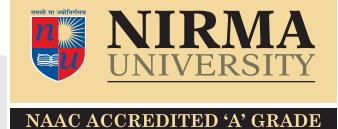


Nirma University Newsletter



Volume 11 • Issue 1 & 2
January - June 2019

Major Highlights of this Issue



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27th Convocation of Nirma University held on April 20, 2019.



Faculty and students bring laurels to the university...



Nirma University signed MoUs with CSIR-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI); Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar (CSMCRI); and many more...



Contents

Volume 11 • Issue 1 & 2 • Jan - June 2019

04

Message from the
Director General's Desk

05

Education and Research

06

News at a Glance

09

Innovative Initiatives

10

Distinguished Visitors

12

Events

22

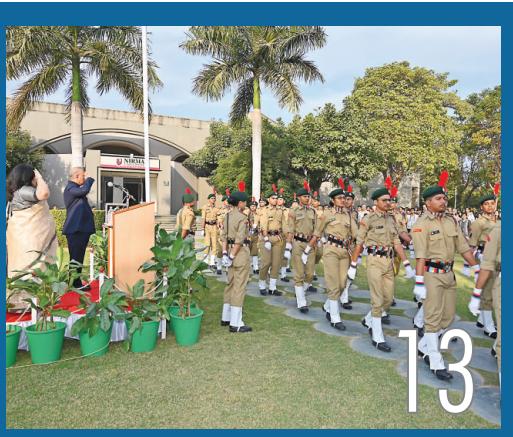
In Focus

24

Life Experience



Innovative Initiatives



Republic Day Celebrations

25

Extension Activities

29

Centre for Quality Assurance and Academic Development (CQAAD)

30

Centre for Continuing Education

32

Faculty Corner

33

Alumni Corner

34

Students' Corner



33

Pratidhwani
The Alumni Conclave 2019



37

Carnival 2019

Message from the Director General's Desk



Dear Reader,

The Draft National Education Policy (DNEP) is now put in the public domain for discussions and deliberations. It is a mammoth document, reflecting the need for deep and wide reforms in Indian education including higher education. The last education policy was released in 1986 which was further amended in 1992. It is ironical that major economic reforms were introduced in 1991 and other economic reforms were initiated from time to time. Unfortunately, higher education policy remained stagnant for a long time. During the intervening period, several commissions and committees were constituted to review higher education and make recommendations. However, the recommendations could not see the light of day. As a result, the Indian higher education system lagged behind in the comity of nations. It has to change.

India is diverse and full of contradictions. The same is true about her higher education. There are a few islands of excellence. However, most institutions are mediocre. Research is

conspicuous by absence in most higher education institutions. They just do teaching, even their quality of teaching is questionable. Thus, such institutions are lopsided and tilted, often missing balance. The moot point is: can India become a great country without having a great higher education system? The answer is a big NO. Therefore, the DNEP raises fresh hope in the academic community.

The DNEP has defined the university as a multidisciplinary institution that offers undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral education. A university should be as diverse as possible. It should offer courses in the fields of various professions, arts, humanities, and social sciences. In addition, it is engaged in both teaching and research. The Policy further posits that universities and colleges need to be categorised into research institution, teaching institution or both. Accordingly, higher education institutions should develop their mission, vision and objectives.

The DNEP underscores the role of liberal education in shaping future citizens and in enriching other educational programmes. This is a welcome step. Liberal education enlightens and empowers students. It also helps them think critically and act for social causes. It was a missing link in past education offerings. It is high time we give liberal education the place it deserves.

Accreditation is sine qua non for any educational institution. The DNEP aims at 100% accreditation of higher education institutions. This step will certainly enhance the quality of higher education. Another significant recommendation of the DNEP is

the founding of the National Research Foundation with a view to promote a vibrant ecosystem for research and innovation. Poverty of research and innovation is starkly visible in Indian universities and it must change for good. However, it is not possible without strong government support and intervention.

The proposed Policy takes cognisance of the role of private higher education institutions in promoting knowledge and innovation. In fact, more than 70% students get education in such institutions. But, they have not been adequately supported for research and innovation and faculty development. Universities – public and private - provide both private and public goods. The governments have to provide the resources to them for public goods they deliver. While public universities are compensated for providing both public and private goods, the private universities are not even supported in the delivery of public goods.

The proposed National Education Policy has several promises for students, parents, institutions, governments and society at large. In the final analysis, the success of the proposed Policy would depend on its implementation. Alas, the recommendations of various commissions and committees have hardly been implemented, resulting in a weaker higher education system. Can the nation afford to repeat such avoiding actions? It remains to be seen!

Anup K Singh, PhD
Director General



Education and Research



Prof Vinay Shah

Design Chair
Institute of Architecture and Planning
Nirma University

Research in Architecture

Architectural Research should happen in a systematic way in Academia as well as in practice, the twin pillar of the profession, for dual reasons of, one training the students – the future architects – and two, for advancement of the profession of architecture. It is a role assigned to us all, Institutions of architecture, schools, and architectural practices. We all need to introspect and answer truthfully whether we are doing this. I think the answer would be a resounding NO.

Let us understand that the architectural practice involves research at all stages of the work, to stay up to date to the trends, to gather data for design programmes and for site, to look at contemporary works of similar nature, to study various systems and products. Hardly any architectural practice recognises this as 'research'. It is also a fact that a large contingent of architects has no training in research and research methods. The profession as a whole has developed the habit of not recording the processes systematically or share the information generated or collected, with people, for obvious commercial or 'intellectual property' right reasons.

Architectural fraternity lives in a make believe world of 'My work is my Research'. The architects believe that their work is so different, so unique, and so individual that 'normal research' would not be possible in their field. The architect also believes so much in his/her genius that the uninteresting and mundane route of research is either avoided or not followed, or not acknowledged in the work.

In one of the position paper written by Mr Jeremy Till for RIBA Research Committee, he has stated that "The myth that architecture is just architecture, founded on the twin notion of genius and autonomy, leads eventually to the marginalization of architecture. A knowledge base is developed only fitfully and so architecture becomes increasingly irrelevant and ultimately irresponsible". When an architectural institute of long standing and repute such as RIBA acknowledges that the act of producing good, innovative architecture, though the country has a long history and tradition of creating iconic and innovative works, is not sufficient for the advancement of the profession of architecture because it does not add to the existing data base about architecture or communicate the knowledge to people. We need to acknowledge the fact that we do not have current practices of creating good and innovative architecture nor strong system of research in India. We also do not adhere to the practice of creating acceptable, appropriate and reasonable architecture which could fit into the tested treatises of 'good' architecture.

In this vast country of diverse climate and culture we are, at best, copying the 'modern' and 'western' designs of other climate and culture proving the apprehensions expressed by Mr Jeremy Till to be true. The architectural education which is where the future architects are being trained and the future of architecture is being determined, must focus on increasing the width, breadth and depth of the knowledge base. It must focus on creating a data store and communicate the same to the academia as well as practitioner.

Architecture has its own means, ways and procedures which may not be similar to other researches. Field of architecture touches a variety of disciplines relevant or on the fringes. Research in architecture, though draws from other fields, is different from other researches, as it has to happen in academia as well as in practice concurrently. The twin pillars make the architectural research different.

Individually each pillar has its pros and cons, but together it can generate useful knowledge base. To achieve this goal profession of architecture has to stop acting like a 'business'. It should stop zealously guarding the information, keeping secret, but share the knowledge continuously like a 'profession' and the institutions and schools should widen their research commitments. We also need to focus on processes rather than products. Instead of talking about individuals and buildings we need to look at the collective and comparative wisdom generated by the process.

Let us not forget that most research happens due to 'need'. The need is generated by knowledge. The knowledge is generated by systematic research. This cycle in turn generates public interest either commercial or academic, which brings in funds/finances for research. A lot needs to be done at government level, across corporations, and strategic levels, and across funding agencies level to encourage funding for research in architecture. The architectural schools are best placed to begin this important and necessary journey, for advancement of Architecture.

Reference:

What is architectural research? – Position paper by Mr Jeremy Till – RIBA Research Committee

Defining Architectural research – Article – ResAAErc

Design Research in Architecture – Ed. Murray Fraser

News at a Glance

Rankings

Nirma University is rated as a **4 star University on a scale of 5** by Gujarat State Institutional Ratings Framework (GSIRF) in Feb 2019.

In the ranking conducted by 'The Week – Hansa Research Survey 2019' Nirma University is ranked among the **top 15 universities** in the non-government (private and deemed) multi-disciplinary universities category.

It is heartening to note that the University has jumped 13 places higher as compared to 2018.

Nirma University ranked 5A by Digital Learning, Asia

Nirma University has been ranked "5 A" in the 'Private and Deemed-to-be Universities of India 2019 Ranking' conducted by Digital Learning, Asia's premier magazine on education. **"5 A"** is the highest score on a 7 point scale and is categorized as **"exceptional"**. The ranking parameters, include Faculty, Entrepreneurship, Industry Interface, Global Collaboration, Placements, and Swachh Campus.

National Board of Accreditation (NBA)

Four undergraduate programmes of the Institute of Technology, viz., Computer Science & Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering and Chemical Engineering are accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) in Tier-I format.

Institute Ranking

Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University has been ranked **21st in India Ranking 2019 by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**, Government of India in its National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

Institute of Management, Nirma University has been ranked as the 25th Best B-School in India in the ranking published by Dalal Street in Feb 2019. In May 2019, the Institute ranked as the **15th Best private B-School** of India and published in Education World.

Institute of Architecture and Planning **ranked 2nd in Western Region** and 10th in category of Super Excellence in a survey conducted by Global Human Resource Development Centre Pvt Ltd, New Delhi.

Institute of Technology is placed at **10th position in Times of India Ranking May, 2019**.

According to the CSR - GHRDC Engineering Colleges Survey 2019, Institute of Technology, Nirma University received:

- **Eighth Rank** in Top Leading Engineering Colleges of **Super Excellence**
- **First Rank in Gujarat** State.
- Ninth Rank in Faculty, **Research**, Consultancy, EDP and Other Programmes.
- Eighth Rank in **Placements**, USP, Social Responsibilities, Networking and Industry Interface.

MoUs

- Nirma University signed an MoU with CSIR-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI). The two will work closely in terms of research and academic activities. The two institutes will also develop collaborative research programmes for funding by internal, national and international agencies. They will design and develop outreach activities and programmes for various mutually identified goals of CSIR-AMPRI and Nirma University.



MoUs

- Nirma University signed an MoU with Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar (CSMCRI) - a unit of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on May 24, 2019. CSIR - CSMCRI, and Nirma University, will work closely in terms of research and academic activities.



Institute of Commerce Signs MoU with GIFT City

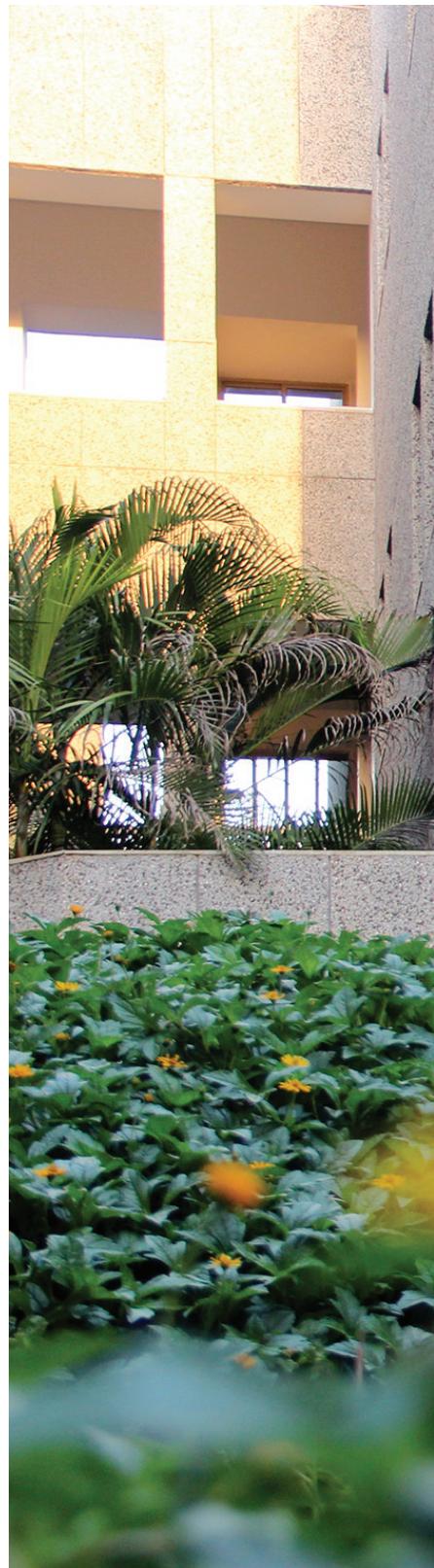
Institute of Commerce signed an MoU on Jan 11, 2019 with GIFT SEZ Limited, established as India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) under Section 18 of the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 (SEZ Act 2005).

The MoU sets out the framework agreed between GIFT SEZ and Institute of Commerce to operationalise cooperation in areas, such as introducing a course on IFSC; conducting programmes in financial markets operations along with GIFT and other institutions based out of GIFT IFSC; conducting research in the field of International Banking, International insurance, International capital markets and organising seminars, guest lectures, workshops and conferences for creating awareness on IFSC.



Other MoUs Signed

- Masaryk University, Czechia
- USC – School of Pharmacy, USA
- ETSAB, Spain
- EAvt, Paris



NUAF Mumbai Chapter Meet

Nirma University Alumni Forum (NUAF) conducted its **first Mumbai Chapter meet on Jan 12, 2019**. Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University along with five senior faculty members attended the meet. 25 alumni members across all Institutes of Nirma University attended the meet.

At the very outset, Dr R N Patel, Additional Director, School of Engineering, Institute of Technology, Nirma University welcomed the alumni members. Dr Singh addressed the gathering and informed the alumni about the latest developments at Nirma University in terms of Infrastructure development, New Institutes added, rankings, etc. During the meeting, the objectives of NUAF chapter formation were discussed at length. Dr Singh proposed the name of Shri Sachinder Bhinder as the first Chair of the NUAF Mumbai Chapter. Few more names were volunteered and nominated as first committee members.

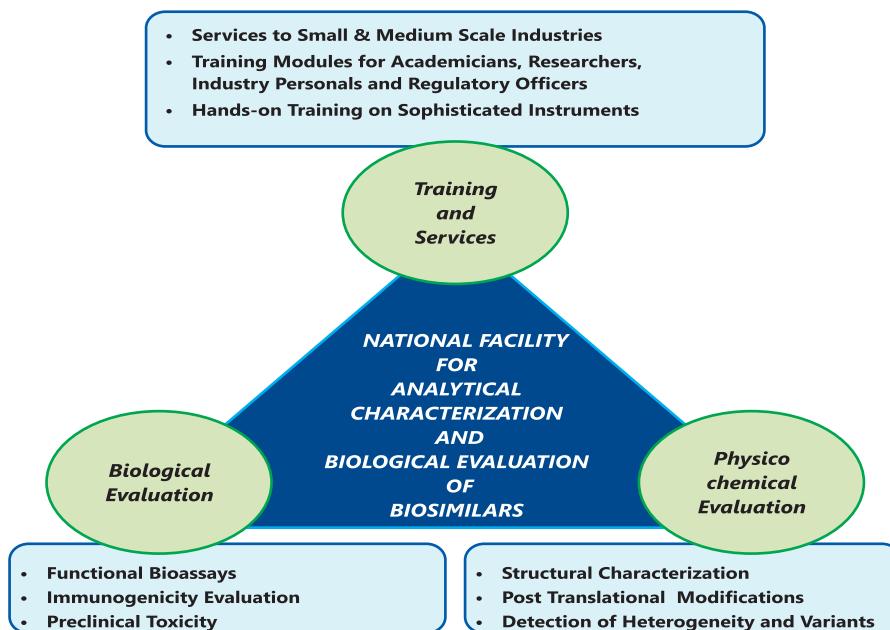
Mr Harish Waghela, Mr Abhijeet Goon and Mr Ashish Shah, alumni volunteers took care of the local arrangements, registration and hospitality. The event concluded with a networking lunch. The event was coordinated by Dr N P Gajjar, Professor, Institute of Technology.



National Facility at the University

Faculty members of Institute of Pharmacy and Institute of Science jointly received financial support of **Rs 50 million for development of national facility under DPRP Scheme** from Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi.

The facility will assist manufacturers of drugs and biologics and will also provide technical training to industry, including large and small manufacturers and trade associations, and will respond to requests for information regarding procedures and protocols required for characterisation and evaluation of similar biotherapeutics. It will also help in development of employable talent pool in the area of biologics. The proposed facility will have adequate infrastructure to excel in the area of quantitative and qualitative analysis of biotherapeutics with hands-on experience.



Innovative Initiatives

Road Safety Awareness Programme

The organisation of Civil Engineering Students (OrCES) in association with Students Welfare Board, Nirma University organised "Road Safety Awareness Programme" on Feb 8, 2019. The programme comprised of expert lecture by Shri Sameer Raval, Executive Engineer, Roads & Building Department, Government of Gujarat; Poster presentation and quiz.

Establishment of Digital Laboratory

Institute of Architecture and Planning has recently established a Digital Lab consisting of 3D printer and laser cutter. The 3D printer will enhance the quality of design with interesting outputs. The custom-made 3D printer will be used to construct one cubic meter of models for structure and other subjects using steel and wood with PLA (Polylactic Acid). Two material can be simultaneously used to make these models. It will also be used for architectural research on material and structural stability. The laser cutter will improve precision and save time, producing good model quality.

International Teaching Month

As part of internationalisation at Institute of Law, the Institute organised the International Teaching Month in March 2019. The event offered a platform for collaboration of professors and thinkers from all over the world. Faculty members from various countries, including USA, UK, Russia, Peru and Hungary visited the Institute and conducted various courses and introduced students to foreign languages, global legal systems and laws and policies applicable in different jurisdictions. Below is a list of courses conducted during the month:

Name of Faculty	Topic
Prof William Fox, former Dean and Professor of Law, Catholic University of America	Arbitration and Negotiation
Dr Steven Robinson, Special Advisor, Office of the Secretary, US Department of Education	Public Education in US
Dr Stephen G Barnes, Assistant Dean, Penn State Law, USA	American Legal System
Judge Mel Flanagan, former Circuit Judge, University of Wisconsin, USA	Litigation Advocacy
Dr Crina Baltag, faculty at University of Bedfordshire, London	International Commercial Arbitration
Prof Thomas P Valenti, AV Rated Attorney at Law and Certified Mediator and Arbitrator, USA	Mediation
Prof Dmitry Poldnikov, Professor, Higher School of Economics, Moscow	European Legal Tradition
Dr Hars Andras, University of Szeged, Hungary	Public International Law
Prof Yilli Dautaj, Co-founder, Orimlighyras, Edinburgh, Stockholm	European Legal System
Prof Susas OH, Professional BS Detector in AI and Blockchain, USA	Artificial Intelligence
Prof Elonnai Hickok, Chief Operating Officer, Centre for Internet Society India, Hague, Netherlands	Artificial Intelligence
Prof Bruno Gustafsson, Attorney, Litigation Department, Roschierattorneys, Stockholm University	Arbitration
Prof Paul Carmichael, Associate Dean, Global Engagement, Ultsar University, UK	Right to Privacy: The changing legal landscape
Prof Venkat Iyer, Barrister and Legal Academic, Ultsar University, UK	Right to Privacy: The changing legal landscape

Tata Motors and Nirma University partners to enhance employees' technical skills

Automaker, Tata Motors on April 29, 2019 has partnered with Nirma University to offer Executive BTech in Manufacturing Technology to its employees working at the Sanand Plant in Gujarat. It is a mutually beneficial initiative, which will result in a rich exchange of knowledge and the latest industry practices.

This BTech degree programme will impart knowledge and skill requisite for the automotive manufacturing industry. Employees, enrolled for the BTech programme will undergo comprehensive training that is designed in two parts – technical orientation delivered through classroom sessions, virtual labs and on-the-job training in engineering, manufacturing and customer support facilities in Tata Motors. These employees will be mentored and guided by industry leaders and will engage in practice sessions that entails significant business projects.



Distinguished Visitors



Internship at NGOs

From the academic session 2019-20, the first year students of BCom (Hons) of Institute of Commerce are undergoing a four week long NGO Internship in summers in order to learn about various social initiatives to reach out to the needy section of the society. This initiative also helps to achieve the mission of Nirma University, "to build socially responsible citizens". The internships began in the month of May 2019.

Prof Sunil S Jambhekar from LECOM-Bradenton, School of Pharmacy, FL, USA visited Institute of Pharmacy during Feb 11-15, 2019. He delivered a series of lectures on Biopharmaceutics and pharmacokinetics, nonlinear kinetics, and modified release dosage form to BPharm, MPharm and PhD students.



Dr Sanjib Bhattacharya, Professor, South West University, Chongqing, China delivered a talk on "Evaluating the Nanoscale Biomimetic at the interface of Chemistry and Biology" on February 21, 2019.



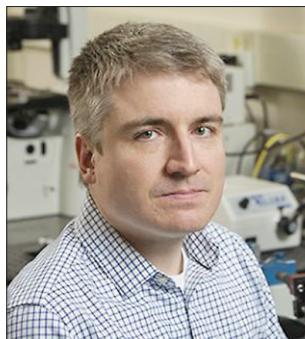
Dr Rene Villalobos, Associate Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering, Arizona State University, USA delivered an expert talk on "Research Opportunities in the planning of Supply Chains of Fresh Produce" on March 5, 2019 at Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, Nirma University.



Dr Hussam Jouhara, Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Brunel University London, UK delivered an expert talk on "Advances in Heat Pipe Heat Exchanger" on Feb 26, 2019 at Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, Nirma University.



Prof Mohammad Khasawneh, Professor, Department of Systems Science & Industrial Engineering (SSIE), SUNY Binghamton University, New York delivered an expert talk on "Healthcare Systems and Data Science" on March 18, 2019 at Computer Science and Engineering Department, School of Technology, Nirma University.



Dr Paul Chiarot, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, SUNY Binghamton University, New York, USA conducted a one-day seminar on "Energy and Efficiency for the 21st Century" on Feb 7, 2019 at Mechanical Engineering Department, School of Engineering, Nirma University.



Dr Vrushank Dave, Associate Professor from University of Southern California visited Institute of Science, Nirma University during March 11 to 16, 2019 and conducted a seminar and workshop on "Molecular Biology to Therapeutics on Cancer and other diseases".

- Dr Moinak Banerjee, President of Indian Society of Human Genetics from Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram delivered a Public Lecture on "Resolving complexities of disease diagnosis and therapy in Complex disease: A genomic and epigenomic perspective" on March 28, 2019.
- Prof Marco Lolli, Aggregate Professor in Medicinal Chemistry at University of Turin, Torino, Italy and CEO, Beenext S.r.l. visited Institute of Pharmacy during Feb 25 to March 4, 2019. Prof Lolli delivered a series of lectures on Scaffold hopping in drug discovery targeting hDHODH to BPharm, M Pharm, and PhD students. Prof Lolli also delivered a Public Lecture on "Malaria: An Historical Perspective".
- Dr Xingquan Zhu, Professor and Distinguished Senior Researcher, Florida Atlantic University, USA conducted International Lecture Series on "Deep Learning" from March 5-9, 2019 at Computer Science and Engineering Department, School of Technology, Nirma University.

- Mr Wei Sun, President, ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer, President & CEO, Engsysco, Inc. Michigan, USA delivered an expert talk on "Cleanroom and HVAC System Design Fundamentals" on March 7, 2019 at Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, Nirma University.
- Dr Rishi Gupta, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering Department, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada delivered an expert talk on "Green Concrete Reinforced using Fibers Recovered from Waste acrylic" on March 1, 2019 at Civil Engineering Department, School of Engineering, Nirma University.
- Dr Marcello Lappa, Director of the MSc course, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK delivered an expert talk on "Relevance of CFD to Material Science" on Feb 25, 2019 at Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, Nirma University.
- Prof Svetlana Brzev, Professor, Civil Engineering Department in the University of British Columbia delivered an expert talk on "Advancements in Seismic Design of Masonry Structures" during Jan 30-31, 2019 at Civil Engineering Department, School of Engineering, Nirma University.
- Dr Japan Trivedi, Associate Professor, Petroleum Engineering at the University of Alberta, Canada (also an alumnus of Chemical engineering department, Nirma University) delivered an expert talk on "Enhanced Oil Recovery" on Jan 11, 2019 at Chemical Engineering Department, School of Engineering, Nirma University.
- Dr Philip Horton, Assistant professor, School of Design and the Arts, Arizona State University visited Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University on March 5, 2019 and delivered a lecture on "Solar Housing Advancing Desert Equilibrium."

Events

Twenty-Seventh Convocation

Nirma University held its 27th Convocation on April 20, 2019 where **567 students were convoked**. Honourable Justice Dipak Misra, Former Chief Justice of India was the chief guest on this occasion.

On this occasion, degrees were conferred to 29 doctoral students, 246 students of MBA (Full Time), 55 students of MBA (Family Business and Entrepreneurship), 33 students of BBA-MBA (Five Year Integrated Programme), 14 students of BBA, 176 undergraduate students of Institute of Law, 5 students of MTech, 2 students of MCA, 5 students of BTech, and 2 students of MSc.

A total of **22 medals were given to 20 students** for securing overall first, second and third position, specialisation-wise rank, and programme-wise best students.



AbhimaNU'19: Inter-University Sports Festival

Nirma University organised its second edition of Inter-University Sports Festival - AbhimaNU'19. The sports festival organised from Feb 19-24 consisted of three sporting events: Cricket, Volleyball and Table Tennis, in which, a total participation of about 450 players was witnessed from colleges and universities all over Gujarat.

National Colloquium on Advancement in Seismic Design of Masonry Structures

Department of Civil Engineering at Institute of Technology organised a National Colloquium on "Advancement in Seismic Design of Masonry Structures" on Jan 30-31, 2019. Dr Daniel P Abrams, Emeritus Professor of Structural Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Dr Svetlana Brzev, Adjunct Professor, University of British Columbia, Canada and Visiting Professor, IIT Gandhinagar; Dr K S Jagadish, Former Professor, Indian Institute of Science (IISc); and Dr Hemant B Kaushik, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati were the resource persons for the National Colloquium.

Republic Day Celebrations

Nirma University celebrated the Republic Day of the nation with full rigour and enthusiasm on Jan 26, 2019. Justice Mohit Shah, Former Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court was the Chief Guest on this occasion. The event was well attended by students, staff and faculty members of various institutes of the University.



Celebration of 5th International Day of Yoga

On the occasion of International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2019, Nirma University conducted a Yoga Session for all its members under the guidance of trained professionals.

A total of 541 members attended the event across all institutes of the university, including the Director General, Executive Registrar, Head of Institutions, faculty members, non-teaching staff, students, NSS & NCC Unit of the respective institutes.

The session commenced with a prayer under the guidance of yoga instructors Ms Tejalben Mistry and Ms Bhaviniben Patadia. During the session, basic Yoga exercises like Sadilaja, Calana Kriyas, Loosening practices to increase micro-circulation were performed. Thereafter Yogasanas, Kapalbhati, Pranayam, Dhyana, Sankalpa, Shanti Patha were also performed. The event concluded with light refreshment.



NUZEAL 2019: Inter-University Cultural Festival

University Cultural Festival - NUZEAL 2019 was organised by Students Welfare Board on Feb 5 and 6, 2019. Some of the events organised include, Skit, Mime, Mimicry, Mono Acting, Solo Dance, Duet Dance, Group Dance, Solo Classical Dance, Solo Singing, Duet Singing, Group Song, Vocal (classical), Classical Instrumental, Rangoli, Collage, On the Spot Painting, Cartooning, Face Painting, Poster Making, Debate, Elocution, Poetry Recitation, and Personality Contest. The event saw active participation across all institutes.



NICOM 2019

The 22nd edition of Nirma International Conference on Management (NICOM) was organised by Institute of Management, Nirma University during Jan 17-19, 2019. The central theme of the conference was "Business, Economy and Environment: The New Normal". The Conference had academicians and practitioners from all over the country, presenting their research in as many as 17 sub-themes viz, Business: Fostering Shareholders' Value Creation, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability, Global Development Goals 2030 and India, Economic and Social Aspects of Rural Development, Role of Information Systems, Digitisation and Data Sciences in Business, among others, in four track sessions spread across three days. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was the lead sponsor of NICOM 2019 followed by Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Erhardt (India) Pvt Ltd.

A pre-conference workshop was conducted in collaboration with Competition Commission of India on the theme of 'Competition Law and Business Management' on Jan 17, 2019. The chief guest for the inaugural event was Shri Sunil R Parekh, Senior Strategy Advisor,



Zydus Cadila Healthcare Group and Founding Curator, World Economic Forum. The event was also attended by Padma Shri Dr Karsanbhai K Patel, President, Nirma University and Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University.

The Chief Guest for the valedictory session was Mr Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi. Dr Samir Shah, Associate Clinical Professor, Drexel University, USA was the Guest of Honour.

NuTech 2019

Institute of Technology, Nirma University organised NuTech 2019 during March 12-13, 2019 with theme SHAURYA to honour the defence forces. The fest saw a footfall of more than 3000 participants across Gujarat as well as a few neighbouring states.

Students prepared several art pieces related to all the three wings of defence which were displayed at various locations in the campus.

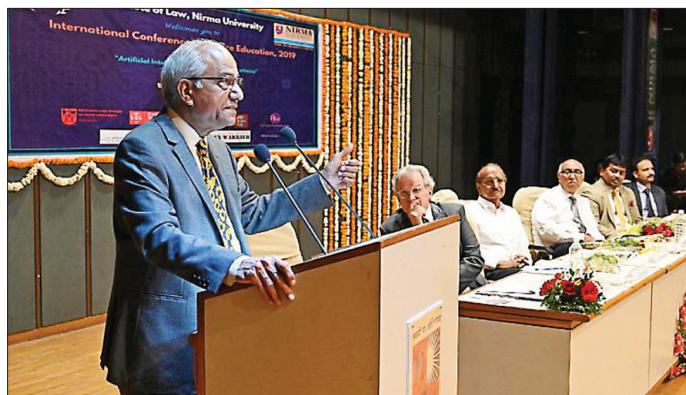
50 plus events and workshops, were organised during the two-day event which included poster presentation, idea presentation, model presentation, robotics, Hack NU Thons, business-related events, etc. One of the attractions of the fest was the EDM Night by "Progressive Brothers" which saw a total footfall of around 2000 visitors.



International Conference on Justice Education

Institute of Law, Nirma University organised the International Conference on Justice Education, 2019 on the theme of Artificial Intelligence and its Legal Implications during March 15-16, 2019 in collaboration with the Advanced Centre on Research, Development and Training in Cyber Law & Forensics, NLSIU Bengaluru, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Privy Legal Service LLP, Centre for Internet and Society- Access to Knowledge, Infinity Law- Tech Educational Services (ILTES), Jus Dicere, Saarthi AI, Lex Warrier, and EBC.

Hon'ble Mr Justice B N Srikrishna, former Judge, Supreme Court of India was the chief guest at the inaugural session. The keynote speakers for the inaugural session were Dr Hari Krishna Maram, Chairman and Founder CEO, Imperial College; Dr Steven Robinson, Former Special Advisor, Office of the Secretary, US Department of Education. Dr Karsanbhai K Patel, President, Nirma University presided over the function.



Eleventh Annual Public Lecture

Institute of Law, Nirma University organised the Eleventh Lecture of the Annual Public Lecture Series on 'Managing Self before Managing Others' on March 18, 2019. The lecture was delivered by Dr Hasmukh Adhia, Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat; Former Finance Secretary and Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Dr Karsanbhai K Patel, President, Nirma University presided over the function.



International Seminar on Transnational Litigation

Institute of Law organised an International Seminar on Transnational Litigation on March 23-24, 2019. Mr Dushyant Dave, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India was the chief guest of the inaugural session. Dr Stephen G Barnes, Associate Dean, Penn State Law, Pennsylvania State University, USA was the Guest of Honor. Prof William Fox, Dean and Professor of Law, Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America, Washington, USA and Dr Manoj Kumar, D Litt, Founder and Managing Partner, Hammurabi and Solomon were the keynote speakers. Mr Hiren K Patel, Managing Director, Nirma Limited presided over the inaugural session.



Talk on Empowerment through Entrepreneurship

As part of the 3rd Foundation Day of Institute of Commerce, Nirma University, Mr Prakash Varmora, MD and CEO of Varmora Industries addressed the students and gave a talk on "Empowerment through Entrepreneurship" on March 30, 2019.



Symposium on Deconstructing Criminal Law – Recent Developments

The Centre of Criminal Law and Justice under the Institute of Law organised a two day symposium on Deconstructing Criminal Law on Feb 28 and March 1, 2019, in the light of the recent developments in criminal law. The symposium analysed two prominent judgments of the Supreme Court of India – on decriminalisation of the law of adultery (*Joseph Shine v Union of India*) and reading down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 which prohibited homosexuality even in a private space (*Navtej Singh Johar v Union of India*). The Chief Guest of the inaugural session of the symposium was Prof B B Pande, Visiting Professor, University of Cardiff, Wales, UK.



Talk on Making of Union Budget

Dr Hasmukh Adhia, Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat and Former Finance Secretary and Revenue Secretary, Government of India delivered a talk on "Making of Union Budget: Processes and Outcome", where he spoke about the different Constitutional provisions and bills required to prepare the Union Budget.

Seminar on Future of Finance

A seminar on Future of Finance was organised on Feb 12, 2019 at Nirma University Auditorium for the students of ICNU and IMNU. Mr Ajay Lalwani, Country Head, CIMA India addressed the students with several illustrations of the corporate world. He laid emphasis on the relevance of various professional courses in addressing the financial challenges faced by the corporate world.



Workshop on Films and Appreciative Learning

Institute of Law, Nirma University organised a workshop on Films and Appreciative Learning during Feb 1-6, 2019. The workshop was conducted by Mr Shekhar Hattangadi, a Law Professor and an Award winning documentary film maker.

Kurukshetra: the Sports Fest

The sports club of Institute of Commerce organised a two-day Inter-University sports fest during Feb 7-8, 2019. Twenty-four teams across various universities/institutes across Ahmedabad participated in the event. As per the format of the event each team played different sports like Dodge ball, Box cricket, Futsal, Dangal v/s Dumbbell in each round. In each level, all the winners were felicitated with cash prizes and certificates. Team from GLS University stood as the overall winner.



Workshop on Culture of Consent and Rejection

Women Development Cell, Nirma University, and Centre for Social Justice, in collaboration with Partners for Law in Development (PLD) organised a Workshop on the Culture of Consent and Rejection on Feb 5, 2019. The speakers for the workshop were Ms Prashastika Sharma, who leads the college youth outreach programme for Consent and Rejection in context of sexuality and harassment and Ms Deepa, who works with ANANDI and focuses on developing youth leadership through capacity building.

Capsule Course on Goods and Services Tax

Institute of Law, Nirma University hosted Dr Hasmukh Adia, former Finance Secretary and Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India for a capsule course on the insights on Goods and Services Tax in India. The course took place on Feb 22, 25, 27 and 28, 2019. It covered all aspects of Goods and Services Tax- India's biggest ever tax reform. The course focused on wide range of areas, from basic understanding to comparative understanding, its origin, the intricacies of Constitutional Amendment and its implications.

Workshop on Legal Empowerment for Women's Rights

The Legal Aid committee, Institute of Law, Nirma University, in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, organised a workshop on Legal Empowerment for Women's Rights during March 30-31, 2019. Social workers working in various NGOs across Gujarat and Rajasthan participated in the workshop. The chief guest of the inaugural function was Mr R K Modh, Senior Civil Judge and Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate.

The sessions spread across two days covered main aspects of property rights of women such as provisions of Hindu Succession Act 1956, Indian Succession Act 1925, Rights of women of Scheduled Tribes, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.



ELYSIAN 2019

ELYSIAN 2019, the first edition of cultural and literary festival of Institute of Commerce was held during Feb 12-13, 2019 with the theme "High On Colors."

The two day event had nine competitions in its store – viz, Cash Clash – Stock Exchange Game, British Parliamentary Debate, Cadence – Music Competition, Plan-O-Pitch – Business Plan Competition, Drop A Beat – Dance Competition, Busibuzz – Business Quiz, Rangshala – Theatre Competition, Abracadabra – Pop Up Quiz, Melange – Fashion Show, and the Star night on Feb 13, 2019 concluded in style with India's Raw Star Mr Darshan Raval performing live at Dome Ground, Nirma University.

A total of 557 students participated in various events out of which 400 plus students belonged to various colleges and universities not only from Ahmedabad, but also from Gandhinagar, Vadodara and Indore.



Interaction with Director of Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

Nirma University has joined the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) community since 2018. Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute provides the creation of bi-national links between academia, government, business community and civil society organisations by funding research and hosting seminars. The Directorate of Research and Innovation (DRI), Nirma University, invited Dr Prachi Kaul, Director of Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute to deliver a talk on March 15, 2019.

Dr Paul spoke about the evolution and genesis of the SICI, and discussed about various schemes and funding opportunities available from the SICI. All the Head of the Institutions, Deans, Head of the Departments, Institute Level Research Coordinators, IQAC Coordinators and the faculty members of Nirma University attended the programme and interacted with Dr Kaul.



Seminar on Exploring Funding Opportunities to Enhance Research

The Directorate of Research and Innovation (DRI), Nirma University, organised one-day seminar on "Exploring Funding Opportunities to Enhance Research" on Feb 16, 2019. The main objective of the seminar was to provide information about the various funding opportunities available to the faculty members and researchers to boost their research contributions. The seminar was attended by around seventy participants. The representatives of the major project funding agencies like, DST, GUJCOST, DRDO, United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF), British Council, ISRO-Respond, etc delivered sessions and interacted with the participants.

Dr A Mukhopadhyay, Former Head, R&D Infrastructure Division, Department of Science & Technology (DST), New Delhi was the chief guest and Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University presided at the event.



Sell it Your Way

Centre for Entrepreneurship organised the event 'Sell it Your Way' on March 12, 2019. In this event, participants were given a case study of Tata Nano car and were asked to present new marketing strategies to sell Tata Nano cars in the Indian market. A total of 97 students from various technical institutes across Gujarat participated in the event.

National Conference of Institute of Pharmacy (NCIP 2019)

Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University organised the 3rd National Conference of Institute of Pharmacy, NCIP 2019 on the theme "Integrating Natural and Modern Medicines in Drug Discovery and Development" during Jan 24-25, 2019.

The conference helped in spreading the awareness about the global issues in integrating Natural and Modern Medicines in Drug Discovery and Development.



War of Words

Centre for Entrepreneurship organised the event 'War of Words' on March 13, 2019. Under this event participants had to solve a crossword based on entrepreneurship and startups, containing 25 questions in 15 minutes. Six teams were selected for the final round. A total of 60 students from various technical institutes across Gujarat participated in the event.



National Workshop on Demonstration and Training on Pharmaceutical Equipment and Software

A national workshop on "Demonstration and Training on Pharmaceutical Equipment and Software" was organised during March 28-30, 2019 for third and fourth year BPharm students of various institutions of India.

The workshop was organised with an aim to develop technical skill of students and to prepare them to face current challenges of the industry. During the workshop, demonstration of various equipment like SFC, HPLC, FT-IR, HPTLC, Texture Analyzer, HPH, ELISA Plate reader, MPLC, Microwave Synthesizer etc was given. Along with this, demonstration of software, including design expert, gold suit and eCTD was given which are widely used in pharmaceutical industry. A total of 47 participants attended the workshop.

Workshop on Demonstration & Training on Pharmaceutical Equipment and Software

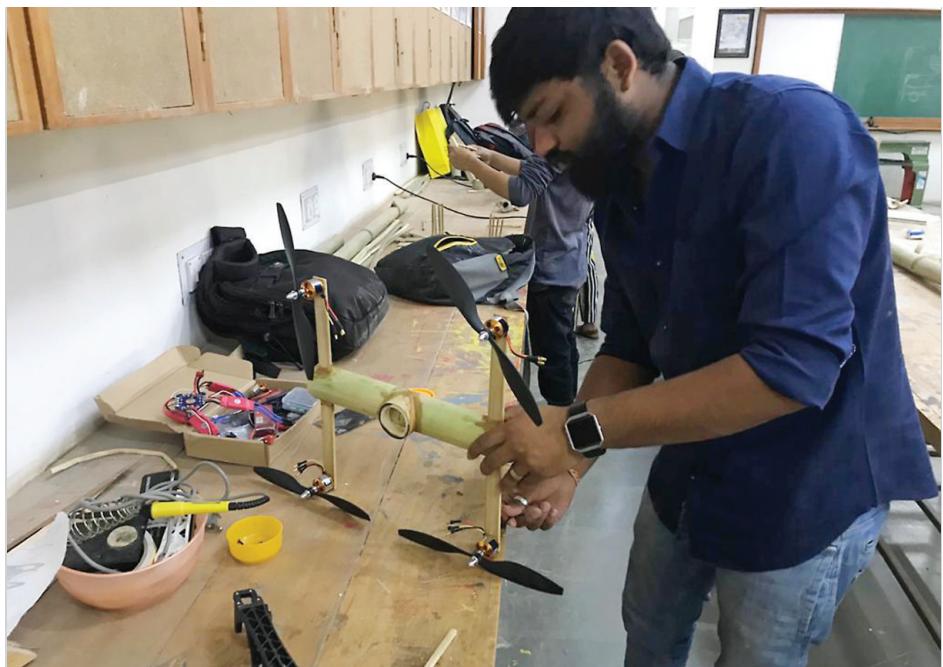
A national workshop on "Demonstration & Training on Pharmaceutical Equipment and Software" was organised at Institute of Pharmacy during April 25-26, 2019 for third and fourth year BPharm students of various institutions of India. During the workshop, demonstration of various equipment like SFC, HPLC, FT-IR, HPTLC, Texture Analyzer, HPH, ELISA Plate reader, MPLC, Microwave Synthesizer, etc was given. Along with this, demonstration of software, like design expert, gold suit and eCTD was given which are widely used in pharmaceutical industry. A total of 47 participants attended the workshop.

ReDo: The Design Cultural Fest

The Department of Design at Nirma University hosted the first edition of its cultural festival- ReDo during March 18-22, 2019. The festival aimed at enriching the knowledge of design students beyond classroom environment and encourage creative leadership and collaboration.

The festival included a series of workshops in which expert artisans and designers were invited to conduct hands-on events like Kaavad, bamboo and leather craft. Some of the other events included, cooking competition sponsored by Nestle India, theatre workshops, and film screenings.

Talks by Ms Mahek Malhotra (CEO, Giggling Monkey) and Mr Mithilesh Valzawar (Coffee expert) were also held at the two-day fest. Stand-up comedian Urooj Ashfaq was also a part of the festival.



Anvesh: Doctoral Research Conference

Anvesh 2019, the 15th Doctoral Research Conference in management was organised on April 5-6, 2019 by the Institute of Management, Nirma University, Ahmedabad. The conference comprised of 1 workshop, 7 track sessions with 47 presentations, and 3 research clinics. The conference witnessed 87 abstracts and 47 full papers from the areas of Human Resource & Organizational Behaviour, Finance & Economics, Marketing, Strategic Management & Entrepreneurship, Operations, Information Management, and General Management.

32 papers were accepted for publication and published in the form of two books namely, Research Frontiers in Marketing, Strategy, HRM and Information Management; and Research Frontiers in Finance, Operations and General Management.

Dr Vijaya Sherry Chand from Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad delivered the inaugural address. Prof Vidyut Joshi, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Bhavnagar University delivered expert lecture on 'Qualitative Research'. The two days conference concluded with valedictory session, with Prof Vidyut Joshi, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Bhavnagar University as Chief Guest.

Workshop on Local Self Government including Panchayati Raj

A One Day Workshop on Local Self Government including Panchayati Raj was organised by Institute of Law on April 24, 2019 on the National Panchayati Raj Day. Mr C R Bijoy, Former Member, Technical Advisory Committee, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India conducted the workshop. The workshop enabled the participants to understand Panchayati Raj Institutions in Tribal and Scheduled area through the PESA Act, 1996 and the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Expert Lecture on Drama and Justice Education

A one-day expert lecture on 'Drama and Justice Education' was organised on April 16, 2019 for Semester II students of Institute of Law, as part of the Blended Learning of English Literature. The lecture was delivered by Dr Shweta Garg, an Associate Professor at DAIICIT, Gandhinagar. The main objective was to assist the students to develop a deeper understanding of the evolution of the concept of law through ages and countries via the kaleidoscope of literature. Dr Garg used the nuances of Greek and Elizabethan theatre and performance studies from the perspective of law and also cited references from Indian Epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana vis a vis Law.

Research Methodology Workshop

Centre for Post Graduate Legal Studies, Institute of Law organised a research methodology workshop during May 9-10, 2019. The resource persons were Dr B S Bajpai, Professor and Registrar, National Law University, Delhi and Dr Deeksha Bajpai Tewari, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi. The themes discussed included; steps of research, research questions, hypothesis and objectives, how to do empirical research studies, techniques of data collection, choosing statistical test for analysis of data and reference citations.

Workshop on Tools for Artificial Intelligence

A workshop on Tools for "Artificial Intelligence" was organised by the CSE department of Institute of Technology on April 20, 2019. It was conducted by Mr Saubhik Das, Student Ambassador from Intel Software. It was a hands-on workshop where students worked on Intel customised tools like Intel TensorFlow, Keras, Intel DevCloud, Intel OpenVINO and Intel DevMesh for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.





Assessing Student Learning in Higher Education: Present Status and Future Challenges

Prof Tejal A Mehta

Head, Department of Pharmaceutics, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University

be able to do? (Knowledge & Skill) How the success of our development efforts is measured? (Outcome data) What will we do to improve poor outcomes? (Closing the loop)

AOL focuses on the delivery of content, course consistency, instructor availability, perceived learning for the purpose of evaluating instructor performance. Progress of the student should be mapped using the rubric tool. The rubric is scale based tool and it should be revised at regular intervals in view to improve teaching outcome. AOL can be accurately measured via direct and indirect approaches. Direct assessment acquires evidence about student learning in an environment like exams, projects, observer's evaluation, etc. whereas indirect assessment acquires evidence about how students or other stakeholders (like recruiters, academic peers, industry expert, etc) feel about learning and their learning process like surveys, interviews, focus groups, reflective essays, participation, student feedback, etc.

Assessing student learning is based on student outcome model rather than instructor-centric model. One biggest challenge is to confirm whether this model makes a difference in student's learning or not? Whatever assurance of learning assessment methods is used, it ultimately involves multiple measures over time. The use of AOL implementation in higher education is debatable as a poor outcome of the student is considered as a poor outcome of a teacher. It is a big challenge for the teachers to keep themselves updated with higher education, pedagogy, tools and techniques for its improvement.

Systematic assessment of student learning outcomes results in greater accountability by the public. AOL involves a cycle of continuous improvement of curriculum and is more focused on the knowledge and skills of students rather than faculty qualification and course content. The implementation of AOL in the programme requires the critical role of faculty. Institute must document and report their assessment activity and progress in improving student learning. There is no fixed AOL model, however, faculty can develop a model to get the desired outcome.

The systemic use of OBE and AOL require a lot of time, documentation and follow-up for an action plan. Deriving time with the diversified role of faculty as a teacher, researcher, and administrator is a great challenge.

Pringle & Michel et al. studied the OBE-AOL activities of various organisation and pointed out reasons for the resistance of faculty in its implementation for measuring the attainments of POs. The following are the reasons with clarifications on misconceptions for the same.

Time spent on developing and deploying AOL metrics

AOL analysis is difficult for the large classroom as each student is taken into consideration in the assessment. It is misunderstood that separate time will be engaged in developing metrics for assessment of learning outcome. However, assessment metrics

The essence of AOL is that Institute or the organisation should know about: What should every graduate know and



are already part of normal academic activities. Systematic lesson planning and drawing question paper in line of course outcome and use of suitable software could help in shortening the time.

Faculty fear on use of AOL for measurement of teaching performance

The target to achieve course and programme outcome is decided by the course coordinator keeping in view to match institute and examination norms. However, the poor result of course, is misunderstood as poor performance of the faculty in some organisations. Separate feedback process regarding the measurement of teaching performance can be introduced into the system to keep both AOL and performance evaluation separate from each other. Institute can create a conducive environment by inculcating good teaching practices and evaluating faculty based on teaching rather than directly student's performance. The results of AOL has to be utilised for improvement by systematic analysis.

Loss of academic flexibility

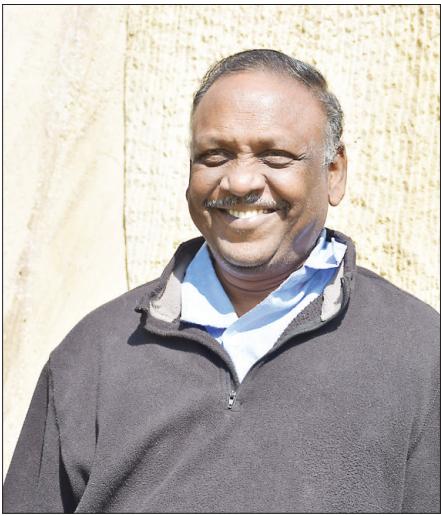
The success of the implementation of AOL relies on a teacher, environment and systemic approach. It is recommended to follow OBE and AOL for curriculum management but the faculty feels the loss of academic flexibility as a model remains mainly the same for each course. The use of AOL does not require any specific course in the curriculum. Hence, the Instructor has flexibility in choosing the method of teaching and using the standard rubric for reporting.

Apart from faculty resistance, structural and communication challenges, inconsistency across the various degree programme, and misalignment of vision-mission of the institute with learning goals may influence the success of AOL. Thus, these parameters are also to be taken into consideration for AOL implementation.

Accreditation agencies like NBA and NAAC give high emphasis on measuring student learning outcomes in higher education institutions to assure programme quality. Many foreign universities have adopted AOL in different programmes and they found it very effective as compared to traditionally organised programmes. However, in many Indian Universities, the same is implemented but not systematically adopted. This requires awareness among faculty for the correct use of OBE-AOL. The expert lectures should be conducted to explain this model to faculty and institute can decide strategies for taking advantage of OBE-AOL in the success of programme and course outcome. The success of the foreign university in use of OBE-AOL is attributed by providing a guideline for measurement of student learning outcome in line with the institute's vision and mission.

In conclusion, assurance of learning will go a long way towards improvement in quality teaching. Future challenges include awareness among the faculty for their ownership and identification of strategies for improving faculty engagement. The positive attitude and systematic use of this model by faculty will definitely help the organisation in quality improvement. The efforts of institute/university for environmental changes is essential for the paradigm shift of AOL from compliance to a cultivating value.

Life Experience



A gem of a soul... a mentor, designer, artist and much more. Prof Immanuel Suresh was a treasure box of anecdotes that enlightened whoever he interacted with. His sheer presence was a powerhouse of positivity and radiance. He passed away on Feb 6, 2019. Nirma University, and in particular the Department of Design misses him deeply.

The following words were written by him for the 'Life Experience' article of the Nirma University newsletter. Although he could not complete this piece of writing.

Meeting Prof Immanuel Suresh...

Excerpt follows:

"Life is an experience by itself. It's experiential. I guess there cannot be a life experience, however experience too is too individualistic and subjective. It's too fluid and as Da Vinci said, "You can never touch the river twice". Its' Proteus... is ever changing eventually filled with only the residue of memory. Memories too fade away lying hidden in some crevice until it is prompted by yet another experience stacked up on the past. Interestingly memories are of the past wherein the future too is past. The challenge remains in finding new meanings to these memory stacks, progress is a future anticipation with reference to the past, which remains always a past. Many a times walking on a treadmill you stay put..."

Prof Immanuel Suresh

The faculty members at Department of Design fondly remember Prof Suresh...

"He was the first person I met with open heart and we laughed together like anything. I was new here and hesitated to talk to any person in first go. But when I met him and talked to him I got a "source of laughter for everyday. I started seeking his company everyday. Those days I didn't see him and talked to him, a day not spent well. I do not know what attracted me so close to him. A person so knowledgeable and so down to earth or because of his simplicity in everything attracted me. In other words, I found a friend in a new city. I feel I am so lucky that I met this person and got some life conversation to keep it for life time. Thank you so much Sir. You will always be remembered again and again in my life journey."

Anil Bhaskar

Suresh Sir shared some very enlightening words with me. He had said, "When you learn driving, you learn to always look ahead in life. When you learn swimming, you learn to always strive to keep afloat. Important life lessons... no?"

Tanaya Vyas

"He was a cheerful man with great soul. Always with a smiling face and cracking jokes to give joy to others. You showed us that just living is not enough; be kind to others, cheerful and smiling. God may rest him in peace."

Manish Jha

"There are only a few people who touch our hearts deeply, Prof Immanuel Suresh was one of those persons. He was a selfless and a true educator and always shared his wisdom with everyone through his stories gathered with his experience of life. He was a walking encyclopedia and it sometimes felt that with my limited memory, I should always have a writing pad when around him. Conversations with him left me enriched, inspired and motivated. He wanted to share with all the wisdom and knowledge he had gathered over the years. My inbox still has a lot of articles which he wanted me to read to enrich my research work. In this journey of life, we cross paths with many people but memories of some people remain etched in our minds forever. He may not be amongst us but his inspiring stories, lunch-time conversations, his radiant smile will remain immortalized in our hearts and minds."

Kanupriya Taneja

Extension Activities

Mapping and Documentation through Visual Story Board

With the purpose of **evoking creativity and cognitive thinking through a different media** than routine classroom processes, a seven-day workshop on 'Mapping and Documentation through Visual Story Board' by Leewardists (Mr Anuj Kale) was organised from Jan 7 to 13, 2019 at Institute of Architecture and Planning for BPlan students. The workshop was interactive, innovative and inquisitive, and helped students in exploring the art of storyboarding.

Visit to Blind People's Association

Institute of Management, Nirma University organised a visit to Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad for the first year BBA students on Feb 25 and 27, 2019. Students visited the printing press, ITI, artificial limb centre, computer centre, museum, etc at the Blind People's Association campus. Students were explained about how blind people develop their skills and perform their tasks through practice. Moreover, students experienced the life of the blind people for some time by visiting the dark room. Throughout the visit, a representative from the association explained the working of various departments of BPA and addressed the queries of the students.

Paint Your Dreams

The cultural committee of the Institute of Management in association with the Nirman Foundation organised 'Paint Your Dreams', a social initiative for underprivileged children on March 17, 2019. The event was full of fun activities

NSS Camp

Institute of Commerce organised a seven-day NSS Camp during March 8-14, 2019 at Kavitha village, about 40 kms from Nirma University. The journey started with 41 sophomores accompanied by Dr Nitin Kishore Saxena, Programme Officer (NSS) and CS Karishma Butani.

The camp had pre-planned activities for all the seven days which included transformation of an unproductive land of 'Shri Vinoba Ashram, Kavitha' into a small beautiful garden; promotion of a number of government schemes like 'Beti Bachao Beti Padao', 'Clean India Mission' and 'Vote India' through rallies and seminars; two industrial visits scheduled correspondingly to provide an insight into the economic activities undertaken in village.

Moreover, the volunteers taught the students of Seva Vistaran Prathmikshala not only the academic subjects but also covered Sports, Computer education, and Art and craft. The female volunteers took charge of spreading awareness regarding menstrual hygiene and use of sanitary napkins.

The last day of the camp included 'Cultural Evening', 'Craft Exhibition' and 'Prize Distribution ceremony'. Shri Kamal Kumar Kar, Regional Director, NSS Gujarat; Prof Dilip Joshi, NSS Coordinator, Bhavnagar; and Prof Udai Paliwal, Dean Institute of Commerce, Nirma University were present on this occasion.



Celebration of World Environment Day 2019

As part of the celebration of World Environment Day 2019, Nirma University participated in the Swachh Sabarmati Maha Abhiyan organised by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation on June 5, 2019 from Dadhichi Bridge to Subhash bridge under Sabarmati river. PhD students of Institute of Pharmacy, Rotaract Club of Nirma Institutes, NSS unit and staff members of Nirma University participated in this campaign. The main purpose of this Sanitation campaign was to clear the plastic bags, plastic bottles and other food waste from the Sabarmati river.

Run For Cause

The first of its kind CSR Activity at the Nirma University campus was organised by Institute of Commerce with the support of its NGO partner Navjeevan Seva Sansthan. The fund raised by the registrations shall be utilised to provide scholarships to the students of underprivileged and poor section of the society. A total of 250 registrations were received for the 6.5 km run organised on Feb 10, 2019. A warm-up session in the form of Zumba dance was organised for participants.



Academic Support

On Feb 16, 2019, an event titled 'Academic support to ITI students' was conducted by Institute of Technology for the Industrial Training Institute students of Kubernagar, Ahmedabad. The aim of the session was to share the basic concepts of 'Power Electronics' related to Electrical Engineering.

Donation Drive

Institute of Law conducted a donation drive in Chandkheda, Ahmedabad on May 19, 2019. The members distributed clothes and essential items to the less privileged people of the society. The donation was collected through the new initiative of Mission Sangharsh's 'Philanthropic Friday' wherein the students, faculty and staff members at Institute of Law donate essentials every Friday.



Educational visit for Rural Exposure

The Foundation Year students of Department of Design were part of the Rural Exposure study trip conducted during March 24-30, 2019. The first group of students went to Khamir in Bhuj. Khamir works to strengthen and promote the rich artisanal traditions of Kutch district. The second group of students went to Jatan Sansthan in Rajasthan. Jatan Sansthan is a grassroots not-for-profit organisation working with rural and resource poor communities in the districts of Rajsamand, Udaipur and Bhilwada in Rajasthan.

In Design, the context is a significant parameter encompassing geographic, economic and cultural factors of any given space in time. The week long experiential exposure aims at introducing students to developmental initiatives guided by 'design' and socially equitable and sustainable practices by organisations working at the grass roots. The social organisations are selected such that they have designers as key members of the team on the ground, working with social entrepreneurs, scientists, social workers, communicators and artisans. The students produced visual documentations of their experiences.



Other Activities

- The students of BPlan Programme of Institute of Architecture went on a Related Study Programme to Shenzhen, Macau and Hong Kong for 10 days during Jan 3-13, 2019. Lead by Dr Swati Kothary and Prof Ratnil Srivastava the students explored these places for their urban form, growth pattern and development. Vital urban rural divide and progress in transportation was also studied.
- MSc students of Semester-2 of Institute of Science visited Miroli village on March 16, 2019 and organised a De-addiction Camp in association with Satprerna Trust, an NGO based in Chandkheda, Ahmedabad. A group of students went door to door to convince the villagers to attend the programme at the village school. Students of Institute of Science planned a host of creative and effective activities to convey the message amongst the villagers where men, women and even children are not free from addictions like Cigarette, Gutkha etc. After the event, the villagers filled up the pledge forms to stay away from these addictions.
- On April 2019, Swapnil Chadotra, Harsh Patel, Aditya Srivastava, Madhav Gokalani and their colleagues, and students of CSE department, Institute of Technology attended the "Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation" as part of the community service and spent time with especially abled individuals.

Industry Visits

Visit to Knack Packaging Pvt Ltd

On Feb 28, 2019, Industrial Visit to Knack Packaging Pvt Ltd, Kadi, Mehsana, was organised for the 3rd year BBA students of integrated BBA-MBA programme by Institute of Management, Nirma University. Students visited the four sub-units which included, the raw material section, production, printing, and dispatch section. At each division, accompanying executive explained the system and its integration with the overall operations of the company. Finally, students interacted with the HR and production executive to understand the application of curriculum at practice, and resolve their doubts.



Visit to Havmor

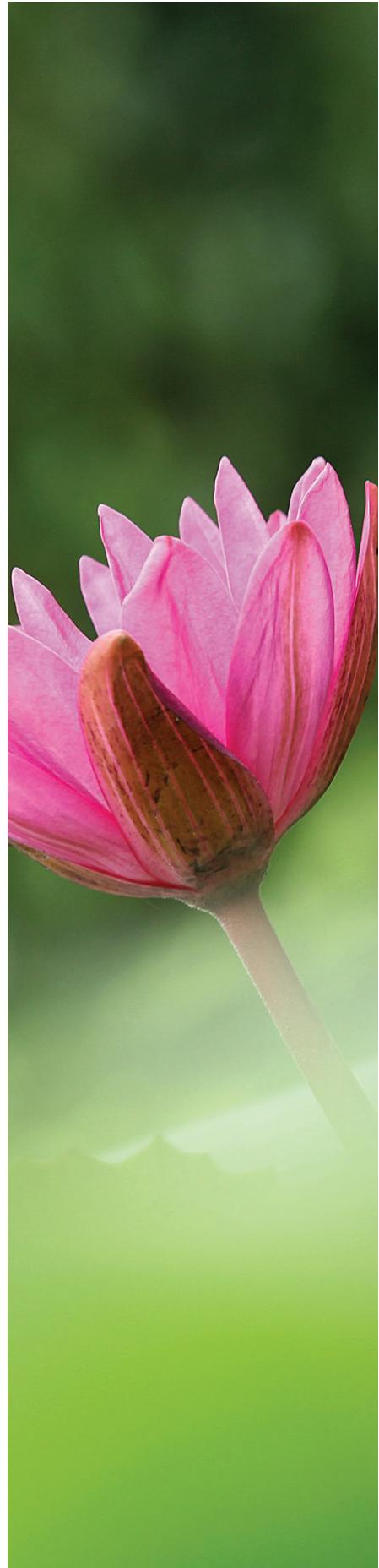
Institute of Management, Nirma University organised an Industrial Visit to Havmor, GIDC, Ahmedabad on Feb 13, 2019 for the 2nd year BBA Students. At Havmor, the students were informed about the products variety, raw materials, production technology, and precautionary measures in production, production process and deep freeze facilities. Students visited the manufacturing process of the various products, and learnt about the quality control mechanism, and logistic system in the company. Finally, the interaction with HR executive, and production supervisor solved the queries of the students further.



Visit to Parle

On Feb 5, 2019, an industrial visit to Parle Biscuits Plant, Nadiad was organised for the 3rd Year BBA students, BBA-MBA programme, by Institute of Management, Nirma University.

Students were briefed about the company policies, precautionary measures, and production process of the biscuits. Also the application of the concepts in the form of automated system for raw material, production, and packaging were demonstrated. Further, the interaction with the HR department and production supervisor was very insightful.



Visit to Adani SEZ, Mundra, Kutch

During March 11 - 12, 2019, the students of Integrated MBA (4th year) and MBA FB & E (1st year) visited the Adani Port and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), located in the Gulf of Kutch on the west coast of India situated 60 km west of Gandhidham in Kutch district of Gujarat. The visit helped the students to gather information and learn to utilise practical knowledge like design of docks and shipyard.



Centre for Quality Assurance and Academic Development (CQAAD)

Training Programme for Administrative Staff

Centre for Quality Assurance and Academic Development (CQAAD), Nirma University organised a training programme for administrative staff, viz Laboratory Assistants, Office Assistants and Library Assistants of the constituent Institutes of the University during Feb 19 to March 7, 2019. The programme content was delivered by twenty-six resource persons through a combination of theory, practical/hands-on-sessions, which was attended by a total of 42 staff members.

The primary focus of the programme was to equip the administrative staff members with relevant knowledge, skills and present day technology. The programme also aimed at enhancing knowledge of the participants about the regulatory framework for the functioning of the University, develop functional skills for effective performance in their job and improve soft skills for overall development. Accordingly, the programme included sessions on Rules and Regulation, Student Admission Process, Purchase Procedure and Delegation of Powers, System of Audit, Academic Regulations, and System of Examination at Nirma University.

To enhance the soft skills of the participants there were sessions on Communication Skills (written and oral), Lessons for Life Management, Confidence Building, Hygiene and 5s. Sessions on Microsoft Office, Management Information System, Computer Maintenance and Operations enriched the participants with latest computer skills. Session on Student Centrism and Support elaborated what should be the approach of the administrative staff in dealing with the students.

In addition to these, sessions on Preparation for Laboratory Session, Virtual Laboratory, Maintenance of Laboratory Equipment, Safety measures during daily work were organised for the laboratory assistants. For the library assistants, sessions on Library Manual and Policies, Library Services and Ethics, Search Strategy, Automation and Digitisation of Library Resources were organised.

Faculty Induction Training Programme

A four-week long Faculty Induction Training Programme (Fifth Batch) was organised during May 27 to June 21, 2019. Forty participants from the Institutes under Nirma University attended the Induction Training. The primary focus of the induction training programme is to discuss techniques that can help the new teachers in developing skills for effective teaching-learning, improving their capabilities as a teacher, learner and mentor, knowing the governance of the university, and acquiring skills for discipline specific teaching-learning.

The programme content was delivered by around fifty eminent resource persons through combination of theory, hands-on exercises, case studies, stimulating discussions and experience sharing.

Seminar on Public Education in the United States

A seminar on "Public Education in the United States" by Dr Steven Robinson, Former Special Advisor, Office of the Secretary, U S Department of Education, (USA) was organised on March 20, 2019 by Centre for Quality Assurance and Academic Development, Nirma University.

Dr Steven spoke about the Overall Structure of Higher Education in United States and challenges therein; Education Policy of US, role of state and district authorities in the higher education ecosystem. Dr Steven discussed US government's "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" to give special educational services to students with disabilities who need such services and "Race to the Top" reform for enacting rigorous, internationally benchmarked standards and attracting and retaining good teachers.

The seminar was attended by Head of the Institutions, Deans, Head of the Departments, Area Chairs, Institute Level Research Coordinators, and IQAC Coordinators.



Expert Talk on New Framework of NAAC Accreditation

Nirma University and its constituent Institutes have been accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with Grade 'A'.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has revised its process of assessment and accreditation to ensure that the accreditation process is in tune with local, regional and global changes in higher education scenario. To better understand the revised NAAC methodology, Centre for Quality Assurance and Academic Development (CQAAD), Nirma University invited Dr Vishnukant S Chatpalli, Adviser, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) to deliver a talk on 'New Framework Guidelines and Data Validation and Verification (DVV) Process for NAAC Accreditation' on April 25, 2019.



In the first half of his talk, Dr Chatpalli spoke about the paradigm shift in approach and philosophy adopted by NAAC in its Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF). In the later half, he discussed about integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the revised accreditation framework.

All the Head of the Institutions, Deans, Head of the Departments, IQAC Coordinators and senior faculty members attended the talk and interacted with Dr Vishnukant S Chatpalli.

Centre for Continuing Education



A two days programme on "Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt" was conducted by Dr B A Modi and Prof Anand Patel of Mechanical Engineering Department, School of Technology, Institute of Technology during Jan 5-6, 2019.



A two days workshop on "Simulations of Wireless Communication Systems using OCTAVE" was conducted by Dr Y N Trivedi of Electronics & Communication Engineering Department, School of Technology, Institute of Technology during Jan 19-20, 2019.



A workshop on "Computer Aided Drug Design Software" was conducted by Dr Jignasa Savjani and Dr Palak Parikh of Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Institute of Pharmacy on Feb 16, 2019.



One day programme of presentations, panel discussions and interactive session at the seminar series on "CRISPR/Cas9 in Genome Editing" was conducted by Dr Kuldeep Verma, Institute of Science on March 2, 2019.



One day programme on "Geometrical Dimensioning & Tolerancing" was conducted by Prof Anand Patel of Mechanical Engineering Department, School of Technology, Institute of Technology on March 16, 2019.



One day workshop on "Application of soft computing in Electrical Engineering" organised by Electrical Engineering Department, School of Engineering, Institute of Technology on March 16, 2019.



Two days workshop on "Python Climate Responsive Design" was conducted by Dr Pratima Singh of Institute of Architecture & Planning during March 16-17, 2019.



A two day workshop on "Back End VLSI Design" was conducted by Dr Akash Mecwan and Dr Vijay Savani of Electronics and Communication Engineering Department, Institute of Technology on April 5-6, 2019.



One day programme on "Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing" was conducted by Prof Anand Patel and Prof Ashish M Gohil of Mechanical Engineering Department, School of Technology, Institute of Technology on April 20, 2019.



Three Days Interactive Orientation Programme on "Engineering Graphics – A Language of Engineer" was arranged for aspiring students who wish to join Engineering Degree programme. The event was conducted by Prof Anand S Patel of Mechanical Engineering Department, School of Technology, Institute of Technology during June 10-12, 2019.

- A Workshop on "Experimental animal models and drug evaluation techniques" was conducted by Dr Jigna Shah and Dr Bhoomika M Patel of Department of Pharmacology, Institute of Pharmacy on Feb 19, 2019.
- Two days workshop on "Photography" was conducted by Dr Pratima Singh of Institute of Architecture & Planning on March 30-31, 2019.
- One day programme on "Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing" was conducted by Prof Anand Patel of Mechanical Engineering Department, School of Technology, Institute of Technology on April 6, 2019.

Faculty Corner

Awards and Achievements

Prof Utpal Sharma, Director, Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University received the **APJ Abdul Kalam Award for Education Excellence** organised by Indian Solidarity Council, New Delhi on May 29, 2019.



Prof Sharma also received the **Bharat Nirman Award** for Education Excellence at the National Seminar on Outstanding Contribution for National Economic and Social Development organised by Promoting Achievements Foundation, New Delhi on June 30, 2019.



Dr Dipak Adhyaru, Head, IC department, Institute of Technology received the **ISTE - Best Engineering College Teacher Award** for Gujarat State-2018.



Dr Himanshu K Patel, Associate Professor, Institute of Technology is the recipient of the prestigious leadership position of **Chair-Student Affairs, ISA District'14 (Asia-Pacific)**. The tenure of his position will be from Jan 2019 to Jan 2021.



Dr Madhuri Bhavsar and Dr Zunnun Narmawala received an award for **establishing super-computing infrastructure** from GUJCOST, Government of Gujarat.



Alumni Corner

Achievements

- Mr Devansh Agrawal (Batch of 2016), Ms Roopal Gupta (Batch of 2017) and Ms Somya Gaur (Batch of 2010) alumni of Institute of Law cleared the Madhya Pradesh Judicial Services Examination, 2018.
- Ms Ridhima Johari (Batch of 2015 from Institute of Law) stood qualified with highest marks for recruitment to the cadre of Civil Judges for the State Judiciary of Gujarat.



Pratidhwani - The Alumni Conclave 2019

The 6th Alumni Conclave of the Institute of Management, Nirma University was held on Feb 8, 2019. The theme for Pratidhwani - 2019 was "Construct, Destruct and Re-construct: From Ideas to Implementation". A total of 11 alumni speakers shared their experiences and insights on the above theme.

The conclave serves as a medium for strengthening the bond between the alma mater and its alumni base. It also provides an opportunity to current students to gain practical business knowledge by interacting with the alumni and learning from their rich experience.



Meeting of Alumni Association of Institute of Science

The ninth meeting of the Alumni Association of Institute of Science (ISNUAA) was held on Jan 5, 2019 at the Nirma campus. Dr Sarat Dalai, President, ISNUAA welcomed the alumni and urged for cooperation and interaction between alumni and the Institute.

The major agenda of General Body meeting was to update the list of alumni members, emphasise the role of students in alumni network, to utilise the rich experience of alumni for the benefit and progress of the current students, to provide guidance to the existing students in their endeavour for better employment and higher studies options, and to promote the campus placements through alumni working in reputed industries in India and abroad. Some of the former students addressed the current batch and shared their experiences.

Students' Corner

Achievements

Advanced Student Ambassador Programme (ASAP)

Aashna Basotia (Sem-IV), Garima Sharma (Sem-VI), and Pehal Chhabria (Sem-VI) of Institute of Commerce won the ASAP of SP Jain College, Mumbai on Jan 29, 2019. They got a chance to secure a seat into the S P Jain's Master of Global Business programme, and an all-expense paid visit to S P Jain's campus in Dubai. Seniors have already visited the Dubai campus. The sophomores' student shall visit in July 2019.

State Level Case Analysis Competition

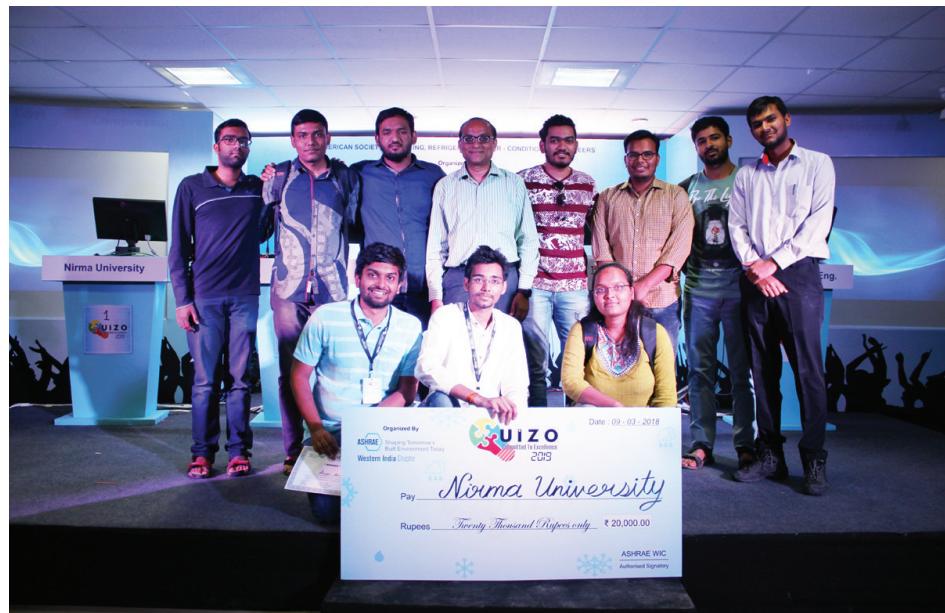
Amisha Gupta and Mayuri Jain of Semester II; Aashna Basotia and Pankaj Sharma of Semester IV of Institute of Commerce tied in 1st position at the State Level Case Analysis Competition organised by NICM Gandhinagar. Aadarash Jain and Dhiraj Karnani of Semester II secured 2nd Position in this competition held on Feb 5, 2019.

SBI'S National Level Quiz Competition

Competing with around 250 teams across Gujarat, students of Institute of Commerce, Ashish Korat, Abhishek Gandhi, and Harsh Gupta won the Digital Round of the quiz Numero-Yono on Feb

Technical Quiz Competition

ASHRAE (American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers) Western India Chapter organised a technical quiz competition (Quizo 2019) on March 9, 2019 at Silver Oak College of Engineering and Technology, Ahmedabad. Nirma University team, under the mentorship of Mr B A Shah (SBA Nirma University ASHRAE Western India Student Branch), beat 10 teams from leading engineering colleges across Gujarat and won the first prize. Students of Nirma University get a chance to meet HVAC Expert and interact with students of other engineering colleges.



Other Achievements

- The IC department student's team of Institute of Technology won second prize at the Innovated Incubation LLP- Project Expo-2019 held at Surat Convention Centre on March 23, 2019 which was supported by the NITI Aayog.



- Meet Parikh and Priya Joshi along with Prof Neha Patni and Dr Shibu Pillai of Chemical Engineering Department, Institute of Technology won second prize in Technovation 2019, a paper presentation competition for their paper titled "Performance enhancement of dye-sensitised solar cell based on ruthenium dye sensitisier" at Poornima College of Engineering on March 16, 2019.
- Mr Abhishek Dubey and Harsh Agrawal participated in Empresario, IIT Kharagpur, on Feb 2, 2019 and emerged as the winner of "Most Innovative Product" and were awarded a cash prize of 35,000 INR. They presented an App based on Electronic Seed Drill named HAL 2.0 as their entry in the competition.
- Team console from Institute of Technology participated in Mitsubishi Electric Cup, a National Level Automation competition and secured Silver cup for the year, 2019. The event was organised during Feb 15-16, 2019.
- Institute of Technology students won the second prize in Makerfest, a Project expo -2019 held at M S University, Baroda, March 2-3, 2019.
- Team ARROW under SAE Nirma Collegiate Club, Institute of Technology participated in the Association for Unmanned Vehicle System International Student Unmanned Aerial System Competition 2019 at Maryland, USA during June 12-15, 2019 representing Institute of Technology, Nirma University and secured 35th rank globally among 75 international teams from USA, Turkey, Egypt, Canada, Australia etc.
- The team comprising of Mr Atharv Arya, Ms Ashwini Gehlot and Ms Shraddha Sharma won the 4th SLCU National Trial Advocacy Competition, 2019, organized by School of Law, Christ University, Bengaluru from Jan 31-Feb 2, 2019.



- The team comprising of Ms Kahinee Bhatt and Mr Prakul Khera won the Symbhav Client Counseling Competition held at Symbiosis Law School in Pune during Feb 23-25, 2019.



- Subham Borah broke as an adjudicator at the United Asian Debating Championship (UADC) 2019 and was even ranked as the 13th Best Adjudicator of Asia. The 10th edition of the tournament, which was held at Hanoi, Vietnam, on June 30, 2019 had over 500 participants from 25 countries. UADC is the biggest and official regional tournament of Asia and Oceania and is one of the world's seven majors.



Moot Court Competitions

- The team comprising of Ms Shruti Verma, Ms Anusha Shekhawat and Mr Deepak Singh Jadoun (Batch of 2022) were adjudged as winners of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) Moot Court Competition (India rounds), 2019 held at CSI College for Legal Studies, Kerala from Jan 12-13, 2019. The team also won the citation for the Second Best Memorial.
- The team comprising of Mr Akhil Charan, Mr Chirag Mangal and Ms Shompa Haritwal (Batch of 2021) have won the award for the Best Memorial at the 11th NUJS HSF Corporate Law Moot Court 2019 held at Kolkata from Jan 25-28, 2019.
- The team comprising of Ms Unnati Deva, Mr Paramveer Jaggi and Mr Nikunj Maheshwari was awarded with the Best Memorial prize in the All India Moot Court Competition, 2019 organized by ULC, Bengaluru on March 1-3, 2019.
- The team comprising of Mr Rajeev Tiwari, Mr Ojasvi Mishra and Ms Sneha Sharma (Batch 2021) were adjudged as winners of the CCI-NLUD Moot Court Competition, 2019 held during March 8-10, 2019.
- The team comprising of Ms Sakshi Pawar, Mr Aviral Thakre and Mr Yash Bhootra were adjudged as the winners of the 17th Justa Causa National Moot Court Competition, 2019 held on March 8-10, 2019.



KALP 2019 - High on Colours

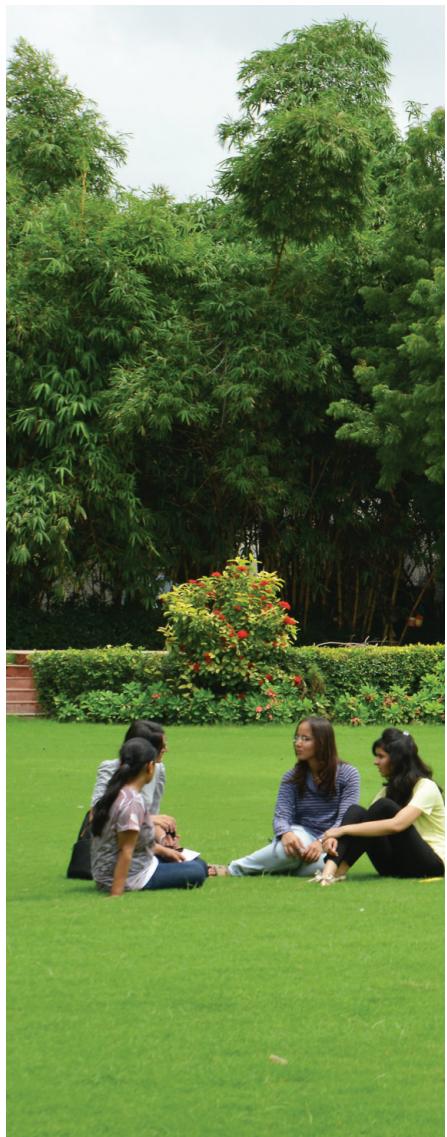
KALP, the annual fest organised by the student body of Institute of Architecture and Planning was organised during March 1-3, 2019. The event was filled with creative works, exhibition, guest lectures, workshops and panel discussions by renowned architects and planners and served as a platform to create lifelong memories. The event was inaugurated by Guest of Honour Mr R Shankar and David Mangin followed by guest lectures by R Shankar on "Nature, Culture, Architecture: The Sustainability Linkages" and David Mangin on "Issues in Paris and Grand Paris." The day continued with workshops, debate competition and the most awaited evening that is Kavitra, a celebration of Navras in the form of Poetry where students and faculty members both shared their creation through recitation before select audience was organised as part of KALP 2019.

As a part of the fest several workshops were organised to provide students with learnings beyond the four walls of classroom. Introduction to cement, Cyanotype workshop, Theatre, Belly dancing, Warli painting, Introduction to Basics of laser cutting and rendering, Face masking were some of the workshops conducted.



Debate Competitions

- Mr Devashish Trivedi and Mr Shubham Borah secured adjudicator break-ins at the 12th Annual Hansraj Debate held at Hansraj College, Delhi during Feb 16-18, 2019. The format of the debate was a parliamentary debate and saw the top law colleges of India competing in it. Mr Shubham Borah became a finals judge and was among the top 5 adjudicators of the tournament.
- Mr Shubham Borah was adjudged as the 3rd best adjudicator at the 12th Delhi University Annual Parliamentary Debate Tournament held at Gargi College during March 16-18, 2019.



Business Tantra

Finesse Club, the Finance Club of Institute of Management organised the event "Business Tantra", which took place in two phases, an online round on Feb 17, 2019 and offline round on March 10, 2019. Fifteen teams across India participated in the event. Through the event, the students got a chance to check their business and general knowledge, as well as real market scenario and negotiation skills. The winning teams were from Institute of Management, Nirma University and Institute of Rural Management, Anand.



Carnival 2019

Club Fiesta, the music and dance club of Institute of Management, organised its flagship event Carnival 2019 from Feb 25 to March 1, 2019. The events organised were "Jam Session 4.0", a dance workshop "InSync with Sonali", "The Big Band Theory" – a performance by the rock band SPUNK! and "Rhythm", an intersectional dance and singing competition.



Genesis

Abhivyakti, the BBA Cultural Committee of Institute of Management organised a three day Cultural Festival, Genesis from Feb 20-22, 2019. Students from colleges in and around Gujarat participated in the event. A total of around 650 students participated in 16 events ranging from dance and drama to innovative competitions like a makeup and computer gaming contest.

SPIC MACAY

Ritayan, the Dance and Music Club of BBA, Institute of Management, Nirma University organised a SPIC MACAY (Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth) event on April 2, 2019. Renowned shehnai players of the country, Shri Sanjeev and Shri Ashwani Shankar performed during the event.



Deportes

Cub XQuizIT of Institute of Management organised "Deportes" - The Sports Quiz on Jan 10, 2019. Deportes is a Spanish word for sports. It was an intra college quizzing event with offline quizzes aimed at testing the students' interest in the field of sports.



Advaiya

The Student Welfare Committee of the Institute of Management organised 'Advaiya', a Talk Show with renowned cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara, hosted by RJ Pooja on March 18, 2019. The Talk Show revolved around the journey of Mr Pujara, from his early cricketing days, to the sacrifices he had to make and how after all this success he stays grounded.





Ms Aasmita Bhattacharya
Department of Design
2nd year, Semester- III

My Tryst with Japanese

In the 8.7 million species of living organisms that exist on Earth, there's no doubt that humans are different. But what makes us different? I believe it is the existence of culture and language. Renowned filmmaker, Federico Fellini said that 'A different language is a different vision of life.'

I have always been interested in Asian cultures. But Japan is something special to me. Growing up watching Japanese cartoons gave me a taste of their culture. Through the years of watching Japanese cartoons or anime as it is most commonly known, the language grew on me. But I had English subtitles acting as my savior so I didn't really feel the need to learn the language.

My real journey with the language started last year. It wasn't because of any profound reason. I wanted to watch an anime but the subtitles were nowhere in sight. I searched through numerous websites but in vain. In the end, I was just drowning in desperation. This desperation made me realize that I needed to learn the language. You may call it silly. But like the Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein said, 'If people did not sometimes do silly things, nothing intelligent would ever get done.'

Determined, I sat to make my battle plan. But I realized that I had no idea where to begin. I lamented for a while before I sought help with my trusted old friend, Google. She was helpful. Too helpful. I browsed through the pages and found myself back in square one. I had thought that I could learn the Japanese characters. But there were three scripts in just one language! Disheartened, I went back to my subtitles.

My Japanese learning journey would've probably ended there. But I got another opportunity. It was my father who found about Japanese classes in Ahmedabad. Joining it helped me a lot. They had weekly tests and interactive videos which helped me understand the language better. But the most important thing was that I now had a path to follow.

Alas, I couldn't continue the classes because it clashed with my college timings. Being a design student needed me to continuously work to make my work better. I had to focus on my priorities. I was solely concentrated on marks. It was only after the first year was over that I realized that it didn't really make me happy. I wanted to continue learning Japanese. I had only one option left. Self learning.

I started from step one again. But this time I had a definite path. I started practising the scripts again. While watching animes and dramas, I focused on the sentences and tried to match them with what they spoke. I learnt little phrases.

Japanese is a very tough language to learn. I didn't know this before but even when I did, I didn't want to give up. I loved the language too much to focus on the difficulties. Learning a language is a long and slow process and it can take years to be perfect. But I have an aim. To make Japan my first trip destination as an adult. Keeping this aim in mind, I'm taking baby steps every day to travel this long road that lies ahead of me.



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