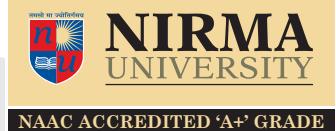


# Nirma University Newsletter



Volume 15 • Issue 1 & 2

## Major Highlights of this Issue



-  Students bring laurels in International and National events
-  University hosts International and National Conferences
-  Institute of Design student participates in Jagriti Yatra
-  International Teaching Month at Institute of Law
-  Faculty, and Alumni achievements...
-  Institutes organise NSS Residential Camps



## 1 Message from Director General's Desk 04



## 2 News 05

- University is awarded Gold Rating for its Green Campus by IGBC 05



## 3 Students 06

- Awards and Achievements 06
- SAE-Team Arrow at AUVSI SUAS 2023 06
- Achievements at National Level 06
- Intra-University Level Achievements 11
- Students' Experience 13

## 4 Research and Innovation 14

- Innovative Initiatives at the university 14



## 5 Events and Activities 14

- Inauguration of Semiconductors and Devices Laboratory 14
- Celebration of Important Days 15
- Conferences, Workshops, Seminars and Webinars 17
- Literary and Cultural Festivals 23
- Field Visits 27
- Other Events 31



## 6 Extension Activities

33

- Seven-Day NSS Camps 33
- Seminar on Women's Rights 35
- Dadhvav Village Visit 35
- Legal Awareness Campaign 35
- Blood Donation Camp 36
- Sessions by RAINBOW Centre 36
- Other Activities 37

## 7 In Focus

38

## 8 Faculty

39

- Awards and Achievements 39

## 9 Alumni

40

- Achievements 40
- Alumni Association Meets 40
- Alumni on Campus 41
- Meet Our Alumnus 42



# Message from Director General's Desk



Dear Reader,

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has become a focal point of discussion and deliberation across various educational platforms nowadays, heralded as a potential game-changer. Beyond its immediate implications, it is envisioned as a key instrument propelling India towards the ambitious goal of becoming a developed nation, termed 'Viksit Bharat', by the year 2047. This objective is undeniably commendable, aspirational, and challenging. Despite India's substantial growth since the liberalisation of its economy in the early 1990s, it lags behind China and Western nations in both economic development and educational achievements among its populace. Consequently, the NEP 2020 stands poised to play a pivotal role in the comprehensive transformation of India – economically, educationally, culturally, and socially.

The transformative impact of the NEP 2020 on the educational landscape, particularly in comparison to the previous system, is multifaceted. One of its most profound contributions lies in fostering a scientific mindset among students, positioning them to spearhead a knowledge-driven society both within India and on the global stage. This scientific mindset is cultivated by instilling a range of competencies, including analytical and critical thinking, creativity, research aptitude, and analytics.

In contrast to the old educational system, the NEP 2020 places greater emphasis on these competencies at the undergraduate level. The shift is palpable, with a renewed focus on inquiry over mere accumulation of knowledge, a promotion of doubt over blind acceptance, and an encouragement for students to question existing knowledge and practices. Classrooms are envisioned as dynamic spaces for debate and discussion rather than dull venues for information transmission. Faculty members are encouraged to nurture independent thinking, urging students to critically examine the information presented to them.

The development of research aptitude assumes a pivotal role in this paradigm shift, guiding students along a systematic route toward acquiring a scientific mindset. All educational programmes

under the NEP 2020 need to be designed to enhance research skills, offering students tangible opportunities to undertake small research projects. This approach ensures that students not only possess robust research competencies but also gain practical experience applicable to real-life scenarios. Collaboration between students and faculty on research projects is promoted, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship. Faculty members gain fresh perspectives from students, enriching their studies, while students gain insight into the intricacies of conducting real and translational research.

The cultivation of a scientific mindset is deemed essential for the evolution of a knowledge society and the emergence of innovative enterprises. Innovation, a product of combining a scientific mindset with a commercial orientation, forms the bedrock of a knowledge society populated by institutions like universities and innovation enterprises. The potential of the NEP 2020 to shape India into a knowledge society is evident. However, the responsibility for effecting this transformation rests squarely on the shoulders of universities and their faculty, who are the architects of such profound change.

Thanking you.

**Anup K Singh, PhD**  
Director General



# News

## Awards

### University is awarded Gold Rating for its Green Campus by IGBC

The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) awarded the university an IGBC Gold Rating, under the IGBC Green Campus Rating System. This award is granted in appreciation of the university's accomplishments in the areas of Site Planning and Management, Sustainable Transportation, Water Conservation, Energy Efficiency, Material & Resource Management, Health & Well-being, Green Education and Innovation in Design. Nirma University is the first university in Gujarat to receive this award.



# Students

## Awards and Achievements

### Achievements at International Level

#### SAE-Team Arrow at AUVSI SUAS 2023

Team Arrow, a part of SAE Nirma Collegiate Club, secured the overall 5<sup>th</sup> position among the 71 international teams that participated in the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Student Unmanned Aerial Systems (SUAS) 2023 competition held during June 18-22, 2023 at Maryland, USA. The team won a cash prize of \$500 and a plaque. The team competed alongside prestigious institutions such as Cornell University, University College London, North Carolina University, Virginia Tech, and Purdue University, among others.



### Achievements at National Level

#### Felicitation for selection in National Defence Academy

Aastha Laheru, a first-year BTech student at the Institute of Technology and a cadet in the NCC Girls Unit at Nirma University, becomes the first female NCC cadet from Gujarat to join the National Defence Academy (NDA), an institute training officers for the Indian Armed Forces, in Pune. She received an All India Rank of 59 out of 538. This year the total number of seats for girls in the Army was 10, Air Force was 6, and Navy was 3. She opted for the Army as her preference and received it on her first attempt. Shri G Ramachandran Nair, Executive Registrar; and Dr R N Patel, Director, Institute of Technology, felicitated her.



## Formula Bharat 2023

Team Stallions, SAE Nirma Collegiate Club, Nirma University participated in Formula Bharat 2023 competition at Coimbatore during Jan 19-24, 2023. The team had 48 students from Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics & Communication, and Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering who represented the university in the Combustion Vehicle category in the National Level event which comprised 44 teams from various institutes like IITs and NITs. The team secured Overall 2<sup>nd</sup> position, 1<sup>st</sup> position in Acceleration and Skidpad, and 2<sup>nd</sup> position in Engineering Design and AutoCross.



## National AMU ROV Competition

Team Nirma AUV won first prize at the National AMU ROV competition held at Aligarh Muslim University, during Feb 25-26, 2023. The team comprising students from different branches of the Institute of Technology received a cash prize of Rs 25,000.



## Open Automation Challenge 2023

A team comprising Shivam Bhatia, Umang Kathiriya, and Raj Dalwadi, undergraduate students of the Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering department, Institute of Technology secured second position at the Open Automation Challenge 2023 organised by ABB and B&R Automation in Pune on Feb 16-17, 2023. The team worked on the theme 'Smart Automation for Healthcare/Pharmaceutical Manufacturing', automated the tablet manufacturing process and presented prospects using ABB and B&R automation technology. The team was selected in the top 15 teams for the project demonstration out of 106 proposals received.



## National Robocon Competition

Team Nirma Robocon, 10 times National Champion, secured Second Runners up position at the DD Robocon National 2023 and also received the IHFC Winner Award with a cash prize of Rs 5000 at the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Robocon competition held during June 15-18, 2023 at Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi organised by Doordarshan and IIT Delhi. Nirma team competed with 68 teams from India including IITs and NITs.



## Nirmaquest 2023

Institute of Pharmacy organised Nirmaquest 2023, a State Level Quiz Competition for Pharmacy and other disciplines on March 3, 2023. Dr Mukesh Kumar, Director, Ortiv-Q3 Research Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad was the Chief Guest. A total of 52 teams across Gujarat state participated in the event. Sarthak Agarwal and Rajat Sharma, students of the ECE department, Institute of Technology, Nirma University won the first prize.



## Other Achievements

- Kunjan Pandya and Avni Nathani, students of Institute of Technology (Chemical Engineering) won the first prize in the National level poster competition at the Sardar Patel Renewable Energy Research Institute (SPRERI), Anand, Gujarat held on Jan 24, 2023.

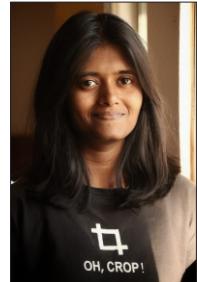


- Ananya Kaushik and Srinanda Chatterjee from the Institute of Law received the title 'Novice Breaking Team' in the SBS BPD 2023 tournament held at Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, Delhi University from Feb 18-20, 2023.
- Pakhi Jain from the Institute of Law was declared as the Runner-up Mediator at the 1<sup>st</sup> CNLU Mediation Competition 2023 held on Feb 11, 2023.

- Samarpit Jain and Ansh Kumar Jain from the Institute of Commerce won the Inter-University 8 ball Pool Tournament organised by the Gujarat National Law University during Feb 23-26, 2023.



- Palavi Jain from the Institute of Design secured 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the 'On the Spot Painting' competition in the fine arts category as part of the 36<sup>th</sup> Inter-University West Zone Youth Festival held during Feb 10-14, 2023.



- Shivam Goyal from the Institute of Law received the Best Researcher Award at the 13<sup>th</sup> UPES Dr Paras Diwan Memorial International 'Energy Law' Moot Court Competition, 2023 held from Feb 10-12, 2023 organised by UPES Law of School, Dehradun.



UPES SCHOOL OF LAW, DEHRADUN  
in association with  
PARAS DIWAN FOUNDATION

### 13TH UPES DR. PARAS DIWAN MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL 'ENERGY LAW' MOOT COURT COMPETITION , 2023



- Shashwat Singh, Suchetana Chakraborty, Hridyanand Ojha, Kratin Shastri, and Shristi Singh represented the Institute of Law in the Philip C Jessup International Moot Court Competition, 2023 held during Feb 22-26, 2023 and emerged as the Runner-up in the India Qualifying Rounds and qualified as one of the Top 6 teams to represent India in the Global Rounds of the Crown Jewel of Moot Court competitions.
- Navya Dubey, Kumari Shweta, and Yashika Mittal were adjudged as Runners Up at the 9<sup>th</sup> KIIT National Moot Court Competition, 2023 organised by KIIT School of Law, Bhubaneshwar, Odisha from March 3-5, 2023.
- Devang Dwivedi, Chitransh Shrivastava, and Khushi Gupta were adjudged as the winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Themis National Moot Court Competition, 2023 organised by the School of Law, Christ University, Lavasa, Maharashtra from March 17-19, 2023.
- Pratishtaa Agarwal and Siddhartha Shrivastava from the Institute of Law broke as adjudicators in the LSR Asian Parliamentary Debate 2023 organised by Lady Shri Ram College from April 14-16, 2023. Pratishtaa Agarwal went on to judge the Open Semi-Finals, and Siddhartha Shrivastava judged the Novice Semi-Finals.



## Intra-University Level Achievements

### One-Act Play Competition

One-Act Play Competition, with the theme 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam' was organised on Feb 10, 2023. The jury comprised Mr Nisarg Ahir, Art Critic, Poet, Editor and Writer; and Mr Nisarg Trivedi, Theatre-Television & Film Director, Actor, Music Composer, Voice Artist, and Dubbing Director. The Chief Guest of the valedictory function was Mr Saumya Joshi, Poet, Writer, Playwright, and Director. The result of the competition is as under:

S No	Award	Name of the Student/s	Institute
1	First prize	...	Institute of Pharmacy
2	Runners-Up	...	Institute of Technology (Team-1)
3	Best Actor (Male), and Best Director	Haard Mehta	Institute of Pharmacy
4	Best Actor (Female)	Yashvi Rachh	Institute of Pharmacy
5	Best Supporting Actor (Male)	Dwij Sharma	Institute of Technology (Team-1)
6	Best Actor Supporting (Female)	Dania Patel	Institute of Architecture & Planning
7	Best Production	Vansh Bafna	Institute of Pharmacy
8	Best Script	Dhruvee Patel	Institute of Pharmacy
9	Best Background Effects	Shad Mansuri	Institute of Science





## Photography Competition

The Photography Competition was organised from Feb 4-10, 2023 on the theme 'Architecture of Nirma University'. The jury comprised Prof Rishi Singhal, Senior Faculty, Photographic Design, NID Gandhinagar; and Prof Mookesh Patel, Design Education Consultant, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University. The result of the competition is

S No	Award	Name of the Student/s	Institute
1	First prize	Khushi Shah	Institute of Design
2	Second prize, and Jury's Special Mention Award	Nishi Patel	Institute of Architecture & Planning
3	Third prize	Ananya Mohan	Institute of Design
4	Director General's Special Mention Award	Vansh Bafna	Institute of Pharmacy
5	Jury's Special Mention Award	Hepin Gondaliya	Institute of Technology
6	Jury's Special Mention Award	Purvi Ashwin Dabhi	Institute of Architecture & Planning



## Short Film Competition

A Short Film Competition, with the theme 'Ahmedabad Ka Kamaal' was organised during Feb 4-18, 2023. The jury comprised Mr Sajiv Shah, Filmmaker and Editor; Mr Rajo Barot, Theatre Person and Actor; and Dr Sanjay Jain, Associate Professor, Institute of Management, Nirma University. The result of the competition is as under:

S No	Award	Name of the Student/s	Institute
1	First prize	Dwij Patel	Institute of Pharmacy
2	Second prize	Rohit Dantani	Institute of Technology
3	Third prize	Shloka Soni	Institute of Technology

## Table Tennis Tournament

The Table Tennis Tournament was organised on March 2-3, 2023. Below are the names of faculty, staff and students who secured first position in various categories:

Category	Name	Institute
Men Singles	Ayush Chhimpi	Institute of Technology
Women Singles	Kinar Sheth	Institute of Technology
Men Doubles	Dhairya , Pradyumn Singh	Institute of Technology
Women Doubles	Kinar Sheth, Devyaniba Chudasama	Institute of Technology
Mixed Doubles	Kinar Sheth, Ayush Chhimpi	Institute of Technology
Men Singles – (Faculty-Staff)	Prof Anand S Patel	Institute of Technology
Mixed Doubles (Faculty-Staff)	Prof Vikas Lakhera Prof Chandan Trivedi	Institute of Technology



## Students' Experience

### Institute of Design student participates in Jagriti Yatra

Gauri Asati, a Semester VI student from the Institute of Design was selected for Jagriti Yatra held from Dec 24, 2022 to Jan 8, 2023. She was there as an artist on board, where she was supposed to document the journey and the experiences through artistic means. As quoted by her, "Jagriti yatra was a highly enriching experience in terms of meeting new people all over India and around the world, living on a moving train for 15 days, and living with the changing landscape every day. It was challenging and equally adventurous. I got to meet people who are absolute pioneers in their field of study. We visited social organisations like Arvind Eye Care in Madhurai and Gram Vikas in Orrisa. Industrial visit to Sricity in Andhra Pradesh exposed us to the largest Industrial Park in South India spread over 7,500 acres of land."

Jagriti yatra was an experiential journey for her incorporating wide aspects such as building startups, learning business models, taking leadership lessons, tinkering dreams, constructing & deconstructing ideas, identifying problems, surveys in the heart of Indian villages, talking about the solutions more, building relationships and mindsets, and much more.

About Jagriti Yatra: It is an ambitious train journey of discovery and transformation that takes hundreds of India's highly motivated youth, from all over India and the world, on a 15-day, 8000 km national odyssey to meet the role models - social and business entrepreneurs - of the country. The vision of Jagriti is 'building India through enterprise'. Jagriti yatra is a confluence of change-makers, leaders, problem-solvers and innovators. It focuses on the themes of Agriculture, Health, Technology, Handicraft and Apparel, Women Empowerment and Urbanisation, and Interlinking Entrepreneurship with Nation-building.

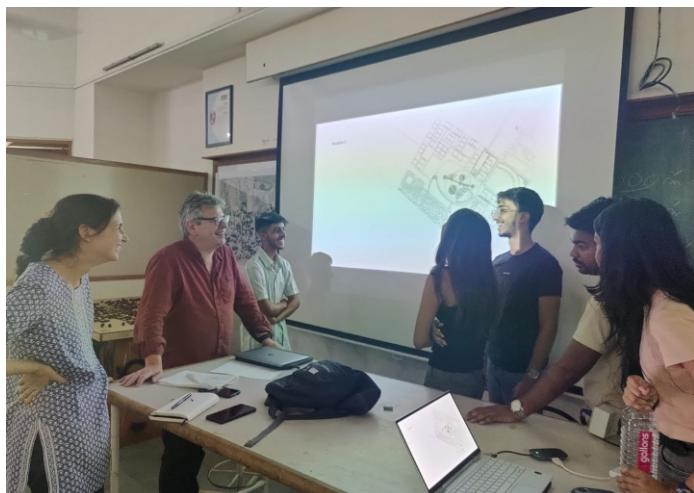


# Research and Innovation

## Innovative Initiatives at the university

### Collaborative Studio with ENSA, Mauritius

Institute of Architecture and Planning, Nirma University and ENSA, Mauritius worked on a Housing project under a collaborative studio. Twenty-eight students from Mauritius and forty-eight students from the Institute of Architecture and Planning (IAPNU) worked on a Housing project having one site in Mauritius and one in Bhuj for the artisan community from April 13-20, 2023. They were guided by Prof Laurent Lescope (ENSA, France) and Prof Anna Maalacsim (ENSA, Mauritius) along with Dr Vibha Gajjar, Dr Foram Bhavsar, and Dr Imran Mansuri from IAPNU. The students from Mauritius visited the old city of Ahmedabad, Patan and Modhera to understand the community of artisans.



## Events and Activities

### Inauguration of Semiconductors and Devices Laboratory

The Electronics and Instrumentation Department, Institute of Technology inaugurated the Semiconductors and Devices laboratory sponsored by Mitsubishi on May 19, 2023. The dignitaries from Mitsubishi present for the inauguration were Mr Hitesh Bharadwaj, Semiconductors and Devices Department-General Manager; Mr Pradip Bisht, Application Engineering-Assistant General Manager and; Mr Yogesh Bhatarkar, Sales Department-Senior Manager.



## Celebration of Important Days

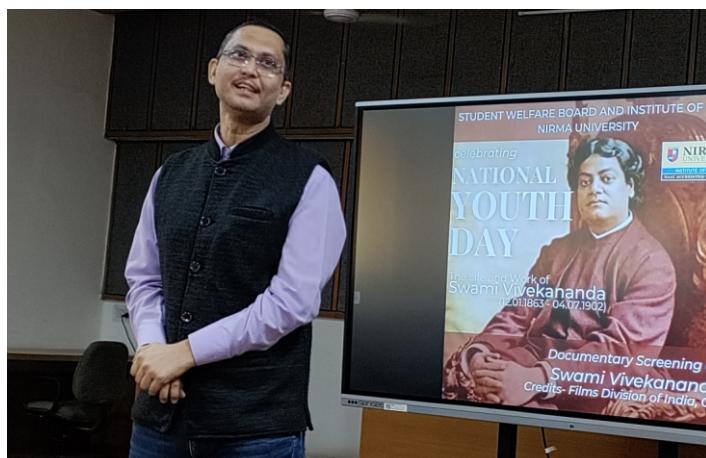
### 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day

The 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of our nation was celebrated on Jan 26, 2023. The day marks the adoption of the Indian Constitution, which came into effect on Jan 26, 1950 replacing the Government of India Act (1935). Hon'ble Justice Kalpesh Jhaveri, Former Chief Justice-High Court of Orissa, Former Acting Chief Justice-High Court of Rajasthan, and Former Judge-High Court of Gujarat unfurled the national flag at the campus. The event was attended by all Hols, HoDs, students, faculty and staff members with full vigour and enthusiasm.



### National Youth Day

To mark the 160<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, the Students Welfare Board and Institute of Law celebrated National Youth Day on Jan 12, 2023. The institute organised a screening of a documentary film titled 'Documentary on Swami Vivekananda by Film Division, Government of India' followed by a discussion by Mr Nitesh Chaudhary (Assistant Professor, Institute of Law). In line with the essential teachings of Swami Vivekananda, Mr Chaudhary urged young minds to be critical and creative about our past, to be able to see God in human beings around us and to feel pluralism and empower people through education.



### Shaheed Diwas

NCC Unit at Nirma University attached to 9 Gujarat Battalion celebrated 'Shaheed Diwas' on March 23, 2023 in coordination with Students' Welfare Board, Nirma University to remember the sacrifice of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar. The event included a poster exhibition, narration of tales of freedom fighters, and march past, among others.



## International Women's Day

The Women Development Cell, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University, in association with Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI) Gujarat state branch, organised an expert talk on 'Equality in an Unequal World: Finding the Signal amidst the Noise' by Dr Anupama Ramkumar, Principal Consultant and CEO, Arkus Research Pvt Ltd on March 7, 2023 as a part of the International Women's Day 2023 celebrations. On this occasion, Dr Tejal Soni, Professor and Dean, Dharamsingh Desai University, Nadiad, and APTI Gujarat state member, addressed the audience on behalf of APTI and pointed out the social issues faced by women in their routine life and how they can be resolved.

On this occasion, Institute of Design invited Ms Sheba George Lakdawal, Director, SAHR WARU (Women's Action and Resource Unit) to interact with the Institute of Design members on March 13, 2023.

The Women Development Cell at the Institute of Science hosted a public lecture by Dr Anna George, Immunologist, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi on 'Promoting Gender Equality in Scientific Research' on March 14, 2023. It was followed by a Sci-Biography competition on 'Women Scientists who dared to Discover and Innovate'.

Women Development Cell, Institute of Law organised a distinguished lecture on 'Implicit Bias and Impact of Democracies on Women' by Judge Mel Flanagan, Judicial Educator, Adjunct Professor and Fulbright Scholar on Feb 24, 2023.



## Pokhran Diwas

The NCC Unit attached to the 9 Gujarat Battalion in coordination with Students' Welfare Board, Nirma University celebrated 'Pokhran Diwas' on May 12, 2023. This celebration was organised to remember the contribution of nuclear scientists and all others who made the 'Pokhran-II' nuclear test possible during May 11-13, 1998. A painting competition on the theme 'Pokhran Nuclear Test' was also organised on this occasion.



## World Bicycle Day

A Bicycle Rally was organised by Nirma University Students' Welfare Board and NSS Unit on June 3, 2023 as part of the World Bicycle Day celebrations. Close to 50 students, faculty and staff members participated in the bicycle rally organised within the university campus.



## 9<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga

Nirma University celebrated the 9<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2023. A total of 501 members participated in the Yoga session held under the guidance of a professional team.



## Conferences, Workshops, Seminars and Webinars

### NICOM 2023

26<sup>th</sup> Nirma International Conference on Management (NICOM 2023) was organised by the Institute of Management from Jan 5-7, 2023. The theme of the conference was 'Technology, Agility and Transformation: Neo-Business Paradigms and Practices'. NICOM aims at bringing together academicians, researchers and practising managers to deliberate on contemporary developments and issues pertaining to businesses in the modern era. The conference featured pre-conference workshops conducted by Ms Bhawna Gulati, Joint Director at Competition Commission of India (CCI), Government of India; Dr Vinaytosh Mishra, Associate Professor, College of Healthcare Management, Gulf Medical University, UAE; and Mr Vivek Mehra, Founder - Vikramshila Research Pvt Ltd, on 'Emergence of Big-Tech and Role of Competition Law', 'Systems Thinking in Management', and 'Challenges of Publications for Indian scholars' respectively.



The inaugural session was graced by Dr Karsanbhai K Patel, President, Nirma University, along with the Chief Guest Shri Dwarakanath Patnam, Former Chairman-Glaxosmithkline Consumer Healthcare Ltd, and Head- Group Human Capital, Max India Limited; and the Guest of Honour Dr Mario Schmidt, Managing Director, Lingel Windows; along with other dignitaries. The conference included a host of track sessions, panel discussions, and keynote addresses. The Chief Guest for the Valedictory session was Dr D J Pandian, Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB); and the Guest of Honour was Shri M Anna Durai, Executive Director & State Head, Gujarat State Office, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

## Panel Discussion on the Future of Accounting Education and Research

The Institute of Commerce in association with the Indian Accounting Association, Ahmedabad Branch organised a Panel Discussion on the 'Future of Accounting Education and Research' on Feb 17, 2023. Prof Nageshwar Rao, VC, IGNOU Delhi; CA Vandana Nagpal, Director, Board of Studies, ICAI; Prof Pratap Singh Chouhan, VC, SSGU Godhra; Prof G Soral, Retd Professor, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur; Prof Rajendra Srivastava, Prof Emeritus, University of Kansas; Prof Sanjay Bhayani, Head, Department of Business Management, Saurashtra University; and CA Bishan Shah, Member, Faculty Board shared their thoughts on the future of the accounting profession with reference to the New Education Policy (NEP). They highlighted the role shifting of analysts and professionals from financial reporting to non-financial reporting. The event was attended by 160 participants in offline mode and 50 participants in online mode from Oman, Mauritius, Rwanda, South Africa, Namibia and India.



## Nirma e-Conference for International Connect (NCIC)

Institute of Pharmacy organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nirma e-Conference for International Connect (NCIC) 2023 on 'Recent Advances in Nanotechnology: Drug Discovery and Therapeutics' during Jan 24-25, 2023. Prof Yashwant V Pathak, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, USF Health Taneja College of Pharmacy, University of South Florida, USA was the Chief Guest; and Prof Om Prakash Katare, University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (UIPS), Panjab University, Chandigarh was the Guest of Honour of the inaugural programme. Prof Shailendra Saraf, Director, NIPER, Ahmedabad was the Chief Guest during the valedictory programme.

## National Workshop on Computer-Aided Drug Design Software

Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Institute of Pharmacy in association with Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University organised a 'National Workshop on Computer-Aided Drug Design Software' on Feb 23, 2023. Dr Jignasa Savjani, Dr Vivek Vyas, and Dr Bhumika Patel from the Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University delivered lectures on recent advances in computer-aided drug design, and took hands-on training sessions on various drug design software like GOLD, Autodock, Chem draw and ADMET property predictions. Around 42 participants across Gujarat attended the workshop.

## Antitrust Moot and Conference

Institute of Law hosted the 'XII ILNU Antitrust Moot and Conference 2023' from Feb 24-26, 2023. The Moot Court Committee, Institute of Law collaborated with FTI Consulting, Compass Lexecon, and ASSOCHAM as Principal Partners, and AZB & Partners, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, Trilegal, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan, Nishith Desai & Associates, Chandhiok & Mahajan, Axiom5 Law Chambers, DSK Legal, Saraf & Partners, and Anant Law as Associate Partners for this event. The aim of the event was to provide a common platform for law students across India having interests in competition law and the art of mootling. The winner of the moot was the team of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.



## Pratidhwani

Institute of Management organised the 10<sup>th</sup> Alumni Conclave on the theme 'The Alchemy of Change' on Feb 4, 2023. Mr Jyotil Mankad, Director and Business Head of Ingram Micro; Mr Vishal Chopra, CGO of Hiver; Mr Keyur Jathal, Executive Director of Ishan Technologies; Ms Pranjal Dixit, Senior Associate Lead in Infosys; and Mr Suvodeep Mukherjee, Senior General Manager of TUV Sud South Asia Pvt Ltd delivered sessions on a wide range of topics including transformation in technologies, dynamics of business ecosystem, SaaS, etc. A panel discussion with Mr Rituraj Saxena, President & Vertical Head in Yes Bank; and Mr Himank Sharma, Director at CRISIL Ratings as panellists was organised on various aspects of the business transformation.

## International Conference on Right to Equality

An International Conference on the Right to Equality was organised by the Institute of Law on March 25-26, 2023. The conference was organised in a hybrid mode – offline presentations were held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, and online presentations on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Chief Guest Hon'ble Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India gave a distinguished lecture on 'Fraternity: Foundational Fabric of the Constitution of India'.

## Robotics Masters Training and Certificate Programme

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Technology organised 'Robotics Masters Training and Certificate Programme', a state-level training programme under the TEERTH scheme of Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat (KCG), Government of Gujarat during Jan 3-13, 2023. The main theme of the event was the basics of Arduino, Python Programming, Robotics, and Drone Technology. A total of 40 participants attended the training programme provided by the trainers from iSTEM foundation under KCG.

## Anvesh 2023: Doctoral Research Conference in Management

Institute of Management organised its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Doctoral Conference in Management - Anvesh on March 17-18, 2023. The Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony was Prof Ashutosh Sharma, President, Indian National Science Academy and former Secretary-DST with Dr Arabinda Mitra, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and former Scientific Secretary as the Guest of Honour. Various workshops were conducted by eminent academicians from India and abroad such as Prof Sreejesh S, IIM Kozhikode; Prof Carlos Flavien, University of Zargoza-Spain; Dr Ashish Kumar, Jaipuria University; and Dr Sachin Mangla, O P Jindal Global University. The valedictory function was presided over by Prof Damodaran Prashant, Chief Advisor-HR, TVS Capital Group.

## Patent Workshop

Dr Sanjay Toshniwal, Central Council Member, Pharmacy Council of India; and Director, Vidarbh Institute of Pharmacy, Washim delivered a talk on 'IPR: Innovation, Economics and Access' on March 13, 2023. It was followed by a hands-on training session on 'Prior Art Research and Patent Drafting for Pharmaceuticals' for faculty members and PhD students of the Institute of Pharmacy.



## National Seminar on Cancer Immunotherapy

The National Seminar on Cancer Immunotherapy was organised by Institute of Science on March 10, 2023 with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, and Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM), Government of Gujarat. On this occasion, Dr Shubhada Chiplunkar, Former Director, ACTREC, Mumbai, and the President of the Immuno-Oncology Society of India delivered keynote address on 'Complex Tumor Microenvironment: Hurdle for Cancer Therapy'.



## Model United Nations Conference

Institute of Law organised the second edition of the Model United Nations Conference from April 1-2, 2023. The event conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan, and the MUN Refugee Challenge was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel. Over 400 delegates from across the country engaged in debates, and thoughtful discussions.



## Scientific Writing Workshop

Institute of Pharmacy organised a Scientific Writing Workshop with a hands-on training session under the auspices of IQAC-I and UG Research Council on April 17, 2023. Dr Harish Padh, Provost, Vice Chancellor, Vanita Vishram Women's University, Surat; Dr Renuka Mishra, Director, Scissential formulation development consultant, Ahmedabad; Dr Shraddha Bhadada, Consultant medical writer, Turacoz Healthcare Solutions, Ahmedabad; and Dr Karla Mercado Shekhar, Assistant Professor, IIT Gandhinagar delivered expert lectures on diverse and pivotal aspects of scientific writing. These encompassed the research writing methodology, plagiarism, types of documents in scientific writing, literature search tools, research paper writing tips to write effectively, and hands-on training. More than 120 participants attended the workshop.



## Other Events and Activities

- As part of the celebrations of Two Decades of Academic Excellence of the university, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Nirma University organised an expert talk on 'UK-India Relations: Focus on Education and Research' by Mr Peter Cook-British Deputy High Commissioner for Gujarat and Rajasthan on Jan 21, 2023. More than 300 faculty members and doctoral students from the constituent institutes attended the session.



- Dr Stephen Barnes, Assistant Dean, Penn State Law, US spoke on the 'American Legal System and Opportunities for Doctoral Studies for the students of LLM' at the Institute of Law on Jan 30, 2023.



- Department of Pharmacology, Institute of Pharmacy in association with Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University organised a symposium on Neuroscience



on Feb 17, 2023. Dr Ganesh Sangle, Director & Head, NCE Discovery Research, Kashiv BioSciences LLC, Ahmedabad; and Dr Vinod Tiwari, Associate Professor, IIT BHU, Varanasi were the resource persons. The symposium included plenary lectures by experts on recent advances in neuroscience and various animal models of neurological disorders, hands-on stereotaxic-apparatus and ANYMAZE software. Around 40 participants across Gujarat attended the symposium.

- The Centre for Corporate Law Studies, Institute of Law organised a virtual session on 'Mergers and Acquisitions' by Advocate Kunal Sharma, General Manager Legal M&A, project finance at ARISE IIP, Gurgaon on Feb 16, 2023. He shared his first-hand experiences and discussed a career in Merger and Acquisition in Legal Industry and strategising M&A deals as a Legal Consultant.
- Institute of Pharmacy organised a session on 'Recent Advancement in Analytical Characterisation of Biotherapeutics/Biosimilars' on March 6, 2023 in association with the Centre for Continuing Education, Nirma University. Dr Parv Purohit, Sr Vice President R&D, Kashiv BioSciences Pvt Ltd was the Chief Guest. Dr Vadi Raja, Agilent Technologies; Dr Sujata Halder, ZRC; Dr Ravi Shah, NIPER-Ahmedabad delivered talks on post translational modification of therapeutic protein, process related impurity and HCP analysis, high order structural mapping of therapeutic protein using High end sophisticated techniques like LC-HRMS/MS, etc.



- Institute of Pharmacy in association with the Centre for Advanced Instrumentation (CAI) and the Centre for



Continuing Education (CCE), Nirma University organised a seminar on 'Nano-drug delivery (SNDD)' on March 24, 2023. Dr Sanju Dhawan, Director-Research and Development, Baxter Pharmaceuticals Inc. was the Chief Guest. Dr Rakesh Tekade, Associate Professor, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Ahmedabad; and Dr Riddhish Patadiya, Manager-Formulation Development, Emcure Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd delivered expert talks.

- Mr Rutvij Dasadia, founder-Booz Mobility - a start-up featured in Shark Tank India delivered a session on 'Perks and Downs of Entrepreneurship' on March 1, 2023 at the Institute of Commerce.
- Ms Ananya Maloo-founder of Nuutjob-a Male Hygiene company presented a session on 'Gender Equality in the Era of Digitalisation and Innovation' on March 24, 2023 at the Institute of Commerce.



- Dr Freenny Sheth, co-founder and director of the Institute of Human Genetics gave a talk on 'Down Syndrome is not down' on March 21, 2023 at the Institute of Science.



- Mr Sushil Daga, Managing Partner, Amicus Legal, spoke on 'Arbitration and Conciliation Nuances' at the Institute of Law on March 3, 2023.
- Dr Sailesh Krishna Rao, Founder and Executive Director of Climate Healers delivered an expert lecture on 'Climate Healing' on March 14, 2023 at the Institute of Law.
- Mr Vishruth Pathak, Chief Investment Officer at PI Square Investments gave a talk on 'Intelligent Investing' on March 10, 2023 at the Institute of Management.
- Dr Surabhi Mehrotra, MANIT, Bhopal gave an expert talk on 'Thermal Profile of Built Forms' on April 13, 2023 at the Institute of Architecture and Planning.
- Dr Dimitrios Kallontzis, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Houston delivered an online expert lecture on 'Experimental and Analytical investigation of Shear Behaviour of UHPC Panel' on April 28, 2023 at the Institute of Technology.
- Mr Jaldhi Anjaria, Chief Consultant (HVAC & Building Automation), and Founder (Anjaria Associates) delivered a lecture on 'Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning system' on April 29, 2023 at the Institute of Technology.
- Mr Shubham Vijay, Principal Associate in Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan gave online expert lectures on 'Supply-An inclusively defined taxable event', and 'ITC-Seamless flow of credit and cascading of taxes' on April 3 and 5, 2023 at the Institute of Law.
- Mr Kinjesh Thakkar, Head-International Tax & Transfer, Linde Engineering, Vadodara gave an expert lecture on 'Transfer Pricing' on April 3 and 5, 2023 at the Institute of Law.
- A workshop on 'Land Laws' was organised at the Institute of Law from April 28-29, 2023. The experts for the workshop were Dr Usha Ramnathan, Senior Law Researcher and, Ms Shomona Khanna, Advocate, Supreme Court of India and former legal advisor to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs for Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- Shri Kannan P, Scientist E, Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, Gandhinagar, delivered an expert talk on 'Increasing Research Visibility: Academic Identity and IRINS' on May 6, 2023. More than 300 faculty members from constituent Institutes of Nirma University attended the session.



## Literary and Cultural Festivals

### Kalp 23

Kalp, the cultural fest of the student body of the Institute of Architecture and Planning was organised during Feb 27-March 1, 2023. It included exhibition display of the works of the previous semester, installations, workshops, competitions, and a host of academic and cultural activities. Ar Madhav Joshi, Architect & Practitioner, Pune, and Ar Shilpa Ranade, Architect & Practitioner, Mumbai were the Chief Guests at the annual exhibition. Guest lectures were conducted by Ar Dean D'Cruz, Goa based Architect; Ar K T Ravindran, Senior Academic Advisor, RICS School of Built Environment, Chairman-Architectural Heritage Advisory Committee of INTACH, Trustee- Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation; Dr Anjana Vyas, ex Professor, Dean, Executive Director at CEPT University, Ahmedabad; Mr Matang Patel, a planner and associated with Virtuelalize; Mr Hemil Ganatra, associated with ModRoof, Ahmedabad. Other events included Talent hunt, Treasure hunt curated on the theme of Mythology and Fantasy, Cultural night, Sports events, Cyclothon, and Annual Spoken word event-Kavitra.



### Genesis 2023

Genesis, the annual cultural festival of BBA was organised during March 13-14, 2023. The 20-plus exuberant events saw the participation of almost 1000 students across universities and colleges of Gujarat. The stage was graced by illustrious artists like Manhar Seth, Aashish Solanki, Dream Note, and Ravator. The annual music competition 'Band Wars' was organised as a part of this event.



## NUZEAL 2023

NUZEAL 2023, the Inter-Institute cultural festival was organised during Feb 13-16, 2023. As part of the opening ceremony and to mark Nirma University's two decades of academic excellence, a Cultural Walk was organised on Feb 13, 2023. Mr Mayur Vakani (Sundar), from the popular television show Tarak Mehta Ka Ulta Chasma, joined the ceremony as the Chief Guest. It was followed by musical and dance performances by the students. The day also marked the launch of Nirma University's first music band. A host of competitions in the field of dance, music, theatre, literature, and fine arts were organised on Feb 14–16, 2023. A drum circle was organised in collaboration with Mr Rujul Vora (The Drum Circle) where close to 500 students, faculty, and staff members participated.



## Perspective Richter 10

Perspective Richter 10, the annual cultural festival of the Institute of Management was organised from Feb 24-26, 2023. The event encompassed 20 competitions and a host of other activities. Performances by eminent artists, like Ms Helly Shah, a noted poet presented an evening of soulful poetry; Mr Samay Raina performed a stand-up comedy show; DJ NAC and Progressive brothers performed at the DJ night; and, Zaeden and Stebin Ben presented a soulful music concert. The 'Nirmatav' organised on the theme 'ACT- Actions Change Things' hosted the Mumbai Dabbawallas as eminent guest speakers.



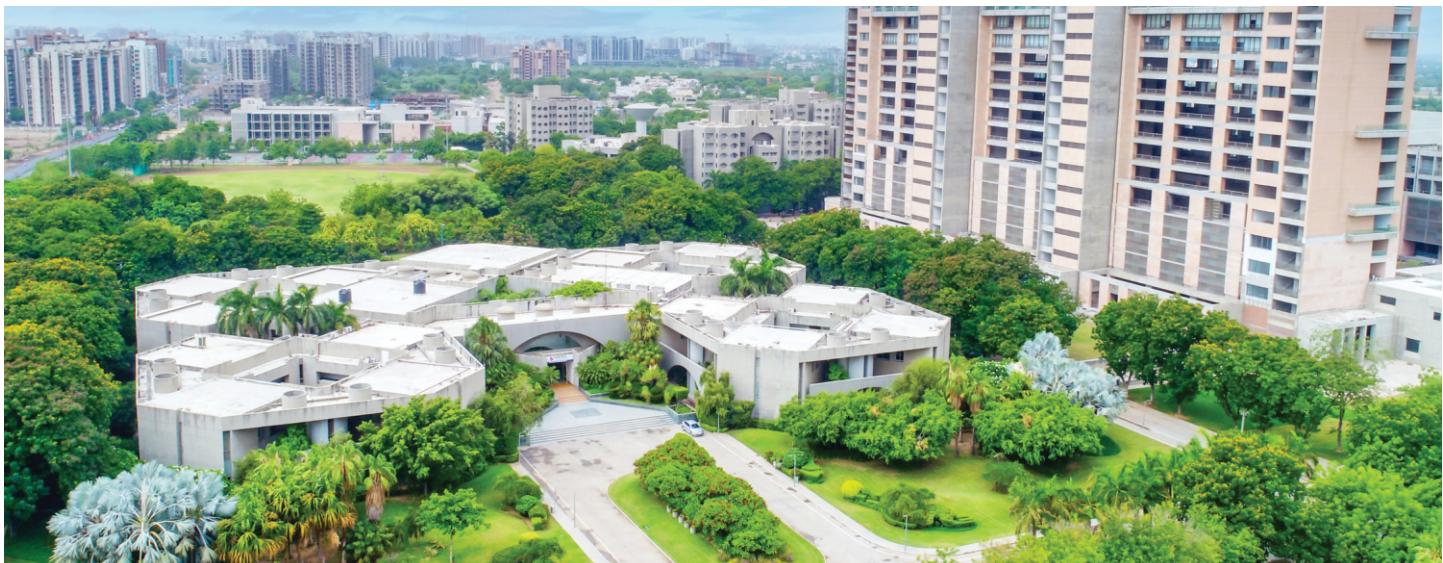
## SPIC MACAY

The Students' Welfare Board and Institute of Pharmacy jointly organised a special performance of Team SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth) on Feb 16, 2023. It was a privilege to witness the performance of Lakshmi Parthasarathy Athreya, a noted Bharatanatyam soloist of her generation, and recipient of 'Central Sangeet Natak Akademy Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar'.



## Elysian 5.0

Institute of Commerce hosted Elysian 5.0, the fifth edition of its cultural and literary festival during Feb 2-4, 2023. On this occasion, Mr Apoorva Vora, CEO and Founder, Finolutions LLP, GIFT City, Gandhinagar held a session on 'Career Opportunities with Start-Ups'. Further, a host of competitions were organised under the category of Dance, Music, Literature, Media, Theatre, Fashion, and Fine-Arts. The event ended with a DJ Night performed by renowned DJ-Sound Avatar. The fest received participation of over 550+ students from colleges and universities across the country.



## Ashvamedha

Institute of Law organised 'Ashvamedha', the cultural fest from April 20-23, 2023. The event was graced by Hon'ble Mr Harsh Ramesh Sanghvi, Home Minister, Gujarat. The event comprised various competitions like Paper Trading Competition, Solo Singing, Nirma Dialogue, Next Big Bull-Portfolio Evaluation, Graffiti Designing, Hip Hop Fest, Kavi Sammelan, Dance (duet), Battle of the Bands, and Kite Flying Festival. Artist night included concerts by Anuv Jain, Jassie Gill, and Babbal Rai, singers; DJ Ola Ras; and Aaditya Kulshreshth, a Stand Up Comedian.



## Other Events and Activities

### International Teaching Month

Institute of Law organised the inaugural ceremony of its flagship programme 'International Teaching Month' on Feb 13, 2023. Hon'ble Judge Mel Flanagan, Former Circuit Judge USA and Adjunct Professor, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina was the Chief Guest. Dr Ricky Lee, Intellectual Forum Senior Research Associate, Jesus College, University of Cambridge, England was the Guest of Honour at the event. Every year, the institute hosts International Teaching Month as its signature event. This event serves as a symbol of the institute's dedication to internationalisation, a plan to include an international and intercultural perspective into the legal curriculum. The institute hosted over 40 eminent speakers from across the globe.



## Field Visits

### Students visit Mundra Port

Seventy-five students from first-year BCom (Hons) along with four faculty members visited Adani Port, Adani Wilmar Plant, and Adani Power processing plants at Mundra during Jan 20-21, 2023. The students were briefed on handling container cargo, manufacturing process of edible oils, power generation process, and practical operational and manufacturing aspects of the overall business.



### Field Studio at Varkala, Kerala

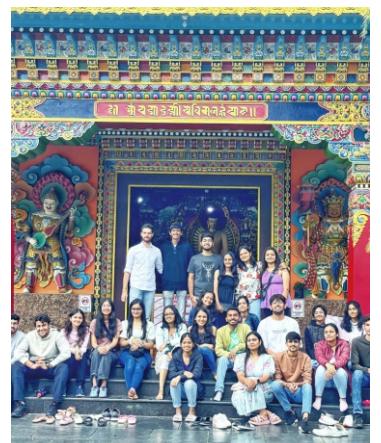
Fifty-four students of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year BArch programme, Institute of Architecture and Planning visited Varkala, Kerala for a Field Studio Programme from Jan 7-16, 2023 along with the faculty mentors. The objective was to study the socio-economic and environmental concerns of the built environment in the famous pilgrim centre and beach tourism destination. Based on their study, students made proposals for urban design interventions and presented them to a jury at Varkala Rangakala Kendram on Jan 14, 2023.



## Related Study Programmes

Institute of Architecture and Planning conducted a Related Study Programme in Kerala from Jan 8-21, 2023. A group of 50 students along with three faculty members visited Kochi, Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram as a part of this tour. Activities included visit to historically important monuments and urban areas, and a hands-on brick construction workshop at the Laurie Baker Centre, Costford.

The students of the third and fourth year of the Institute of Architecture and Planning visited Bhutan, Sikkim, Darjeeling and Kolkata as a part of the Related Study Programme from June 11 to 29, 2023. The study trip was filled with countless eye-opening moments and transformative experiences. The students not only honed their architectural skills but also developed a broader perspective on the world. They learned to appreciate the significance of context, culture, and climate in architectural design. They witnessed the power of architecture to create meaningful spaces that positively impact communities and the environment, and contribute to the future of sustainable and inclusive design.



## Industrial visit to Semiconductor Laboratory

An industrial visit to Semiconductor Laboratory, Chandigarh was organised for the postgraduate students of the Electronics and Communications department (Embedded System and VLSI), Institute of Technology on Jan 9, 2023. The purpose of the visit was to help students realise the process of fabrication at 180 nm process node, and explore its various associated devices. The tour started with an introductory video of the organisation, followed by exploring the fabrication process for 6" and 8" inch silicon wafers and ended with packaging and testing of various devices made out of these wafers.

## Ahmedabad Heritage Documentation

Semester IV students of the Institute of Architecture and Planning were a part of the documentation process at Khadia 1 area of Ahmedabad in collaboration with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation to list the existing condition of the identified buildings of Grade 3 in the said area. The exercise also involved the measured drawing of the identified building to help them understand the building elements of the traditional buildings of Ahmedabad city situated in the heritage core of the city.



## Rural Exposure and Documentation

Eighty-one students (Batch of 2022) of the Institute of Design were a part of the Rural Exposure and Documentation programme conducted during Feb 13-18, 2023. The students were split into three groups where Group 1 went to Jatan Sansthan, Udaipur; Group 2 visited Waghai Dang; and Group 3 visited Bhuj, Kutch. The students were required to observe, absorb, immerse and document the processes and place together their learning in the form of a journal including photographs, sketches and text. Each group was mentored by two faculty members.



## Visit to Anand Agricultural University

Institute of Law organised a visit for its students to the Anand Agricultural University on April 6, 2023. During the visit, the students learned about the 'Farmers and Breeders Rights'. They attended a lecture on the intricacies of the 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001', followed by a visit to an agriculture farm where they learned about different crops and the methods of sowing. This visit was a great complement to legal knowledge as it gave a more holistic understanding of the agriculture industry.

## Visit to Stone Quarry at Ambaji

Students of the first year of the Institute of Architecture and Planning visited Stone Quarry at Ambaji, Gujarat on April 15, 2023. The students learnt about the various stages and processes from fetching the stone and making stone slabs out of it by various slicing methods.



## Visit to GIFT City

Seventy-four students from the 6<sup>th</sup> semester, Institute of Commerce visited the GIFT City, Gandhinagar, the only International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) in India on April 21, 2023. Mr Sandip Shah and Mr Shekhar Tejwani, coordinators from GIFT City, addressed the students and provided them with insights into the working of various financial operations inside GIFT City, including the multi-service SEZ and the exclusive International Financial Service Centre of the country. The students learned about online trading platforms and gained an understanding of the employment opportunities available in the financial sector.



## Adventure Camp at Manali-Beas Kund

The Students' Welfare Board, Nirma University organised an adventure camp at Manali-Kasol-Beas Kund for its students from June 7-15, 2023. A total of 37 students from constituent institutes of Nirma University participated in this camp. Some of the activities included Zip lining, Rappelling, Climbing, River Crossing, River Rafting, River Site Camp, Yoga workshop, and River Trek.



## Other Events

### Parakram 2023

Institute of Management organised 'Parakram', an Inter-Business School Sports Tournament from Jan 23-25, 2023 in which 213 participants from six B-Schools competed in different sports. While the Institute of Management, Nirma University emerged as the winning team, MICA finished as the runners-up for the coveted title.



## ILNU British Parliamentary Debate 2023

Debate Society of the Institute of Law conducted 'The ILNU BPD 2023' from Feb 17-19, 2023. It hosted 88 teams and more than 60 judges, which made ILNU BPD the biggest British Parliamentary Debate Tournament in the country. The finals of ILNU BPD comprised teams from Stanford University (USA), Osaka University (Japan), UP Diliman (Philippines) and Miranda House (Delhi University). Seamus Allen and Tejas Subramaniam from Stanford University won the tournament.



## All Gujarat Instrumentation Engineers Meet

International Society of Automation, Students' Chapter Nirma University organised the 'All Gujarat Instrumentation Engineers Meet' (AGICEM'23) on April 29, 2023. The event was graced by the US based International Society of Automation certified SIS-SIL specialist, Mr P N Parikh who shared his insights based on his 45 years of experience in the field of Automation industry and academia. The event also featured distinguished entrepreneurs, Mr Anand Patel, Director-Pentaflex Films LLP, and Mr Niraj Shah, CEO-Arihant Satiate, both notable alumni of Nirma University, who shared their experiences and highlighted the importance of financial stability and personal growth.

- A Poster Presentation by the current PhD students was organised on March 4, 2023 to provide them a platform to showcase their doctoral research. More than 120 research scholars of the university shared their research findings with other research scholars, postgraduate students, and faculty members.



- Organisation of Civil Engineering Students, in association with the NSS Unit, Nirma University organised a Road Safety Awareness event on April 13, 2023. As part of this event, Mr Amit Khatri, a member of the executive committee at Gujarat Road Safety Authority took a session on Road Safety. This was followed by an online quiz on the Road Safety aspect.

The flyer is yellow with green and red accents. It features logos for OICES, G20, NSS, and Nirma University. The title 'ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS' is prominently displayed in large green letters. Below it, 'EXPERT LECTURE' is mentioned with details: DATE : 13/04/2023, TIME : 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, VENUE : NIM Auditorium. A photo of Mr. Amit Khatri is shown in a dashed frame. To the right, a table lists 'ACTIVITIES FOR ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS' with three rounds: Quiz, Test your Driving Skills, and Blind Spot. The background includes road safety symbols like traffic lights and signs. The bottom of the flyer has a decorative road with cones and the text 'Institute of Technology, Nirma University, Ahmedabad - 382481'.

ACTIVITIES FOR ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS	
ROUND :1	Quiz
ROUND :2	Test your Driving Skills
ROUND :3	Blind Spot

**Mr. Amit Khatri**  
Member of Executive Committee at Gujarat Road Safety Authority & winner of National Award on "India Road Safety Mission 2015".

**"Winners will be awarded with Prizes"**

## Extension Activities

### Seven-Day NSS Camp by NSS Unit of Institute of Commerce

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of the Institute of Commerce organised a seven-day special camp from Dec 30, 2022 to Jan 5, 2023 at Vasai village, Ahmedabad. Twenty-five NSS volunteers led by Prof Ashutosh Pandey, NSS Programme Officer, conducted several activities like Yoga, No Tobacco Drive, Teaching Workshops in Government Primary School, Financial Literacy and E-banking Awareness, Cleanliness and Plantation Drive, Nukkad Naatak, Folk Singing and Dancing, E-commerce Workshop for Women, Cultural events, and Sports activities.



## Seven-Day NSS Camp by NSS Unit of Institute of Design

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of the Institute of Design organised a seven-day special camp from Jan 7-13, 2023 at Village-Bidada, Bhuj. A team of 27 NSS volunteers conducted several activities and interacted with the school students, farmers, women, and local NGOs. The biggest issue faced by the villagers was water which is used especially for drinking and agriculture, besides a host of day-to-day activities. The NSS team created awareness of water harvesting techniques, improvement of water quality, and illustration work on knowing groundwater.



## Seven-Day NSS Camp by NSS Unit of Institute of Technology

The NSS Unit of the School of Engineering organised a Residential Camp at Miroli village, Ahmedabad from April 23-29, 2023. A total of 50 NSS volunteers participated in the camp. This residential camp exposed the students to village life and provided them with a chance to interact with villagers. Activities like teaching children, awareness campaigns about cleanliness, government schemes, etc. were organised during the camp.

The NSS Unit of the School of Technology organised a Residential Camp from May 6-12, 2023 at Motipura village, Gandhinagar. A total of 50 NSS volunteers participated in the camp which focused on Fit India Mission, Nukkad Natak, Sports activities, etc.



## Dadhvav Village Visit

Pro-Bono Club of the Institute of Law organised a visit to Dadhvav village, Sabarkantha, Gujarat on Feb 17, 2023. Dr Madhuri Parikh, Dean and Director(I/c), Institute of Law, along with some of the faculty members, and the Pro-Bono team interacted with the villagers and briefed them about cyber fraud and ways for prevention and remedy. They also discussed the issues pertaining to forest laws.



## Legal Awareness Campaign

Legal Aid Clinic, Nirma University conducted a legal awareness campaign from Feb 19 to 25, 2023 around the university campus and nearby areas such as Gota, Chandkheda, Tragad, Khoraj, etc. The campaign reached out to around 250 people. The volunteers explained the importance of legal aid and created awareness about free legal aid provided by the clinic. The campaign was successful in creating and promoting legal awareness in the community.

## Seven-Day NSS Camp by NSS Unit of Institute of Law

A team of 40 NSS volunteers of the Institute of Law participated in the seven-day residential camp held in Lapkaman village, Gujarat from Feb 19-25, 2023. They carried out welfare activities to aid in the village's overall societal development. Some of the activities conducted during these days included a Paediatric Health checkup camp in collaboration with Dr Pramod Jain and Dr Priyanka Jain; Workshops on Self-Defence, Menstruation Awareness and Menstrual Accessibility, Consumer Awareness, and Upskilling and Employment of Rural women; Street Shiksha Sessions; and Cleanliness Drive. Competitions involving Sports and Art, Nukkad Natak along with Dance and Musical performances were also organised.

## Seminar on Women's Rights

The Pro Bono Club of the Institute of Law in association with the Centre for Social Justice conducted a seminar on women's rights during Jan 6-7, 2023. The event aimed to train and sensitise young women lawyers coming from different parts of Gujarat on socially relevant issues. The speakers of the programme were Dr Madhuri Parikh, Director and Dean (I/c); Dr Neeraj Gupta; Mr Nitesh Chaudhary; and Dr Jyotsna Yagnik, Retd Judge and Professor, Institute of Law, Nirma University; Shri RA Trivedi, Member Secretary, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority; Dr Purvi Pokhriyal, Campus Director, NFSU, Gandhinagar; and Ms Tanvi Singh and Ms Nivedita Dalal from Centre for Social Justice. The event was attended by 33 women lawyers from Valsad, Morbi, Bharuch, Godhra, etc.

## Blood Donation Camp

NSS Unit of the Institute of Law conducted a Blood Donation Camp under the aegis of the Students' Welfare Board in association with Prathama Blood Bank on March 15, 2023. The drive received an overwhelming response of 392 Units in nine hours. This was one of the most successful Blood Donation Drive in the history of Nirma University.



## Sessions by RAINBOW Centre

The RAINBOW Centre (Realising Aspirations, Interests and Brilliance of Women) established at the Institute of Management, Nirma University aims at capacity building and counselling of university/higher education institution's female students and alumni; industry workforce; and social groups. The main objective of the centre is to engage with students, alumni and outside stakeholders for research, counselling and support to young women's career planning and capacity building.

In this context, the RAINBOW Centre arranged a session on 'Financial Literacy' for women to help them understand the relevance of saving and investing. Dr Khyati Shah and Mr Manish Ramtri of 'Savy Wealth' conducted the session on May 8, 2023 in Gujarati in a very simple and lucid manner. Along with this, Tresna Foundation, the NGO partner of RAINBOW Centre, Nirma University have commenced beauty parlour classes at Sabarmati Area, Ahmedabad under Project Kaushalyam for women. They have also started Sewing classes for another group of women.



## Other Activities

- Twenty-five students from the Institute of Architecture and Planning did murals at ITC Narmada as a part of Social Service (NSS) during Feb 1-4, 2023. The murals were abstract of Ahmedabad's Art, Architecture and Heritage, Prominent structures, Culture and Traditions of the city. This gesture was a contribution towards the G20 Summit as Ahmedabad was a host for the Urban 20 Summit and beautification of the city and walls was ongoing.



- To promote sports and fitness awareness among the students, the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign volunteers of the Institute of Law visited Lapkaman Primary School on Feb 28, 2023 and participated in a host of activities along with them. The volunteers also did a door-to-door campaign covering more than 30 houses for spreading basic awareness of fitness and yoga. They shared the list of Aarogya Kendra where yoga fitness education is sponsored by the government.



## DigitAll: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality



**Dr Madhuri Bhavsar**

Professor and HoD,  
Department of Computer Science  
and Engineering,  
Institute of Technology, Nirma University

Gender equality is of great significance to our nation and the world at large. Gender equality has been a long-standing challenge in India. Despite the progress that has been made in recent years, women still face numerous obstacles when it comes to access to opportunities and resources. From the gender pay gap to the under-representation of women in leadership positions to the ongoing struggle for reproductive rights, the fight for gender equality is far from over in our country.

However, innovation and technology hold the potential to bridge the gap and promote gender equality in India. Technology can help to eliminate gender biases, create new job opportunities and provide access to education and healthcare services. It has the power to transform the way we live, work, and interact with one another.

Notwithstanding, it has the potential to bring about a world in which women have equal opportunities and equal access to resources. In the past, women have often been excluded from certain fields and professions due to implicit biases and stereotypes. However, technology can help to remove these biases by providing objective data and evidence, which can be used to make more informed decisions about hiring and promotions.

In India, there are various ways in which innovation and technology can be used to promote gender equality. For example:

**Digital literacy and access to technology:** According to a report by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), there were 687.62 million internet users in India in 2020. However, women account for only 29% of the total number of internet users in the country. By promoting digital literacy among women and providing them with access to technology India can bridge this digital gender divide and empower more women to participate in the digital economy.

**Online education and skill development:** The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of online education and skill development platforms in India. By leveraging these platforms women in India can access education and skill development opportunities that were previously unavailable to them due to social and cultural barriers. For example, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has launched an online skilling platform called E-Skill India, which aims to provide skill development opportunities to women in rural areas.

**E-commerce and entrepreneurship:** E-commerce platforms can provide a level playing field for women entrepreneurs by enabling them to sell their products and services online, without the need for a physical storefront. According to a report by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), women-led businesses in India have the potential to create 150-170 million jobs by 2030. By leveraging e-commerce platforms, India can empower more women entrepreneurs to contribute to the country's economic growth.

**Health and wellness:** Technology can also be used to address gender-based violence and improve women's health outcomes in India. For example, mobile apps like 'Sakhi' and 'Himmat' provide women with emergency assistance and support in case of a crisis. By leveraging these tools and platforms, India can empower more women to participate in the country's economic, social, and political life.

The rise of the gig economy and remote work opportunities has enabled women to participate in the workforce on their terms, without the constraints of traditional work arrangements. In addition, technology has made it easier for women to start their businesses by providing access to resources and information that were previously unavailable. This has helped to increase economic empowerment for women and has led to a more diverse and inclusive workforce in India. The widespread use of mobile phones and the internet has allowed women in rural areas to access information and resources that were previously out of reach.

Online education platforms are providing women with access to educational opportunities that were previously unavailable helping to break down the barriers to education and promoting gender equality in India.

However, we must be mindful of the potential pitfalls that come with technological progress in India. The digital divide between men and women remains a significant challenge and we must work to ensure that all women have access to technology and the skills necessary to take advantage of its benefits.

Innovation and Technology hold the key to unlocking gender equality in India. We must embrace this opportunity, and work together to ensure that women have equal access to technology and the skills needed to succeed in the digital age. We must also ensure that technology is used responsibly and ethically and that it is not used to perpetuate gender biases and discrimination.

# Faculty

## Awards and Achievements

### WAAH Science Laureate Awards

Faculty members and PhD students of the Mechanical and Chemical Engineering department, Institute of Technology, received "We All Are Human (WAAH)" Science Laureate Awards (Senior Laureate category) on Jan 11, 2023. The Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad conferred the awards. Kinnary Modi, PhD student along with Assistant Professors Dr Shebaz Memon and Dr Darshit S Upadhyay received the first runners-up award for their study on 'Environment Friendly and Energy Improved Biomass Cookstove for Better Human Health'. Dr Niraj Shah, Associate Professor, Institute of Technology mentored the trio. Sidhartha Sondh and Kangana Bhatt, PhD students along with Dr Darshit Upadhyay received the second runners-up award for their work on 'Solid Waste Treatment: A Potential for Future Fuel'. Dr Sanjay Patel, Professor, Institute of Technology mentored the trio.



### Other Achievements

- Dr Madhuri Parikh, Dean and Director (I/c), Institute of Law received a consultancy grant from the British Institute of International Comparative Law (BIICL) and is appointed as the National Rapporteur for the Project on Corporate Climate Change Litigation.
- Prof Shebaz A Memon, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department, Institute of Technology was awarded the ISTE Gujarat - M C Bhavsar Award for 'Innovative Work in the Area of Renewable Energy' at the 26<sup>th</sup> State Annual Faculty Convention and Conference held on April 27, 2023.
- Dr Ankit R Thakkar, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Institute of Technology has been awarded the state-level ISTE Gujarat-Vadodara Institute of Engineering award for Best Faculty in Computer Engineering, Undergraduate Programme in Gujarat state during the 26<sup>th</sup> State Annual Faculty Convention and Conference held on April 27, 2023.



# Alumni

## Achievements

- Mr Aadesh Shinde, an alumnus of the 2017 batch, Institute of Law, and currently Advocate at the High Court of Madhya Pradesh won the 'Best Delegate' Award at the National Youth Parliament organised by the New Government Law College, Indore on Jan 3, 2023. He was felicitated by Padma Bhushan Sumitra Mahajan, former Speaker of the Lok Sabha, for providing innovative solutions on the agenda 'Uniform Civil Code'.



- Dr Dhara Bhayani, currently working as a Research Associate at Zydus Research Centre received the best PhD thesis award 2020 in the Pharmaceutical Science category from Gujarat Science Academy for her PhD dissertation work entitled 'Effect of ionizing radiation on the stability of selected drugs and their formulations'. She completed her PhD under the guidance of Dr Priti Mehta, Professor and HoD, Pharm Analysis, Institute of Pharmacy. The award was conferred on June 17, 2023 at Gujarat University.



- Mr Ravish Bhatt, an alumnus of the Mechanical Engineering department, Institute of Technology, currently working in Indian Revenue Services (IRS), Income tax department, CBDT, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, was felicitated with the 'Best Alumnus Award' for the year 2022 by the Nirma Institute of Technology Alumni Association (NITAA) on Jan 7, 2023.



## Alumni Association Meets

### IPNUAA Pharmaceutics Sector Meet

Institute of Pharmacy Nirma University Alumni Association (IPNUAA) organised the Alumni Networking Meet for Pharmaceutics (Formulation & Development sector) on March 12, 2023. Prof Tejal Mehta (President, IPNUAA), Dr Dhaivat Parikh (Vice President, IPNUAA), Mr Vicky Takhtani (Manager-Corporate Relations, IPNU), and faculty members joined the meeting along with final year postgraduate and doctoral students. The Sector-Specific Alumni Meet provided a platform for the current students to understand the industry expectations and be prepared for the outside world.



## IPNUAA Baroda Chapter Meet

Institute of Pharmacy Nirma University Alumni Association (IPNUAA) organised the Baroda Chapter Meet on March 10, 2023. About 20 alumni working in Pharma companies in the Baroda region like Sun Pharma, Alembic, Gowrie Research, etc. joined the meet. Dr Dhaivat Parikh (Vice President, IPNUAA), Dr Nrupesh Patel (Secretary, IPNUAA), and Mr Vicky Takhtani (Manager- Corporate Relations, IPNU) facilitated the meet. The alumni members reciprocated with huge enthusiasm and the meet provided excellent networking opportunities for professionals in the Baroda region.



## Maitreyi

Institute of Law organised- 'Maitreyi: Insights of the wise' on April 7, 2023. The event involved a Panel Discussion by the Institute of Law alumni on the theme: 'Developing Skills for a Successful Legal Career: Understanding Legal Markets, Trends, Challenges and Opportunities for New Graduates.' Mr Madhur Verma-Principal Associate, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas; Ms Khyati Jha, Managing Partner, Spectrum Partners; Mr Arjun Doshi, In-House Counsel, Adani Ports; Mr Aishwary Kumar Tiwari, Senior Associate, DSK Legal; Ms Priya Swami, Senior Manager, ICICI Lombard; Mr Alok Vajpeyi, Senior Associate, Khaitan and Co; Mr Prakhil Mishra, Senior Associate, Economic Law Practice; Mr Mani Shankar Mani, Probationary Civil Judge, Patna High Court; and, Mr Vishal Singhal, Founder, Chambers of Vishal Singhal were invited as speakers.



## Alumni on Campus

- Mr Meeshant Jhaveri, an alumnus of the first batch of the Civil Engineering department, Institute of Technology, and currently Director, MJ Structural Consultants, Perth, Australia delivered an expert lecture on 'Design of Mill Building for the Cobre Panama Project' on Jan 19, 2023 for MTech CASAD students.
- Ms Shivangi Kaul, an alumna of the Institute of Pharmacy, and R & D Associate, Unilever, Mumbai delivered a talk on 'Cosmetic Products: Concept to Commercialisation' to MPharm (Pharmaceutics) and BPharm semester VIII students on April 7, 2023. Ms Shivangi explained each step of cosmetic product development, from market research to scale-up and commercialisation, challenges of cosmetic product development, and troubleshooting while developing and scaling up the products.

## Expert sessions by Institute of Technology alumni

The Department of Electronics and Instrumentation, Institute of Technology organised the following expert sessions on Jan 19-20, 2023:

- Mr Niraj Shah, an Automation and Robotics Engineer, Entrepreneur, Academician, and Mentor discussed the nine pillars of Industry 4.0 and what it essentially entails.
- Mr Payank Patel, having twenty years of experience in business operations, business development, people development, and people transformation delivered an expert lecture on the development of interpersonal and professional skills.
- Mr Deep Patel, Director at ICON Industries talked about the possible career paths and prospects after graduation.
- Mr Jaimeen Chhatrawala, Project Manager, Rockwell Automation talked about the fundamentals of IoT in business and the various emerging technologies.
- Mr Brijesh Patel, Faculty at SPIPA (Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration) provided guidance about entrance tests like the UPSC and GPSC.
- Ms Nishtha Vasa, Consultant, discussed the role of Instrumentation Engineers and the importance of the field.

## Meet Our Alumnus



### Mr Ravish V Bhatt

Institute of Technology

(Mechanical Engineering, 2004-08)

Currently posted as Joint Commissioner of Income Tax (Assessment Unit) - 1(4), Vadodara (station: Bharuch) with additional charge of O/o Joint Commissioner of Income Tax (Verification Unit) - 1(1), Ahmedabad.

Mr Bhatt secured an All-India Rank - 318 in the first attempt in Civil Services Examination-2011 conducted by the Union Public Service Commission. Here is an extract of our conversation with him.

### Ques 1) Please tell us something about yourself.

My schooling (1991 to 2004) at 'BVB's Narmada Vidyalaya' at Bharuch helped me to be a culturally sensitive, sympathetic, and ambitious citizen. Mechanical Engineering at Nirma University (2004 to

2008) equipped me with the required technical and non-technical skills along with a very good network of friends. Service at L & T (July 2008 to July 2010) gave me much-needed confidence, resources and sufficient time to get mature for the final bout.

**Family background:** My father retired as Additional General Manager at GNFC Bharuch and I have imbibed the qualities of uprightness and sincerity from him. My mother did her masters in Sanskrit, is a homemaker and she has constantly supported me in all my endeavours.

### Ques 2) Your inspiration, why you thought of joining Civil Service.

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact event when my inclination towards civil services originated but I think, when I saw dignitaries like the Managing Director/s of GNFC (where my father used to work) coming to our school for the flag hoisting ceremony, who used to be and have been conventionally an IAS officer, I was inspired by them. Dreaming and imagining myself occasionally as an efficient and efficacious civil servant had been part of my routine during school and graduation days. I used to ponder how an officer would respond to various challenges of life. But it took the hardest of my efforts to gain the confidence and resources to move towards the final stage i.e. 'actual preparation'.

### Ques 3) How did you prepare for the Civil Service Examination.

I left for Delhi on Oct 3, 2010 – on the day of the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2010! As suggested by some of the selected candidates, I kept my optional non-technical subjects viz.: Geography and Public Administration. The reasons to prepare from Delhi were – the availability of updated, wide-ranging and authentic materials, support of good subject experts and a dedicated, sincere, optimistic friend circle along with the competitive feeling which is imperative for sustainable preparation. 18 to 19 months of disciplined and comprehensive studies with a passion for civil services made me not only a competent aspirant and a successful candidate but a better citizen of India too.

### Ques 4) Challenges you overcame during the preparation process.

According to me, two challenges which I managed well were:

Firstly, English as a medium of examination for the Civil Service Examination needed special attention as I studied in Gujarati medium during my schooling.

Secondly, leaving a well-settled lifestyle, and a good job for such a challenging examination where success rate is 0.08%.

#### **Ques 5) What are the challenges you face as a Civil servant.**

- One has to be a quick learner. The type of work we handle varies almost every fortnight and therefore, one needs to have a quick grasp of new projects.
- Acclimatize to change. In the life of a civil servant the work environment and people we work with, be it our reporting officer or our subordinates keep changing frequently. We have to adapt to all these external factors really fast by saliently observing structured and unstructured environment.
- While dealing with external persons or enforcement agencies, we have to understand the core issue in minimum time. So, being able to differentiate essential from the non-essential is important.
- Unlimited work, limited and outdated resources and pressure to produce outcome constantly surround us. Hence, it is very important to prioritize and strategize the work.

#### **Ques 6) Message you would like to give to the youth.**

- It is easy to decide between right and wrong. But it is difficult to choose between two rights. The dilemma of choosing an activity which gives instant gratification Vs delayed gratification is a matter of choice. I suggest, you go with what you really crave for in the long run and avoid short-cuts.
- Never compare yourself with others. Compete with yourself.
- Keep yourself abreast with the changing times.
- Give yourself some 'Me Time' away from friends, family, and gadgets to ponder how to improve as a person and what to learn from our as well as others mistakes.

#### **Ques 7) Message for aspiring Civil servants.**

As CSE (Civil Services Examination) conducted by UPSC is said to be the mother of all examinations, assiduous planning and perfect implementation of the same is the key to success. Also, it is not only a knowledge-gaining exercise but an attitude-developing, insight-developing exercise.

A person who wants to clear this examination has to move from information to knowledge to clarity to analysis to views to opinion on all relevant and important issues, for which, inquiring mind and minimum ponderance on each issue is sine qua non.

Also, one should be able to appreciate the very fact that UPSC is not searching for the correct answer but a correct candidate in most of the answers. So, the thought process and overall orientation have to be of a civil servant while preparing itself!

As depicted in the web series 'Aspirants', a candidate who has the highest level of patience, perseverance and dedication becomes IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS, and the list goes on.

I would like to tell three stories which any honest aspirant should remember...

- Two friends went to the jungle and saw a lion. One of them took out his NIKE shoes from his bag and started wearing them. Another friend said, "This won't help you run faster than that lion." He replied with a smile, "I need not run faster than lion but faster than you."

It means, in spite of the best efforts by mankind to sideline or overturn the Darwinian concept of 'survival of the fittest', it is still relevant in any competitive field.

- A person wanted Salvation. So, he went to the Himalayas and met a Yogi who suggested he say a 'Mantra' every day without remembering a monkey! When this person started practising the mantra, the imaginary monkey used to haunt him and he never attained salvation!!!

This implies that any distraction to sincere work is a monkey, be it gossip, Facebook post or any other form of trivial entertainment. So, the tools which empower us have an ability to mistakenly kill us. We must identify monkeys in our life and try to remove or reduce them.

- An old man crossed a dense forest on a windy night with a small lantern in his hand. When he was asked by villagers how that small lantern helped him cross the forest, he replied with a smile, "This dim light of the lantern is not sufficient to see the entire path but it is more than sufficient to see the next step. Each of the steps taken in the right direction helped me to cross it!" – One step at a time.

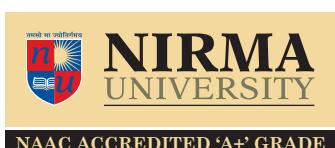
My suggestions can be summed up as follows- focus on the process, keep yourself away from the hype, trust your natural capabilities, be good and do good, and have problem-solving attitude and not the problem-creating one.

**IF YOU SWEAT MORE, YOU SHINE MORE!!!**



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