In This Issue

Write for VJ.NEWS

Nothing in this world would seem beautiful if we couldn't describe it beautifully. They say actions speak louder than words but words describe things better than actions!

So write what you think you can describe about your college better than anyone else or if you have a journalist in you, join us, take interviews and get updates.

If you want to see your name in the next issue e-mail us your articles to dla@vjti.info with VJ.NEWS as the subject.

Members of DLA had a little tete-a-tete with the new **Dean Student Activities Dr. M.A. Chakrabarti.** Here's what she had to say about the new system of Student Affairs.

Q. This year saw a lot of changes in the Student Activities Committee structure. What was the motive behind these changes?
- We wanted to bring all the student activities under one umbrella. See to it that they are co-ordinated by one faculty and basically ensure a unified approach to the whole thing. The second aim was to have proper symbiosis between the different student groups, optimization of resources and also make certain that a lot of academic time isn't being sacrificed in the pursuit of these activities.

Q. This year the various Dean and HOD posts have also witnessed a change. Could you please enlighten us on the procedure for such a change?
- There is a systematic approach to all this. The various representatives are nominated and there are no elections as such. It's a two year term.

Q. How did you find interacting with students at this level and have you faced any difficulties so far?
- I find it nice and a very good learning experience and as such I haven't faced any difficulties yet.

Q. As the Dean Student Activities, what are your immediate plans?
- In a nutshell, I would like to harvest all the energy of the students into positive growth.

Q. Would you like to tell us something about your journey in VJTI so far?
- I have been a part of VJTI from a very long time. I graduated from this institute itself and started as a lecturer here in 1985. Things have changed and progressed a lot around here since then but I can't categorize the change as such.

Q. Any message for all the students working for the various groups in College?
- A message for all students would be that we are all VJTIans and that is our only identity and there should be unification amongst the various sectors of Student Social Group.

List Of Deans

Dean Student Affairs Dr. M.A. Chakrabarti	**Dean Infrastructure & Planning** Dr. K.K. Sangle
Dean Administration Dr. D.N. Raut	**Dean Faculty** Dr. S.M. Gaokar
Dean Resource Mobilization & Finance Dr. V.M. Topkar	**Dean Academics** Dr. R.D. Daruwala
Dean Research and Development Dr. A.K. Rakshit	**Dean Infrastructure & Planning** Dr. K.K. Sangle
Dean Academics Dr. R.D. Daruwala	**Dean Faculty** Dr. S.M. Gaokar

Through the Looking Glass!

**Prof. Rajiv C Gandhi** is an ex-student of VJTI and an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science at Rutgers University-Camden. He visited VJTI in the month of August and took up a series of lectures on 'Algorithms' for interested students. In an interview with Shweta Khushu, he talks about the right attitude towards learning and careers from his own experiences.

I graduated from VJTI in 1990 with an Electrical Engineering degree. Like most students these days, I decided to do an MS. MBA wasn't an option for me cause of the strong influence of my family on me. They felt I should go abroad to do an MS. Why? Because that was the 'In' thing to do. So I did my MS in Computer Science. Hardwork has always been one of my strengths and so I worked very hard during that time; Worked hard for reasons that right now seem incorrect. I didn't have the right goals, my goal was to get good grades and I worked very hard for it. Sometimes I would get good grades and sometimes not so good ones but would somehow convince myself that I did my best. Anyway, then I graduated with a decent GPA and got a good job with Qualcomm. Qualcomm had this good benefit that I could take courses at the University of California, San Diego and they would pay for it. And I thought that this was a good opportunity for me to fill up my 'shortcomings' and started taking courses from the undergraduate level. Because at that time I didn't focus on grades as I already had the degree, I actually ended up getting good grades. That's when it dawned to me that all my approach till then with respect to studies was not optimal and that when you focus on learning, grades automatically follow. Thus grades should not be the goal! Do what you feel is the appropriate thing to do and let the results follow. Coming back here and working with students has been a real pleasure and also has helped me understand the mentality and attitude of the VJTI students of the present generation. The students today are very good and well-off compared to what I was when I was in their shoes. The only disappointing factor that I find is that the work ethics has gone down significantly compared to when I was a student and partly it's because of the autonomy as we were under the Mumbai University and even passing a semester wasn't a trivial thing which doesn't seem to be too much of an issue now.

When it comes to careers, nowadays people are more confused as to what they want to do. Students keep coming upto me and asking whether to do an MS or an MBA. Firstly, I feel nobody except your own self can tell you whether you should be doing an MS or MBA and secondly, there are many more options apart from these two that one can do, like teach at a High School. Such a career would be very fulfilling and rewarding. If one feels that it would be a waste of a degree then that is incorrect! Being an Engineer you can give much better perspective to students in how to learn subjects like Physics and Maths because it's not like you have to just start from an equation and solve it and then you are done; There is a lot more concept involved which we know better as engineers. So yes, one can make a lot of contribution this way. It may not pay very well but it can be very fulfilling and at least one can do this as part time if not as a full time job.

I believe it's very easy to fool oneself that this is what I want to do just because everyone else is doing it. I think one has to dig deep, really think as to what is the right thing for them. This reminds me of faculty member that I know from the University of Maryland, Diane O'leary. In one of her talks she had stated that, _'It's not a good goal to say that I want to win a Noble Prize. The good goal is to say that I want to do such good work that deserves a Noble Prize'_. This quote from her has always stuck in my mind.

Defining the Echelons of Success

As mailed to the DLA team by Anup Nair and Shailesh Jain – VJTI Alumni and Founders of Mirraw.

Shailesh jain

What we are doing currently and how we started.

Mirraw.com is an ecommerce market place centered on quality design. We aim to bring the best designs out there to the people. We provide talented designers a platform to showcase their products to a wide audience.My partner Shailesh Jain and I started this project last year after we came back to India.

We always wanted to launch something on our own, and we started talking about it about 2 years back. We realized that there was never going to be a "right time" and that we have to step up and get on with it. It is always a risk from financial and career perspectives, but when you are enjoying what you are doing, it never feels like a risk.

Experience in VJTI (extra-curricular, academics, etc.)

The four years are VJTI is like a dream you wish you could live again. We met some of the best people we know, made some of the best friends we have. The curriculum taught us several things, but what we learned more was from our peer group and our projects together.

The time spent working on apps was very valuable, as you learn some crucial lessons of product development.I remember being scared the first time my "Virtual Stock Market" project was live at Technovanza for about a 100 students to play LIVE from a single server.

How I survived that day is still etched in my memory and it is such a fascinating early experience to have. We made it through with just a few crashes !

Anup Nair

An engineering background, how does it help in your startup?

We are in retail. By definition, we are selling jewelry, sarees etc. However, everything we do has been made efficient by programming. We write scripts for figuring out which customers are facing issues, which vendors are active. No matter what branch of engineering you are in, a little bit of basic programming teaches you how to simplify problems, how to automate manual tasks, how to think efficiently. I've been able to hold up my end in this hardcore retail business, simply because of mathematics and programming.

Qualities you feel are required for an entrepreneur.

A range of qualities. Ability to learn/adapt to situations, logical-organized and big picture thinking, dedication and hard work. No matter how talented you are, you need to realize that there is a ton load of stuff to learn here. Jump in without fear of failure and learn and swim your way through things. Be smart, question yourself and have a friend whom you trust.

Advice for students (future-entrepreneurs) of VJTI.

Start early. Experiment fast. By the time you exit VJTI, you should know which project of yours is worth sticking with. Innovation for innovations sake is not good business.

👉 Notice This

Pratibimb'13

Dec 5th : A visit to the schools supported by the NGO 'Smile Foundation' to spend quality time with the students and to share motivational stories, funny incidents and moral worthy stories.

Dec 12th: KHUSHI - The students of Smile foundation will be taken for a Mumbai Darshan ride in an open air bus and also to various exhibitions to impart knowledge.

Dec 21st/Dec 22nd - Get, Set Clean. A cleanliness drive to clean the Dadar Chowpatty area.

Technovanza '13

Split Second – 10th Dec
A seminar on how to construct an IC car.

Master of Puppets – 14th Dec
Seminar that will teach you how to control your bot solely by hand gestures.

SAE VJTI will be conducting seminars this December on basics of various sectors of Automobile Engineering

Enthusia'13 -

Intra-college matches – 20th-30th December.
Inter-college matches – 10th - 16th January.

SRA - SRA members are commencing work for Robocon and various other projects this **December**. Contact the SRA team if you wish to be a part of any of it. For details visit sra.vjti.info

MANDI - Entrepreneurship For A Cause

E-Cell, with its Motto - "INSPIRING INNOVATORS TO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS", has always been striving to promote awareness & importance of Entrepreneurship amongst students through an array of events. These activities are perfectly tailored to cater the idea of promoting entrepreneurship & encouraging students to take it as a career.

E-Cell just launched its Flag-ship event "THE MANDI" on 10th October'12. E-Cell in collaboration with recognized NGO - "NAVNIRMITI" organized this SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP DRIVE. The Task was to sell a few Kiddy-games given in kits to participants in teams of two each. These games were to be sold within a span of two & a half hours.

Each Kit worth Rs. 1060 consisted of a Jodo 3d basic, Jungle game, Pentominoes, Multiplay and Tangram . The distribution of the sale was such that Participants get 10 % of the total earnings & the remaining 90 % goes back to the NGO. The Highest amount a team earned was about Rs.4000 , which to our surprise came from a team consisting of 2 FY's. Around 200 kits were sold in 2 days. Every attendee was given a certificate of participation so that everyone takes away some inspiration & everlasting motivation.

All the Activities in E-Cell have been directed towards fostering the idea of working for yourself or rather being your own Boss. In addition, it has also been aimed that the society is made aware of social entrepreneurship. For any business to work, one should know to primarily be a salesman of his product. The MANDI indeed led to an upliftment of marketing skills for many.

E-Cell's vision this year is to help budding entrepreneurs realize their dreams by guiding them to right sources and in turn making them successful entrepreneurs & getting themselves a working start up. Events like MANDI are a stepping stone for all of us to enhance our persona on the whole with the backing of E-CELL, VJTI.

- Yash Asrani (E-cell member)

Pratibimb Updates:

- The Pratibimb team came out with a **'Gangnam Style'** Parody video that received 2510 hits within 36 hours on Youtube.For those who haven't seen it already, here's the link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OmnOB1E2P4

- Under Pratibimb's social initiative Udaan, health camp & library set-up was conducted for handicapped children on Oct 21st in association with the NGOs Apang Maitree & Swasthya India.

Technovanza Updates:

SRA Updates:

- On 21st, 26th and 27th October the SRA team conducted a workshop on wired, wireless and autonomous robots for 1st year Students. The Workshop received great response and was a huge

Sports Updates

MIT, Pune.
- VJTI basketball team lost semifinals against AIT by one point!
- Football team qualified for the quarter finals against RGIT and lost 1-0

Mumbai University Tournament.

- Second year civil student stood 5th in 'Mallakhamb'.

Did you know?

In early 90s, VJTI Electronics Department housed TDC 316 minicomputer system that was connected to the TIFR main frame system through telephone lines so we could work on the TIFR mainframe from VJTI

Preparing For CAT?
Amish Thakkar (Final Year-Electronics, scored 99.99 in CAT-'12)

Interview –

When did you start preparing?

Preparation started when I was in my second year. There was intensive preparation during the last six months. The last six months are the most important when I put in my final effort but I had been solving bits and pieces from second year itself.

Had you joined some coaching institute? How important do you feel are coaching institutes?

I had joined Byju's CAT Classes towards the end of second year. They helped me in a certain way.

At the end of the day it comes down to how badly you want to achieve something. If you have it, you have it…you cannot acquire it through coaching institutes! Spoon feeding will not help…you have to do it on your own! CAT is just 10th standard Maths and English and its application.

Had you joined any test series? Did you score well in all your mock tests? Did these scores affect you?

I had joined the TIME test series. I generally scored well but the graph came down in a few tests before CAT. Ideally these scores should not but yes they did affect me! Mock tests are only for self evaluation; never compare your scores with others. Evaluate where you made mistakes but also see which questions you solved and how much time you spent solving them.

How was the day before CAT?

Pretty chilled out! Honestly a week before CAT is not meant for learning new things. It is more of mental preparation.

How well do you score in college semesters? Has preparation for CAT affected your scores?

My CPI was around 8.5 in the 5th semester and in the 7th semester it has come down to 7.9.

It would have affected me if my CPI was below 8 when I applied for CAT. You need an 8+ to get a call from IIM-A and a couple of other institutes.

Why MBA straight after graduation?

This is a question they will be asking you in almost all the interviews! For me it is saving time!

I've seen my brother working for two years. The jobs that you get after engineering have nothing to do with management.

Was CAT bull's eye for you?

I always knew I was going to do management, so GRE was out of the way.

I appeared for CAT, ZAT and CET.

What is that you should know when preparing for CAT?

CAT is not going out there and solving all 60 questions. Avoid that. Accuracy will help you and not the number of attempts. If you attempt all questions and get 10 wrong, you are no where! Instead if you attempt 40 questions with around 90% accuracy, that's enough!

Other than the usual preparations what else do you think will help?

Reading habit. If you are not reading books, you cannot start reading novels and stuff like that! But at least start reading newspapers. Read columns by good writers. This will help you with your preparation for verbal and in the longer run will help you in the GD and PI rounds and interviews.

Was this day dreamt of?

Never! Luck played its part!

A final word –

Don't let the Mock scores affect you. My brother had been giving mocks since he started preparing i.e. two years back and he never scored a 90+ in any of the mock tests. He still managed a 99.81 in CAT!

Whatever you do….you need not be a genius. It's all about how well you know what you've done and how passionate you are about it!

Management is not doing big things; it is doing small things correctly!

                                                    - (As interviewed by Vandana Sharma.)

VJTI Ganeshotsav'12

The first festival that greets freshers as well as every other VJTIan in their new year at college is 'Ganeshotav.' This year too, Ganeshotsav '12 or 'G12', as it was rechristened by the committee, has set the tone for further festivals to come. The Ganeshotsav fest is organised by the committee, going by the same name comprising of the second-year hostel residents of the VJTI hostel, under 'Saraswati Vachanalay' which is a body of VJTI Hostels. The fest initially came to being celebrated at the Hostels with the purpose of bringing together students and invoking devotion in them. This message is aptly conveyed by this year's theme 'Devotion to Dedication'.

The festival is celebrated in its traditional way for 5 days at the hostels as a part of which, various competitions, technical workshops etc. are organized for the hostel folks, mainly the first-years, to introduce them to the vibrant fest-culture at VJTI. Sports remain a huge attraction of Ganeshotsav. G'12 saw every major sport being played, including Kabaddi, volleyball, and both ground and rink football. To everyone's surprise, the rink football competition was won by a first year team this year!
Blood donation camp, Marathi play and the much awaited Dandiya night celebration. The traditional Dandiya night had everyone grooving to the beats and presented a fitting end to the much fun-filled days of G'12.
The enthusiasm and spirit which is such an integral part of Ganeshotsav had everyone shouting 'Ganapati Bappa Morya'! Go G'12!!

- Swapnil Rathod (General Secretary, Ganeshotsav'12)

(SOM) e Acronyms!

Out of the Box

Habits die hard. I am referring to us students' fixation of acronyms/portmanteau-ing or code-mixing words, in the process taking out daily janazaas of our respective languages (seen from the purist's PoV, i.e.)
Particularly victimized are hangouts are things we so <3 love! Mid Semesters are MidSem, Class tests are CT (-scan?)
This time around we dissect what re integral parts of our lives in VJTI-like them or not-subject!
Much as we can see, probably there's a widespread obsession with Radio. Pray why else would at least TWO 'FM's (Fluid Mechanics, Fabric Manufacture) be there in the college?
Then again there is something that makes Sunfeast biscuits and Classmate notebooks have a presence in the college-ITC!!! (Information Theory and Coding!)
Many-a-gamers would easily be fooled in searching for a gamers' paradise somewhere here, if only he were to not confuse CS-not as Counter Strike, but as Cloth Structure! May or may not be surprising to note that the subject Technical Textiles, abbreviated, looks pretty much like the crying emoticon (TT) For those, who believe the earth is going to be invaded by Robots-tarry not! We probably already have them. After all 'Automata Theory' sounds just like the name of their Control Room…
Some things are quite more suggestive than they seem-PMS is supposed to be just Principles of Microprocessor Systems(and absolutely nothing else!), while our college oes not offer any degrees in commerce, yet there is something called a BCom(Basics of Communication) in the college, to be sure.
I remember my 4 year cousin was flabbergasted learning we still learn 'Drawing' after 12 years of schooling. Heavens know what he thought then, but I hope he did not expect me to be found with crayons and Marble Paper. My Chachi put things right by asking me to call it 'Engineering Graphics.' "Sounds more sophisticated," she said!
Similarly SPCC (System Programming and Compiler Construction) is vulnerable to changes! Just one letter here-and-there and it teleports us to a fellow engineering college in Andheri!
Sunfeast and Classmate are trademarks of ITC limited!

- Samyak Shamkuwar.

Training and Placement Office

The Foundation Is Missing!

Q. What do you think there happens to be in VJTI that probably others lack?
Ans. The 'cream' that comes out of the Engineering exams, that happens to be the gateway to the top-colleges. That 'cream' is what we are looking for.

Q .How would you generalise the trends corresponding to the students who you happen to pick from VJTI?
Ans. There is no generalisation as-such. The students towards the upper crest of the spectrum always tend to perform, and in all colleges.

Q. What would you say about the following traits for the students of VJTI -
Interpersonal Skills - Looks good! The way the students conduct themselves during the interviews and "on the interview day, being in formal, politeness… (sic)"
Confidence - Confidence is a bit on the lower side. Probably because they are freshers, and because they have not faced interviews. But that is okay! It's more of a part-of-practice!
 Industry preparedness - Again I can only make generalised statement and not one specific to VJTI.
Not that great. Again it's not their fault. The entire education is moving that way…

Q. How would you say they fare once they reach the managerial levels in the company hierarchy?
Ans. New recruits start-as is the case-on lower rungs, and in due course of time make their way higher. The process itself grooms them in a way, and in particular in L&T(sic), the culture is such that the vast amount of training and experience that they receive on the way, they (students) are already performing by the time they have reached to that level. It could be said that the students themselves (while being selected) are selected in such a way that they are receptive to the Culture. Indeed we don't face much problem in this aspect

Q. Are you trying to imply that the education system is very theoretic, or not practically inclined or something like that?
Ans. Well it's mixed actually. The system is teaching something very basic and fundamental while the company is doing something that is applied and quite advanced. There is a gap, and that will always remain.

Q. What is expected out of the candidates is that they should try something (new)?
Ans. Again as a general, personal opinion. Whenever I have an interaction with students, I ask them what their project was. Students answer in much copiosity. I follow by asking as to what is new [in the project]. The answer to which is not satisfactory. One reason is they are afraid to try new things. Another, maybe not applicable to your institute, is that they do not go through books of foreign authors. Another, they are not 'interested in getting their hands dirty.' Another, that they are probably not so deeply rooted in the 'core' fields and that they have a vision of an AC cabin IT job!

Q. Basically it's what more marks-oriented going on?
Ans. Maybe yes! Again, may not be applicable to your college. Minor changes in a fixed-format question create a problem for the candidates in answering across the interview table.
The foundation of the building is missing…

Q. So how at the company level do you try to build that foundation?
Ans. If I have rock at the bottom, I can build the entire building, but if the rock is missing…I cannot teach them basic engineering. That has to be there. A little bit here-and-there is okay. And there are learning opportunities galore once they are in the company. They have access to books etc.

Q. So if someone thinks out-of-the-box, does the company give due consideration to that?
Ans. I'll put it the other way. A person who is trying out-of-the-box thinking or is thinking something new, he definitely will clear the interview. If something is clear with fundamentals, he or she will definitely be thinking something new.

Q. How important is the resume?
Ans. Even if I put up a very fancy, presentable resume, if I am not able to answer basic questions, I am anyways out. A presentable resume is good to have, but because we are looking for freshers, we don't collect any resumes, as the procedure is too long to collect information from all the candidates. Again there is not fixed format for freshers. We use our own methods of collecting information, apart from resumes.

Q. Your views about the students working in 'fests' especially the Technical festival?
Ans. Anything you do, apart from the mainstream academics, will add value to your profile whether it's a certificate course, or working for some event. But provided you are good in it. A course done 'two years back so that you don't remember anything at the time' doesn't count!
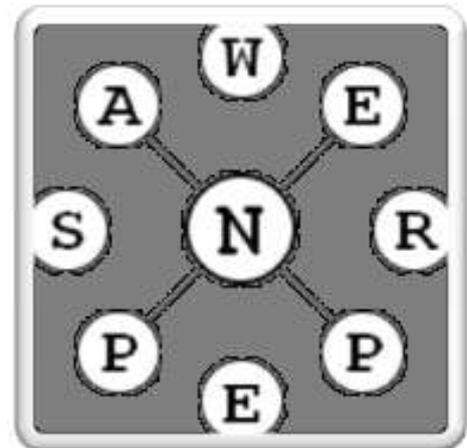
- (As told to Shweta Khushu and Samyak Shamkuwar by HR Manager – Larsen and Toubro)

Magic Minesweeper

Place black figures into the grid so that every row and column contain exactly one square, one circle and one triangle. As in the classical minesweeper, every numbered cell reveals the quantity of figures in the neighboring cells, even diagonally. Every numbered cell is empty.

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Using the **BrainTracker** grid below, how many words can you find? Each word must contain the central N and no letter can be used twice, however, the letters do not have to be connected. Proper nouns are not allowed, however, plurals are. There is at least one nine letter word. (Excellent: 28 words. Good: 22 words. Average: 19 words.)

VJTI – ICT Quiz

The Quiz was held on 18th October at ICT and 50 teams participated from each college. Here are the winners -

Winning Team -

Tanmei Kamath and Niyati Dalal (VJTI)

Runner up team -

Nikhil And Madhav (ICT)

Kakuro

Kakuro is like a crossword puzzle with numbers.
Each "word" must add up to the number provided in the clue above it or to the left.
Words can only use the numbers 1 through 9, and a given number can only be used once in a word.
Every kakuro puzzle has one and only one solution, and can be solved through logic alone!

The VJ.NEWS Team

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