

Vidyalkar Adopts Wadala Station



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is a national campaign by the Govt. of India which aims to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country. Launched on 2 October 2014, at Rajghat, New Delhi, it is considered to be a historic mass movement integrating 125 crore Indians to create a Clean India. This campaign aims to accomplish the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2 October 2019, the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

Vidyalkar, which not only believes in producing global citizens but is also keen towards fulfilling its social responsibilities, has adopted 'Wadala Station' for its upkeep. Dr. Sanjeevani Deshpande (Chairperson), Mr. Vishwas Deshpande (Managing Director), and Mr. Milind Tadavalkar (Director), of Vidyalkar Dnyanapeeth Trust along with the Principal of VSIT, Dr. Rohini Kelkar visited the Chancellor of Maharashtra, and it was then that the plans for the adoption began to roll.

The station was scrutinized for making a daily plan. A team of students and teachers from Vidyalkar Campus went to Wadala Station on 25th July 2015 to execute the plan. The students held placards with various messages such as "Don't cross tracks", "Use Dustbins" "Follow Railway Rules" etc. The adoption ceremony was followed by a flashmob in the presence of members, Vidyalkar management, VSIT Principal and staff members.

As a part of its adoption for cleanliness, Vidyalkar has appointed four cleaning staff for Wadala Station for its upkeep from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. Everyday 10-15 students from VSIT visit the station and help the passengers. They are posted at the fag-end of platform on every track and encourage the passengers to use the bridge for their safety. Some students are posted at the ticket counter window to encourage travelling with ticket. The Station Master Mr Suryaprakash, is all praise for the initiative. He mentioned the motormen's relief over the fact that this drive has been successful in reducing the number of railway track crossers, thereby reducing the chances of accidents on railway tracks.

The Management is keen on the proper execution of this adoption. It is frequently visited by Mr. Vishwas Deshpande and Mr. Milind Tadavalkar. Additionally, the Community Relation Officer, Ms. Ratna Pandey and NSS Program Officer Mr. Vijay Gawde have been entrusted to oversee the progress of all the adoption activities.

The Institute has been successful in clearing a major part of



the debris and the operation is still on. Dr. Ankush Sharma, VIT, has been training the railway employees in communication and customer care relation management. Vidyalkar has many more plans to up-keep the station, such as:

- Painting of the Railway Station.
- Proposal of small garden in place of debris.
- Installation of Dustbins.
- Beautification of Platform No.1 with show Plants to create ambience at the Station.

Sarvesh Mahadik, the NSS Leader from SY BMS, VSIT says,



"It has been a learning experience for us during this exercise. When we first began, it demotivated us when commuters shouted at us and ridiculed us, but soon people began to listen to us and follow our instructions. We learnt that with patience and the right practices we can achieve a lot."

Vidyalkar has set a new trend which will be successfully carried out, thereby motivating other Institutions to take up such social responsibilities and be in tune with the Pradhan Mantri Yojana of "Swachha Bharat Abhiyan."

- **Snehaprabha Katti, Faculty, VSIT**

The People's President

What can anyone say about APJ that hasn't already been said before? Any write up that even begins to comprehend the achievements on his 23 page long resume will be long to pass through the eyes of any newspaper editor. But let's at least make an attempt.

Son of Jainulabdeen and Ashiamma, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was born in the small temple town of Rameswaram on the southern coast. His father, who owned a boat, had no academic qualifications but was deeply interested in religion; a Muslim himself, he used to hold regular meetings in his house with a Christian and a Hindu priest. Dr. Kalam said it was from their discussions that he learned what he called “true secularism”. It is truly inspiring to see how the son of a man who ferried people from Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi would one day become the man we know as APJ.

He went to a Catholic school, St Joseph's college, in another southern temple town, Tiruchirappalli. He studied physics there, but was not an outstanding student. After leaving the Madras Institute of Technology in 1960, he joined the Defence Research and Development Organisation, and his subsequent scientific career was spent in government research organisations. In most of these, scientists are hampered by bureaucratic procedures and political interference. Dr. Kalam developed the skill of protecting his scientists without falling out of favour.

He also wrote a series of books including his best seller autobiography *The Wings of Fire*. Many of his books were targeted towards the youth of India inspiring them to strive and build the India of their dreams. *Ignited Minds* was also one of his many highly celebrated works. This just showcases that Dr. Kalam's passing is not only a loss to the scientific community but to the field of literature as well.

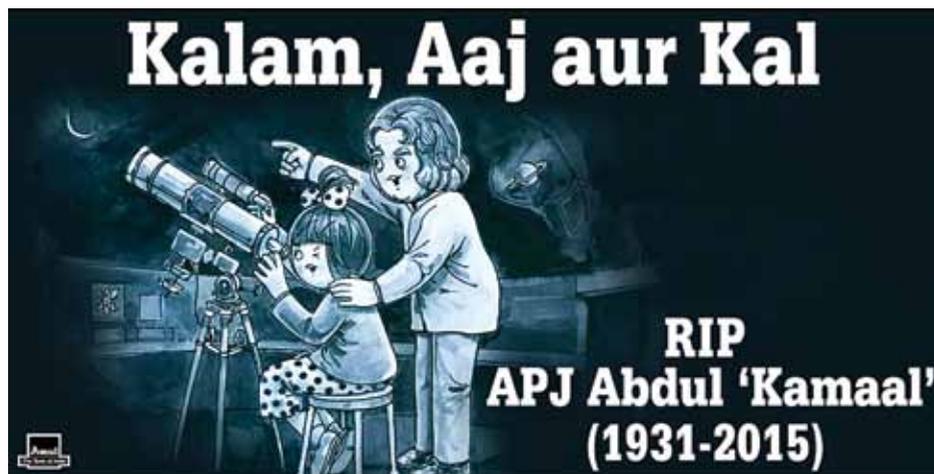


He held a series of prestigious posts, including Project Director for India's first indigenous satellite launch vehicle, and chief of the integrated guided missile development programme, which earned him the nickname “Missile Man of India”. From 1992 until 1999 he was chief scientific adviser to the prime minister and the defence minister. In 1998 he was the chief project co-ordinator for India's second nuclear test, which made India the first non-NPT nation in the world to become a nuclear power. The year before that he was awarded the Bharat Ratna (meaning Jewel of India), and a jewel he was, all through to his dying breath. Dr. Kalam, a pinnacle of humility, apologized four times to a guard for having him stand at the venue of his last speech for a few hours.

They say that a man is not really dead if we find a way to remember him. Knowing Dr. Kalam's personality, the fondest the way to remember him is to honour the way he lived his life by

striving to live the same way. One of APJ's lesser known quotations is “True Patriotism is not being proud of one's country, it is making your country worthy of being proud of”. And that is what all of us, the youth of his beloved homeland must strive to do. Every man, woman and child who asks “How would Kalam do this?” is remembering him. They are not only remembering him; they are living proof that Dr. Kalam is not really dead. A small part of APJ is alive in every one of these individuals. It is alive in the engineering student building a micro hydroelectric power plant in Bilgaon so that a village can have power for a light bulb, it is present among the school students in Jhajjar who are going to school on Saturday so that they quench their thirst for knowledge, it is every one of the 130 crores Indians who believe in him, which made him “The People's President.”

—Aakash Desai, BE CMPN, VIT



International Parent's Day Celebration

VISIT took great pride in celebrating International Parent's Day. The purpose of this celebration was to bring into spotlight the underlying causes of the weak bonds between the parents and their teenagers – a burning problem of the society.

The problems and their solutions were conveyed through various ways. Some short films were shown to throw light on the current social scenario of the conflicts in every home regarding parents and their children.

These conflicts and their possible solutions were conveyed by Prof. Kedar Sawant through his presentation. According to him the main causes for these weak bonds are generation gap, communication gap and raised levels of expectations between them. The generation gap is too vast as the parents' upbringing compared to their children differs owing to infrastructure and trends in the society. These differences give rise to differences in perception and mindset. Neither parents nor their children find it easy



to cope or understand each other. But the parents have to put themselves in their child's shoes and visualise things which can strengthen the bonds.

Communication gap is another devil that weakens this bond. The advent of technology leaves parents to be busy even at home with their office work. Parents cannot spend quality time with their children. This gap harbours resentment, detachment and feelings of alienation for the children, who need constant caring guidance and governance on their day-to-day activities. The youngsters are left to themselves without any control. Therefore it is of utmost importance to spend quality time with the children and to know them. Once you know your child the gap can be bridged easily without much effort. The matching of thoughts will lead to smooth

communication. The child must be given enough space but needs monitoring periodically.

Raised expectation is another culprit. Both parents and the children have many expectations from each other which obviously weakens the relationship. Children feel that their parents don't have time for them. This situation worsens if both parents are working. On the contrary parents feel that their children do not understand their plight, as they have to earn for the welfare of their children and expect them to understand it. In this process, parents provide children with luxury and facilities they want and sometimes even more than their expectations. Many-a-times it is seen that the parents want their child to meet their expectations and sometimes their children are burdened by their unfulfilled desires. In such cases the parents must set small milestones for their children and

make children enjoy the joy of achievement. And then they can set high goals and ambitions.

Dr. Sanjeevani Deshpande, Chairperson, VDT carried forward Prof. Sawant's discussions on communication gap. According to her, nowadays there is zero communication between parents and their children and the amount of time we spend using technology is mainly responsible for the same. She appealed to parents to communicate effectively and to bridge the gap and to be in tune with the thoughts and ideas of the younger generation. She is of the opinion that students must be nurtured by their teachers through mentoring. Dr. Deshpande assured all the assembled parents that the Institute would take care of their children through mentoring sessions.

—Snehaprabha Katti, Faculty, VISIT

A send-off to the distant shores...



Two full years of teaching and grooming the students of Vidyalankar Institute for International Education (VIIE) in the disciplines of IT and Management culminated in the

transfer of 37 students to universities like Penn State, Fresno State, Aston in the US and UK. The occasion was special also because the very first batch of students was transferring to the University of Toledo, Ohio.

The basic objective of the gathering was to reiterate for the one last time, a few dos and don'ts since they were to move to a different country with a different culture, laws and rules.

The Chairperson of Vidyalankar Dnyanapeeth Trust, Dr. Sanjeevani Deshpande in her speech spoke from her heart as a mother who had seen both her children study abroad, take the best the world had to offer, and bring to back to India. The Managing Director of the Trust,

Mr. Vishwas Deshpande and the Principal of the Institute Dr. Rohini Kelkar, voiced similar opinions of students making the best use of their time abroad. They were encouraged to uphold the Vidyalankar tradition of Learn-Earn-Return.

The gathering saw happy parents expressing their gratitude towards the institute for having meticulously prepared their wards for their second innings on the shores abroad.



First Step towards a New Beginning: MMS Induction 2015

When it comes to the first day of college, the new batch is seen full of enthusiasm and anxiety. A similar picture was mirrored on 31 July 2015, at Vidyalankar Institute of Technology (VIT), Wadala, when the Masters in Management Studies (MMS) department welcomed the new batch of MMS 2015-17. To acquaint students with the two year program a week long induction was arranged which started with the inaugural function and an opening note from Vidyalankar Chairperson Dr. Sanjeevani Deshpande, who with her wise words left a mark on the hearts of the new entrants. Following this, the Head of the MMS Dept. and Chief Operating officer Dr. Ankush Sharma took everyone through the MMS program and enlightened them about the faculty, functions, and opportunities that are accessible for the students. Dr. Ankush ended his discussion with the a very inspiring poem 'Kosish karne walo ki kabhi har

nahi hoti.' Mr. T.R. Doongaji, former M.D. of TATA Services, was the next speaker at the induction session, who with his mesmerizing



speech stressed on how important is to follow one's heart. The function was carried forward with Sanit & Sushmita, students from the third semester sharing their experience of the first year and welcomed the new batch at VIT.

Day one was full of various activities planned for the first years. If the first half was to give them all the instructions about the working of the college the second half was dedicated to the make them feel at home and give them a glimpse of what lies ahead for them in 2 years. Various management games were conducted by the third semester HR students which were directed to-

wards learning through action. A very enthusiastic audience and an equally hardworking team of the event conductors made it a huge success.

Prof. Smita Mukherjee conducted the next day's session, which was on grooming and personality enrichment. Later the students were introduced to UDAAN, which in a very unique way allows exploring the capabilities of the students. Understanding their own capabilities became easy with the session by Ms. Archana Samarth, a counsellor who helped the students to gauge themselves better with what all areas of improvement are there and how can they better it.

When the question comes of understanding industry, it becomes very difficult for a fresher, but Mr. Doongaji with his session 'TATA Glimpse', gave a crisp view of the industry. The next day UDAAN was kickstarted by Dr. Ankush who motivated the students. UDAAN this time was themed around the Pro Kabbadi League and students covered every aspect in their presentations to explain right from the process, parameter of kabbadi to the market that is associated today with this successful game. Presentations were looked upon with many different facets. To make students aware about the 'Importance of Corporate Communication', a session was held by Prof. Radhika on the next day which emphasized on how important is to communicate in right time and manner. The following day had two students from the second year of MMS, Tanvi and Rukshie who explained the basic concepts of Business Maths and Financial Accounting respectively, to the whole batch of first years. On the last day of the induction, students got an opportunity to interact with Mr. Gopi, COO at Voltas, who imparted knowledge on how to make a path from campus to Corporate. The second half had a session by Mr. Pankaj Somnath, a professional HR trainer from IOCL, who with his motivational speech and experiences left the students spellbound. They realized through his way of life that hard work and sincere efforts always pay off.

With this a whole week of Induction known as 'Induction and Foundation course Week', came to end which gave a run through for the students from the first semester. As Liba Bray said 'In every end, there is also beginning'; and in this invigorating manner the MMS Batch of 2015-17 embarked on a journey of two years at Vidyalankar Institute of Technology.

—Sushmita Chahande, SY MMS HR, VIT

Cleanliness is indeed next to Godliness

We all start our day with a shower or a hot water bath, why? It is because we prefer ‘personal hygiene’. We comb our hair, cut our nails, shampoo regularly, brush twice a day and other similar activities to be well groomed and to maintain personal hygiene.

After taking care of personal hygiene, we put in efforts to keep our home clean and tidy. We broom it regularly, wipe the floors and walls, we all make sure that our house is spic and span. If we can do so many things to maintain cleanliness of self and home, then why aren't we careful about cleanliness on the streets and in our own country? Are the surroundings not like our home?

Of course, they are like our home. So it is our responsibility to maintain cleanliness in our surroundings. We can contribute by simply disposing garbage in a proper way instead of throwing it anywhere. We can take help of the BMC workers to keep the vicinity clean. We can tell them to clean the common dumping area every month.

Students can contribute by preparing posters on ‘Clean India, Green India’ and put all over the schools/colleges and thus, create awareness among the visitors. We can also put sign boards indicating the location of the dust bins. We can segregate waste and keep separate dust bins for wet garbage and dry garbage. College students can take part in Elocution competitions and give speeches on ‘Cleanliness’. NGOs, Nagar Sevaks and other social workers can conduct cleanliness drives on national festivals and bank holidays. They can arrange prizes for the participants.

So, as is evident, there are many ways to maintain cleanliness. We can follow these to become responsible citizens of India and also contribute in every possible way, albeit small, towards a big cause.

- Ashish Kamat, EJIGB, VP



Enjoy the journey of life

What do we all feel life is all about? Well, we all have our own interpretation of life. I believe life is a journey - a journey where we come across opportunities, people, happiness, sorrow, anxieties, etc. Some of us want to become good doctors or pilots but is there any one who wants to enlighten someone's life? Life is not just about achieving our own goals, but even helping out others to achieve their aims. That is the real happiness anyone in this world would feel.

Talking about opportunities that come

across in one's life, they come along with new lessons. All the ups and downs in life, just teach one basic and important thing - “never give up”. At some point of time we would feel all our hopes are being scattered; instead of moving up we are stepping down the stairs to failure, but life is still beautiful. Explore more, discover things, understand people, take risks, try to bring a smile on someone's face, have good thoughts, act wisely, be hardworking, be calm; following all such ways you would definitely be a master hand to weave the fabric of your destiny. You would enjoy all bits and parts

of your journey. Life is not complicated, we make it so. Don't go in search of happiness, be happy with what you have. Don't work for your own good and happiness, work for others.

Spread happiness, love, care, kindness, good blessings will fall in your hands, and the ultimate creator of this world will help you to set the cloth of peace on your table!
*Dwell in thought upon the grandest,
 And the grandest you shall see,
 Fix your mind upon the highest,
 And the highest you shall be.*

- Aditi Pawar, CO1G-B, VP

TALENT CORNER



Sketches by Shaikh Mohd. Tariq, CO1GB, VP



Sketch by Aniket Kulkarni, CO1GB, VP