

VJ.NEWS

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Debate and Literary Arts (DLA), VJTI.
In association with VJTI Social Group.
<http://dla.vjti.info>



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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.

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



Research And Development, VJTI

Dr. A.K Rakshit's Interview

(Dr. A. K. Rakshit is the Dean of the Research and Development sector)

Q - How would you describe the current scenario of students stepping into R&D?

A - Shortly, I can answer that the response is lukewarm; it is not that large number of students opt for Research as a career. But it is true that there is a group of students who really wishes to explore new areas, new avenues of their vocation or science that they practice. Research is a very specific area. It's not everyone's cup of tea. Also it is not an orientation where large number of people contribute or work. If you perceive it from the market point of view, supply gap is too much; demand is there but the supply gap is too much. It does not include the qualification enhancement program of the faculty members in the institute.

Closer home, in VJTI, to my perception approximately 2 or 3 out of the 60 passing students will be oriented towards higher studies, academics and then finally I should say research.

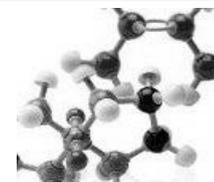
Q - Do you feel that enough number of students are taking a keen interest in the field of research?

A - I always consider research students from that group who really love their academics, who really love and nurture their quest of learning and finally land in a career which is either academic or research in nature or both. Research is loved by those who want to explore new areas. This is the attribute or attitude of the student that can be nurtured but it can't be imbibed in a person. It comes from within and therefore they develop and they find new avenues, new processes. Innovation is a part of their everyday life. Such students get into the field of research be it a girl or a boy.

The reason is for such a less number is - the new social setup for which the practice of science, the practice of innovation, which was a part of our life about 30 years ago, doesn't exist today and gradually it will be wiped out. You can't blame yourself but the social structure. Acceptance of scientific advancements and technology with changes in social scenario should go hand in hand.

Q - Would you enlighten the students about the upcoming and promising areas in research?

- Forget that you are from different branches of engineering; we are working under one sun with one common goal-the progress of mankind meaning it is basically the science that we have to develop. In order to manufacture a certain product the first group that we invite is metallurgy. Material Science first comes into picture. If you look at the global scenario we have returned to material science be it polymer, metal or plastic because we can't generate more and more natural resources we have to work on how to interplay with these materials and create new ones so that they serve us better.



Ultimate outcome is - nanotechnology, biosciences including biopolymers, biotechnology and genetic engineering (if u can't work on metals u can work on human beings!!)
 These are the areas with maximum thrust. But the law of nature says that if you play with nature, then nature gets back at you in the form of pollution or imbalance of ecology. Therefore 2 other important areas are energy conservation and eco-friendliness. It is not only a civil engineers job but everyone's to balance the ecosystem the way it should be. Major research areas all over the world include creating new materials and working on ecosystem protection (green technology).

Q - What are the benefits of venturing into R&D?

- Every human being looks at two aspects: monetary benefit and humanitarian. The achievement is 50-50. It's not that the people doing research are underfed or hungry; question lies whether they are taking breakfast at McDonald's, lunch in a 5-star hotel and dinner somewhere else. If you really work hard, if u really develop your skill then nothing is impossible. Jawaharlal Nehru said that he looks upon all the research institutes in this country as temples of science. You have to worship science the way it is supposed to be. If you develop this attitude then no researcher or academician will be deprived of any of the things I'm talking about because your flare will be immediately recognised by the outside world. You will gain recognition only if you contribute to the science and this contribution will not come overnight but gradually by practice, brick by brick. Just like the myriad television award ceremonies, today the opportunities of getting an award for research are plenty. Like that if you do something that has a focus, that has a purpose, that has an objective, then you will be identified and recognised; and every recognition comes with monetary rewards. So research brings you monetary as well as emotional satisfaction.

I believe that you should not run after money; if you have the caliber then money will run after you!!

Q - Does VJTI have affiliations and/or associations with other organisations?

- About 14-17 projects are being run in different departments under BARC and AICTE. (Sic)Pro-active participation BARC is always there under atomic energy commission's funding. We also have Industry-supported projects from companies like Siemens, Phillips, etc. Textile Department runs customized training programs for the textile industry. Structural Department gives a lot of support to the infrastructure industry. VJTI is a certifying agency for structural approval. VJTI has signed MoUs with various colleges *(for the full list refer the adjoining table)*.

Affiliations - Bombay Textile Research Association, Ghatkopar; Wool Research Association, Thane.

Q - As a faculty member, are there any changes you would like to see in VJTI?

- I can share one important development, that faculty members have started understanding how research promotions can be done in the institute. (Sic) A short line of observation regarding faculty members is that yes as long as u are here in VJTI-please think, breathe, contribute for VJTI. In VJTI's composition, we have departments of Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Humanities & Management as well. But sadly, their interpretation in VJTI is totally different than what it is in national-level institutions.

In national-level institutes, these departments are not only service providers for beginners but also equally involved in research and development. The faculty members in such institutions are encouraged to pursue their doctoral and post doctoral studies from international institutions. Unfortunately, they never work in conjugate with other departments here.

- As interviewed by Radhika Padmanabhan and Smit Mehta.

<u>MoUs:</u>
➤ JBIMS,
➤ Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic;
➤ Delaware University, US;
➤ IIT-B, Mumbai;
➤ ICT, Mumbai.

Did You Know?



GS Speak



Social Group GS –

This year's Pratibimb was like a dream come true for me and my whole committee! Being a cultural festival, we recorded a footfall of more than 15,000 people over the three days of the festival. One of the main achievements this year was making Pratibimb'13 India's first cashless festival with the pay-on-web technology. All the payments across all our food counters were devoid of currency notes and made of only pay-on-web accounts. This helped everyone to be free from the hassle of handling cash as they enjoyed the festival! When asked about Pratibimb'13, the first thing that comes to my mind is Mumbai's got Talent! Judged by REMO D'SOUZA along with his team of Any Body Can Dance, it was so entertaining to see the whole team including Remo and Salman put up a dance performance on stage!

Apart from the entertainment it helped us get a media coverage of over 15 TV channels (including Zee News, UTV, ABP, etc) and many newspapers as well (including Mid-day, Maharashtra Times, Free Press Journal, etc). And yes the winner won prizes worth a lakh including a brand new Hero Impulse bike! One of 'the' visual treats to my eye was to see Ms. Shakti Mohan of Dance India Dance fame groove to her much acclaimed track-Pritam Pyaare after judging the group dance competition. It was followed by fashion show that was judged by the famous beauty and super model Ms. Alicia Raut. Believe me when I say VJTI has never seen a better fashion show than what we saw at Pratibimb'13. The best female model won prizes worth a lakh including an all expense paid trip to Ladakh!!

Next that comes to my mind is Mr. Babul Supriyo, who concluded the event, solo-singing, on a cheerful note by giving a mini-concert performance to his avid fans. Now here comes why Pratibimb rocked this year - MEGA EVENTS! Sumo-suit wrestling, Bungee run, Paint ball,

Artists' corner, Takeshi's Castle and real life Temple run, all of these events were free of cost and received a humungous response.

(During Pratibimb when I used to feel hungry, I used to attend the Home Making Arts Competitions.

Yummm!!!! Never thought Maggi could be made so innovative and tasty. Also we had this fun event called Bhookh, the fastest food eating competition; many participated to win the title of the 'ultimate bhukkad'.)

Last but not the least the highlight of the festival, a MEGA live concert by the one and only NEERAJ SHRIDHAR. He made us dance to the tunes of his songs such as Tumhi Ho Bandhu, Woh Chali Woh Chali, Prem ki Naiyya, Character Dheela among several other hits. His presence brought an infectious energy in the atmosphere that was caught by all.

Along with these cultural activities, we also contributed towards the welfare of the society with various social efforts.

For all those who missed out on all these events, don't feel sad. Pratibimb will be back next year with a BANG!!

Till then,

Stay tuned, Stay entertained..!!™

- Siddharth Surana (General Secretary, Social Group)

Social Group Updates -

- The VJTI band won the first prize at Hinduja College festival; SP Jain All India Rank 5!
- The VJTI Dance Group came 2nd at KEM.



Technovanza GS -

Technovanza, as VJTI's annual techno-management event, has grown since the time of its inception in 2001 to become the largest event of its kind in Maharashtra. So when we started working in June'12, we knew we had a challenging few months ahead of us to overcome the hurdles and create an event that VJTI could be proud of. In the initial weeks of brain storming, we came to the conclusion that we wanted to focus on improving the quality of the festival as a whole which led us to include events like Robowars, Master of Puppets-involving hand controlled bots, Kinetize-a highly mechanical event and the like.

And our bargain paid off when we got over 40 participants for Robowars from leading colleges in India, making it the most successful event we had this year.

Our exhibits were focussed on what we, as engineers, could do to help society with projects like Blind Navigation, Agriculture Automation, FITA (Flood control) and Railway Revamp which yearned to bring about a positive change in people's lives.

We wanted to make sure that anyone who visited Technovanza could take something useful from it and hence we organised a number of workshops and lectures on innovation, prototyping, business and current topics like Higgs Boson. We tried to remain technical with our night events as well by organizing shows like 3D Projection mapping and the RC Air show.

One of the highlights of Techno 13, without a doubt, has to be the visit of Mr. Ratan Tata and the Question-Answer session that followed. It was, truly, an enriching experience for all those present. We were successful in getting a good crowd and participation of over 3000 students despite the fact that the festival was scheduled on weekdays, which was one of the things we were most apprehensive about. We also received good press coverage with a number of articles in leading English and Marathi newspapers and magazines for our cube arts and exhibits, for which we were highly appreciated.

As part of our social responsibility, we had Pratigya as well as Mission Mumbai, our new initiative wherein we tied up with an NGO, Oasis, as part of a volunteer programme for a 4 month period. In Pratigya we decided to restrict our sessions to BMC schools and NGOs alone, since we believe they are more in need of education about science and engineering and also we are conducting follow up sessions to create a greater bond with the students. We have already conducted a lot of sessions and our schedule is packed until April '13, and for these, anyone interested in volunteering is always welcome!

All in all, Technovanza 2013 was an amazing experience for everyone involved. We got the opportunity to work with a diverse crowd of individuals whom we may not have met otherwise, made our share of mistakes and learnt from them every step of the way, learnt the art of team work and tried our best to actualise the vision that we had for Techno during this year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the faculty for their support and truly hope that everyone who visited enjoyed and took a home a pleasant memory!

- Priyanka Padmanabhan (General Secretary, Technovanza '13)

Sports Updates -



VJTI MUN



Hundreds of Model UNs take place in the country every year. Hosting MUNs has evolved into a growing trend of sorts for schools and colleges. The students of VJTI were one of the first to anticipate this trend, and it was due to this that VJTI has the privilege of being the first engineering institute in Mumbai to host a MUN. Now, the most important question probably is; What sets VJ MUN '13 apart from all the MUNs?

There are multiple reasons for the uniqueness of VJ MUN '13. Till last year VJ MUN was a small, restricted, one-day conference which consisted of only one committee. For 2013 we decided to make it bigger so more people have the opportunity to participate. VJMUN '13 thus came about to be a two day affair, and in order to encourage first time MUNners we decided on the two most engaging committees; the HSC and the FSC. To further ensure that inexperienced MUNners do not feel out of place, both the FSC and HSC were double delegation committees in which we tried as far as possible to couple highly experienced MUNners with inexperienced ones. Despite the expansion and growth of VJ MUN, we wanted to stick to the spirit of our college and ensure the non-commercialization of the event. Organizing a MUN is no easy task; meals have to be arranged for, ID cards and placards have to be printed, delegate kits have to be provided and the list goes on and on. And to top it all we were doing all this without charging any registration fees whatsoever! We were slightly apprehensive and jittery at first, but eventually everything turned out just as we had wanted. We had had a vision and we went all out to transform it into reality! Having the advantage of being one of the first few MUNs of the year 2013, we received brilliant participation from not just Mumbai, but from out of the city as well! The high level of debate could have blown the socks of anyone bearing witness to the conference as it unfolded. The passion some of the delegates projected was unparalleled and would have shamed some of the top-most orators and politicians of our country.

This is just the beginning. Watch out for VJ MUN '14!



- Akshita Shah (2nd year IT student who was also one of the VJMUN'13 Organising Committee member.)



The VJTI Network

(Ketaki Sheode, an alumni of VJTI, was the Secretary of DLA in her times and also responsible for starting 'VJ. MUN'

Graduating from VJTI in 2008, she worked for CISCO for some time before pursuing further studies in Stanford University, USA.)

“When Shweta asked me to write an article for the VJTI newsletter, my biggest challenge was figuring out which of my experiences were actually relevant to a student in VJTI today.

I kept postponing the article and the day I graduated from my Masters Program last week, it finally hit me. The story I really wanted to tell was that of the life of a VJTI alumna and the immense potential of its social network. No one had told me that I was going to inherit this legacy while I was there. So what followed turned out to be a wonderful surprise every step of my career.

This was the time after VJTI when I'd been working with Cisco Systems in Bangalore for just about a year. I knew I wanted to get a graduate degree from the US and I knew I wanted to get into management, but that was pretty much it. I naively applied to top business schools and got rejected by every one of them. My work experience was abysmally low to be considered for an MBA in these schools and I didn't have the patience to stick with my job for another five years to actually get it. I refused to compromise and apply to tier- 2 schools. Having spent months crafting Statements of Purpose, a lakh of rupees in application fees and having suffered a debilitating blow to my ego in being rejected by every school, I did what I should have done a year ago. I called up some seniors from VJTI for advice.

No sooner did I tap into the VJTI network than I started finding people and people-who-knew-people who were equipped to answer my questions, allay my qualms and give practical and sincere guidance. I spoke with VJTI-ans in B-schools across the globe, those pursuing other management degrees and those doing the kinds of jobs I wanted to do after my degree. I basically felt like I was able to go over every step of my career decisions ahead of time and to make informed choices. I think that my getting into Stanford and getting funding for the degree was in part due to timely conversations I had with the alums.

There are smart VJTI alums working with great companies across the globe and are more than willing to take time out to share information with you about their technology domains, hand out tips for job interviews and help you explore your cultural fit in these places. Moreover, during the time I attended school in California, having VJTI batch-mates around gave me an unprecedented antidote to Mumbaisickness. Make sure you speak with lots of people during your time here, participate in as many festivals and events as you can and develop strong ties with people around. Trust me - these will not be limited to your time here, they will stay with you for a long time to come!”

- Ketaki Sheode



Seniors On Call

Q. Why & when was “seniors on call” started?

- Three years ago, a few of us, college and office friends, were sitting at a cafe when we started discussing the chronicles of CAMPUS PLACEMENTS in our respective colleges. Each one of us narrated the trauma we had experienced through the entire process, right from how we cracked aptitude tests or made a good resume to what/how we spoke in an interview or how we tackled a GD.

The common sentiment across the table was "It would've been really nice if we had someone to guide, if not hand-hold us, through this entire phase."

That is what led to the inception of this idea, this idea of having a SENIOR as a SAVIOR. We thought, why can't those guys be us?



We have the first hand experience of the fear, uncertainty and doubt that every student faces during campus placements. We have been there and done that, not too long ago, and now from the other side of the table as importantly, we know the value of HELP at the right time! It is not like our seniors refused to help us at all, but from what we observed, most students shy away from going to someone and asking for help, may be because of their apprehension, their introverted nature or a misplaced sense of over-confidence. We thought, instead of waiting for them to come to us, why not go to them and see if they needed help? Well, this is what led to this whole idea of making help available whenever juniors needed it, the idea of having Seniors On Call, quite literally.

Q. How many 'seniors' are involved with "Seniors On Call"?

- As of this moment, there are 20 odd (and counting) people involved with us on our Engineering programmes, graduates from institutes across the country and working in various sectors of the industry. Having a diverse team enables us to get multiple perspectives to the table for students.

Seniors On Call is not a closed group. Anyone interested in being a part of our network is welcome. We have so much on our platter; we'll have something for everyone.

Q. How many people does seniors on call relate to?

- Instead of putting a number to it, I would simply qualify this as 'anyone who needs help in preparing for campus placements'. It can range from 70 (VJTI'13) to 650 (BITS Pilani'13).

Q. Do you conduct seminars other than resume writing and job interviews?

- With the right set of keywords and Dr. Google at your disposal, you can find seminars, presentations, lectures all over the internet. I wouldn't call what we do 'seminars'. Seminars are boring formal affairs with one fellow doing all the talking. What we do are interaction sessions with students where everyone is a part of the conversation.

Our aim is to take this giant *pain-in-the-ground-floor activity* and turn it into something light-hearted, something fun. The programme we have in place involves one on one interaction with every student for every activity. For instance, every student enrolled in the programme will have her/his resume reviewed, face a mock interview, participate in a mock GD and take a mock aptitude test. The essence of the programme is the individual feedback we give to every student for every activity. This helps them pin point their strengths and weaknesses and enables them to work on them better.

To answer your question, our scope for the programme is not limited to resumes and interviews. We want students to be prepared for ANY thing that a campus recruitment process can throw at them.

Q. Having conducted seminars in other colleges how do the VJTI students fare in comparisons to others in matters of their communication skills and their ability to write good resumes?

- Students from every college have their thing. Some colleges have technically brilliant students with all sorts of internships to show while some have students who have excellent organizational skills. What matters is how they PORTRAY themselves. No one is born with good communication skills; it comes after a lot of practice and experience. VJTI, or any college for that matter, has a mix of students, ones that have excellent communication skills, but do not know where and how to use them, and ones who are relatively less strong with their communication, who may need a little more help in being able to convey themselves appropriately.

Q. Do you provide special training or one-on-one sessions with people who approach you from outside?

- Yes. You can call us, text us, catch hold of us on Facebook, tweet to us, WhatsApp us, we are everywhere! on the kind of audience we will encounter there. So ideally, if a student is from a certain college, we would

Q. Can anyone attend the session or does one have to be a student of some college?

- Our content and methods are not static, and neither is the team. They change from college to college based like him to attend the session in her or his college. If individuals approach us from outside, it does not make sense for us to give presentations unless it is a group of say 20. In such cases, we just handle them on a case by case basis.

Q. Any Future plans of expanding?

- Most definitely. Institutes are phase 1 of Seniors On Call. We are going to institutes across the country for our programmes. Our aim is to extend our reach to whatever extent possible, level of the institute - no bar, location of the institute - no bar.

Phase 2, which we recently started working on, involves forming industry associations with an aim to bridge the gap between the industry and the institute.

We have big plans, whether or not they materialize, only time will tell.



Word Search



Search –

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Alien | 12. Modest |
| 2. Aloof | 13. Mute |
| 3. Chary | 14. Shadowy |
| 4. Distant | 15. Smoky |
| 5. Guarded | 16. Solo |
| 6. Inner-Directed | 17. Still |
| 7. Laconic | 18. Strange |
| 8. Latent | 19. Tactful |
| 9. Lone | 20. Unclear |
| 10. Misty | 21. Unfathomable |
| | 22. Veiled |
| | 23. Vary |



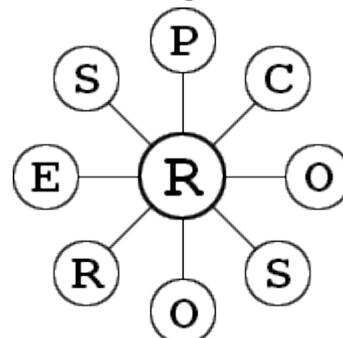
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Brain Tracker

Using the BrainTracker grid below, how many words can you find? Each word must contain the central R 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: 32 words. Good: 28 words. Average: 20 words.



Answers will be uploaded on the DLA website <http://dla.vjti.info> by next week.