# VESIT Connect

**NEWSLETTER**
**ISSUE 27: DECEMBER 2017**

Since 1962

## Contents

# Alumni Meet, 2017

*-by Ujala Jha*

This year the VESIT Alumni Meet was conducted on 16th December 2017 in the Amphitheatre at 7:00 PM. The occasion was graced by more than 300 Alumni and their family members ranging across various batches from various parts of the country. The event started off with the lighting of the lamp by Shri. Dinesh Tahiliani (Secretary, VES), Principal and Vice Principal, Vijay Talreja (President, VESIT Alumni



**A night of fun: Some VESIT Alumni at the picture booth**

Association), Mr Manoj Sabnis - Alumni Incharge, VESIT. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Vijay Talreja underlined and praised the achievement the Alumni of VESIT and welcomed them with warm words of gratitude. Dr.(Mrs) J. M. Nair took over and highlighted the activities and the feats that VESIT has achieved in the 2016-17 academic year.

The unveiling of the WAVES magazine was done by the trustees. This year the Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Mr Deven Shah (ME IT-2005). He has 4 patents to his credit and also authored and co-authored a number of books. Currently working as Professor & Mentor Dean (H&S) at Thakur College of Engineering, he has also been elected as Chairman, Board of Studies (Information Technology), University Of Mumbai. The teaching and non-teaching faculty members of VESIT were also invited for the program and were felicitated by the alumni. The retired teachers who attended the function were Mr Khanapurkar, Mr T P P Nair and Mrs Vrinda Khadilkar.

An entertainment program which was planned for Alumni kick-started with a song recital by Mr Prasad Godse (Alumni, Instrumentation). This was followed by a number of fun-filled activities by Mr Kartik. Alumni shared their thrilling experience and their journey during and post their life at VESIT. The 1992 batch which had completed 25 years were called and felicitated with an Alumni Cap. The event concluded by a vote of thanks which was given by Mr Tarun Nagpal, Secretary, VESTAA followed by catering provided by Nikita Pujari (VESIT-2017 Batch) of Shiv Sagar Food Chain. It was indeed a roller-coaster of emotions for Alumni and a day to be remembered.



**Principal Madam lighting the lamp**



**Principal Madam addressing the audience**

**Unveiling of the WAVES magazine by the trustees**



**Mr. Deven Shah receiving the Distinguished Alumni award**



**Series of games organised proved to be really fun!**



**Teaching & non-teaching staff enjoyed too!**

# Smart India Hackathon, 2018

*-by Padmaja Borwankar*

Coding, Machine Learning, Big Data Analysis, Database Management System, these are few of the most common phrases we hear in the world of technology today. Why do you think these have become such trending topics? It is because these help us solve our day to day problems; be it social, political, economic, or even personal issues. Thus, to encourage more and more students to come up with feasible solutions, the Government of India organizes a competition called Smart India Hackathon every year.

Till date, 45+ union ministries and departments and 18 state governments have already joined this grand initiative, making it much bigger than the previous edition. This competition involves:

- Harnesses creativity & expertise of students
- Sparks institute-level hackathons
- Builds funnel for 'Startup India' campaign
- Crowdsources solutions for improving governance and quality of life
- Provides opportunity to citizens to provide innovative solutions to India's daunting problems

Smart India Hackathon 2018 will have 2 sub-editions – Software as well as Hardware:

- Software Edition will be 36 hour software product development competition, similar in concept to Smart India Hackathon 2017
- The new Hardware Edition will be a hackathon where teams will be work for 5 straight days and build their hardware solutions.

This competition would be limited to only 5 nodal centers with 20-25 teams each

The main competition is estimated to be held in March, 2018, but to reach there, the teams of students need to clear various stages. The first stage is at the college level. If a team is selected at the college level, the ministry in charge checks the team's solution. If they find it unique, innovative and feasible, only then it is selected for the final competition.

The VESIT college eliminations were conducted on 9th December 2017. Students had to form teams of 5 with at least 2 girls per team. Approximately 50 teams participated in the college eliminations. Students had to prepare a presentation of 2 slides which helped them explain their solution for a particular problem. Each team gave a presentation in front of a jury, which comprised of the Vice Principal and some Heads of Department. Some of the innovative topics included Regional Management System, Management of Stack overflow in the medical field and Attendance monitoring. Most of the teams gave and excellent performance but finally only 10 teams were selected, as it was the maximum no. of teams a college can send.
Solutions of the best 10 teams have been sent to the respective ministries. The ministries are expected to declare their results by the end of December. The teams are very anxious for their results. VESITConnect wishes these 10 teams all the best for their future endeavors.
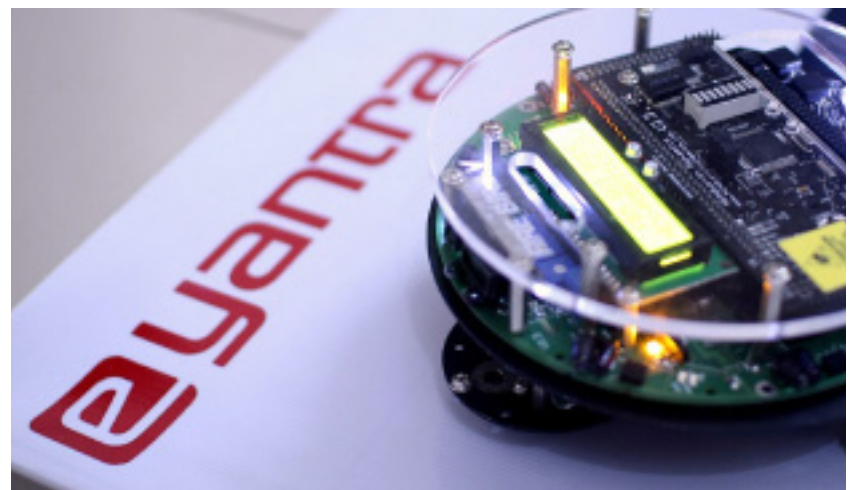
# E- Yantra, 2018

### E-Yantra Ideas Competition:

*-by Akshara Sarfare*

The e-Yantra ideas competition provides a platform to encourage innovative project ideas from Robotics lab setup through the e-yantra lab setup initiative (eLSI), in colleges across the country. Students get to demonstrate their knowledge and programming skills in embedded systems and robotics. It provides an opportunity for students to apply their knowledge to solve a real life problem with given hardware.

Students participate in this competition as a team of three or four mentored by one teacher. Students from third and fourth year are eligible for this competition. The team has to submit an Idea Proposal to Coordinator using Idea Proposal Format (attached along with the mail) - a project to solve a real-world problem from one of the following Domains: Agriculture, Health Services, Home /Industry Automation, Rescue Operations, Smart City Services, Energy Conservation , Space Exploration and Defence using any of the Topics such as: Swarm Robotics, Image Processing / Computer Vision, Adaptive Control, Machine Learning / Artificial Intelligence, Mobile Robotics, IOT, etc.

A total of 9 teams had participated from our college, of which four were selected for Stage 1. Each team had a different mentor. Only one team was selected for Stage 2. The Best implementations will be short listed for presentation and demonstration at the annual e-Yantra Symposium (eYS - 2018) to be held at IIT Bombay.

### E-Yantra Robotics Competition:

The e-yantra Robotics Competition uses a Project-Based Learning approach which imparts knowledge on concepts in Embedded systems and Robotics and solving real world problems. The competition is conducted completely online over a period of 4-5 months. During this period, Teams work on Tasks – each Task being a step in the learning/problem-solving process. Based on the performance in the Tasks, teams are selected for further stages of the competition/ Finals of the competition. Finals of the competition will be held at IIT Bombay in March 2018.

Students from all branches and years are eligible for this competition. The selection is done through an online test in the form of MCQ questions. All the members of the team have to attempt the test simultaneously. The team's selection test score is used to determine the eligibility of the team to participate in the competition i.e. for Task 1. 6 teams from our college have cleared the test and are shortlisted for task 1. But the only team that completed this task and proceeded for task 2 was the team of four from BE EXTC. - Hitesh Tewani, Yash Saraf, Shubham Singh, Aneesh Gunda. "Eyic and Eyrc are great platforms for students to convert their theoritical knowledge into practical by doing industry related projects which are funded by MHRD ministry of India and driven by IITB" said Hitesh Tewani.

Through this competition, students are not only learning and exploring technologies, but also learning to analyse a problem and find appropriate solutions.

# Retirement Ceremony

*-by Gayatri Belapurkar*

The first transition comes when we leave the security of home to begin our school life in kindergarten, and after school we have the rest of the day to ourselves. Another major transition comes when we join the working world. Now we work all week but still have the weekend to ourselves. Then finally comes retirement, a time when careers are over, and the work is done. Retirees have the rest of their lives to themselves.

The Staff Welfare Club took initiative in giving a send-off to two of the most loved teachers of VESIT Khadilkar Ma'am and TPP Nair Sir on 28th October 2017. They were felicitated by the Principal, Vice Principal and members of Staff Welfare, namely, Dr. Asawari Dudwadkar (Secretary), Dr. Gresha Bhatia (Treasurer), Dr. R. K. Kulkarni, Dr. C. D. Rawat, Mr. Vivek Umrikar, Mr. S. Goel and Mrs. Asha Bharambe. The MOC for the event was Mrs. Geeta Ajit. Mrs. Shobha Krishnan shared her experience with Mrs. Vrinda Khadilkar and Dr. C. D. Rawat gave incite to his memorable journey, working with Mr. Nair. Mrs. Khadilkar and Mr. Nair also took to the mic to express their gratitude towards VES Trust Institution and their colleagues.

Prof. T.P.P. Nair counts of his 21-year long career in the Humanities and Applied Sciences department while walking down the memory lane. An alumnus of NIT, Calicut he completed his BE in Mechanical Engineering in the year

**Prof. T. P. P. Nair**

1980. In the year 1992 he joined VESIT as a lecturer in Humanities and Applied Sciences department and since then he has grown with the institution. His association with the institute was right from its initial days where the college had only three branches back then and there used to be just three divisions in the FE. He still remembers his first lecture in VESIT very vividly which was delivered to Computer Engineering branch in the old building. Since then, many batches of students have passed their FE under him, as VESIT metamorphosed into its present sprawling campus. As time flew by, VESIT became his second home. Nair Sir was all in praise for his colleagues and seniors and is grateful to them for their support and guidance. He mentioned learning a lot from Rama Prakash Madam, Karnik Madam, Shoba Madam, Nair Madam, Khadilkar Madam, Vijaylaxmi Madam and Shreedharan sir to name a few. He has cordial relations with all the staff members and was always there to encourage and extend every help to all the new recruits.

Prof. Vijay Shejwalkar, Nair Sir's colleague said "Nair Sir is a very polite and a sincere man. Despite being the senior professor he has no ego and respects all the fellow faculties. It has been a pleasure working with him." Coming to the students, Nair sir holds them in good regards and said that they have been proving their potentials by exploring their calibre in all directions.

Mr. Vivek Umrikar appreciated Mrs. Khadilakar:
"After a glorious, dedicated, committed 34 years of service, Khadilkar madam has retired on 30 November 2017, as Head, Department of Humanities & Applied Sciences, VESIT.

She taught applied chemistry right from the inception of the college till retirement. Her teaching methodology not only kindled the interest of Chemistry in students mind but also made them realize the importance and application of Chemistry in Engineering and day to day life. She was instrumental in planning and developing Applied Chemistry Laboratory in this new building. Her lectures were very much disciplined and value adding. She proved herself to be a teacher par excellence and I am sure that students would also resonate the same.

Planning and delegation of departmental work was very structured. Faculties were very comfortable in approaching her for Department related or personal problems; due to the family atmosphere maintained in the department.



**Prof. Vrinda Khadilkar**

As HOD, she was very approachable to first year students, who were new to the system.

As she has keen interest in Music, along with the responsibility of HOD, she was also faculty in charge of music and guided the council during events like Utsav, Illusion, Bliss, Annual Day, etc.
During her 34 years of carrier she has proved herself to be a role model and a Friend, Philosopher & Guide in the true sense.
I wish her the best of Health, Joy & Happiness in the years to come."

Here's wishing them many more years of goodness and a healthy retirement life. Stay young at heart, kind in spirit, and enjoy retirement living.

## Mrs. Khadilkar recounts her adventure in VESIT:

"I have been in VESIT since its inception that is since 1984. I was interviewed by the founder of VES-late – Hashujee Advani and Dr. Saxena Madam who was the hon. Director of VESIT.

The first year of VESIT started in a building which was ground plus one floor, in Sindhi Society where our Polytechnic is currently. In the beginning, there were only three branches of engineering, only one division per branch. We used the laboratories of Science College of VES for Chemistry and Physics. We teachers worked very hard and made the students work harder and VESIT became one of the top private engineering colleges in Mumbai University with best results for several years.
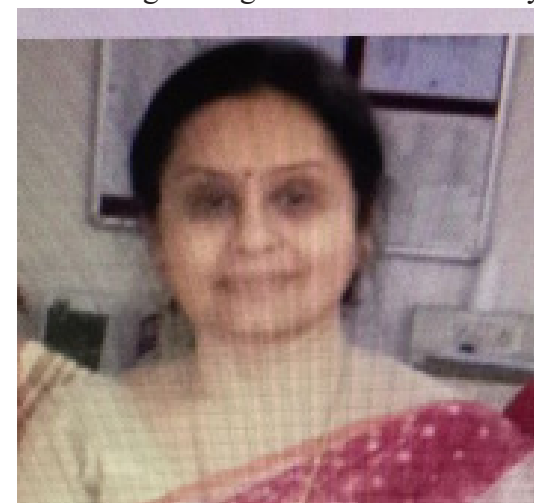
VESIT has expanded in all dimensions since then. Over the years, there has been an increase in the number of branches of engineering, number of departments, students, teaching and non-teaching staff, classrooms, labs and staff rooms and VESIT has its own impressive building. The VESIT staff members have been committed and under the able guidance of the Principal and the Vice- Principal have gained accreditation for VESIT by NAC and IVBA. VESIT students have always been behaved, hardworking and disciplined.



**(L-R) Manas (son), Aditi (daughter-in-law), Mrs and Mr Khadilkar with grandson Samit, Manali (daughter), Chaitanya (son-in-law)**

In 80s and 90s the annual day Celebration had a theme and the students were allowed to perform only classical dances and devotional and patriotic songs. Once a student was slapped by our Director for misbehavior, but neither he, his friends nor his parents complained ever.

The world has changed now. The students of today are smarter and have more freedom, opportunities and distractions as well. They have more challenges, but they know that discipline has been and still is the ethos of VESIT.

During my tenure, I have been fortunate to have excellent colleagues, some of whom have become my very good friends. I have also taught two generation: a father and later his son. My son Manas and daughter-in-law Aditi are both Alumni of VESIT, from the Batch of 2005.

In addition to teaching Applied Chemistry, I have been in charge of cultural activities, especially Music from day one to the day of my retirement. So, I can say that my journey in VESIT has been a Suhana Sureela Safar. My message to my colleagues is 'Keep up the good work' and to students is 'Stay focused on studies first and then on cocurricular and extra-curricular activities.'"

# VESIT Voice

*-by Padmaja Kolle and
Rohit Sreedhar*

The chills of winter, faded goodbyes and a breath of relief, December is the month we all look forward to. With the end of end semesters every VESITian awaits the much deserved break. But the amphitheater and the classrooms don't resonate silence but the building energy of Illusion'18.
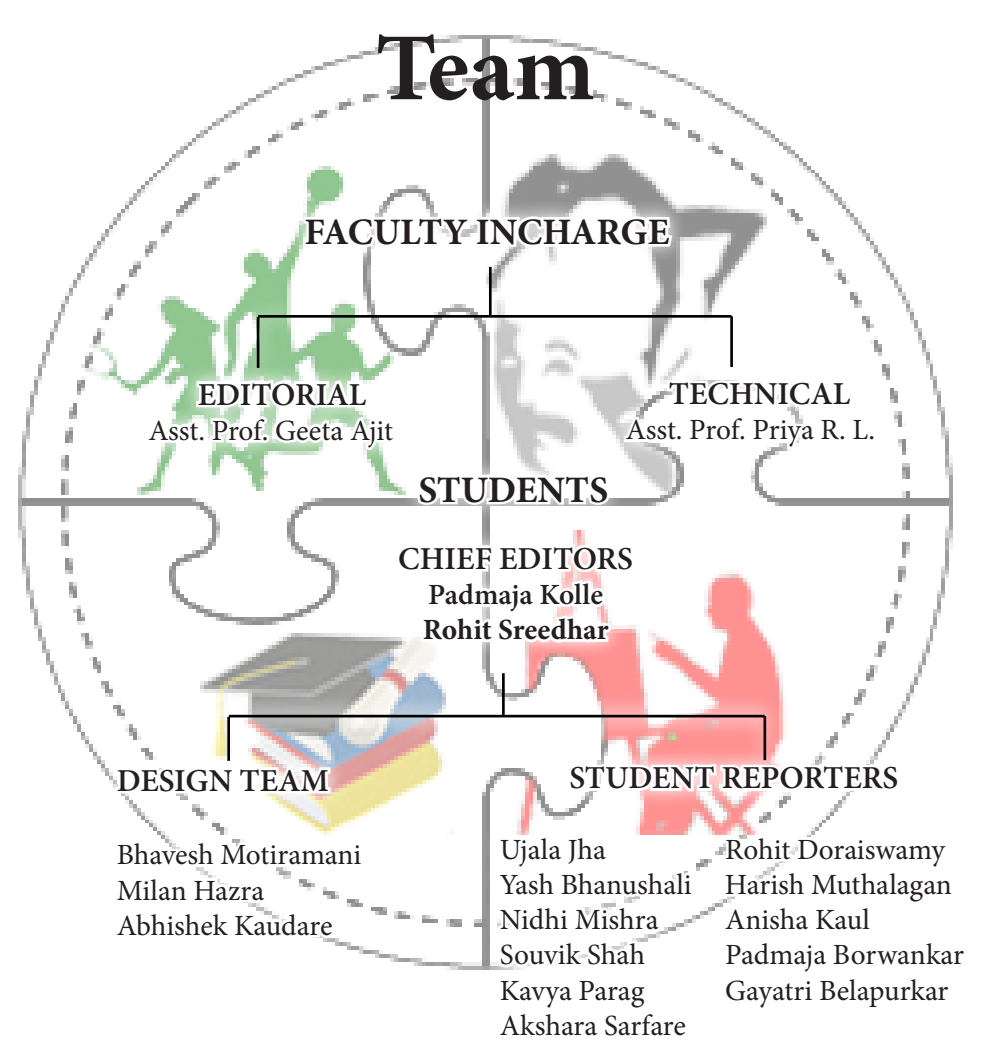
In this issue we bring to you a vibrant compilation of musings, thought provokers and reports of heart warming events. Alumni, had the glorious opportunity of visiting the campus again, because of Alumni Meet. A special mention to the infatigable members of the faculty, Prof. T. P. P. Nair and Prof. Vrinda Khadilkar, is another highlight of this issue.

We also shine a light on inter- college competitions like the Smart India Hackathon and E-Yantra, through which students can gain great exposure and improve their resume as well. Two important days, World Aids Day and, of course, Christmas, fall in the month of December.

While Vesit diaries yet again reads to you nostalgia and love, 'Moving movies' attempts to make a point. Students have yet again portrayed their skills in art with their articles and musings which in true sense call for a reader's delight.

Here's wishing you the best the year can offer to the lanterns of your dreams while me resolve to put forth good work!

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Gayatri Belapurkar

# Gratitude Week

*-by Anisha Kaul*

The world has become a busy place. With industrialization and the advent of mobile phone people seem busier than ever. Something is always happening. So, in this fast-paced life, sometimes it becomes important to take a step back and access and contemplate on things. Honoring this idea, of stepping back and being grateful for what you have, the world celebrated "Gratitude Week" from 21 st to 28 th November 2017.

As part of an international NGO, Karmyo, N. Sai Sirisha from Computer Science (Third Year) Department of VESIT, did her bit to spread cheer among people. To celebrate "Abhaar Week", her organization came up with a clever initiative of selling Thank You postcards made by underprivileged children. So, the spirit of gratitude was celebrated along with profits to these needy NGOs. The whole program was a success. Sai, spread the message of the postcards all through the VESIT campus. People could buy these postcards for nominal prices for ANYONE, right for one's mother, thanking her for the arduous job of the upkeep of the family, to the Army men, serving the country at the borders. One could also thank their friends for always being there. It created a lovely sense of bonhomie between people all across the country.



**Students with the Abhaar Week postcards**

"Every year, we set up a stall in the college. But this time due to exams we couldn't. But that  luckily did not dampen the spirit of VESIT and we pulled through! ", says Sai. And she did, she pulled through with a huge victory collecting a large amount and helping out the needy. We congratulate her for her efforts in trying to make the world a better place to live in.

# World Aids Day

*-by Gayatri Belapurkar*

*"We live in a completely interdependent world, which simply means we cannot completely escape each other. How we respond to AIDS depends, in part on whether we understand this interdependence. It is not someone else's problem. This is everybody's problem."*

*-Bill Clinton*

World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year since 1988, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease. Government and health officials, non-governmental organizations, and individuals around the world observe the day, often with education on AIDS prevention and control.

The first important thing now is to clear the air about HIV and AIDS. No, it is not the same thing. HIV, the acronym for human immunodeficiency virus, is a virus that attacks the immune system, which is our body's natural defence against illness. The virus destroys a type of white blood cell in the immune system called a T-helper cell, and makes copies of itself inside these cells. T-helper cells are also referred to as CD4 cells. As HIV destroys more CD4 cells and makes more copies of itself, it gradually breaks down a person's immune system. This means someone living with HIV, who is not receiving treatment, will find it

harder and harder to fight off infections and diseases. If HIV is left untreated, it may take up to 10 or 15 years for the immune system to be so severely damaged it can no longer defend itself at all. However, the speed HIV progresses will vary depending on age, health and background. AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, on the other hand, is not a virus but a set of symptoms caused by the HIV virus. A person is said to have AIDS when their immune system is too weak to fight off infection, and they develop certain defining symptoms and illnesses. This is the last stage of HIV, when the infection is very advanced,

and if left untreated will lead to death.

Treatment for HIV means that more people are staying well, with fewer people developing AIDS. Although there is currently no cure for HIV with the right antiretroviral treatment and support, people with HIV can live long and healthy lives. To do this, it is especially important to take the treatment correctly and deal with any possible side-effects.

UNAIDS is leading the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. Since the first cases of HIV were reported more than 35 years ago, 78 million people have become infected with HIV and 35 million have died from AIDS-related illnesses. Since it started operations in 1996, UNAIDS has led and inspired global, regional, national and local leadership, innovation and partnership to ultimately consign HIV to history.

These efforts taking place worldwide are all in vain, unless we, as a society open up the ones diagnosed with HIV instead of discriminating against them and in turn fuelling the general stigma around it. Most of the affected people who were interviewed during a survey described being afraid to tell their families about their status, and concerns about how the disease affects their friendships and romantic relationships. Advocates and researchers are concerned that these misunderstandings could cause the disease to spread further. It is even harder for these people to approach an expert and seek treatment. What they need at times like these is mere support, compassion and empathy.

It is important to remember that HIV is transmitted by three main routes: sexual contact, significant exposure to infected body fluids or tissues, and from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding. The least they need is to be deserted. Princess Diana once quoted, "HIV does not make people dangerous to know, so you can shake their hands and give them a hug: Heaven knows they need it."

So, let us all pledge to do our own small part in making this world AIDS-free by taking the proper precautions, by caring and empathising with those diagnosed HIV positive and by observing World AIDS Day.

# VESITian speaks at TEDx

*-by Ujala Jha*

Dhairya Pujara, an alumni of 2010 Instrumentation Engineering Batch is the Founder, CEO for Ycenter - a Global Experiential Education organization. He is also the curator for "Global Shaper" chosen by World Economic Forum's Philadelphia Hub Community. He has been a global TEDx organizer, blogger at Huffington Post and a public speaker on entrepreneurship and international development. Dhairya has been invited as a speaker at Wharton, Drexel, Temple, Rutgers, Social Innovation World Forum and more. American Immigration granted him a special category work visa reserved for "an individual of extraordinary abilities". Dhairya recently spoke at TEDxIITBHU, below is an expert from the experience he shared with us.

" I spoke at the TEDxIITBHU in Varanasi on Sept 22nd. It was a 18 minute talk where I shared my experience of graduating from Bachelors of Instrumentation Engineering from VESIT in 2010, Going to US to earn my Masters Degree in Biomedical Engineering (2012), quitting my cor-


**Mr. Dhairya Pujara at the TEDx event at IIT-BHU**

porate job on first day and going to Mozambique, Africa for 5 months.

I further shared my experience of working in Mozambique on training doctors on how to use Medical equipment, launching first ever TEDx conference in country of Mozambique and finally starting my own venture in Jan 2014 - Ycenter.

At Ycenter, I work with colleges, universities, non-profits and organizations to create and deliver design thinking based programs for Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Innovation to solve real world problems. Ycenter's work is focused in USA on teaching Social Entrepreneurship, in Kenya on teaching Agriculture Entrepreneurship and in India on Entrepreneurship and Leadership Skills program for college students.

The talk was titled "Boarding Pass of an Entrepreneur" where Boarding pass is a metaphor for willingness to change, perseverance, grit, entrepreneurial spirit and community support that allowed to travel globally in last 3 years and work on creating impact."

# Raman Science Centre- A place to understand Science & Technology through Fun!

*-by Mrs. Sai Dobhole,*
*Lab Assistant, Dept of H&AS*

Science and Technology are two wheels on which the progress of the society and the nation flourishes. Understanding of the nature can be broadly called as Science. This involves logical and mathematical approach for solving the problems which is called method of Science. Whereas the technology is application of the scientific principles for carrying out different task. Due to expansion of our knowledge various branches of science have evolved, and so also the branches of Engineering which develop different technologies. In order to take learned decisions while developing any technology good knowledge of fundamental scientific principles is very much essential and broad understanding of science would be helpful for the end users.

Science is best understood through experience and experimentation. Science education should essentially involve hands-on, experimentation learning and should not remain within the domain of text book reading. The exhibits in a Science Centre are mostly interactive in nature and cover a wide variety of subjects such as physical, applied, natural and social sciences , engineering, technology, agriculture,  health, energy, environment, crafts, industries and such other areas as broadly linked with science to fulfil the requirements of a wide spectrum of population.
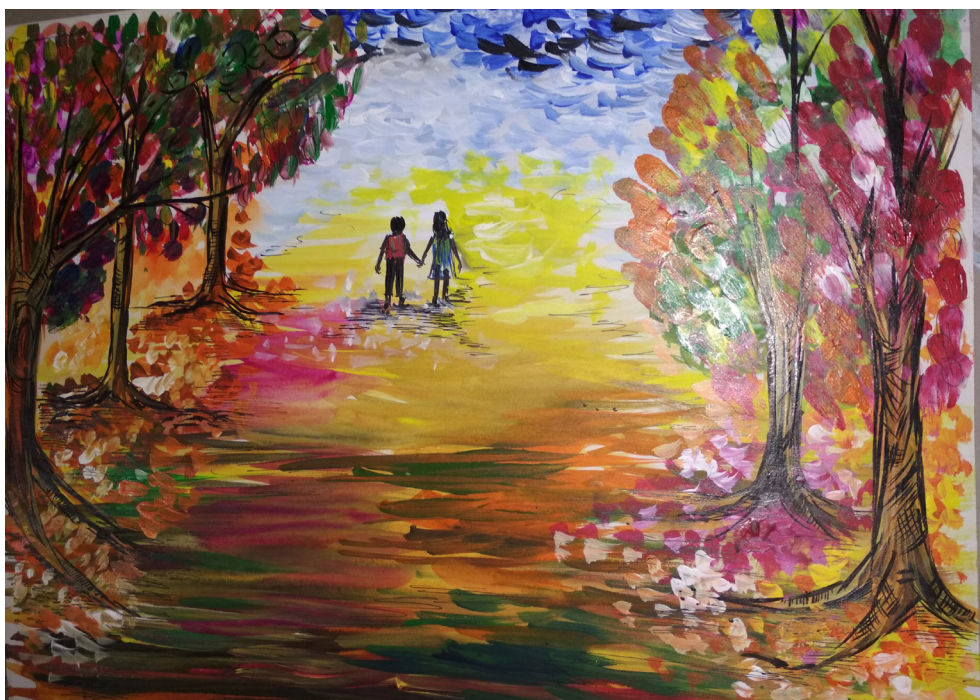
Raman Science Centre & Planetarium at Nagpur is one of the most popular Science centre provides a perfect ambiance for exploring science through fun and entertainment. The unique feature of the Raman Science Centre is the open air science park. Major attraction of science centre is its interactive galleries which provide a wealth of knowledge on different fields of Science and Technology. Exhibits in Fun Science Gallery explains basic principles of science in a fun way. The Gallery on Information & Communication Technology takes you



**Raman Science Center, Nagpur**

on a journey of the modern technology invading our day to day life. The Gallery on Invention explains stories and principles of various inventions that have changed our life. All the exhibits are very attractive, amazing, arouse curiosity, interactive and easy to understand. It is not only a joy of experimentation, but the setup allows curious minds to change the variables, observe, question and explore to learn through method of science and understand the scientific concepts and principles very easily. Experiments like Grand shuttle, Floor Piano, Rising Arc, Jumping Disc, Virtual Aquarium, Laughing Mirror, Kaliedoscope, Colour Shadow, Falling Globe etc….

The centre also has full air-conditioned auditorium. In the 3D Theatre one can experience thrilling 3D effect in different science shows. Thus there is something for everyone at Raman Science Centre. For students it is a treasure of scientific knowledge and a fun way of exploring and learning science. For common people it is a place for scientific edutainment and a place for outing with entire family. I enjoyed it a lot,  and I am sure you would too!!

# MUSINGS AND EXPRESSIONS





*- Kajal Tiwari*
*Assistant Professor*
*Dept. of Humanities and Applied Sciences*

*- Kajal Tiwari*
*Assistant Professor*
*Dept. of Humanities and Applied Sciences*
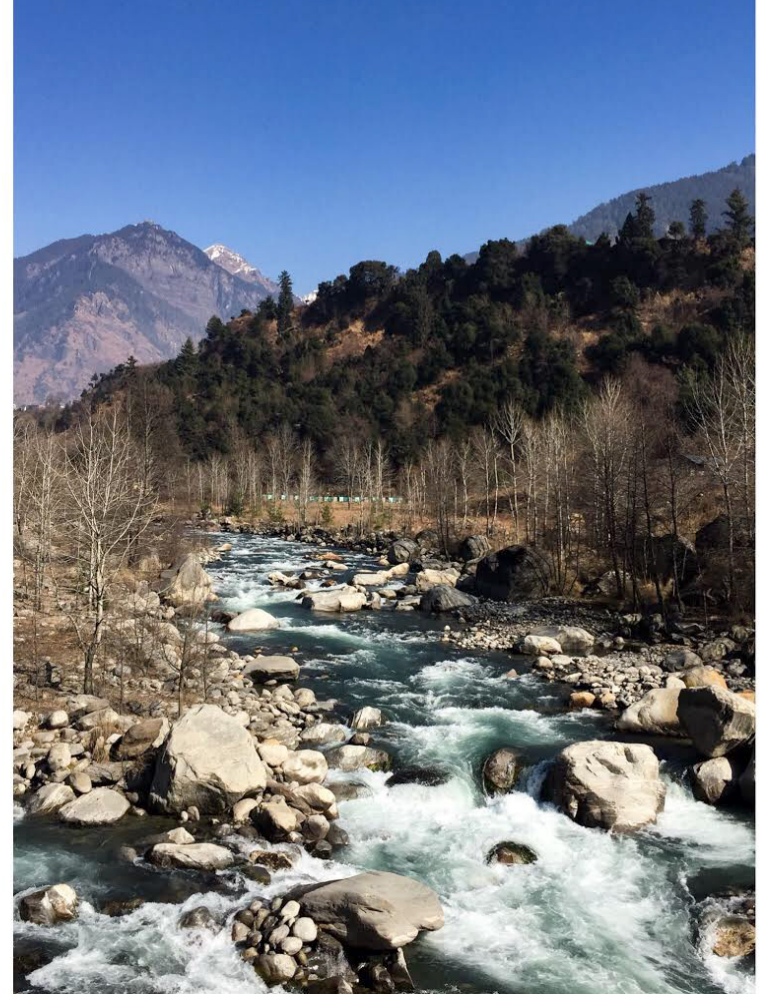
*- Namrata Ramchandani*
*D14B*



*- Namrata Ramchandani*
*D14B*

## आस तूझीच ध्यानीमनी

तारकांच्या शृंखलेतील तूच एक चांदणी
घोंगावण्यारा गर्दीतली तूच एक मैत्रेयी
कृष्णाच्या गोपीकांतील तूच एक साजणी
कधी दिसिशील, वाट पाहतो मी क्षणोक्षणी

चिंब भिजिवणाऱ्या पावसातील इंद्रधनुष्य आभाळी
रानातल्या वृक्षावरची कळी तू कोवळी
प्रसन्न अशा उन्हाळातील नवी तू पावली
प्रखर नसलीस तरी मनकर्णिका तू सावळी
कधी येशील, आस तूझीच ध्यानीमनी

*- Yogesh Tembe*
*D1A*



*- Rohit Sreedhar*
*D19A*



*- Shruti Zade*
*D17A*



*- Snehal Bhagat*
*D17A*

# STUDENT SPEAK

# Moving Movies

Shoot, produce, obtain certification and release? Well, well movies in India have some more rigorous additions, as they get ready to showcase their work on the celluloid. Inviting controversies, right from headlines, to social media, to regular conversations, is the film 'Padmavati'. It has been in the center of attention for every other reason, but its performance. And the reason is none other than the barricades of assumptions and supposed prestige we have swamped ourselves with, thereby resulting in limiting not just the movie but also ourselves.

Before this piece makes me look like a venting out fan who is ranting his words, I would like to say that there is much more I want to bring to table, that has silently erupted of this row. Firstly I do understand that whenever a subject of historical significance is projected to the audience a great deal of sensitivity and mindfulness needs to be incorporated. But what we fail to understand is that, if a movie of this scale lacks such care, then the audience will definitely not buy it. The dynamics of cinema has undergone a metamorphosis and the viewer too, today, is intelligent enough to analyze the intent of the content. Possessing in-depth knowledge of consequences of tampering, why would a film maker of this caliber play with the decorum of the subject? This is the questions that all flag bearers of righteousness fail to answer.

Having surpassed every other issue, right from suicide of the farmers to assault on men, women and children, it is a sad fact that, this issue is modelled entirely on assumptions and rumors. There is another section that speaks of how the film glorifies age old practices such as Jauhar and Sati. Probably, the reasons for us not being able to accept such thought provoking depictions is our inability to patiently listen and read between the lines of storytelling. In my opinion, the film attempts to convey the spirit of a woman who strove to protect her honor. It tries to instill in us the grit of the queen, who did what she thought best in the given circumstances, instead of succumbing to her fears. It certainly does not tell every girl out there, to end her life if she finds her dignity at stake! Today, we are independent and we have a central judiciary. Back in those days, those who were conquered were held as slave by their captors for life. Is it really so difficult to find relevance or is it just, that we don't want alternative perspectives to seep into our system?

Speaking of judiciary, what shakes from within is the dwindling strength of law and order that actually empowers opinions to take the form of threats and violence. Democracy of course is in the hands of the doers and oppositions but blood is not the ink with which you posit your claims. It's not just about the liberty of creative expressions but also about liberating our own minds which is yet bonded after independence. The written word has every aspect that constitutes a right society, the onus is on us to read or crumble. Before the dot, I would like to say, the ear is as powerful as the mouth, try using them both!

*- by Rohit Sreedhar (D19A)*

# Power and Revolutions

One will be for a forgiven to call power the most addicting asset in this world. Power, when given to individual or handful of individuals brings them wealth and creates illusion of granting a person unbounded freedom. Most of them are successfully corrupted by this illusion. They get infuriated when their power is seized, become stone hearted to the people they are supposed to serve and resort to elitist and nepotistic practices with infinitesimal guilt about it.

They target the weaknesses of populace to gain and retain their power. Religion and Xenophobia is often used in this systematic manipulation of masses. The minority of wise people makes no difference to them as they have full control of meek, unimaginative and easily led majority .These handful delusional people who employ corruption to oppress populace are disillusioned by revolutions, the greatest asset of the people. They will paralyze in fear as they watch people unleashing their long controlled rage unto them. The perfect system is where people take decisions for themselves. Representative democracy is a docile system.

Undoubtedly, it is better than totalitarian system but has a lot of room for improvement. People choose their representatives and those representatives take decisions for people. The probability that people may have compromised to choose him over a far more worse representative is not considered. Moreover it is not necessary that representative will be representing interests of populace. One should be conscious about fact that representative can be manipulated or even worse, brainwashed. His human imperfections will lead to him representing his own interests or propaganda of his party which may not be the same as interests of masses. Representative democracy is not power to people. In appropriation, it can be called as illusion of democracy or even better, power to representatives.
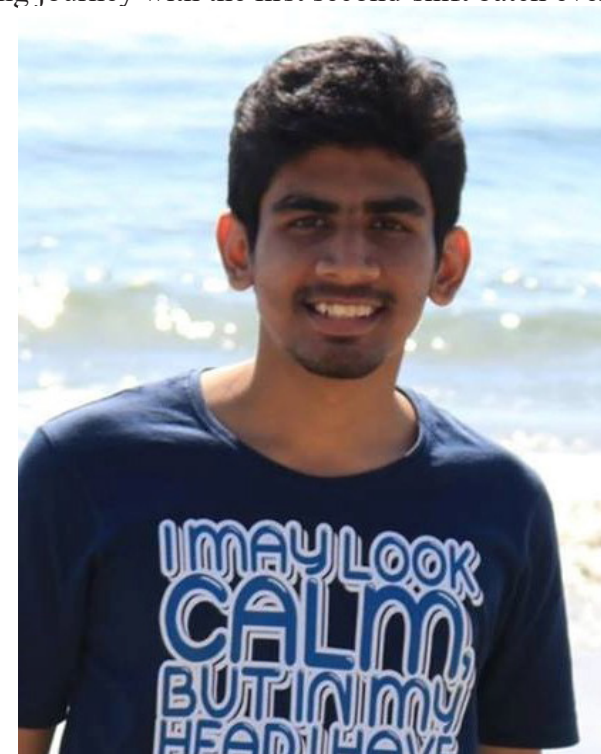
*- by Amogh Gajare (D1A)*

# VESIT Diaries

*-by Ujala Jha*

Mr. Atishay Aggarwal, a high-spirited tech-savvy engineer who is currently working as an Intern at Amazon, Seattle is a VESIT alumnus belonging to the Batch of 2016 from the Department of Computer Engineering. He ranked first in the cumulative merit list of VESIT (CGPI- 9.75) and had a whooping score of 331/340 in GRE and 117/120 in TOEFL. He completed his Masters in CS from UCLA in December 2017.Atishay is expected to start working at Amazon as full time employee from 2018. In a very young age, by his dedicated efforts, Atishay has set a benchmark for all VESITians. He is indeed an inspiration to all the young budding engineers at VESIT. Below we present an excerpt from our interaction with Atishay.

**1. Tell us something about your college life at VESIT.**

VESIT – The name itself brings up a plethora of emotions to me all at once. Having started my engineering journey with the first second-shift batch ever (CMPN 2012-16), my 1st year was tough, the timings were odd and on top of it, my class felt like it was ostracized by the rest of the college. However, my life at VESIT flipped 180 degrees since my second-year. Waking up early in the morning and travelling through peak hours in the train, both got evaded. I became a part of ISTE – which gave me innumerable friends that I cherish even now. Inter and intra-society wars definitely spiced up my engineering life and winning an argument seemed nothing short of an achievement! I participated in almost all the college and society events and slogged hard to earn that one symposium seat! Every year, our class was hooked on to a new activity, be it playing counterstrike after college in SE, multiplayer phone games in TE, to table tennis in BE! The final year Utsav is another unforgettable journey. Shooting our spoof-it video to dance practices – we thought we were having fun, but we were in turn making amazing memories!

**2. Share a glimpse of your personal life**

I graduated from VESIT in 2016, and the same year, I went to the US to pursue my Masters in Computer Science from UCLA. I was done with my coursework at UCLA in 9 months and got an opportunity to intern with Amazon.com as a Software Development Engineer for 3 months. Having converted my internship to a full-time offer with Amazon, I graduated from UCLA in December 2017, and am going to start working with Amazon soon. I like watching movies and TV shows and I follow Indian stand-up comedy very closely. I also liked watching cricket, however, the time-difference in the US makes it tough to keep up with the ongoing matches. I miss my family and Indian food so much so that I travelled back to India 5 times, within my first year in the US (I should call up Guinness maybe?). In my free time, I do not do anything because then that time doesn't remain free anymore, so I just like sleeping through it!

**Mr. Atishay Aggarwal**

**3. You are working with Amazon, tell us something about your professional life there.**

Amazon was my first job ever and as clichéd as it might sound, it was a great learning experience! On my first day, I went dressed up in full formals, only to realize later that not just the dress code, but even everyone's attitude there was very much informal. Sitting right at the heart of the world's largest e-commerce and cloud computing giant, I was a part of some crucial cutting-edge technology and impactful decision-making. Ironically, the most important thing I learnt there was not writing code, but was making decisions. The journey was full of ups and downs with continuously evolving project requirements, changing business needs affecting project deliverables, changing team-managers to changing weather conditions (Seattle can get pretty gloomy). Everyone there was expected to hit the ground running, and there was no option but to slog hard and meet deadlines. But I was lucky enough to have gotten a team that maintained the perfect work-life balance. I attended various fun events, sports events, social events and parties with my team and realized the true sense of the adage – "Work hard, party harder!" All in all, it was an amazing experience, or should I say, an Amazong experience! :P

**4. Today with the world advancing at its all-time best pace, can you throw some light upon some activities students can do from the beginning which will help them get an edge?**

I believe, it is the direction and not the speed which matters in getting an edge in today's world. With the pressure of getting an edge over others, people keep switching between preparing for GATE, to preparing for GRE, then altogether switching to prepare for MBA entrances. Amidst all of this, when final year approaches, people realize they need to brush up on their quantitative and verbal skills for clearing aptitude tests in campus placements. In my opinion, having a sense of the goal is what's important, the course to the goal can be set at one's own pace. This involves having knowledge about various options available beforehand, which is possible best by networking with seniors. And this in turn, is possible by participating in various college events, getting to know people, building a network, and learning from their experiences! Needless to say, the internet provides all the information one needs for any career path; one just needs to go out there and get it.

**5. Could you tell us about some interpersonal some skills we should have outside academics and how to manage them with technical abilities?**

Speaking from personal experience, my interpersonal skills were built by taking up positions in the class council and in the college societies. All my communication skills, problem-solving skills and decision-making skills can be attributed to the councils I was a part of. Having knowledge is one thing, and the ability to convey it to people is another. And both of these are equally important to succeed. Acquiring interpersonal skills is a continuous process, and one keeps learning throughout their life. I still remember how my manager at Amazon did not write a single line of code, but inspired me the most, just by his amazing way of tackling complex situations; being assertive to his teammates yet not sounding commanding, getting the work done in time along with creating an amicable work environment.

**6. Is it necessary to have a full proof plan for your career from the beginning itself?**

I don't think any plan is infallible. There are unprecedented risks involved and a possibility of change in a person's interests over time. It is not necessary to have a plan from the beginning; however, I feel, it is necessary to have options in mind, and an urge to evaluate those options until one has a proper plan!

**7. Tell us how important is it for an engineer /engineering student to have a life beyond technology? (Importance of hobbies in one's life)**

Having a life other than your workplace or the technology you are into is definitely important since ultimately that is what keeps you close to the real world. Friends, family and fun is what keeps one refreshed and motivated all the time!

**8. Any message for the new generation at VESIT!?**

These are going to be the best four years of your entire life! Work smart rather than working hard, make a lot of friends, participate in every event possible and make enough memories to last a lifetime!

Please send your contributions and suggestions to vesit.connect@ves.ac.in