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Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

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IN THIS ISSUE

International Conference on Advances in Mathematical Sciences

Vellore:1/12/2017

The International Conference on Advances in Mathematical Sciences (ICAMS) on the theme of Emerging trends of Mathematics in Science, Engineering and Technology was organized at VIT Vellore from 1 -3 December 2017. The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. U. Kamachi Mudali, Chairman& Chief Executive Officer, Heavy Water Board (HWD), Department of Atomic Energy Mumbai and Dr. G Viswanathan, Founder & Chancellor of VIT presided over the event.

"We come from a nation where mathematics is inherited in us. Ancient languages including Tamil and Sanskrit are rich with mathematics in it. Fractions and decimals were used even before Indus valley civilization in the literature," Said Dr. G Viswanathan.

ICAMS-2017 aimed at establishing a premier international forum that would bring together mathematicians, engineers and industrial experts to present the significant achievements and innovations in the areas of Mathematics. It also discussed path breaking developments and challenging issues to identify potential future directions. The conference starting today will continue until Sunday.

The major objective of the conference was to promote scientific and educational activities that would help in the advancement of common man's life by improving the theory and practice of various disciplines of mathematics. The conference featured a keynote address and invited talks by eminent invited speakers from around the world, and oral presentations by the participants. 50 papers were presented at the conference on topics from Algebra, Analysis, Differential equations, Geometry, Mechanics, Operational research, Statistics, Graph Theory, and combinations.

"VIT & Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Energy signed MoU's in 2003, and from then 15 collaborations had been made and it shows the quality of the institution," said Dr. U. Kamachi Mudali. "In the dynamic world everyone search for the application. Mathematics plays a key role in Nano Technology & Bio-Technology and Information Technology revolutions of India. It helps in understanding the condition of the material. India has about 40, 000 KM of pipelines used for transmission of oil, gas and other chemicals. All pipelines are checked with various parameters including flow, velocity, Chemical aggressiveness etc… The collected data is being interpreted for the further use. Thus mathematics is becoming an integral part of science and technology" he added.

Dr. S. Narayanan, Pro Vice-chancellor, Prof. R. Vijayaragavan, Dean, School of Advanced Sciences and Prof. G. Natarajan, Head, Department of Mathematics, spoke on the occasion. Prof. B. Rushi Kumar, Convener, ICAMS- 2017 proposed the vote of thanks.

Training Programme
on Apiculture (Beekeeping)

Farmers learn bee keeping, get lessons from experts on natural, organic methods

A special camp on apiculture – bee keeping and cultivation- was conducted at VIT. The training programme was conducted by VIAL – VIT Centre for Agriculture Innovations and Advanced Learning. VIAL is a novel initiative from VIT with a 25 acre farm located within the VIT premises.

60 farmers from different districts of Tamil Nadu took part in the special camp that was conducted by Madurai (VPS) Natural Bee Farming founder, Ms. Josephine. In the one-day training programme conducted at VIAL's centre in the University campus, farmers from Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvallur, Chennai, Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode, Coimbatore, Karur and Tiruvarur districts took part.

During the course of the day-long training programme, a demonstration of techniques on handling the bees, maintenance of the bee hives, honey production and extracting honey from different flowers was made. At the start of the programme, the basics of honey production and bee cultivation was given to the participants.

In addition, the farmers were also told about reaping maximum returns from cultivation of small numbers of bees, challenges faced by farmers involved in bee cultivation, and they were also given counselling about other technical issues involved in bee keeping. An interactive session was also conducted during the programme.

Professor Babu Subramaniam, Director, VIT Centre for Agriculture Innovations and Advanced Learning [VIAL], clarified doubts of the farmers who took part in the training programme. Prof. Sathya and Palaniswamy also interacted with the farmers. The Professors also informed farmers that they could visit the VIAL centre in VIT any time in the future in order to get all their doubts relating to agriculture clarified.

It's Christmas time and VIT is all geared up to welcome the Santa this year. The 'cake mixing' ceremony was inaugurated at Vellore Institute of Technology today by Chef. Seetharam Prasad, Corporate Executive Chef, GRT Group of Hotels, Chennai, Prof. S.Muthanandam, HOD, Department of Catering and Hotel Management & Dr. Gothandam K M, Dean SBST.

It's Christmas time at VIT!

It was a colourful and aromatic treat with Cherries, Dates, Fig, Sulthana, Raisins, Orange peel, Ginger peel, Tutti fruity Apricot, Spices, Cashewnuts, and Blackjack (Caramel), all ready to be mixed and soaked for the cake preparation. The Cakes are going be prepared by our 1st-year students and will be put on sale for all VITians.

Advocate V. C. Rajagopalachariar memorial was celebrated in VIT

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) remembered V. C. Rajagopalachariar (VCR) at Vellore campus today. The special guest lecture was inaugurated by giving floral tributes to VCR by the chief guest, Justice Thiru. K. Gnanaprakasham, Former judge, Madras High Court, Dr. G Viswanathan, Founder and chancellor of VIT, the juniors of VCR and also his family members.

"VIT is celebrating VCR memorial in order to honor the famous advocate and his simplicity. VCR did not care about money or property; he was religious but didn't go to the temple. He appeared in court for the poor people without taking fee. VCR was the man who will not save money for him, he will give money for the household purpose and he will distribute the rest to his juniors, finally to the rickshaw man and by the end of the day he makes sure, there is nothing left with him. The reason he gives for not having saving is, birds and animals do not save money and still, they survive, so can we," said Dr. G Viswanathan.
"I'm blessed to be worked as a junior to VCR for more than two years. Reading the Indian history as was suggested by VCR helped me in being a good parliamentarian. Lot more VCR like people must come up so that more people will get justice," he added
He also said, "Judiciary must be a separate and Legislature, Executive should not disturb it. Lokpal and Lokayukta were passed in 2013 and still, it is not yet implemented in some of the states of our country and thus we are not able to stop corruption."
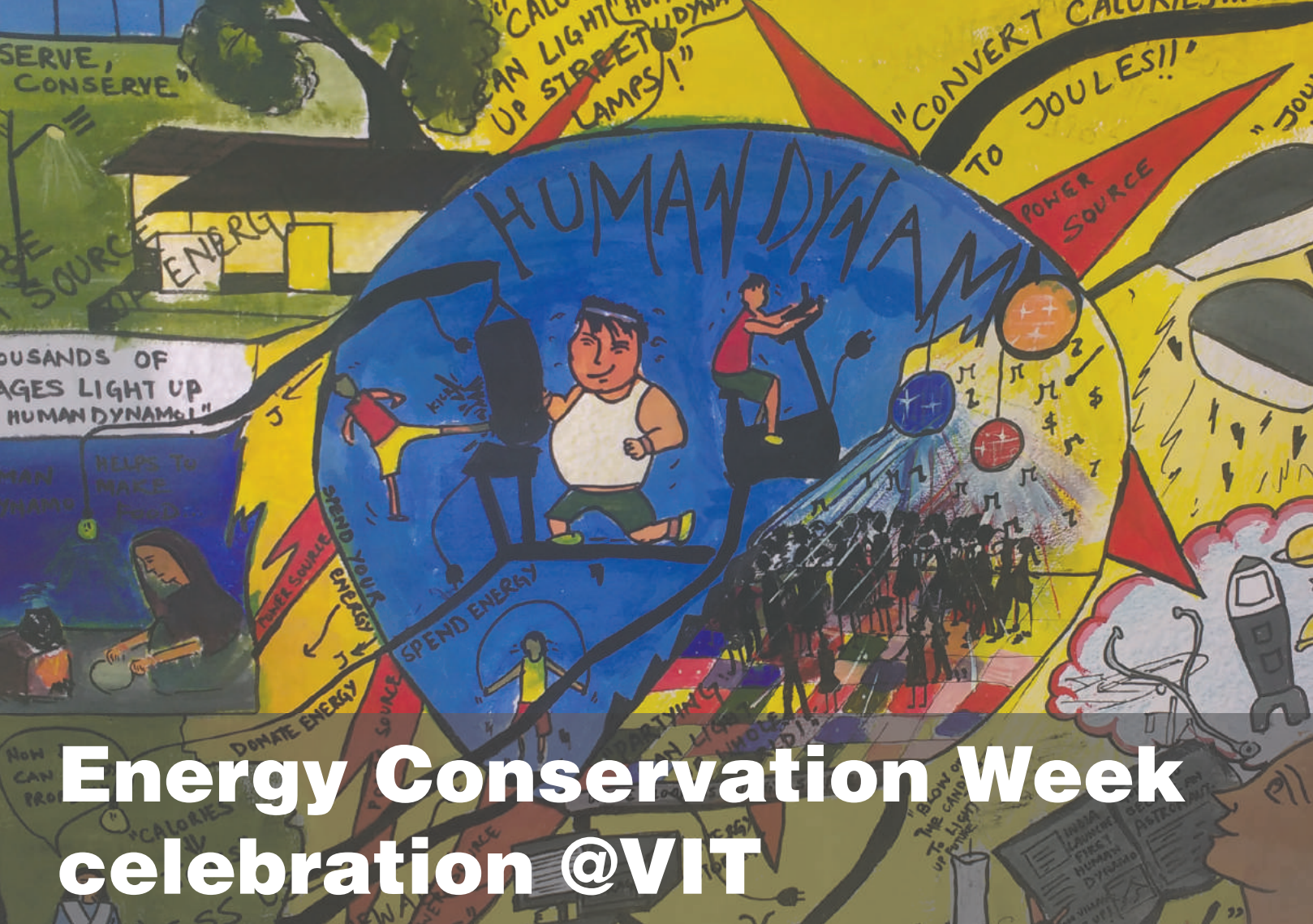
"VCR considered the court as a temple," Said Thiru. K. Gnanaprakasham

He also said "Legislature, Executive and judiciary must work as separate; the merging of the three is resulting in corruption. The eyes of a judge must be closed as he hears, the advocates must argue in such a way to gain the attention of the judge."
Dr. D. Ashok, Dean, VIT Business School, Thiru. T. M. Vijayaraghavalu, Advocate, Thiru. K. P. Harikrishnan, Advocate spoke on the occasion. Prof. K. Sakthi Srinivasan, Mr. A.E Subramanyam, Mr. M. V Sankaran, VIT Business School gave the Vote of thanks.

Energy Conservation Week celebration @VIT

The School of Electrical Engineering (SELECT), VIT, organized Energy Conservation Week from 11th to 15th December 2017. The objective was to create awareness and disseminate information on energy efficiency and conservation.

Nearly 600 VITians participated in various events in the week long programme. 120 school children registered for the final day events. VITians were encouraged not to use air conditioners and were to avoid using motor vehicles inside the campus on any day convenient to them during this week.

RAJASTHAN HACKATHON

Utkarsh Kumar and Vansh Arora signed a contract worth 15 lakhs with the Rajasthan Government

VIT STUDENTS WIN THE BIGGEST NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HACKATHON

Utkarsh Kumar and Vansh Arora, first year students of VIT won the title of the biggest government hackathon organized in India- 'Rajasthan Hackathon 3.0' held in Udaipur. The participants signed a contract worth 15 lakhs with the Rajasthan Government, which was given by the honorable Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ms. Vasundhara Raje.

Rajasthan Hackathon 3.0' was conducted to give a platform to enterprising youth, startups & entrepreneurs across the nation and use their out-of-the-box thinking on more than nine topics including Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality / Virtual Reality, Blockchain, Big Data, Internet of Things, Bioinformatics, Bhamashah, E-MITRA, Tourism . All the participants were judged by Mr. Mohandas Pai, Chairman Manipal Global, Mr. Pulak Ghosh, Professor IIM Bangalore and Mr. Nick Booker, co-founder IndoGenus. They will now be their mentors to build their business.

More than 1800 participants were

trying to find software or hardware solutions in 24 hours to help the state of Rajasthan; many of them were professionals working in prominent industries and several of them were alumni of IITs and IIMs. 13 teams were shortlisted for the final stage. Utkarsh Kumar and Vansh Arora built an Augmented Reality (AR) app -Team Bhai for tourism, which enhances a tourist's experience. "Most of the participants were experienced as well as elder to us. We did not expect to win the hackathon and it is the biggest achievement," commented, Utkarsh Kumar on winning the biggest government hackathon.

"Our AR app will help to enhance the experience of the tourist, as it explains the story behind the places they visit with the help of the app, ours will be the only augmented reality company to have government validation." said, Vansh Arora.

Talking about the inspiration behind the startup, Utkarsh Kumar said, "My mother is fond of history and she is the reason behind bringing AR app to

reality."
The team will start with Rajasthan tourism and will move to other states of the country. The app would help not only the tourism sector but also the education sector to make learning more interesting.

'The team went second to pitch and floored the judges, who seemed really impressed with the idea and the demonstration. Nick Booker, co-founder IndoGenus reacted to the prototype was "WOW" and Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Manipal Global Education mentioned that they were brilliant,' according to a press release.

They are also given a chance to get incubated under iStart, a Rajasthan government incubation program. Other notable guests were the Director Public Affairs of Uber, the MD of Autodesk, the Country Head of Oracle, the CEO of OYO Rooms, the CEO of Zoomcar, the CTO of PepsiCo, the Director Startups and National Technology Officer of Microsoft.

SelectDine

App to enrich the experience of eating at a restaurant

VITians on the way to success in plummeting long queues and saving time for their preferred food and table

A five-member team from the School of Information Technology and Engineering (SITE), VIT is on its way to success with an entrepreneurship dream. 'SelectDine' an App that makes the experience of eating at a restaurant astounding without having to wait for the amazing food that one wishes to order is on its way to success. The app will help get the starters beforehand and have the best dining experience which would result in saving time, according to the team of SelectDine. The company was legally registered on 15th March 2017 as 'Reserved Dine Services Private Limited.'

Saleem Javid Z and Sanghavi Vemulapati took part in Hackathon and presented their idea from where the hope emerged. They presented the idea to the VIT Technology and Business Incubator (VITTBI) and eventually got selected amongst the top 8 teams for the finale. Although they could not get selected among top three in the finals, they were pre-incubated by (TBI).

'Big dreams have small beginnings'- "this quote has always been an inspiration which one day led to the beginning of the journey. As a fresher, I observed one of the seniors working on his own and earning along with his studies, a thought struck, why can't I do something? and that was a start of the flow of ideas –the idea of SelectDine," said Saleem Javid Z, CEO & Co-Founder, SelectDine on the reason behind the journey of SelectDine.

 "Generally, people have to wait in long queues for their food and preferred table. This is one of the reasons that have caused major customer displeasure in the Food Tech Industry. Through keen observations, we found that solving this problem can result in a tremendous growth in this industry. We have come up to solve the above problem using various modules Online Table Reservation with Starters, Offers and Combos, Online Delivery, Event Management, Online Wallet and Restaurant Management System," said Sanghavi Vemulapati, Co-Founder, SelectDine.

While talking about what difference the App makes from other food App, Rahul A Krishna, Technical head, SelectDine said, "Our App can help customers to choose their favorite seat in their favorite restaurant by seeing the layout of the restaurant with the help of app. The customer can get the idea of restaurant layout even if they have not been to the place before, our reservations and orders will be a direct customer-restaurant reservation and this will minimalize the food delay." SelectDine tried to get the investments, but were not able to find it in the initial stages and thus Saleem started learning design and development part himself from scratch. "We got a call to display our startup in Gravitas 2016 event on behalf of SITE where we won the "The Best School Award". A few months later, we got Seed Funding from Nazim UR Rahman which led us to get the developers from Google Developers Group (GDG) thus getting a layout of the idea. Sooner, we could visualize our dream being developed in reality," said Saleem.

The app is on its way to the market as the team is concentrating on branding. They have already organized more than 20 birthday parties. "We were overwhelmed with the customers' positive response and were unstoppable thereafter. Today, we have contracts with a number of restaurants and customer orders for event organizations." said Veeranjaneya Murthy, Managing Head, Offers & Combos, SelectDine

Akanksha Sinha, who is taking care of events said that the team was able to succeed, "with due support from the Dean of SITE, Prof. Ashwin Kumar Cherukuri, Mentor and Faculty Coordinator Prof.Shynu, the Deputy Manager of TBI, Ms.Sudha Raja Gopalan, who encouraged us at all phases of the journey and appreciated each milestone we achieved in the process." .

School Headmasters Honoured by VIT for achieving hundred percent results

Government schools must attract students like private schools: VIT Chancellor

VIT honoured the headmasters of government and government aided schools who produced 100 percent results in SSLC and HSC examinations on 14 December 2017. Dr. G Viswanathan, Founder, and Chancellor, VIT presented an award of Rs. 5000 and memento of appreciation to each of the sixty headmasters. Thiru. S. A. Raman I.A.S, District Collector, Vellore, graced the occasion and felicitated the headmasters for the achievement.

"The achievers day is being celebrated in VIT since 2003; it stands as a motivation for other schools to secure the same in the upcoming years. Teachers do not have to do any other social service as their job itself is social service. They can give shape to the lives of students; they can bring out the better people for the coming generation including presidents and ministers," said Dr. G Visawanathan.

While talking about the reducing number of students in government schools, Dr. G Visawanathan said, "People stand in long queue to get admission in private schools, but not in Government schools. The education systems of government schools must be improved in such a way where people trust government schools and join their children in the same."

"There is no other language in the world which can teach discipline and punctuality like Tamil. Students must be taught about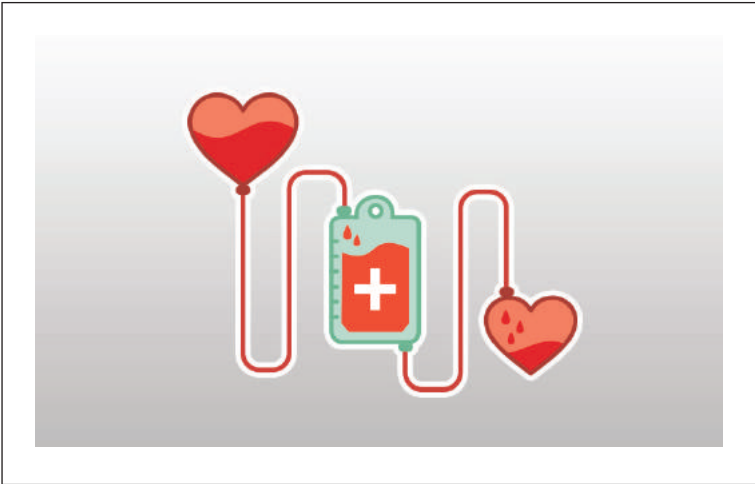 Tolkappiyam and thus discipline and punctuality" he added. He also encouraged the headmasters to help students get aid from Universal Higher Education Trust (UHET), which is helping students from economically poor background to enroll for higher education.

"5.5 lakh school going students are there in Vellore district alone and there are 3249 schools. 42, 000 students appeared for plus two examination and 52,000 students appeared for SSLC examination, among them, 60 Government and Government aided schools secured cent percent results," informed Thiru. Marss, Chief Educational Officer.

"Vellore district is lagging behind in results but the geography and background must also be considered. Vellore has an enormous number of Government schools and students from poor background compared to other districts. Better outcomes can be achieved only by the hard work of the teachers as well as students. The problems of the students who are securing low marks must be studied and the parents must be informed about the same," said Thiru. S. A. Raman I.A.S.

Thiru. G. V Selvam, Vice President, VIT, and Thiru. S. Amutha, District Educational officer graced the occasion. Dr. K Chidmabaram, Director Community radio, delivered the vote of thanks.

Blood Donation Camp in Memory of Mrs.K. Rajeswari

The NSS Unit of VIT organized a blood donation camp on 14th December to mark the 10th anniversary of the demise of Mrs. K Rajeswari, wife of Dr. G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor of VIT. VITian's donated blood in remembrance of Mrs. Rajeswari. The occasion began with the garlanding of the statue of Mrs. Rajeswari by Dr. G Viswanathan.

VIT felicitates student for excelling at Global Meet

Shubham Saraff, a third year student of B.Tech in Computer Science Engineering at Vellore Institute of Technology, who clinched the world title of "IET-Present Around the World (PATW)" contest was felicitated at VIT.

He was honoured by S.Raghavan of IET India chapter in the presence of Mr. G.V.Selvam, Vice President of VIT. Saraff's presentation was on 'mirror neurons' as part of his project on neurons that shaped us. He submitted a research paper on the creation of an application that would help in the stimulation of the nervous region with the creation of mirror neurons. He received the first place in the world level finals held at London termed IET PATW – Present Around the World in November. He also received a cash award of UK Pound 1,000 (Rs. 85,000) for the same.

The journey to reach the top was not easy for Saraff, as there were over 1,000 participants from over 150 countries that included students like him, young research scholars and also employed professionals.
The felicitation function was held at Dr.Ambedkar Auditorium on Monday. Amandeep, student president of IET's VIT chapter welcomed the gathering. In his address to the students after felicitating Saraff, Mr. G.V. Selvam said he was reminded of his school days. He said that those were days when he was unable to

ask questions and had he done that, it would have been possible for him to have increased his knowledge. He said he appreciated the efforts of organisations like IET to bring out the talents of students. There were now abundant opportunities for students to improve their levels of knowledge, thanks to many events and competitions that were now being conducted.

He said a situation had now arisen where it was not possible to do anything without engineering and technology. Medical technology had become so advanced that it was now possible to perform surgery through robotics. Through new innovations, it was also possible for advancements in medical technology to bring the cost of treatment, Mr. Selvam said. He also recalled that during the recently conducted Hackathon organised by the Rajasthan Government, two students from VIT – Utkarsh Kumar and Vansh Arora, had topped the event and also bagged a prize of Rs. 15 lakh. PATW is a global competition organised by The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) of United Kingdom for over 15 years for young professionals and students aged between 18 and 30 to provide a platform explore their talent and innovative thinking in engineering and technology.

The first round was at the university level, held at VIT in March this year, the zonal round in Vellore the next day. Saraff represented VIT University at the Chennai Local Network Finals. As the winner of this round, he took part in the South Asia Finals in Bengaluru which saw participation from 9 different regions.
Shubham has received several awards not only in academics but also in various cultural events including Distinction in Speech and Drama from Trinity College of London. He is a licensed Scuba Diver, Boxer, and a keen Sky diver. From across 150 countries, only 5 Winners from global regions around the world competed at London on November 15. These regions are: America, Asia Pacific, South Asia, UK Region and EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa). Shubham has received several International awards for academics including a Merit Scholarship Award. He has received other awards which include Distinction in Speech and Drama from Trinity College of London. He is also a licensed Scuba Diver, Boxer and keen Sky Diver. Shubham has been invited to present his paper on Artificial Intelligence at Cambridge University, UK in January 2018.

Dance Club Workshop '17

VIT Dance club conducted a workshop for 2 days, comprising of choreos taught by VIT Dance club teams on day 1 and an external was called for day 2. They were taught choreography on popular songs in different genres. And the external taught the basics of locking. Students attended the workshop with great enthusiasm.

Industry Institution Interface (I 3)

A one-day Industry-Academia Interface workshop was conducted on 20th December 2017 at VIT for the benefit of faculty members. The Workshop aimed at strengthening the process of developing mutual understanding and cooperation between industries and academia.

Mr. Siva Kumar, CEO, ICTACT was the Chief Guest., Mr. Rex Mohan Kumar, Global Head (HR), Jeevan Technologies, Mr. Nagarajan, Head (HR), TAB India, Mr Rakesh Paliwal, Head – Strategy & Business Development, Aditya Birla, K. Kalaiselvan, Executive Director, BHEL Ranipet, addressed the gathering.

The Students' Chapter of IEEE Computer Society, VIT, bagged the "Outstanding Chapter Award" for the year 2017.

Mr Roger Fujii, President IEEE Computer Society and Mr. Eric Berkowitz, Director Of Membership IEEE Computer Society in the All India IEEE Computer Society Students and Young Professionals Congress (AICSSYC) presented the award at a function hosted by International IEEE Computer Society at the SSN College of Engineering, Chennai. Of the 129 student chapters, only 10 were invited to present their achievements at the exhibition.

VIT®

VIT graduate's 'Letters of Love' acts as a connect to refugee children

■ GAUTAM SUNDER

CHENNAI: It started off as a simple idea – to spread smiles on the faces of Syrian and Iraqi refugee children from war-stricken countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, etc. The more Pooja Pradeep, an engineering graduate from VIT University in Vellore, read reports of the violence, the more it gnawed at her conscience. Within months, she had a plan: use children in the country to connect through letters with their peer in these nations under turmoil - doubly achieving the aim of helping the refugees, as well as sensitising local children.

That was two years ago. Today, the 25-year-old has successfully established her initiative titled 'Letters of Love', connecting thousands of children globally, and engaging volunteers from all over in fund-raising projects, meet-and-greet events, classes for kids, and writing letters, etc. "However, the feather in our cap is the latest news: we are now an official member of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' #With Refugees Coalition – an association of NGOs and youth groups across the world," shares an excited Pooja, who has left her engineering degree behind to take on this project full-time.

With over 13,000 letters sent and received in 2017, the project is well on its way to becoming bigger, with each passing year. "We are a core team of 25, currently spread across the world. As for our country, the idea is to spread awareness, by enabling sensitisation sessions for school and university students aiming to cultivate empathy, enabling pen pals and help each children discover their potential as an agent of change in society. Teachers and education facilitators can access these modules anywhere," she says.

For next year, Letters of Love has expanded its operations with regional managers in USA, Egypt, Israel and Palestine, and is partnering with Human Relief Foundation (HRF), to deliver letters to children entrapped by war in Syria as a first. "We also have our 'Pen Pal' project, where around 500 children from the country will be writing to children entrapped by war in Syria and under siege in Gaza, and these children, upon receiving their letters on New Year's, will be writing back to their newly-made friends in our country," adds Pooja.

Refugee children show postcards of letters from other children. Inset: Pooja Pradeep

We are now an official member of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' #With Refugees Coalition – an association of NGOs and youth groups across the world

Pooja Pradeep, Project head

"Most of the children in Refugee camps have no hope left. They are subjected to hostility from the beginning. I think small initiatives like ours actually do make a difference."

POOJA PRADEEP
2010-14 B.Tech Mechanical Engineering