24 September, 2014 - India has successfully put MANGALYAN IN THE MARS ORBIT!

Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), called Mangalyaan (literally meaning the Mars craft), is India’s first interplanetary mission launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). It was launched aboard a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) on 5 November 2013. MOM took 300 days to finish the 200 million km expedition to Mars, which includes the 20-25 days it spent in the Earth’s orbit, building up the essential speed to break free from the gravitational pull. India became the first Asian nation to successfully reach Mars after the Soviet Space Program, NASA, and the European Space Agency.

This mission was undertaken to place Mangalyaan in the Mars orbit for exploration of Mars surface features, morphology, mineralogy and the planet’s atmosphere by indigenous scientific instruments. It is a “technology demonstrator” project to develop the technologies for design, planning, management, and operations of an interplanetary mission. To achieve its secondary, scientific objective, it carries five instruments (payloads) that will help advance second-order, scientific objective, it carries five instruments (payloads) that will help advance its primary mission.

India’s Mars mission had its share of criticism by people, who had said, the country could not afford to indulge in such a mission when a third of the population have no access to electricity. But what was thus disregarded is that investment in science and technology builds the scientific and technological capability and aptitude and helps develop the people who further profit the financial system and the society.

Nevertheless, MOM along with various other titles, has also clinched one for being the cheapest interplanetary mission at a record cost of Rs.450 crore or nearly $67 million dollars. NASA’s Maven space mission which has already positioned itself into its Martian orbit, cost $671 million. The cost of Rs 7 was incurred per kilometer. However, the ISRO team for creating history!

The mission has been such an immense success that MOM has its own newly minted twitter handle. The people behind this Twitter handle seem to have a good sense of humor. MOM responded with a “Howdy @MarsCuriosity? Keep in touch. I’ll be around”, when the Curiosity rover tweeted a “Namaste” to MOM. The latest member among the team of Mars explorers isn’t just economical, it’s suave too.

ISRO has achieved many laurels in the past and has conducted a variety of operations for both Indian and foreign clients. ISRO plans to send a follow-up mission with a greater scientific payload to Mars in the 2017-2028 timeframe; it would include an orbiter and a stationary lander.

The success of our space mission is a histrionic symbol of what we are capable of as a nation.

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MMS DEPARTMENT OF VIDYALANKAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The MMS Department Of Vidyalankar Institute Of Technology set the best example of ‘Action based learning’ on this Gandhi Jayanti. Young India aimed to anchor its pedagogy in stimulating real-life stories. We were honored to have with us Dr. Prasad and Mr. Dhume (Faculty of NITTTR), Dr. Ankush Sharma (Head - Management Studies), Mr. A. A. Sarma (MD & CEO, SIDBI Venture capital Ltd.) and last but not the least Mr. Lakshman Gole. Mr. Gole, who had a dark and glowing past, came across the book of Gandhiji, “My Experiments With Truth”. This book changed his life forever. Hearing his story was not only inspiring but also astounding. Students made inspiring speeches on Gandhism.

Students made inspiring speeches on Gandhiji’s principles, but also gave them many essential lessons on management. They learnt many streams of Management-Marketing, Finance, HR, Operations, in one single day in this stirring event! Students strived hard to keep up to the words of Gandhiji. “Without action, you aren’t going anywhere!”
Salute girl power!

A girl must be two things-classy and fabulous - Coco Chanel. Since ancient times it has often been quoted that ‘a girl’s character is her greatest prized possession’. A big question for today’s India which has enjoyed freedom for the last 66 years is how safe and secure are our women? Girls who are out to explore the world and enter public life are faced with several challenges due to both external as well as internal factors such as attitudes, beliefs, awareness and thinking. Some ways for a girl to keep herself safe are to be cautious and alert because she might be sometimes unaware of who’s watching her.

A girl should always be positive and have a ‘never say die’ attitude and must have faith in herself and her abilities. Girls have the ability to multitask: interact with others, nurture their relationships with family and friends and the fortitude to face challenges and overcome problems. They can balance their emotions and logical thinking skills for success in life and career.

As Catherine Deneuve rightly says, “A woman has to be intelligent, have charm, a sense of humor and be kind. It’s the same quality I require in a man.”

—Lymraina Fernandes
EJIG-A, VP

Nirbhaya Campaign: Workshop on self-defence

Gender discrimination was once upon a time a burning problem. But with the advent of education, science and technology and modernisation, society is changing its attitude towards this worn-out ideology of gender discrimination. As a result, we are steadily heading towards a society which believes in gender equality. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule deserves a salute for his commendable job on girls’ education. Along with women, a large section of men of the society have also contributed a great deal to achieve this.

In spite of the progress of the times, a fraction of male society still considers women as the weaker sex and as objects of exploitation. As it is evident through mass-media, quite a number of women are being molested and exploited by men. It is ironical that it is some men who are the perpetrators, but the victims are made to live a shameful life.

This threat to girls and women is on rise. Therefore it is of utmost importance, to train girls and women for their self-defence. Today’s girls are venturing like boys but this threat gives a set-back to their venture. In order to bring about a threat free society for women and girls, many institutes have started self-defence training programmes. Vidyalanark, along with the overall development of students, has taken an initiative in training our girl students for their self-defence and thus is empowering them.

The Institute had arranged a workshop for VSIT girl students by Mr. Subramaniam, who is a third degree Black belt from Goju Rijju Karate-Do Renmie India. This workshop aimed at teaching self-defence techniques in different situations. This will help our girl students to be more confident while travelling, at their work places and in public places. It will also enable them to help other women in need. This commendable initiative will also influence other institutes to start such practice.

—Snehrabha Katti
Faculty, VSIT

VSIT student participates in Summer School Camp

VSITians are always in the forefront for exploring new avenues. The University of Mumbai had organized a ‘Summer School Camp 2014’ to ignite student minds for innovation and discovering solutions for the unmet needs of our country. Two research papers from each college affiliated to the University of Mumbai were called for.

VSIT forwarded the abstracts of two research papers and the one on Automated Levelling Trains by Gayanka Ganesh Sawardekar was selected and she was eligible to attend the summer school which was conducted in the University’s Kalina campus. Selected students from all regions of Maharashtra participated in this.

The Summer Camp was scheduled for three weeks. In the first week, eminent resource persons which included the likes of Prof. M. M. Sharma (Innovations in different fields of science), Prof. Anil Gupta (Inventions by Innovation Foundation), Dr. Suvarna Kulkarni (Serendipitous discoveries that changed the world) provided expert guidance to the participants. In the second week visits were organized to many reputed institutes such as the Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences and the Department of Nanoscience & Nanotechnology on the Kalina Campus, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune and the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.

The third week was reserved for presentations by participants and interactive brainstorming sessions. Gayanka also got an opportunity to make a presentation on her topic related to railway accidents due to the gap between platforms and footboards. On the last day, certificates were distributed and 13 students were selected for funding of their research topics by the University and it was announced that Gayanka’s project would also be provided funds. Gayanka has been guided throughout by Prof. Kiran Datar. It was a great journey, addition of new intellectual friends and an enriching learning experience.
‘Samvad 2014 – Confluence of Industry and Academics’ – An innovative initiative by MMS

On 19 September SAMVAD 2014 - Confluence of Industry and Academics was organised for MMS students. Communication is pivotal for any organisation and SAMVAD was an innovative way of communicating SIP projects in the form of charts and models in an exhibition. It was an intra-collegiate competition and was conducted on the VIT campus. ‘SAMVAD 2014’ was inaugurated by Chief Guest Mr. K. Suresh Babu, Senior Executive with Reliance ADAG for last 12 years and currently the Chief Treasurer in Reliance Commercials Ltd. He has 35 years of rich experience in Banking and Financial Services with Public Sector, Private Sector and foreign banks as well. He emphasised on the importance of skill development in his address. Then he inaugurated the event formally and personally visited a few of the finance projects and appreciated students’ efforts.

Students and faculty members from different departments like BMS, Engineering, Bsc IT and MMS etc, had shown their keen interest in understanding the SIP projects which motivated the MMS students to boost up their own level and work hard.

Finally the five winners of the SAMVAD 2014 were announced who were adjudged by the panel members Dr. Ankush Sharma, Mr. Suryanarayanan, Prof. Jay Bhatt, Prof. Smita Mukherjee, Prof. Trupti Naik, Prof. Varsha Maheshwari and Prof. Radhika Joshi. VDT Director, Mr. Milind Tadvalkar came for prize distribution ceremony. The winners were declared from each specialisation: Finance-Anurag Shirodkar, Marketing-Ashish Gavhale, Systems-Snehal Khillare and Operations-Suhail Manjarekar.

SAMVAD gave MMS students a great opportunity to explore and share their experiences with the corporate world. It gave them the platform to convey their findings and recommendations for their respective companies.

VIT students’ grand show at K’Scopec 2014

Kaleidoscope, said to be one of the most prestigious college festivals in Mumbai, is organized by Sophia College for Women. This year Kaleidoscope (or K’Scope) was organized between September 9-14 with the theme ‘The Iconic’.

Team VIT had a contingent of around 60 students, who participated in 36 out of 44 events in various categories like Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Literary Arts and Informals. The VITians did a spectacular job by winning several events and helping VIT create a niche for itself at the fest. What made the achievement all the more special was the fact that VIT was the only engineering college which participated in the event.

VIT bagged the following prizes:

1. Fine Arts-
   - Out of Bounds (Photography event) – 1st Place – Sneha Deshpande.
   - Mugshot (Facepainting event) – 1st Place – Omrinda Chatterjee, Shreyash Suryawanshi, Omrinda Sharma.
   - Music Maniac (Music based art event) – 1st Place – Amol Koli.
   - The Big Picture (Collage event) – 1st Place – Omrinda Chatterjee, Aashay Sathe.

2. Performing Arts-
   - Electrocuted (Band event) – 2nd Place – Shubham Anjankar, Shubham Awarkar, Akshay Nikumbh, Sagar Sarang, Mihir Joshi, NPA – Brian Faleiro.
   - Fantasia (Fictional story writing event) – 3rd Place – Aressh Shahday, Jashanawree Shirk.

3. Informals-
   - Chop Till You Drop (Culinary Arts event) – 1st Place – Ilma Nawab.

4. Literary Arts-
   - Surya (Fictional story writing event) – 3rd Place – Aressh Shahday, Jashanawree Shirk.

The winners with the Vice-principal Prof. Varsha Bhosle and the principal Dr. Rohini Kelkar.

A Step Towards Avishkar-The State Level Research Convention

It is said that research is to see what everybody else has seen and to think what nobody else has thought. To help promote research in academics, the R & D committee of Vidyalankar School of Information Technology organised an activity “A step towards Avishkar-the State Level Research Convention” on 8 September. It was a guidance session on research based projects for Commerce, Management & IT students and faculty, highlighting the importance of research and the role played by Avishkar in this direction.

The resource persons in the session were Prof. Dr. Anjali Patkar from Mithibai College, Dr. Madhavi Pethe (Principal, Dhanukar College), Prof. Mandhar Bhave from Ruparel College and Prof. Dr. Manjiri Bhave from Khalsa College and Chief Co-ordinator for Summer School. The opening of the session was marked by a speech by VSIT principal Dr. Rohini Kelkar.

Dr. Patkar enlightened students and faculty on the basic concepts of research, clarifying the misconceptions about discovery, invention, innovation and research. She gave the audience an elaborate account on the process of research and various steps involved in the process. Dr. Petha emphasised on the considerations to be made while choosing an area and topic for research. Breaking numerous myths on scientific research, she made the audience understand that a research pertaining to commerce or management is also scientific as long as the process of research is scientific in nature. While interacting with the students, she cleared many apprehensions they had regarding the choice of topics for research and project work.

Prof. Bhave educated the students about the process and working of a live research project particularly in the field of information technology. She also elaborated on the concept of “Avishkar- The State Level Research Convention” and its role in promoting research-oriented activities among the students. Further she gave information on the process and dates for Avishkar 2014, informing the students about the eligibility criteria and how to apply for it. The session was very informative and generated research awareness.

- Amraja Shivkar
  Faculty, VSIT
India at the Asian Games

promise to bring back the golden days of Indian sports” asserted our PM Narendra Modi. After an incredible performance by the country’s athletes at the 2014 Asian Games, India managed to showcase some of its finest sportspersons on the international platform. The games hosted at Incheon, South Korea from 19th September to 4th October 2014 brought a worldwide recognition of Indian sportspersons and subsequently won gratified medals. Although India grabbed international attention as a huge contingent with immense potential and performance capabilities, it also came to be recognised for the debatable controversies the athletes created.

India secured 11 gold medals, three fewer than what they collected in China four years ago, 10 silver and 36 bronze for a total haul of 57. Four of those gold medals came in athletics as a form of protest against the injustices by the boxing referee. An opinion expressed by many is whether it is right to question the authorities. There are processes laid out for expressing dissent with a decision, and surely that should have been the course of action taken. One thing that stands out is Devi’s courage and spirit to fight for her rights.

The Games ended with a perhaps a fewer medals than expected but with a promising group of athletes and a resolute contingent who worked hard for years to make their dreams come true.

Way to go Isha! Team Vidyashankar School of Information Technology in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Development Activity Committee had organized a seminar by eminent entrepreneur Dr. Vithal V. Kamat, Executive Chairman & MD, Kamat Hotels India Ltd. The objective of the seminar was to develop a sense of entrepreneurship among students.

From a modest beginning in a small time restaurant in Mumbai to over 500 restaurants all across the world, it surely has been a long and arduous journey for this food connoisseur. Dr. Kamat regaled the audience with his personal experiences in the field of entrepreneurship. He spoke about the most important mantras of entrepreneurship. According to him, the five goals of entrepreneurship are money, time, energy, effort. He gave some important points on staying ‘desi’ instead of going for ‘videshi’. He summarized the formula of business with his Six ‘E’s:

- E. Economy
- E. Education
- E. Energy
- E. Entertainment

Students were highly motivated by Dr. Kamat’s words of wisdom. The lecture concluded with a Q & A session wherein students as well as faculty members asked him some insightful questions about his personal and professional challenges and achievements.

Dr. Vithal Kamat shares secrets of entrepreneurial success

"Games lubricate the body and the mind." —Benjamin Franklin