

Nirma University

Newsletter



NIRMA
UNIVERSITY


NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE

Volume 11 • Issue 3 & 4
July - December 2019


Major Highlights of this Issue




"Outlook-ICARE India University Rankings 2019" ranks Nirma University at fourth position among the Top 50 private state universities of India.




Institute of Management ranked at the third position among the 'Top Leading B Schools of Super Excellence'.



Institute of Technology is ranked first in the state of Gujarat and eighth at the national level in 'Top Leading Engineering Colleges of Super Excellence'.




Nirma University signs MoUs with the Indian Navy, Confederation of Indian Industry, Secure Meters Ltd, and many more...




Establishment of Supercomputer Facility 'Param-Shavak' by the Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) at Institute of Technology.



28th Convocation of Nirma University held on Oct 16, 2019.



Innovative initiatives at the university...



Conferences, Workshops, Seminars and a host of other events...



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Message from the Director General's Desk



Dear Reader,

Higher education in India is today at a crossroads. The acceleration of higher education started about three decades ago and it is still on. As the Government of India has set ambitious target for graduate enrolment ratio, the availability of financial resources has emerged as a major obstacle in achieving this goal. Government resources are continuously shrinking and private investment in higher education is ebbing. The increase in quantity of higher education has not resulted in quality of higher education. Enrollment has gone up, academic outcomes, however, are lagging behind. This is indeed an alarming situation.

Youths are getting disillusioned with higher education as their degrees are not leading to decent employment. Corporate recruiters, on the other hand, complain that the university graduates

are unable to meet their expectations. Something is rotting in the Indian higher education system. It must be diagnosed and fixed at the earliest.

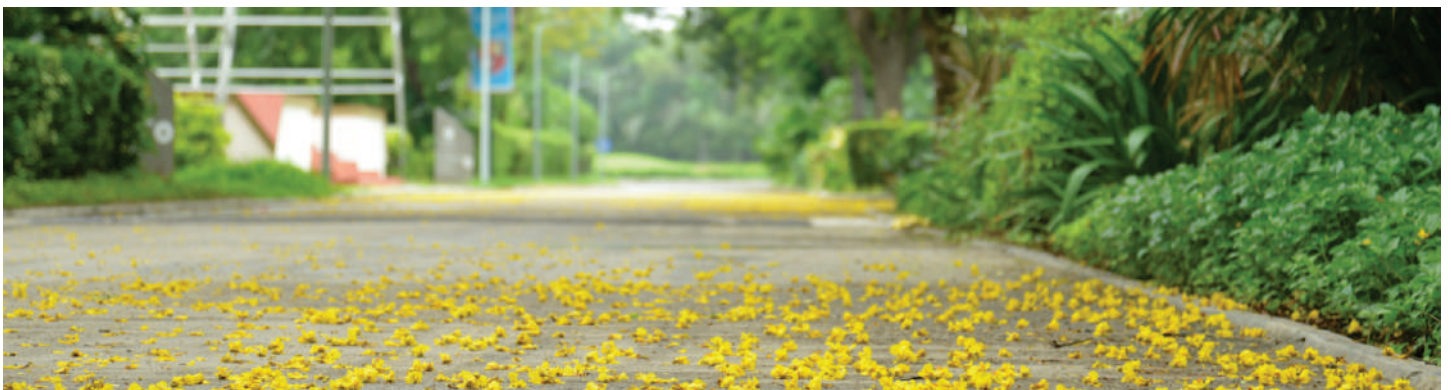
There seem to be three main reasons behind the malaise of higher education in India. The first problem is related to supply of students from the school system. Most first year students do not have adequate critical thinking skills and life skills. They want to be spoon fed and are bookish. It is a tall order for higher education institutions to develop them as a critical thinker, problem solver and leader. The second problem is lack of faculty and facilities. There are not a sufficient number of teachers in higher education system. Further, many of them are poorly trained, thus they are unable to promote learning and development among students. Poor teaching results in poor learning. Laboratory and library facilities are inadequate in most institutions. Unless students spend sufficient and useful time in these facilities, they cannot hone their academic skills. Thirdly, students have minimum exposure to industry practices. The curricula are not fully integrated with industry requirements. Industry professionals are not invited for teaching and experience sharing. Internships are poorly designed and implemented. Provisions for career counselling and guidance are not well structured. As a result, students have high aspirations, but low capabilities.

Amelioration of higher education entails interventions at the government as well as institutional levels. Indian higher education is traditionally highly regulated. As the quality of teaching and learning is low, the governments find an alibi to further strengthen controls. However, they result in further poor quality. Thus, a vicious cycle of quality ensues. It is high time that governments and regulatory agencies provide greater autonomy to higher education institutions. Autonomy has to be given in financial, administrative and academic domains.

At the institutional level, high quality teaching, industry interface and achievement of learning outcomes have to be stressed. Teachers require several developmental interventions, such as training, auditing, participation in national and international conferences and interactions with subjects. Industry should be involved in each and everything that an educational institution does. Moreover, achievement of learning outcomes has to transcend beyond an accreditation exercise. I am glad to share that Nirma University rigorously follows these action steps and continuously works to assure high quality.

Anup K Singh, PhD

Director General



Rankings

- "Outlook-ICARE India University Rankings 2019" ranks Nirma University at fourth position among the Top 50 private state universities of India. Nirma University ranks as the best private university at the state level.
- India Today ranks Nirma University amongst the 'Top 10 private multi-disciplinary universities' in India in its July 2019 issue.
- According to CSR - GHRDC Engineering Colleges Survey 2019, Institute of Technology, Nirma University has been ranked first in the state of Gujarat and eighth at the national level in 'Top Leading Engineering Colleges of Super Excellence'.
- Institute of Management, Nirma University is ranked at the third position among the 'Top Leading B Schools of Super Excellence' in the CSR-GHRDC B-Schools Survey released in Dec 2019.
- Outlook-ICARE India MBA Rankings 2020 ranks Nirma University's MBA programme at the 13th position among the Top 50 private MBA institutions of India. The MBA programme of the university ranks eighth among the Top 50 MBA institutions in the west zone of India.

MoUs

MoU with the Indian Navy

Nirma University signed an MoU with the Indian Navy represented by INS Valsura, Jamnagar on Sep 7, 2019. Rear Admiral Ravindra Jayant Nadkarni, AVSM, VSM, Chief of Staff, Southern Naval Command and Shri Anup K Singh, Director General of Nirma University signed the MoU on behalf of INS Valsura and Nirma University, respectively.

Under this MoU, the undergraduate and postgraduate students of Computer Science and Engineering will get an opportunity to do internship at INS Valsura. The work will majorly be in the area of Data Science, Machine Learning, Big Data Analytics, and others.

The signing of MoU is a milestone event as it is for the first time that students of an external University will partner with Indian Navy on modern and cutting edge IT-related applications, studies, research and projects.



MoU with Confederation of Indian Industry

Institute of Technology, Nirma University signed an MoU with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on July 24, 2019. The MoU will help in capacity building of faculty members and in developing industry related curriculum. The MoU will act as a bridge between the institute and the industry. It will also facilitate the undertaking of research related to the industry.

MoU with Secure Meters Ltd

An MoU with Secure Meters Ltd, Udaipur was signed by Institute of Technology, Nirma University on July 9, 2019. The MoU will facilitate mobility of industry experts to deliver lectures and curriculum development with industrial need as the focus.

Establishment of Supercomputer Facility

The Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) has selected Nirma University to establish a Supercomputer facility 'Param-Shavak' for conducting high-end in-house advance computing studies and research work at Institute of Technology, Nirma University, Ahmedabad. The facility will also help in promoting research by integrating learning-edge emerging technologies at the grass root level.

World-wide supercomputing facilities have enabled countries in their Science and Technology capabilities in areas, including weather prediction, real time tracking of natural phenomenon, gene sequencing, discovery of life saving drugs, designing vehicles, massive structures, discovery and extraction of new energy sources, and so on.

Centre for Entrepreneurship Receives Ford Car for Technical Study

Centre for Entrepreneurship, Nirma University had contacted Ford Motors regarding their scheme of donating an auto vehicle to universities. Under the scheme, the Centre received a car from Ford Motors. It is a working model and is to be used for educational purposes. The car will be kept at Mechanical Engineering Department laboratory and students of Institute of Technology, Nirma University can get the benefit from the technical study of the automobile vehicle design and operation.



Other News

INSPIRE Fellowship Review Meeting 2019

INSPIRE Fellowship Review Meeting 2019 was held at Nirma University during July 25-27, 2019. Sponsored by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, the event was coordinated and organised by Directorate of Research and Innovation (DRI), Nirma University.

The purpose of this INSPIRE Fellowship Review Meeting is to review the progress of PhD work of INSPIRE fellows and guide them for future direction as well as in career prospects.

A total of 97 students across India presented their work through poster presentation. Thirteen experts from fields including, Life Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering Science, Mathematics, Plant Pathology, Veterinary Science and Applied Sciences evaluated the posters. Dr Umesh Sharma, Scientist E, and Dr Tamanna Arora, Scientist C, represented Department of Science & Technology and shared their valuable insights.



Nirma University's New Website is Live

The new website of Nirma University is now Live! We invite you to visit us at www.nirmauni.ac.in.

Shri K K Patel, Vice President, Nirma University, inaugurated the new website on Aug 2, 2019. The website is built keeping the visitors in mind. The streamlined user interface provides an interactive experience allowing the users to easily find the information.



Education and Research

Research by faculty



Dr Sarat Dalai

Director
Institute of Science
Nirma University

A Novel Chimeric-IL-15 as a promising target for Cancer Immunotherapy

The immune response induced upon administration of antigens (during the natural infection or vaccination) provide protection to host from various diseases including cancer. While antibody is very important, CD8+ T cells play a critical role in ensuring protection to host from intracellular pathogens and cancer. However, generating these T cells by subunit vaccines and maintaining the same, called memory T cells, has been a challenge.

It is well established that cytokines play a crucial role in improving the T cell responses as well as inflammation and immune attack. Amongst cytokines, Interleukin-15 (IL-15) is known to maintain the T cells, generate the memory CD8+ T cells as well as reactivate the same during challenge making it an attractive biologics to treat cancer. Hence, IL-15 is found to be responsible for deciding the fate of memory CD8+ T cells.

In cancer immunotherapy, IL-15 has been hailed as a promising immuno-oncology drug and was ranked the top potential immunotherapy agent by the National Cancer Institute (NCI/NIH), USA. It has the potential to trigger a cancer-fighting immune response, but its performance in clinical trials has raised many issues. The challenge is to make IL-15 containing drugs which will be stable and long-lasting.

Dr Sarat Dalai, Professor, Institute of Science, Nirma University along with his team took this challenge and developed a novel recombinant IL-15-containing complex called "chimeric IL-15". They have made it a highly stable biologics with > 40 hr serum half-life, Tm 78oC and dimeric in structure.

Department of Biotechnology (Basic Science Task Force), Government of India, has funded this project entitled "Development of Chimeric IL-15 to improve its bioavailability and efficacy".

Primarily, it was found that this novel chimeric IL-15 is biologically active and able to augment the generation of memory T cells induced by model antigen, OVA in mice. Its anti-tumor activity is also giving promising results in mouse melanoma cancer models. This chimeric IL-15 can be used in vaccine formulation as an adjuvant to promote the generation of antigen-specific memory CD8+ T cells targeting intracellular pathogens and cancer. The team expects that the chimeric IL-15 itself or in combination with checkpoint inhibitors will be highly effective in treating various cancers. An Indian patent was filed for this invention and has been published (Indian Patent Application No. 201721010096A).

Research News

Light weight, self-healing space suit for astronaut

Research concept to develop light weight, self-healing space suit for astronaut proposed by Dr Mamta Saiyad and Dr N M Devashrayee was submitted to Space Radiation Blue Sky workshop in Oct

2018. This concept and idea was accepted by NASA, and later presented at the Langley Research Centre in USA in Oct 2019 by Dr Mamta Saiyad.



The light weight Radiation Hardened Polymer was developed as a part of the PhD thesis work "Development and Characterisation of Radiation Hardened Epoxy Based Polymer Composite for Electronics Device Packing" by Dr Mamta Saiyad under the guidance of Dr N M Devashrayee, Professor, Electronics and Communication Department, Institute of Technology, to develop light weight, self-healing space suit work against Radiation for astronauts.

In the present scenario, current dress worn by the astronauts weight around 13 kgs. The proposed light weight Radiation Hardened polymer will be as light as 1 kg. The reduced thickness of material will reduce the weight which will be of great help to the astronauts. Self-heal space suit will also have the mechanism to get recovered on its own if it gets damaged by Radiation in space. In addition, the proposed polymer material can absorb gamma and neutron radiation to protect astronaut under radiation environment. Dr Mamta Saiyad was the only participant from India to participate in the NASA workshop for this presentation.

Patents

- A Patent entitled "Pharmaceutical Composition and a Process Thereof" is granted to Dr Mohit Shah, Dr Amin Avni and Dr Tejal Mehta, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University on July 31, 2019.
- A Patent entitled "Novel Pharmaceutical agents having bactericidal action against tubercle bacilli and synthesis thereof" is granted to Dr Manjunath Ghatge, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University and Dr Kuldip Barot, PhD scholar on Aug 21, 2019.

Innovative Initiatives

Academics

Inauguration of Students Research Council

Institute of Law, Nirma University inaugurated its first-ever research-oriented body, the Students Research Council (SRC) on Sep 9, 2019 with the aim to stimulate the trend of research among the students of the Institute.

SRC aims to provide an effective mechanism for research and development in the Institute. It will act as a common platform for multi-directed research approaches. The aid and support provided by SRC is not only limited to the undergraduate and postgraduate students but is also extended to the alumni of the Institute.



BTech in Manufacturing Technology

The inaugural programme of 'BTech in Manufacturing Technology' for the employees of Tata Motors, Sanand Plant was conducted by Mechanical Engineering Department, School of Engineering, Institute of Technology in association with Centre for Continuing Education on July 14, 2019.

Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Law

Institute of Law, Nirma University has established India's first-ever Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Law (CAIL), with the aim of studying the implications of the advancing scope of AI technology in law and thereby, bridging the gap between older conventions and newer ventures. In partnership with various esteemed experts, the Centre has introduced "Technology Friday's", weekly hour-long sessions in the month of August, on various topics related to Artificial Intelligence.

Visitors

- Dr G Padmanabhan, Former Director and Emeritus Professor, IISc, Bangalore; recipient of Padmashree and Padmbhushan, delivered a talk on 'Contours of Biomedical Research in India' on the occasion of the 15th foundation day of Institute of Science, Nirma University on Sep 5, 2019. Dr Padmanabhan presented a bird's eye view of the current national and international status of health sector. He touched upon the unsolved challenges of developing vaccines against tuberculosis and malaria. He also talked about emerging fields like 3D Bio printing, Stem Cell Therapy, Mainstreaming of natural products as therapeutic agents, etc.



- Dr Harsh Sheth, Head, Advanced Genomic Technologies Division, Institute of Human Genetics, Foundation for Research in Genetics and Endocrinology, Ahmedabad delivered invited talk entitled "Detection and Prevention of Hereditary Cancers" on Sep 27, 2019. Dr Harsh has worked in this area at the Newcastle University, UK for a decade. Currently he has taken up first of its kind study in India regarding colorectal cancer.
- Prof Mulchand Patel from Department of Biochemistry, State University of New York at Buffalo, USA gave a talk on "Pyruvate Dehydrogenase Complex: Structure-function relationship, regulation and

deficiency" at Institute of Science, Nirma University on Sep 19, 2019. His talk included interesting discussion on diverse functions of Pyruvate dehydrogenase complex in health and disease, and future prospects at State University of New York.

- Mr Gurjeet Sing Gill, Director, Gill Instruments Private Ltd, Bangalore gave an expert talk on "Opportunities of Innovation in Engineering Research" at Computer Science and Engineering department, Institute of Technology on Sep 23, 2019.
- Dr Mamoru Koketsu, Professor, Gifu University, Japan delivered an expert talk on "Chemical approach to active compound derivatives" at the Chemical Engineering department, Institute of Technology on Sep 27, 2019.
- Dr Rachel Jeanne Herder, Clinical Professor of Intellectual Property Rights at Penn State Law, USA delivered a distinguished lecture on "Comparative Patent Law" on Sep 9, 2019 at the Institute of Law.
- Dr Stephen Barnes, Associate Dean for Graduate and International Law, Penn State Law, USA and Global Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University delivered a lecture on "US Constitutional Law" at Institute of Law on Sep 10, 2019.



- Mr Ajay Thomas, an independent arbitrator and former Vice Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce (India) Arbitration Group delivered an expert lecture on "Demystifying the International Commercial Arbitration Legal Matrix" at Institute of Law on Sep 20 and 21, 2019.
- Dr L Kailasam, Retired Indian Audit and Account Service Officer delivered an expert lecture on "Indian Taxation Law", covering basics of Taxation law and an overview of the structure on Sep 24, 2019 at Institute of Law.
- Dr Deepak Mishra, Sr Scientist, SAC-ISRO delivered an expert lecture for MTech Embedded System students on "Verification and Validation of DSP Algorithms using MATLAB" on Sep 21, 2019.
- Prof Russell Belk, Distinguished Research Professor and Kraft Foods Canada Chair in Marketing, Schulich School of Business at York University conducted workshops for the students and faculty members of Institute of Management, Nirma University on "Consumer Behaviour" during Aug 2019.



- Dr Pankaj Singh, Senior Vice President, Data Centre Business and Group HR, Adani Group, was the chief guest at the orientation cum induction programme of Institute of Commerce on July 15, 2019. He highlighted the various career prospects for BCom graduates and opportunities in the field of accounting, finance, management, banking, research and economics. He also emphasised the contribution and role that commerce graduates play in the economic development of the nation.



- Ms Jayanti Kathale, Founder and Managing Director, Purnabramha, Bengaluru was the chief guest at the inaugural session of MBA (FBE) - 2019-21 batch of Institute of Management on July 1, 2019.



- Mr Rahul Sanghavi, Entrepreneur, M & E Expert, Independent Consultant, and former head of Insights at British High Commission, Deputy Director General-NITI Aayog, and MD & CEO of Dexter Consultancy Ltd was the chief guest at the inaugural function of the Executive Diploma Programme (EDP 2019-20) at Institute of Management on July 14, 2019.



- Dr S Chandrasekhar, Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad delivered a public lecture entitled "The Saga of Science" on July 26, 2019.
- Mr Jagnoor Singh, Branch Sales Manager, Mondelez spoke on the topic "Career is the trek to the top and not to the base camp" at the Institute of Management on Aug 2, 2019.



- Prof D P Agrawal, former Chairman UPSC, Delhi, visited Institute of Technology during STTP on "Innovative and Effective Pedagogic practices" on July 2-3, 2019.

- On the occasion of the Orientation programme organised at Institute of Technology, Dr J N Singh, Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat was the chief guest for the inauguration of the academic session of BTech batch of 2019-23 on July 26, 2019. The chief guest for the afternoon session was Shri Saurabh Patel, Honourable Minister, Energy, Government of Gujarat.
- Mr Kaushal Mehta, Vice President and Head, Central RMS at RIL took a session on "VUCA World-A Survival Guide" at the Institute of Management on Aug 9, 2019.
- Mr Bhavin Pandya, General Manager, Atlas Copco Eastern Europe conducted a session at Institute of Management on the topic "Changing Faces of Manufacturing" on Aug 13, 2019.
- Mr Pankaj Joshi, MD - NYSA Global gave a talk on "Investment Immigration" on Aug 23, 2019 at Institute of Management.



- Dr Sanjeev Kumar, President, Zydus Cadila, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Complex analytical characteristics and equally complex bioanalytical methods – Simplifying Biologics Pharmacokinetics" at Institute of Pharmacy on Aug 17, 2019.

- Dr Utpal Tatu, Professor, IISc Bangalore delivered a talk on "Mass Spectrophotometry based analytical characterisation of Biopharmaceuticals" at the Institute of Pharmacy on Aug 17, 2019.



- Dr Sridevi Khambhampaty, Vice President, Biosimilar Product Development, Intas Ltd, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Biological Characterisation and Structure-Function Assessment for Biosimilars" on Aug 17, 2019 at Institute of Pharmacy.



- Dr Sanjay Bandopadhyay, Vice President, Biotech Division, Zydus Research Centre, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Building of Strong Foundation for Analytical Biosimilarity" on Aug 17, 2019 at Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University.



- Dr Sabyasachi Halder, Head, Biologics Characterisation Facility, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platform, Bangalore delivered a talk on "A Roadmap of Analytical Characterisation in Biosimilar Product Development" on Aug 17, 2019 at Institute of Pharmacy.



- Dr Ravishankara M N, General Manager (R&D) - Functional Head from Analytical Development (Biologics), Sun Pharma, Vadodara delivered a talk on "Analytical Comparability for Biosimilars-Current Regulatory Expectations and Challenges" at the Institute of Pharmacy on Aug 17, 2019.



- Dr Rustom Mody, Sr Vice President and Head (R&D), Lupin Limited, Pune delivered a talk on "Global regulatory landscape for biosimilars" at the Institute of Pharmacy on Aug 31, 2019.



- Dr Anand Bhadalkar, Joint Director, Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission, Gandhinagar visited Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University on Aug 31, 2019.



- Dr Bobby George, Vice President & Head, Regulatory Affairs, Reliance Life Sciences Pvt Ltd, Mumbai delivered a talk on "Regulatory requirement for obtaining biosimilar product approval in India" at Institute of Pharmacy on Aug 31, 2019.



- Dr Parva Purohit, Sr Vice President (R&D), Kashiv Biosciences, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Importance of IPR in biotherapeutics product development" at Institute of Pharmacy on August 31, 2019.
- Dr Pranjal Bordoloi, Vice President-Clinical, Medical Affairs and Pharmacovigilance, Veeda Clinical Research, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Clinical trials for Biosimilars" at Institute of Pharmacy on Aug 31, 2019.
- Dr Krishna Menon, Senior Scientist, Global Biologics, United States Pharmacopeia, Hyderabad delivered a talk on "USP Standards for Biologics" at Institute of Pharmacy on Aug 31, 2019.

- Prof Norma Martin Clement, Pro-Dean: International Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law, Leeds University delivered a lecture on "The Ties that Bind: Divorce Reform in 21st Century" on Aug 9, 2019 at Institute of Law.
- Dr Rustom Mody, Head, Research and Development, Lupin Ltd (Biotechnology Division), Pune was the chief guest at the inaugural function of the MSc orientation programme of Institute of Science organised during July 1-6, 2019. He delivered a talk on "Recent trends in Biopharma industry". Other speakers during the event included, Prof Naresh Kumar, Department of Biochemistry, MS University, Vadodara; Dr Anand Bhadalkar, Joint Director, Business Development, GSBTM, Gandhinagar; Dr Umesh C Yadav, Central University, Gujarat, Gandhinagar; Dr Gauri Shankar, Senior Professor, Bose Institute, Kolkata; Dr Manish Mourya, Supra Tech Laboratory; Mr Vincent Vaz, Counsellor and Trainer; and Mr Ashish Pandya, alumni member of Institute of Science, Nirma University, working as a Lead Strategy at The Gene Box, Mumbai.
- Dr Shrinivas Savale, CEO, Atal Incubation Centre, L M College of Pharmacy, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Outreach activities of Atal Incubation Centre in the area of Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Sector" to MPharm and PhD students of Institute of Pharmacy on Nov 21, 2019.
- Honourable Justice B N Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India delivered distinguished lectures on "Mob Lynching, and Data Privacy" during Nov 5-6, 2019, at Institute of Law.
- Dr Sudeb Dasgupta, Professor, IIT Roorkee delivered an expert talk on "Integrated Circuits and Novel

Semiconductor Device" during the Silver Jubilee Workshop on "VLSI Design and Testing" on Nov 4, 2019.

- Dr SangWon Yoon, Associate Professor, SUNY Binghamton visited the Department of Computer Science and Engineering for taking lectures and discussion on Centre of Excellence, Data Science from Nov 11-15, 2019.
- Mr Keshav Kumar (IPS), Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau, delivered a distinguished lecture on "Police Forensic Interface" on Oct 4, 2019 at the Centre for Criminal Law and Justice, Institute of Law, Nirma University. The event witnessed participation of over 400 students. Mr Kumar discussed the importance of witnesses and modern technological advancements in forensic investigations. He explained the usage of technology and internet of things in criminal community, tampering of evidences and degree of reliability over witness statements.



- Dr Nelson Dordelly Rosales, Head of Law Department at Vesalius College, Brussels, Belgium presented a series of expert guest lecture during Oct 7-14, 2019 where he shared his expertise on the contemporary topics of Jurisprudence, like Legal Realism, Critical Legal Studies, Feminist Jurisprudence and provided an enriching learning experience to the students of second year of Institute of Law. Dr Rosales used a lot of interesting examples and insights from his experiences in Venezuela and Brussels to help the students

develop a better understanding in the subject of Jurisprudence.

- As a part of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of Institute of Technology, Nirma University, an expert lecture by Shree Rohinidasji Swami, Hare Krishna Movement, Bhadaj was organised on the topic 'Life Management' by Department of Mechanical Engineering on Oct 3, 2019.
- An expert lecture by Dr Antonello Astarita from Department of Chemical, Materials and Industrial, Production Engineering, University of Naples Federico II, Italy was arranged by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Technology on the topic "Writing a journal paper for engineering education research (EER) in your classes, writing effective research proposal and effective teaching" on Oct 11, 2019.
- Dr Claire Komives, Professor, Biomedical, Chemical and Materials Engineering, San José State, San José, CA, US, and a Fulbright-Nehru Scholar conducted a workshop for Institute of Technology faculty members on "Advancements in Additive Manufacturing and Friction Stir Welding Processes" during Oct 7-11, 2019. Dr Claire possesses expertise in the domain of Educational Excellence.
- Dr Anuja Desai, Director, Academics, KD Hospital and KD Institute of Nursing Sciences, Ahmedabad, delivered a talk on "Lasik surgery" to BPharm and MPharm students of Institute of Pharmacy on Dec 26, 2019.



- Prof Manoj Kumar Mishra, Ex Vice Chancellor, Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi, delivered a talk on "A ringside view of the challenges before Higher Technical Institutions of India" to MPharm and PhD students of Institute of Pharmacy on Dec 26, 2019.
- Dr Upendra Baxi, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Warwick and Delhi, delivered a distinguished lecture on "Constitutional Morality: New Wine in Old Bottle?" at the Institute of Law on Dec 20, 2019.



- Dr Rajkumar Buyya, Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor and Director of the Cloud Computing and Distributed Systems (CLOUDS) Laboratory, University of Melbourne, Australia, gave a public lecture on "New frontier in Cloud and Edge/Fog Computing for Big Data and Internet-of-things Applications" at the Computer Engineering Department, Institute of Technology on Dec 20, 2019.
- Dr Sushant Kachhap from Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, USA gave a talk on "Molecular targets for prostate cancer" at Institute of Science during his two day visit on Dec 19-20, 2019. He also had an interactive session with PhD and MSc students regarding their ongoing projects. Interaction with faculty members from Institute of Science and Institute of Pharmacy was also arranged to exchange details of research carried out at the two institutes. Dr Sushant provided valuable inputs on syllabus of Cancer

Biology course. He encouraged students to visit Johns Hopkins for research work and offered to guide them.

- Dr Ramesh K Agarwal, the William Palm Professor of Engineering, Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science at Washington University in St Louis, USA visited the Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, Nirma University on Dec 20, 2019. He interacted with the faculty members of the department and conducted a session on "Computational Fluid Dynamics Applications and Progress".
- Prof Ikou Towhata, Professor Emeritus, Civil Engineering, University of Tokyo; Chair of Professional Image Committee, International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and Director, Tohata Architects & Engineers delivered an expert talk on 'Summarising Geotechnical Activities after the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake of Japan' on Dec 23, 2019, as a part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Institute of Technology. Prof Towhata also interacted with the Additional Director, Institute of Technology and faculty members of the Civil Engineering department.



- Dr Feng C Lai, Anadarko Presidential Professor, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, University of Oklahoma, USA visited School of Engineering, Nirma University on Dec 27, 2019 and interacted with the faculty members of Department of Mechanical and Chemical Engineering and shared his expertise.



The following dignitaries visited Institute of Pharmacy during the MPharm orientation programme:

- Dr Shiv Prakash Rathnam, CEO, Synchron Research Services Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad, July 22, 2019.



- Mr Manjul Mishra, Sr Vice President and Head at Asia Pacific, Zydus Cadila, Ahmedabad, delivered a talk on "Grooming Yourself for an Illustrious Pharmaceutical Career" on July 24, 2019.



- Dr Krishna Menon, Scientific Fellow (Biologics), United States Pharmacopeia (India) Hyderabad delivered a talk on "Introduction to Biopharmaceuticals" on July 24, 2019.



- Mr Gaurav Brahmabhatt, Head, Pharma Business, Healthcare at Home Business, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Goal Setting: A Process Approach" on July 26, 2019.
- Mr Parag Radia, Director, L B Bohle India Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad, delivered a talk on "Emerging Innovation and Technology trend in OSD Manufacturing" on July 24, 2019.

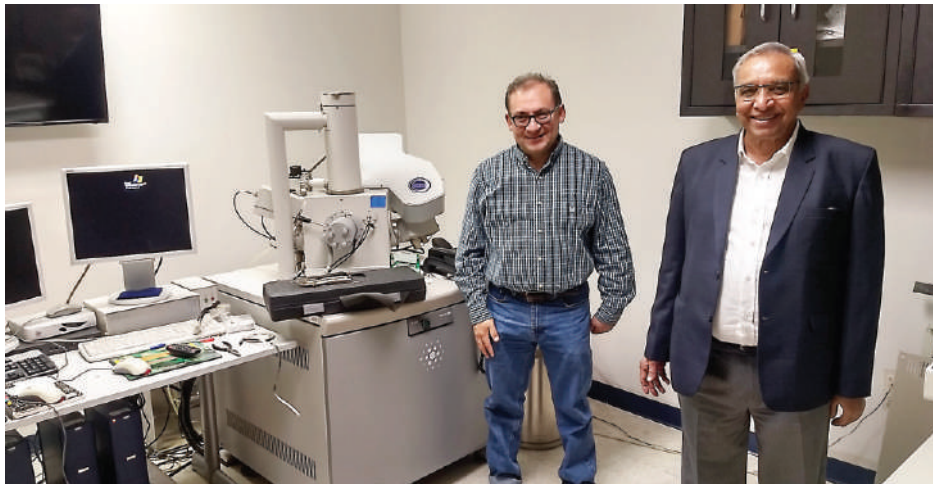


- Ms Leena Sharma, Manager, Strategic Marketing Piramal Enterprises Ltd, Piramal Discovery Solutions Industrial, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Job Perspectives after Postgraduation" on July 25, 2019.
- Dr S V Gopalakrishnan, Sr Vice President, Corporate Quality, Cadila Healthcare Limited, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Quality Assurance in Pharmaceutical Industry" on July 25, 2019.

International Affairs

Vice President's visit to Florida Atlantic University, USA

Nirma University has a collaboration with Florida Atlantic University, USA. To strengthen the relations further, Mr K K Patel, Vice President, Nirma University, visited Florida Atlantic University on Nov 26, 2019. He visited labs in Boca Raton campus and SeaTech campus and interacted with the professors and the students.



- As a part of the Delaware Commission on Indian Heritage and Culture, members of University of Delaware and Delaware State University, USA visited Nirma University on Sep 4, 2019 for the purpose of collaborations in the field of research in engineering and student internship for engineering and management students.



- Prof Vassilios Papadopoulos, Dean, USC School of Pharmacy delivered a talk on "Transformation of Pharmacy Education" at Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University on Sep 30, 2019. He also worked out the details of registering the pharmacy students for MS at USC, and also the faculty members of Institute of Pharmacy getting involved in joint research.



- Dr Javad Hashemi, Associate Dean of Research, and Dr Abhijit Pandya, Professor at Florida Atlantic University, USA delivered expert lectures and participated in the panel discussions at NUICONE 2019 on Nov 21-22, 2019 at Institute of Technology, Nirma University. They also discussed collaborative activities with the Nirma university officials.



- Dr Karen Mossman, Vice President-Research, McMaster University, Canada visited Nirma University and discussed joint research possibilities between the two universities with the Director General, Nirma University; Director, Research & Innovation; Director, Institute of Science; and Head-International Relations, Nirma University on Nov 18, 2019.



- A delegation from Curtin University, Australia visited Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University on Nov 13, 2019. The delegation including, Prof Abhijit Mukherjee, Dean International; Dr Anne Farren, School of Design and the Built Environment; Dr Mauro Mocerino, Associate Professor, MLS Director of Learning and Teaching; Dr Joseph Fernandez, Associate Professor, School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry, met the Director of the institute and the Head-International Relations, Nirma University to strengthen the collaboration.



- Officials from Richmond - The American International University in London, Teesside University, and Newcastle University, UK visited Nirma University on Sep 25, 2019 and presented a seminar on their higher education programmes.
- Dr Arun Somani, Associate Dean of Research, School of Engineering, Iowa State University, Ames, USA visited Nirma University on Sep 20, 2019 for collaborative discussions and signed an MoU for student and faculty exchange for the joint research.
- Dr Yashwant Pathak, Professor and Associate Dean at Taneja School of Pharmacy, University of South Florida with whom the University has signed an MoU earlier, was part of a one day seminar on "Nano Drug Delivery" at Institute of Pharmacy on Oct 22, 2019. He delivered a technical talk on the theme and also discussed collaboration with the deans of Institute of Pharmacy and Institute of Science and the Head of International Relations. He also discussed research activities with PhD scholars and faculty members.
- Dr Peter Partell, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Administration from Binghamton University with whom the University has signed an MoU earlier, visited Institute of Technology on Oct 14, 2019. He delivered a talk on "Higher education options at Binghamton University" for students of Institute of Technology, and an expert talk on "Assurance of Student Learning" for Head of Institutes and HoDs of Institute of Technology.



Events

28th Convocation

Nirma University held its 28th Convocation on Oct 16, 2019 wherein 1,644 students from Institute of Technology, Institute of Management, Institute of Law, Institute of Pharmacy, Institute of Science, Institute of Architecture and Planning, and Institute of Commerce received their graduation, postgraduation and PhD degree.

Chief Guest Mr Guenter Butschek, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Tata Motors Ltd, in his inspiring speech, asked the students to evolve as a person, as a professional and as a leader. He further advised the students to, "Compete within, than others to get the best out of you. That is the new reality. To lead the change. You need to put yourself out there and prove yourself. Managers would be plenty, leaders are seldom. So, differentiate yourself."



The president of the Nirma University, Dr Karsanbhai K Patel congratulated the students and wished them success in their future endeavours.

This year Nirma University conferred degrees to 11 PhD, 442 postgraduate and 1,191 graduate students. The University presented 39 medals to 36 students for their outstanding academic performance. These students secured top three ranks in the various programmes or specialisation offered by the University.



Praveg 2019

Praveg 2019 – the Annual Techno-Management Fest was organised by the Mechanical Engineering Students' Association (MESA) under the aegis of Mechanical Engineering Department, School of Engineering, Institute of Technology, Nirma University on Sep 18-19, 2019. The event was inaugurated by Shri Acharya Devvrat, Hon Governorshri of Gujarat; and Commodore C Raghuram VSM, Commanding Officer, INS Valsura in the august presence of Dr Karsanbhai Patel, President of Nirma University.

During the two-day event, various technical and nontechnical events were organised. Workshops on various topics like Automobile, Robotics, IoT, CNC technology, Astronomy, Python, etc were conducted.

On this occasion, the Indian Navy and National Security Guards set up an exhibition of their weapons and models to explain the technology and working of forces to the young engineers. The Indian Naval Band, one of the best band of Asia, showed their performance on both the days of the event and mesmerised the audience.

Apart from the technical events and workshops, informal events were also held during Praveg'19. One of them is a poetry session by Ms Helly Shah and Mr Bikram Bumrah wherein both the poets presented their own poems and stories in a melodious way. Other events include Talent Hunt; a motivational speech by Mr Raj Shamani, the youngest representative of India at United Nation.

MESA - Praveg in association with ADVAIYA - The Talk Show series, organised by BBA group of Institute of Management Nirma University invited Mr Gautam Gambhir, Member of Parliament and former cricketer for a Talk Show on Sep 19, 2019. RJ Ekta interviewed Mr Gambhir where the audience got to know many lesser known stories of his life. Mr Gambhir shared his life experiences as a cricketer and also shared his goal as a Member of Parliament.

A total of 1461 students from 104 institutions across the state participated in 26 different events.



Seminar on Text Mining and Textual Analysis for Predictive Models and Risk Assessments

Institute of Commerce, Nirma University organised a seminar on "Text Mining and Textual Analysis for Predictive Models and Risk Assessments" on Sep 17, 2019. Speaking at the seminar Dr Rajendra P Srivastava, Professor Emeritus of Accounting Information Systems in the School of Business, University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA, highlighted how text mining and textual analysis can be used by regulators, policy makers and researchers for unearthing any fraudulent activities by reporting entities.

Dr Srivastava made a live demonstration of "SeekiNF" – a search engine developed by his team at University of Kansas, which is used by the leading institutions across the world for text mining and textual analysis. This is a robust system that can scan in seconds a rich data of 3.3 million documents obtained from SEC and other regulatory filings to detect risks such as financial risk, litigation risk and fraud risk.



My Security My Responsibility

An interactive session on "My security My responsibility" was held on Sep 6, 2019 by the Institute of Architecture and Planning for all the female members of the institute. The session was headed by Mr Pradeep Seth, President of Gujarat Chapter of Fire and Safety Association of India, and Ms Veena Gupta, founder of Seam Group Services and a member of Fire and Security Association of India.

During the course of the session, a lot of female students and faculty members came forward sharing their experience of eve teasing or some kind of molestation. Ms Veena Gupta tried to boost the mental and physical strength and confidence of women through the programme. Demonstration of self-defence techniques was also a part of the event.



Sangeet Sammelan with Padmavibhushan Ms Teejanbai

Institute of Technology, Nirma University organised a Sangeet Sammelan on Sep 19, 2019 in collaboration with SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth). Padmavibhushan Ms Teejanbai is an exponent of Pandavani, a traditional performing art form, from Chhattisgarh, in which she enacts tales from the Mahabharata, with musical accompaniment. She has also been accorded with Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and various other awards.



Independence Day Celebration

Students, faculty members and staff of Nirma University celebrated the 73rd Independence day of the nation with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The chief guest for the event was Mr P K Ghosh, a retired IAS Officer, and currently the Chairman of Ahmedabad World Heritage City Trust (AWHCT). It was under his guidance that the city of Ahmedabad received the tag 'World Heritage City' by UNESCO.



Hindi Diwas Celebration

Institute of Law celebrated Hindi Diwas on Sep 16, 2019, acknowledging the rich and diverse Indian culture, and the importance of a language in any culture. All the students were dressed in traditional Indian clothes. An event "Syaahi" was organised, wherein the students were given a platform to showcase their talents and to express themselves through their poems in Hindi.

Legal Awareness Camp by Mission SanghARSH

A Legal Awareness Camp in village Charodi near Nirma University, under its new campaign, "Know your Rights" was conducted by team Mission SanghARSH of Institute of Law. 14 members visited the village on Sep 22, 2019 and made the villagers aware about the new traffic rules which have been implemented recently by the government.

Villagers were also made aware of the revised penalties, and the required documents which they should keep while driving. Along with that, the safety measures which every person should take care and things that they should avoid were also discussed.

Workshop on Entrepreneurship

Centre for Entrepreneurship and Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University jointly organised a one-day workshop on "Innovating the Scope of Pharmaceutical Industry" on Sep 7, 2019. Mr Yash Shah, CEO and Founder, E-Swasthya, motivated the students towards entrepreneurship in the field of healthcare. He discussed about the existing trends in the pharmaceutical industry and scope of entrepreneurship in the field of healthcare. The workshop was attended by more than 110 BPharm students from Institute of Pharmacy.

Research Workshop for PhD Scholars

Nirma University Library in association with Directorate of Research and Innovation organised a Research Workshop for PhD scholars on Aug 31, 2019 and Sep 7, 2019. The purpose of this workshop was to help the research scholars have a systematic approach in their doctoral work. The workshop was organised especially for the 2nd year doctoral students who had completed their coursework. Some of the topics covered included, literature search, referencing methods, citation styles, document formatting styles, and academic integrity.

Dr Miteshkumar Pandya, Scientist C (LS), from INFLIBNET and Dr Shailesh Yagnik, Library and Information Service Head, MICA-KEIC were the external speakers. Dr Vijay Savani, Dr Akash Mecwan, Dr Santosh Vora, and Dr Ankit Thakkar from Institute of Technology, Mr Virendra Goswami, Librarian (I/c), Institute of Pharmacy and Dr Svetal Shukla, Assistant Librarian, Institute of Science delivered talks during the workshop. A total of 25 students across Nirma University participated in the event spread across two Saturdays.



Foundation Day at Department of Design

The Department of Design, Nirma University celebrated its third Foundation Day on July 15, 2019. The keynote speaker for the event was Ms Preeti Vyas Giannetti, CCO, Vyas Gianetti Creative.



Workshop on Valuation, Accounting and Taxation Aspects of Mergers

Centre for Corporate Law Studies organised a three day workshop on "Valuation, Accounting and Taxation Aspects of Mergers" from Sep 26 -28, 2019. The main purpose of this workshop was to help students understand the important aspects of Mergers and Acquisitions. The inaugural session of the workshop was conducted by Mr Chinmay Naik, Associate Director, K C Mehta & Company. He discussed the differentiation between Significant Minority, Majority and Full Acquisition. The sessions on the second day were taken by Mr Suril Mehta, Associate Director, K C Mehta & Company and Ms Pooja Sisodia, Legal Consultant, K C Mehta & Company. Some of the key takeaways were Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method and the detailed understanding of Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA). On the third day, first session was taken up by Mr Kinjesh Thakkar, Direct Tax Head, Linde Engineering India; and the second session was conducted by Mr Harsh Gada, Partner, Unicorn Group and Ajmera & Associates.



Workshop on Science Communication

One day workshop on Science Communication (SciComm101) was organised on July 27, 2019 by Directorate of Research and Innovation (DRI), Nirma University, Ahmedabad in association with "Wellcome DBT Trust/India Alliance." The workshop was especially designed for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers working in the field of Life Sciences and Pharmacy.

A total of 55 students participated in the workshop in which 29 students were from Nirma University and 26 students were from universities across Gujarat. Dr Sarah Iqbal, Dr Shingar Sharma, and Dr Divya Tiwari from DBT Alliance conducted the workshop.



Orientation Programme at Institute of Law

Institute of Law welcomed the batch of 2022 on July 18, 2019. Chief guests at the inauguration of the orientation programme were Prof N L Mitra, former Director, National Law School of India, Bangalore; and Dr Jyotsna Yagnik, former Principal Judge, City Civil and Sessions Court, Ahmedabad. On this occasion, students were briefed about various rules and regulations at the institute, different facilities provided at the institute and university level, and were also introduced to the clubs and committees at the institute.



Orientation Programme at Department of Design

The Orientation Programme for the new batch of students took place from July 16-18, 2019. Eminent designers and entrepreneurs such as Amit Krishna Gulati, Sumiran Pandya and Tony Lopez were invited to interact with the students. The students were also introduced to Nirma University's guidelines and policies. Various experts were invited to conduct workshops such as dance, theatre and sculpture as part of the programme.



National Seminar on Challenges and Opportunities of Biosimilars

Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, Institute of Pharmacy organised a National Seminar on "Challenges and Opportunities of Biosimilars" on Aug 17, 2019. Dr Sanjeev Kumar, President at Zydus Cadila, Ahmedabad was the chief guest on this occasion. Dr Utpal Tatu (Professor, IISc Bangalore), Dr Sridevi Khambhampaty (Vice President, Biosimilar Product Development, Intas Ltd, Ahmedabad), Dr Sanjay Bandopadhyay (Vice President, Biotech Division, Zydus Research Centre, Ahmedabad), Dr Sabyasachi Halder (Head, Biologics Characterisation Facility, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platform, Bangalore), and Dr Ravishankara M N (General Manager, R&D- Functional Head, Analytical Development-Biologics, Sun Pharma, Vadodara) delivered various scientific sessions on the theme. About 50 participants from various institutes of Gujarat participated in the seminar and presented posters.



National Seminar on Regulatory Affairs on Current Insights in Regulations of Biotherapeutics

Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, Institute of Pharmacy organised a National Seminar on Regulatory Affairs on "Current Insights in Regulations of Biotherapeutics" on Aug 31, 2019. Dr Rustom Mody, Sr Vice President and Head R&D at Lupin Limited, Pune was the chief guest. Dr Anand Bhadalkar, Joint Director at Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission, Gandhinagar was the Guest of Honour. Dr Bobby George, Vice President and Head, Regulatory Affairs, Reliance Life Sciences Pvt Ltd, Mumbai; Dr Parva Purohit, Sr Vice President-R&D, Kashiv Biosciences, Ahmedabad; Dr Pranjal Bordoloi, Vice President-Clinical, Medical Affairs and Pharmacovigilance, Veeda Clinical Research, Ahmedabad; and Dr Krishna Menon, Senior Scientist, Global Biologics, United States Pharmacopeia, Hyderabad delivered plenary lectures during the scientific sessions. About 45 participants from various institutes of Gujarat participated in the seminar and presented posters.

Foundation Day at Institute of Architecture and Planning

The Institute of Architecture and Planning celebrated its 6th Foundation Day on Aug 19, 2019. Dr D S Meshram, President, ITPI was the chief guest and Prof P V K Rameshwar, practising Architect, Urban designer and academician, and Dr Salila Vanka, Professor at RV College of Architecture, Bengaluru were the keynote speakers.

Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Secretary-General, ITPI; Shri N K Patel, Chairman, ITPI Gujarat Chapter; Shri K K Patel, Vice-President; and Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University also graced the occasion.



Foundation Day at Institute of Law

Institute of Law celebrated its 13th Foundation Day on Aug 19, 2019. Shri Rajendra Trivedi, the Hon'ble Speaker of the Gujarat State Legislative Assembly was the chief guest on this occasion. Dr Karsanbhai K Patel, President of Nirma University also graced the event.

The institute took the opportunity of the foundation day to felicitate all the alumni, scholarly achievers in academics and achievers of various competitions ranging across the field of mooting, debating, MUN, Article Publication and NCC. The programme also witnessed the release of NULL, the flagship journal of Institute of Law, Nirma University.

The Institute felicitated alumni who have achieved laurels in their career by qualifying examinations of judiciary and AGP. 24 judges, 8 from state of Gujarat, 8 from Rajasthan, 4 from Uttar Pradesh and 4 from Madhya Pradesh; and 10 AGPs were felicitated on this occasion.

A blood donation camp and a tree plantation drive under the aegis of the National Service Scheme and Legal Aid Clinic were also organised.



Atharva

Centre for Entrepreneurship, Nirma University organised "Atharva – the Conclave of Ambitions" – the Entrepreneurial Talk Show on Aug 27, 2019. Persisting with the Centre's motive of establishing an entrepreneurial drive in the campus, the event was attended by more than 400 students across all Institutes of the University.

Gracing the panel were Mr Vishal Mehta, Director at Infibeam, Mr Tapan Gosaliya, Director at Amnex Infotechnologies, and Ms Shraddha Bhansali, CEO and Founder, Candy and Green. The panellist shared their views on Entrepreneurship, their experiences and the problems they confronted during their journey to the top.



Awareness Session about Funding Opportunities

The Directorate of Research and Innovation (DRI), Nirma University invited Dr Prachi Kaul, Director, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute to deliver a talk on Aug 3, 2019.

Nirma University has joined the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) community in 2018. Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute provides the creation of bi-national links between academia, government, the business community, and civil society organisations by funding research and hosting seminars.

Dr Kaul discussed about various schemes and funding opportunities available at SICI at different levels for students and faculty exchange, research collaboration, schemes for administrators' exchange, and development of academic programmes.



Seminar on Sports Law

Institute of Law organised a one day seminar on "Anti-Doping Regulations, Sports Litigation and Antitrust Laws in Sports" on Nov 16, 2019. On this occasion, Mr Parth Goswami, partner at Phalpher & Goswami Lawyers and Solicitors, New Delhi delivered a lecture on "Sports and Anti-Doping Rules in India". Prof Praveen Tripathi from Bennett University, New Delhi discussed about sports and anti-trust laws.

Kshitij - the HR Conclave

Kshitij - the HR Conclave on 'Fallacy in Perception: Debunking the Popular Misconception' was held on Nov 15, 2019 at Institute of Management. Speakers at the conclave included, Mr Dinesh Kapoor, Associate Vice President, Vinitec; Mr Ashish Gakrey, Programme Manager, Capgemini Technology Services Ltd; Mr Harshit Bhavsar, Chairman, Universal Hunt; and Ms Garima Maheshwari, Talent Acquisition Manager, Sophos.

NUiCONE 2019

Nirma University International Conference on Engineering (NUiCONE), the flagship event of the Institute of Technology, was organised during Nov 21-22, 2019. This year, the conference was organised in association with CRC Press, and Taylor & Francis.

The main theme of the conference was 'Technologies for Sustainable Development'. Padmashri Dr A S Kirankumar, ex-Chairman, ISRO was the chief guest at the inaugural function. Padmashri Shri Amitava Roy, former Distinguished Scientist and Chief Executive, Nuclear Recycle Board, BARC, Mumbai was the guest of honour. He gave a keynote address on "Nuclear energy in the service of the nation and its applications". The event saw a host of expert talks, panel discussion on 'Industry 4.0: A way forward', and technical sessions.



National Seminar on Advances in Building Materials and Construction Practices

National Seminar on "Advances in Building Materials and Construction Practices" was organised on Nov 22, 2019 by the Department of Civil Engineering, Institute of Technology, Nirma University, and Nuvoco Vistas Corporation Ltd under the auspices of NUICONE 2019.

On this occasion, Prof Radhakrishna Pillai, Associate Professor, IIT Madras shared his views on "Strategies to Prevent and Control Corrosion in Concrete Structures". Mr Ashitkumar Shah from JICA Study team, Mumbai discussed "Cut and Cover construction of a Metro Station". Mr Manish Mokul, Assistant General Manager, Quality Excellence Cell at AFCONS, Mumbai shared various case studies containing extreme engineering and construction. He also highlighted the challenges faced in Bridge project over Chenab river in Jammu & Kashmir. Dr Rishi Gupta, Associate Professor, University of Victoria delivered a talk on "Recent developments in the use of drones in monitoring civil infrastructure". Mr Pranav Desai, Vice President, Head - Construction Development and Innovation Centre & Product Development, Nuvoco Vistas Corporation Ltd shared about various innovations and product development of Nuvoco Vista's Construction Development and Innovation Centre at Mumbai.



IHL Conference

Centre for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Institute of Law, Nirma University, Ahmedabad organised the eighth edition of its annual flagship event - National Students Conference on "International Humanitarian and Refugee Laws" in association with International Committee on Red Cross (ICRC) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Nov 13, 2019. Dr Manoj Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi was the chief guest on this occasion. Other dignitaries included, Captain J S Gill, Former DG Shipping; Dr Anuradha Saibaba, Head- IHL Department, South Asian Region, ICRC; and Ms Ragini Trakroo Zutshi, Associate Protection Officer, UNHCR, New Delhi.



Foundation Day Celebration

The 25th Foundation Day of Institute of Technology, Nirma University on Oct 3, 2019 was celebrated in the presence of Dr Anamik Shah, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapith as the chief guest. It was a day to celebrate the involvement of faculty members, students, and other stake holders who have contributed to institution building. The logo of Silver Jubilee Year celebration was also unveiled by the chief guest.

On this occasion, 38 faculty members, eight staff members, 124 students with achievements at national and international levels, and 19 meritorious students were felicitated. 13 students from various departments were honoured for their outstanding extension and social activities at different NGOs.

The day also saw the homecoming of alumni and distribution of scholarships. Nirma Institute of Technology Alumni Association (NITAA) awarded nine alumni members scholarships worth rupees thirty thousand each.





Industry-Academia Conclave

To commemorate Nani Palkiwala Centenary Celebrations, Institute of Law, Nirma University organised a two day Industry-Academia Conclave during Nov 16-17, 2019 on the theme "Towards a new area of academia-legal industry collaboration". The conclave was divided into two phases - Business & Commercial Law Conclave, and Constitutional & Human Rights Conclave.

Mr Sunil Arora, the Chief Election Commissioner of India, presided as chief guest and gave the inaugural address on the theme "One nation, One Election in India". Other speakers included, Mr Manas Kumar Chauhan, Partner at Khaitan and Company, New Delhi; Mr Alipak Banerjee, Leader, Nishith Desai Associates, New Delhi; Mr Arun Kumar, Partner at Indus Law, New Delhi; Ms Richa Roy, Partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas; and Mr M Arun Kumar, Partner, IndusLaw, New Delhi.

The chief guest on the second day was Justice M R Shah, Judge, Supreme Court of India who addressed the audience on "Justice Delay, Justice Recusal". Justice Gyan Sudha Misra, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India gave a keynote speech on "Seven decades of the Constitution: The road ahead". The guest speakers included, Mr Sanjay Hegde, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Mr J Sai Deepak, Arguing Counsel, Delhi High Court and Supreme Court; and Ms Avani Bansal, Advocate, Supreme Court of India.



International Day for Disaster Reduction

Organisation of Civil Engineering Students celebrated the International Day for Disaster Reduction on Oct 13, 2019. On this occasion, an awareness event was organised by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at Nirma University campus. The deputy commander of the 6th battalion of NDRF brought to light the different aspects of disaster management. Members of NDRF demonstrated various first-aid techniques that can be done in case of worst case scenarios. An exhibition was also held showcasing the prowess of NDRF team.

Annual Conference on Quality Management

The American Society for Quality (ASQ) Ahmedabad Local Member Community and Institute of Management, Nirma University jointly organised the 9th Annual Conference on Quality Management on Nov 22-23, 2019 on the theme "Challenge the Change through Quality and Innovation".

Mr R B Jagyasi, Chief Operating Officer, Milacron India was the chief guest, and Mr Mirkhusal Aga, Director & Head, Western Region, ASQ South Asia was the guest of honour. Prof Rajesh K Jain, Chair, ASQ LMC Ahmedabad delivered the welcome address. A book on "Quality and Innovation" was unveiled during the inaugural session.

The conference witnessed 34 Live Case Study presentations besides Panel Discussion and Plenary Session by top executives of the Industry. Plant visits to various nearby plants of leading manufacturers was also a part of the "Seeing is Believing" section.

Nirman 2019

Organisation of Civil Engineering Students (OrCES) on the special occasion of Silver Jubilee of Institute of Technology, Nirma University organised a national level technical symposium "Nirman 2019" during Oct 14-15, 2019.

The symposium included various technical events, non-technical events, workshops and an exhibition by National Disaster Response Force.

The event was inaugurated by Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, the Honourable Education Minister, Government of Gujarat; Shri K K Patel, Vice-President, Nirma University; and Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University.

Around 650 students from various colleges of Gujarat participated in the technical symposium.



Training programme on Geometric Dimensioning and Tolerancing

A one day training programme on "Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing" was organised by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, SoE, Institute of Technology under the auspices of Centre for Continuing Education, Nirma University on Oct 19, 2019.

Prof A M Gohil, Institute of Technology, Nirma University; Dr P M George, Head, Mechanical Engineering Department, BVM college, Vallabh Vidyanagar; and Mr Susanta Kumar Bhuyan, Lead Engineer, PTO Manufacturing Quality, Ford India Pvt Ltd delivered sessions on various topics related to Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing, and tolerance stack-up analysis. A total of 40 participants attended the event.

Seminar on Nano Drug Delivery

One day seminar on "Nano Drug Delivery" was organised under the banner of Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) by Department of Pharmaceuticals, Institute of Pharmacy on Oct 22, 2019.

Dr Ajay Khopade, Vice President, Drug Delivery & Manufacturing, and Head at Formulations (Non-Oral), Sun Pharma Advanced Research Company Ltd, Vadodara was the chief guest; and Dr Yashwant Pathak, Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, University of South Florida, Tampa, USA was the Guest of Honor for the inaugural function.

A host of sessions were conducted by eminent guests throughout the day. Demonstration of various equipment like High shear homogeniser, particle size analyser and high pressure homogenisation was conducted during the post-lunch session. Posters on the "Nano drug delivery" based theme were presented by around 100 participants from various Pharma Institutes.

Raas Garba

Students Welfare Board in association with Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University organised "Raas Garba" on Oct 19, 2019. More than 3000 students, staff, and faculty members participated in the event. The best student performance award was given to Kushal Mehta of Institute of Commerce, and to Mauli Bhatt from Institute of Technology in the male and female category, respectively. In the staff/faculty category, Mr Tarkesh Molia from Institute of Law and Ms Niyati Acharya from Institute of Pharmacy received the best performance award.



RoboCup 2019

The Institute of Technology has noticed an increasing interest from school children in robotics and in order to encourage them and pursue robotics as an area of study it organised "Nirma RoboCup 2019" on Oct 19-20, 2019. The event was inaugurated by Shri G T Pandya, Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Gujarat.

17 teams from across India participated in the event to become the ultimate robotic champions. This year's theme draws inspiration from Lord Krishna whose fondness for butter is well known.

After the inaugural ceremony, there were league matches followed by the quarter-finals, semi-finals and the final match. Bannari Amman Public School, Tamil Nadu emerged as the winner of the Nirma RoboCup 2019. They finished the entire race in 30 seconds and won a cash prize of INR 50,000.



World Habitat Day Celebration

The Institute of Architecture and Planning celebrated World Habitat Day on Oct 10, 2019. This day reflects on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.

On this occasion, the Institute invited Ar Vinod Gupta and Ar Lalit Kishor Bhati as chief guests. Ar Vinod Gupta is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for GRIHA-The National Green Building Rating System; and a founder member of Association for Development and Research of Sustainable Habitats (ADaRSH). He talked about how architects can contribute towards sustainable design by adopting a more sensitive approach considering various sustainable principles.

Ar Lalit Kishor Bhati is an Urban Planner who has been associated with Auroville's Town Planning office as a consultant since 1998. He talked about evolution of Auroville from being a water scarce barren land to a land which overcame hurdles and became an epitome of sustainable design and living. received the best performance award.



Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

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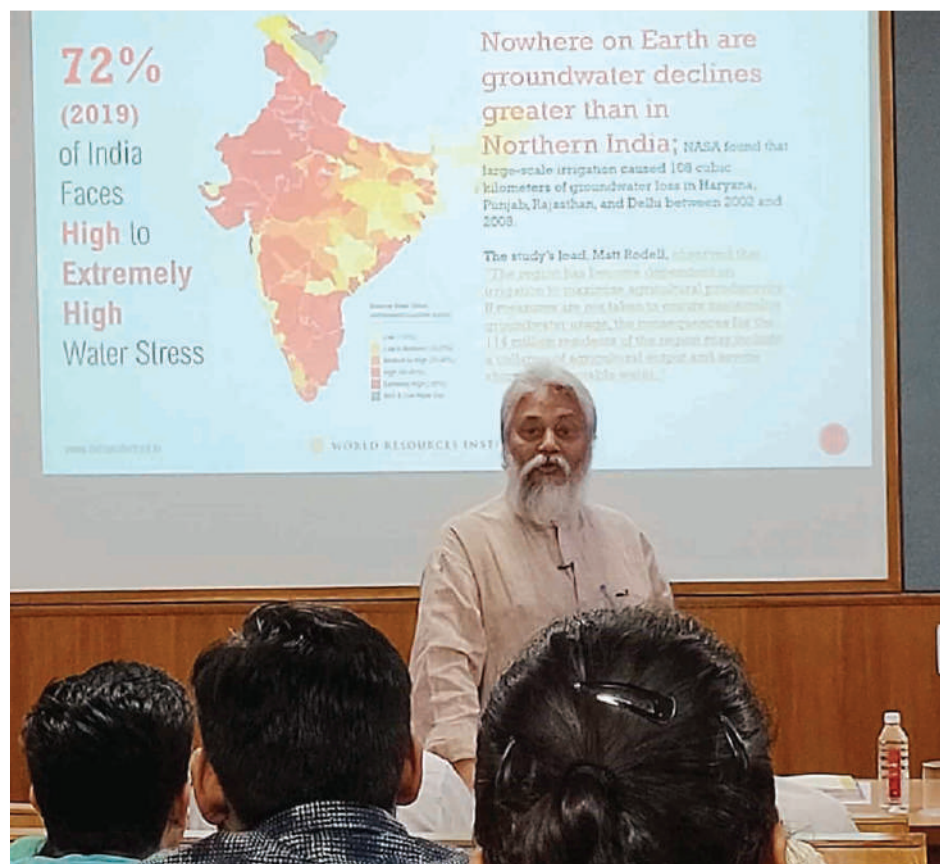
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Revival of Indian Rivers-Reviving a Lost Culture

The Centre for Environmental Law in collaboration with the NSS unit of Institute of Law, Nirma University organised a workshop on "Revival of Indian Rivers-Reviving a Lost Culture" on Oct 20, 2019. The keynote speaker for the event was Mr Rajendra Singh, a Magsaysay Awardee and winner of Stockholm Water Prize-2015, an Indian Water Conservationist and Environmentalist. Mr Singh is also known as the 'Waterman of India'.

Mr Singh presented a need to establish a connection between indigenous knowledge and practices, and the present legal regime and governmental practices in order to avoid drought and flood like situations in India. He is working immensely for the revival and rejuvenation of the water bodies for the last three and a half decades.



Other Events

- One day National Seminar on "Herbal Drug Technology: Emerging Trends, Challenges and Scope" was conducted by Department of Pharmacognosy, Institute of Pharmacy on Aug 17, 2019 under the aegis of Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University.
- One day workshop on "Design of Experiments using MINITAB" was organised by Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, Institute of Technology on Aug 31, 2019 under the aegis of Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University.



Activities

Fit India Movement

Institute of Law, Students Welfare Board, and the NSS Unit of Nirma University jointly organised the "Fit India Movement" to take the nation forward on the path of fitness and wellness on Aug 29, 2019. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi has launched the "Fit India Movement" Programme.

As a part of this programme the University arranged a walk of 10,000 step in its campus. A total of 1,110 members participated in the campus walk. A Live telecast of the inauguration of this programme by the Prime Minister of India was also arranged for the participants.



GATE Preparation classes

Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) is conducting GATE Preparation classes (GATE 2021) for internal students of Nirma University during July 13, 2019 to January 2021.



FDP on qualitative methods in Research

Institute of Management under the auspices of Centre for Quality Assurance and Academic Development (CQAAD) of Nirma University organised Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Research Methods. The segment of qualitative research was held from Aug 19-23, 2019 by Prof Russell W Belk, distinguished Research Professor and the Kraft Foods Canada Chair in Marketing at Schulich School of Business, York University.



Inauguration of Research Centre for Competition Law and Market Studies

Institute of Law, Nirma University inaugurated its Research Centre for Competition Law and Market Studies on Oct 13, 2019. The Centre has collaborated with CIRC-CUTS, to develop robust research and study of developments in Competition law.

A panel discussion was held on the theme "Big Data and Abuse of Dominance" followed by the opening of the centre. The discussion witnessed the presence of Mr Bharat Budholia, former Partner of CAM; Mr Saurabh Mishra, Dy Director, CCI; and Ms Khyati Dhuparr, Managing Partner, Dhuparr Associates.

NSS Orientation

The NSS Unit of Institute of Law, Nirma University conducted an orientation session for the volunteers on Oct 3, 2019. Dr Neeraj Silawat, Assistant Professor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, conducted the Orientation programme. Dr Silawat has achieved the 'Best State Level Programme Officer Award' in National Services Scheme (NSS) by the Government of Gujarat in 2014.

The session was organised to make the volunteers aware of the activities which can be conducted under NSS. The event witnessed participation of over 118 students. Volunteers were briefed about the rules and regulations of NSS along with the advantage of NSS in higher studies. Further, the role and responsibility of NSS and its volunteers towards society and their own self were also discussed.

Kargil Victory Day

The NCC unit of Nirma University in association with NCC 1-Gujarat Girls Battalion, Ahmedabad celebrated the 20th Kargil Victory Day on July 26, 2019. The day aims at spreading awareness about armed forces and to remember the soldiers who have sacrificed their lives fighting for the nation.

Commanding Officer Col Avesh Pal Singh of 1-Gujarat Girls NCC Battalion was the chief guest on this occasion. The event also included a photo exhibition on the "Param Vir Chakra" awardees and a poster exhibition on "India's War Since Independence".



Management Development Programme

Centre for Continuing Education, Nirma University in collaboration with Institute of Management organised a two day Management Development Programme (MDP) for industry professionals on "Data Analytics and Business Modelling Using MS Excel" during Nov 16-17, 2019. Prof Chetan A Jhaveri from Institute of Management was the programme leader. A total of 10 professionals from seven organisations, i.e. Bank of Baroda, Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd, UPPLERS, Zydus Hospitals, ONGC, 20 MICRONS Ltd, and Bissazza India Pvt Ltd attended the programme.



Training programme on Use of CHEMCAD Simulator in Chemical Engineering

A training programme on "Use of CHEMCAD Simulator in Chemical Engineering" was conducted by the Chemical Engineering Department, SoE, Institute of Technology under the banner of Centre for Continuing Education during Dec 30-31, 2019. The training conducted by Mr Sanmitra Tembe, Process Engineer, Wood PLC India Limited, Mumbai was attended by a total of 21 internal and external participants.



Librarians Day Celebration

Father of Library Science in India, Dr S R Ranganathan's birthday on Aug 12 is celebrated as Librarian's Day all over the country. Institute of Pharmacy and Institute of Science library at Nirma University celebrated the "Librarians day" on Aug 13, 2019. Various activities like, On the Spot Quiz, TED talk screening, and inauguration of Research and Competitive exam corner at Institute of Pharmacy library were arranged on this occasion. Books relevant to the theme were also displayed from Aug 13-17, 2019.

Author Workshops

Nirma University Library in association with Directorate of Research and Innovation organised "Author Workshops" on Dec 18-19, 2019. The purpose of this workshop was to help the Research Scholars and Faculty members in identifying problem areas requiring attention which are helpful for publication process.

Dr Dhanukumar Pattanashetti, Senior IEEE Client Services/University Partnership Programme Manager, took a session on 'How to Write a Quality Technical Paper' on Dec 18, 2019 for fifty-one participants. He spoke about how the IEEE publishing process works- the basic writing tips, submission of a manuscript, etc.

On the second day, Ms Anwesha Rana from Cambridge University Press delivered a talk on 'Publishing Process' where she explained the norms of academic publishing to the forty-one participants.

Both the speakers shared information about publishing- the process and the reasons for rejection in the process, which served as a great help to the participants.



Extension Activities

Educational Visits

Visit to GFCS Vatva

Students of second year BCom (Honours) visited Green Field Co-operative Society (GFCS), Vatva on Sep 20, 2019. GFCS is an industrial effluent treatment plant wherein 35 million tonne litres of polluted water is treated every day. Around 1000 Ahmedabad based industries discharge its effluents every day in this treatment plant. The entire process of treatment of the polluted water was observed and understood by the students.

Visit to Savli Biotech Park

MSc semester-III students of Institute of Science went for an industrial visit to Savli Biotech Park, Vadodara on Sep 20, 2019. The visit started with an introductory presentation followed by visit to common instrumentation facility. Students and faculty members also interacted at various labs, including the IRIS Nanotech lab which is developing antibody dependent kit for detection of malaria, dengue and chikungunya; REVY Environmental Solutions dealing with waste water treatment plans; and INTELLIMAT Technologies working on bioremediation and biodegradation.

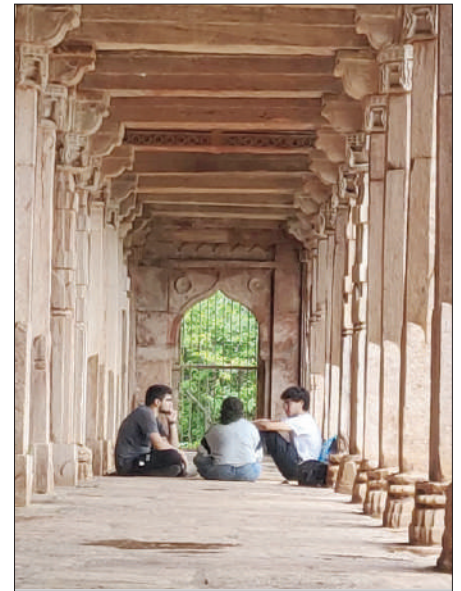
Exploratory Related Study Programme

35 first year students of Institute of Architecture and Planning went for an Exploratory Related Study Programme to Bhutan during June 24 to July 4, 2019 under the guidance of Prof Jitesh Mewada and Prof Sneha Ramani. They visited five cities, namely, Paro, Thimpu, Bumathang, Punakha and Gangtey to learn traditional architecture of Bhutan.



Visit to Mandu

Second year students of Institute of Architecture and Planning got the opportunity to visit Mandu, Madhya Pradesh as a part of their studio programme during Sep 19-22, 2019. Forty students were accompanied by three faculty members. The aim of the visit was to understand the various methods of construction of domes and also to understand the use of pendentives and squinches in the transformation upon which domes are built. The understanding of the mass to void ratio as well as the spacial organisation of such structures was emphasised upon by the faculty members.



Exploring the Cultural Diversity and Architectural Styles of Nepal

The students of BArch (2017 Batch) went to Nepal for Related Study Programme from June 28 to July 7, 2019 along with Prof Ankit Kumar and Prof Deval Gandhi. Students visited Patan, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Pokhara and Chitwan National Park. It is a great learning experience, opening new vistas and take students on a journey, amalgamating theoretical and practical knowledge.



Visit to Gandhi Ashram, Ahmedabad

The 1st year students of Institute of Architecture and Planning visited Gandhi Ashram on Aug 22, 2019. Students were given a brief introduction of the ashram and life of Gandhiji. Students studied and understood the simplicity of the building which reflects the simple lifestyle of Gandhiji. They were given time to do live sketching there.



Girls Take Gift City

15 girls from the semester V of Institute of Commerce, Nirma University were selected to be a part of Bloomberg's initiative "Girls Take GIFT City" in collaboration with UBS and GIFT City. The event was based on the theme "Gender Justice and Equality". Ms Vandana Ramchandani, Philanthropist, Bloomberg, gave the welcome address; and Mr Tapan Ray, MD of GIFT City was the keynote speaker.

Bloomberg and UBS had launched "Girls Take Dalal Street" in Mumbai, to attract and inspire young women to consider careers in the financial service industry in India. Expanding this initiative is part of an effort to strengthen their commitment to advancing women and girls in business and finance. On Oct 21, 2019 "Girls Take GIFT City" brought this initiative to the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, India's first operational smart city.

Heritage walk at Ahmedabad Old City

The 1st year students of Institute of Architecture and Planning went on a heritage walk on Aug 22, 2019 under the guidance of Mr Nirav Panchal. The city of Ahmedabad is unfolded with a rich architectural heritage that is essential to the local identity and continuity of the place. Along with the heritage Indo-Islamic monuments of the 15th to 17th centuries, the Pols, the traditional residential clusters of the medieval period makes the fabric very classic, and serves as a good study for the students of architecture and planning.



Social Activity

Swachh Bharat Internship

In line with 'Clean India Mission', the students of the Institute of Commerce are a part of the Swachh Bharat Internship - a programme which aims to engage youth across the country, and develop their skills and orientation for Solid Waste Management (SWM), and sustain the momentum of the Swachh Bharat Jan Andolan.

For the said purpose, two teams of ten students each have devoted fifty hours for the cause during July 18-31, 2019. The first team worked at Tragad, Ahmedabad and guided the sweet corn sellers on the Solid Waste Management. Dustbins and Biodegradable poly-bags were also provided to them for discarding their waste.



Another team of students focused on the promotion of the 3R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), compost pits, and no-littering through street plays, folk song and dance performances at the municipal school located in Tragad, Ahmedabad.



Tree Plantation Drive

"Plant a tree, so that the next generation gets the air for free". Keeping this in mind, the NSS club of Institute of Commerce organised a tree plantation drive on Aug 1, 2019. Prof Udai Paliwal, Dean, Institute of Commerce lead the team of students to plant the trees.

NSS Unit Camp

On Sep 1, 2019 the NSS volunteers of Institute of Commerce visited its adopted village – Kavitha. The NSS volunteers interacted with the villagers and school kids. The school students were imparted basic computer knowledge, including parts of computer, typing, shortcut keys, Microsoft office software, etc.

The volunteers also conducted various stretching exercises and yoga to promote "Fit India" Campaign initiated by the Government of India. Various sports activities including competitions of Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Table Tennis and Volleyball were conducted for the kids.



Musical Event at Old Age Home

The music committee of Institute of Law, Nirma University hosted a musical event on Aug 25, 2019 at Hiramani Old Age Home, Ahmedabad. "Yeh Shaam Mastani" is an event which is conducted every year wherein students perform for people living at the Old Age Home to share some moments of joy and oneness. This is a great opportunity for the students to interact with the older generation and imbibe wisdom from the experienced individuals.



Vector Borne Disease Awareness Drive

The NSS volunteers of Institute of Pharmacy, and Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University jointly conducted a "Vector Borne Disease Awareness Drive" on Aug 20, 2019. The drive began with a brief orientation programme by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation officials in which the volunteers were informed about types and life cycle of Malaria and Dengue causing mosquitoes and how to handle them, along with live demonstrations.

After that the students were taken on field at Jagatpur village under the guidance of AMC officials and NSS faculty coordinators where they checked places and spots that had water retention for longer duration. They made the villagers aware about the diseases caused by mosquitoes and preventive measures to be followed.



Friendship Day Celebration

Students of Institute of Commerce, Nirma University visited "Humankind" - an NGO at Sabarmati, Ahmedabad on Aug 4, 2019 to celebrate the friendship day with the underprivileged children. A team of 20 students along with Dr Nitin Kishore Saxena celebrated this day through various activities, like making paper bags, paintings, poster-making, playing games followed by cake cutting. The founder of Humankind shared the NGO's journey and thanked the students and the institute for this gesture.



Wisdom Valley

Mavericks - the BBA Social Committee of Institute of Management, Nirma University organised a visit to Hiramani Old Age home, Ahmedabad with 45 student volunteers on Nov 6, 2019. The students organised an open mic where the aged had a chance to show their talent. 'Antakshri' was equally enjoyed by all. Volunteers also got a chance to interact with the senior citizens and imbibe their wisdom.



Visit To Blind People Association

On Oct 3, 2019 students of Institute of Commerce, BCom (Semester 1) visited Blind People Association, Ahmedabad. The experience left the students moved and inspired them to be more emphatic towards fellow beings. It also helped in creating awareness about the way blind people live their lives and the problems they face on a daily basis.



Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations

As a part of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, a blood donation camp was jointly organised by Nirma University, Kalupur Bank, Rotaract Club of Institute of Management, NSS unit, and the Indian Red Cross Society on Aug 2, 2019 in Nirma University campus. A free eye checkup camp was also organised with Eye Care Hospital. Nirma University students, faculty and staff members donated a total of 348 units of blood. A total of 166 members benefitted from the eye checkup facility.



Aashayein – A Musical Evening

The Music Committee of Institute of Law, Nirma University, in collaboration with the NSS, organised Aashayein, a musical evening for the orphaned children at Gokul Ashramshala, Vasant Nagar, Ognaj, Ahmedabad on Oct 5, 2019.

The members of the committee performed for the children and in turn the children danced along the tunes of the Bollywood music. The children were also encouraged to display their musical talent.



NSS Camp at Dandi

Third year students of Institute of Architecture and Planning undertook a 7-days NSS Camp starting Dec 23, 2019 at historic Dandi village near Navsari.

Student volunteers were guided by programme officer Ar Jitendra Menghani and faculty members Prof Digisha Mehta and Prof Paritosh Kumar. Volunteers undertook activities like, popularising Dandi beach through attractive and interactive Graffiti, Installation of graphical map of Dandi, Art workshop in primary school, Art competition for awareness regarding Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and, providing support to the activities of local women self-help groups (Mahila Mandal).

Students demonstrated their ability to do selfless work for the community using their skill-sets and know-how of graphical communication. A week's stay in a village environment with basic facilities sensitised students to the hardships faced by village folks and to the limited availability of resources in rural areas, especially potable water.



NSS Camp at Khodiyar

A total of 50 student volunteers from Institute of Management participated in a seven-day NSS camp organised at Khodiyar village, Ahmedabad, Gujarat from Dec 9-15, 2019. The camp offered the volunteers an opportunity to know the day to day exercises, problems and happenings of the rural residents. Volunteers attempted to recognise the issues of the residents and support them accordingly.

The primary issues which were discussed were self defence for young ladies, women hygiene, government schemes, self-employment, etc. Assistance of different NGOs, like the Red Cross, the Bindi Project and others is also taken from time to time.

Some of the activities conducted for the village children were games, poster making competition, garba sessions, pottery making, singing, and Spoken English, etc.



Army Attachment Camp

Prof (Lt) Chanakya Bhatt from Institute of Technology, Nirma University attended and coordinated Army Attachment Camp with 126 NCC cadets from 6 different NCC Battalions at Jamnagar Military Station with 8 MARATHA LI INFANTRY Battalion (Brave Aanth) during July 9-23, 2019.

Other Activities

- Eight members of Association of Computer Engineering Students (ACES) volunteered for teaching various sport skills to village kids of Motipura under "Fit India" initiative of Government of India on Sep 7, 2019 in association with NSS.

NSS Camp at Kavitha

Institute of Commerce organised a seven-day NSS camp during Dec 10-16, 2019 at the adopted village "Kavitha".

The female NSS volunteers performed a Nukkad Natak on the theme of sex education, marital abuse and self defence for all the women residents of Kavitha. They also taught self-defence techniques to the young girls and distributed free sanitary napkins to all the women.

The volunteers also conducted academic and sports activities for the school students. Some of them volunteered in whitewashing the school walls and transforming a dumping area outside the school premises into a small garden. The volunteers also conducted a signature campaign for spreading awareness about Swachhta Abhiyan.

They organised a mega Annual Day of cultural, literary and sports activities which saw participation from village students of class sixth to eighth.





Integrated Reporting: the changing face of Financial Reporting

Dr Udai Paliwal

Dean, Institute of Commerce, Nirma University

The increasing complexity of the business world and ever increasing information needs of stakeholders has led to growing demand on companies to provide information not only about their financial performance but also about their corporate governance, their impact on various stakeholder groups and their contribution towards sustainability. In addition, there are increasing needs for investors to know about various facets of the business as the financial accounting system alone fails to account perfectly for most of intangible assets generated and/or consumed by businesses and its impact on wider group of stakeholders.

The dawn of the concept of integrated reporting <IR> may be associated with the wider recognition of stakeholder theory advanced by Professor Edward Freeman (recognising a wider group of stakeholders) as opposed to the long-held shareholder theory proposed by economist Milton Friedman which focuses only on shareholders' interest.

According to Freeman's landmark work, shareholders are merely one of many stakeholders in a company. The stakeholder ecosystem, as illustrated by Dr Freeman involves anyone invested and involved in, or affected by, the business enterprise. This includes employees, environmentalists near the company's plants, vendors, governmental agencies, suppliers, customers and more.

Freeman's theory suggests that a company's real success lies in satisfying all its stakeholders, not just those who might profit from holding its ownership. This realisation that the long term survival and competitiveness of an organisation depends on wellbeing of a wider group of stakeholders not just shareholders, paved the way for new tools and techniques including Integrated Reporting, to be used by stewards to ensure that they do justice with this all-encompassing responsibility assigned to them.

During the past two decades, the initiatives such as: 1999 PWC Value Reporting Framework, adoption of integrated sustainability reporting by South African Governance Code, 2003 release of the "Indicators That Count" report by the Business Impact Review Group, and the Prince's Accounting For Sustainability Project of 2007; may be identified as major forces that paved the way for 2009 foundation of International Integrated Reporting Committee (IIRC) by those attending the Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Forum meeting. South Africa was again on forefront setting up an Integrated Reporting Committee (IRC) aimed to develop guidelines on integrated reporting. All these initiatives culminated into the December 2013 release of The Integrated Reporting <IR> Framework.

According to a PWC report "Integrated Reporting <IR> is a framework that applies principles and concepts focused on bringing improved cohesion and efficiency to the corporate reporting process. IR allows a business to tell its value creation story in a cohesive and holistic manner and ultimately enables efficient and productive allocation of capital".

<IR> is expected to raise awareness and motivate organisations to actively manage a wider range of resources for value creation. Intangible assets including natural and human capital intellectual capital, research and development, brand value, are expected to be viewed with the same lens by organisation following <IR> framework. This change in approach is going to improve the value creation potential of organisations.

Making a strong case for <IR>, an EY report states that, "Financial reports fail to reflect an organization's ability to create value in the short, medium and long term through efficient management of its strategic resources". The report further states that an organization's value is decreasingly derived from the tangible assets on its balance sheet and increasingly from its intangibles. The weight of tangible to intangible assets has inverted over the last three decades. According to IIRC Framework an integrated report should not only provide the historical information but also forward looking information on issues including but not limited to organisation's overview and operating context, risks it faces and competitive advantage it enjoys due to opportunities that exist, governance structures and styles, its business model, strategy that it applies in short, medium and long term, past performance and the future outlook.

Companies such as the Crown Estate, SAP, Novo Nordisk, Port of Rotterdam Authority, Natura, Anglo American, Aegon are some of the pioneers known for early adoption of Integrated Reporting Framework. The major influences behind the popularity of integrated reporting in India during the past decade include the Companies Act 2013



and the SEBI guidelines including those related to Corporate Social Reporting and Business Responsibility Reporting. The changing mind set of corporate India is expected to promote the initiatives such as <IR> in a big way.

Like any other initiative, the <IR> initiative should also be taken with a pinch of salt as there is no scientifically proven evidence about its effectiveness yet. Interestingly a qualitative content analysis of the <IR> disclosed by the French companies in the period of 2013–16 reveals that information asymmetry is not reduced since companies mention only some capitals as inputs to their value creation process while almost entirely excluding natural capital. Moreover, companies disclose only positive information mainly about their financial capital, without mentioning any destruction of capital, especially not the natural one. Similarly, a study conducted in Thailand reveals that companies with good corporate governance awards are those disclosing information required by <IR> framework, however, the quantity of information provided is minimal. To summarise, while, I personally remain optimistic about the change <IR> is going to bring, it is still too early for the corporate world to conclude whether the <IR> will be able to deliver the intended results as speedily and effectively as envisaged by its advocates.

Faculty

Awards

- Prof Digesh Joshi received the Institute of Engineers India - Young Engineers Award 2019-20 in Civil Engineering discipline. The award was presented during the inaugural session of the 35th National Convention of Civil Engineers held at Ahmedabad during Sep 1-2, 2019.



- Dr Jignasa Savjani from Institute of Pharmacy received the "Outstanding Researcher in Pharmaceutical Chemistry" award from Venus International Foundation on Sep 21, 2019.



- Dr Madhuri Parikh from Institute of Law, Nirma University is awarded the '100 most Dedicated Professors Award' by the World Education Congress on July 4, 2019.

- Dr Jayesh Ruparelia, Head, Chemical Engineering Department, Institute of Technology received the Charutar Vidya Mandal, Vallabh Vidyanagar Gujarat Award for ISTE-Best Engineering College Teacher in Gujarat for the year 2019.



- Dr Dablulal Gupta from Institute of Science, Nirma University was felicitated with Swastha Jyoti Paritoshik award for path-breaking research in Emergency Translational Sciences in India at the National Conference of India United State Emergency Medicine (INDUSEM) organised by AIIMS, New Delhi under the aegis of Academic College of Emergency Experts in India (ACEE) on Aug 3, 2019.



- Dr Utpal Sharma, Director, Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University received the "Devang Mehta Award for Education Leadership" in Mumbai on Nov 22, 2019.



- Dr Mayur Patel received the "Young Pharmacy Teacher of the Year Award - 2019" from "Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI)" at the 24th Annual National Convention of Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTICON) held during Oct 11-13, 2019, at Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India. (pic in university folder)



- Dr Paramasivan S Vellala, Assistant Professor in Economics, Institute of Technology has been conferred the prestigious MHRD recognised "Bharat Vikas Award – 2019" on Dec 14, 2019 at Bhubaneshwar, Odisha.



Achievements

- Dr Manjunath Ghatge, Director, Institute of Pharmacy has been appointed as a Visiting Professor at Southwest University, Chongqing, China for the duration of June 2019 to June 2020.
- Dr Rupal Kapdi (CSE, Institute of Technology) participated in the International Challenge BraTS (Multimodal Brain Tumor Segmentation Challenge) held in collaboration with MICCAI 2019 (Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention) during Oct 13-17, 2019. Around 200 teams participated in the challenge from across the globe. Team of Dr Rupal Kapdi and her guide Dr Mehul S Raval, from PDPU was the only Indian team amongst the list of winners and has secured first position in Survival Task and received 800\$ monetary award sponsored by Intel AI.



My first-hand experience at a Cancer Hospital

Dr Sonal Bakshi

Assistant Professor, Institute of Science, Nirma University



I saw a 10 year old girl waiting to be taken inside the operation theater to remove her ovaries due to cancer, with her mother on her side. She was from a small village of Saurashtra. This was a difficult way to start a day, too disturbing to see a child having such a disaster even if she survives cancer. I was too tensed to

face the mother as I thought she would be in such a turmoil and here I was interested in chasing my target and asking questions for my PhD study. What I saw was very different from what one would expect from people like her.

The child was nervous and kept saying, "Maa, I will cry and scream in the operation theatre, I will shut my eyes tight, I don't want to see those big lights and doctors with knife". I can't forget her mother's response till this day, which was height of positivity. She said to her daughter, "Has anyone from your school or class in our village seen such a big hospital, with so many machines and doctors? You are so lucky to visit such a place at this age. I tell you, observe everything carefully and when we return tell your teachers and classmates about this hospital, nurses, doctors, machines, and all the new things you have seen. You and many of your classmates will have inspiration to become doctors and serve others".

I wonder what training this mother had received or was it because she did not receive formal training!

Alumni

Achievements

Women Entrepreneur and Scientist Award

Dr Purvi Zaveri, an alumna of Institute of Science, Nirma University received recognition for her efforts in developing innovative teaching-learning material for Microbiology learning.

She was felicitated at "India International Science Festival" held during Nov 5-8, 2019 at Kolkata by Ms Roopa Ganguly, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha. Dr Zaveri received the award in the category of "Women Entrepreneur & Scientist" for her creative construction of 3D printed *Aspergillus niger* model, circuit-based kingdom classification and innovative



wastewater solutions as a product of her venture called "Microcity".

- Mr Abhishek Dubey and Mr Harsh Agrawal, alumni of Institute of Technology, won the NASSCOM Design4India award under 'Digital Ergonomic Product' category. NASSCOM design summit is one of the most celebrated design event in India and Design4India awards are a major milestone for design validation.
- Ms Sweta Kesur, an alumna of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Institute of Technology (batch of 2016), won the "Best Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award" in Dubai on Oct 31, 2019. She won a business growth fellowship funding sponsored by Goldman Sachs.

Alumni On Campus

- Mr Smit Ghelani (class of 2012), an Institute of Technology alumnus and owner of Shree Dhan Laxmi Chemicals and Shree Bhavani Iodates delivered a lecture on "How to Start a Startup in India? - the way ahead" on Sep 19, 2019.
- Mr Jayvirsinh Zala, a 2014 batch pass-out of BTech Computer Engineering, Nirma University; and GPSC cleared with all Gujarat 11th rank, delivered an expert talk on "Civil Services" to 5th Semester Computer Engineering students on Sep 23, 2019. He briefed them about what Civil Services is, Opportunities, How to approach it, different exams that can be given, the examination pattern and the selection procedure.
- Ms Bhakti Pujara, Project Lead, IConflux Technologies Pvt Ltd conducted a lecture session on "Stages of Agile Retrospective and its importance in Product Development" for MCA students on Nov 16, 2019.
- Mr Kaushal Kachhiya, Delivery Manager, IConflux Technologies Pvt Ltd and Mr Parth Acharya, co-founder of a service based technology startup, Trinarybits gave a lecture on "New trend going towards MEAN stack" for MCA students on Nov 16, 2019.
- Mr Amar Patel, alumni of Institute of Technology, Nirma University donated a "GPU based Cluster for high speed computing" to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Technology, Nirma University. Mr Patel conducted an informative session on it on Oct 5, 2019.

Alumni Board Meeting

The annual alumni board meeting of the Institute of Management, Nirma University was held on Sep 7, 2019. The primary agenda of the meeting was to review alumni engagement of the previous year and seek budgetary approval for Alumni Day Celebrations planned during Oct 2019. The board has been functioning for the last three years, advising on various engagement avenues, including mentorship, City meets, fundraising and the like.



Alma Utsav

Kaizen, the Alumni Relations Committee of Institute of Management, Nirma University organised "Alma Utsav" on Oct 5, 2019. Around 150 alumni along with their family members attended the event.

A host of activities were planned for the day which included, campus visit, Nirma merchandise stall, a stall of craft items prepared by the children of Nirmaan Foundation, photo booth, faculty interaction session, followed by curriculum review and general body meeting.

Adding to the charm of the day were the performances by Nirmaan Foundation, Chehre and Fiesta Clubs. The day concluded with dinner and dancing on the tunes of garba as "Rangeelo Raas-The Garba Night".



Alumni Interaction Session

An Alumni Interaction Session for students of BTech in Electrical Engineering, Semester- V & VII was arranged on July 1, 2019. Mr Abhay Gandhi, Ms Kriti Agrawal, Mr Prem Shah, Mr Dakshesh Chaudhary, Mr Deepak Agrawal, and Mr Tejaswi Nema interacted with the current batch of students on the topic "Tips for Competitive Exams and Further Studies".

Alumni Entrepreneurs Meet

As part of the celebration of Silver Jubilee year of the Institute of Technology, Nirma University, the Instrumentation and Control Engineering department organised 'Alumni Entrepreneurs Meet' on Dec 21, 2019. The idea was to provide a networking platform to the alumni of the ICE department. More than 25 alumni participated in the event and presented their current business work.



City Meets for Alumni

On Dec 14, 2019, alumni city meets were organised in four cities viz. Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai and Pune for the Institute of Management alumni. Close to 111 alumni across the four cities attended the meet. The city meets consisted of discussion on ways to strengthen the alumni-institute relations. Other topics included, to implement CHRO lecture series, to organise a Batch Meet for the batch of 1998-2000, and implement the Revamp Mentorship Programme effectively.



Iffat Shaikh

(Institute of Management, Batch of 2016-18)

Management Trainee, TATA AIG General Insurance Company



Time flies, but turkeys don't. And unfortunately, neither do humans:

Now half of that quote was said by Barack Obama. The latter half was Iffat Shaikh. The culture of the company does make a difference on the organizational behavior, but employees in the end, are distinct humans with a unique set of thoughts, reactions and varying levels of self-importance. That's the most polite way of saying, there are always going to be laggards! Be it a multinational company, or a petty group assignment. This also brings me to a very important point that organizations are infested with flaws. And I would write in molten gold if I could, but keeping it as original as reality; here it is, in black ink: The bigger the organization, the higher the efficiency gap. In my humble opinion, a quarter is enough to

understand the insides of an organization, provided you actively take interest in everything that's happening around you and strike the right "Why's" at the right opportunities. You will at least be thorough with one full cycle of business, and all the processes therein.

Be real, not rebellious:

If there's something wrong with the system, stand up and tell the relevant people about it. You can actually stir the insides of the system no matter how junior you are. There'll be times when people will laugh at you for making unreasonable demands. Tell yourself that history was never made by reasonable people. It is okay to feel uneasy about inefficiencies in your organization. In fact, there's a problem if you don't. Because then, you are a part of it.

Be fascinated by problems:

The day you don't receive a problem at work, you've stopped progressing. The moment things start becoming tough, tell yourself you're on the right path. You can't have a "problem-solving role" without problems.

Never stop thinking about what interests you:

I have always been inclined towards finance, and deeply fascinated by how money changes the game if used rightly. I also pursued my major specialization therein. However, I am currently working on a managerial role with primarily B2B Sales and Distribution functions in the Motor Insurance Channel. But I never failed to put the finance in the sales. I'd just like to reiterate that you may not start with your dream profile or desired company or expected salary. But remember, you'll get there! You just have to dream big (people will tell you what you're aspiring to do has never happened, "It doesn't work that way" and all the Wakandans with "We don't do that here" banners) and I'd still suggest, listen to everyone. Absorb what make you more realistically motivated towards your aim. Walk the odds. Run fast and fail faster. Get up stronger and question the status quo. And most importantly, learn from all the managerial mismatches that you stumble upon through your way!



Students

Achievements

Best Memorial at the 19th Henry Dunant

The students' team from Institute of Law won citation for the Best Memorial at the 19th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition held from Sep 19 -22, 2019. The team comprising Anirudh Srinivasan, Ritwik Sharma, and Kushagra Goyal was also adjudged as quarter-finalists in the competition.

Case Study Analysis Competition

Institute of Commerce, Nirma University won the Case Study Analysis Competition at the National Level Management Festival – Vishleshan Plus organised by GLS University, Ahmedabad on Sep 13, 2019. A team of 5 students – Harsh Patwa, Salony Bafna, Vaidanshi Nema, Vanshika Varlani and Yash Goyal from third year secured 1st position in the final round competing against 5 teams from different colleges and universities.



SAE India Southern Section Aero Design Challenge 2019

Team Arrow of Nirma University under the captainship of BTech Mechanical Engineering student Varun Contractor won the '1st position for Overall Performance' and the '1st position for Best Technical Presentation' and received prize money of Rs 1,00,000/- and Rs 10,000/- respectively.

The Nirma team developed an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle weighing 1.2kg, capable of flying for 10 minutes within a range of 1km and at a speed up to 60 kmph.

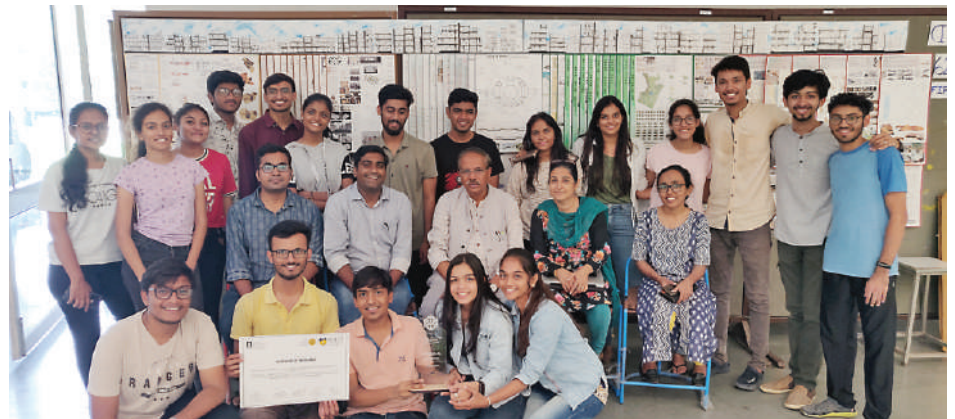
SAE India Southern Section Aero Design Challenge 2019 is the biggest Unmanned Aerial Vehicle competition in the nation. This year the event was held at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai organised during July 19-21, 2019.



62nd Zonal Annual NASA

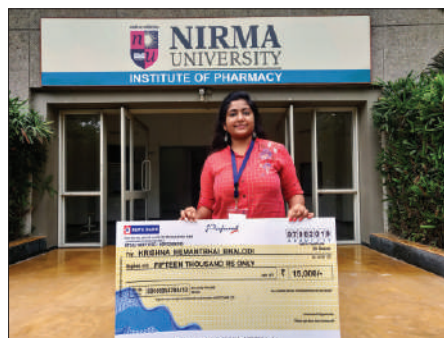
Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University was awarded 'Citation' (winner) in the 62nd Zonal Annual NASA (National Association of Students of Architecture) held at Amity University, Mumbai during Sep 20-22, 2019. The zone was represented by various colleges from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Institute of Architecture and Planning participated for the first time in the 'Reubens' Trophy and was judged the best college for academic excellence. The Citation was shared by SCET, Surat.

The Reubens trophy provides a platform for the participating institutes to showcase their curricular work, which is a reflection of both, the nature of pedagogy of the institutes and the resultant knowledge and skills acquired by the students. It is conceived as a competition whereby the quality of the academic work produced by the students of different colleges are judged on certain set criteria. More importantly, the resultant exhibition of the works offers a diverse exposure to the delegates.



Other Achievements

- Subham Borah, student of 5th year Institute of Law secured the position of 3rd best adjudicator at the Punjab Engineering College Asian Parliamentary Debate held at Chandigarh during Sep 7-9, 2019. He was adjudged as one of the best adjudicators, out of 110 adjudicators.
- The team comprising of Adamyia Ojha and Sree Ganesh, first year students of Institute of Law, secured a break and qualified for semi-finals in the novice category in the MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology British Parliamentary Debate held at Bangalore from Sep 14-16, 2019.
- Aadesh Shinde and Devashish Saxena, third year students of Institute of Law secured 2nd Runners-up position in the Rotarian T S Nanavati Memorial Quiz competition held at Ellisbridge Gymkhana and organised by the Rotary Club Ahmedabad on Sep 17, 2019.
- Ms Krishna H Bhalodi, a PhD Research Scholar at the Institute of Pharmacy received the Chief Minister Fellowship award under the Shodh Yojana Scheme of the Government of Gujarat on Aug 8, 2019. She is working under the guidance of Dr Charmy S Kothari, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University.



- NCC Cadet Mayur Dhulia, BTech Sem VII student, secured first position in INSAS Rifle firing competition at Army Attachment Camp, Jamnagar during July 9-23, 2019.
- Rashi Virmani, an MBA student from Institute of Management won second prize at the 27th Business School Affaire and Dewang Mehta National Education Awards, Mumbai in the category of 'Best Student in Management' on Nov 22, 2019. She was awarded a certificate, trophy, and a cash prize of Rs 60,000.



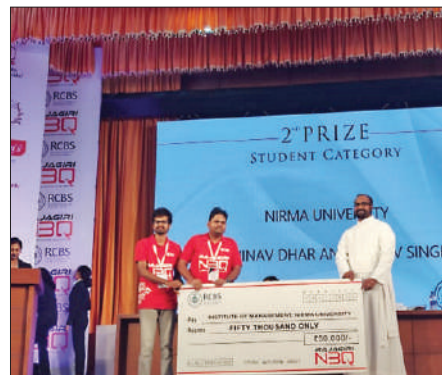
- Three full time doctoral students of Institute of Management, Ms Riya Shah, Mr Nishant Agarwal and Ms Urmi Khatri received the "Centrally-Administered Full Term Doctoral Fellowship" from Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) for the year 2019-20. This award comprises of monthly research scholarship and a fund for administering their research work.



- Nirma University emerged as the runner-up in cricket in the IIM Ahmedabad's annual sports fest "Shaurya" held during Nov 21-24, 2019. In the same event, Ms Akanksha Shah from Department of Design, Nirma University won the Chess Tournament.



- The team from Nirma University secured the runner-up position in the Inter-College volleyball tournament organised by DAIICT, Gandhinagar on Nov 7, 2019.
- Rohan Maheshwari and Vansh Falgun Patel won a silver level developer certificate by securing second rank at national level in BootaThon at Rajkiya Engineering College, Banda, Uttar Pradesh on Nov 29, 2019. The event was coordinated by IIT Bombay.
- Arnav Singh and Abhinav Dhar from Institute of Management won the second prize at the 'Rajagiri National Business Quiz 2019' conducted at Rajagiri Centre for Business Studies, Kochi on Nov 23, 2019. They received a cheque of Rs 50,000 as the prize money.



- Sapna Bablani and Shivang Kadiya, students of 7th semester, Civil Engineering Department, Institute of Technology have cleared the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Accredited Professional Examination and are now IGBC Accredited Professionals (IGBC-AP).
- Nishit Kalawadia from Institute of Management has been selected as a delegate from India to represent at the 'World Business Dialogue' to be held at Cologne, Germany from March 2-6, 2020. A total of 300 delegates from 90 countries from the domain of Business and Entrepreneurship will be attending the event.



Vikram Awards

The team of Aditi Bhatnagar, Pranjal Shrivastava, and Jayvik Desai (BTech Semester VII, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering) received first prize under 'Vikram Awards' from Secure Meters, Udaipur. The award constituted of a cash prize of Rs 50,000, a medal and a certificate from Secure Meters, Udaipur.

Every year, Secure Meters, Udaipur gives 'Vikram Awards' to the outstanding technical academic projects done by the Electronics and Communication engineering students. For the year 2019, the final presentations of the nominated projects were held before a jury on Nov 26, 2019.

Pranjal, Aditi and Jayvik under the mentorship of Dr Sachin Gajjar, Associate Professor, Electronics and Communication Engineering had designed a Wireless Distributed Data Acquisition System (DDAS) using Zigbee based Wireless Sensor Networks to detect parameters related to industrial machine's health, industry's production line, and environmental conditions of an industry.



Moot Court Achievement

Institute of Law, Nirma University bags the citation for the 2nd Best Memorial in the National Rounds of 5th Prof N R Madhava Menon SAARC Law Mooting Competition, 2019-2020, held during Oct 18-20, 2019. The team comprising Sanjhi Agarwal, Varada Jahagirdar and Priyanka Bajpai will now represent India in the world rounds in the month of February 2020. In the national rounds, 46 teams competed against each other. The Institute of Law team faced Auro University and NLU Ranchi in their final rounds.



The team consisting of Aayushi Dubey, Supriya Jhulka and Yash Jain, won the award for the best memorial and have also been adjudged as the quarterfinalists at the 11th HNLU National Moot Court Competition, held from October 18-20, 2019. They competed against 28 teams in the preliminary rounds. The Institute of Law team faced NLU Kochi and JIS Kolkata in their prelims and competed against OP Jindal, in the quarter-final rounds.



Clinical Summer Training Programme

Eight students from Institute of Pharmacy attended a four week (July 1 to Aug 1, 2019) Clinical Summer Training Programme at the School of Pharmacy, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA USA as Visiting Scholars where they were introduced to the healthcare system in the USA and the vital role that a pharmacist plays in their healthcare system.

The students received hands-on training on Drug Molecular docking software and covered the clinical as well as scientific aspects of Diabetes mellitus and the important role a pharmacist can play in these conditions. They visited pharmacies in different cities of the USA to get a real perspective of roles that a pharmacist plays in the US healthcare system.

Nirma University is the only Institute from India joining this programme. Other countries include, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, and China.

Participation in World Bank Youth Summit

Pruthvirajsinh Zala, a third semester student of Institute of Law participated in the World Bank Youth Summit-2019 as one of the Indian delegate. The Youth Summit based on the theme, 'Smart Cities for a Resilient Future' was held at World Bank Headquarters, Washington DC during Dec 2-3, 2019. The summit witnessed a participation of 330 selected delegates from 150 countries.



Advanced Student Ambassador Programme

Aashna Basotia, student of final year batch of Institute of Commerce visited the Dubai campus of S P Jain College as a part of the Advanced Student Ambassador Programme of the said college, during July 15-18, 2019.

As a part of the Advanced Student Ambassador Programme, S P Jain College conducted a quiz-based competition pan-India. The winners of the competition are entitled to a confirm seat in their Global MBA Programme as well as a sponsored visit to their Dubai campus.



Events and Activities

Elysian 2.0

The second edition of Elysian, the Cultural and Literary Fest of Institute of Commerce was organised on Nov 13-14, 2019. Mr K K Jain, Managing Partner, KPMG Ahmedabad and Baroda inaugurated the event.

This year the event saw the participation from over 300 students from different colleges and universities across Gujarat. The students showcased their talents under various events like, Drop A Beat (Dance competition), Cadence (Music competition), Rangshala (Theatre events), Inter Varsity Debate, Inquizitive, Cash Clash, Plan O Pitch-The business plan competition, Turncoat, Kavyanjali, Felicia (various fine arts competitions like Face painting, Pencil sketching, Best out of waste) and Melange 2.0-The Fashion Show. The event concluded with EDM night by DJ Paroma from Mumbai.



Propshow

Spinshot - The photography and filmmaking club of Institute of Management organised "Propshow" on Oct 3, 2019. It is a theme-based fun photography event organised for the students of BBA. The different themes for the props and backdrop included, Bollywood, Childhood cartoons, and Marvel DC comic characters. A video booth with bubbles was installed for fun boomerangs to be shot. There was an open mic, which saw musical performances by the third year students. The centre of attraction was Jai Veeru's scooter, and colourful smoke bombs for class photographs.



Exposure 3.0

A photography workshop 'Exposure 3.0' was organised by Institute of Management on Nov 14, 2019 to help interested students in understanding the technical as well as philosophical aspects of photography. The workshop was conducted by Mr Rajesh Sinha, a prominent figure in the Bollywood industry. The workshop was divided into two parts. The first half focused on explaining the basics of photography through an outdoor experience and the second half focused on the technical explanation behind the working of the camera along with a hands-on experience with a model in the classroom. A total of 27 students participated in the workshop. The participants were provided with a certificate of participation as well as gift coupons.



Disha Vyas

Institute of Management
MBA, batch of 2018-20

How to make the most of your MBA life?

One of our teachers said that our MBA life will be the way we want it to be. If we wish to make it happening and busy, it will be so but if we want it to be all chilled out and laid back, we'll find a way to make it like that. And that was one of the most relatable words I heard which couldn't be truer.

The best way to reap the maximum benefits of these 2 years is to strike a balance between learning inside the classroom and outside the classroom. Since post-graduation requires a great amount of discipline and dedication, it can be overwhelming and one can get caught in the rut.

Here are a few ways how one can create major differences in their life and make the most of the MBA:

1. **Schedule:** The schedule throughout these 2 years remains unpredictable. From staying up nights in a row for exams and assignments to toiling hard throughout the day, residential programs are full of uncertainty. The best way to cope with the constant changes is to get things done right away. Delaying tasks to the next day will only lead to piling up of more work and eventually lead to stress. Starting any assignment, project or write-up at that very moment will help break the inertia and get the mindset in place.

2. **Me-Time:** Juggling one thing after the other can be baffling at times and one might get swayed with the flow. While it's good to pace with the surroundings, it can take a toll on the mind and the body and reduce the energy levels for the upcoming tasks. Thus, it is important to take some time-out (Remember: You won't find the time, you'll have to take some time out) for yourself, connect with your mind and recharge.

Taking 30 minutes break anytime during the day and simply observing without speaking will help you keep your calm through the madness.

In this me-time, do what you love doing the most. It can be reading, working out, cooking, or simply taking a walk in the ground.

3. **Speak-Out:** Even if you've been an introvert all your life, speak out now. Shed off your inhibitions and go out there and interact. Because you might not get this time again. College being a melting pot of cultures, you'll find all types of people with their own personas, habits, and nature. And once you break the barrier and start interacting, you'll be amazed by all the information you come across to.

These 2 years are not for you to be in your comfort zone or stay cocooned in your own space. It's for going out, exploring and expanding your horizons. Try it and you won't regret.

4. **Read:** This 4-letter word should not be taken lightly as it plays a crucial role throughout the MBA and in shaping your future. Not only will reading provide you with fodder for the brain, but it also helps in developing the patience and concentration which you might need during stressful times. It doesn't matter what you read, what matters is you stay consistent with this habit. Try reading fiction for a week, then switch to something technical or domain-based. Keeping variations will make you a multi-faceted person and will maintain your motivation to read.

Now, all these points might seem like a no-brainer and can be easily surpassed or ignored, but if taken seriously, it'll help you reap maximum benefits from these 2 years. Not only will it make you push your boundaries and explore but it also helps to retain your sanity and keep a check on the things you do. After all, monitoring your actions is the first step towards improving yourself.





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