



NEWSLETTER
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Ted^xVESIT-Inspiring the Future

-Ninad Wadode & Atique Kudchi

After months of rigorous form filling, interviews, continuous formalities, researching speakers and performers, publicity, marketing, promotions, registrations, preparing decor and equipment, getting speakers on board, making a solid timetable, writing and organizing everything down to the T, with the support of our Principal, Dr. J.M Nair, Vice Principal Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi and Mr. Nagananda Sir, Training and Placement Officer and Teacher-in-charge of the event, the day had finally arrived. The day of the first TED^xVESIT - 18th July 2018.

The 100 lucky students who were selected to be a part of the event had to register at the desk placed in the reception, collect their ID cards, and occupy their allotted seats in the college auditorium. The stage had been decorated in an eye-popping, unrecognizable manner by the Creatives Team, and the mood lighting was amazing and perfect. The event started on the dot at 1:30 PM, after all the audio and video tests had taken place, and everything was ready; the TED^xTribe was ready to roll and so was the audience.

It started off with the Licensee and Curator Ritika Rajpal, welcoming everyone and introducing the rules. Rakshit Ganvir then introduced himself as the host for the evening. He managed to give a fitting introduction to TED and narrated how the first TED event took place in 1984, when the first Mac computer was invented, and it happened due to collaborations with Sony and Philips, who had just invented the Compact Disc (CD). As per tradition and rules, an introduction video to TED was then played to introduce unfamiliar audiences to the concept of it.



Mr.Vibhas Sen

The first speaker of the evening was Mr.Vibhas Sen, who is an Indian paralympic and an international wheelchair fencer. He spoke about how he was different from other kids in his youth and got rejected from a local swimming pool after the coach refused to teach someone who had physical limitations. But after watching Zheng Tao steal the gold medal for China in the London 2012 Paralympic Games in Men's 100m Backstroke Swimming, he was highly inspired to pursue swimming and set out to find a suitable coach to teach him how to swim. He won his first Silver medal in Swimming, ironically, at the same pool where he was once rejected training. He also competed at the Nationals in Swimming.

By the time he was in his late-20s, he realized that swimming was not a feasible option due to age constraints and switched over to Fencing. He expressed his dream of making India more accessible for physically limited people and gave staggering facts on how much of our disabled population is restricted when it comes to travelling, participating and entertaining themselves. "I want no other Paralympic to face what I faced!" were his ambitious words. He ended his talk with a quote by Academy Award winning actor, director and producer, Denzel Washington: "It's not about how much you have, but about what you do with what you have."



Miss.Riddhi Parekh

Then followed another TED Talk video by the super famous blog writer, Tim Urban, on his process of beating procrastination in a very humorous fashion.

The next speaker was Ms Riddhi Parekh, photographer from our very own, Mumbai. Rakshit introduced her and told the audience how her passion for photography increased when she joined an advertising agency.

Miss Riddhi spoke about how she got her 'big break' in April this year, which was from a shoot she did in a train. She talked about the sudden fame, the reposts, getting featured on huge social media pages and the support and comments she received seemingly overnight from a series of pictures. Her talk segued into how the pressure built up for her to follow up the super viral train series with better images and how she had to face a lot of hate and negativity, recommending the very effective solution of a 'Social Media Detox' which helped her get through it.

Students were able to relate to her talk as they all often feel the burden of expectations. She put forth her points very smoothly and highlighted how being catapulted overnight into fame wasn't all beds and roses. It was her positive outlook to life, ability to prioritize life over the internet, and the support from the people around her has helped her in her battle until now.



Mr.Debi Goenka

News around VESIT

VESITian Elevated by Uber:

Uber elevates Parameswaran as India, South Asia head

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Transportation app Uber has elevated **Pradeep Parameswaran** as its India and South Asia head, succeeding Amit Jain — who was recently made in charge of the overall Asia-Pacific region.

As a member of its regional leadership team, Parameswaran had joined Uber last year in January and was heading operations for India and South Asia for the San Francisco-headquartered company. He will be taking over as president, Uber India and South Asia, effective immediately.

Jain said in a prepared statement on Tuesday, "Over the last year and a half, Pradeep

alumni Pradeep Parameswaran has been promoted to Asia and South Asia head of the world popular cab booking app, Uber. Mr. Parameswaran graduated from VESIT in the year 1995, from the Department of Instrumentation.

VESIT Connect congratulates him on his success and wishes him good luck for all his future ventures.

In the end, she also talked about how anything on the internet is now considered 'content', and how people like her are now considered to be 'social media influencers', because of their responsibilities and the roles they play. Her talk provided very valuable insight into what goes behind the scenes and lens of a photographer/social media influencer and how it's very different from what we see. Her delivery style was very capturing and engaging.

The audience was given a break to re-freshen up and stretch themselves during which Rakshit engaged the audience and asked some attendees about what inspires them most. This reporter was given a chance to express his inspirations too!

The next speaker was Mr. Debi Goenka, an environment activist and Founder/Executive Trustee of the NGO 'The Conservation Action Trust'. His objective was to increase awareness among the audience of the dangers to probably our most precious forest species, the Mangroves! He explained and emphasized on the need and uses of mangroves, their types, and how their roots control pollution. He talked about how he had managed to save around 30 km of mangroves through his efforts until now and his obsession with protecting the environment since a very young age. This obsession even led him to explain and debate his point with public in front of many onlookers. The audience was thoroughly impressed by his fierce loyalty towards the environment, and has definitely instilled hope that many more will join him in his endeavors to safe guard the biodiversity of India.

We congratulate him for, and encourage, his fierce loyalty towards the environment, and we hope and wish that he succeeds in all his future endeavours regarding the biodiversity of India and that he gets all the due credit for it.

All the speakers were felicitated by Mr. Nagananda Sir.

After an amazing start to the event our minds were further amazed when the music performance that was supposed to be only to relax us actually ended up being a life lesson. Arjit Sahai not only showed us his great music but also told us his life story through his songs. "Rhythm and Blues", music popularly known as R&B, is not a well-known genre in India. So Arjit had a hard path to pursue when he choose to make a career in R&B music.

His songs showed everyone the struggle he had gone through, from people not understanding his form of music to them simply not accepting it as a form of expression. But Arjit persevered and kept working hard till he finally achieved recognition he desired. In a country where the public prefer rock music, Arjit kept spreading smiles with his soulful voice and positive vibes. People who want a plush retreat of music should definitely go to watch his set, which can aptly be said to be one of the best R&B artist in the country.

After Arjit's music, it was time for a talk by Dr. Parul Tank. She is a psychologist, who has her practice at Ghatkopar and Nariman Point in Mumbai. She is also consultant at Fortis Hospital (Mulund), Asian Heart hospital (BKC), and a visiting psychotherapist for corporate houses in Mumbai. She is also a popular speaker and has done various talks for NGOs and various schools too. She also writes articles for Indian magazines and newspaper, but the highlight of her media forays have been as an expert on psychological health for Gumraah, a television program on channel V, based on adolescent and the crisis of growing up. She started her talk by telling us about the stigma in Indians about mental health. "We are never ashamed of visiting the doctor when we have physical illness then why should be ashamed to heal our mental illness?" she asked. Dr.Parul is one of the rare set of doctors who have specialized in mental health and against all public judgments. She is recognized as one of the best psychologist in India. She pointed out how many students suffer from anxiety or depression due to pressure, loads of assignment, and various other factors that load a young teenager's life. But they shy away from asking for help as it is not well received by our society. Dr. Parul goaded all students not to refrain from seeking professional help.

Next it was time for James Veitch! Suspicious emails: unclaimed insurance bonds, diamond-encrusted safe deposit boxes, close friends marooned in a foreign country. They pop up in our inboxes, and standard procedure is to delete on sight. But what happens when you reply? Yes, what happens when you reply? James in his Ted Talk told us exactly what happens! In this hilarious video the audience couldn't stop laughing for a single second! Normally these spams trouble us but James turned the tide, he actually frustrated the person who had sent the spam and made him finally give up! It started with the person trying to con James by asking him to make an account in his bank and ended up with asking James to leave him alone! Yes! The spam mailer had given up!

Sindhutai Sapkal who came in next inspired a packed hall with poignant episodes narrated with great wit and energy. Sindhutai's story is one of incredible grit and determination to fight adversity. At the age of 20, when she was nine months pregnant, she was kicked, beaten and left to die in a cowshed. Her daughter was born in that semi-conscious stage and she cut the umbilical cord herself and went away with her daughter to try and stay alive. The beauty of Sindutai Sapkal's life story is that she went on to build multiple orphanages and nurture over 1,000 children and give shelter to innumerable women, who are destitute and abandoned. She told us her tale in her unique way, using songs and laughter and lessons of life. The most important thing to notice was her optimism narrating the tragic and humiliating experiences she faced she never once let her smile go off her face. Her elegance and humility was one should strive for! "Several times I tried to commit suicide. But every time something, maybe the unknown power, saved me. And every time I decided to live for others who are dying". She said, She also told us her experience of giving up her daughter to an orphanage just so that she could remain fair to the orphans she had adopted. What shines through her, is her indomitable spirit, extraordinary courage and high intelligence, combined with street smartness. She told us how one should always try to help and care for others, even when everyone has abandoned them.

One message that stayed clear throughout the talk was," One should always care for others and God will care for you." The children who Mai alias Sindhutai has nurtured are proud to carry her name as their middle and last name. So, all boys use Sapkal while girls use Sathe (Sindhutai's maiden surname) as their surnames.

We often get great education, job, we raise a family, achieve our goals which leads us to satisfaction. But what Sindhutai taught us is that we have all been looking at life in the wrong way. Helping other and doing the needful for others can be a lot more satisfying than achieving or fulfilling our ambitions. Her talk received a thunderous applause which kept echoing throughout the entire auditorium for a long time. The audience was filled with tears of joy, laughter and an oddly satisfying feeling. Sindhutai, is definitely the noblest personality one can ever come across in a lifetime!

The event ended with the curator of the event Ritika Rajpal giving her vote of thanks and all the speakers being felicitated by Mr. A. Nagananda from the Training and Placement Cell, who was instrumental in getting TEDx to VESIT. The event was definitely a huge success that will undeniably change the lives of all those who were present.



**Mrs.Parul Tank honoured
by Naganand Sir**



Mrs.Sindhutai Sapkal



**Principal J. M. Nair Ma'am, Nagananda Sir and Mrs. Sindhutai
Sapkal with TedxTribe**

VES Global Awards

Vivekanand Education Society received two Global awards @ World Education Congress 1) BEST Education group overall & 2) Visionary Leader Award for President of VES . Congratulations to VES members



Shri Amar Asrani



Shri Laxman Kanal



Shri. Mahesh Tejwani

VESIT Professor receives Ph. D from IIT

-Hiten Makhiya

“To succeed in your mission, you must have single-minded devotion to your goal.”

-Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Dr. Parmeshwar Birajdar from Department of Electronics at VESIT received his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) from IIT Bombay in April 2018. His thesis titled “New Approach Using Wavelets and Filter Banks for Biometric Application” which started in December 2010. Dr. Birajdar says, “Research is my passion and if it’s feasible, I’d love to research on more subjects”. When asked about an average life of an IITian and a VESITian, he simply said, “There’s no difference. The only difference is hard work and the willingness to do it.”

Dr. Parmeshwar Birajdar did his bachelors in Electronics Engineering from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar University in 1999. He also holds a Master’s degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering that he pursued and graduated from VESIT in 2007. He started teaching in VESIT in 2006 during which he also cleared the interview round at IIT. He’s extends his gratitude to the Principal, Vice Principal, Academic Council, VES management, his peers and colleagues for what he is today.

Dr. Parmeshwar Birajdar is the true inspiration for all people in VESIT. His story is a living proof that nothing is impossible in life if one puts his heart, mind and soul in it. No task is impossible, no goal is unachievable. Just keep your head down and work for it incessantly and success will be yours.



Dr. Parmeshwar Birajdar

Research Talk on Supercomputing

-by Arya Kasulla and Padmaja Borwankar

A seminar was held by our Research Forum and Computer Engineering department on “High Performance Computing- Supercomputing” which was presided over by Mr. Vaibhav Kumar, a Scientific Officer working in BARC. It was held on 13th July 2018, in the VESIT Auditorium from 11:30 a.m. onwards. The audience were the faculty members of VESIT and final year students of Computer Engineering Department. This entire event was coordinated by Assistant Professor, Mrs. Lifna C.S.

Supercomputing primarily refers to the processing of massively complex or data-laden problems using the concentrated compute resources of multiple computer systems working in parallel (i.e. a “supercomputer”). Supercomputing involves a system working at the maximum potential performance of any computer, typically measured in Petaflops. Sample use cases include genomics, astronomical calculations, and so forth.

HPE approaches supercomputing through a High Performance Computing (HPC) architecture. HPC makes it possible to overcome traditional cost barriers to supercomputing. You can choose how much compute power you want to concentrate in HPC clusters. Our HPC solutions empower innovation at any scale, building on our purpose-built HPC systems and technologies solutions, applications and support services.

The speaker explained about High performance computing well and its future scope which also included about the Supercomputing that it can greatly improve connectivity, efficiency, scalability, time savings, and cost savings for industrial organizations. Companies are already benefiting from the Supercomputers through cost savings due to predictive maintenance, improved speed, and other operational efficiencies. Further he also explained the future scope of Supercomputers and its widely considered areas like Molecular Modelling, Structural Biology, Human Genome, Physics Simulations, Fuel Combustion, Semiconductor design, Astronomy Oil exploration etc. Industries are pushing to modernize systems and equipment to meet new regulations, to keep up with increasing market speed and volatility, and to deal with disruptive technologies. Speaker continued about parallel supercomputers and its advantages like its affordable way to achieve supercomputer speed, Harness multiple processors to solve problems, explore inherent concurrency in the algorithms etc.



Dr. Nupur Giri with Mr. Vaibhav Kumar

The parallel computing and other techniques like software parallelism, code optimization improves connectivity, efficiency, scalability, time savings, and cost savings for industrial organizations. It can also allow enterprises to get the most value from their system without being constrained by Large data sets, high parallelism, and minimal dependency between data elements. The session concluded after two hours and the audience were enlightened with knowledge about emerging technology.



Research talks in Progress

Computer Networks Orientation

-By Saumya Kulkarni and Padmaja Borwankar

Our college has been a hub for various skill development workshops over the years. With the introduction of new topics in the Mumbai University syllabus, it is very important for the faculty to keep themselves updated. One such orientation was conducted by our college for the faculties of various engineering colleges in Mumbai.

The orientation program for Computer Network (CSC-503) and Computer Network Lab (CSL-502) was held at Vivekananda Education Society's Institute of Technology, Computer Engineering Department on behalf of Mumbai University on 12 July 2018. The program started at 11:00 am where almost 40 Faculties from different engineering institutes attended the orientation program. Dr. Nupur Giri, HOD of Department of Computer Engineering was the subject expert for the program. Dr. Nupur Giri addressed them on detailed module wise CO mapping, hours required and text book mapping and contents to be covered for the above mentioned subject. She also discussed with the members the list of lab as suggestion for CN lab. Prof. Richard Joseph and Prof. Yugchhaya Dhote conducted Lab Demonstrations with the tools used for the suggested experiments in the syllabus.

FDP conducted at VESIT

-By Padmaja Borwankar

Every year, our college VESIT organizes Faculty Training Programs to train teachers and make them aware of the advancing technology. This year, two such programs were organized, one by the Computer and MCA Department and the other by the Instrumentation Department.

Computer and MCA Department

A one Week Faculty Development Program was organized by Department of Computer, Information Technology and Master of Computer Application, VESIT in association with E-summit IIT Roorkee Finland Labs. It was held from 2nd July to 7th July, 2018. Total 60 participants were registered from various institutes for the same. The main topic of discussion was "Deep Learning and Artificial Intelligence". Inauguration session was held on 2nd July 2018 in Room No. 523 at VESIT. The Convenors and the speaker, Mr. Venkat L. Raju, Data Scientist, Igebra Inc., Hyderabad, India inaugurated the session by lightening the lamp followed by speaker introduction. After the inaugural function, 1st day session was started with the basics of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. Machine Learning algorithms and its applications were discussed in the post lunch session. Day 2 started with Neural Network concepts and Deep Learning. The speaker discussed about the flow of Artificial Neural Network architecture, various algorithms and its benefits. He also mentioned about the applications of neural network in solving real world problems. In the post lunch session, Convolution neural network of Deep learning was explained clearly stating how the features are extracted from the images to train the network. Day 3 to Day 5 sessions were conducted in Lab 506. On Day 3, Basics and object oriented concepts of Python programming language was practiced. In Day 4, different machine learning algorithms such as classification and clustering were executed with various case studies using Spider notebook of IDE Anaconda version 3.5. Day 5 started with the Tensor Flow software installation, followed by the practice of Deep Learning algorithms. Day 6 was conducted by Mr. Richard Joseph, Faculty, VESIT. He explained machine learning pre-processing concepts and execution of algorithms such as Apriori, k-means and Decision Tree using the resources from Super Data science web source. Finally, the session concluded by a vote of thanks from the course coordinators.



Participants of Faculty Development Program

Instrumentation Department

Department of Instrumentation organised a week long Short Term Training Program from 2 July to 6 July, 2018 on 'BIOLOGY FOR ENGINEERS'. The course objectives were to study the combined principles of biology and tools of engineering to create usable, tangible, economically viable products. This course was designed to provide an introduction to that interface, presenting biology from an engineering perspective. Thirty seven participants registered for this STTP, out of which two were from VES college of Pharmacy, one from VES Polytechnic, one from RAIT, two from MGM, one from Vidyarthi College. The other members were from VESIT: four members from Department of EXTC, seven from Department of Electronics, seven from Department of H and AS and remaining from Department of Instrumentation. The lectures were conducted in two sessions; morning and afternoon, by six eminent professors from the 'Department of Biosciences and Bio-engineering', IIT-Bombay. The STTP kick started with a warm welcome and motivational speech by our Principal, Dr J.M. Nair. The first day sessions included modules on 'Biophysics' and 'Movement science and rehabilitation engineering' conducted by Dr. Ambarish Kunwar and Dr. Neeta Kanekar respectively. Second Day sessions were based on 'Introduction to cells and cellular processes' by Dr. Kiran Kondabagil and 'Tissue engineering' by Dr. Prakriti Tayalia. Third day was a continuation to the 'Biophysics' module by Dr. Ambarish Kunwar followed by an interesting session on 'Stem cells and Cancer' by Dr. Shamik Sen.



Participants of Faculty Development Program

The highlight of this STTP was the visit to the technologically rich labs of the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT-B, on the fourth day. Participants got to see the working and visual representation of BIO-AFM facility, Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope and FACS (Fluorescent Activated Cell Sorting) facility. This was followed by an engaging session on 'Nano-Medicine and Drug Delivery' by Dr. Rinti Banerjee, Head of the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering. On the last day, Dr. Kiran Kondabagil and Dr. Ambarish Kunwar went over the topics of 'Understanding Viruses' and 'Role of

Entropy in determining protein structure' respectively. The STTP ended on a high note with Dr. Ambarish Kunwar interacting and sharing his experiences with the participants followed by the farewell address

JPMC - "Code For Good"

-By Tanvi Shinde

Every year a Hackathon called 'Code For Good' is conducted by JPMC in cities all over the globe, Mumbai being one of them. Developers put their coding skills to the test, to build a web or android application and render technical solutions to problems of various NGOs.

Another dimension to this event in Mumbai is the placement process for aspiring BE students in JPMC which spans over four months. These students first came across JP Morgan Chase and co. In February when they attended the pre placement talk. This year a whopping 44 students got selected from VESIT for the Hackathon from which three shone as the winning team members.- Saurabh Verma And Krutika from D17A and Shraddha Chawan from MCA.

Here's an excerpt from the insights these Vesitians shared about the various stages of the event-

Resume writing

Around April , Comps, It and MCA students need to make a formal resume. The conditions for the resume include a minimum of 8 pointer. Saurabh from the winning team emphasizes on maintaining a good cgpa throughout. The resume must be balanced with co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Here's where those projects and internships pay off.

Telephonic interview

On clearance of round one, your honesty and confidence is assessed via this telephonic interview round a few where a mix of technical and HR questions are asked. It's a good idea to brush up concepts of Java, data structures etc and be true to your resume and skill set.

Hackathon

Two days before this most awaited day teams of six are made on the basis of your skills . A Github account is needed as it is used to build the project.At the dawn of July 21, 2018 all the candidates reached MindSpace in Goregaon where they changed and prepped up for the problem statements provided by 3 NGOs this year. The winning team assisted “An-nadaan” and built an application which helped institutes like restaurants, offices etc to enroll and sign up to give away the leftover meals which comply with the conditions.



Participants from VESIT

These would be collected by volunteers from the NGO and distributed to the needy. From 11am to 11am next day, the participants racked their brains and coded. There are helpful mentors and subject matter experts who lended a helping hand to the teams whenever they encountered problems. These mentors also check your performance in terms of problem solving skills , teamwork, social interactions etc and recommend for further placements. One must focus on the functionality of the application over aesthetics.

After a whole day of brainstorming and overcoming hurdles,these teams presented before the NGO's and JP Morgan officials where top six teams were further made to present before senior delegates of JPMC and a winning team was declared. The top contestants received many goodies and the winners were awarded with an Ipad.

This process concludes with some candidates getting placed in JPMC a few weeks later as per the performances. Gayatri Shinde and Priyanka Gandhi from D17C, from the top 6 teams share their memories of this event being spiced up by fun activities like the midnight performance, where random candidates are called forth on stage and other amenities like sleeping bags and loads of food to keep everyone awake and functioning. They beam about this great learning experience and the delicious food offered there.



The Winning team of HackM

CarWale Placements 2018

-By Aditya Srivastava

CarWale - India's largest auto media vehicle has always strived to serve car buyers and owners in the most comprehensive and convenient way possible.Their mission is to bring joy and delight into car buying and ownership.

This company (for the first time) approached VESIT on 20th of July 2018 to recruit engineers to fill in their ranks. After a PowerPoint presentation from the company's officials the placement process begun in which anyone having at least 60% aggregate could take part. The process was divided into 4 rounds:

Hackerrank Challenge:

4 questions were given from from hackerrank to be solved in 2 hrs 10 mins. Sanjeevkumar Chintakindi from D17C who got placed in carwale mentions, “I could solve 2 questions 100/100 and my code passed 7/13 test cases in the 3rd one, I was shortlisted for the Technical Interview round”

Technical Interview:

Now the interviewer skims through the resume of the shortlisted candidates and asks questions about their past work. Sanjeevkumar says, “I had mentioned my github link so the interviewer visited it and asked questions about e-commerce website I implemented using Django and how I used PayTm API in it.”

After a brief talk the interviewer is ready to test the candidates with 3-4 coding questions. Sanjeev sharing his experience says, “ In a particular question he asked me to find 2nd smallest element from a circular sorted array which I did in O(n) time but was told to optimize and do it in O(lg n) time and O(1) space complexity.”



Sanjeevkumar Chintakindi(D17C)

The HR Interview:

The Human Resource Interview round where the interviewer asks questions from describing yourself, your family, friends, work ethics, to where do you see yourself in 3 years from now, how do you handle pressure, etcetera and judges the interviewee's personality was the 3rd round of the process. “I was asked about my experience where I was totally down and out but still managed to pull off my work, and why did I choose to work with AIESEC an unpaid NGO were some questions asked to me”, added Sanjeev.

Technical Interview :

The fourth and final round of the process Technical Interview 2.0! Again few questions on past work and a coding challenge is given to the candidates, of course this time it'll be way more difficult from the ones asked in 1st and 2nd rounds as they're placed if they crack it! Sanjeevkumar tells us how he was asked about his web scraping project he built to monitor a certain website and interviewer seemed interested to know how will he implement it on a larger scale with millions URLs to monitor. “I was also asked to find minimum element of a stack using push and pop functions only in O(1) time”, added Sanjeev.

A week later, selected candidates got a call from the company and their offer letters were sent to them. CarWale recruited 4 engineers from our college this year. Namely:

- 1) Sanjeevkumar Chintakindi D17C
- 2) Pankaj Ahuja D17B
- 3) Binoy Shah D17A
- 4) Shubham Parulekar D17A

Sanjeev advised us to solve more and more questions from different websites, codechef being his favorite. On being asked about his role in the company, Sanjeev answered “My offer letter mentioned I'll be joining as a ‘Software Engineer - 1’, I'm happy with my package and looking forward to a great experience.”

MAQ Placement at VESIT

-By Aishwarya Sahoo

This is a very proud moment for VESIT as three of its brilliant students, Saish Mohare, Asutosh Padhi and Suraj Bhatt from Information Technology department bagged the prestigious placement offer from MAQ. Heartiest congratulations to all of you for getting placed in MAQ!

Here's a candid interview with one of these students, Saish Mohare – where he talks about his interview experience, and also shares a few tips on how to conquer these nerve-wracking interviews.

Q1. How was the overall interview experience?

The overall experience was very exciting as it was my very second interview. The overall process was a test of patience as I was waiting for my turn since 8 in the morning and my first round was conducted somewhere around 6 in the evening.

Q2. Any topics/subjects students should focus more on, in order to excel the technical round and the aptitude test?

Generally students should focus on the three basic subjects - Data Structures, Database Management and Object Oriented Methodology to excel in the technical round. Note that the trick lies in coming up with an optimal solution for any given problem and not just the first solution that comes to your mind.

Q3. Tell us more the qualities prestigious companies like MAQ seek while they filter out candidates in the HR round.?

Confidence is always the key. No organization would want a diffident candidate on board. Along with this, the company also looks for your adaptability, how will you perform in a role which is not of your interest and your adaptability towards the company's work hours. Candidate's ability to view a situation from all viewpoints is also considered.

Q4. A message you want to convey to the ones who will be appearing for interview in near future.?

Understand the concept of interviews. Interview is not just a question-answer session. It is a sales pitch, you have to convey in each answer how you are the perfect fit for the offered position.

Q5. Any other plans you've been thinking upon for future along with your association with MAQ?

No plans as of now. I'm really looking forward to this journey of learning in MAQ!



Saish Mohare

“Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow's reality”

-Malala Yousafzai

VESIT Voice

-Gayatri Belapurkar

It's back to school time! The dawn of the new semester brought with it a bountiful of events. The new academic year sparked off with the much awaited, first ever TEDx in VESIT. The entire Vivekanand Education Society was yet again made proud when they were felicitated at World Education Congress. The process of learning is one that goes on forever. Another one of VESIT's jewels, Prof. Parmeshwar Birajdar was accorded with the title of PhD. A research talk enlightened the students of CMPN and the teachers alike, as Mr. Vaibhav Kumar, a Science Officer working in BARC explained the technicalities and future scope of Supercomputing. It is necessary to move and adapt with time, especially in the modern world with new technologies and discoveries being made every single day. An orientation of one the newly introduced topics, Computer Networks, was organised in VESIT on behalf of Mumbai University. VESIT also organised Faculty Training Programs to train teachers and make them aware of the advancing technology.

While the teachers of our college were busy amping up their game, the students proved that they too, were not lagging behind. The placement season began and soon, some of the brainy VESITians were placed with tycoons such as JPMorgan Chase and Co., MAQ Software and CarWale. The month of July also proved to be truly inspirational and informative for those aiming to join the Civil Services, as a special workshop was held for the aspirants. In a way, July can also be thought of as the month when its alumni or recently placed students came forward to guide their descendants. VESIT Connect's very own Ex-Chief Designer, Mr. Tarleen Dand returned to the college to train his juniors and help them unleash their creativity with InDesign, the software we all at VESIT Connect swear by. Rohit Sreedhar, our Ex-Chief Editor who would be pursuing his MS in the United States of America emboldened and gave a direction to the efforts of his juniors who wish to follow his footsteps and pursue a Post-Graduation in MS. This month, in the VESIT Diaries section, we have Mr. Akshay Chandrasekar whose interview is bound to motivate the students.

July witnessed agitation all over Maharashtra, as people of the Maratha Community seek reservations in jobs and education. One of the VESIT Connect members recalls one such incident she fell prey to, and tells us about her narrow escape from the heated up situation. As the students and faculty of VESIT are very well aware of, the approach road to the college was literally in bits and pieces during the past few months. It brought a wave of relief when the road was finally repaired and VESIT lost its craters. With the rain god pouring down upon us with all his fury, the first couple of days which usually see beaming faces and high spirits of all its students,

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were toned down as only a few students could make it to the college. With this issue, we also bring to you first-hand experience of an FE Class Representative and his struggles serving his term. It seems now as though the students of VESIT have learnt going out and making the most of their lives; Yash Keskar, a student of third year Instrumentation Department narrates his enthralling biking venture, leaving you with the desire to hit the roads too.

Here's wishing you all a wonderful read and a lovely, eventful semester.

The power of imagination makes us infinite.

-John Muir

Orientation program for Civil Services Exam

-By Akshara Sarfare

The civil service system is the backbone of the administrative machinery in our country. A lot of VESIT students had heard of the IAS exam and were very curious to know how to go about this prestigious exam. To give them insight and information about this, Vivekanand Education Society (VES) tied up with Chanakya IAS Academy, Delhi, which is a pioneer in the field of civil services preparation. They conducted an orientation program for VESITians in the auditorium on 10th July, 2018 at 1.00 p.m., on how to prepare for Civil Services Examination.

This session was attended by the third and fourth year students. The speakers were Shri A.K.Mishra, Chairman and M.D. of Chanakya Academy, Delhi and UPSC toppers, Dhawal Jaiswal, IPS and Sonam Kumar (Electronic & Communication Engineer), IPS.

The objective of the program was to provide academic facilities to the students aspiring for administrative careers. "It was an amazing session. We actually got to know how the procedure of selection for IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS and subsequently other posts are done", said Pratik Pathak (D14A).

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always try just one more time

-Thomas.A.Edison

Alumnus returns to train Juniors

-By Shruti Bondre

"Design is thinking made visual"

-Saul Bass

Ever wondered about the production of VesitConnect Newsletter ???
Let's have a look at the recipe of this newsletter.

Ingredients Required:

- A lot of brainstorming
- Tons of events and experiences
- Plenty of pictures
- And the most important one: Our Game Changing Magic Ingredient—"InDesign"

Procedure:

Mix all the ingredients in proper proportions and then add InDesign. InDesign is one of the most essential part in the production of VESIT Connect. It is a software used by the team for presenting their articles to the public.

In order to make sure that everyone in the team is acquainted with this magic ingredient, VESIT Connect arranged for a workshop for its team members on 14th July, 2018. The workshop was conducted

by our own Ex-Chief Designer, **Tarleen Dand**, and Ex-Chief Editor, **Rohit Sreedhar**. The session started off with Mr. Tarleen and Mr. Rohit introducing themselves and sharing their experiences of being a part of VESIT Connect. Then Mr. Tarleen introduced the team to InDesign, a desktop publishing software application. He explained why InDesign was used and how user-friendly, compatible and apt it was for designing newsletters like ours.

Mr. Tarleen then conducted a session where each participant was supposed to create sample page by adding pictures, tables, data, colours and articles. At first most of us had some troubles dealing with the controls, but with his gently guidance, soon enough, everything vanished. And soon all became seemingly easy. The session ended with our Faculty In-Charge, **Dr. Geeta Ajit**, presenting Tarleen with a token of appreciation and, of course, a group picture!



Tarleen Dand with the budding designers



Tarleen Dand with the VESIT Connect team

Getting acquainted to a new software, learning a new skill, listening to and discussing with different people is a learning experience and an opportunity of its own kind. It was indeed a successful and cheerful session with the participants appreciating themselves and others for the skills they newly acquired.

Fresh Alumnus returns to talk about GRE

-By Padmaja Borwankar

In today's competitive world, only a few people are contented with just a Bachelor's degree. More and more students are realizing the importance of higher studies. For further education, engineering students are required to take various tests to seek admission into reputed institutions whether it is in India or abroad. One such test is the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

This year, our very own chief editor of VESIT Connect, **Rohit Sreedhar** passed out of the college from the Electronics and Telecommunications Department with soaring heights. He took the GRE test and scored an amazing 318 out of 340 marks. He got into the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, USA. He intends to specialize in Embedded Systems and IoT. Before leaving for the US, Rohit came back to our college to advise a few second and third year students about the GRE.

Rohit's talk on the GRE was scheduled on 20th July, 2018 in room 515. It was attended by approximately 20 students and VESIT Connect Editor in Chief, Dr. Geeta Ajit. Rohit started the session with a detailed explanation about the paper patterns of GRE and TOEFL. He discussed all the sections of the test which include the Verbal section, Reasoning section, Quantitative section and the Essay writing section. He then advised the juniors on how to prepare the GRE. He admitted that in addition to the Magoosh mobile apps, reading newspapers and books helped him hone vocabulary. He gave simple tricks on how to remember words by associating them with some person or situation



Rohit Sreedhar addressing the students

our personal lives. He also explained the importance of Statement of Purpose (SOP) and Letter of Recommendations (LOR).

Statement of Purpose is written by a student to convince the university why it should admit that student over any other student. Rohit said that an SOP should clearly contain the reasons as to why a student wants to study a particular course in a particular university. One should never lie in an SOP because the university experts are trained to pick out such dishonest students. When it comes to Letter of Recommendation, Rohit advised that a student should choose a teacher who has taught him for preferably a long period so that the teacher is able to track his growth and grade him accordingly.

In the later half, Rohit explained the entire application process for universities in the USA. He warned the students that the universities follow stringent rules when it comes to application deadlines. Most of them have a deadline around December of the previous academic year. Before the deadline, the students have to prepare for the GRE, take the test, prepare a Statement of Purpose, get the Letter of Recommendations and finally apply to a few feasible universities. Although this is a long procedure, it is worth the time and efforts. Once you get into a renowned university, your career takes a huge leap towards success.

At the end of the session, everyone applauded Rohit for his pithy and honest advice about further studies and GRE. Ariscia Mendes from D12A commented “He explained the entire process very well giving minute details about everything. All our doubts and queries were given logical answers. The suggestions provided were also great. It will help us gauge the path ahead with much more clarity.” Rohit leaves for the US on 10th August, 2018. VESIT Connect wishes him good luck in all his future endeavours!

Victims to Peaceful Protest

-By Ujala Jha

Maratha Kranti Morcha, the umbrella organization of the agitators, seeking reservation in jobs and education, started a new round of protests all over the state on July 25. The protest started with a peaceful notification a day before with the representatives releasing notifications throughout media that they will observe a peaceful bandh in Mumbai and adjoining cities. They also cleared that schools and colleges will not be included in this bandh as they do not intend to trouble anyone.

What started with so-called peaceful acts like folding hands and requesting the sellers to support the bandh soon turned into violent protest starting with a death of police constable due to stone-pelting at Osmanabad. Soon every major highways of the cities were blocked, buses were put to fires and the general public was hurled stone upon. One of the VESITConnect Member who experienced an aggressive attack while travelling in the city recalls “ I was travelling via Public Transport when I met this accident at Cadbury Junction Thane, what happened that day made no sense to me, A group of 150-200 youths who should be rather be having books and laptops in their hand where carrying stones and targeting general public who were still in bus including me. We were not even allowed to board down the bus, several people within my bus itself suffered from injuries, luckily I escaped. The whole point of Marathas vs government turned into Maratha vs the general public, with innocent being punished. What was our mistake? we left our homes only after being assured by the representatives that the public was not at stake ” Even after the bandh was called off by 2.45 the same day, the protest continued in areas of Navi Mumbai and Thane till 6 pm in the evening with police using tear gases to stop these threatening groups. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra even released a statement where he told reporters that “If throwing stones at me can help win reservation for Maratha community, I am ready for it ”, adding that only court could take decision on this issue of granting reservation to the community, the day ended with many officials stating the disapproval towards the damage cost to the public and the government itself, but the fact that has to be observed here is that the organizer of such protest themselves lose control over their protesters and go beyond what should be a peaceful protest. We do not take up any sides, but is it justified to cause damage to others for the demand of someone's benefit?

No more “Moon Walks” to VESIT

-Atharva Gupte & Aadi Fernandes

The potholes on the road leading to the main gate of VESIT were large enough to be compared to the craters on the moon. It not only was an eye sore to watch the road right in front of the college full of potholes but also an uncomfortable ride for all the students, teachers and other staff members while coming to the college. Thankfully, the road repair work started on the 3rd of July and got over by 15th of July under the contract of MCGM.

In addition to ensuring a bumpy ride to the college the pothole ridden roads also affected the traffic near the Hashu Advani Bridge which would cause great delay to students while coming to college. The poor quality road and the snarling traffic jam, combined with incessant rains often resulted in rickshaw drivers refusing to ply to this part of Chembur. What scared everybody was the thought that if this is the plight in June and July, which was just the beginning of the rainy season, how would it be by the end of monsoon?

All said and done the road repairing work is over. But the monsoons seem to be coming down in full swing. So hopefully it won't be a bumpy start to a new semester.



Before road repair



After road repair

Monsoon Woes

-Arya Kasulla & Sreevidya Iyer

Monsoons are a dreaded period in the life of a Mumbaikar. While it's a welcome respite from the stifling summer heat, it brings with it another set of problems. From excessive water logging, disruption of train schedules, pot-hole ridden roads, to refusal of autorickshaw to ply to our desired destinations (a conundrum often confronted by the students of VESIT), monsoon leaves a trail of woes in its wake.

The prelude to the Academic year 2018-19 for the students of VESIT started with a heavy downpour on 9th July. The Weather Department had already predicted 3 days of intense rainfall for the city and suburbs. However, without any concrete directions from the Education Department by Monday morning, the students and the teachers were forced to brave the weather and set off in the dreaded Mumbai locals.

The early morning trains were a little late but it made up for the tardiness with their frequency. When the students finally arrived in the college soaking wet, after putting up with the ordeals of travelling, they found themselves in classrooms with hardly any students in it. It was a commendable feat that most of the teachers made to work to welcome their protégés to a new year of learning and experience. The few who were present will recount the fun they had catching up with their

friends and peers after a month long vacation. Of course, introduction to subject matters and the class council elections were discussed, but the students were buzzing with energy and excitement that little got in their way of merriment.

As the half day of college came to an end, everyone was faced with the inevitable question of how to get home. Based on previous experiences, most of the people travelling by the local trains were waiting for the other shoe to drop, in this case the cancellation of all train services. While some lucky ones made to the station in the nick of time and caught the last train home, the unfortunate ones were stranded at the railway station.

Amongst all the chaos, an interesting development took place. The Education Minister, Mr. Vinod Tawade took to twitter to declare precautionary holiday for all schools and colleges at around noon. It would have been a great news if not for the fact that many of us had already reached our institutes, while some of us had even completed our day and were headed home!

The crowd got thicker and thicker at the platforms and tensions escalated. While some people found alternate means of transport, some with no choice endeavoured to hope that the services would resume soon. It was after a long and panic - filled hour that trains began plying again. Stations such as Nalasopara were completely water logged and the Express trains had to be halted there and the passengers had to be relocated to safe place. Many of the students who attended the first day of college faced glitches at some point or the other during travel. But the reigning opinion was that they enjoyed the day of adventure and got to witness the kindness of strangers in inexplicable forms.

The heavy rains continued with relentless passion for the next 2-3 days. Eventually schools and colleges filled up to maximum capacity when the students realised they would be getting no more holidays and resigned to their fate.

The most awesome part of the ordeal was that, except for a few delays, the Mumbai Locals continued their services without shutting down completely. It's not for nothing that the local trains are dubbed as the lifeline of our city. The hard and diligent work of numerous technicians, motormen and countless other employees ensured that Mumbai got back on its feet without admitting defeat. We truly owe our thanks them for ensuring our safe returns to our homes.

A Student’s Guide to JPMC

-Vishal Israni

I am Vishal Israni from IT. I was offered a job (9LPA) at JP Morgan. Here is a gist of my experience : JP Morgan visits VESIT campus for their pre-placement talk around the last week of February to convey their work culture and the recruitment procedure.

Round 1: We had to register for the recruitment procedure by submitting our Resume and filling an online form where they asked for personal and academic details. Keep your Resumes ready by February itself since a lot of changes will be needed to incorporate the suggestions. Do not go for last minute Resume building. Take some time, analyze and note down things and the order in which your Resume is supposed to reflect your details. Make your Resume crisp and clear. Maximum 2 sides. Try to highlight certain keywords like Java, Smart India Hackathon, Winner etc. Get your resume verified from some of the teachers as well as seniors for suggestions. It takes around a month to declare the shortlisted candidates for the second round. Make sure you fill the registration form and submit the Resumes 2-3 days prior to the deadline [a time span of 15 days is given for the same].

Round 2 : Shortlisted candidates were allotted with half an hour of slot for the telephonic interview with proper date details. Make sure you are in a well networked area at that time. Based on the interviewer, different set of questions were asked but Java was the primary focus for most of them. Make sure you prepare and be thorough with what you have mentioned in your Resume. Prepare for Java, Data structures, Databases and some common HR questions. The actual flow of the telephonic interview depends on the answer of well-known Introductory question, “Tell me something about yourself” I had answer to the above question ready. Just make sure you do not hesitate while answering the question. And at the same time, make sure you do not sound like reading the answer from any written document if you have prepared. I ended the introductory question with a focus on Smart India Hackathon. Thus I was asked detailed questions regarding the same. Motto of the project. Your Role in the project. Issues that you faced. What did you learn from it. My interview went on for 37 minutes. Out of which 30 minutes were dedicated on my SIH project itself. Later I was asked about my future plans [make sure you do not say anything about Post Graduation plans].

Round 3 : Again, it takes about a month to declare the shortlisted candidates for this round. You go through a 24 hour Hackathon named as Code for good. They share their timeline with proper dates during the pre-placement talk. Make sure you note down things properly. A team of 6 pre-decided by the recruiters itself is supposed to develop a product based on the problem statements defined by 3 NGOs on the day of event. Prepare well for Web development and Android since mostly a web or mobile based solution is expected according to the problem statement. Get well versed with Github. You can get handy with Laravel [PHP framework] and Django in case needed over there. You'll be added in a private git repo named with your team number a day or 2 before the event. There, you'll be able to see other members of your team. Teams usually comprises of members from different colleges with different skill sets. Make sure you listen the problem statements by NGO people clearly and submit your choice very quickly since it's a First come first serve based system. There will be a mentor given for each time, monitoring and helping you throughout the event. Mentors usually change overnight. Seek help from mentors, Subject matter experts and try to communicate with them as much as possible. Every other employee over is there to rate you so make sure you give your best while communicating with them. Co-operate with your team members and come up with innovative ideas. In short make a good impression over your mentors. You get to present your solution to respective NGOs and top six teams were shortlisted for the final round where you present your product in front of a jury and other team members. Our team was ranked second.



Vishal Israni(D20)

It isn't a constraint that all the members were given Job offers from the winning team. Even non-winning team members were given Job offers in about a week based on their performance throughout the event. All The Best!

Struggles of an FE CR

-Atique Kudchi

The title is as such because I have been a CR in my first year in the college (until now) and I can only speak about the struggles that an FE CR faces, as there is a lot of work in FE which may be absent in the oncoming years. Having said that, being a CR in the approaching years is also not a mean task, as it requires balancing all sorts of society work along with CR duties. So let's not take them lightly either. That is also one out of 13 reasons why I am not an SE CR. Basically a Class Representative (CR) is supposed to represent his whole class and act as a bridge between the teachers and students and ensure transparency with the whole teaching system. Along with those, the duties include assisting the class and subject teachers in any work regarding their class like collecting student info, various forms and fees, collecting and distributing assignments, marking attendance, ID cards, assisting rescheduling of lectures when teachers are absent and also keeping track of who submitted documents, making announcements, regularly forwarding messages - the list is virtually never ending. It is without a doubt a very stressful job, which requires a lot of sense of responsibility and the ability to handle a lot of stress.

Usually, if you are lucky, you will get a cooperative class whose majority will submit things on time and collect things on time, where they also check their mail and whatsapp regularly and stay updated, where you will not have to run after them 24x7. But had that been the case with me, I would probably not be writing this article. So if you are an FE CR with a troublesome class, here are some a few useful tips on how to manage your class better, get the most out of your time as an FE CR and some difficulties you may face.



Atique Kudchi & Aaryaa Padhyegurjar

1) Make Contacts

FE is a time when you are new, and contacts and acquaintances really help when you progress in the years. Use your responsibility and work to get on the good side of the teachers and seniors, as that is super helpful when you want to apply for societies or various activities in the future. You will not have to prove yourself all over again, as they already know that you are a trustworthy and responsible person and your teachers will give you benefits they won't give any layman they don't trust or know.

2) Organise Yourself (Uber important)

This is also a skill you will thank yourself for in the future. For example, collecting exam fees is one of the most tedious jobs for any CR, as it involves a lot of cash money and extensive care needs to be taken. Collaborate and help your co-CR, as you will be dependent on them most of the time as aides and teammates. Usually a lot of people will forget to get the money, and the ones who do, will horde around you, asking you to collect it ASAP. The key is to - Keep calm. Use the Google Keep app, or Google Sheets and make a checklist of all students in your class and add your Co-CR as collaborator. This reduced 25% of my efforts, and avoided paper wastage and info misplacement. Call students roll number wise in an orderly manner and warn them a day earlier that you will collect the money only in a specified time window, and stick to it. Carry suitable pouches/ boxes to carry notes, and if possible, give them to a responsible hostelite. This is just one of the infinite steps you might have to take. You will learn with time if you are patient enough (You have to be. You have no choice)

3) Be Nice!

Sometimes your classmates will make life hell for you. Never lose your composure. They are dependent on you, and you, on them. This also helps when you are dealing with difficult people in the college, or outside it. Condition yourself to face pressure with a calm mind. Having dealt with a class that wasn't greatly responsible, I feel more than qualified to write this article. Being an FE CR was personally was one of the most teaching experiences in my life and gave me a golden opportunity to prove myself and make myself known. If you are someone who has less patience, no sense of responsibility, and you want to fix all that, you are ironically the perfect candidate for your class CR. The benefits of being an FE CR are worth more than any difficulties you will face. Keep that in mind when your class elections take place! Good luck!

MUSINGS & EXPRESSIONS

I Always Fancied Making a Bucket List.

-Aishwarya Sahoo

(Fanfiction entry: TFIOS;
Aishwarya Sahoo:
D2A)

I ALWAYS FANCIED MAKING A BUCKET LIST.

But unlike others, my list wasn't long. I think, I was satisfied with my life. I was content with the way my life was shaping with the occasional bumps and crevices. What had ignited a year ago when Augustus and I had fallen in love, continues to burn. Augustus' love is like a circle of light for me, he is a destructive supernova. And he doesn't want me to be the collateral damage. He wanted me to move on, and fall in love with someone else. Everything in this world was selfish. Love was selfish too, but in a selfless manner. You can do anything to make the person smile over and over again. Augustus always wants to make me smile. His love for me was a testament with no ends, an aria with the most melodious voice, a story with an ending which wasn't happy but not sad either. Whatever we had was more real than time, more real than death, and more real than any other world.

I hear a shuffle on the bed, and I snap my gaze towards the direction of the source of the noise, coming out of the spiral of my thoughts. I see Augustus holding a crumpled paper in his hands, and I begin to fear it's the letter I had written for him at the hospital before my tumour resection.

"No Augustus! You can't open that," I snap at him, knee-walking to the other side of the bed. Gus trots backwards, hiding the paper behind his back. "You can't read that now. It's a future resource, Augustus."

"You look so cute when you're angry," he speaks with a smile on his face, as he stares at me. My mouth opens widely agape, staring at him angrily and slightly huffing.

"You're being ridiculous, just give me back my letter. I've to hide it from you now." I tell him gruffly, trying to snatch it from his hands but he beats me to it in a dodgy manner.

"God, just, give me back my letter. Please." I bat my eyelashes, trying to appease him but in vain.

Augustus jumps in three-sixty-degree so that his back faces me, opening the piece of paper. "Hazel's Bucket List," he begins to read, and I face palm. "Oh, isn't it me who is supposed to write this?"

I leapt at him to get back my list because it was much more personal than the letter. "Oh my God! Don't read it, otherwise I'm going to kill you, bare-handed." I warn him but in vain.

I circle around him, finally facing him. He has a wild and playful smile on his face as he continues reading, "Wish number one. Get a tattoo. Oh, that's so... easy!"

I make another attempt to snatch my letter back but Gus dodges me with one swift motion which leaves me distraught. "Please don't read it, Gus—"

"—wish number two. Go on a long road-trip."

My breaths are sporadic as his gaze falls on the third wish. "Oh my God. Please don't read it further—"

“—wish number three,” he smiles, just a lopsided pout, narrowing of eyes and tilting of head, “Stargazing with the love of my life.”
“I hate you,” I huff, sinking on the bed exhaustedly, and muttering wild expletives under my breath profusely. “I hate you so much!”
“You won’t be saying that tonight.” A deep throated chuckle escapes past his lips, filled with amusement.
I look at him, thoroughly confused. “What do you mean?”
Augustus passes me a gentle smile, “I’ll be your genie today, and fulfil all your three wishes.”
I roll my eyes, “No! I know they’re plainly stupid.” I tell him, shaking my head violently.
“No,” he shakes his head. “When it comes to you nothing is stupid, and nothing is plain ever. Remember when we held that camp for oncology tests awareness? You were so good then. Now come on, get ready! We’ve a lot of work to do: tattoo, road trip and stars.” The corner of his mouth tugs upwards.

When we are at the tattoo shop, my legs begin to wobble because of the nervousness.
“It’s just a needle, Hazel. Just a point-four-zero millimetre long needle you’re being scared of.” Augustus rolls his eyes laughing at me.
“Augustus, the narrower the needles are, the more painful they are. It’s a basic scientific concept of pressure, force and area—”
“—you and I’ve gone through much worse conditions, we both know. Now shut up, and go for it.”
“That was under anaesthesia during the operation, Augustus. I need it here too.” I mumble, stepping backwards—away from the tattoo shop.
“Isn’t my love an anaesthesia for you? Doesn’t it make you forget all the pain you’re going through?”
I don’t know how to answer. His love was a painful irony. He made me think about the what ifs when he dies and succumbs to his cancer. But his love also made me forget my pain. “Anaesthesia makes me numb, Augustus. But you don’t. You make me feel,” Augustus smiles at my reply. “Okay, I just want you to hold my hand. It won’t numb down the pain, but it would make me brave enough to face the need— no wait, zero-point-four millimetres long needle.” I laugh.
“Okay,” he laughs, before his face dissolves into a heart-melting smile. “I’ll always hold your hand. No matter what. What do you want in your tattoo?”
“An infinity?”
“That’s so cliché, Hazel.” Gus disapproves making me sad.
“I don’t know but somewhere the symbol of infinity always makes my heart swell. Two heavily distorted zeroes coming together and merging into something which is much greater than the distance between two galaxies. It’s so fascinating because it’s you, Gus. You’re my infinity,” I tell him, my eyes crinkling as I smile.
“Likewise,” he smiles in return, his eyes snapping in the direction of the tattoo artist. The tattoo artist acknowledges him with a smile.
“So where do you want the tattoo?” he queries, looking at me.
“On my ring finger?” I ask him, slightly unsure. The tattoo artist nods at me, then motions me to sit on the comfortable arm chair beside which the tattoo-making machine was. I sit there, looking at Augustus. My heart sinks when the artist brings the needle near my finger, and I don’t even realize when a drop of tear spills off my eye involuntarily.
“Just... relax, Hazel. It’s just a tattoo, okay? I’m there with you.” I give him a doubtful nod, and close my eyes. My hand grasps Augustus’, who stood right beside me, clutching it hard. I cling to him as though he was the one making me forget the pain as the needle pierced my skin. At the first section, the pain was unbearable and susceptible—so much that I screwed my eyes shut—but after a little while, I become more adaptive to it. After the tattoo artist finishes making the infinity, I stare at it adoringly. “This is you, Gus.” I tell him, showing him the tattoo. He kisses the tattoo, the crimson of my blood smearing his lips. “This symbolises how you’ve given my little infinity within the numbered days. I’m forever grateful to you.”

Staring at him makes me think of every small thing in a different way. Like the wind wasn’t blowing because of pressure variations, but it was blowing because they were destined to make me understand that Augustus was the warmest person I could ever find. Spending time with him was endlessly, implausibly fascinating. It’s just me and him driving away from the city. The windows are down, and the convertible is in the open-air mode. The cold air feels amazing against the skin, and our songs were playing in the music system. I wished the drive could never end.
“Where are we driving, Gus?”
He looks at me, his eyes brighter than the stars. “It’s a surprise.” he murmurs softly, throwing me a wink. I cross my arms, sulking on the seat.
After half a mile, Gus stops the car because he was tired. I offer him to drive but he tells me he would be recharged in five minutes. I agree to it reluctantly.
I take out the canister of hot chocolate I had brought along and pour a little into a glass for him and me. When I take in the first sip of the hot chocolate, I let out a dreamy sigh. So does Augustus.
“This tastes so good. I could cheat on every Sunday for this. It’s so warm, Hazel. Just like you.” he tells me, taking a sip of his hot chocolate.
I roll my eyes at him, although his words made me feel flattered. “Shut up, and drink.” I pluck his nose roughly with my fingers.
Augustus groans loudly. “Hazel Grace who? You should be called Hazel Goon.”
“Idiot.” I retort playfully.
As he drives at the fractional speed of light, I stand up, holding my arms in the air. “Hazel,” Augustus says aloud, slowing down a little. “Just be careful, okay?”
“Don’t worry, Gus.” I assure him, letting the wind rush over my face. I start crying and smiling at the same time. Augustus loves me so much.
And I cry thinking about how would I survive without this man. But then, I let my worry dissolve because with Augustus I was really home. And it was safe for us and the people we let in. It was our world. His love was all I needed to tide through any battle.
Because in every moment with him, I felt infinite.

Arms linked with each other, Gus and I were just being us. Augustus had driven us to this beautiful place outside the city with a beautiful lake-view and a tent at around fifty feet away from it. The tent was enclosed from all sides except from the top and side, letting me admire how the stillness of the water against the back-drop of the blackness of the sky. “This is so beautiful.” I tell him, my eyes riveting to his from the lake. The brightness of my eyes mirrors in his dilated orbs.
“Why aren’t you looking at the stars, Hazel?” I ask him, narrowing my eyes. “It was in your bucket list.”
“It’s nothing. I’m not in the mood.”
“You think I don’t see? You’ve started growing this animosity towards stars, Hazel. I have seen you. What’s wrong boo?” He asks me, digging my face into his shoulder.
“I don’t know, Gus. It’s always like stars falls from the sky, one by one. Then it seeps into your blood, rushes through your veins, and becomes every part of you. But after loving it for so long, you’ve to give it back to the sky. I can’t deal with more losses. I’ve already so many people in life. And now, I can’t afford to lose you.”
“Hazel,” he whispers softly. I don’t know when tears begin to rain in torrent off my eyes. “Just remember this. What’s yours is always yours. Whether it’s with you, in your arms,” he added, “or it’s up in the sky. I’ll forever be yours.”
My heart melts.
It doesn’t matter now if Augustus was dying. In life, and in death, I was always going to be his.

Travel to prove the World wrong

-Yash Keshkar

11pm, Srinagar. The rain Gods had gone berserk., It had been close to an hour now. I was staring away helplessly at the heavens hoping for the weather to clear up. Lal Chowk was eerily deserted at this wee hour and I was starting to feel a bit scared, considering the history of this ill fated place. I had ventured out of my super cosy hotel room for a Wazwaan, a famed Mughlai dinner right by the shores of the Dal lake and to explore the city by the night. Nature had different plans for us.
On the way to the restaurant, we were greeted with a thunderstorm and heavy rainfall. We entered a quaint dry fruit shop in Lal Chowk and thought to use it as a shelter till the rain recedes. A peculiar grin welcomed us in the dingy, but homely store. For the whole of the hour we were there, never did we feet out of place. Cricket, life in the valley, weather, tourism, Bollywood all found a place in the juiciest of discussions that followed. The talks didn’t seem to end, but the rain did. After eighty minutes of a continuous downpour the rain Gods let it easy. It was time for him to close his shop down and return home. After a heartfelt goodbye to

Abdul Chacha, we set out, hearts content with the fun we had, stomachs still empty. Chacha warned us, weather in the valley changes by the minute, do not waste any more time, get back to your hotel without further delay. Thanking him for the advise and the memories, we made a dash back to the hotel.

Chacha's words came true, quite sooner than expected, much to our disappointment.

We had hardly walked any distance away from his shop. At this time, we were having nightmares. Not a soul was in sight. Fifteen minutes into this ordeal, things were starting to get from bad to worse, the streets starting to flood and the cold kicking in. Just at that time, a familiar voice was heard from the distance. Without a doubt we knew who it was, Chacha! The old man came all the way in the rains, just to check on us. Without waiting for a moment, he invited us at his place, which was just a couple of blocks away. We obliged happily.

A warm meal later, along with his family of four, we were asked to stay at their place for the night as we possibly couldn't make it to the hotel. I guess, we being weirded out was evident, Chacha put his hand around my shoulders, smiled and said that we are the guests of Kashmir, assured us that we were not a burden on them and they were happy to receive us. I was at a complete loss of words, unable to digest the fact that we were being hosted by a complete stranger.

That night was one of the longest ones of my life. Lost deep in thought, wondering what my impression of Kashmir was, two weeks prior to this. Family, friends, well wishers everyone trying to convince me that this was a land of scoundrels, ruffians, who only mean harm to the Motherland. These are people whom you need to be very cautious of. Today, while looking at the wizened Abdul Chacha, I am convinced otherwise.

Incidents like these motivate me to travel .Travel, to put preconceived notions to rest.Travel, in the quest of proving the world wrong
Food for Thought.



Yash Keskar with his bike on the shores of dal lake

VESIT Diaries

Akshay Chandrasekar is a VESIT alumnus of Batch 2011 from Electronics Engineering Branch. He is currently working with Swades Foundation that operates with the single-minded focus of empowering rural India. Mr. Chandrasekar left those easy 9-5 Job, with well air-conditioned offices to choose a life where he spends most of his time in streets of some remote village, empowering lives of those who are really in need. When asked about this he asserted that now each of his days was dedicated towards a change and being a part of such an initiative satisfied him as an individual. Mr. Chandrasekar is an ideal example for all of us who have always wanted to do something that is for the benefit of society. Below we present excerpts of our interview with Mr. Chandrasekar with an aim to inspire students at VESIT to take bold steps and embark on their journey towards some social initiative.

1. Tell us something about your life at Vesit .

2011 ETRX. My life at VESIT revolved more around extra-curricular activities than the classroom. Debating, Street Plays were particularly close to me. I was a part of organizing Praxis , the Literary section of Utsav & started the inter collegiate Vivekanand Memorial Debating Competition. While classroom learning is essential, participation in extra curricular activities does a lot for character building, It taught me how to 'get things done' and that has helped me throughout.

2. You work with Swades Foundation, tell us something about your role there.

Swades Foundation is focused on Rural Empowerment. We work in 2000 villages & have a diverse focus on Economic Development, Health, Education, Water & Sanitation. I lead special / innovative projects at Swades and typically spend 50% of my time in the villages. As an example , I was instrumental in creating a program where rural youth who are skilled in Music could increase their earnings by Rs 35,000 a year, an amount that is very significant in a rural setting. I also assess the potential of various business opportunities for income enhancement. If found feasible, we train villagers to enhance their income via these opportunities.



Akshay Chandrasekar

3. After working with various IT companies you've settled into social venture, how is working with Swades foundation different from your past experiences?

Working in Tech firms , both in the services as well as the product side were tremendously helpful when it came to polishing soft skills. In my current role as well as my previous roles the common factor has been problem solving. Ofcourse, the nature of the problem being very different. In corporate, invariably people deal with the upper strata of the society that is both educated & economically well off. At Swades it was a complete reversal, dealing with tribals , people who are poor, unaware etc. is the norm. Being an agent of change, one has to often convince a risk averse, and poorly aware section of the society to take steps for the betterment of their lives. The way I summarize it – Meetings now moved from Air conditioned conference rooms to temples in village & each meeting was persuasive pitch aimed at change.

4. What motivates you to work for a rural empowerment and why is it important for every individual to work towards upliftment of society.?

Rural Empowerment is particularly close to me as, one often reads about different kinds of rural distresses in the media. Most of us are city bred & cities are a microcosm of development, a far cry from the reality that nearly 60% of the population in India faces. This 60% are our rural brethren. Personally, the amount of problem solving opportunities that exist is a big motivator & each problem solved betters the lives of people directly & the benefits trickle down across the board. Example being – Increase in income of an Individual in a village , increases the village economy, the extra income results in higher spending on health, better educational outcomes & also reduces the tendency to migrate to urban areas & thereby reducing population pressure in urban areas.

5. How do you manage your personal life with growing commitments at professional level ?

Great question, I haven't figured out the answer to that yet. However, I think one must enjoy what they do. That solves half the problem. Also, you should interview me a few years from now, hopefully I'd have figured it out by then.

6. Could you tell us about some interpersonal skills we should have outside academics and how to maintain a balance with other technical abilities ?

Technical abilities are second to none. So one must, if wanting to pursue a technical career constantly work on that. However, ultimately we are dealing with people so interpersonal skills cannot be ignored or overshadowed. Personally, I've learnt that listening , empathy & clear communication & team work are very important.

7. Can you throw some light upon the activities students can do from the beginning which will help them shape their career?

Identify areas that you are weak in and try and incrementally improve on those. I was not comfortable with public speaking , I contested in elections , took part in debates & performed in street plays. Needless to say, I am very comfortable with public speaking. Also, take ownership of things. It could even be a small event at a college festival. Ownership enhances learning like nothing else. If you play a sport, try and represent your class / college. If you don't college is a great time to pick up a sport. It builds character.

8. Tell us how important is it for an engineer /engineering student to have a life beyond technology.

I think it's important for everybody to have a life beyond their academic locus. Everyone should do justice to both the academic & non academic sides.

9.What is your message for the youth at VESIT?

Be bold & don't be afraid to take calculated risks.