



VESIT Connect

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Newsletter
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Words of appreciation from
Dr. Nupur Giri

Wishing everyone a very happy and enriching New Year!!

"Learning never exhausts the mind."

-Leonardo da Vinci

VESIT CONNECT is doing a commendable job of keeping us updated with News, knowledge and more. Looking forward to a quiver full of sharp articles from the Connect Team in coming issues!

BEST USERS PRACTICE/ BOOK BANK SCHEME

Ms. MEENAKSHI TYAGI



It is important for any progressive institute to understand its students and also how they learn. The library and information services of technical institutions play a central role in enhancing the quality of academic and research environment for its students. In order to meet the students' demands effectively, it is essential that the libraries constantly identify and adopt new modes and methods to encourage students to upgrade and intensify their research. Thus, in the VESIT library, we started the practice of declaring "BEST USERS" every month from the year 2013.

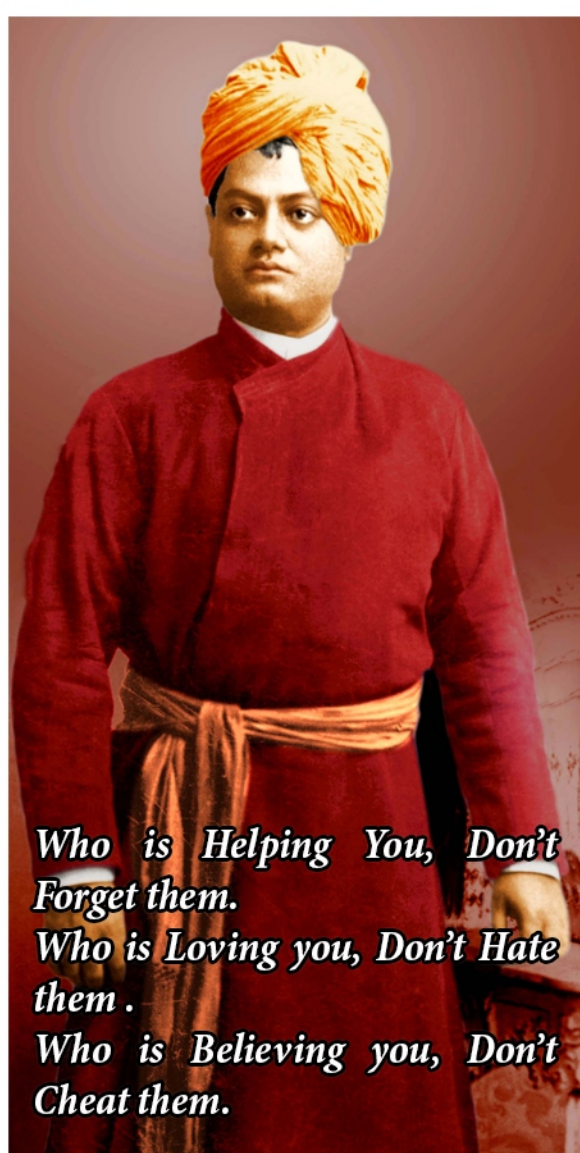
The BEST USER, is the one who makes maximum use of the library facilities. Libraries are storehouse of knowledge and most information knowledge is spread through books. In VESIT Library we use **LIBSUITE** Software Package, in which we have a system that generates a list of best users i.e. it shows the results of the users who use maximum numbers of books, from which we decide the users who really use the maximum library facilities such as borrowing as well as reading. The scheme was so well received by the students that the tremendous response made us change the pattern of best users every 3 months, from the year 2014.

The practice has been extended further. On **15th October 2015**, we celebrated **VACHAK PRERNA DIVAS** in VESIT. The library distributed the **BEST USER** certificates to the students of Academic year **2014-15** for the first time.

To encourage the students further, at first, we thought of starting a **BOOK BANK SCHEME** in **VESIT LIBRARY**. We discussed on various points on how the books can be given, to whom and what will be the criteria – should the preference be given only to the needy students?. We also had to decide on the number of books that can be given per student and also the policies for return of the books. Later, when the points were discussed with our Principal Dr. Nair, it was her suggestion that we open the Book Bank scheme to all students, irrespective of their economic background. And, so we created a list of the books which were according to the subject, but included the authors which were in the syllabus. And we mailed the list to all the students.

On **15th October 2015**, we inaugurated the **Book Bank Scheme**. The Library committee members Mrs. Kadambari and Dr. Ranjan Bala were present on that occasion. They, along with the Principal distributed the books to the students. The books taken under this scheme, will be for a period of one semester and the students will have to return the books before the semester ends.

*Who is Helping You, Don't Forget them.
Who is Loving you, Don't Hate them.
Who is Believing you, Don't Cheat them.*



VESIT VOICE

As we enter into this brand new year 2016 with rejuvenated hopes, revitalized energy and revived enthusiasm, VESIT is all set to entertain and enchant you with some splendid action in the following semesters. We dedicate this January issue of the newsletter to Swami Vivekananda, the visionary saint of India, by commemorating him on his 153rd birth anniversary. In this issue we bring to you an insightful interview with another successful VESIT alumnus Mr. Arzan Singpurwalla, Head-Distribution Sales, India and SAARC at Cisco Systems. Many students this year will pass out from VESIT. For them we present 'To be and what to be' an article that suggests few career choices they can opt for a wonderful and bright future ahead. Sports have always been an integral part of VESIT. So we bring to you the updates from VCL and VPL that kicked off in the last semester. In this issue we also celebrate the incessant service of Mr. Dalvi and Mr. Kundan in the column Golden service.

Photographs are real boon to store some beautiful sweet memories forever and to capture all such memorable moments, the enthused talented photographers have formed VESIT Photo Circle (VPC) who work diligently at every event and try to seize some picturesque photos. In this issue we applaud the team for their endeavor. Also we congratulate VESIT Digital for coming up with a digital platform for students to showcase their talent. Industrial visits are very important and effective method to learn with fun. VESIT had organized an Industrial visit at Ahmedabad in this Christmas vacation. Students enjoyed this picnic and also got a valuable learning experience. This issue as always features some of the student's artistic and literary works. So this issue as well promises its readers a delight!

We at VESIT Connect wish you all a healthy and joyous year ahead!

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S VISION

Prof. RAMYA TIRUMALASETTI

"My faith is in the younger generation, the Modern Generation, out of them will come my workers. They will work out the whole problem, like Lions." – Swami Vivekananda

Swami Vivekananda was born to Vishwanath Datta and Bhuvaneshwari Devi, in Kolkata on January 12, 1863. In his short span of life that he lived on this earth, he has been a positive inspiration for youth of many generations through his teachings. Today, we celebrate his birthday as National Youth Day.

Although Swami Vivekananda graced us with his presence for only 39 years, his teachings which were focused on human development, that continue to resonate both at home and in the West. He aimed at eradicating all kinds of prevailing dogmatic social evils in the society and work towards ensuring that every individual is treated with dignity and respect.

Vivekananda's teachings on education and role of youth in shaping our country's future hold true, even today. He believed that India's future depended upon the principle of "Man-Making", where young men of strong values will be ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of glory of the country. He also believed that both West and India could mutually educate each other; where it would provide an opportunity for India to learn about science, technology and other important affairs of the world from the West and in return, India could be a spiritual guide to the West. Though India borrowed the materialistic and mundane aspects of life from West and has benefited enormously, the spiritual domain of India that Vivekananda always boasted of, seems to be at the lowest ebb.

While our educational system is producing global leaders in all sectors of industry, our nation still cannot provide basic amenities viz., education and health care to many of its citizens. This bare fact is a testimony of our lopsided rapid growth, where one section of the population has benefited from foreign investments while a vast section of the population still struggles for their daily survival. Now-a-days, the youth are more interested in branded apparels and having intimate knowledge about the personal lives of celebrities;

which seem to be more important than pursuing the issues related to social justice that Vivekananda addressed. We have celebrated more than 150 anniversaries of Vivekananda's birth but what is the kind of impact his vision has on contemporary Indian youth? We need not answer the question to anyone but our self, we should be answerable to our own conscience.

The "Man-Making" vision of Vivekananda's urged Indians to make India strong economically, socially, politically and spiritually as it benefits everybody, especially the disenfranchised. He envisioned an India, which will be strong in material domain but not at the expense of sacrificing spiritualism. He exhorted us to reach the top of the mountain where we can enjoy the grand view of both the material and spiritual world living in harmony with each other. If we fail to scale the mountain, then it does not indicate that his vision was utopian. It fails because we, as a nation, have lost our ability to integrate both the material and the spiritual dimensions and balance them effectively in our life.

It is not sufficient for one Vivekananda to have such a vision. If every youth of our country carries the same vision envisaged by him with strong will power and determination, then much better and beautiful things would have happened on this planet.

Swami Vivekananda had extolled the youth, "Let your preparations be wise, correct and of such kind that will lead to your true welfare, supreme good and lasting satisfaction and happiness. This must engage your active, enthusiastic attention throughout the period of your youth life."

It is up to the youth of today to carry on the visions of this great visionary!



Prof. Ramya
Tirumalasetti

VESIT GOES DIGITAL

SOWMYASREE L. VYJAYANTHI KAMATH

Incubated in the first week of November, 2015, VESIT Digital is an initiative headed by Chirag Dixit (D12B) and Neha Sumaney (D15), to promote the Digital India campaign and connect with VESITians on social media such as Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. It seeks to encourage students to be an active part of this movement by showcasing their creative talent through photos, blogs, art work, creative videos etc. on these platforms.

They debuted on Instagram on 9 November 2015 with weekly posts of inspirational quotes and are now active on Facebook and Twitter as well by the name 'vesitedu'. Today, VESIT Digital regularly posts updates about events of the various college councils and their upcoming events.

A recent venture is the VESIT Talent Hunt wherein VESIT Digital posts students' creations on their Facebook and Instagram pages.



Neha Sumaney (D15) Chirag Dixit (D12B)

It commenced in December and is a weekly endeavour aiding budding artists and writers get a deserving appreciation from the entire college.

With the massive popularity it seems to be gaining online, VESIT Digital certainly seems to be a promising section of VESIT to be a part of the tech-revolution. Here's hoping that it is a vision here to stay!

VESIT PHOTOCIRCLE

ASHOK BHAGIA

VESIT Photo Circle (VPC) is the college's prime and only photography group consisting of some of the best photographers of VESIT's photo clicking faction.

Now included under The Social Responsibility team (SoRt) Council, its activities initially included covering the various events of the college. The Photo Circle has since evolved, as they now conduct their own games and events and most recently they conducted a round of interviews to induct more members into the ever growing group.

The brainchild of the now final year electronics student Chinmay Vad, VPC started as nothing more than a basic group on the WhatsApp Messenger App. "The idea came to me when I was capturing different events of the college. I saw 2-3 people with cameras and I thought why not make a common platform for budding photographers of VESIT," Vad told us.

"One evening he (Vad) randomly created a WhatsApp group with around 7-8 people he knew who were interested in photography," said Tamanna Rupani, one of the earliest members of VPC. "One of our members had a Facebook page and we decided to take over the page and that's how the page came into existence," she added. The evolution from the WhatsApp group to a page on the social media giant Facebook proved to be a great step forward for the group as they were soon recognized throughout the college. The Photo Circle soon garnered enough attention and they were then called upon by the different Councils to cover their events (like Prarambh, Utsav, etc.).

"As most of our members were either going to pass out (finish their graduation) or go into their final year, we decided to expand the group. We recruited a few second and third year students during Praxis '15 with a different interview round," informed Rupani. The group faced its own set of controversies, as the group initially named "VESIT Photo Circle Society" conflicted with the ideas of the

different "Societies" of the college. We were pretty upset when it happened," said Rupani, stating the general atmosphere in the VPC camp during the hard times. However ex SoRt secretary Ajinkya Padwad, who is also a member of VPC stepped forward and a deal was struck to include the Photo Circle under the SoRt banner.

With things running smoothly, Vad gave the credit of its present glory to his juniors. "Even though it was my idea, the credit of what it is today, goes solely to the juniors. They have given their one hundred percent, and came forward with ideas such as Light Graffiti and Shadow Photography. Also a special thanks goes to (ex-General Secretary) Parth Deshpande, (ex-Cultural Secretary) Gunjan Vacchani and (ex-SoRt Secretary) Ajinkya Padwad. And, it is great to see 'Photo Credits Chinmay Vad' change to 'Photo Credits VPC'."

Concerned with the departure of key seniors of the group, Rupani stated the resolve of the group is to carry the torch forward. She says, "We hope to carry it forward after the seniors have passed out, and hope that our juniors will do the same." She added, "To sum it all up, if it hadn't been for Chinmay (Vad) there would have been no VPC."



A DEVOUT SOUL

ROHIT SHREEDHAR

Having been known for his impeccable personality and sublime thoughts, Swami Vivekananda had let his ideas flow into a stream of words. His beautiful contribution to literature has left behind a divine legacy bearing the essence of a fruitful life. The youth have always a subject of admiration for him and he believed that they have the power and ability to conquer great heights and that the nation's future always rests in their hands. He therefore, focused on what he asserted as 'man-making', that is, the grooming of a person with the drapes of knowledge and morals.

His speech at Chicago, dated September 11, 1893, is one gem of an oratory where he beautifully delivers his profound thoughts on secularism, unity and peace. His words bore high regard and respect that he had in his heart for his country. Addressing the audience as 'Sisters and brothers of America', he proudly declared himself to be a native of the country which whole heartedly accepted the refugees, be it the Roman terrorized Israelites or the Zoroastrians. While thanking Chicago for its warm welcome, he held his head high to talk about his religion, Hinduism, which has always spread the message of tolerance and universal acceptance. Nostalgically he chanted to them few lines of a hymn that he fondly recited during his earliest boyhood which read, "As the different streams having their sources in different paths which men take through different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to Thee."

He condemned the very existence of sectarianism and fanaticism that haunted the world then. He asserted that had it not been for these demons the world would have basked in the glory of progress instead of being stained with the blood of the innocent. Quoting the lines, "Whosoever comes to Me, through whatsoever form, I reach him; all men are struggling through paths which in the end lead to me.", from the Gita, he reckoned that though every individual voyages in the pursuit of his dream, all roads end at the doorstep of the supreme and so we mustn't hold wretched feelings for each other.

His good will for all showed up as instead of criticizing the nuisances in the audience, he subtly remarked them for their striking contrast in the harmony. Being a secularist, he did not promote a particular religion but rather opined that one needn't convert to a different religion to understand them. He believed that all religions preach harmony and peace and one must imbibe the good virtues of all religions with an open mind instead of fighting for the superiority of his/her religion. He exemplified his idea with a very simple phenomenon, that a seed sowed, under the influence of earth, water, air and light does not grow to be either of them, but into a beautiful plant. It's same with the religions. They don't teach you fight blindly in their name but to grow up to be a wonderful human being.

INDUSTRIAL VISIT

VESIT organised an Industrial Visit to Ahmedabad for about 70 students of fifth semester belonging to the Electronics, Electronics & Telecommunication, Information Technology and Computer Department. The Industrial Visit was conducted by Purple Squirrel Eduventures under the guidance of the teachers, Mrs. Asawari Dudwadkar, Mrs. Roopkala Ravindran and Mrs. Nandini Ammanagi.

The students boarded the train at 9pm on 20th December, 2015 and reached Ahmedabad at 5am the next day where they checked into Hotel Tune. The day commenced with a visit to EQDC (Electronics and Quality Development centre) which is a company that provides services in Calibration, Testing and Training in Quality. Students were provided basic knowledge of testing of electronics and non electrical parameters. Also they were given an overview of the Operations. The visit provided an insight into the real working environment of the industry. After the visit to the company, the students visited Sabarmati Ashram and later proceeded to the famous Akshardham Mandir,

which is a cultural heritage of Gujarat where they watched a phenomenal water show.

The second day in Ahmedabad started off with a visit to Amtech. Amtech, is a company which is a leading manufacturer in motion control products and automation. After the visit, the students proceeded for some local sight-seeing of the Adalaj Stepwell and Law garden. On the last day of the industrial visit, the students were taken to a Vintage Car Museum followed by a visit to the beautiful Kankaria Lake. They then, proceeded to the railway station for their return journey back to Mumbai. Rahul Nair, student of Electronics department belonging to class D11B said, "The IV was a refreshing change that we all longed for, given the fact that it took place right after exams. The visit to industries gave us exposure to practical engineering applications. Overall, a great experience worth cherishing!" The industrial visit proved to be a memorable learning experience filled with fun for all the students.

PANKAJA PAWAR

WINTER INTERNSHIP

In the present scenario, there is a wide gap between the engineering curriculum and the industrial demands. The students, therefore, ought to have some add-ons to stand out in the rat race. A prior experience in the industry, even though for a short period, is certain to be fruitful later. An internship is an opportunity to explore one's technical horizons; it gives students hands-on experience and thereby acquaints them with the application of the knowledge they acquire through the syllabus.

There are many websites which feature internship ads. One must submit their résumé and areas of interest. For some companies, a recommendation letter of any staff member working there is an added advantage. Once you are accepted, you need a NOC from the college.

Steps to apply for the NOC:

1. Write a letter addressed to the HOD to seek permission for a NOC for your internship.
2. Get it signed from the HOD.
3. Get the NOC printed on the college letter-head and get the signature of the HOD.
4. Go to the store's department (room beside ED hall) and get an 'outward reference number' for your NOC.

I got accepted in Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd., Navi Mumbai in the telecommunication department for a 3 week internship program (14-31 December '15). The company had a nine hour work schedule for all its employees (9:30-6:30) including an hour break.

PRIYANKA WADHWA

On 27th Dec, RJIO soft launched its 4G service for 100,000 employees; with Sharukh Khan chosen to be the brand ambassador. There were many technical teams involved to make this launch a success.

I worked with the testing and merging team. For the first few days, my mentor, Mrs. Niddhi Modi, gave me a few documents to read in order to understand the industrial basics and also on what they were working. She was very helpful and gave me a brief summary about every document I read and also explained me if I had any doubts. I assisted her with the merging reports. In labs, my team explained me how they deployed the ISM architecture to develop their 4G technology and also how they tested their cards. As the launch was approaching closer; many teams, including the team I was working with, worked on weekends as well. After the launch, I assisted the team with handling some call drop issues which were faced by the users.

The long working hours seemed to be tiring at first. But engaging myself with a team which had people from all over the globe was overall an enlightening experience. Rotating leadership and collaborative innovation were the key virtues that led to our team's success. Benjamin Franklin has rightly quoted - "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn" indeed epitomises my experience. I sure will remember the lessons learnt there for a lifetime!

VIVEKANANDA - A LEGENDARY SOUL

DEEPTI URHEKAR
PRIYANKA WADHWA

**"A thousand suns will stream on thee,
A thousand moons will quiver,
But not by thee my steps shall be;
Forever and ever..."**

In this beautiful poem, 'A Farewell', Alfred Loy Tennyson, brings to light the fact that life is not forever. Although life isn't, some people do live forever. Here, we read about one such imperishable personality who in his lifetime of just 39 years became a timeless legend, 'Swami Vivekananda'.

Swami Vivekananda or Narendranath Datta or simply, Narendra or Naren, as was known in his pre-mature days, was born to Vishwanath Datta and Bhuvaneshwari Devi on Monday, 12th January 1863, at Calcutta. He was gifted with multiple talents and he cultivated them all. His leonine beauty was matched by his courage; he had the build of an athlete, a beautiful voice and a brilliant intellect. From the very beginning of his life, he was an undisputed leader.

Swami Vivekananda in his quest to seek God met his guru Swami Ramkrishnan at Dakshinkeshwar. For the first time, he had found god and recognised that religion was a reality to be left.

In the next few years, Swamiji travelled to the west. He thundered forth the life giving, man making ideas to a west that not only applauded him but also gave him a core group of disciples who would carry the work forward in that part of the world and aid the work in India.

He returned to India in 1896. The series of lectures given from Colombo to Almora to an adulating audience everywhere presented to his motherland a new vision of India-an India that builds on its thousands of years of spiritual strivings and also integrates itself into a modern vibrant society that meets the world not as a mendicant but as a Heroic Nation in its own right.

Later, Swami Vivekananda put his work into a firm instrumental framework by setting up the Ramakrishna Mission and Ramakrishna Math.

Swamiji visited the west the second time in 1899. He consolidated his work by starting the Vedanta Society of San Francisco and Shanti Ashram at North California. He returned to India around 1900 and spent his last days travelling and meeting people.

Swamiji's extraordinary life on earth came to an end on July 4th,

1902. He always said, "It may be that I shall find it good to get outside my body to cast it off like a worn out garment. But I shall not cease to work! I shall inspire men everywhere, until the world shall know that it is one with God."

True indeed!

Swami Vivekananda's life and work didn't cease there. He just now breathed again while you read about his unparalleled existence on earth and the mark that he left behind.

PHOENIX

She sat in the Starbucks cafe, sipping her coffee and staring out of the window. The blood stained knife lay next to her handbag, covered with her blue silk scarf. Caressing her cheeks, as tear droplets kept flowing down her eyes, she tried to savor her favorite Café Misto but it tasted acerbic with each little sip. She felt her soul desperately wanting to be released from the darkness that those people had confined her into.

A year ago...

Around midnight, she entered her house. With trembling hands, she turned on the lights and steadily looked in her mirror, her eyes were red. Her face still looked petrified; her hair completely messed up, wrists dripping with fresh blood, bruised by the razor-sharp knife. She wailed in agony. A volcanic eruption of severe magnitude was about to get erupted from her heart and devastate her completely. She was molested. Within few minutes, he had crudely destroyed her future. Along with those shredded clothes, perhaps the evils had started to rip her soul apart too.

Since childhood, she longed for her parent's love and support and today when she craved for that more than anything else, not even a single person empathized with her. Everyone blamed her. Some criticized that her vestment must have enticed her attackers, while others accused her of being uncultured. She had never anticipated that the society would orphan her for the second time in her life.

It was her passion for writing that had helped her to overcome the loneliness in her life. She would always pen down her thoughts or compose a little verse when the peripheral circumstances would curb her from flying high. However, the memories of that fateful night had not only ruined her future but had ravaged her aspiration of becoming a writer.

Days passed and she realized that her dignity had fallen in everybody's eyes. She faced humiliation at the hands of the judgmental society for a crime that she hadn't even committed! May be it was her fault that she had put her faith in a wrong person. Perhaps it was an offense to confide your past and have the belief of a joyful future. Her negligence in understanding the true character of a person was perhaps her greatest mistake!

She wanted to regain her lost self-respect. She aspired for a decent life, apart from the ignorant society which had turned a deaf ear when she screamed for help in agony. But prior to that, she wanted to free her soul from that evil who had threatened to strangle her to death had she opened her mouth and revealed his identity to the world.

Few hours ago...

She left her house with the sole determination to cut-off from the evil's nab. Her fragile mind had to deal with a lot of turmoil, but today she felt reinforced with strength. She knocked the door vigorously. Yes, she was impatient! For the last one year, she had been facing a dreadful punishment but now she desperately wanted to release herself.

A tall, well-built figure steadily opened the door. As the door opened, the man standing next to it gave a devilish grin. She stood there frozen, surprised by the demeanor of that person who still had the guts to look her in the eye. He vigorously held her hand and dragged her inside his house.

"What are you doing here? I hope you haven't blabbered in front of anyone!" he asked menacingly. There wasn't even a slight glimpse of guilt in his attitude. He was still holding her hand tightly. She tried to release herself from his grab but it looked futile.

**RACHANA KAMATH
D12C**

"Open your mouth! Say something!" he forcibly squeezed her face between his strong hands. She couldn't breathe. Her body started to feel numb. As he strenuously pushed her on his sofa, her head dashed on the glass vase on its side. Steadily she turned around; he was staring at her, memories of that fateful night flashed back in her mind. She had trusted him that night. He had called her to meet on the pretext that he needed some help with his project. Such innocently had he asked for her assistance, she couldn't deny. But now she regretted how she couldn't get the picture of the wicked identity that was hid behind the mask of an immaculate personality.

As he approached her, she hastily rushed towards the door. Her legs hardly able to judge the direction, as her vision started to blur. Before she could turn the knob, he caught her from the back and started to drag her inside. With all her strength, she elbowed him. As he struggled to grasp some air, she moved towards the table. She stood there, facing away from him trying to gather all the energy that was left in her. As he tried to recover from the heavy blow; he fiercely turned towards her and tried to strangle her from behind.

Suddenly a gush of blood began to flow. A frame of darkness began to blend in before his eyes. A sharp knife had penetrated his stomach. She stood there at a distance, drenched in sweat, looking frail, with a knife stained with his blood.

"How could y...?" he didn't have the power to utter anything.

She looked at him, he was groaning in pain. She sensed an adrenaline rush of emotions flowing through her heart. She wanted him to feel the guilt of the heinous crime he had committed. To feel the emotional distraught, the way she had. She felt her soul calmly getting freed from the chains of her past. As he was rolling on the floor mourning, a sense of relief aroused through her mind.

She picked up her handbag and her blue scarf that were lying on the floor. She wiped her face with the scarf and then wrapped it over the knife and headed towards the door. Stumbling, she walked down the stairs. As she walked in the open air, she felt freedom being bestowed upon her. She walked across the street and stepped in the Starbucks coffee shop.

Present...

With shaky hands, she took a page out of her diary. Closed her eyes, took a deep breath and opened them. With teary eyes, she grabbed her pen and gently wrote...

**'Everyone exploited her soul, shattered her dreams and
bruised her will of rising again.
her shadowy past.**

**She'll learn to fly with those rejuvenated wings and rise again
like an illustrious star!'**

She smiled as she scribbled her name at the bottom. A name not which the society had conferred her with, but by which she wanted the world to recognize her. She placed her pen down, gathered her belongings and left the coffee shop.

The waiter came around to clean the table when he noticed a paper lying with some tips on it. He read what was scribbled in there. He got fascinated by the beautiful poem but what made him wonder was the name penned on the bottom of the page...

'Phoenix'

***You have to grow from the inside out. None can
teach you, none can make you spiritual. There is no
other teacher but your own soul.***

Swami-Vivekananda

CRACKING GRE

KAUSTUBH DESHPANDE



Knowing that around half a million students from India appear for the GRE every year, I can say this with apocalyptic certitude that most of the readers of this article already have a fair bit of an idea as to what the Graduate Record Examination is all about. If not, I'll certainly introduce to the readers a bit about the GRE and how I went about preparing for the same. Apart from that, I will also address the various aspects of the GRE from an Admissions officer's or a Professor's perspective, and I hope this article helps clear the myths and confusions surrounding the GRE. A background check on me, I'm Kaustubh Deshpande from B.E. Electronics and I have recently finished applying to schools in the USA for a Master's Program in Electrical and Computer Engineering, with a score of 327/340 in GRE and a Grade Point Average of 9.14.

The GRE is essentially a standardized test which is composed of 3 Sections- Quantitative Reasoning Section, Verbal Reasoning Section and the Analytical Writing Assessment. The Verbal and Quantitative Reasoning Sections are each scored out of 170, whereas the Analytical Writing Section is scored on a scale of 6. The GRE is supposed to be given by all those students who wish to apply to universities abroad for their Master's, irrespective of which field they have done their undergrad in. The GRE tests a student's analytical and reasoning abilities through a thorough evaluation of his Math and Reasoning skills.

Confusion 1-Why the GRE?

Why does one need to give the GRE? Shouldn't academic records be indicative of a student's caliber? Well, from an Admission Officer's point of view, how does he differentiate between students from different universities, different countries or different courses/programs? For instance, is a student from Cairo University having a GPA of 9/10 better than a student applying for the same program and having the same GPA from say IIT-Mumbai? Therefore, to get an estimate of a student's analytical abilities and to differentiate between students having identical profiles, the Universities in the USA administer a standardized test to all the students who are applying. And since this standardized test needs to be universal, it tests the two most fundamental tools/subjects used across all the fields- Elementary Mathematics and English.

Myth1- Does the Verbal Section test a student's Language Skills?

Incorrect. Grossly incorrect. The Verbal Reasoning Section only tests the abilities of a student to understand and reason with the context given to him. Hence the name, Verbal Reasoning. Unlike what many Indian students fear about, the GRE does not expect you to be an expert in English Literature or Language. It only tests whether you have understood the comprehension or the cues given in an incomplete sentence, to answer a particular question. I had a friend who despite being from a Marathi Medium School aced the verbal section with a score of 164/170.

Confusion 2-How do I prepare for the GRE?

Now this is a question that leaves a majority of the students perplexed. To begin with, ideally, give yourself 35-40 days to prepare for the test. For Quantitative Reasoning, start by revising all your math concepts and practice exercise problems from any major GRE workbook. I recommend using the Kaplan Quants Workbook and Manhattan 5 lb. workbook for their practice problems. For your verbal reasoning section, start by revising your vocabulary using one of the word lists given in any GRE workbook. Once you are confident with your vocabulary, start practicing Reading Comprehension and Text Completion problems. Again, I would recommend using the Kaplan Verbal Workbook and Manhattan 5 lb. workbook. For the Analytical Writing Assessment, go through strategies and sample essays in order to understand what the ETS evaluators are looking for. I believe the strategies given in the Kaplan Verbal Workbook should suffice. Apart from these textbooks, I suggest practicing problems on websites such as Magoosh and Manhattan. And for an experience of the complete GRE test, the PowerPrep 2 software could be downloaded from the Official ETS website.

Myth 2- Is the Analytical Writing Section really important for engineers?

Yes. Please do not go under prepared for the AWA section. A lot of the universities need a minimum score of 4 or 4.5 as a requirement for admission to a program.

Even if you score extremely well on your Quantitative and Verbal section, and you do badly on your AWA section, your chances of getting into a university are badly hampered. Perhaps more than the Verbal or Quantitative sections, the AWA section is the most important part of the GRE.

Confusion 3- Do I need to revise my English grammar for the GRE?

The AWA marking scheme emphasizes a lot on the use of varied grammatical styles in the essays you submit. An essay with a more dynamic writing style will get a higher score than a dull, monotonous style, despite having the same arguments in both of them.

Myth 3- Do I need to know all the words given in the GRE word-lists?

No. ETS knows that this is an impossible feat. The GRE will never give you a difficult word unless it expects the student to make out the meaning of the word from context. So do not worry if you don't always get the meaning of the words right during your preparation.

Confusion 4- Can I give the GRE multiple times?

Yes, you can. However I would recommend that you only give it once in the month of August or September if you intend on applying for the Fall semester of the following year. Another deterrent for giving the GRE multiple times is the cost of the test. Each GRE test costs close to Rs.12,000, which is why, giving it multiple times isn't advisable. One should only attempt the GRE more than once if there were genuine problems in giving it the first time.

Myth 4- Is the GRE score the only criteria the University rates a student on?

No. However it is considered as an important parameter for selection by the Admissions Officers. Apart from your GRE scores, your Statement of Purpose, Academic scores and your Academic CV are considered for your selection by the Universities. However, since the GRE is a standardized test taken by students all across the globe, it is imperative that one gets a high score on it to set himself apart from the rest of the students who are applying for the same program.

In conclusion, as difficult and complicated as the GRE sounds right now, believe me, it is quite an easy test and one shouldn't worry too much about it. Think of it as your middle school Std. 10 Board Examinations- they're not too difficult, but studying for them is important to get you into your desired High School. Analogous to them, the GRE isn't very difficult, but it is important to get a good score on it to help get you into a good Master's program.

**True guidance is like a small torch in a dark forest.
It doesn't show everything once.
But gives enough light for the next step to be
safe.**

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

ENTRANCE EXAMS

Another year has passed and with it we commence a new academic semester. Quite a few of you might have decided to take up a job and might have secured one through our college campus placements. But some of you might have decided to study further and must be running around getting your transcripts and other necessary documents for your applications abroad. But for the rest who are not sure what you want to pursue besides taking up a job after four years, we have got you covered! Following are the list of exams that are essential for a post graduate degree admissions. This will help you expand your scope and get a better perspective on all the fields in which you can build a career.

1. GATE : Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering

As the name suggests GATE is an exam that is engineering specific. It is an all India examination that tests the comprehensive understanding of various undergraduate subjects in Engineering and Technology. The GATE score of a candidate reflects a relative performance of a candidate. GATE is administered and conducted jointly by the Indian Institute of Science and seven Indian Institutes of Technology. It will help you pursue your M.E. and M. Tech. (IIT Specific Master's Courses). Apart from that, a good GATE score will be instrumental in procuring Government jobs.

Eligibility: BE/ B.Tech/ Masters in Science, Arts, Computer Application or equivalent/ Integrated ME/M.tech/ Professional Society examinations equivalent to BE / B Tech/B Arch(e.g. AMIE/AMICE).

When: GATE is conducted in online as well as offline mode. Online exam is usually in the month of January and Offline in February.

2. CEED : Common Entrance Test for Design

It is an all India examination conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai to assess the candidate's aptitude for design, involving visual perception ability, drawing skills, and logical reasoning, creativity, and communication skills. This examination is something all creative people must consider. It has a brilliant scope in fields like animation, Motion Graphics, Game development. Many Design institutes in India like Shriti- Bangaluru consider CEED scores along with GRE scores for Master's.

Eligibility: Candidates must either have completed or be expecting to complete any of the following

(i) Bachelor's degree in Engineering / Architecture / Design/ Interior Design or equivalent

(ii) Master's degree in Arts / Science / Computer Applications

The candidate is responsible for showing eligibility while seeking admission to the specific program in which they are interested. Also they should get a minimum of 55% marks in the qualifying exam.

When: CEED is conducted every year in December

3. DAT : Design Aptitude Test

It is an alternative to CEED and is conducted by National Institute of design. NID is one of the top 100 schools for design. Industrial Design, Animation and Motion Graphics, Transportation Design, Interaction Design are a few Master's courses that are offered at NID. NID has campuses in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Bangaluru.

Eligibility: Bachelor's degree in any discipline under the 10+2+4 (or more) system, from any university or institute recognized (by law) in India. Diploma in Design under the 10+2+4 system, from any university or institute recognized (by law) in India.

When: DAT is held in the month of January, However the last date for enrolling for the exam is in the months of October – November of the previous year.

4. CAT : Common Admission Test

It is conducted by IIMs for admissions to various programs in management in India. There are almost 3,335 seats in IIMs in India.

Eligibility: The candidate must hold a Bachelor's Degree, with at least 50% marks or equivalent CGPA. Candidates appearing for the final year of bachelor's degree/equivalent qualification examination and those who have completed degree requirements and are

awaiting results can also apply.

When: The CAT 2016 Application Form will be available during the month of August 2016 through the online mode only on the official website of the CAT 2016. The official website is www.iim-cat.ac.in on which the registration form will be announced. The registration will go on till the last week of September 2016. The admit card will be issued through the official site and candidates may get their admit card from mid of October 2016 to till the date of examination.

5. IELTS : International English Language Testing System

It is an international standardized test of English language proficiency for non-native English language speakers. No minimum score is required to pass the test. An IELTS result or Test Report Form is issued to all test takers with a score from "band 1" ("non-user") to "band 9" ("expert user") and each institution sets a different threshold. There is also a "band 0" score for those who did not attempt the test. IELTS Academic is intended for those who want to enroll in universities and other institutions of higher education and for professionals who want to study or practice in an English-speaking country.

Eligibility: Everyone is eligible for taking the IELTS test - there are no restrictions based on age or qualifications. The test scores are valid for two years, i.e., most universities accept scores up to two years old.

When: Computer based IELTS test is held all-round-the-year.

6. GRE : The Graduate Record Examination

It is a popular examination among Indian students aspiring to study in the US or Canada. It is a fairly standardized test that measures the verbal, mathematical and general analytical skills of the candidate. It is an admission requirement for many graduate courses, especially in engineering and the sciences, in the US.

Eligibility: GRE does not set any age, qualification, timing related pre-requisites. However, there will be a range of eligibility criteria set by universities that accept GRE scores. For each of their programs, they may have minimum age, experience and qualification related filters.

When: there are no specific GRE Exam dates in India. You can take it any time of the year by taking an appointment with the closest GRE exam center. But with this flexibility, there's another issue. During the peak application season (generally around August to December), it may be difficult for you to get an appointment in your preferred exam center. You'd be forced to book a day and time at another center that may not be close to where you live.

7. GMAT : Graduate Management Admission Test

Management aspirants need to take this test, which is an admissions assessment for business colleges. Average GMAT scores are in the range of 570-580. However, for top school admissions a score of at least 700 is almost mandatory. New sections have been introduced recently, such as Integrated Reasoning, which have made the test more competitive than before.

Eligibility: There is no specific eligibility criterion for GMAT. However, various universities / colleges which accept GMAT scores have their own criteria of admission.

When: GMAT can be taken once every 31 days. This includes test attempts in which the score was cancelled by the candidate.

8. Indian Civil Services

The Civil Services Examination (CSE) is a nationwide competitive examination in India conducted by the Union Public Service Commission for recruitment to various Civil Services of the Government of India, including Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Revenue Service (IRS) among others. Indian Engineering Services abbreviated as IES are the civil services that meet the technical and managerial functions of the Government of India.

AN OPEN LETTER TO RAGHURAM RAJAN

SALIL
SHAHANE

The RBI Governor, Dr Raghuram Rajan's Convocation address at IIT-Delhi about tolerance and respect for economic progress turned out to be one of the most debated speeches of the time. VESLit had a competition inviting students to write an open letter to Dr Raghuram Rajan in response to his speech and put forth their views. The winner of the competition is Salil Shahane. Below is the open letter of the winner of the competition.

Hello Sir,

Congratulations to you for that thought provoking, insightful speech at the IIT Delhi convocation ceremony which very well established a conscientious rationale. Not an IITian but was fortunate enough to watch it on YouTube. You definitely managed to strike a chord with the young generation's exuberant conscience. Indeed the speech was a delectable dish for those who seek a solution and deep under are restless for the growing menace of intolerance in the Indian society. But sir as a common man and a peace-loving resident of this Indian society, there are few questions which are left unanswered yet which I would like to put up to you.

The first one being the appropriateness of returning of awards by some of the notable artists in the society. Do you think this will somehow help in mitigating this intolerance debacle? I personally feel it further enhances the skirmish as protests of this form are not going to help actualise the dream of tolerant and peaceful society. The actions should be on the ground level having a significant impact providing a strong incentive for change to happen personally and societally. These superficial methods of returning awards are shallow form of protests and cannot tackle the issue at the grass root level.

Second question is about the resilience of Indian economy towards the growing nuisance of intolerance (particularly religious intolerance). Is our Indian economy very well adaptive to the social factors affecting the religious sentiments of certain sects or is it affected acutely by these orthodox skirmishes? How do foreign investors and the global economists perceive India? As a growing untapped potential market or a place scarred with petty socio-religious conflicts suggesting narrow-mindedness?

Third question is about the ideologies which act as a driving force and condition the mind-sets of the people in the government to great extent thereby conditioning the mind-sets of the people governed. I'm talking about the leftist and the rightist ideologies. It is believed that the present government is right-central and we are experiencing more turmoil and discrimination than ever before on grounds of caste, creed and religion (at least these debates are fuelled now-a-days, more than ever before). So which ideology is best suited for the economic progress of the country and do these ideologies even matter rather affect the progress if a consolidated roadmap is laid and the vision of the nation is pristine clear.

The last question is about the danger to the effectiveness of the 'Make in India' campaign started by the honourable Prime Minister. My opinion about this campaign is very positive and optimistic and I feel that this is one big leap towards the economic progress of the nation. But then amid this growing intolerance can the campaign deliver to the extent that it is expected to or would this intolerance prove to be a major hindrance in the path of development?

As a citizen of India, I'm saddened by the present predicament that has enclapsed the nation and wish that we resolve our differences at the earliest and develop a temper and degree of detachment and restore the glory of the nation which has taught the world acceptance and tolerance.

Yours truly,

A hopeful Indian.

SWAMI VIVEKANAND - An Indian monk who steered the world towards enlightenment.

SALIL SHAHANE

We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far.

These words of wisdom by Swami Vivekananda truly travelled far and his thoughts certainly enlightened and enriched lives of many Indians and non-Indians alike and they continue to do so even today. His principles have obstinately inspired many souls, his insightful teachings dissipate enormous energy to ignite the minds of the youth and his ideologies have consistently shaped and moulded the mind-sets of the masses. This saint of India, the torch bearer, the spiritual master, epitome of wisdom, rightly led the world towards contentment, peace and serenity.

Born as Narendranath Dutta to an aristocratic Bengali family in Calcutta on 12th of January 1863, Swami Vivekananda was interested spiritually from a very young age. He was fascinated by wandering ascetics and monks. As he grew older and was exposed to the stark misery of the then prevalent society, he was disturbed and moved deeply and decided to set out on a voyage that would possibly become one of the fervent missions that helped India grow spiritually and Swamiji certainly managed to put India on a global map. His renowned speech at the Parliament of Religion in Chicago reverberated not just in the ambit of the parliament but it resonated globally. That eye-opening series of speeches were very well received by the audience in which Swamiji eloquently talked about the Hindu religion for which he was the representative but also stressed on other fundamental tenets on which the foundation of the entire mankind is based. He spoke about certain virtues like tolerance and acceptance and how we

can grow as an individual. His talks certainly encouraged the people and in a very short period of time he became a messiah who the people sought and looked up to. Through his intellect, poise and serenity he won hearts of people and anchored people's succour. The youth willingly joined his Ramakrishna mission and they worked diligently towards a common goal: Enlightening India!

Swami Vivekananda had once said that his work has already laid down the foundation of 'Shining India' and that would go unscathed for at least 1500 years to come. This visionary, throughout his life strived to empower the lives of people and helped them grow.

On his 153rd birth anniversary, we at Vesit pay this Saint a heart-felt tribute for enriching, empowering and enlightening our lives!

All power is within you; you can do anything and everything. Believe in that, do not believe that you are weak; do not believe that you are half-crazy lunatics, as most of us do nowadays. You can do any thing and everything, without even the guidance of any one. Stand up and express the divinity within you.

SWAMI VIVEKANADA

MUSINGS AND EXPRESSIONS

The Wind

More serene than watching the tender sun rise in all its glory,
More beautiful than the voluminous waters of the seven oceans,
Such is the story,
Of her swirling emotions...

Oh! The poor damsel...
A cool wind blew past her,
Driving away her sorrow, her fear
She thought it was here to stay
But the wind that it was,
For just a while it was near.

Oblivious to its ways, she tread on her path
Along with the wind
Laughing all along
The wind blew sometimes warm, sometimes cold...
Leaving the poor damsel
At times dazed, at times sore.

It took along with it the rustling leaves, a thorny rose
The rose pricked her; the wind began to blow away
Alas! It fancied the blood-red rose more
To the sweet damsel's great dismay.

The rose petals dancing in unison,
Touching the wind in elation
The damsel left yearning for the wind, wondered
Was it all a delusion?

Indifferent, she became, to the charming, unpredictable wind,
Though she could feel her heart within, breaking into pieces...
With all the little pieces, she loved it the same
Memories flashed across her mind
Of the times when they played a lovely game...

A tear rolled down her cheeks
Wiping it off swiftly,
She walked on with determination.
Indifferent to the whims and fancies of the wind
All she knew was, she had to reach her destination.

Time passed by, the rose withered, lost its colour
The determined damsel regained her peace
Her heart, still wounded, slowly began to heal
The brightness of the morning sun,
All over again she could feel!

The wind was stunned by her changed demeanour
Once again, it went after her.
Day and night, it would keep blowing
The damsel, now seemed all-knowing,
It kept trying in vain,
Time and again...

The kind damsel soon melted,
Like everything was always the same,
'The wind was never at fault-
I was the one to blame',
She murmured to herself.

Indeed,
More serene than watching the tender sun rise in all its glory,
More beautiful than the voluminous waters of the seven oceans,
Such is the story,
Of her swirling emotions!

Lairai Karnik
FE2

An Empty Room

I close my eyes and I'm in a room, crowded,
I stand alone, in my loneliness, shrouded,
"How are you alone if the room is crowded?" you ask,
Because I don't have the glory of your presence to bask,
And without you, happy cannot be I,
So I stand alone in the crowded room and sigh,
And wait for you to come back again,
Wait till waiting turns the sane, insane.

I open my eyes and I'm in an empty room,
Even with the seas of space, there is no space for gloom,
For there is music and light and meat and wine,
And there you are and there am I, dancing with your hand in mine,
My heart skips a beat as you blush at my glance,
And I don't heed time and just dance and I dance,
As if you and I could forever continue the trend,
Though I know that even dreams with open eyes must end.

-Ashok Bhagia

A poem by Swami Vivekananda- Once more awake!

For sleep it was, not death, to bring thee life
Anew, and rest to lotus-eyes for visions
Daring yet. The world in need awaits, O Truth!
No death for thee!

Resume thy march,
With gentle feet that would not break the
Peaceful rest even of the roadside dust
That lies so low. Yet strong and steady,
Blissful, bold, and free. Awakener, ever
Forward! Speak thy stirring words.
And tell the world—
Awake, arise, and dream no more!
This is the land of dreams, where Karma
Weaves unthreaded garlands with our thoughts
Of flowers sweet or noxious, and none
Has root or stem, being born in naught, which
The softest breath of Truth drives back to
Primal nothingness. Be bold, and face
The Truth! Be one with it! Let visions cease,
Or, if you cannot, dream but truer dreams,
Which are Eternal Love and Service Free.

CREATIVE BENDS

PRATIK SAWANT ➤
D12 B

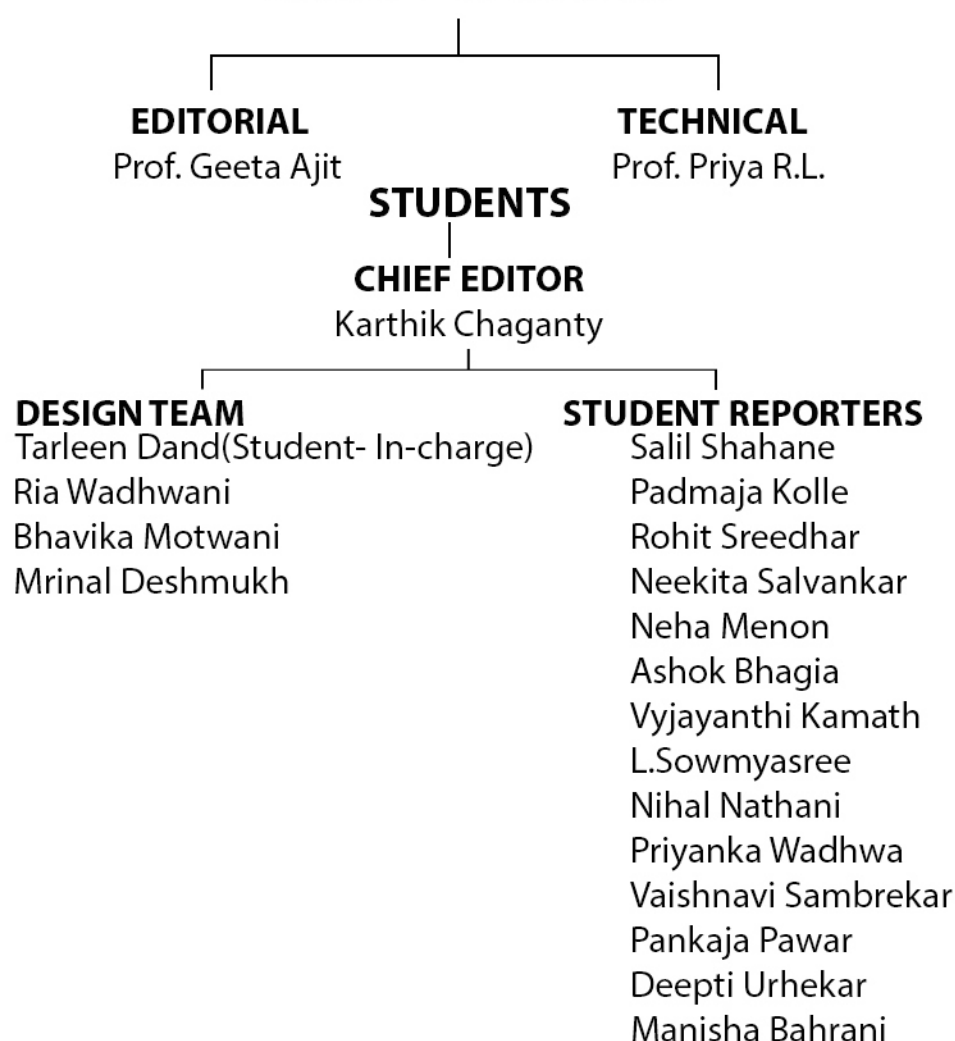


**Like me or Hate me, both are in my favor,
If you like me I am in your Heart,
If you hate me I am in your mind.**

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

THE 'VESIT CONNECT' TEAM

FACULTY- IN-CHARGE



VESIT DIARIES

NEEKITA SALVANKAR



Mr. Arzan Singpurwalla completed his Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Science) from VESIT in the year 1995. After working for four months at Hexaware, he went on to do his further studies in MBA from Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies where he specialized in marketing.

Mr. Singpurwalla currently works as the Head of Sales at Cisco systems.

1. Tell us something about your college life

I joined VESIT in the year 1991 and I specialized in Computer Science. In the beginning, I had a major complex due to a large bunch of super intellectuals in my class that made me look very ordinary –but, which also got to me invest more time and effort towards achieving higher grades. I wasn't really a sports person nor was I the most social. But as we progressed towards the 4th year, I started representing VESIT in intercollegiate festivals – once stood 2nd or 3rd in some of these intercollegiate events and that really helped to open my outlook towards life beyond the 4 walls of your own campus.

2. How important, according to you, are interpersonal skills at professional level? Do academics and interpersonal skills go hand in hand?

Interpersonal skills are everything. Your ability to reach out, speak up, be articulate and influence people basis your knowledge, reasoning power and self-confidence is what will eventually get you where you want to be. Academics will just give you a start in one direction, however they're important because they will get you that good start you need. The higher you move up the value chain in an organization, you are assessed on your ability to handle people, situations and general management skills and not by virtue of the technical knowledge that you possess.

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

It's nice to have a plan, but the pace at which both technology and business opportunity evolves can make the plan irrelevant. I never

had a plan. I decided to go with the flow. There were people pursuing an MBA post BE, so I did that too, but luckily it worked well for me in those circumstances back then. But it's always good to set goals – both long term and medium term. It helps you focus on getting to where you want step by step – and it's also a corporate philosophy. Every team, every division, every organization has a goal – both medium and long term. There is no such thing as a fool-proof plan. Even if you have the financial capital to get into the choicest of universities, it is eventually your ability, interpersonal skills and application of what you learn to create an impact on your organization's bottom line, which will get you to stand out in the corporate life. choicest of universities, it is eventually your ability, interpersonal skills and application of what you learn to create an impact on your organization's bottom line, which will get you to stand out in the corporate life.

4. How important is getting placed during college campus?

It's important because it gives you a sense of security – what each student aspires to have and helps to build your confidence and ability, but it's not the end of the road. Companies will look for talent basis academics and other criteria. Just because you don't get placed in the company of your choice doesn't mean you are any less.. Some of the most successful individuals today from my batch never got placed or got not so great offers. Remember, it doesn't really matter what you were in college, it matters what you will be at the college reunion (10 years hence)

5. Let's talk about your professional life

From VESIT, I got placed into a software company (Hex aware) and I hated the job, I left in 4 months and took a break to study for my MBA entrance. I did my MBA (MMS) from NMIMS and got placed in Siemens from Campus, from there on I moved to Wipro and now I head a business in Cisco (Distribution and Reseller Channel Sales) which contributes to over 50% of its India revenue.

6. How well, according to you, can an engineer serve a company in the non-technical background?

You just grow into it. As you evolve as a professional, you pick up skills on the job which are more "soft" than hardcore technical

grow in an organization handling people, situations, etc. take up more of your time and you end up delegating the ground level job to your subordinates. Your engineering background will always help you think more structurally or maybe help you be more organized / methodical towards solving a problem.

7. Do you think post-graduation has become mandatory in recent times?

Education is always a good investment. It will always give you long term returns. I am not up to speed on the opportunities engineers have

today – with so many startups and ecommerce players the market dynamics will change over times. But given a choice I would always encourage to pursue a higher degree.

8. Any message for the new generation at VESIT?

Enjoy your life as students. These are golden years that you will cherish always. Set yourselves goals and strive to do better every time. Do things which make you happy. There is nothing better than landing up in a profession doing what you enjoy doing the most, every single day.

Golden Service

Mr. RAJU NARAYAN DALVI

'Tough from outside but most tender and caring from inside'. This line accurately describes Raju Dalvi's personality from the Workshop section. Mr. Dalvi has been here long enough and has seen many students pass out and hopes to continue to do so for many more years to come. Says his colleagues, Mr. Shashikanth and Mr. Biru Bodke, "Mr Dalvi is very peculiar and meticulous about his work and very punctual. He is very helpful as well. Over the years, not one practical has been cancelled because of him, which is really commendable." He is also very competent and proficient in his work. Says Prof Vivek Umrikar from the department of Humanities and Applied Sciences, "He is the most sincere and systematic person in the workshop. He never says 'no' to any work given by him. Not only does he do the work on time but also does it so skilfully, which is a remarkable trait in any person." His dedication to the students is well known in the college. "He is always ready to help the teachers and the students. He always available to the students whenever they approach him for help. I have found the students scoring very well under his guidance. In the twenty-two years I have been here, not once have I found any students complaining about him." said Prof. Nair from Humanities and Applied Sciences Department. Here is an excerpt of his interview.

NEHA MENON



Raju Narayan Dalvi

Q 1. Can you tell us something about yourself, your family and your job here?

I am born in Mumbai which is my native place. I hail from a middle class family where my father was a textile mill worker. I have two brothers. My elder brother is an accountant working in a private firm. My younger brother is a software engineer settled in The U.S. I live in Thane with my wife and son, who is studying in his first year engineering at Ramrao Adik Engineering College.

Q 2. Will you tell us something about your educational background?

When I was studying in standard twelfth, I left the college and took admission in Mumbai Industrial Training Institute. There I did a one year course in Sheet Metal Worker Trade. After that I did apprenticeship for two years in a company at Mahalakshmi, Mumbai. Later, I took the trade test at National Council of Vocational Trades which I passed with first class in June 1988. Immediately after that I joined VESIT as an assistant in the workshop. One and a half years later, I was promoted as an Instructor in the workshop.

Q 3. Can you brief us something about your job here?

I joined VESIT in 1988 and has been in the carpentry workshops ever since. I help to conduct practicals for first year students in Basic Workshop Practice. When the college is closed for vacations and breaks or when we do not have a practical session, we do minor maintenance work in and around the college and also help students with their projects. I love my work and get immense satisfaction from it. I do not like to keep any work pending for long. Work is worship for me.

Q 4. You have been around here for a while.....what do you have to say about the students and the changes in them through the years?

I have always cared a lot for our students. Our students are very talented. I have a great deal of respect for our students as they have achieved very high marks to get admission into our college. During practicals, I always help them to perform better jobs, so that they can get the satisfaction of making something and also learn the technical aspects of it. They are all a bit immature in the beginning of FE, but learn to be responsible over the years. What has remained constant though is the way students think that workshop is a waste of time. They tend to think that, as they are going to be carpenters, so there is no point in learning something that they will not use. I think that this attitude should change because what they learn in the workshop will help them during their final year project....they won't be dependent on us for help. This they realize during their final year, when it is too late. This course will also help them while organizing events in the college.

Q 5. In the past 26 years that you have worked in VESIT, what changes have you seen in the college as a whole?

In 1988, when I joined this college, private colleges were very few. I remember that at that time too I college was very famous. Our college is still very popular. It has maintained its status and is well known for its discipline and placements. The changes that have been taking place in VESIT are all good. The one thing I can tell you is that, the name VESIT has made for itself, as a distinguished institute, has remained consistent throughout and VESIT is still considered as one of the best colleges in Mumbai.

Q 6. How is your experience working for VESIT?

The experience is definitely good. I believe that, others treat us the same way that we treat them. The people here are friendly and helpful. I must say that I am very fortunate that I got to work at VESIT.

Mr. KUNDAN SINGH MANRAL

Kundan Singh Manral's service to VESIT is remarkable. A true carpenter who never blamed his tools and carved out his way to the top. He desires to work in this college, even after his retirement, which is around April this year. "He is a kind person with a good heart, who never gets angry. He always offers immediate help, whether it's in the matter of money or support. He is like a family to us." says Mr. Biru Bodker, assistant in Welding section. Mr. Sashikanth Sagare, assistant in the carpentry sections adds, "He is frank and helpful. He has taught me a great deal about carpentry, which has benefitted us immensely. We cannot think of the time he will

MANISHA BAHRANI



Mr. Kundan Singh Manral

retire and go away. It will be very difficult to function without him.”

Q.Can you tell us something about yourself?

I am basically from Uttaranchal. I came to Mumbai after completing my SSC, and was staying with my father in the Sion Hospital quarters, with my father who was working there. My first job was at the Dockyard, where I was a supervisor. But I was not happy with the job. So I quit and did a one year carpentry course with NCVT (National council for vocational training). Immediately after completing my course, I applied for a job in this college and started working here.

Q. What about your family?

I am married with three sons. My eldest son is married and works with a fast-food joint. My other two sons do not have steady jobs. My youngest son has finished his B. Com and went on to study for his CA., but gave up after a while.

Q.When did you join this college and what do you do here?

I joined this college in 1984. It was the year that the engineering degree course began. It has been 31 years since I have joined this college. I help in conducting carpentry practicals and help students with the technical projects. Initially we used to have ten hours of duty. Now, since the shift system began, we work for seven and a half hours.

Q.Did you notice changes in students and college facilities over

the years from 1984 to 2015?

Yes the surroundings have changed. The former batches of students were more serious about the workshop practical as compared to now. The college infrastructure has changed over the years as the time demanded it. These workshops are now conducted for students of first year. But the students do not find it necessary to pay attention to this; they feel they are going to be engineers in future and so they do not have to learn about menial jobs like carpentry. But they realize the importance of this when they are in their fourth year when they have to do technical projects. Then, they come to me to help them out and I do so.

Q. What have you to say about your job in VESIT?

This college has served me so well that it didn't make me think of applying anywhere else. I get all the support here. The atmosphere is like a family, that I want to continue in this college even after my retirement.

Q.What are your future plans?

I retire in February 2016. But I wish to continue to working here. I have applied to the management and I hope they let me continue. I have brought a flat in Navi Mumbai, the flat I live in. I still have a few more years of loan to pay. My sons are not earning much, so I still have to support my family.

SPORTS

Sphurti - The second phase

Sphurti, the chief fest of the VESIT sports community, will enter its second phase this month. The fest is divided into two parts, Indoor and Outdoor Sphurti. Each part takes place in consecutive semesters, with Indoor Sphurti taking place in odd semesters and Outdoor Sphurti taking place in the even ones.

Unlike Indoor Sphurti, the freshers get to participate in the Outdoor Sphurti. However, they participate separately as the competition takes place in two groups, Juniors and Seniors. The Junior group consists of the FE and MCA1 class, while all the other classes are banded together in the Seniors group.

“Outdoor Sphurti is a great opportunity to mix up with your classmates, especially for the first year students,” insisted Ms Rachita Fatehpuria, the second year deputy sports secretary. “There is no better way to begin an academic semester!” she further added.

The fest includes both individual (Athletics) as well as team sports (Football, Basketball, Dodgeball, Volleyball, Kabbadi and cricket). Two teams (for team sports) and two individuals (for individual sports) can participate from each class. Each sport has two pools, with one team/individual per class forming the first pool, while the other forming the second pool. The players win points for their classes by advancing further into their pools and the class with the maximum points wins.

Also highlighting the importance of strategizing and planning is the Joker rule. According to the rule, each class, and not each entrant, can choose a sport, for individual and team events each, as their joker. If the class wins the maximum points (highest total for them) in that particular sport, the points for that sport are doubled.

Towards the closing days of Sphurti, the Athletic events take place.

The real essences of the Olympic Games, the athletic events, are a major part of the tournament as they consist mainly of individual events, barring the relay race.

“While sports like basketball and football continue to grab everyone's attention, it is usually the winner of the athletic events that wins the cup,” stated the third year deputy sports secretary, Mr Palash Pandey. This trend proved true last year, as FE3, having won only one major team event, managed to bag the cup with seven athletic event wins. “Each athletic event accounts for five points,” explained Mr Pandey. “And as has been the case, one good athlete or sprinter usually wins five or six events, giving the winning edge to his class.”

After the semester break, this is the first event of the new semester,

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with the inauguration taking place in the first couple of days of the college reopening. “Sphurti isn't just our sports fest, but it is also a platform for people to get out in the sun and get rid of the extra stress that studying is bound to bring,” commented the third year Deputy Sports Secretary, Shilpa Sharma. “To play the game is what the focus must be on, and not just to win it. To have fun and nothing else,” added Ms Sharma. The general secretary, Mr Gopalkrishnan Subramaniam, stressed on the importance of participation by saying, “I feel that participation is a must for every student and players should have fun, come what may, as this is just a medium to bond with your friends and classmates.” However, specifying the need to have that winning mindset, the former deputy sports secretary added, “Winning is always like a cherry on top of the cake and no one ever likes, or should ever like, to lose.” Summing it all up in a statement, the Sports Secretary Mr Ravjot Tutheja said, “May the best team win!”

College Team knocked out of Enthusia

VESIT college team endured a rink football defeat to heavyweights RAIT to be eliminated out of the VJTI Sports Fest, Enthusia. In the open ground tournament, the team scraped past the first round as their first match against SGIT ended in a goalless tie. The round was decided by penalties, and VESIT then progressed to round two. Their disappointing performance continued in the second round as they faced the home team and they were comfortably beaten 3-0 by VJTI.

VESIT had another chance at salvation the same day, with a Rink football tournament fixture the same day. However they had a draw against heavyweights RAIT and the tightly contested game ended in a defeat for VESIT, with the team getting painfully knocked out of the Sports Fest. The captain, Prasanna Desai, stressed on the problem of practice, or the lack of it, saying, “We could have played better as a team. Lots of practice and ample team chemistry will take us far and we will surely produce better results.” Also stating the absence of key players, he added, “Lots of first team absentees have stretched the depth of our team. It takes time for the newbies to gel with the existing crop of players.” Vice-Captain, Raturaj Nene, lamented the lack of commitment from the players. “We do have a good team. What we lack is commitment and conviction. With a positive attitude, I'm hopeful that the team will be a successful this year.”