

Not just magnitude but also the direction!

VECTOR

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VIT celebrates Verve 2015

Verve, the vibrant festival of joy and vigour

This is a student recently back from a Verve high! Verve, an annual fest organised by the Student Council of VIT, is a three day affair packed with cultural, literary, technical and sports events among others. An action-packed affair with dance, music, drama, and even a casino, it is bound to make you want to retrace your steps every year. The subtle majesty of the event itself is astounding.

The highlight of the first day was Gondhal, an ode to Marathi culture. Really a beauty in itself, Gondhal is fully written, choreographed, acted and set up by the talented students of VIT. The show is so beautifully set-up that it's hard to hear the performance over the loud approval of claps. But before Gondhal, there also were the final 'class war' performances of Bollywood Clash.

On Day 2, I walked around college a bit during the day; played at the casino. (Needless to say, I came out broke!) But that wasn't the highlight of the day. Having put my name in for geo-catching, organised by ACM, I got to race around the entire city, looking for clues. It was exhausting, but fun. Never have I appreciated sugarcane juice more than the one outside the Oval ground. By the time I returned, it was already time for the day's main event, the Fashion Show. All the exhaustion from the day vanished in a moment at the sight of those beautiful soles walking up the ramp. The whole crowd enjoyed the event, be it the students, or the faculty.

First thing on Day 3, I got my face painted. Other than that, I also had a bout of laser tag with one of our professors, and he totally shattered us. After the laser

tag, we went to the props for a nice photo session. By the time we reached the main stage the dance performances had already started. As the dances came to an end, I was also determined to try and shake my leg. And why not, it was finally time for the main event. It was, after all the DJ night! The time when people of all ages, classes and departments come down together on the floor; the only time the faculty and the students compete together to rule the floor. And I enjoyed every moment of it. Not just the DJ night, but every moment of Verve. If I ever get a chance to relive these days, I would trade anything for it. This being my first Verve, I can safely say that now I know what being blown away means!

*Shubham Motiwale
FE CMPN 1, VIT*

VERVE 2015-A COALESCENCE

It has been well-established over the years that academic progress should be well complemented with co-curricular activities for an individual to develop holistically. Thus, it is imperative for the institutes to ensure that the students are encouraged for "out of the box" thinking, which helps in facilitating conceptualizing, rationalizing and strategizing.

This year, VIT's MMS Department in collaboration with the Engineering Department conducted a Technical and Management Festival VERVE 2015 A COALESCENCE on 11, 12 and 13 February 2015, with a view to enhancing the horizons for the students from all perspectives. This year's theme was to have fusion of art, culture, literature, sports and brainstorming management activities which was perfectly evident from each and every activity that was conducted throughout the three-day festival. The major competitions conducted by MMS during Verve 2015 were:

1. Casennials – Casennials was a Case Study Competition where participants were given a caselet and were asked to make a presentation on the problems and recommendations in the case.
2. Plan Setters - Plan Setter was about presenting a Business Plan competition where the participant teams were supposed to present their business plan within 15 minutes. K.J Somaiya team won the first prize and GNIMS team won the second prize.
3. Mokstex A virtual stock market trading called as mock stock where participants had to invest in various stocks and maximize profit. Participants played this event with great enthusiasm.

The first prize was bagged by Rahul Tiwari from I.E.S College.

4. BIZZQ A Business quiz competition, the event saw 18 teams participating and competing with each other in their quest to become numero uno.
5. PREZCON The 'Prezcon' was themed around to mimic a press conference such that the panel addressing the press is made up participants and the

role of the press is played by judges and audience who would be asking them questions on the topic they have been given at the beginning of the event. The knowledge and skills of the participants would be tested thoroughly in this event as they find themselves responsible and liable to answering tough questions from the press.

6. Mummies Alive Mummies Alive was all about rebranding of an old (dead) product. Here a product was given to each team and they had to prepare a tagline, logo, short description and costing of product. The contestants were allowed to perform a skit and do everything to rebrand their dead product and make it alive.

All the six Management events turned out to be great successes. The passion and enthusiasm of students was simply worth watching. Students successfully learnt about different aspects like time management, multi-tasking, team building, stress management, working cohesively in a group, etc. which will help them in their transition into an effective leaders in the near future.

*Sushmita Chahande
MMS, VIT*



VIT students excel at intercollegiate competitions

Uniqueness lies in expanding beyond the conventional. Vidyankar Institute of Technology has provided testimony to this, yet again. A participating contingent at Mumbai University fest EKAH-15, VIT has earned laurels by winning various awards, the most prestigious of them being the title for 'The Best Contingent' and 'The Best College'. The VIT contingent for Symphony 2015 (KJ Somaiya Vidyavihar) won the title of Best Contingent here as well.

In MU's Ekah, the VIT contingent designated 'The Mask' participated in fifteen events among which they

aced in Standup Comedy, Solo Dancing, Poem Writing, RJ hunt besides acquiring runner up positions in many other events.

VIT has so far participated in around 10 inter-collegiate festivals along with Ekah 2015. The performing teams have come up with flying colors in the Fashion Show, Street Play and Music Band competitions. VIT Fashion show team is carrying forward the legacy of victory with their Greek Thematic Act. VIT Drama Team has consistently won in all the competitions that it has participated in till date. VIT students have

till date participated in 17 intercollegiate Sports festivals. All the teams have performed exceedingly well in all the sports meets and have bagged a number of top honours.

Hats off to the tremendous efforts that VITians had put in these competitions, given that students from a technical institute harbour and nurture exceptional talent in diverse fields! Time and again VITians have proved that their inclination towards technology does not necessarily mean departure from the various other facets of life and they excel at multidimensional skills too.



VSIT organizes Degree Certificate Distribution event

The occasion marked the first time in the history of the University of Mumbai when Degree Certificate distribution was done by the colleges affiliated to it. VSIT organized its Degree Certificate Distribution Ceremony on Saturday, 7 February 2015 in two sessions.

In the first session degree certificates were distributed to B. Sc. IT and M.Sc. IT graduates of 2014. Mr. Arvind Ankalikar, Vice President and Head - Oracle & Microsoft Business, Larsen & Toubro Infotech Limited was the Chief Guest for the first session. Mr. Ankalikar spoke about the advancement in Technology and how the wave of technical progress has taken the world by storm. He was happy to acknowledge that many students from this institute had procured placements at Oracle & Larson and Toubro. He stated that he would be happy to meet them at their work place in the future.

In the second session degree certificates were distributed to Commerce & Management graduates of 2014. Prof. K. Venkataramani, Registrar - Padmashree Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyaapeeth was the Chief Guest for the second session. In his convocation



address, Prof. Venkataramani spoke on how the youth has the responsibility to take this country forward and about giving back to society in every which way possible. He narrated his life experiences and motivated students to help educate under-privileged sections.

The Principal of VSIT Dr. Rohini Kelkar gave the welcome address in both the sessions. The occasion was a solemn one and dignity and deco-

rum was maintained to the best possible extent. The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Asif Rampurwala coordinator of B.Sc. (IT) and Mr. Ashok Seth, Dean, Administration in both the sessions respectively.

It was a proud moment for the B. Sc. (IT) and M.Sc. (IT), BMS, BAF, BBI, MMM, MFM and MHRDM students to receive their degrees at the hands of such eminent personalities on their own college premises.

Industrial Visit to Delhi by VP students

Industrial visits have an important role to play in student life. These visits provides all necessary facilities required for the smooth and effective functioning of industrial training for all the final year students in reputed organizations. In this context, the institute keeps regular contact with various industries through letters, telephones, e-mail and personal visits. Experts from industries and other professional organizations are invited for delivering lectures and seminars to the students to make them aware of the latest developments in the industry. Entrepreneurial awareness camps and workshops are organized to encourage students to become competent entrepreneurs and professionals.



Vidyalankar Polytechnic always encourages its students to relate their classroom studies to the outside world in terms of industries and companies to broaden their horizons. To fulfil this purpose, the Industry Institute Interaction Committee arranged an Industrial visit where students of Vidyalankar Polytechnic are required to undergo field visit under their prescribed syllabus of "Professional Practice". Indus-

trial visit has been organised to various companies in Delhi which includes MTNL, TERI, Parallel Dots and Toss and Play Ltd. The committee had interaction with these companies through Purple Squirrel Ltd. The visit was planned for all the final year students of both first and second shift students of all branches. A total of 136 students had enrolled their name for this visit from across all the branches.

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Marathi Bhasha Din

Marathi Bhasha Din is celebrated on 27 February to commemorate the birthday of the great literary personality Kavi Kusumagraj and Vidyan Din is celebrated on 28 February to inculcate a scientific temperament. Dr Rohini Kelkar, the Principal of VSIT, conceived a novel idea to celebrate these two days together under the title 'Vidnyan Katha Kathan in Marathi'. The event was organized by Marathi Vagmay Mandal of VSIT.

The invited guests for this function were Mr. Sule who related a humorous story of Bio (Biology) and Geo (Geology) departments of college at war, Ms Smita Potnis who took the audience to the past life with the help of her 'time machine' and Ms Megharshi Dalvi who chose the romantic vein by relating a story of space travel by a couple.

The Katha Kathan programme was very amusing



and kept the audience spellbound till the end. It proved the fact that Science and Literature go hand in hand. The programme was followed by an interactive session where many interesting queries were put forth by the audience.

NSS Camp

The NSS unit of VSIT along with 45 volunteers and three teachers, Mr. Vijay Gawde, Ms. Rohini Gaikwad and Mr. Vinayak Karande went on a special seven-day long camp to "Sane Guruji Rashtriya Smarak" at Mangao in Raigad district. The basic motive of the camp was to bring students out of their comfort zones and make them aware of real life problems faced by people in rural

India. The volunteers followed a strict schedule from 5:30 am till 11:00 pm which included morning exercises, 5-6 hours of rigorous field work, lectures/sessions by eminent speakers on social topics like global warming, de-addiction etc., traditional Indian outdoor games like kho-kho and personality development activities like extempore. The volunteers visited houses in the village and interact-

ed with the villagers about their problems; they also performed a street play to create awareness about de-addiction from liquor, cigarettes and tobacco. With the motive of giving something in return to the Smarak volunteers made a shoe rack and a shade to add to the facilities at that place.

Overall it was a great learning experience for volunteers and was different from their day to day urban life. They enjoyed the experience at the camp, understood their strengths and weaknesses and learnt valuable lessons of humanity.

The 2015-16 budget recipe towards transformation of the country

The Indian economy has turned around dramatically in the last nine months with the real GDP growth expected to accelerate to 7.4%, making India the fastest growing economy in the world.

Presenting the General Budget for the year 2015-16, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said macro-economic stability has been restored and conditions have been created for sustainable poverty elimination, job creation and durable double digit economic growth.

Budget Highlights

What It Means For...

INVESTORS

- No Capital Gains tax for mutual fund investors in case of scheme mergers.
- SEBI gets power over more markets as commodities regulator FMC is merged with it
- FIIs, biggest drivers of the stock market, to cheer the fact that they are out of the MAT. They have also been permitted to invest in AIFs.

TAXPAYERS

- Abolition of Wealth Tax but additional 2% surcharge for the income above Rs.1 Cr.
- Old-Age comforts. More choice for

retirement planning, employee can switch from PF to equity-heavy NPS

- 50,000 tax deduction for NPS investment and hike in mediclaim deduction to Rs.25000; transport allowance rises to Rs.1600/month

CONSUMERS

- Phone Bills, bank charges, airfares, restaurants, will cost more as service tax goes up.
- Service tax increased to 14%; may go up more if FM Jaitley imposes 2% Swachh Bharat cess later.
- Imported mobiles, mineral water/drinks, cigarettes will be dearer on higher duties.

BUSINESS

- Corporate tax reduces to 25%.
- Big opportunities in infra and manufacturing as government spending rises and "Make In India" gets a tax boost.

ECONOMY

- New law on black money; stringent punishment for those stashing funds globally and locally.
- GOI-RBI team-up for a monetary policy framework agreement; targets 6% inflation.
- Big move to lower gold imports, unlock gold hoards via bonds, loans and Ashok Chakra minted

new gold coin.

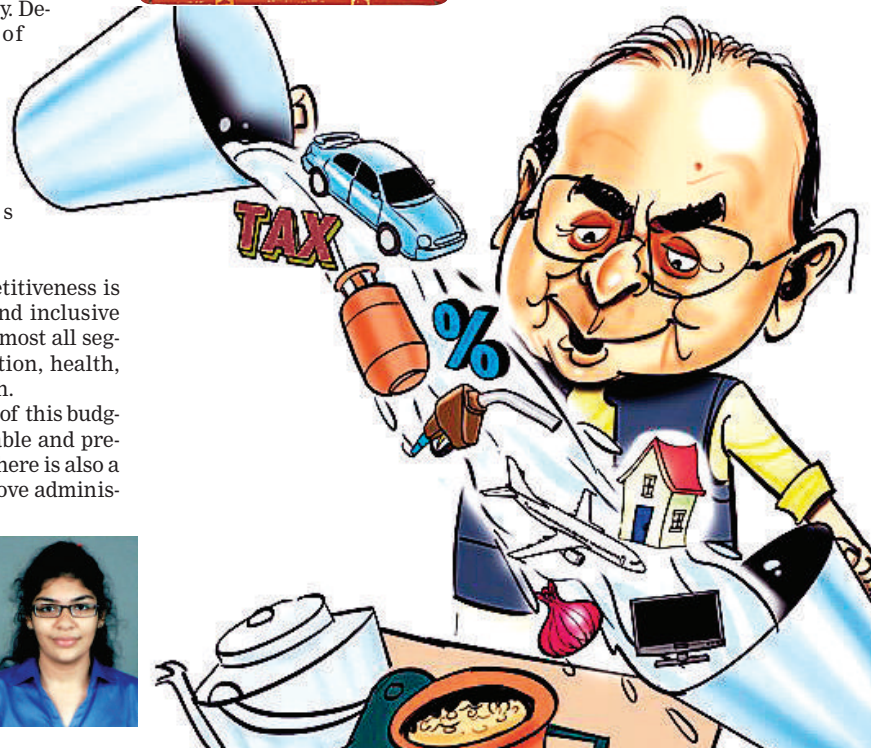
THE BIG IDEAS:-

- Small Businesses gets big help via new bank, MUDRA and a fund for incubating startups.
- Welfare Focus, bigger allocations & better delivery. Defence allocation of Rs.2,46,726
- Big public spend - a booster. Rs.70,000 Cr spend on Infrastructure sector this year.
- Two more IIM's, IIT and AIIMs announced.

The budget for competitiveness is bold, growth-oriented and inclusive and has taken care of almost all segments- Business, education, health, senior citizens and youth.

In summary, the focus of this budget is on presenting a stable and predictable environment. There is also a concerted effort to improve administration, encourage investments and enhance quality of life through a long term investment and development led approach.

By Pranali Shah



R.K. Laxman – A Living Memory



doubt there is anyone who has understood and portrayed this hypocritical society better than R.K. Laxman through his cartoons of the Common Man. Considered by many as one of the greatest cartoonist ever, he was an institution unto himself, indisputably the uncrowned conscience keeper of the nation. He conveyed the pulse of the country and unfailingly delivered powerful messages. Laxman recently passed away on 26 January 2015 at the age of 93, but his Common Man is immortal.

His cartoons were streaked with bonhomous wit and irascible ruthlessness. Laxman's fellow feeling for the unknown citizen, mute and powerless, was endearing. But you also tasted a disquieting pinch of salt; the destitution of the masses became a harsh reality. For six decades, people saw Laxman's Common Man with a balding head and bulbous nose, permanently silent and perpetually bewildered by the ludicrous paradoxes of the world in which he found himself. Laxman mocked vainglory, opportunist

Welcome to society,
We hope you enjoy your stay,
And please feel free to be yourself,
As long as it's in the right way,
We'll tell you that you're worthless,
That you shouldn't make a sound,
And then cry with the all the others,
As you're buried in the ground,
And you can fall in love with anyone,
As long as it's who we choose,
And we'll let you have your opinions,
But please shape them to our views,
Welcome to society,
We promise that we won't deceive,
And one more rule now that you're here,
There's no way you can leave.

ism, empty promises, and regressive ideologies. No one, however highly placed, could escape his shafts of irony. And through all those decades when Laxman drew his daily reactions to local, national and international news, no boss could leash him, no political regime could tame him. Luckily, he lived at a time when dissent and satire were not muzzled as much as they are today.

A creative genius, the artistic bent of Laxman's mind was seen even before he could read, with him doodling using floors, walls and doors in his house. With a pen-

chant for drawing since his school days, he often plunged into the illustrations in magazines such as "Punch", "Tit-Bits", "Strand" and "Bystander" and came under an early influence of world renowned British cartoonist Sir David Low.

Overcoming the setback of his father's death and subsequent rejection to Mumbai's JJ School of Arts, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from University of Mysore. He enjoyed the freedom of his college days as he illustrated brother R.K. Narayan's Malgudi stories. His first political cartoons appeared in the journal "Swatantra", revealing his zany spirit.

When he took up his first full time job as a political cartoonist at Mumbai's Free Press Journal, he found himself in the company of Bal Thakeray who worked for the same paper for a brief period. But Laxman's legendary spell on the Indian newspaper reader was cast after joining the Times of India. Laxman also created a popular mascot for the Asian Paints group named 'Gattu.'

The comic strip "You said it" started in 1951 unleashing his iconic common man – a silent witness to the shenanigans of politicians. His association with TOI

continued even as he returned back to work after recovering from a paralytic stroke in 2003, which incapacitated his left side. In a fitting tribute to the "Common Man" who attained a cult status, a commemorative postal stamp was issued featuring it in 1988 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of TOI.

Among the honors bestowed on the cartoonist are the Padma Vibhushan and the Magsaysay award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts. A 16ft bronze statue of the "Common Man" was unveiled in the premises of the Symbiosis Institute in 2001 in the presence of its creator. The statue stands as a city landmark and an eternal tribute to a cartoonist who regaled a nation with his penetrating insight into the political system, exposing the feet of clay of those who run it.

Laxman often said that politicians may have been bad for the country, but they have been very good for his profession. He said, "My common man is omnipresent. His simple dhoti and checked coat could be anybody's.....He's been silent for all these years. He simply listens."

- Poorvi Rai
FE CMPN 1, VIT

SPOTLIGHT ON TEAM INDIA

Since last month, an amazing World Cup is going on Down Under. The young guns in the Indian team will be vying to make history this year. Although they will miss the likes of Sachin, Sehwag, Gambhir, Yuvraj, Harbhajan and Zaheer, team India has a formidable bunch of batsmen, bowlers and fielders. Can they count up and take the ‘mauka’!

Shikhar Dhawan

The Indian opening batsman, nicknamed ‘Gabbard’, is one of the most feared batsmen in the world currently. This left-handed player had scored a century in 85 balls in his test debut against Australia. He was the leading run-scorer and the Man of the Tournament of 2013 ICC Champions Trophy in England, which India

won. Team India will rely on his attacking prowess to defend the World Cup.

Rohit Sharma

Rohit Sharma is a right handed batsman who opens alongside Dhawan. This Mumbai lad hails from Borivali and since the age of 20 was considered as technically-gifted and hence a regular fixture in the national team. Rohit is the only batsman to score two double centuries in ODI cricket. His knock of 264 runs at Kolkata will always be one of the finest.

Virat Kohli

Many hail him as the next Sachin Tendulkar, but Virat wants to be the first Kohli. He was part of the 2011 World Cup winning team. Easily the key player for India this tournament, Virat will have more responsibilities on his shoulder than ever. The Indian test captain has showed glimpses of the potential he has in the group stages. Virat needs to be at his best if India wants to have high hopes this year.

Ajinkya Rahane

Ajinkya Rahane, another Mumbai boy brings much needed cool headedness in the dressing room. The boy from Dombivali got into the national squad due to consistent performances in the domestic circuit with an impressive average of 62.04. Rahane made his Test debut in the 2013 Border-Gavaskar Trophy against the Aussies and impressed one and all. Now, a regular, the right handed middle order



batsman hopes to leave a mark this year.

Suresh Raina

Raina offers the batting stability in the middle overs. This left handed southpaw is famous for his attacking strokes and is a specialist in the limited overs format. Raina hails from Ghaziabad, UP. He is an integral part of the ODI team since 2005 but made his test debut 5 years later. He is also a part time spin bowler who proves crucial at times.

M S Dhoni

Mahendra Singh Dhoni is unarguably the best captain in the world. He is the only one to win the T20 World Cup, ICC World Cup and Champions Trophy. Dhoni doubles up as a right-handed batsman and wicket-keeper. Many hail him as the best finisher of all time. But Captain Cool always sticks to his ground. Recently, MSD was blessed with a baby girl in February. Dhoni will look to show his Midas touch again.

Ambati Rayudu

A talented batsman, Rayudu has performed solidly in his ODI appearances to date, securing an average of 45.66 at the end of 2014. Having earned a reputation as someone with the ability to finish off games from crunch situations, Rayudu scored his maiden ODI ton in November 2014 against Sri Lanka when he smashed an unbeaten 121 from 118 balls. Though not featuring in the playing XI, he should make a point given an opportunity.

Ravindra Jadeja

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has impressed many with his performances in limited-overs cricket since making his One-Day International debut in 2009 against Sri Lanka and has secured his place as a key player in the India ODI line-up. His athleticism in the field completes the package. Fondly called “Sir” and “Rockstar”, he contributes with all he can. This is his first ICC Cricket World Cup.

Ravichandran Ashwin

Ravichandran Ashwin may appear quiet and unassuming but this off-spinner does plenty of damage with a cricket ball. He causes plenty of trouble for batsmen with his off-spin and variations; particularly with his carrom ball. Ashwin is also capable of inflicting damage with the bat and was an opening batsman before he took up off-spin. Ashwin was a member of India’s winning ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 squad but played second fiddle to Harbhajan Singh at the tournament. He will be eager to make his mark on the championship this time around.

Axar Patel

Not many people had heard of Axar Patel before some excellent domestic performances in 2014 brought the off-spinner to the attention of national selectors. Patel, who was also one of the key players in India under-23s’ title win in the ACC Emerging Teams Cup 2013 and also the IPL, was chosen for his One-Day International debut against Bangladesh in June 2014.

Bhuvaneshwar Kumar

Bhuvi is one of the opening bowlers for India. Bhuvaneshwar Kumar can cause plenty of headaches for batsmen with his ability to swing the ball prodigiously both ways at pace. He first made himself known playing for Uttar Pradesh in domestic cricket when good form thrust him into the sights of the India selectors. He is also a handy batter in India’s lower order. It is still early days for the bowler whose best is likely yet to come.

Mohit Sharma

Mohit Sharma was a late inclusion in India’s ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 squad after Ishant

Sharma suffered a knee injury. Right-arm bowler Sharma broke into India’s ODI team in mid-2013 after consistent performances in domestic cricket. The Haryana bowler will not affect his late inclusion to have any effect in his performances.

Stuart Binny

Following in the footsteps of his father, former Indian allrounder Roger Binny, Stuart Binny has proven to be useful in the same discipline since breaking into the first-class scene in 2003-04. His success has mainly come in limited-overs cricket including consistent performances in the Indian Premier League and in domestic cricket where his medium pace bowling has been combined with his big-hitting abilities.

Mohammed Shami

Since making his one-day international debut at the start of January 2013, fast bowler Mohammad Shami has cemented himself in the India line-up, picking up 68 wickets in his first 36 outings. The bowler who plays for Bengal in Ranji has some lethal pace combined with swinging the white Kookabura in both ways.

Umesh Yadav

Umesh Yadav is a pacer from Vidharbha. He started playing cricket aged 19. Before becoming a professional cricketer, Umesh Yadav unsuccessfully applied to join the army and the police force. He seems to have a great attitude and most importantly, he’s a wicket-taking bowler. He’s got that raw talent, good pace and can generate good bounce. He’s got a lot going for him at the moment. These abilities shall supplement him in Australia and New Zealand.

Suman Pandit
 SE ETRX 1, VIT



DID YOU KNOW?

India’s Sachin Tendulkar is the leading run scorer with 2,278 runs in World Cup 45 matches and has scored the most centuries (six). He also holds the record for most runs in one tournament, 673 from 11 matches in 2003.