



# NIRMA UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 • Issue 3 & 4

## MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE



University's Incubation Centre  
recognised as a nodal institute for  
startups



MoUs with industry, educational  
institutes, and research centres



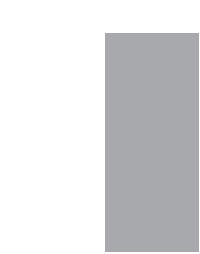
Students bring laurels in  
International and National events



University hosts International  
and National Conferences



Faculty achievements



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# MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL'S DESK



Dear Reader,

Both corporate environments and educational campuses are undergoing significant transformations in response to various factors. The advent of the Industry 4.0 paradigm is reshaping businesses, integrating technology into every facet of their operations. This has accelerated the flow of information across organisational functions, enabling companies to tailor their products and services to meet specific customer needs. Notably, supply chains are improving, and innovation is now a key driver of competitiveness, with companies investing in the development of products and services.

Simultaneously, educational campuses are experiencing a profound shift, particularly in terms of student demographics and behaviour.

Encouragingly, there has been a positive trend in the enrolment of female students across various higher education programmes, contributing to greater gender diversity. This diversity enhances psychological variation in thinking, peer interactions, and social behaviours, ultimately fostering a more dynamic and inclusive academic environment.

While reservation has improved access to higher education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, challenges persist. Some face psychological and social obstacles, necessitating increased support from educational institutions. Recognising that educators play a crucial role not only in intellectual but also in socio-psychological development, it becomes imperative to ensure that campuses are welcoming and secure spaces for students from all backgrounds.

The privatisation of higher education has expanded access but also introduced challenges related to quality. Despite an increase in the number of institutions, only a few maintain high standards, impacting the employability of graduates. Addressing this issue is crucial to ensuring that the proliferation of educational institutions translates into a meaningful enhancement of educational outcomes.

Social media has become integral to students' lives, serving as a platform for information creation, management, and networking. However, excessive screen time has emerged as a concern, leading to decreased engagement with academic studies. Educational institutions must proactively address this issue to maintain a healthy balance between online and offline activities.

Lastly, the well-being of students is a growing concern, encompassing both physical and mental health. Unhealthy lifestyles, inadequate nutrition, and insufficient sleep are impacting academic performance. Mental health challenges, including social isolation and high stress, require urgent attention and support mechanisms within educational institutions.

In conclusion, as we navigate the challenges posed by dynamic business organisations and evolving campus life, it is imperative to develop innovative strategies to prepare students for the demands of 21<sup>st</sup>-century workplaces. Additionally, providing robust social-psychological support, scaffolding, and mentorship will empower students to realise their full potential in both their academic and personal lives.

Thanking you.  
**Anup K Singh, PhD**  
Director General



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Nirma University's Incubation Centre recognised as Nodal Institute for the Startups

Nirma University's Incubation Centre is granted financial assistance under the Gujarat Industrial Policy-2020, Scheme for assistance for StartUps/Innovation from the Industries & Mines Department, Government of Gujarat. Under this grant, the registered startup at NU Incubator can avail seed funding of Rs 30 Lakhs in addition to a monthly sustenance allowance of Rs 20,000. An additional support of Rs 10 Lakhs can be provided to a startup having an innovative project that has a significant impact on the society. Along with the existing grant of Rs 2.5 Lakhs from the university and SSIP per team for the pre-incubation support and multifaceted labs and infrastructure, this grant makes Nirma's Incubation Centre a preferred choice for the young innovative and business-oriented minds.

## MOUs

### MoU with Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC), Gandhinagar

Nirma University signed an MoU with Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC), Gandhinagar on July 20, 2023. These two institutes are joining hands to address societal problems through postgraduate, doctoral and faculty research work. In addition, the professors and scientists from respective institutes will be able to work together on Funded Research Projects, Research Publications, and addressing the issues prevalent in Gujarat state in the area of Biotechnology.

Prof Chaitanya G Joshi, Director, GBRC and his colleagues participated in the MoU signing ceremony. Dr Anup K Singh, Director General; along with other directors represented Nirma University.



### MoU with Operant Pharmacy Federation (OPF), Rajasthan

The Institute of Pharmacy signed an MoU with the Operant Pharmacy Federation (OPF), Rajasthan on July 25, 2023. With a shared vision of creating a positive impact on global healthcare, this collaboration aims to empower researchers, promote ethical practices, and connect professionals worldwide. This collaboration will create a platform for sharing knowledge, expertise, and best practices. It will facilitate the exchange of ideas, enabling researchers and students to collaborate on ground-breaking projects that address current healthcare challenges.

Dr Vikram Chaudhary, Founder and Director, Operant Pharmacy Federation participated in the MoU signing ceremony along with Dr Gopal Natesan, Director - Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University and other dignitaries.

## MoU with Florida Atlantic University (FAU), USA

Florida Atlantic University (FAU), Boca Raton, Florida, USA and Nirma University signed an MoU on Sep 27, 2023 for PhD Dual Degree Programme. School of Technology and School of Engineering of Institute of Technology, Nirma University and College of Engineering and Computer Science (COECS) of FAU, have agreed upon offering a PhD Dual Degree Programme on identified areas of research. Upon completion of all the requirements of each institute, the student participating in the programme will obtain a PhD degree from both the universities.

This MoU is unique and innovative in many ways. It is the first time that both the universities have entered into an MoU for a Research programme. Earlier, they collaborated for educational programmes only. This programme will provide the doctoral students a great opportunity to work on the live research projects at FAU with industry support. The research exposure will provide more career opportunities for the students globally. It will also provide opportunity for faculty exchange for research and will bring out joint research publications, patents by faculty members of both the universities.

## MoU with INFLIBNET Centre

Nirma University and Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, Gandhinagar, an autonomous Inter-University Centre of University Grants Commission, New Delhi (Ministry of Education, Government of India) signed an MoU on Sep 6, 2023 on 'Shodh-Chakra' (A Gateway to Researchers for Resources). This MoU will smoothen doctoral research productivity at the university and will provide real time data to all stakeholders. The 'Shodh-Chakra' platform will serve as a very effective ERP for managing the research work of the doctoral students of the university. It will also help researchers identify various resources for the research. The MoU was signed by Prof J P Singh Joorel, Director, INFLIBNET Centre and Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University.



## MoU with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

In a move aimed at fostering cooperation and enhancing academic excellence, the Institute of Commerce, and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) entered into an MoU on Sep 15, 2023. This partnership marks a significant step towards promoting synergy between both organisations and enriching the education, research, and training landscape.

The key objectives of this MoU include encouraging staff interaction through interinstitutional visits, faculty exchanges, staff development initiatives, academic publications, collaborative research projects, innovative academic and research programmes addressing common areas of interest, and the potential for ICAI accreditation. The agreement reflects a mutual commitment to advancing excellence, knowledge sharing, and skill development in academics, research, and training, with a focus on commerce courses.

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## MoU with Bureau of Indian Standards

The Institute of Technology and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) signed an MoU with the intent to develop collaborative activities in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment based on equality and reciprocity. The MoU was signed by Mr Sanjay Goswami, Dy Director General (West), Bureau of Indian Standards and Prof R N Patel, Director, Institute of Technology in the presence of other dignitaries from BIS and ITNU on Dec 14, 2023.



## RANKINGS

Nirma University ranks among the 'Top 10 Private Universities in India' in the annual university rankings published by India Today in its August 2023 issue. The university secured the seventh position among 446 private universities in India. Further, Nirma University ranks as the 'Top Private University' in the West Zone region.

## FELICITATION

### Nirma University felicitated Shri Nilesh M Desai, Director, SAC-ISRO

Chandrayaan-3 has captured the world's attention and imagination and is a testament to the unwavering commitment, dedication, and brilliance of the entire ISRO team. The role of SAC-ISRO, Ahmedabad under the visionary leadership of Shri Nilesh M Desai, a distinguished scientist, and Director, SAC-ISRO, Ahmedabad is noteworthy in the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

To commemorate this occasion, Nirma University organised a felicitation ceremony on Sep 16, 2023. Shri K K Patel, Vice President, Nirma University felicitated Shri Desai in the presence of Dr Anup K Singh - Director General, Head of Institutes, faculty, staff and students of the university. In his thirty-seven years of illustrious engineering and research career at SAC-ISRO, Shri Desai has contributed extensively to the design and development of ISRO's Microwave Radars (RISAT, Oceansat, NISAR, Chandrayaan), and realisation of advanced and synergetic applications involving earth observation, navigation and communication. A total of 11 systems were contributed by the team in Chandrayaan 3 Mission under the able leadership and guidance of Shri Desai. This included 8 camera systems, a Radar ultimator, Camera and Radar Imaging, and selection of a landing site, among others.



### Nirma University felicitated by Prathama Blood Centre

Prathama Blood Centre, Ahmedabad organised a Felicitation Ceremony on Dec 2, 2023 to recognise the efforts of organisations during the Blood donation drive conducted all through the year. Dr Kiritbhai Premjibhai Solanki, Member of Parliament, Ahmedabad West was the Chief Guest, and Dr Rakesh Joshi, Medical Superintendent, Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad was the Guest of Honour. Dr Ripal Shah, Medical Director, Prathama Blood Centre, Ahmedabad honored the invited organisations by giving mementos. On this occasion, Nirma University was also felicitated for its support of this noble cause.



## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Achievements at International Level

#### 19<sup>th</sup> WKI International Karate Championship

Feni Neelesh Katariya from the Institute of Law received a Gold Medal in the Kumite Competition and Bronze Medal in Kata Competition at the 19<sup>th</sup> WKI International Karate Championship, 2023 organised by Wado Kai Karate Do Federation of India from Nov 24-26, 2023 at Port Stadium, Vishakhapatnam. Ten countries participated in the International Championship and India emerged victorious and won the International Championship Trophy.

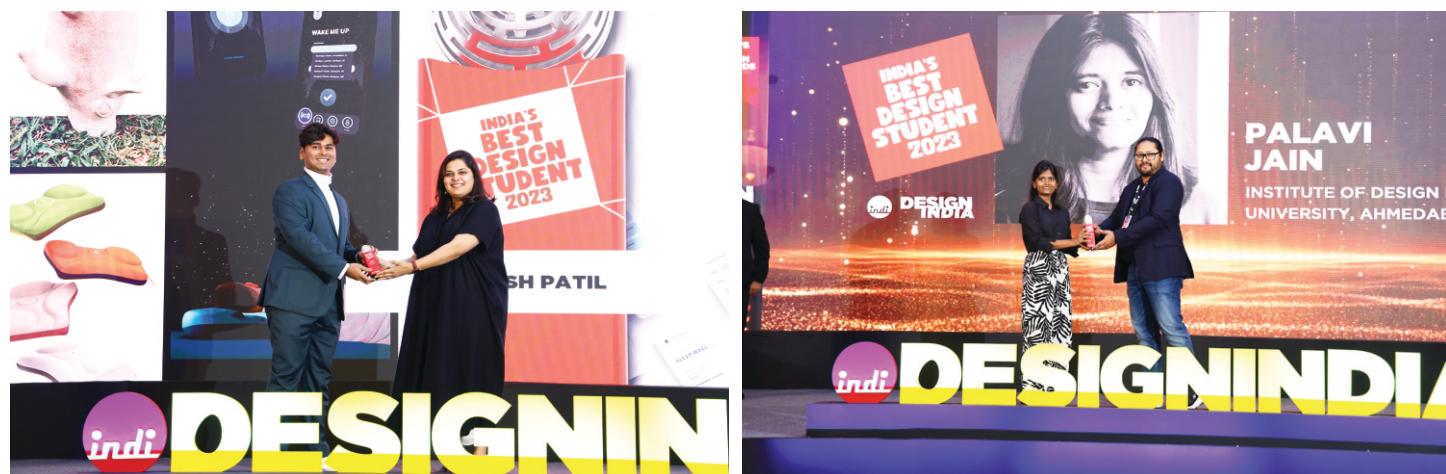


### Achievements at National Level

#### India's Best Design Student Award

Palavi Jain, a product and interaction design student of semester 7 and Unmesh Patil, a 2023 graduate student of the Institute of Design won the 'India's Best Design Student Award' 2023 at the 'Design India Show' in Pune on Oct 7, 2023 for their academic work throughout their education in Product design. Only 12 students across India received this prestigious award.

Initiated by DesignIndia Magazine in 2015, India's Best Design Awards (IBDA) is India's one of the most respected design awards, setting the benchmark for excellence across various categories such as product design, communication design, digital design, spatial design, and more. This was the first year that IBDA introduced the award in the student category.



### Debate Competition

Shubhamkar Bhandari and Yashaswi Trivedi from the Institute of Law won the 'JusManthan Vādah – An Indic Knowledge Systems (IKS) Based Bilingual National Level Debate Competition' organised by MNLU Nagpur on Aug 4-5, 2023. Shubhamkar Bhandari secured the title of Best Interjector and the Best Speaker for the motion.

## Intra-University Level Achievements

### Patriotic Song Competition

As part of celebration 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav- मेरी मिट्ठी, मेरा देश' the Students' Welfare Board and Institute of Science organised Deshraag, a Patriotic Song Competition on Aug 5, 2023. The event embodied the spirit of nationalism and served as a platform for the students and faculty-staff members to express their love and admiration for our beloved nation through the mesmerising power of music. In this competition, eight teams participated in the student category and four teams participated in the faculty-staff category. Students of Institute of Commerce were declared the winners, and Institute of Law as Runners up. Under the faculty-staff category, Institute of Science were the winners, and Institute of Technology were the Runners up.



### Chess Tournament

Institute of Commerce under the aegis of Students' Welfare Board organised an Inter-Institute Chess tournament on Nov 2, 2023. Chintan Trivedi from the Institute of Technology stood first in the male category, and Anjali Shah from the Institute of Technology stood first in the female category. Dr Ashwin Verma from the Institute of Technology stood first in the faculty-staff category.

### Volleyball Tournament

Institute of Science under the aegis of Students Welfare Board, Nirma University conducted the Inter-Institute Volleyball Tournament on Oct 19-20, 2023. In the student category, the Institute of Technology emerged as the champion, and the Institute of Architecture & Planning secured the runner-up position in the male category. In the female category, the Institute of Technology emerged as the champion, while the Institute of Design finished as the runner-up.



## Tug of War

Institute of Pharmacy under the aegis of Students' Welfare Board organised an Inter-Institute Tug of War on Nov 9, 2023. The student team of the Institute of Commerce stood first in the male category, whereas the student team of the Institute of Technology stood first in the female category.

## Carrom Tournament

Institute of Commerce under the aegis of Students' Welfare Board organised an Inter-Institute Carrom tournament on Nov 3, 2023. Charchit Mittal and Malay Majithiya from the Institute of Management stood first in the male category, and Palak Rathod and Gunjan Rathi from the Institute of Technology stood first in the female category. In the faculty-staff category, Dr Roshan Tandel from the Institute of Technology stood first in the male category, and Dr Anshu Shivastava from the Institute of Pharmacy stood first in the female category.



## Students' Speak



**Ms Shivalika Maheshwari**  
MSc Biochemistry  
Institute of Science, Nirma University

## Can Science explain Consciousness?

### What is consciousness?

There is a spiritual connotation to the word 'consciousness'. This is a subtle concept or phenomenon with no physical evidence to it. The processes which run in our body are enabled by the centralised consciousness in each atom of our cell, and same is said to be residing in a particle of soil too! Consciousness can be best understood by this statement I found by Sri Aurobindo - "Consciousness is a fundamental thing in existence. It is the energy, the motion, the moment of consciousness that creates the universe and all that is in it. Not only the macrocosm but also the microcosm is nothing but consciousness arranging itself. For instance, when consciousness in its movement or rather a certain stress of movement forgets itself in the action it becomes an apparently unconscious energy, when it forgets itself in the form it becomes the electron, the atom, the material object. In reality it is still consciousness that works in the energy and determines the form and the evolution of form. When it wants to liberate itself, slowly, evolutionarily, out of matter, but still in the form, it emerges as life, as animal, as man and it can go on evolving itself still further out of its involution (meaning 'entanglement' which is opposite of evolution) and become something more than mere man!"

One need not be overwhelmed by various explanations of consciousness, since it is a phenomenon to be 'realised' rather than 'proved'.

Consciousness still remains an unsolved puzzle by the scientific community.

When we talk of science, we are talking about a curiosity that needs to be solved through a series of steps or methodology that culminates in the result that needs to be analysed and interpreted. The result of a scientific quest is what is the experimental proof on which the world can rely on, and not raise objections, as no argument can beat what has been scientifically proven. For instance, why the blood clots and the wound heal as if it wasn't there ever; is addressed through experiments and explained by meticulous flow chart. Similar to wound healing many other biological curiosities have been answered through experiments and are often referred by the scientific community as easy problems. The

# STUDENTS

term ‘easy’ for a problem to be solved is a relative one, indicating that compared to these, there are ‘hard’ problems, else the term ‘easy’ for certain curiosities was not required!

Let’s see what are the ‘hard problems’ in science?

The term ‘hard problem’ is coined for those biological curiosities which are probably not yet amenable to current experimental techniques. One such interesting and complex problem that has baffled the neuroscientists through ages is the ‘Hard Problem of Consciousness’.

While trying to find out about consciousness by literature search and Internet surfing, I came across a talk “Can scientific enquiry lead us to self-knowledge?” where question of consciousness is addressed in the realm of science - Scientific endeavour requires an object to study various phenomena with its sense of object. Let’s understand this by an example. If someone says ‘Oh! That food is tasty!’ and the other person responds “but I can’t see it” clearly shows that the sense of object which is taste by the tongue is not compatible with seeing by the eyes. Therefore, the scientific methodologies probably cannot address these conflicting statements. It has been widely accepted that “there is no object that can reveal or prove consciousness, because consciousness itself is the object.”

‘Vedanta’ or ‘Upanishads’ talk about consciousness which is scientifically proven by the ancient Rishis. In Vedanta we say ‘neti, neti’ that which is not this body nor the mind, and so on. And by isolating the pure state of being alive i.e., being conscious, science is expected to find the proof of that awareness.

Today’s science is itself doing the same thing through step-by-step railing that consciousness is separate from matter, the physical object. Thus, the machines which carry out the same functions as human brain for example, a calculator which can remember, evaluate, create, and solve analytical problems, even better than a human being, is still not considered conscious because it lacks that basic quality which makes a living thing ‘Living’. Thus, science is experimentally determining that consciousness is a much subtler phenomena present in the matter, but at the same time is not the matter alone. The Hard Problem of Consciousness is when science meets spirituality. However, spiritual leaders with scientific background believe, science does not, cannot, should not, and need not attempt to prove consciousness using conventional scientific methodology.

Hence, it is not that science cannot prove consciousness. However, the fact that such a subtler force of energy which is consciousness needs to be studied through a subtler dimension. Till science describes what consciousness IS, in the process it at least proves what it IS NOT! This is in line with the ‘neti – neti’ in terms of Vedant and Upanishads.

# RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

## Patents Granted

- A patent has been granted to Dr Mamta Saiyad, Dr Niranjan Devashrayee, and Dr Mewadar Rajubhai K from the Institute of Technology for an invention entitled ‘Radiation Hardened Epoxy/Graphite Polymer Composite’ on Nov 7, 2023.
- A patent has been granted to Dr Deepak Adhyaru, and Ms Pallav Gandhi from the Institute of Technology for an invention entitled ‘Smart Modbus Protocol Device’ on Sep 21, 2023.

## Grants Received

The Department of Civil Engineering, Institute of Technology, Nirma University secured a grant of Rs 4.22 crores under the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), an initiative of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. Of the total amount, Rs 3.92 crores has been earmarked for the establishment of ‘Centre of Excellence in Geotechnical Textiles’. The centre will have facilities to test different set of properties of geotextiles. It is also envisaged to investigate the soil-geotextile interaction for various infrastructure applications. This centre will be poised to become the hubs of research, experimentation and hands-on learning. This funding will be instrumental in development of education and innovation in the field of technical textiles, particularly in the realm of geotextiles to contribute in the enhancement of infrastructure development and various other sectors.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### CELEBRATION OF IMPORTANT DAYS

#### Independence Day

The 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of our nation was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour on Aug 15, 2023. The celebrations commenced with the flag-hoisting ceremony. The university community members gathered at the lawn area, where the national flag was hoisted by the Chief Guest of the day, Prof Miki Desai, (retired) Head of the Master's Programme in Sustainable Architecture at CEPT University, Ahmedabad. The fluttering tricolour evoked a sense of unity and patriotism among the attendees. The national anthem was sung with great reverence, filling the air with a deep sense of pride. The event saw a Guard of honour and march past by NCC cadets.



#### Kargil Vijay Diwas

The NCC Unit of Nirma University in association with 9-Gujarat NCC Battalion, NCC Ahmedabad Group observed the 24<sup>th</sup> Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26, 2023 to remember the martyrs of the Kargil war. An exhibition of paintings, posters, and weapons like 0.22 mm rifle, 7.62 mm SLR rifle, INSAS rifle provided by the 9-Guj NCC Bn was exhibited on the campus. Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University felicitated Kargil war soldier Subedar Kheem Singh for his bravery showcased during the Kargil war.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Teachers Day

The Teachers Day celebration on Sep 5, 2023 at the constituent institutes of Nirma University was a splendid affair, marked by enthusiasm and a unique charm. Students organised special programmes to honour their teachers. The students organised various activities such as Guess the faculty, mimicry, tongue twister, pictionary quiz, etc. Dance and Music performances by students were also a part of the celebration.



## Hindi Diwas

The Theatre Club 'Pratibimb' at the Institute of Law celebrated Hindi Diwas on Sep 14, 2023 and captivated the audience with an enlightening play based on the importance of Hindi.

## National Unity Day

NCC Unit at Nirma University attached to 9 Gujarat Battalion celebrated 'National Unity Day' on Oct 31, 2023 in coordination with the Students' Welfare Board, Nirma University. This celebration was organised to remember the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to unite India at the time of independence. NCC cadets organised a one-act play on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the theme 'Unity in Diversity'.

## Pharmacists Day

Institute of Pharmacy in association with the Pharmacy Council of India celebrated Pharmacists Day on Sep 8, 2023, with the theme 'Pharmacists Strengthening Health Systems: Angadaan Mahadaan'. The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Shri Dilipbhai Deshmukh Dada, a renowned Social Worker in the field of Environment and Education; Dr Montukumar M Patel, President - Pharmacy Council of India; and Shri Ranjit Kumar Jha, President - Mahamana Malaviya Mission, Gujarat, and Director of Instacare Healthcare and Nutraceuticals.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND WEBINARS

### IEEE International Symposium on Smart Electronics Systems

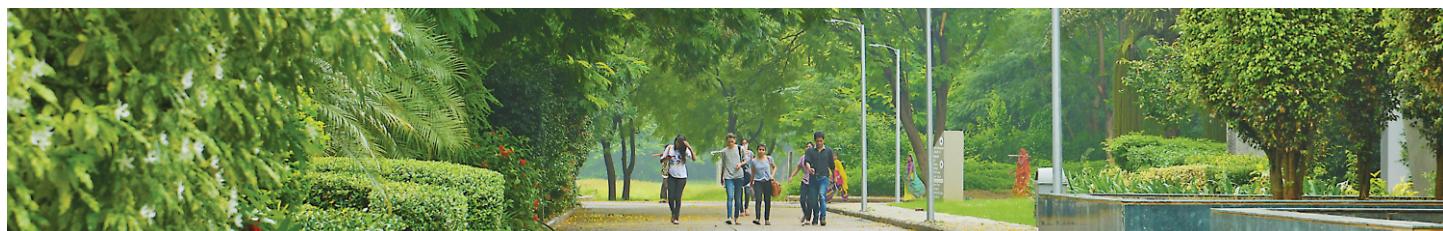
Nirma University hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> IEEE International Symposium on Smart Electronic Systems (iSES), during Dec 18-20, 2023. This symposium brought together leading experts, researchers, and innovators in the field of smart electronic systems from around the globe. In the auspicious presence of Saraju P Mohanty, University of North Texas, USA as the Chief Guest; Dr Srinivas Katkoori of University of South Florida, USA as the Guest of Honour; and Prof Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University as President, the iSES was inaugurated.

During the iSES, participants learned from insightful keynote sessions by Mr Navin Bishnoi (India Country Manager, and AVP CCS (Compute & Custom Solutions), Marvell India), Dr Rolf Drechsler (University of Bremen, Germany), Dr Mircea Stan (Director of Computer Engineering, University of Virginia, USA), Dr Sandip Kundu (University of Massachusetts, USA), Dr Saraju P Mohanty (University of North Texas, USA), and Dr Ron DeMara (University of Central Florida, USA), along with wide array of papers presented and two engaging panel discussions. The three-day event served as a platform for robust discussions, knowledge sharing, and exploration of cutting-edge advancements in smart electronic systems.



### International Conference on Corporate Law and Finance

Institute of Law organised an International Conference on 'Corporate Law and Finance' from Nov 3-5, 2023. Chief Guest Sourabh N Soparkar, a senior advocate at the Gujarat High Court, led the inaugural ceremony, with Dr Mukul Shastry, General Counsel at Cube Highways, as the keynote speaker. The sessions on capital markets, securities law, banking, finance, restructuring, insolvency, and foreign investments, provided insights into legal and financial strategies, emphasising the growing importance of sustainability in the corporate world.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Workshop on Academic and Creative Writing

The Directorate of Research and Innovation, Nirma University organised a workshop on 'Academic and Creative Writing' during June 19-July 1, 2023. In this workshop, topics like understanding different modes of writing, structuring and sequencing in writing for meaningful communication, writing review papers, organising research proposals, importance of patent drafting, scientific fiction writing, ethics in writing, typical mistakes people make in writing, weaving words, editor's views, literary writing, types of literature, and 'Can ChatGPT be explored for academic writing in the context of academic process, originality and authenticity?' were covered. The experts were invited from institutions like MICA, IIT Bombay, Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, CSIR-CSMCRI - Bhavnagar, University of Delhi, M S University of Baroda, Institute for Plasma Research, and San José State University, CA, USA etc.



## Short Term Training Programmes on various emerging trends and technologies

Institute of Technology organised the ISTE approved five short-term training programmes (STTP) on Recent Trends and Industrial Practices in Electrical Engineering, Machine Learning for Electronics Engineer, Recent Trends in Renewable Energy Systems, Artificial Intelligence Applications in Civil Engineering, and Deep Learning: Concepts to Deployment. The STTPs organised for the duration of two weeks was inaugurated on July 3, 2023 by Dr Narottam Sahoo, Advisor and Member Secretary GUJCOST, and Dr R N Patel, Director – Institute of Technology, Nirma University.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Awareness Session on Psychology of Money

The Women Development Cell, Institute of Architecture and Planning organised a session on 'Psychology of Money' conducted by the Indus Capital, and HDFC Asset Management Company on Oct 21, 2023. The session was led by Ms Prarthana Dave, Financial Educator.



## Utkrishta 2023: The Annual Management Conclave

Utkrishta 2023, the Annual Management Conclave was held on Oct 20-21, 2023 at the Institute of Management. Eminent speakers from different domains addressed the audience on the theme 'Integrating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Factors: The Pathway to Sustainable and Responsible Future'. Some of the key speakers included Ms Preeta Misra, Senior Director - Credibility & Business Insights Group, Dun & Bradstreet India; Mr James Buchanan, CEO/President, Buchanan Technologies; Mr Tripathy Ashis, General Manager (Lubes), Indian Oil Corporation Limited; Mr Sanjay Desai, Managing Director - RBD Engineers Pvt Ltd; Mr Shridhar Ayyar, SVP-HR, Nuvoco Vistas Corp Ltd; and Mr Atulaya Goswami – HR Director, General Mills.



## Other Events

- Dr L Ramasamy, Managing Director, Sotex India Pvt Ltd delivered a talk on 'Career Opportunities and How to Build Successfully' to MPharm students and PhD scholars at the Institute of Pharmacy on Oct 7, 2023.
- Dr Manoj Gadhwani, Assistant Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Gandhinagar delivered an expert lecture on 'Medical Device Rules, 2017- New Amendments' at the Institute of Pharmacy on Oct 21, 2023.
- Mr Aditya Pandya, Advocate, Gujarat High Court conducted a session on 'Forum Specific Litigation Strategies' on Oct 7, 2023 at the Institute of Law and provided valuable insights into the diverse landscape of legal forums in India.



Dr L Ramasamy

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Dr S Rajeshkumar, a biologist and zoologist conducted a session on 'Biodiversity' on Oct 7, 2023 for the students of Forest and biodiversity law at the Institute of Law.
- Dr Anjani Singh Tomar, Head Academic Affairs and Professor of Law, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar conducted a session on 'POCSO and Grey Areas of Criminal Law' on Oct 26-27, 2023 at the Institute of Law.
- Mr Rakesh Patel, Advocate, Gujarat High Court, Ahmedabad conducted a session on 'Recent Judicial Trends under the Laws of Copyright' on Oct 27, 2023 at the Institute of Law.
- Mr Apoorva Vohra, Co-Founder, Finolve Ventures Private Limited; Co-Founder & CEO, Finolutions LLP, and a renowned expert in the field of wealth management, shared his insights on 'Wealth Management-Unplugged' on July 19, 2023.
- CA Harshendra Punjawat, CFO, Zydus Hospira Oncology Pvt Ltd (Zydus Pfizer JV), Pharma SEZ, delivered a talk on 'Transition' on July 20, 2023. He shared valuable insights and guidance with the Institute of Commerce students on navigating the transitional phase from academics to the corporate world.
- CA Shardul Shah, Partner, M A Shah & Company Chartered Accountants, Mumbai conducted a session on 'Recent Developments in Accounting, Finance, Tax, and Audit' on July 24, 2023.
- The Department of Civil Engineering organised a workshop on 'Digital Tools for Civil Engineering Applications' in hybrid mode under the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University on Sep 16 and 30, 2023. The programme equipped the participants with practical software skills, amplifying their engineering capabilities for real-world applications.
- The Electrical Engineering department in coordination with the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University organised a workshop on 'Control of Grid Connected PV System' on Sep 16, 2023. Dr Abhishek Parida and Dr Karri V V Satyanarayana (Assistant Professors, Nirma University) conducted the workshop. The workshop equipped participants with the design aspects of grid-connected PV systems, control strategies of ac and dc microgrids, and implementation of standalone PV system using high gain converter by STM32 microcontroller.
- FSAI Students Chapter, Department of Civil Engineering in collaboration with the FSAI Gujarat Chapter – Women's Wing organised a session on 'Increasing Awareness on Social Media, Cybersecurity, and Women Safety' for BTech Civil Engineering students on Sep 13, 2023. Dr Lavina Sinha (IPS), Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone 1, Ahmedabad was the chief guest and keynote speaker of the function. Ms Kaivaishin, Cyber Security and Digital Forensic Analyst & Founder, Invesic Cyber Forensics Cyber LLP delivered a talk on 'Cyber security'.
- Mr Swarnendu Chatterjee (Advocate on Record) delivered a distinguished lecture for the students of Corporate Insolvency, Institute of Law on 'Practice and Procedure of IBC along with its Regulations with the Interplay of SARFAESI and Companies Act, 2013' on Sep 16, 2023.
- Dr Ajar Rab (Founding Partner, ANR Law LLP) and Mr Shubham Joshi (Practicing Advocate, Uttarakhand High Court) conducted a workshop on 'Contract Drafting and Negotiation' from Sep 21-23, 2023 to make the Institute of Law students aware of the intricacies of Contract Drafting and various agreements existing in the corporate-legal and service domains.
- Department of Pharmacognosy, Institute of Pharmacy, in association with the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University organised a hands-on training for 'Development and Optimisation of Herbal Cosmetics' on Nov 7, 2023. Ms Vandana Modi, Vice President, Cadila Pharmaceutical Herbal Division spoke on the 'Role of Ayurveda in Cosmetics' as a keynote speaker. Mr Mihir Bhatt, Sr Executive F & D, Mikasa Cosmetics conducted the hands-on training for participants.
- Ms Deeksha Manchnada, Partner at Chandhok and Mahajan, Advocates and Solicitors conducted a guest lecture on 'Competition Law' on Nov 6-7, 2023. The focal points of discussion included the intricacies of the product market, network effects, case laws illustrating abuse by major tech corporations, pertinent insights into antitrust violations, and the overarching objectives of Competition Law.

# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Mr Narayan Kedia, Vice-President (Legal) at India Bulls, and Mr Sejal Jain, Senior Manager at India Bulls conducted a session on 'Demystifying Corporate Law: Life in a Law Firm' on Nov 5, 2023. The experts shared perspectives on various facets of Corporate Law, offering valuable insights into the intricacies of corporate firm operations.
- Ms Mahima Singh, Counsel, Chandiok and Mahajan conducted a guest lecture on 'Section 29A and Resolution Plans: Practical Perspectives' on Dec 1, 2023 at the Institute of Law.

## OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Rostrum 2023

Institute of Pharmacy celebrated its annual cultural programme 'Rostrum 2023: Vibrant Vistas' on Oct 28-29, 2023. The event featured a wide array of activities, including singing, dancing, drama, AD-MAD, Mr and Ms Rostrum contest, street play, mime and many more. The guest for the valedictory function and prize distribution ceremony was Mirchi RJ Mit, a prominent Radio Jockey, YouTube personality and social media influencer.



### Raas Garba

On the eve of Sharad Purnima, a 'Raas Garba' event was organised by the Students' Welfare Board and the Institute of Law on Oct 27, 2023. The Director General, Executive Registrar, All Head of Institutions, Section Heads and a large number of students and faculty-staff members along with their families were present on this occasion. All the participants thoroughly enjoyed the Raas Garba on Live music. Mr Mayankbhai Dave, Ms Sheetal Makwana and Mr Tushar Vyas adjudged the performances. Students, faculty-staff members and their children were felicitated with trophies for best performance and best dressing.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Training session on Shodh-Chakra Platform

A training session on the Shodh-Chakra Platform was organised by Nirma University in association with the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, Gandhinagar on Dec 16, 2023 at the university campus. More than 200 PhD supervisors and Full-Time PhD scholars of the university participated in the session delivered by Dr Abhishek Kumar, Scientist - E (CS). Shodh-Chakra is an initiative of the INFLIBNET Centre under the guidance of the University Grants Commission (UGC) to help the academic community during their research life cycle.



## Orientation Programme

Institute of Design organised its 7<sup>th</sup> Orientation Programme on July 24, 2023. Mr Anuj Prasad, an eminent artist, Industrial designer, and CEO of Desmania Design Pvt Ltd was the keynote speaker. On this occasion, an expert talk on 'Power of Puppets' by Dadi Pudumjee, a prominent puppeteer and founder of The Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust was also organised.

Institute of Law organised the Induction Programme from July 17-21, 2023. Hon'ble Justice Ravi R Tripathi, Former Chairperson, Gujarat State Human Rights Commission, Government of Gujarat and Judge (Retd.) High Court of Gujarat was the Chief Guest. Further, the Institute of Law organised an Orientation Programme for LLM students on Aug 8, 2023.

Institute of Pharmacy organised an Orientation Programme for new entrants to the PharmD and MPharm Programme from Aug 3-9, 2023. Dr Kiran Marthak, Director, Veeda Clinical Research and Veeda Oncology Incorporation was the Chief Guest. Further, the Institute of Pharmacy organised an Orientation Programme from Oct 12-18, 2023 for students joining the BPharm programme. Dr Manish Ranchh, Director (R&D) and CEO (Accuprec Research Labs Pvt Ltd) was the Chief Guest.

Institute of Architecture organised an Orientation Programme during Aug 24 to Sep 2, 2023 for BArch first-semester students.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Foundation Day at Institute of Law

Institute of Law celebrated its 17<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on Aug 18, 2023. The event was graced by Dr Gitanjali Gill (Professor in Environment Law, Northumbria University, UK) and Shri R A Trivedi (Member Secretary, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority). As a part of the event, students, faculty members and staff members were felicitated for their unwavering support in the institution-building activities.



## Foundation Day at Institute of Science

Institute of Science celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on Sep 6, 2023. The Chief Guest for the function was Prof Subeer Majumdar, Director General, Gujarat Biotechnology University, Gandhinagar. Prof Majumdar interacted with the faculty and students and addressed the need to have a parallel focus on research as well as innovation. Following that the Chief Guest inaugurated the Insectarium facility of the Institute of Science. This will be the second of its kind in the country to study and culture malarial parasite. Post lunch, talks were organised to acknowledge the young achievers. The speakers were Dr Harengiri Gosai, Young Faculty Achiever, Indrashil University; Mr Niral Sarvaiya, Food Safety Officer, Food and Drug Control Authority, Gandhinagar; Mr Yash Patel, CEO, Patel Biotech, Anand; Mr Farhan Daila, Founder and CEO, BioQor, Mumbai; and Mr Varun Khanna, Zelle Biotech, Mumbai.



## Foundation Day at Institute of Pharmacy

The 20<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Celebrations of Institute of Pharmacy on Sep 30, 2023 marked a significant milestone in the institute's journey. Prof C G Joshi, Director, Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, Gandhinagar was the Chief Guest on this occasion. At the onset, Prof Gopal Natesan, Director, Institute of Pharmacy took the opportunity to present the annual report highlighting the major achievements and accomplishments of the Institute. Faculty, staff, students and alumni were felicitated for their outstanding achievements. In recognition of the exceptional research contributions by the faculty members, Research Awards were presented, honouring their valuable contributions to various fields of knowledge.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Foundation Day at Institute of Technology

Institute of Technology celebrated its 29<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on Oct 3, 2023. Ms Namrata Somani, Centre Head-TCS was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Ms Namrata emphasised the importance of technology's growth and the intelligent utilisation of AI tools. Dr Rajesh N Patel, Director, Institute of Technology presented the institute's annual performance report, highlighting the accomplishments of both students and faculty members at national and international levels. These accolades encompassed outstanding achievements in academics and co-curricular events such as Robocon and SAE Baja, among others.



## FDP on Integration of Sustainable Practices in Pharmaceutical Industries and Public Health

Institute of Pharmacy organised a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled 'Integration of Sustainable Practices in Pharmaceutical Industries and Public Health' from July 10 to 21, 2023 aiming to explore the intersection of sustainability, pharmaceutical industries and public health. Dr Montukumar Patel, President, Pharmacy Council of India was the Chief Guest, and Dr HVC Chary Guntupalli, Additional Director and Scientist E - Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India was the Guest of Honour.



## Discussion on the Supreme Court Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes

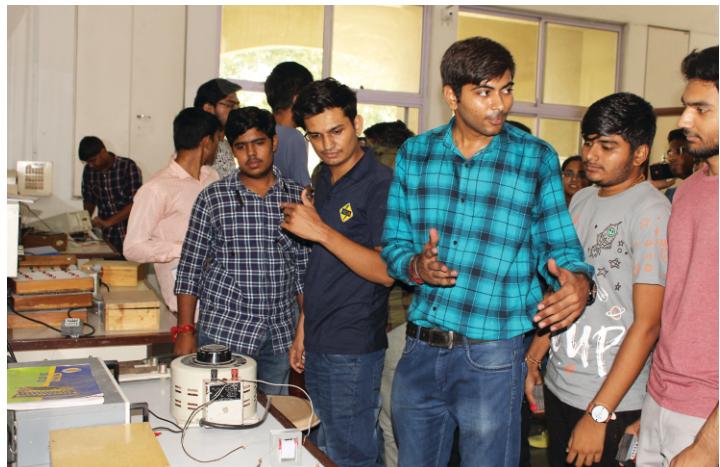
The Women Development Cell, Nirma University conducted an informative session on 'Supreme Court Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes' on Sep 2, 2023. The session was conducted by Ms Shreya Srivastava, Assistant Professor, Institute of Law. The session focused on understanding gender stereotypes, words that are proposed by the Supreme Court as alternatives for gender-stereotypical words, and discussion on some positive judgments of the Supreme Court where the judiciary has broken down the stereotypes.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

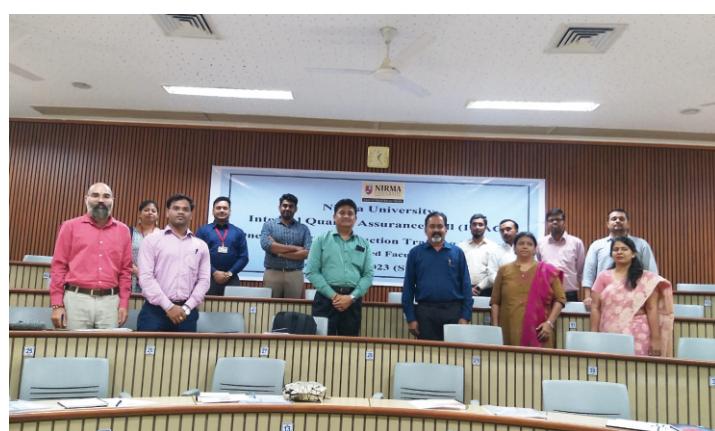
## Vidyut Adbhutam 2023

Electrical Engineering Students' Association (EESA) hosted 'Vidyut Adbhutam' with the theme – 'TechNEWlogy' on Sep 1-2, 2023. A two-day event, full of innovation and enthusiasm aimed at providing an opportunity for aspiring electrical engineers to delve into hands-on experiences, insightful discussions, and emerging industry trends. Mrs Rajal H Patel (Director of Altenmo Technologies, Ahmedabad and Dharmajyot Engineers, Ahmedabad), was the Chief Guest. Vidyut Adbhutam 2023 was packed with 6 events - Intern-view, Ideafy, Trade Horizon, Ampere Turns, Old School Games, and Ki-Cad workshop.



## Talk Show

An Entrepreneurial Talk Show 'E-Insight' was hosted by the Institute of Management on Oct 11, 2023 featuring entrepreneurs from Shark Tank-India. Anushree Maloo, Co-Founder of Nuutjob Ltd, and Deyvant Bhardwaj, Co-Founder of Inside FPV had an interactive session with the students and discussed their entrepreneurial journey, challenges they faced in their day-to-day life as entrepreneurs, shark tank experience, niche product businesses, and many more.



## Faculty Induction Training Programme

The Internal Quality and Assurance Cell (IQAC), Nirma University organised a Faculty Induction Training Programme for the newly recruited faculty members on Oct 21, 2023. The objective of the programme is to guide the faculty members to understand the rules, regulations, and activities conducted from time to time, and to clarify the expectations of the faculty members. Dr Anup K Singh, Director General discussed about the 'Role, Responsibilities and Challenges for Higher Education Teachers'. The 'Administrative Procedures, Rules and Regulations' of the university were explained by Shri G Ramachandran Nair, Executive Registrar. Dr P N Tekwani, Director, Directorate of Research and Innovation shared about the 'Academic and Research Activities' at Nirma University. Dr Tejal Mehta, Dy Director, IQAC explained to the participants the overall aim of the programme and briefed them about the functioning of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell across the university.

# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Nukkad Natak on Mental Health Awareness

In a bid to raise awareness and foster a better understanding of mental health issues, a group of students from Invincible Leader's League and Institute of Technology under the guidance of Ms Sapna Bhatt, Counsellor, Nirma University performed a Nukkad Natak on the theme 'Talking about Mental Health'. The play skillfully conveyed the importance of mental health, addressing issues such as stress, anxiety, depression, and the importance of seeking help. The event witnessed the active participation and sensitisation of approximately 500 students. The Nukkad Natak team conducted play at various locations on the university campus during Oct 18-20, 2023.



## NASA International Space Apps Challenge

E-cell Nirma University in association with team Arush, the SRM Institute of Science and Technology organised the 'NASA Space Apps Challenge' at the Nirma University campus from Oct 7-9, 2023. The inauguration witnessed 612 students from 95 teams from more than 15 different universities across India. The teams worked on various problem statements announced by the NASA Space Application Challenge. Over the course of the 48-hour event, participants tirelessly formed teams and brainstormed innovative ideas to address the multifaceted challenges presented by NASA. Industry experts and academicians were invited to mentor the participants. Some notable mentors who motivated students were Mr Chirag Kakani, Lead product manager at Apna; Mr Moin Shirazi, Project manager at Tech lead; Mr Mitesh Shethwala- Founder and CEO of social media platform 'Currently'; and Dr Trilok Sharma, Professor, Institute of Management, Nirma University.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## FIELD VISITS

### EV India Expo 2023

Students of Industrial Design Semester 7 visited the EV India Expo 2023 held at the India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, UP from Sep 14-16, 2023. The students had a chance to interact with industry professionals and learn about the latest trends in electric vehicle technology. The event was attended by various stakeholders such as electric vehicle manufacturers, suppliers, dealers, distributors, policymakers, researchers, and end-users. It provided an excellent opportunity for the students to network and gain from their knowledge and expertise in the field of electric vehicles.

### Related Study Programme

A group of 39 students and 2 faculty members from the Institute of Architecture and Planning visited France, Germany and the Netherlands as part of the International Exploratory Related Study Programme from July 9-20, 2023. The group visited the cities of Paris, Chartres, Luxembourg, Cologne, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Bruges and Amiens. Students visited, experienced and understood places of architectural importance which are frequently cited in their theoretical and studio-based teaching process. An exposure to the use of building construction techniques and materials, particularly steel, to achieve architectural forms was also a major learning from this tour.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Industry visit

MPharm Semester I students from the Department of Pharmaceutics and Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis visited Ortiv Q3 Research Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad on Sep 11, 2023 and gained invaluable insights into Formulation and Analytical development processes. They witnessed state-of-the-art facilities and engaged with industry experts which further ignited their passion for pharmaceutical innovation in these crucial areas.



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

### Visit to Blind People's Association

Thirty-one MSc students along with staff members visited the Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad on Dec 13, 2023. Students interacted with blind people to understand their unique challenges and ways of coping. Students took a 'Vision in the Dark' tour and also learnt about the various visual aids useful for blind children and adults, including Braille learning tools, money identifier, and audio transcript devices. The trip concluded with a donation of winter clothing at the BPA Charity Haat.

### Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign

The NSS Unit of the Institute of Commerce celebrated 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' on Aug 14, 2023 to pay tribute to our nation and the brave hearts who sacrificed their lives for the nation. A short film 'Plus-Minus' based on a real-life Indian army officer was showcased on this occasion. The NSS Unit also took the opportunity to raise awareness about the World Organ Donation Day which is celebrated on Aug 13 every year.

### Legal Aid Symposium

The Legal Aid Clinic, Institute of Law gave presentations on the activities conducted by the clinic at the State-Level Legal Aid Symposium organised by GNLU on the theme 'Institutional framework for legal welfare and to appreciate them for the exemplary work done in the field of legal services to the society' on Aug 19, 2023.

### Counselling session

Institute of Pharmacy organised a counselling session on 'Safety in Polypharmacy: A Geriatric Perspective' as part of World Pharmacists Day at the Hiramani Old Age Home on Sep 25, 2023. The session not only provided essential information about medication safety but also fostered a sense of empowerment among the elderly residents, enabling them to make more informed choices about their healthcare. Further, Dr Poorvin Shah from the KD Institute of Physiotherapy discussed the significance of health and fitness with senior citizens.



# EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## Legal Awareness Drives

The Pro Bono Club, Institute of Law visited Lapkaman village, Lilapur village, Vadsar village and the Mirzapur Court, Ahmedabad on Sep 6, 2023; and Valad village, Jamiyatpur village, Gheekanta Court, Ahmedabad on Sep 20, 2023. These visits aimed to spread legal awareness as a part of its legal services programme. During these visits, the team established rapport with the local community, inquiring about any legal issues or remedies they might require. They documented these cases and aimed to enrol them as applicants under the 'Nyaya Bandhu' scheme which connects them with lawyers. The team also helped them to join the platform, expanding the Nyaya Bandhu community and enabling lawyers to offer free or low-cost legal assistance to those in need.

## Clothes Donation Drive

Institute of Management organised a Clothes donation drive on Sep 7, 2023 on the occasion of the festival of Janmashtami. Twenty-one students visited the slum settlements to distribute clothes collected as a part of the drive.

## Blood Donation Drives

The Students' Welfare Board, Nirma University in collaboration with Organisation of Civil Engineering Students, SFAI, the SoE NSS Unit, Spandan Club Institute of Management, Kalupur Bank, and the Indian Red Cross Society conducted a blood donation camp on Aug 1, 2023. With the rain throughout the day, the social cause received an amazing 288 units of response, which is remarkable.

Further, the NSS Unit, School of Technology and ISA Students' Chapter Nirma University in association with Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad conducted a blood donation camp on Oct 30, 2023 as part of the National Unity Day. The drive saw a turnout of 283 units of blood donated.



## Visit to Old Age Home

Close to 60 students from the Institute of Management visited Jeevan Sandhya old age home on Oct 2, 2023. The team engaged with the seniors by organising various activities, and games followed by some performances by the students. Winners of various activities were given gifts. Essential daily need kits were also distributed as a part of this visit.

# EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## State-Level Pro-Bono Meet

Institute of Law hosted the State Level Pro-Bono Meet on Oct 4, 2023. The event was attended by Dr Kalpesh Gupta, Chief Administrator of Gujarat Law Teachers Group and Pro-bono India, along with faculty members Dr Anugraha Rajawat from Marwadi University, Dr Navtika Nautiyal from NFSU, Dr Salim Khan from Parul University, Dr Mohit Mathur and Dr Hardik Parikh from GNLU, and Mr Alaukik Srivastava from ILNU. The meeting was conducted to plan welfare activities under the club.



## Visit to Lapkaman Village

NSS Unit, Institute of Law organised a visit to its adopted Lapkaman village on Oct 30, 2023. The main objective of the visit was to introduce the new volunteers to the residents of the village and help them strike a connection with them. Also, a survey was carried out concerning Bank fraud rampant in the area and people were made aware of preventing financial fraud. Hindi Reading and Basic English sessions were organised along with games for the children of the village.

## NSS Residential Camp at Hirpura

Institute of Pharmacy organised a 7-day NSS residential camp from Dec 16 to 22, 2023 at Hirpura village. A team of 28 student volunteers actively participated in various social activities including the Tree Plantation Drive; Awareness regarding Health & Hygiene; Cleanliness Drive; Elocution Competition for awareness related to alcohol and tobacco; Health check-up camp, Road Safety Awareness Drive, etc.



Recently, an interview of Dr Shroff was published in the magazine ‘Innovation for Social Impact - WIN Foundation Newsletter’.

Below are the excerpts from the interview:

**1. How does Nirma and particularly Institute of Design (IDNU) see the Importance of social impact work with grassroot interaction with communities and NGOs for students during their programme?**

Social Design is a significant discipline of design. Being a human centred profession, design professes innovation and creativity. In recent times, the start-up movement has witnessed the coming together of technology, business and design.

Design for startups that work towards social and economic transformation, is an important mandate of the Institute of Design. Bringing in projects related to this in the classroom, makes students empathetic to communities, where Design strategies have to address social and economic issues as they are important parameters.

Students world view enlarges and they get sensitised to another paradigm of communication requirements.

**2. How does IDNU try to build this into their programmes - in courses, internships, NSS and other means? What are some major challenges involved in this?**

The Institute of Design has multi-pronged community immersion. Rural exposure and Documentation (RED) is the first stage of orientation. Here the students of 1<sup>st</sup> year, get oriented to a rural based social organisation that uses design for social change. The next stage is the immersion with the National Social Service programme in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and 3<sup>rd</sup> year, when students work with another social enterprise/organisation. IDNU has signed an MoU with WIN India and ACT (Arid Communities & Technology, Kutch). Every year 25-30 students along with 3 faculty members work intensively for a week on field and another 3 weeks on campus, to deliver communication material such as Films, illustrated books, training materials etc. Students are encouraged to do their 18 weeks Degree/Major Research Project in their 4<sup>th</sup> year with the MoU partners.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of engagement is in Classroom projects in the senior years. Here Visual Branding strategies, Plans and actual design communication material is delivered to the partners. This year 12 students worked with WIN India and Saath to create brand identity and packaging and marketing communication for the Nutri-preneurs of the Vasna cluster in Ahmedabad.

**3. How does IDNU try to build benefits for the communities into these student projects/internships? How do the faculty and management at IDNU work to ensure this by guiding and motivating students?**

We worked together with WIN and SAATH in April and May 2023. The collaboration is best expressed in the animation film and jingle created by our students. Live projects come with expectations and great responsibility for the mentors to ensure good quality deliverables for the client and good quality learning and application of learning by the students. To guide students for such a live project has been a wonderful journey. We could sense the enthusiasm of students where they could get the first-hand experience of meeting with client, meet the nutri-preneurs and understood their requirements. Students could understand the intention of WIN foundation and they could gather prompt response. Students were guided to keenly observe and study the target audience and explore creative ways to create effective communication that the target audience understand and can relate to. They were highly encouraged to write content for social media, packaging, content, and caption for posters along with visuals and to create jingle and song in Gujarati for the animation film. Students received the exposure of how to interact with clients and various stakeholders and how to make presentations. Towards the end students also learnt how to organise the deliverables and share them with the client.

**4. How has WIN - IDNU MoU helped your team and students to get opportunities and social experiences? How do you see this association growing in coming years?**

We are committed to the spirit of the MoU with our social partners. We have already done two projects with WIN India in 2022 and 2023. With ACT also supported by WIN, we have worked twice, developing 4 illustrated books, 2 short films, training materials in the form of technical posters, jiff images, Power point presentation to showcase their work to donors etc.

We want to complete our 3-year MoU similarly having demonstrated the power of creative thinking when many creative minds collaborate together. We would like WIN India to incubate a cell at the Institute of Design, Nirma University.



**Dr Sangita Shroff**  
Dean & Director,  
Institute of Design  
Nirma University

## Awards and Achievements

- Prof Sarat K Dalai, Director, Institute of Science was conferred the Polyfeenolix- IIS Award for the 'Best Senior Immunology Teacher Award-2023' by the Indian Immunology Society in October 2023.



- Dr Nikita Koradia, Assistant Professor, Institute of Law was awarded the 'Academic Excellence Award' in ASSOCHAM's Bharat Legal Conclave 2023 and National Legal Excellence Awards 2023 for her research publication in Competition Law in Oct 2023.

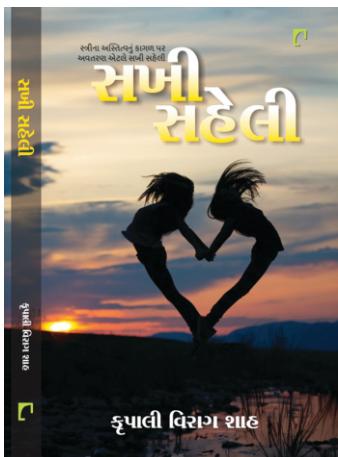
- Dr Sriram Seshadri, Associate Professor, Institute of Science was conferred with the 'Excellence in Research Award' at the National Education Brilliance Award-2023 by Education Connect Plus, New Delhi on Oct 5, 2023.
- Dr Heena Dave from Institute of Science is awarded the 'Oncology Best Abstract award' for Oral Presentation at the International Conference on Drug Discovery and Translational Medicine 2023 (ICDDTM'23) hosted by the Malaysian Association for Cancer Research at Selangor, Malaysia during Dec 5-6, 2023.



## LIFE EXPERIENCE

**Ms Krupali Virag Shah,**  
Laboratory Supervisor in the Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering Department, Institute of Technology, Nirma University has published a Gujarati book titled 'Sakhi-Saheli'. The book consists of a unique collection of 63 short stories revolving around women.

Below are the excerpts from an interview with Ms Krupali V Shah:



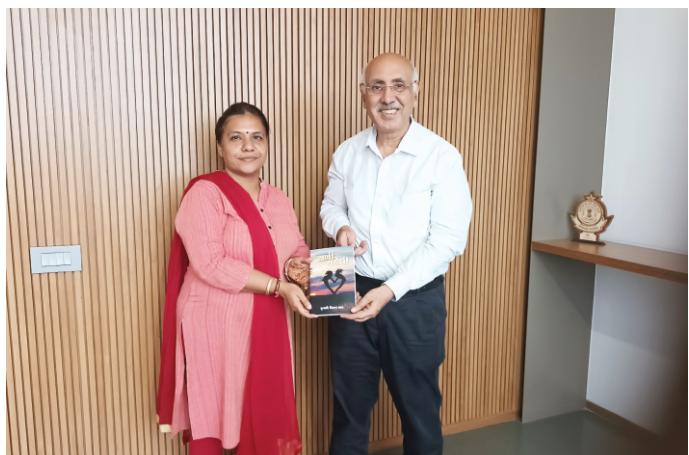
### Tell us something about yourself.

I am working as a Laboratory Supervisor in Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering Department, Institute of Technology since 1999. I am a woman who is very passionate about her work, her family and her writing. This unique combination of experiences gives me a unique perspective on the world that I am able to share with my readers. I am able to draw on my

diverse knowledge and experiences to write about a variety of topics in a way that is both informative and engaging. I won the award of Rs 45000 for the 'Best Story Writing Competition' organised by Jain Community at the national level. My short stories are also published in leading Gujarati newspaper.

### What motivated you to write the book?

As I am writing since a decade, and my work is published in newspaper, I got the confidence to go a step further and write a



# LIFE EXPERIENCE

book. I am excited about the opportunity to write a book and to share my thoughts and ideas with the world.

## Please tell us something about the book.

This book is a unique collection of 63 short stories in Gujarati. This collection of stories is for all those people whose life has a prominent place for women. Every woman, be it daughter, daughter-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, wife is first and foremost a WOMAN. She has a story of her own. And these short stories will resonate with every woman in one or the other way. The book also portrays that things can get better and women can make a difference in the world.

## How much time did you take to compile and finish the editing of the book?

It took me almost four months to complete the book. The process includes editing, compiling, proof reading and designing.

## Who is your target audience?

My book can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

## Which is your favourite story from the book?

A short story titled 'Sakhi-Saheli' is my favourite story from the book.

## What are the key takeaways from the book?

Women are strong and capable of overcoming any challenges and adversity.

Women are capable of great love and compassion and at the same time have a great strength and courage.

Women deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. They should be free to live their lives as they see fit.

## What was the most challenging part of finishing the book?

The most challenging part was finishing the proof reading in stipulated time limit.

## What makes your book different from other similar books available in the market?

Most of the books available in the market are for specific women's age group. But this book is for all age group, from teens to senior citizens. Also, books available in market are targeting specific women group but these 63 stories are related to the experiences of different groups of Indian women, such as rural women, urban women, women from different castes and religions, and women from different socioeconomic backgrounds. These stories are related to current status and scenario of Indian woman and the different challenges they come across.

# ALUMNI

## Alumni on Campus

- Ms Niki Shah, Co-Founder, Ultrapop Foods; and an alumna of the Institute of Law gave an expert lecture on 'Child Labour' on Aug 28 and Aug 31, 2023. The objective of the session was to give a historical background through which the importance of Child Labour laws was highlighted. She also conducted sessions on 'Adoption Laws in India' on Sep 4, 11, and 14, 2023.
- Advocate Krutik Parikh (Assistant Government Pleader, High Court of Gujarat), and an alumnus of the Institute of Law gave an expert lecture on 'Overview of Civil/Criminal Litigations: A Professional's Perspective' on Aug 21, 2023.
- Dr Nirzari Gupta, an alumna of the Institute of Pharmacy, and currently working as a Senior Manager, Staff Fellow, Analytical Chemist, FDA, USA delivered an online expert lecture on 'Regulatory perspective on chromatographic and spectroscopic analytical techniques during a public health emergency' on Nov 7, 2023. She gave an insightful overview of the application of SORS (Spatial Offset Raman Spectroscopy) technique for the analysis of alcohol content in hand sanitisers during COVID.
- Ms Urmi Vora, an alumna of the Institute of Pharmacy, and currently serving as the Pharmacovigilance Officer- Senior Executive at Wipro Limited, Pune, delivered an online talk on 'AI Implications in Clinical Pharmacy' on Nov 8, 2023.





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