

NIRMA UNIVERSITY

# Newsletter

Vol-14: Issue 3 and 4

## Major Highlights



University held its 31<sup>st</sup> Convocation Ceremony on Dec 10, 2022



University awarded a 5-star rating in Gujarat State Institutional Rating Framework (GSIRF) 2022



Inauguration of Tinkerers' Lab under the auspices of the Maker Bhavan Foundation



Team Nirma Robocon won the National Robocon 2022 contest and represented Team India in the International contest



Faculty, Students, and Alumni achievements...



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## Message from Director General's Desk



Dear Reader,

The post-pandemic period has ushered in several new realities in the field of higher education. One can see many departures from the past in this period. First and foremost, the University Grants Commission has issued numerous guidelines to implement New Education Policy 2020 that in turn have helped higher education institutions (HEIs) to kickstart various new initiatives related to curriculum development, pedagogical innovation, corporate internship, and hybrid learning. In 2022, most HEIs have started implementing the NEP 2020. This may accelerate in the academic year 2023. However, governments and institutions are still in the nascent state of implementation. To become a great country, India needs great higher education. To have high standards of higher education, she needs high-quality faculty and facilities.

Another interesting development in the Indian higher education scenario is the promotion of foreign higher education institutions. For years India has debated the need for foreign HEIs to promote international standards of the teaching-learning process. Unfortunately, this was delayed time and again. As education is a service, many countries were demanding to open their educational campuses in India, but India was not ready. The presence of foreign HEIs is good for several reasons. Firstly, it will bring the best educational practices. Secondly, it will enhance competition among institutions which is good for the student community. Thirdly India has vast educational requirements that its existing institutions cannot meet; thus, she needs more institutions. Finally, it will check the outflow of valuable foreign currency that goes for higher education, especially in countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. Entry of foreign HEIs was inevitable. Good that it is happening now.

Online and hybrid education is gaining ground. Most pundits aver that the future of higher education is digital. There is a distinct shift from face-to-face education to digital education. Additionally, the model of digital education has been successfully tested during the Covid-19 pandemic. Several American universities have commenced their online degree programmes, offering them throughout the world. They treat these degrees at par with their regular degrees. A host of EdTech companies, like Coursera, UpGrad, etc. have started competing with regular universities in the field of online learning. On the other hand, some universities prefer hybrid mode. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has allowed up to 40% of courses to be delivered through online mode. The emerging scenario clearly suggests that online and hybrid education will challenge the regular mode of higher education.

At best we can say that higher education is in a great flux, fuelled by globalisation, technological innovation, and compounding demands from the citizenry. Higher education will change swiftly and surely. There will be transformative changes in curriculum, pedagogy, student development, and faculty orientation. The HEIs have to respond to these changes proactively. It also implies that faculty should get involved in shaping the future of higher education and innovating to add greater value to the student. In the same vein, the HEIs have to invest more in faculty capability development and provide better facilities for higher productivity.

**Anup K Singh, PhD**  
Director General

## News

### Achievements

#### University secures 5-star rating in GSIRF

Nirma University received a 5-Star rating from the Gujarat State Institutional Rating Framework (GSIRF) under the category of 'University' in its latest rankings declared in Oct 2022.

The Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University, also received a 5-Star rating under the category of 'Pharmacy'. GSIRF is a pioneering attempt towards creating world-class institutions in Gujarat by the Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat (KCG) in partnership with the Indian Centre for Academic Rankings and Excellence (ICARE). Out of 37 participating universities, nine universities from Gujarat secured a five-star rating.



### Rankings

#### NIRF Rankings 2022

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Ministry of Education, Government of India has consistently ranked Nirma University among the top 100 institutions in the country. The NIRF framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country on the parameters including Teaching, Learning and Resources, Research and Professional Practices, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity, and, Perception. The recent rankings are declared in July 2022.

#### Other Rankings

- Nirma University ranks at 6<sup>th</sup> position in the list of 'Top 10 General Universities (Private)' in the Aug 2022 issue of the India Today magazine.
- Nirma University ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the list of 'Top 50 State Private Universities of India' in the Outlook-ICARE India University Rankings 2022.
- Institute of Management is ranked as the 6<sup>th</sup> Top Private B-schools of India in the 'Supreme B-schools' category in the CSR - GHRDC B-Schools Survey 2022 ranking published in the Super Bumper Nov 2022 issue of Competition Success Review.

NIRF RANKINGS 2022	
Category	Rank
University	In the Rank Band 101 - 150
Engineering	125
Management	45
Pharmacy	28
Architecture	21

## MoUs



### Institute of Commerce signs MoU with Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Institute of Commerce entered into an MoU with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) on July 29, 2022. The two organisations shall work collaboratively for activities such as joint research, awareness, training, etc. The MoU also provides for using one another's networks of professional and industry contacts to support the above objectives.

## Introduction of 2+2 Dual Degree Programme

### Bachelor of Science (Computer Science and Engineering) programme

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) emphasises on internationalisation of higher education, and it also encourages global exposure. Recently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has come out with a framework of international higher education with the provision of a Dual Degree Programme.

In line with the NEP 2020 and UGC guidelines, the university has introduced a dual degree - Bachelor of Science (Computer Science and Engineering) programme from the academic year 2022-23 where the student will study for the first two years at Nirma University and the remaining two years at a partner university abroad. In this context, the

university has entered into an MoU with some of the leading universities in the USA and Canada such as the University of Southern California, Los Angeles; Penn State, College Park; Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton; Arizona State University, Tempe; Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester; Iowa State University, Ames; and Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York, among others. The curriculum for the first two years is in line with the requirements of partner universities. The undergraduate degree will be awarded by the partner university in the USA/Canada as well as Nirma University.

## Hostel Facility for Girls

The university has come up with a new hostel facility for girls. It is a 13-storey building with a total capacity of 1300 beds. The rooms are available in single, double, and triple sharing. The hostel rooms are spacious and well-furnished. The hostel has facilities such as laundry, a gymnasium, a multi-purpose common room, a reading room, an indoor sports room, a night canteen serving beverages and snacks, a meeting room for parents, etc. All hostel rooms have round-the-clock internet connectivity.



Gymnasium



Night Canteen

## Students

### Awards and Achievements

#### International Robocon 2022

Team Nirma Robocon won the National Robocon 2022 contest and represented Team India in the International contest held on Aug 21, 2022 at Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi. Countries like China, Japan, Hongkong, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Egypt, Fiji, Cambodia and India participated in the said contest. Team India (Team Nirma) became the second runners up of the International Robocon contest 2022; and also won the 'NOK' award for displacing the maximum 'Balls on Head' amongst the



participating teams. This was the best performance of India in the International Robocon so far in the last 21 years. The students' team comprised Arya Kargathara, Dev Bhagat, Harsh Chotaliya, Vivek Sondagar, Dhyey Chavda, Foram Patel, Anil Dave, Disha Khatore, Arth Vasoya, Ridham Patel, Aryan Parmar, Vishesh Padia, Rudra Kasta, Harshveersinh Jadeja, Vaibhav Sharma, Ayush Kadia, Devam Mathia, and Atharva Pawar from Institute of Technology.



### Achievements at National Level

#### Team Nirma wins National Robocon

Team Nirma Robocon won the National Robocon 2022 contest for the 10<sup>th</sup> time out of 21 events organised till date. After winning the league matches, the team won against Parul University, Baroda, MIT – WPU, Pune and Government College of Engineering and Research, Avasari in the quarter final, semi-final, and final, respectively. This year the event was hosted by IIT Delhi in collaboration with Doordarshan,

India at Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi during July 14-17, 2022. Participants from various colleges across India like IITs, NITs and institutes of national repute participated in the said event. Team Nirma was the only team, who could complete the entire game within the given time limits. Team Nirma Robocon represented India at the International Robocon contest in Aug 2022.



## Aerothon 2022

Team Arrow from the Institute of Technology won the 'Best Manual Flight Mission' award and received a cash prize of Rs 25,000 for having the most accurate payload drop at the target at the Aerothon Unmanned Aerial vehicle drone design, build and fly challenge 2022, organised by SAE India on Nov 18-19, 2022. Further, the team secured 5<sup>th</sup> position at the National level amongst the 51 teams that participated in the event conducted in two phases.



## V-Guard Big Idea Tech Competition

Ketaki Shinde and Nagesh Agrawal, final year students of Industrial Design programme from the Institute of Design were selected as the top ten finalists out of the 100 teams that participated in the 'V-Guard Big Idea Tech Competition' from across India. For the final round, the team went to Kochi, Kerala to present their idea of a home automation product. The event hosted by V-Guard Industries Ltd, an Indian electrical and home appliance manufacturer, headquartered in Kochi was on the theme 'How can V-Guard enable a better quality of life with thoughtful and smart products that will bring home a better tomorrow?' They developed a 'Smart Switch Board' and won the Big Idea Tech Design Contest 2022 conducted from Nov 17-19, 2022. They were awarded a trophy, a cash prize worth Rs 1,00,000 for the project, and a pre-placement interview opportunity from V-Guard Industries Ltd.



## Other Achievements

- Jenish Patel, Institute of Technology received the Best Paper Award for presenting a paper on 'Comparative Study of Outrigger and Wall-Frame Structural Systems in Steel-Concrete Composite Tall Buildings' during the International Conference on Smart and Sustainable Infrastructure, organised at PDEU, Gandhinagar from Aug 23-25, 2022.
- A team comprising Shardul D Dugad, Hemang Parekh, and Srujal Tawade, VII semester students of Industrial Design, Institute of Design won the D'source DIC-BHU SDGs Design Challenge, conducted by IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay on Sep 1, 2022.



- A team comprising Shubh Bhargava and Akash Patel, students at the Institute of Management secured 2<sup>nd</sup> position at IIM Ahmedabad's national level management competition 'Tradecraft' on Oct 1, 2022. The purpose of the event was to integrate the strategic and conceptual theories of economics with their application in a realistic environment. It comprised a quiz round, a case study round, and a business simulation round. About 1000+ participants were a part of this competition.
- A team consisting Shrey Bhatt, Kartik Nagpal and Devarshi Trivedi from the Institute of Law bagged the citation for Best Memorial and emerged as the winner of the V Surana and Surana National Insolvency Moot Court Competition 2022 held from Oct 14-16, 2022, organised by Surana and Surana International Attorneys and hosted by the UPES School of Law. Shrey Bhatt bagged the Best Speaker award.
- Harshvardhan Singh Rathore, Atulit Raj, and Ojaswini Singh from the Institute of Law were declared as the Best Mediating Team in the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual NLIU-INADR International Mediation Tournament held from Nov 4-6, 2022 at Bhopal.
- Abhishek Nenuji from the Institute of Law won a gold medal in the Chess Competition conducted at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad as part of its Annual Sports Festival 'Shaurya 2022' during Nov 11-12, 2022.
- Varun Kachhwaha, a first-year student of BTech in Mechanical Engineering won the 'Gujarat State Road Cycling Championship' held on Dec 11, 2022. There were more than 50 participants in the event. He will represent Gujarat in the National Championships to be held in Sinner, Maharashtra from Jan 7-10, 2023. Earlier he won the gold medal in the Ahmedabad District Cycling championship held on Nov 20, 2022.

*Varun Kachhwaha, a first-year student of BTech in Mechanical Engineering won the 'Gujarat State Road Cycling Championship' held on Dec 11, 2022.*



Shrey Bhatt bagged the Best Speaker award



11<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual  
NLIU-INADR International Mediation Tournament



## Intra-University Level Achievements

### Patriotic Song Competition

As part of Nirma University's celebration of Two decades of Academic Excellence and 'Har Ghar Tiranga - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the Students Welfare Board and the Institute of Management organised 'Deshraag', a Patriotic Song Competition on Aug 26, 2022. In the student category, the Institute of Management stood first, and the Institute of Science stood second. In the faculty-staff category, the Institute of Technology stood first, and the Institute of Commerce stood second.



### Essay Writing Competitions

- The Students Welfare Board in collaboration with the NSS unit of Nirma University organised an Online Essay Writing Competition on the theme 'My Vision for India in 2047' under the banner of 'Har Ghar Tiranga - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on Aug 5, 2022. Patel Het M from the Institute of Technology stood first, Jahnavi Daga from the Institute of Law stood second, and the third position was shared by Siddhant Kachhwaha from the Institute of Law, and Priyanka Bhageria from the Institute of Management.
- As part of the campaign 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Panchamrit for Climate Change - A Youth Outreach Fortnight Programme', Institute of Management in association with the Students Welfare Board organised an Online Essay Writing Competition on the theme 'Climate Change' on Sep 26, 2022. Het M Patel from the Institute of Technology stood first, Devya Shah from the Institute of Law stood second, and Khant Prachee Devendra from the Institute of Technology stood third.

### Poster Making Competition

As part of the campaign 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Panchamrit for Climate Change – A Youth Outreach Fortnight Programme', Institute of Management in association with the Students Welfare Board organised a Poster Making Competition on the theme 'Climate Change' on Sep 27, 2022. Ritesh Kumar Behera and Gauri Asati from the Institute of Design stood first and second respectively, while N Pompi Devi from the Institute of Law secured the third position.



1<sup>st</sup> Prize



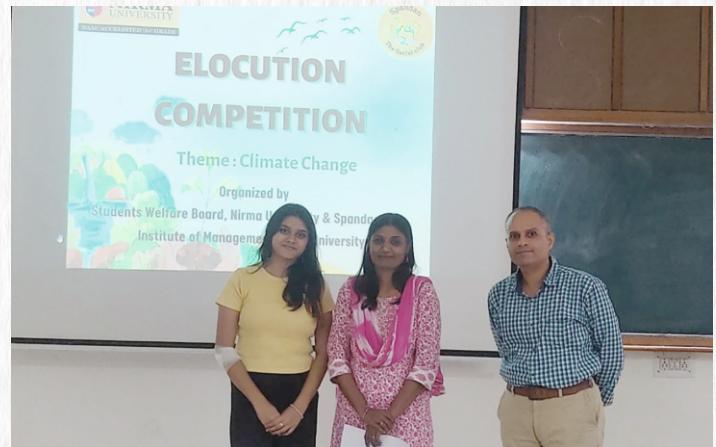
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize



3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

## Elocution Competition

As part of the campaign 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Panchamrit for Climate Change – A Youth Outreach Fortnight Programme', Institute of Management in association with the Students Welfare Board organised an Elocution Competition on the theme 'Climate Change' on Sep 29, 2022. Priyanshi Shah from the Institute of Pharmacy stood first, Aryan Anand from the Institute of Technology stood second, and Rushi Shah from the Institute of Commerce stood third.



## Sports Achievements

### Inter-Institute Chess Championship

As part of Nirma University's celebration of two decades of Academic Excellence, the Students Welfare Board and the Institute of Pharmacy organised a 'Chess Championship 2022' on Sep 28, 2022. In the boy's category, Naitik Sanghvi from the Institute of Technology stood first, and Utkarsh Arora from the Institute of Law stood second. Among girls, Rakhi Kumari from the Institute of Management stood first, and Anjali Shah from the Institute of Technology stood second. In the Faculty/Staff category, Dr Ashwin Verma from the Computer Science and Engineering Department stood first, and Dr Tanuj Gupta from the Electronics and Communication Engineering Department, Institute of Technology stood second.



### Inter-Institute Volleyball Tournament

Institute of Science in association with the Students Welfare Board organised an Inter-Institute Volleyball Tournament from Oct 3-5, 2022. In the Students (Men) category, the Institute of Law stood winner, in the Students (Women) category, the Institute of Technology stood first, and in the Faculty-Staff (Men) category, the Institute of Law stood winner.



## Inter-Institute Badminton Tournament

Institute of Pharmacy in association with the Students Welfare Board organised an Inter-Institute Badminton Tournament from Oct 3-4, 2022. In the Students category, Madhav Kotak and Hrishita Shah, both from the Institute of Technology were the winners in the Singles category (Male and Female, respectively). Parth Parikh and Himanshu Jangid from the Institute of Technology won the Male (Doubles), and Anaya Patel and Sanjana Dalal from the Institute of Technology won the Female (Doubles). Akshat Maniar and



Sanjana Dalal from the Institute of Technology won the Mixed category. In the Faculty-Staff category, Dr Pranav Saraswat and Ms Priya Badaliya, both from the Institute of Commerce were the winners in the Singles category (Male and Female, respectively). Dr Nitesh Gupta and Dr Milind Joshipura from the Institute of Technology won the Male (Doubles), and Dr Avani Shah and Ms Priya Badaliya from the Institute of Commerce won the Female (Doubles).



## Inter-Institute Lawn Tennis Tournament

Institute of Architecture and Planning in association with the Students Welfare Board organised Lawn Tennis events for students on Nov 1-2, 2022. Mann Kodwani from the Institute of Commerce was the winner in the Male Singles category, Twisha Khokhar from the Institute of Technology was the

winner in the Female Singles category, Saifin Mansuri and Aarav Patel from the Institute of Architecture and Planning won the Male Doubles, and Aditya Shah and Twisha Khokhar from the Institute of Technology won the Mixed Doubles.



## Inter-Institute Cricket Tournament

Inter-Institute Cricket (Men) Tournament was organised by the Institute of Technology in association with the Students Welfare Board on Nov 1-3, 2022. Institute of Management emerged as the winner of this tournament.



## Inter-Institute Basketball Tournament

Inter-Institute Basketball Tournament was organised by the Institute of Design in association with the Students Welfare Board on Nov 4-5, 2022. The Institute of Management

emerged as the winner in the Male category, and the Institute of Law emerged as the winner in the Female category.



## Inter-Institute Kabaddi Tournament

Inter-Institute Kabaddi Tournament was organised by the Institute of Law in association with the Students Welfare Board on Nov 5, 2022. The Institute of Technology emerged

as the winner in the Male category, and the Institute of Management emerged as the winner in the Female category.



## Inter-Institute Tug of War

Inter-Institute Tug of War was organised by the Institute of Commerce in association with the Students Welfare Board on Nov 25, 2022. The Institute of Pharmacy emerged as the winner in the Male category, and the Institute of Technology emerged as the winner in the Female category.



## Track and Field Event Tournament

Institute of Commerce in association with the Students Welfare Board organised Track and Field (athletics) events during Nov 9-11, 2022. Below are the names of the students who stood first in the respective events:



## Track and Field Event Tournament

Sr No	Name of the Event	Name of the Student/s	Institute
1	100 mtr Race (Boys)	Priyanshu Prasad	Technology
2	100 mtr Race (Girls)	Akshara Nair	Law
3	200 mtr Race (Boys)	Priyanshu Prasad	Technology
4	200 mtr Race (Girls)	Akshara Nair	Law
5	400 mtr Race (Boys)	Priyanshu Thumar	Technology
6	400 mtr Race (Girls)	Riya Mehtani	Commerce
7	800 mtr Race (Boys)	Priyanshu Prasad	Technology
8	800 mtr Race (Girls)	Siya Mori	Commerce
9	1500 mtr Race (Boys)	Krish Chauhan	Technology
10	1500 mtr Race (Girls)	Manya Likhar	Commerce
11	4 X 100 mtr Relay (Boys)	Priyanshu Prasad Krishna Chauhan Viraj Patel Momin	Technology Technology Technology Technology
12	4 X 100 mtr Relay (Girls)	Urvashi Mendpara Heta Bima Pandit Ujjwal Phuli Anuja Harne	Management Management Management Management
13	Long Jump (Boys)	Darshil Ruparelia	Pharmacy
14	Long Jump (Girls)	Ananya Patel	Technology
15	Shotput Throw (Boys)	Viraj Patel	Technology
16	Shotput Throw (Girls)	Dhruvi Solanki	Pharmacy
17	Discuss Throw (Boys)	Amankumar Singh	Commerce
18	Discuss Throw (Girls)	Bhakti Sood	Commerce
19	Javelin Throw (Boys)	Harshvardhan Rajawat	Law
20	Javelin Throw (Girls)	Sristi Busar	Architecture

## Inter-Institute Football Tournament

Institute of Management in association with the Students Welfare Board organised Football Tournament from Dec 1-3, 2022. The Institute of Management emerged as the winner in the Male as well as the Female category.



## Inter Institute Kho-Kho Tournament

Institute of Law in association with the Students Welfare Board organised Kho-Kho Tournament on Dec 3, 2022. The Institute of Technology emerged as the winner in the Male

category, and the Institute of Law emerged as the winner in the Female category.

## Placements

### Placements 2022

Campus Placement is considered to be one of the most important moments in the academic journey of students. To kick start a professional journey through Campus Placement brings lots of self-confidence and trust amongst the graduating students while testing their abilities during a campus placement process. Students getting a first job offer through campus is always full of excitement. It sets up a tone and shapes the professional career of students.

Campus placement has been one of the milestones of the **Institute of Technology**, Nirma University. This academic year students of the Institute of Technology from the 2023 passing out batch have bagged 431 placement offers so far (as on Oct 2022) from 55 reputed recruiters. Two students are offered packages above Rs 30 Lakhs per annum, 15 students are offered packages above Rs 20 Lakhs per annum, 121 students have got placement offers above Rs 10 Lakhs per annum whereas 293 students are offered packages up to Rs

10 Lakhs per annum. The average package offered this year till now is Rs 8.53 Lakhs per annum for BTech Programmes whereas Rs 11.86 Lakhs per annum for MTech and for MCA Programmes it stood at Rs 5.52 Lakhs per annum. Prominent organisations from diverse domains have come for campus placement including Automobile, Banking, Consulting, Construction, Chemical, Design & Development, Engineering, Energy, FinTech, Oil & Gas, Information Technology & enable Services, Manufacturing, and Telecom, etc.

At the **Institute of Management**, placements have seen a boost from successful stint of students at summer internships leading to improved pre-placement offers (PPOs). 45 PPOs were offered by eight companies namely, J P Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Tata AIG, Alkem, Infosys, Wipro, ICICI Bank, and Smytten. The highest salary offered as on date is Rs 30 Lakhs per annum offered by Morgan Stanley in BFSI sector.

## Research and Innovation

### Article by Faculty



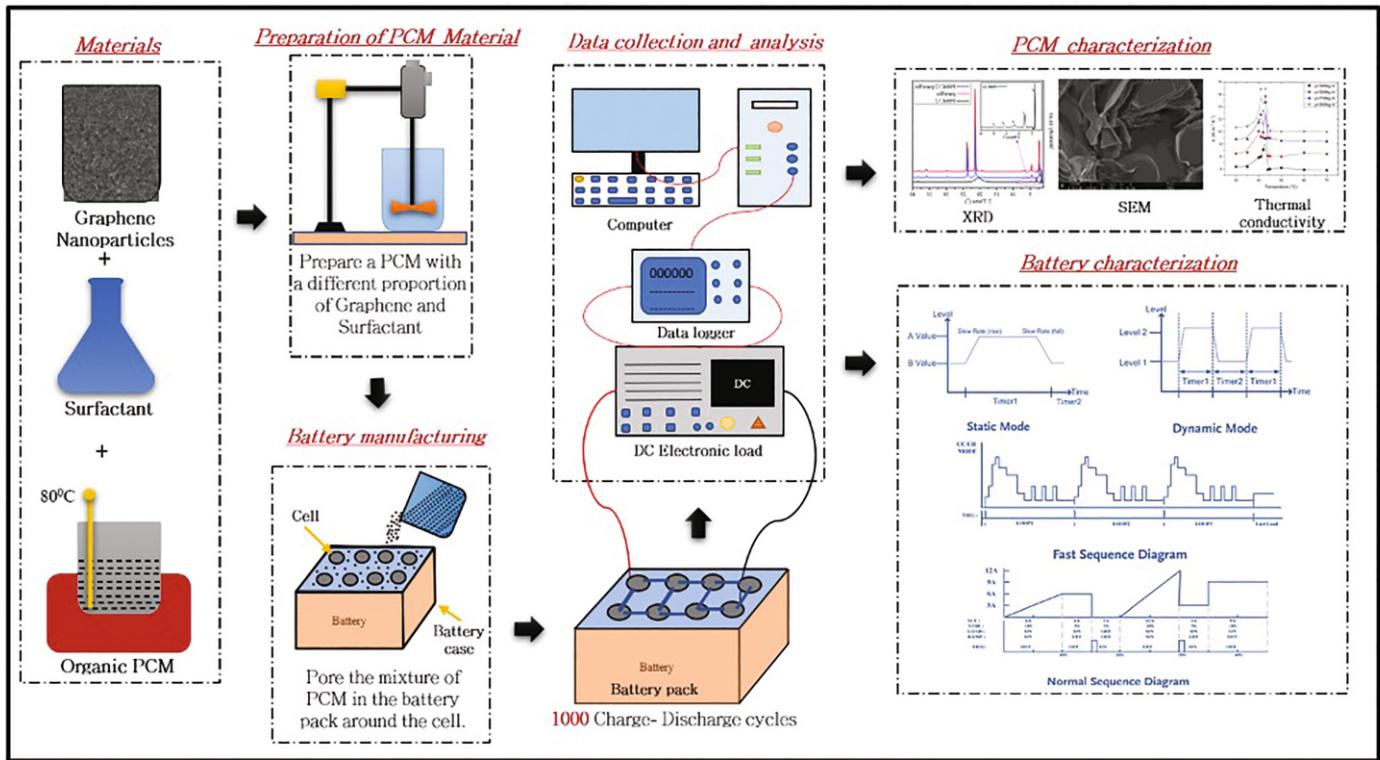
Dr Absar M Lakdawala  
Professor,  
Mech. Engineering Department  
Institute of Technology,  
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### Development of Composite Phase Change Material (PCM) based Thermal Management System for Battery of Electrical Vehicles

Electric vehicles (EVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) are promising technologies to help reduce the amount of petroleum consumed for transportation. In both EVs and PHEVs, the battery pack is a key component in enabling their fuel savings potential. The battery is also one of the most expensive components in the vehicle. Temperature is one of the most significant factors impacting the performance and life of a battery. In particular, operating a battery at elevated temperatures reduces its life. It is therefore important to design and implement effective battery thermal management systems.

The use of phase change material for thermal energy storage has gained importance in the last decade. In recent years, graphite materials have been used to improve the thermal conductivity of paraffin. In this context, it is essential to identify the "Thermal performance" of the PCM based battery cooling system when subjected to dynamic loading. Further, it is also essential to identify the change in the thermo-physical properties of the PCM during its life cycle.

# DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITE PHASE CHANGE MATERIAL BASED ON THE THERMAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR A BATTERY OF THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE



This proposed work explores whether thermal management using PCM could provide similar benefits in EV or PHEV applications. Vehicle batteries can have duty cycles that are significantly different from those of soldier applications. Therefore, PCM technology should be carefully assessed to determine whether it would improve upon existing vehicle battery thermal management technologies.

While advances in electric car batteries have allowed them to produce more power and require fewer charges, one of the most significant concerns for battery safety remains the ability to build an efficient cooling system. Lithium-Ion batteries in Electric vehicles are more prone to heat during their discharge than a Lead-Acid battery present under the hood in a conventional combustion vehicle. The performance of a Lithium cell is highly influenced by its temperature; Cells experience the Goldilocks effect, in which they do not work well during either extreme cold or extremely hot temperatures, which can result in permanent and serious cell damage or rapid deterioration. The operating temperature has a significant impact on the battery's lifetime. Temperature control methods that are effective contribute greatly to battery health and lifespan. Furthermore, as the capacity and charge/discharge rate of batteries rise, battery security becomes increasingly important.

Working on the principle of the voltage difference, the electrons present inside during high temperatures are excited thus reducing the overall potential difference between the two sides of a battery. The internal resistance of a cell greatly depends on the temperature of the cell and when there is a significant internal temperature fluctuation, differing charge and discharge rates for every cell might occur, resulting in poor battery pack performance. As a result, in conjunction with cooling, heating of the cells may be necessary at lower ambient conditions to avoid cell damage during the rapid charging when the battery pack is too cold; this is because the internal resistance of the cells increases when they are cold. When the temperature of a lithium battery cell falls below 5 °C, it cannot be charged quickly, and it cannot be charged at all when the temperature falls below 0° C. When the temperature of lithium batteries rises over 45° C, they begin to deteriorate quickly.

The chemical processes that take place inside a battery are affected by rising temperatures. Higher temperatures have several consequences for lithium-ion batteries, including improved performance and storage capacity. According to several scientific reports, increasing the temperature from 77 to 113° F resulted in a 20% improvement in maximum charge capacity. As the battery's performance improves, the

battery's lifespan shortens over some time. With the decreased lifetime it becomes difficult to preserve the range of an electric vehicle for a larger period. Thus, it is ideal to keep the battery pack operated within the optimum temperature range. Cooling systems must be able to maintain a temperature range of roughly 20-40° C within the battery pack, and also the lowest temperature difference inside the battery pack.

The phase change materials (PCMs) applied as passive heat sinks have attracted a lot of attention. Latent heat storage – using phase change material is one of the most efficient ways of storing thermal energy. Unlike the sensible heat storage method, the latent heat storage method provides a much higher storage density, with a smaller temperature difference between storing and releasing heat. Materials to be used for phase change thermal energy storage must have a large latent heat and high thermal conductivity. They should have a melting temperature lying in the practical range of operation, melt congruently with minimum sub-cooling and be chemically stable, low in cost, non-toxic, and non-corrosive. Materials that have been studied during the last 40 years are hydrated salts, paraffin waxes, fatty acids, and eutectics of organic and non-organic compounds. Depending on the applications, the PCMs should first be selected based on their melting temperature. Materials that melt below 15° C are used for storing coolness in air conditioning applications, while materials that melt above 90° C are used for absorption refrigeration. All other materials that melt between these two

temperatures can be applied in solar heating and heat load leveling applications.

Commercial paraffin waxes are cheap with moderate thermal storage densities (~200 kJ/kg or 150 MJ/m<sup>3</sup>) and a wide range of melting temperatures. They undergo negligible sub-cooling and are chemically inert and stable with no phase segregation. However, they have low thermal conductivity (~0.2 W/m° C), which limits their applications. Metallic fillers, metal matrix structures, finned tubes, and aluminum shavings are used to improve the thermal conductivity of the paraffin waxes.

Dr Absar M Lakdawala said, "In the present research, graphite nanoparticles are suggested as thermal conductivity enhancers for the paraffin waxes based PCM. The main novelty of the present research is to improve the thermo-physical properties of organic PCM by adding graphite nanoparticles. The resulting composite PCM will be analyzed for thermal performance as well as cyclic heating and cooling to check its feasibility to work as a thermal battery management system for an electrical vehicle. A charged thermal battery will have at its disposal ~170 kJ/kg of energy which can be used for various applications."

**Note:** Dr Absar M Lakdawala is the Principal Investigator (PI), and Dr Dhaval Shah and Dr P N Kapil (Assistant Professors, Institute of Technology, Nirma University) are the Co PI for this research project.

## Innovative Initiatives at the University

### Establishment of Tinkerers' Lab

Nirma University inaugurated the Tinkerers' Lab under the auspices of the Maker Bhavan Foundation (MBF) on Sep 22, 2022. Dr Hemant Kanakia, Founder, MBF inaugurated the facility in the presence of other dignitaries.

The Tinkerers' Lab will provide more avenues for the students of Nirma University to develop their skills, encourage an inventive attitude, develop new patentable ideas, build prototypes, and file provisional patents. The Maker Bhavan Foundation, California, US has funded such labs at IIT Bombay, IIT Madras and IIT Gandhinagar in the past, and now for the first time, it is going outside of the IIT organisations by funding Nirma University.

Tinkerers' Lab expands the learning ecosystem by enhancing the scope for students to imagine and accomplish both their short-term and long-term projects. Moreover, the lab gives chance to students from all fields to think, learn and build together. Students from different disciplines have varied



approaches to elucidating a matter, and multidisciplinary education will help in building strong mentorship, critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. This 'Learning by Doing' programme will ultimately improve student-learning outcomes and help in preparing better graduates for Industry.

Some of the events and activities that will be conducted under the auspices of Tinkerers' Lab are as under:

- Training on how to design/develop a product from basic to advanced level, for example, building a line follower robot from designing part to development to execution.
- Training sessions on learning to use each equipment like 3D Printer, Laser Cutting, PCB Printing Machine, etc. These training sessions will be conducted by student members under the guidance of some faculty members and technical experts.
- Competitions will be organised for students to build different kinds of projects.
- Organising hackathons in Nirma University as well as All India Hackathon where students from all Tinkerers' Labs

can participate and provide the best solution to the given problem.

- Expert lectures on Modelling and Prototyping, Designing, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Different Software for modelling, Designing and simulations, Entrepreneurship etc. will be conducted from time to time by professional industrialists.
- Online quiz sessions on the brief of equipment and types of projects will be organised once a week to ensure the engagement of students throughout the semester.
- Workshops on CAD Software, Rendering, and 2D drafting software will be conducted on the weekends.



## Events and Activities

### 31<sup>st</sup> Convocation

Nirma University held its 31<sup>st</sup> Convocation Ceremony on Dec 10, 2022 where 2,584 students from constituent institutes of the university received their degrees. Hon'ble Ms Justice Belaben Trivedi, Judge – Supreme Court of India was the Chief Guest. Dr Karsanbhai K Patel, President, Nirma University, presided over the event. This year the university conferred degrees on 31 PhD, 833 postgraduate and 1,720 graduate students. The university also awarded 60 medals to 51 students for their exemplary performance in academics.



## Celebration of Important Days

### Independence Day Celebration



The 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of our nation was celebrated on Aug 15, 2022 in the presence of university officials, Head of Institutions, Head of Departments, Faculty and staff members. Dr Ashok Kumar Singhvi, DST-SERB Year of Science Chair Professor, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad was the Chief Guest on this occasion.



### Hindi Diwas Celebration

Litwits-the literary committee, and Kalanidhi-the cultural committee, of the Institute of



Commerce, Nirma University organised Hindi Diwas with great enthusiasm on Sep 14, 2022. The competitions included a story competition, slogan competition, debate competition, and poetry competition in which about 55 students across all institutes participated. The event was attended by more than 200 students and faculty members. Mrs Manju Mahima Bhatnagar, a writer; and Ms Samridhhi Mandawat, CA and a writer adjudged the participants. Dr Udai Paliwal, Director, Institute of Commerce along with the judges awarded the winners prizes and certificates.



## Pharmacy Week Celebration

As a part of World Pharmacists Day 2022, the Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University in association with APTI, Gujarat state celebrated Pharmacy week during Sep 26-30, 2022. Dr Indermeet Singh Anand, Professor, Shri Sarvajanik Pharmacy College, Mehsana, and EC Member of APTI Gujarat State Branch was the Chief Guest on the inaugural day. Various events namely, an Essay writing competition, Fit India activity, Rangoli making, Elocution competition, and presentations on



Pharmacy and Health Awareness were organised.

## Celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi

The Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University has this tradition of making the murti of Lord Ganesha. All the students actively engaged in the preparation of the murti, its backdrop and other decorations. The team hosted this event from Aug 31 to Sep 9, 2022 on campus. Prof Utpal Sharma, Director, Institute of Architecture and Planning along with faculty and staff members joined the students in Ganesh Sthapana and aarti. On the last day of Visarjan students



organised a Maha Aarti and bhog, and celebrated it grandly with dhol and dance.

## World Habitat Day Celebration

Institute of Architecture and Planning observed World Habitat Day 2022 by hosting special lecture sessions by experts on Oct 4, 2022. Architect-planner Ms Zigisha Mhaskar from Pune gave a lecture on 'Housing the urban poor - What they want and what



architect/designer can offer'. Building material entrepreneur from Ahmedabad, Mr Keyur Sarda spoke on 'Pathways to the circular economy in the construction sector'.



## Celebration of World Standards Day



The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India celebrated World Standards Day 2022 in Oct 2022 to pay tribute to the collaborative efforts of thousands of experts worldwide who contribute to the field

of standardisation at the national and international levels. To celebrate this day, BIS Ahmedabad organised a 'Walk/Run for quality' at the Nirma University campus on Oct 13, 2022. The purpose of this walk was to make the students aware of the standards and quality. The event was organised with the support of the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) Students' Chapter and Students Welfare Board.

## Celebration of National Unity Day



The NCC Unit at Nirma University attached to 9 Gujarat Battalion celebrated 'National Unity Day' on Oct 31, 2022 in coordination with the Students Welfare

Board, Nirma University. The celebration was organised to remember the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to unite India at the time of independence. As a part of the celebration a 'Unity Walk' from the Nirma University campus to Sardardham Campus near Vaishnnodevi Circle, Ahmedabad was organised. The NCC cadets took a pledge of 'National Unity' at Sardardham.

## National Voluntary Blood Donation Day Celebration

As part of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day which is celebrated in India on Oct 1 every year to share the need for and importance of blood in the life of an individual, the university felicitated members who have donated blood at least five

times. A total of 11 students, teaching and non-teaching staff members were felicitated on this occasion.

## National Constitution Day Celebration



Constitution Day was celebrated by the NSS Unit of the Institute of Commerce on Nov 24, 2022. The event began with the reading of the preamble. A quiz and crossword puzzle followed it. The event's objective was to enhance the awareness

of the participating students about the constitution. Khushi Malukani was the winner, and Apeksha Chaudhary was the runner-up in the quiz and crossword puzzle. The event saw the participation of 37 NSS volunteers.

On this occasion, the Institute of Law organised a session on 'Constitutional Review' by Prof M P Jain (Research Professor of Law, Director-Centre for Comparative Law, Jindal Global University, India) on Nov 26, 2022.

## Vigilance Awareness Week Celebration

On the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week, an initiative of the Central Vigilance Commission of India, the NSS Unit of the Institute of Commerce held a discussion session on the topic 'Corruption in India: Its causes and consequences' on Nov 7, 2022. The discussion was led by Dr Ashutosh Pandey, NSS Programme Officer, Institute of Commerce. The students discussed the causes and consequences of corruption. They pledged to obey the nation's rules and regulations, and not to be a part of any corrupt practice. A total of 40 students were present in the session.



## Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Celebration

On the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the Institute of Law in association with the Students Welfare Board, Nirma University organised a Debate competition on the theme 'Contribution of Janjati Heroes in Freedom Struggle' on Nov 15, 2022. Dr Kunal Kishore and Dr Abhas Srivastava from the Institute of Law were the judges. Aditya Das from the

Institute of Law stood first, and Aryaraj Parmar from the Institute of Management stood second.



## Celebration of 60 years of Customs Act of 1962

An Interactive session on 'Customs Law' was organised by the Institute of Law on Dec 7, 2022 to celebrate the 60 years of the Customs Act of 1962. The expert panel for the sessions comprised Mr Lalit Prasad (Commissioner, Customs Ahmedabad), Mr Mohit Agarwal (Additional Commissioner, Customs Gujarat), Mr Abhilash Sreenivasan (Additional Commissioner, Customs Surat), and Mr Vishal Malani (Additional Commissioner, Customs Ahmedabad). The speakers discussed the role of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, the types of customs, the role of Customs Department in providing security to the nation, how it prevents the economic security of the country, how the department trace smuggling activities at the entry channels, and how it deters illegal import and smuggling.



## Celebration of NSS Day

- The NSS Unit of the Institute of Law celebrated NSS day on Sep 24, 2022 with the kids of the Gokul Ashram Shala. They celebrated the day by organising a Sports day followed by a cultural performance by the kids. The NSS team also took the oath to be committed and dedicated towards the motto and aim of the organisation.
- Institute of Commerce organised a cycle rally at the Riverfront, Ahmedabad from Subhash Bridge to Atal Bridge. The objective of the cycle rally was to spread the message of Fit India and Go Green. A total of about 20 NSS volunteers participated in the event.



## Conferences, Workshops, Seminars and Webinars

### International Conference on Future is Urban

Institute of Architecture and Planning organised an international conference in hybrid mode on 'Future is Urban' from Dec 16-18, 2022. The conference concurs with the U20 agenda highlighting urban challenges in G20 where India holds the Presidency for 2023. The main themes of the conference were Urban Planning and Resilience, Nature Based Solutions, and Capacity Building as part of the ERASMUS funded 'URGENT' Project. Dr D S Meshram, President, Institute of Town Planners, India (ITPI) was the Chief Guest and Dr Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs was the Guest of Honour. Twenty

academicians from partner countries Germany, Estonia, Italy, Mongolia and India attended the conference in person. All the participants along with the international delegation were taken on an exploratory tour to GIFT City on Dec 16, 2022 to showcase its unique planning and approach. They visited the AWCS Plant, Utility Tunnel and District Cooling Plant at GIFT City. An exhibition of BArch students' work showcasing their innovative projects was also held. The participants also went for a Heritage Walk early in the morning to the dynamic old city of Ahmedabad followed by a visit to Sarkhej Roza complex, Gandhi Ashram, and Adalaj step-well.



### Faculty Development Programmes

Institute of Pharmacy and Institute of Science jointly organised the Faculty Development Programme on 'Current Advances in AI, Systems Biology, and 3D Bioprinting in Biomedical Research' during June 27 to July 8, 2022 under the auspices of CQAAD, Nirma University. Prof Amit Prashant, Officiating Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar was invited as Chief Guest of the inaugural function. As part of the programme, faculty members visited NIPER, Ahmedabad, and Gujarat University start-up facilities.

Institute of Law organised a Faculty Development Programme on 'Research Methodology, its Philosophy, Tools and Techniques' from July 11-22, 2022. Speakers included eminent personalities from various domains like Prof MRK Prasad (Professor of Law, VM Salgaocar College of Law, Goa), Dr Diksha Bajpayee (Associate Professor, Delhi University), Dr Shantha Kumar (Vice Chancellor, GNLU), Dr Subhash Rathor

(Professor, School of Law, GU), Dr Tara Nair (Professor, GIDR, Ahmedabad), Dr Rakesh Srivastava (Professor, MSU Baroda), Dr Sachin Gajjar (Associate Professor, Institute of Technology, Nirma University), Dr Varsha Ganguly (Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University) and Dr Madhuri Parikh (Director in-charge, Institute of Law, Nirma University).



## Furniture workshop using scrap

The students of the Institute of Architecture and Planning undertook the charge of making furniture by organising a Furniture Workshop for donation to underprivileged children during July 11-25, 2022. A total of 21 students under the guidance of faculty members participated in the workshop. The students interacted with the volunteers and listed their requirements. A visit to the Nirma University scrape yard was conducted to collect items that could be remodeled into workable pieces, like discarded metal frames, Castrol oil barrels, metal standees, aluminium window panels, etc. By the end of the workshop, students designed and produced about 51 furniture products which included low-height tables, chairs, blackboard partition walls, games, benches, etc.



## National Seminar on Alternative Systems of Medicine for Healthcare Management

The Department of Pharmacognosy, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University in association with the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University organised a National Seminar on 'Alternative Systems of Medicine for Healthcare Management' on Sep 28, 2022. On this occasion, Dr Shivang Swaminarayan, Homeopathy Practitioner and Honorary Homeopathy Physician to the Governor of Gujarat delivered a talk on 'Homeopathy in Endemic and Pandemic'. Dr Rupa Majmudar, Reiki expert and practitioner, Ahmedabad gave a lecture on 'Reiki: a natural healing method' and demonstrated how Reiki can be practiced on oneself and others. Dr Pankaj Tewani, Physiotherapist, Sanjivani Clinic, Surat talked about 'Acupuncture Analgesia' and demonstrated the technique of Acupuncture for knee pain.



## Indian Economy at Cross Road: Challenges and Way Forward

Institute of Commerce organised a session on 'Indian Economy at Cross Road: Challenges and Way Forward' conducted by Dr Arvind Mohan, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Lucknow, Lucknow on Sep 7, 2022. Dr Mohan said that the Indian economy easily sailed through the challenges posed by the Global Economic Meltdown due to less exposure to FPI. However, post-Global Economic Meltdown, the FDI and FPI investments in India have increased. Since FPI investments are highly

volatile, they could pose a major challenge during a crisis. He also spoke on the drawbacks of rising out-of-pocket health expenditure and challenges and opportunities for investment and growth in India in the post-pandemic world.

## Opportunities for Finance Professionals in Industry 4.0



As a part of its Institute Lecture Series, the Institute of Commerce organised a lecture on 'Opportunities for Finance Professionals in Industry 4.0' on Sep 26, 2022. The lecture was delivered by CA Nitin Parekh, CFO of Zydus Lifesciences. CA Nitin Parekh in his address highlighted that the Finance Professionals in Industry 4.0 shall have to be well-versed with the knowledge of technology and should be ready to embrace new technologies. A total of about 450 participants including students, and faculty members attended the session.

## UG Research Council expert talk



UG Research Council (UGRC), Institute of Pharmacy organised an expert talk on 'Innovation Dynamics and Patenting Strategies for Academic and Research' by Dr T Pavan Kumar, Senior Scientist, CSIR-Indian Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar on Sep 12, 2022. Dr Kumar discussed the different IP and their significance in the field of scientific research.

## The Art of Creating Sustainable Businesses



Institute of Commerce organised an online lecture on 'The Art of Creating Sustainable Businesses' on Sep 16, 2022 by CMA Rajneesh Jain, President and CFO, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. He inspired the students to take up entrepreneurial activities. He shared the vision of Mr Mukesh Ambani, with whom he has worked very closely. Mr Jain shared that the expansion of any business starts with a problem-solving idea to survive in

the long run. He discussed the strategies like cost efficiency, stakeholder engagement, and continuous assessment of the external environment as a secret for ensuring sustainable businesses. He very aptly shared the need and significance of using renewable sources of energy in the context of attainment of SDG and having a lesser carbon footprint on the planet. The session was attended by 300 participants.



## Conclave on Family Law

Institute of Law conducted a series of expert lectures from Nov 15-17, 2022 as a part of its conclave on Family Law. During the conclave, Justice Roshan Dalvi, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay spoke on 'Family Courts in India: Establishment and Procedural Challenges (Gender Justice)'. Justice Jyotsna Yagnik, retired Districts and Sessions



Justice Jyotsna Yagnik



Justice Roshan Dalvi



Adv. Jitendra Malkan

## Institute Lecture Series at Institute of Management

- Mr Bobby Achettu, CEO-Accelerated Growth delivered a guest lecture on the theme 'Entrepreneurial Perspective from the United States' on Nov 9, 2022 at the Institute of Management. Mr Achettu shared his journey of first-generation entrepreneurship and topics pertaining to leadership qualities and chasing opportunities.
- Mr Sulay Lavsi, Founder and CEO of Bummer delivered a guest lecture on the theme 'Branding in E-commerce' on

Judge spoke on 'Matrimonial Rights and Remedies: Family Courts in India and Procedural Challenges'. Advocate Jitendra Malkan, former Assistant Solicitor General of India spoke on 'Family Courts in India: Procedure, Powers and Functions under the Family Courts Act, 1984'.

Nov 14, 2022 at the Institute of Management. Mr Lavsi shared his insights on developing an e-commerce business in the unique category of designer underwear with sustainable fabric. His interactions with the students delved into micro-managing the branding of a new venture in an intensely competitive market.

## Pragaman 7.0

Pragaman 7.0, the Annual Entrepreneurship Conclave of the Institute of Management was organised on the theme 'Realm of Technopreneurs' by Swayam, The Entrepreneurship Club of the Institute of Management on Nov 15, 2022. The conclave featured speakers and resource persons from a variety of fields who are prominent entrepreneurs and role models. Renowned Co-founders from Start-up ecosystems like



Mr Sidharth Gupta (Co-founder - Treebo Hotels), Mr Sanachit Mehra (Co-founder - Cateina Technologies), Mr Arnab Mitra (Co-founder - Digiboxx), Mr Sushil Singh (Director- SSR Techvision), Mr Shivam Bansal (Co-founder - JJ Plastalloy), Mr Siddharthsinh Vaghela (Business Head- GTPL) enlightened students about their journey and learnings. Approximately 300 students attended the event.



## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Quality Management

Institute of Management in association with the American Society of Quality (ASQ) India section organised the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Quality Management on the theme 'Transformation through Quality in a Hybrid Era' on Nov 25-26, 2022. The conference witnessed participation from leading industries. The best-case study presentations were awarded at the event. An industrial visit to eight company



premises and plants was organised on Nov 26, 2022. Leading industrialist Dr Viranchi Shah was the Chief Guest in the Inaugural event, and Mr Vimal Manchanda, Industrialist was the Guest of Honour, along with Mr Anindya Sarangi, Head of South Asia, ASQ. Approximately 80 industry delegates and 20 students participated in the event.



## Other Events and Activities

- A Short-Term Training Programme on 'Electric Vehicle Technology-Status, Challenges, and Road Ahead' was organised by the Department of Electrical Engineering, Institute of Technology under the auspices of Centre for Quality Assurance and Academic Development, Nirma University during July 4-16, 2022. It was conducted by experienced faculty from institutes like IITs, NITs and from Nirma University; eminent experts from research organisations and industries working in the area of software resources in Electrical Engineering.
- A workshop on 'Modeling and Simulation of Power Systems' was organised from Sep 30- Oct 1, 2022 by the Department of Electrical Engineering, Institute of Technology in association with the Centre for Continuing Education, Nirma University. The sessions were jointly delivered by Dr Akhilesh A Nimje and Dr Sarika S Kanodia, both from the Department of Electrical Engineering, Nirma University.
- Prof Miki Desai, eminent scholar, author and teacher conducted an expert lecture on 'The Gap between the Enquiry and the Finding: Research in the Field of Vernacular Architecture' hosted by the Institute of Architecture and Planning on Nov 19, 2022.
- The Centre for Continuing Education organised a workshop on 'Geographic Information System' for Architects on Nov 19 and Nov 25, 2022. Mr Mehul Tuvar, GIS Consultant, N Plus Solutions, Gandhinagar, and Dr Pratima Singh, Assistant Professor, Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University were the resource people. (pic in university)
- Centre for Postgraduate Legal Studies, Institute of Law organised an online academic conference on 'Comparative Constitutional Law' during Nov 24-26, 2022. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof N K Pathak,



Emeritus Resource Faculty, School of Law, Rashtriya Raksha University, Gandhinagar. Other speakers included Dr Venkat Iyer, Barrister and Professor, Ulster University, UK; Prof Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi; Prof M P Singh, Research Professor of Law, Distinguished Scholar in Public Law and Comparative Law on Constitutional Review.

- The Centre for Law and Governance in collaboration with the Centre for Child Rights Advocacy organised a guest lecture on 'Sensitisation of the Laws Relating to Children' on Nov 14, 2022. The lecture was delivered by Hon'ble Justice Roshan Dalvi, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay and an eminent figure in the legal field. The objective of this session was to promote knowledge among the attendees about Indian laws that were created in accordance with the constitution to advance and protect children's welfare in India.
- An expert lecture was conducted by Hon'ble Justice Mr Avinash K Gupta, Retired Principal Judge of Family Court, Bhuj from Nov 14-17, 2022. He discussed the basic tenets and principles of the Juvenile Justice Act. He also discussed the modes of proceedings that are recognised under the law as well as the circumstances in which a case is transferred to the children's court from the Juvenile Justice Board.
- An expert session on 'Need for Comparative Constitutional Law' by Prof N K Pathak, former Director, University School of Law, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad was conducted at the Institute of Law on Nov 24, 2022.
- A distinguished lecture on 'Criminal Law' by Hon'ble Justice (Retd) Mr K S Ahluwalia, Calcutta High Court; and Mr Vijayant Singh, Member of Railway Claims Tribunal was organised on Nov 19, 2022 at the Institute of Law.
- An expert lecture on 'Intellectual Property Rights' was conducted by Dr Gargi Chakrabarty, DIIPT-IPR Chair, National Law University, Jodhpur on Nov 19, 2022. She discussed the intricacies of the protection of plant varieties in India as provided under Plant Variety Protection and Farmers and Breeders Rights Act 2000, and also provided a detailed overview of the varieties protected under the act and the requisites of variety protection in India.
- A session on 'Education and Growth of Children in Rural Areas' was conducted by Mr Sudarshan Suchi, CEO-Save the Children, India by the Centre for Social Justice, Institute of Law on Dec 3, 2022.
- A session on 'Understanding the Law Behind Start-up Funding' was conducted by Mr J J Bhatt, Advocate, High Court, Mumbai and Ms Vaneesa Agrawal, Founder and Partner, Thinking Legal, New Delhi by the Centre for Corporate Law Studies, Institute of Law on Dec 2, 2022.
- A guest lecture on 'AI and Healthcare: Understanding from Patent perspective' was conducted by Mr Yoganjaneyulu Kasseti, Senior Associate at K&S Partners by the Institute of Law on Dec 2, 2022.
- An expert session was conducted by Hon'ble Justice C K Thakkar at the Institute of Law on Dec 3, 2022. The session focused on the Preamble of The Constitution of India and the significance of the phrase 'We the people of India'. Justice Thakkar also discussed the Origin of Writs and touched upon the Government of India Act, 1935, Analysis of the intricacies of Article 32 and its relevance.
- Kaizen, the Alumni Relations committee of the Institute of Management organised an interactive session with Mr Prakash Nahata, Head - Controlling and Portfolio Risk, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services India Pvt Ltd on the topic 'Financial Risk' on Dec 17, 2022. The speaker explained different verticals which constitute the arena of financial risk and provided insights into the identification and management of various types of risks. The lecture series was attended by 250 students.
- A session on the theme 'Women Empowerment' was organised by the Institute of Management on Dec 12, 2022. Speakers included Megha Jhala (Founder and Community Manager, SheUnite), Dr Krupa Mehta (Assistant Professor, Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya), and Ms Priya Gupta (Content Creator and Food Influencer).
- A 'Self Defense Workshop' was conducted by Mr Ronak Chhara, 4<sup>th</sup> Dan Black Belt National Referee, National Instructor, Dy Sp Self Defence trainer on Dec 13, 2022 at the Institute of Management. He taught about the seven different types of self-defence attacks; how to use hair clips, bags, and dupatta as tools for self-defence for the girls. He also taught basic punch, block, chop and kick activities to the students.



## Literary and Cultural Festivals

### Praveg 22

The Mechanical Engineering Students' Association (MESA), Institute of Technology organised Praveg 22 on Oct 12-13, 2022 on the theme 'Know Our Forces'. The event was inaugurated by Air Marshal Vikram Singh, AVSM VSM, Air Officer Commanding in Chief, South Western Air Command, Indian Air Force, and Shri K K Patel, Vice President, Nirma University. An exhibition of advanced weapons and artillery was organised by the Border Security Force and an Induction Publicity Exhibition Vehicle (IPEV) of the Indian Air Force with an aircraft simulator was positioned at the campus of Nirma University. More than 3000 people including college students, school students and faculty members visited the exhibition from different parts of the city. Four Talk Shows were organised as a sub-part of this event. Guest speakers included Lt Gen Asit Mistry (Retd), PVSM AVSM VSM SM, Indian Army; Mr Pulkit Gaur, Chief Technology Officer and Founder, Gridbots Technologies Pvt Ltd; Mr Anant Ladha, Finance Guru and YouTube Sensation; and Mr Abhishek Jain, Director and Producer of Gujarati Movies, CineMan Productions. More than 1500 students attended the Talk Shows. A host of workshops were conducted on Robotics, Aerodynamics, Computer-Aided Design, Computer Aided Manufacturing, Internet of



Things, Automobile, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, and Subconscious Mind. Other than the workshops, technical and non-technical events like Debate, Quiz, Gaming, Talent Hunt, Treasure Hunt, Mechanical Design, and Hackathon were organised with more than 700 participants. A cultural show was organised at the end of the event on Oct 13, 2022 in which a group of Border Security Force presented a Bhangra performance followed by Meghdhanosh band performance on Gujarati folk songs.

### Technophilia 2022

The International Society of Automation Students' Chapter at Nirma University organised Technophilia 2022, an amalgamation of socio-technical events on Nov 28-29, 2022. It included robotic workshops like 'RoboSpree' which taught the participants how to operate a robotic manipulator arm and 'RoboKarts' where participants had the opportunity to assemble a robotic car and control it using the gyroscope of a mobile phone. Other activities were Treasure Hunt, Drum Circle by Rujul Vora, and a talk show 'Tea with Techies'.



## Nirman 22

The organisation of Civil Engineering Students (OrCES), Civil Engineering Department, Institute of Technology organised its annual tech-fest 'Nirman 22' on Nov 11-12, 2022 on the theme 'Innovation and Engineering'. It consisted of various technical and non-technical events, workshops, talk shows and Fire Safety Mock Drill, among

others. Technical events include CAD Design, Spot Level, Bridge Fabrication, Geosynthesis, Placement guru, and Best out of Waste. Non-technical events included Box Cricket, War Zone, Treasure Hunt and Talent Hunt. The event was inaugurated by Mr S Mohan Babu, Digital Head, Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project,

L&T Ltd. He conducted a session on the use of digital technologies in the MAHSR project. Mr Vishal Gunani, a TEDx Speaker, published author and entrepreneur headed the Talk Show. The event saw a footfall of more than 700 students from various institutes across all its events.

## Rostrum



Rostrum 2022, the annual cultural programme of the Institute of Pharmacy was organised on Nov 16-17, 2022. Events like song, dance, drama, AD-MAD, Mr and Ms Rostrum, Musical Instruments competition, and mimicry were organised. This year a new event called 'Pinnacle' was also introduced in which the students had an opportunity to show their creativity in form of acrobatic formations.



## Other Events and Activities

### Celebrations of two decades of Academic Excellence of the university

As a part of the 'Celebrations of two decades of Academic Excellence' of the university, an expert talk on 'Climate Change, its Impacts, and Remedial Measures' by Mr Sunil Parekh, Strategic Advisor, Zydus Life Sciences Group was organised on Sep 3, 2022 by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Nirma University. Mr Parekh discussed the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and the measures taken by other countries worldwide on climate change mitigation. He discussed the India scenario of electrification and green electricity, a smooth transition towards reducing carbon emissions and greenhouse gases and various other strategies being planned by the Indian industries to resolve the issue. The awareness about the role of universities and each individual was also well deliberated.



## EV demonstration and EV Rally for Climate Change Awareness

As a part of the campaign Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Climate Change and Education department of the Government of Gujarat organised an EV demonstration and EV Rally for Climate Change Awareness at the Nirma University campus on Sep 25, 2022 in association with Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA). The event had Mr B H Talati, IAS, Joint Secretary, Climate Change Department, Government of Gujarat as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries present were Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University; Mr G Ramachandran Nair, Executive Registrar, Nirma University; Dr P N Tekwani, Director,



Directorate of Research and Innovation; and Mr Shwetal Shah, Technical Advisor, Climate Change Department, Government of Gujarat. Addressing the gathering, Mr Talati said, 'The government is finding ways how to reduce the carbon footprint and is emphasising the use of green energy. We are working on aluminium air batteries and silicon batteries and with the help of our faculty and students, we can research how to make optimum economic use of them. The government is ready to fund a viable idea and provide the required resources for the idea.'

## Celebration of Raas Garba

Institute of Architecture and Planning in association with the Students Welfare Board, Nirma University organised Raas Garba on Oct 7, 2022 for students, faculty and staff members of Nirma University. Mr Mayank Dave (Hon Managing Trustee and Director-Surmadhur - Institution of Music and Dance), Ms Sheetal Makwana (Director, Nrutyasangini Dance Institute) and Mr Tushar Vyas (Dance Teacher, Zydus School for Excellence, Godhavi) were invited as external judges. Around 6000 students and faculty-staff members participated in the Raas Garba. For the Best Performance, Siddharth Solanki from the Institute of Technology was adjudged the winner in the students-male category, Mahek Joshi from the Institute of Commerce was adjudged the winner in the students-female category, Dr Jitendra Menghani from the Institute of Architecture and Planning was adjudged winner in staff/faculty-male category, and Dr Dipal Gandhi from the Institute of Pharmacy was adjudged winner in staff/faculty-female category. Besides this, Harshil Patel from the Institute of



Science received the Best Dressing award in the students-male category, and Priyanshi Doshi from the Institute of Design received the Best Dressing award in the students-female category.

## Tree Talk

Mr Nagendra Purohit, a senior horticulturist and founder of M/s Grass Roots with expertise in bio-dynamics, organic practices, nature conservation, and ecosystem design-development was invited as an expert speaker on Oct 15, 2022 at the Institute of Architecture



and Planning's Social Services and Introduction to Ecology and Landscape Design course conducted for the second-year architecture students. Mr Purohit led the students on a campus tour where they learned about the significance of specific trees and other



vegetation. For the students, learning about the 83 varieties of trees on their campus and the diverse fauna it supports including the birds, bees, butterflies, and insects was an eye-opening experience.



## Self-Defense Training

Dr Bhavna Shinde from Adani Ltd. was invited to demonstrate the techniques of Self-Defense on Sep 17, 2022. She began the session by creating awareness of the exponential growth in

the reported cases of rape, and domestic violence. She highlighted the dangers of social media, if not used sensibly. She emphasised the importance of self-defense for a

woman and considering this, she demonstrated self-defense techniques to all the female students of the Institute of Commerce.



## Hackathon 4.0

The E-Cell of Nirma University hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of its flagship event, Hackathon 4.0 during Nov 11-13, 2022. A total of 58 students across Gujarat participated in the event. The aim was to build an idea out of scratch and present it as a feasible business idea. After the brainstorming sessions and problem identification, the teams finally pitched their business ideas to a panel of renowned start-up founders. The mentors included Ms Nikita Lalwani, founder of the Crooze app; Mr Karan Shah, SDG Practitioner and Climate

Reality Leader; Mr Niraj Harlalka, CEO and co-founder of Eduberance; and Ms Nikita Maheshwari, co-founder of Tilebazaar and Tatkalorry. The judges for the final pitching were Mr Pratik Patel, an alumnus of Nirma University and co-founder of Yudiz Solutions, a prominent software development company; and Mr Samkit Gandhi, an entrepreneur. Team Feelz from the Institute of Management, Nirma University comprising Komal Thakor (leader), Soumya Sharma, Anshdeepkaur Ajmani, Twisha Trivedi,

and Nirja Raghani secured the first position. Their product was a shoe that had heels that could be detached and converted into flat-sole shoes.



## Address by Swami Suddhananda Giri

Swami Suddhananda Giri Ji, a disciple of Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda delivered an address on 'Inner Energy Control Technology for Achieving All Round Success' on Nov 11, 2022 at Nirma University. The event was graced by Dr Karsanbhai K Patel, President; Shri K K Patel, Vice President, and other key officials of the university. Addressing the gathering, Swami Giri ji said that to lead a happy life we need to strike a



balance between four dimensions - Physical, Intellectual, Emotional, and Spiritual. He further explained the term 'Success' as defined by Sri Sri Yoganandaji.

## FinTalk 2.0



Finesse, the Finance Club of the Institute of Management invited Mr Salim Meman, Assistant Manager, Tata Consultancy Services to give an online talk on 'Significance of Environmental Social Governance (ESG)' on Dec 11, 2022.

## Orientation Programme at Institute of Pharmacy



Institute of Pharmacy organised its Orientation Programme in hybrid mode for MPharm students during Aug 22-26, 2022. Dr Taruna Madan, Head, Department of Innate Immunity, National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (NIRRH), Research

Institute of Indian Council of Medical Research, Mumbai was the Chief Guest of the inaugural event. The Orientation Programme included sessions related to current research in the field of Pharmacy, and various practices and policies followed at Nirma University.

## Celebration of 9<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day at Institute of Architecture and Planning



The Institute of Architecture and Planning celebrated its 9<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on Aug 25, 2022. Guest of Honour Zeenat Niazi, Senior Vice President, Chief Knowledge Officer at Development Alternatives Group, Delhi shared her professional experience in the field of Building Resilient Futures in

the Anthropocene with students and faculty members. Another guest, Rajeev Kathpalia, Practising Architect, Urban Designer, and Partner at Vastushilpa, Sangath, Ahmedabad also shared his professional experience with the students.

## Celebration of 16<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day at Institute of Law

The Institute of Law celebrated its 16<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on Aug 18, 2022. Shri Dushyant Dave, Senior Advocate and Former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Shri Dave in his address

highlighted the aspect of Constitutional Morality and the need to preserve the trust of people in the institution of democracy.



## Orientation Programme at Institute of Design

Institute of Design organised an Orientation Programme from Aug 1-17, 2022. The programme was divided into two phases, the first phase was conducted online where the institute conducted two workshops, Music Medley with Abid Ali from Kaafila Sangeet Band, Jaipur; and Storytelling with Vikram Sridhar, a story writer and theatre practitioner at Mumbai; besides students' interaction with seniors and various coordinators of the institute. On



Aug 2, 2022, the institute organised an expert session on 'Mahatma Gandhi and Design' by Prof Suchitra Balasubramaniam, Adjunct Professor at Nirma University. Interaction with experts from industry was also arranged for the students.

## Foundation Day at Institute of Pharmacy

The 20<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the Institute of Pharmacy was celebrated on Oct 1, 2022. Shri Amit Bakshi, Chairman and Managing Director, Eris Life Sciences, Ahmedabad was the Chief Guest. On this occasion, meritorious students were given gold medals and the students, faculty, staff and alumni were felicitated for their outstanding achievements. Various competitions were also organised like Elocution, Extempore, Debate, Photography, T-shirt painting and Rangoli making.



## Orientation Programme at Institute of Pharmacy

- Institute of Pharmacy organised Orientation Programme for its first batch of PharmD programme students and some of the other batches during Nov 18-19, 2022. Dr Parth Desai, Chief Operating Officer, KD Hospital, Ahmedabad was the Chief Guest.
- The Institute organised an Orientation Programme for new entrants to BPharm Programme during Dec 22-28, 2022. Dr Ganeshchandra Sonavane, Vice



President (R&D), FTF Pharma Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad was the Chief Guest. Various technical and policy-related sessions were organised to give

students an idea about the field of Pharmacy, and the systems followed at Nirma University.

## Field Visits

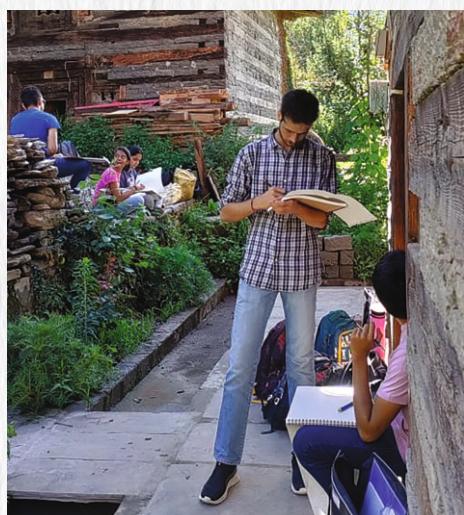
### Field Studio at Uttarkashi

A group of third year students went to a cluster of villages called Sem-Thandi in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand during June 24-July 9, 2022. It was an immersion activity conducted in collaboration with Development Alternatives (DA), New Delhi. Students stayed with the villagers in homestays experiencing the local culture and lifestyle very closely. They studied buildings and village clusters as vernacular typology and their

transformation in terms of spatial arrangement, functionality and construction technology. They also explored the idea of systems thinking in rural habitat with a connection between water and wastewater systems, solid waste management, and other settlement attributes with livelihood potential and eco-conservation. Lastly, they prepared proposals for design and development intervention. Students also visited the DA headquarters building in New Delhi which has incorporated alternative, eco-friendly and cost-effective methods, technologies and solutions.



### Related Study Programme



A group of 46 students and 2 faculty members from the Institute of Architecture and Planning completed an International exploratory Related Study Programme to France and Italy



during July 10-23, 2022. The group visited the cities of Paris, Lyon, Milan, Padova, Venice, Pisa, Bologna, Florence and Rome. During this tour, students visited, experienced and understood



places of architectural importance which are frequently cited in the theoretical and studio-based teaching process at the institute. The Colosseum, St. Peter's Basilica and square, the Vatican and Sistine Chapel, Pantheon, Duomo at Milan, Santa Maria del Fiore at Florence, Church of Gesu, Opera Garnier, etc. are examples of visited places from the Roman times to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century through which evolution of architectural conceptions and styles was understood. Students could appreciate the varied design approaches adopted by modernist and contemporary architects through first-hand experience of buildings designed by Le Corbusier, Renzo Piano, Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid, Coop Himmelb(l)au, Jean Paul Viguier, Jean Nouvel, etc. Exposure to the use of building construction techniques and materials, particularly steel, to

achieve architectural forms was also a major learning from this tour.

During July 4-17, 2022 students of first-year of the Institute of Architecture and Planning visited Naggar, near Kullu and Kaza, a place near Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh. The group studied and documented the local settlement, their way of construction, and the culture and tradition which make these technics of Kath Kuni architecture possible in 'Sharan', Naggar. Also, at Kaza, they documented the Key Monastery having the use of Mud earth construction technics. Students also visited Chandigarh, the planned city designed by Le-Corbusier.

## Other visits

- The BPharm Semester V students of the Institute of Pharmacy went for an Industrial visit on Oct 12, 2022 to Lexcru Group - one of the most recognised and trusted brands globally for manufacturing, distribution, supply and trading of Reverse Osmosis (RO) components. Students were given major insights about the plant

operations specifically focusing on membrane technology, engineering, quality control, quality assurance, research labs, environment health safety etc. The tour was supported by the management and extensively guided by the key members of the organisation including scientists of the Lexcru Group.



*Industrial visit on Oct 12, 2022 to Lexcru Group*

- Nirma University Incubation Centre organised field visits for the first-year students of Master of Pharmacy, Institute of Pharmacy to the SRISTI Incubation Centre, Gandhinagar and NIPER Incubation Centre, Gandhinagar on Dec 22, 2022. The main objective of the visit was to promote a culture of



*Field Visit to SRISTI Incubation Centre & NIPER Incubation Centre*

innovation, research, and entrepreneurship among students and to formalise them with the latest research and innovations in the field of biotechnology.

- Civil Engineering Department, Institute of Technology organised a technical visit to the Dharoi Dam for 7<sup>th</sup> Semester Civil Engineering students on Dec 3, 2022. The purpose of the visit was to make students familiar with the planning, design, construction, operation and practical aspects of different structures directly and indirectly connected with large dam/s.
- Civil Engineering Department, Institute of Technology organised a technical visit to the Indian Seismological Research Institute (ISR), Gandhinagar for BTech 7<sup>th</sup> Semester and MTech CASAD students on Dec 7, 2022. The purpose of the visit was to make students understand seismic concepts in the real world.



*Visit to Dharoi Dam*



*Visit to Indian Seismological Research Institute (ISR), Gandhinagar*

## Other Events

- Dr (CA) Umang Ratani, a business growth coach, entrepreneur, author, and educator gave a talk on 'How to find your purpose and grow in your career?' on July 18, 2022 at the Institute of Commerce.
- Mr Y K Batra, retired Commissioner of Income Tax, and Adjunct Faculty of Institute of Law gave a talk on 'Basics of taxation for beginners' on July 19, 2022 at the Institute of Commerce.
- Institute of Management organised a training session 'Nav Disha' for the IOCL Gas distributors from Gujarat state during July 11-15, 2022. The session was conducted by Dr Sapna Parashar, Dr Mayank Bhatia, Dr Ashwini Awasthi, Dr Nina



*Training session 'Nav Disha' for the IOCL Gas distributors*

Muncherji, Dr Sanjay Jain, Dr Tejas Shah, Dr Sandip Trada, and Dr Tripurasundari Joshi; faculty members of the Institute of Management, and was attended by 156 participants.

- Institute of Law entered into a collaboration with Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, a Tier-1 law firm in India in July 2022. This collaboration will aid in offering paralegal-ship to the Pre-Final and Final year students. It will also engage the students in an experiential learning process, provide training on specific laws such as Energy and Infrastructure Law, and Career guidance through Mock Interviews and CV building exercises.
- A virtual guest session on 'Spiritual Engineering: Time and Stress Management' was organised by the Institute of Commerce on Aug 1, 2022 with Dr Leena Patel, Founder and CEO of Global Entrepreneurial System as the speaker.
- CA Aniket Talati, Vice President, Institute of Charted Accountants of India (ICAI) gave a talk on 'Emerging career opportunities for commerce graduates' on Aug 16, 2022 at the Institute of Commerce.
- A Guest session on 'What is your Peak?' highlighting the importance of having a goal in life was conducted by Mr Dharmendra Joshi, Life Coach and Motivational Speaker on Aug 17, 2022 at the Institute of Commerce.
- Institute of Design celebrated its 6<sup>th</sup> foundation day on Aug 16, 2022 where Prof Maisha Mohan, Director-Design and delivery-India APAC, Emeritus was the Chief Guest and keynote speaker of the day.
- A guest session on 'India-China Relations: Opportunities and pitfalls in the background of emanating geopolitical tensions' was conducted by Amb Vishnu Prakash, former High Commissioner of India to Canada, former Ambassador of India to South Korea at the Institute of Management on Aug 3, 2022.



*Guest Session on 'What is your Peak?'*

- The Campus Recruitment Cell, Institute of Law, Nirma University organised an interactive session titled 'Life at CAM' on Sep 28, 2022. Speakers included Ms Preeti Pandey, COO, CAM; Ms Ketaki Mehta, Partner, CAM; Mr Atman Desai, Partner, CAM; and Mr Aniket Singhania, Principal Associate, CAM.
- An expert session on 'Process and aspects of mediation as ADR mechanism' was conducted by Shri R A Trivedi, Member Secretary, Gujarat State Legal Service Authority on Sep 20, 2022 at the Institute of Law. The facets of the session also covered the legality and judicial aspects including the case laws like Afcon Ltd.
- An expert session on 'Importance of Legal Writing and Research' was conducted by Mr Paras Sukhwani,



*Interactive session titled 'Life at CAM'*



*Session on 'Process and aspects of mediation as ADR mechanism'*

Advocate, High Court of Gujarat on Sep 17, 2022 at the Institute of Law.

- As part of the Orientation Programme of the Institute of Architecture and Planning, guest lectures were held on Sep 30, 2022. Mr Kulbhushan Jain, an academician, a renowned architect, and a former director of MArch, CEPT University shared his insight on the basics of Architecture and talked about different fields of design in Architecture and how one can perceive and orient themselves. Ms Esther David, an artist and a sculptor talked about the relationship between art and architecture. She shared her views and opinion on architecture and how one can take a stand to make certain structures better.

- Institute of Law conducted the IOGA-ILNU Global Roundtable on 'The Future of Blockchain Technology' on Nov 20, 2022 in online mode. Some of the speakers included Dr Chandrika Subramanyan, Principal Solicitor, Success Lawyers and Barristers, Sydney, Australia; Mr Alkali Amana, Certified Speaker, Business and Social Causes, Abuja, Nigeria; Dr Josina Rodrigues, Blockchain Advisor, Porto, Portugal; Mr Chintan Oza, Founder, Anantam Ecosystems Pvt Ltd, Mumbai; Dr M K Bhandari, Chief Executive Officer, ILTES, Founding Director, IOGA, Hyderabad; and Mr Kamlesh Nagware, Chief Technology Officer, Blockchain, Snapper Future Tech, Pune.

## Extension Activities

### 'Panch Prakalp' Awareness Drive

As part of the 'Panch Prakalp', an initiative of the Government of Gujarat under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the NSS Unit of the Institute of Pharmacy organised activities in the primary school of Tragad village on Aug 6, 2022. The volunteers briefed the village students regarding the COVID-19 vaccination and its benefits. They also discussed the

importance of cleanliness.

A drawing competition was also organised for the students of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> standard and prizes were given to the winners in the form of sanitiser kits.

### Pro-Bono Club Activities of Institute of Law

The Pro Bono Club, Institute of Law, Nirma University aims to provide legal services to people in need and give them an opportunity to access equal justice. In this context, the following activities were conducted on Sep 15, 2022:

- A visit to Tragad village aimed to identify villagers who are eligible for free legal services and to raise legal awareness in rural areas. Door-to-door visits were conducted to promote legal literacy among the people.



- A visit to the Mirzapur Civil Court aimed to spread awareness regarding Nyaya Bandhu and the Pro-Bono scheme of the Department of Law and Justice. This visit was to understand the ground-level issues within the community of advocates in enrolling with the Nyaya Bandhu Scheme. The members of Pro-Bono Legal assistance of the Institute of Law, Nirma University briefed advocates regarding the initiative and approached them to enroll to provide legal aid to the marginalised community.

- A visit to Vadsar village aimed at providing free legal services to eligible villagers, identifying such groups, and raising legal awareness. It was the club's third visit to Vadsar, and the response of the villagers has been gradually getting better.



## Blood Donation Camps

- Students Welfare Board, Nirma University in association with NSS Unit of Institute of Pharmacy, Institute of Management, The Kalupur Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd, Nirma University branch, and the Indian Red Cross Society organised a Blood Donation Camp on Sep 2, 2022 at Nirma University campus. A total of 229 units of blood was collected.



*Blood Donation Camp on Sep 2, 2022*

- The NSS Unit of the Institute of Law conducted a Blood Donation Camp in association with the Blood Bank of Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad on Nov 16, 2022 on the university campus. The camp received an overwhelming response and collected 369 units of blood in seven hours. This was the most successful Blood Donation Drive in the history of Nirma University.



*Blood Donation Camp on Nov 16, 2022*

## NSS Camps at Vasai village

- The NSS Unit of the Institute of Commerce organised a one-day camp at the adopted village Vasai, Ahmedabad on Aug 28, 2022. On the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's independence Government of Gujarat commenced an initiative of 'Amrut Mahotsav Par Yuva Sankalp- Shresth Bharat Ke Panch Prakalp' under which volunteers promoted COVID-19 vaccination and created a positive mindset towards it. A total of 37 volunteer students from the second and third year volunteered for the camp along with Dr Ashutosh Pandey, NSS Programme Officer, Institute of Commerce.





*One-Day Camp at Vasai, Ahmedabad on Sep 17, 2022 on the theme 'Women Empowerment'*

- The NSS Unit of the Institute of Commerce, Nirma University under the supervision and guidance of Dr Ashutosh Pandey, NSS Programme Officer, ICNU, organised a One-Day Camp at the adopted village Vasai, Ahmedabad on Sep 17, 2022 on the theme 'Women Empowerment'. The volunteers promoted the importance of women's education, women's entrepreneurship, the prohibition of the dowry system and the prohibition of female foeticide by organising a rally and a street play. The street play was performed at four prominent locations in the village. More than 250 people witnessed the play. Further, the volunteers interacted with the female members, which helped them in knowing about their real problems. A total of 42 NSS volunteers attended the camp.

### Visit to Manav Sadhna Centre

Students of the Institute of Architecture and Planning conducted a field trip to Manav Sadhna Centre, Ahmedabad on Oct 15, 2022. The trip aimed to identify the major social issues and understand the needs of people. The students also visited the local school situated in the same area. Students have proposed some solutions based on the identified issues.



### NSS Residential Camp at Vautha

Students of the Institute of Architecture and Planning completed a 7-day NSS Residential Camp at Vautha village near Dholka, Ahmedabad from Dec 25-30, 2022. A total of 43 students attended the camp. Students undertook a host of activities including an informal village survey and documentation, educational graphics for the primary school and Anganwadi, Art and Craft activity for kids, making a public graphic for the village community, save water awareness drive, a programme for well-being and health of women, and interaction with village youth through a game of cricket.



## Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Campaign

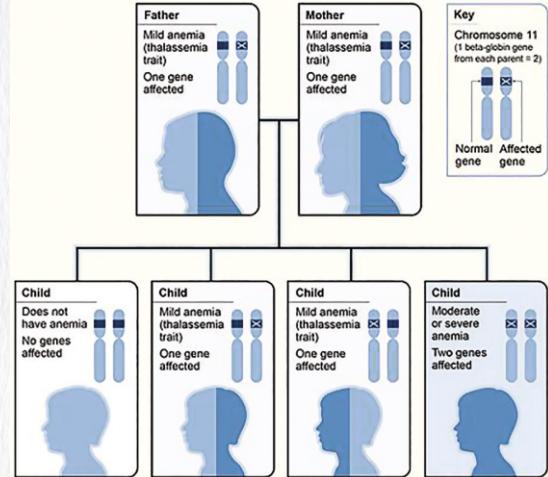
Spandan, the Social Club of the Institute of Management organised a 'Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Campaign' on Dec 11, 2022 in collaboration with NGO Tresna Foundation. They visited the village Chaklasi, Nadiad and had an interactive session with the female students of primary school from classes 6 to 12. They had a round of Garba to break the ice followed by a short animated informative video on what 'periods' is. The importance of good menstrual hygiene was discussed and an effort was made to influence their perceptions of the use of sanitary napkins as an alternative to cloth. Sanitary pads were distributed to the students. Around 100 girls participated in this event.



## Thalassemia test Camp



Institute of Management in collaboration with NSS students and Prathama Blood Bank, Ahmedabad organised a Thalassemia test Camp on Dec 1, 2022. Students were educated on the topic of Thalassemia. A total of 300 students benefitted from the free Thalassemia tests conducted at the campus.



## Other Activities

- An awareness session on 'Child Abuse, Cyber Bullying, Ragging, Good Touch and Bad Touch' was conducted by the Legal Aid Clinic, Institute of Law at Saraswati Higher Secondary School, Chandkheda, Ahmedabad on Sep 22, 2022.
- A session on 'Art of Cross Examination' for Junior Advocates of District Bar Association, Gandhinagar was conducted by the Legal Aid Clinic, Institute of Law on Sep 21, 2022. The session was chaired by Mr D L Patel, Retd Principal District Judge, presently associated as a Clinical Professor at the Institute of Law.
- ISA Students' Chapter, Electronics and Instrumentation Department, Institute of Technology celebrated the festival of Diwali with the specially-abled students of



Prakash School, Ahmedabad on Oct 11, 2022. They distributed sweets, gifted fireworks to the students, and also provided monetary assistance to the organisation.

- On the occasion of the 28<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Celebration of the Institute of Technology, Organisation of Civil Engineering Students (OrCES), Civil Engineering Department and NSS Unit SoE in association with Blind People's Association, Vastrapur organised a Divyang Talent Performance on Oct 3, 2022. Shri Bhupendra Tripathi (Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Ahmedabad) was invited as the Chief Guest. A series of performances including dancing and singing were organised followed by lunch at the university campus.
- The NSS Unit of the Institute of Law organised a donation drive 'Khushi ka Pitara- A hamper that you can fill with happiness' during Nov 1-4, 2022 and donated all the articles collected during this period to the children at Gokul Ashram Shala, Ahmedabad.
- Mavericks, the social committee of BBA, Institute of Management in collaboration with NSS students conducted an education drive at the Ambliyara village, Ahmedabad on Dec 14, 2022. Later, they also invited the village children to showcase their talents and awarded them prizes.



*Foundation Day Celebration and Divyang Talent Performance*

## In Focus



**Dr Madhuri Parikh**  
Director and Dean (I/c),  
Institute of Law,  
Nirma University

### Integration of Community Engagement in University Education

Social transformation is closely linked with education. The institutions of higher education can play pivotal role in social transformation and entrenching values of democratic participation and social justice. The Extension activities and Community Engagement pedagogy in higher education institutions are effective methods to achieve this goal.

There is a global trend to incorporate community engagement in university education. Recently University Grant Commission [UGC] has declared a draft notification on Fostering Social Responsibility & Community Engagement in Institutions of Higher Education in India 2.0 published in January, 2022. The concept of Community engagement is also emphasised in the National Education Policy of 2022. This concept has twin objective of achieving quality education and contributing in economic and social development of a nation.

#### **The Concept of Community Engagement [CE]**

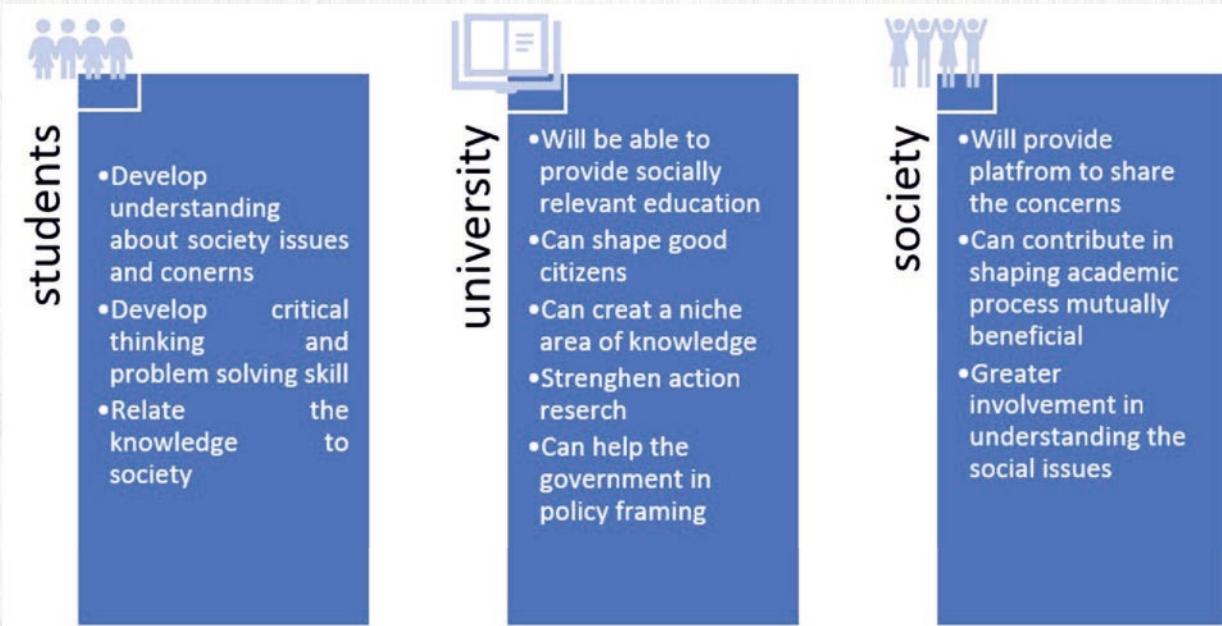
The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Community Engagement describes Community engagement as the collaboration between higher education institutions and their large communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the

mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

Community engagement expects continuous dialogue and integration of it in teaching, learning and research processes. Outreach activities may be many times one way process whereas community engagement is an ongoing and reciprocal process. It means not only society is benefited from CE but at the same time academia is also benefited by enriching and integrating observations from the real world. It is beneficial to the students, faculties and to the universities as it promotes inclusivity and partnership in knowledge development provided if universities implement it with the aim to work with the communities and not for the communities.

### **Advantages of Integration of CE**

There are three pronged advantages of inclusion of CE in higher education institutes as described in the diagram below:



### **Institutionalisation of CE: Prospects and Challenges**

There are numerous ways to integrate community engagement in academic process depending on the programme learning goals. CE can be incorporated through internships, social project-based learning in courses, through research, through National Service Scheme programmes and other such co-curricular activities. Since pre-Independence steps have been taken to integrate CE in University education in India, like Zakir Hussain Committee's Report, Dr Radha Krishna Commission's report, Report of the Subcommittee on Community Engagement in 2015, and a recent draft notification on Fostering Social Responsibility & Community Engagement in Institutions of Higher Education in India 2.0 published in 2022 which emphasised on community engagement in Institutes of Higher Education. Integration of CE in education is need of the day as it is directly linked with Goal 4 of India's commitment to implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Institutionalisation of CE in University education is ideal but its effective implementation needs proper planning and resources.

An effective integration of CE with teaching learning and research processes is challenging task for the institutes of higher education. It will be really difficult for the Universities or Institutions with huge strength of students to include CE as part of the academic process. The problem will arise at multiple level. For instance, to get involvement of each student into CE activity. Planning, Execution, and Review are the three essential aspects for better implementation of CE which might be a challenging task when the number of students is more. Moreover, the teachers should be trained to carry out CE with proper understanding of its objective.

The next challenge may be requirement of resources to carry out CE integrated with academic activities. It is not merely customary one or two visits to the field of study but an ongoing process. For taking students to this assigned field study, the university and institutions need to invest in human resources which have financial implications for the institutions.

The real challenge is the selection of location or field to carry out CE. It means which community to be engaged for the study? The nature of community engagement, objectives of CE and objectives of the course should be the guiding force for identifying community to be engaged.

The draft notification has proposed detailed guidelines for its implementation in Higher Education curriculum. The Universities are gearing up for this new concept. It is a time for the teachers and students to adopt this vision and to get ready for the change. The true implementation of this integration will really manifest the vision of achieving Social Justice as enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

## Faculty

### Awards and Achievements



Dr Madhuri Bhavsar

- Dr Madhuri Bhavsar, Professor and Head of Department, Computer Science & Engineering, Institute of Technology received the ISTE National level award of Best Women in Engineering for the year 2021. The award was given at the ISTE annual convention held on Aug 27, 2022 at Agnel Institute of Technology & Design, Assagao, Goa.



Dr Richa Mishra

- Nirma University funded research project 'A Digital Humanities Project on Presence and Problems of Gendered Language in Digital World (Computer-Mediated Communication) with special reference to Political Reporting using AI' was awarded the second prize in the Digital Humanities at Oxford during July 11-16, 2022. The presentation was done by Dr Richa Mishra, Principal Investigator of the research work. The other team members are Dr Ankit Thakkar, Department of Computer Science, and Dr Ratna Rao, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nirma University.



Dr Vikas J Lakhera

- Dr Vikas J Lakhera, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Technology received the Charutar Vidya Mandal Best Engineering College Teacher Award for Gujarat state during ISTE annual convention held on Aug 27, 2022 at Agnel Institute of Technology & Design, Assagao, Goa.



Dr Mayur Patel



Dr Snehal Patel

- Dr Mayur Patel, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics and Dr Snehal Patel, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Institute of Pharmacy have been recognised as one of the World's Top 2% scientists for the year 2021 published by Stanford University in its Oct 2022 report.



Ms Gunjan Arora

- Ms Gunjan Arora, Assistant Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University was recognised by the Intellectual Property Promotion and Outreach Foundation (IPPO), in association with GCCI & Y J Trivedi, Ahmedabad for 'Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Intellectual Property Ecosystem' in the state of Gujarat under the IP Hall of Fame Honours, as part of IPFEST held on Nov 11, 2022. The Chief Guest for the event Dr Unnat P Pandit, Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks felicitated her with the award.



Dr Shebaz A Memon

- Dr Shebaz A Memon, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, SoE, Institute of Technology, secured All India Rank 1 in the Energy Manager Exam conducted by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Government of India in the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Level Certification Examination for Energy Managers and Energy Auditors in Nov 2022.

## Article by Faculty



Dr Nitin Sankar Pillai  
Assistant Professor,  
Communications  
Institute of Management,  
Nirma University

### What's Your Story?

What differentiates a good interview from a brilliant one? Generally, betterment is attributed to the quality of answers or the credentials that candidate brings in. These are important components that add value to the progresses, however there is another element that can be employed to elevate the quality and depth of this communicative interaction.

Interviews need to be understood as not just an exchange of facts or information dissemination, it needs to be seen as a story-telling situation that involves a listener and a speaker. Although, both these parties are not gathered around a camp-fire sharing scary stories for entertainment, some elements do remain common. One of the key benefits of building a narrative is that it tugs at the heart and not just at the brain. Interviews also need to have this human element. Both the interviewer and the interviewee are involved in a communicative dance where they are making

compatibility decisions for future growth. This cannot be tabulated on a scale of 1 to 10 on some absolute criteria. Such communicative interactions go beyond scales and quantification. There exists a human rapport between the players and such rapport does not manifest in the absence of emotions.

Emotions are omnipresent and it is upto the candidate to decide on what kind of emotions they want to trigger in the recruiter. A good story, will unlock positive emotions that triggers openness for the recruiters. This can make them more accepting of minor mistakes that may occur as you take them along on the journey that is your life. Once this acceptance is established, you can navigate more difficult situations and questions as the interviewer is now ready to come along with you on this journey. This can be achieved by understanding the audience, i.e. the interviewer. A simple search on the company through its social media and web presence can re-orient you towards what they are looking for and probably answer them through your narrative. A recruiter might be struggling with high attrition rates, plaguing multiple verticals which prompts their need for a strong player who would be ready to spend time with them. If you are able to weave this into your story, you assist them in making a decision as the benefits are clearly visible.

From here you can develop your theme. As an individual, if you are someone who is consistent and have enough examples to justify this then this would drive your story. All consecutive conversations would circle back to your theme of consistency with the impact of this being the top skill/attribute that the interviewers remember you for. The theme is recurrent control tool that you circle back to persistently. The theme can then organically become the dye in which you cast your examples. Examples cannot be limited to just the facts, its cocooned in context that shows the juxtaposed situations and how a candidate managed them. For example to explain how consistent a candidate you are you can express it by saying, "I am reliable and committed to work" or you may try bring in rich situations where you faced an upward challenge as you attempted to consistently deliver results. Bring in the antagonists, things that worked against you, the massive fights and all odds that were stacked against you. Then show them how you managed it all. This is what a story is about! The victory, the change from status quo, the bliss of a denouement.

We may not throw all care in the wind and carve untrue stories, layered with exaggerations and deceit. It is purely about identify the highs and lows from your life, structuring them in a theme and delivering it to a listener who needs that story.

So go ahead. Carve your story and present it in the next interview.

## Alumni

### Achievements

- The PhD research work related to Video summary generation of Dr Madhushree Basavarajaiah, AI Lead at Digit Insurance, Bengaluru, and former PhD student at the Institute of Technology, Nirma University, was selected to interact with the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as the beneficiary of Visvesvaraya PhD scheme during the inauguration of Digital India Week 2022 organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on July 4, 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The event received the august presence of Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Communication, Electronics and IT; Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister for State to Skills Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and IT; and Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, MeitY; apart from leaders from leading startups, Unicorns and the Indian IT/ITES industry addressing the gathering.



*Dr Madhushree Basavarajaiah*

The event was a part of the Digital India Programme celebrated by the Ministry of Electronics and IT. To celebrate the unprecedented digital transformation of India, a Digital Mahotsav was scheduled from July 4-9, 2022. Digital India is a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Two female PhD scholars including Dr Madhushree under Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme were appreciated for their exceptional research work during this physical event.

- Mr Arpit Gupta, and Mr Abhisar Bhanu (Batch 2010-2015), alumni of the Institute of Law cleared the Advocate on Record Exam of the Supreme Court on July 28, 2022.
- Mr Sanjay Prajapati, an alumnus of BTech in Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Technology received an appreciation letter from an IPS officer for leading drone surveillance in Rathayatra in 2022.
- Mr Tarun Bothra, an alumnus of BTech Mechanical Engineering, 2015 pass out, and Co-founder of 'Saathi', an Indian start-up that makes biodegradable and compostable sanitary pads has been named winner of the 'Nikkei Asia Award' for its unique technology and potential benefit to society in Dec 2022. The start-up produces sanitary napkins from locally sourced banana and bamboo fibres.



*Mr Arpit Gupta*



*Mr Abhisar Bhanu*



*Mr Tarun Bothra*

- Mr Kothari Naman Miralbhai, an alumnus of BTech Mechanical Engineering, 2021 pass out scored 99.97 percentile in CAT 2022.



*Mr Kothari Naman Miralbhai*

## Alumni Association Meets

### Alumni City Meet of Institute of Management

Alumni City Meet 2022 was organised by the Alumni Relations Committee 'Kaizen' of the Institute of Management on July 16, 2022. Alumni from batches 1998-2000 to 2019-2021 attended this city meet in Delhi, Mumbai, and

Hyderabad, respectively. It was an interactive event wherein the faculty members had a discussion with the alumni on the prevalent current trends in the corporate industry.



### Alumni Meets of Institute of Law

- Institute of Law organised Alumni Meet on Aug 28, 2022 in Delhi. The meet saw the participation of 105 alumni along with institute representatives Dr Madhuri Parikh, Director (I/c), Mr Nitesh Chaudhary, Mr Amit Kumar Kashyap, Ms Anviksha Pachori, and Mr Aman Anand. During the meet, collaborative prospects were discussed with the alumni and expectations of the legal industry were analysed.
- Institute of Law organised its Ahmedabad Chapter Alumni Meet on Sep 17, 2022 at Umami by Curries, Ahmedabad. The meet was attended by 110 alumni members across all batches along with the faculty members. The alumni members committed to aiding their Alma Mater and actively involve themselves in its curricular and co-curricular events and activities.
- Institute of Law organised its Jaipur Chapter Alumni Meet on Nov 21, 2022 at Rambagh Golf Club, Jaipur. The meet was attended by 80 alumni members across all batches along with the faculty and staff members.



### Alumni Meet of Institute of Pharmacy

The Alumni Association of the Institute of Pharmacy hosted its Alumni Meet on Dec 31, 2022. A total of 70 alumni members attended the event. Dr Tejal Mehta, I/c Director, Institute of Pharmacy and President-IPNUAA delivered the annual report of the Institute, Dr Dhaivat Parikh (Vice

President, IPNUAA) briefed the alumni about various activities conducted by the Alumni Association and requested their support in various activities including placement and training of BPharm and MPharm students.

### Alumni Day Celebration at Institute of Management

Institute of Management organised its Alumni Day on Oct 1-2, 2022. A total of 300 alumni participated in a host of activities like General Board meeting, Faculty Alumni Interaction, Cultural Extravaganza, Sports and other Engagement activities.



### Alumni Interaction Session at Institute of Management

An Alumni Interaction session was arranged by the Alumni Relations Committee 'Kaizen' of the Institute of Management on July 16, 2022 where five alumni interacted with the first-year students about their journey at IMNU and guided them on how to prepare themselves during these two years for a better career ahead. Alumni included Mr Sapan Oza, Regional Manager, TCS; Mr Chintan Mehta, Director, Technology Advisory Department, KPMG India Pvt; Ms Anoli Shah, Director, Stalwart; Mr Sukhvinder Singh, Director, Singh Sports Ventures Pvt Ltd; and Mr Anay Mashruwala, Partner, Head Marketing and QC, Venus Engineering Works.



### Alumni Interactive Series at Institute of Law

- Mr Siddhant Pandey, Legal Manager, Torrent Pharmaceuticals; and an alumnus of the Institute of Law delivered a talk on 'Legal Career in the Pharmaceutical Industry' on Sep 17, 2022. Mr Pandey discussed his experience as a professional working with Torrent Pharmaceuticals and his past experiences with the law firms, such as Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, HSA advocates and others.
- Mr Vishwas Chittwar, an alumnus of the Institute of Law, and currently a legal executive at Online PSB Loans Ltd discussed the role of an in-house counsel and the basic work that entails in an in-house corporation.

### Alumni as Guest Speakers

The following alumni members from the Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering Department, Institute of Technology were guest speakers at the Orientation

Programme organised by the International Society of Automation (ISA) Students' Chapter, Nirma University from Aug 5-8, 2022. The event was attended by more than 150

students across all branches of the Institute of Technology.

- Mr Harsh Satyapanthi, an alumnus of Nirma University, Stanford University, and the University of Southern California, currently Sr Manager, Operations at NVIDIA in the San Francisco Bay Area, USA interacted with students regarding how to continue their studies both in India and overseas.
- Mr Boni Satani, currently the Marketing Head and Partner at Zestard Technologies and the Co-Founder of Flickstime shared his experiences and also talked about the origin of his start-up concept.
- Mr Shivam Patel, currently a software engineer for machine learning at Google, California, USA talked about his journey from Nirma University in Ahmedabad to Google in California, and what it's like to work there. He also gave the students a road map to assist them in reaching their objectives.
- Mr Puneet Ghanshani, currently a Project Architect at Microsoft provided insight into his career accomplishment. He has published a book on C programming and over two dozen whitepapers in international journals.
- Mr Kartik Gajera, an alumnus of Nirma University, and IISc Bangalore, currently working as a Scientist in SO-C Bhabha Atomic Research Center in Mumbai guided

students to appear in GATE.

- Ms Nisha Ganapathy, alumna of Computer Engineering, Institute of Technology, Nirma University, and PGDM in Marketing from IIM Ahmedabad, currently Product Manager, Dabur International Skincare, Dubai discussed preparation for higher studies with the students.

The following alumni members from the Civil Engineering Department, Institute of Technology delivered expert lectures at the Orientation Programme organised for the MTech (Computer Aided Structural Analysis and Design) students during Aug 1-12, 2022.

- Mr Krunal Mehta, Senior Design Engineer, SID Consultants, Ahmedabad delivered an expert lecture on 'Experience sharing and Team Building Activities'.
- Mr Bhavesh Patel, Director, Techlution (India) Private Ltd, Ahmedabad delivered an expert lecture on 'Role of Structural Engineers and Experience Sharing'.
- Mr Raja Bagga, Principal Engineer, Neilsoft Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad delivered an expert lecture on 'Opportunities for Budding Structural Engineers and Experience Sharing'.
- Mr Murtaza Jambughodawala, Structural Engineers, Mumbai delivered an expert lecture on 'Learnings from the failures of the structures'.

### Expert talks on the occasion of Youth Day

The Association of Computer Engineering Students (ACES) celebrated Youth Day on Aug 12, 2022 by organising expert talks conducted by alumni of the CSE Department, Institute of Technology.

- Mr Shivam Patel, Software Engineer-Machine Learning, Google gave a talk on 'Computer Science, Youth and

Future scope in computer science from research perspective'.

- Mr Piyush Bhan, Senior Vice President, International Business, Salucro Health Care Solutions gave a talk on 'Technology and youth'.

### Alumni Talks at Institute of Technology

- Ms Kinjal Rathod, MTech in Information and Network Security from Nirma University, currently working as Software Development Engineer 2 at Paytm gave a talk on 'Exploring Career Paths' on Oct 15, 2022. Ms Rathod has also contributed to finding vulnerabilities in Arogya Setu App in 2020 and received an award for the same.
- Mr Mantraraj, alumnus of Department of Computer Science and Engineering, currently working with the portfolio companies to improve their KPI matrix conducted a session on 'Entrepreneurship' on Oct 20, 2022.
- Mr Alark Patel, an alumnus of the Institute of Technology (class of 2012, BTech in Computer Engineering), currently Sr Technical Programme Manager, eBay conducted a session for CSE students on the topic '#include<Roadmap.h> - The header file to an amazing college life ahead' on Nov 18, 2022.



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