



NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 45: JUNE 2019

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Vacation Workshops by ISA-VESIT

-Yash Keshkar

ISA-VESIT conducted a host of workshops in the summer break of June covering a wide array of technological fields. Participants learnt the basics of Linux, IoT and how to interface various sensors with Raspberry Pi and its applications. Another session on PLC programming was also conducted.



Mr. N Gopalkrishnan guiding the students on the basics of Raspberry Pi.



Participants of the workshop getting a hands on experience of programming on a microcontroller.

Dr. Nupur Giri bags Microsoft AI for Earth Grant

-Yash Keshkar

Bringing yet another laurel to VESIT, five groups from the Computer Engineering Department bagged the Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Earth Grant 2019. Dr. Nupur Giri, the mentor of one of the groups, received the grant for working on predicting how airborne diseases can propagate based on climate conditions, air quality, and population density in an area.

Dr. Giri, professor and Head of Department of Computer Engineering, and her team started the project in 2018 to find the correlation between these seemingly disparate factors to predict the propagation of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) in India.

To study the impact of environmental conditions, such as climatic factors and pollution, on the epidemiology of TB, the team collated data from 725 districts over a 17-year time frame from various sources. Using this data, Dr. Giri and her team is working on creating an AI-based model which can help predict areas of TB spread and help agencies tackling the disease focus their efforts in those areas. Once successfully done, this

model could also be employed for other diseases.

Dr. Giri hopes her AI-based model can help predict areas of spread of TB and help agencies tackling the disease focus their efforts in those areas. With multiple sources of data and varied frequency, the team spent a few months to smoothen, standardise, and normalise the data. Dr. Giri said following the grant, the team's pace quickened significantly once they started using Microsoft's Azure platform and the tools provided.



Dr. Nupur Giri

"If we can employ AI algorithms to predict the spread of disease and understand how environmental changes, we can initiate precision public health at a granular level"

Azure Compute Usage:

1. Major Research Grant Proposals (Received : 05)

Sr. No.	Title	Principal Grantee	Other members	Compute Grant in USD	Project Domain
1	Contagious disease propagation study and containment strategies using Machine Learning for Indian Scenario	Dr. Nupur Giri	Richard Joseph Dhanashri Asai, Yohan Sanjib Naha Biswas Karan Patowary Sanika Chavan Ritika Sethiya Reema Israni Raghav Heda	\$10,000	Biodiversity
2	FarmGuide	Dr. Gresha Bhatia	Devendra Chaudhari Sanket Paratkar Pankaj Ahuja Akshaya Patil	\$10,000	Agriculture
3	Machine Learning based Flood Prediction model for Mumbai, India	Prof. Sunita Sahu	Mrs. Sunita Sahu, Sagar Madnani, Kajal Sonawane, Sukhwinder Singh, Amruta Parab, Sejal Mandora, Chinmayee Kinage, Abhishek Kalgutkar	\$5000	Water
4	Rehabilitation and Protection of Coastal Areas	Ms. Kajal Jewani	Sneha Patil Shilpa Urjita Bedekar Aakanksha Talreja Prerna Baliga Piyush Mangtani Prem Amal Yash Kasturi	\$15000	Biodiversity

5	Machine Learning based Flood Prediction model for Mumbai, India.	Mr.Richard Joseph	Ms.Mukesh Yadav Rishil Kirtikar Sanket Gokhale Grishma Gurbani Akash Hasamnis Gurpreet Singh Samujjwaal Dey Ashish Joshi	\$15000	Water
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VESAITHON: An Unreal Spectacle Of AI

-Atharva Gupte

LeadingIndia.ai presented vesAlthon, a 24 hours nationwide hackathon on Artificial Intelligence, hosted at Vivekanand Education Society’s Institute of Technology, Chembur, Mumbai 28th June 2019. It was proposed to make an impact on the community by building a workable AI solution for most pressing social challenges faced by senior citizens, differently-abled people, and children. This event, brought together India’s best coders, developers, designers, innovators, creators and entrepreneurs of tomorrow. vesAlthon’19 was geared up for those who are passionate about building, designing and innovating. It was a 24 Hours AI coding event where enthusiasts meet, develop and compete in the product prototyping competition. The final judging was done by the end-users and notable artificial intelligence experts.

The platinum sponsors included LeadingIndia.ai and Capgemini, gold sponsors included Network Marvels and silver partner was Adapty. Our collaborators were AICTE, NVIDIA, Bennett University, Brunel University, London. The accommodation, travel, and food facilities were provided to the participants who were selected for the final stage of the Hackathon held on the 28th & 29th June 2019. There

were two preliminary rounds before the on-campus rounds. For the first round, participants were asked to submit their detailed approach to solve the chosen problem statement in the form of Powerpoint presentations. The scrutiny of this round was based on this response, which checked the Technical know-how and innovational approach of the teams. The results of this round were announced on the 30th of April on their official website. For the second round, selected teams had to attend a telephonic Interview to check their technical command, justification of problem statement, future scope, plan of action and role of AI in their solution. Based on this, teams for the Onsite Hackathon were selected. The results for Round 2 went live on 15th May on their website.

The inauguration was held at 9 am in the auditorium where guests and participants were warmly welcomed by our beloved Principal, Dr. J. M. Nair. The keynote speech was given by the chief guest from Capgemini, Mr. Mangirish Herwadkar. Dr. Prakash Lulla advised the participants about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Tulsi samplings were presented to our Chief Guest Mr. Mangirish Herwadkar from Capgemini and Mr. Samir Patankar, from Network Marvels by our Principal as a token of gratitude and respect.

The clock for solving the problem statement started at 10.15am on the first day. The participants coded extensively and were served lunch, dinner, mid-night snacks and energy drinks to keep them fresh throughout the twenty-four long hours. After the round was over the panel of judges started assessing the participants on the basis of the technical aspects and extent of AI used in the project. After judging the participants the judges had a meeting regarding the evaluation of the problems solved and the methods used for the same and top 8 teams were selected. The final round was held in the auditorium where the finalists presented their project. After the presentations, participants came forward and shared their

views about this event, appreciating the organizing and planning of the event.

Without further delay, the winners were announced and prizes were distributed by our beloved trustee, Mr. Boolani, the chief guest, honorable judges, and faculty. The team from VNR VJIET College bagged the first prize with a cash prize of Rs.50,000 INR. The first runners up team were from IIT Kharagpur winning a cash prize of Rs.30,000, thesecond runners up were the students of CMR College of Engineering and Technology, Telangana along with prize money Rs.15,000. There were two special prizes categories. Special prize - Innovation was bagged by CMR College of Engineering and Technology. And finally special prize - Best User Experience was won by Vignn’s Institute of Information Technology, Andhra Pradesh.vesAlthon’19 was indeed a huge success and was well-received by the trustees, faculty and the participants equally. This grand spectacle of AI was officially concluded up by a vote of thanks given by our vice-principal, Dr. M Vijayalakshmi.

“It was a good experience overall and we got to see what students all over India are upto and their level of skills”, said Gayatri Belapurkar, one of the finalists.



Special Prize Best User Experience, Vignnan’s Institute of Technology, Andra Pradesh with our Trustee Shri B.L. Boolani with our Principal Dr. J. M. Nair.



Special Prize Innvoation, CMR college of Engineering and Technology, Telangana with our Trustee Shri B.L. Boolani with our Principal Dr. J. M. Nair.



Team Enlighteners Winning the First Prize at VESAITHON



First Runner Up, Team Data_X from IIT Kharagpur



2nd Runner Up from CMR college of Engineering and Technology, Telangana



VESAITHON Organizing Committee with faculty and all the participants

World Yoga Day celebrated at VESIT

-Arya Kasulla

On 21st June 2019, 5th International Day of Yoga is celebrated all over the world. An invaluable gift of ancient India, yoga has helped enhance the spirit of thousands of people all over the world. Our Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, suggested the idea of yoga day during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on 27 September 2014. He told, “Yoga is an invaluable gift of India’s ancient tradition. It embodies the unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and nature. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help in well being. Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day.”The United Nations took this as an opportunity to promote Global Health,Peace and Harmony.

Following this thought, the 21st of June was declared as International Day of Yoga by the United Nations. This was welcomed with extreme zeal and enthusiasm by our fellow countrymen. Mr. Naren-

dra Modi himself along with other participants performed yoga during a mass yoga event at Prabhat Tara Ground in Ranchi.

In Mumbai, Yoga day saw its way along the coast of Marine drives. Students, teachers, as well as the general public joined this session. A large section of Indians ranging from the soldiers in the icy ranges of Himalayas to the President in the ceremonial Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan, to the schools in Chennai participated in taking this age old Indian exercise ahead and aspire to show the same dedication and effort throughout the year for yoga as well as celebrate this day and it’s importance.

VES celebrated Yoga Day by having a practical session for an hour at VES college of Arts,Science and Commerce. Many asanas that could easily be performed on a daily basis were demonstrated. The session was held by the staff of VES College of Arts, Science and Commerce Usually they invite a person who comes along with his/her team to conduct this session. A major concern amongst women was

Thyroid and Asanas that could bring relief to this



VESIT Staff marking their presence on the International Yoga Day

problem were demonstrated. Apart from this, the exercises predominantly focused on improving breathing and flexibility of the participants. A group of 30 participants consisting of the teaching as well as the non teaching staff attended the session.

Summer Internships at VESIT

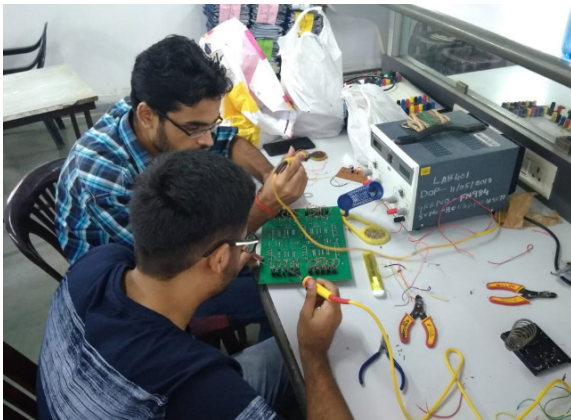
-Tanvi Shinde

As a fresh year kick-starts at VESIT, the furious coding in the labs comes to a conclusion as another round of Internships closes in. These Summer internships are conducted by the VRC or VESIT Renaissance Cell along with the teachers to provide the students with opportunities to work on real-life projects and put their vacations to good use. Internships also put in a lot of weight to the résumé.

The process starts in the month of May with the screening of the students by judging their technical knowledge. The students are also asked about their preferences for the projects. This process is open to the students of all four years.

By June, a list of selected candidates comes out, along with the allotted projects and respective mentors. This year a whopping 110 students from all departments and years took part in a wide range of projects in domains like database systems, machine

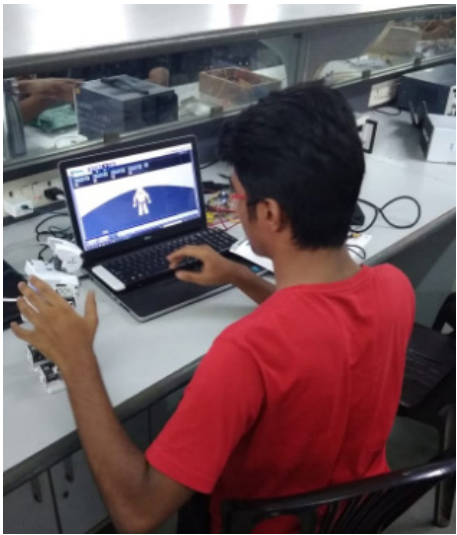
learning, robotics, etc. They were mentored by different faculty members. Starting from 6th June till 7th July 2019, these projects went from being ideas to implementation schemes to actual projects. Purav Rathod from D12A who was an intern, states that he got to learn a lot of things during the tenure and was contented by the end of the internship.



Shubham Singh(D14A) working on Digital Trainer Kit



Students engaged in various projects during the internships



Samarth Sewlani (D14B) working on lego bot

VESIT Voice

-Gayatri Belapurkar

The month of June downpour washed away all the stored exam stress and provided relief from the tedious exam season. It's now time for relaxation and rejuvenation. With that very essence, VESIT celebrated World Yoga Day, encouraging more and more to experience the soulful exercise, yoga. VESIT hosted its first country-wide hackathon VesAlthon, which was an AI based hackathon, that invited the best techie brains from all over the country and proved to be a unique experience for all those associated with it. Another one of our students, Kaushal Bhogale from Fourth year, Information Technology Department scored very well on the GATE exam. June is globally celebrated as the Pride month, but this was the first time we, as the citizens of modern India, celebrated it too. Summer is also the time when students do internships to experience what working in the industry would be like. To provide this to students in VESIT, VRC organised summer internships with a myriad of projects to work on. This month, in the Diaries section we have Mrs Kavitha Krishnamurthy, the very first President of our college, who shares with us her learnings throughout her career. Happy Reading and Happy monsoon!

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VESITian shares tips to score in GATE Exam

-Saummya Kulkarni

Kaushal Bhole from D20 has notched a high score of 851, with a total of 74.67/100 percentage in the prestigious GATE exam

He started his preparation during his 5th semester, where he decided to tackle aptitude and mathematics section first. During his 6th semester he started with core subjects like Data structures and OS, which were a huge part of the syllabus. As he found it difficult to manage his college work and GATE preparation at the same time, so he utilized all his holidays very well. In the last seven months, geared up his preparation and set rigorous deadlines for himself. He took a lot of practice tests. The time after the end of 7th semester was the most crucial. He had 45 days of vacation and I spent at least 14 to 15 hours studying every single day.

Studying from reference books is very important in GATE. College teachers always made us refer these books, and avoid and short cuts. This made my work easy while studying for the GATE exam. Start as early as possible. GATE is an online exam, so practice online tests. It is important to score in the easy subjects in the exam. It is okay to leave out difficult questions, even the topper will leave them out. Be a good judge and leave such questions out.

Math and aptitude parts are the most scoring ones. Do not leave out any subjects, all subjects are important. The most important thing is to stay calm under pressure.

The VESITConnect team wishes him all the very best in his future endeavors.



Kaushal Bhogle

Here are a few tips from him for future GATE aspi-

Humanity is conditionless

-Aadi Fernandes

"People may hate you for being different and not living by society's standards, but deep down, they wish they had the courage to do the same."

Kevin Hart

In a historic verdict, the Supreme Court of India, on September 6, 2018, decriminalised the Section 377 of the IPC. This ripple created a tsunami of solidarity and acceptance of the LGQTB community and stirred the movement towards their rights in India as well as internationally. Gay pride or LGBTQ pride is the positive stance against discrimination and violence towards the LGBTQ community. Furthermore, it promotes their self-affirmation, dignity, equality rights, increase their visibility as an integral part of their society. Pride bolsters most LGBT rights movements throughout the world and has lent their name to LGBT-themed organizations, institutes, foundations, book titles, periodicals, a cable TV station and also proudly present the Pride Library.

But what exactly started this movement?

After a lifetime of being oppressed and innumerable efforts to get equal rights, a major breakthrough occurred at the end of June 1969 with the Stonewall Riots. In order to commemorate this, the month of June was chosen as the pride month to acknowledge the impact of the LGBT community in the world. The bisexual activist Brenda Howard is known as the "Mother of Pride", for her work in coordinating the first LGBT Pride march, and she also originated the idea for a series of events around Pride Day which was the framework for the modern day Pride month.

The rainbow is a symbol of the LGBTQ community, and major cooperates like Google, IBM, Amazon and institutes like Yale, Stanford and Columbia added a rainbow to their display pictures across different social media platforms. But many people across the LGBTQ community believe that even though it helps increase awareness by showing their acceptance towards the community, it doesn't help them with regular discrimination or poverty they face. There is an immediate need to educate the people

who vehemently oppose them as they believe that their lifestyle is "sinful".

On the upside, June 2019 was the first time World-



"One World, One Pride, One New York City- Unite in 2019."

Pride was held in the United States. Stonewall 50 - WorldPride NYC 2019 was a series of LGBTQ

events and celebrations in June 2019, marking the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riots. The twelve-hour parade included 150,000 pre-registered participants among 695 groups and was the largest LGBTQ event in history.

Even with these staggering numbers, there is still a lot of discrimination prominent and it is our goal to normalize and encompass their community into our own to such an extent that celebrating Pride Month becomes unnecessary. They are just another beau-

tiful human beings who want to coexist peacefully, and if we cannot comprehend and act on it, does the term humanity even exist anymore?

Musings

Father's Day

-Shruti Bondre

"A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there but a guiding light whose love shows us the way."

Young children try their best to imitate their fathers. They want to grow up to be him. He is their first role model- A person they look up to. They admire him, respect him, play with him, at times even disagreements with him, but at the end they love him.

It goes without saying that one single day is not enough to express love for our fathers. But having a special day for fathers is a beautiful thing, isn't it? One day just to honour fathers, celebrate fatherhood, paternal bonds and the influence of fathers in society. Father's day is celebrated all over the world at different times. In India and many other countries, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. All the children try their best to make this day a memorable one for their fathers. They buy the

beautiful gifts, surprise them, make cards for them and celebrate the day by watching a movie or playing with them.

The celebration of Father's Day first began in the year 1910 when a young woman wanted to honour her father, a Civil War Veteran, who single-handedly took care of her and her siblings. At the first Father's Day celebration, young women handed out red roses to their fathers during a church service, and large baskets full of roses were passed around, with attendees encouraged to pin on a rose in honor of their fathers – red for the living and white in memory of the deceased.

Fathers are the support system in a family. They may or may not openly show their love towards their family, but their actions say it all. They work for the well-being of the family. He is the one who has held our hands while we learnt to walk, to cycle or be it

our first ride on a bike or first car drive. He was there for all of it. We all may have grown up and might need his support to walk, or his help while riding a bike or driving a car, but he is always there to guide and support us. He is the lighthouse who shows the ships of our lives the way in the dark seas.



A bond of love and respect

Surfing through my summer at IIT-B.

-Arya Kasulla

As a second year student of this college having a month wide vacations ahead of me, the cloud of doing an internship had started floating around. As lucky as I could be, I got one at one of the most established institutions not just in Mumbai but the entire country, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. My early communication with the professor who had hired me was based more on what I wanted to do in the future than what I had done in the past. The lady, Dr. Sharayu Moharir is an assistant professor in the department of Electrical Engineering at IIT-B. As tensed as I was for my first day of my work, thousands of thoughts rushed through my mind. The most important being, "my competency for the work assigned to me." I met her in the lab for stochastic research. I was hoping to be given work right away but to my utter astonishment, she took me out for a walk. We spoke lengths about everything that we had in common, our opinions about certain matters, things like that. I was so busy enjoying this extremely eclectic chat that I didn't realise that she was trying to make me comfortable around her. So that I could approach her at any point needed without any hesitation, something extremely integral to this internship. The major as-

pect I observed in the working ethics over there was, they were more focused on getting the results than filling in hours of work. Unlike many of my friends who interned, who were given fixed slots of time and days to come and work. For me, I had the freedom to work from home, come at any time I felt my productivity would be at its peak and finish the work off. I was given a deadline and my work had to be done before that without fail with the added prerequisite of no compromise on the quality of work to be submitted. I was working under a PhD. Student of her's. The pressure of working with a 28 year old guy who knows the in and out of more than half the things I'm aware of on a primitive level, was tremendous. I was given simpleton work of writing codes based on multiarm bandits and had to test the codes for different probabilities and find out which arm was the most optimal one without wasting much resources on exploring the inputs. The idea of the project was to find out the age of information of a given source and transmitting it at the lowest bandwidth so as to save energy and resources. The probabilities of the channels through which the information was to be transmitted and to examine their behaviour when subjected to different scenarios was my job. The PhD

student was one of the most patient, extremely emphatic and an excellent teacher himself. He helped me out with the smallest of the doubts no matter how silly they were. I had reached a pit in one of the programs cause I wasn't able to grasp the basic concept because of my lack of knowledge on certain mathematical topics. Both the professor and the PhD student sat with me and had a conference session on it. In it, the PhD student was explaining me the concept and its connection to our project and the professor was asking him doubts from my view point. In this way, she was not only helping me understand the subject matter better but was also checking whether the PhD student had complete knowledge about it so as to not confuse me in the future. I was exposed to such brilliant people, their working and teaching techniques. A whole new world which if not here I wouldn't even be aware of, was shown to me. I completed my internship after a month and a half and I finally had to bid adieu to this amazing workspace. A month and a half of uncountable new things and priceless teachings, I'll sure miss this vacation a lot...

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."

- Steve Jobs

VESIT Diaries

-Gayatri Belapurkar

Mrs. Kavitha Krishnamurthy is an alumnus of the 2010 Batch of MCA. She was also the first President of the college. In an interview with her, she reveals her journey in the college and gives us a glimpse of her work life at Accenture.

Q. Tell us something about yourself.

I passed out of VESIT in the year 2010 from the MCA department. I was placed in Accenture via Campus placements and have been working there ever since – in fact I just entered my 10th year. I am settled in Mumbai and work as a Project Manager.

Q. Share a glimpse of your personal life.

As I said, I am settled in Mumbai...married – my husband is a mechanical engineer. I love to travel and ensure that I see a new place every year. I'm a big time Movie Buff – My weekends definitely include going to the theatres, I do a lot of arts & crafts and absolutely love playing badminton.

Q. Tell us something about your college life.

It was absolute fun. Growing up in Mumbai and especially Chembur the one thing we always heard was how strict VESIT was in terms Administration and Education and this is exactly what helped shape my future. The amount of discipline imbibed in us, students during our college time made it very easy for us to transition from a student to a professional and we stood out no matter where we went.

Besides that I was the First President of the Student Council and took part in various other activities and events that were conducted during my time – this opportunity helped develop a lot of my interpersonal

skills.

I genuinely am thankful to my department Faculty for being supportive and encouraging, it would not have been the same without them.

Q. Let's talk about your professional life.

I am currently employed with Accenture, and have been here for the last 9 Years. I am a Project Manager and work with a team of 14 folks, most of them being from VESIT.

Continuing the trend from my college years, I am very much involved in organizing activities within the organization and have a good work life balance.

Q. Today the world is advancing at a rapid pace, can you throw some light upon activities that students can do from the beginning which will help them get an edge?

The world is rapidly advancing and fortunately we are in an age where information is readily accessible to us, we just need to ensure we are upto date on what is the trend in the industry and just not stick to textbook knowledge – try to develop a skill outside of the course. The key is to continuously update yourself.

Q. What do you think is the importance of extra-curricular activities in a student's life and how to manage them?

We learn a lot from them, I can say this for sure. Being part of any extracurricular activity makes us understand how to face situations and solve problems – it helps us understand how to interact with people. It hones your execution skills and definitely helps



Kavitha Krishnamurthy

make you ready for your professional life. Also, a big plus side is that you make a lot of friends.

Q. As a professional, what can you say the companies are looking for, in freshers?

As a fresher one of the most important things that a companies look out for is how well you are able to communicate and put your thoughts across, your willingness to learn and adapt. Having technical know how is a bonus.

Q. Any message for the new generation at VESIT?

Try to use all possible opportunities in college to develop your technical and soft skills; we have an abundance of opportunities to this at VESIT.

Don't shy away from trying something new or putting your view across. Keep yourself updated on the latest Industry trends.

Take up any sport or activity – it'll definitely help you.