

Nirma University

Newsletter



NIRMA
UNIVERSITY

NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE

Volume 13 • Issue 1 & 2
January - June 2021

Major Highlights of this Issue



Nirma University awarded a 5-star rating in GSIRF 2021



Institute of Pharmacy awarded the first rank amongst the Pharmacy colleges in GSIRF 2021



Institute of Technology received first rank in Gujarat under the CSR-GHRDC Engineering Colleges Survey 2021



Institute of Architecture and Planning received the 'Most Promising Architecture College' of the Year 2021 award



International Scholarship Awards won by ISA Student Members



Nirma University held its 29th Annual Convocation Ceremony on March 20, 2021



Faculty, Students, and Alumni achievements...



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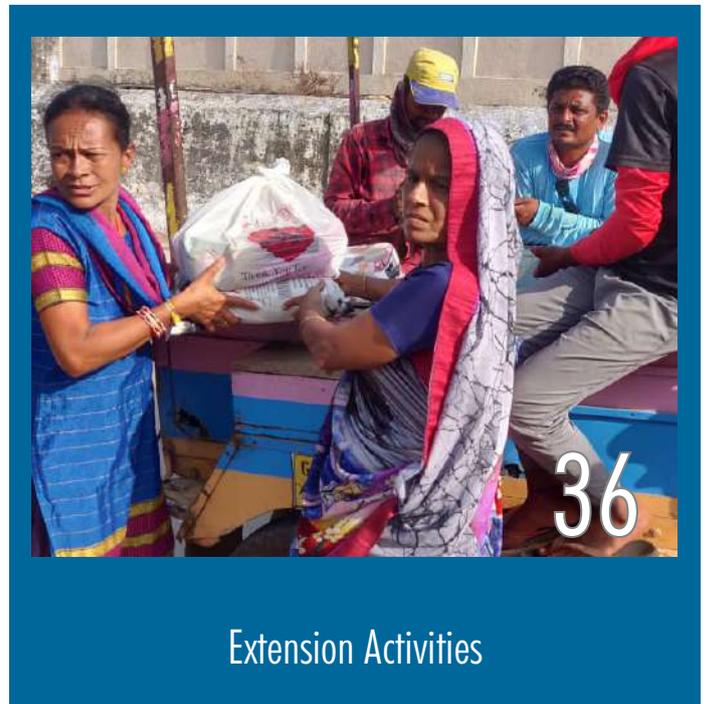
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Message from the Director General's Desk



Dear Reader,

We recently experienced the second wave of Covid-19. It had a devastating impact on lives and livelihoods. There was hardly any part of the country that was not adversely affected. The health management system virtually collapsed. Medicine and oxygen were in great shortage. The social climate was characterised by hopelessness and helplessness. The pace of the economy came to a standstill and society limped. The government slowed down and industries slipped. Both urban and rural unemployment increased and employed people were hit by the reduction in salaries. Old people were fearful, while the youth were shocked. Indeed, we experienced times of despondency, desperation, and destruction.

A pandemic may be new for the present generation. However, pandemics have shattered and battered humankind for centuries immemorial. The black death pandemic of bubonic plague killed almost one-third population of Europe. The Spanish flu pandemic – after the First World War – killed more people compared to the number of people who were killed in the War. By the most conservative estimates, it killed more than twenty million people across the

world. For the first time, the Census reported a decrease in Indian population over a period of one decade. Pandemics thus have an unprecedented and unforeseen negative impact on humankind.

As the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining. Europe witnessed Renaissance after the black death pandemic. Similarly, explosive economic growth took place on the heels of the Spanish flu influenza pandemic. How did it happen? Was it nature's bounty? Or was it an outcome of human interventions? Research shows that several innovations took place in response to a pandemic. There was a paradigmatic shift in people's response to the challenges posed by a pandemic. Innovations not only assisted humankind to meet the challenges posed by a pandemic but also helped people to generate knowledge and wealth.

The same pattern is likely to follow as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is evident that the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the use of technology in day-to-day life and new digital organisations are growing with a vengeance across the globe. India is emerging as one of the major centres of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, the Internet of Things, etc. Technology has increased the ease of living and added prosperity to people. It has opened new vistas of living and earning.

Education, of course, has changed forever. Technology has entered into each and every aspect of education. Be it curriculum, content, or classroom, we experience technology everywhere. The changes are not superficial, but they are

quite deep and long-lasting. Humankind has more or less adopted hybrid teaching methods, multimedia content, and a global learning environment. It is just a beginning. Major innovations are likely in the field of education. We today can just see a brief glimpse of them.

Therefore, while we need to protect ourselves from the Covid-19 pandemic, we must also be ready to brace up for the upcoming innovations in higher education. More importantly, we ourselves should bring about innovations and add greater value to the student and society.

Anup K Singh, PhD
Director General

Rankings

5-star rating in GSIRF 2021

Nirma University is awarded a 5-star rating with an overall CGPA of 4.20 in the Gujarat State Institutional Rating Framework (GSIRF) 2021 by the Government of Gujarat. Thus, making the university one of the best private universities in Gujarat. The university also saw a significant improvement in its performance compared to the last year.

Nirma University received the following rating in the four evaluation parameters. The maximum rating in any category is 5-stars.

Parameter	Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR)	Research & Professional Practice (RP)	Graduation Outcomes (GO)	Outreach & Inclusivity (OI)
Rating	****	****	*****	*****

- The Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University is awarded the first rank amongst the Pharmacy colleges with a 5-star rating and overall CGPA of 4.8 in the Gujarat State Institutional Rating Framework (GSIRF 2021) announced in the month of June 2021.
- The Institute of Technology, Nirma University is placed at 11th position in Overall Ranking in Times of India Ranking 2021 under the category 'Top 175 Engineering Institute Rankings 2021', 4th under 'Top 125 Private Engineering Institute Rankings 2021', and 2nd in West Zone.



- The Institute of Technology is ranked 15th under the category of Engineering College (Private) in India Today Special issue 25th Annual Survey – The best colleges of India.
- The Institute of Technology received 4th Rank in 'Top Leading Engineering Colleges of Super Excellence', and 1st Rank in Gujarat under the CSR-GHRDC Engineering Colleges Survey 2021.



Awards

Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University receives award for Most Promising Architecture College of the Year 2021

Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University received the 'Most Promising Architecture College' of the Year 2021 in the category 'Quality education and leading infrastructure' at the Architecture and Interior Design Excellence Awards & Conference 2021 held on Feb 26, 2021. Prof Utpal Sharma, Director, IAPNU received the award at the award ceremony held in Bengaluru.



MoUs

MoU with National Forensic Sciences University

Nirma University signed an MoU with the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) on Feb 26, 2021. The chief objective of the MoU is to establish a framework for research collaboration activities and enhance the academic and research interaction between both the universities. The online event saw the presence of Shri KK Patel, Vice President; Dr Anup K Singh, Director General; and Dr PN Tekwani, Director- DRI, Nirma University. Dr JM Vyas, Vice-Chancellor; and Dr SO Junare, Director, Gandhinagar campus were present from the National Forensic Sciences University.



Establishment of Authorised Training Centre at Institute of Technology

Mitsubishi Electric India Pvt Ltd has set up an Authorised Training Centre at the Institute of Technology, Nirma University for its factory automation and Industrial division's products. The Centre was launched online on March 16, 2021. The two organisations have an active MoU since 2014.

MoU with eInfochips, Ahmedabad

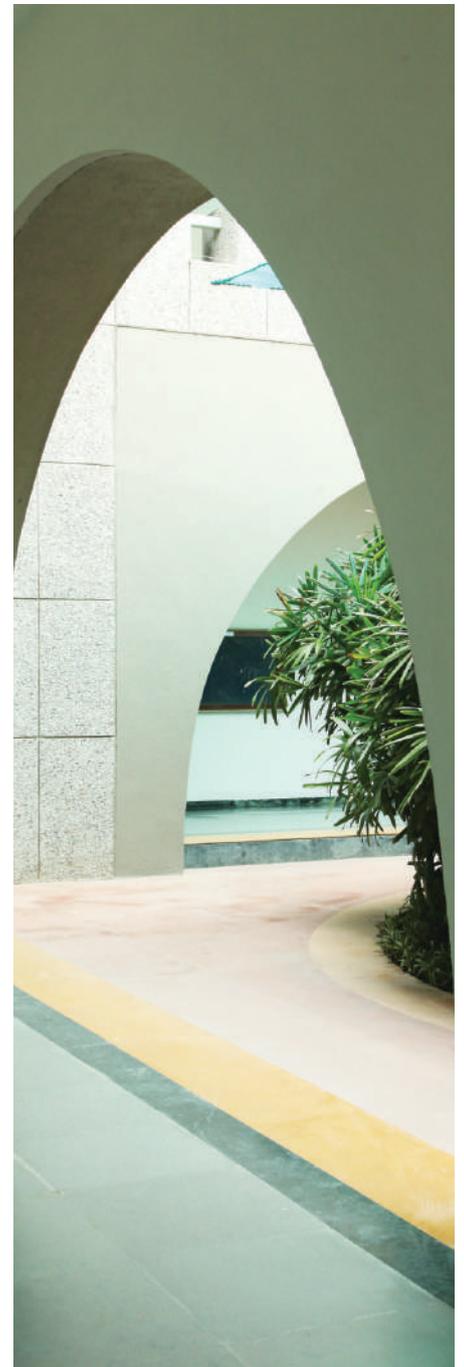
Institute of Technology, Nirma University signed an MoU with eInfochips, Ahmedabad on Feb 18, 2021. The chief objective of the MoU is to mutually co-operate in the exchange of knowledge and information in the areas of Electronics & Communication Engineering, VLSI Design & Testing, Embedded System Design, Biomedical, Aerospace, Automation, Software Systems; organise skill development workshops and training programmes for students, faculty members and professionals; Facilitate student internship, industrial visits and industrial training; Promote the exchange of knowledge; Conduct technology advancement seminars, conferences, symposium, and Encourage joint research for the society, community, and industrial needs.



Recognition

Centre of Excellence

The Government of Gujarat has given the in-principal status of 'Centre of Excellence' (CoE) to Nirma University. The CoE status is given to a private university based on the parameters of providing quality education, path-breaking research, innovative teaching, and quality extension services.



Students

Achievements

ASEAN-INDIA Hackathon

Pranav Agarwal and Rishi Hiran from Institute of Technology emerged as the winners at the ASEAN-INDIA Hackathon organised by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. ASEAN-INDIA Hackathon is an initiative across 11 countries of the ASEAN region by the Ministry of Education 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 first edition of the ASEAN-INDIA Hackathon 2021 was organised online from Feb 1-3, 2021 addressed by the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. 330 representatives from 11 countries were tasked with solving 11 problem statements received from the Ministry of Education on the theme 'Blue Economy'.

Pranav Agarwal from the Mechanical Engineering department and his team of six members designed an innovative solution for Improving the supply chain logistics in international shipping by using Blockchain to make the transactions faster and secure, and to make the necessary documents immutable thereby enhancing the data security. They won the 1st prize along with prize money of \$2700.



Rishi Hiran from the Instrumentation and Control Engineering



department and his team of six members designed a solution for the problem-Cost of Air Pollution to Solar Power Generation (CAPsolar) by using a linear regression algorithm. The team won special prize money of \$600 for their efforts and enthusiasm shown. Both the teams consisted of team members from different ASEAN countries. Pranav and Rishi were chosen as the team leaders of their respective teams.

International Scholarship Awards won by ISA Student Members

Six students of Instrumentation & Control Engineering Department, Institute of Technology, Nirma University secured scholarships totaling worth USD 8725, from the International Society of Automation (ISA), USA in the month of June 2021. Somya Gupta (2000 USD) and Devanshi Parmar (2000 USD) received the ISA Education Foundation Scholarships. In addition to these, Urja Patel (1400 USD), Devanshi Parmar (1000 USD), Aditya Mistry (750 USD), Prashant Somaiya (750 USD) received scholarships from PMCD Division of ISA, and Devansh Rana (825 USD) received ISA Analysis Division's Scholarship.

The International Society of Automation (ISA) is a non-profit professional association of engineers, technicians, and management engaged in industrial automation. Every year ISA grants scholarships to bright minds for their contribution in the field of automation and to the growth of ISA Students Chapter in their institute. It is a global-level scholarship and the society receives nominations from across the globe. To be eligible for ISA scholarship one has to be a member of the ISA Students Chapter in their Institute/University, should contribute to the growth of the society, and have a fair academic record.



Devanshi Parmar
\$3000



Somya Gupta
\$2000



Urja Patel
\$1400



Devansh Rana
\$825



Aditya Mistry
\$750



Prashant Somaiya
\$750

Toy Design Challenge 2021

Akanksha Shah of Semester VI, Industrial Design student won the ADW - M2M-Toy Innovation Challenge launched by Gujarat Student Startup and Innovation Hub (i-Hub) and hosted by I-Hub and United World Institute of Design in Feb 2021. She received a grant of Rs 2 lakhs to build an innovative enterprise around it.

Thermax STORM 2021

Vashishtha Nayak, Yash Bhutwala, and Dhruv Borda, third-year students in BTech Mechanical Engineering won the First Runner up position in Thermax STORM 2021 organised by Thermax Global, Pune. STORM is an Online Case Challenge for second and third-year students. It aims to provide a platform to the young minds to solve real-world engineering problems and to use their ideas and concepts to come up with unique perspectives and creative solutions. Teams from more than 20 institutes, including NITs participated in the event. The student team received a cash prize of Rs 30,000 on Feb 15, 2021.

Sustainable Community Design 2021

Bhaumik Shukla, Dhruv Bhimani, Shivam Chandravadia, and Aayush Patel, students of Civil Engineering Department, Institute of Technology secured third position in the national level competition 'Sustainable Community Design 2021' organised at Manipal University, Jaipur on March 16, 2021.

CREATIO Design Competition

On the occasion of World Industrial Design Day on June 29, 2021, S S Rana & Company, in association with IP4kids, organised CREATIO: the 9th Annual Design Competition 2021 on the theme 'Diversity'. Nikita Nair from Institute of Design secured the first position. Nikita designed a Power Bank packaging that is portable, adjustable, long-lasting, and which can hold the phone so that the user can text/call while it is charging. The stand is adjustable so that any type of phone can be attached.

The team of Nikita Nair and Piyush Vishwakarma, Industrial Design students of the Institute of Design secured the 1st runner-up position. They attempted to design moulded aluminum covers in three sizes that can cover the entire pizza inside the pizza box. To make this aluminum cover, they have designed a mould in which the aluminum foil can be kept and pressed to make its cover.



Other Achievements

- Pritam Kumar, a 4th year Electrical Engineering student at ITNU secured an All India Rank (AIR) 53 in Electrical Engineering, and AIR 13 in Instrumentation Engineering in GATE 2021. The Centre for Continuing Education, Nirma University organised a training programme for the preparation of the GATE 2021 Examination for the students of the Institute of Technology with the support of the GATE Academy, and Pritam Kumar was a part of this group.
- Akshit Mishra from the Institute of Law has been declared as the second Best Adjudicator & Invited Adjudicator in NMIMS Loquitur International Competition organised by NMIMS Law School, Mumbai from April 2-4, 2021.
- Jay Viradiya, an MTech student at the Institute of Technology received the Mitacs Globalink - Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) Research Award. He shall be working as an Intern for the project titled 'Assessment of Corrosion in RC Slabs using NDTs' under the guidance of Dr Rishi Gupta, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Around \$6000 shall be provided as the award money.
- Hamza Abubakar, student at Institute of Technology, and Campus Director for the year 2020-21 for organising Hult Prize at Nirma University has been named as one of the top 20 campus directors in the world by the Hult Prize foundation on May 24, 2021. There were almost 3000 on-campus programmes in 190 countries this year. Out of these, the on-campus event at Nirma University stayed in the Top 20. Mr Fedi Regaieg, the On-Campus Programme Asia Regional Manager at Hult Prize Foundation, announced the top 20 Campus Directors in a live webcast.
- Adityasinh Jadeja, BTech Civil Engineering student was adjudged as the 1st runner-up (west zone) at the "UltraTech Stimulus Competition", a national level competition held on June 30, 2021. He received a cash prize of Rs 10,000.



- Unmesh Patil, a student of Industrial Design, Semester IV, has been selected as one of the three winners for 1st position, in the graphic design competition organised by 'Ace of Air' on May 17, 2021. He received a cash prize of \$1000 and was invited to be a member of the panel discussion, with designer Ti Chang, CEO Stephanie Stahl, to converse on the aim, idea, future, and limitations of 'circularity'. Ace of air is a cosmetic and skincare brand with the motto of the circular economic model.



- Harsh Hiteshkumar Mandaliya, Piyush Vishwakarma, and Nikita Nair, students of semester VI Industrial Design Department have cleared the first level of the Robofest Gujarat 2.0 competition organised by the Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) on May 2, 2021. They are in the top three shortlisted teams in the 'Powered Exoskeleton category' out of a total of seven teams. They have been awarded a cash prize of Rs 50,000/- for the next level of the competition.



- Shah Tirth Bhavinkumar, MTech in Mechanical Engineering, won the third prize in an online technical quiz competition organised by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), Western India Chapter in the domain area of Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC&R) on May 8, 2021.
- Farnazbanu Patel, MTech student, and Rajesh Gupta, PhD scholar, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Institute of Technology, Nirma University, received the best paper award for the paper titled 'Block6Tel: Blockchain-based spectrum allocation scheme in 6G-envisioned communications' at the 17th International Wireless Communications & Mobile Computing Conference (ICWMC-2021) organised during June 28-July



Campus Attractions

Sculpture Park

BACKGROUND

Nirma University's sprawling 115-acre campus features significant flora reserves, well-designed buildings, a herbal garden, a host of playgrounds, and peppered amongst these are 21 monumental sculptures to give shape to the vision of the Nirma University to let students seek inspiration in Art. The natural surroundings provide an opportunity for visitors to visually engage and explore these sculptures at their own leisure.

Twenty one sculptors were engaged to carve out these masterpieces on the university campus. The project, unprecedented in many ways, is aimed to renew societal interest in public art. This is a massive vision, one that has the potential to go beyond the boundaries of the Nirma University.

Workshop curators, Mr Surya Goswami, a senior sculptor, and Mr Atul Padia, an independent Visual Artist mobilised expert sculptors from Nagpur, Mumbai, Haryana, Punjab, Banaras, Udaipur, Thane, Saputara, Ahmedabad, and Vadodara. They traversed mines in search of the right raw materials and picked rocks of 8 different types for carving them into gigantic sculptures. The workshop began on June 8, 2017, with more than 21 participants and 25 helpers equipped with all the necessary rasps and rifflers and ended on June 28, 2017, with hard rock converted into artistic masterpieces.

Sculptures at the Campus

One cannot miss out the Student statue at the entrance of the Nirma University. The statue has been created in Bronze in the year 2015. Weighing approximately 2400 kg, it is 11feet in length, 6 feet in width, and 10 feet in height made by Shri Ratilal Kansodaria (Ahmedabad). It represents a child who is studying.





Saraswati Statue

The statue was made by Pandey Moorti Bhandar (Jaipur) from pure white spotless Makrana marble. The height of the statue is 5 feet. One cannot miss out the serene and calm impact it offers as one enters the gates of the Institute of Management, Nirma University. As we all know, Saraswati is a symbol of learning, it is rightly installed at the University, the hub of learning.

Both, these statues and the other sculptures installed later are a part of our learning ambience.

Other Sculptures

THEME

Based on the theme **“Education and Society”**, a host of sculptures spread across different locations on the university campus are a visual treat. Each sculpture is distinct and draws a unique perspective on academics within its form. Sculptures ranging from 10 feet to 20 feet high are a symbol of both, traditional and modern art.

Each sculpture displays the life story and geographic influence of the artist, which is miraculous and unique.

The Sculptures provide a gateway to a process of self-discovery, enjoyment and learning to the students and visitors, alike. It also allows for social interaction where collective interpretation and reflection can be shared.

The collection showcases a variety of sculptures in sandstone, limestone, Dhrangadhra Sandstone, Dholpur Pink, Jaisalmer Yellow, Kesariyaji Green, and Abu Blackstone, with larger-than-life works of art. It will not be an exaggeration to call it a hidden treasure. These unique sculptures, which are installed at strategic locations throughout the campus, are professionally maintained.

Shri K K Patel, Vice President, Nirma University, shares perspective on the value of art immersed in our environment. He is of the opinion that, Art delights the senses and stimulates the mind. It is one of the hallmarks of a civilised and engaged society. Along with giving voice to human creativity it also beautifies our surroundings. It is for these reasons that the Nirma University prides in hosting these vibrant Sculptures.

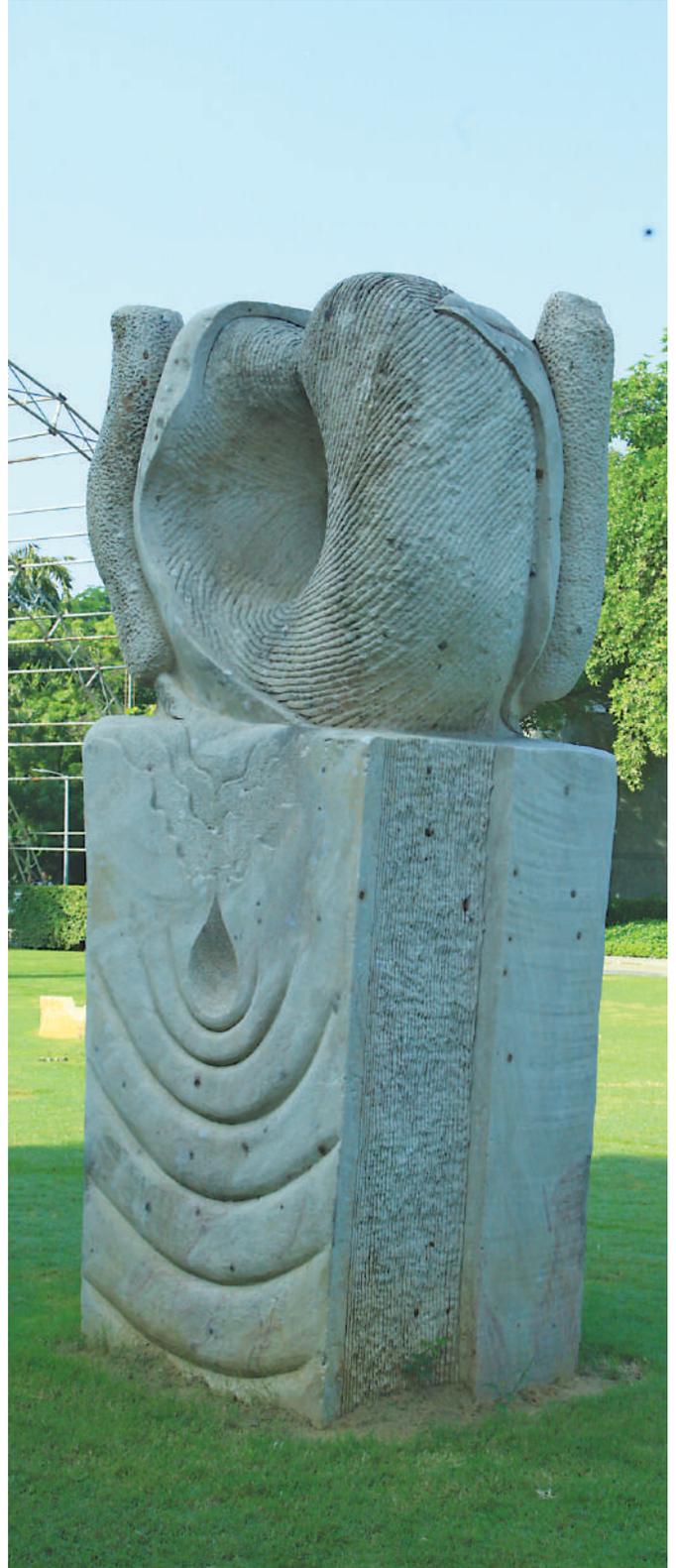
CONCEPTS

Some of the concepts on which the sculptures are carved, include Positive energy in human mind, Golden Egg, Gyan Vigyan, Samay Chakra, Growth, Positive environment, Birth, Knowledge, The Guide, Equality, Education, Success, among others.

Nandubhai Rathwa worked on the concept '**Gyan Vigyan**'. The statue depicts a fine balance between science, technology, humanities and the real world. It stands for the perseverance and dedication which is required at every stage. The sculpture is placed near the Institute of Law, Nirma University.



Pardeep Kumar worked on the concept '**Growth**'. Fascinated by agriculture he has depicted the seeds sprouting from water in his sculpture. Here, water stands for one of the elements of life, and seeds are the replica of knowledge. The sculpture is placed in the lawn adjacent to Institute of Management, Nirma University.



Pradeep Jogdand has worked on the concept **'Untitled'**. He has tried to depict relationships, and complex human behaviour through this sculpture. The sculpture is placed in front of the Nirma University guest house.



Akash M Bhoja worked on the concept of **'Man Finding Fruit'**. He has been minimalist in his approach. As conveyed by him, "I play with the spontaneity of thoughts and freedom of medium. I attempt to see the image in the stone and just chip of the extra stone to come out with figure, fruit and tree". The statue is installed at the entrance of the Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University.



Renu Bala worked on the concept '**Originate**'. Through this piece she has tried to depict a timeline of activities. The sculpture is placed opposite to the PG block, Nirma University.



Sunil Kumar worked on the concept '**Me and My Shadow**'. The sculptor brings out the facial emotions and feelings almost alive in this sculpture. The sculpture is placed near Institute of Technology, Nirma University.



Vipul Raval worked on the concept of **'Education'**, a minimalist sculpture displaying a pile of books which are so much an integral part of the education system. The sculpture is placed in one of the university lawn areas.



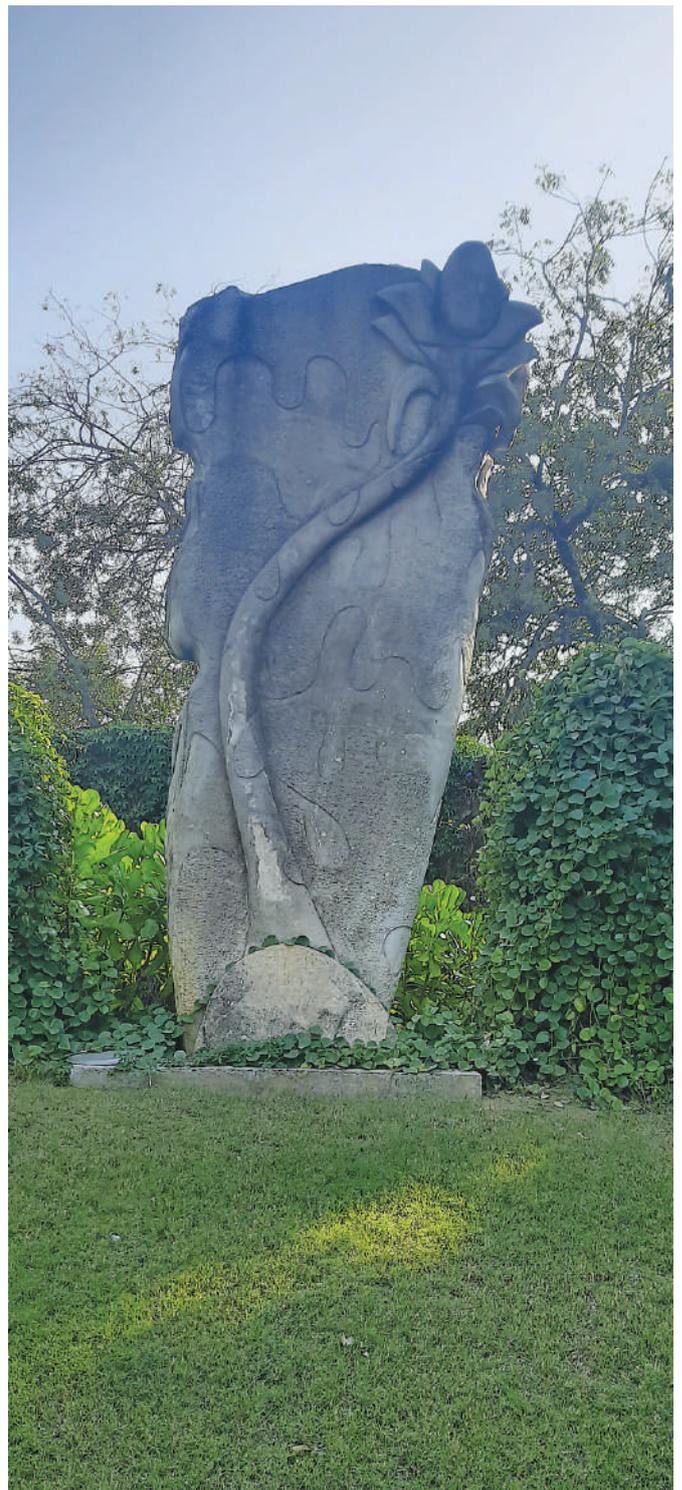
Sanjay R Savaliya worked on the concept **'The Guide'**. He has given his piece the form of a pencil. According to him, a pencil can create anything that human mind thinks. Here pencil has a power to guide and lead a person to a better future. The sculpture is placed close to the Institute of Science, Nirma University.



Durgesh Pawar has aptly worked on the concept of **'Success'**. The concept is based on growth and he has used the form of mushroom to execute it. He has taken inspiration from the fact that just as a mushroom has the ability to grow anywhere after the rainy season, similarly humans can grow and succeed if provided a right environment. And this holds so true not only for the students studying at the university but also the faculty and administrative staff. The statue is installed at the lawn area of Institute of Management, Nirma University.



Nikhil S Bonde sought inspiration from the flora and fauna at Nirma University and worked on the theme **'Sewali'**, a flower found abundantly in Assam. The mythological story reveals that it is a heavenly tree brought to earth by Lord Krishna. It is commonly known as a night-jasmine and have seven to eight petals arranged on an orangish-red stem. These beautiful flowers are used in many spiritual activities. The sculpture is placed in the lawn adjacent to Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University.



Krishna Padiya has worked on the concept '**Source**'. As visualized by him, the world came into existence from the Golden Egg. And this egg symbolizes life. And Nirma University is an apt example of infusing new life into its students. The statue is placed near the University building.



Namdev Kakade worked on the concept of '**Bud and Lotus**'. He has tried to capture the scenic beauty of the university, and bring out its details in the form of this sculpture. The statue is placed near the Institute of Management, Nirma University.



Nandini Hambire worked on the concept '**Nature is Life**'. She sought inspiration from the university's lotus pond and captured the water drop on the lotus leaf in her sculpture. The dew drop on the lotus showcases the importance of a student at the place where he/she is stationed. The sculpture is placed in front of Institute of Management, Nirma University.



Sangam Vankhade worked on the concept '**Indian Fort**'. Inspired by the rich architecture found in the forts of India, he came up with this piece which is installed in front of Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University.



Rahul L Meshram has worked on the concept '**Three Stages of Life**'. He has worked on Circle as a form and represented his thoughts through textures. The depth in the circle adds to the different facets which life offers us. The sculpture is placed in front of the Students' Hostel.



Education and Research

Patents

A patent titled 'A depot formulation and process of preparation thereof' is granted to Dr Priti Mehta, Professor, Institute of Pharmacy and, Dr Tejaskumar Dadhaniya, ex PhD scholar at Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University on Feb 17, 2021.



Research by PhD Scholar

Constitutive glucose dehydrogenase contributes to the phosphate solubilisation ability of rhizobia

Ms Bhagya Iyer

PhD scholar at Institute of Science, Nirma University

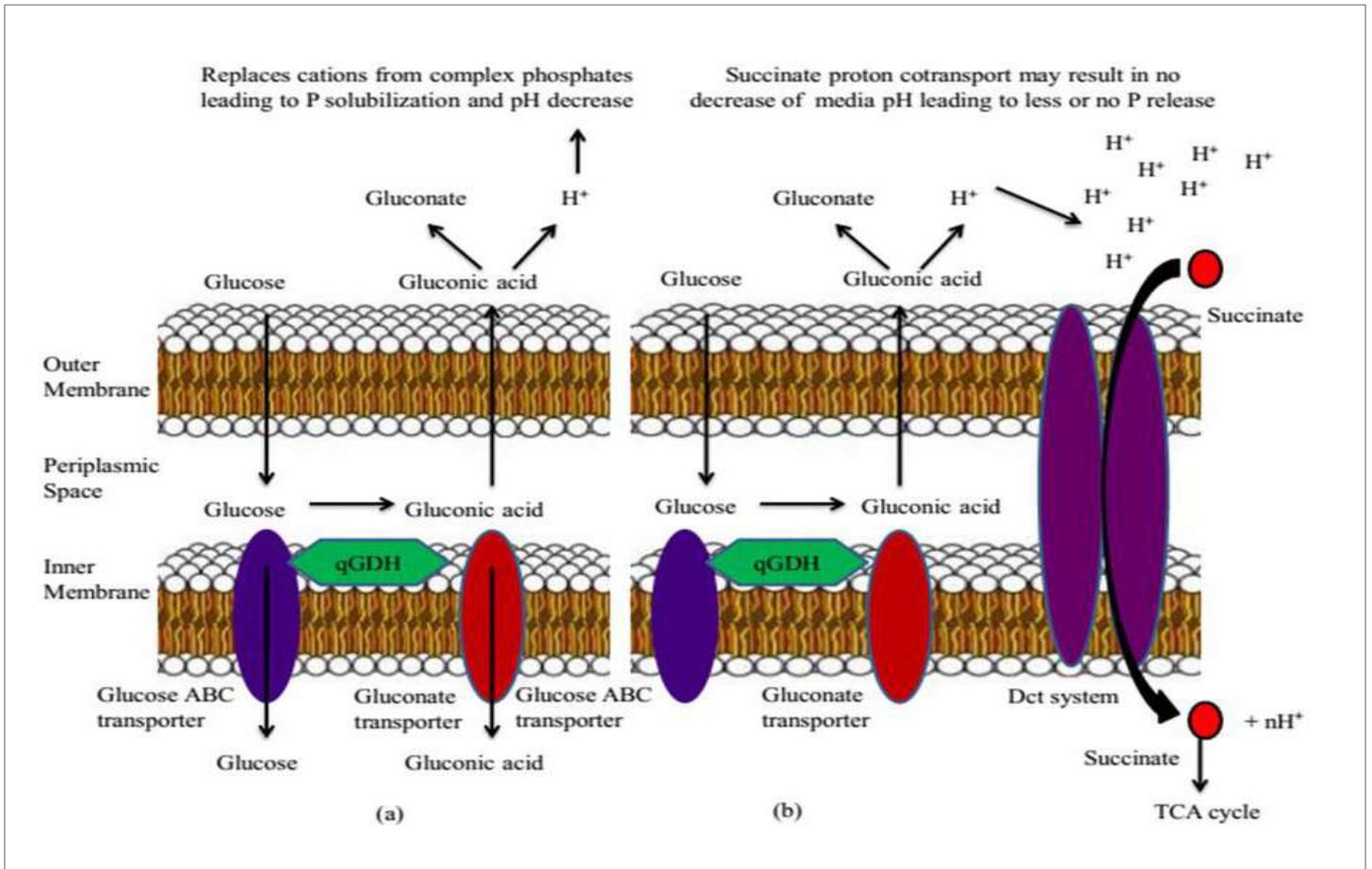


The 20th century Green Revolution helped in improving crop production by increasing the use of chemical inputs. This had led to exceptional gains in global food production. The addition of chemicals to the soil as fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides improved plant productivity, but it came with high environmental costs. The repeated use of chemical phosphate fertilisers affected the quality of food, led to an increase in cost and was detrimental to the environment. Hence, there was an urgent need for "Bio-Revolution" to reduce the harmful impact on the environment by employing microbe-based fertilisers.

A plant growing under field conditions is under the influence of a well-structured and regulated community of microorganisms. This microbial community (microbiome) associated with the plants assist them in challenges such as access to food nutrients, stressful conditions and harmful pathogens. The best-characterised association is the association of nitrogen-fixing rhizobia with the roots. The plants exert considerable control on the composition of the root microbiome through mechanisms like production of root exudates of various compositions and signal molecules. This section will recruit only specific types of bacteria. In the early 21st century, interest began to grow around the development of bio fertilisers as a means to reduce the number of fertilisers required for crop production, to minimise pollution, soil infertility and to reduce costs.

All plants need nitrogen for their growth. However, the plants cannot directly use the nitrogen (N₂) present in the atmosphere. Nitrogen fixation is the foremost mechanism that augments the plant growth. Similarly, soil phosphorus and phosphates applied as fertilisers, is mostly unavailable to the crops as they form complexes with soil mineral. The Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria (PSB) can aid in enhancing uptake of phosphate by plants and improve plant phosphate nutrition. The general mechanism of the mineral phosphate solubilisation by the PSBs is the production and release of low molecular weight organic acids. However, the numbers of PSBs occurring in the soil are not high enough to compete with other microorganisms commonly established in the rhizosphere. So, the existing bio-fertilisers have at least two kinds of bacteria, a N fixer and a P solubiliser with synergistic activity.

Ms Bhagya Iyer carried out the doctoral research in this area under the supervision of Dr Shalini Rajkumar, Professor, Institute of Science, Nirma University. The current study was initiated with an aim to use a single class of bacteria, preferably rhizobia as an agent for both N fixation and P solubilisation. The main goal of the study was to determine the effect of such bacteria on plant growth under laboratory and soil conditions. The study was extrapolated to identify the mechanism of P solubilisation by both the rhizobia and its regulation by components of plant root exudates.



The study identified two rhizobia with dual properties of N fixation and P solubilisation with multiple plant beneficial traits. The ability of two rhizobia in influencing the growth of legumes was investigated and it was found to be highly significant even in highly alkaline soils. The mechanism of P solubilisation (which was not yet understood in rhizobia) was elucidated for both the rhizobial isolates and validated using expression studies, enzyme activity studies and HPLC analysis. The effect of the major root exudate component, the C4 acid succinate on the mechanism of P solubilisation was also studied. A novel mechanism by which the C4 acid succinate regulated P solubilisation in both the rhizobia was identified and validated. Genes responsible for numerous other plant beneficial traits were identified using genome sequencing approaches. The study hence identified multi-trait plant beneficial rhizobia for use as components of future bio-fertiliser formulations.

The outcomes of the study will be highly helpful in understanding the mechanism of P solubilisation in other rhizobia and related bacteria. The influence of rhizobia on the growth of legume plants under controlled (laboratory) and field (soil) conditions may help study the long-term benefit of the use of such bacteria for plant growth promotion and in improving soil nutrition. Such potential bacteria with multiple plant beneficial traits may be studied further in great detail to make it a beneficial component of the bio-fertiliser formulation.



Placements

The University's unique student-driven culture, robust corporate engagement model, and planned academic rigour have secured unwavering confidence and patronage of the top corporate houses year after year resulting in almost cent percent placement. During the 2020 campus hiring season, over 300 renowned organisations from the Automobile, BFSI, Market Research, Analytics, KPOs, Social Media, Consulting, FMCG/FMCD, IT, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Education, Pharmaceutical, Retail, Telecom, and FMCG sectors visited for campus placements.

In the current placement season 2021, over 800 students of Nirma University have already been placed with the highest salary of Rs 46.47 LPA. At the Institute of Technology, 518 students have been placed so far with an average salary of Rs 6.9 LPA, whereas, the Institute of Management has placed 224 students with highest salary of Rs 18 LPA and average salary of Rs 8.50 LPA. The Institute of Law has placed 27 students so far with a highest package of Rs 5.6 LPA and 26 students have been placed at Institute of Pharmacy with the highest package of Rs 3.5 LPA.

Some of the leading companies that have visited the campus during 2020-21 campus drive include JPMorgan, Novartis, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Cognizant, TCS, Hyundai Motors, Bank of America, Tata AIG, Amazon, Deutsche Bank, Flipcart, Hindustan Unilever Ltd, Saint-Gobain India Pvt Ltd, Larsen & Toubro Limited, CEAT Ltd, among others.

Webinar on Placement Preps

ISA Students' Chapter, Nirma University organised a series of webinars on 'Placement Preps' from April 4, 2021 to May 2, 2021.

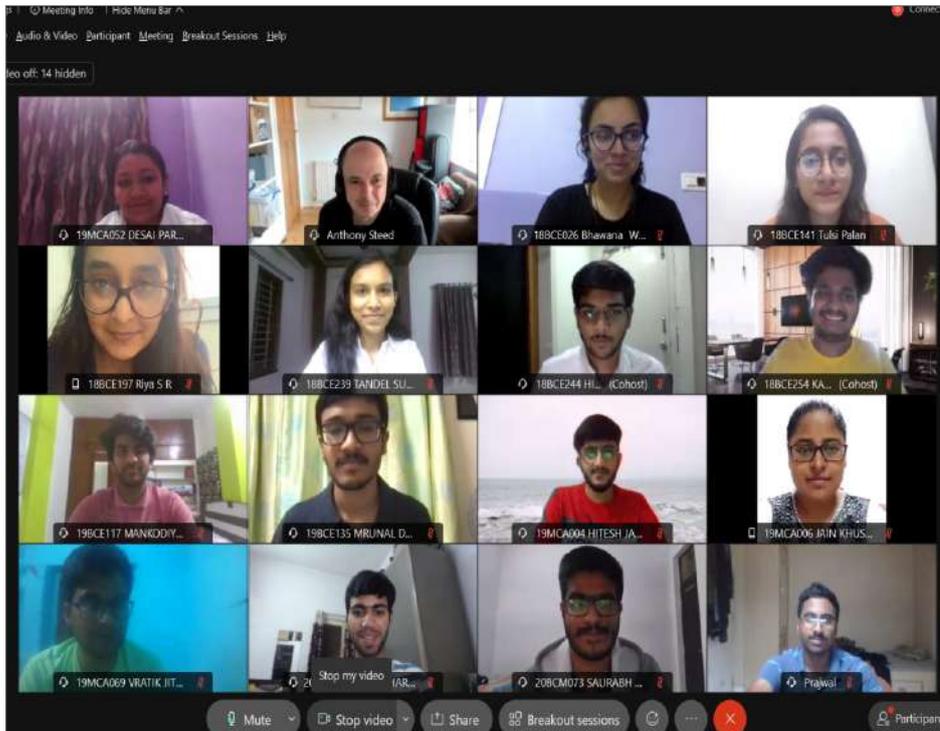
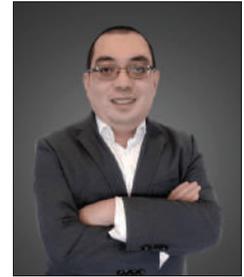
- Mr Rohan Garg, an alumnus of the Institute of Technology, Nirma University, and IIM Calcutta, and Founder of ICE Gate Institute spoke on 'Profile Building'.
- Ms Neha Chaudhary, specialist in Neuro-Linguistic Programming, and access bars trainer spoke on 'Campus to Corporates'.
- Mr Ahaan Malhotra, founder of Edudictive, New Delhi spoke on 'Soft-Skill Development'.



International Affairs

Research Wave: A series of talks

Nirma University ACM student's chapter and Department of CSE organised 'Research Wave', a series of distinguished talks delivered by international speakers in the emerging computer science fields such as AR/VR, Data Science, and Human-Computer Interaction during Feb 22-27, 2021. Speakers included Dr Houbing Song, Professor and Director, Security and Optimisation for Networked Globe Laboratory, United States; Prof Anthony Steed, Head, Virtual Environments and Computer Graphics Group, University College London; Ms Geeta Chauhan, AI/PyTorch Partner Engineering Head at Facebook AI; and Prof Mark Billingham, Professor, University of South Australia. 300+ participants including students, faculty members, researchers from Nirma University, VIIT ACM student chapter, PICT ACM student chapter, UPES ACM student chapter, WCE ACM student chapter, ACM PCOER, among others attended the talks.



International Teaching Month at Institute of Management

As a part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Institute of Management, Nirma University, it organised an International Teaching Month during March 2021. International experts from different fields addressed the students, faculty and, staff of the Institute on a variety of topics. The major objective of this initiative was to create a forum for learning and to gain a multicultural perspective on a topic. A total of six sessions were organised on topics ranging from 'The birth of the American Entrepreneur...' to 'Generation Z, Generation Alpha...' Speakers included Prof Elisabetta Marino, University of Rome; Dr Bashabi Fraser, Edinburgh Napier University; Dr Rupert Beinbauer, and Dr Bojan Jovanovski, University of Applied Sciences in Graz, Austria.



International Teaching Month at Institute of Law

Institute of Law, Nirma University hosted International Teaching Month from Feb 1-26, 2021. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof Stephen Barnes, Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programme, Penn State Law, USA. The Institute hosted over 80 eminent speakers from across the globe. These include Professors from renowned universities but are not limited to, Penn State Law, Hull University, University of Wisconsin, University of Piura, University of Szeged, Faculty of Law-Muni, University of Dhaka, Columbia University, University of Bocconi, University of Zagreb, Peking University, Comillas University, Stockholm University, and the University of Notre Dame, among others. The keynote address was delivered by Judge Thomas Griffith, Former Federal Judge of the US Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit on the issue of civility and the law, and how public debates need more civility.

The sessions were designed on varied subjects such as Alternative Dispute Resolution, Cyber Law, Global Health Law, Comparative Legal History, Artificial Intelligence, Climate Change Regulation, Defending of the Indigent, Labour and Social Security Laws, Principles of Drafting of Tax Laws, Law and Religion, Human Trafficking, Managing and Negotiating Complex Business Transactions, Air and Space Law, and Contempt of Court and Free Speech. Special sessions on Implicit Bias and Justice, Civility and the Law, Education Policy, Foreign Policy, and Clinical Legal Education introduced the audience to nuances of law and policymaking across the globe. Several panel discussions were also scheduled where scholars discussed the comparative perspectives of constitutional law, human rights, arbitration reforms, and securities law. The sessions not only strengthened the academic knowledge of students but also exposed them to holistic professional development.

International Expert Lecture Month at Institute of Pharmacy

The Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University organised the International Expert Lecture Month in March 2021. Experts from Universities and Institutions including, Northeastern University, University of Southern California, Cardiff University, South University, St John's University-USA, Memorial University of Newfoundland-Canada, Cardiff University, Kingston University and Natures Laboratory from the UK, Ankara University-Turkey, University of Oslo-Norway, The University of Queensland-Australia, BITS Pilani-Dubai Campus, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany delivered talks during this period. Experts from industries like GlaxoSmithKline and Cognigen Corporation from the USA; Innovaspace Ltd, UK also gave talks. The talks covered various aspects of research and advances in the field of Pharmacy as well as the scope for pharmacists in various countries.

Events and Activities

29th Annual Convocation Ceremony

Nirma University held its 29th Annual Convocation Ceremony on March 20, 2021 wherein 2,380 students from various institutes of the University received their degrees. Students from the 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 degrees. Ms Nirmala Sitharaman, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India was the Chief Guest.

This year Nirma University conferred degrees to 52 PhD, 798 postgraduate and 1,530 graduate students. The University presented 59 medals to 51 students for their exemplary performance in academics. The President of Nirma University, Dr Karsanbhai K Patel congratulated the students in his convocation speech and wished them success in their future endeavours.



International Women's Day Celebration

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Institute of Science & Women Development Cell, Nirma University organised a series of lectures on the theme 'Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world' on March 8, 2021. Speakers included Dr Vineeta Bal, Scientist, IISER Pune; Ms Mona Gogia, VP, Regulatory Affairs, Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd; and Ms Janki Dave, Senior Associate Editor, Republic Media Network, and an alumnus of Nirma University. Rangoli and Cartoon/Doodling competitions were held for students through the virtual platform. The event was attended by around 380 participants.

Nirma University celebrates 72nd Republic Day

Looking at the current pandemic situation, the flag hoisting ceremony at Nirma University was observed in the presence of the Executive Registrar, Head of Institutions, Head of departments, and Section heads. As the host Institute, Dr R N Patel, Director (I/c), Institute of Technology, Nirma University presided at the event. Dr Manjunath Ghate, Director, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University was the Chief Guest of the event. Dr R N Patel welcomed all the members. After unfurling the flag, quoting the preamble, Dr Ghate, in his speech said that it is a transformation journey from I to We, a journey of the triumph of advancements and progressions and we should strive to achieve in this journey having all the positive things in our mind.

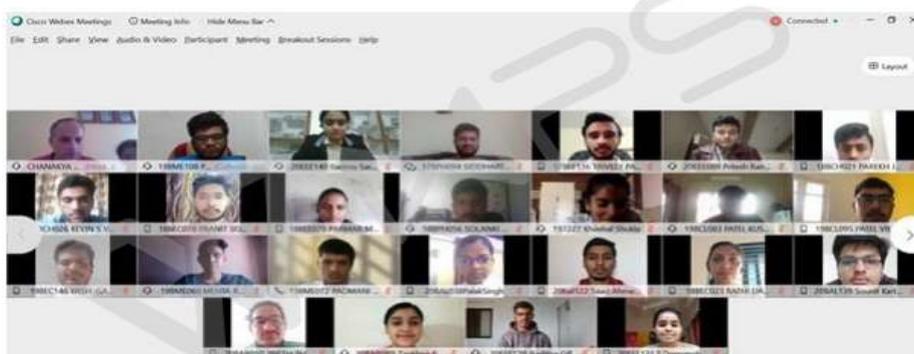


Parakram Diwas Celebration

NCC Unit of Nirma University under the aegis of Students Welfare Board and 9-Gujarat NCC Bn, Ahmedabad celebrated the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose as 'Parakram Diwas' on Jan 23, 2021. The theme of the event was 'Remembering Netaji's Selfless Services.' A total of 68 NCC cadets (40 boys and 28 girls) of Nirma University participated in the webinar. Sgt. Harshal Patil was the anchor of the programme. LCPL Siddharth Thanki shared a presentation on the life of Subhash Chandra Bose. Lt. Chanakya Bhatt proposed a vote of thanks. The event concluded with the NCC song.



Netaji's death and his temple in Japan

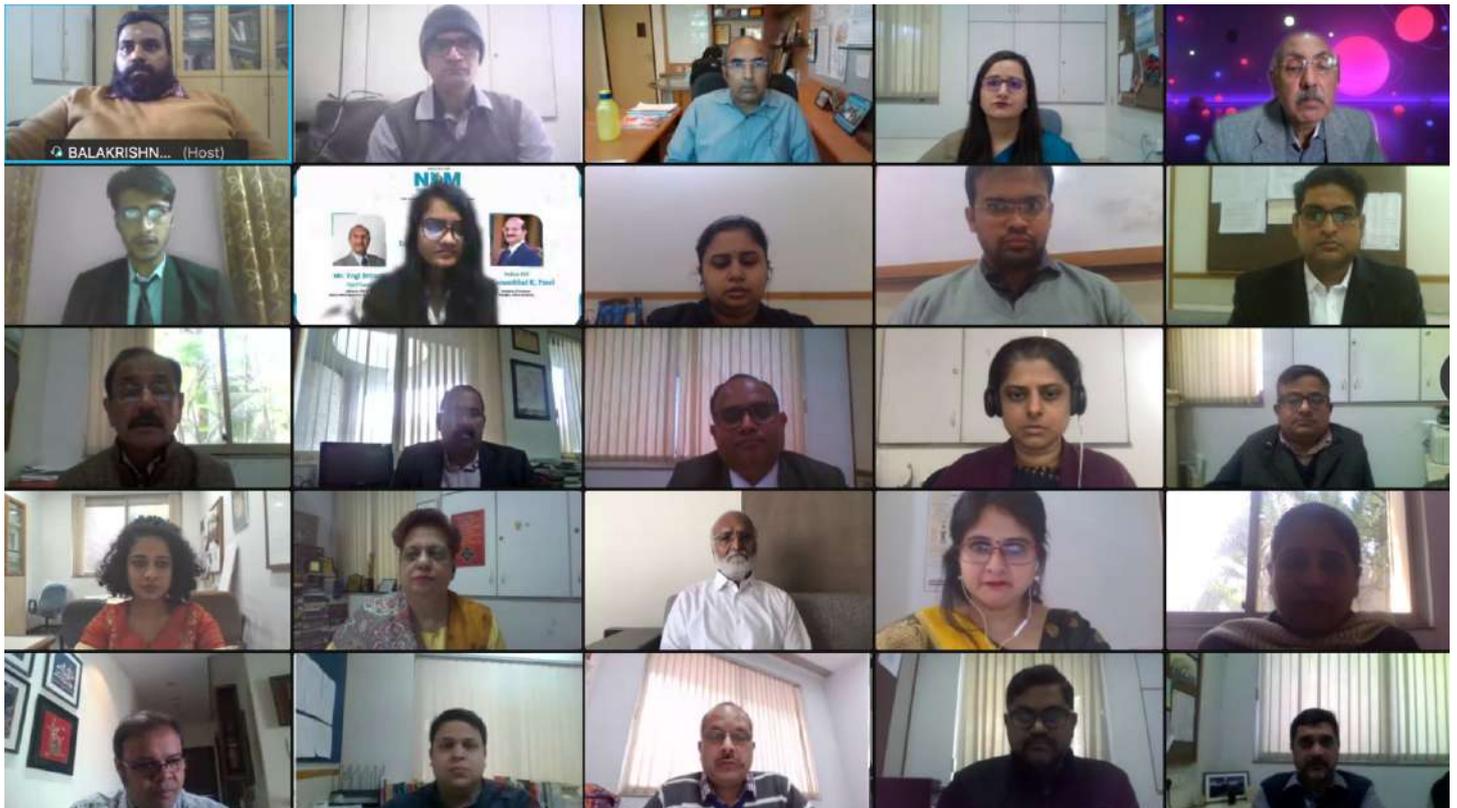


NICOM 2021

The 24th edition of the Nirma International Conference on Management (NICOM), the annual international management conference organised by the Institute of Management was held on the theme 'Industry 4.0: Reinventing Human Resource Management for organisational effectiveness' during Jan 7-9, 2021. NICOM aims at bringing together academicians, researchers, and practicing managers to deliberate on contemporary developments and issues on businesses in the modern era.

A total of 87 abstracts and 54 full papers were received from India and abroad. The conference hosted five plenary sessions in addition to the inaugural and valedictory sessions. The inaugural session was graced by Mr Yogi Sriram, Advisor to CEO & MD Group Human Resources, Larsen & Tubro Ltd. He spoke on the future of Human Resources and the role of Artificial Intelligence. The valedictory session was presided by Mr Vijay Raj, Group General Manager (GGM), Cauvery Asset. He addressed the audience on the initiatives undertaken by ONGC during the COVID-19 pandemic and the learnings from the HR point of view.

Some of the prominent speakers during the conference included, Mr Feras Al Majed VP-HR, GBM Group, Bahrain; Dr Taran Patel, Associate Professor, Grenoble Ecole de Management, France; Dr Andrea Cardillo, Managing Partner, TPC leadership, Italy; Dr Anjan Bhowmick, Executive Director, Reinsurance Group of America, Hong Kong; Prof Dynah A Basui, Professor, Asian Institute of Management, Manila, Philippines; Dr Julie Albright, Digital Sociologist, USC, Board Member, Infrastructure Masons, USA; Dr Rupert Beinbauer, faculty, University of Applied Sciences, Austria; and Mr Ranjit Komphi, Vice President, Reliance Retail.



Workshop on Industrial Cybersecurity

ISA-Student Chapter of Instrumentation and Control Engineering Department, Institute of Technology, Nirma University with support from GUJCOST organised a workshop on 'Industrial Cybersecurity' on Jan 5-6, 2021. The workshop aimed to create awareness about the issue of the threat of cyber-attack on industries. Industry experts from the field of Cyber Security - namely, Mr Prashant AC, Mr Nikhil Shah, and Mr Rohit Sharma conducted the workshop.

Road Safety Awareness Programme

To spread awareness on road safety amongst the students of Nirma University, the Organisation of Civil Engineering Students (OrCES) in association with NSS Unit, School of Engineering, ITNU organised 'Road Safety Awareness Programme' on Feb 12, 2021. The first session comprised an expert talk on Road Safety Awareness by Mr L P Padaliya, Chief Road Safety Commissioner, Gujarat, Road Safety Authority; and Mr Ronak Budhrani, Director, Civilarcc Engineering and Project Consultant Pvt Ltd. An online awareness test was conducted in the second session.

Pratidhwani 2021

Kaizen, the Alumni Relations Committee of the Institute of Management, Nirma University organised Pratidhwani 2021, the alumni conclave on Feb 20, 2021 on the theme 'Embracing Uncertainty'. Around 220 students attended the virtual conclave. Invited Alumni speakers gave their insights on ways to embrace the uncertain days and pave the path towards the ocean of opportunities. Nine speakers from five different domains (Banking and Finance, Marketing and Sales, Human Resource, Entrepreneurship, Information, and Technology) were the resource persons.

The first speaker of HR domain was Ms Akansha Gandotra, Strategic and Communications Lead at Udaan.com. She spoke about how the uncertainty came as a blessing in disguise, especially in the HR industry. Mr Yash Rathi, COE Learning and Organisational Development Specialist at Ford India Pvt Ltd gave tips for managing teams during these uncertain times.

Mr Varun Sinha, Assistant Vice President at Ziploan.in was the first speaker for the marketing panel. He emphasised the basics of lending and communication strategies. Mr Omkar Joshi, Chief Creative Officer at Garage worldwide and Head of Digital, Famous innovations spoke on the challenges faced in the advertising industry and enlightened the students with the latest marketing tools.

Mr Saurabh Kasat, CFO of Dairy Classic Ice-Creams Pvt Ltd was the speaker for the Banking and Finance Panel. Mr Kasat spoke on cash flow management during these uncertain times. Mr Vaibhav Kathju, Co-Founder of Sheroes Money spoke on how taking new initiatives can have a huge significance for the organisations.

Mr Aashil Modi, Managing Director at Dimensions 360 was the first speaker for the Entrepreneurship panel. He spoke on measures to tackle these uncertain times. Mr Jitendra Chandraprakash Lakhwani, Co-Founder and CEO at Mantra2 success Consultants gave insights on how one can adapt even during difficult times by optimising costs, embracing technology, training, and focusing on the key areas.

Speaker for the conclave in the IT panel was Ms Divya Shah, Incident and IT problem manager at BNP, Paribas Personal Finance, England, UK. She shared her life experiences and various examples of how the IT sector has become so much significant in these times.

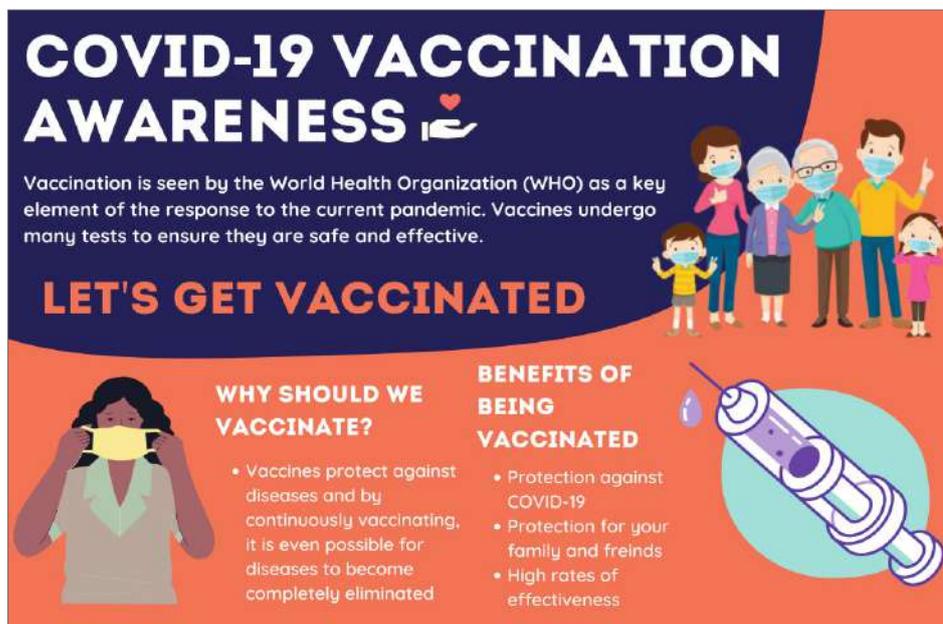
Conference on Advancement in Communication, Electronics, Computers, and Automation Technology

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Institute of Technology, Nirma University organised an online national conference on 'Advancement in Communication, Electronics, Computers, and Automation Technology' during Feb 12-13, 2021. The conference was exclusively for the students of UG and PG courses from the disciplines of Electronics & Communication, Instrumentation and Control, Computer Science and Engineering, and Electrical Engineering. The conference was sponsored by the GUJCOST, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat. The IETE, Gujarat and IEEE, Antenna Section, Gujarat were the technical collaborators of the conference.

Shri Rajeev Jyoti, Dy Director, MRAS, SAC, ISRO, Ahmedabad inaugurated the conference as the Chief Guest. Dr RN Patel, Director, Institute of Technology, Nirma University presided over the event. A total of 54 authors registered for the paper presentation and 236 students registered as participants for the conference.

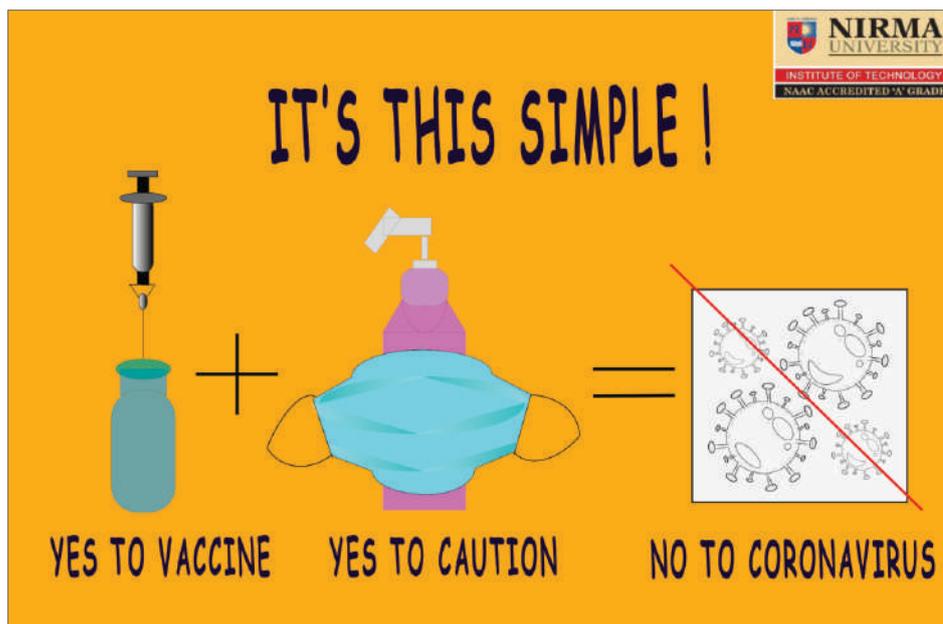
Digital Poster Making Competition

A Digital Poster Making Competition on the theme of 'Vaccination Awareness for COVID' was organised by the NSS Unit, School of Technology, Institute of Technology, Nirma University from March 10-23, 2021. Among a total of 43 entries received Nilay Lilawala, ITNU stood first, and Siddharth Parekh, ITNU stood second in the competition.



Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav Celebrations

To mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' celebrations, an Essay Competition on the theme of 'Independent India' was organised by the NSS Unit, Nirma University on March 12, 2021. Among a total of 57 entries received Yaman Parmar, ITNU stood first, and Shaantanu Jain, ITNU stood second in the competition.



Pragaman

Pragaman 5.0 was conducted by the Institute of Management on March 20, 2021 on the theme 'Shifting Paradigm of Entrepreneurship'. The event was inaugurated by Mr Dhiraj Nayyar, Director, E&P, Vedanta. Invited delegates, Mr Vinay Nathan, Co-founder & CEO Altizon systems, and Mr Tenzin Thargay, Chief Business Officer, CollegeDekho.Com provided their entrepreneurial insights on varied perspectives.

Webinar on Women's Health, Fitness and Diet

Women Development Cell (WDC) of Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University organised a webinar on 'Women's Health, Fitness and Diet' for students, faculty members and staff of Nirma University on Jan 1, 2021. The talk was delivered by Ms Suraksha Shetty Shah, Nutritionist, Health Plus Centre, Ahmedabad. She enlightened the participants about a healthy diet, immunity boosters, solutions to hormonal issues, and nutrients for healthy hair and skin.

Utkrishta

Utkrishta, the Management Conclave was conducted by the Institute of Management on March 9-10, 2021 on the theme 'Disruption created by the progressive adoption of innovative technology by organisations'. The conclave was conducted on four sub-themes under technological disruption. Speakers for the theme 'The Future of Work' included Mr Hariharan, Director, PwC AIMS India; Mr Param Puneet Singh, Senior Principal Management Consulting, Accenture; Ms Rashmi Mansaramani, CHRO, The Wave Group; Mr Anubhav Kapoor, Group Vice President Legal and Group CS, Cummins Group; and Mr Titus Arnold, Director, Human Resource, PR & Communications, India Medtronic Pvt Ltd. Speakers for the session on 'Exploiting Digital Disruption' were Mr Nimesh Danani, Director, Hitachi Vantara; Ms Namrata Somani, Delivery Centre Head, TCS Gujarat; Mr Harshit Desai, Design Entrepreneur, Fintech Professional and Digital Disruptor; and Mr Narendra Sharma, Regional Sales Director, AIC Inc. Speakers for the theme 'Managing in a VUCA World' included Mr Amitabh Tapadar, Executive Director, Marketing, Strategies & Business Development, Unidel Group; Mr Pradeep Talreja, Director of Operations, Apidel Technologies; and Mr Vishal Shastri, Senior Vice President, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited. Speakers for the theme 'Surviving in a Dynamic World' included Ms Sandhya Sharma, Chief Financial Officer, Schindler; Mr Vijay Rane, VP, HR, infochips; Dr Akhil Prasad, Director, Country Counsel India & Company Secretary Boeing India; and Ms Priyanka Sharma, Head of Marketing, CIGNEX.

International e-Conference on Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities in Pharmaceutical Research

Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University, in collaboration with Indrashil University, Ahmedabad organised an International e-Conference on the theme of Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities in Pharmaceutical Research during March 18-19, 2021. The e-Conference provided a common platform to 20 speakers from different countries including India. The speakers included Dr Ian Haworth from University of Southern California, USA; Prof Dong-Soo Shin from Changwon National University, South Korea; Dr Marco Lolli from University of Turin, Italy; Dr Heena Patel from Gilead Sciences Inc, USA; Dr Frederick Frankhauser & Dr Stephen Kerr from School of Pharmacy, MCPHS University, USA; Dr Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice-Chairman, UGC, New Delhi; Dr Thennati Rajmannar, Executive Vice President, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Vadodara; Dr Hitesh Malviya, Director, New Vaccines, Serum Institute of India, Pune; Dr Suresh Patankar, Professor & Chairman - Department of Urology, ACE Hospital & Research Centre, Pune; Dr Ritu Verma, Head, Preclinical Operations, Dabur Research Foundation, Ghaziabad, to name a few.

Dr Anamik Shah, Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapith was the Chief Guest and Shri KK Patel, Vice President, Nirma University presided at the Valedictory Function. Other dignitaries included Prof JS Yadav, Provost, Indrashil University; Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University; and Prof Manjunath Ghate, Director, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University. The conference was attended by more than 300 researchers in the areas of chemical sciences, biological sciences, pharmaceutical science, and other related areas. More than 230 researchers presented their research/review work as Oral presentations during the parallel sessions.

Degree Project at Department of Design

To provide the students a real-time design exposure, the Department of Design, Nirma University has initiated a 'Degree project' for its final year students. The 20-week long programme scheduled from Jan 4 to May 31, 2021 aims to act as a bridge between academics and industries and help the students learn about organisation ethics, hierarchy, leadership, logistics, supply chain management, manufacturing process, among others.

As a part of this project, a student has to go either join an organisation, industry, or work on a self-sponsored project. After joining the project, students are supposed to go for Primary and Secondary research followed by empathy and storyboarding. This will further lead to ideation, concept generation, prototyping, user feedback, and documentation.

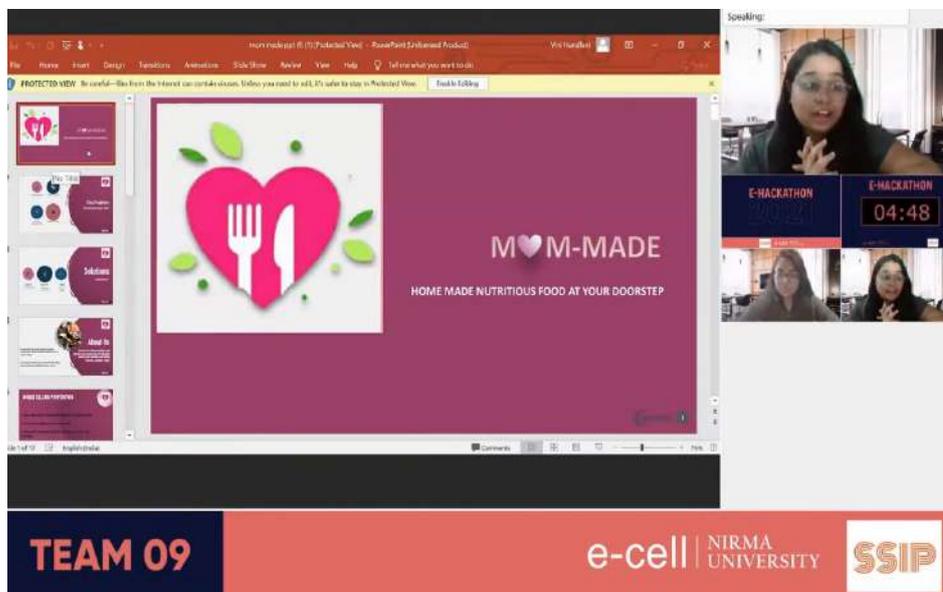
Some of the organisations and the projects on which the students are working include, UD Labs, Rajkot (Industrial Air Purifier), Project Otenga, Ahmedabad (food waste and its by-product), Round Umbrella Company, NID Incubation Centre, Ahmedabad (designing physical games for kids), Art Underground, Ahmedabad (Exhibition design), and Design Objects, Bangalore (designing Sterilizing Coffee Machines).

E-Hackaton 2021

As a part of the Student Start-up & Innovation Policy (SSIP) activity, the Entrepreneurship Cell of Nirma University organised an E-Hackaton from March 26-28, 2021. More than 200 students participated in the competition across the University and the Top 12 teams pitched on the final day. The event started with a motivational speech from the E-Cell coordinator Ms Rashmika Shah. The inaugural session had a talk by Mr Jagrat Jhamb, Founder, The Brand Folks.

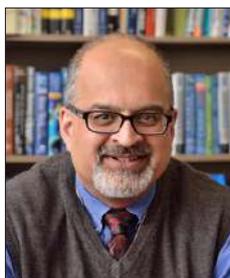
Mentors from various industry domains were invited to give different perspectives to the ideas of students. A workshop on 'Business Model Canvas' by Dr Kruti Patel, Founder of She and We; a workshop on 'Pitching' by Ms Drashti Shah, Assistant Manager - Outreach at PDPU Innovation & Incubation Centre; followed by a Mock Pitching Session for the Top 12 Teams was also organised.

E-Cell hosted the finals on March 28, 2021 with Mr Ebin Ephrem Elavathingal (Senior Manager, AIC Raise), Mr Ajay Saraswat (Group CEO, Inter India Group), and Mr Jatin Chaudhary (Co-Founder, eChai) as the judges. The winners of the competition were 'Team Mom-Made' comprising Heeral Neema, Vini Hundlani, Ramit Bhanawat, Pratik Choraria, and Ayush Deb from the Institute of Technology and Institute of Commerce. Their idea was to make a food delivery application for housewives.



Lecture Series in Transportation Engineering

Civil Engineering Department, Institute of Technology, Nirma University organised a lecture series in Transportation Engineering from March 2-March 16, 2021. Dr Neeraj Buch, Professor and Chairperson, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, Michigan State University delivered a total of five sessions on topics including, Overview of Pavements and its types, Factors affecting the performance of pavements, Stresses in Pavements, Design of Flexible and Rigid Pavements. More than 100 students of the BTech Civil Engineering branch attended the lecture series.



Joint Certificate Course

Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University initiated a new joint certificate course with the School of Pharmacy, University of Southern California (USC), USA. This course is being offered online by both institutes to their students. The faculty of USC and Nirma University is teaching them jointly. The course is unique as it focuses on the clinical therapeutics for the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes through a variety of diverse perspectives including drug mechanisms of action, pharmacology, treatment guidelines in the United States and India, natural products, regulatory issues, pharmacoconomics, and future directions for therapeutic development in the pharmaceutical industry. This course will provide an opportunity to collaborate with international colleagues and help students in exploring global perspectives in diabetes drug development and treatment.

Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment

An Expert Lecture on 'Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment' was organised under the aegis of the RAINBOW Centre (Realizing the Aspirations, Interests & Brilliance of Young Women) set up at the Institute of Management, and co-funded by ERASMUS+, an organisation of the European Union. The European Union's Erasmus+ programme is a funding scheme to support activities in the fields of Education, Training, Youth, and Sport. Experts included Ms Neha Lal, Sr General Manager, OPs & HR, GCS Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre & NABH Assessor; and Ms Anjali Gulati, Founder & CEO at People Konnect & Back to the Front and an alumnus of IMNU. The event conducted on March 8, 2021 was attended by more than 300 participants.

Udyamita- an Entrepreneurial Discourse

The Entrepreneurship Cell, and the Debate Society of the Institute of Law, Nirma University jointly organised UDYAMITA '21, a flagship event aimed at promoting entrepreneurial discourse among students of Nirma University using the tools of debating and argumentation. The event aimed at helping participants to prove their perspective with a more viable solution, sharpen critical thinking skills, improve soft skills, and develop more balanced arguments was held on June 29-30, 2021. Vanshika Agrawal from the Institute of Law was the winner, while Palak Naik from the Institute of Technology was the runner-up. They spoke on the topic 'Governments of conservative societies should financially incentivise men to be house-husbands or not?'

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RESET



Webinar on Career Prospects for Pharmacy graduates in India and Abroad

Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University organised a webinar on 'Career Prospects for Pharmacy graduates in India and Abroad' on June 19, 2021 for the third and fourth year BPharm students of various institutions of India. Eminent speakers like Dr Terrence F Graham, Chief International Officer, USC School of Pharmacy, USA; Dr Stephen Kerr, Interim Dean and Professor, School of Pharmacy, MCPHS University, Boston, USA; Dr James Coey, Dean of Basic Sciences, St George's University, Grenada; Dr Wong Tin Wui, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia; Dr Stephen F Amato, Faculty Director, Global Regulatory Affairs, and Teaching Professor, College of Professional Studies, Northeastern University, USA; and Dr Dhaivat Parikh, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University delivered talks on various topics.



Conference on Intellectual Property Rights and Competition Law

A conference on 'Intellectual Property Rights and Competition Law' was organised by the Institute of Law on April 16, 2021. The first session was on the Interface of Competition and IPR by Mr KD Raju, Professor of Law, Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, IIT Kharagpur; Ms Shilpi Bhattacharya, Professor, Jindal Global Law School; and Ms Avaanti Kakkar, Partner-Head Competition Practice, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas. Second session dealt with the jurisdictional conflicts that arise between the IP Sector Regulator and the Competition Commission of India which was addressed by Mr Somashekhar Sunderasan, Advocate; Mr J Sai Deepak, Advocate; and Ms Nisha Kaur Uberoi, National Head, Competition Law, Trilegal.

Hands on Training of MATLAB and LATEX

Institute of Technology under the auspices of CCE, Nirma University conducted an online training programmes on MATLAB and LATEX on April 3 and April 17, 2021, respectively. Conducted by Dr Y N Trivedi, Professor, Institute of Technology, Nirma University, the MATLAB programme was envisioned for installation of MATLAB in both, offline and online mode, and working with MATLAB with toolboxes and Simulink. A total of 87 students attended the programme. The LATEX programme was envisioned for working with LATEX in online mode. LATEX is a very versatile software, which is used for editing documents such as seminar reports, project reports, research papers, slide presentations, etc. A total of 60 students attended the programme.

World Environment Day

On the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2021 Nirma University's Student Welfare Board and NSS Unit jointly organised a Poster making Competition on the theme "Green Earth: Being Sustainably Efficient". A total of 50 students participated in the competition. The posters were evaluated by Ms Subarna Das, Art facilitator, Zydus School for Excellence, Godhavi. Purvi Ashwin Dabhi from the Institute of Architecture & Planning stood first, Kashish Agarwal from the Institute of Management stood second, and the third position is secured by Jaimini Santoki from the Institute of Architecture & Planning.

On this occasion, the Centre for Environmental Law, Institute of Law released the e-Magazine 'World Environment Day 2021'. It aims to provide the readers with an opportunity to think and deliberate about the environment, and to promote further research. An Open Mic Noon was organised where all the participants discussed the persisting environmental issues and deliberated upon the ways to restore the ecosystem.



Celebration of 7th International Day of Yoga

Online sessions on the theme 'Yoga Se He Hoga' were held for the Nirma community members during June 19-21, 2021. Ms Shruti Garg, a yoga instructor, conducted the sessions every morning. Online art, creative writing, video making, and quiz competitions were also held to keep the audience engaged. A total of 383 students, faculty, and staff members of Nirma University joined the yoga sessions. The event was organised by Team abhimaNU- the Central Sports Committee, and the NSS unit of the Institute of Management.



Webinars

- 'Career Prospects as Drugs Inspector' by Mr Parth More, Drug Inspector, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT), New Delhi on Jan 5, 2021 at Institute of Pharmacy.
- 'Psychiatric Therapeutics' by Dr Raj Sevak, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California, USA on Jan 28, 2021 at Institute of Pharmacy.
- Drug Submission Regulatory Requirements' by Dr C Benson Kuo, Patent Agent, (Associate Director of Consulting Centre, International Centre for Regulatory Science, and Assistant Professor, Department of Regulatory and Quality Sciences, University of Southern California) on Feb 2, 2021 at Institute of Pharmacy.
- A lecture on 'Resilient Housing Paradigm' by Dr Mona Chhabra Anand, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), New Delhi was organised by Institute of Architecture and Planning on April 17, 2021. Dr Anand is an Architect and Development Planner with more than 20 years of work experience with reputed organisations such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and Development Alternatives, and has been associated with housing, participatory processes, and sustainable development in emergency and non-emergency situations.
- A four-part lecture series on 'Uniform Civil Code' was conducted by Advocate Albertine Almeida, a member of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development during April 26-30, 2021 at the Institute of Law. The speaker analysed in detail the various provisions of Goa's code concerning marriage, its registration, divorce and settlement of property between spouses upon divorce, the regime of matrimonial property in Goa; different ways of inheritance and succession of properties, and the debate on the UCC in the larger context of the Constitution and India's socio-political environment.
- A lecture on 'Challenging the challenges under Infra space' by Mr Jayaraman Ravikumar, CFO, CXO, and CRO at L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Ltd was organised by the Institute of Management on April 10, 2021.
- An expert lecture on 'A New Frontier for Telecommunications: Intra-Body Network' by Dr Anna Vizziello, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Pavia, Lombardy, Italy was conducted by the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering on April 17, 2021. The session was mainly focused on the different perspectives of Intra Body Communication for health care.
- 'Data Analytics in Accounting' by Dr Partha S Mohapatra, Professor of Accounting Analytics, California State University, USA was organised by the Institute of Commerce on May 30, 2021.
- A session on 'Life at a Top Law Firm' by Mr Saahil Dama, Ex-Trilegal and Mr Sanjay Krishna, Ex-Khaitan & Co was organised by the Student Research Council, Institute of Law in collaboration with Worldwide on June 13, 2021.

Extension Activities

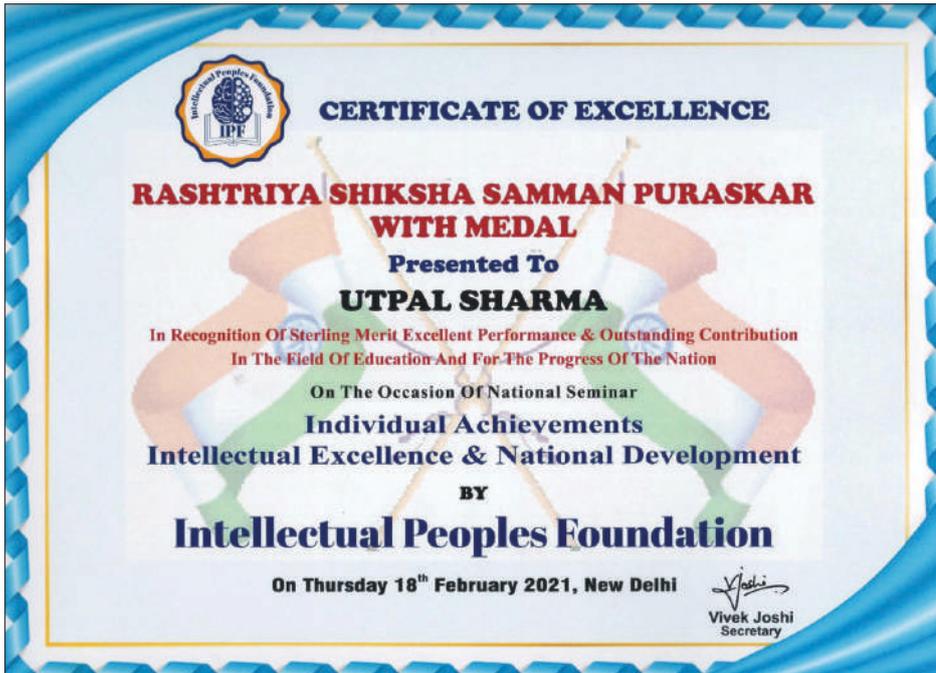
Reaching Out

Chandni Vora from the Institute of Science distributed groceries to the local Tautae cyclone-affected people in her hometown Jafrabad, Gujarat during May-June 2021. She was supported by the student association, faculty, and staff members of the Institute who joined the cause by providing funding assistance.



Awards and Achievements

- Prof Utpal Sharma, Director, Institute of Architecture & Planning received the 'Rashtriya Shiksha Samman Puraskar' from Intellectual Peoples Foundation on Feb 18, 2021 in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of education and for the progress of the nation.



- Dr Sudeep Tanwar, Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Institute of Technology has been appointed as an Associate Editor/Member of Editorial Board in Physical Communication (PHYCOM), Elsevier (SCI, IF: 1.594), Computer Communications (COMCOM), Elsevier (SCI, IF: 2.816, Q1). He is also appointed as an Associate Editor in the Board of Blockchain Technologies (section of Frontiers in Blockchain), and in Physical Communication (PHYCOM, Impact Factor 1.594, SCI indexed). Dr Tanwar received a Top-Cited paper award for his paper 'Tactile internet and its applications in 5G era: A comprehensive review' from International Journal of Communication Systems, Wiley (SCI, WoS, SCOPUS), April 15, 2021. He also edited a book titled "Blockchain for 5G-Enabled IoT: The new wave for Industrial Automation" that has been published with Springer Nature on April 10, 2021.



- Dr A M Lakdawala, Associate Professor and, Dr D S Upadhyay, Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering Department, Institute of Technology, Nirma University are selected for Best Research Scientist for their overall contribution in all activities of Research. They received Rs 35,000 cash award for this achievement from Nirma University.



- Prof Digesh Joshi, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering Department, Institute of Technology has won the Best Assistant Professor of the Institute for Overall Performance for the year 2019-20. Prof Joshi was honored with a cash award of Rs 40,000.



- Dr Dhaval Chauhan, Assistant Professor, Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University has been selected as one of the participants for the 'Indian Ocean Exchanges' programme which will be conducted from June 2021 to Jan 2023. It is a research, fellowship, and travel programme that aims to build a robust network of international scholars and professionals who are committed to advancing Indian Ocean art history. The programme will host a cohort of 15 international fellows, providing a space for connection along with shared intellectual affinities. The project team, a group of international Indian Ocean art historians, will offer mentorship for the fellows' ongoing research projects and guidance for their future professional development. The programme is organised by Nancy Um, Professor of Art History and Associate Dean of Harpur College, Binghamton University, and administered by the Research Foundation of the State University of New York with support from the Getty Foundation.



- Dr Sriram Seshadri, Assistant Professor, Institute of Science, Nirma



University received the 'Young Research Award-2021' for publication in 'Carbohydrate Polymers' by the Institute of Scholars, Chikmagalur, Karnataka, May 25, 2021. Dr Seshadri also received the 'Education Excellence Award-2021' for contribution to the education community by the Kites Kraft Educational Initiatives, Ludhiana on June 12, 2021.

Environmental Audit team selected from Institute of Technology

The Environmental Audit team of Institute of Technology, Nirma University, comprising Prof Karishma Chitnis, Prof Anant Patel, Prof Keval Jodhani, Mr R D Shah, Laboratory Supervisor, and Ms Dhara Joshi, Laboratory Assistant from the Civil Engineering Department, and Prof Sanjay Patel, Prof Jayesh Ruparelia, Prof Milind Joshipura, Prof Nimish Shah, Prof Shibu Pillai, Prof Sandip Sharma, Mr Dhaval Oza, Mr Manish Patel, Lab Supervisor, and Mr Devendra Patel, Senior Lab Assistant, from the Chemical Engineering department have been allocated the audit work of seven chemical industries in and around Ahmedabad for the financial year 2021-22 by the Gujarat Pollution Control Board to keep a check on the pollution of Air, Water, Soil, and Noise.



Meet the Team



Dr Subir Verma

*Director, Institute of Management
Nirma University*

Introduction

Dr Subir Verma has joined the Institute of Management, Nirma University as its director on May 21, 2021. Prof Verma has more than 30 years of teaching experience at reputed institutions such as Delhi University, MDI Gurgaon, IIM Ranchi, MDI Gurgaon, FORE School of Management, IIM Indore (VF) and ESCP Paris (VF). He has been founder Dean Academics at IIM Ranchi; Dean Corporate Relations, Placements and Alumni Affairs as well as Chairman, PGDM-HRM in IMI Delhi; Chairperson, Corporate Relations and Placements at MDI Gurgaon and Chairperson, Post Graduate Programmes and Chairperson International Accreditation at both MDI Gurgaon and FORE School of Management, New Delhi. He is an AICTE nominee on the Board of Governors of Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management; Principal Member of HR and Innovations Committee, and Resources Committee of the Bureau of Indian Standards, Government of India and Peer Reviewer of AMDISA-SAQs Accreditation. Prof Verma has been the recipient of Dr Karan Singh Gold Medal, Prof CJ Chacko Merit Certificate, UGC Junior and Senior Research Fellowship, AICTE Award for Travel to South Africa, and Club International Award for Research and Teaching in France. He is an FPM (PhD) holder from IIM Ahmedabad with a specialisation in Organisational Behaviour area, MPhil from the University of Delhi and MA (Gold Medalist) from the University of Delhi.

What attracted you to be a part of IMNU?

The first reason is the brand itself. The brand Nirma University is highly reputed and a prestigious brand. To start my directorial journey with such a brand I think is a huge honour and a privilege. The second reason is the sheer excitement of being part of the growth agenda of the institute and its aspiration to be in the top echelon of B Schools of the country.

How did you become an academician?

Becoming an academician was a matter of choice. I have been brought up in a joint family where lot of emphasis was given to academics and salaried jobs. It was only when I shifted to Delhi for my higher studies that I was enamored by academics as a profession. This was further fueled when I became faculty in Delhi University at a very young age of 23 and started teaching graduate students who were just two to three years younger than me. I felt immensely gratified with my role as what I thought as change agent in society. The overall experience was quite exhilarating and highly inspiring.

What made you transition from political science to management?

I loved Political Science as a subject-for its broad scope and breadth of impact. However, after being in the field for almost 15 years, I developed a tremendous amount of disquiet about Political Science and its inability to resolve the problems of our country as also the way it was taught in India. The theoretical paradigm, analytical framework, perspective, and models were all imitative, developed in a context different from India, and quite deficient in understanding and explaining our reality. There was a huge sense of inadequacy and ennui with what I felt I was contributing (or more aptly not contributing).

I changed to management because it seemed to be more problem solving and more directly impactful so far society, economy, organisation, and business were concerned. As I studied more, I realised that management provides the wherewithal's for managing and leading change both in business and society.

What is your take on research and teaching?

I consider management institutions to be integrated institutions, where knowledge has to be created and disseminated. Research and teaching have to go hand in hand. The humongous challenge of creating Atma Nirbhar Bharat, makes it incumbent that we develop our own models, frameworks, and solutions rooted in our context. Unfortunately, the kind of research that happens in most of the management institutions are imitative, adaptive, and superfluous from the point of view of both theory and irrelevant and meaningless from the perspective of Industry and society. It is imperative for all of us to partner with the industry, understand their problems, issues

and dilemmas and then provide innovative solutions. This integration of academic knowledge with practical orientation is crucial for management teachers who have the onus of grooming students to be industry ready. So, it is not about research and teaching; it is about the research of what kind; and teaching what outcomes.

What is your vision for Institute of Management, Nirma University and your action agenda to achieve the same?

Nirma as a company that started as a challenger in the 1980s and 90s, captured the imagination of the entire country when it almost dislodged the then global giants in the FMCG industry. That daring, courage, and capability have continued with the company since then. Who could have ever imagined them acquiring Lafarge cement as they outcompeted the more entrenched MNCs! The institute of Management must display similar "chutzpah" both in its vision and agenda.

My vision of IMNU is founded on the principles of co-evolving with the environment, stakeholder centricity, co-creation, collaboration, and above all strategic and entrepreneurial leadership. This vision can be realised with the active and vigorous partnership with the users of our outcomes: students, executives, corporates, government, and society.

Being in academia for so long, what is your message for the young academicians?

Industry connect is most critical-for our relevance and respect both. Academicians must be in touch with industry experts to understand the ground realities of business and function. There can be no substitute for intense engagement with management practitioners. This will help not only in our research; it will make our teaching relevant and useful and students better prepared.

Alumni

Alumni Speak...



Mr Parth Das

Associate Director, SAP
Batch of 2010-2012, MBA FT

Preface: This anecdote was first written by me somewhere in Nov-Dec 2010 during NCL time (sports activities), on a piece of rough paper, during my Nirma MBA days. That piece of paper got lost somewhere and it was rediscovered accidentally in my hostel cupboard, when I was emptying my room to leave for home in 2012 summers, after

A Broken Glass's Tryst with his Broken Image

finishing my MBA. I added many other details to the narrative later. I recently damaged my left knee in Dec 2020 due to a two-wheeler accident again, which reminded me of this article that I had written for my own records, when I had met my first bike accident in Jan 2010, that damaged my right knee then.

Hope this article inspires a few people to rise up and conquer the world, when you encounter setbacks in life.

"11 months back I was a mangled piece of broken bones & today I'm playing table tennis with you!" I was telling this to a fellow classmate in MBA, my opponent in Table Tennis, on the other side of the table.

I had a horrific crash on my Yamaha FZ, when a stray kite string almost slit my neck on Jan 14, 2010 i.e. on Uttarayan in Vadodara, Gujarat. I broke my Tibia Bone in my right leg as I slammed my disc brakes where the bike skidded after the wheels got locked up (no ABS in those days) and I was bed ridden for the next 2+ months. Later I walked with a walking stick for almost 3 more months attending all the B-School interviews in various cities across India. Prior to this last year in 2009, I was diagnosed with Lumbar Spine (aka Slip Disc) problem, just a week before my 26th birthday.

On my 25th birthday, I thought in a retrospective mood "It seems I have lived one-third of my life". But on my 26th birthday, I thought "It seems now I have lived half my life!" On my 27th birthday, I thought "I doubt I'll even cross 40 with all these fragile problems of breaking some or the other bone in my body!" Not to mention in Sept 2008, I was diagnosed for the second time with severe acute appendicitis and had to undergo an emergency surgery. After the near-death complicated surgery, the doctor exclaimed sheepishly "If you were late by 24 hours for your surgery, probably now you would have been sitting in Heaven or Hell depending on your deeds!" I told the doctor sarcastically, "It's definitely gonna be Hell for me, Heavens won't take me in!" Ever wondered why there is a Highway to Hell (the iconic AC/DC song) & only Stairway to Heaven (Led Zeppelin song)? More people are going to hell than heaven, I suppose.

Yeah, it felt good to cheat death once by few hours (with a curved smile on my face). Not to forget another blatant dire situation later, where I was revived from near death experience after I had stopped breathing (guess what, bike accident again!) on the Ahmedabad highway, courtesy a good Samaritan in April 2011.

With these experiences somehow the word "Fear" has disappeared from my lexicon! My "Frustrated IT Sedentary Life" became more vegetative as the days progressed with all these problems. I so badly wished to get back on my legs to play sports, and run like Forrest Gump with somebody shouting behind me for inspiration "Run Partha, Run". My guarding Angel was surely working overtime & wondering "Not again!"

About 8 months later in MBA (after the crash), I played tennis for the first time in my life under the flood lights with another classmate. I always had a tennis court in school days but somehow never played! I started playing badminton with all the stiff back & half-repaired leg, which didn't allow me flexibility nor to move and bend forward with agility. I started playing Table Tennis after ages. I was getting back on my feet finally. Walking is taken for so much granted, but I realised the importance of walking after being bed-ridden for 2 whole months. You only know the importance of something when you don't have it anymore in life with you!

It is said "Slow and Steady wins the Race" and I was doing that way in Sports. Next in the offering was cricket & basketball in the next few months. I wanted to make use of the last 2 probable years of my life in sports, coz after job, there won't be avenues & time for sports. I used to follow JIT (Just in Time) mechanism for reaching to class, as well as I started running to reach on time (old late coming office habits die hard!). All of us know it well by now, that if you are late by a minute to class, kiss away your attendance goodbye then.

These experiences indeed have made me a more hardened man, to fear and life-threatening situations now. When I have cheated my own death earlier, no failure now looks big to me. Those moments of being bed-ridden taught me many things in life. And yes, it's better to die mending the broken glass again rather leaving the glass unpolished. A Phoenix always rises from the ashes only, that's the reason why failures are the pillars of success. You haven't lived your life enough if you haven't failed in things, things like mending a shattered confidence level after an accident. When you hit rock bottom, you bounce back with double the force, that keeps one going in the worst of situations.

The Broken Glass is no longer fearful to look at his own broken image. The Broken glass has taken the broken image in his own stride & started to live with it. An occasional tryst with sports has become a sacrosanct affair. The Broken glass is rebuilding the shattered pieces from scratch. How the 2 months of bed-ridden degenerative vegetative state used to haunt me & now these moments just pass by in a fraction of a second. It is rightly said by Steve Jobs that you can only "Connect the Dots" of your life only when you look backward, like in Calligraphy. As it was brilliantly shown in "The Shawshank Redemption", that the world lives on "HOPE" and so does its human beings & broken Glasses like me.

Hope is truly the "Elixir of Life".

Awards and Achievements

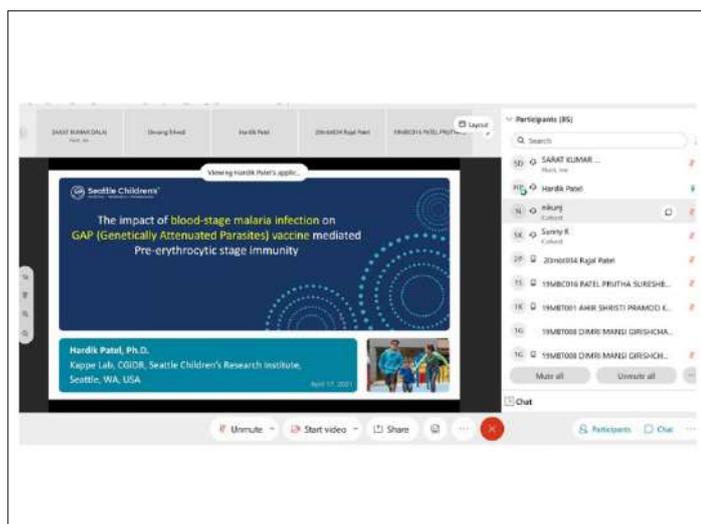
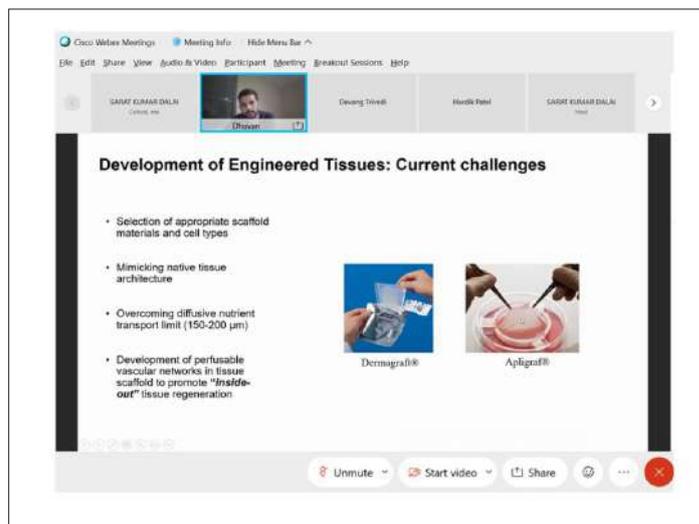
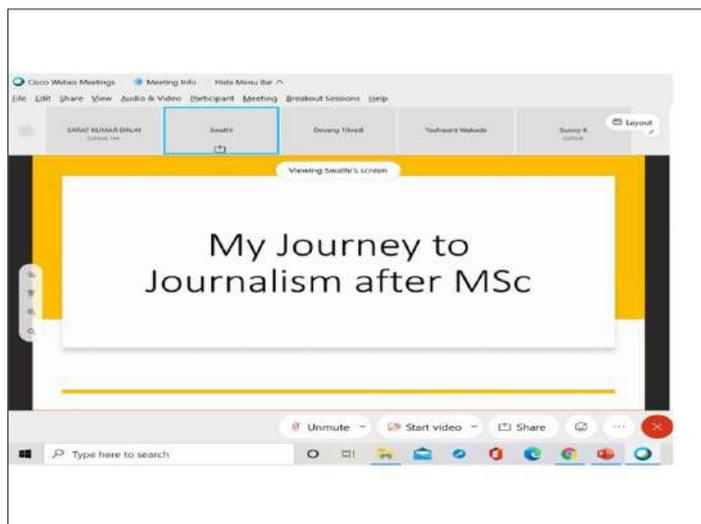
Mr Amit Kumar
Srivastava,
Delivery Manager,
CAE at L&T
Technology
Services, alumni
of 2005 batch of
MTech in
Mechanical



Engineering received the 'Best Alumni Award' from Nirma University on Feb 20, 2021 (online) for the year 2020. Mr Amit received the award in recognition of his support to the institute. He provided the Training and Project Work opportunity and support to the students of the bachelors and masters programme of the institute for exploring the new technology and trends in various fields. Every year many students have worked as an intern under his guidance and support.

Alumni Talk

The Institute of Science Alumni Association organised an Alumni Talk on April 17, 2021. On this occasion, Dr Hardik Patel (MSc & PhD in 2018), currently working as a Post-doctoral Scientist at Seattle Children's Hospital, Washington USA delivered a talk on 'The impact of blood-stage malaria infection on GAP vaccine mediated pre-erythrocytic stage immunity'. Mr Dhavan Sharma (MSc in 2016), currently pursuing PhD at the Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering Lab, Texas A&M University, USA, delivered a talk on 'Development of completely biological, immune compatible and biomimetic 3D pre-vascularised tissue constructs'. Mr Yahwant Wakade (MSc in 2007), currently Central Data Scientist, PRA Health Sciences, Hyderabad shared his experience on the current scenario of the clinical research industry and gave a talk on 'Education to Profession: Decision by interest'. Ms Swathi Nair (MSc in 2013), currently working as a Senior sub-editor at Reuters, Bangalore, delivered a talk on 'Journalism after MSc.'



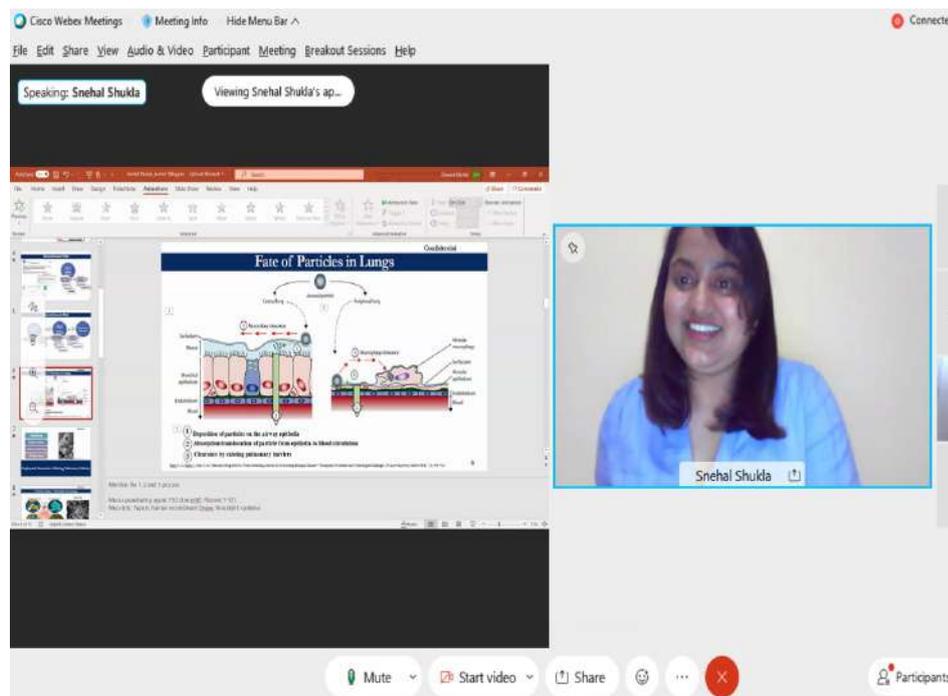
Online Sessions by Alumni

- Mr Rahul Singh Raghav, an alumnus of the 2017 batch of IT branch of Institute of Technology, currently working at Amazon, Bangalore as a Software Development Engineer delivered an expert talk on 'How to climb the career ladder' on Jan 20, 2021. He also talked about different career opportunities in Computer Science.
- The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Student Chapter organised interactive talk series with the alumni of the Institute of Technology. Mr Shivam Patel, an undergraduate student in Computer Science and Engineering from Nirma University, and currently a graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University delivered a talk on Jan 11, 2021. Another talk was organised on Jan 30, 2021 with Mr Vipul Patel, an MCA alumnus of Nirma University, former MBA graduate from California State University-Dominguez Hills, currently working as a Technical Programme Manager at Facebook.
- Mr Rohan Garg from Career Launcher and alumnus from the EC department delivered an expert lecture on 'Cracking Competitive Exams for Dream Careers' on Feb 15, 2021 through the online platform.
- Ms Barkha Patel, an alumna of the IT branch (class of 2017), Institute of Technology, currently a researcher at AT & T, USA gave an expert talk on 'Higher Studies and Job Opportunities in the USA for Specialised Roles'.

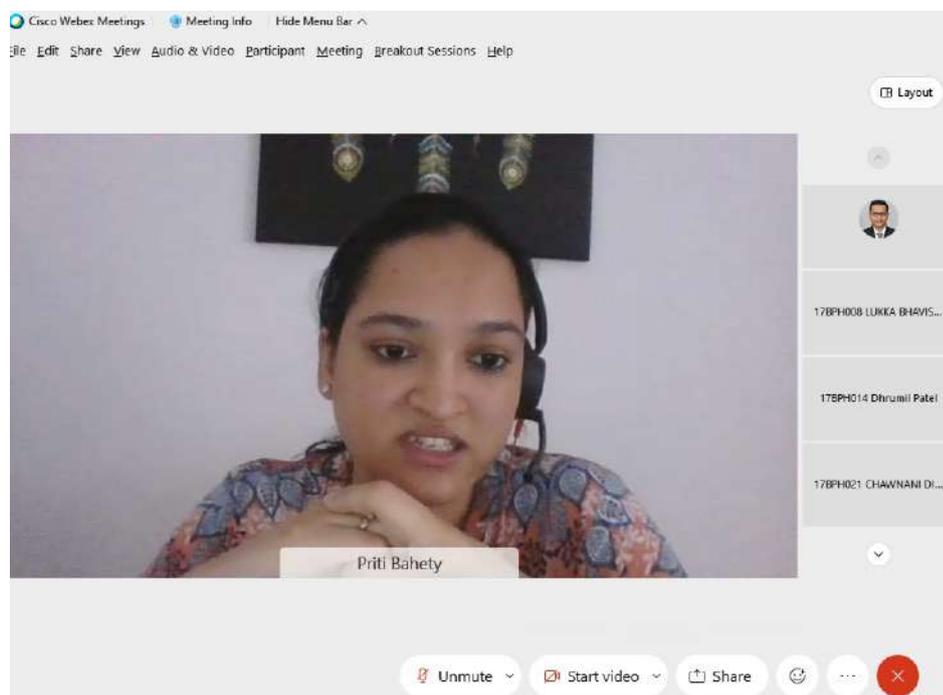
Online sessions by alumni of the Institute of Pharmacy

Following alumni members of the Institute of Pharmacy delivered lectures during April-June 2021:

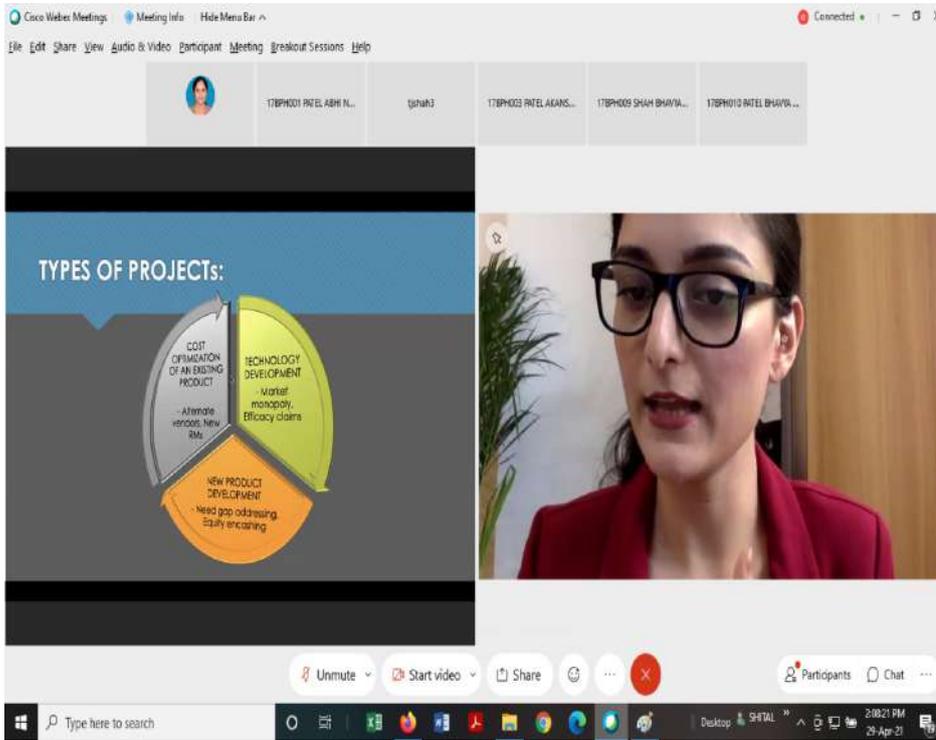
- Dr Snehal Shukla, Formulation Scientist at Quotient Sciences, USA delivered a talk on 'Bioinspired particle engineering for improved drug delivery to peripheral lungs' on April 13, 2021.



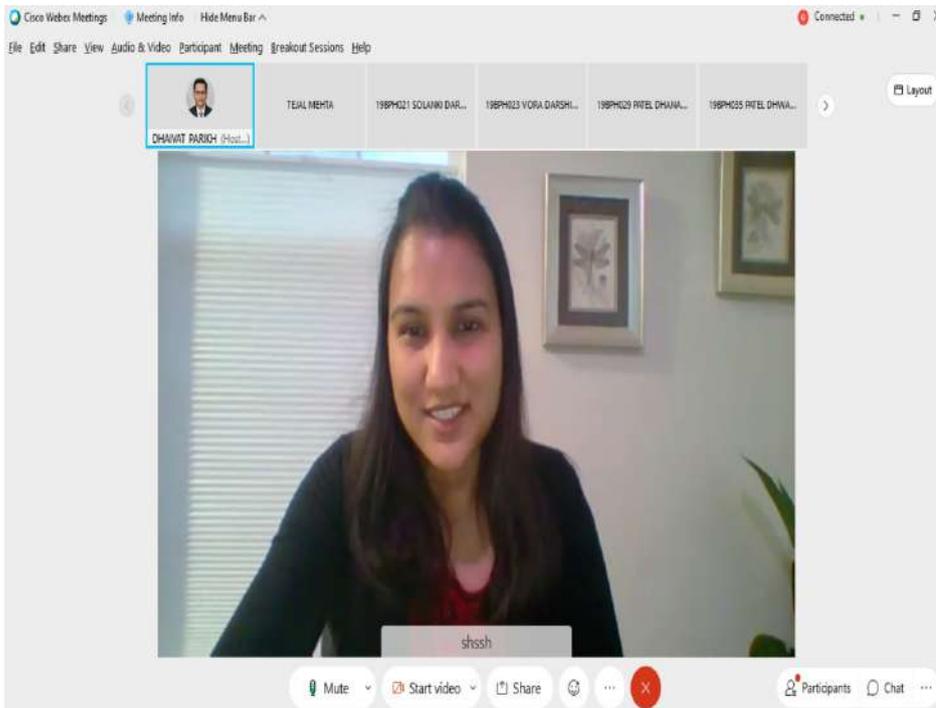
- Dr Priti Bahety, Oncology Medical Lead and Medical Excellence Manager at GSK, Singapore spoke on 'Scope on Higher Education in Pharmacy at Singapore' on April 16, 2021.



- Ms Shivangi, Senior R&D Officer, Product Development, Premium Personal Care, R&D, Marico Ltd, Mumbai delivered a talk on 'Cosmetic Products: conception to commercialisation' on April 29, 2021.



- Ms Shreya Shah, Associate Director, Pharmaceutical Development, CDMO Division, Lubrizol Life Science-Health (USA) delivered a talk on 'Nanomilling Technology - Screening to Scale-up' on April 30, 2021.



- Mr Nishant Patel, owner of a Pharmacy store, and Manager - Hillside Family Pharmacy, Ladysmith, British Columbia, Canada, delivered a career guidance session on 'Pharmacy profession as a career in Canada' on May 3, 2021.

- Mr Snehal Kothari, Manager - Business Development & Project Management, Sundyota Numandis Probioceticals Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on 'Strategic Planning for Marketing Mix' on May 4, 2021.
- Mr Hirenkumar N Khatri, Designated Partner, Tarushi Formulations LLP, India delivered a talk on 'Ayurvedic Products: Opportunities for Business Development in Healthcare' on May 5, 2021.
- Dr Deven Patel, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, National Cancer Institute, NIH, USA delivered a talk on 'Background, Application and the Advanced Techniques for RT-PCR' on May 6, 2021.
- Mr Ravi Ukawala, Deputy Manager - New Product Launch, Zydus Cadila Healthcare Ltd Ahmedabad delivered a talk on 'Quality by Design' on May 8, 2021.
- Ms Sweta Rajput, Regulatory Affairs Specialist, Novartis, Hyderabad delivered a talk on 'Introduction to regulatory affairs, regulatory markets, submission types and tools' on May 8, 2021.
- Dr Manish Kumar Sharma, Research Associate-1, National Dope Testing Laboratory, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, New Delhi delivered a talk on 'High Resolution Mass Spectrometry Based Approach for Characterisation of Degradation Products, Metabolite Profiling and Pharmacokinetics Study of Drug Substance and Its Implications in Drug Development' on May 13, 2021.
- Dr Anand B Pithadia, Vice-Principal & Associate Professor, School of Pharmacy, Parul University, Vadodara delivered a talk on 'Effective Presentation Skills' on June 5, 2021.

- Dr Raghunath Pokale, Manager, Novartis Healthcare Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad delivered a talk on 'Supply chain management in clinical trials' on June 5, 2021.
- Mr Maharshi Raval, Deputy Superintendent of Police, currently posted at Rajkot district, Gujarat Police Services, interacted with the students and delivered a career guidance talk on 'Preparation for Civil Services Exam' on June 5, 2021.
- Mr Johny Haryani, Owner and Founder of Dehal beverages (Soft Drink Brand MOC-68), Ahmedabad, delivered a talk on 'Roadmap to Start-up from Scratch' on June 5, 2021.
- Mr Keval Trivedi, Director of AP Consultants & Company, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on 'Scope of Pharmacy and GPAT preparation' on June 10, 2021.
- Mr Dhruv Rawal, Business & Strategy Lead, International Expansion, Amneal Pharmaceuticals, India delivered a talk on 'Regulatory Affairs & US FDA ANDA Approval Process in GDUFA II' on June 11, 2021.





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