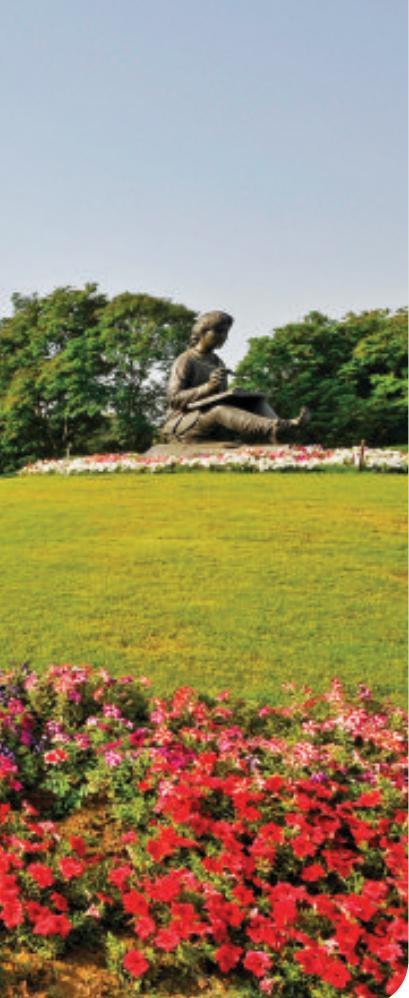


Nirma University Newsletter



Volume 12 • Issue 1 & 2
January - June 2020

Major Highlights of this Issue



Nirma University is awarded a 4-star status in Gujarat State Institutional Rating Framework (GSIRF) 2020 by Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat.

Institute of Pharmacy is ranked 17th among the Pharmacy Institutions of India as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2020 by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India.

Inauguration of the Centre of Excellence in Data Science at Institute of Technology.

Institute of Technology received accreditation from National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for all its undergraduate programmes.

Nirma University signs MoU with Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solution Pvt Ltd (RBEL), Bangalore.

Innovative initiatives at the university...

Academic continuity during the times of COVID-19

Contents

Volume 12 • Issue 1 & 2 • January - June 2020



MoU



Innovative Initiatives

04

Message from the
Director General's Desk

05

News

07

Students

14

Education and Research

15

Internships

16

Placements

17

Innovative Initiatives

20

Visitors

21

Events & Activities

41

Extension Activities

45

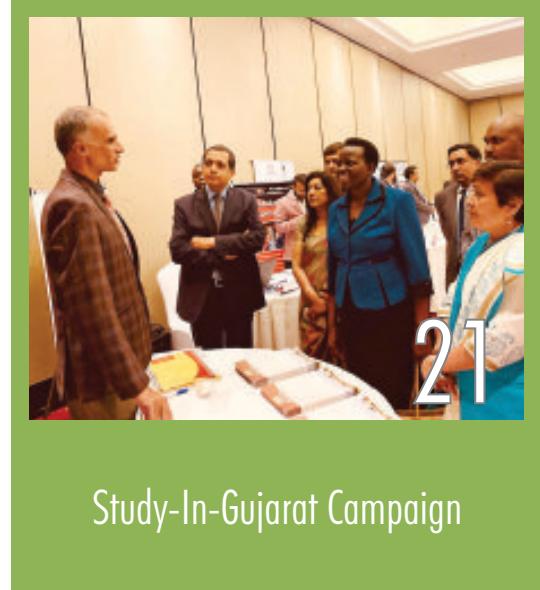
In Focus

46

Faculty

47

Alumni



Study-In-Gujarat Campaign



35

International Day of Yoga



50

Alumni Meets

Message from the Director General's Desk



Dear Reader,

A pandemic like COVID-19 occurs only once in several centuries. Unfortunately, when it happens, it disrupts the human life drastically. It stuns and stupefies people at large and leaves them helpless and hopeless. In addition, it changes economic, social, political, and developmental paradigms prevalent in the different parts of the world. Today the humanity is caught unaware and scrambling for finding effective survival and growth strategies. What are the answers to long-term challenges posed by this pandemic?

The future of the human race depends largely on high quality education and health. Education is the spirit of the mind, whereas health provides the elixir to the body. In the past, these two sectors have received scant attention from the governments of the world. One surprising positive aspect of the current crisis is that the governments would be forced to rethink their approach to reinventing and revitalising education and health.

Higher education – like several economic and social activities – has suffered severely from COVID-19. Teaching and examination activities have been hampered. There is no telling when regular academic activities will ensue. Admission processes are delayed. Most unfortunately, placements of students have either slowed down or revoked,

creating despair and dismay for the youth. Governments across India have stopped recruiting, while the private sector corporations have adopted a wait and watch tactic. Consequently, many students will either become unemployed or will be forced to elongate their studies.

Peter Drucker – the foremost management thinker – is attributed to have said that the modern university is a relic and will disappear soon. His prediction did not prove true for many decades. Nevertheless, the modern university is poised to get its new Avtar. Higher education has been affected by the corona pandemic in three ways. Firstly, higher education professionals have realised the inevitability of online education. Previously, classroom learning and online learning were like water and oil, and they hardly mixed. Online learning has now been found a valuable tool that is going to stay in higher education forever. On-campus teaching and online teaching are meeting and merging like never before. Of course, many efforts are required to make this conflation more effective. Better communication and information technologies are needed; teachers need to be trained to optimise the online teaching-learning process; students have to be more efficient self-learners; and, governments are required to change the regulations to facilitate higher education institutions (HEIs) in enhancing their impact.

Secondly, the HEIs have to develop innovative strategies to distribute students into small groups (say 30 and below) and engage them in various academic processes. Thus, we are heading towards a paradoxical situation. While students will attend online lectures in large groups (say 100 to 500), they would also do other academic activities (tutorials, lab work, simulation, career

development, etc) in numerous small groups. It implies that the HEIs have to invest massively in equipment, facilities and production of digital learning materials. In the future, learning would not be counted in terms of class credits – the clock hours that students spend in the classroom – but in terms of learning credits – the hours the students engage in learning units. It has several imperatives for the teaching-learning methods. Several new methods have to be evolved and experimented. New realities command new responses.

Thirdly, examinations and assessments have to be redefined and be treated as learning. There will be a greater need for more assessments, so that learning is assured. At the same time, it cannot be – and should not be – a source of stress. It has to be as natural and smooth as learning. Technologies will help academics in fast and seamless implementation of assessment. The moot point is that students should be given feedback about at each and every step of their learning process.

As the HEIs are currently undergoing unpredictable, unforeseeable transformations, we are limited in our ability to visualise the future of higher education. Nevertheless, we can safely state that the old paradigm of higher education cannot sustain itself. A new paradigm will emerge – slowly and steadily. Sensemaking and agility will assist academics in developing the new paradigm of higher education. It also implicates that various HEIs must collaborate together and design new teaching methods, redefine and rework assessment techniques, and plan and develop new modes of learning. Long back, Lord Buddha presciently observed: Only change is permanent.

Anup K Singh, PhD

Director General, Nirma University

Rankings

NIRF 2020

Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University is ranked 17th among the Pharmacy Institutions of India as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2020 by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India.

Institute of Management, Nirma University has been ranked 44th overall Best B-School by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2020 by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India.

GSIRF 2020

Nirma University is awarded a 4-star status with an overall CGPA of 3.91 in Gujarat State Institutional Rating Framework (GSIRF) 2020 by Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat. Thus, making the university the best private university in Gujarat. Nirma University is the only university to receive a 5-star rating in three out of the four evaluation parameters.

GSIRF also awarded Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University, with a 5-star status and an overall CGPA of 4.51 making it the best Pharmacy institute in Gujarat. The institute received 5-star in all the four evaluation parameters.

SCIMAGO Institutions Rankings 2020

Nirma University has received an Overall India Rank of 52 and Global Rank of 756 in the category of Higher Education. The SCIMAGO Institutions Rankings is a science evaluation resource to assess worldwide universities and research-focused institutions. Academic and research related institutions are ranked by a composite indicator that combines indicators based on research performance, innovation outputs, and societal impact.

MoUs

MoU with Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solution Pvt Ltd.

Institute of Technology, Nirma University signed an MoU with Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solution Pvt Ltd (RBEI), Bangalore on Jan 30, 2020. The MoU involves the exchange of technical knowledge in new age technology, strategy and innovations leading to solving real-life problems.

Dr Alka Mahajan, Director, Institute of Technology, and Dr R N Patel, Additional Director, School of Engineering, Institute of Technology signed the MoU on behalf of the Nirma University. Mr Mohan BV, Manager, Strategy & Innovation, and Mr Rohit Bhardwaj, Manager, New Age Business were the signatory authorities from RBEI.

Collaborative activities like joint research projects, organising workshops, expert lectures, faculty development programmes, laboratory development, consultancy in focused areas, academic interaction for qualification improvements of Robert Bosch Associates, etc will be initiated soon as part of this understanding.



Reaching Out

Nirma University employees contribute to Gujarat Chief Minister Relief Fund

Amid Coronavirus outbreak, Nirma University has pledged to contribute one-day salary of all its employees towards the Chief Minister Relief Fund. It is a small gesture from the employees and the University to support the government in its relief activities during COVID-19 pandemic.

Awards

NBA Accreditation

Institute of Technology, Nirma University got accreditation from National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for its undergraduate programmes in Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering and Instrumentation & Control Engineering. These programmes are accredited for three years under the Tier-I (Washington Accord) category. Earlier the institute had received accreditation for its undergraduate programmes in Computer Science & Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electronics & Communications Engineering and Chemical Engineering.

The purpose of the accreditation by the NBA is to promote and recognise excellence in technical education in colleges and universities. It is important to note that Nirma University is the only private university in Gujarat to receive accreditation in Tier – I category.

Likewise, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University also received the NBA accreditation for its BPharm Programme for a period of three years.

Visit of NBA Expert Teams

The departments of Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Instrumentation & Control Engineering of Institute of Technology underwent the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) accreditation process under the Tier-I (Washington Accord) category during Jan 31-Feb 2, 2020. In purview of the same, teams of experts visited laboratories and class rooms of the three departments. Experts also had an interaction with stakeholders including, faculty members, staff members, students, alumni members, recruiters and parents.

Inauguration of Centre of Excellence in Data Science

Shri K K Patel, Vice President, Nirma University and Dr Harvey Stenger, President, Binghamton University, USA inaugurated the Centre of Excellence in Data Science on Jan 27, 2020 established at the Institute of Technology, Nirma University. The Centre will cater to the research and development need in the multidisciplinary area of Data Science by collaborating the academia with industries.



IGLUS Centre of Excellence: A Smart City Lab

Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University; University of Lausanne, Switzerland; and Gift City, Government of Gujarat has set up a Centre of Excellence in the field of sustainable cities in GIFT city, Gandhinagar. Mr Tapan Ray, MD and Group CEO of GIFT City; Prof Finger Matthias, Swiss Post Chair at EPFL; and Dr Utpal Sharma, Director, Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University; signed a memorandum of understanding to initiate the process for incubating IGLUS Centre of Excellence (ICE) at GIFT City on Jan 27, 2020.

The centre will act as a platform for exchange of knowledge and global best practices about smart city initiatives around the world. The centre will connect experts from its global network, provide Smart City consultancy services and organise joint conferences and workshops and regional trainings on smart city topics.

Students

Achievements

Maker Fest 2020

The team of Chemical Engineering students, Shravesh Patel, Ruchit Patel and Deep Kotak, guided by Dr Sanjay Patel won the Golden Award at Maker Fest 2020 for their Idea Lab project

"Biodegradable plastic from agricultural waste" during Jan 18-19, 2020. The project is aimed at using the agricultural waste such as wheat straw, wheat husk and rice husk to synthesise biodegradable plastic.

Maker Fest Vadodara is a National exhibition of varied disciplines such as technology, agriculture, food technology, artisans, health, renewable energy and plastic replacement options. It is organised by Yuvalay Electronics lab. This time about 47 projects were shortlisted and given their individual stalls to showcase their prototypes and give hands-on experience to the visitors, including entrepreneurs, teams from IOC and ONGC, among others.

At the end of the two-day exhibition the project was felicitated with Golden Award which included a sum of Rs 10,000/-, a trophy and individual certificates for team members.



ROBOFEST Stage II

A 'Four Legged Robot' prepared by a team of 5 students, Harshvardhan S Sisodiya, Akshay Marwaniya, Prasham Patel, Akash Surve, and Navin Khatri from Mechanical and IC; and a 'Chess Playing Robot' prepared by a team of 5 students, Vaibhav Thakur, Krish Ajmera, Naman Kothari, Nikhil Patel, and Tarun Khilani from Mechanical and EC, Institute of Technology, Nirma University have cleared the stage II of ROBOFEST competition organised by GUJCOST Gujarat and won the amount of Rs 2 lakh each for the preparation of final prototype to demonstrate at Stage III of competition. The students are mentored by Dr Mihir Chauhan, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department, Institute of Technology.



Nirma University bags the Top Three positions at the Storm Challenge

The pre-final year students of Chemical Engineering bagged the top three positions at the national-level Industrial Problem Solving competition 'The Storm Challenge'. The competition was organised by Thermax Global Pvt Ltd, a pioneering engineering company involved in the energy and environment sectors.

The challenge was a real-life industrial problem found in one of Thermax's manufacturing units. The participants were required to apply concepts related to fluid mechanics, plant design, thermodynamics, plant utilities and economics to solve the problem and subsequently provide suggestions to optimise the plant. The selected teams presented their solution via a video conference to the expert panel of Thermax Ltd where all the three teams from the university were declared the winners of the competition. The winning teams were called to present their case solutions to Thermax delegates at their headquarters in Pune.

The winning team won a cash prize of INR 50,000. The second and the third positions won INR 30,000 and INR 20,000 respectively. The experience of solving an industrial problem by using concepts learnt in theory classes gave the students conceptual clarity, a chance to hone their problem-solving skills and confidence over complex engineering concepts.



SAE India Southern Section Aero Design Challenge 2020

Team Arrow (Dhruv Patel, Prem Rajpara, Yash Patil, Vivek Pragda, Mohit Somani, Vedant Soni, and Jayraj Gohel) of Institute of Technology, Nirma University secured third position in 'Overall Performance Award' with cash prize of Rs 25,000/- and also bagged 3rd position in 'Best Design Report Award' at the SAE India Southern Section Aero Design Challenge 2020 in Micro Class category organised during Feb 28 to March 1, 2020 at Bannari Amman Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu.

A total of 62 teams from colleges across the nation including NIT Agartala, NIT Patna, NIT Pune, NIT Mysore, IIT Kanchipuram, BITS, VIT Pune, SRM University, Bannari Amman Institute of Technology along with Institute of Technology, Nirma University competed for the Micro Class Category.



Other Achievements

- Devashish Trivedi, a fifth year student of Institute of Law secured an adjudicator break at the 40th World Universities Debate Championship (WUDC), 2020 at Bangkok, Thailand held from Dec 27, 2019 to Jan 3, 2020. WUDC is known as the Mecca of Parliamentary Debating and the competition saw the participation of more than 700 candidates from over 100 countries. The Institute of Law becomes one of the six institutes from India to have secured a break at WUDC.



- Aadesh Shinde, a third year student of Institute of Law bagged the title of "Best Delegate Award" at Sansad, the National Youth Parliament, held at Jawahar Bhavan, New Delhi during Jan 18-19, 2020 on the theme "Curbing fake news through legislative measures while ensuring freedom of speech and role of judiciary". He was applauded by the Executive Board members for his substantive speeches, lobbying skills and solution-oriented approach. The competition witnessed participation of 65 students across the country.



International Scholarship Awards won by ISA Student Members

Six students of Instrumentation & Control Engineering Department, Institute of Technology secured scholarships totaling worth USD 8500, from the International Society of Automation (ISA), USA in the month of June 2020. The scholarship given as recognition of the outstanding potential, for the contributions in the field as an ISA member will support the educational expenses of the students.

Ms Somya Gupta (2000 USD), Ms Shailly Maheshwari (2000 USD) and Mr Prashant Somaiya (2000 USD) have won the ISA Education Foundation Scholarships. In addition to these, Mr Rishi Hiran (1300 USD), Mr Rutvik Desai (700 USD) and Mr Shrey Shah (500 USD) have won the scholarships from PMCD Division of ISA.



Somya Gupta
\$2000

Shailly Maheshwari
\$2000

Prashant Somaiya
\$2000



Rishi Hiran
\$1300

Rutvik Desai
\$700

Shrey Shah
\$500



Other Achievements

- Aadesh Shinde, of Institute of Law won "The Times of India Torrent Power Public Speaking Contest" held at Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA) on Feb 26, 2020. He was appreciated for display of great confidence, content and voice modulation.



- Preet Pandit, an undergraduate student (Sem VI EE), Institute of Technology is felicitated with SAE India 'Student of the Year Award' by SAE India Foundation on Feb 10, 2020.
- The team comprising Shalini Mishra, Vanshika Agrawal, Shrishti Mishra, Ashutosh V and Palak Jain from Institute of Law won the citation for the second best memorial at Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, 2020. The Indian rounds of the competition were held at Amity Law School, Noida from Jan 30-Feb 2, 2020.

- The team comprising Paridhi Rastogi, Akshita Totla and Aashna Shah of Institute of Law won the citation for Best Memorial in the 18th Surana and Surana Corporate Law National Moot Court Competition, 2020 held from Feb 7-9, 2020. The team was also adjudged as semi-finalists in the competition.



- A short film titled 'Watch Out - A Silent Film' on the theme "Road Safety" by the Foundation year students, Srujal Tawade, Hemang Parekh, and Muhil of Department of Design won 3rd prize at the Uyir Short Film Competition on Feb 5, 2020. Uyir, an NGO with the mission of making Coimbatore an accident free Society organised the 'Uyir Short Film Contest' wherein a total of 124 short films were received under this contest across India.



- The team comprising Shivanshi Gupta, Paridhi Galundia and Manali Maheshwari of Institute of Law won the citation for best memorial and were also adjudged as semi-finalists at Kerala Law Academy's 29th All India Moot Court Competition held from Feb 7-9, 2020. In addition to this, Shivanshi Gupta was awarded with the citation of the Best Student Advocate and Paridhi Galundia was awarded with the citation of the Second Best Student Advocate.



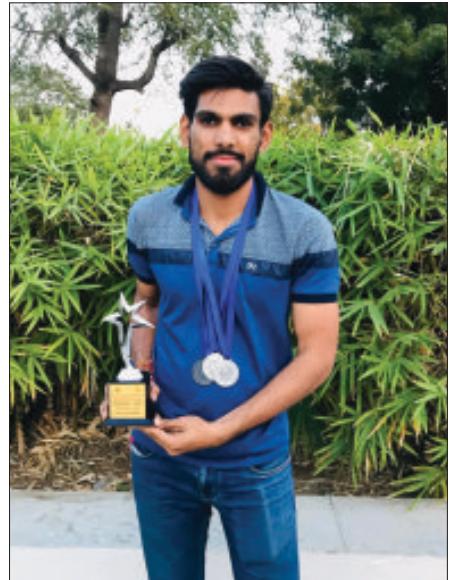
- The team comprising Varada Jhagirdar, Sanjhi Agarwal and Priyanka Bajpai of Institute of Law won the citation for "Best Memorial" at 5th Prof N R Madhava Menon SAARC Law Mooting competition, 2019-2020. The international rounds of the competition were held at Llyod Law College, Delhi from Feb 21-23, 2020. In addition to this, the team was adjudged as quarter-finalists and Varada Jhagirdar was awarded as "Best Female Advocate" at the competition.



- Arnav Singh and Abhinav Dhar from Institute of Management emerged as the winners of the Regional Round of 16th Edition of Tata Crucible Campus Quiz 2020 conducted by Institute of Management on Feb 15, 2020. A total of 104 teams (208 participants) participated in which 51 teams were from Nirma University and 53 teams from outside Nirma University. Arnav Singh and Abhinav Dhar were the defending champion for this year's Quiz contest. They were presented with a cheque of Rs 75,000/- for their achievement.



- Jitendra Singh, MPharm semester II student secured third position in 800 meter running athletic event. The team of Nirma University also secured second position in Kho-Kho event at Petrocup 2020 organised at PDPU, Ahmedabad during Feb 14-15, 2020.



- Jitendra Singh, MPharm semester II student received first prize in oral presentation for his start-up idea entitled "Oral vita spray development for vitamin B12" in a State Level Competition Pitch 2020 organised at Airhart School of Pharmacy and Bio-research during Feb 4-5, 2020.
- Vishvajeet Rao, Angel Ratnani, and Vedanshi Shah, students of Semester-IV of Institute of Technology secured 2nd runner up position at the "UltraTech Sparkling Star competition" for undergraduate students of Civil Engineering branch at L D College of Engineering, Ahmedabad on March 6, 2020.

- The team comprising Sakshi Rathore, Agrima Shankar, Ankur Mishra, Anshika Pandey, and Ritika Singh of Institute of Law have been adjudged as 3rd Best Team in the National Rounds of the 24th Stetson's International Environmental Moot Court Competition held during Feb 14-16, 2020 in Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat. The Institute has qualified for the third time in a row for the world rounds.



- Vedant Jajodia and Raju Gupta of Institute of Management won the "Chase to Lead" event organised as a part of the Adhikosh-20 held at National Institute of Bank Management, Pune during Feb 29 to March 1, 2020. They cleared the initial online round and were shortlisted among the 7 teams out of 1600 participating teams for the campus round.



- Nikunj Sharma and Darshan Makwana, from Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Technology won second prize at QUIZO-2020 organised by ASHRAE WIC (The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers - Western India Chapter) on March 7, 2020.



- Shubham Bohra, a fourth year student of Institute of Law teamed with Sagar Jaikumar from GLC, Mumbai was adjudged as Grand Finalists in the British Parliamentary Debating Tournament organised by Ullens Debate Club Nepal in association with the Debate Network Nepal. The tournament conducted during May 3-4, 2020 witnessed participation from nine Asian countries.

- Parmar Sweety, PhD student working under the guidance of Dr Vijay Kothari, Assistant Professor, Institute of Science is selected in the Scheme of Developing High quality Research (SHoDH) of Government of Gujarat, June 9, 2020.
- Ms Rupal Chabbadia, BPharm semester VII student of Institute of Pharmacy participated in International Conference on Basic and Translation Cancer Research (ICBTRC-2020), organised by the Association of Cancer Education and Research (ACER), School of Life Sciences, B S Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, in association with W M Keck Centre for Cellular Imaging, University of Virginia, USA, and Tamil Nadu State Council for Science & Technology (TNSCST) held during June 25-27, 2020. Her poster entitled "Autophagy in Cancer: Swings and Roundabouts" was selected as the best e-poster in undergraduate category.



- Mr Chetan Dhal, PhD scholar, Institute of Pharmacy won first prize from West zone in the Dissolution Research Presentation India 2020 (DRPI 2020) organised online by the Society of Pharmaceutical Dissolution Science (SPDS) in the month of June 2020.
- Devashish Trivedi (fifth year, Institute of Law) along with Apratim Shirvastava, Delhi Technological University were adjudged as grand finalists in in NSU Eranos, hosted by North South University, Bangladesh. The debating event held during June 19-20, 2020 witnessed participation of about 60 teams.

Mr. Chetan Dhal

Title of abstract: Evaluation of Pectin-based film containing PLGA based nanoparticle for the prophylactic management of surgical site infection.

Graduation Details: B. Pharm - 2012

Post Graduation Details:

- M. Pharm - 2014
- Ph.D. - Full time Ph.D. Research Scholar since September 2015.

Past and Current achievements:

- Worked in the A R & D Division of Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, Pharmacopoeial Associate for 14 months and became a team member development of Indian Pharmacopoeia Addendum 2016 to IP 2014.
- Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) from Council for Scientific and Industrial (CSIR) to pursue my PhD.
- Attended and presented my research findings in 17th International Novel and Drug Delivery Symposium at Massachusetts Institute of Technology USA in September 2019
- Publication during PhD – (3)

- Subham Krishna Borah (fourth year) and Aarush Sharma (first year) of Institute of Law were adjudged as grand finalists in the 3rd Hong Kong Pro-Am Debate Championship 2020, held during June 20-21, 2020. The competition witnessed participation from major south-east Asian countries and is hosted by Hong Kong University, and Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Student Experience

Life Beyond Campus

The students experienced a sudden vacuum due to the transition from 'a lot of things to do' to 'nothing to do' in the initial phase of the lockdown during March to May 2020. As shared by the students of Institute of Science, some excerpts:

Naisargee Patel, PhD student said, "This is the quality time to catch up with pending reading, and exploring things planned for some time later, like physical fitness in daily routine by meditation, pranayama, aromatherapy etc. I had never learnt cooking until I realised that it is not a hobby, nor a gender specific activity. It is a life-sustenance basic that is equally important to learn as is to earn money or making a career."

The MSc students in addition to attending online classes and thesis writing, are utilising time for the NET exam preparations. Many of them have enrolled for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) as per their interest.

Farhan Daila, a semester IV MSc Biotechnology student is using this lockdown as an opportunity to apply his knowledge and research skills to combat the problems of COVID-19. In his words, "I am studying on various natural molecules which can be used as a therapeutics or drugs for COVID-19. Recently I have studied on one chemical compound of garlic which is called Allicin which can be used as an inhibitor for the most important protein of COVID-19. Now, I am studying on phenolic compounds of olive oil, as many people, especially the elderly suggest to use it in medication. So I am looking the effect of it on COVID-19."



Education and Research

Faculty



Dr Mayurkumar Makhesana

Assistant Professor
Mechanical Engineering Department,
Institute of Technology
Nirma University

minimum quantity lubrication in machining. Further, it has also led to an economical machining process by reducing consumption of the lubricant. The focus of the research work was also to motivate the metal cutting industries to develop clean, green and sustainable manufacturing processes.

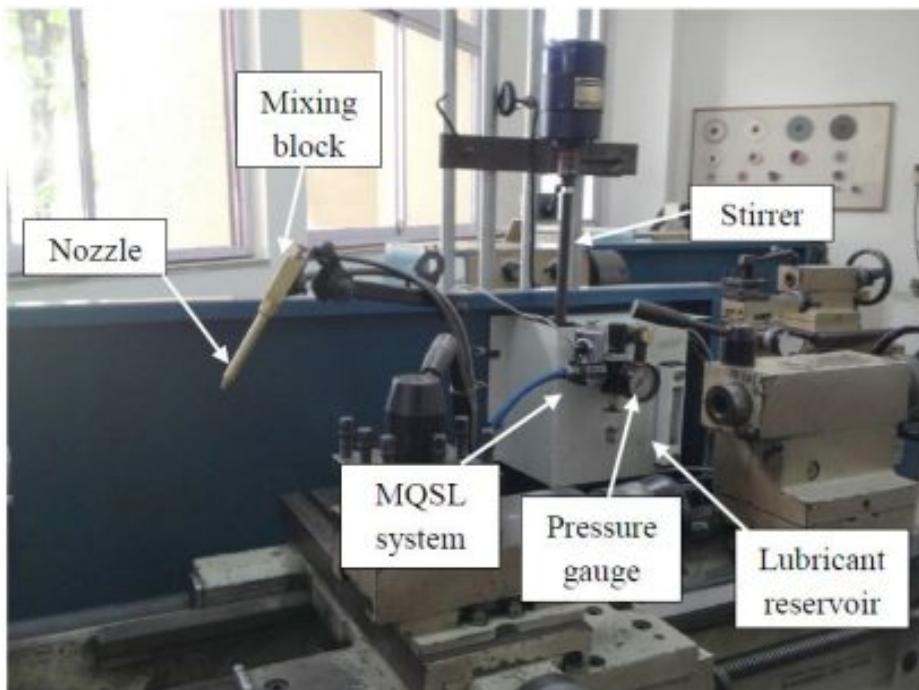
It is challenging to control the amount of heat generated during machining since the application of conventional cutting fluid is hazardous for the operator's health as well as for the environment. Moreover, the government regulation regarding the disposal of these fluids, environmental protection, and the need for development of low cost, clean and green processes leads the manufacturing industry to take initiative towards the development of sustainable manufacturing processes.

Dr Makhesana, took this challenge in his doctoral work entitled "Performance Assessment of Solid Lubricants and Minimum Quantity Lubrication in Machining". The innovative lubricant delivery system, namely minimum quantity solid lubrication, was designed to investigate the effect of machining parameters on machinability characteristics. Moreover, the effect of solid lubricant combined with MQL was assessed and results were compared with different machining environments. From the experimental findings, it was observed that the machining performance is enhanced with the application of solid lubricant and minimum quantity lubrication. The results revealed the encouraging potential of solid lubricant added with minimum quantity lubrication by improving machining performance, and enlighten the possibility of replacing the conventional flood cooling.

Sustainable Machining through Minimum Quantity Lubrication and Solid Lubricants

Sustainability has attained a lot of importance in today's manufacturing industries which extend efforts towards the optimum use of resources without compromising the quality and productivity. Machining is viewed as an important manufacturing process that can produce precise dimensions and desired finish on a workpiece.

The question "how to develop cost-effective, safe and eco-friendly machining process?" was addressed through the development of a novel and eco-friendly lubrication strategy, such as application of solid lubricant assisted



Internships

Summer Training/Industrial Internships 2020 at Institute of Technology

At the Institute of Technology, the students of BTech and MTech undertake Summer Training/Industrial Internships of 4-6 weeks duration with a view of putting into practical use the classroom teaching and gaining a flavour of industrial work culture or research institutions. However, this year, due to the unprecedented situation arising due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry as well as R&D institutions are dealing with a new work situation. Also considering the safety aspects associated with travel to workplace and the need for social distancing, the summer training/industrial internship this year needs to evolve in its implementation as practically possible.

The students in this situation are considering a work-from-home approach and take an internship involving industrial case study, problem solving, project assigned by the industrial or external mentor. The case study, problem solving, project can typically involve design and development of systems/sub-systems, software/code development, optimisation and system analysis, etc. The student can also associate with a department faculty as an internal mentor for the internship and through periodic meetings using online platform interact periodically for progress reviews and related discussions. At the end of the duration, the student shall be submitting a written report summarising the work carried out and making a formal presentation.

Summer Internships 2020 turned into Work-From-Home Assignment

In view of the unprecedented situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses and industry, all around, are trying to grapple with the major disruption in their routines brought about by lockdown, restricted travel and the social distancing norms.

At Institute of Management, this disruption happened at a very crucial time, just when the students were about to begin their summer internships. Given the criticality of the summer internships in the academic curriculum of the MBA programme, an appeal was sent to the recruiters to consider a Work-from-Home option for the students and not revoke the offer as it could adversely affect the academic prospects of the students. For MBA students it was proposed that all eight weeks of summer internships would be in a Work-From-Home mode whereas for the four months internship of I-MBA students, a hybrid model was suggested. It consisted of four to eight weeks in Work-From-Home option starting May onward, followed by twelve or eight weeks onsite internship based on the prevailing situation. Recruiters were sensitive to understand the situation and appreciate the concerns. About 60% of the batch was assigned the summer internship via Work-From-Home option. In specific cases where organisations were unable to offer Work-From-Home option, the Institute identified relevant project topics which were allocated to the students in their area of specialisation.

At Institute of Architecture and Planning, Internship for students is the most indispensable part of the course as the discipline directly deals with the industry. Students who have not been able to complete 18 weeks of mandated practical training have been given the assignment based on research.



Placements

Institute of Pharmacy

Placements for the batch passing in June 2020 at Institute of Pharmacy was scheduled during March to May. Many reputed companies like Novartis, Torrent Pharma, INTAS Pharma, APCER, MOLKEM, FINECURE Pharma, Aegis life sciences etc have offered jobs to students. A total of 20 students have been placed from MPharm before the lockdown was declared in March. Selection process at more than 10 reputed companies is also under discussion. Few companies like Sun Pharma, Amneal Pharma, Sundyota Numandis, CBCC Global have conducted online or telephonic interviews of students and shortlisted them for further selection process. The students are counselled and oriented for the specific opportunities by faculties and placement cell for increased chances of selection. The students are constantly advised to keep themselves productively engaged and better skilled to take on the opportunities which will be encountered in the post lockdown scenario.

Institute of Commerce

A total of 22 students of the graduating batch of Institute of Commerce have been placed in companies including, KPMG, Nielsen, Go Digit, HR Johnson, Toppr Technologies, S&P Global, Federal Bank, and TresVista.

Institute of Management

The campus placement drive at Institute of Management witnessed offers from prominent companies, from sectors such as - Consulting, Automobile, IT&ITES, Social Media, BFSI, FMCG, Market Research, Manufacturing, Construction & Real Estate, Healthcare, Ecommerce, Analytics, Micro Finance, Power, Consumer Durable, and Telecom. Companies such as Smart Cube, Bytedance (Tik Tok), Phone Pe, and Deutsche Bank hired from the campus for the first time. Pantaloons, CRISIL, EXL Services, Decent Appliances, Spacematrix, Mercados, Symtten, HDFC Bank offered PPOs. Infosys, J P Morgan, EXL Service, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, Neilsen, CARE, CRISIL, TCS, HDFC Life, Performics Convonix, and Heidelberg Cement have been visiting the campus regularly. A total of 261 students have been placed until now with 80 plus companies.



Innovative Initiatives

Academic Continuity Through Online Teaching

The current COVID-19 pandemic has brought upon a heightened sense of uncertainty in every aspect of life, and academics is no different. The constituent institutes of Nirma University have made every effort to continue imparting education by adapting to the online teaching method. Several web-based platforms having interactive whiteboards such as Microsoft Whiteboard, Google Jam board, Concept Board, etc, video conferencing applications such as Google meet, Skype, etc, and online teaching-learning management tools such as Google Classroom and other teacher-student collaborative tools have been integrated for learning.

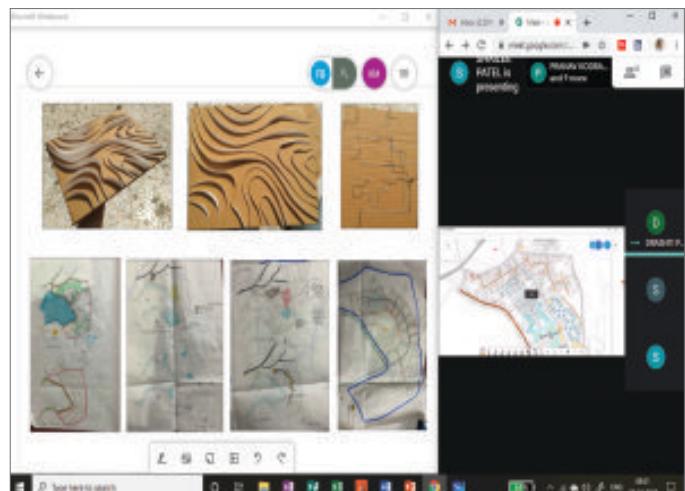
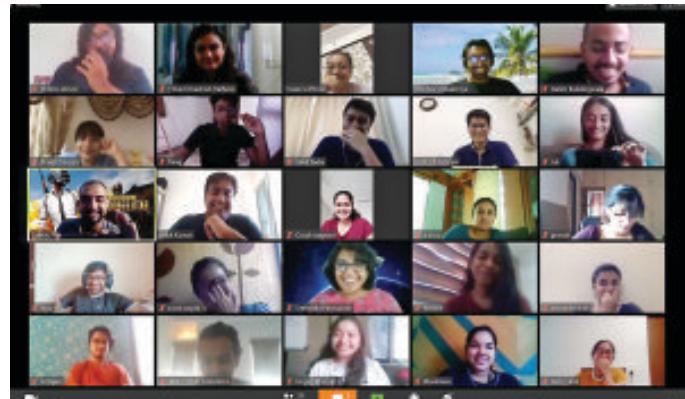
The Institute of Technology have adopted ICT in their teaching learning process long ago, much before the COVID-19 crisis. In fact, the institute was earlier awarded 'CCI Technology Award' at the State Level and FICCI Award for Best University in the use of technology at the National level.

Post lockdown all the constituent Institutes of Nirma University have approached eTeaching-learning with a much focused approach. It has been decided to complete the syllabus through online live classes as well as by recording of the sessions and later distributing it. The Institutes have been running their online classes like offline classes, in a very systematic and disciplined way. The practice of flipping the classroom and blended learning came very handy post lockdown time, which was already in use earlier.

Faculty are conducting online assessment using moodle software, google quiz forms,

presentation by students, Viva voce, etc. Motivational messages as well as preventive measures considering the COVID-19 pandemic are also shared with the students from time to time.

Department of Design at Nirma University which deals a lot with practical hands-on learning had to adapt to new methods of teaching to continue the learning process. The department tweaked a few assignments and began with Innovation through limited resources. Students are being encouraged to develop observation skills, understand the challenges of limited resources and taught how to turn those limitations into innovative ideas. The students have been working through apps such as Stopmotion Studio on their laptops and phones to learn the techniques of storytelling through objects found in their homes.



Student Mentoring in COVID-19 Pandemic

The student mentoring becomes inevitable in a situation where they have a dream to complete their project to demonstrate their ability, and suddenly a pandemic like COVID-19 brings a pause. Under such a situation, the Institutes decided to get in touch with each and every student. The e-mail communication from faculty mentors, Whatsapp and Google Meet chat with individuals; and group chats for general discussions were initiated. The handholding and refining project scopes to extending help for writing the project reports, soliciting assignment completion, to understand the social challenges, reaching to remote locations through peer are the tasks that mentors met happily.

The mentors also addressed student concerns about summer internships and final exams, helping them with relevant information and guidance. The students have also been advised to avail the counselling facility provided by the University in case of psychological and emotional issues due to pandemic and lockdown situation.

Undergraduate Research Council

Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University has established the Undergraduate Research Council to encourage participation of undergraduate students in research related activities. Some of the objectives of the Council include, provide proper guidance to students, engaging students into practical and real life problem solving, support the students to pursue multi-disciplinary research in Pharmaceutical Sciences, nurture the ideas through financial support under Idea Lab, to promote student exchange with reputed organisations of India and abroad.

Establishment of Pre-Incubation Centre

A Pre-Incubation Centre is established at Nirma University to support BTech final year student's innovative idea with technical advancement and commercial viability and transforming it into Proof-of-Concept (POC) stage. This centre will motivate, support and mentor students for identification, development and commercialisation of their innovative ideas. Selected projects will get financial assistance up to Rs 50,000 for Proof of concept. 5 projects from Institute of Technology are selected under pre-incubation funding scheme in Feb 2020.



Faculty Induction Programme

Centre for Quality Assurance and Academic Development (CQAAD) organised the first Online Faculty Induction Programme from May 26-June 21, 2020. The University has been organising induction programme for supporting new teachers in techniques that will help them and the students succeed. The faculty induction programme aimed to discuss the nuances of effective classroom teaching and pedagogy, ways to make the classroom more interesting and interactive, guidelines for enhancing the personality and tips for improving capabilities for resource awareness and knowledge generation. In context of the existing pandemic there was a special emphasis on online teaching- its nuances, tools, tips and precautions. A total of 27 faculty members from the constituent institutes of the university benefitted from the programme.

Centre for Energy Law, Policy and Strategy

The Institute of Law inaugurated its Centre for Energy Law, Policy and Strategy on Feb 4, 2020. The aim of the Centre is to assimilate, consolidate, and explore the multidisciplinary nature of energy law, policy and strategies and their linkage with environment and development related issues through a multifaceted approach. This will be achieved through research and study of economics of energy, energy options for sustainable development oriented governance and national security strategies with a transnational and global perspective.

On this occasion a seminar was also conducted on "Contemporary Legal Issues of Energy Accessibility, Affordability, Sustainability and Security". The event was presided by Dr Anup K Singh, Director General, Nirma University. The chief guest of the event was Ms Sunaina Tomar, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Gujarat, Energy and Petrochemical Department. Dr S Gangotra, Senior Technical Advisor to the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission; Mr Anil Kumar, IPS, DG Special Police Establishment, Lokayukta MP; and, Mr Raj Singh Nirjanjan, Partner, Trans India Law Associates, New Delhi, joined the seminar as keynote speakers.



Visitors

- Mr Vikram Raghavan, Lead Counsel, World Bank, USA, and an eminent Constitutional Law Researcher delivered a distinguished lecture at Institute of Law on "Granville Austin and the making of Indian Constitution" and "Band of Sisters: The Women who founded our Republic" on Jan 20, 2019. During the lecture, Mr Raghavan talked about the research carried by Granville Austin, an American historian work's on the Indian Constitution. He also talked about women members of the Constituent Assembly who played a vital role in shaping the Constitution.
- Prof V S Chauhan, Chairman, Executive Committee, NAAC delivered a public lecture on "Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education in India" on Feb 28, 2020 hosted by Institute of Science, Nirma University.
- Dr Jagdish Gandhi delivered a lecture on 'The Lost Civilization of the Saraswati river' on Feb 20, 2020 at Institute of Architecture and Planning. Dr Gandhi is an Ecologist environmentalist, numismatist, photographer, heritage activist and researcher in ancient Indian Sciences.
- Mr V Balasubramaniam, founding Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of India International Exchange IFSC Ltd (India INX) gave a lecture on "Recent developments of capital markets in IFSC" at Institute of Commerce on Feb 27, 2020. India INX is the first International Exchange from India in GIFT City, Gujarat. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Balasubramaniam emphasised that the establishment of India's first IFSC at GIFT City Gujarat shows that the stance of India towards capital markets is changing. He familiarised the participants with the capital market concepts like FDI, FPI, Masala Bonds.
- etc and the role they play in the functioning of capital markets. A total of 150 students along with faculty members attended the event.
- Mr Ajay Tomar, IPS-Special Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad gave a lecture on "Police and Security Administration" on Feb 10, 2020. Mr Thomas shared his insights on police origin, power to arrest and legitimised use of force by the police.
- Prof Sunil Jambhekar, LECOM School of Pharmacy, Florida, USA delivered talk on various topics, like In vivo in vitro correlation, Pharmacokinetic Software and Basic Concept of Pharmacokinetics at Institute of Pharmacy during Feb 11-15, 2020.
- Prof A K Chaturvedi, Director, IIT-Roorkee delivered a keynote address during the national seminar on '5G Wireless Technology' on Feb 14, 2020 at Institute of Technology.
- Prof Ronald White, Executive Dean, College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University, Australia met with the Director General, Director Research & Innovation, Director Institute of Technology and Head International Relations on Feb 25, 2020; and proposed collaboration in the fields of Research and Students Internships.

Events & Activities

Study-In-Gujarat Campaign

Department of Higher & Technical Education, Government of Gujarat organised Study-In-Gujarat campaign in Kenya and Uganda during Feb 12-20, 2020. Dr Mehul R Naik, Head, International Relations represented Nirma University at the exhibitions, roadshows, schools and colleges; and also signed MoUs with the top rank universities of Kenya and Uganda – University of Nairobi and Makerere University.



Design Thinking Workshop

Centre for Entrepreneurship organised a two-day 'Design Thinking Workshop' in association with Gujarat Technology University, Ahmedabad on Jan 21-22, 2020 for the students of Idea lab, Nirma University. The workshop was facilitated by Mr Karmjitsingh Bihola, Assistant Professor, Gujarat Technological University, Ahmedabad. The focus was on explaining that understanding the problem faced by the people is more important for the success of the solution rather than working on the execution of the solution without knowing its requirements, which helped the students differentiate between traditional thinking and design thinking.



Seminar on Niryat Bandhu

Institute of Commerce organised a seminar on "Niryat Bandhu" in collaboration with DGFT, Ministry of Commerce, Ahmedabad Regional Office on Jan 11, 2020. Mr Anil Kumar Choudhary, Additional Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Indian Trade Service, 1986 batch) addressed the students. Mr Rohit Soni, Deputy Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ahmedabad (Indian Trade Service, 2013 batch) discussed the various aspects regarding the export and import business in India.

Republic Day Celebrations

On Jan 26, 2020 the University celebrated the 71st Republic Day of the nation. Prof Ashoke Chatterjee, former Director, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad was the Chief Guest on this occasion. The flag hoisting was followed by an impressive march past by the NCC cadets of the university. A photo exhibition of the best photos clicked by the students in the photography contest was also organised as a part of the event.



UltraTech India Next Webinar

Civil Engineering Department, Institute of Technology under the Indian Concrete Institute (ICI), Student Chapter organised the 'UltraTech India Next Webinar', a knowledge sharing initiative of UltraTech cement for the undergraduate students of Civil Engineering department on Jan 29, 2020. The main aim of organising online webinar was to give students knowledge regarding 'Contribution of Building Chemicals in Building Performance'. The webinar was conducted by well-known speaker Mr Padmakar, a Civil Engineering professional with more than 32 years of experience.

Cyclothon 2020

The Rotaract club of Institute of Management in collaboration with Mavericks Committee organised Cyclothon on Feb 2, 2020, with the theme 'Pedal Preserve Nature'. As many as 95 students participated in the event. The event emphasised on conserving fuel for the future and to save the environment from pollution by encouraging the use of cycles.

Drop of Ink

Sumantra - The Literary Club of Institute of Management organised Drop of Ink 2020, the flagship event of the club in collaboration with The Monologue on Feb 20, 2020. The theme of the event was storytelling and poetry. The speakers included Mariyam Saigal, Abha Mehra, Abhaya Mishra, and Mohammed Sadriwala. The participants were from Nirma and other B-schools.

Smart India Hackathon 2020

Centre for Entrepreneurship organised a campus preliminary round for the Smart India Hackathon on Jan 18, 2020. The event provided a platform to students to solve existing issues in the current working system, with viable options. A total of 32 teams participated from Institute of Technology, Nirma University. The teams came up with great ideas, solving current issues ranging from farming to traffic control, using a variety of recent technological advances such as AI and ML.

The jury comprising Mr Pratik Patel, CEO and co-founder, Yudiz Solutions; Mr Virang Mankad, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Annex Infotechnologies; Mr Nirat Patel, co-founder of Vendaxo Pvt Ltd; and Mr Dhaval Shah, Director, Nessa Illuminations adjudged team Blitzkrieg lead by Anant Raina as the winning team, and team Scramblers lead by Deep Dhaval Pujara as the runners up.



NICOM

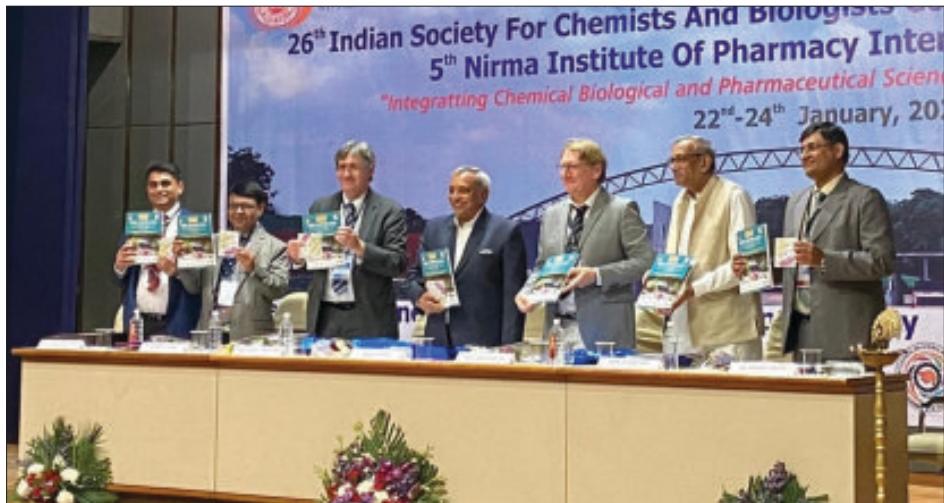
The 23rd Nirma International Conference on Management (NICOM) organised by the Institute of Management was held during Jan 3-5, 2020. Mr Santosh Desai, MD & CEO, Future brands was the chief guest for the inaugural session. The event was also graced by the president of Nirma University, Dr Karsanbhai Patel. A total of 52 selected papers were published in two books, "Customer, Competition & Marketing Strategy", and "Innovations in Marketing", which were released during the inaugural ceremony.

Keynote speakers for the plenary session included, Mr Pradeep Poddar, Director, Monsanto, Welspun who delivered valuable insights on the topic "Marketing Landscape: Change in the Making"; Mr Vijay Parthasarathy, Founder, InTouch Consulting.in, spoke on the theme "Marketing Landscape Constant behind the change"; Mr Maharana Ray, Vice President, Probiking, Bajaj Auto Ltd spoke on the topic "Managing customer and competition"; Mr Puneet Avasthi, Senior Executive Director, Kantar, talked on the theme "Marketing Strategy in a digital world"; and Mr R Balasubramanian, Director, Resource Mobilisation, Sankara Eye Foundation addressed the audience on the topic "Healthcare Marketing in India." The chief guest for the valedictory session was Mr Nitin Parekh, CFO, Zydus Cadila.



ISCBC-NIPICON-2020

Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University jointly with Indian Society of Chemists and Biologists (ISCB) organised its flagship event NIPICON-2020, the 5th International Conference on the theme "Integrating Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Sciences for Innovations in Health Care" during Jan 22-24, 2020. Prof Nigel G J Richards, Professor, Cardiff University, UK was the Chief Guest and Prof Christophe Len, PSL Research University, Paris, France was the Guest of Honor during the inaugural function. Dr Anamik Shah, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapith & President, Indian Society of Chemists and Biologists; Dr P M S Chauhan, Former Chief Scientist, CDRI, Lucknow & General Secretary, ISCB; also graced the occasion.



Some of the distinguished visitors during the three day event included, Prof Anil Kumar Singh, IIT Bombay; Dr Keshav Deo, Executive Director, Almelo Private Limited, Hyderabad; Dr Shipra Chauhan, Scientist, Zeon Corporation, Kawasaki, Japan; Dr Ravindra V Singh, Head-India R&D, Sigma-Aldrich Chemicals Pvt Ltd, Bangalore; Prof Bal Ram Singh, Director, Botulinum Research Centre and Institute of Advanced Sciences, North Dartmouth, MA; Dr Mukesh Nandaveis, Associate Professor, Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University, New Delhi; Prof Dalip Kumar, Associate Dean, BITS Pilani, Rajasthan; Dr Marco L Lolli, Assistant Professor, University of Turin, Italy; Dr Laurent El Kaim, Laboratoire de Synthèse Organique, Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France; Prof Vassilios Papadopoulos, Dean, School of Pharmacy, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA; Dr Sanjib Bhattacharyya, Department of Pharmaceutical Science and Chinese Traditional Medicine, Southwest University, Chongqing Shi, China; Prof Saranjit Singh, Dean & Head, Pharmaceutical Analysis, NIPER, Mohali; Prof Asit K Chakraborti, Head, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, NIPER, Punjab.

The conference was attended by more than 400 researchers in the areas of chemical sciences, biological sciences, pharmaceutical science and other related areas.



National Level Case Analysis Competition

Institute of Commerce organised a National level Case Analysis Competition in collaboration with Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD), Ahmedabad Chapter on Jan 31, 2020 on the theme "Businesses balancing social and economic strings". The participants were provided the case 48 hours prior to the competition.

More than 120 participants from different institutes/universities including, IIT Gwalior, IIS Jaipur, Christ University - Pune, Karnavati University, P P Savani College, PDPU Gandhinagar, DAVV Indore, Kachchh University, Prestige University - Indore, R K Patni College - Kishangarh, Mewar Girl's College, VNSGU, BRCM College of Business Administration, CU Shah College of Commerce, Amrut Mody School of Management, GLS University, and ICAI - Ahmedabad Chapter participated in the event. The team from the Institute of Management, Nirma University stood first, and Amrut Mody School of Management stood second.



Shaheed Diwas

NCC Unit of Nirma University in association with Students Welfare Board organised Shaheed Diwas on Jan 30, 2020 on the University campus. The students performed a group play based on a theme of Shaheed Diwas to pay homage to martyrs who laid down their lives for our betterment. A poster exhibition was also held on the same theme.



Perspective Richter 10

Institute of Management inaugurated its three-day annual management and cultural fest "Perspective Richter 10" on Jan 16, 2020. The event kick-started with the management conclave, "Nirmatavta: Be Bold, Be Brave, Be You". This year's theme was 'Mavericks and Misfits'. Eminent guests at the event included, Ms Mira Erda, India's first female F4 Racer to race in Euro JK Series; Mr Amit Kojam, former Captain from Indian Army; Gyanvatsal Swami, motivational speaker and social reformer, BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir; and Mr Parthasarathi Mishra, ex CHRM, Tata Steel Ltd. The speakers enlightened the students by sharing their personal experiences and helped them to inculcate the true qualities of a Maverick. They also focused on how to achieve a goal by believing in oneself.



Workshop on Computer Aided Drug Design Software

Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Institute of Pharmacy under the banner of Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University organised a workshop on "Computer Aided Drug Design Software" supported by Schrödinger Inc, USA on Jan 21, 2020. Dr Prajwal Nandekar and Dr Vinod Devaraji, Application Scientists form Schrödinger were the resource persons. A total of 33 participants from various Institutes across the country, like IIT-BHU Varanasi, BITS Pilani, DAVV Indore, MS University Baroda, Gujarat University, Shyamsundar College West Bengal, ARIBAS Anand, SP University Anand attended the workshop.



National Voter Day

NCC Unit of Nirma University in association with Students Welfare Board celebrated the 10th National Voter Day on Jan 25, 2020 at the University Campus. The National Voters' Day (NVD) has been celebrated on Jan 25 every year since 2011, all across the country at over ten lakh locations across the nation, including polling station areas, sub divisions, divisions, district and state headquarters, to mark the Foundation day of Election Commission of India, which was established on Jan 25, 1950. The main purpose of the NVD celebration is to encourage, facilitate and maximise the enrolment, especially for the new voters. Dedicated to the voters of the country, the Day is utilised to spread awareness among voters for promoting informed participation in the electoral process. On this occasion, Nirma University organised a quiz competition, and poster/drawing competition on the theme "Value of One Vote".



Talk Show

Nirma Institute of Pharmacy Students Association (NIPSA) organised a Talk Show with the well-known author and TEDx speaker, Mr Shantanu Gupta on Jan 31, 2020, at Institute of Pharmacy. The event also saw the launch of the annual magazine 'Seismic Bytes' of NIPSA.



Workshop on Medical Writing

Department of Pharmacology, Institute of Pharmacy under the banner of Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University organised a one day workshop on Medical Writing on Feb 15, 2020. Dr Anupama Ramkumar, CEO & Principal Consultant, Arkus Research Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad; Prof Sunil Jambhekar, Professor, LECOM School of Pharmacy, Florida, USA; and Dr Rakesh Ojha Principal Medical Writer, Syneos Health, Global Medical Writing, Pune were the resource persons. A total of 94 participants across Gujarat attended the workshop.

Converting Plastic Waste to Wealth

Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) celebrates Jan 23 to Jan 29, 2020 as "Harit Prem Bharat Mahotsav", and to mark this occasion, OrCES (Organisation of Civil Engineering Students), IGBC Student's Chapters along with NSS unit of Nirma University organised a student symposium on "Converting Plastic Waste to Wealth" on Jan 23, 2020. The event was inaugurated by Mr Jayesh Hariyani, Co-chairman IGBC Ahmedabad Chapter, and Dr R N Patel, Additional Director, SoE, Institute of Technology, Nirma University.

Expert lectures on "Waste to Energy" by Dr Bina Patel, Senior Manager & Head Abellon Clean Energy Limited, Ahmedabad; "Recycling of plastics and waste management" by Dr P K Manadal, Assistant Professor, CIPET: Institute of Plastics Technology (IPT) Ahmedabad; and "Plastic waste recycling and relevant technologies" by Mr Sudhir Shukla, Director, Soletch Recycler, Baroda were organised.

More than 120 students of Civil Engineering Department participated in the competitions, like Let's Talk-a Case Study Competition; Ideate-Idea Pitching Competition; and Reuse it-Model Making Competition. An awareness programme about the various aspects of reuse of plastic material was also organised during the event.



Kalp 2020

Kalp, the Annual student festival of Institute of Architecture and Planning was organised during Feb 10-12, 2020. The festival started with the inauguration of the exhibition of student works followed by a talk by renowned academician and scholar Prof Jaimini Mehta on 'Modernity and Modernism'. Panel discussion was held on 'Future of architectural education and Planning for climate change' by eminent speakers like Ar Jayesh Hariyani, Prof Neelkanth Chhaya, Ar Rajeev Kathpalia, Ar Riaz Tayyibji, and Prof Anil Roy. Guest lectures were conducted by Dr Amarjeet Singh, Chairman, RERA, Gujarat on 'Real estate development in India'; Prof Jamal Ansari, former professor at School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi shared his experiences in the Master plan development of Noida and Greater Noida; and Lt Gen Vishwambhar Singh, a three-star general of the Indian army, and an architect made a stimulating presentation on the 'Role of an architect in the Indian army'. Some of the other events held during the three-days included, a quiz competition, workshop on landscape and marble art, cultural night, competitions like In-house sports, Treasure hunt, etc.



International Teaching Month

Institute of Law celebrated the 'International Teaching Month' from Feb 10-22, 2020. The programme witnessed collaboration of professors and thinkers from universities and institutes established outside India. The speakers included, Prof Stephan Hardy, Professor of Law & Dean, Coventry University Law School, UK who conducted session on Comparative Criminal Procedure; Prof Luis G Franceschi, Senior Director of Governance & Peace, Commonwealth Secretariat, London, who spoke on Comparative Constitutional Law; Prof Lethokwa Mpedi, Faculty of Law, University of Johannesburg, South Africa who conducted sessions on Administrative Law; Judge Mel Flanagan, Former Circuit Judge & Adjunct, USA, and Prof Stephen G Barnes Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programmes, Penn State Law, who discussed the various aspects of US Legal System; Dr John Winterdyk, Professor of Criminology, Mount Royal University, Vancouver, Canada who conducted sessions on Criminology & Comparative Research Methodology; Prof Dietmar Boerner, HoF University, Germany gave lectures on Comparative Labour Law; Prof Adam Dubin, Faculty of Law, University Madrid, Spain, conducted sessions on Human Rights; Dr Peter Schäfer, HoF University, Germany talked about the European Legal System; Dr Ricky Lee, Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame, Sydney, Australia spoke on Space Law; Mr Yili Dautraj, Head of Law, DER Juridik, Stockholm introduced the students to the basic concepts of International Commercial Arbitration; and Dr Venkat Iyer, Professor and Head, School of Law, Ulster University, United Kingdom, conducted sessions on International Law.



Appreciative Coaching for Performance Excellence

Institute of Management organised a two days Management Development Programme (MDP) on "Appreciative Coaching for Performance Excellence" on Feb 28-29, 2020 for industry professionals. Prof Hardik Shah, Associate Professor was the programme leader. The programme focused on providing deeper insights into coaching process, art of appreciative coaching and models/tools of coaching for creating positive business impact. It provided basic and advanced level of coaching competencies for participants using 'Appreciative Inquiry' principles making significant business contribution. Participants from Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd, Somany Ceramics Ltd and Sunil Sandeep & Company attended the programme.



Awareness Session on Essentials of Patent Drafting

Ms Gopi Trivedi, patent attorney and a Senior Partner of YJ Trivedi & Company delivered a talk on 'Essentials of Patent Drafting' on Feb 29, 2020. Ms Trivedi explained the process of patent filing and the steps involved. She also discussed the advantages of patents in the current era of research and innovation. The session ended with an interactive question-answer session.



NUZeal - Inter Institute Cultural Festival

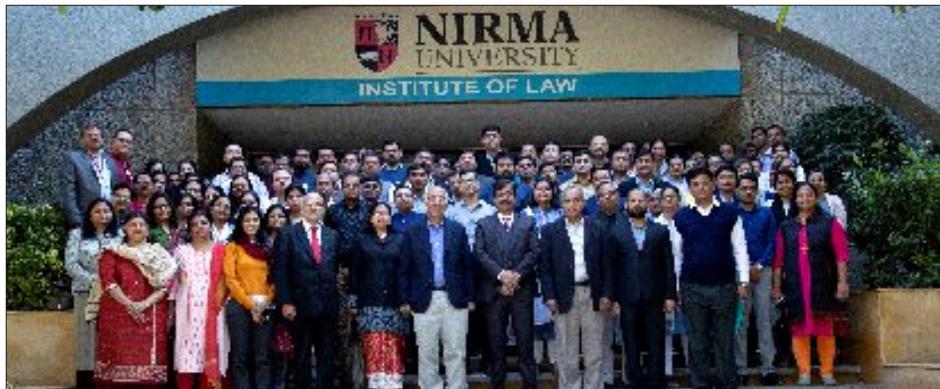
NUZeal, the Inter Institute Cultural Festival was organised during Feb 5-7, 2020. More than 550 students, staff and faculty members from the constituent Institutes of Nirma University participated in this festival. A total of 14 external experts were invited to judge the 23 events under Theatre, Dance, Music, Fine Arts, and Literary category. A Personality Contest was also organised under NUZeal.



Seminar on Research Avenues: Opportunities and Conversion

A one day seminar on "Research Avenues: Opportunities and Conversion" was organised by Directorate of Research and Innovation, Nirma University on Feb 1, 2020. A total of 84 faculty members and researchers participated in the seminar in which 62 members were of Nirma University and 22 were from universities and research organisations across Gujarat.

Dr Sundeep Sarin, Advisor and Scientist 'G', Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi was the chief guest. Dr Ryan Pereira, Regional Officer, United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF), Mumbai; Dr Subhash Soni, Mission Director, Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM); Dr Shilpi Paul, Scientist E, Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), New Delhi; Dr Ravi A V Kumar, Scientist, School Co-Director, Institute of Plasma Research, Ahmedabad; Ms Khyati Ved, Senior Manager in Higher Education & Society, West India, British Council Division, Mumbai; and Dr P N Tekwani, Director, Directorate of Research and Innovation, Nirma University delivered information about the various funding agencies.



Electric Vehicle Awareness

Department of Electrical Engineering, Institute of Technology organised a one day programme on "Electric Vehicle Awareness" by ARAI, Pune under Department of Heavy Industries (Government of India) on Feb 27, 2020. Dr K C Vora, Sr Deputy Director & Head, ARAI Academy, Pune was the Chief Guest. Dr Vora along with ARAI executives delivered sessions on the Electric Vehicles followed by a demonstration of Electric vehicles.



Poster Presentation

Directorate of Research and Innovation (DRI) organised a one-day Poster Presentation event for Doctoral students of Nirma University on Feb 15, 2020. The PhD scholars registered with Institute of Technology, Institute of Management, Institute of Law, Institute of Pharmacy, Institute of Science and Institute of Architecture & Planning participated in the event. The purpose of this event was to provide an opportunity for students to share their research with other students and faculty members. It also helps students to boost their confidence and initiate interdisciplinary research. A total of 50 students presented their posters during the event. Dr Anup K Singh, Director General of the University along with Dr P N Tekwani, Director, DRI, interacted with the students and discussed their ongoing work and possible outcome. The Head of the Institutions as well as faculty members also gave their valuable inputs to the students.



ChemFusion 2020

The Department of Chemical Engineering, Institute of Technology organised a National Technical Symposium, ChemFusion 2020 under its Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IICChE) Student Chapter. The two-day event organised during March 4-5, 2020 witnessed a participation of over 500 students from a number of engineering colleges. The symposium was inaugurated by the Head of Department, Dr Sanjay Patel. A host of events were organised as a part of this symposium that gave participants a platform to test their engineering knowledge and practical skills.

Pratidhwani - The Alumni Conclave

Pratidhwani - The Alumni Conclave of Institute of Management was held on Feb 1, 2020. The theme for the year was "The Road Not Taken" encompassing how one is always faced with choices, to decide upon something that will make a difference in one's life.

The conclave witnessed eminent alumni from various industrial domains who shared their learnings and experience with the current students. The invited speakers for the conclave included Mr Abbey Thomas (Associate Director, Kellogg), Mr Anubhav Sood (Client Relationship Manager, Amazon), Ms Aastha Tolia (Life Coach), Mr Thomas Mampilly (HR business partner, Wells Fargo), Ms Priyatna Basu (Ex Vice President, Yes Bank), Ms Akanksha Bumb (Co-founder & COO, F5 escapes), Mr Anurag Kabra (Co-founder, Pegasus), Mr Dhruvil Patel (Director, BPC projects and Infrastructure), Mr Parth Das (Associate Director, SAP), Mr Manupratap Solanki (Innovation Manager, HUL), Ms Charul Mohta (Lead business analyst, CGI), and Mr Rajesh Hudda (Vice President, Syntex).



Lecture Series on Multimodal Human Computer Interfaces

Department of Computer Science Engineering and ACM Student Chapter, Institute of Technology, Nirma University invited Dr Stephen Brewster, a renowned researcher in the field of HCI and Professor, School of Computing Science, University of Glasgow, UK to deliver the three day lecture series on "Multimodal Human Computer Interfaces" during March 5-7, 2020. Dr Brewster delivered interesting talks on Multimodal HCI, Haptics and HCI, Novel interfaces for cars and AR/VR applications and research trends. The talk on March 5 was preceded by the inauguration of the ACM Student Chapter by Dr Stephen Brewster; Dr Alka Mahajan, Dean, Faculty of Technology; and Dr Madhuri Bhavsar, HoD-CSE. The next two days focused on more in-depth teaching to a selective audience of students working in the area of HCI and AR/VR. Furthermore, Dr Stephen Brewster also interacted with Dr Anup K Singh, Director General of Nirma University for strengthening the collaborations between both the institutions.



Career Guidance Session

Mr Nishodh Saxena, MD, Prowess Pharma Knowledge Centre, Ahmedabad conducted a career guidance session at Institute of Science for MSc students on Feb 15, 2020. He oriented students about various emerging fields like, Medical Coding, Clinical data management, Insurance processing, Pharmacovigilance, Medical scribing, Clinical Research as career options.

'Paper in Future' Workshop

Anne Vilsbøll, a Danish painter and author brought students attention to the hidden potential of paper as a tool for modern means of expression in a workshop conducted on March 2-3, 2020. The workshop involved learning from some of the works of Anne Vilsbøll and her incredible experience of 30 years with paper making, a visit to Kalamkush (Gandhi ashram paper making unit) and exploring paper in a completely new way. Students of Institute of Architecture and Planning learnt how they can use paper as an artistic material in varied industries.



Inter University Sports Fest: AbhimaNU

The third edition of Inter University Sports Fest "AbhimaNU" was organised at the university during Feb 28 to March 6, 2020. AbhimaNU received participation of 500 students from 23+ universities across the state, for games including, Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball, Table Tennis, Lawn Tennis, and Chess.



Flow Cytometry in Research and Health Care

Institute of Science along with Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) and Indian Immunology Society (IIS) organised a workshop on 'Flow Cytometry in Research and Health Care' during March 3-5, 2020 coordinated by Dr Dabu Lal Gupta, Assistant Professor, Institute of Science. Dr Subhadra Chiplunkar, Director, Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC), Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai was the chief guest of the inaugural session. Professor, N K Mehra, Former Dean of Research, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi presided over the event.

During the three day event, lecture series were organised by eminent speakers working in areas of immunology such as Cancer Immunology, Immunology of T cells, and Monocytes Transplantation Immunology. This was followed by hands-on training and detailed analysis by using Attune NxT Flow cytometer and relevant software. A total of 82 participants attended the lecture series and 27 participants also attended the hands-on workshop.



Workshop on RISC-V Boot Camp

A two-day workshop on 'RISC-V Boot Camp' was organised by Electronics and Communication Engineering Department, Institute of Technology jointly with SiFive during March 2-3, 2020 with more than 150 participants. SiFive is the first fabless semiconductor company to build customised silicon based on the free and open RISC-V instruction set architecture. The workshop was aimed for the faculty members, research scholars, Industries and R&D personals. It included key concepts of the open RISC-V instruction set architecture and hands-on FPGA development board.

NSS Students Initiatives

As per the initiative of the NSS Office, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, the NSS volunteers of the constituent institutes of Nirma University registered in the Integrated Government Online Training (IGOT) and Arogya Setu. A total of 24 students registered for the training programme at IGOT. A total of 293 NSS students have downloaded the Arogya Setu app. The NSS volunteers of the University also made a total of 1469 homemade masks and distributed in their vicinity.

Online Quiz Competition

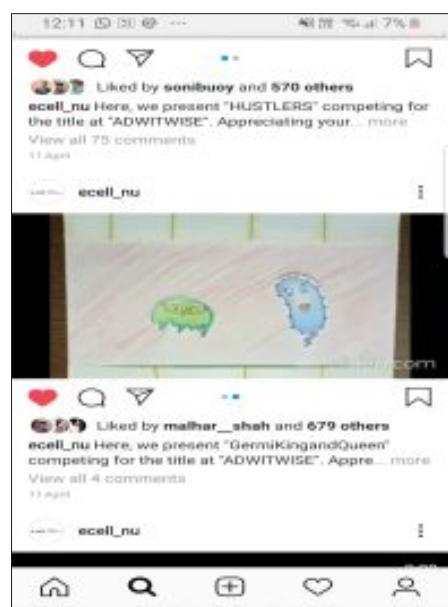
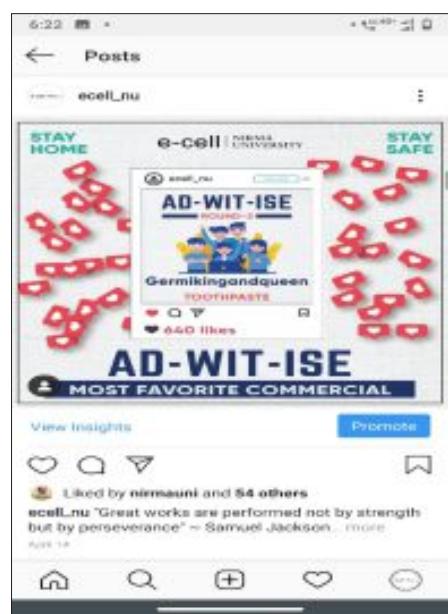
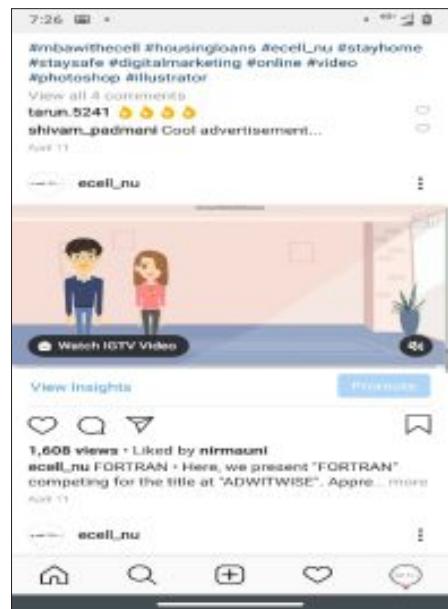
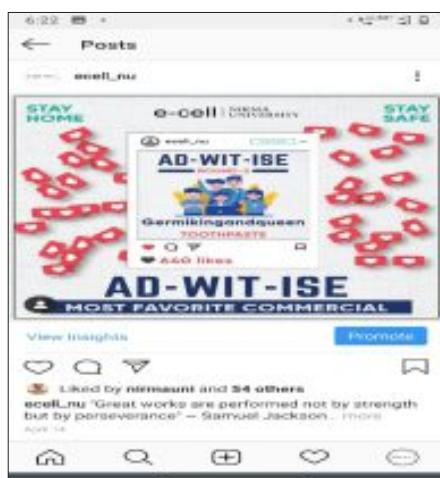
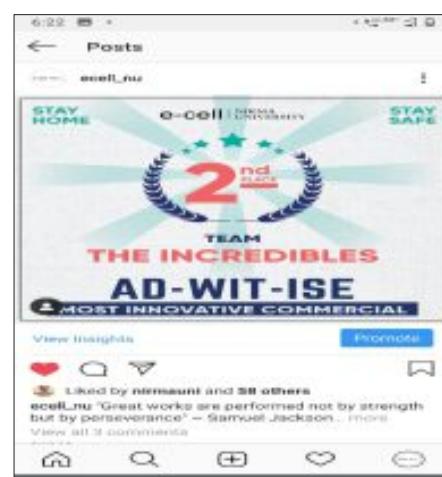
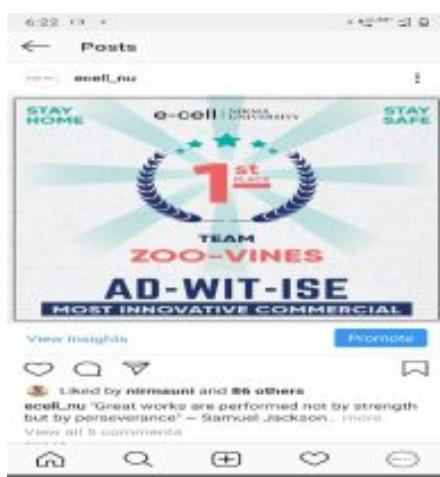
Institute of Commerce organised "Quizzing Championship - A National Level Online Quiz Competition" on May 10, 2020. The goal of the competition was to motivate students towards continuous learning. The competition was held for students appeared in HSC during the academic year 2019-20. A total of 850 participants across the nation and few from gulf countries participated in the event. The first position was achieved by Ananya Mathur of Tagore International School, New Delhi who received a cash prize of Rs 5000 and a certificate. Sounit Kartikay from Mayoors School, Ajmer stood second and received a cash prize of Rs 3000 and a certificate. Varun Chaturvedi from DPS Gandhinagar bagged the third position and was awarded a cash prize of Rs 2000 and a certificate.

Ad-wit-tise

Centre for Entrepreneurship, Nirma University organised Ad-wit-tise, an online competition for the students of Nirma University. The 3-week long event organised during March 24-April 14, 2020 aimed to bring out the unique marketing, branding, and advertising skills of the participants. The event was carried out through Entrepreneurship Cell's Instagram handle in two phases, where the first phase included registering the teams and their commercial videos, and the second phase was publicising these videos. Amidst the lockdown situation due to COVID-19, the students were motivated to form a team of maximum 3 people and shoot a video indoors commercialising the products in the most innovative way possible and submitting them through a google form.

In phase 2, the videos of all registered teams were uploaded on entrepreneurship cell's Instagram handle and participants had to publicise their videos. After a healthy competition amongst the 10 teams, selection was carried out of two best ideas that were creative and indulging; and a video that was liked the most by everybody.

The team 'Zoo Vines' consisting of Aditya Mistry, Rudram Vyas, and Maherash Shah bagged the 1st position. They commercialised the product 5star by creating a news channel and reminding people to wash their hands thoroughly while enjoying the chocolate. Team 'The Incredibles' comprising Anmol Thaiya, Parikshith Nair, and Aishwarya Bongaonkar secured 2nd position. The team had created a video on 5star related to WhatsApp messages where a child shares her emotions and feelings during the ongoing pandemic. 'Germi King and Queen' won the most favourite commercial with over 600 likes. The team consisting of Piyushi Jain, Risha Singh, and Rishabh Sharma had created a video on toothpaste and shared importance of dental hygiene through drawings and puppet drama.



E-Hackathon

Centre for Entrepreneurship, Nirma University organised an E-Hackathon, an online Business Idea Hackathon during May 15-17, 2020 with 150+ participants from all the institutes of Nirma University. The 3-day event aimed to find solutions to the problems faced by various Industries during the time of the pandemic was held over the online platform 'Discord'. From the pool of 30+ Ideas received, the top 20 Ideas were chosen and teams were formed around them. The teams then worked on their ideas to turn them into a market viable product and develop an actual go-to-business strategy for it.

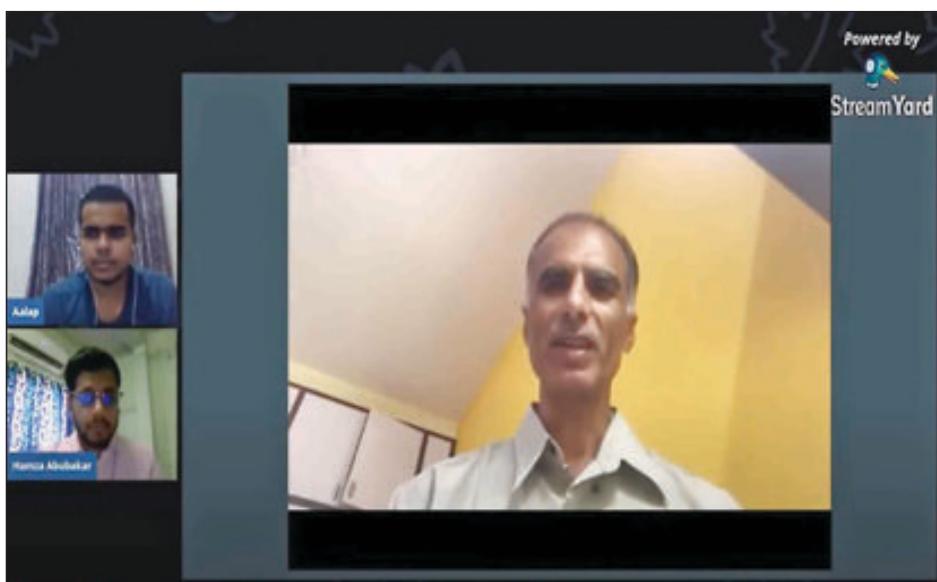
Workshops on "BMC - Business Model Canvas" by Akanksha Bhadaria, Senior Associate, GUSEC (Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council), and "How to Pitch?" by Arun Phillips - Founder, Helptheworld.io were held to help the participants. A panel of 12 mentors from various sectors of Industries including alumni was also on-board to guide the teams in all the domains be it Technical, Business Plan, Legal, etc.

On May 17, 2020 participants submitted their final Pitch Decks which was viewed by a panel of three judges. The Top 5 teams further pitched their ideas live on Youtube channel competing with each other in front of another panel of two judges, Dr Chandan Chetterji, Former Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, Gandhinagar; and Ruzan Khambatta, Founder of Wajra O' Force Empowerment Foundation.

The first position was bagged by team of Jay Lakhani, Naman Kothari, Dhwani Malkan, Jay Patel, Ritik Rokde, and Hetvi Chaudhary from Institute of Pharmacy, Institute of Management, and Institute of Science for their product 'Currency Sanitizer', a product developed to sanitize currency being exchanged at various shops. Second position was bagged by students of Institute of Pharmacy, Palak Kotak, Rushi Sorthiya, Parv Barot, and Sarthak Lakhani for their idea on a digitalised token service system for retail shops to ensure social distancing named as 'Ghar-E-Kirana'. Third position was bagged by Jitendra Singh, Farhan Daila, Nikhil Suthar, Om Gupta, Nikhil Tiwari, and Hardil Mistry from Institute of Pharmacy for their product 'Immuno Spray', a spray with all the vitals that increases the immunity of a person.

Gujarat Gaurav Divas

As part of "Gujarat Gaurav Divas", 93 students from various institutes of Nirma University enthusiastically participated in the drawing, essay writing and poetry writing competition held online on the theme 'Corona Warriors of Gujarat', during May 1-10, 2020.



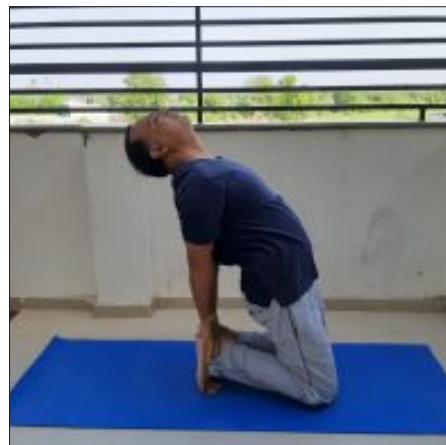
International Day of Yoga

Keeping in view the current situation, Nirma University celebrated the 6th International Day of Yoga on the theme 'Yoga @ Home and Yoga with family' on June 21, 2020 as per the guidelines of the Ministry of AYUSH. About 494 officers, professors, staff, students as well as NSS volunteers and NCC cadets enthusiastically participated in the event from the confines of their home.



Virtual Farewell to the Batch of 2017-2020

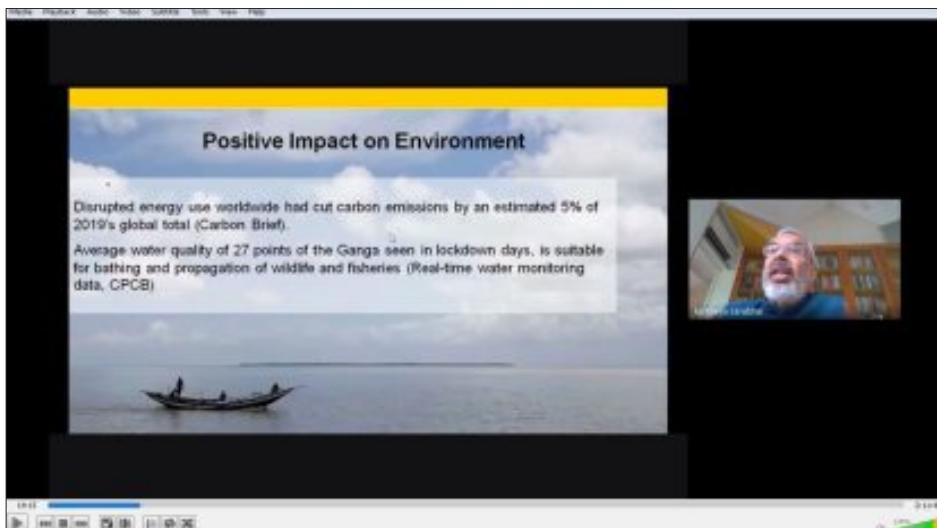
The sophomore batch of Institute of Commerce organised a virtual farewell for the batch of 2017-2020 through an online video conferencing platform on June 11, 2020. Addressing the graduating batch, Prof Udai Paliwal, Dean, Institute of Commerce underlined that this batch is a unique batch of BCom (Hons) as they have been associated with advent of several new happenings such as online classes, online examination and now virtual farewell. The event concluded with mixed emotions, while there was happiness abound as the students completed their academic journey, nostalgia marked the event filled with songs, poems and anecdotes. To celebrate the joy, more than 100 students and faculty members came together and reflected over the time they spent together.



Webinars

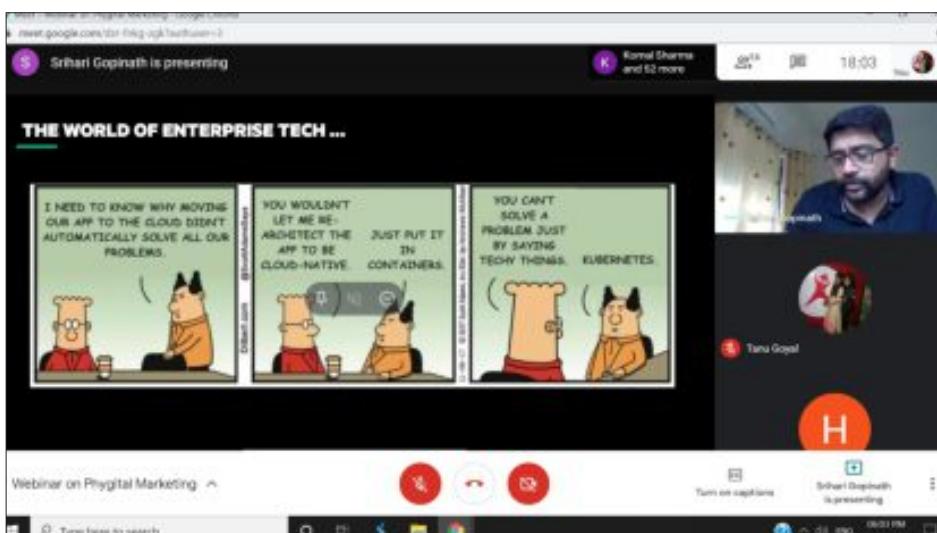
Sustainable Future, Lessons from the Pandemic

A webinar on 'Sustainable Future, Lessons from the Pandemic' by Mr Kartikeya Sarabhai, Founder & Director, Centre for Environment Education was organised by Institute of Management on June 16, 2020. Mr Sarabhai discussed the positive and negative impacts of COVID-19 on environment and emphasised the importance of generation of bio-medical waste on a daily basis. He also discussed the three pillars for sustainability (Social, Environmental and Economic) and how we will have to bring changes in our lifestyle for a sustainable future.



Phygital Marketing

Club NiChe of Institute of Management organised a webinar on June 20, 2020 on the theme 'Phygital Marketing'. Speakers for the session were Mr Ram Jalan (Digital Marketing Consultant and owner at DINTW), Mr Srihari Gopinath (Director at Hewlett Packard), and Mr Harshvardhan Chauhan (Vice President, Marketing at Spencer's Retail & Omnichannel). The discussion emphasised on the evolving megatrends in phygital marketing and how it affects the traditional business models. With the help of real life examples (Amazon, DLF, HP), the speakers made this elusive topic easy to understand and apply.



International Webinar on Accounting Education and Accounting Profession Post COVID-19

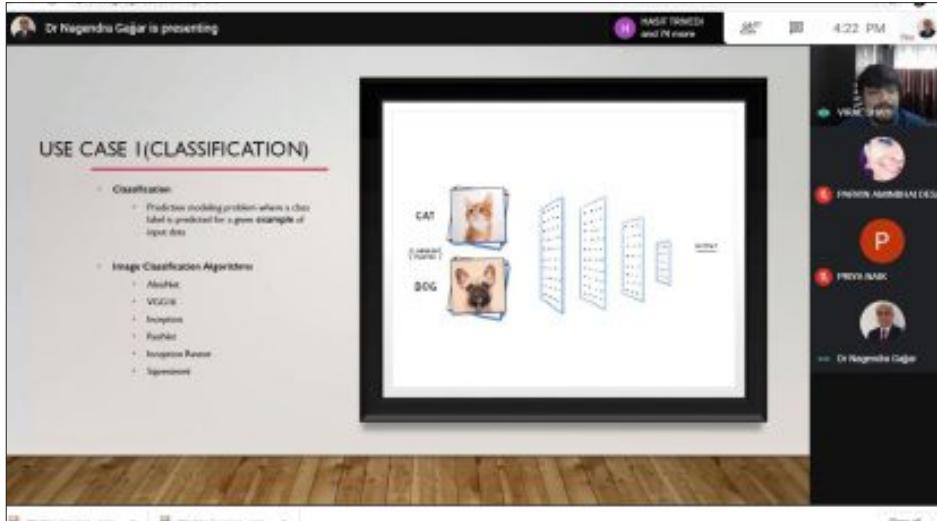
Institute of Commerce organised its first ever international webinar on 'Accounting Education and Accounting Profession: Post COVID-19' on June 6, 2020. The webinar was addressed by Prof Rajendra P Srivastava, Professor Emeritus of Accounting & Information Systems, School of Business, University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA; Prof Jaco P Fouche, Professor of Accounting & Finance, North West University, South Africa; and Prof Uday Paliwal, Dean at Institute of Commerce, Nirma University, Ahmedabad. A total of 232 participants were present during the webinar, which included prominent faculties, practitioners and students across the country and abroad. Following the presentation by the three resource persons and the IAA president Prof G Soral, there was an interactive session through chat box.

Opportunities for Design Professionals Post COVID-19

Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University in collaboration with RICS School of Built Environment Amity University organised a webinar on "Opportunities for Design Professionals Post COVID-19", for final and pre-final year Planning and Architecture students on June 1, 2020. A total of 125 participants attended the event. The session was conducted by Prof Amol Shimpi (MRICS) - Associate Dean and Director, School of Real Estate and Infrastructure.

Machine Learning using MATLAB

A webinar on 'Machine Learning using MATLAB' for the students of Institute of Technology was organised during June 24-26, 2020. The sessions were conducted by faculty members, Dr Nagendra Gajjar and Dr Ruchi Gajjar with hands on experience. Mr Viral Shah, an alumni and Engineer of Machine Learning Group, einfochips, Ahmedabad also joined them in conducting the session. Close to 300 students attended the webinar.



Leveraging Digitalisation for Business

Club NiChe of Institute of Management hosted a webinar on June 2, 2020 with Mr Manish Shah (CEO at JCR Fashion Retail Ltd), Mr Pawan Kulkarni (GM at JB Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd), and Mr Praful Jain (Digital Marketing Professional) as the panellists. The discussion centred on digitalisation and how it is important in these unprecedented times due to COVID-19.

Minding the Mind

A webinar on "Minding the Mind" was organised by Institute of Commerce on June 24, 2020. Dr Parag Amin, Dean - Marketing, SEISCOMS - Mumbai, NLP Practitioner and Life Coach was the keynote speaker. The event was moderated by Dr Sumita Shroff Goyal and Dr Avani Shah, Assistant Professor, Institute of Commerce, Nirma University. The speaker demonstrated various mindfulness techniques for the benefit of the participants and also illustrated internal and external techniques for mind management. A total of around 140 members, including students and faculty members were present in the webinar.

Education for Justice Webinar Series

Institute of Law in a joint collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organised an open webinar series under Education for Justice (EJ4) initiative. The first webinar was held on June 4, 2020 on "Education for Justice and the Rule of Law: Good Practices and Innovations". The speakers of the webinar were Ms Bianca Kopp, Global Coordinator (tertiary level) at EJ4 Initiative, UNODC; Mr Jayant Mishra, ROSA Law Enforcement Expert; Mr Krishna Sastry Pendyala, Executive Director at Cyber Security Services, PwC, India; Mr Samarth Pathak, Communications Officer and Focal Point (EJ4), Regional Office for South Asia, UNODC; and Mr Nitesh Chaudhary, Assistant Professor at Institute of Law, Nirma University.

The second webinar under the series was held on June 15, 2020 on "Education on Cybercrime and Cyber Laws: Interventions and Experiences". The speakers of the webinar were Ms Bianca Kopp, Global Coordinator (tertiary level) at EJ4 Initiative, UNODC; Mr Jayant Mishra, ROSA Law Enforcement Expert; Mr Krishna Sastry Pendyala, Executive Director at Cyber Security Services, PwC, India; Mr Samarth Pathak, Communications Officer and Focal Point (EJ4), Regional Office for South Asia, UNODC; and Dr Bishwa Kalyan Dash, Assistant Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University.

Webinar Series on Changing Dynamics of IP Regime during COVID-19

Centre for IPR, Institute of Law organised a webinar series on "Changing Dynamics of IP Regime during COVID-19". The first webinar was on "Role of Patents and Technology Transfer in coping with post COVID-19 conditions" by Dr M Padmavati, Professor and Dean, Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, IIT Kharagpur on June 6, 2020. Mr G Raghavender, Joint Secretary, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India was the speaker for the second webinar on "Patents and Pandemics-Role of Patent Pooling in combatting COVID-19" held on June 13, 2020. Mr Sachin Sathyarajan, lecturer at Jindal Global Law School conducted the third webinar on "Can patent-pooling ensure equitable access to COVID-19 health technologies in a divided world" on June 13, 2020.

Webinar on Public Health Care Laws

The Students Research Council organised a webinar series on Public Health Care Laws. The first session was conducted on June 9, 2020 on "Changing dimensions of Public Health Care Laws post COVID-19". The speakers included Dr Bismi

Gopalakrishnan, Head, Department of Law, University of Kerala, and Dean, Faculty of Law, MG University; and Dr Purvi Pokhriyal, Dean and Director, Institute of Law, Nirma University.

The second session in the series was held on June 25, 2020 on "Emerging challenges to the Public Health Laws in India". The speakers were Prof Dipika Jain, Professor & Vice Dean(Research) and Executive Director at Centre for Health Law Ethics & Technology, Jindal Global Law School; Dr Purvi Pokhriyal, Dean and Director; and Dr Madhuri Parikh, Associate Professor and Head of Department at Institute of Law, Nirma University.

Other Webinars

- "Appointment and Termination of Arbitral Tribunal" on April 20, 2020 by Mr Rahul Chaturvedi, Associate, Argus Partners; and, Mr Alok Vajpei, Associate, Singhania & Company, Mumbai.
- "Understanding Practical Aspects of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process" by Ms Surbhi Pareek, Senior Associate, Cyril Amarchand and Mangaldas, and Mr Kaustabh Prakash, Senior Associate, Vaish Associates Advocates on April 21, 2020.
- "Fundamentals of Trade Mark Law" on April 22, 2019 by Mr Aditya Gupta, Attorney, IRA Law, and Ms Sonal Goel, Associate, Remfry and Sagar.
- The Organisation of Civil Engineering Students, Institute of Technology organised a webinar on "Three Lessons from Gita and Relaxation Techniques" on April 27, 2020 delivered by Mr Rasa Parayana Dasa, Life coach, ISKCON Temple.
- "Career in legal field after Law school" on May 17, 2020 by the Campus Recruitment Cell of Institute of Law was attended by CLAT aspirants, students of various law schools, parents, academician, among others. The speakers were Mr Bhumesh Verma, Managing Partner at Corp Comm Legal and Mr Saurabh Saraogi, Advocate, Oxford University.
- Centre for Corporate Law Studies, Institute of Law organised an open-to-all webinar session on May 24, 2020 on the theme "Impact of COVID-19 on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code". The speakers of the session were Mr Rohit Lalwani, Principal Associate, AMLEGALS who spoke on "Increase in the threshold limit, the suspension of IBC and Pre-Pack deals" and Mr Sukrit R Kapoor, Principal Associate, Hammurabi & Solomon Partners who provided an insight on "Alternatives to IBC: Debt Restructuring Schemes under Companies Act, 2013".
- Institute of Commerce organised a webinar on "Digitisation for building business continuity and resilience during and after COVID-19" on May 27, 2020. Mr Nehal Vora, MD & CEO, Central Depository Services (India) Limited was the resource person. The session was attended by 184 participants across the country. A good number of entries were also received from the countries like Mauritius, South Africa, Namibia, Rwanda and Netherlands.

- "Welding as a Career-The Untold Success" by Mr Devendra Gope, Business Development Manager, Fronius India Private Limited on June 25, 2020 for students of BTech and MTech programme in Mechanical Engg Dept.
- "Micro-Fluidics and Disease Diagnosis" by Prof Amit Agrawal, IIT Bombay; Prof Rajneesh Bhardwaj, IIT Bombay; and Prof Suman Chakraborty, IIT Kharagpur on June 25, 2020 for MTech students and faculty members of Mechanical Engg Dept.
- "Understanding Cement Test Reports" by Er. Pavan Y Sethi, Zonal Head, JK White Cement on June 6, 2020 was organised by the Department of Civil Engineering, Institute of Technology under the Indian Concrete Institute (ICI), Student Chapter and in association with JK White Cement for the undergraduate and postgraduate students of Civil Engineering Department.
- "Common Complaints at Site and its Remedies" by Mr Himanshu Patel, Assistant General Manager, Customer Service, Gujarat Head, Nuvoco Vistas Corporation Ltd on June 25, 2020 by Indian Concrete Institute Student's Chapter, Nirma University for Civil Engineering students of the university.
- Imprintz, the HR Club of Institute of Management organised a webinar on the theme "Caring, Listening, and Empathy are Priority" on June 12, 2020. Mr Hemal Shah, Managing Director at HR Re-Engineers spoke about importance of effective communication by "being interested" rather than "being interesting".
- Dr Jigar Mehta, Critical Care Specialist, KD Hospital, Ahmedabad, delivered expert talk on 'Awareness Nirma University | Newsletter

on COVID-19' to faculty and staff members of Institute of Pharmacy on June 8, 2020.

- Mr Bhavik Patel, Senior Scientist, US Pharmacopeia, Drug Product Monograph Section-India delivered expert talk on 'Compendium Monograph Development by QBD Approach' to MPharm and PhD students of Institute of Pharmacy on June 20, 2020.
- Dr Nirav Patel, Associate Director, Clinical Safety and Biomarker Group-Global Investigative Immunology Department, Sanofi, USA, delivered talk on "Targeting Novel Modalities in Inflammatory and Autoimmune Disease: Tolerance Vs Immunogenicity" to BPharm, MPharm and PhD students on June 23, 2020.
- Dr Mayuri Gandhi, Research Scientist, Sophisticated Analytical Instrument facility, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay delivered expert talk on 'Advancement in Mass Spectrometry with respect to Drug Analysis to MPharm (Pharmaceutical Analysis and RA) and PhD students on June 26, 2020.
- Centre for Energy Law Policy and Strategy, Institute of Law hosted a webinar on June 8, 2020 on "Securities Market: Financial Solutions for Energy Sector" by Mr Parag Jain, Portfolio Management and Investment Consultant, Mumbai.
- Centre for Corporate Law Studies, Institute of Law organised a webinar on June 14, 2020 on "Impact of COVID-19 on Contracts and M&A Transactions" by Advocate Deepti Dole, Corporate Lawyer and Company Secretary.
- Centre for Energy Law Policy and Strategy, Institute of Law conducted a webinar on June 15, 2020 on "Application of Inclusive International Negotiation in Energy Infrastructure Projects" by Dr Shaoming Zhu, International Legal Affairs and Global Governance Expert, Beijing.
- Centre of Competition Law and Market Study, Institute of Law, in collaboration with CUTS Institute for Regulation and Competition (CIRC), India conducted a webinar on June 16, 2020 on "Deal-Value Merger Threshold: Is It the way forward?" The speakers of the webinar were Mr Bharat Bhudolia, Partner at Competition Law/Antitrust at AZB & Partners, Mumbai; Ms Deeksha Manchand, Managing Associate at Competition Law at Chandhiok & Mahajan, Advocates and Solicitors, Delhi; and Mr Anshuman Sakle, Partner at Competition Law, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Mumbai.
- Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Law, Institute of Law conducted a webinar on June 17, 2020 on "Need of Specific Regulations of Artificial Intelligence in India." The speaker of the webinar was Dr Pavan Duggal, Senior Advocate at Supreme Court of India and Chief Executive of Artificial Intelligence Law Hub.
- Centre of Criminal Law and Justice, Institute of Law conducted a webinar on June 21, 2020 on "Domestic Violence and its Rise in Current Situation". The speakers of the webinar were Advocate Flavia Agnes, Women's Rights Lawyer with expertise in marital divorce and property law and Co-Founder of Majlis - a legal and cultural resource centre; and Advocate Persis Sidhva, Women's Rights Lawyer at the Supreme Court.
- Centre for Study of Law and Governance, Institute of Law organised a webinar on June 24, 2020 on "Federalism: Origin, Evolution and Post COVID times" by Dr Abhishek Singhvi, Eminent Jurist, third-term sitting MP, Former Chairman- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, and Former ASG of India.
- Centre of Competition Law and Market Study, Institute of Law hosted a webinar on June 25, 2020 on "Digital Platforms and Priorities in Antitrust Enforcement". The panelists for the webinar included Mr Salil Mehra, Professor at Temple University, Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia; Dr Geeta Gouri, Former Member of Competition Commission of India; Dr Baskaran Balasingham, Lecturer at Macquarie University, Australia; and Mr Vikram Sotbi, Partner at Chandhiok & Mahajan, Advocates and Solicitors, New Delhi.
- Centre for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Institute of Law organised a webinar on June 26, 2020 on "Race in America: An Analysis of the US Supreme Court's Jurisprudence" by Dr Adam Dubin, Assistant Professor, Comillas Pontifical University (Universidad Pontificia Comillas), Madrid.
- Centre for Corporate Law Studies, Institute of Law conducted a webinar on June 28, 2020 on "Corporate Governance: An idealistic notion or need of the day" by Senior Advocate Tushar Hemani, Founder at Lexperts Law Firm and Former President, ITAT Bar Association, Ahmedabad.
- Centre for Energy Law Policy and Strategy, Institute of Law conducted a webinar on June 29, 2020 on "Radiation Safety-Regulatory Perspective" by Dr Avinash Sonawane, Head of Directorate of Regulatory Affairs and Communications (AERB, Government of India), Mumbai.

Other Events

- The Electrical Engineering Department, Institute of Technology organised a one-day workshop on "Advancements and Challenges in Electric Vehicles" under the aegis of Centre for Continuing Education, Nirma University on March 7, 2020. The workshop provided insight into the emerging field of Electric Vehicles. Mr B K Vaishya, Ex-Executive Director, Electric Vehicle Department, Electrotherm (I) Ltd; Mr Dhairy Shah, Technical Managing Director, Mindra Solar; and Mr Jitesh Dodiya, Lead Engineer, Menza Motors Pvt Ltd delivered talks which delved into the advancements and challenges concerning energy storage, charging infrastructure, powertrain, drivetrain technology in Electric Vehicles.



- Department of Mathematics and Humanities, Institute of Technology under the banner of Centre for Continuing Education, Nirma University organised a five week workshop on "Secret of Success" during Feb 5 to March 11, 2020. A total of 188 participants from Institute of Technology attended the workshop.



- Institute of Management organised a three days MDP on "Effective Communications for Higher Performance" under the aegis of Centre for Continuing Education, Nirma University during March 11-13, 2020 for industry professionals. Prof Nityesh Bhatt, Professor at Institute of Management was the programme leader. Six participants from Gujarat State Petronet Ltd, GSPL India Transco Ltd, Institute of Management and Vodafone Idea Ltd attended the programme.



- The Campus Recruitment Cell of Institute of Law organised a workshop on 'Contract Drafting' on Feb 25, 2020 by Mr Abhishek Sinha, founder of NotJustLex.
- Centre for Corporate Law Studies, Institute of Law in collaboration with Centre for Continuous Education organised a short course titled "Capacity Building Programme on International Taxation" on March 7-8, 2020. The course was conducted with an objective to provide orientation with the basic concepts of international taxation, covering income tax, recent debates in global tax policy and Finance bill 2020.

Extension Activities

NSS Camp at Ratanpur

A seven-day NSS special camp was organised by NSS Unit of Nirma University at Ratanpur during Jan 4-10, 2020. Institute of Pharmacy was the host institute for the camp. A total of 29 students from Institute of Pharmacy and Institute of Commerce, along with faculty coordinators participated in the camp. Some of the activities conducted during the camp included, free Eye Checkup for the residents, Awareness campaign on "No Plastic Use", Teaching the village students, Co-curricular activities (Elocution, Dance, Drama, Singing, Essay Writing and Drawing Competition), Village Survey based on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Traffic Awareness Campaign, and Sports activities (Kho-Kho, Lemon & Spoon Race, Sack Race, 50m Relay, Kabaddi and Tug of War).



Blood Stem Cell Donation Drive

ISA Student's Chapter Nirma University organised a Blood Stem Cell Donation Drive on Feb 29, 2020 with DATRI, a not for profit organisation which collects and maintains the data of the volunteers who want to donate the blood stem cells.

Online Session by NSS unit of Institute of Pharmacy

The NSS unit of Institute of Pharmacy organised an online live session on "Coping up with Mental Health and Stress Management" under the Government of Gujarat initiative for students of all the universities of Gujarat on May 24, 2020. The reason behind conducting this activity was to emphasise on the importance of mental health management during the Covid-19 crisis. The activity was carried out in two components – Online Survey followed by Live Therapy Session. Dr Chintan Raval (MD Psychiatry, Associate Professor, HoD of Psychiatry, GMERS, Patan) and Dr Vipul Shah (MD Psychiatry, Assistant Professor, GMERS, Patan) conducted the session on the Instagram handle of "nss_ipnu" attended by a total of 128 students.

National Webinar on World Environment Day

The NSS Unit of Institute of Commerce organised a webinar on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2020 on the topic "Environmental Protection: Post COVID-19: Strategy and Public Participation" with Shri Shyam Sundar Paliwal, Sarpanch of Piplantri village, Rajasthan as the speaker for the session. More than 120 participants across India participated in this webinar.

Commerce Students visit BSE, Mumbai

In order to facilitate Industry-Academia interface and with an aim to provide students with greater exposure, the Institute of Commerce organised an Industrial visit for students of third year BCom (Hons). A total of 39 students along with faculty coordinators went for an educational visit to the Financial Capital of India, Mumbai during Feb 17-18, 2020. Students acquired knowledge about stock exchanges, its process, procedures and products traded on it through a seminar at the Bombay Stock Exchange. The seminar enabled students to expand their knowledge on capital markets and also enhanced their career prospects. A visit to the Reserve Bank of India Museum was also organised. Besides this, the students also visited the Haji Ali Dargah, Juhu Beach, Gateway of India, Colaba Causeway, the slums of Dharavi which included leather industries, pottery, soap making, color dying, and recycling of plastic, etc.



Visit to Vautha village, Ahmedabad

A group of 82 NSS student volunteers of first year of Institute of Architecture and Planning visited Vautha village in Dholka Taluka of Ahmedabad district on Feb 1, 2020. The trip started with a brief introduction to the village by the Sarpanch Mr Hitendrasingh Vaghela, and the principal of the primary school Ms Bhartiben. They welcomed the students to the village and introduced them to its rich history. They briefed about the various faliyas of the village, major occupations, major landmarks, and all other important aspects of the village.

After this brief introduction students distributed themselves into groups and made a preliminary survey of the various faliyas of the village to develop an overall understanding of the village and its people. They also visited the Mela ground and ended the trip at the Bhathuji temple located near the banks of the river.

Blood Stem Cell Donation Drive

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Blood Donation Camp

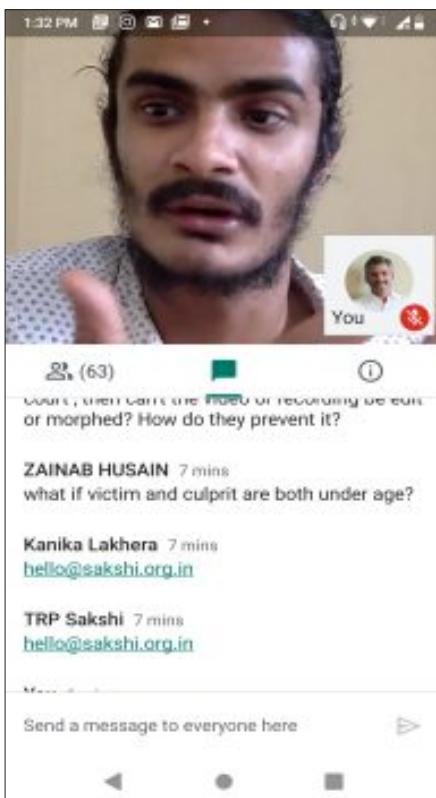
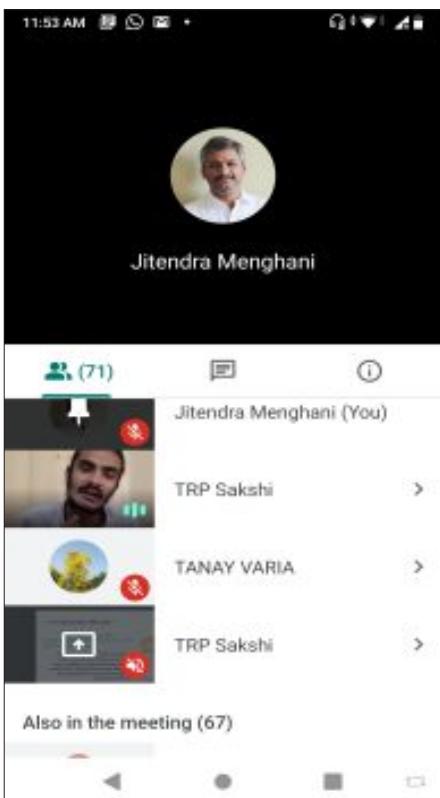
The NSS Unit of Nirma University, Mission SanghARSH in association with the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute (GCRI) conducted a Blood Donation Camp at Nirma University campus during March 5-6, 2020 wherein a total of 166 units of blood was collected.



Online Webinar as a part of NSS Activity

An online Webinar for awareness on 'Prevention of Child Sexual Offences Act' (POCSOA 2012) was arranged by Sakshi (regd. NGO 1992) for NSS volunteers of Institute of Architecture and Planning on April 25, 2020. The Ministry of Youth Affairs, has agreed for Sakshi to deliver capacity building workshops in partnership with Directorate of NSS with the NSS volunteers to strengthen Youth as powerful enablers for creating a Constitutional Rights Based Enabled Environment in the context of Gender Equality with a focus on building awareness about POCSOA 2012.

Smita Bharti (Executive Director), Swarnim Sen (Lead Trainer of the workshop), Kanika Lakhera (Assistant Trainer) and Alia Khan (Assistant Trainer) from Sakshi organised and conducted the workshop. 68 student volunteers and 3 faculty members from Institute of Architecture and Planning participated in the webinar on Google Meet platform. An Informative presentation, well made videos and an interactive question answer session at the end of the session, were highlights of this webinar.



Student Initiatives

- Dirgav Patel, NSS volunteer and BPharm Semester IV student at Institute of Pharmacy distributed 900+ sanitizers and 270+ food kits to the needy people in various COVID-19 affected areas of Ahmedabad for consecutive eight days. Dirgav helped the people residing in and around Vejalpur, Sarkhej, Maktampura, and Jodhpur ward in Ahmedabad. For his commendable service to society, Dirgav received a call from MLA Mr Kishorbhai Chauhan, appreciating his efforts and was awarded a letter of appreciation by the MLA himself.



World Environment Day Celebration

The Civil Engineering Department celebrated 'World Environment Day' on June 5, 2020 with the NSS Unit-School of Engineering (SoE) and Student Association of Civil Engineering Department-OrCES through online mode. Activities like poster making and video competitions were planned to spread awareness and show student's contribution towards saving the environment. Students participated in these activities from their home. The theme of the poster and video was "Impact of COVID-19 on Environment".



A screenshot of a video conference. The video player shows a presentation slide with the title 'Impact of COVID-19 on Environment' and the date '05th June'. The slide features a globe and the text 'Impact of COVID-19 on Environment' and 'Impact of Environment on COVID-19'. Below the video player is a participant list. Participants are listed in two columns: Row 1: Aman Patel, Akash Shah, Ankot Chaudhary; Row 2: Dr. Hanish Patel, Chaudhary Vishwakumar, Dalal Karim; Row 3: Jyoti Patel, Jyoti Patel, Jyoti Patel; Row 4: Karmala Hingnekar, Karmala Hingnekar, Khamar Ramani; Row 5: Meenakshi Patel, Niel Udagama, Patel Difau; Row 6: Priti Anmol Patel, Prof. Hemang Patel, Prof. Sandeep Rayen; Row 7: Sathyawati Thite, Vinay Joshi, Vinay Joshi; Row 8: Umar Kothari, Vinay Patel, Vinay Patel.

Student Initiatives

- Samay Chevli, a final year student of Institute of Architecture and Planning, is involved in social work during the Corona pandemic. He and his father, who is an Architect, as a team designed face masks for an NGO called 'Prayas'. Also to sanitize the hands of passengers, the base design considering the anthropology of the human is prepared, which is going to be installed first at Surat airport which can be used once the airport service starts. They also distributed the masks to the people living at nearby communities.



Changing Paradigms of Indian Higher Education in the time of Coronavirus

Prof Purvi Pokhriyal

Director, Institute of Law, Nirma University



Crisis is a difficult time to predict and good time to change. Post COVID era is going to be transformed in many walks of national and social life. All sectors have witnessed unprecedented changes including the higher education in the time of Coronavirus. Most of the higher education institutions have been able to turn the challenges posed in corona times into opportunities embracing disruptive academic innovation.

This is truly VUCA 2.0 world. Vibrant, Unreal, Crazy and Astounding. We are observing rapidly evolving new paradigms of individual and social life. We live in this Anthropocene world, geological era-where each one of us individually and collectively shaping the world around us with our actions. This is an age of disruption where ideas are new currency and ROI is no more return on investment but return on involvement. Higher education institutions at this juncture dealing with generation Z, no more dealing with millennials and so required rebooting of the approach. This generation Z is self-reliant, have desire to create their own solution, they seem to be quite aware about themselves and the world around them and they have high expectation of respect and coexistence irrespective of their age. This generation Z has new age expectation of learning. That includes personalised learning paths, flexible curriculum, flexible timings, autonomy of learning and more importantly restriction free learning. Most of the higher education institutions in India were not able to respond to the needs of this new age learners due to regulatory restrictions. Minimum requirement of attendance, minimum number of courses, credits, passing standard, minimum number of days of teaching, faculty recruitment criteria, etc has left with less freedom for most of the Universities to cater to the needs of this generation Z. However Corona poses challenges of physical presence and imposing social distancing and other norms, willy-nilly pushed universities to go for virtual teaching sessions. That also gave freedom to universities to take services of industry experts and professionals from the fields to impart online training. This initiative gives room for students to experience their learning autonomy to a great extent. Most of the generation Z learners are welcoming these changes and that raises the expectation from regulatory bodies to change the approach and standards to accommodate this new expectation. This is an apt time for regulatory bodies to capture these reflections from stakeholders and gear up for new model of quality standards with definite outcomes.

This is the time that reminds us to revisit the report of UNESCO's International Commission on Education for the 21st century. This thought provoking report titled "Learning the treasure within" highlights four pillars of learning- Learning to know, Learning to do, Learning to live together and Learning to be. It is high time the regulatory bodies of higher education in India imbibe the four pillars of learning as ultimate objectives ascertaining and nurturing 21st century skill sets.

Faculty

Awards and Achievements

- Dr Manjunath Ghate, Director, Institute of Pharmacy received the "ISCB Best Teacher Award 2020" in the area of drug research during a joint international conference of 26th Indian Society for Chemists and Biologists (ISCB) and 5th Nirma Institute of Pharmacy International Conference (NIPICON) held at Nirma University, Ahmedabad on Jan 22, 2020.



- Dr Sriram Seshadri from Institute of Science has been recognised as one of the Top 50 coordinators of IQAC across India by The Academic Council of uLektz on Jan 31, 2020.



- Dr Niyati Acharya, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Pharmacognosy, Institute of Pharmacy has been awarded the SFE Young Ethnopharmacologist Award 2020, P K Debnath Memorial Award for Best Oral Presentation in the field of Ethnopharmacology and medicinal plant research at 7th International Congress of Society for Ethnopharmacology SFEC 2020, during Feb 15-17, 2020 organised by Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE) and Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi respectively.



Alumni

Achievements

- Mr Dweep Sabapara, alumni of Mechanical Engineering Department, Institute of Technology secured All India Rank-9 (Top in Gujarat State) in the Indian Engineering Service, 2019 Examination (in Mechanical Engineering) conducted by UPSC.



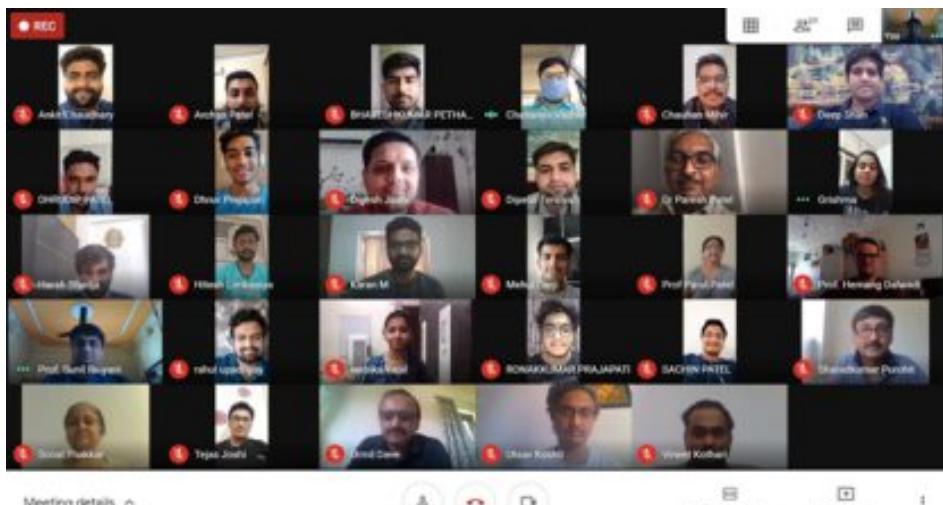
- Mr Bhavin Dabhi, alumni of BE (Mechanical Engineering, batch of 2000), Institute of Technology, owner of Universal Designovation Lab LLP(UDLAB) has designed and developed a fully automatic Walk Through Mass Disinfector machine. The machine is installed at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Hospital-Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Rajkot Collector Office, Rajkot Municipal Commissioner Office, Rajkot Police Commissioner Office, etc. He has also installed one such machine at Nirma University campus in the month of May 2020.



Activities

Alumni-Faculty Online Meet

Civil Engineering Department, SoE, Institute of Technology organised an online alumni meet on May 24, 2020 for Alumnus working in government and semi government sector. 18 alumni and 10 faculty members were present during the online meet. They shared their experience about their job responsibilities and also discussed about strengthening the alumni forum. The alumni who were a part of the meet include, Grishma Rathva, Deputy Collector (Govt of Gujarat); Rashika Kapil, Executive Engineer (R&B Department); Rahul Upadhyay, and Bhavesh Pethani, Executive Engineer (Kalpsar Department); Harsh Bhadja, Assistant Engineer (Kalpsar Department); Mehul Darji, Deputy Executive Engineer (Kalpsar Department); Deep Shah, Mihir Chauhan, and Ankit Chaudhary, Deputy Executive Engineer (R&B department); Dhrudip Patel, Assistant Engineer (Kalpsar Department); Archana Patel, Assistant Engineer (Irrigation Department); Hitesh Limbasiya, Executive Project Engineer (Sabarmati Gas Limited); Deepesh Taraiya, Assistant Engineer (Rajkot Municipal Corporation); Dhruv Prajapati, Assistant Engineer (Sardar Sarovar Nigam Ltd); Karan Metra, and Sachin Patel, Assistant Engineer (R&B Department); Ronak Prajapati, Assistant Engineer (Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation); and Chaitanya Vadher, Assistant Engineer (R&B Department).



Alumni-Student Interaction Webinar Series

Institute of Law organised Alumni-Student Interaction Webinar Series during May 12-27, 2020. The aim of the webinar series is to foster interaction and set up connections between alumni and students. The alumni provided career guidance to the students in the field of litigation, in-house counsel, judiciary, academics, law firms, international studies and non-legal fields. The speakers for the various sessions were as follows:

- 'Pursuing career as a litigator'- Mr Sandeep Bansiwal, Founder Advocate at Sandeep Bansiwal & Associates; Ms Veenu Nanavati, Advocate Gujarat High Court; Mr Jaimin Dave, Advocate, Gujarat High Court; Mr Tirth Nayak, Advocate, Gujarat High Court; and Ms Gunjan Jadwani, Advocate, Allahabad High Court.
- 'Pursuing career as in-house counsel'- Mr Apurv Shah, Legal Manager at L&T Infrastructure Development Projects; Ms Shriya Jain, Manager- Legal Strategy, CMD's

Office, Ozone Group; Mr Varun Israni, Associate Manager with Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd; Mr Archan Shah, Legal Counsel at Standard Chartered Bank; and Ms Pathmaja Raghunathan, Legal Manager at HDFC Bank Ltd.

- 'Pursuing career as a judicial officer'- Ms Isha Sanghi, Special Metropolitan Magistrate, Jodhpur Metropolitan, Rajasthan; Mr Divyakant Singh Rathore, Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate, Uttar Pradesh; Ms Chitrakshi Singh, Additional Civil Judge and Metropolitan Magistrate, Jaipur, Rajasthan; Mr Devansh Agrawal, Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh; and Ms Ridhima Johari, Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate First Class, Anand, Gujarat.
- 'Pursuing career as an IP Lawyer'- Ms Saumya Gupta, Associate Khaitan and Company; Mr Amay Jain, Associate Sujata Chaudhri and IP Attorneys; Mr Prajyot Dutta, Associate, Anand & Anand & Khimani; Ms Namrata Dubey, Associate, Saikrishna Associates; and Mr Harshit Singh Jadoun, Associate, Fidus law Chambers.
- 'Pursuing career as an Associate/Senior Associate/Partner in a law firm'- Mr Siddharth Sinha, Senior Associate, J Sagar Associates; Mr Kunal Vyas, Associate Partner, Nanavati Associates; Mr Rushab Dhandokia, Associate L & L Partners; Mr Renjith Nair, Senior Associate, Acuity Law; and Ms Arzoo Virmani, Associate, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas.
- 'Pursuing a career abroad- Insights and experiences'- Ms Shreemoyee Bhaduri, Associate, Ross Law Group, PLLC New York, United States; Ms Priyantika Sinha Roy Ghosh, Legal Ops, EU Amazon, Luxembourg; Mr Bayar Goswami, Doctoral Fellow in Space Governance, McGill University; Ms Vanya Rakesh, Data Privacy Lawyer, Leiden, South Holland, Netherlands; Ms Krishna Parekh, Associate Attorney, Mark E Seitelman Law Offices, United States.
- 'Pursuing a career in academics'- Ms Palak Jagtiani, Adjunct Faculty, Amity University, Dubai; Ms Astha Anup Chaturvedi, Assistant Professor, School of Law, Galgotias University; Mr Pradyumna Anil Purohit, Academic Consultant, Mahatama Gandhi Centre for Peace Studies, O P Jindal Global University; Mr Umang Ghidyal, Assistant Professor, KIIT University; and Ms Jharna Sahijwani, Assistant Professor, Kirit P Mehta School of Law, NMIMS University, Mumbai.
- 'Pursuing unconventional career paths'- Mr Mohak Sharma, Head Coach Multifit, Jaipur; Ms Sanjivani Sigh, Co-founder Operations, Spinning Wheel Organisations; Ms Preet Mehta, Co-founder, Chief Digital Media Marketing Manager, Yellow Brick Design; Mr Tanay Tiwari, Anchor and Video Producer, Cricbuzz; and Mr Shiv Patel, Owner, Mocha Ahmedabad.

Career Guidance Sessions by Alumni of Institute of Pharmacy

The following sessions were conducted by alumni of Institute of Pharmacy for the current students:

- Mr Rahil Jani, Registered Pharmacist, Canada, delivered a talk on "Scope of Pharmacy in Canada" on May 3, 2020.
- Ms Radhika Patel, Quality Head, Westcost Pharma, Ahmedabad, delivered a talk on "Management as a career option after BPharm" on May 4, 2020.
- Mr Hitesh Katariya, President, and Founder of PharmaGupshup Academy and Gujarat Forum of Pharmacy Student (GFPS), Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Preparing for GPAT Exam 2021" on May 5, 2020.
- Mr Anand Odedra, Director of Business Development, DOCPLEXUS, Mumbai, delivered a talk on "MBA as a career option after BPharm" on May 6, 2020.
- Ms Panvi Patel and Mr Anmol Patwa, Acme Pharmaceuticals, Ahmedabad delivered a talk on "Getting into Pharma Business after BPharm" on May 9, 2020.



Alumni on Campus

- Dr Prashant Kumar Jena, doctoral student, class of 2014, Institute of Science, currently working as a Project Scientist in Innate and Host Pathogen Interaction Laboratory, Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, Los Angeles, USA delivered a talk on "Dysregulated Bile acid synthesis derived gut dysbiosis" on Jan 23, 2020 at Institute of Science.
- Dr Dhara Patel Lakhkar (MSc, class of 2006, Institute of Science), currently working as a Domain Expert, Science Communication and Public Engagement, MANAV at IISER, Pune conducted a training and awareness session regarding MANAV, a human ATLAS initiative of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India on Jan 22, 2020. She also gave a talk on "How to read research articles".

Owing to the ongoing pandemic, the alumni of Nirma University conducted the following webinars online:

- Mechanical Engineering Students Association (MESA) organised an online expert talk on "How to crack a competitive exam?" on June 27, 2020 by Mr Gaurav Joshi, (BTech in Mechanical Engineering, 2014), IRSME officer, Indian Railways. He has cleared various competitive exams like UPSC Engineering Service Examination with All India Rank (AIR) 5, GATE AIR 47, BARC 99.77 percentile, ISRO, ONGC, IISc, among others.
- Mr Saurabh Vyas, Deputy Manager, International Business Development and RA Operations (Emerging Market), Zydus Cadila, and an alumni of Institute of Pharmacy conducted a webinar on 'Regulatory Aspects of International Business' for MPharm (Pharmaceutical Analysis and RA) and PhD students on June 19, 2020.
- Dr Nitesh Shah, Director, Technical and Business development, Evonik, and an alumni of Institute of Pharmacy conducted a webinar on 'Biodegradable polymers- Microparticles and medical device applications' for BPharm, MPharm and PhD students on June 24, 2020.
- Dr Harsh S Shah, Senior Scientist, Preformulation, J-Star Research, New Jersey, USA, and an alumni of Institute of Pharmacy conducted a webinar on 'New insights on solid state studies in formulation stability: A case study' for BPharm, MPharm and PhD students on June 27, 2020.

Industrial Instrumentation and Automation Webinar Series

As part of the webinar series "Industrial Instrumentation and Automation" conducted by the alumni of Institute of Technology the following sessions were held in June 2020:

- 5G Technology for Industrial Instrumentation by Rahul Kaushik (2006-2010 Batch), Lead Engineer at Qualcomm, USA on June 22, 2020.
- Deep Learning in 2020 by Harsh Munshi (2009-2013 Batch), R & D Engineer, Graymatics, Singapore, June 23, 2020.
- Role of I & C Engineers in the Field of Process Safety by Murtaza Gandhi (1998-2002 Batch), Senior Engineer and Scholarship Chair at Baker Risk, USA and ISA, PMCD Division on June 25, 2020.

Placement Mantra by Senior Friends

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

- Mr Rakshit Goyal from ARM, Bangalore and Mr Pranjal Shrivastava from Cypress, Bangalore interacted with the students on the topic "Placement Process" on June 14, 2020.
- Mr Rakshit Goyal from ARM, Bangalore, Mr Pranjal Shrivastava, and Mr Jaivik Desai from Cypress, Bangalore conducted a session on "Programming Languages" on June 20, 2020.
- Mr Rakshit Goyal and Mr Prakhar Suneja from ARM, Bangalore; Mr Pranjal Shrivastava from Cypress, Bangalore; Ms Vinita Ramnani from Xilinx, Delhi; Ms Jaya Thadani from Xilinx, Hyderabad; and Ms Vidhi Shah from einfochips, Ahmedabad conducted a session on "VLSI Design" on June 21, 2020.



Alumni Meets

- The annual alumni meet of IPNUAA (Institute of Pharmacy Nirma University Alumni Association) held on Jan 26, 2020 was attended by more than 95 alumni members. Prof Manjunath Ghate, Director, Institute of Pharmacy and President, IPNUAA welcomed the alumni members and shared the new initiatives at the institute. Dr Dhaivat C Parikh, Vice President, IPNUAA shared updates on Alumni Association activities at Institute level, as well as encouraged alumni members for active participation and to enhance the alumni networking. Alumni members in turn shared their experiences and revived their college days. Entertaining One-Minute Games and Photo booths were arranged as a part of interaction during tea time.



- Institute of Science held its annual alumni meet on Feb 29, 2020. Prof Dalai, Director, Institute of Science addressed the alumni and updated them regarding the progress of the institute. An interactive session for faculty, current students and alumni was also arranged followed by a cultural programme. The General Body Meeting of the alumni association was held to discuss scope of strengthening the alumni activities at the institute.



- As part of the institute's Silver Jubilee Celebrations, the Nirma Institute of Technology Alumni Association (NITAA) organised an annual get-together and a general meeting of its alumni on Jan 4, 2020. Over 1500 alumni and their family members, faculty, staff and the students were present at the event. Engaging games and cultural activities were enjoyed by all. There was also a cricket match between the Alumni team and the Faculty team where the Nirma University faculty team emerged as the winners.



- An online alumni interaction for alumni of Civil Engineering Department, Nirma University who are working/studying abroad was held on June 21, 2020. Around 25 alumni members participated in the meet. The alumni members shared the experiences of their higher studies, and work environment and culture abroad. They also provided feedback on the improvements that can be made in the curriculum of BTech, Civil Engineering.





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