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Not just magnitude, but direction also!

VECTOR

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Taking a 'global' leap forward

Vidyalankar has been a trail-blazer when it comes to collaborations with international universities and students have gained multiple benefits due to its foresight and systematic approach

Ever since the new millennium commenced, the emphasis within every section of the business community is increasingly on being 'global' and blending global perspectives with local sensibilities. The team managing the growth of such businesses needs to have a 'global' approach and understand the outlook as well. A decade ago, this would have been a tough accomplishment for Indian students - but not any more.

The past few years have witnessed a number of Indian students taking this 'global' leap forward under the aegis of Vidyalankar, attending the initial part of the course at its futuristic campus in Wadala and then moving on abroad for the final phase and becoming proud recipients of a graduate degree from an international university.

Vishwas Deshpande, Managing Trustee, Vidyalankar Dnyanpeeth Trust, points out, "We were one of the first to set up an 'International Tie-up program'. Vidyalankar School of Information Technology (VSIT) offers the B.S. (IST) program in collaboration with Penn State University (PSU), USA.

While getting a Master's Degree from US is normal, getting a Bachelor's degree from a Top Ranked US school is quite rare. Vidyalankar's tie-up with PSU in 2006 has seen the Vidyalankar - PennState student community grow to over 50 students. The first batch of 10 students graduated in 2010 with all getting placed in top establishments. Nine of them were in the Dean's List, which indicates just how well they have performed and how strong their base was during the initial phase at our campus."

The second batch of 13 students graduated in the year 2011 and they too are placed well in the MNCs like IBM, PWC, Pennsylvania Government turnpike commission, Teach for America, etc. One of the students, Bhaskar Suryakumar, topped all



Vishwas Deshpande
Managing Trustee,
Vidyalankar Dnyanpeeth Trust

campuses of PSU with 3.99 GFA and was awarded the "Key Stone Honour" award. Mihir Jadhav 2012 Penn State Graduate graduated with two bachelors degrees i.e. BS (IST) and BS (Business) with over 3.5 GFA and has authored a series of seven books which will be published by Penn State.

According to Dr. Joel of PSU, having Vidyalankar students at their university is really an asset. Vidyalankar students have not only excelled in academic areas but also in extra-curricular events at Penn State. One great example was that last year Penn State had a cricket team led by Vidyalankar student Kiran Modi and similarly Ruta Dandekar who was the only international student in the Penn State Inter University Team. Vidyalankar trains these students so well that they are easily inducted into the Penn State style, he says.

Vidyalankar School of Information Technology (VSIT), offers students multiple opportunities to go global and complete their IT degree in the US or UK. They can do the Foundation Course in Mumbai, topped up with international exposure at the International University of their choice.

Two big concerns of parents when



students go abroad for studies are how they will adjust to a different environment and the costs involved. Here again, VSIT provides peace of mind. The Vidyalankar students go abroad in a group so there are definite advantages like accommodation sharing, resulting in a homely 'Indian environment' and of course, it is less expensive too.

The various formalities involved in sending students abroad can be daunting, to say the least. However, since Vidyalankar takes care of everything, right from academics to visa preparation, the process becomes absolutely easy for students and parents.

Getting to grips with a different education system is another challenge that students going overseas for higher education tend to face. Keeping this in mind, Vidyalankar grooms the candidates in a special way by simulating the education system of USA or UK during the initial years at Vidyalankar.

Most students prefer having options to choose from when it comes to studying abroad and here, VSIT scores highly, since it has multiple collaborations. Students can opt for 4 years Bachelors programs in the US like B.S. (IST) with 2 years at Vidyalankar and the final 2 years at Penn State University (Ranked 7th in the US); B.S. (Computer Science) with 3 years at Vidyalankar with the final year at California State University (Ranked 45 in the US). Students can also choose to pursue their 3 year bachelors program from UK like B.Sc. Software Engineering with

2 years at Vidyalankar and the final year at Aston University (UK), Birmingham Ranked 22 in the UK, and B. Sc. (Honours) in Software Development, with 2 years at Vidyalankar and the final year at Sheffield Hallam University (UK).

Our students have exhibited their sheer talent by securing jobs in companies like IBM and many more. Many students have even further pursued their Masters programs from top ranked universities in the UK itself.

Students interested in pursuing their career in Management are provided with the opportunity to complete their BIBA (Bachelor in International Business Administration) with 2 years at Vidyalankar and Final year from Hult International Business School (UK), London. So students earn a degree from a 16th ranked business school in the US, having campus in London (UK).

Taking the success story forward, the first batch of 8 students is all set to move to California State University for the Engineering Degree in Computer Science. Diploma Engineering Students are also eligible to take admission for this course and they will get admission in the second year of the program. For Diploma students, the format would be two years at VSIT and one year at CSU. In the meanwhile the first batch of seven students will be transferring to Aston University; UK for the B.Sc. (Software Engineering) course in September 2012.

The basic question, where students are concerned, is whether the institute is committed to such collaborations and sees them as an integral

Hello Readers!

A new semester ushers in a new beginning, a new set of dreams and inspires us to achieve new targets and explore new horizons. As you move ahead in college life and reinvent yourself every semester, do share your experiences with us, and mail in your articles and poems on vector@vidyalankar.org. Your feedback on articles that you read in Vector and suggestions to include new features are also welcome!

Meenakshi Nandula
Coordinator

part of its growth strategy. At Vidyalankar, international education is an aspect greatly focused on with the aim being to explore the possibilities of collaboration with other leading Institutes in India and abroad for faculty and/or students training, faculty and/or students' exchange and joint research.

These alliances have facilitated the most meaningful educational experience in engineering and management to Indian students interested in experiencing global education and culture. The collaborations provide a unique opportunity to Indian students to benefit from both the systems of education at the undergraduate level itself and thus acquire the skills necessary to meet the challenges of the globally competitive world.



This partnership offers students multiple benefits ranging from dual degrees to getting a US or a UK degree at a reduced cost, having an internationally accepted degree, flexible course structure to financial assistance along with options of doing MS and PhD programs from prestigious universities immediately after their Bachelors degree.

Vidyalankar's 'Student Success Services' includes several student support programs that enhance the retention, graduation, and success of all students. They include general education advising, academic planning, counselling, cultural enrichment activities, learning assistance, and tutorial services. When one looks at students making a successful transition to career professionals, a holistic approach to impart education holds the key to success and for Vidyalankar students, it's all about getting a truly 'global' experience.

Shweta Apte
Academic Advisor, Vidyalankar



The Shining Stars who inspire All Vidyalankar Students



Internship – A Professional Key

REACH GROW DEVELOP BUILD LEARN REACH DEVELOP
EXPERIENCE



VSIT students have been successful in landing summer internships. The Institute has facilitated Internships to its students in various organizations like Blue Star, ING VYSA Bank and Birla Sun Life.

Internships make the journey from being a student to becoming a professional easier. It is a key which can open doors for students for their placement. VSIT has given such a key in the hands of undergraduate students (both BSc, IT and BMS) and have opened doors for students to bridge the gap between the campus and the corporate. The following are a few ideas to be selected in companies for summer internship-

- Before interview- Before going for an interview, be fully prepared i.e. keep your knowledge up to date, learn more about the company.
- During the interview- Candidate should be attired in formals and a CV should be ready in his/her hand. One shouldn't be nervous and one should make it a point to reach on time.

This activity just doesn't end here; the journey has just begun. After getting selected by companies there are

few tips to be remembered:

First day of your internship

A summer intern should always remember that it is your first day in office and do avoid checking out social networking sites like Orkut, Facebook, Twitter and overuse of mobile phones. This is a big mistake that an intern will surely perform. Remember you are being observed from day one, including the way you enter the office premises and your attitude towards your colleagues.

Colleagues - Professional friends

Always remember that colleagues are only professional friends and not your college friends. Avoid discussing any personal matters with colleagues; rather build a professional rapport by meeting them, talking with and getting connected with them on a professional note. Don't forget to add them on LinkedIn and stay connected with them for your future reference.

Be Proactive!

In the initial days there may not be much work but don't just sit in one place; rather approach your supervi-

sor for work. If he says that there is no work then offer your helping hand to your colleagues- in fact a best way to impress people. Don't express dissatisfaction on the type of work given to you. Being an intern you need to perform your duties diligently.

Fear of asking Questions

An intern may fear asking their supervisors for information or help when given a particular task. He may feel that it is a bad impression or a sign of ignorance on his part. But isn't it always better to ask questions rather than making mistakes? The more questions you ask, the more are the chances of performing the duty well.

Exit formalities

Student should make sure that the exit formalities are done properly. Don't forget to collect your certificate from the higher authorities. Also more importantly ask for feedback from your colleagues as well as from higher authorities.

*Jwala Sav &
 Vandana Shrivastav
 VSIT*

“When you know better you do better.”
 –Maya Angelou

Aim for Excellence through the 7 Habits

Stephen R. Covey, who breathed his last on July 16, was an internationally respected motivational speaker, leadership authority, family expert, teacher, an organizational consultant and is considered to be a pioneer in the self-help genre. The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Covey's best-known book, has sold more than 20 million copies in 38 languages worldwide since its first publication in 1989. Recognized as one of Time magazine's 25 most influential Americans, Covey has dedicated his life to demonstrating how every person can truly control their destiny with profound, yet straightforward guidance which has given insight to the corporate world and the personal lives of millions.

These powerful habits focus on personal and interpersonal excellence and will surely take readers a long way ahead in increasing their effectiveness, become high performance leaders and rising higher in their careers on a fast track. It encourages and motivates us to tap our inherent forces, and combined with principles and ethics, it guides us to build a strong personality, a close-knit family and subsequently, a strong society. The reader will also become a contributor to others proactively and wholeheartedly which is very self-satisfying for oneself. I have read these truly inspiring books long ago and have fo-

cused on inculcating the principles

Habit # 1	Be Proactive
Habit # 2	Begin with the End in Mind
Habit # 3	Put First Things First
Habit # 4	Think Win/Win
Habit # 5	Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood
Habit # 6	Synergize
Habit # 7	Sharpen the Saw

used on inculcating the principles therein in my daily routine. The habits are the same, all directed at enhancing effectiveness and aiming for personal excellence, but in different books, the focus is different for individuals, managers, teenagers and families. To enhance effectiveness of learning from these gems of knowledge, the suggested order of reading of the series is:

1. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (series)
2. The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness
3. Principle Centered Leadership

Our VIT library has books from the above titles. Just to illustrate the effectiveness of the 7 Habits, the following is a quick summary of "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families".

Probably the most important thing that we can do for our family is to create a warm, caring, supportive and encouraging environment - in other words, a nurturing culture. When a family develops a regular practice of applying these

habits they develop a healthy immune system. 1. Be Proactive: In our relationships with people we make "deposits" (proactively doing things that build trust in the relationship such as being loyal, kind, forgiving) or "withdrawals" (reactively doing things that decrease trust in the relationship such as rejecting, manipulating or judging). The balance of trust in the account determines how well we will communicate and solve prob-

2. Begin with the End in Mind: The second habit involves creating a clear, compelling vision of what you and your family are all about. We must decide what kind of family we want, create a family mission statement and then identify principles that will govern family life and help us get there.
3. Put First Things First: Family is a priority in our lives; we need a specific time set aside each week just for the family and for each family member. The time should cover all four needs: physical, social, mental and spiritual. Covey equates the rocks and sand in a jar analogy to this habit.
4. Think Win/Win: The consequences of win-lose on a family are devastating - in fact no one actually wins when this paradigm is followed. We will grow as a family when we move from "me" to "we". Family members need to believe that their differences are strengths and not weaknesses in their relationship.
5. Seek First to Understand. Then to be Understood: Before we seek to influence we must first seek to understand - i.e. diagnose before prescribing. We interpret the same event differently and we define the same words differently. If we could just realize that there are differences between people, we could learn to take it into consideration and adjust our expectations accordingly.
6. Synergize: The sixth habit is the key to the development of genuine interdependence in the family. To synergize is to create new solutions together. To function synergistically all the habits must work together.
7. Sharpen the Saw: Covey draws on the sharpening the saw analogy to suggest that we need to engage in regular family renewal by creating traditions that will grow the family. Practices such as a family dinner, vacations, birthdays, worshipping together, working and having fun together can all help in increasing family bonding.

Seema Shah
 Principal (Actg), VIT

A trip down memory lane

The professional success of alumni can be considered as one of the yardsticks of an educational institute's success. Keeping up with the philosophy of "Learn, Earn and Return", Vidyalandkar Institute of Technology's alumni are instrumental in enhancing the Institute's fame locally and globally. They are contributing to its legacy and have done the Institute proud through the laurels they have won in the corporate and entrepreneurial world. The Institute always eagerly awaits its alumni's 'homecoming' and affectionately welcomes them whenever they visit their alma mater.

The Institute organizes 'Elite' alumni Summer and Winter meets (on the third Saturday of July and December respectively) every year. Alumni are encouraged to share their success stories, feedback is collected from them, and their inputs are consolidated and forwarded to the concerned departments for planning and implementation.

At the recent meet on 21 July, Prof. Seema Shah, VIT's Principal (Actg), updated the alumni on the events and achievements at the Institute. She invited them to share news of employment and internship opportunities at their employing companies for the benefit of the current students and to help enhance campus placements. She also mentioned the new 'beyond syllabus' initiatives, future plans of VIT, and the V-buddy system. The Training and Placement Officer Prof. D Krishna gave an overview of the substantial rise in placements of VIT students. A representative from each Department shared updates and initiatives. Mr. Harish Subramaniam from the 2007 batch, who is currently employed as an Associate Consultant at Calypso Technologies in Singapore, was felicitated.

The alumni appreciated the efforts of the Institute in giving quality and holistic education to students. They shared that the Dale Carnegie training sessions, the seminars by HR personnel from the industry and the pre-placement sessions organized by VIT prepared them to successfully land placements. From their set of experiences, they mentioned that practical



knowledge, up to date technical knowledge and soft skills are necessary to make a mark in the industry. They recommended that pursuing certified courses such as CCNA and Oracle will give an edge to the current students. They also suggested that the Institute should consider inviting a wider range of companies such as J.P. Morgan, Nomura etc. for campus placements.

The Institute's participative culture has always ensured that our alumni are encouraged to inspire and motivate current students. A letter has been sent out to all alumni requesting them to mentor current students through social and professional networking sites. Some of the initiatives undertaken by the Institute are that birthday wishes are sent to alumni via e-mail, the Institute's quarterly e-newsletter Vibes is mailed to them and they are invited to deliver guest sessions and to contribute articles for Expressions, the Institute's annual magazine.







Through the Alumni Input Sharing Group on Facebook, VIT alumni have given a number of valuable suggestions such as offers for career guidance, information on higher studies, and opportunities at the companies that they are employed at. The VIT Alumni Directory 2003-2012 aims to foster and facilitate alumni interactions and reinforce the bonds between the Institute and the alumni.

Staying in touch with alumni tends to nurture symbiotic relationships, serves to perpetuate friendships formed in collegiate years, and helps instill a sense of belonging in our alumni. VIT alumni are always welcome to the Institute, and to contribute to the think-tank with their ideas and suggestions for taking the Institute to greater heights.







Meenakshi Nandula






List of BE Toppers from VIT May 2012

	ASHITA MOHILE BE (Biom) Marks 1234 University of Mumbai Rank 5 th		HEENA VIRPURIA BE (IT) Marks 1210 University of Mumbai Rank 10 th
	SHAILA ADDAGATLA BE (IT) Marks 1205 University of Mumbai Rank 12 th		PRIYANKA MORE BE (EXTG) Marks 1216 University of Mumbai Rank 20 th
	ROHIT VIJAYRAGHAVAN BE (ETRX) Marks 1168		RADHARAMAN JHA BE (CMPN) Marks 1163

VSIT Toppers

T.Y. B.Sc (IT) SEM VI Result Ranks (March 2012)		T.YBMS SEM VI Result Ranks (April 2012)	
	Rank I 642/800		Rank I 473/600 78.83%
	Rank II 623/800		Rank II 466/600 77.67%
	Rank III 614/800		Rank III 465/600 77.50%

VP Toppers

	RAHUL KUMAR RP (EXTG) 82.91
	VINKET MAHENDRA KENY (INFO,TECH) 80.63%
	Sagar Mohan Salunike (Computer) 86.84%

“Ignoring isn’t the same as ignorance.”
 –Margaret Atwood

Olympics—The Flame of Glory

The biggest international sporting event is upon us. London glittered, shined and sparkled as the 2012 Olympic Games began with the amazing opening by the Queen herself. A new era of sports has just begun.

The Olympic Games go as far back as 776BC when they started out as an athletics competition in the cities of Greece in the honour of the Greek god Zeus. These games were a platform for various athletes to showcase their skills to various kingdoms around Europe. They continued till 394 AD when they were suppressed by Theodosius for religious reasons. These games were revived again by Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1894 when he founded the International Olympic Committee. Since then the IOC has been the governing body behind the Olympic movement whose structure and actions are defined by the Olympic Charter. As the Olympic movement grew in the 20th and 21st centuries, it underwent many changes, the prominent ones being the Winter Olympic Games for winter sports, Paralympic games for the physically challenged and youth Olympic Games for the teenagers.

Since their reincarnation in the 20th century, the Olympic Games have come a long way. Nowadays, being able to host the games is considered a major honour for a country. It gets a chance to showcase its strength in social, economic and sporting areas to the world. Over 200 countries participate in this event. With its commercialization in recent times, it has attracted criticism but at the same time created new avenues for the athletes and countries alike. The games still carry the logo of the five interlinked rings representing the unity of the five original continents. Although the games have become very commercial they still have their many rituals and symbols such as the Olympic flag and the torch. Now the games also host spectacular opening and closing ceremonies.

Almost every country has participated in the Olympics at least once. Because of the World Wars, the games were cancelled in 1916, 1940 and 1944. Even during the cold war the games took a beating as the participation dropped considerably in the 1980 and 1984 versions. Countries like America, Russia, Australia



and England have had good success at the games. But the 2008 Beijing games threw up China as a sporting superpower as they won over 100 medals and 51 of them being Gold.

India first participated in the Games in 1900 where their lone athlete Norman Pritchard won two medals in athletics. India sent its first team in 1920 and has participated in every edition since then. India has won 20 Medals, most of them being in hockey. From 1928 to 1980 Indian team won 11 medals out of 12 competitions in the field hockey competition, including six successive gold medals from 1928 to 1956. 2008 Olympic Games were successful when India won its first in-

dividual gold medal by Abhinav Bindra and 2 bronze medals from Sushil Kumar and Vijender Singh.

This year the Games began on 27th July. The Indian Olympic Association has sent a total of 83 athletes to compete in 13 sports making it the largest contingent India has ever sent to an Olympic Games. Sushil Kumar was the flag bearer in the opening ceremony.

As on 10 August 2012, India has won 4 medals including a silver and 3 bronze which is the best performance by India in terms of medals at any Olympics. Gagan Narang won the country's first medal at the Games, a bronze in the 10 metre air rifle event. Vijay Kumar won a sil-

ver medal in men's 25 m rapid fire pistol event. Adding to that, Saina Nehwal, won a bronze medal in women's singles in badminton. Mary Kom won India its fourth medal at the games by winning a Bronze in the Women's flyweight category in Boxing. India was better prepared than ever before with athletes who have the calibre and the mettle to win medals in various fields. The London games promise a lot of thrill and excitement for the sport lovers. We hope the athletes will bring great glory to our country and someday the Olympic Games will be held in India as well.

Harsha Ambardekar
 TE (ETRX), VIT

Know your City



The Bandra Worli Sea Link (Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link)

With concrete equivalent to the weight of fifty thousand African elephants, steel wires long enough to circumvent the Earth and after ten long years, the BWSL is considered by most to be an engineering marvel of modern India.

The 5.6 kilometer long, 8 lane freeway that cost about ₹1,600 crore was built to cut travel time from the suburbs to the central business districts by 20 to 45 minutes. Dar Consultants, UK, had predicted that the vehicle usage will be about 79,335 per day by 2009, but that figure was observed to be just 37,500! The speed record for the BWSL is held by Ex Formula-1 driver David Coulthard at 320 kmph (The organizers were fined Rs.14 lakh for the same!)

There may be a lot of questions about the actual advantage provided by the sea link when it comes to transit time and fuel consumption (the route is 3.6 kms longer than the conventional one!) but nonetheless, it is indeed a symbol of development and will definitely spearhead the infrastructure revolution in India.

Rayner Vaz
 TE CMPN 1, VIT

Aptitude Corner

- The sum of 2 consecutive odd numbers in a set of three consecutive odd numbers is 5 more than the third number. What is the second of these numbers?
 a) 5 b) 7 c) 9 d) 11
- Which letter in the word 'NOTORIOUS' occupies the same position as M does in the word 'CLEMENT'?
 a) O b) I c) R d) T
- Choose the missing term from the following: 5, 9, 4, 8, 3, 7, ?
 a) 2 b) 6 c) 9 d) 10

(Answers 1 - c, 2 - c, 3 - a)



WE CARE

We have read about the 'wash your hands regularly', 'brush your teeth daily', 'clean your vegetables thoroughly', 'prevent stagnation of water' etc. way too much now. However, here are a few unusual tips that could improve your health in ways you'd never imagine.

Prevent a migraine, before you get one

There's no need to live in fear of your next migraine now. Extensive medical research has shown that certain medication has surprising effects at migraine prevention. They include the anti-seizure drugs and the beta blockers. But there are more non-medical options too! In some people, migraines are triggered by chocolate, caffeine and alcohol. Harvard experts advise patients to keep track of their mi-

graine triggers and thus the chances of preventing their next one are impressively high!
 (Harvard Medical Health Letter - August 2012)

Mum's bedtime curfews were right!

If you have trouble waking up on time, the chances that you also have an irregular sleeping schedule is highly likely too. Sleeping with a daily schedule helps the body sync its internal rhythm with your sleeping routine. Hence, you'll be up everyday exactly when you want - even without an alarm. The problem with routines is that we tend to break it on weekends - this results in waking up a lot later than usual with extreme fatigue. Also, avoid 'sleep deprivers' like alcohol, nicotine, chocolate, caffeine or even viewing any TV or computer

screen just before bedtime, to improve the quality and longevity of sleep.

(Dr Lawrence Epstein - MD, Harvard Medical School, division of sleep medicine)

Happy feet

Monsoons in Mumbai are synonymous with potholes and water logged streets. More often than not, we are forced to wade through this water resulting in our shoes and feet getting soaked. It is extremely important to thoroughly wash and dry our feet as soon as possible. Wet feet can lead to fungal and bacterial infections. And dry feet are preventive and a sort of a counter measure. Also, infections like leptospirosis could be prevented.

(Got wet and be safe - GoodHealthXYou.com)
Rayner Vaz, TE CMPN 1, VIT