



Since 1962

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Celebrating Republic Day at V. E. S.

-Aadi Fernandes and Mansi Kasar

The Republic Day honours the day the Constitution of India came into effect as the governing document of India. V. E. S celebrated the 71st Republic Day at its Degree College ground. The Chief guest on this propitious occasion was V. E. S. Executive Secretary, Smt Padma Uttam Vaswanithe, and Dr Lobo was the special guest. When the esteemed guests arrived, they were greeted by two students wearing Maula's dress, mounted on horsebacks, following which the Guard of honour was given by Mr. Narendra Shinde (RSP Incharge of VES High School).

Twenty seven march past groups participated in this parade, each representing the different institutions under the VES Trust. The audience standing at attention, enveloping the entirety of the ground, leading to a scene absolutely worth watching. These disciplined parade groups were then inspected by Smt P. U. Vaswani who was accompanied by the Honorable Secretary of VES Shri Amar T. Asrani on the jeep, led by the magnificent horses. Followed by this, our National Flag was hoisted by respected Chief Guest and the National Anthem, led by Mr. Santosh More (Music Teacher - Degree college) which resonated beautifully with over 1500 students, teachers and parents singing it in unison. This melodious anthem of unity, pride and respect for our beautiful nation could be perceived around the VES campus and in each and every heart.

The ceremony began with Mrs. Cynthia Dawson, the Principal of VES High School and Junior College, welcoming the Guest of Honour. She introduced the Chief Guest to the audience after which she also welcomed our special guest. Dr.(Shri) Prakash Lulla (Member Trustee) and Adv. Shri. Laxman Kanal (Member Trustee) along with the Heads and Principals of different branches of Vivekananda Education Society. Mrs. Dawson was also the overall



Flag Hoisted by the respected Chief Guest
Smt Padma Uttam Vaswani

in-charge of this meticulously planned event.

The welcoming speech was followed by the release of white pigeons as a symbol of peace by the members of the Managing Committee and Chief Guest, along with our Special Guest. This marked the commencement of the March Past parade. The parade was a marvel to witness and the zeal around the ground was remarkable. Our Sports Secretary, Tanmay Kothale (D11A) was responsible for training the VESIT contingent. He said, "It was a monumental honour to be leading the team who would be representing our college in front of such a massive audience and in the presence of dignitaries of the highest stature. Each and every one of them portrayed resilience, confidence and energy throughout the parade which was wonderful to witness."



VESIT Students at Republic Day Parade

AIA Workshop at VESIT

-Yash Keskar

VESIT Automation Industry Association (AIA) organized an interactive training session cum workshop on pneumatics and control valve sizing in the Process Lab of the Department of Instrumentation on the 7 January 2020. This two-hour long workshop was jointly conducted by **Mr. Vijay Shejwalkar** and **Mrs. Ramya Tirumalsetti**, faculty from Dept. of Humanities and Applied Science. It aimed at imparting practical skill sets to the students of third year Instrumentation Engineering. The workshop was a part of the VESIT AIA week which is held every year in the first week of January.

Mr. Dipak Khairnar from VES Junior College was the Parade in-charge. He ensured that the parade flowed smoothly and in tandem with each contingent. This vibrant parade was supplemented by the band beat played by students of Nehru Nagar (Hindi Medium) school, who with their exceptional energy, boosted the vigour of all the parade partici-

pants and observers alike. The band display by Nehru Nagar (English Medium) was also wonderful to witness. This was followed by an outstanding display of talent through dances by primary and nursery students of VES, and a mind boggling Malkhamb performance by students of the Degree college. The performances were followed by an inspiring

speech by the Chief Guest Smt Padma Uttam Vaswani. Dr. Anita Kanwar, the Principal of degree college delivered the vote of thanks. Mr. Satish More concluded the celebration by melodiously singing our National Song 'Vande Mataram', to which everyone joined in with bright smiles on their faces and immense pride in their hearts.

Illusion '20: A Melange of Talents

-Shivani Shenai & Aadi Fernandes

The clash of the finest talent is always bound to be a sensational clash that would forever be etched in the memory of each and every person involved. The Cultural Council never fails to deliver this emotion through their spectacular fest, Illusions. Its advent leads to one of the most intense, heated battle royale during the cold winters. The competition is between six teams who are led by the Leaders chosen from the fourth year. After a stringent selection process facilitated by the Cultural Council and sifted by professors, **Mr. Vivek Umrikar** and **Mr. Abhishek Chaudhary**, the leaders and their respective team names were assigned:

Laureates - Deeksha Shetty (D20)
Invaders - Parikshit Chopra (D19A)
Intruders - Sumit Manwani (D17B)
Imperials - Harish Muthalagan (D19A)
Conquerors - Siddhant Nashte (D16A)
Prevailers - Raj Shetye (MCA2B)

Ensuing this, auctions were conducted for the Managing Committee (MCs) and the rest of the participants, in order to consolidate a team of exceptionally talented individuals who would drive them to victory. Participants formulated their strategies in the portfolios of Dance, Drama, Aesthetics, Visual Arts, Sports, and Music. They prepared for this grand spectacle with zest and great determination, in order to grab the ultimate title of being crowned as the crème de la crème of VESIT.

Pre-Events

The Cultural Council decided to launch exciting pre-events that augmented the hype around Illusions and acted as a catalyst to motivate the participants to perform to their level best. This also paved the way for the team members to get to know each other before the final showdown was set into motion.

Team Anthem

The entire Illusions event started with the team orchestrating to form their original Team Anthem in December. The cultural council had provided the respective leaders with a set of rules to be followed. The Anthem must be of 90 seconds \pm 10 seconds only. A music video or a visual representation was expected with the song. Furthermore, the anthem must be of original lyrics as well have original compositions. **The Conquerors VA team** with their **MC Suraj Bathija(D16B)**, **Omkar Rao(D8)**, **Vishal Tulsani(D15)**, **Gaurav Parwani(D15)**, **Gaurav Jagwani(D9B)** and **Naren Khatwani(D12B)** secured the first position in this event with their impressive skills displayed in all the areas, with their captivating music video and catchy music namely "Where are they now?" "Illusion has perpetually been the most awaited event for us BEs, as we get to lead a team full of youthful and talented juniors along with our closest friends. From coming up with a concept, planning, shooting and editing a music video in under 3 hours to producing one of the most creative short films, my team and I would always treasure these memories", said Suraj Bathija(D16B).



(Left to right) **Anushka Rajwade (D11B)**, **Mridul Mohan (D14B)** and **Vipul Chaudhari (MCA1B)** of team **Conquerors**, chanting their team anthem in the music video

Photo Booth

On the 6th of January, all the six teams were asked to create a photo booth on anything they find suitable. This event was judged by Dr. Asawari Dudwadkar from the Department of Electronics. **The Intruders Aesthetics team** consisting of their **MC Mahima Zhambani(D18)**, **Jagru ti Sawalkar(D13)**, **Jahnavi Mulchandani(D2A)**, **Muskaan Bhargava(D9B)**, **Jay Deshmukh(D2C)**, and **Mrunali Kolte(D18)** won this event with their extremely creative Harry Potter-themed photo booth that engaged many students. In addition, they had an array of fun props to go with their Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ brick wall background for a fun picture.

Dance battle

The dance battle was conducted by the cultural council in the amphitheater at 2:45 pm on the 9th of January. It consisted of two rounds in which all the teams had included a solo and a dual performer competing over any song that was being played. In round 1, every team had to enlist one of their members for a solo performance. The team names were called in at random order and they had to showcase their dance moves in a one and a half minute performance. Similarly, in the second round, the enlisted pair had to perform under the same rules. **Ms. Arti Sawant** was the judge for this event and proclaimed **Laureates Dance team** with **MC Sahil Gangwani(D12C)** and **Reshma Sawant(D13)** as the winner in the duet category, while **Shubham Sawant(D19A)** won in the solo dance category. They showcased their superior dance skills and fluidity, which totally engrossed the crowd and kept them ecstatic and energetic throughout the performances.

Sports wild card event

Illusion heist was a sports event conducted by the council for the sports portfolio on the 9th of January. A team of five members was to be formed, with one hostage, one attacker, two defenders, and one collector. All the teams wore masks such that the other team members couldn't recognize them. The respective hostages were blindfolded and were taken hostage by one of the teams. There were in total of four quests to be solved by the remaining 4 members of that team simultaneously holding their hostage.

Winning three of the quests also determined the order of performances of the dance, drama and short film events. The quests included finding at least one quest object, playing Russian Roulette with at least one team, destroying the base camp flag of the rival team who has your member hostage and to reveal the name of your rival team. In addition, the collector had to collect plastic balls that were used by the attacker in the culminating event which was to destroy the target mounted on two of the opposition defender's back. The winner was decided on the basis of the number of hits the attacker successfully hit if they had rescued their own hostage or lost the opponent team's hostage that is if they had four, five or six members respectively. **The Laureates team** consisting of their **MC Vilas Dhuri (D16A)**, **Nihar Wankhede(D8)**, **Anirudh Iyer(D20)**, **Siddhant Easwar(-D11A)** and **Hasan Riza(D20)** triumphed in this event with their unprecedented coordination and rigor.

Day 1: 10th January

Treasure Hunt

The treasure hunt was one of the most challenging yet thrilling events conducted for the sports portfolio. It started at 2 pm and lasted for around 2 hours. The participants were permitted access to public transport and had to travel all around Chembur in search of various clues. They were provided with a map of Chembur, on which all the locations were marked as a cross(X). There were a total of 18 clues within the college and in the Chembur locality. The clues directed the students from our college canteen to the Pink corner, to the Kstar mall, to the BP golf club, to the Loreto Convent School, to Vashi Naka and many such locations, which eventually led to the college itself, to the amphitheater. **The Laureates team** consisting of their **MC Vilas Dhuri(D16A)**, **Soham Sapkal(D16A)**, **Gunjan Sureka(D4A)** and **Rishabh Sajin(D6A)** won the treasure hunt event.

VA logo presentation

The VA team of all the respective six teams had to design a logo from scratch. They had to display a digital representation of their team logos. The time limit for the video was 2 minutes and for presenting the video, the leader was provided with 3 minutes in order to explain the logo. Any outsourcing done led to negative points. If the digital



Dr. J.M. Nair, Mrs. Naveeta Kant, Somesh Sidhwani (D17C) and Vivek Umrikar



The Invaders logo

representation was enhanced by animation and creativity, additional points would also be granted to the team. Alongside that, the teams also integrated background music into their videos to refine its impact. The Invaders VA team consisting of MC **Aditya Bhoir(D11B)**, **Tejas Doke(D14A)**, **Raghav Heda(D17C)**, **Sahil Rajpal(D12A)**, **Sahil Talreja(D12C)**, **Shubham Chaudhary(D6B)** crafted an exceptional video and their leader **Parikshit Chopra (D19A)** explained that the significance of the gladiator in their logo was that they never

give up and never back down from any challenge. This event was judged by **Mrs. Naveeta Kant** from the Department of Electronics, Faculty in-charge of the Cultural Incharge, our respected Principal **Dr. J. M. Nair** and **Mr. Vivek Umrikar Sir**, Head of Department of Humanities and Applied Sciences

Music event

Music was one of the most captivating events. It comprised of two rounds. In the first round 'Treble', the teams had to perform a medley of 6 minutes. Therein, the team had to sing a song of any genre and any composition in its primordial form followed by a distinct song but the background music must be changed keeping the lyrics the same. The ending song must be of the same lyrics, but the background music must be changed. The top four teams qualified for the second round. In the second round 'Battle Of Decades', each team had to perform a medley of songs from the past 5 decades. This event was judged by **Mr. Prashant Kanade**, Department of Computer and guest judge **Jay Mishra**. The **Imperials** music team with MC **Rohit Doraiswamy (D19A)**, **Manasvini Karthikeyan(D19A)**, **Monaami Pal(D12A)**, **Onkar Bhatlawande(D7A)**, **Amandip Singh(M-CA1B)** and **Aditya Rana(D1)** were declared as win-



(Left to right) **Aditya Rana (D1)**, **Monaami Pal (D12A)**, **Rohit Doraiswamy (D19A)**, **Manasvini Karthikeyan (D19A)**, and **Onkar Bhatlawande (D7A)** from team **Imperials** during round 1 of the **music event**

ners in this event after their exemplary performance. Lead singers **Moonami** and **Rohit** were able to totally engross the crowd and kept them ecstatic and energetic throughout the performances with their pleasant, harmonious voices, whereas **Manasvini** on the violin played one of the most melodious tunes **VESIT** had ever seen. The costliest player, **Aditya Rana** was the lead guitarist with **Amandip** as the rhythm guitarist whereas **Onkar** played the **Cajon**. "After a peculiar auction where we bought the costliest player, the pressure was on us to win this event. With a team full of talented, assiduous and diligent young individuals, we were able to win the event with great zeal and zest. It was a remarkable journey for me and one I am so grateful to be a part of. We did not just win the music portfolio but we also ended up creating memories for a lifetime", said **Rohit Doraiswamy(D19A)**.

Kaam Pachis

This was one super interesting and impromptu event under the Visual Arts portfolio. As the name suggests, each team had 25 hours for filming and editing a music video spanning a duration of one and a half minutes. The declaration of the event was at 4 pm on the 10th of January and the submissions were supposed to be done at 5 pm the next day. **Team Invaders** comprised of MC **Aditya Bhoir (D11B)**, **Tejas Doke (D14A)**, **Raghav Heda (D17C)**, **Sahil Rajpal (D12A)**, **Sahil Talreja (D12C)** and **Shubham Chaudhary (D6A)** won the event with their stunning representation of some iconic locations around Mumbai Fort area with the song "How to Love" as the playback.

Day 2: 11th January

Amazing race

Amazing Race is a time-based event. It had a series of tasks that challenged the participant's physical and mental thresholds. Three guys and one girl had to participate in this event. The first participant was the girl who had to complete a military-style course that lasted around ten minutes followed by which she had to release her teammate whose hands and legs were chained to the chair. She had to do this by finding the key from a bucket of muddy water. There were several keys in the bucket and if the wrong key was picked, the participant had to consume spiced up water. Once the trapped participant was freed, he was blindfolded and given two earthen pots full of water, and a guide from his team. That participant had to walk along the ledge blindfolded and balance the pots, and also avoid the boxes taped at random locations along the ledge, which could be avoided based on the instructions from the guide. The water level was supposed to be at a minimum threshold at the end of the ledge and then the blindfold was opened. The two participants from the previous round had to travel across the designated area, with one only using their hands while the other one could only use their legs. Following this, they had to play a twister inspired game without losing balance.

There was a bonus round which would reduce their time elapsed based on their accuracy of throwing the plastic cricket ball into one of the designated buckets from a soapy water blanket. The third participant now had to squat walk using two bricks from end to end without losing balance. The fourth participant had to crawl across a maze made of out of cardboard boxes following which, another maze had to be crossed. This was to be done while holding a bucket full of bricks throughout the maze, followed by a series of random challenges. **Team Conquerors** consisting of **Heman Parashar (D16A)**, **Avadhoot Likhite (D11A)**, **Rithika Rande (D11A)** and **Dheeraj Yadav (D2C)** won the race with their extraordinary performance.



Avadhoot Likhite (D11A) from team **Conquerors** showing extraordinary display of strength

Kingdom making

The participants had to bring all their material from their homes and make a castle from them on the theme 'Fantasy' in 4 hours. The twist introduced by the council in this event was that after one hour, the Aesthetics MCs of all teams were told to assemble, and they had to reveal the contents of the boxes provided to them. Some of them had blank chits in them and if they encountered this box, they had to pick up the next one. But the box had carefully stacked Jenga's in it, and if it would implode while picking up that box, the entire team would have to stop their work until the entire Jenga structure was reassembled. While, if you would receive a chit, you would have to go to the council members and who would hand over certain elements such as CD, Tea Bags and chocolate wrappers, which they would compulsorily have to incorporate in the structure of their kingdom. This event was judged by **Dr. Pooja Kundu**, Department of Humanities and Applied Sciences and **Dr. Asawari Dudwadkar** from the Department of Electronics. The **imperials** team with their MC **Vaibhavi Choudhary (D14B)**, **Gaurav Patil (D7B)**, **Raj Talashilkar (D6A)**, **Sakshi Jetley (D10)**, **Aditya Kadam (D8)** and **Saurabh Maurya (D9B)** triumphed in this event with their incredibly creative inverted kingdom inspired by the TV series **Stranger Things**. When their kingdom was observed from a distance, it could be perceived as a monster attacking the kingdom and taking over the positivity with darkness. It also had a mirror at the bottom, and if one would look at it from the mirror, it only portrayed the good things happening around the kingdom. Their primary objective was to portray different perspectives and it surely was a marvelous creation.



Clockwise: **Sakshi Jetley (D10)**, **Aditya Kadam (D8)**, **Gaurav Patil (D7B)**, **Saurabh Maurya (D9B)**, **Raj Talashilkar (D6A)** and **Vaibhavi Choudhary (D14B)** from team **Imperials** with their winning kingdom

Spitfire Debate

Incorporating the essence of debating for the first time in **Illusion '20**, this event takes the crux of the debate in a completely new light. The first two rounds

were balloon debate elimination rounds, wherein one team was eliminated in each round. The remaining four teams went head to head in the semifinal round. The topic for the first set of teams was, “Would you like to have three arms or three legs?”, while the topic for the second set of teams was, “Extroverts are more successful than introverts”. The winning teams, Imperials, and Invaders competed in a fierce and intense debate for the finale. The topic given to them was “Men gossip more than Women”. This event was judged by guest judge Ayesha Khan. **The Imperials debate team** comprised of their leader **Harish Muthalagan (D19A)** and their MC **C.V. Ananya (D14A)** reigned victorious in this event with their exceptional debating skills.



Bhuvana Raisinghani (D9A) and Ninad Wadode (D15) from team Intruders amidst a heated debate

Drama

The topic given to the drama team was ‘Phantom’ and was provided with 15 minutes to perform with a buffer time of two minutes after which the negative marking would start. The top 4 teams qualified for the 2nd round which was the mono-acting round and the list of possible topics for mono acting was provided to them in advance. The contestants had to pick out chits and perform on the topic they chose along with the given prop and background music that was played. This event was judged by **VESIT Alumni Mr. Saurabh Nadge** and honorable guest judges **Mr. Pravin Angre, and Mr. Pratik Belose**. **The Laureates Drama Team’s (Deeksha Shetty (D20), Avikshit Dabholkar (D14B), Disha Mhatre(D12C), Dhanshri Agrawal(D9B), Rahul Ghorpade (D18), Puneet Meghrajani (D7A), Divyanshu Pandey (D4A) and Venkatesh Reddy (D5A))** storyline of the first round was regarding partition and riots. The protagonist wakes up from a terrible dream of rioting, followed by which, a doctor checks him up and tells his wife that he has PTSD, and his mental weakness could lead to his death. In the next scene, he tells the landlord that the property will be divided in half between him and brother, after which the landlord walks out of the house, looking confused. The protagonist then goes to the field with his brother where they reminisce about their childhood. The following day, a few British and Indian officials came to their farmland citing that they were marking the border, which would divide the farm into half. Now the protagonist made the decision to go to Pakistan, to which the wife agrees after a lot of arguments since he wanted his little brother to settle in India. In the end, it is revealed that his younger brother was already killed in the riots but his wife never mentioned it because she was scared that the shock would end his life and they move to Pakistan while the protagonist believes that his younger brother is happy and well settled back in India. Meanwhile, **Conquerors Drama Team’s (Rochana Desai(D14B), Rakshitha Krishnan(D8), Sumit Jadhav(D4A), Siddhant Shinde(MCA3A), Yogesh Khatri(D2A), Shreyas Khadapkar(D10), Itisha Dalvi(D11A) and**

Akshata Deshpande(D4A)) round one storyline was regarding a boy who loved playing cricket and had his well being revolving around it. He was superb in every task other than studying, His parents got so upset with him that they threw his bat. He used to talk to himself in the mirror but this time around, his mirror stopped responding because he had lost himself. He then inevitably decides that nothing is left to his life and the mirror guides him into killing himself, citing that he was not good enough. The first position was shared by Laureates and Conquerors for their exemplary performances.

After a successful conclusion of the initial two days, Senior Deputy Cultural Secretary, **Rutik Thorat (D11A)** said, “When I think about Illusions, it fills my mind with utter excitement and relief. There was a lot of preparation to be done before the actual events commenced. We had to stay up in college till around 8-9 pm during vacations in order to facilitate the delivery of this extravagant event. The 4-5 months of preparation, right from leader selection, MCs auctions, auditions, event publicity, and its execution was absolutely worth it and it was a wonderful journey for each and every one of us which would be etched in everyone’s memories forever.”

Day 3: 13th January

Portrait making

The teams were asked to make a portrait on one of the most accomplished actors ever, Robert De Niro Jr. The topic was given via a word puzzle that all leaders had to solve the puzzle and had to figure out. All the teams had 4 hours to complete the portrait. The twist was that the team was also supposed to make a frame in the last hour which should retain the elements of the movie they got via the chit system. This event was judged by the guest judge **Ms. Swati Srivastava**. Here the **Team Intruders Aesthetics Team** consisting of their MC **Mahima Zhambani(D18)**, **Jagruti Sawalkar(D13)**, **Jahnvi Mulchandani(D2A)**, **Muskaan Bhargava(D9B)**, **Jay Deshmukh(D2C)**, **Mrunali Kolte(D18)** won this event. Detailing was the foremost criteria.



Jahnvi Mulchandani (D2A), Muskaan Bhargava (D9B), Mahima Zhambani (D18), Jay Deshmukh (D2C), Mrunali Kolte (D18) and Jagruti Sawalkar (D13) from team Intruders in Portrait Making

Spell bee

This event took place in the Amphitheatre. It consisted of 3 rounds between teams of 2 each from the 6 teams. In the 1st round, both the members from each team had to write down 20 words dictated by the Council. 2nd round needed each member to write down the spelling of 7 words each, whereas the 15th word could be discussed by the two, and were given 45 seconds to discuss and spell it out loud. All the words in this round were provided by the other teams. In the 3rd round, a buzzer round was conducted. The team which pressed the buzzer first had to correctly spell the word given by the Council. **The imperials team** with **C.V. Ananya(-D14A)** and **Prithvi Kumar(D2A)**. For imperials to win, they needed the last four words correct-

ly in the buzzer round by the narrowest margin.

Poetry Writing and Narration

One member from each team who participated in the event had to write a poem on one of the six topics that were provided to them which also had to be recited. Additionally, blackout poetry was also introduced by the council this year, wherein all participants were given a piece of literature in which they had to black words out with a sketch pen.

The rest of the words would be the poem which they could also supplement by using relevant drawings to describe their emotion and interpretation. The cumulative time allocated for completing both the poems was two hours. The blackout poetry was submitted to the judge, while the poem recitation took place in the amphitheater, and each participant had a time constraint of five minutes to express their pieces of art. This event was judged by guest judge **Ms. Alolika Dutta, United Nations Human Rights Council speaker**. **Faaiz Dastagir(D11B)** of **Team Laureates won poetry writing and recitation** where he chose the topic “Social and Personal Identity”, while **Juyee Sabade (D20)** of **Team Imperials won blackout poetry** and came second in poetry writing and recitation, for the same topic, owing to which she grabbed the top spot in this event. “Winning the main event imbibed in me, a certain confidence in my skill. Competing with my fellow colleagues was an honor. Regardless of the Victor, in the end, it was poetry and the freedom of expression that won”, said Faaiz Dastagir(D11B).



Faaiz Dastagir (D11B) from team Laureates reciting his poem

Physical task

This event was subdivided into a few sections. In one of the tasks, they had to pull the tire with a rope tied to them from one end to the other, followed by which they had to push-pull the tire back to the starting point and then repeat the first step, to take it back to the endpoint. In the next task, two tires were placed across the hands and then weights were added to the tire followed by which they had to encircle a given area twice while performing lunges. In the next task, a wheelbarrow was given to the participant, who had to pick up bags of bricks and had to complete two revolutions around the circular area designated. Followed by this they had to complete the Tower of Hanoi challenge with tires of various sizes. The third challenge was to cross squat and jump across a rope laid out on the top and bottom while balancing a bamboo stick on the shoulder with heavyweights on both ends making the task difficult. In order to add to this, the bamboo could not touch the rope at any given point of time. “This event has been one of the best team experiences I have ever had in a game. Every event I have played so far regardless of winning or losing has been great simply because of my teammates and other players around me. From running with

your team trying to get those clues down to lifting heavy tyres and squatting. The organizing team selected good tasks according to the events and managed it well", said Abhik Mirdha(D16A). **Imperials** reigned over this event with their participants **Abhinay Shukla (MCA1B)**, **Sudhanshu Mishra (D6A)**, **Fravash Mohta (D8)**, **Jasraj Choulkar (D16B)** and **Tamanna Saini (D12B)** showcasing their superhuman strength and resilience in all the challenges.

Day 4: 14th January

Short film

This was held in the auditorium and **Mr. Santosh Manjrekhar** well-known director was invited to judge 6 documentaries made by the teams on the theme of 'Inanimate Story Teller'. Around a month's timeline was provided to the teams to prepare their film whose runtime would be ten minutes. The judgment was on the basis of cinematography, execution, scripting, idea and its expression. **The Imperials VA team** consisting of **MC Atique Kudchi (D11A)**, **Abhishek Kamble (D18)**, **Anish Talwelkar(D14A)**, **Advait Bansode (D2B)**, **Nikita Joshi (D9B)**, **Aaryan Swami (D5B)** and **Atharva Gupte (D14A)** emerged victorious in this event. Their concept revolved around a watch that could turn back time for a maximum of twelve hours. With that, came a huge price, that if one would use it too often, they would lose control of their will. Because of his exams, girlfriend, and matches, the protagonist turns back time too many times and loses control, ending up killing his girlfriend. The crux of the story was that even though he felt like he was controlling time, in reality, it was time that was controlling him. This was an interactive film and the judge got to choose what the protagonist would do at a few junctures through the video. Their creativity and concept gave them the winning edge over the rest of the teams.



Suraj Bhatija (D16B) from team Conquerors presenting his short film

Rangoli

In this event, the teams had to make a rangoli of their respective team logos within a time frame of 3.5 hours. Furthermore, different textures were preferred. No extra materials were allowed in the last hour. **The Conquerors Aesthetics Team (MC Madhura Karadkar (D14B)**, **Sakshi Modi(D14B)**, **Heer Kukreja (D12A)**, **Harsh Suvarna (D13)**, **Gauravi Tolamatti (D7A)**, **Janhavi Bhutki (D4B)**) and **Laureates Aesthetics Team (MC Saloni Shedge (D12C)**, **Sanket Chaudhary (D7C)**, **Dhanashree Shetty (D12B)**, **Simran Sahetia (D12C)**, **Priyanka Surve (MCA1B)**, **Anjali Ranavare (MCA1B)**) tied in this event with their amazing replication. The Rangoli signifies a creative expression of art by the means of vibrant colors, and the above two teams were able to do the same with extreme precision and intricacy. "Being a final year student, this was one event I looked forward to a lot. Being the MC was just a cherry on top in this case as I have been a part of this spectacle for the past three years. Not only did I get to interact with my juniors and of course make new friends but it also gave me insight into

how conscientious everyone was with regard to their duties. I am grateful to have been a part of this distinguished play-off", said Mahima Zhambani (D18).



Rohit Baranwal (MCA 1A), **Asmita Avhad (D11A)**, **Riya Agarwal (D20)** and **Srishti Shetty (D2C)** from team Previlers with their rangoli

BOTS

BOTS or the battle of 30 seconds is one of the most exhilarating and exciting events conducted for the literature portfolio. One participant from each team is required to speak on the given topic for 30 seconds rapidly without fumbling, hesitating or making grammatical errors. In order to truncate the difficulty level, being factually correct isn't necessary for this showdown. It consisted of 3 rounds, with the 3rd round having a negative marking of a massive 10 points if your objection is overruled. It demands the presence of mind of the participant at the utmost level. Only those who are capable of speaking fluent English are chosen to participate as there are various rules which can be exploited against a participant to make them lose points. The thrill of this event cannot be described into mere words as objections are raised, sustained and overruled at the blink of an eye, totally turning tables in a split second. This event was judged by **Dr. Geeta Ajit**, Department of Humanities and Applied Sciences. **The Invaders literature team member Aditya Rao(D12B)** won this event.

Modified sports

Modified Sports was a unique blend of football and athletics which resulted in becoming a new sport in itself. The entire sports team played this event where the ankles of three pairs of attackers and a triplet of defenders were tied. Round 1 was an elimination round wherein the team which scored minimum goals were eliminated. Defenders were only allowed to be stationed in the defending half while the attackers were only allowed to move around in the attacking half. If either of them were to break the rules, they would have to freeze for two minutes giving an edge to the opponents for that time period. Additionally, both sides had buckets consisting of 8-9 balls and they had an option of throwing the ball at the opponent's attackers. If they would successfully hit their opponents, they would have to freeze for a couple of minutes. In the second half of the match, each team had an option of freeing their attackers and defenders from their pairs and triplets based on their auction money. The second round was a penalty shootout round. **The Laureates Sports Team with their MC Vilas Dhuri (D16A)**, **Nihar Wankhade (D8)**, **Pratibha Bhat (D6B)**, **Anirudh Iyer (D20)**, **Rishabh Sajin (D6A)**, **Sristi Sharma (D5B)**, **Soham Sapkal (D16A)**, **Gunjan Sureka (D4A)**, **Siddhant Easwar (D11A)**, **Abhishek Samudre (D6A)**, **Hasan Riza (D20)** and **Sagar Pujari (D4B)** won this event by a high margin because of the exceptional coordination amongst the team.

Dance

It consisted of two enthralling rounds. The first round was the elimination round where all the dance

team members had to perform based on the theme assigned to them, for a maximum of 8 minutes. **Conquerors: Comedy**
Laureates: Musical
Imperial: Romance
Intruders: Horror
Invaders: Mythology,
Prevailers: Thriller

The top 3 teams qualified for round two. In the first part of round two, five team members had to dance using props provided by the Council at the start of the performance. The Laureates team who bagged the first position in round one got the advantage of choosing the props to be used in this round. The second part of round two was the challenge round in which the other 3 members had to dance to the song provided by the opponent. The third and final part of the second round was the highly anticipated face-off round, where the last member of each team danced off and put forth a thrilling performance that kept the crowd at the edge of their seats. This event was judged by guest judge **Mr. Sachin Shirsat**. **The Laureates dance team with their MC Sahil Gangwani (D12C)**, **Shubham Sawant (D19A)**, **Omkar Hirugade (D3)**, **Harshita Kukreja (D9A)**, **Muskan Paryani (D7B)**, **Devansh Singh(D1)**, **Reshma Sawant (D13)**, **Madhura Padge (D3)**, **Sharvani Sawant(D4A)** and **Austin Mathew (D4A)** reigned supreme. "Being a part of illusions 2020 endured an incredible experience that I would cherish for the rest of my engineering journey. This was the first illusion we SEs witnessed and I got to learn a lot from my seniors and for sure made some great friends for life", said Muskan Paryani(D7B).



Devyani Pawar (D16B) and Neeraj Patil (D6B) from team Invaders depicting a scene from the Mahabharata

At the commencement of this battle royale, the undying efforts of **Team Laureates** inducted them as the **premier squad of VESIT**, by overpowering the other teams and emerging victorious in Illusion '20. Their leader **Deeksha Shetty (D20)** said, " From being a participant in this fest to leading the winning team, it has been an incredible journey. This fest has introduced me to some of the most humble, talented and hard-working people. I'm indebted to everybody who was a part of the team for their ded-



Sharvani Sawant (D4A) from team Laureates exhibiting some of the most powerful dance steps

ication, efforts, and perseverance. Looking back at those days would invariably put a smile on my face and I'm grateful for that.". **Team Imperials** also embarked on this journey with utmost enthusiasm and achieved the **second position** owing to their hard work and strategizing. Simultaneously partic-

ipating in two portfolios is an extremely strenuous task, but **Neeraj Patil (D6B)** from **Team Invaders** soared through the competition by demonstrating his talents and won the best dual portfolio award. **Siddhant Nashte**, who spearheaded **team Conquerors** was awarded as the **Best leader** and **Vilas Dhuri (D16A)** was awarded as the **best MC** taking

into account the manner in which he led the **Sports Portfolio of Team Laureates** with unending determination. This epic showdown was nothing less than a thriller, with unending twists and perfectly well-administered strategies, paving the way to transform this clash into one of the most enthralling events VESIT has witnessed.

Industrial Visits A. Y. 2019-2020

--Atharva Gupte & Tanvi Shetty

Department of EXTC:

Eighty-one students and five faculty members from the Department of Electronics and Telecommunications visited the 'Pink City' of Jaipur for an Industrial Visit. It was organized from 25th December 2019 to 29th December 2019. The entire tour was handled by Vihang Leisure Travels Pvt Ltd. The stay for the students was arranged at The Grand Rebade Hotel, Jaipur. Their industrial visit also included sightseeing around the beautiful city of Jaipur.

They visited the Dainik Bhaskar Printing Press and the students gained insight into the fields of the printing press industry. The printing press machines have the capacity to print 85000 copies of newspapers per hour and around 5-6 lakh copies of newspapers are printed in a shift of 6 hours per day. Students got practical insights of Newspaper industry. They got the chance to see the advanced process and machinery of plating, printing, coloring, newspaper folding, packaging and bundling.

The visit gave an explorative understanding to students about the various operations of the printing industry. The students also found the production and scheduling activities of Dainik Bhaskar plant interesting. The queries which were raised during the visit were answered by the officials of the industry.

Departments of CMPN and INFT:

The Departments CMPN and INFT also conducted their Industrial Visit to the Pink City, Jaipur – it was from 1st to 5th January 2020. As scheduled, the students travelled from Mumbai to Jaipur via train and were put up in a 3-star lodging, Heritage Village Resort and Spa. Their visit was not only restricted to industrial visits but also palaces, forts and various sightseeing places.

On the 2nd of January, they visited the Palace of



Students and Faculty of Electronics and Telecommunications Department at the Dainik Bhaskar Printing Press

Amber Fort. The Amber Fort consists of the Diwan-e-Aam (Hall of Public Audience), the Sheesh Mahal (Mirror palace) and the Sukh Niwas where a cool climate is artificially created by winds that blow over a water cascade within the palace. The students were divided into two groups and accompanied by a tour guide who gave an elaborate explanation about the history and heritage of the fort. The following evening the students were taken to Chokhi Dhani to experience the vibrant spirit of Rajasthan. This place was filled with talented folk performers, exhibitions and delicious authentic Ra-

jasthani food. Chokhi Dhani devotes and promotes the village art and culture and also helps millennials get in touch with their roots.

On 3rd January, the students visited a Wipro company, Appirio,. Appirio is an IT consulting company, headquartered in India that offers technology and professional services to companies wishing to adopt public cloud applications. The staff at Appirio put together an informative presentation wherein they shared insights on how their company managed to rank among prominent firms in such a re-



Students of Computer and IT department at Appirio

markedly short period of time. The students also procured instructive guidance on how they can build a successful career in the field of IT. Later in the day, they visited various local sightseeing spots for an unforgettable experience. They visited the majestic City Palace, built-in 1727, that reflects Rajput, Mughal & European architectural styles and

also the Jantar Mantar, an astronomical observatory that consists of 14 major geometric devices for measuring time.

In the evening the students were allowed to explore the streets of Jaipur and shop in the local markets. After returning to the hotel, a DJ party was ar-

ranged for the students. Said Gaurav Patil(D7B), "It was an experience of a lifetime. Not only did I learn about the working culture in industries but also got to tour this beautiful city of Jaipur, the best part being that I was with my friends." The industrial visit was undoubtedly a journey they would cherish for years to come!

First Years participate in Dadar Beach Clean-up

—Tanya Dubey

On the cool, breezy morning of Saturday, the 18th of January, around 55 first year students of VESIT, dressed in black clothes as a part of the dress code, gathered on Dadar beach at 9 am sharp. These students volunteered to travel all the way to Dadar from various corners of Mumbai, early in the morning to support this initiative by the Humanities and Applied Science Department of VESIT.

This beach cleanup drive was initiated by Dr. Pooja Kundu and Dr. Sushil Duldhar. This initiative was supported by Mr. Jay Shringarpure, founder of Jay Foundation, a businessman and a local resident who has personally adopted Dadar beach and vowed to do his best to keep it clean, whom Dr. Pooja Kundu had met during her last beach cleaning drive. The faculties present for the drive were Mr. Vivek Umrikar (HOD, H&S Department), Dr. Pooja Kundu, Dr. Sushil Duldhar, Ms. Ramya T and Dr. Shashwati M.

These students were asked to divide themselves into groups, and were given rubber gloves to wear and baskets to collect the waste. They had been instructed to collect plastic waste which does not

decompose and causes harm to marine life. The students had an amazing time cleaning the beach for it was not only about the inner satisfaction that they could experience but also it was a great opportunity for these students to get along with their batchmates.

"I firmly believe that real learning happens beyond the four walls of the classroom. The main motive behind this beach cleaning drive was to sensitize the young minds for non usage of single use plastics which is choking our environment and marine life. The cherry on the cake is that the students promised that they will minimize the usage of plastic and would love to join on many such drives in future. The seed to save our incredible environment is sown and I can positively say that is going to bear fruits in future." said Dr. Pooja Kundu

Almost seven hundred kgs of plastic waste was collected in this drive which lasted till 12 pm on that day. The collection of waste was followed by a photo session. The students very enthusiastically clicked photographs to post on various social media handles. After the satisfying beach cleanup drive, the students were treated with Vada Pav by

Mr. Vivek Umrikar. Immense contentment could be witnessed on everyone's faces after constructively utilizing their holiday by doing their level best to save mother earth.



L-R : Riya Shukla (D2B), Priyal Aggarwal (D2B), Prithviraj Chavan (D2B), Kanchan Nathani (D2C) doing their part in cleaning up the beach



Students of Humanities and Applied Science Department of VESIT alongside HOD Mr. Vivek Umrikar, Dr. Pooja Kundu, Dr. Sushil Duldhar, Ms. Ramya T and Dr. Shashwati M at Dadar Beach participated in this initiative

Skill Enhancement for Technological Breakthroughs

—Aadi Fernandes

Machine Learning is a new world technology which would essentially shift the paradigm of the world as we know it today. Most of the latest technological breakthroughs have machine learning or deep learning incorporated into it, in some form or another, which makes the understanding of this skill essentially critical. Currently, there is a high demand for technocrats who want to pursue this discipline. Keeping these statistics in mind, the Department of Electronics conducted a workshop for Machine Learning and Deep Learning using MATLAB software from 3rd to 11th of January 2020.

It was primarily administered by Mr. Abhijeet Shete, Mrs. Dipti Karani and Mrs. Sarika Kuhikar, Assistant Professors in the Department Electronics. The MATLAB software has immense support in the market due to which there are several online courses and guidelines in the community. The students watched online courses on MATLAB usage for Ramp, Machine Learning and Deep Learning, which were the guidelines that would essentially form the base for this entire workshop.

On the first day of the workshop, the students were made to recall and brush up their knowledge about simple operations of matrices such as matrix multi-

plication, transpose, and other such rules.

MATLAB is the abbreviation for Matrices Lab and was meant to handle complex mathematical computations. They were also told that all the data that is stored in MATLAB is in the form of a matrix. The detailed explanation of the software operations that are performed on the backend was also comprehensively provided by the professors.

The second day's session was them performing foundational programs such as the Fibonacci Series and number manipulation using MATLAB. This gave students a solid understanding of the ba-

sic programming practices on the software. This was followed by an introductory lecture to Image Processing which was the basis of the succeeding session.

On the third day of the workshop, a basic project was assigned to the students, to test their understanding of the prior sessions. It was a project based on electricity bill management. A large dataset was given to the students and they had to manipulate the dataset in order to obtain meaningful insights from it. They estimated the average bill and monthly usage amongst other things.



Assistant Professors Mr. Abhijeet Shete, Mrs. Sarika Kuhikar and Mrs. Dipti Karani introducing the flow of the workshop

On the fourth day, after reinforcement of the knowledge about Image Processing, the face recognition system was comprehensively explained to the participants. Then a practical programming demonstration of how the pixel and feature vector is extracted from images was explained. An integral factor that was highlighted was recognition of letters of the alphabet by the algorithm. The students were also given information about the general importance of image processing and how the consistency of images could make a huge impact on the face detection algorithms performance.



L-R: Mr. Abhishek Chaudhari, Mr. Abhijeet Shete, Dr. Parmeshwar Birajdar, Mr. Abhay Kshirsagar, Deputy HOD Mrs. Naveeta Kant, HOD Mrs. Kavita Tewari, Mrs Dipti Karani, Mrs. Sarika Kuhikar from the Department of Electronics alongside the workshop attendees

On the fifth day, another project was assigned to them which was highly mathematical and tested the technical and analytical abilities of the participants. In this project, spectra data at equal wavelengths was given to them and they had to calculate the stellar motion. They were guided by the comprehensive tutorial and the Professors who were monitoring also assisted the students.

The final session, on the last day, was essentially a detailed overview of the Capstone project. This project would encompass all the concepts that were highlighted in this session. A folder containing a plethora of photos was provided which included objects, human faces among others. They were challenged to develop a Machine Learning algorithm which would be able to recognize, classify the images and store them based on that classification.

Said Aditya Suryawanshi (D11A), one of the students who participated in this workshop, "After this workshop, I understood the functionality of MATLAB and the capabilities that it holds. Apart from that, I am confident to incorporate Machine Learning into my projects and look forward to learn more about these domains."

This initiative certainly reinforced how critical and powerful the MATLAB software is. Apart from that, the most important takeaway was the understanding of how algorithms work. The workshop assisted the students to uncover the immense capabilities of Deep Learning and Machine Learning. They discovered how these tools are already impacting the world in key domains such as retail, military and healthcare industries among countless others and how they can encompass the concepts learnt to possibly administer a technological breakthrough.

STTP Workshop on Machine Learning

-Arya Kasulla

Department of Electronics and Telecommunication, VESIT organized a week Short Term Training Program (STTP) on "Machine Learning and Deep Learning" from 30th December, 2019 to 4th January, 2020. This program was approved by AICTE. The objective of the STTP was:

- To introduce fundamentals of data mining, machine learning and deep learning with real-time applications.
- To provide useful platform for faculty, researchers and students to update their knowledge
- To focus on exploring various research opportunities and challenges in the field of machine learning, deep learning, computer vision and its applications.

Mr. Amit Mishra (Senior AI & ML Engineer) Edulab was the Speaker and trainer for the four days. He has expertise in the field of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Data Science using Python, R Programming, Cloud Computing with Amazon Web Services (AWS), Amazon Elastic Map Reduce (EMR), Talend, GoldenGate, Python programming, Pyspark, Scala of 6+ Years. He has not only assessed, designed, developed and delivered training solutions at all levels of professionals

for multiple internal support groups and external clients, but also organized weekly, monthly training sessions for the corporate working professionals as in collaborations with working company and as freelancer trainer. He has delivered training programs for the official Oracle University certification program and also for Cloudera Certification training programs. Day 5 session was conducted by **Mr. Pratik**, on Natural Language Processing.

A total of 49 faculties, including faculties from Department of Electronics and Telecommunication and other departments of VESIT and various institutes from Mumbai actively participated in this training program.

The program commenced with the inauguration of the STTP by Mr. Amit Mishra (Senior AI & ML trainer) Edulab on 30th December 2019. Dr. Ramesh Kulkarni, Deputy Head, Dept. of EXTC, welcomed the guest and participant and addressed the need of STTP. Dr. (Mrs.) Ranjan Bala Jain, Professor, Dept of Electronics and Telecom and coordinator of STTP, briefed the audience about the STTP and its objectives. In all, 15 sessions were conducted which were a blend of theory and practical on various topics of Machine Learning and Deep Learning.



Mr. Amit Mishra (Senior AI & ML Engineer at Edulab) addressing the students attending the workshop

On Day one, Mr. Amit Mishra explained the difference between Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Deep Learning with various examples. Afterwards guidelines were given for the installation of Anaconda. In practical sessions, Hands on training on Primitive Data Types, Data structures, Lists, Slicing of the Lists, Tuples, Dictionary, Conditional Statements (for, if) etc. were narrated. In the second part of the practical session, Importing different Libraries, File handling like reading file from location, functions like read(), describe(), info(), head(), isnull().sum(), and plotting of graphs like Heatmap Graph etc. were simplified.

On Day 2, important concepts like cleaning and preprocessing of data, determination of outliers, Q1, Q2, Q3 with box plots were illustrated. Then feature extraction using correlation function, model training by linear regression, model testing by calculation of cost function and optimization of model by Gradient descent algorithms were taught in detail. Hands on training on the same were conducted to understand the concepts in a better way and the accuracy of the trained model was computed with different data sets.

Day 3 saw the demonstration of installation of tensor flow and Keras. The need of logistic regression algorithm, its cost function was explained in length. The important concepts of Decision tree, KNN algorithm, entropy, information gain, overfitting etc. were outlined with suitable examples and the same were practiced by participants using MNIST digit images, IRIS and diabetes data set.

Day 4 was devoted to neural network and deep learning. The participants were introduced with terminology like neurons, dendrites, synapses, terminal buttons etc. related to neural networks. Next to this, the basic artificial neuron model to perform logic operations was described. On the same day participants also learned tensor flow concepts, related functions and usage of activation function. To solve the problems of image classification, face rec-

ognition, object detection etc. Convolution neural network model was discussed and tested with data set of fashion MNIST images.

Day 5 was conducted by Mr. Pratik on Natural language processing used for text processing, website reviews and many more.

So overall, it was a rigorous training program, fine details of each and every aspect were covered by both experts.

STTP was then concluded by distribution of certificates, mementos and 16 GB pen drive loaded



The faculty members along with the students from EXTC who attended the workshop

LaTex Workshop

Scientific papers are critical to the evolution of modern science and its practices. Specifically, for engineers, writing and publishing papers in an integral aspect of learning and development of their technical abilities.

Keeping these facts under consideration, the Department of Electronics organized a Workshop on Thesis Writing/ Presentation making and Paper/ Article writing using LaTeX under IIC and Research forum. The workshop was conducted on the 18th January 2020. Coordinators of the workshop were faculties from Department of Electronics, Mr. Abhay Kshirsagar and Dr. Parmeshwar Birajdar. About 60 students from the fourth year participated in this workshop.

LaTeX, a document preparation system, is widely used for publishing in many scientific fields like

mathematics, statistics, computer science, engineering, chemistry, physics etc. It provides a logical approach to create documents instead of a physical, enhancing consistency. It is the de facto standard for the communication and publication of scientific documents, primarily because mathematical formulas are easier to type on this system.

The talk covered the following topics:

- Introduction to Latex.
- Software installation, different IDEs, and on-line platforms.
- Handle different types of documents (scientific papers, Thesis, and PPT)
- Organize documents into different sections, subsections, etc.
- Formatting pages and text
- Writing complex mathematical formulae

with books on machine learning, python, anaconda installation set up and study material given by experts. Participants gave their valuable feedback about the sessions conducted in the STTP, and how it will benefit them in their respective fields. Coordinator, Dr. Ranjan Bala Jain read the report of STTP. Finally, Mrs. Shoba Krishnan, Head, Dept of EXTC., gave a vote of thanks to the participants and dignitaries and thus concluded the program.

-Anushika Kulkarni

Include tables and images in the document
 Cross-referencing, bibliography, and Indexing
 Create presentations using Beamer

Anandlakshmi R Kumar (D16A) said, “As our final year project submission approaches, this workshop was conducted at an opportune moment and I will definitely incorporate it while writing the thesis, in order to to be able present the data aesthetically with the powerful tools provided by LaTeX.”

The workshop was concluded with the students understanding the significance of LaTeX and by availing the software, the students were also able to comprehend its potential for utilization of its tools for scientific paper and thesis writing.



HOD Mrs. Kavita Tewari, Mr. Abhay Kshirsagar and Dr. Parmeshwar Birajdar of the Department of Electronics



Dr. Parmeshwar Birajdar explaining the document organization in LaTeX

VESIT Voice

-Gayatri Belapurkar

New year, new beginnings and new resolutions; all mark the month of January and its spirit. Hitting this very note, we bring to you the first issue of the year 2020. The spirit of January was evidently reflected in the attitude of VESITians as they prepared enthusiastically for the cultural fest, Illusions '20, and made it an event worth remembering. The 71st Republic Day was celebrated by all the VES Institutions with great fervour. Students were also seen gearing up for the next season of Smart India Hackathon. The college conducted a screening round, wherein the students were required to present their solutions in merely three slides. This was followed by an internal hackathon, after which the five selected teams were eligible for the national level screening. The socially woke students of VESIT participated in a beach cleaning drive. The students of various departments also had the chance to go for an industrial visit. A skill development workshop was also held for the student of the Department of Electronics. Prof. Birajdar also conducted a Latex workshop to familiarise students with its use.

VESITians exhibited their talent at the IIT Bombay debate and the debate at Fr. C. Rodrigues Institute of Technology, Vashi. Ex-VESITian, Rahul Panicker obliged and conducted a film editing workshop. Virtual Octaves was also conducted, as a pre-event of Octaves 2020. Along with all this, societies such as IEEE, ISA, CSI and Spice have also been having their own set of events, thus keeping the students on their toes since the very first month of the new year and the new semester.

On the sports front, we have VESITians battling on with complete enthusiasm. Students shone at KJ Somaiya Skream and an intercollege throwball competition. Sphurtti 2020 for students and teachers has provided good relief from the hectic schedules. VPL has also begun and is in its preliminary stages.

This month, in the diaries section, we have Mr. Venkatraman, who works at a high position in Thyssenkrupp, give his piece of advice to the students.

Have fun reading this issue!

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Lighting 'The Gen-Z Spark' with Eloquence

-Anushka Kulkarni

Debates provide a sterling platform for critical thinking, expression of enthralling ideas and coming closer to solutions for problems that we face as a human-centered planet. With an aim to sensitize and encourage the youth for adopting a socially conscious outlook, a debate competition, titled - 'Adhikaar', was held at IIT Bombay. The Debate Competition was conducted by the social body of IIT-Bombay - 'Abhyuday', as a part of its 7th edition Annual Social festival which took place on 18th & 19th January 2020, based on the theme 'The Gen-Z Spark'. The competition was held in two rounds; the initial round was an extempore-speech round after which, out of the 23 participating teams, 3 teams qualified for the final round. The final round was a debate/rebuttal round.

Among the 23 teams of articulate and competent debaters, CV Ananya (D14A) and Adith Nair (D14B) from VESIT, on account of their impeccable locution

and presence of mind secured the fourth position in the first round. Their topic was "The House believes that the formation of Student Union is deeply regretted" wherein Ananya had to speak in support of the motion and Adith, against the motion. The topic was given to them just six minutes prior to their speech but they demonstrated absolute professionalism and made some really excellent points.

CV Ananya said "The competition was interesting but the format of the contest deviated from the usual debate competitions, (the speech round being the first round) which we had not anticipated, we were looking forward to the rebuttal round which is our forte. Nonetheless, it was a great experience"



C.V Ananya (D14A) and Adith Nair (D14B) at IIT Bombay

Debate Masters in VESIT

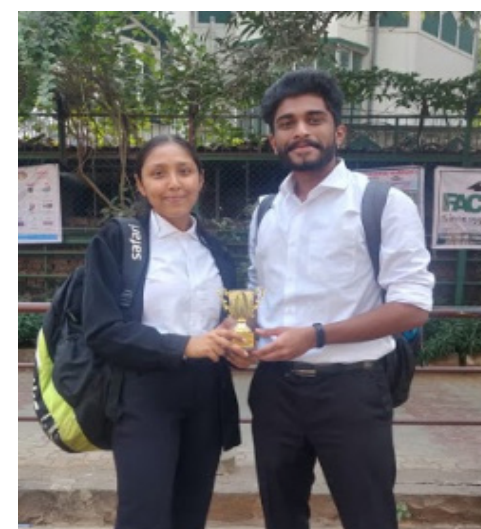
-Sristi Kushwaha

SAMVAAD 2020, the much-acclaimed debating competition, jointly organized by Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Institute of Technology and Agnel School of Law at the Fr. Agnel campus in Vashi, was held on 18 January 2020. **Sahil Salian (D9B)** and **Bhuvana Raisinghani (D9A)** from VESIT secured the First position defeating their opponent, New Law College, Mahim.

Three debate teams from VESIT participated in SAMVAAD 2020. The first round was the preliminary round, which was conducted at random among the 24 teams from all over the Mumbai including various law and engineering colleges. Two teams from VESIT, Sahil Salian (D9B) & Bhuvana Raisinghani (D9A), and Atharva Gadkari (D8) & Neeraj Patil (D6B) made it through the first round, but were

up against each other in the quarterfinals. Sahil and Bhuvana cleared the quarterfinals, and went to the semifinal round, where they once again, with their brilliant fluency and line of reasoning, defeated their opponents and qualified for the finals. The enthused audience was on the edge of their seats for the final round of the debating contest as the VESIT engineering students debated with the law students.

Sahil and Bhuvana received remarkable compliments from Dr. Rashmi Oza, HOD of Law, University of Mumbai, who was the judge of the event. They received a grand cash prize of Rs 12,000 along with a trophy and certificates. "It was indeed humbling to debate against such talented people including aspiring lawyers and masters of sciences but in the end, it was their court, their laws but our win!", said Sahil.



Bhuvana Raisinghani (D9A) and Sahil Salian (D9B) with the winning trophy

MUNs: Being in the Shoes of a Diplomat

- Kaushal Jagasia

"Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of people and who would preserve what is good and fruitful for the national heritage"

- Dwight D Eisenhower

A Model United Nations (MUN) conference, as the name suggests, is a simulation of an actual United Nations conference. It enables an individual to get familiar with current and past world affairs and also offers to bolster one's knowledge about foreign policies of different countries while fostering debating and communication skills. The Institute of Chemical Technology, Matunga organized a MUN Conference on the 11th and 12th of January. **Avinash Tripathy (D9B)** registered for the United Nations Security Council Committee and was allotted the Russian Federation. The agenda at hand was the 'Syrian Crisis' referring to the ongoing civil war which involves the military forces of countries such as the USA, France, UK, Turkey, Israel amongst others.

The first session of the first day saw participants discussing the civil conflict and the human rights issue. The committee was taken away with the humanitarian issues although the main objective should've been the discussion on military operations carried out by various countries in Syria. Avinash, as the delegate of the Russian Federation, along with the Delegate of Iran led the committee and addressed the elephant in the room in the second session. "It's simple, humanitarian issues are dealt in the UN Human Rights Council while security issues and maintaining peace comes under the mandate of the UNSC", said Avinash.

The highlight of day one was when the Delegate of Saudi Arabia accepted that Bashar al-Assad (President of Syria) deserved to be the ruler of Syria. In reality, Saudi Arabia has numerous times called for Bashar al-Assad to be removed from power. Hence the Delegate of Saudi Arabia's foreign policy was violated which really spiced things up in the committee. Day one came to an end with the Syrian Delegate claiming that countries view this crisis as an opportunity to enter Syria by sending their military troops



Shlok Jagushte (D6B) and Avinash Tripathy (D9B) with their certificates at VJTI MUN

but the presence of multiple troops complicates things and also breaches the sovereignty of Syria.

Day Two showed the extensive efforts delegates put in as there was a productive discussion in which the committee explored all the issues pertaining to the agenda. After an exhilarating session, one of the committees moved forward to suggesting solutions and doing paperwork in the second session. This session really tested the diplomatic skills and negotiation abilities of all the delegates. The delegate of the United States was absent on both days which helped the cause of certain delegates and they took full advantage of it. One of the key points introduced in the paperwork of the delegate of the Russian Federation (Avinash) was that 'the USA should withdraw the military operations in Syria'. This notion was backed by the delegate of Iran and the delegate of Syria. In the final phase of day two, the Committee voted upon the paperwork, turned into draft resolutions, presented by different delegates. Unfortunately for Avinash, his draft resolution was not passed as the delegate of France exploited the Veto Power granted to the P5 nations. That was a fitting end to an eventful two-day conference. Avinash Tripathy was adjudged as the 'Best Orator' for his efforts and was awarded a cash prize of two thousand five hundred rupees.

A VESIT Contingent comprising of **Avinash Tripathy (D9B)**, **Himesh Shadiza (D9A)** and **Shlok Jagushte (D6B)** registered for a MUN Conference, VJMUN, organized by the Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute, Matunga on the 18th and 19th of January. They opted for Lok Sabha, an Indian Committee, which gave them the chance to personify national representatives and engage in a healthy discussion on the agenda in hand, 'Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill' (LARR). The Congress government had put forward the LARR Bill (which was passed in both houses and turned into an Act) in 2013 when they were in power but the BJP Government, after it assumed power, amended the 2013 Act

and put forward the modified LARR Bill in 2015.

Himesh and Shlok found themselves to be in the same boat as their respective allotments were Subhramanyam Jaishankar and Sunil Soren of the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) Avinash found himself to be on the opposite side as his allotment was the MP who makes us all reach out for a dictionary, Dr. Shashi Tharoor of the Indian National Congress (INC). The Committee had a total of 35 members with a good balance between the Ruling Party and the Opposition Party. Even before the session formally begun, the members got into a debate regarding the 'Question Hour' and the 'Zero Hour'. The Committee came to a consensus that the 'Question Hour' would be held in the last session of the first day while the 'Zero Hour' will be held the next day.

The first formal session of the day saw each member giving an 'Opening Statement'. The Prime Minister is the first one to give an Opening Statement followed by the Leader of Opposition and the other members of the ruling party and the opposition party also make their statements in alternate turns. The ruling members put forward the benefits of the Act and explained why there was a need for it while the Opposition members duly did their job as they pointed out the drawbacks of the Act. They brought an end to the first session.

The second session was when things got exciting in the Committee as the Ruling and the Opposition got into a war of words and spiked up a debate. There was a brief comparison of the 2015 Bill with respect to the 2013 Act. Economic aspects of the Bill were also discussed in this session.

As decided earlier, the third session which was to be the last session of the day saw the members engaging in the 'Question Hour'. In reality the Question Hour is the first hour of a sitting session of Lok Sabha devoted to questions that Members of Parliament (Opposition) raise about any aspect of administra-



Avinash Tripathy engaged in a discourse during the ICT MUN

tive activity. There are 2 types of questions, starred and non-starred. Starred questions are the ones for which an oral reply is expected while for the non-starred ones a written reply is expected. For the sake of fair participation, a simulation of the Lok Sabha allows both the Ruling Party and the Opposition Party to ask questions to each other. "In my opinion the Ruling Party members made some really controversial statements during the Question Hour. Most of the answers were unsatisfactory as they tried to dodge away from certain trick questions asked by us (Opposition)." said Avinash. That brought down the curtains for day one.

The participating members picked up the tempo where they left it off the previous day as they continued with the 'Question Hour'. However the most riveting and fierce discussion of the two days took place in the 'Zero Hour'. In reality, the time immediately following the Question Hour has come to be known as "Zero Hour". It starts at around 12 noon i.e 00:00:00 (hence the name) according to the Lok Sabha clock. This is the most chaotic phase of the Lok Sabha and the participating members of VJ-MUN simulated it quite well in the conference. The 'Zero Hour' was observed for just twenty minutes yet it managed to attract the members of the Organizing Committee to the conference room. The Op-

position had the upper hand as they raised questions on the economic downfall and even questioned the authenticity of the PM's educational qualifications. The controversial issue of 'Ram Mandir' was also talked upon as both the ruling and opposition members created a lot of ruckus and commotion while the OC members remained glued to their seats. This set the tone for the rest of the day.

The second session saw participants retaining the momentum from the previous session as they got to the legal aspects of the Bill. It was an intellectually enriching session as members thoroughly discussed every single clause in the Bill. The Opposition looked for loopholes and sought answers regarding the same. The Ruling members defended the clauses and gave reasons for the same while constantly taking digs at the Opposition by reminding them that the vote of the people no longer lies with them. After a comprehensive analysis of the entire bill it was time for all members to make their Closing Statements in the third and final session. A pattern similar to the Opening Statement is followed wherein Ruling Party members and Opposition members speak alternatively with the only difference being that the Leader of Opposition is the second last person to speak while the Prime Minister is the last speaker.

The final act of the two day conference saw the Opposition advising amendments to the Bill and a voting session took place for each amendment. Unfortunately for the Opposition no amendment was introduced in the Bill as they fell short of one or two votes in each of the voting sessions. "There was some infighting in the Ruling Party as members were not ready to hear each other out and had different strategies. On one occasion I voted against my party on an amendment, which was put forward by Avinash from the Opposition, because it sat well with me. That stirred up more drama in the Ruling side." said Shlok.

At the end of the enthralling two day conference our students were rewarded for their commendable speeches, impact on the committee and the efforts they put in the research work. Avinash Tripathy and Shlok Jagushte shared the 'Best Parliamentarian' award and got a cheque of two thousand rupees each while Himesh Shadiza was also lauded as he got the 'Verbal Mention'.

Councils

Octaves with a Twist

-Shruti Bondre

With the exams over and embedded in the long winter break, the VESIT Music Council decided to spice up the environment at VESIT. They came up with the idea of "Virtual Octaves"- the perfect predecessor for their upcoming mega event- **Octaves**.

The idea was to draw out the finest musical talent in VESIT through an online medium. All the participants had to upload a 90 second video displaying their talent on the drive link and sharing it with the council on or before 29 December 2019. After evaluating all the entries, the council posted some of the best videos on their instagram page. An online poll was conducted to declare the winner amongst the various categories. The students of VESIT would decide the winners.

The event was divided into three categories- Solo Singing, Solo Instrumentals and Band Performances. Each Video was to be shared with the respective Category in-charges students. Evaluation criteria was based on pitching and scaling, Rhythmic sense and the video presentation.



Winner of Solo Instrumentals-Aditya Rana (D1)

After rigorous evaluation of various rounds, the Council declared the finalists of the categories on their Instagram page.

The finalists for Solo Instrumental:

1. Aditya Rana (D1)-Guitar
2. Kunal Khaladkar (D14B)- Guitar
3. Chinmay Prabhugate (D6B)- Tabla

The finalists for Solo Singing:

1. Sanika Indulkar (D6A)
2. Sudipa Majumdar (D4A)
3. Vaishnavi H.S. (D6B)

Now, time for the final battle! The polling on the Music Council Instagram page began and the verdict was soon announced. The winners for the respective categories were:

Instrumentals: Aditya Rana (D1)

Solo Singing: Sudipa Majumdar (D4A)

Band Performances: Band A (Kunal Khaladkar (D14B), Swastika Majumdar (D16B), Abhinav Velidi (D17C), Vaibhav Talwadkar (D11B))

Mridul Mohan (Music Secretary) was amazed at the huge response received from the students- "Virtual octaves was basically to create the hype for octaves. We were waiting for the FEs to get down with their exams to start with the event to use the vacation span that we had as we are the only council who can provide entertainment even during the vacation phase without even physically meeting each other. Well, we received around 20 entries in each category which is a huge number considering people were busy with their internships and projects."

Sharing her experience of participating in an online competition, Sanika Indulkar (D6A) said, "Well it was really different than singing live in front of an audience. No pressureno stress. I can take my time, get ready and then sing. It was a completely different experience. Overall a great initiative by the Music Council!!"



Winner of Solo Singing-Sudipa Majumdar (D4A)



Winner of Band Performance-Kunal Khaladkar (D14B), Vaibhav Talwadkar (D11B), Abhinav Velidi (D17C) and Swastika Mazumdar (D16B)

VESLit's Film Editing Workshop: More Than What You See!

-Atique Kudchi & Anushika Kulkarni

The perquisites of **filmmaking** are huge, particularly blossoming young people's creativity, as well as soft skills such as communication and teamwork. This month, VESLit brought forth a sterling opportunity for VESITians to excel in the field of Visual Arts and represent the college in inter-collegiate competitions. The VESLit Circle organised a workshop on Advanced Film Editing held by Alumnus, **Rahul Panicker** who was also a VESLit Circle member during his time. Rahul Panicker has distinguished himself in the field of Visual Arts and had won many awards for our college. He is an entrepreneur, digital marketer and also a musician who has a number of music videos to his credit. The workshop took place in Room CA3 and was held in three parts, on three consecutive Saturdays starting from the 18th January 2020. The organiser of the workshop was the VESLit Film division: Faaiz Dastagir (Head of Film Division, D11B), Tanmai

Govindan (D11B), Varun Pillai (D11B), Aditya Bhoir (D11B), Arnab Saha (D9B).

The motive of the workshop was to give adequate training and guidance to all the filmmakers who have the determination and perseverance to become excellent in their fields. The objective of the workshop's was to increase the skillset and also to instil a thought-process of 'What It Takes' to make a good film. The workshop was attended by students from different branches, many of whom were first-timers in film editing and they all found the workshop very encouraging and helpful.

Dhaval Mahajan (D4A), who attended the 3-day workshop said, "It was really amazing to have Rahul Panicker and VESLit conduct the workshop as they are all very skilled filmmakers and also great teachers. Rahul also shared with us his experiences and

the challenges he faced during his engineering life and how he overcame them, which made this workshop all the more motivating and meaningful to us."



Rahul Panicker, alumni and Ex-VESLit Circle member, conducting the workshop

Societies

IEEE-VESIT Returns with the Clash of Conquerors

-Hridesh Kamal

IEEE-VESIT's mega-event comes back for another edition as minds clashed in a battle of strategies. This edition of the strategy-based card game was held on the 21st and 22nd of January 2020 at the VESIT campus. The event was open for second, third and fourth-year students who competed in teams of three in a battle of survival spanning over three rounds.

Participants progressed in the competition by winning their table to reach the next round. The event was a platform for participants to display their wits and they grabbed the opportunity with both hands. One of the finalists, Raghav Heda (D17C) said "This event brings out a lot of competitive spirit amongst the participants. It is always fun to be a part of such fun events."

The competition lived up to its reputation. The constant intensity of battles at each table made it necessary for the participants to adapt and improvise on the go. "Even if you are playing (in the) second or third round you can never be sure whether your planned strategy will work on this table and you're

forced to think on your feet," said Raghav's teammate Dishank Poddar of D17C.

The final round of the event was held on 22nd January 2020 and the three teams to reign supreme are:

First Place:

Jugal Kahlon (D16A)

Prathamesh Shukla (D16A)

Gurkirat Wadhawan (D16A)

Second Place:

Dishank Poddar (D17C)

Sanika Chavan (D17C)

Raghav Heda (D17C)

Third Place:

Dinesh Kanan (D7C)

Praneel Rastogi (D7C)

Vinayak Baranwal (D7C)



Dealer handing out the initial cards

Quizzards befuddled over the puzzle assigned to them

-Tanya Dubey

IEEE-VESIT conducted its one of the most exciting event 'Quizzard' on Thursday, 16 January for the second and third-year students. The students were allowed to participate in groups of two or three. A total of fourteen teams participated from second-year while there were six teams from the third year.

The first round was an elimination round which consisted of crosswords on computer security. Ten out of the fourteen junior teams qualified for the second round. There were no eliminations for the senior teams.

citement continued to grow as we qualified for the further rounds. The questions were fascinating and the event was quite engrossing," said Himesh Shadiza (D9A)

The second round consisted of answering technical questions on various branches and guessing the personality. There were four blocks, each with a question. The participants had to choose a block and then had to answer the question. With each correct answer, a part of the personality's face was revealed. The teams were rewarded points for identifying the personality.

After an exhilarating second round, five teams qualified for the third round. It was the final round and consisted of general knowledge questions. The final round truly challenged the participants.

"The quiz had a variety of topics and hence the quality of questions was great. There was a minor inconvenience which led to a delay of about thirty minutes, however, the inconvenience was solved swiftly and the coordinators were very efficient," said Varun Bhat (D9A)

The results of this year's Quizzard are:

Seniors:

"I was pretty much excited about this event. The ex-

Winners: Prateek Menon (D12A), Shravan Bhat (D12A), Srivatsan Iyengar (D12A)

1st Runners up: Nihar Abhyankar (D15), Shubham Kelkar (D15), Tejas Shinde (D15)

2nd Runners up: Aditya Deopurkar (D12A), Sahil Talreja (D12A), Pratik Rane (D12A)

Juniors:

Winners: Himesh Shadiza (D9A), Ayushi Pamnani (D9A), Varun Bhat (D9A)

1st Runners up: Hritwik Ekade (D7C), Abhishek Odrani (D7C), Ajay Gupta (D7C)

2nd Runners up: Kaustubh Salve (D9A), Saheb Wadhwa (D9A)



Quizzards scratch their heads over the puzzle assigned to them

Exploring the Future with ISA

-Mihir Pamnani

The best way to predict your future is to create it.

-Abraham Lincoln

On 17 January 2020, ISA-VESIT organized an interactive session called 'B.E and Beyond' to inform senior year students of the opportunities awaiting for them, post their B.E. course. The SEs and TE of the ISA council were summoned to discuss this spectrum of probabilities available out there for them.

The session commenced with **Yash Keskar (D18)** emphasizing upon the CAT entrance exam for the Graduate Management Program. He discussed its finer aspects and also gave essential tricks to crack the same. **Yash, himself has scored 98.3 percentile in the CAT exam and a whopping 99.99 in XAT.** Further, the Chief Executive Officer of the ISA Council, Mrunmayee Gokhale along with Gaurav Tuntune (Senior Treasurer) and Apurva Patil (Chief Technical Officer) explained the placement procedures for core companies and answered queries raised by students regarding the same.

For the students interested in studying abroad, **Ashwin Pillay (D18)** shared words of wisdom from his preparation days, enlightening students with his exam strategy and also enlisted various links for reliable study material and question papers for GRE examination. Whereas, **Vishakha Marathe (D18)** threw light on the IELTS examination and explained the steps involved in admissions abroad.

Similarly, all the perplexities and buzz regarding the

GATE exam was absolved by **Prathemesh Mulay (D18)** efficiently with illustrations. And, lastly, it was **Anahita Goswami (D19A)** who helped students comprehend the placement procedure for IT companies effectively.

In a nutshell, the session was interactive and aided students in broadening their future goals and perspectives. The session's success was ensured by students portraying a great deal of enthusiasm, interest and confidence.



ISA Council members Mrunmayee Gokhale (D18), Gaurav Tuntune (D18) and Apurva Patil (D18) share their placement experiences

Learning to Visualize with ISA

-Kaushal Jagasia

Vision is the most dynamic of all our senses since it provides us with a huge amount of information about what surrounds us. It is not surprising that an ancient Chinese proverb that quotes: "A picture is worth a thousand words" is still widely used. All this information is valuable for simple procedures (for example planning our everyday activities), but also for more complex processes as the development of our intelligence. At the level of social organization, images are also important as a means of transmitting information, and almost all

of today's media are based on our vision. The huge amount of visual information and the need for its processing, lead scientists and technicians towards research in order to discover a means for digital image storage and processing using computers. This effort resulted in a new Information Engineering Industry called "Digital Image Processing and Analysis".

International Society of Automation-VESIT (ISA-VESIT), understanding the importance of this subject, conducted a three day workshop on Image

Processing using Python and OpenCV from 21st-23rd January 2020. The workshop was conducted by Mr.Prithvi Shetty(D13) Secretary at ISA-VESIT, Mr.Aditya Ganesh(D13) Jr. Technical Officer at ISA-VESIT, Mr.Nilesh Talreja(D12A) Executive Officer at ISA-VESIT, Ms.Shubhangi B(D13) Executive Officer at ISA-VESIT and Mr.Lewin Noronha(D14B) Chief Editor at ISA-VESIT.

The workshop took place in the Smart Classrooms on the third floor where participants were taught the basics of Python which included various



Prithvi Shetty elucidating on Image Processing by OpenCV

libraries of Python such as OpenCV and Numpy. Further, they were taught the use of OpenCV in image processing, applications of image processing like face recognition, gesture recognition & mini-game development were also discussed.

On the first day of the workshop, Python, it's

working, syntax and it's implementation was carried out. By the end of the first day, the session turned out to be very interactive and the participants had a grasp over the concepts being taught.

On the second day of the workshop, working of programs related to various aspects of image processing like contours, dilation, etc were discussed in detail as well as how to tune images based on the users need was found very interesting by the participants.

On the last day, applications of OpenCV were taught in detail. Practicals based on previously gained knowledge were performed. Various aspects of images were tuned and live-feed of computer camera was used for detecting gestures, faces and colours.

Along with this, construction of a mini game using these recognition features was demonstrated. "The students particularly enjoyed creating the mini project based on gesture recognition", says Aaryaa Padhyegurjar (D11A), the Junior Public Relations Officer of ISA-VESIT, who was thrilled to see enthu-



Nilesh Talreja(D12A) delivering a lecture on the basics of Python

siastic attendees.

The workshop was an interactive learning experience where the students gained meaningful insights about Image Processing and how it could shift the paradigm of majority of industries through it's exceptionally innovative real time applications.

Decoding the Hidden Cipher

-Sneha Kartik

In the present scenario, a monumental number of commercial transactions on the internet are performed every single second. Cryptography is critical in ensuring the security of the transactions and Cipher is an algorithm for performing the encryption or decryption of those transactions. Taking this aspect of data security and encryption into consideration, CSI (Computer Society of India) VESIT conducted their flagship event "The Hidden Cipher" on 21 January 2020. The CSI VESIT Council crafted an exhaustive paper elimination which was conducted on the 20 January 2020, during class breaks. It incorporated ciphers such as Caesar, Rail Fence, TapCode and the Morse code, among several others. After a rigorous battle of brains and wit, the top 24 teams were shortlisted for the event which was conducted over a series of knockout rounds:

Round 1: A questionnaire was provided to each team and they were shown a picture on the presentation, following which they need to tell them the first word that comes to their mind. This round was repeated twice and led to the elimination of twelve teams.

Round 2: This was a buzzer round and was similar to the first round, except that the team who would press the buzzer first would be the one to answer. Failure

in answering the question after pressing the buzzer or giving the incorrect answer would lead to negative marking. This round led to the elimination of six other teams. **Round 3:** This round had an interesting twist and the round took place in two sections. The inactive participants had been vested with the power of situating bets on whether the active participants would be able to decipher the code. The number of points that could be placed on the betting table was based on the inactive team's points in the first round. If their hypothesis would turn out to be correct, and they would win the bet, and would absorb those stipulated number of points from the active team they placed the bet on. On the contrary, if they lose the bet, their points would be transferred to the active team. **Round 4:** For the final round, there were four teams clashing against each other. One member was supposed to sit on the first row and a task was designated to them and they had to encode the task and provide a cipher key to the council. The other team member who was sitting on the last bench was given six keys jumbled up with the key given by the other teammate. Now, the other team members had to figure out the decoding key and perform the decoded task. The event concluded with the results:

FIRST PLACE

Srivatsan Iyengar (D12A)
Sahil Talreja (D12A)
Shravan Bhat (D12A)

SECOND PLACE

VaradKshemkalyani (D12A)
Pratheek Menon (D12A)
AmayChugh (D12A)

Said Pratheek Menon (D12A), one of the participants, "The event really stood up to its expectations. The difficulty level kept on rising with each round and they all tested different skills of the participants which made the event all the more interesting. I particularly liked the ambigram round a lot as it really tested one's observational skills and reflexes in pressing the buzzer. All in all, it was fun and enlightening at the same time." CSI had gone to the very depth of every cipher to effectively test and challenge the contestants. The mind-boggling questions were key to not only understanding these ciphers but to understand how they are incorporated and implemented for protecting data around the world.



Yash Wadhvani (D7C) hosting the hidden cipher event with utmost enthusiasm

Musings & Expressions



Tejas Doke(D14A)



“The King of Beasts - Symbol of Strength and Royalty”
by Tejas Atul Dhopavkar (D7A)

VESIT Diaries

Mr. Venkatraman S. joined the first batch of VESIT in the year 1984 and was conferred his degree in Electronic Engineering. Even though he was in the Electronics branch, his prime interest vested in Software Development and Information Technology. Initially he worked in Teletronix India and ICIM as a Customer Support Engineer. He got a major breakthrough in Premier Automobiles Limited where he secured the dream job as a Software Trainee Programmer and worked for around 8 years. He holds close to his heart his delightful journey from Trainee Programmer - Senior Programmer - System Analyst - Team Manager and he remains very passionate about his work. Later, he joined Reckitt Piramal Limited where he was Manager-Information Systems and was responsible for establishing *computerization* across all locations in India and rolling out an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) suite called Business Planning and Control System (BPCS). He got trained from IBM on the BPCS Commercial module and was responsible in successfully deploying the same in India and Bangladesh. For the past 20 years he has been working for ThyssenKrupp Industrial Solutions (India) and is currently heading the Information Technology function. He gave us immense integral insights about his life in the industry and at VESIT.

What are your responsibilities at tkIS India?

tkIS India is into Engineering Consultancy business in the area of Chemical and Process Technologies. As the head of IT function, I am primarily responsible for IT Operations & Management with a prime objective of enabling business and meeting *internal* and *external* customer requirements. Our company executes local and *international* business projects and it is essential to provide a robust IT set-up and tools to support our business for execution, communication & collaboration. Proactive IT services and support needs to be provided without production downtime, right from Sales, Engineering, Imple-

mentation, Construction till Plant Commissioning and handover. *Safety, Compliance, Quality, Information Security* and *Cost Consciousness* are other key areas we do not compromise on.

What skills should students hone to land up with a good job?

Students generally focus more on academics and technical knowledge. I also feel that *behavioral* and *soft skills* are equally important and need to be focused on. They need to be in constant touch with the requirements of the market and the developments in the industry. They need to work on their confidence, presentation and negotiation skills. This will make them an all-rounder and help them in facing the world confidently.

What do you look for in a fresher while hiring?

Basic technical knowledge gained from their studies is taken for granted and they can always be honed. I mainly focus on their dream, passion and other soft aspects like team player, communication and collaboration skills, etc., to find the right fit and ensure that their knowledge, skillsets and expectations match the job requirements. For overall success in your career, you need to have good *functional* and *behavioral skills*. Our HR team works alongside us to evaluate prospective candidates for their soft skills, backgrounds and related personality attributes and traits, before making an offer for employment.

What are your views on people changing jobs frequently?

Every generation has a different set of expectations. The expectations of the earlier generations were long term and on a stable job with a good company. The current generation called millennial wants to pursue their passion, work and live anywhere, be independent, take more risks and like to have a more open culture with a good work life balance. They focus only on the results and are even open to joining



Mr. Venkatraman S.

startups and small companies as it enables them to fulfill their passion quickly. Alongside their work, they also look to fulfill social responsibilities and other hobbies that they love. I believe that as long as you are fulfilling your passion and you are enjoying your work it doesn't matter. You should be daring to go, keep delivering and learning to the best of your abilities and be happy in whatever you are doing.

What would you like to tell the students who cannot join the branch of their choice?

If you have a dream and are passionate about what you want to pursue – Go for IT and Just DO IT. Do not get swayed by what others say. Nowadays there are many career options and different paths which can lead you towards your final destination by which you can make your dream a reality and accomplish

your goal. By the way, I would like to mention here that each branch of engineering is important and has extensive scope in their respective domains.

How would you describe your college life?

Honestly, the first year of engineering was challenging for me as it took me some time to get adjusted to the curriculum and the atmosphere. From the third semester onwards, I got accustomed to it and thereafter it was an enjoyable college life with lots of technical learning and a generous sprinkling of sports & extracurricular activities adding spice. I used to study with my friends and we used to teach each other based on the subjects we were well versed with. The journey was tough but I learnt quite a lot and finally emerged as a winner. And this served as a source of strength when I finally entered the industry.

How important are extracurricular activities?

Physical and mental health are two extremely important aspects that need to be actively dealt with. I was in the VESIT Inter-College Cricket team, the game I am still passionate about and it helped me in maintaining my physical fitness and at the same time maybe release some stress and tension. I used to play cricket for at least two hours in the evening before exams which would assist me to relax and focus. Nowadays students attend additional courses or go for internship when they get a break or a vacation and they lose out on relaxing and unwinding. Social responsibility, building relations and physical activity are integral in overall development of an individual.

What message would you like to give to the students of VESIT?

You need to be very clear on your mission and goal.

Technology has got a great role to play in the progress of any country and that is where an *engineer* can make a difference and contribute. Businesses are embedding technology to be more competitive and provide better *customer experience*. On the IT front, futuristic and emerging technologies like Cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics & Automation, 3D printing, Chatbots, Robotic Process Automation, etc., have a good potential to make an impact. My message to the students is to have a clear purpose & dream while pursuing the same with passion, take it easy and focus on attaining and improving continually your functional and behavioral skills. Wish you all a successful career and a good life ahead. All the best.

Sports

VESITians Shine at Ignitra '20

-Vanshika Dangi

With the semester off to a great start, the intercollege tournaments have also started in full swing. VESIT's intercollegiate sports teams have left no stone unturned when it comes to practising hard and winning laurels for college.

Saint Francis Institute of Technology organized a Throwball Tournament on 15th January during their sports fest Ignitra'20. The VESIT Throwball Team participated in this tournament and secured the first position. They displayed exceptional skills and outmanoeuvred their opponents with great prowess.

The members of the victorious Throwball Team are:

Juhi Ajwani (Captain) (D14A)
Tamanna Saini (D12B)
Aayushi Ved (D9B)

Vanshika Dangi (D9B)
Reshma Sawant (D13)
C.V Ananya (D14A)
Smriti Karn (D1)
Stuti Karn (D14B)
Sakshi Yendhe (D14C)
Nikita Joshi (D9B)

C.V Annaya(D14A) said, " This proved to be an exceptional opportunity for us, being a part of this team has been a new experience. It is nice to get out of the rigorous academic schedules and go out on the field and play your heart out."



Smriti Karn (D6), Sakshi Yendhe (D14C), Reshma Sawant (D13), Tamanna Saini (D12B), Vanshika Dangi (D9B), Ayushi Ved(D9B), Juhi Ajwani (D14A), Stuti Karn (D14B), Nikita Joshi (D9B), C.V Ananya (D14A)

Teachers' Sphurthi 2020

-Arnab Saha

With the awaited start of Outdoor Spurthi, 2020 came along another edition of Teachers' Spurthi which is an annual sports event only for the teachers of our college. While extra-curriculum presence sees a rise over the years, this event played the role of two birds one stone by providing the students of our college inspiration for participating in the same and simultaneously giving the professors an influx of nostalgia by actively participating in the same.

The competition was certainly more nail-biting than precedent while the professors showed us that they totally still got what it takes. Starting from the 10th of January, the event lasted a whopping 11 days with ending on the 21st of January 2020. The sports being played were the ones of Chess, Carrom and Table tennis, which are the crowd favourite indoor games as well.

At the end of the event, the respective winner for each sport are as follows-

CHESS- Amit Singh Sir
CARROM- Ramesh Solanki Sir
TABLE TENNIS- Shobhit Khandare Sir



Mr. Chintan Jethva(EXTC Dept) and Mr. Amit Singh(IT Dept) engaged in an intense match of Chess

VESITians Win Laurels at SKREAM 2020

-Vanshika Dangi

SKREAM is the annual national-level sports festival hosted by K. J. Somaiya College of Engineering. This event spans a period of five days and was organized from the 4th to the 8th of January. Students from VESIT participated in this sporting extravaganza with sheer determination and enthusiasm, establishing dominance in the events they participated in.

Nameira Shaikh (D11B) continued to put her best foot forward and won three major athletic events: the 100m, 200m and 400m race, keeping the VESIT flag flying high.

The Throwball team of VESIT secured the first position under the guidance of their captain Juhi Ajwani. The victorious members of the VESIT Throwball Team are:

1. Juhi Ajwani (Captain) (D14A)
2. Tamanna Saini (D12B)
3. Aayushi Ved (D9B)
4. Vanshika Dangi (D9B)
5. Reshma Sawant (D13)
6. C.V Ananya (D14A)
7. Smriti Karn (D1)
8. Stuti Karn (D14B)
9. Sakshi Yendhe (D14C)
10. Nikita Joshi (D9B)

In the same festival, **Vaibhavi Jadhav (D5A)** participated in chess and secured the second position. “I drew with the champion of the tournament, we were on the same score. I came second because of my hard luck, but I was satisfied with my overall performance,” said an elated Vaibhavi Jadhav.

The VESIT Badminton Team also put in an exemplary effort. Arhita Malgaonkar (D6B) emerged victorious, attaining the first position in the singles category and Archita Malgaonkar (D6B) and C.V Ananya (D14A) bagging the runners-up position in badminton doubles (girls) category.



Smriti Karn (D6), Sakshi Yendhe (D14C), Reshma Sawant (D13), Tamana Saini (D12B), Vanshika Dangi (D9B), Ayushi Ved(D9B), Juhi Ajwani (D14A), Stuti Karn (D14B), Nikita Joshi (D9B), C.V Ananya (D14A)



C.V Ananya (D14A), Archita Malgaonkar (D6B)



Nameira Shaikh(D11B)