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Not just magnitude but also the direction!

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Yet Another Feather in VSIT's Cap

Bags Awards for the Best NSS Unit and the Best NSS Program Officer In Mumbai City!

The University of Mumbai has awarded NSS Unit of VSIT (Vidyalankar School Of Information Technology) as the "Best NSS Unit" in Mumbai City for the Academic Year 2016-17.

Every year the University honours NSS Units of 8 Colleges, zone-wise with awards for their contribution for Community Development through social activities.

The NSS Unit of VSIT has made remarkable improvement in their contribution by conducting various activities undertaking different projects. Under Swacchha Bharat Abhiyan they have conducted cleanliness drives at their adopted area & village, beach cleaning, Nirmalya collection during Ganesh Festival, Wall Painting in Walkeshwar, Kurla, and Wadala with BMC. Under Environment Project they have made more than 15,000 paper bags to distribute among vendors in college surrounding to reduce the use of Plastic bags. They have also conducted various awareness campaigns regarding health issues like Diabetes, Hepatitis B, Malaria, Leprosy, Aids etc, Road safety as well as Woman Development Campaigns. They have performed a number of street plays on such issues at various places.

Vidyalankar Dnyanapeeth Trust has adopted Wadala Station in July 2015. Subsequently NSS Volunteers conducted various activities to create awareness about



Railway Safety Rules with RPF. Volunteers have specifically created awareness among commuters about "No Railway Crossing" by standing on platforms with placards four times in a week.

In the last three years during special camp period, NSS Volunteers have constructed around 8 bhandharas in their adopted village, Jhambhurde in Murbad District. They have also conducted activities related to anti - superstition in the same village. The NSS Unit of VSIT has planted 200 plants in last 2 years at different locations.

Being the leader of NSS unit, I have also been awarded as the "Best NSS Program Officer" for the year 2016-17. Since

my college days, I always had an inclination towards my social duties and responsibilities which grew into passion when I joined NSS in 2009 as the Program Officer. I always believed that duties and responsibilities can be better fulfilled as a team. NSS has taught me to work compassionately and unconditionally because in NSS, it is all about commitment towards ones duties. All my dreams and passion fell into place when I was awarded the "Best NSS Program Officer" which motivates me to be extremely humble and thankful to the NSS Unit which taught me to work selflessly and unconditionally for the society of India.

Thus I feel this award is an outcome

of collective efforts of all the NSS Volunteers, teaching & non-teaching staff supporting them as and when required, directly or indirectly. So I truly thank all of them, specifically Harish Noula, Rumeli Sharma, Vinayak Karande, Rohini Gaikwad who worked actively as a member of NSS Unit for the last two years. My sincere thanks to our Principal Dr. Rohini Kelkar and the management for their immense support, guidance and motivation. I express my deep gratitude to our Former Principal, Late Dr. Ajit Naik who had placed his trust on me to start NSS unit in our college as a Program Officer in 2009. It is also necessary to mention special thanks to Umesh Koyande, Ashwini Koyande, Yashoda Shetty, Sheth Sir, Asif Ramapurwala and Ujwala Sav for their great support in the initial stages of the establishment of VSIT NSS Unit then.

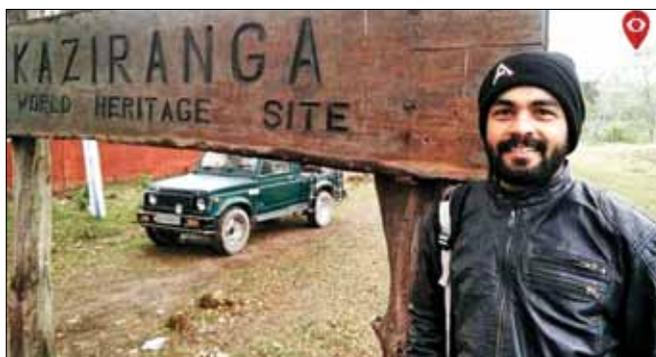


— Vijay Maruti Gawde
Vice - Principal VSIT

VSIT Alumnus Nikhilesh Yadav blazes a trail across India on his motorbike

VSIT alumnus Nikhilesh Yadav completed an incredible feat - a solo bike ride across 29 states in India, over 26,000 kilometers in 113 days. He had completed his B.Sc. IT in 2010 from Vidyalankar School of Information Technology, Wadala. He joined police force in 2013. On the occasion of V Meet which is organized by the Alumni Committee on 29 July for VSIT Alumni of 2010, the institute welcomed and honoured him for his achievement.

Constable Nikhilesh, a native of Khed, is posted at the police headquarters at Worli. Passionate about bikes and travelling, he recently returned to the city after visiting 29 states on his modified bike, bringing back with him beautiful memories of



the rich diversity of India. Since his childhood, he has been an ardent lover of bikes and started going on biking expeditions.

The dream was to experience first-hand the diverse cultures of various regions in India. He had grown up reading and hearing about unity in diversity and has always been curious to explore it

himself. After six months of planning, during which he consulted friends and fellow bike enthusiasts all over the country, he mapped out a schedule. He left from Mumbai on January 21, 2017 on his Royal Enfield with nothing but a backpack containing essentials. He first visited to Gujarat, and then Rajasthan,

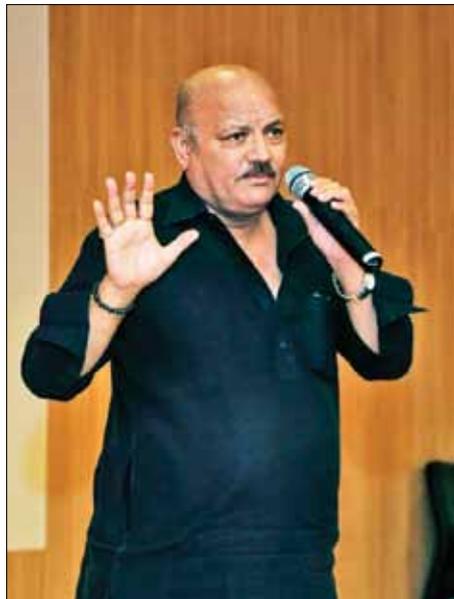
Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, visiting wild life sanctuaries, local tourist destinations and holy places in the states.

In all the states people welcomed and helped him. It's interesting to know that throughout his trip, he slept most of the time in temples, in an old-age

home and some places where the police provided accommodation to stay. He reached Manipur during the Holi festival and enjoyed it. At night, fires were lit and the people danced around it as a part of traditional folk dance, called as Thabal Chongba. Another unforgettable moment was Ganga Aarti in Haridwar. He proceeded to the south through east India, visiting Kolkata and Orissa before reaching Visakhapatnam and then touring Chennai, Bengaluru and Kanyakumari. In those 113 days, he experienced diverse sights, cultures and climates. He returned home to a warm welcome from family and friends and said that it was his most memorable experience till date. Vidyalankar wishes Nikhilesh bon voyage!



Moments with Aroon Bakshi



“(Apni nazar ussi raste pe honi chahiye... joh aapko aapki manzil pe le jaye) You should keep your eyes on that path... which takes you to your destination”
 — Aroon Bakshi, *Black and White*



Aroon Bakshi is a reputed Bollywood actor and Sufi singer. He has acted in over 100 Hindi films, and as a playback singer, has sung over 298 songs. He has also worked in Punjabi and Bhojpuri cinema. He played the role of Mahant Dashrath Tripathi in Colors' *Ishq Ka*

Rang Safed. His recent Sufi album is *Vichodeya*. A versatile actor, he has worked in movies such as *Kyonki, Bol Radha Bol*, and *Mission Mumbai* among others. The BMM Department of Vidyalankar School of Information Technology (VSIT) organized a guest lecture of Mr. Aroon Bakshi on 20th

July. Mr. Bakshi enthralled the students by his speech on acting, singing and love for one's work.

Aroon Bakshi began his lecture by motivating students and asking them to be confident in life. “Being a mass media student, you should be confident in life no matter what you do. Additionally, a mass media student should learn time management”, said Mr. Bakshi. He taught students to develop a positive attitude towards work. Working hard and working with passion is different and the results of each vary. Those who choose a job which they are passionate about will never tire and will definitely steer towards the winning combination of success and happiness.

The students of BMM performed for him and sang few of his famous songs. A video was created by a student on Mr. Bakshi's journey in acting and singing. This touched his heart and refreshed his memories. His encouraging words and the insightful session, interspersed with witty lyrics regaled the audience.

— **Mitesh Jain**
 SYBMM, VSIT

One Nation, One Tax: “GST”



All about GST

The Indian Government introduced the GST Bill on the first day of the monsoon session i.e., July 1, 2017 in the Parliament. It aimed at new reforms and growth for the Indian economy. It aimed at a complete replacement of existing sales and services tax. Earlier proposed in 2006 the GST Bill will subsume more than a dozen state and central levies into one tax, unifying of 29 diverse states and 1.28 billion people into a single market for the first time

Why are these tax reforms important for the country and how do they help the common person?

Destination principle: Accordingly, imports would be subject to GST while export would be zero rated. In this case of inter-state transaction within India, the

state tax would apply in the state of destination as opposed to that of origin.

Simpler tax structure: Paper work will be simpler and there would be a reduction in accounting complexities. As multiple taxes are eliminated and a single tax comes into place, the tax structure is simpler and easy to understand. Experts opine that the implementation of GST would push up GDP by 1% to 2%

Economy: The current state of the Indian economy demands fiscal consolidation and reduction in fiscal deficit. A recent report by CRISIL states that GST is the country's best bet to achieve fiscal consolidation.

Applicability of Goods and Service Taxes:

There are 3 kinds of applications:

CGST: where the revenue will be collected by the central government

SGST: where the revenue will be collected by the state governments for intra-state sales.

IGST: where the revenue will be collected by the central government for inter-state sales.

In most cases, the tax structure under the new regime will be as follows:

Transaction	New Regime	Old Regime	Comments
Sale within the state	CGST + SGST	VAT + Central Excise/Service tax	Revenue will now be shared between the Centre and the State
Sale to another State	IGST	Central Sales Tax + Excise/Service Tax	There will only be one type of tax (central) now in case of inter-state sales.

TAXES REPLACED BY GST:

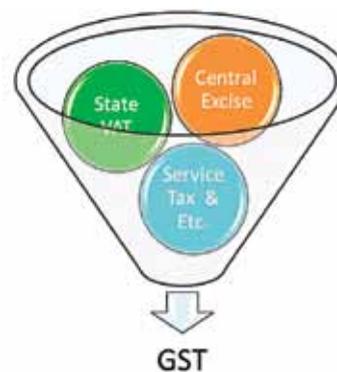
Following taxes were replaced by GST. The biggest positive of GST is that it will be taxed on a common basis

Central Taxes

- Central Excise Duty
- Duties of Excise (Medicinal and Toilet Preparation)
- Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance)
- Additional Duties of Excise (Textiles and textile products)
- Additional Duties of Customs (commonly known as CVD)
- Cesses and surcharges in so far as they relate to supply of goods or services
- Service tax

State Taxes

- State VAT
- Central Sales Tax
- Purchase Tax
- Luxury Tax
- Entry Tax
- Entertainment Tax (except those levied by the local bodies)
- Taxes on lotteries, betting and gambling
- Taxes on advertisements
- State, cesses and surcharges in so far as they relate to supply of goods or services



GST impact on costlier things:

- Restaurants (5 Star)
- Personal households (shampoos and deodorants)
- Travelling (train tickets, airfare for business class)
- Entertainment (movie tickets above Rs. 100)
- Electronics (TVs refrigerators ACs)
- Hotels which have a room tariff over Rs. 7500/-
- Services like courier, insurance premium, banking charges, phone tariffs etc)
- Aerated drinks, Tobacco (15% ad valorem)
- Tuition fees, buying an apartment/shop
- Automobiles (cars, motor vehicles) {15% ad valorem}

There are not many losers; GST will have a mixed impact on industry. While market participants expect the new indirect tax regime to cause earning disappointment over the new couple of quarters, the benefits will be available for only few following years. Automobile and FMCG would witness positive impact due to lower tax incidence.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “The consensus we arrived with states for amending GST is a major breakthrough. This alone has the potential to make India competitive and attractive for investment”.

— **Pancharatna and Kainaz**
 TYBFM, VSIT

“Don't be dismayed by good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends.”

— Richard Bach

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SO LONG FAREWELL.....



It was time to bid adieu to the students of Vidyalankar who were enrolled into the collaborative programs with prestigious universities in USA and Canada. Fall 2017, the students would join fellow classmates overseas to complete their Undergrad and Graduate programs respectively. The Pre-departure Orientation brings to a close, the time spent at Vidyalankar, with loads of advice and good wishes for a successful future.

The event began with a very inspiring speech by the Principal of VSIT, Dr. Rohini Kelkar where she advised them to diligently Learn, abundantly Earn and lastly Return to their homeland with their success stories reverberating.

The star of the evening was Samarth Upasani, a student of this collaboration who had completed his undergrad degree with flying colours from Penn State University and stood proud with job at hand from Deloitte, USA. His word of advice to the students was to understand the value of time and prioritize always and secondly to understand the importance of good communication.

Two other key speakers of the evening were Mr Agarwal, father of Misheil Agerwal who is presently working with the Advisory Board at Washington DC after having completed the collaborative



program with Vidyalankar from University of California, and Mr Upasani, father of Samarth who was already present for the gathering. They took turns to narrate their experience and were short of words to praise Vidyalankar for what their children are today. They spoke of various issues of concern about sending children abroad and quelled their fears by saying that they had nothing to fear being in the safe hands of Vidyalankar.

The students were felicitated with gift hampers from Vidyalankar as a token of affection and appreciation for their efforts here. Lots of pictures added to the fun and frolic of the evening. The evening ended with a sumptuous dinner and endless goodbyes with good wishes for a great future overseas.

— Jayanti Das

Manager, Corporate Communications

Wisdom Talk Series by MMS

Aiming to explore the new age management practices and associated challenges, VIT-MMS has started a new initiative of 'Wisdom Talk Series' under the leadership of Dr. Krishna Ram, Dean, Corporate Relations and Placements, VIT-MMS. The talk series aims to invite and conduct sessions of more than 20 speakers of CXO level from varied industries to impart first-hand knowledge of practitioners in a semester. We are amongst those B-schools which are serious in delivering quality education through enriching the curriculum, enhancing knowledge and by inspiring students to perform beyond their imagination.

To fulfil our promise to students and ourselves, we have invited remarkable speakers who are stalwarts in their area. The inauguration of the wisdom talk series was done by Mr. Rajiv Nayar, Country head of Marico, Malaysia who conducted a workshop on modern trade in marketing and made the session meaningful with his own work related examples. The session uncovered topics on the basics of marketing, distribution channels, and consumer behaviour which are relevant to modern trade. The next speaker was Dr. Hemajith Balakrishnan, Senior Vice President, Strategy and HR, Health Prime Interna-

tional having a robust experience of 23 years in building an organisation from scratch.

A few more speakers who enlightened our students were Ms. Minakshi, VP HR, B Braun, Mr. M. K. Banerjee, Director-Creativity and Innovation at Essel Propack (giant in packaging industry), Ms. Madhavi Lal, Managing Director and HR head, Deutsche Bank, Mr. Eshan Sharma, Founder and Director, School of Investment Banking, Mr. Ramkrishna, Consultant HR / Business at Proventus HR, Mr. Avinash Kalia, Director, Investment Banking, Elara Capital and Mr. Rakesh Telawane, Founder, Managing Director, Telawane Power Equipments Pvt. Ltd.

To follow the teaching pedagogy of colleges which are world renowned, we also started a concept of breakfast chat series which provides the students a chance to interact with the speakers more closely. Instead of sessions, we organised chat series with students in an open space and it was very well received by the students. The series of breakfast chat sessions were inaugurated by Mr. Akhilesh Thakur, Managing Director Protiviti Global.

Though the journey towards excellence is a never ending quest, we are happy to be on that path which will lead to reaching excellence in the field of education.



BARC WORKSHOP ON "NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING"

Vidyalankar Polytechnic organized a one-day workshop under ISTE students chapter in July 2017. The theme of the workshop was "Nuclear Science and Engineering" by Indian Association of Nuclear Chemist and Allied Scientists (IANCAS) C/o BARC, DAE, Mumbai. The Chief Guest for this activity was Dr B.S. Tomar (Director Radiochemistry and Isotope group, BARC). A team of four members from BARC were resource persons. Eighty students and twenty faculty members participated in this workshop. The program inauguration was followed by two lectures on:

- 1) Role of Electronics and Computer in Nuclear Engineering (by Shri T. P. Chaturvedi, Head Equipment Electronics Services Division)and
- 2) Nuclear Sciences and Applications (by Dr R. Acharya, Head Radiochemistry Division)

After the lectures, two experiments



were conducted: Plateau, Statistics and Measurement of Activity using Gas filled Detector (GM Counter), and Energy Calibration, Measurement of unknown activity and Determination of Absorption Coefficient of Lead with Scintillation Detector (NaI (Tl) using MCA

The event generated positive feedback from all the participants who found the workshop extremely interesting and enriching. They also got an idea of the latest technology and learned many new things beyond the text book.

“Sports is a metaphor for overcoming obstacles and achieving against great odds. Athletes, in times of difficulty, can be important role models.”

— Bill Bradley

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The Rising Fortunes of the Indian Women's National Cricket Team

“**B**anish the thought from your mind that you were unsuccessful. Whether you won the match or not, you definitely won over the nation!” How great does it feel to have heard these words from the Prime Minister himself? The Indian women's cricket team lost to England by in the Women's World Cup Final by a margin of a mere 9 runs. Heartbroken and under pressure this bunch of talented women came back to India from England only to be praised and be appreciated by the Indian PM, and the Indian crowd.

When was the last time you heard about women sports teams being praised by the Prime Minister himself? That's right, never before. Why? It's simple. The nation was used to applauding the achievements of sportsmen. And if anyone was able to change that perception, then it is the Indian women's cricket team. What is even heartening is how “society” will look at Indian sportswomen hereafter.

The Indian women's cricket has received very little limelight over the years. This happened in 2005 also. But the limelight was temporary. The truth



is the Indian women's cricket team strives for the same limelight that the male cricket team gets. India will soon forget this, human nature, of course. Hence the women's team has to strive harder and harder with each strike as a patriarchal India is not ready to give women that much prominence just yet. The question is, are we going to compare the women's team to that of the men's team? Here's what Harmanpreet Kaur has to say about it: “Women's cricket is a different game altogether. It is impor-

tant that our performances be recognized for what they are, and not compared to men's cricket.”

Let's shift the lens to Bollywood. Lagaan, Iqbal, M.S. Dhoni, Sachin, and many more movies, are all related to male cricketers. Clearly they have been through problems of their own. And now that the limelight has reached the women's cricket team, the day isn't far away when a biopic of the swashbuckling Mithali Raj or of the prolific Jhulan Goswami comes up.

“After we lost the final, the team was very disappointed but we saw later that the fans were even more disappointed. But at the same time, after we returned, we noticed a lot of new things for the first time ever – the fans came to receive us, we were felicitated so many times, people were showering so much love on us – it was all very new. Till now, the kind of love and support men's cricket had received in India, women's cricket had not. We saw that changing after this World Cup. We wanted to bring about a change in the mindset of the fans regarding women's cricket through our performances and that is why it feels great to see that,” said wicket-keeper Sushma Verma in an interview.

The women's team has turned into a beacon of hope and bravery for all the little girls out there. From now on children have a bunch of some more favorite and famous cricket players to write essays about. The Indian women's cricket team has given us some new “sheroes”, and for that I am thankful to them.

So let's raise a toast to the ‘Women in Blue’, and celebrate women's cricket!

— Vaishnavi Kamble
SE CMPN, VIT

BLOCKCHAIN

There's a lot of excitement about Bitcoin and the underlying technology of Blockchain. Optimists claim that Bitcoin will fundamentally alter payments, economics, and even politics around the world. Pessimists claim Bitcoin is inherently broken and will suffer an inevitable and spectacular collapse.

What is Bitcoin?

BitCoin (BTC) is a virtual currency - which is created, stored, validated by a decentralized peer-to-peer network. For easy understanding, let's draw an analogy to a traditional currency, say the Rupee.

A Bitcoin is similar to the Rupee in the following ways: -

Transactions: A BTC transaction is similar to making a digital payment - say via Paypal, NetBanking - for any goods or loans.
Storage: There are BTC wallets akin to existing payment wallets like Paytm etc.
Trading: Similar to USD INR forex trading platforms, there are BTC exchanges which facilitate liquidity in the BTC markets.



Now, let's look at the differences: -

1. Clearing: Rupee's valuation against USD or any other country is influenced by India's monetary policy and thereby, the Reserve Bank of India (among a lot of other factors) and each monetary transaction/transfer undergoes the approval of the central governing body. In case of BTC, due to its peer-to-peer de-

centralised nature, it doesn't rely on a central body. It is a completely open financial network.

2. Acceptance: Unlike Rupee which is accepted in India alone, BTC is universal in nature as it is accepted as a mode of payment throughout the world. BTC is a much better version of a universal currency as compared to the USD or the Euro.

What is blockchain

A blockchain is a shared ledger that everyone trusts to be accurate forever.

Shared Ledger

The key is the shared ledger. What's a ledger? It's a record of transactions. Sharing a ledger means we don't both keep our own books, but rather we share a common set of books. We trust each other to keep a record of transactions that we both believe represents the truth. Magically, this enables us to get rid of banks, insurance companies, most government institutions.

Why should we use Blockchain technology?

1. Disintermediation - Two parties (Bill Gates & Warren Buffet) are able to make an exchange without the oversight or intermediation of a third party (banks), strongly reducing time, transaction costs and largely eliminating counterparty risk.
2. Empowerment - Users are in control of all their information and transaction.

Building the Trust Machine

Everyone within the network trusts shared ledger to be accurate, and that includes people who don't trust each other. So, the blockchain and smart contracts are called “the trust machine,” because we no longer have to rely on third parties to help us conduct business.

On a concluding note, in the words of Tyler Winklevoss, Co-creator of Facebook, top investor in Bitcoin, “We have elected to put our money and faith in a mathematical framework that is free of politics and human error.”



— Akhil Dalavi
TY B.Sc. IT (E)
VSIIT