

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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# VATCHAL

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# VATCHAL

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## NBA Visit- Examination for the college

If one entered the college towards the end of November (25th, 26th and 27th), he/she must have seen the college in its most hustled phase. The walls were freshly painted, every corner thoroughly cleaned and everyone was working hard to ensure that the College was at its best. And why not, the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) was coming around for a visit. For the students, it was seeing the college getting examined for the first time, reverse of the conventional scenario.

NBA was setup by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) in 1994 for the purpose of assessment of quality and accreditation of technical programs in India. NBA accreditation is one of the most prestigious achievements of the college and it generally has a validity of either 3 years or 6 years. Importantly, it is a particular course of a college which gets accredited and not the entire institute. This year, the validity of previous versions of all the courses except E&TC and IT were getting terminated and were due for renewal. Hence the time

had come for the college to prove its mettle once again.

Everyone, inclusive of the Director, Deans, Teaching and Non-Teaching staff and the students had been preparing for these three gruelling days since the past few months.

**Day 1:** After receiving a warm welcome from the Hon'ble Director sir, the committee members were assisted by the HODs for college's tour. Visiting the DESH department first, they were led by Prof. Khare to the site of the ambitious solar panel installation project. Following which the committee members paid a visit to this year's Robocon team in the Robocon arena. There, students first gave a presentation of their activities and achievements after which they asked a few question about the functioning of The Robotics Forum (TRF), the budget and current activities. They were then guided to the workshop department and Computer Science department.

Continued on page 2..

## Alumni Meet 2016

To embrace the reminiscent mingling roads of former students of VIT, the second Alumni Meet was organized by the college on 17th December, 2016. It began with the traditional lighting of lamp by the Chief Guest of the evening, Hon. Director Prof. Dr. R. M. Jalnekar. The event was attended by more than 300 Alumni ranging across various batches from various parts of the country and the world. Speaking on the occasion, the Director Sir introduced VIT Pune as it is today with a short speech and a video clip to the former students. He underlined and praised the achievements of Alumni of VIT Pune in all spheres of life. He felt that it was a



## NSS Camp 2016

NSS Camp is organized by VIT Social's team each year and is one of their major events. It's a seven-day event which is conducted in a village adopted by the college for a time span of three years. Last year a village



named Kanjale was adopted. This year the dates for the event were 24th-31st Dec 2016.

The unit of around 60 NSS volunteers reached the village on 24th. And then began the work of welfare for the village. Prior arrangements were made for the stay and the various other activities. The work was planned in five sectors- Women Empowerment, Shramdaan, Teach for India, Street play and Awareness. The teams were divided accordingly and the work distribution was defined.

During the course of the event, several guest lectures were arranged. Prof. Rajesh Dhake (Dean- students' activities), Prof. Pandkar, Prof.

Chopade, etc. visited the camp to encourage the volunteers. As one of the activities under women empowerment, Prof. Meghana Shiralkar visited the camp provided guidance to the girls regarding career



opportunities and motivated them. Prof. Gaikwad conducted a lecture regarding Demonetization.

The doctors of Trimal Hospital took an interactive session regarding various health issues. In addition, a street play was performed to highlight the issue of 'Drug Addiction' and its harmful effects. To entertain the volunteers, a campfire was also conducted.

The overall aim was to create awareness regarding the general issues of the village. Along with this, the students understood the importance of coordination, teamwork, integrity and formed everlasting bonds, and they got a chance to work for the society selflessly. This reflects the true success of NSS Camp.

matter of great pride for the college that its Alumni are holding positions of responsibility in various Government organizations, PSUs, Private sector, Academic Institutions etc. He pointed out proudly that some of them are also successful entrepreneurs.

The Inaugural session was also attended by various Deans, HODs, and teaching and non-teaching staff members of VIT Pune. The Dean of Alumni affairs, Prof. Dr. Jabade highlighted the key points of Alumni Association and called for greater alumni participation. The gathering was also addressed by Alumni who were representing their respective batches. Great bonhomie was observed everywhere with old students reliving their old memories with their batch mates, seniors and juniors. Many of the current students were also seen interacting with their passed out seniors. In all, the atmosphere was nostalgic and delightful.

The key highlight of second day, 18th December, morning, was the silver reunion of Mechanical Engg Batch of 1990-91. It was attended by former Principal Abhyankar sir, professors of the respective batch, and Hon. Vice Chairman B.B. Lohiya. The Alumni reunion was well organized by the VIT AIR team enabling the alumni take a walk down the memory lane. Various decisions regarding the alumni association were made to strengthen the link between the current VIT students and alumni for their support to current students in the area of training, placement, career counseling and any other help. The Meet ended with promise to meet again and everyone bid emotional farewell to each other and their beloved VIT Pune.

Continued from page 1:

### NBA VISIT- Examination for the college

**Day 2:** The second day of the NBA visit was composed of more of academic evaluation of the concerned departments. The committee members made personal visits to the classrooms & labs and interacted with the teachers. They enquired about the equipment, the apparatus and infrastructure of the labs and ensured that they're at par with the requirements. Every department displayed their best projects, research papers and patents, which were keenly observed and examined by the committee members. They even interacted with the class representatives and a handful of students from each class, getting to know their opinion towards the Institute in general.

**Day 3:** The NBA committee focussed on student interaction on the third day. The Entrepreneurship Development Cell was also reviewed by the committee. They got to know about Internship Mela and other EDC activities. Towards the end of the visit, students from all four years of study were called for a one-to-one interaction with The Chairman of the NBA committee. Sir and students spoke freely regarding internships, placements, and overall college atmosphere.

All in all, the visit was fruitful for students and teachers alike, as their performance was reviewed critically yet in a positive manner.

## Team Taurus 4.0

National level "Kart Racing Championship" competition which is organized by "Virtualis Motor Sport" every year, has representatives from VIT in roaring form, Team Taurus 4.0. In the



latest season of the competition, Season 3, they have held heads high by winning the "BEST DESIGN" and "BEST BUILD QUALITY" titles for the season. The competition was held in the month of October at Mohite's Racing Track in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. After competing with around 170 teams from various engineering institutions across the country, Team Taurus 4.0 finished at an overall TWELFTH position.

In the previous season of the competition, Team Taurus was awarded the "BEST DESIGN", "BEST BUSINESS PLAN AWARD", "BEST ACCELERATION" awards and had finished at an overall FIRST position.

## Diabetes Awareness Campaign

In the hustle bustle of everyday life, health gets neglected and the threat of many diseases like Diabetes goes on increasing. So Diabetes Care and Research Foundation (DCRF) and VIT came up with the idea to create awareness regarding this issue on the occasion of World Diabetes Day.

The Diabetes Awareness campaign was organized by VIT socials on 16th Nov.



2016. The event began with the inaugural ceremony which was conducted in the Seminar hall. The event proceeded in three different sections. Free diabetes check-up camp was organized in Seminar hall for all the Staff members and Students. Along with this, a human chain was formed in Indira Nagar to create awareness about the issue amongst the masses. In the final part of the event, a lecture by Dr. Abhay Mutha, founder of DCRF was conducted in the Sharad Arena. The program took place in the presence of several dignitaries Amrutlal Mutha, Chandra Shetty, Former cricketer Chandu Borde, Hon. Director R.M Jalnekar, Prof Patki, etc and was attended by the members of the staff and the students as well.

The success of the event was a result of the initiative of DCRF and the dedicated volunteers of Team Socials who worked selflessly and played a part in contributing towards the society.



## Blood Donation Campaign

Blood Donation Campaign is one of the major events organized by the VIT Socials team. It was conducted on 10th-11th November, 2016. Although the actual event is only for two days, the preparation is pretty time consuming and yet equally rewarding. So the work began - aesthetics, publicity, etc. All the committees had a part to play in the overall success of the event.

The Inauguration ceremony was organized in the Seminar hall on the first day in the presence of Hon. Director R. M. Jalnekar, Prof Rajesh Dhake - Dean (Students' Activities), Prof. Patki, etc. The tagline for the campaign was "One Donation, Many Lives". An amazing Street play was performed by the team of VIT Socials to create awareness regarding the issue.

Two blood banks visited the college on the two days during the campaign. Jankalyan Bank visited and Sasoon Blood Bank on the 1st and 2nd day respectively. A remarkable figure of 370 donors was achieved which is something all of us should be proud of as individuals and as VITians. Thus, the Blood Donation camp was a great success as not only students, but the staff members also responded very well. The bi-annual event conducted by VIT socials came to an end with the volunteers appreciating all the donors for being a part of this great cause.

### Facts about VIT that you probably haven't noticed or may not know.

- If somebody comes up to you and asks, do you know where room number **1809** is, you would probably look puzzled, because we definitely do not have 8 floors in our college. Well the answer is **1809**, which is besides the faculty parking, that is in the basement and it is the **Fluid mechanics laboratory**. So apart from a few really keen observers, only the students of chemical and mechanical engineering might be aware of this place.
- **The aesthetics room:** Are you aware of the fact that you could actually find an entrance to the aesthetics room, if you go down a couple of stairs, from the stairs besides the auditorium (Sharad Arena). Although when we went to check this hidden place, the door was locked but it was an
- Have you ever noticed the narrow road besides CC, which also has a gate and seems like something mysterious goes on out there? It leads to another one of VIT's hidden laboratory, which is **Mass Transfer and Mechanical Operation Lab**, its room number is weirdly: **4109**.
- Every department in our college has at least one faculty member (either permanent or visiting) who has completed either their B.Tech/M.Tech from VIT.
- **The first room:** The room which is numbered as **x001**, where x represents the building number, is not a classroom for any one of our four buildings. **1001 is the examination section, 2001 is the workshop, 3001 and 4001 are both washrooms.**





## TEDx Interviews

VIT Pune is host to a vast majority of events which enhance the exposure that students receive. The idea is to broaden horizons of the students and provide the much-needed inspiration for them to develop some ideas of their own. One such event which caters to this is the TEDxVITPune event.

With the inception of the TEDxVITPune Organizing Team in 2015, it was the first time that an international level event was being brought to the college. TED stands for 'Technology Entertainment Design' and it is a non-profit organisation with the motto, "Ideas Worth Spreading". In the event, eminent people are invited to share their work and ideas in the form of a speech to the students. A TEDx event is one that is organized on a local level after obtaining a license from the actual TED team.

TEDxVITPune Organizing Committee completed two years of successful operations in 2015 and 2016. To gear up for their upcoming edition of 2017, the team recruited some members to aid in various sections. Applicants first filled an online form, on the basis of which they were shortlisted for a personal interview. 16 students cleared the final interview round and made it to the team. We wish them all the best for their upcoming edition!

## CHESA Guest Lecture

Chemical Engineering Students Association organized a guest lecture on 12th November 2016. The venue for the event was room 4005 and over 60 students from the department attended the event. The topic of the lecture was 'Process Engineering for Oil and Gas facilities' and the speaker for the lecture was Mr. Yatish Gujrati (Senior Manager, Process HOD at Petrofac). The lecture started at 11am and went on for about 2 hours, and during the



session, the students got to learn the difference between petroleum upstream and downstream industry and some processes involved in oil and gas facilities. During the Q & A session, along with topic related questions, students also enquired about the opportunities in the field of chemical engineering and also the specific skills they should seek to attain over the course of these 4 years, to become employable engineers. Overall, the session was interesting and the attendees congratulated the team on organizing it brilliantly.

## VIT PUNE MUN

Oratory is an art, and knowledge-based oratory even more so. It is important for students, engineers or otherwise, to know how to articulate their thoughts through several different mediums in a way to have their thoughts acknowledged by others. It is also important that as future citizens of the world, the students have a background of knowing several pressing social issues that require their concern. For it is when this habit is imbibed into them, they will succeed in knowing the areas where the society can improve, and how this change can be brought about.

The VIT Pune Model United Nations conference was held for the first time in January 2016 with the spirit of engaging the students into healthy debates about global issues. Now, as the team gears up for the second edition of the VIT Pune MUN conference in January 2017, it aims to bring in a bigger conference that is executed even better this time. Secretary General Yash Kale and Administrator Karan Singh hence decided to conduct interviews to form the new team.

The organizing committee interviews for VIT Pune MUN took place and a new team was set up in place to organize the second edition of the conference. With a few recurring members and some new ones, they are all set and have already begun their registrations! Register for VIT Pune MUN, because this time, it is a 'Quest For Change'.



## Antariksh Club

ANTARIKSH - 27th November will always be remembered as one of the most memorable days by the Antariksh club, because it was on this day that they had the honour of meeting Dr. Helen Mason of the Radio Physics Lab (RPL), IUCAA. She is one of the renowned scientists in the field of Solar Physics. Over the past decade, she has been working as a co-investigator on a major ESA/NASA project - the Solar Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO), which was launched in December 1995 and is still operational. The instruments on SOHO are used to monitor and study the solar interior, solar atmosphere and the solar wind. These observations, combined with those from other satellites in the near Earth environment, allow an unprecedented insight into the nature of the Sun and its interaction with the Earth. She is a founder member of a highly

successful international collaboration (UK/USA/Italy) called CHIANTI - an atomic database for the analysis of astrophysical spectra. The CHIANTI project provides an important facility, which is now widely used by the solar and stellar physics communities. She is currently working on an UK/USA/Japanese solar satellite, called Hinode, which was launched in 2006. Her group is also working closely with other Hinode teams, which is providing some fascinating results. The club members got an opportunity to interact with her and they made the most of it by discussing with her some queries related to her speech. After getting felicitated by the VIT Antariksh Club, Dr. Helen said she would be willing to come to our college again to deliver another talk whenever she visits our city.

## Mercantile Club Guest Lecture

Mercantile Club organized a guest lecture on 11th November 2016. The venue for the event was room number 4005 and the topic of the guest lecture was "The Secrets behind America's Prosperity". The speaker for the event was Mr. Neeraj Jain, an alternative economist, a writer, journalist and a convener of a Pune based general awareness organization 'Lokayat'. The lecture started at 4pm with a crowd of about 20 students, the number was low but the interest of the students was pretty high. The lecturer spoke about the discovery of America by the Europeans, gave a detailed account about American history and its contribution to the American economy, and also of the vicious debt cycle most of the third world countries are stuck in

due to their past mistakes and how it is also a cause for America's growth and prosperity. After the two-hour long session, students engaged in question and answer session with the speaker and his team. The students found the lecture interesting and highly instructive.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**20/1/2017**  
VIT Pune MUN  
**21/1/2017**  
ATMABODH  
**24/1/2017**  
LADIES MEET



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