WORLD KONKANI CENTRE
MANGALURU

Feb-2015

Amchi-zine 2.0

Let's connect and recollect

INSIDERS GUIDE:

Winners of:
PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
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AMCHI-ZINE 2.0

February 2015

AMCHI TEAM

We, the Amchi Team felt that there could be no better occasion than PRERNA to bring out the VKSSF Alumni Association's e-magazine. The response we received for Amchizine 1.0 was overwhelming. We are grateful to all for their valuable comments and suggestions. Amchizine 2.0 kick-started with the Photography Contest entries flowing in, we were delighted to see such a response from so many scholars. Thank you!

Our work for the second edition started way back in September last year, though there has been a slight delay from the previously decided date of release, we can proudly say that the Amchi Team has overcome the boundaries of distances, time zones and varying schedules. With our Editor-in-Chief Abhay in Hyderabad, Co-editor Sushma in the US, one of our member Jaison in Dubai and the rest of us including some of our enthusiastic juniors in different cities like Bangalore, Mangalore, Udupi, Mysore, Kochi, Pune, Mumbai and others, bringing it together was a challenge but it served the purpose of the magazine's tagline of 'Let's Connect and Recollect'. Everyone's put in a lot of effort but I must mention Sushma for bringing everything together, she has managed her studies along with night-shifts to have discussions with us and work for the magazine. Hats-off Sushma!

We are grateful to our senior mentors for their encouraging feedback for the first edition of Amchizine. VAA is lucky to have Guru Maam who is always with us to support and guide us in all that we do, Vidyouth-2014, the Mangalore, Bangalore and Kochi Alumni Meet-up's wouldn't have been successful without his guidance and presence.

There is so much excitement in the air because of the upcoming Prerna-2015, with all the interesting and motivational sessions lined up, we have the happiness of meeting all our WKC friends, a wonderful 'Going back home' feeling of going back to the place where we have so many sweet memories of learning, of fun, of friendship, and of meeting all the people who have played a very big role in making us what each one of us are today!

In this edition of Amchizine we have a very interesting blend of articles covering Konkani history, technical articles, memories of College life and many more. Hope you have a great time reading it! We look forward to all your suggestions and feedback.

Dev Boren Karun

Winola Savea Dsouza
Co-editor, Amchi-Zine

Namaskar!!

AmchiZine, a magazine of the scholars, by the scholars and for the scholars. We are proud to present to you the second edition of AmchiZine. It has been more than four years since we have associated ourselves with World Konkani Center (WKC) and today I'm proud to identify myself as a VKSSF Scholar in my profile. As a Vice President of Vishwa Konkani Alumni association (VAA), responsibility rests on my shoulders to keep the one hundred and forty six alumni connected. But the credit goes to the energetic VAA team lead by Ms. Lenita Menezes, for successfully executing this task. Dear readers, I would like to present a brief report about a couple of activities conducted by the VAA in the past days.

Vidyouth, a VKSSF Scholar fest, the first of its kind was held at WKC, Mangalore. The talent expo revealed the potential hidden in the young scholars. The innovation and enthusiasm in our young scholars is an assuring sign of the bright future of this organization. The joint efforts of VAA and the Vidyouth team, lead by Ms. Shwetha Nayak, brought Vidyouth a grand success. It would be a disgrace on my behalf if I do not mention the man behind this success, Mr. Gurudath Bantwalkar (our beloved Guru Maam). He has guided and mentored us throughout our journey. It wouldn't be wrong in calling Guru maam as the 'Raam Setu' connecting all the scholars with WKC as one family.

Guru Maam's initiative lead to the regional meetings that unveiled the *Bangalore* and *Mangalore* chapters prior to the Vision TVM Conference 2015. The Bangalore meetup was held on 4th January 2015 that witnessed 46 scholars getting together at Manthri Greens Assembly hall. It was my immense pleasure to relive my memories and chat with my fellow scholars. The messages conveyed by Ms. Sushma Kini and Mr. Jaison D'souza, though living miles away from this country, made the meeting special and also showed their humbleness towards VAA. The main intention here was to inform the scholars about Vision TVM Conference and the importance of staying connected in order to build a strong Konkani community. As more than 50% of the scholars resided in Bangalore, this meetup saw the essence of *Bangalore* chapter that can serve as a mini WKC in this Capital city. In the same way the curtains of *Mangalore* Chapter were raised on 18th January 2015 where the scholars in and around Mangalore congregated and interacted with each other. By the time this Magazine reaches the hands of the scholars, I believe that *Kochi* and *Pune* Chapters will also be in existence.

I would like to congratulate the entire **AmchiZine** team for a successful outcome of this second edition and appreciate all the authors for their contribution to this magazine. I would also take this opportunity to call upon other scholars to pen down their experiences to the upcoming editions.

'Come, Let us all work together for Vision TVM 2030 and be a part of a strong Konkani Community..'

Dev Baren Karum.

Karthik Kamath G.

Vice President, VAA

ITIHAAS

I have always been fascinated by the ancient history of our motherland. If we trace back our ancestral footsteps, we would find many interesting facts about how advanced they were as a civilization. Through this article I'd like to throw light upon some excerpts from the history of our own small yet rich Konkani community.

Today more and more people recognize the medicinal values of vegetables and spices. Many people grow herbs in their home gardens. Ayurveda has been internationally acknowledged. But many of us do not know that even our ancestors contributed to impart this knowledge to the world. One such work is the "Hortus Malabaricus".

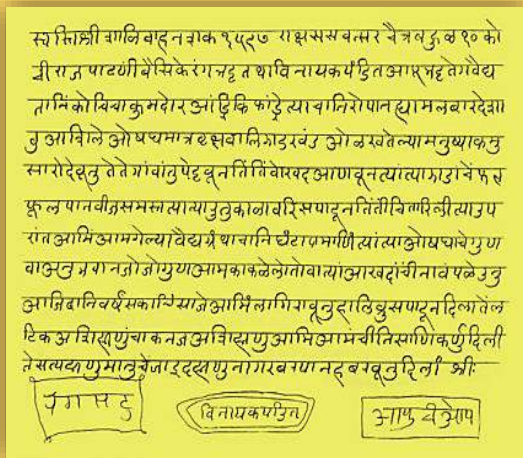### So what is Hortus Malabaricus?

Hortus Malabaricus- meaning "Garden of Malabar" is one of the earliest and most comprehensive treatise which dwells on medicinal properties of flora existing in the Malabar hill range (Kerala). The book, originally written in Latin, was compiled over a period of more than 15 years. It was conceived by Hendrik Van Rheede, who was the Governor of Dutch Malabar between 1670 & 1677.The work was published from Amsterdam periodically in 12 volumes of 500 pages each between 1678 and 1703. This work has been acknowledged as a great piece of biomedical work. The information that the work provides is invaluable and for generations to cherish. The treatise comprises of very accurate sketches of over 742 plants & their indigenous sciences well illustrated and their species classified and well documented. Though the original text is in Latin, the names of the plants, creepers, and trees along with its drawings are given in four languages-Latina (Latin), Malabarica (Malayalam), Arabica (Arabic) and Lingua Bramanica Antiqua (Konkani).

Contribution of the Konkani Community

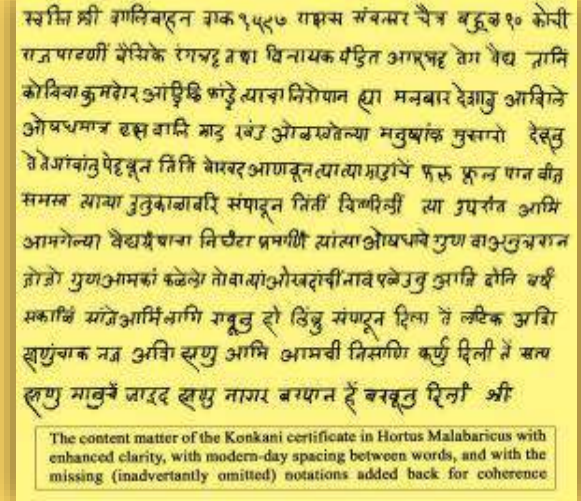Though the work was conceived and promoted by the Dutch Governor Hendrik Adriaan Van Rheede Tot Drakestein, it wouldn't have been possible without the help of

indigenous people. We all know how laborious it is to present a paper on any subject, that too an original one. It is obvious that this research required tremendous hard work from the Indian researchers. The prominent among Indian contributors were, Itty Achuthan and three Konkani physicians namely *Ranga Bhat, Vinayak Pandit, and Appu Bhat.* The physicians worked rigorously for a period of two years. People were appointed to collect samples of trees, climbers and roots of medicinal plants. They had to acquaint themselves with the knowledge of all kinds of plants. Then these practitioners had to identify and sort out the samples and register their uses and authenticate them. The three have themselves certified this in their joint testimonial recorded in KONKANI language in the first volume of the book released in 1678.

Testimonial with modern day spacing

Original testimonial in konkani with their respective signatures

English Translation of the Konkani Testimonium

Swasti Sree Salivahana Saka 1597 Rakhasa Samvatsara Chaitra Bahula 10. Ranga Bhat, Vinayaka Pandit and Appu Bhat, we three Vaidyas residing in Kochi Rajapattana, upon direction from Andriki Fandre, Kumudor of Kochi, had sent knowledgeable persons, giving them wages, to various places of Malabar and brought various medicinal creepers, plants, roots, fruits and seeds that grow there in respective seasons and drawn their pictures. Afterwards we have described the names and various qualities of those medicines with reference to our medical dictionary and as understood by us. We have personally overseen this for the past two years morning and evening, compiled this book and given. So as not to call this inaccurate, we have put our signatures. To authenticate that this may be taken as the truth, we have given this in writing in Nagar Script. Sree

In the testimonial, they unambiguously state that they themselves have compiled the book. The whole work was done under their supervision, including the accurate drawings. "*aji doni varsham* (for two years now) *sakani sanje* (morning and evening) *lagi rabunu* (standing near) *ami ho livru sampadun dila* (we have compiled this book). This testimonial makes it evident that all three of them were fully engaged for two years for the compilation of this book. This meticulous work provided the ethno-medical information in the book. This is why KONKANI people should be proud of these physicians.

KONKANI appears not only in this particular matter but also alongside all the diagrams of plants as their original names. The KONKANI physicians were equally famous during that period according to hearsay. This might have been the reason which prompted *Hendrik Rheede* to specifically include Konkani names of plants. This thesis is supported by historical references more than a century before the concerned period. The eminent Spanish Jew physician *Garcia de orta,* who fled from Portugal to Goa in the 15th century published *"Coloquios dos Simples e drogas e cousas medcinais da India"* (Conversations on the simple drugs and medical substances of India) with the help of Konkani physicians of Goa.

Needless to say Van Rheede personally visited the physicians and was impressed by their unique method of keeping their knowledge intact through well-remembered descriptive verses. This method of memorizing and imparting knowledge to others through descriptive verses was used by our ancestors since time unmemorable (vedic times) and Konkanis were no different. Van Rheede has described about this experience in his preface to the third volume.

Even though we are a small community in terms of numbers, our influence in this society is substantial. We, the Konkanis have over the years developed our footprint in many areas in the present day Indian society and also globally. These three physicians were visionary researchers with intuitive medical knowledge. They have enlightened the world through their work. Let's take a leaf out of their book and do the same or even more. Let's all salute their legacy.

The three Konkani physicians Ranga Bhat, Vinayak Pandit, Appu Bhat (Picture Courtesy: The New Indian Express)

21 year old, jovial and fun loving Ram Gopal, is a music enthusiast and an amateur historian. When he gets some time off his studies – a final year Electronics and Communication engineer- he travels and cooks. He sees life differently, as he does not believe in flying high, rather he feels a person who wants to leave footprints will never fly. He is one such person who wants to leave a footprint in people's hearts.

RAM GOPAL B.
Mahatma Gandhi University College of Engineering
Thodupuzha, Kerala

Artist: Sourabha Bhat (VKSSF Batch 2013), 3rd Sem, NMAMIT Nitte

ಆವಳು...

ಸಂಜೆ ಮುಳುಗುವ ಕೆಂಪು ಸೂರ್ಯನ ಕೋನೆಯ ತಂಪು
ಕಿರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾದು ಕುಳಿತಾ ಬಾಯ ಮಲ್ಲಿಗೆಯ ಮೋಗ್ಗು ಅವಳು...

ಹಾಲು ಗಲ್ಲದ ಬೆಣ್ಣೆಕೃಷ್ಣನ ಸುಡು-ಸುಡು ನಗುವಿಗೆ
ನಚಿದ ರಾಧೆಯ ಮಡಿಯ ಸಂಪಿಗೆಯಾ ಎಸಳು ಅವಳು...

ಗುಡ್ಡೆ ಆಂಚಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯುವುದೂ ನವಿಲು ಕೆಡವಿ ಹೋದ ಇಂಬದ
ನವಿಲು ಗರಿಯ ನೀಳಿ ಕಣ್ಣಿನ ರೆಶ್ಮೆ ರೆಪ್ಪೆಯಂತಾ ಹುಡುಗಿ ಅವಳು...

ತೇವವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಬಯಾರಿದ ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಮೆಲೆಬಿದ್ದ ವರುಷದ
ಮೂದಲನೆಯ ಮಳೆಯಿಂದ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ಸುವಾಸನೆ ಅವಳು...

ನಕ್ಷತ್ರಗಳ್ಶಿಲದೆ ಆಕಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಕವಿದ ಮೊಡಗಳ ನಡುವಿನಿಂದ
ಬರುವ ಅಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾದ ಚಂದ್ರನ ಬೆಳದಿಂಗಳು ಅವಳು...

ಮುಂಜನೆ ಹುಟ್ಟುವ ಸೂರ್ಯನ ಕಿರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಚಿಗುರಲು ಕಯುತ್ತಿರುವ
ಹುವಿನ ಬಳಿ ಝೆಂಕರಿಸುವ ದುಂಬಿಯ ಝೆಂಕಾರದ ಇಂಪು ಅವಳು...

ಸಿಹಿಯಾದ ಹಣ್ಣನು ತಿನ್ನುವಾಗ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉಂಟಾಗುವ ಅತಿಯಾದ
ಸಂತೂಷದ ತುತ್ತತುದಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾಮದ ಹಸುಳೆ ಅವಳು...

ರತ್ರಿಹೊತ್ತು ಸುಳಿಯುವ ತಂಗಳಿಯ ನಡುವೆಯಿಂದ ತೇಲಿ ಬರುವ
ಕೊಳಲುನಾದದ ಸುಸ್ವರವ ಕೇಳಲು ಬಯಸುವ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನ ಜಾಡು ಅವಳು...

-ಅಮೊಕ

Ananth Kamath is currently pursuing his second year of electronics and communication engineering at NMAMIT,nitte. Though born an adventurer, Ananth is your everyday Shakesphere when it comes to writing deep and meaningful little snippets of poetry.
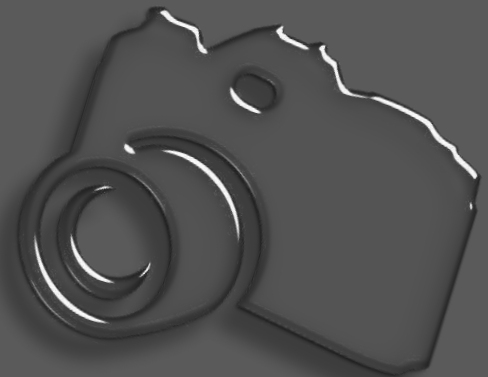
WINNERS OF PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST!

COLORS OF WKC
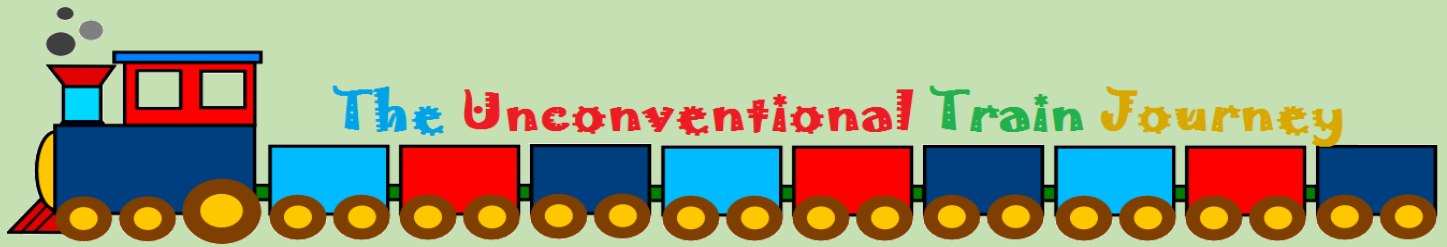
PICTURE CREDITS: SWASTHIK PRABHU

SELFIE CONTEST

PICTURE CREDITS: SUHAS S SHENOY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!!!

READER'S DELIGHT

Desperation often leads you to do things which you would never do otherwise. Well, I never knew that there was a couple of compartments named general compartment which are for the ones who do not have a reserved ticket; until I joined an engineering college far away from home. So my desperation to be back home for short periods of festival made me travel in such compartments which I didn't even notice before; as there are no chances of getting a reserved ticket during festivals and the prices of bus tickets touch the sky. So all through my four years of engineering I had to travel in the general compartment a lot of times and many interesting incidents happened during such journeys. Here I'm just sharing a couple of such incidents.

This particular incident happened in my first year while I was travelling back to Mangalore (college) from Mumbai (home) after celebrating Diwali. Having travelled in the general compartment for the first time while travelling to Mumbai I made up my mind that I would never travel again in this compartment, because the compartment was extremely overcrowded and I had to stand for 4 hours until I got a seat. So while going back I decided to book a ticket through tatkal quota but even there I got a waiting list. Yes! That's the demand our railway trains have, still surprisingly Indian railways was on the verge of bankruptcy. So with my waitlisted ticket I get into a reserved compartment and wait in the pathway hoping to meet the TC and request him to allot me a seat where I can at least sit (I was told by friends that this method is very effective!). But the TC didn't come until half the distance of the journey was covered and yes, I was standing the whole time! Having stood there waiting for him for around 7 hours, I was determined to pounce on him as soon as I saw him. There were many others standing all this while hoping for a seat from TC like me, So as soon as TC came I quickly approached him and showed him my e-ticket and requested him for a seat. And as soon as he saw my ticket he said this isn't a valid ticket. I had the shock of my life. After standing there all this while hoping for a seat it turns out I didn't even have a valid ticket. Apparently if the waitlisted tatkal ticket is an e-ticket then all the money paid for ticket will be automatically transferred back to your bank account, if the waitlist is not converted to confirm status. So I was a ticketless traveler in that train and having approached the TC myself, I felt like a deer who has unknowingly entered a tiger's den. Then the TC started to calculate the amount I have to pay as fine for my offence. The amount came up to be Rs.400/- and un-luckily I was carrying only Rs450/- , still I would be without any cash for the other half of journey and I would not even have money for auto back home in Mangalore, still I was willing to pay the fine. But here comes the twist! The TC was flexible (corrupt) and he takes me to a corner and asks me to get down at next station and he would come and I should pay him half the fine amount (although I never asked him to reduce the fine amount, it was his own generosity!).But while this conversation was happening other people who were also waiting to meet TC for a seat felt that I was going to get a seat from TC so they all stood beside me keeping an eye on me. When the station arrived I picked up my luggage and got down, the TC also gets down from other door. But strangely all those who were there for a seat also got down along with me and follow me. As soon as I approach the TC they just surround him requesting even they want a seat. And in front of a crowd he wouldn't reveal his real motive behind getting down and meeting me. So the TC had to go back to the train, disappointed and with a very frustrated look he told me to take a proper ticket and go back to Mangalore in next train. Then I took a proper ticket and was back in the dreaded general compartment of the next train but I still couldn't believe I travelled half the distance without a valid ticket!

Now this other incident happened recently. I was in Bangalore and wanted to be home for Diwali. But again no tickets were available and the bus fares were sky high. So again I decided to travel in general compartment. The compartment was jam packed at the departure point i.e. Bangalore city station itself. I managed to find a comfortable spot for myself where I could lean back to the inner wall of the train as getting a seat was just a dream at that time. The train departed the station at 20:30 pm and the compartment was so crowded that there was no chance of even one more person getting in. There were many people sitting in the pathway and every possible space were occupied. The train arrived at a small local station named Dodballapur. There were many people waiting on

the platform to get into the train. But as there was no space available in the compartment the door was closed. Then suddenly the door is pushed and a group of the strong and hefty men get into the compartment pushing every person in front of them, making them topple due to lack of space. Then suddenly the emergency window was opened and a couple of men enter from that window, kicking and hitting the person sitting next to the window. At this point I sensed these are not decent people but the local goons. The people who entered from the door started shouting something in Kannada. Being a Mumbaikar this was hard to understand for me. Then the hefty guy say's something to the person sitting on the corridor which I assume he might have asked him to get up. But the person sitting on the corridor didn't respond to him positively. And within a second all hell broke loose. The hefty guy started showering slaps on the person sitting on the floor. Then the person sitting on the floor tried to get up but was pushed down due to the force of the slaps being showered on him. Then the hefty guy pushed aside the person sitting on the floor and moved towards his next target. And as we say experiencing something makes a person learn faster. Well that's exactly what happened. Even after witnessing a person getting slapped for not getting up from corridor the others sitting there didn't care to get up. Well the result was same. The hefty guy was on a rampage slapping everyone siting on the floor and pushing them aside. He was fast approaching me. A sense of fear had built up everywhere around me. But still I felt he won't slap me as I wasn't sitting on the floor and also I felt I was the most sophisticated person in the compartment and he would have the courtesy to request me to make way. He went on slapping people as if he was some kind of a professional in that, well he might be because he is a goon! Then he approached me. I was standing in my comfort spot leaning against the wall .I took a confidant and a defensive position by cross folding my arms. He came to me and said something in Kannada which I assumed he was asking me to make way for him to go. So like a true gentleman I made a little space for him and waved him to go ahead .Well probably that wasn't what he wanted me to do and SATTH!!I wasn't spared and I too got a slap. Now my temper was raised, I wanted revenge. Even though the slap didn't even hurt a bit but my ego was hurt. I wanted a comeback. For a second I thought to give him a hard punch but better sense prevailed as hitting him would have angered him more and well I don't have an ideal physique to defend against such guys. But still I had to do something. Whenever I come against such cheap guys I use a couple of slangs in English to shut them up. It affects them psychologically as they don't understand what we say and it hurts their ego (this is what I think :P).So I shouted out loud saying don't dare to touch me and a couple of English slangs which cannot be mentioned here! Well my plan worked (at least that's what I would like to believe :P) as he just said *ohh englishaa*! And went ahead without touching me again or probably he wanted to complete his target of slapping everyone in the pathway which he managed to complete quite easily with minimal resistance. And my little outburst got me a bit of attention in my area of compartment where people started advising me to ignore him as he is a local goon and etc., and a person even offered me a seat well not on a chair but on the floor. Well I took his offer for temporary relief.

And once after reaching home and spending time with mom and sister made me realize this trouble was worth taking. But the sad part is such things happen daily and increasing 1 or 2 trains will not solve the problem. Some alternative means must be thought about. P.S. I still love travelling on Indian railway train.
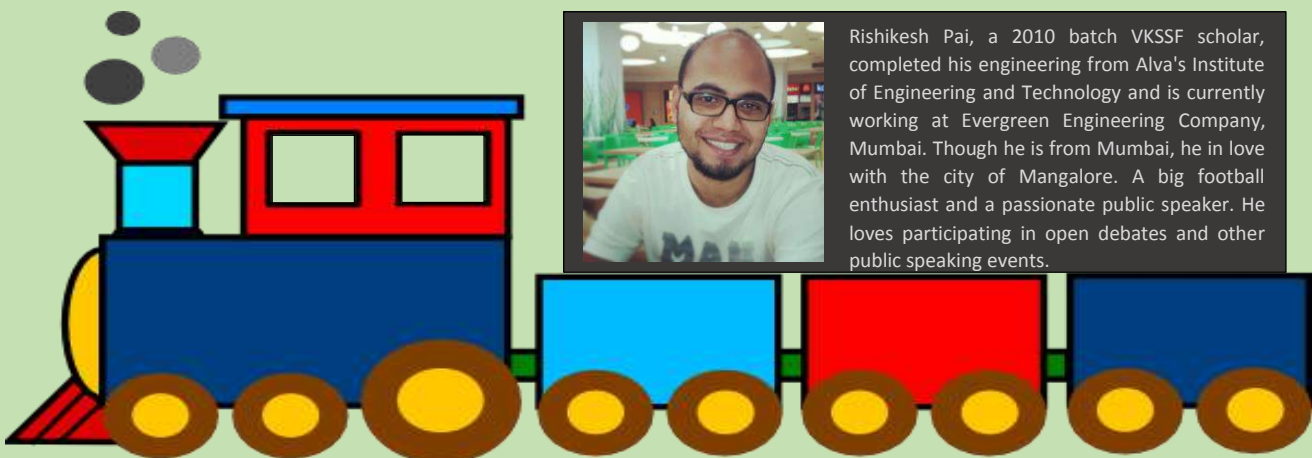
Rishikesh Pai, a 2010 batch VKSSF scholar, completed his engineering from Alva's Institute of Engineering and Technology and is currently working at Evergreen Engineering Company, Mumbai. Though he is from Mumbai, he in love with the city of Mangalore. A big football enthusiast and a passionate public speaker. He loves participating in open debates and other public speaking events.

7 THINGS EVERY KONKANI KID CAN RELATE TO.

Vasudaiva kutumbakam

If you have a Konkani friend, it is likely that you are related to him/her! Like all Indian communities, everybody's related to everybody in some ways or the other and finding it out is just a *google* (read as *Maai*/aunti-ji) away!

"why ,you little gash..! "

The level of your friendship is measured in the magnitude of the cuss word you use to address each other. For those wanna-be friends who eagerly want to learn Konkani, "how to swear like a pro" is class 1.

Real friends don't get offended when you insult them. They smile and call you something even more offensive.

DAALITOY-The Elixir

No matter how much you love international cuisines, the only food that cheers you up, when your tired selves reach home, is hot, steaming, *daali*! this Konkani favorite, is a healthy equivalent for that provide great nutrition no matter what the situation is because, no *amchi* feast is complete without *daalitoy bhurkaps!*

MC-DONDY IN DALITHOY
MC-MUSHTI POLO
MC-APPO WITH ALLE CHUTNEY
SHEVAI IN MC-GHASHI

The pride

You love the attention unknown people give you when they can't place the dialect/language you just spoke in and you end up explaining about your heritage and culture all tracing back from our ancestral immigration from Goa.

The" fifth" factor

One Does Not Simply ... Survive From A Konkani Buddy

The main reason why the British denied "freedom of expression "to Indians. "Panchaadika" is something we can't trade for any other thing else. Apparently, "panchaadik", is at a higher level of abundance than the ozone on earth! We don't care if it is the middle of the road, or the front of a queue at a bank, or somewhere more important, news shall always be served hot.

Taking the edge off

No matter how vast your vocabulary in English is, legend says that you have always achieved peace of mind only after you had sworn to your satisfaction in Konkani.
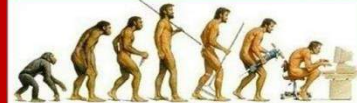
EVOLUTION
YOREY MADYAAA MHONU APPOCHE HI, DUDE JALLE
VARSHEEK THUJJE MHONU SOVCHE OH BLOODY SHIT JALLE
THE AMCHI DARWINISM

What a Konkani is thinking (on an average)

- Regular humanly things — 10%
- What's for lunch? — 45%
- What's for dinner? — 45%

Ravenous love

The only thing you look forward to when you think about festivals are the indigenous yum yums! for all we care, our mental calendars have been trained gastronomically. *The pattolis*, the *val-vals*, the *kadgi chakko*, the *gajbojo*, the *batate 'song'* and an army of food that'd be on your plates keeps you excited for days.

Shantheri Kamath is a second year engineering student at the Manipal Institute of Technology. A music lover and sci-fiction-fantasy book addict, she currently writes for the M.I.T, Manipal's print issues of "chill maadi" and **www.manipalthetalk.net**
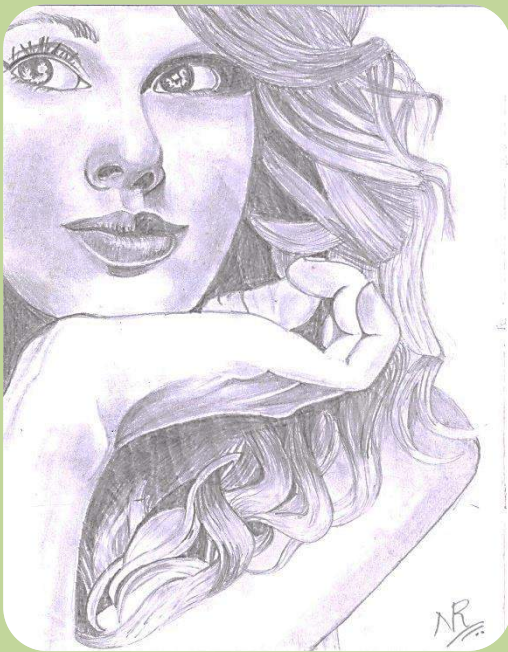
ARTIST: NIHAL N REVANKAR

(VKSSF BATCH OF 2012)

6TH SEM, SDMCET

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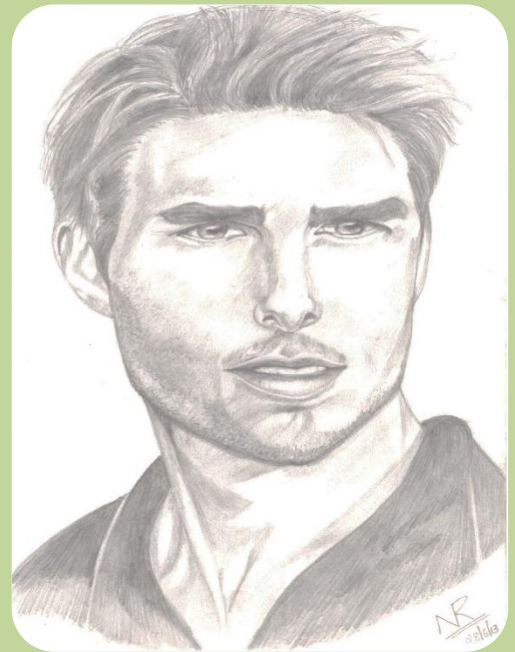
A GUY AND HIS HORSE

A guy was sitting quietly reading his paper when his wife walked up behind him and whacked him on the head with a magazine.

"What was that for?" he asked.

"That was for the piece of paper in your pants pocket with the name Laura Lou written on it," she replied.

"Two weeks ago when I went to the races, Laura Lou was the name of one of the horses I bet on," he explained.

"Oh honey, I'm sorry," she said. "I should have known there was a good explanation."

Three days later he was watching a ballgame on TV when she walked up and hit him in the head again, only this time with an iron skillet, which knocked him out cold.

When he came to his senses, he asked, "What the hell was that for?"

She replied, "Your horse called".

(COLLECTED BY: DAISY MIRANDA)

ARTIST: VISHAL NAYAK

(VKSSF BATCH OF 2011)

8TH SEM, BVB COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

SEARCHING

An IT manager at a large company needed to call one of his employees about an urgent problem with one of the main computers; he dialled the employee's home phone number and was greeted with a child's whisper,

"Hello."

"Is your daddy home?" he asked.

"Yes," whispered the small voice.

"May I talk with him?"

The child whispered, "No."

Surprised, and wanting to talk with an adult, the boss asked, "Is your Mommy there?"

"Yes."

"May I talk with her?"

Again the small voice whispered, "No."

Hoping there was somebody with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked, "Is anybody else there?"

"Yes," whispered the child, "a policeman."

Wondering what a cop would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, "May I speak with the policeman?"

"No, he's busy," whispered the child.

"Busy doing what?"

"Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the fireman," came the whispered answer.

Growing concerned and even worried as he heard what sounded like a helicopter through the ear piece on the phone, the boss asked, "What is that noise?"

"A hello-copper," answered the whispering voice.

"What is going on there?" asked the boss, now alarmed.
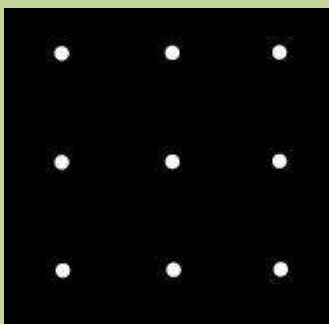
In an awed whispering voice the child answered, "The search team just landed the hello-copper."

Alarmed, concerned, and more than a little frustrated the boss asked, "What are they searching for?"

Still whispering but now giggling, the young voice replied, "Me."

****

BOX PUZZLE

Can you connect these nine dots with just 4 straight lines?

See last page for answer

COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS

Comprehending Engineers - Take One

Two engineering students were walking across campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike. She threw the bike to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want." "The second engineer nodded approvingly, "Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn't have fit."

Comprehending Engineers -Take Two

A pastor, a doctor and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, "What's with these guys? We must have been waiting for 15 minutes!" The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such ineptitude! "The pastor said, "Hey, here comes the greenskeeper. Let's have a word with him." [Dramatic pause] "Hi George. Say, what's with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?" The greenskeeper replied, "Oh, yes, that's a group of blind firefighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime." The group was silent for a moment. The pastor said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. And I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist buddy and see if there's anything he can do for them." The engineer said, "Why can't these guys play at night?"

Comprehending Engineers - Take Three

An engineer was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess". He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for one week." The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you and do ANYTHING you want." Again the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess, that I'll stay with you for a week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?" The engineer said, "Look I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog, now that's cool."

SCHOLAR DIARIES

It was during the early days of final year of Engineering, it was time for Project selection. In a country like our's agriculture plays a vital role. Our team comprising of four members: Ashwin Kamath, Karthik Kamath, Narasimhamoorthy and Nagendra Prabhu had decided to go with a project which is based on agriculture. We had proposed two ideas namely "Intelligent Streetlight Management System" and "Crop Rotation and Bird Predation Control Based Control Based Automatic Irrigation System". The College officials were happy with both ideas and decision was left to us to choose which idea we would like to work on. And we took the idea on agriculture and started to work on project. We were guided by two of our faculties Mr. Ganesh V.N. and Mr. Ravikumar.

One day, SAP labs officials paid a visit to our college and brought to our notice about a contest they were conducting at Bangalore. We submitted both our ideas to the contest. After about 2 weeks, I got a call from an unknown number. I picked it and the person on the other side said that he's calling from SAP labs and the project "Intelligent streetlight management system" was selected by their officials among the top 50 out of the 250 ideas for ImpressIT'13. Our team was on cloud nine! At the same time we were in dilemma. Our other idea was selected as our academic project. We knew that its nearly impossible to complete both projects within time.

When I Look Back Now

After few days I got a call and I realized it's the call from SAP labs and I was really afraid to pick the call. None of my project teammates were around. I had no answer if he asks are we ready for the competition with the idea they selected. I was thinking and the call got disconnected. Ohh god!! We had a chance and I blew it. Now should I call him back or not? I was completely blank. After few mins my phone rang again. And it's the call from same number. This time he had called to confirm if we had submitted two ideas. Since both the ideas carried our names. The only change in the registrations for the two ideas were the phone number and the e-mail ids . He said the other idea has also been selected. I was shocked and happy. But my happiness lasted only for a few seconds. He said it was not fair and they have every right to disqualify us. But since it was not mentioned in the Terms and Conditions that no team can submit more than an idea, he said they would like to give us a chance to present both the ideas. But there was a catch. We had just 21 days. He said its upto us to decide whether we would like to present both our ideas or just one. Before disconnecting the call he said to keep our answers ready by the next day. I conveyed the message to my team mates, they were really happy to know about it. Finally we decided to go with our
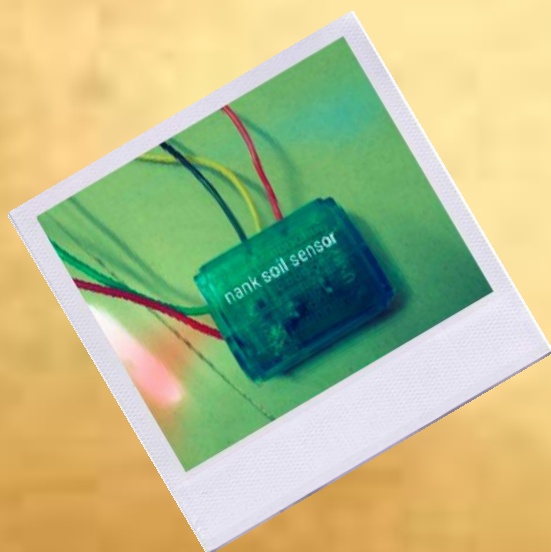
academic project, i.e. "Crop rotation and bird predation control based automatic irrigation system". And soon we were assigned a mentor from SAP labs, Mr Anupam Rajput. And we had less than 3 weeks to complete our project, and it kept challenging us in every possible way.

Now let me shed some light on the details about our project. Crop rotation and bird predation control based automatic irrigation system as the name suggests automates irrigation for the farm. Our innovation here in this system is implementing multiple crop rotation technique and avoiding bird and animal predation. Automation in irrigation can be achieved by sensing the moisture in the soil. The important component for our project was soil moisture sensor. And its available in market for around Rs. 1000.

This made the project less cost effective as farmers may not be able to afford it. The challenge for us was to reduce the cost. We came up with a solution to implement our own sensor. Basic engineering concepts helped us with this. We used conduction of water principle and successfully invented the sensor which could compete with the readymade sensor available in market. And the interesting fact of our sensor is it costs less than Rs 50 .We named our sensor NANK. Its the initial letter of our names.

The idea also included prevention of bird and animal predation. We knew that animals and birds can hear some kind of sounds which human ears may not hear. These kind of sounds have frequency higher than 20kHz. We built a circuit which could generate frequency which human beings can't hear and animals hear and they go away from the farm. Ideas are the one thing that everyone can get. But the challenge lies in the realtime implementation of those ideas.

The challenge ahead of us was to write a code which could do all these functions. We as a team worked on this. We put all our knowledge and thoughts together and came up with a brilliant program which met our requirement. We tried simulating it on software and it worked. But it took a long time for our components to reach us, since we had booked it online. By the time we got our components it was too late. We had only one week to implement the project on hardware, to load the program into the micro controller and to interface different parts of the system and to verify its working in realtime. Yes our project was working, but not for long time. But when it worked for the first time we had recorded the realtime working on a videocam, but later it stopped responding. It was the worst thing that could happen to us, the thing we had been dreading, our worst nightmare had come true.With only 5 days to go for the competition our development board gave away and now we had no working prototype with us. Meanwhile we had Skype conversations with our mentor from SAP labs and tried to rectify the errors but failed many times.Luckily we got a spare development board from our college and with some help from the faculties we rectified all the errors and solved the problem sucessfully and we left to Bangalore for the competition.

It was the day we were waiting for, 21st october 2013. As we entered SAP Labs we were given ID's and a folder and when we entered the presentation venue there were many round conference tables, LCD TV's placed at many locations. Though I haven't been to one, it sort of reminded me of the IPL auctions. We had to wait for a long time to present, finally it was our turn. We were the 41st team to present. We were

excited but also a bit nervous as it was our first presentation. When we had completed our presentation, there was a question answer round, but we were a little confused when we got only one question. We were in a dilemma whether the judges really got our idea.When the results were announced for the top ten ideas, we were dissappointed since our names were not called. Later we got to know that there was a close fight between three teams for the 10th spot.Unfortunately, we came 12th, but we were happy that we had made it to the main round.

Ever Since ImpressIT'13 we've been enjoying giving presentations. But we didn't start this way. We were mortified to speak in public only a few months ago. With experience of ImpressIT'13 behind us now, we did some self introspection and we tried to analyse what went wrong and the learning process continued.

Since then we have taken part in 5 paper presentation events out of which we bagged the 1st prize in 3 events, 3 project presentation events at various colleges out of which one was the *State Level Project Exhibition Organized by Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST),* presented the project at 37th Series Seminar & Exhibition of Student Project Programme organized by KSCST at B.V. B College of Engineering & Technology, Hubli. We also bagged the Judges choice award at one of the project presentation events.

From the Journals of **Karthik Kamath B.**

Karthik Kamath B., hails from Bola village, the first letter of which is reflected in his name. But if you know him then you would say it stands for 'Best'. Karthik is a fun loving person, doing every work with smile on his face. He finds passion in cricket. Watching movies, playing cricket, badminton and *tabla* are few of his hobbies. Karthik is always determined to complete all the job he takes up in hand because he strongly believes in 'Work is Worship'.

Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp

Entrepreneurship is the route of exploring the opportunities in the market and arranging resources required to exploit these opportunities for a long term. It has an immense importance for accelerating economic growth both in developing and developed countries. The healthy combination of an individual's strength and available opportunities gives rise to an entrepreneur. He is the one who works for himself and thus plays a vital role in reflecting the self-made success story.

World Konkani Centre has always been known for the various opportunities it provides for its scholars. One such opportunity was the **Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp** organised by the **VKSSF** in association with the **Manipal University Technology Business Incubator (MUTBI)**. It was a 3 day camp from 19th to 21st September 2014 held at the **Innovation Centre, MIT, Manipal**.

Our team of **Ananth Kamath, Sourabha Bhat, Santosh Bhat, Prajwal Shet, Subramanya** and I got this amazing chance of taking part in the quest. We planned to attend it so that we could spend the weekend chilling out in Manipal, but the camp was one of its kind. Interactive sessions were held by resource persons who have had great experience in the field. It was so well planned and well brought out that we didn't feel the 'classroom atmosphere' there. We were given inputs on how to become an entrepreneur, the qualities and duties of a successful entrepreneur.

The first session was held by **Mr. Vasanth Kamath** and it was all about creating a financial excel sheet report on how a start-up plan would work. We learnt how to create a short excel report of the products to be sold. Creating an excel report is very essential in order to launch any product and we mastered this skill within few hours of the camp. After the lunch in the MIT cafeteria, we gathered for a session on "**Gaining Confidence in Corporate world** ". We had no knowledge in this particular field of business and were elated to know

about its pros and cons. The session ended with talks from some of the excelled student-entrepreneurs who practice their start-ups at the Innovation centre .It was really informative to listen to them .This in turn filled a lot of confidence in us.

We were accommodated at the hostel guest house of Manipal. This reminded us of the standard of amenities provided by Vishwa Konkani to us. In the evening, we explored the campus with our friend, **Shantheri Kamath**, a WKC scholar and a MITian, who was our guide at MIT. After having the tasty gol gappas and kachoris, we thought of heading back to the hostel. On the way, it started raining and it was really amazing for all of us because we didn't carry our umbrellas! After reaching the hostel we gathered in a room for chatting and had all the fun that we could.

The Next morning, we were back in the seminar halls. A senior lecturer from MIT, **Prof K.J Kamath** spoke on **"Challenges for an entrepreneur"**. He conducted quizzes and games which made us involve and interact to the fullest in the session. The inputs given by him are really priceless; entrepreneurship is not an easy job. He guided us, on how to take right decisions in life and also filled a lot of confidence in us, so we develop the vision of becoming a successful entrepreneur. The afternoon session was a tour to the Innovation centre which was one such great time we will never forget. We visited the 3-D printing labs, Android Gaming software lab, Artificial Pearl Manufacturing workshop and many more which was completely managed by the student entrepreneurs of Manipal. We were dumbfounded by their innovations and their plan to make their start-up plan a success.

In the evening, the gang took a trek towards the Manipal end point, where we clicked a lot of pictures and had a gala time. Later, we had our dinner at a restaurant nearby. Later that night, we had to prepare a presentation on our start up plan and present it the next day. This became a great challenge for all of us as we didn't know as what to do. We sat on our beds and had a brain storming

session. I was really happy to see wonderful ideas emerging .We were discussing a lot over various plans and finally arrived at a plan which was on Solar roadways which we named as **Tejasvi Technologies**. **Ananth** was our project head and under his excellent guidance we prepared a short presentation on the usage of hexagonal solar panels on roads. We also planned to introduce some goodies into the market as a part of the promotions and the marketing of our product. We formed a committee and each one worked on the various tasks assigned to them. Finally our start-up plan was all set to be presented.

On 21st, dressed in formal attires like company executives, we attended the final session on Start-up Plan presentation. We witnessed good plans of rest of the teams which made us nervous as well. Finally it was our turn to present our plan. We were asked a few questions which got us contemplating a lot on the plan. The mentors guided us, as to how we can implement this sort of technology in the society which can lead to lesser fuel energy consumption. We were happy to receive positive feedback on our efforts from the organizers. Our

sleepless efforts bore fruit and I felt WKC would be proud of us.

The camp ended with a valedictory talk and certificate distribution. We were all awarded with the participation certificates. The director of the Innovation Centre, Manipal shared with us, the experiences working with young entrepreneurs who later became pretty successful. We were excited when he announced that we would be provided with free Incubation space of 6 months at the Centre, for any start-up plan that we would like to sincerely work on. Finally, we gathered for a final showdown! The Group photo.

The 3 day camp was a boon to us, as it not only taught us a lot of new things, but also made us lot of new friends and that we had loads of fun. I wish, we would get such workshops and camps in the future also, which may nourish innovations and inventions. So my sincere request to all my fellow dear WKC'ians, would be that, whenever we come across such an opportunity from WKC or even from our colleges, don't let it go! Work on it with passion and a zeal to learn something new. It will surely illuminate our minds and hence open the doors of success in our lives.

Chaithanya Prabhu M, pursues Electronics and Communication Engineering at NMAMIT, Nitte. He loves photography and music, and makes sure there is a smile on everybody's face when he is around. His passions lie in long bike rides and walks into places unventured, here's a guy who finds parallel universes in things that go overlooked.

GRACE HOPPER HACKTHON

The Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC) of Women in Computing (India) is India's Largest Gathering of Women Technologists. It is produced by the Anita Borg Institute and presented in partnership with ACM India. During month of December, GHC organized a coding competition for tech enthusiastic women and a team of four, including me, was a part of this initiative.

The Hackathon gave us one month time span to conceptualize, design and implement whole idea that we came up with on start day of the event. We developed the *KaamHai* app, which was conceptualized bearing in mind the 'Tech for Good' theme of the GHC Hackathon. During the brainstorming session, we realized that blue collared workers would greatly benefit from a referral based platform since they usually get hired by word of mouth recommendations from known and trusted contacts. After having validated the need for a system to solve this problem and the salient effect of earning good karma, we designed KaamHai as a mobile referral app to help people in the unorganized sector to secure jobs. On the final presentation day, the short listed teams were given a surprise element that had to be coded on spot and presented. We faced all the challenges and mastered the Hackathon. This was one Successful Journey!

Pages from **Charitha Hegde's** diary

A Software Engineer in Intuit IDC, Charitha Hegde is the tech enthusiast. A happy-go-lucky girl and great inspiration for all women to follow their dreams.

A QUARTER FULL OF ENGINEERING LIFE

"Believe you can, and you are halfway there..."

Well, we all have heard so many quotes in our lives that could last for a lifetime! But this one was quite one of my favorite quotes. Not just because it makes our journey to success easier by telling just believing will get you halfway there, But because it actually enunciates the power of believing. I once believed I could be atone of nation's premier institutes studying a unique branch which will allow me to realize my dreams in a way I have imagined them to be and now here I am at B.V. Bhoomaraddi Institute Of Technology, Hubli, studying a unique branch Automation and Robotics which exists only in some of the institutional echelons of our nation. I also believe I can provide a different dimension to the meaning of automation and robotics,

artificial intelligence and astrophysics (my side business!) and I think I'm already half way there because of my college and my experience in it during the last year.

I expected to be the coolest, intelligent even after being the one who is mostly absent for classes (in short, I wanted to be Rancho of our B.V.B. college). Eventually I understood a thing that made the whole difference. Even if Rancho studied at our college, he would have failed due to attendance shortage! Anyway, I gave up on being Rancho and concentrated more on being Praveen Bhat. My first debut as one of the intellectuals came during second week of our college when I and two of my friends participated in a quiz competition. Here I learned

that a last moment deviation from the course could cost you the whole race. I failed to earn first prize in it but the lesson learnt was worth any prize. Also, we participated in our college cultural event "Spectrum" and gained the trust of our seniors as good singers among the freshers. We sang a song "Koi kahe kehta rahe" which made everyone go crazy. Even the DJ who was invited kissed us on the forehead and wished us all the best. It was one of my memorable event in first semester. We then gained a kind of free pass to every cultural event that was held in our college. Being in my college, I was also enlightened about my weaknesses of lack of skills and knowledge in programming, language skills and my short temperament. I started working hard in

programming at home and in classes. To control my temper and improve my language skills, I started interacting with many people. Also, we had Professional Communication class in which teachers taught us about life skills, as they used to call it. It helped me in building my self confidence level and standing up to my expectations. It was in November-13, when I had to face a bigger challenge. The one which was the rightful test of all the talents an engineer is supposed to have.

The one that would let me get close to the elites of my own branch, and would be a rightful test of all the talents we have got to be in engineering like intellect, imagination, knowledge, marketing and thriving hard for the desired outcome. This challenge was rightly named after its character to initiate engineers, *Aarambh*. Here we

were tested in Quiz, making an ad in 15 minutes (topic we received was Mosquito Spray) and finally a treasure hunt. We aced all of them. I learnt how to work effectively in team. Excitement, enthusiasm, competition were all summed up in the events I participated during my first semester.

The exams are and will be a devil's advocate to the students. In any engineering hostel or PG, late night supply of tea or coffee means a single thing; that the exams are close. Both the minors and the SEEs were a nightmare. But we managed to study the syllabus within time and got through it easily. It once again taught me the importance of time management. At the end the bliss came in form of VKSSF KSHAMATA camp at WKC in Mangalore, which not only rejuvenated us, but also helped us in using our holidays in a righteous way

.We learnt many things in the camp, which in future would play a crucial role.

In the next sem we had to study physics which is one of my favorites. I had also been to BITS, Pilani- Goa to participate in an event called *Quark* where we learnt to make a biped bot which was simulated to copy the angular movements of a human leg while walking. It was beyond words to explain how we felt when our creation started walking in front of us like a baby.

When the Scientific community of our country was celebrating National Science Day on 28th February, came my greatest victory of First year; The "Physics Master" competition, where in we had to present a paper on one of the three topics provided. If selected, we would have to present it in front of large audience and intellects. I

selected the topic "Indian Space Research: The Cryogenic Era". I faced a lot of problems while submitting the paper. I even thought that I cannot finish and submit it on time. But our teachers had taught me a better way; to not to give up and to push beyond your barriers. I kept believing and Voila! I was in one of my Physics lab sessions when our sir told me that I have been selected to present my paper. I was very happy. I had believed I can do it and I had actually done it. Now there was no stopping me and I felt charged with adrenaline on the day of presentation. I knew I had it in me. The crowd applauded twice for my presentation, I secured the first place and gained a permanent recognition in my college as "Physics Master". It was kind of trekking for me; because I like the physics the same way in which I like the gush of the wind over my head. It is difficult to get to the summit

of the hill; but once you reach it, the feeling of being on the top of everything is priceless. I had the same feeling. It was all because of teachers at VKSSF and in college. I'll always be grateful to them for their efforts. I am proud to say that I can really see farther; because I am standing on the shoulders of teachers and friends, the giants.

I was very much inspired by the movie Swades. And when I learnt that even we have to adopt the same kind of course called 'Social Innovation' in our second sem, I was very much curious and excited. We, in this course, visited a Kannada Medium school in a distant village near the borders of the Dharwaad and made a survey regarding the number of the female students in that school. It was wholly a different kind of experience for us. We are quite accustomed to old–school

method of teaching things in a confined classroom. But this innovative method of going to the masses, where we belong, rather than studying in classes to earn few grades had a great impact on us. For our final project we took the problem of spreading the health awareness in slum area. Due to the lack of funds and cooperation of Medical colleges, we could not conduct the health camp that we previously intended to. So we planned to convey the message to them in a more effective way: Street play. Our street play was based on the health issues and way in which they could be prevented. Even though the atmospheric conditions were not in our favor, the combined efforts of my team mates and the people of locality paid off and we had a very good overall response. Again, during the second semester, the exams were kind of tough, especially after me being involved in so many

activities. But, as usual bad time won't stay for long and the exam days too were "Gone with the Wind". And at the end, It was the second VKSSF camp which was like a cold shower; equally chilly and enjoying. This camp too added some tools to my language skills to make me an effective speaker. Both the camps were memorable and I had once-in-a-life-time moments in each of them. I also became friends with so many scholars.

Well, though these events are significant, there are other ways too in which a person can learn things. Like by being with good friends might teach a thing or two. Even being with bad guys we can learn what not to do. And also it is not compulsory that a bad person cannot have any good things to be learned. It is possible to learn from everything and everyone, only if we have the thirst to learn and train our mind to see good in everything. I have come to know many things in my first year. I believed I can and now I'm what I wanted to be. I'm hoping to learn many things in my second year too.

I would like to end this memoir with the extract of the poem Agneepath from Hariwansh Rai Bachchan, which specifies my journey during my first year and is also a reminder to me if I ever deviate from my original path; It was the same poem with which I ended my paper of "Physics Master":

Tu na thakega kabhi,
Tu na mudega kabhi,
Tu na thamega kabhi,
Kar shapath, Kar shapath,
Kar shapath,
Agneepath, Agneepath,
Agneepath

Praveen Bhat, studying Automation and Robotics Engineering in BVB Institute of Technology, is an amateur poet. He is very passionate about aero science and is one of the founding members of 'YoUniverse', an aero club in BVBIT.

MY FIVE DAYS JOURNEY WITH THE INDIAN NAVY

Sham No Varunah - May the lord of the Oceans be auspicious unto us. Indian Navy adopted the above slogan on January 26 1950, the day India was declared Republic. Today it is the fifth largest Navy in the world with more than 50,000 operating personnel, a large Operational fleet consisting of two aircraft carriers, 250 aircrafts etc. I was lucky to be one among the two from our college who got into the recruitment process of this armed forces giant.

The first hurdle of this process took place in Canara College of Engineering, Mangalore in the month of October. This round consisted of group discussion and personal interview. Out of the 8 participants, two of us got selected to the second round, popularly known as Service Selection Board (SSB). At that moment, I imagined myself wearing the White uniform. From that day, I prepared in full swing, by going through various YouTube videos and books concerned with the SSB. Fortunately, I even got some guidance from Cdr Suresh Nayak, an ex-Navy serviceman, now working as the administrator of our college.

I got a call letter from the Southern Navy Command to attend the SSB at Coimbatore on March 3 2014. SSB is a five days recruitment process, common for all the three armed forces, Indian Navy, Indian Armed Service and Indian Air Force. The interesting fact about it is that the entire expenses of each of the candidates in the SSB including Travel expenses, Food and accommodation is taken care by the Ministry Of Defense, Govt. of India. I landed in Coimbatore on second day of March 2014. The next day we had to report at 0600 hours at the Movement Control Office located at the Coimbatore railway station. We were taken in a bus to the naval Campus 'INS Agrani' and as soon as I entered this majestic campus, I was more thrilled to be a part of it. The discipline they follow, never ending dedication to our motherland and the respect they gain from the countrymen had deeply provoked me to join the armed forces. On the very first day, the candidates who reported late had to bear the brunt. At sharp 0700 hrs the process kicked off with document verification. It was followed by aptitude tests and Picture Perception Test (PPT). In this PPT, a dull and hazy picture will be shown for a minute after which we are given three minutes to identify the characters and a build a story around them. After this, a Group Discussion was carried out on the story written by us. As PPT carried 70% of the weightage in the first day qualifiers, I gave maximum attention to it. My heart was pounding when the results were being announced but somewhere in the corner of my mind I could hear my sixth sense whispering,' *beta man mein laddo phoota!!tu ismein select ho jaayega'*. After eliminating 100 candidates, 36 were selected for the next process. It was the happiest moment in my life when I was one among that 36 and got a chance to experience more of our Indian Armed forces.

We, 36, were asked to submit all the electronic gadgets like cellphones, Laptops etc., to the Naval Officers and were briefed with the rules and regulations within the campus. We were provided with dormitories called 'Barracks' for the next four days. I met people from different parts of India with different backgrounds as my

dorm mates. The importance of denying us from the usage of electronic gadgets was to get to know each other and form a team. This was very essential to survive in this process for the next four days. The next morning we had to wake up at 0400 hours and finish all our daily works by 0600 hours, the time at which the test used to start. Being a foodie, the breakfast menu, which included Boiled Eggs and a bunch of Grapes or oats was a little disappointing to me. That day we had psychometric tests which would get over by 1000 hrs. Some of us had to attend a personal interview that day conducted by senior Naval Officers. After 1400 hrs, we were allowed to go out of the campus. The first thing I did was a call to my parents and telling them that I was already a little homesick. Usage of public telephones reminded me of the song *Sandese Atein hain* from the movie *Border*. But since the other candidates were the only ones whom we could rely on, friendship began to grow within the 36 of us. The third day we had Group tasks that included Military Planning, Lecturing, Snake Race (fun filled yet important activity), crossing several hurdles with the team, group discussion etc. That evening we had been to BrookeFields Mall where we quenched our

hunger by getting into the KFC Restaurant. The next day we were busy with individual tasks where each individual had to complete 10 physical tasks within 3 minutes. It was a tedious job but still, I managed to pass 4 tasks within the given time frame. The last day was a decisive one wherein each candidate had to attend a conference conducted by 10-12 Naval Officers. It was the day when our fate in the Naval Force would be decided. The Conference was presided by the Campus Naval Chief who would ink yes or no for our continuation in the recruitment process. However, this time my sixth sense failed, with the result of only one getting selected for the Medical round.

It was a huge disappointment for me where my dream of getting into the armed forces was shattered like a broken glass. Yet, the experience, friendship and knowledge gained in these five days was the one which I would cherish all through my life. I boarded the train to Mangalore reciting these lines in my mind- ***Lehron se darkar nauka paar nahi hoti….Lehron se darkar nauka paar nahi hoti..Koshsih karne waalon ki kabhi haar nahi hoti… Koshsih karne waalon ki kabhi haar nahi hoti.***

Karthik Kamath G, Vice President of Vishwa Konkani Alumni Association (VAA) is the cheerful of all the lot. After graduating from Sahyadri College of Engineering, he is now working in Tech Mahindra. A self-motivated person and a big fan of Indian Army. He is interested in traveling, reading books (particularly of national interest) and singing. He is a hardcore foodie too.

TANTRAJNAN

CLOUD COMPUTING

THE NEW AGE OF COMPUTING

If you have paid any attention to tech news in the past few years, you have probably heard the term "cloud computing" at least once. It's a phrase many people are familiar with, even if they don't know exactly what it means. The technology that makes up cloud computing is something most internet users take advantage of on a regular basis, although they may not realize it.

With traditional desktop computing, we run copies of software programs on our own computer. The documents we create are stored on our own PC. Although documents can be accessed from other computers on the network, they can't be accessed by computers outside the network. This is PC-centric. With CC (cloud computing) the software programs one use isn't run from one's personal computer, but is rather stored on servers accessed via the internet. If a computer is crashed, the software is still available for others to use. Same goes for the documents one creates; they're stored on a collection of servers accessed via the internet. Anyone with the permission can not only access the documents, but can also edit and revise those documents in real time. Unlike traditional computing, this CC model isn't PC-centric, it's document-centric.

According to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, CC is a technology that offers remote access to a shared pool of computing resources such as storage, servers and applications that can be accessed and altered without much interaction with the service provider. In CC, the word "cloud" is used as a metaphor for "the Internet-based computing", where different services such as servers, storage and applications are delivered to an organization's computers and devices through internet. CC is comparable to grid computing, a type of computing where unused processing cycles of all computers in a network are used to solve problems too intensive for any stand-alone machine. Now, what is the meaning of cloud computing? It means pay per use. Users pay per use rather than fixed cost. You pay per hour rate for usage of resources on cloud rather than buying a server. If we are using CC we must know why? Because it is user centric, task centric, powerful, accessible, intelligent and programmable.

How is cloud architecture? Individuals (users) connect to the cloud from their own PC's or portable devices, over the internet. To these individual users, the cloud is seen as a single application, device or document. The hardware in the cloud (and the OS that manages the

hardware connections) is invisible. CC's common characteristics are massive scale, homogeneity, virtualization, low cost software, resilient computing, geographic distribution, service orientation, advanced security. Its essential characteristics are on demand self-service, Board Network Access, Rapid elasticity, Resource Pooling and measured service.

Now let us know the cloud service models. These allow users to run applications and store data online.

There are mainly 3 service models given as:

- Software as a Service (SaaS)
- Platform as a Service (Paas)
- Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS).

SaaS: It is defined as service-on-demand, where a provider will license software tailored infrastructure. In the SaaS model, cloud providers install and operate application software in the cloud and cloud users access the software from cloud clients. Cloud users do not manage the cloud infrastructure and the platform where the application runs. This eliminates the need to install and run the application on the cloud user's own computers, which simplifies maintenance and support.

Examples of SaaS include: Google Apps, Microsoft Office 365, and GT Nexus.

Pros and cons: Free or paid via subscription, accessible from any computer, facilities

collaborative working and generic applications not always suitable for business use.

PaaS: In the PaaS model, cloud providers deliver a computing platform typically including OS, programming language execution environment, database, and web server. Application developers can develop and run their software solutions on a cloud platform without the cost and complexity of buying and managing the underlying hardware and software layers.

Examples of PaaS include: AWS Elastic Beau stalk, Cloud Foundry, Engine Yard, Mendix , Open shift, Google App Engine, Windows Azure cloud services and orange scape.

Pros and cons: Rapid development at low cost, private or public deployment, limit developers to provider languages and tools.

IaaS: In the most basic cloud – service model, providers of IaaS offer computers, physical or virtual machines and other resources. IaaS clouds often offer additional resources such as a virtual-machine disk image library, raw (block) and file-based storage, firewalls, load balances, IP addresses, VLANs and software bundles. IaaS cloud providers supply these resources on-demand from their large pools installed in data centers. Examples of IaaS providers include: Amazon EC2, Azure Services Platform, Dyne DNS Google Compute Engine, HP cloud, and lease

web, oracle infrastructure as a service, Rack space cloud, Single Hop and Terre mark.

Cloud storage is one more term associated with CC. It means "the storage of data online in the cloud", wherein a company's data is stored in and accessible from multiple distributed and connected resources that comprise a cloud. Cloud storage can provide the benefits of greater accessibility and reliability; rapid deployment, strong protection for data backup, archival and disaster recovery purposes, and lower overall storage costs as a result of not having to purchase, manage and maintain expensive hardware. However, cloud storage does have the potential for security and compliance concerns.

Types of cloud storage are:

- Public cloud
- Private cloud
- Hybrid cloud

Public cloud: A form of cloud storage where the enterprise and storage service provider are separate and the data is stored outside of the enterprises and small businesses offload their data storage and archival/backup needs to a third-party cloud storage service provider, freeing them from the expensive costs of having to purchase, manage and maintain on premises storage hardware and software resources.

Private cloud: The phrase used to describe a CC platform that is implemented within the corporate firewall, under the control of IT department. A private cloud is designed to offer the same features and benefits of public cloud systems, but removes a number of objections to the CC model including control over enterprise and customer data, worries about security, and issues connected to regulatory compliance.

Hybrid cloud: A combination of public cloud storage and private cloud storage where some critical data resides in the enterprise's private cloud while other data is stored and accessible from a public cloud storage provider. Hybrid cloud storage combines the advantages of scalability, reliability, rapid deployment and potential cost savings of public cloud storage with the security and full control of private cloud storage.

The opportunities and challenges offered by CC are as follows:

1. The use of the cloud provides a number of opportunities: it enables services to be used without any understanding of their infrastructure. CC works using economics of scale.

2. It potentially lowers the outlay expense for startup companies, as they would no longer need to buy their own software or services.

3. Cost would be by on-demand pricing.

4. Vendors and service providers claim cost by establishing an ongoing revenue stream. Data

and services are stored remotely but accessible from "anywhere".

5. In parallel there has been backlash against CC: Use of CC means dependence on others and that could possibly limit flexibility and innovation.

6. The others are likely to become the bigger internet companies like Google and IBM, who may monopolize the market. Some argue that this use of supercomputers is a return to the time of mainframe computing that the PC was a reaction against.

7. Security could prove to be a big issue: There have been cases of users being locked out of accounts and losing access to data.

Advantages of CC:

1. Lower computer costs: Since applications run in cloud, not on desktop PC, your desktop PC doesn't need the processing power or hard disk space demanded by traditional desktop software.

2. Improved performance with few large programs logging your computer's memory, you will see better performance from your PC.

3. Reduced software costs.

4. Instant software updates when the application is web-based, updates happen automatically. When you access a web-based application, you get the latest version. 5. Improved document format compatibility-There are potentially no format incompatibilities when everyone is sharing documents and applications in the cloud.

6. Unlimited (virtual) storage capacity.

7. Increased data reliability – CC is a data safe computing platform.

8. Universal document access.

9. Latest version availability.

10. Easier group collaboration.

11. Device independence-you are no longer lettered to a single computer or network. Move to a portable device, and your applications and documents are still available.

Along with advantages, CC has disadvantages also.

1. It requires a constant internet-since you use internet to connect to both your applications and documents, if you don't have an internet connection you cannot access anything, even your own documents.

2. Does not work well with low-speed connections.

3. Features might be limited – many web – based applications are not as full-featured as their desktop-based applications.

4. Can be slow: If the cloud servers happen to be backed up at that moment, or if the internet is having a slow day, you would not get instant access from desktop applications.

5. Stored data might not be secure and it can be lost.

Thus, CC provides a super-computing power. This cloud of computers extends beyond a single company or enterprise. The applications and data served by cloud are available to broad group of users, cross-enterprise and cross-platform. However there are concerns that the mainstream adoption of cloud computing could cause many problems for users. Many new open source systems appearing that you can install and run on your local duster. Thanks to John McCarthy, who put forth the idea of using CC for public utility. ☺

Pooja Prabhu, Studies at NMAMIT, Nitte and is currently pursuing her second year of Computer Science and Engineering. A free spirit, a hardcore tech geek, she loves everything; music, dance and art!

ARTIST: VISHAL NAYAK

THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY

Sixth Sense Technology

Sixth Sense Technology integrates digital information into the physical world and its objects, making the entire world your computer. It can turn any surface into a touch-screen for computing, controlled by simple hand gestures. It is not a technology which is aimed at changing human habits but causing computers and other machines to adapt to human needs. It also supports multi user and multi touch provisions. Sixth Sense device is a mini-projector coupled with a camera and a cell phone-which acts as the computer and your connection to the Cloud, all the information stored on the web. The current prototype costs around $350. The Sixth Sense prototype is used to implement several applications that have shown the usefulness, viability and flexibility of the system
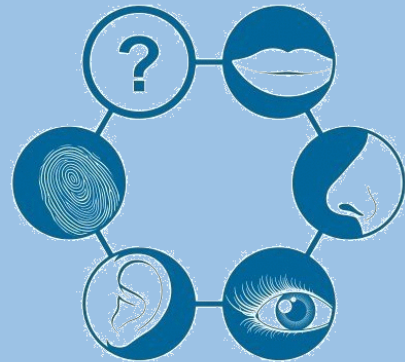
'Sixth Sense' is a wearable gesture interface that augments the physical world around us with digital information and lets us use natural hand gestures to interact with that information the hardware components are coupled in a pendant like mobile wearable device. The Sixth Sense prototype is comprised of a pocket projector, a mirror, colored marker and a camera. The camera, mirror and projector are connected wirelessly to a blue tooth smart phone device that can easily fit into the user's pocket. Software then processes the data that is collected by the capturing device and produces analysis. The software that is used in sixth sense device is open source type Gesture Recognition .It is a technology which is aimed at interpreting human gestures with the help of mathematical algorithms. Gesture recognition technique basically focuses on the emotion recognition from the face and hand gesture recognition. Gender recognition technique enables humans to interact with computers in a more direct way without using any external interfacing devices. It can provide a much better alternative to text user interfaces and graphical user interface which requires the need of a keyboard or mouse to interact with the computer. An interface which solely depends on the gestures requires precise hand pose tracking. In the early versions of gesture recognition process special type of hand gloves which provide information about hand position orientation and flux of the fingers. In the Sixth Sense devices colored bands are used for this purpose. Once hand pose has been captured the gestures can be recognized using different techniques. Neural network approaches or statistical templates are the commonly used techniques used for the recognition purposes. This technique has a high accuracy usually showing accuracy of more than 95%. Time dependent neural network will also be used for real time recognition of the gestures.

APPLICATION

The sixth sense technology finds a lot of application in the modern world. The sixth sense devices bridge the gap by bringing the digital world into the real world and in that process allowing the users to interact with the information without the help of any machine interfaces. Prototypes of the sixth sense device have demonstrated viability, usefulness and flexibility of this new technology. According to the words of its developers the extent of use of this new device is only limited by the imagination of human beings. The sixth sense recognizes the objects around us and displays the information relating to those objects in a real time environment. The sixth sense technology allows the user to interact the information through hand gestures. This is a quiet efficient way compared to the text and graphic based user interface. It has the potential to form the transparent user interface for accessing the information around us.

Brain Fingerprinting

In the field of criminology, a new lie detector has been developed in the United States of America. This is called "brain fingerprinting". This invention is supposed to be the best lie detector available as on date and is said to detect even smooth criminals who pass the polygraph test (the conventional lie detector test) with ease. The new method employs brain waves, which are useful in detecting whether the person subjected to the test, remembers finer details of the crime. Even if the person willingly suppresses the necessary information, the brain wave is sure to trap him, according to the experts, who are very excited about the new kid on the block.

Brain fingerprinting is based on finding that the brain generates a unique brain wave pattern when a person encounters a familiar stimulus .Use of functional magnetic resonance imaging in lie detection derives from studies suggesting that persons asked to lie show different patterns of brain activity than they do when being truthful. Issues related to the use of such evidence in courts are discussed. The author concludes that neither approach is currently supported by enough data regarding its accuracy in detecting deception to warrant use in court.

Brain Fingerprinting is designed to determine whether an individual recognizes specific information related to an event or activity by measuring electrical brain wave responses to words, phrases, or pictures presented on a computer screen. The technique can be applied only in situations where investigators have a sufficient amount of specific information about an event or activity that would be known only to the perpetrator and investigator. In this respect, Brain Fingerprinting is considered a type of Guilty Knowledge Test, where the "guilty" party is expected to react strongly to the relevant detail of the event of activity.

Existing (polygraph) procedures for assessing the validity of a suspect's "guilty" knowledge rely on measurement of autonomic arousal (e.g., palm sweating and heart rate), while Brain Fingerprinting measures electrical brain activity via a fitted headband containing special sensors. Brain Fingerprinting is said to be more accurate in detecting "guilty" knowledge distinct from the false positives of traditional polygraph methods, but this is hotly disputed by specialized researchers.

Technique:

The person to be tested wears a special headband with electronic sensors that measure the electroencephalography from several locations on the scalp. In order to calibrate the brain fingerprinting system, the tester is presented with a series of irrelevant stimuli, words, and pictures, and a series of relevant stimuli, words, and pictures. The test subject's brain response to these two different types of stimuli allow the tester to determine if the measured brain responses to test stimuli, called probes, are more similar to the relevant or irrelevant responses.

The technique uses the well-known fact that an electrical signal known as P300 is emitted from an individual's brain approximately 300 milliseconds after it is confronted with a stimulus of special

significance. The novel interpretation in brain fingerprinting is to look for P300 as response to stimuli related to the crime in question e.g., a murder weapon or a victim's face.

Brain fingerprinting uses cognitive brain responses. Brain fingerprinting does not depend on the emotions of the subject, nor is it affected by emotional responses. Brain fingerprinting is fundamentally different from the polygraph (lie-detector), which measures emotion-based physiological signals such as heart rate, sweating, and blood pressure. Also, unlike polygraph testing, it does not attempt to determine whether or not the subject is lying or telling the truth

Divya Kamath, a final year engineering student from NMAMIT, Nitte, follows the words, "Where there is a will, there is a way". She says, "A person can be successful and achieve great things in his life only if he believes in himself and also believes that the path he has chosen will lead him to his destiny". She likes travelling and never misses an opportunity to learn new things from people and surroundings. She also believes in "LIVE AND LET LIVE"- Life is so beautiful when you live it for your own rather than living it for anybody else.


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TO ABSENT BROTHERS

An Irishman walks into a bar in Dublin, orders three pints of Guinness and sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finished all three, he comes back to the bar and orders three more. The bartender says to him, 'You know, a pint goes flat after I draw it; it would taste better if you bought one at a time.' The Irishman replies, 'Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in America, the other in Australia, and I'm here in Dublin. When we all left home, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days we all drank together'. The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there. The Irishman becomes a regular in the bar and always drinks the same way; he orders three pints and drinks the three pints by taking drinks from each of them in turn. One day, he comes in and orders two pints. All the other regulars in the bar notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, 'I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your great loss.' The Irishman looks confused for a moment, then a lights dawns in his eye and he laughs. 'Oh, no, ' he says, 'Everyone is fine. I've just quit drinking'.

(COLLECTED BY: DAISY MIRANDA)

ANSWER FOR BOX PUZZLE:
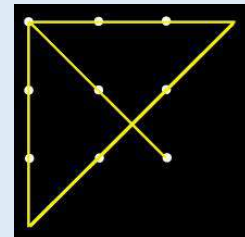
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