

Nirma University

# Newsletter



**NIRMA**  
UNIVERSITY

NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE

Volume 10 • Issue 4  
Oct - Dec 2018

## Major Highlights of this Issue



The University is felicitated by CNBC Bazaar for its "Outstanding Contribution to the Education Sector" as a part of Gujarat Economic Conclave and Awards.



Institute of Management, Nirma University has been ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> best Private B-School in the Top leading B-Schools of Super Excellence Category by CSR-GHRDC B-School Survey.



MoUs signed with Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK (CIMA); University of Southern California, USA; Mitsubishi Electric Pvt Ltd; ITER International Fusion Energy Organisation, France; University of South Florida, USA; USC School of Pharmacy, USA.



26<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Nirma University held on Oct 22, 2018.



Inauguration of the Lawyer Incubation Clinic at Institute of Law, Nirma University.



Articles by faculty, students', and alumni and much more...

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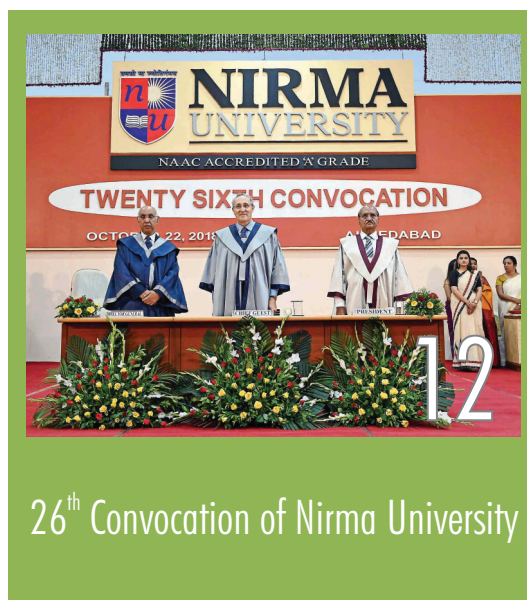
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# Message from the Director General's Desk



Dear Reader,

Among all the factors that affect the effectiveness of the teaching-learning process in higher education, the teacher is inarguably the most potent precipitator. The teacher makes the most significant contribution not only in the learning of the student, but also in shaping her personality and future career. A good teacher not only teaches her students, but also inspires them to steer the course of life with grit and courage. She is a role model for her students; therefore, she demonstrates right behaviours to them and indirectly impacts their thinking and conduct. Ask any successful person the impact of teacher on her life, she would definitely count a few of them and narrate their motivating behaviour and how that shaped her overall development.

The development of the learner is contingent upon the development of the teacher. The society invariably needs a large number of higher education teachers who are adept in their subject knowledge; well-conversant with different pedagogical methods; competent in the mentoring process; and compassionate and inspiring. Such teachers create magic in

the classroom and develop their students as responsible and responsive citizens of the society. Learned students are good; learned and socially responsible students are better because only they can provide leadership to the people in the different walks of life.

A few teachers have such transformative abilities; however, most teachers acquire them through continuous learning and hard work. An effective teacher grows throughout her life. Today, the career span of a teacher is around four decades. The challenges and learning needs of different cohorts of teachers may vary. Institutional expectations also change from the different cadres of teachers. Similarly, students also anticipate differential behaviours from junior and senior teachers. If there are four cohorts of teachers, the first cohort needs to excel in teaching and research, while the second cohort should focus on teaching, research and student development. The third cohort is expected to contribute to teaching, research, student development and extension. Finally, the fourth cohort needs to focus on all of these, plus institution building.

It is a pity that Indian higher education has not systematically focussed on faculty development as a top priority. The central government has initiated a host of schemes for this purpose, but their impact is few and far between. There are several Human Resource Development Centres promoted by the University Grants Commission. Their quality remains a big question mark. It is high time that we reform faculty development in higher education with a view to become internationally competitive.

Faculty development cannot be and should not be equated with training. Training is good for creating awareness, but it does not work if the teacher's eco-system and self-efforts do not support it. Faculty mentoring is equally important. Personal coaching is a sine qua non for the development of the teacher. She needs to get feedback about her knowledge and teaching skills. A mentor objectively observes and analyses the mentee's knowledge, teaching skills and psychological profile; then, she has a tete-a-tete with the mentee to help her unfold her potential and improve her behaviours. Self-study and self-analysis are the important tools to understand oneself as the teacher and to develop self-growth plan. Fortunately, there is ample literature on faculty development and it is easily available on the Internet. The teacher should know what and why she should study for her growth and development. As the teacher may get feedback from her senior, she also gets feedback through reflection on day-to-day behaviours. A daily review of one's teaching and conduct is thus highly desirable. Peer group learning is another powerful tool for faculty development. Faculty can form a study group to learn from one another and to help one another in their developmental journey.

Faculty development is the responsibility of the educational system, superior and self. The system must create developmental opportunities, while the superior should identify them and nominate the faculty for them. In the final analysis, the teacher has to take the maximum benefit of the opportunity provided to her and drive the agenda for self-betterment. The teacher can change society provided she first changes herself.





## Dr Manjunath Ghatge

Director & Dean  
Institute of Pharmacy  
Nirma University

## Liquid Phase combinatorial synthesis of Benzimidazole libraries for anti- tubercular activity

Tuberculosis (TB) is considered to be a global emergency by the World health organization (WHO). It is caused by bacteria, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. In developing countries like India, the occurrence of TB is increasing day by day due to poor sanitation and malnutrition. The existing drugs for the management of TB were discovered long back which includes the combination of isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide, ethambutol.

Government and the World Health Organization (WHO) are taken lots of measures in controlling TB. Directly observed treatment (DOT) therapy is recommended by WHO is one of them. The combinational therapy of the available drugs is only effective against nonresistant bacterial strains, while ineffective in resistance strains. Development

of resistance like multidrug resistance (MDR TB) and extensively drug resistance TB (XDR) are observed in the last decade. Increasing cases of drug resistance are the primary concern in the management of TB. Even though drugs available for treating XDR and MDR TB, extended dosage regimens and severe side effects of these drugs challenging the health providers to eliminate TB.

To address the issue of resistance and toxic effect of existing drugs we have planned to design new molecules for tuberculosis. The design of new molecules is based on docking studies. The selection of protein for docking is based on the unique mechanism which is responsible for the cell division in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The binding interactions were studied to understand the required groups, side chain in the molecule.

Once we have decided the structure having a higher affinity for binding, it was thought to synthesize the compounds by combinatorial synthesis approach. Combinatorial synthesis approach was first proposed by Robert Bruce Merrifield and was awarded Nobel Prize 1984 for this contribution. Combinatorial synthesis helps in synthesizing a large number of compound libraries in a shorter duration of time with good yields.

It is challenging to synthesize a library of compounds by classical synthetic approach, and hence we adopted liquid phase combinatorial synthesis method. In liquid phase combinatorial synthesis approach (LPCS) first the starting material bound to a solid support. Here we used polyethylene glycol (PEG 5000) as solid support. The property of polymer dominates in the reaction. This polyethylene glycol has a unique feature of solubility and precipitation. The polymer along with compound is soluble in an organic solvent, but the other compounds like catalyst and byproducts usually are insoluble, and it can easily remove by filtration. Similarly, the property of a polymer also helps in removing the impurities from the product and intermediates. Getting a pure compound is a significant challenge in organic synthesis and LPCS method can help in purifying the

compound with a very simple process. By dissolving and precipitation, this method has a unique advantage of synthesizing molecules in a faster rate and simple way of purification in each step.

We have synthesized around 39 compounds, and after the synthesis, these compounds were individually characterized by infrared (IR), nuclear magnetic spectroscopy (NMR) and Mass spectroscopy (MS). Further purity of the compounds was checked by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) methods. All the synthesized compounds were more than 95% pure. The synthesized compounds were screened for anti-tubercular activity using the H37 Rv strains of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The first series of 23 compounds were shown non-significant active compared to preset marketed drug isoniazid. Based on the activity of the first series compound we have modified the structure by structure-activity relationships and synthesized 15 compounds. Some of these compounds are significantly active in comparison with isoniazid. The mechanistic study of the active compounds is under process. The study of the activity in animal models will be our plan of action. In conclusion, we were able to design and synthesize a new series of compounds for anti-tubercular activity.

Acknowledgment: My sincere thanks to Prof Raman Deep Singh, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad for carrying out the anti-tubercular activity.



# News at a Glance

## Rankings

Institute of Management, Nirma University has been ranked highly by several organisations/bodies during Oct-Dec 2018. Some of them include:

- Ranked **3<sup>rd</sup> best Private B-School in the Top leading B-Schools** of Super Excellence Category by CSR-GHRDC B-School Survey and published in Competition Success Review, Nov, 2018 issue.
- Ranked **28<sup>th</sup> Best B-School** pan India and **12<sup>th</sup> among Top Private B-Schools** (West Zone) in India in the Nov 4, 2018 issue of 'The Week'.
- Ranked as 30<sup>th</sup> Best B-School by a survey conducted by Outlook Drishti and published in Oct 2018.

## Awards

Nirma University is felicitated by CNBC Bazaar on Nov 24, 2018 for its **"Outstanding Contribution to the Education Sector"** as a part of Gujarat Economic Conclave and Awards.

## MoUs

### MoU with Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK (CIMA)

Institute of Commerce signed an MoU with Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK (CIMA) in Oct 2018 to provide interested students of BCom (Hons), BBA and MBA programmes the benefit of additional global qualification – Chartered Global Management Accountants (CGMA) with various exemptions.

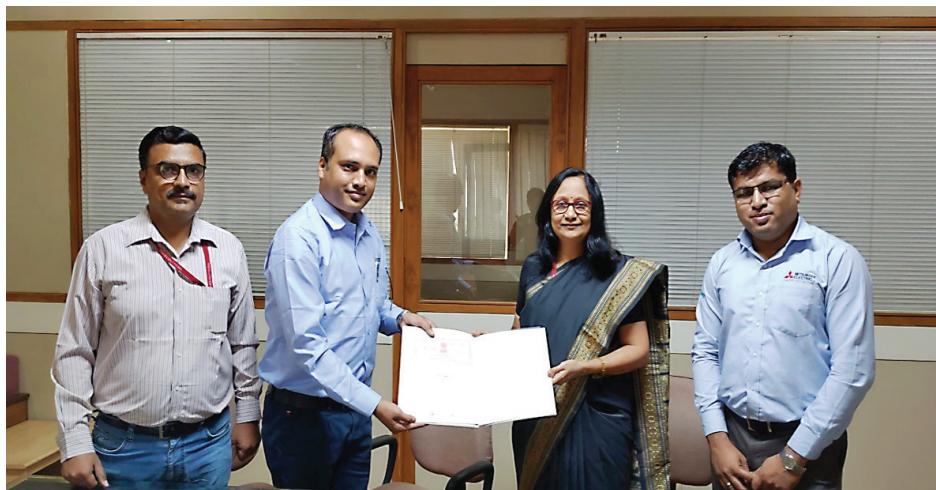
### MoU between Institute of Pharmacy and the University of Southern California

Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, USA and Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University on Nov 9, 2018. This MoU will promote and develop a cooperative relationship by various means, including Facilitating staff and student exchanges; Exploring the possibility of joint collaborative research projects; Extend invitations for the purpose of informing students of academic opportunities on one another's campus.



### MoU with Mitsubishi Electric Pvt Ltd

An MoU was signed with Mitsubishi Electric Pvt Ltd for SCADA hardware and software on Dec 6, 2018.





## World Habitat Day

World Habitat Day was celebrated by the Institute of Architecture and Planning with a public lecture by Prof Chetan Vaidya on Oct 3, 2018. He spoke about Urban India – Issues and Innovations. The lecture highlighted many issues with their causes and different approaches that budding planners and architects of tomorrow can innovate to curb the complex ever-growing problems in urban India.

## Achieving Success without Stress through Yoga Meditation

A talk by Swami Ishwarananda Giri from Yogoda Satsanga Society of India, supported by Ministry of Culture, Government of India was organised on the University campus on Dec 24, 2018.

The talk "Achieving Success without Stress through Yoga Meditation" was based on the teachings of Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda. The talk was well received by the audience.

## Academia Conclave Series

Institute of Law, Nirma University, organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of its Annual Academia Conclave Series on Oct 20 and 21, 2018. The event was organised in collaboration with the Bar Association of India (BAI) and Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF). The Chief Guest of the Conclave Series was the Solicitor General of India, Mr Tushar Mehta and the Guest of Honor was Shri Lalit Bhasin, President Bar Association of India and Society of Indian Law Firms. Justice C K Thakker, former Judge, Supreme Court; Dr Karsanbhai K Patel, President, Nirma University; along with renowned academicians, and partners from Law firms were also present at the event.

## Nirma University Alumni Forum Meeting

Nirma University Alumni Forum (NUAF) conducted its second Board of Directors meeting on Oct 20, 2018. The meeting chaired by the Director General was attended by a total of 24 members including, Head of Institutes, alumni association faculty representatives from constituent institutes, and nominated alumni members.

At the onset, the Director General welcomed all the members and especially briefed the alumni about the progress made by the University in the past one year. As planned, the [e-newsletter of NUAF was released by the Director General](#). The meeting focused on making alumni a part of the university culture and increasing alumni participation in all activities at institute and university level.







## Twentieth NOSPlan Convention

National Organization of Students of Planning (NOSPlan) is a platform for planning student's professionals and academicians of the country to share their thoughts and ideas about the planning profession and its practices.

This year Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University, Ahmedabad hosted the Twentieth Annual NOSPlan Convention from Dec 24-26, 2018. The theme for this year was "Reflection of the City" and the convention was aptly named "**Pratibimb**" signifying "Reflection" with an aim of understanding the city fabric in its entirety.

The three-day convention was inaugurated by PadmaShri B V Doshi and Dr Jagath Munashinghe, Chairman, Urban Development Authority, Sri Lanka. 500 students from various Planning colleges across India engaged in a series of formal and informal events, debates and discussions. Lectures by professionals and series of panel discussions were held by various renowned planners and professionals on, Future of planning education and Smart Cities, Real Estate and Urban Development.

## 15<sup>th</sup> National Youth Parliament

Institute of Law, Nirma University, in association with Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, organised the 15<sup>th</sup> National Youth Parliament (Group Level) on Oct 25, 2018. The competition saw grueling debates between student delegates, from and outside Institute of Law, Nirma University. The event witnessed an inaugural lecture by Dr Subramaniam Swami, Member of Rajya Sabha, who was also the guest of honor for the event.





## Legal Awareness Workshop

The Women Development Cell of Nirma University organised a Legal Awareness Workshop on Laws relating to Women held by the support of Gujarat State Commission for Women on Oct 22, 2018. The seminar was attended by around 500 students and faculty members from different institutes of Nirma University. The guests for the event included Smt Lilaben Ankolia, Chairperson, Gujarat State Commission for Women; and Smt Veenaben Patel, Additional Collector and Member Secretary, Gujarat State Commission for Women, Gandhinagar.

Sessions were conducted by Dr Jyotsana Yagnik, Adjunct Professor Institute of Law, Nirma University and Former Principal Judge, City Civil and Sessions Court, Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 'Women Empowerment and Special Provisions for Women under Constitution of India'; Ms Prita Jha, President, Peace and Equality Centre, on 'Prohibition of Violence against Women in Personal Sphere: Domestic Violence and the Law'; Ms Nupur Sinha, Founder Member, Centre for Social Justice, Ahmedabad, on 'Offences against women under Indian Penal Code: Definition, Redressal and Punishment'; and Ms Rejitha Nair, former Assistant Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University, on 'Prevention and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of

[Women at Workplace](#)'.

## Open House at Department of Design

This day was dedicated to parents and their wards seeking information on Design education being offered at the Nirma University. The Open House held on Oct 28, 2018 was attended by more than 100 guests comprising parents, aspiring students, and guardians. The faculty team made a visual presentation on what is Design and further explanation on what entails the two disciplines being offered-namely Communication Design and Industrial Design. It showcased contents, professional pathways and employment/entrepreneurial opportunities after graduating from the programme. There was a lively Q & A session on Admission procedures, particularly the inclusion of UCEED, the Common Entrance Examination of Design that aspiring candidates need to clear.





## Innovative Initiatives



### Inauguration of the Lawyer Incubation Clinic

The Lawyer Incubation Clinic has been envisioned as a platform to mentor students who want to make a career in litigation. It was inaugurated at Institute of Law on Oct 31, 2018 in the presence of Honourable Ms Soniaben Gokani, Judge - High Court of Gujarat, Prof Madhava Menon, the architect of modern legal education in India, Shri D P Chhaya, Honorary Advisor (A & GA), Nirma University, and Dr J Yagnik, Institute of Law, Nirma University, and Project Director of the Clinic.

The Clinic will be responsible to update protocol and standard operating procedures to be followed by students, teachers and supervising officials in firms and offices to which the students are sent for field training; as well as design the integration of practical and clinical component in each course of the curriculum. It will also engage students in legal aid and services clinic with definite skill learning outcome; and, provide supplementary inputs for the activities to be carried out under skill labs.



## Distinguished Visitors



Prof Anil Kumar from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi addressed the students of Institute of Commerce, Nirma University on "Significance of Ethics and Corporate Governance" on Oct 31, 2018.



Mr Gowthaman Ranganathan, Advocate, Supreme Court of India visited Institute of Law on Oct 5, 2018 and delivered a talk on "LGBT Rights and PIL".



Dr Rekha Saxena, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi visited Institute of Law on Oct 19, 2018 and delivered a talk on "Indian Federalism: Contemporary Issues".





Prof CA Ross Vandiar, visiting faculty at University of Amsterdam and CEO of Royal Dutch Advisory, a consulting firm in Netherlands was invited to address the students of BCom (Hons) on Dec 21, 2018. Prof Ross gave a sneak peek into his life experiences and through these experiences guided students to remain grounded, and be tolerant. He also discussed the opportunities available to BCom (Hons) students across the globe.



Prof Victoria Bui, Professor at Uppsala Universitet, Sweden; and Barrister, International Construction Arbitration visited Institute of Law on Nov 15, 2018 and delivered a talk on "Lawyering in London."

- Dr M Ramamoorthy, Chancellor of K L University, Andhra Pradesh visited the Department of Electrical Engineering, Institute of Technology on Nov 16, 2018 and delivered an expert talk on "Recent Practices in Power Quality".
- Dr Abhilasha Kumari, Chairperson, State Human Rights Commission, Gujarat visited Institute of Law on Oct 17, 2018 and delivered a talk on "National Framework of Human Rights, 1993 Legislation".
- Mr Trinanjan Radhakrishnam, Development Professional, Oxfam visited Institute of Law on Nov 21, 2018 and delivered a talk on "Business and Human Rights".

## Events

### Reviewing the Modern Education System in Indian Universities

Institute of Law, Nirma University and Think India, hosted a session on 'Reviewing the Modern Education System in Indian Universities' on Oct 5, 2018. The session was chaired by Shri Aravindan Neelakandan, an Indologist thinker with specialisation on Dravidian Movement and Dalit Identity and the co-author of Breaking India.

### Workshop on Problem Based Learning

Institute of Law, Nirma University, organised a one day workshop on Problem Based Learning on Nov 14, 2018. The workshop was presided over by Prof Victoria Bui, Uppsala Universitet, Sweden and a Barrister in International Construction Arbitration. The session focused on the increased output levels that this form of education delivery holds for students.

### National Seminar on Sustainable Resource Management

The Centre for Environmental Law, Institute of Law, Nirma University, hosted a National Seminar on 'Sustainable Resource Management: Legal issues and Conservation Strategies' presided by Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, Chairperson, National Green Tribunal. The seminar was held on Oct 27, 2018.



## 26<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Nirma University

The 26<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Nirma University was held on Oct 22, 2018. Dr Bernard Bigot, Director General, ITER, France, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his motivational speech he advised students to 'Think globally and act locally' in order to contribute to the future of India.

During the convocation ceremony, 34 medals were presented to 32 students. A total of 22 PhD students, 252 MBA students (Full Time), 49 MBA students (Family Business & Entrepreneurship), 48 Five Year BBA-MBA Integrated students, 1 BBA student, 105 BA LLB students (Hons), 57 BCom LLB students (Hons), 55 BBA LLB students (Hons), 3 Master of Law (LLM), 4 BTech students, 1 Diploma student, 3 MTech students and 4 MSc students were conferred the degrees by the President of the University, Dr Karsanbhai K Patel.

Dr Patel delivered the Presidential address on the occasion. Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University presented the concluding address at the convocation.



## Pragman 3.0, the Entrepreneurship Conclave

Pragman 3.0, The Entrepreneurship Conclave was organised on Oct 3, 2018 by the Institute of Management, Nirma University. The theme for the conclave was "Boulevard of Entrepreneurship- Build to Last" along with various sub themes which included 'Women and Entrepreneurship', "The Startup Ecosystem needs some repairs" and "How to be an entrepreneur in 2030". The inaugural speaker for the session was Padma Shri Dr Anil Gupta, Founder of Honey Bee Network, SRISTI, GIAN.





## 'PRAVEG' 18

The Annual Techno-Management Fest, 'PRAVEG'18 was organised by the Mechanical Engineering Students' Association (MESA), Institute of Technology, Nirma University on Nov 1-2, 2018. The two-day event saw a plethora of technical competitions and workshops from the field of robotics, automobile engineering and many more activities. Literary events such as elocution, debate, youth parliament, etc. were also conducted.

With the objective to raise the awareness amongst the youth regarding the various government initiatives and enabling them to utilise the initiatives better, pertinent events were planned on the lines of Make in India Programme, Accessible India, etc.



The event was inaugurated by Shri R K Singh, DGP, BSF Gujarat and Dr Anup Singh, Director General, Nirma University on Nov 1, 2018. The second day of the event was graced by the Hon'ble Railway Minister of India Shri Piyush Goyal; Minister of Home, Gujarat Shri Pradipsinh Jadeja; IG Ftr HQ BSF Gujarat Shri G S Malik; President of Nirma University Dr Karsanbhai K Patel; Mayor of Ahmedabad city Smt Bijalben Patel; MD Nirma Ltd Shri Hirenabhai Patel; Vice President of Nirma University Shri K K Patel; Director General of Nirma University Dr Anup K Singh; Director of Institute of Technology Dr Alka Mahajan; Additional Director of School of Engineering Dr R N Patel; HoD Mechanical Engineering Department, Institute of Technology Dr V J Lakhera.





## Annual Sports Meet

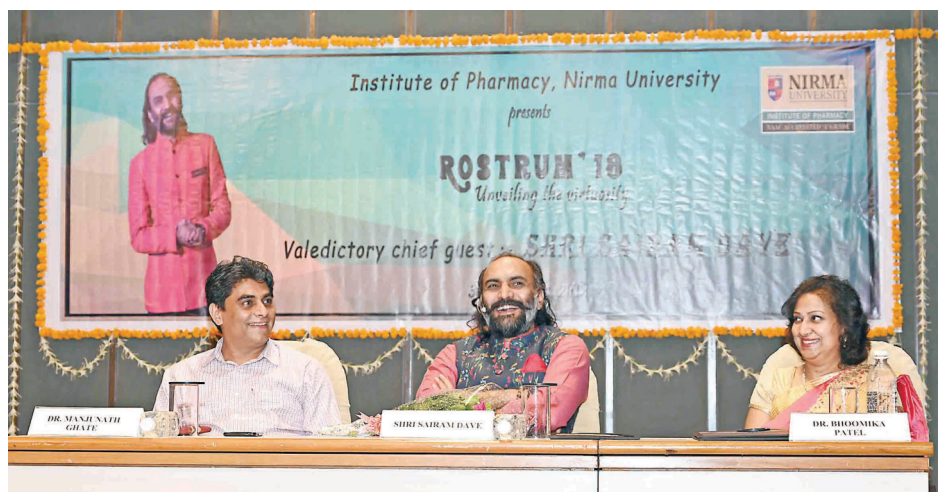
Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University hosted the Annual Sports Meet where all the constituent institutes came together to participate in track and field events, and other team sports during Oct 4-6, 2018. The inaugural ceremony was presided by Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University. **Chief Guest for the event was Mr Shubham Dhananjay Vanmali, a long distance open water sea swimmer at international level** holding many national and international awards. A total of 358 winners of various sports events were awarded trophies, medals and certificates in the closing ceremony. The winning trophy was lifted by Institute of Technology and Institute of Pharmacy came out as runners up.



## ROSTRUM

Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University, celebrated its annual cultural event "ROSTRUM" during Oct 29-30, 2018. A host of events including song, dance, drama, Ad-Mad, Mr and Ms Rostrum, mime, and monoacting were organised during the two days. This year in ROSTRUM, a new event called Improv was introduced in which students had an opportunity to show their creativity and acting skills under certain word limit.

Shree Sairam Dave, an international folk artist was invited as chief guest on Oct 30, 2018, who with his charismatic speech mesmerised the audience and also gave important lessons of life to learn with his exceptional sense of humor.



## Annual Quality Conference

The 8<sup>th</sup> Quality Conference organised during Nov 30-Dec 1, 2018 was based on the theme "VUCA Challenges: Sustainability through Quality". The American Society for Quality (ASQ) has been working actively in India since long through various Local Member Communities (LMCs) in this direction.

More than 400 participants from industries and academia participated in the Conference. The Inaugural function was graced by Mr Stefano Talassi, COO-Transformers & Rectifiers India Ltd as the Chief Guest; Mr Prashant Hoskote, Vice Chair ASQ QMD Global (Asia & Australia) & Sr Director Quality, Max Group; and Mr Anindya Sarangi, Director, ASQ South Asia were the Guest of Honors; Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University presiding over the function.





## Perspective Richter 10

"Perspective Richter 10", the annual cultural festival of Institute of Management was organised from Dec 5-7, 2018. Some of the events organised under Perspective wing were 'Mark-e-nova', 'Lynx 6.0', 'Magnitude-F', and 'Rasprava'. The cultural events such as Footloose, Hallaboh, Rangmanch, Food Wars were organised under Richter 10 wing.

The Cultural Committee also organised various recreational events such as 'Somnium' which saw the Live performance of famous singer Harrrdy Sandhu. The DJ Duo of Zaeden and Lost Stories (Tomorrowland fame) also performed in 'Spectrum: The EDM Night'. The students had a rib-tickling laugh when Sumit Anand performed in the Laughter Riot while Deewana group took everyone to another world with their Sufi-Bolly Music. Yahya Bootwala and Dushyant Singh were also invited to share their stories in 'Kissa Ek Baar Ka'."



## Parakram

Parakram, a national level sports tournament is a three day event where B-schools from all over India take part. This year the event was held from Sep 29 to Oct 1, 2018. A total of nine institutes participated in various sports, where the defending champions Institute of Management, Nirma University retained the title once again.





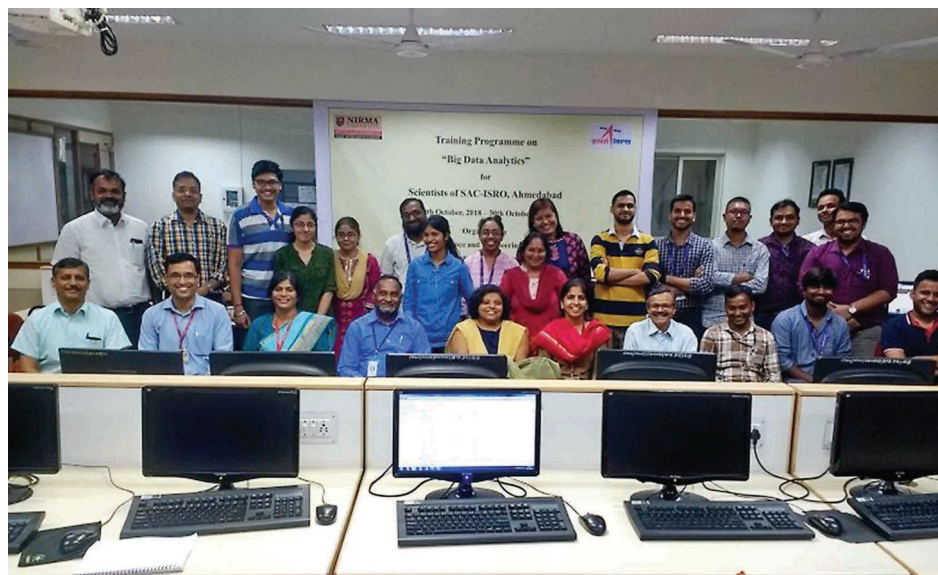
## International Day for Disaster Reduction

Civil Engineering Department, ITNU organised various activities on the occasion of International Day for Disaster Reduction on Oct 12, 2018. The department invited NDRF Team, Battalion No 6, Gandhinagar for a demonstration of mock exercise, rope rescue drill and exhibition on Disaster Management. As a part of the event, an expert lecture by Mr Himanshu Badola, Deputy Commandant of NDRF Team was also arranged to spread awareness about Disaster Mitigation.



## Training Programme on Big Data Analytics

Computer Science and Engineering Department, Institute of Technology, Nirma University, Ahmedabad conducted a Customised Training Programme on "Big Data Analytics" for scientists and engineers of SAC, ISRO, Ahmedabad during Oct 24 -30, 2018. A total of 27 participants from SAC-ISRO attended the programme. The programme was coordinated by Dr Swati Jain and Dr Jai Prakash Verma.



## Hult Prize Competition

The Hult Prize is the world's biggest engine for the launch of for-good, for-profit startups emerging from universities in more than 100 countries with volunteers spread around the world. As an effort to encourage entrepreneurs, Centre for Entrepreneurship organised a campus round for the Hult Prize, the winner of which would go directly to the regional finals on Nov 3, 2018.

The event got an incredible response in terms of participation as more than 450 teams registered from the entire university and Nirma University was one of the top 5 teams with the most registrations on the HULT prize billboard.





Information and Communication Technology (ICT) completely transformed our lifestyles and the education system in the last few decades. ICT became pervasive with our daily life. Human beings; have evolved to be known as the largest data source and this is because of our persistent urge to remain online. Accordingly, we have developed a wider acceptance of the Digital World fraternity. Whether we like it or not, our life is controlled by the digital world. Industries, globally banking on Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven systems for better user experience and utility.

If we go back in history, AI made its first debut on Silver Screen, in 1927, with Fritz Lang's expressionist sci-fi film "Metropolis" that introduced the character, "False Maria," the first robot ever depicted on film. Thereafter, in 1936, Alan Turing theorized how a machine might decipher and execute a set of instructions. His published proof is considered the basis of computer science. Later in the year of 1943, Warren McCulloch and Walter Pitts modelled a simple neural network using electrical circuits. This was followed by Stanford's MADALINE in 1959, to apply first neural network to develop adaptive filter to remove echoes over phone lines. And this was the first Perceptron Learning concept that took its inspiration from human brain, came into existence.

## The AI wave and its impact on Modern Education Globally

Dr Priyanka Sharma

*Professor, Institute of Technology, Nirma University*

Thereafter, year after year, Artificial Intelligence kept evolving with and many of its branching like Machine Learning, Deep Learning - branch of Machine Learning that is widely accepted due to its human-like learning capability.

The Big Bang of Modern AI, was made possible by breakthrough of 3 fundamental things - combinations of all the Algorithms that came together into the Deep Learning approach, the enormous amount of Data- made available by Mobile Internet and third; the discovery of using GPU computing to accelerate Deep Learning.

Modern AI enables, 'automagically', straight to insight from any of the basic inputs like Text, image, audio or Video data. Deep Learning has enabled path-breaking capabilities and innovations in self-driving cars, intelligent transportation, precision agriculture, medical decision support systems, intelligent surveillance systems, conversational AI, speech recognition (Google Home, Alexa), language translation and voice generation, capability to train robots with more of human like behaviour (Sophia) etc.

You think of a domain and AI is almost pervasive with it. These requirements are generating opportunities for professionals across the world. Modern Education system constantly strives for excellence with a global objective of catering to the needs of growing trends in Technology. The Era of AI has already set-in and looking into the advent of the AI wave in every sector, its imperative for the academicians to converge to these demands of the Industry.

As per the Artificial Intelligence Index - Annual Report 2018 published with the involvement of various global giants like Stanford University, OpenAI, Harvard University, MIT, McKinsey Global Institute; in the last few years, there is a surge in the inclination of students and researchers in the domain of AI and ML. The enrolment for AI and ML based introductory courses were 5x times higher than in 2012. The ROS.org a website for downloading robotic software showed 18x greater number of page views in 2017 than in 2012.

The AI Index Annual Report 2018 also mentioned that from January 2015 to January 2018, active AI startups increased 2.1x, while all active startups increased 1.3x. For the most part, growth in all active startups has remained relatively steady, while the number of AI startups has seen exponential growth. Likewise, in comparison to Big Data and Cloud, the mention of AI and ML in IT Companies have increased in 2015 and further in 2017. This includes industries like IT, Consumer Discretionary, Financial and HealthCare.

In summary, the present technological trend is dominated by AI and its associated fields like Machine Learning, Data Analytics, Deep Learning. Organizations are already working on revolutionizing their present modules and systems with AI and Deep Learning based enhancements. Students these days are already aware of the market trends and look for the latest technology in their curriculum for a more industry ready approach. So, it becomes all the more essential for academicians to converge to this growing trend.





The teacher student relationship has changed profoundly since the turn of the century. Those who have come across unmanageable situations in class and outside classroom are witness to the fact that our age old strategies are not making sense. Administrators who are not aware of this change are bound to fail without accepting the sea change that has happened silently. What has been often seen as indiscipline, unacceptable attitudes, lack of learning and value system may be an indicator of the widening gap between teacher and student. Is this generation gap? Or time to tell teachers to re-train themselves? Are we missing the silent communication by students? The answer to these questions is positioned in developing deeper insights into the change in Learner Profile. Government policies, international funding, rising incomes and consciousness towards educating has suddenly brought a spike in number and variety of students in classrooms. With the advent of technology and number of Universities and learning avenues, the learner population has increased by leaps and bounds. With quantity also comes increased diversity and variety of students. All this means one thing – Our conception about learners and learning and the reality in classroom is different. Appreciation about learner profile may give us new insights about the new roles that we need to adopt.

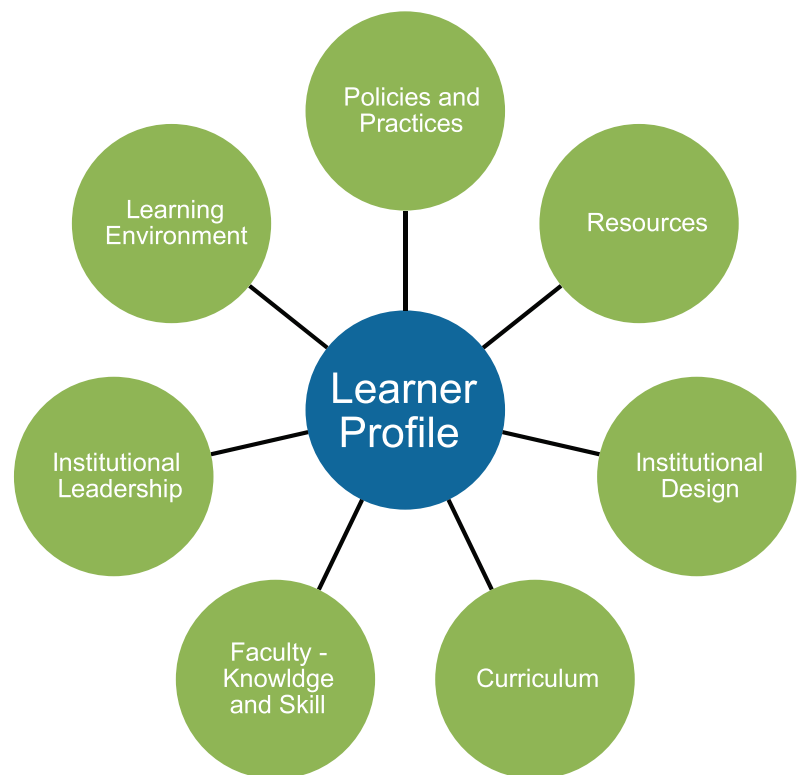
## The Changing Learner Profile and Personalized Learning

Dr Arun B Prasad

Assistant Professor (Economics)  
Area Head, Humanities & Commerce  
Institute of Law, Nirma University

Munro describes learner profile by assigning the following key words - "Learner Profile is now a Net Generation, characterized as digitally literate and connected; experiential; entrepreneurial and independent; rejecting micromanagement; and valuing empowerment, collaboration, and immediacy" (Munro, 2006). If you are a 'Classic Teacher', who believes in isolated learning environment with teacher in the middle of the Universe, who is the supreme guide and only resource of learning who decides all course of action, you are diametrically opposite to the student needs and belief system. The significance of learner profile is key to success of the entire system as it interacts with policy, process and effectiveness of what we plan. The Alfa of everything that we decide in educational institutions has to be with deep respect to learner profile.

### Learner Profile Interactions with Institutional Elements



Personalization of Learning Experiences is one of the strategies to move swiftly towards students. Learning goals and experiences cannot be planned in isolation of the learner profile. What do we intend to and mean by 'personalization of learning'? It's simple. Involve students in planning, execution and development of class environment. If the intent is to build mastery in students, we need to build a sense of responsibility, ownership, agency and empowerment. In traditional system, schedules are centrally



prepared and implemented. Does this help in implementing a plan on a diverse group of students with differential needs and attitudes? No. Student feels left away and develop a sense of being 'Programmed and guided' by a set of goals. What happened to entrepreneurial zeal and ability to self-learn is the prime question here. Student enters a mechanism of schedules, rules and time stamps to which he reacts in a mechanical manner. Forget innovation, even actualization of latent potential in student gets deleted. Personalization of Learning can be further explored through the following steps:

- Assign significance to learner experiences, interests and abilities
- Allow students to select subjects and its resources based on his individual passion
- Let them plan the modalities of class activities
- Create autonomy in learning by having project-driven learning
- Maximum use of digital environment to reach out to students
- Emphasize on student choice and self-management in learning environment

Though personalized learning makes sense, it is hard to follow and difficult to administer for dated education system. Examples in personalized learning, include Carnegie Foundation, the Chan–Zuckerberg Foundation, Harvard University Schools and Departments, among others. The U.S. Department of Education has given half a billion dollars to districts that embrace personalized learning. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has committed \$300 million to support research and development around personalized learning (Dockterman, 2018). Though this piece might have provoked you and have definitely brought to the fore the impossibility of implementing Personalization of Learning, there is no other way of becoming truly 'Student Centric' in our approach than understanding our student profile and working towards it.





# Extension Activities

## Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) is celebrated every year on Oct 31 in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who played a great role in unifying the country. The NSS unit of Institute of Commerce also celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas in the campus on the same day by taking oath along with all the students, faculty members and staff of ICNU.



## Wisdom Valley- Folk with Folks

'Nothing is more beautiful than a smile that has struggled through years and tears.' To bring a smile on their faces, Team Mavericks from Institute of Management visited the Hiramani Old Age Home on Oct 17, 2018 and celebrated the festival of Navratri with the senior inmates. The evening started with a Aarti and then proceeded to Garba. At last, dinner was served to all the members.

## Industrial Visit to Nextile

Students of first year BCom (Hons) of Institute of Commerce visited the manufacturing plant and showroom of Nextile Varmora Ltd situated in Morbi on Dec 28, 2018. Students got a first-hand exposure to the manufacturing operations of tile and sanitary-ware industry as well as the branding that the businesses do. The industrial visit was an interactive educational experience for the students.





## RAW Collaborative: Experience India Through Indian Design

The Department of Design students of Industrial Design discipline visited an exclusively curated show bringing together the best of Indian aesthetics in furniture design and home decor. Designers across India come to Ahmedabad and become a part of this collaboration. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of RAW was held during Nov 30 –Dec 2, 2018. The designs were not only aesthetically pleasing but also spoke of environment and sustainability. They all worked upon conceptual designs to showcase Indian lifestyles in different scenarios.



## NSS Camp

Students of Institute of Architecture and Planning conducted a seven-day NSS camp in Dandi village near Navsari, in the coastal region of South Gujarat during Dec 17-23, 2018. The students were accompanied by Ar Jitendra Menghani, Ar Tanaya Deka and Ar Nishant Kansagra on this camp. The students among other things demonstrated the **reuse and recycle of waste plastic bottles and metal scrap**. They designed and made bench and hanging planter-stand after collecting waste plastic bottles from Dandi beach. They also cleaned the Prarthna Mandir and did touch-up of the marble information plaque there. They also installed art work at Dandi beach, kindergarten, and primary school. Counselling of girl students at girls hostel of Vinay Mandir Vidhyalaya was also done.

Institute of Management, Nirma University also organised a seven-day NSS camp in Khodiyar village during Dec 17 - 23, 2018. The camp was attended by 40 students of BBA-MBA Integrated Programme comprising 24 boys and 16 girls. Nukkad natak, one to one conversations, group discussions with the villagers were some of the means used to address the issues, including women hygiene, women empowerment, waste disposal, self-employment, banking, investment schemes and digitalization. A cultural night organised on the sixth day of the camp was attended by nearly 800 villagers.



## Genesis-18

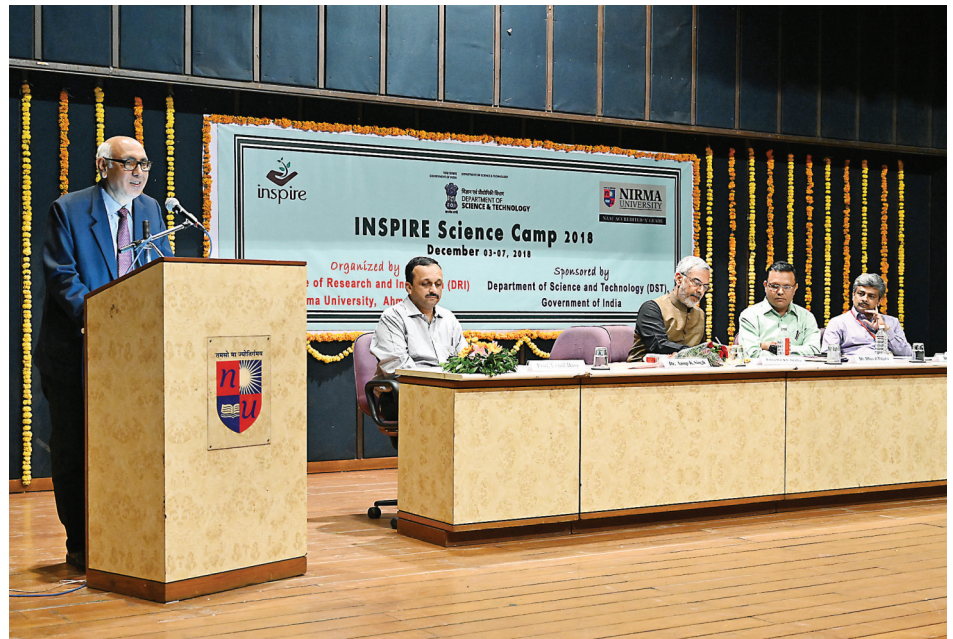
Electrical Engineering Student Association (EESA) of Institute of Technology organised "Genesis-18" on Oct 6, 2018. In this event, students shared knowledge and created **awareness about electricity conservation and electric safety** to students of Shree Ramkrushna Vidhyalay through model and power point presentation. Around 100 students participated in the event.



## The INSPIRE Internship Science Camp-2018

The INSPIRE Internship Science Camp-2018 was organised at the Nirma University campus during Dec 3-7, 2018. The Camp was attended by 122 students from 35 different schools of the state of Gujarat.

The Camp helped the students to get a better insight into the world of Science and Technology. The students interacted with eminent scientists and renowned academicians of various institutes during the 5 day camp. Students were introduced to informative, innovative and interesting topics of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Robotics and Mathematics and were also explained how they are closely related to everyday life. Further, success stories of science and the scientists, joys of research and innovation across all streams of science and technology and career opportunities were covered during the theory and laboratory sessions of the camp. Lecture sessions in the field of science and technology, experimental sessions in the sophisticated laboratories of Nirma University, visit to Science City and scientific writing competition were a part of the five day residential camp. Above all, each day of the camp started with yoga and meditation sessions which helped the students to achieve peace of mind, maintain increased energy level, improve their flexibility, and channelise their energies in the right direction for all their activities during the camp.





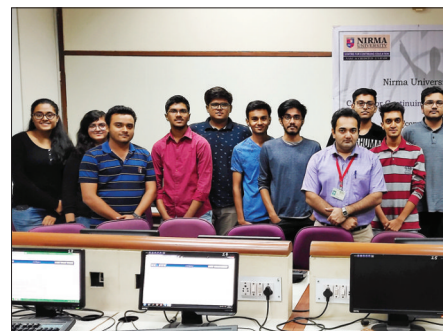
# Centre for Continuing Education



A training programme for the faculty, students and research scholars on the "Testing and Verification of VLSI Design" was conducted by Dr Usha Mehta and Dr Vaishali Dhare of Electronics & Communication Engineering Department, School of Technology, Institute of Technology during Oct 2-3, 2018.



A programme on "Forensic Psychology – Application in Civil and Criminal Justice Administration" was conducted by Dr A Md Shamiulla of Institute of Law on Oct 20, 2018.



One day workshop on "Interactive application using Python" was conducted by Prof Vishal M Vaidya and Prof Vidita Tilva of Instrumentation and Control Engineering Department, School of Technology, Institute of Technology on Oct 20, 2018.



A training programme on "Solid modelling using CAD software" was conducted by Dr Jatin Dave and Prof Rudresh Makwana of Mechanical Engineering Department, School of Engineering, Institute of Technology during every odd Saturdays from Sep 1, 2018 to Oct 20, 2018.



Two-day Management Development Programme on "Data Analytics and Business Modelling Using MS Excel" was conducted by Prof Chetan Jhaveri of Institute of Management during Dec 1-2, 2018.



Two-day Management Development Programme on "Leadership Style and Skills" was conducted by Prof Harismita Trivedi of Institute of Management during Dec 20-21, 2018.



Two-day workshop on "Photography" was conducted by Dr Pratima Singh of Institute of Architecture & Planning during Dec 24-25, 2018.



A programme on "Hands on Training for Sophisticated Instruments" was conducted by Dr Charmy Kothari and Dr Nrupesh Patel of Pharmaceutical Analysis Department, Institute of Pharmacy on Dec 28, 2018.

A programme on "Advanced Certificate in International Business Taxation Law" was conducted by Prof Amit K Kashyap of Institute of Law during Sep 15, 2018 to Oct 20, 2018 (5 weekends).



# International Relations

## Expert Lectures

Prof Victoria Bui Unnerud from Uppsala University visited Nirma University from November 12 to 19, 2018 and conducted a workshop on "Problem based learning and skills of advocacy".

Prof Gerard D'souza, Asst Dean of Assessment and Accreditation School of Pharmacy, MCPHS University visited Nirma University on Dec 12 and 13, 2018 and delivered expert lecture on "Latest trends in pharmaceuticals science".

Dr Sang Won Yoon, Associate Professor, Systems Science and Industrial Engineering Thomas J Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science, Binghamton University, NY USA, visited Institute of Technology, Nirma University from Oct 8 to 12, 2018 and conducted lectures series on "Big data Analytics".

## Grand Challenges Scholar Programme (GCSP) Membership

Nirma University becomes a member of GCSP Programme. The student from ITNU, after getting accepted for the registration under GCSP Programme, has to prove his/her competency in the five areas (Technical Creativity, Multicultural, Entrepreneurship, Multidisciplinary and Social Consciousness) by doing activities in one of the 14 global challenges, during the four-year programme. On successful completion, the student will be recognised at graduation and with a certificate from the National Academy of Engineering.



Dr Harvey Stenger, President, Binghamton University, USA and Dr Srihari, Dean of the Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science, Binghamton University visited Nirma University on Nov 26, 2018 and held discussion on various collaborative possibilities.



Dr Jared Philippi, Head of International Development, Dr Stephen Houston, and Ms Anita from Harriot Watt University visited Office of International Relations and Institute of Technology, Nirma University on Nov 1, 2018 and held discussion related to various collaborative possibilities.

## Seminar on US Education and the path to US Greencard

Office of International Relations organised a seminar on "US Education and the path to US Greencard" on Dec 1, 2018. Mr David H Nachman, Esq. and Ms Snehal Batra, Esq., Immigration Attorneys with Nachman, Phulwani, Zimovcak (NPZ) Law Group, PC in New Jersey, USA were invited as guests at the event. The NPZ Law Group is well established and experienced in US immigration matters since decades.



## ACU Peace and Reconciliation Network Membership

Dr Purvi Pokhariyal, Director, Institute of Law, Nirma University visited Australia to participate in ACU Peace and Reconciliation Scoping Workshop from Oct 5 to 11, 2018. **Nirma University is currently the member of ACU peace and reconciliation network.** As a part of the global outreach programme, Dr Pokhariyal also visited University of Newcastle and met the Dean of Law School, Prof Tania Sourdin.

## MoUs Signed

- ITER International Fusion Energy Organisation, France
- University of South Florida, USA
- USC School of Pharmacy, USA

# Faculty Corner

## Awards and Achievements

Prof Priti J Mehta, Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, Institute of Pharmacy, received the '[APTI Women of the year Award 2018](#)'. The award was conferred by Association of Pharmacy Teachers of India in annual convention of APTI held on Oct 3-4, 2018 at Jaipur. The award was conferred for her academic, professional and scientific services to the profession. She is the first women scientist from Gujarat to receive this award.



Prof Manjunath Ghatge, Director, Institute of Pharmacy, received the [APTI Principal of the Year Award 2018](#). The award was conferred by Association of Pharmacy Teachers of India in annual convention of APTI held during Oct 3-4, 2018 at Jaipur. The award was conferred for his good track record and for taking the institution to new heights in terms of quality education, competent research activities and an able administration.



Prof Indu Rao received an award for [Outstanding Educator-2018](#) on Oct 28, 2018, at the International Award Conference on Multidisciplinary Research and Innovation held at the International Centre, Goa.



Dr Priyanka Sharma has been awarded the recognition as an [NVIDIA Deep Learning Ambassador](#) in Dec 2018. This recognition includes Certification for conducting NVIDIA sponsored hands-on training for three courses: GPU and accelerated Computing, Deep Learning for Computer Vision and Deep Learning for Multiple Data Types.



## Achievements

Rashika Kapil, Rahul Upadhyay, and Bhavesh Pethani, alumni of Civil Engineering Department of Institute of Technology have been [selected in GPSC Class 1](#) for the post of Executive Engineer, Government of Gujarat; whereas Deep Shah, Mihir Chauhan, Shreyas Hardya, Sarvesh Maurya, Jaydeep Gajipura, Digvijay Parmar, Ankitkumar Chaudhary, and Pargna Patel have been selected in GPSC class 2 for the post of Deputy Executive Engineer, Government of Gujarat.

## Alumni Retreat

Alumni Association, Institute of Law, Nirma University organised an Alumni Retreat in New Delhi under the leadership of Mr Shobhit Shukla (Batch of 2016) on Dec 9, 2018.

## Alumni City Meet

The alumni city meet for Institute of Management was conducted in three cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore on Dec 15, 2018. Close to 70 alumni attended the meet across the three cities. The city meets consisted of discussion on ways to strengthen the Alumni-Institute relations. Another major point of discussion was about the new SAQS Accreditation granted to Institute of Management, Nirma University and the various benefits it could give the institute. During the curriculum discussion alumni recommended a more industry driven approach for MBA and suggested to focus on Big Data Analytics, Emotional Intelligence, and Entrepreneurship etc.

## From the Alumni Desk

### Mr Kshitij Johari

Director - Equities and Private Banking at HDFC  
Alumni of Institute of Management, Nirma University  
Batch MBA-FT (2006-08)



### What is Success?

"Success is a function of persistence and doggedness and the willingness to work hard for twenty-two minutes to make sense of something that most people would give up on after thirty seconds", writes Malcolm Gladwell in the famous Outliers: The Story of Success

Success, or for that matter Life, also is a sum total of our experiences. Those experiences, be they positive or negative – make us the person we are, at any given point in our lives. And, like a flowing river, those same experiences, and those yet to come, continue to influence and reshape the person we are, and the person we become. None of us are the same as we were yesterday, nor will be the same tomorrow morning when we wake up.

It is this quality of mankind that keeps us alive and keeps us growing, probably what biologists call "The Theory of Evolution". It is extremely important to undergo that process of evolution within the self too, both consciously and subconsciously, and that precisely is what drives a human forward. Of course, all of it moves ahead with a combination of external and internal forces, a lot of which may or may not be in our hands. It is here that an extremely strong support system is required for us to be kept grounded. It might be different for different people, for me it definitely has been my family, My biological family, and my family which I made in the 2 years between 2006 and 2008: The IM-NU family. It is also important to understand, and it comes naturally with time, to understand your priorities in life and what success means to you. Success for some might mean a corner office and loads of money, while for some it might mean taking a week off for something that you're passionate about.

Of course, as written in the first paragraph, success would ultimately be achieved by a combination of intent and skills. Skill is something that can be acquired over a period of time, but intent has to come from within. And in the longer tenure, it is intent that drives a person ahead. Intent, which is also called Attitude, is what decides where and how a person is moving. So, as you go up in life, remember your roots and remember who you are, and all those people who matter in your success, whether your family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, superiors, subordinates, etc.

It is these people who make or break you, and not you alone. Human civilization has evolved and will keep evolving, and therefore it is also important to keep yourself evolving and being a better human being every day.

In a nutshell, success is a relative term and more a state of mind than anything else. It is important to understand what success means to every individual internally and whether that success makes one happy or not.

All the best to all the current students on campus, and a little word of advice for you guys. Make the most of these beautiful times, learn a lot, grasp things, make lifelong relationships because life outside campus is very different and it is these years on campus that sets a foundation for your life ahead. God bless, and enjoy!!!

# Students' Corner

## Achievements

### Niketh: Traditional Housing Challenge

Students of III Semester (Civil Engineering) Rajat Sharma (17bcl094) and Rajat Tekchandani (17bcl093) participated in Niketh: A Traditional Housing Challenge organised by Mahindra Ecole Centrale College of Engineering, Tech Mahindra Campus, Hyderabad during Oct 12-13, 2018. The team **stood second in the competition** and received 10,000 rupees as prize money.

### Essay Writing Competition

Ms Hiral Shah of Institute of Science participated in the Essay Writing Competition conceived and promoted by VOSAP (Voice of Specially Abled People) and executed by its partner, Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad.

The options for the essay topics were: 'Our City, Accessible City. Let us realize this dream, together' and 'Inclusive Society for Divyang – my Dream.' Ms Shah ranked first among the 15 participants.



### SSIP Grant received from GTU

"ADSEE APP" is selected for the SSIP grant of GTU. The team "Adsee App" with members including Bony Bilochi, Manpreet Singh, Bhounmik Suthar, Pawan Jangid, Nikhil Dubey, Adesh Chaudhary, Shivam Sharma, Chintan Modi, and Yash Parekh.

The team received a seed grant of Rs 95,000 in Oct 2019, to convert their ideas into reality and convert their technology into an Entrepreneurial utility.

### Vibrant Gujarat Grand Challenge 2018

Team "NEER" comprising of Harsh Agrawal (15BEE039) and Abhishek Dubey (15BEE034) was the **winner of Vibrant Gujarat Grand Challenge 2018 in Agri-Tech theme**. The challenge was a part of the Vibrant Gujarat Startup and Technology Summit 2018. The team was awarded the certificate and cash prize of Rs 10,000 by the Dy Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Nitin Bhai Patel, during the award ceremony.

The challenge has sought **creative solutions to address India's pressing problems** covering eight themes – Agritech, Fintech, Smart and Shared Mobility, Women-Centric Solutions, Manufacturing 4.0, Governance 2030, Maritime and Military Intelligence, and Healthtech. Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijay Rupani inaugurated the Summit, held in the city of Gandhinagar during Oct 11-13, 2019.

### NLIU-INADR International Law School Mediation Tournament, 2018

The team comprising Rohan Bangia, Sanjhi Agarwal and Twinkle Malukani were adjudged as the **overall winners of the NLIU-INADR International Law School Mediation Tournament, 2018**. The team also bagged the award of the best mediator team in the same competition based on score of preliminary rounds and final rounds. Twinkle Malukani represented the team as mediator in finals. The competition was organised by National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal from Nov 23-25, 2018.

### National Law Quiz Competition, 2018

The team comprising of Yash Mittal and Ritesh Goyal were adjudged winners of Law Learners 5<sup>th</sup> National Law Quiz Competition, 2018 organised in association with Legal Desire. The quiz was conducted from Nov 29 – Dec 1, 2018 having two preliminary rounds comprising 30 questions and a final round comprising 40 questions. The team **secured 1<sup>st</sup> position among 240 participants** and won gift hampers worth ₹10,000.



## Moot Court Competitions

- The team comprising of Chahat Mangtani, Tamanna Sharma and Anjali Jhavar won the Best Memorial in the 8<sup>th</sup> Amity International Moot Court Competition 2018, held in Amity Law School, Noida during Oct 12-13, 2018. The valedictory ceremony of the competition was attended by the former Chief Justice of India, Mr Dipak Misra.
- The team comprising of Rajat Sinha, Vatsal Patel and Anuj Bajaj stood as quarterfinalists in the 12<sup>th</sup> BR Sawhny Moot Court Competition, 2018 held during Oct 12-14, 2018 in NALSAR, Hyderabad. The team also won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Memorial Award, and Anuj Bajaj won the Best Researcher Award.
- The team comprising of Jaya Singh, Mansi Singh, Soma Silpa Swain and Namit Jain qualified for the world rounds of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition, 2019 by securing a place in the semifinals of the Surana and Surana India National Rounds, 2018. The India National Rounds were organised by Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat, Haryana, during Nov 23-25, 2018.



## Sports Achievements

Ms Akanksha Shah, Semester II student, Department of Design participated, both in [National Level Chess Championship](#) held in New Delhi on Nov 21, 2018 and State Level Chess Championship on Oct 27, 2018 held in Ahmedabad under 19 years' category. She bagged the third position in Gujarat State Chess Championship and [Khel Maha Kumbh State Chess Championship](#) held on Dec 18, 2018 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Ms Tanvi Kumar, Semester II student, Department of Design won [Gold medal in Kumite](#), and Silver medal in Kata, in SKSI's 9<sup>th</sup> International Karate Championship (approved by Karate Association of India), Awadh, Lucknow, on Dec 27, 2018. She is a brown belt and was the sole representative of Nihonden Karate do Showakan (Japan) approved by Karate association of India.

## Other Activities

### Nirman 2018

The organisation of Civil Engineering Students (OrCES) organized a one-day event "Nirman 2018" on Oct 23, 2018. More than 300 civil engineering students participated in the event which comprise of Model Exhibitions, Poster Presentation, Placement Guru, Open Mic and Treasurer Hunt, among others. Mock Fire Drill was also arranged as part of the event which was demonstrated by Shri Hitu Gadhavi, Incharge, Prahlad Nagar Fire Station, and his team.

### E-waste Collection drive

The organisation of Civil Engineering Students (OrCES) in association with CEE (Center for Environment Education) arranged an 'E-waste Collection drive' during Oct 9 to 15, 2018 in which students, faculty, and staff across Nirma University were asked to donate E-waste. A total of 190 kg of E-waste was collected and given to E-coli Water Management Pvt Ltd for recycling purpose.







Ms Hiral Shah  
MSc Biotechnology, Semester-2  
Institute of Science, Nirma University  
Batch: 2018-20

### Volunteering for Voice of Specially Abled People (VoSAP)

Volunteering for VoSAP (Voice of Specially Abled People) has been an integral part of my active interest since the very first day at Nirma University. Aiming towards nurturing my interest, I have been enthusiastically participating in all the VoSAP initiatives.

VoSAP is a Global Advocacy Organization with a mission to redefine the idea of a disabled person. It is a UN COSP accredited organization (one of 370 disability NGOs), that seeks to uphold and help implement the goals of the UN CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). The Convention is intended as a human rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension. It reaffirms that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedom.

Mobile App "VOSAP" (App Store | Play Store) is the first step towards "Actionable Advocacy through Technology". It's creation of a technology platform that connects everyone by taking volunteering pledge, with a growing dataset of accessible buildings all over India. This will be instrumental to further the cause of Specially Abled People. I have shared the detailed information about this app and involved around 120 volunteers to participate in these activities.

I personally believe that, Accessibility must be felt but not seen. It is a process that begins in our hearts, with a gratitude and a desire to eliminate attitudinal and physical barriers and to replace them with attitudes of welcome and acceptance. It is about the inherent worth and dignity of every one of us.

It's an immense pleasure for me being part of the VoSAP and serving for my nation to make it 'Sugamya Bharat'.







## Editorial Board

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 For correspondence email to: [nu.newsletter@nirmauni.ac.in](mailto:nu.newsletter@nirmauni.ac.in)  
 Edited by: Ms Ritu Agarwal, Publication Officer, Nirma University  
 Published by: Nirma University, Ahmedabad  
 Printed by: M/s Print Quick, Ahmedabad

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