

Nirma University

# Newsletter



**NIRMA**  
UNIVERSITY

NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE

Volume 12 • Issue 3 & 4  
July - December 2020


## Major Highlights of this Issue




Nirma University is ranked among the 'Top 10 private universities of India' by India Today magazine.




Outlook-ICARE India University Rankings 2020 ranks Nirma University as the 4<sup>th</sup> Best Private University of India.




Factors that helped students get a pre-placement offer at reputed organisations.



Inauguration of Nirma University Start-up & Innovation Centre.



Silver Jubilee Celebrations @ Institute of Technology, Nirma University.



Faculty, Students, and Alumni achievements...



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74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day



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# Message from the Director General's Desk



Dear Reader,

The modern university is not only created to impart high-quality education but also to generate knowledge: basic and applied. Education and research and innovation are two facets of Janus face of the university. Further, the university not only conducts research and innovation, but also develops a scientific mindset in the student. The Covid-19 pandemic has amply demonstrated that a scientific mindset can save humanity from a catastrophe. In the future, research and innovation will play a more significant role in shaping the destiny of humankind. The corporate world is engaged in the development of applied knowledge and is intensely involved in the commercialisation of the knowledge. However, university-based research and innovation has a distinct role in contributing to the supply of scientific personnel to society, development of basic and applied knowledge, and the application of knowledge for the betterment of society.

New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 stresses that the university must focus on

research and innovation. The research university should invest substantial time and resources in research, whereas the teaching university should invest a moderate amount of resources for research. The Policy also emphasises research among undergraduate students, and rightly so. Unless curiosity and research skills are inculcated among undergraduate students, there will be no pipeline of students of a higher level of research and innovation. In addition, the university must develop state-of-the-art research centres, labs, and facilities. Equally important is to establish tinkerer's labs, pre-incubation facilities, incubation centre, accelerator, and research park. These facilities are part and parcel of the ecosystem for innovation. They not only support existing students but also nurture talented students from other institutions. As India is a late starter in this field, she must hurry up and establish an appropriate ecosystem for research and innovation as early as possible.

The Central government and the corporate world ought to advance the ecosystem for research and innovation. The funding from the Central government must be raised for all types of universities and the discrimination against private universities must end. Central government should also generously support the development of research facilities in the university. The corporate world in India has kept itself away from research and innovation, resulting in her poor competitiveness. We cannot afford to be a laggard in

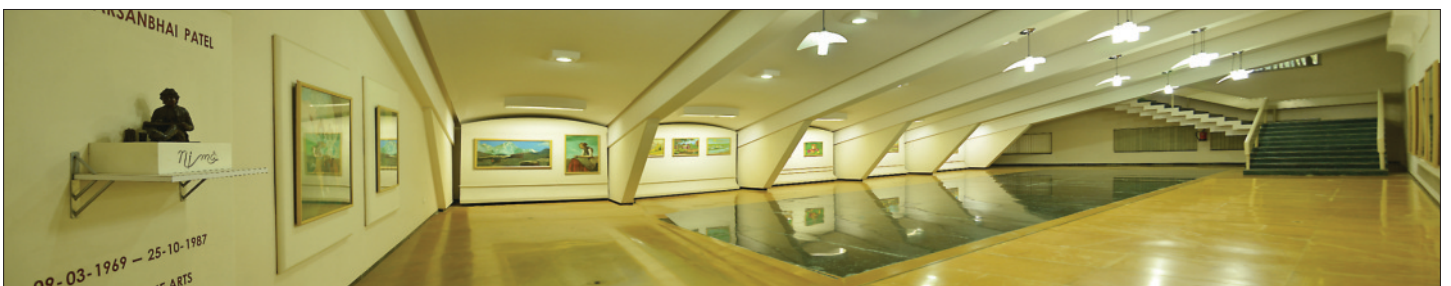
innovation. Currently, India's position on the innovation index is 48<sup>th</sup>; but we need to enter the league of top 20 countries. Nor can we afford to do research for certain multi-national companies. It is high time that Indian companies start competing through innovation and develop a robust relationship with the university system, which can help them innovate at a lower cost. The transactional relationship that we witness today between the corporate world and academe must give way to the transformational relationship between them.

The modern university can do three things to enhance the competitiveness of India. Firstly, it should develop curricula that emphasise research and innovation, use of technology, and learning by doing. Secondly, it should develop an ecosystem for research and innovation, characterised by high-end facilities, a culture of curiosity, competitiveness, and commercialisation. Finally, it should design various roles and units to align with the strategic requirements of governments and the corporate world.

The modern university is at a crossroads of opportunities. It galvanise its people to respond to the emerging demands. If it misses them, it shall be too late and the coming generations have to pay a hefty price for its avoidance and nonaction.

**Anup K Singh, PhD**

Director General, Nirma University





## Rankings

- Nirma University is ranked in the Top 10 in the Multidisciplinary Universities-West Zone category, released by The Week magazine in its July 2020 issue.
- Nirma University is ranked among the 'Top 10 private universities of India' by India Today magazine, Aug 2020.
- Outlook-ICARE India University Rankings 2020 ranks Nirma University as the 4<sup>th</sup> Best Private University of India, Sep 2020.
- Institute of Management is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> best private Business School of West India by Times of India, Oct 2020 issue.

## Inauguration of Nirma University Start-up & Innovation Centre

Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of Gujarat and Shri K K Patel, Vice President, Nirma University inaugurated the Nirma University Start-up & Innovation Centre through online mode on Dec 20, 2020. The Education Ministry of Government of Gujarat has allotted Nirma University a grant of Rs 30 lacs under the SSIP Policy for the next two years. The event was graced by Dr Anup K Singh, Director General of Nirma University; Mr Hiranmay Mahanta- CEO, i-Hub; Mr Madhu Narayan-Joint Commissioner, Higher Education, Government of Gujarat; Shri M Nagarajan, IAS, Director, Higher Education, Gujarat & Honorary Executive Director, i-Hub; Ms Anju Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary (Education), Government of Gujarat; and Smt Vibhavariben Dave, Hon'ble Minister of State, Primary & Higher Education, Government of Gujarat, among others.





# Students

## Smart India Hackathon

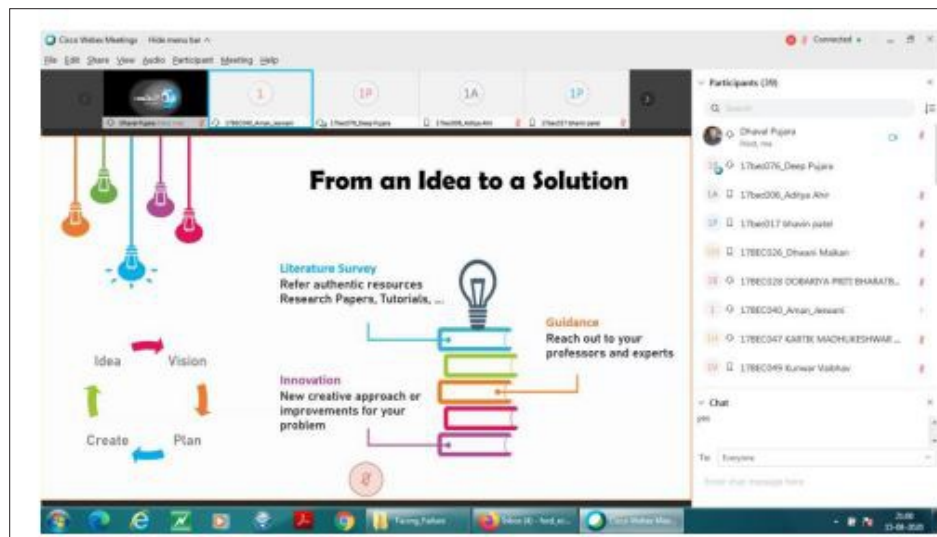
Institute of Technology, Nirma University students team 'Matroid' emerged as the Category Winners and Team 'Scramblers' received a special prize at the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) organised by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India.

Smart India Hackathon is a nationwide initiative by MHRD to provide students with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems we face in our daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem-solving. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of SIH 2020 was organised online from August 1-3, 2020, addressed by the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Over 10,000 students participated in solving 243 problem statements received from various central government departments, state governments and industries.

Team Matroid (Pushpit Jain-student leader, Rishi Hiran, Shrey Shah, Urja Patel, Pranav Agarwal and Devanshi Parmar) from the Instrumentation & Control Engineering and Mechanical Engineering department of Nirma University designed an innovative solution for reducing and maintaining a free-flowing check-in system at the airports under the problem statement provided by Airport Authority of India and won the first prize along with a cash prize of Rs 1 lac.

Team Scramblers (Deep Pujara, Pratyusha Patel, Sagar Patel, Keshav Kasat, Aman Jeswani, and Mansi Patel) from Electronics Communication Engineering department worked on the problem statement given by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The idea was to develop an algorithm which can identify the equation used at the transmission and the original data, without knowing any prior information about the scrambling process. The

Scramblers was the only team from Gujarat to reach in the top six teams for ISRO's problem statement. The team won a special prize of Rs 25 thousand for the work.



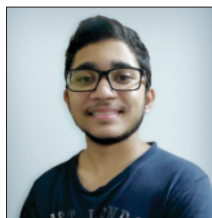
## Book Publication

Ishan Pandey, student of Institute of Law has authored a book titled "War of AI" released in Aug 2020 (ISBN number 9798675834259). It reached bestseller rankings on Amazon in the US, India, and UK. The book is a sci-fi thriller from the future. A graphic novel portraying a grim reality of our government and the elites. The book touches upon the subject of class divide within our futuristic society.



## IBM Hack Challenge 2020

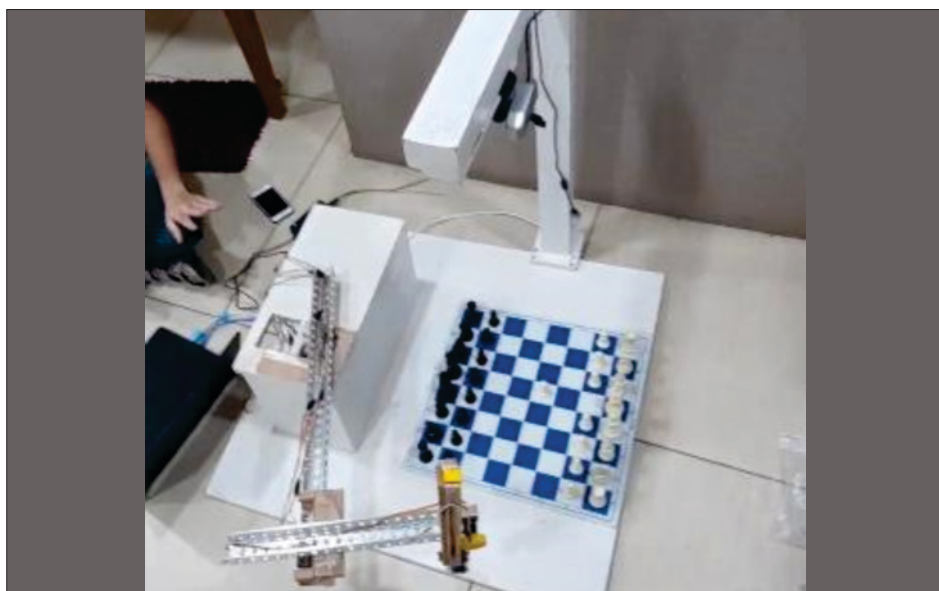
Student team of Dhruvil Dholariya and Chittalkumar Patel, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Institute of Technology emerged as the Runner up in the IBM Hack Challenge 2020 organised during May-Aug 2020 and received a cash prize worth Rs 25000 per person. They developed a website/app solution for "Predicting the energy output of a wind turbine based on weather condition". A total of 4500 teams across India participated in the event.



## Robofest-Gujarat 1.0

Krish Ajmera and Naman Kothari of Mechanical Engineering Department, Vaibhav Thakor, Nikhil Patel, and Tarun Khilani of Electronics and Communication Engineering Department, Institute of Technology emerged as the Winner Team in the Robofest-Gujarat 1.0 competition organised by Gujarat Council on Science and Technology, Department of Science & Technology, Government of Gujarat on Oct 29, 2020 in the category of Chess Playing Robot. The team received a special cash prize of Rupees Five lakh. Further, the prototype model has also been selected for display at the upcoming Robotic Gallery at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad.

Moreover, the team of Harshvardhan Sinh Sisodia and Akshay Marvaniya of Mechanical Engineering Department, Aakash Surve of Instrumentation and Control Engineering Department, Navin Khatri of Electrical Engineering Department, and Jigar Boda of Electronics and Communication Engineering Department received a special Consolation Prize in the category of Four Legged Robot. The Team received certificates and a special cash prize of Rupees One Lakh. The prototype model has been selected for display at the upcoming Robotic Gallery at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad.





## Placement Offer

Ms Sulbha Garg, undergraduate student in Computer Science and Engineering, Institute of Technology, Nirma University bags a placement offer of Rs 46.47 lakhs per annum from a Bengaluru-based IT company. The selection took place in three stages, Online test, Technical rounds and Culture Fit round. The institute took special classes for the students and groomed their technical skills. Ms Garg cleared all these rounds to bag the role of an IT Developer.



## Other Achievements

- Lokesh Vyas of Semester IX, Institute of Law secured first place in the Sharnad Basheer Essay Writing Competition on IP law for his essay titled 'Director's authorship under Indian Copyright Law: An (Un) Indian Approach?' organised by SpicyIP (India's leading IP blog). He was declared the winner on Aug 3, 2020 among the 95 shortlisted entries.
- Inovora India Design Studio in association with Nirma University, Strate, Indian Institute of Crafts and Design, Jaipur organised the Inovora India Challenge on the theme 'Second Life of Packaging Challenge' during July 17 to Aug 4, 2020. The students were expected to create another product that could be used instead of throwing it away. Among the 24 entries received in 7 categories, Aashana Agarwal (Furniture), Piyush Vishwakarma (Everyday solutions), and Tejas Patel (COVID 19) were declared as the winners in their respective category from Department of Design, Nirma University.

- Vinisha Jain, Yash Dadhich and Manya Anjaria have been adjudged as winners in the 'International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition 2020' organised by Symbiosis Law School, Pune on Oct 21, 2020.
- Ananya Gupta and Prince Agarwal, studying in Industrial Design discipline in semester VII, Department of Design were declared as the winners in the 'AI and The Future of Work' category at the hackathon hosted by MIT- Sloan School of Management during Nov 6-8, 2020. The task was to identify a problem area in the category and come up with an AI-based solution and pitch the idea to the investors in the jury panel. The students and their team members developed a digital platform, UpSkill- an early warning system for involuntary separation.
- Dhanvi Shah, Srishti Dutta and Vashishtha Dubey, students of Semester VII, Communication Design, Department of Design designed and animated a film on the issue of Domestic Violence. The film was submitted to ASIFA (Association Internationale du Film d'Animation) and was screened at Studio Face in Lugano, Switzerland on Nov 14, 2020 on the occasion of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Animation Day in Lugano, Switzerland.
- Shubham Borah and Aarush Sharma from Institute of Law won the Open Final in WDF OPENS XIV in the International category organised by the Debate Network Nepal held during Dec 26-27, 2020.



- Mr Ashish Majithiya, PhD student, Mechanical Engineering Department has been selected in the governing council of The Robotic Society (TRS) based on active participation in various events. TRS is a national level society, formed by robotic researchers from various IITs for promoting research and training in the field of robotics. Currently, the society has 1300+ active members and is being governed by IIT Madras.
- Vishal K Chavda, PhD Research Scholar, Department of Pharmacology, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University received the FENS Grant Award and FENS Voucher Programmer Grant award in FENS 2020 Virtual Forum held during July 11-15, 2020. He presented an online research poster and oral talk on his PhD Research entitled, "Neurotrophic and cerebroprotective effects of sexaglipitin and voglibose: In-silico to in-vivo animal investigational approach".
- Mr Saurabh Singh Rajput and Mr Karnav Sagathiya, Mechanical Engineering students of semester 7 received a grant of Rs 1,80,000/- for their project 'Experimental Investigations on Solar Air Heater using Phase Change Material' on Dec 2, 2020 under the Student Open Innovation Challenge (SOIC 2020-21), a flagship initiative of the Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP), developed under the aegis of the Education Department, Government of Gujarat.





## Students' Speak

### Factors that helped these students get a pre-placement offer at Amazon...

#### Yusuf Kharodawala

"My journey started when I was introduced to the world of data structures and algorithms, and realized its power. It really mesmerized me, and I regularly practiced them to hone my problem solving skills. I also used to make my projects with passion. My favourite platform for coding was codeforces, which deserves a huge credit for the programmer I am currently."



#### Harsh Lunagariya

"I have done Competitive Coding with my full efforts, that too with 100% consistency. It doesn't matter where I am, in class at Nirma or at home, Competitive Coding is the only thing we (Ashish and me) do. I solved such a variety of questions of Data Structures and Algorithms (DSA) which helped me easily crack the PPO interviews. Every question the interviewer asked, I was ready to answer instantly. My suggestion is to solve a variety of DSA questions, rather than just the same Implementation and make some good projects. Also, Consistency is the key to success."



#### Ashish Lal

"My journey started when a few seniors introduced me to competitive programming in my first semester, realizing it along the way that DSA and OOP are subjects way more important than all the other subjects combined. Find friends who have the same passion and interview preparation won't haunt you anymore."



#### Krutarth Trivedi

"I remember that day of the first semester when we (me and Ashish) bunked the class and went to a Programmers' meet organized by CodeAdda (Programming Club, Nirma University). I got inspired to start Competitive Programming. Started with Hackerrank at the beginning and then moved to CodeForces. It has a great impact on my DS/Algo skills and it helped me to crack Internship interviews as well as PPO Interviews. One more thing I would say that having a good company of seniors/friends around you, will always be beneficial. Don't be afraid to ask, Interaction is the best way to learn."



#### Vivek Ramnani

"The journey probably began from the first week of college itself when our seniors introduced us to platforms like Codeforces where you can practice DSA, from that time till today I've been learning a lot of new things and I believe that's the key reason for my selection. Tips for others: Learn DSA, do competitive programming, focus on communication skills and be consistent."



#### Kurvish Patel

"My whole process of getting selected for an internship at Amazon and then getting a PPO was dependent on important factors such as Data structures and algorithms, being confident during the interviews and always trying to learn more than I know currently. My advice to others is keep learning new things with consistency. Believe in yourself, and the rest will fall into place."



#### Nisarg Bhatt

"My journey to Amazon started from when I attended an introductory seminar on Competitive Programming hosted by my seniors. I was enthralled by CP, the adrenaline rush by competing with coders around the globe in live contests, getting those ACs, debugging under time control, etc. Owing to this I never had to explicitly prepare as I enjoyed learning new Data structures and algorithms. For cracking SDE interviews the major approach should be to brush up DS and Algorithms because that's where big companies handpick from the pool of applications they receive. But as long as one is dedicated and enjoys the work, hard work doesn't feel like hard work."



# Education and Research

- A Patent titled "Modified V hull with vertical blast ventilation" was published on Aug 7, 2020. The inventors of this patent are Dr Mihir Chauhan, Dr Kunal Ghosh, Mr Bhaumik Patel, and Mr Abhijisin Thakor, Mechanical Engineering Department, Institute of Technology, Nirma University.
- Dr Jignasa Savjani, Assistant Professor, Institute of Pharmacy received a patent grant titled "Aciclovir Cocrystals and the Process of Preparation their of" (Patent number: 347090) on Sep 18, 2020.



## Placements

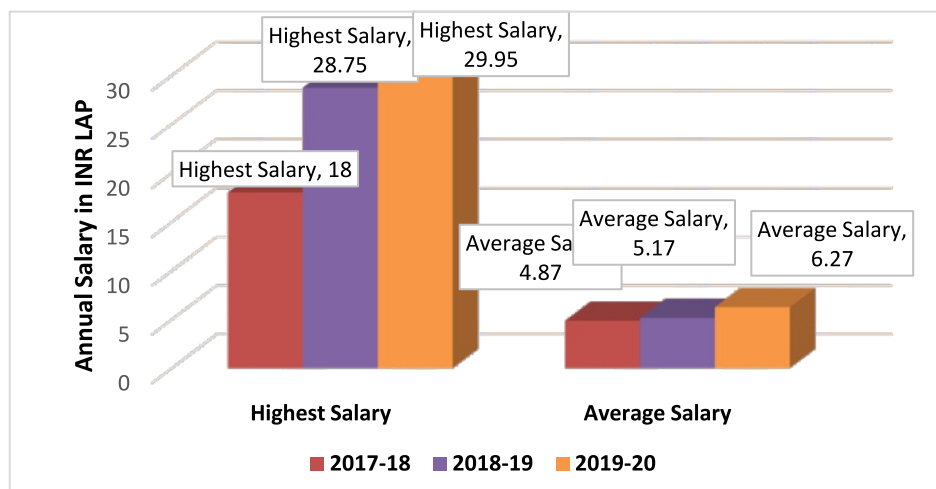
### Placements at Institute of Technology, Nirma University

Undeterred by the COVID-19 Pandemic situation, Institute of Technology, Nirma University manages to find its rhythm in campus hiring for 2021 passing batch of students. Campus hiring process begins at the campus with participation of eminent recruiters like Amazon, Code-Nation, Deutsche Bank, ZS Associates and Oracle. Sixteen pre-placement offers have been rolled out for final year students of 2021 pass out batch which includes seven PPOs offered by Amazon with CTC of INR 30.00 LPA, three PPOs offered by Deutsche Bank with INR 19.63 LPA and six PPOs offered by ZS Associates with INR 13.43 LPA respectively. Considering the current health situation, campus hiring processes are conducted using virtual platform.

During 2020 campus hiring season, students bagged 670+ offers from 130+ organisations. 50 students have been placed with an annual package of INR 12 LPA and above, 157 students have been placed with an annual package ranging between INR 7.00 to 12.00 LPA. Whereas rest of the students have been placed with an annual package up to INR 7.00 LPA. Highest package for 2020 pass out batch was INR 29.95 LPA offered by Media.Net. There has been a gradual increase in the highest package compared to last two years.

### Comparative Study of Package Offered to BTech Students

Recruiters for 2020 pass out batch were Media.Net, Amazon, Samsung R&D, Qualcomm, Cypress Semiconductor, NVidia, ARM Deutsche Bank, HSBC, Bank of America, Endurance, Intel India, Oracle, Juniper Network, Informatica, and Crest Data Systems. In core domain major recruiters are Reliance Industries Ltd, NBC Bearings, Thermax, MG Motors, Galaxy Surfactants, CEAT Tyres, Adani Energy, L&T Tech Services, ABB, Secure Meters, DCM Shriram, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, J K Paper, Torrent Power, and Worley, among others.



### Placements at Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University

For the Academic year 2019-20, a total of 40 MPharm and BPharm students, 33 from MPharm, and 7 from BPharm have been placed. The Average Salary has been 2.82 LPA with highest salary offered at 5.05 LPA. The companies that visited the institute include ACME LIFETECH, Aegis Lifesciences, Amneal Pharma, APCER Lifesciences, Cadila (Zydus) Healthcare, Fedora Advantage Healthcare, Finecure Pharma, Intas Pharma, Meteoric Biopharma, Molkem, Novartis India, Piramal Pharma Solutions, Puniska Healthcare, Sun Pharma, Torrent Pharmaceuticals, Sundyota Numandis, Emcure Pharma, CBCC Global Research, Aculife Healthcare, HealthArk, LA Renon Healthcare, Planet Health, Y J Trivedi Law firm, Axio Biosolutions, O2H Research, and PhytoLifesciences.

It is very encouraging to note that out of the 40 students placed, 34 students are placed in profiles related to their core area of specialisation which would provide them

opportunity to utilise their specialised knowledge and build technical expertise. Alumni network and strong industry connect has been of great help to face the challenges in placement posed by COVID-19. Performance of past students and the trust on quality education provided by the institute has helped the students to remain preferred choice for industry while recruiting fresh talent. Prior to placement season, all MPharm students of final year undertook their industry internship at various reputed companies like Sun Pharma, Cipla, Alkem, Freyr, Cadila Pharma, Intas Pharma, Zydus Cadila Healthcare, Meshayu Consultants, etc.

## Placements at Institute of Management, Nirma University

More than 85 companies visited the campus in 2020. The campus witnessed 100% placements. While average or mean compensation package stood at Rs 9.00 LPA, median salary at the institute rose from Rs 8.5 LPA to Rs 8.75 LPA. The maximum salary was Rs 12.33 LPA offered by Dell Technologies in the ITES sector.

The campus placement drive witnessed offers from prominent companies, from the sectors including, Consulting, Automobile, IT&ITES, Social Media, BFSI, FMCG, Market Research, Manufacturing, Construction & Real Estate, Healthcare, E-commerce, Analytics, Micro Finance, Power, Consumer Durable, and Telecom. More than 30 new companies participated in the campus hiring process. Companies like Smart Cube, Bytedance, Ingersoll Rand, Pesticide India, Jubilantlife, Spacematrix, Birlasoft, Malcom, MG Motor India, TTK Healthcare, Phone Pe, and South Indian Bank hired from the campus for the first time. Two students have been hired by PT Jaykay Files Indonesia, which has its presence in Indonesia. Companies including Infosys, EXL services, Kotak Bank, Axis Bank, Nielsen, CARE, CRISIL, TCS, HDFC Life, Performics Convonix, and Heidelberg Cement are among the regular recruiters.

Pantaloons, CRISIL, EXL Services, Decent Appliances, Spacematrix, Mercados, Symettn, HDFC Bank offered PPOs. Companies like UNIDO, J P Morgan, Publicis Groupe, EXL Services, Smart Cube, Bigbasket, SBI life Insurance, Radio Mirchi, Textron, Coca-Cola, Havmor, Jio Studios, Nephroplus, and Maeer+Vidorno participated in the summer placement process.





## Placements at Institute of Law, Nirma University

The Institute of Law works relentlessly towards providing the students with a plethora of options available in their field. From contacting various stakeholders in the legal sector, such as law firms, companies, and public sector institutions, to providing the students with an opportunity to work in the social sector and judicial clerkship in the High Courts, the Institute has left no stone unturned to achieve outstanding results in the placement services and has successfully produced graduates who have been warmly accepted in legal fraternity through internships, placement, and summer trainings.

More than 30 plus Law firms and companies participated in the placement process. While the average salary and mean compensation package stood at 4.0 LPA. The maximum salary offered is Rs 7 LPA by RKC infra build Pvt Ltd.

The campus placement drive witnessed offers from prominent Law firms and companies like, Legalogic consulting, Veeta legal Services Pvt Ltd, DMT Social & Co Advocates, Sintex industries, RKC Infrabuild Pvt Ltd, and GIDC. The Placement has also seen boost from summer internship programme and winter internship programme leading to Pre-Placement offers. Law firms including, Juris Corp, Nanavati & Company, Amlegal Saakshya Law, Nishith Desai Associates, Cuts International Competition Law Centre, Joyce law, Am I Complaint Law, offered PPOs to the students.



# Events & Activities

## Nirma University celebrates 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day

Amidst the ongoing coronavirus pandemic in the country, Nirma University celebrated the 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on Aug 15, 2020 abiding by the COVID-19 rules laid down by the Government of India. The university celebrated the day with a small group comprising the Director General, Executive Registrar and Head of Institutes. The event was hosted by Institute of Commerce, Nirma University wherein Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, was the Chief Guest.



## Athena 1.0: an online Business Plan Competition

An online Business plan competition: Athena 1.0, aimed to encourage entrepreneurship among students was organised during July 11-12, 2020 with 100+ participants across all the institutes of Nirma University. The teams were challenged to conceive a new service/product, and create a business plan and concept pitch presentation aimed at convincing potential investors to finance the business.

From over 50+ Idea submissions, the top 20 Ideas were chosen for mock pitching round. A webinar on business plan aimed at providing participants with effective ways to improve their presentation skills, brief them up about the judging criteria, and announce the mock pitching competition was conducted by Dr Abhiram Singamsetti, founder of Startupwize. The final Pitch Decks was viewed by a panel of two judges, Dr Abhiram Singamsetti, Co-founder at StartupWize; and Ms Rashmika Shah, Coordinator-Centre for Entrepreneurship; who selected the Top 10 teams. The teams pitched their ideas live on Youtube competing with each other in front of another panel of three judges, Mr Debasis Chakraborty, CEO of London Strategy and Consulting Group; Ms Saudamini Singh, founder-The Ginete; and Mr Kunnar Vijay Parmar, founder and CEO of Wivitan Solutions India Pvt Ltd.

First position was bagged by a team comprising students of Institute of Management: Rushil Agrawal, Divyanshi Dubey, Parth Amol and Pramiti Rawat for their product 'Self

Sanitizing Door Handles using UV light'. Second position was shared by two teams. Team comprising students of Institute of Management: Swasti Salecha, Debaleena Mazumdar, and Bhavya Chaudary ideating on 'Simplifying E-Book reading for avid readers; and by Institute of Law students: Ritvik Jha, Piyush Kumar Singh, Anubha Maheshwari and Ritunjay Sharma for 'Author orientated research and publication platform'. Third position was bagged by Institute of Management students, Shalini Budhwani, Deesha, Devyani and Muskan Sharma who devised a platform to 'Network, learn and obtain career guidance from like-minded people of their same career path'.



## Fit Nirma University Campaign

NSS Unit, Nirma University and Students Welfare Board jointly organised the "Fit Nirma University Campaign" during Sep 11-21, 2020 under the banner of Fit India Freedom Run. A total of 121 students, faculty and staff members participated in the campaign following the government's COVID-19 guidelines. Participants recorded their details on a link and uploaded a one-minute video of their activity. The purpose behind this campaign was to encourage everyone to be healthy, and get freedom from diseases like obesity, laziness, stress, anxiety, etc.



## Webinar on Future of Higher Education in India

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted almost all the sectors of the economy, including the education sector. Amid the pandemic, the recently approved New Education Policy 2020 outlines the vision of India's Education System and guides the future of the education system in India. In the light of the current developments in the education sector, the alumni association of Institute of Commerce, Nirma University organised a webinar on the theme "Future of Higher Education in India" on Sep 18, 2020. Mr Alok Mishra, Director, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, was the keynote speaker. Speaking on the disruption in higher education due to COVID-19, Mr Mishra emphasised on the need for innovation in the field of online platforms available for teaching and learning. He said that the implementation of the New Education Policy would provide flexibility to the students and thus called for the requirement of upgradation of the quality of teaching and learning in higher educational institutions.



## Panel Discussion on Assuring Quality in Higher Education

An online Panel Discussion on the theme "Assuring Quality in Higher Education" was hosted by Nirma University on Sep 29, 2020. The panelists invited for the discussion included Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University, Ahmedabad; Dr Bhagwati Prakash Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida; Dr Shailendra Singh, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi; and Dr Nilay Yajnik, Provost, Navrachana University, Vadodara. Dr Rajesh K Jain (Professor, Institute of Management, Nirma University) and Dr Uday L Paliwal (Dean, Institute of Commerce, Nirma University) were the hosts and moderators of the panel discussion.

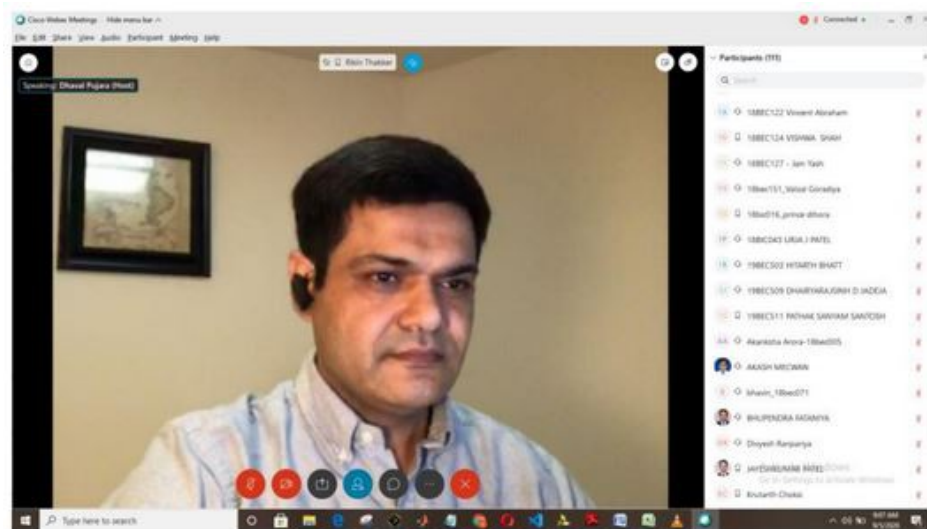
The panelists presented their views on aspects such as Curriculum design and pedagogy; Curriculum delivery and assessments; University-Industry linkages; Quality research and publications, Quality support services, Accreditation and rankings etc. and deliberated on the questions asked by the attendees. The discussion was attended by 268 participants including faculty members, researchers, experts and students of various Universities and Institutes across India.

## Webinar on Breast Cancer Awareness

Women Development Cell (WDC) at Nirma University in collaboration with Institute of Architecture and Planning hosted a webinar on 'Breast Cancer Awareness' for women on Oct 16, 2020 conducted by Dr Sudha Yadav. Dr Sudha has served as a Dean and Professor and Head of Community Medicine at Government Medical Colleges of Gujarat. She is actively engaged in training women on breast self-examination and champions the cause.

## Webinar on Why 5G matters for Your Career

The Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering organised a webinar on "Why 5G matters for your career?" by Dr Rikin Thakker, University of Maryland, USA in Sep 2020. Dr Thakker is an alumnus of the Institute of Technology, Nirma University. He is considered to be the world's top 5G expert and has nearly 20 years of experience in the field of cellular and wireless communications. More than 135 students and faculty members attended the webinar.



## Silver Jubilee @ ITNU

Institute of Technology, Nirma University celebrated its Silver Jubilee Anniversary to commemorate 25 years of excellence in the field of education and research. A year-long silver jubilee celebration culminated in the online presence of Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijaybhai Rupani as the Chief Guest on Oct 3, 2020. More than 5000 members of the Nirma family were present for the online celebrations. Dr Karsanbhai K Patel, President; Shri K K Patel, Vice President; Dr Anup K Singh, Director General of Nirma University; and Dr R N Patel (I/c) Director of Institute of Technology felicitated the founding members on this occasion. The Chief Minister released the 'Silver Jubilee Souvenir' online.





## Raas Garba

Owing to the pandemic, this year the Raas Garba event was organised on the lines of 'perform the garba from home' during Oct 17-24, 2020. The competition was held in two categories: Students and, faculty/staff. In the Student category, first position was secured by Yatri Patel, Institute of Commerce followed by Aangi Samirbhai Shah, Institute of Technology; and Rushil Bhargavkumar Thakkar, Institute of Commerce. In the Faculty/staff category, Dr Shital Butani, Institute of Pharmacy secured the first position; Ms Jigna Patel, Institute of Technology secured the second position; and Mr Rohit R Patel, Institute of Pharmacy secured the third position. The first three winners in both the categories were awarded a prize money of Rs 2000, Rs 1500 and Rs 1000 respectively.



## Plantation Drive

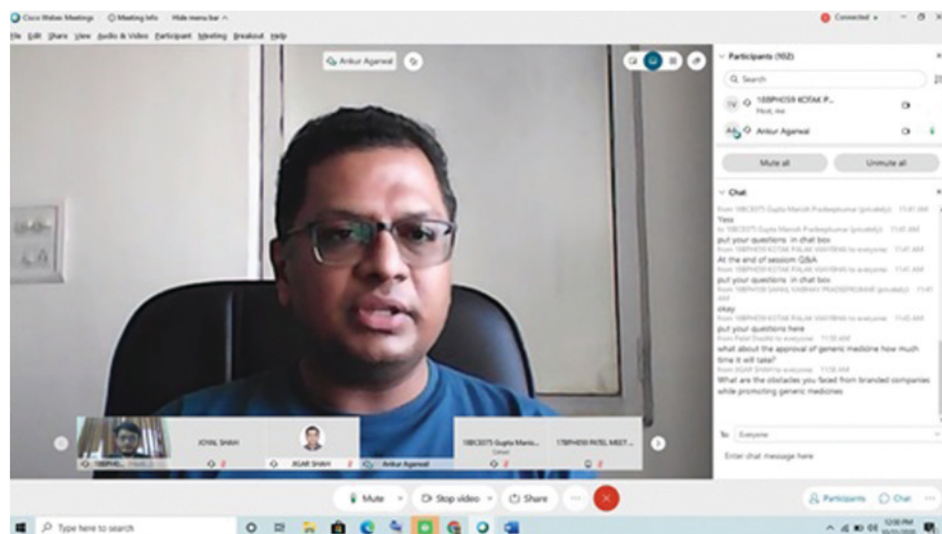
On the occasion of NSS Day and the 151<sup>st</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the NSS Unit and Students Welfare Board, Nirma University organised a Plantation Drive from Sep 24 to Oct 2, 2020. As a part of the campaign, members of the Nirma University planted a tree or sapling in their homes and nearby locality.





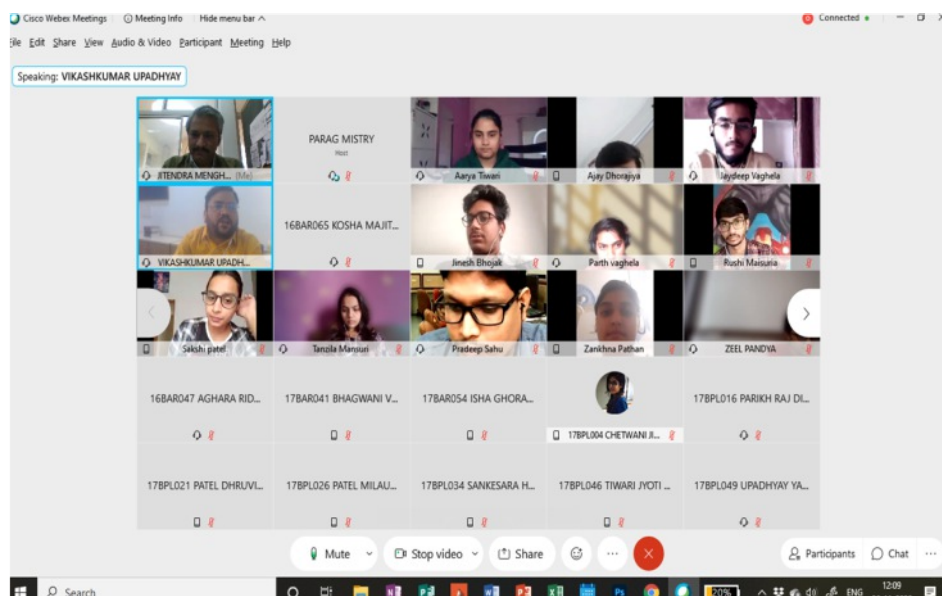
## Entrepreneurship in Pharmaceutical Industry

Centre for Entrepreneurship, Nirma University organised an expert session on 'Entrepreneurship in Pharmaceutical Industry' on Nov 30, 2020 with Mr Ankur Agarwal, Founder of Medkart Pharmacy as the resource person. The session was attended by more than 130 students of Institute of Pharmacy along with faculty members. With the aim of making students aware of the future of generic medicines, the session focused on the entrepreneurial side of a startup: its struggles, and much more! Students brainstormed on the Pharmacy business and Entrepreneurship in general.



## Constitution Day Celebration

As part of the celebration of Constitution Day on Nov 26, 2020 online activities were conducted by the Institute of Law, Institute of Architecture and Planning, and Department of Design, Nirma University. Participants were informed about the fundamental rights and duties of the citizens of India and the basic foundational principles of our constitution through the various activities. Further, the faculty, staff, students and NSS volunteers read the Preamble of the Constitution of India and took a pledge as citizens of India to responsibly participate in the making of a civilised society.



## Essay Writing Competition

Students Welfare Board in collaboration with NSS unit of Nirma University organised an Essay Writing Competition for students of Nirma University on the topic 'Mahatma Gandhi: His Ideologies of Peace, Non-Violence and Love' as part of 151<sup>st</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on Oct 2, 2020. A total of 90 students from the constituent institutes participated in the competition. The first position was secured by Mehak Dahiya, Institute of Management; second position by Snigdha Dubey, Institute of Commerce; and third position by Joshi Yashvi Vinay, Institute of Science. Winners received prize money of Rs 1000, Rs 700, and Rs 500 respectively.

## World Habitat Day Celebration

Institute of Architecture and Planning celebrated the World Habitat Day on Oct 5, 2020 by organising a webinar on 'Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy in Human Settlements' by Ms Zeenat Niazi, Vice President, Development Alternative Group, India. Her work spread over three decades has focused on sustainable housing and habitat in human settlements, community-based approaches to climate and disaster resilience and support to national, sub-national and local government in mainstreaming integrated planning for achieving Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement in India.



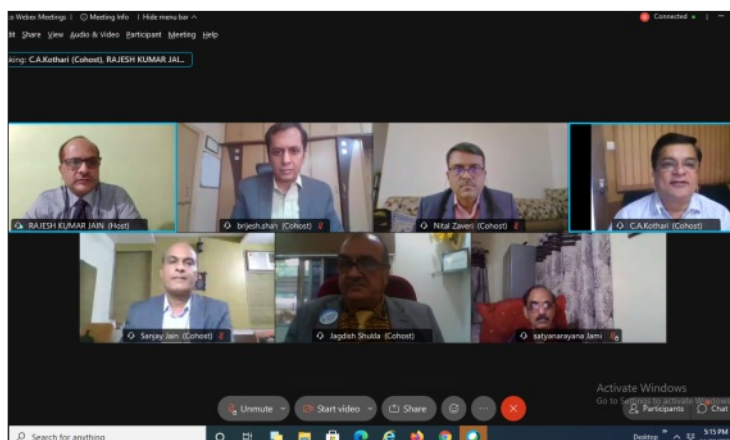
## Anvesh

Institute of Management organised its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Doctoral Conference in Management - ANVESH during November 26-27, 2020. The Chief Guest for the inaugural ceremony Dr Janat Shah, Director, IIM Udaipur spoke about creating a research ecosystem in an institute and inspire the researchers at the early stage of academics to aim high in life and be focused in their research. The Presidential address was delivered by Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University where he drew attention to the opportunities created for researchers in the New Education Policy. He highlighted the importance of having a strong theoretical background in the area of expertise. Dr M Mallikarjun, Director, Institute of Management, Nirma University talked about the genesis of Anvesh. During the two-day event, 63 presentations were made by research scholars in 10 session tracks. It also featured keynote addresses and 2 plenary sessions by experts from the Management domain. The event also had a Research Workshop on 'The Art of Writing a PhD Thesis'.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Quality Management

Institute of Management in collaboration with the American Society for Quality (ASQ) Ahmedabad Local Member Community (LMC) organised the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Quality Management on November 27-28, 2020 on the theme 'Project Atmanirbhar: World Class Quality for Self-Reliance'. The conference was organised with the association partnerships of Vadodara Innovation Council, Rajkot Management Association, Project Management Institute (PMI) - Gujarat Chapter, and Auto Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA). Dr Joerg Dehmer, Global Quality Head, Bosch Rexroth AG, Germany was the chief guest. Prof Prem Vrat, Chairman, BoG, IIT Dhanbad delivered the keynote address. Mr Suresh Lulla, Founder, Mentor, QIMPRO; and Mr Anindya Sarangi, Director, ASQ South Asia were the guest of honour. The second day of the conference witnessed Panel discussion on the theme 'Role of Quality to make India Self Reliant'. Panelists included Mr Jagdish Shukla, CEO, Servilink Systems Ltd; Mr Sanjay K Jain, President-India Amneal Pharmaceuticals; Mr Brijesh Shah, Delivery Head, SPEC India and VP, PMI; Mr Chetan Kothari, Sr Lawyer, Chairman, RMA; Mr Sachin Garg, Regional Director, ASQ; and Dr Rajesh K Jain, Professor, Nirma University (moderator). Mr C V Raman, Sr Executive Director, Member of the Executive Board (Engineering, Quality Assurance & Supply Chain), Maruti Suzuki India Ltd was the chief guest at the valedictory event. The conference was attended by more than 298 participants on the first day and 269 participants on the second day including executives from industry and students from India and abroad.



## Webinar on Strategies for Managing Personal Finance

Centre for Corporate Law Studies, Institute of Law in association with Securities and Exchange Board of India and Association of Mutual Funds in India organised a National Webinar on 'Strategies for Managing Personal Finance including Mutual Funds' during and after COVID-19' on Dec 21, 2020. The speakers for the session were Shri Surya Kant Sharma, Senior Consultant-North India, AMFI; Shri Deb Bhattacharjee, Assistant General Manager, SEBI; and Shri Nitin Joshi, Vice President, NSDL E-Governance Infra Ltd.

## Design Talks

- A talk on 'Future of the Industrial Design profession globally and the possibility of educational opportunities for graduate studies in USA' was delivered by Prof Sunand Bhattacharya, holding 30 years of experience in sectors related to design and engineering education on Oct 7, 2020. The talk discussed the upcoming trends and techniques that the world is adapting in order to move towards judicious use of resources such as innovative developments of energy-efficient buildings, cars and other products to alter the attitude and mindset of people for a sustainable future.
- A talk on 'Design for Behaviour Change' was delivered by Mr Vikram Singh Parmar, an academican and a practicing consultant in the European and South Asian sector on Oct 20, 2020. Mr Parmar is an Innovation Leader for the Strategic Programme for Knowledge-Based Innovation at Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Terms such as 'Sustainable Consumption' and 'Circular Economy' were explored and analysed to comprehend and relate with the current world scenario.

## Incredible India

On the eve of the 74<sup>th</sup> Independence day of the country, Nirma Volunteaching Movement & National Service Scheme (School of Engineering, ITNU) organised the event 'Incredible India' to celebrate the richness of our country. On this occasion, "Deshraag"- Patriotic Song Competition, and "Swadesh"- Patriotic Video Making Competition was held online for students and faculty. Prof P N Kapil, Institute of Technology stood first in the patriotic song competition, whereas among the students Aditi Mishra, Institute of Law stood first. For the Patriotic Video Making Competition, Madhvendra Rathod and Dhruv Fadadu, from Institute of Technology stood first and second respectively.

## Foundation Day Celebration at Institute of Law

Institute of Law celebrated its 14<sup>th</sup> foundation day on Aug 18, 2020. As a part of the celebration the institute organised a Live streaming on Youtube. The Guests of Honour at the event were Mr Shubhash Ghai (Film Director, Producer and Screen writer), Shri K K Patel (Vice President Nirma University), Dr Anup K Singh (Director General, Nirma University), Mr Priyankit Jaiswal (Singer & Music Teacher), and Dr Abhishek Singhvi (an eminent Jurist, Third term sitting MP, former chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, and former ASG of India). The event started with the address of Mr Shubhash Ghai, the inaugural chief guest who gave insight as to how creativity plays a vital role in the field of law and thereby the need to incorporate a creative approach towards the study of law. The institute organised a Public Lecture Webinar on 'Federalism: Origin Evolution and Post COVID Times' by Dr Abhishek Singhvi.

## Orientation of students of Institute of Science

Institute of Science organised an Online Orientation programme for the new batch of MSc Biotechnology, Microbiology, and Biochemistry students during Aug 10-17, 2020. On this occasion, Prof B J Rao from IIESER, Tirupathi addressed the students on "Why Science and why Biology" at the inaugural session which also included a welcome note by Prof Sarat Dalai, Director, ISNU and presidential address by Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University.

During the eight-day event, some of the other talks included, Confidence building by Mr Vincent Vaz, Psychologist & Counsellor; Time management by Prof Dhaval Pujara, HoD, Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, Nirma University; Cyber Hygiene and Resilience by Mr Kritarth Jhala, Digital Forensic Analyst, Incident Responder, and Cyber Crime Investigator; Online Searching and Plagiarism by Ms Vasumati SriGanesan, Founder & CEO-QMed Foundation, Mumbai; Netiquet by Dr Pooja Shah; and a lecture on MOOC by Dr Richa Mishra, Institute of Technology, Nirma University.

## Orientation Programme at Institute of Management

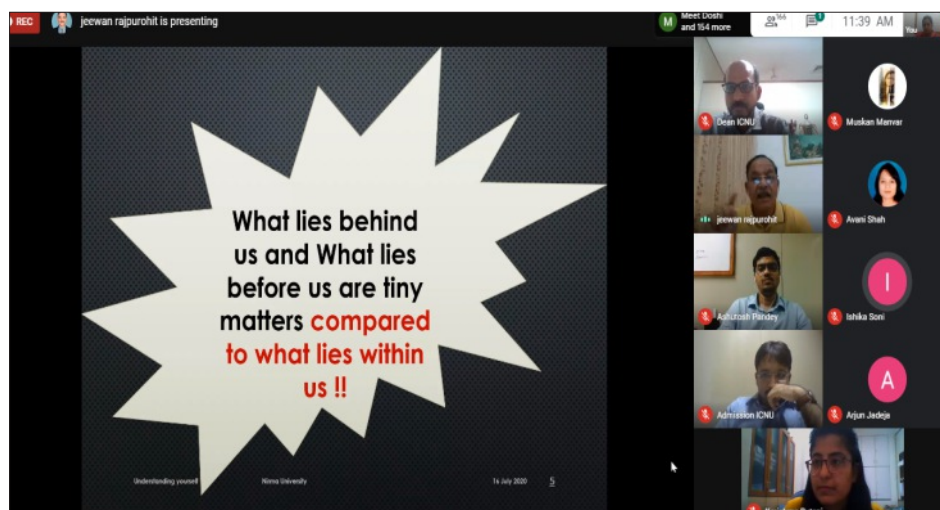
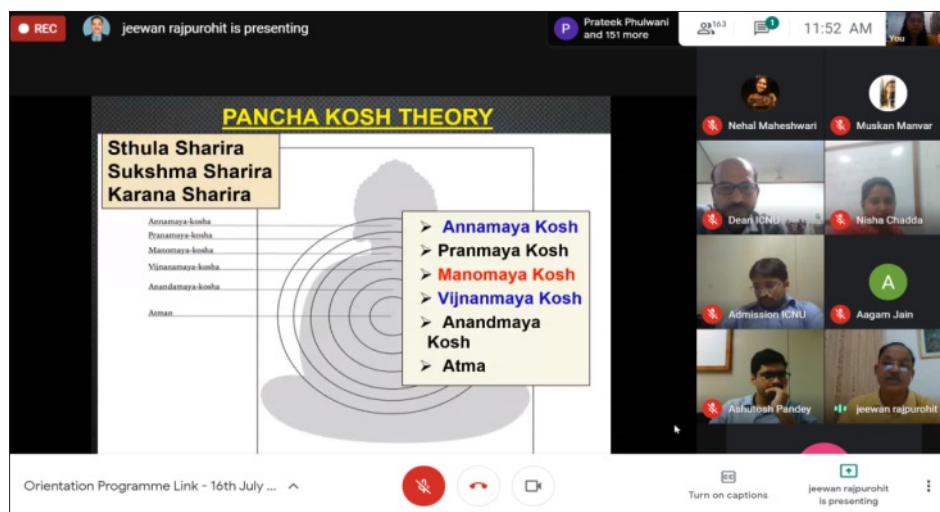
Institute of Management welcomed its BBA-MBA programme, and MBA programme students on Aug 4, 2020. Mr Varadhraj V, Vice President, Talent Acquisition, Infosys Ltd was the chief guest on this occasion. Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University was the Guest of Honour. Dr M Mallikarjun, Director, Institute of Management formally welcomed the students. In keeping with the protocol of the current situation, the programme was held on the digital platform. An induction programme has been scheduled for the students from August 4-11, 2020.



## Institute of Commerce inducts the fifth batch of BCom (Hons) students

Institute of Commerce inducted the fifth batch of BCom (Hons) in a four-day long induction programme organised during Aug 17-20, 2020. Mr Shekhar Bhandari, President-Global Transaction Banking at Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited graced the occasion online as chief guest. Mr Bhandari spoke on the theme, 'Changing Landscape of Accounting, Banking and Finance during and post COVID-19 and opportunities for commerce graduates'. He answered the queries of the students about the disruptions caused by the pandemic and its impact on the jobs in the future. Delivering the presidential remarks, Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University guided the students about the major differences between the school education and University education. He emphasised that in the University system, the students need to analyse the courses being taught and the prescribed textbooks critically.

Dr Dimple Butani of PGI Chandigarh took a session on 'Mental Health: COVID and its stigma'. Sensitising the students on the menace of ragging and drug abuse, the University Counsellor Ms Sapna Bhatt tried to break barriers of insecurity and succeeded in building a safe and reproach-free environment. Students were further introduced to the system and procedures of the institute by the faculty members. Speaking to parents and students, Dean, Prof Paliwal, reiterated the institute's commitment to provide the best possible education to students for their overall personality development.



## Induction Programme for BBA-MBA batch 2020-2025

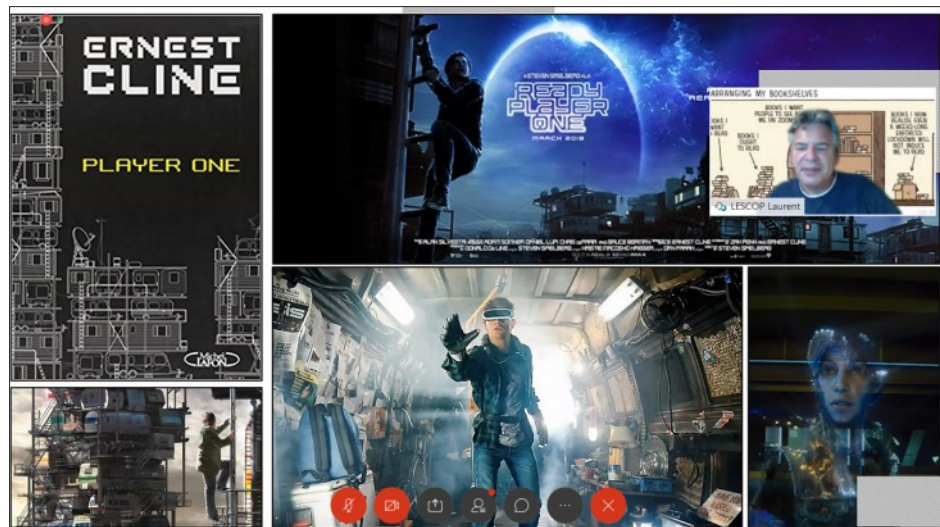
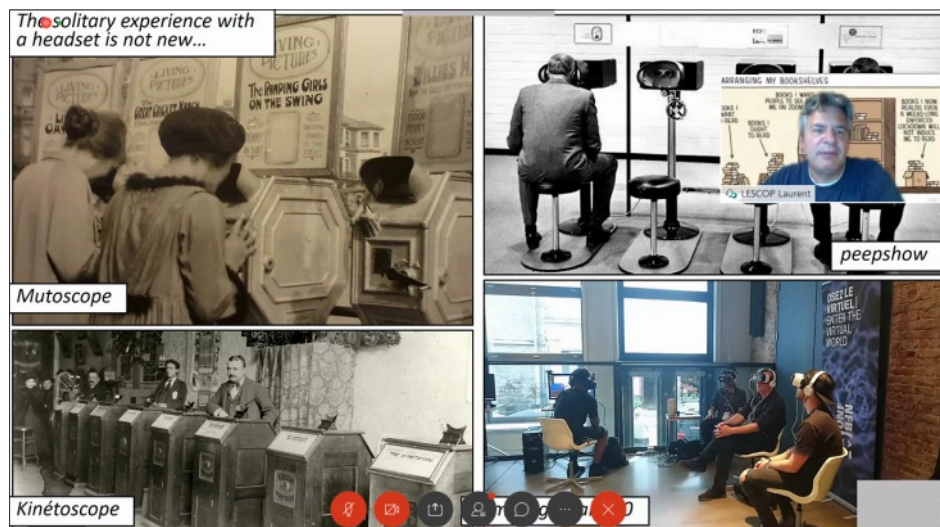
The inaugural function to welcome the incoming batch of the integrated BBA-MBA Programme was organised online on Sep 4, 2020. Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University was the chief guest. The three-day induction programme scheduled on Sep 4, 7 and 8, 2020 focused on different areas concerning students and the Institute. On Sep 4, 2020, after the inaugural session, brief sessions were conducted to familiarise students with the institutional norms and the programme. On the second day the sessions focused on introducing student activities, library resources and plagiarism policies along with creativity and micro-labs to orient students to learning. On the third day, topics related to gender sensitisation, SDGs, Anti-ragging/Anti-drug, and counselling facilities at Nirma University was addressed. Parents' interaction and faculty introduction was also conducted on the third day of the induction programme.

## Funding Opportunities for R&D Proposals

A webinar on 'Funding Opportunities for R&D Proposals' was organised by GUJCOST personals for the faculty members and PhD scholars of Nirma University on Oct 20, 2020. Dr Narottam Sahoo, Advisor briefed about 'STI policy of Gujarat'; Dr Poonam Bhargava, Principal Scientific Officer presented on 'Schemes under STI Policy, Research and Development in Emerging Fields of S&T'; Dr Payal Pandit, Scientific Officer (R&D) presented on 'Schemes under STI Policy, Technology Demonstration and Pilot Deployment'; and Ms Satya Pogaru, PIC Scientist C shared about 'Intellectual Property Facilitation at GUJCOST'.

## Foundation Day Celebration at Institute of Architecture & Planning

Institute of Architecture and Planning celebrated its 7<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on Sep 2, 2020. Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University presided over the event. Dr Laurent Lescop, an architect and a professor at the Nantes' Superior School of Architecture (ENSA Nantes) was the chief guest; and Dr Kiran Shinde, Professor, La Trobe University, Australia graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. On this occasion, Dr Lescop delivered a lecture on 'Digital tools for architects: evolution or revolution'. Dr Shinde delivered a lecture on 'Cities and Cultural Production'.

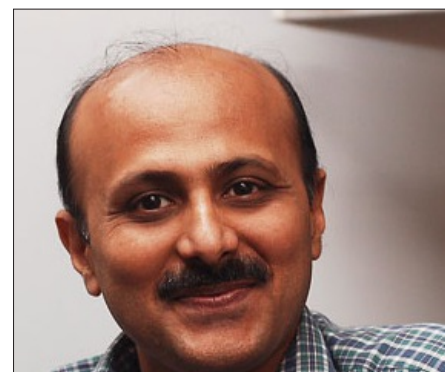


## Online Lecture Series for CSIR NET Preparation

In order to encourage the MSc students to utilise their time effectively during the pandemic, Institute of Science invited eminent speakers to help students prepare for national level competitive exams. Prof Suresh Balakrishnan, Department of Zoology, MS University, Baroda delivered lectures on 'Developmental Biology' during Oct 14-17, 2020. Prof L Shashidhara, Dean & Professor of Biology, Ashoka University, Sonipat, delivered lectures on 'Evolution biology' during Oct 21-24, 2020.

## Foundation Day Celebration at Institute of Science

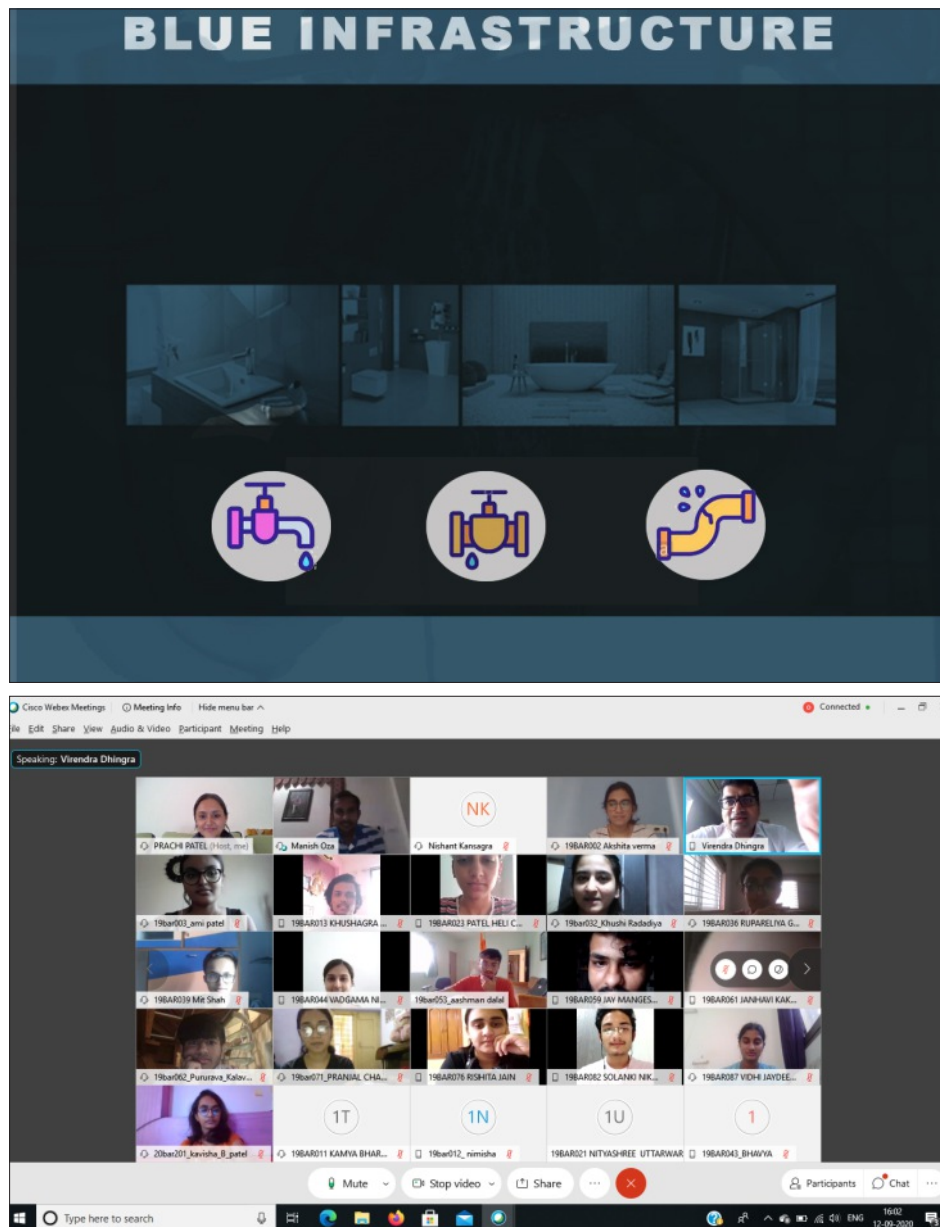
Institute of Science celebrated its 16<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on virtual platform on Sep 7, 2020. Prof G Nareshkumar, Former Director, Institute of Science presided over the event. Dr Aurnab Ghose, IISER, Pune was the chief guest and Dr Krishanu Ray, TIFR, Mumbai was the keynote speaker. Prof Sarat Dalai, Director, ISNU welcomed the audience and briefly highlighted the recent achievements of the Institute. Dr Ghose's lecture on 'What is the Brain Good for?' walked the audience through the evolution of the brain and enlightened on behavioural analysis of diverse organisms in a lucid manner. Dr Ray's webinar on 'What Happens when you poke a cell' presented the fascinating "push back" mechanism in response to stabbing attempts on the cell's outer membrane and discussed its relevance.





## Workshop on Blue Infrastructure

An online workshop on plumbing in collaboration with Jaquar Group, India was organised on Sep 12, 2020 by Institute of Architecture & Planning for students of second, third and fourth year. The workshop was a series of conceptual presentations of products in each vertical to build up a context where we can co-relate the plumbing planning and precautions. Contextual correlation is necessary for better understanding of plumbing keeping in mind the practical aspects.



## Short Term Training Programme

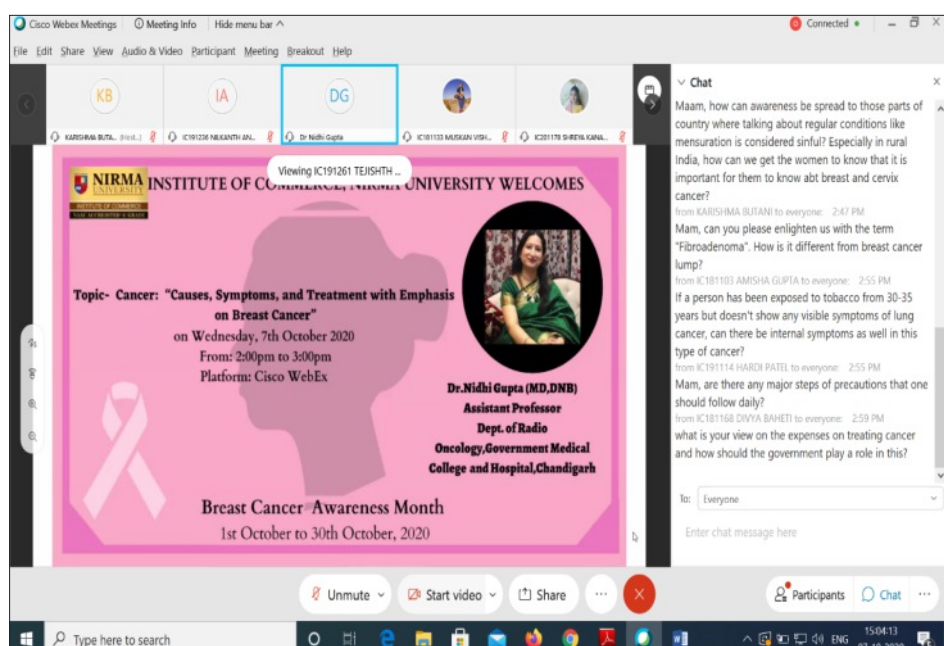
A National level online Short Term Training Programme on 'Fostering Instrumental Techniques for Effective Research' was conducted by Department of Chemical Engineering, SoE, Institute of Technology under Centre for Continuing Education, Nirma University during Oct 27-31, 2020 with an aim to provide an inter-disciplinary forum for engineers, researchers and student technocrats to discuss and promote research & technology transfer of characterisation techniques in Science & Technology. Sessions on Acoustic, Volumetric, Transport and Refractive Properties, Ultraviolet Spectroscopy, NMR Spectroscopy, Infra-Red Spectroscopy, Electrochemical Techniques, X-Ray Diffraction Analysis, SEM and TEM Analysis for Surface Morphology, Thermal Analysis Techniques, and Importance of Instrumental Techniques in Research were conducted by speakers including, Dr Ramesh Gardas (Professor, IIT Madras), Dr Narayanan D Kurur, and Dr A Ramanan (Professor, IIT Delhi), Dr Sudhanshu Sharma (Assistant Professor, IIT Gandhinagar), Mr A Satyaprasad (Scientific Officer-E, Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar), and Dr Debashis Ray (Professor and Head, IIT Kharagpur).



## Foundation Day Celebration at Institute of Commerce

Institute of Commerce, Nirma University celebrated its fifth Foundation Day on Oct 7, 2020. The online programme began with a welcome address by the Dean, Prof Udai Paliwal. The Chief Guest of the programme, CS Ashish Garg, President at Institute of Company Secretaries of India, New Delhi addressed the gathering on 'New Career Avenues for Commerce Graduates: Education Trends Post COVID-19'. Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University delivered the presidential address. To celebrate the occasion, students of first and second year delivered music and dance performances.

Further, on the occasion of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the institute welcomed Dr Nidhi Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, Government Medical College and Hospital, Chandigarh as a Guest Speaker to deliver a session and to spread awareness among the young minds on 'Cancer: Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment with Emphasis on Breast Cancer'. The event concluded with felicitation of student achievers for the academic year 2019-20.



## Induction Programme at Institute of Law

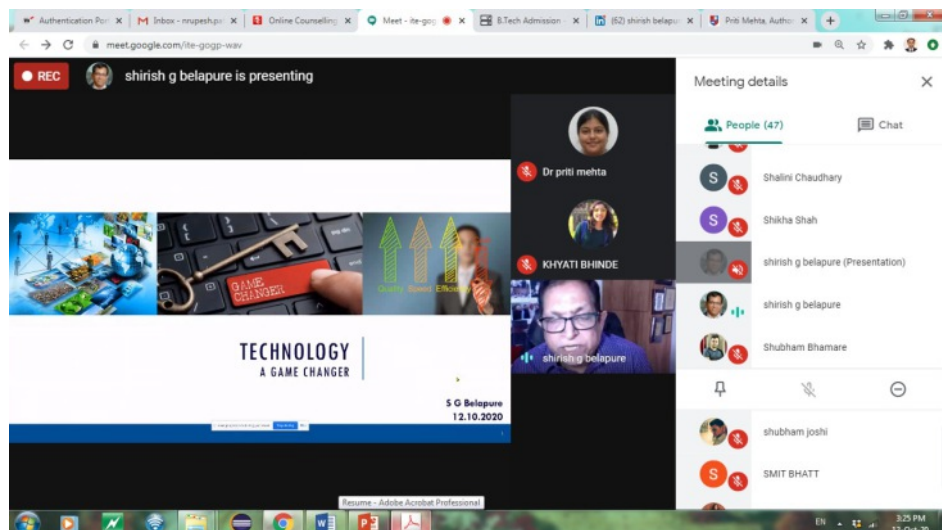
The Batch of 2025 of Institute of Law was inducted during Oct 22-30, 2020. Prof Stephen Hardy, Dean of Faculty of Business, Law & Politics, University of Hull, UK; and Shri Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Senior Counsel, Supreme Court of India were the Chief Guests. They provided an insight into the legal education and the importance of the same. The Guest of Honour, Prof Stephen G Barnes, Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programmes, Penn State Law spoke on the importance of law around the world.

The Induction Programme further included introduction to first year courses, interactive session with students, inquisitive sessions- like the 'Branding of Law Professionals' by Mr Sanjay Chakraborty, Founder & Chief Marketing Communication Advisor, ESSKSEE Consultancy; 'Artificial Intelligence and Law: Future of Legal Profession' by Justice B N Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Chairman, Committee of Experts on a Data Protection Framework for India; 'Universal Human Values' by Dr K Parameshwaran, Associate Professor, GNLU; 'Relevance of Higher Education in Realising Purpose of Life' by Dr Purvi Pokhariyal, Director, and Dr Arun Prasad, Institute of Law, Nirma University. In-house sessions were conducted by Dr Bini B S on 'Law, Literature: Dialogic Interfaces'; Mr Sukrit Garg and Mr Kushal Nandwani on 'How to read the Law'. Students were also apprised of the student committees and clubs active in the Institute.



## Orientation Programme at Institute of Pharmacy

Institute of Pharmacy organised e-Orientation Programme for MPharm students during Oct 12-16, 2020. Prof Stephen Kerr, MCPHS University, USA was chief guest of the inaugural function. Mr Shirish Belapure, Senior Technical Advisor at Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance delivered a session for the students.



## Foundation Day Celebration at Institute of Pharmacy

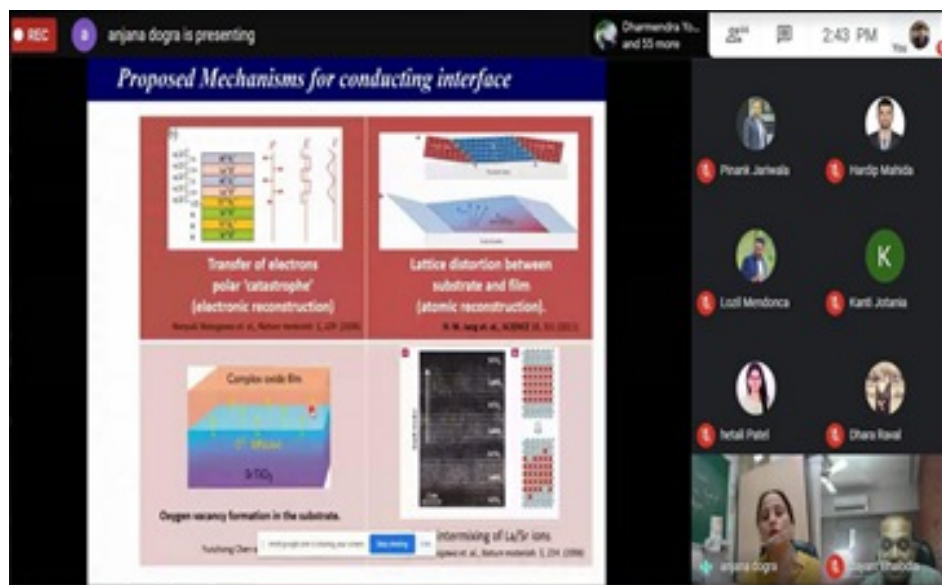
The 17<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University was celebrated online with great zeal and enthusiasm by the students, faculty and staff members on Oct 1, 2020. Prof Nigel Richards, Professor, Cardiff University was the Chief Guest and Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University presided at the event. Students, faculty, staff and alumni members were felicitated for their outstanding achievements.

## Refresher Course for Registered Pharmacist

Department of Pharmacology, Institute of Pharmacy in association with Gujarat State Pharmacy Council organised a Refresher course for Registered Pharmacist on Oct 17-18, 2020. The faculty members of department of Pharmacology and invited speakers Dr B N Suhagia and Ms Bhoomi Doshi delivered talks in the areas of critical responsibilities of registered pharmacist in healthcare system. Dr C N Patel, Principal, Shri Sarvajanik Pharmacy College, Mehsana; Shri Montukumar Patel, President; and Shri Jasubhai Chaudhary, Registrar, Gujarat State Pharmacy Council were the chief guest for inauguration and valedictory function respectively.

## National Conference on Recent Advancements in Materials Science and Nanotechnology

During the Silver Jubilee Year of Institute of Technology, a National Conference on 'Recent Advancements in Materials Science and Nanotechnology' (RAMAN)-2020 was organised online via Google Meet platform by faculty members of Physics under the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Nirma University, during July 30-August 1, 2020. National agencies such as GUJCOST, and DRDO have funded the project for its execution. Dr Suddhasatwa Basu, Director, IMMT-Bhubaneswar was the chief guest of the inaugural event. Among the 145 abstracts received, 88 abstracts were selected for presentation.

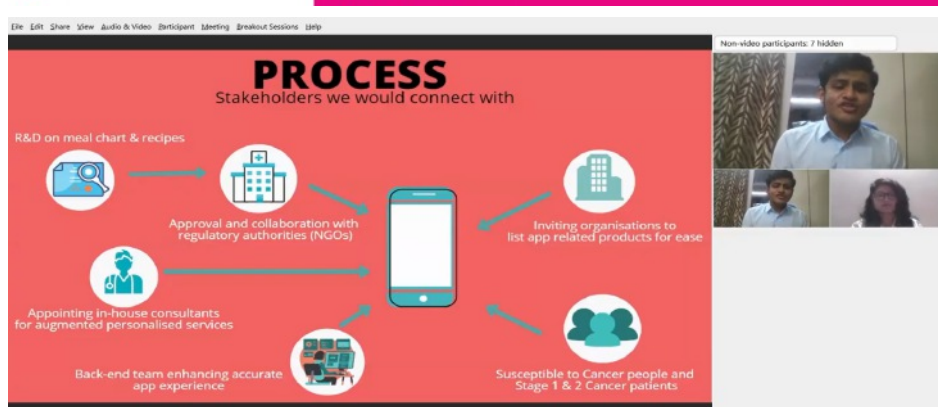
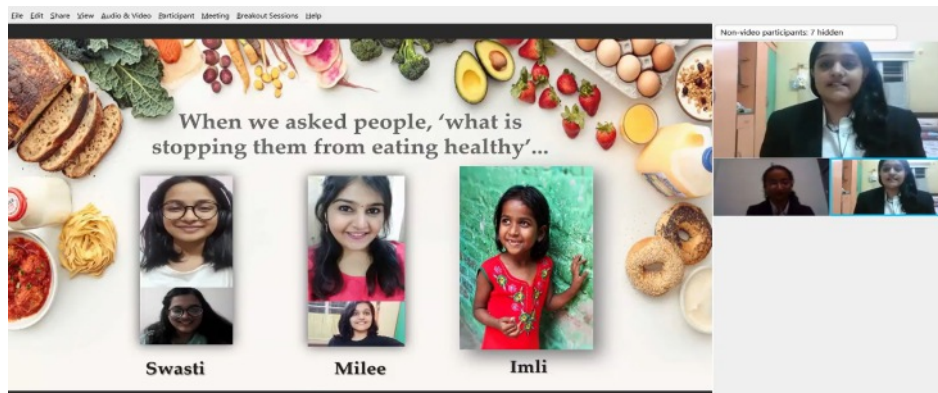


## Nirma University promotes Social Entrepreneurship with Hult Prize

The Entrepreneurship Cell of Nirma University organised a social entrepreneurship competition, 'Hult Prize' for its students in multiple phases from July to December 2020 on the theme 'Food for Good'. Hult Prize is an annual competition organised to promote and make the students aware of the concept of social entrepreneurship. It focuses on the identification of social issues and finding solutions for the same. Ms Nelly Andrade, Global Head of Programmes, Hult Prize, conducted the online Introductory Session. For the finals, the teams were assigned a mentor to hone their ideas under a month-long Accelerator Programme.

Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University graced the final event held on Dec 9, 2020. In addition to expressing his support to the participating students, he shared valuable insights for the Hult Prize community. The judges included, Mr Anay Mashruwala, Partner, Head Marketing & Quality Control at M/s Venus Engineering Works; Mr Jatin Kataria, Founder and CEO of WE Group; Dr Preet Deep Singh, AVP Invest India; and Mr P Rajan Matthews, Chief Brand Mentor, Next Food and Beverages Brands.

Out of the top 6 teams, the team 'The Missing Ingredient' including Bhavik Doshi (IMNU), Nischal Mehta (ITNU), Krisha Ghetia (ISNU), and Mansi Ukani (ISNU) won the Hult Prize Campus Round. The team aims to replace the Missing Ingredient in the routine of cancer patients and those susceptible to it by enhancing their dietary requirements. They will do this by providing recipes based on the intensity of the disease with a proper combination of functional food which are known to starve cancer cells to death. The team will now be heading towards the Regionals of the Hult Prize'21.



## E-FDP on Online Teaching-Learning Process

Centre for Quality Assurance and Academic Development (CQAAD), Nirma University organised a two-week e-FDP (Faculty Development Programme) on 'Online Teaching-Learning Process' for the faculty members of Institute of Pharmacy, Institute of Architecture & Planning, and Department of Design, Nirma University during July 2-15, 2020. The faculty received training for CISCO-WEBEX software, LMS system and the recent online tools for teaching learning process.

## Webinar Series on Advanced Construction Technologies

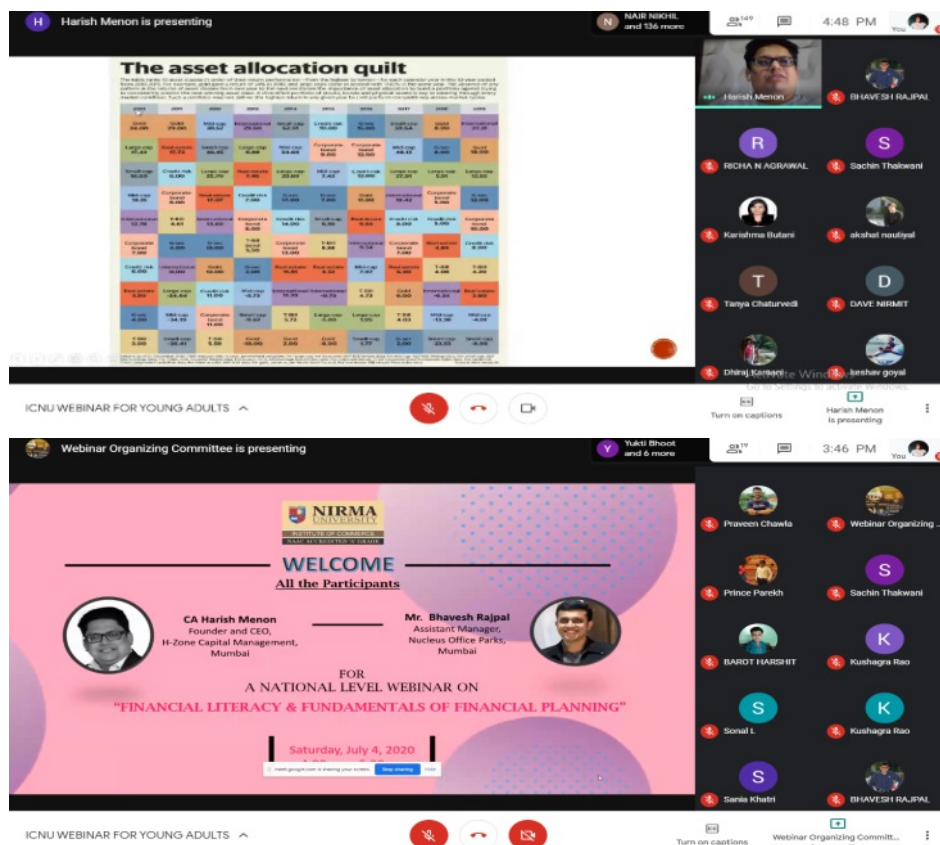
Civil Engineering Department, School of Engineering, Institute of Technology, Nirma University conducted the following webinars:

- Challenges for Construction of Motera Stadium, Ahmedabad by Mr Subrata Dutta, Project Director, L&T Construction on June 27, 2020.
- Overview of Advanced Construction Technology by Prof Kumar Neeraj Jha, Professor, IIT-Delhi on June 29, 2020.
- Box Pushing Technique by Prof Parul Patel, Professor, Nirma University on July 9, 2020.
- Tunnel Construction using Tunnel Boring Machine by Mr Sunil Dubey, Deputy Project Manager, L&T Construction on July 10, 2020.

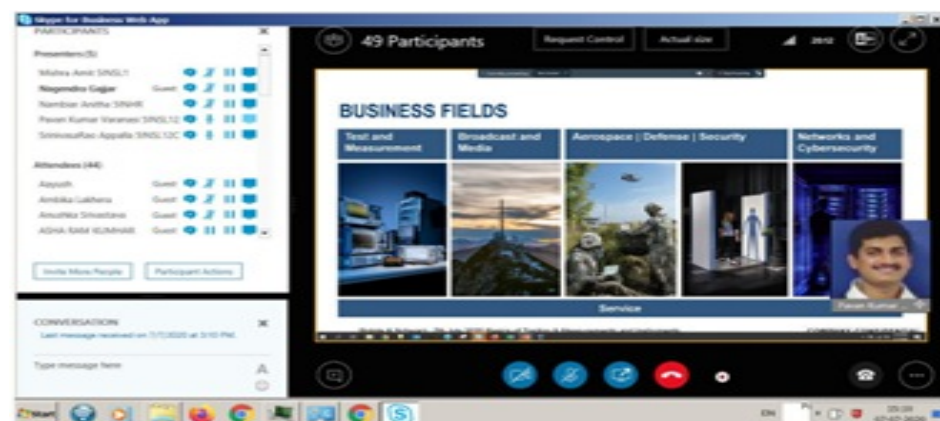


## Webinars

- Institute of Commerce organised a national webinar on “Financial Literacy and Fundamentals of Financial Planning” on July 4, 2020 by CA Harish Menon and Mr Bhavesh Rajpal. A total of 160 participants attended the webinar. The speakers highlighted about the techniques of evaluating shares, categories of stock and mutual funds through a well- constructed PPT.



- Centre for Environmental Law at Institute of Law organised a webinar on ‘Environmental Law Practice in India’ on July 15, 2020 by Ms Els Reynaers Kini, Partner at MVkini law firm and also cofounder and general secretary of the Nuclear Association of India.
- The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Institute of Technology organised a webinar on “Basics of Testing & Measurement and Instruments” on July 7, 2020. The session was held through Skype by Rohde & Schwarz. A total of 50 participants attended the webinar.



- The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Institute of Technology organised a webinar on ‘Eye-tracking - An Application of Computer Vision and Machine Learning’ on July 26, 2020. The session was conducted by alumni member Mr Rakshit Kothari, a computer vision and eye tracking researcher, and pursuing doctorate at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). The webinar was attended by approximately 55 students and faculty members.
- The Department of Instrumentation and Control Engineering organised an expert lecture on “Live, Lead and Excel Your Life 360 Degree” on July 17, and July 21, 2020 for the students of BTech IC, Semester III, V and VII students. The session was conducted by Mr Payank Patel, Director, LYFE \_ The Young CEO Club.
- Mr Vipul Patel, Senior Technical Programme Manager at Amazon conducted an online lecture on ‘How to get ready to succeed in an ever-changing global tech world’ on July 16, 2020 for MCA Sem-3 & Sem-5 students of Institute of Technology.
- Institute of Pharmacy organised a webinar on "COVID-19: Infection, Immunity and Vaccines" by Dr Harish Padh, Ex Vice-Chancellor, Sardar Patel University on July 16, 2020. The webinar included talk and discussion on corona virus behavior, disease progression in asymptomatic and symptomatic patients and vaccination.
- ‘Uniform Civil Code’ by Mr KTS Tulsi, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Senior Advocate- Supreme Court of India on Aug 10, 2020 at Institute of Law.
- ‘How to appear before Trial & Appellate Courts’ by Mr Jayprakash B Somani, Advocate, Supreme Court of India & NCLAT New Delhi on Aug 22, 2020 at Institute of Law.
- ‘Genetic Patenting: Tracing line between Development and

Protection' by Mr Manoranjan Ayilyath, Senior Manager (Law), Canara Bank on Aug 30, 2020 at Institute of Law.

- 'India's strategic response to artificial intelligence regulation' by Mr G R Raghavendr, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice on Oct 4, 2020 at Institute of Law.
- 'Competition Law and its Impact on Aviation Industry' by Mr Piyush Gupta, Head of Aviation & Competition, Ince Group, Singapore on Oct 30, 2020 at Institute of Law.
- Mr Parvez Siraj, Director, Cipla gave a talk on 'How can we Build Adaptability and Resilience Post COVID in the Industry' on Dec 5, 2020 to students of MBA, MBA HRM & IMBA Programmes. He talked about problems faced by the industries today-like logistics disruption, weak supply chain Management, inefficiency in the system. He also mentioned how this pandemic came as a blessing in disguise, as industries realized these problems, the power of digitalisation, and their current inefficient

structure. He emphasised on how Industry 4.0, digitalisation, and augmented reality is the need of the hour and whosoever have adapted to these changes have become resilient.



## Centre of Excellence, Nirma University and Binghamton University Online Monthly Speaker Series

Following lectures were held under these series:

- 'Computer Vision Aided Autonomous Navigation System Using Overhead Cameras and a Raspberry Pi' by Prof Yong Wang, Assistant Professor, Systems Science and Industrial Engineering, Binghamton University, USA on July 10, 2020.
- 'Stock Market Prediction Using Machine learning and Deep Learning' by Dr Priyank Thakkar, Associate Professor, Institute of Technology on July 24, 2020.
- 'Machine Learning-based School Attendance Prediction and Causal Mining among Students with Autism' by Dr Daehan Won, Assistant Professor, Binghamton University on Aug 7, 2020.
- 'Distributed Overlapping Community Detection in Mobile Social Networks (MSN)' by Dr Zunnun Narmawala, Associate Professor, Nirma University on Aug 21, 2020.
- 'Establishing trust and reputation in Cloud' by Dr Madhuri Bhavsar, Professor, Institute of Technology, Nirma University on Sep 18, 2020.
- 'Research Opportunities in Machine Learning & Data Science' by Dr Sangwon Yoon, SUNY Binghamton University, NewYork, USA on Sep 28, 2020.
- 'Energy Optimization of Sensor Networks using Clustering Techniques' by Dr Ankit Thakkar, Associate Professor, Institute of Technology, Nirma University on Oct 23, 2020.

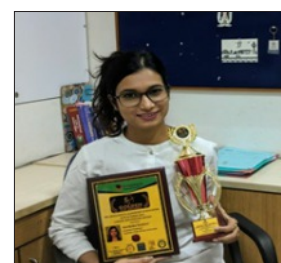
## Faculty

### Awards and Achievements

Dr Priyanka Sharma (Professor, CSE department), Dr Ankit Thakkar (Associate Professor, CSE Department), and Dr Sudeep Tanwar (Associate Professor, CSE Department) have received an honorary recognition as "Rosalind Member of London Journal Press" for 2020-2021 towards appreciation for their research publications.



Ms Anviksha Pachori, Assistant Professor, Institute of Law was awarded with the 'Career Influencer Award' under IV chapter of Golden Aims Awards for Leadership in Education. She has also been bestowed with the Lifetime membership of Indian federation of Quality Education Council.







## COVID-19: A Fear of Uncertainty and Science Enigma

Prof Sarat K Dalai

*Director, Institute of Science, Nirma University*

Thirty five years ago when I left my native village in costal Odisha for pursuing my higher study in cities, I looked forward to the days full of optimism and hope to reach my destiny. Today I ask myself whether that was a right decision. Likewise millions of people who have left their native places located in small towns and rural villages in pursuit of their ambition and better lives seem to regret. Living in the constant fear of Corona outbreak is no easy for people throughout the world. As I try to follow the Pandemic in different parts of the world, my heart breaks. Other day while going to bed my teenager son asked me "Is everything going to be destroyed with no human being survived on earth?" I had no good answer but saying "Don't worry; everything is going to be fine". I knew that was not the right answer, but at this time drawing so called realistic or pessimistic picture of the Corona Pandemic would be unjust to younger generation who are looking forward to beautiful times ahead.

As the lockdown began in India, one of my former students living in the USA started connecting with me through email and asked me the obvious question "How long the Corona outbreak would continue". She thought I being an Immunologist should be able to predict that would complement the answer

being sought from Dr Anthony Fauci, the director of NIAID (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases), NIH, USA since 1985. I had the opportunity to interact with him when I did my postdoc at NIAID during 1999-2001. He is a virologist, known for his work on HIV-AIDS and has served as advisors to six presidents of the United States including current president, Mr Donald Trump. Whenever such life threatening pandemic or fear of any bioweapons comes to news, he is the first contact person in recent times being looked for advice. In last few years I have observed him doing a very good job. This time also he did his part and warned the USA Federal Government well in advance about the Corona threat. I am not sure why USA could not control this pandemic as they could do in past for SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome)-I, Swine Flu, etc. Most of the Americans think they are capable of handling such menace because of their health care system, but the outcome does not reflect it.

Now there are various opinions and theories about the genesis of COVID-19. Although most of the virologists seem to think that it is a slightly different form of the Corona-SARS-I that caused pandemic in 2002, others do not agree with it. Recently, Dr Luc Antoine Montagnier, recipient of Nobel Prize in 2008 for Co-discovery of HIV, said that COVID-19 (SARS-COVID-2) genome contains the genes from HIV and malaria parasite. Our initial thoughts on the symptoms induced by COVID-19 infection is now changing and making the diagnosis difficult. As such there is a lack of very sensitive diagnostic kits that can detect the corona infection with utmost accuracy. As I interact with the scientists dealing with vaccine, I find most of the vaccine efforts are based on the knowledge of SARS-COVID-I. With time we will come to know whether those vaccines will be able to effectively control or prevent COVID-19 infection.

Although scientifically there is a lot to learn about the virus and strategies to be developed to contain the virus, one question bothers me about the origin of this virus. About 100 years ago, world experienced the pandemic of Spanish flu. Hardly anyone from that generation still survives to share the experience, but what we have learnt from the literature is that the flu virus was from a natural source. Because it was new to human civilizations, it did a lot of harm similar to what we experience now for COVID-19. Over the years we have been able to control flu infections quite effectively by vaccines. I wonder how a flu-like virus could evolve so meticulously in animals or birds in such a manner that it would acquire the genes from another virus (i.e., HIV) and Malaria parasite. COVID-19 virus seems to be engineered in the laboratory with a deliberate attempt to kill people. It is a question in everybody's mind "How can biologists think of making such pathogen". Or it is done at the behest of the rulers with particular political philosophy! So far I know every political ideology i.e. ism is based on human values and ethics. While the modus operandi might differ, the end goal for the betterment of human being hardly changes. Definitely no ideology advocates for gaining power/strength at the cost of killing people. And skilled people who help realise such

practices are utterly unethical and inhuman in nature. Last century has witnessed maximum scientific innovations and technological advancement. The development of biotechnology, particularly genetic engineering is a spectacular milestone in scientific endeavor. It has provided hope and solution to many impending challenges in health and food security. Insulin used for treating type-I diabetes is the first genetic engineering product. So many drugs/biologics used for

treatment of various diseases are products of biotechnology. We intend to claim that 21<sup>st</sup> century belongs to biologist; what we experience today is a slap on the scientific community.

One thing has been bothering me since I started understanding people in general; whether they are part of larger society, institution, or family. The sense of tolerance is very low, putting others into trouble comes spontaneously to mind, and not allowing individuals, society, or nation to grow to the full potential has become a symbol of strength. While knowledge and intelligence make people forward looking, the wrong practices followed in daily lives make individuals or groups of people become unethical leading to inhuman consequences. It is time that we as people and nation follow our fore fathers; strictly adhere to ethics and human values for better tomorrow. Before we vanish from the earth we must leave the good things to be practiced by our children and grandchildren.

## Alumni

- Mr Hardik Shah (PhD from Chemical Engineering Department, Institute of Technology, Nirma University-2011-2018), has been recently appointed as the Private Secretary to Honorable PM Shri Narendra Modi. Mr Shah, a 2010-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre was appointed as the Private Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Information and Broadcasting. Earlier, he was also appointed as the Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).



Mr Shah has made an immense contribution to the national plan to control the plastic menace and environment conservation. He also had a key role in controlling pollution and promoting environmental protection in various states.

Prior to this appointment, he was the Additional Collector of Himatnagar district. He has also served as the Member Secretary, Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Government of Gujarat, and Secretary, Gujarat State Expert Appraisal Committee constituted by the Government of Gujarat for the implementation of EIA notification, 2006 in the state.

- Mr Puneet Malpani, Chemical Engineering Department (BTech 2006-2010), owner of Myra Enterprises has developed a chemically treated non-woven fabric to protect against COVID-19. The company has developed a chemically treated non-woven fabric that has proved effective against the Novel Coronavirus within 5 minutes of its exposure to the virus, via the ISO18184 testing method. The developed material is currently being used for making masks on large scale.

## Alumni on Campus

- Mr Viral Shah, an alumni of Institute of Technology, currently Technical Specialist, Premier Foods plc, UK presented a webinar on 'Lessons from my professional Engineering Career' on Aug 29, 2020 to the current BTech students.
- Mr Param Popat, a 2019 alumnus of Institute of Technology, currently pursuing his Postgraduation from Columbia University, New York delivered an expert talk on 'What does it take to make a career in Machine Learning?' on Sep 11, 2020.
- Mr Malav Shah, alumni of Institute of Technology, currently working as UX Developer at Unicon, Inc. Gilbert, Arizona delivered an expert talk on 'Diverse Skill set for Computer Engineering' on Oct 9, 2020.



### Alumni of Institute of Pharmacy delivered the following talks online for the current students:

- Ms Saloni Patel, PhD Scholar, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States delivered a talk on 'Design and Development of ACE Inhibitors' on Sep 3, 2020.
- Ms Kinjal Patel, PhD Student, St John's University, Queens New York, USA delivered a talk on 'Scope of Pharmaceutical Science in India and Abroad' on Sep 21, 2020.
- Dr Chetan Chintha, currently Early-stage researcher, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland delivered a talk on 'Design and Development of Targeted Anticancer Agents' on Oct 3, 2020.
- Mr Durga Shanker Dubey, currently District Manager, Johnson and Johnson delivered a talk on 'Role of Phytoconstituents for the treatment of chronic diseases' on Oct 21, 2020.

## Placement Mantra by Senior Friends

As part of the webinar series "Placement Mantra by Senior Friends" organised by the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, Institute of Technology the following sessions were held for the students of BTech Semester V and VII:

- Mr Pranjali Shrivastava, Mr Jayvik Desai and Ms Aditi Bhatnagar from Cypress Semiconductor, Bangalore conducted a session on "Embedded System" on July 4, 2020.
- Ms Shreya Adhikari, Ms Anmol Jain, Mr Yash Lad and Mr Dhruv Shah from Secearce, Pune conducted a session on "Preparation for Job Placements in Non-Tech Industries" on July 5, 2020.
- Mr Bhavin V Nayak from Apple, USA shared his experience "Journey from Nirma BTech EC to Apple USA" on July 10, 2020.

## Panel Discussion on Career Journey and Future Opportunities

As part of the Panel discussion on 'Career Journey and Future Opportunities' for CSE students of Institute of Technology following alumni members joined as panelists on Oct 3, 2020.

- Sharad Parsana (2001 pass out, IT) Director Cloud Services Engineering at Live Nation Entertainment, Los Angeles.

- Pooja Swaroop (2002 pass out, MCA), Additional Commissioner of Income Tax Department.
- Bhupendra Tripathi (2002 pass out, IT) Manager RBI, Ahmedabad Branch.
- Tushar Thakker (2003 pass out, IT) IT Architect, Author, Technology blogger and Immersive Reality Entrepreneur.
- Khyati Bhatt (2003 pass out, IT) Founder and CEO, Simply Body Talk.
- Pratik Patel (2010 pass out, MCA) Founder and CEO Yudiz Solution Pvt Ltd.
- Astha Dangar (2014 pass out, CE) Sub Divisional Magistrate, Jamnagar.
- Parth Shah (2014 pass out, CE) Product Manager, Mashreq Bank Global Head Office.

The panelists provided career guidance to the current students of the department and solved their queries on how to select a particular career path.

## Alumni Meet

As a part of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of Institute of Technology, Nirma University, the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering organised an online Reunion of the EC First Pass Out 1999 batch on Oct 3, 2020 on Google Meet. Close to 40 alumni and faculty members participated in the meet. Dr R N Patel, Director (I/c), Institute of Technology addressed the alumni of the first batch.





## Editorial Board

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