

## **Report on NISP Cell Event “My Story – As an Innovator”**

**Event Title:** “My Story – As an Innovator”

**Name and designation of the Guest Speakers:** Mr. Manish Gehlot (Oracle CRL Practice Lead - Infosys Consulting, North America)

**Venue:** Auditorium, C-Wing MPSTME, NMIMS, Shirpur

**Start Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**End Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Time:** 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Duration of the activity (in Hrs):** 2 hours

**Link of social media post of e-pamphlet:**

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/E29XoD6dKHE2888y/>

<https://x.com/IICNMIMSShirpur/status/1839715733162602733>

**Link for social media post of video:**

**Program Type:** Level 1 Expert Talks

**Program Theme:** ‘Entrepreneurship and Startup’

### **Objective of the activity:**

The session aimed to inspire students by presenting the personal journey of a successful innovator and entrepreneur, Mr. Manish Gehlot. The objective was to encourage students to pursue innovative solutions, grounded in sustainability and inspired by Indian cultural values, while also addressing real-world challenges. This session aligned with the NISP Cell's goal of fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among students.

### **Benefit in terms of learning, skills, knowledge obtained:**

The session provided students with a deep understanding of the innovation process, from ideation to commercialization. Through Mr. Gehlot's real-life experiences, students learned about the challenges of innovation and the importance of resilience, sustainability, and social responsibility in entrepreneurship. Key takeaways included the relevance of applying academic knowledge to real-world problems, developing critical thinking skills, and drawing inspiration from Indian ancient knowledge systems. Mr. Gehlot also emphasized the importance of sustainable development, giving examples from his startup, Asmakam Life University, and encouraged students to focus on the development of India by harnessing their skills locally rather than contributing to brain drain.

### **SVKM's NMIMS Faculty Coordinators for the activity:**

1. Mr. Rajesh Verma, Assistant Professor, MPSTME

**SVKM's NMIMS Student Coordinators for the activity:**

1. Harikrishna Panchal
2. Aaditya Devadiga
3. Biswajeet Rout
4. Atharva Khandelwal
5. Pratham Deore

**Number of student participants: 218**

**Number of faculty participants:**

**Number of External Participants, if any:**

**Expenditure Amount, if any:**

**Mode of session delivery: Offline**

**Background of the speakers**

Mr. Gehlot is an esteemed alumnus of IIT Bombay and holds an MBA from the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota, US. He is currently the Chief Strategist for the socio-climate mass forestation startup Medius Earth and serves as Oracle Supply Chain Management Consulting Head for Infosys Consulting North America. He has held upper management roles at Oracle USA, IBM, Accenture, and CP Wholesales.

For the past 14 years, Mr. Gehlot has been passionately engaged in water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and storage. He is also committed to working with youth globally, promoting Vedic culture and Indian value systems. With professional experience spanning over 30 countries in America, Europe, and Asia, he has helped Fortune 500 companies in digital transformation. Additionally, he is Co-founder and CEO of two family social impact startups: Asmakam Life University, focused on education, and Cotfoo. Mr. Gehlot is also a keynote speaker at several prestigious forums and conferences worldwide.

**Report on the session with the key outcomes**

The session commenced with a welcome address that introduced the audience to the goals of the NISP Cell, which focus on innovation and entrepreneurship. The introduction highlighted the importance of fostering a vibrant innovation ecosystem within the institution, aligning with the objectives of the NISP Cell. Following this, the speaker for the event, Mr. Manish Gehlot, was introduced.

Mr. Manish Gehlot began by sharing his personal journey as an innovator, detailing the challenges and successes that marked his transition from corporate leadership to social impact entrepreneurship. He provided insights into his work in water conservation and the role of technology in driving sustainable solutions.

**Key Themes and Insights from the Session**

1. Sustainable Development and Innovation: Mr. Gehlot emphasized the role of sustainable practices in innovation, citing examples from his work at Medius Earth and Asmakam Life University. His discussion revolved around creating solutions that not only address immediate challenges but also contribute to long-term environmental sustainability.

2. **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** Mr. Gehlot stressed the importance of critical thinking in innovation. He encouraged students to use their academic knowledge to design products that can serve as simple, effective solutions to complex problems. The importance of iterative learning and adaptability was also underscored.
3. **Indian Values and Brain Drain:** Reflecting on his education at IIT Bombay, Mr. Gehlot highlighted the issue of brain drain during his time and urged students to channel their skills towards solving problems in India first. He emphasized that Indian knowledge systems and cultural stories could serve as valuable sources of inspiration for contemporary innovation.

### **Interactive Q&A Session**

The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session where students posed thoughtful queries about innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. Mr. Gehlot reiterated the importance of understanding problems deeply, drawing on personal experiences, and seeking out sustainable, impactful solutions. He encouraged students to embrace challenges and failures as essential components of the learning process.

### **Key Outcomes of the Event**

- **Enhanced Awareness of Sustainability:** Students left with a greater understanding of sustainable innovation and its relevance in addressing real-world problems.
- **Encouragement for Local Development:** The session fostered a sense of responsibility among students to apply their skills within India, contributing to local development rather than seeking opportunities abroad.
- **Inspirations from Ancient Indian Knowledge:** Mr. Gehlot's emphasis on Indian value systems provided students with a fresh perspective on sourcing inspiration from cultural heritage for modern innovation.
- **Active Student Engagement:** The interactive nature of the session engaged students effectively, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for future entrepreneurial pursuits.

### **Conclusion**

The event was a success, achieving its objective of motivating students to think critically and creatively about innovation. Mr. Gehlot's insights, rooted in sustainability and entrepreneurship, inspired students to explore new paths and contribute to India's innovation ecosystem. The NISP Cell looks forward to organizing more such events to continue fostering a culture of innovation.

**Glimpses of the event (4 photographs)**





