

CEPT UNIVERSITY

Spearheading academic excellence in GIS

GIS is one of the most exciting and growing technology today. In the last few years, GIS has evolved to become a mainstream technology for businesses, governments and communities, enabling them to acquire valuable insights through spatial analytics.

With advancement in adoption of GIS across sectors, the demand for skilled workforce has increased manifold and this is where academic institutions are playing a vital role. To bridge the gap, they are not only skilling the students with latest GIS technologies, but also promoting its adoption in India. Industry-academia collaboration is essential for capacity building, and Esri India is committed to supporting the academia in teaching and research with best practices and resources. It is helping numerous universities and colleges in India to adopt and teach GIS technology with the intent to equip the next generation with the GIS skills required for the modern workplace.

CEPT University or Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad, India is renowned for its commitment towards capacity building in GIS and its association with Esri India, enables it to be much ahead in encouraging innovation in GIS.

The Faculty of Technology offers a Master's course in Geomatics. Other than Geomatics, the University also offers 11 electives based on GIS. Students from any course are free to take up these electives. The students learn the best under the guidance of eminent faculty members and get the best training at the world-class facilities. Popular courses include Urban and Regional Planning, GIS in Remote Sensing, Geomatics and Smart City, GIS for Landscape Architecture and GIS for managers.

Going beyond the routine in GIS training

What makes CEPT stand out is its commitment to keep the students' knowledge updated on the latest innovations in the field. Along with exposure to traditional subjects like remote sensing, GIS, data management and programming languages, the students are taught advanced technologies like Big Data analytics, machine learning, LiDAR etc.



The students are also provided a lot of international exposure. The Centre for Advanced Geomatics conducts a lot of short term training programs, national level symposium and international level seminars. Majority of the students go to the western world for their dissertation or else in ISRO and DRDO.

CEPT and mApp your Way

Esri India's mApp your Way contest is largely enabling students to build their capabilities in GIS technology, and CEPT students enthusiastically participate in the same. At the 2017 User Conference, a group of students of M.Tech (Geomatics), Faculty of Technology won the 1st Runners-Up award in Geospatial Applications Development competition for their application 'CEPTSmart'. This app was developed to support students and administration with solutions related to classroom allocation and complaint system for non-working fixtures within the CEPT campus.

Celebrating GIS Day

To make GIS more popular, the University also celebrates GIS Day every year in the second week of November. GIS, per se, is a subject which people still understand only as mapping. CEPT tries to break that idea through various events on the GIS Day. During the weeklong celebration, industry experts are invited to give lectures on current developments in the field.

Dr. Anjana elaborates, "The day begins at 9 am and ends at late night. Almost 150 students from different universities get together and we first have an introductory lecture on GIS just to increase awareness of students in a very colloquial manner. Various competitions are held. Every year one theme is selected and based on that various competitions are organised. The University also conducts treasure hunt using GPS."

It is evident that through its varied initiatives and association with Esri India, CEPT University is setting the perfect roadmap for other academic institutions as to how to make India more GIS capable. ●