

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VATCHAL

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THE MONTHLY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

VATCHAL

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VIT, PUNE

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VIT Pune MUN

The second edition of VIT Pune MUN was organized from 20th to 22nd of January. The theme for MUN this year was decided as "A Quest for Change", hence the overall aim of the conference was to find possible solutions to the world problems by viewing them under a new light. A special feature of MUN this year was that school students from classes 8th and above could participate as Junior Delegates and hence a prize category of Best Junior

Delegate was also added. A mock session was held two days prior to the event to ensure that the first time MUNers were well aware of the rules and procedure to be followed during a MUN conference. With an increased number of participants, varied committees, flawless event execution, the second edition of VIT Pune MUN has definitely set the bar high for the future editions.

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Republic Day

As always, this year too, Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in our College. The theme for the day was 'Vote for a better tomorrow' which was decided on the purview of the Municipal Corporation Elections being held in a few days' time.

The Chief Guest for the day, Hon'ble Director sir addressed the assembly by emphasizing the importance of knowing what good governance is and being a part of it. The Vehicles engineered by various teams of our College such as the SAE BAJA, SAE SUPRA and Go-KART were on display on the college lawns in all their glory. Later in the day, an enactment was



done by the Vi-Culp team of their script which had won the first prize in the Firodiya Karandak. It sure was a treat!



Ladies Meet

A program for Awareness and Personality Development for Female Students and staff members was organised at VIT Pune on Tuesday, 24th January, 2017. The chief guests for the event were Mrs. Tanuja Kher, an expert on Personality Development, Dr Rajashri Kashalkar, one of the leading doctors in Pune, and Mrs. Simantini Vaze, from a leading NGO that promotes women empowerment. Prof. (Mrs.) Shital Sobale (Staff Ladies Representative) organised the program along with

the Student Council. The guest speakers shared their experience with the



female students as well as the teaching & non-teaching female staff. The program ended with a vote of thanks from Miss. Aishwarya Boralkar, the Ladies Representative of the College.



Aatmabodh

Aatmabodh- Computer Literacy Program for Senior Citizens is a bi-annual event organized by VIT Socials. This semester, it was held from 22nd Jan- 5th February 2017 from 6 to 8 pm. It was glad to have around 120+ people who were benefited by the program.

After the registration of the participants, the program began with inaugural ceremony on 22nd Jan in presence of Prof. Rajesh Dhake- Dean (Students' Activities) and the Student Council members. And then began the beautiful journey



of Teaching and Learning. Labs were allotted to participants and one volunteer per participant. The course of teaching was pre-planned according to the need of hour. The syllabus included Introduction to computers, MS Paint, Internet, Email, Online Shopping, Net-banking, Paytm, Online Railway Ticket booking, Online Bill payments, etc. The participants were really good at grasping all these things, not letting age or anything else becoming a barrier. The volunteers were also very supportive and patient. The volunteers were guided throughout by the Event head and Social Secretaries.

The ending ceremony was attended by Prof. Dr Vivek Deshpande- Head of Department, Computer Engineering and Godbole Ma'am. Both of them appreciated the work of volunteers as well as the enthusiasm shown by participants. The ceremony was also attended by

the General Secretary, Council Advisors and other council members. Cake cutting was done as a mark of success of the event. And here success was abstract, in the form of satisfaction of senior citizens!



Upcoming

Melange
27th Feb to 1st March

Internship Mela
31st March

Women's Day
8th March

Abhivriddhi

■ Group Discussion

Group Discussions are now commonly applied as a methodology to assess an individual's personality. They form an integral part of selections whether for Jobs or College. Keeping this in mind Abhivriddhi recently organised - a session on Group discussion, on the 23rd of January was held in the Sharad Arena. Conducted by Dean Students' activities – Prof. Rajesh Dhake, it shed light on

1. Importance of bringing out diverse views
2. Various GD formats

■ Mock Personal Interview

Nothing kills the excitement of a possible new job than a terrible interview. An Interview is definitely a matter of horror, and making through them effectively, is a much needed skill. To get your personality assessed by the prying interviewer as a safe, sensible and sane individual, integral to the company's success you need to make a lasting impression. For better or worse, your ability to handle yourself during the questioning will play a vital role in the interviewer's decision-making process.

So, to make all of this a tad bit easy, Team Abhivriddhi has introduced mock Personal Interviews. With department specific

3. Pointers on GD etiquettes
4. Effective Voice and Gesture usage
5. Importance of using clear language and persuasive style.

Extensive categories like sports, politics, socio-cultural, economics, miscellaneous and topics as well, nearly 200 of them, were put up, for students. The fact that Group Discussion differs from debate in nature, approach and procedure was talked on. This event was

interviews, meaning technical as well as HR this would be our attempt to make students well versed with googlies for questions. This event is meant to be two tier.

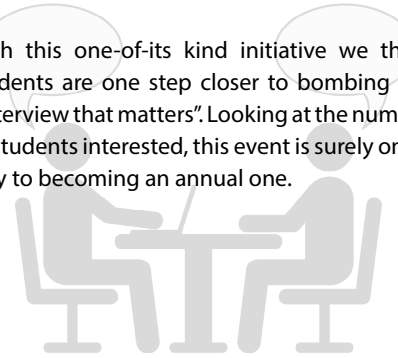
Earlier this month, preparatory interviews conducted by the Dean - Students' Activities, Prof. Rajesh Dhake, were held, to give registered students a brief idea of what basic level preparation is to be expected by them. Later mock interviews would be conducted by industrial experts, having enough experience and definite ideas, of what the corporate domain demands and how best to sell your skills. Along with

made interactive by asking, few students, to voluntarily participate in an on spot group discussion, which was video-shot for analysing and bettering the skills of everyone. The session ended with Q&A to clear any doubts that students had.

With another successful event in its first year Abhivriddhi looks forward to conducting many more.

professionals coming in to mentor the way students give interviews and provide valuable inputs, specific scorecards will also be handed to students.

With this one-of-its kind initiative we think students are one step closer to bombing the "Interview that matters". Looking at the number of students interested, this event is surely on its way to becoming an annual one.



Antariksh Club

■ National Science Day

National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28th February each year to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian physicist CV Raman. IUCAA organizes the open Science day program every year on 28th February, in which the general



public can visit the institute to take a look at ongoing research and contemporary work happening elsewhere in the world. Members of the Antariksh Club were given the opportunity to volunteer for the Open Science Day programme in IUCAA.

The training process for volunteers started 10-15 days prior to the Science Day. They were asked to come to IUCAA from time to time where they were told about the

different experiments and posters that were going to be displayed on Science Day. They were all shown the different experimental setups (3-metre radio telescope, ASRT, Horn Antenna) and related information was provided. This gave them working knowledge of most of the experiments related to Radio Astronomy. They were also asked to prepare presentations for the exhibits.

On the day of the event, volunteers were busy manning the exhibits and making sure that the execution was flawless. People kept on pouring in during the day and so did a plethora of interesting questions. The experiments were frequently visited by younger children accompanied by their parents and groups of children from different schools along with some college students.

Besides the visitors, the volunteers too learnt a lot about the various projects and astronomy in general. They also gained an invaluable experience of managing events and public speaking. Overall, the event was a great success and the volunteers were very happy to be a part of it.

■ Star Party

The Antariksh Club once again sparked vivid interest in the field of Astronomy throughout the college, by hosting a Star Gazing event held on the 28th of January at the Hidden Oasis resort. The key presenter of the program was Mr. Jameer Manur (Researcher from IUCAA). Nearly 40 enthusiasts participated in this event.

The event started off with a short introduction to the Antariksh Club by Manur Sir and the committee members. The participants were taken to the ground to observe the sky where a canopy of luminous stars were seen, illuminating the dark moonless night. Manur Sir gave a deep insight on the constellations of the stars, taught the attendees to locate them and narrated a couple of myths and stories behind them as well. A 6 inch telescope was set up and were operated by the volunteers. It gave the attendees a rare opportunity to see Mars, Venus Jupiter and Saturn all on the same evening. The Orion nebula, Andromeda Galaxy, Sombrero Galaxy and a few clusters like the beehive cluster were also spotted through the telescope.

During the second part of the program, the participants were provided with star charts where by the end of the day, they were able to quickly locate a recognisable constellation (like Orion) and then hop to nearby constellations until they would find them all without the star chart! With Jameer Sir's guidance, the photographers took

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CHESA

■ Guest Lecture

A guest lecture on "Computer Simulations to Design Materials for New Technologies" by Dr. Waghmare was organized by CHESA (Chemical Engineering Students Association) in collaboration with the Chemical Engineering Department on 1st February 2017. The venue for the event was Sharad Arena. The speaker for the guest lecture was Dr. Umesh Waghmare, an esteemed scientist with accolades like Infosys Science Prize, 2015, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, BM Birla Science Prize and J.C. Bose National Fellowship to his credit. The event was also graced by the presence of Honorable Director Prof. Dr. R.M. Jalnekar. The lecture was intended to introduce the attendees who were students from Chemical, Mechanical as well as Electrical engineering Department to the area of "Simulation of New Materials" and its applications in solving varied engineering problems. With over 200 attendees, the event received an overwhelming response. During the lecture, the potential areas of research in the foreseeable future were discussed which can prove to be extremely helpful for the students contemplating to enter the research field. It was a great learning experience for the attendees.

■ Industrial Visit

One day industrial visit to Shivshakti Oxalate and Lavender Laboratories was organized by the Industrial Interaction and Placement committee under CHESA (Chemical Engineering Students Association) on 22nd February. A total of 30 students went for the Industrial Visit along with Dr. Sachitanand Satpute, who is a faculty member of the Department of Chemical Engineering. Since two industries had to be covered in one day, 2-3 hours were spent in each industry. Shivshakti Oxalate is a manufacturer, supplier, and importer of a quality range of Solvents, Chemicals, and Intermediates. During their visit, students got an opportunity to learn in detail about distillation process and also about the economics or the several other factors involved in setting up a chemical industry. Next, the students visited Lavender Laboratory which is a pharmaceutical based industry. The students got to witness a small scale pilot plant and various industry-based equipment such as Tray Dryer, Ammonia Compressor, Distillation Column, Reflux drum, etc. During the visit, the students got a chance to interact with Industry personnel, witness the practical application of their theoretical knowledge, and they were also able to gain some clarity about what could be a suitable career path for them.

■ GATE Preparation and opportunities workshop

GATE Preparation & Opportunities Workshop was organized by Chesa on 24th January 2017, Mr. Sunil Ghule who is the founder of GATEWAY INSTITUTE, Pune was the guest lecturer for the event. In this two-hour event, the speaker informed the students about how to prepare for the examination and



what are the career prospects which open up, once you clear the GATE exam. A quiz contest was held during the lecture, in which students were asked questions pertaining to Core Chemical Engineering and current affairs, and on answering them correctly, they were given study modules from the GATEWAY INSTITUTE as a prize. A total of 50 attendees from SY, TY and Final Year of Chemical Engineering, as well as Students from Piping Engineering Diploma course, were present at the event. It was a great opportunity for the students to clear whatever doubts they had regarding the GATE examination format or preparation and the prizes ensured that the students remained interested all throughout the duration of the lecture.

Antariksh: Continued from Page 1

lots of beautiful pictures of the Milky Way and various constellations. Such was the enthusiasm of the presenter that he was bombarded with questions at the end of each session. As the night grew colder a bonfire was lit although the heat struggled to penetrate the wintry air. It was a mesmerising night and the morning's sunrise was a breathtaking display of radiant colours which had reflected on the lake in the resort. Thus the Star Gazing Party ended on the right note with memories to cherish forever.

Mirage Campus Film Society

Mirage campus film society, which is an amazing platform for the students of VIT to gather and appreciate unique world class cinema always manages to stay true to its purpose. Three screenings of completely different nature were organized during the months of January and February.

The first movie was 'La Piazza Gioia', the screening was held on 19th January. The screening was attended by a decent crowd and after the movie, a discussion was held regarding the use of scenery and location in Italian cinema, and how it is used as a medium to enhance the energy of the plot. The screening of 'Visaranai' which is Tamil movie was organized on 24th January. Keeping in mind the upcoming Republic day, the idea was to celebrate Indian cinema with a critically acclaimed masterpiece. On 9th February, the screening of 'Dial M for Murder' was organized for the MCFS members. The after movie discussion was focused on the direction techniques of Alfred Hitchcock (termed as the father of thriller cinema). The screening was also utilized as a platform for presenting the T-Shirt design for the Mirage T-shirts for this year.

Mercantile Club

■ Stock market workshop

Mercantile- The Economics and Finance Club of our college is a student and faculty guided initiative for enthusiasts in the field of Finance and Economics. During the intercollegiate event 'Melange' a Stock Market workshop was conducted by the Mercantile club under the Extra-curricular events section.

The workshop was conducted by Dean - Students' Activities Prof. Rajesh Dhake from 26th -27th February. Dhake Sir has an experience of more than 24 years in the same field and was enthusiastic throughout the workshop.

On the first day the event was conducted from 3-6pm. The workshop began by discussing the importance of investment, understanding the terms asset, liabilities, learning how to make balance sheets, introduction to bonds, mutual funds, securities. At the end of the first day the students were able to understand what, where and how of investment.

The second day which began at 4 pm covered the introduction to the markets, BSE, NSE and share pricing. Participants were taught how to see the rise and fall of a share by using the graphs and candle techniques. The fundamental analysis was applied to know whether the share is sustainable or not. The long time investment, short term analysis, technical analysis and some other market terms were explained. Examples of shares and companies to be purchased were given. The event ended with the virtual stock market game where the participants experienced the race against time situation while trading the shares.

The workshop was beneficial for all the students and their interest in the stock market has increased exponentially after the workshop.

All that fuss about Feminism

We recently celebrated Women's Day on 8th March, it particularly honors womanhood and paid tribute to the indomitable spirit of women across the globe.

While some believe it is futile to celebrate just one day and not care for their emotions for the rest of the year, others believe the celebrations are important to remind women of their power and importance. I believe that we need to create a society where celebrating the importance or the existence of one particular gender is not necessary and fact that we need to celebrate a day dedicated to women clearly shows that we are still not a society that champions equality. And this is where

Feminism comes in the picture. To identify as a feminist is to acknowledge that women are people, and, as such, women deserve the same social, economic, and political rights and opportunities as other styles of people.

There have always been misconceptions and debates about the word 'Feminism'. Other people, both men and women, have told us that all feminists are unmannered, reactionary, unemotional man-hating who need to quit crying. However I beg to disagree. I believe every person on this earth is a feminist unless they think that women can never be equal as men. Feminism is not a radical movement or a fringe movement or an embarrassment or a fraud. Feminism is very simple to understand

i.e. the color pink, liking of a particular sport, chivalry, wearing makeup or expressing emotions such as crying etc. is NOT categorized by gender.

No matter all the controversy 'feminism' holds, I am one. I cannot nor will not deny the importance and absolute necessity of feminism. Like most people, I'm full of contradictions, but also, I don't want to be discriminated for being a woman.

Basically, there's a whole lot of work still left to be done. But celebrating International Women's Day serves as a reminder of all the struggle women went through to provide us with basic rights we enjoy today and a reminder of how far we still have left to go.

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■ Opening Ceremony

The event began with a formal opening ceremony in the Sharad Arena, during which Director Prof. R. M. Jalnekar addressed the delegates. A speech was delivered by the Administrator of VIT Pune MUN 2017, Karan Singh, followed by the Secretary General, Yash Kale. After this, all the committee chairs were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and talk in brief about their committee's agenda for the three-day event.

This was followed by an interesting ice-breaking session which was conducted by the Social Heads for MUN, Dhruv Ghatge, and Dhaval Tilakraj. The ice-breaking session provided the delegates a chance to open up and become more comfortable with each other. After the opening ceremony, all the delegates reported to their committee venues and the proceedings of day one were started.



■ Committees

UNSC

United Nations Security Council, one of the most sought-after committees of MUN, had a total of 25 delegates representing various nations. The agendas which were decided for discussion during the course of the three days included "Assessing the repercussions of threats emerging by the non-state actors in the Islamic World" and the "Maintenance of International Peace and Security in the East and South Asia Dispute". The committee was chaired by Sarvesh Vilekar who is a 14-time MUNer and the co-chairs were Zahra Ghasia and Shubham Nagulwar. With several experienced MUNers and such interesting agendas to discuss, the committee proceedings over the span of the three days were a treat to witness.

CEU

The Council of European Union was a new addition to the committees for this edition of MUN. The chair of the committee was Amogh Kulkarni and the co-chairs were Bhakti Saoji and Mohit Ladkani. The committee saw an extensive participation with a total 28 delegates representing various countries of the European Union. The agendas which were discussed included "Brexit: Where is the EU headed?" and "European Refugee Crisis: Impact on Governance and Economy of the State". Council of European Union won the prize for the Best Committee for managing to pass resolutions pertaining to both of their allotted agendas and dealing with the crisis situation as well.

ECOFIN

Another one of the new committees which were added during this MUN to cater to the varied interests of the participants, ECOFIN i.e. the Economics and Finance Council was chaired by Pushkar Marathe. The co-chairs of the committee were Ayushi Vaid and Aditya More. Though the committee had a limited number of delegates (nine), the quality of the debates was great, owing to the caliber of the delegates. The agendas which were discussed included "Economic policy decisions to reduce global debt accumulation" and "Legitimacy and Effectiveness of Trade Barriers and Sanctions on the third world countries". The junior delegate in this committee was particularly well versed and this set the bar for the debates that were to follow between all the other delegates.

UEFA

Union of European Football Association was chaired by Ankit Chopda and had a total of 21 delegates representing the various football clubs. The co-chairs of the committee were Yash Rathod and Shaunak Edhake. UEFA is found to be pretty popular amongst the football lovers and saw extensive participation during both the first and the second editions of MUN. The agendas which were set up for discussion included "Is England causing false inflation in the transfer market?", "Importance of Homegrown talent and their compulsory inclusion in the match day squad" and "Players being Cup-tied: Still Justified?"

UNHRC

United Nations Human Rights Council was chaired by Ayushi Agrawal. The co-chairs of the committee were Sanjana Shinde and Varenya Gadre. A total of 22 delegates representing various countries had fruitful discussions and debate regarding the two allotted agendas which were "Labor Rights in Developing Countries" and "Addressing the problems of immigrants in crisis". The stimulating discussions and the tantalizing arguments were entertaining, while providing solutions for a common goal at the same time.

UNEP

Amongst the three new committees which were included in MUN this year, UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) gave CEU a tough fight for the title of the Best Committee. A total of 25 delegates, most of which were first-time MUNers and yet there was no lacking in terms of the level of debate which took place. The committee was chaired by Hamza Saify and the co-chairs were Sujata Patil and Mohammed Miyaji. The agendas which were discussed included "Addressing the urgent need to diversify and enhance the availability of clean energy" and "Should the global ban on hazardous waste trade be lifted?"

■ Social Night

On the evening of the second day (21st January), the Social Night was held for the delegates. The venue for the event was Raasta Café. It was an opportunity for the delegates to meet outside of the formal proceedings and have a good time. The delegates, who

had gotten pretty comfortable with their committee members during the proceedings of the first two days, got to interact with the other delegates. The night was full of laughter, music, dance, pictures and most importantly mouth-watering food! It was a much-needed

stress buster after the two days of hard work all the delegates, as well as the organizing committee members and the executive board members, had put in.

■ Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony was held on the evening of the third day (22nd January) as a platform to announce the prizes for the conference. The best delegate from each committee was chosen and awarded; along with this prizes were given to the Best Ambassador, Best Journalist, Best

Junior Delegate and Best Committee. The happenings of all the three days, the ups and downs, the gossip, the resolutions, all of the details were covered meticulously by the MUN Press Team. Three online newsletters were provided to the delegates over the span of

the conference covering the highlights of all the three days. The official newsletter of VIT Pune MUN - "The Sentinel" covering the entire conference was provided to all the delegates at the closing ceremony, along with official MUN Merchandise and participation certificates.





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The Student Council
