 2024 **Time:** 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM

Venue: Aryabhatta Hall, L.D. College of Engineering, Ahmedabad

Organized by: Department of Chemical Engineering

Coordinators: Dr. Supritam Dutta, Dr. Shital Amin, Dr. Ronak Patel

Speaker: Dr. Nitin Padhiyar, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering Department, Indian

Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar

#### **Introduction:**

The Department of Chemical Engineering at L.D. College of Engineering organized an insightful expert lecture on "Research Trends in the Field of Chemical Engineering." The session, aimed at 7th semester undergraduate students and 1st and 3rd semester postgraduate students, provided a platform to explore current and future research avenues in the chemical engineering domain. Dr. Dutta welcomed Dr. Padhiyar at the outset and Dr. Patel introduced Dr. Padhiyar to the audience by briefly describing his accomplishments.

#### **Overview of the Lecture:**

The lecture was delivered by **Dr. Nitin Padhiyar**, an Associate Professor from IIT Gandhinagar, renowned for his research contributions in chemical engineering. He highlighted cutting-edge developments and innovative trends shaping the future of the field.

Dr. Padhiyar emphasized how chemical engineering, traditionally focused on process optimization and chemical reactions, is now integrating emerging technologies such as **artificial intelligence (AI)**, **machine learning (ML)**, and **sustainable practices** to solve complex industrial challenges.

#### **Key Discussion Points:**

- 1. **Artificial Intelligence in Chemical Engineering:** Dr. Padhiyar discussed the growing role of AI and ML in optimizing chemical processes, particularly in predictive modeling, process control, and material discovery. He shared how AI is being used to design more efficient reactors, reduce energy consumption, and minimize waste production.
- 2. **Sustainability and Green Technologies:** A significant part of the lecture was dedicated to discussing sustainable practices and their importance in reducing the environmental footprint of the chemical industry. Topics like carbon capture and storage (CCS), biobased chemicals, and renewable energy integration were addressed, focusing on how they are redefining the future of chemical manufacturing.

- 3. Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology: Dr. Padhiyar spoke about recent advances in nanotechnology and materials science, explaining how these innovations are enabling more efficient catalysis and separation processes, improving energy storage, and creating new applications in biotechnology.
- 4. **Process Intensification:** He also touched upon the concept of process intensification, which involves designing smaller, more efficient equipment that increases the productivity of chemical processes while reducing energy consumption and costs.
- 5. **Energy and Environmental Engineering:** Another area of focus was energy-efficient systems and their application in chemical industries. The shift towards renewable energy sources and the development of energy-efficient chemical processes were discussed in detail.

Dr. Nitin Padhiyar also briefed about the various R&D facilities at IIT, Gandhinagar. He has also described opportunitites for L.D.C.E. students for the enrollment as PhD scholar at IIT, Gandinagar.

### **Session on Art of Leaving:**

Dr. Padhiyar also taken 10 min session on meditation. It was necessity of the hour to deal with different stresses in student life. Students appreciated the effort by the speaker.

Glimpses of the Session: Attached as Annexure-A.

Student Attendance: 80 UG students and 23 PG students attended the session. Attendance sheet is attached herewith.

### **Interaction and Conclusion:**

The lecture was followed by a highly interactive question-and-answer session where students and faculty members had the opportunity to engage with Dr. Padhiyar on various research-related queries. The session sparked curiosity among students, encouraging them to explore research opportunities in the field and participate in ongoing projects.

In conclusion, the lecture was a great success, providing a comprehensive overview of the latest research trends in chemical engineering and motivating students to actively engage in cutting-edge research.

At the end lecture ended by vote of thanks, given by Dr. Shital Amin.

Annexure-A
Glimpses of the Expert Lecture by Dr. Nitin Padhiyar





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Date: 30/09/2024

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