



# Insights Club Newsletter

*Surrounded by Data, Starved for Insights!*

ISSUE 2 | SEPTEMBER 2022



VP MENON

## THE UNSUNG ARCHITECT OF MODERN INDIA



The world saw the birth of a nation called India on the late-night of the 14th of August 1947, breaking free from the shackles of over 200 years of British rule. While an independent India was just around the corner, the mammoth task of uniting 500+princely states into a single united republic still seemed far-fetched. The abrupt transfer of power from the crown to the newly independent dominions of India and Pakistan just added more fuel to this fire. However, it is the absolute desperate times like these when

heroes emerge, and the hero who arose to fix this virtually unsolvable conundrum was Rao Bahadur, V.P Menon.

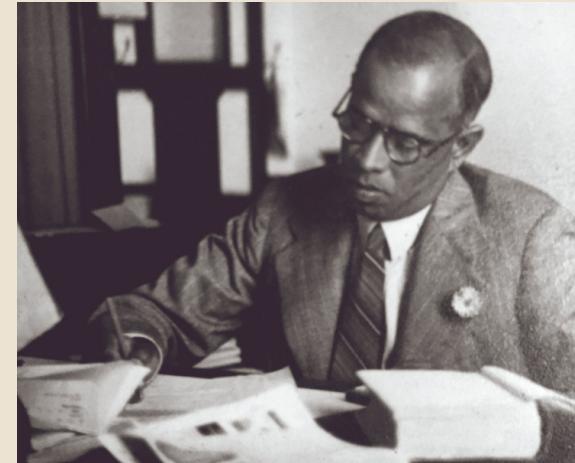
Today we all remember Sardar Vallabhai Patel as the Iron man of India, who through his relentless efforts and incredible vision succeeded in uniting the divided princely states into the modern-day nation of India but, behind the scenes were also the painstaking efforts of a bureaucrat that largely remained unnoticed to date.

V.P Menon, a civil servant hailing from Kerala, who served the British government in India for over 30 years and played a significant role in drafting the instrument of transfer of power from the British to independent India, serving in his capacity as the political advisor to the last Viceroy of India, Lord Mountbatten. After the freedom of India, he had already planned to take retirement. However, his insightfulness and vision caught the eye of Sardar Patel, the First Home Minister of India in the Interim govt., who at that time was overseeing the political integration of the princely states into the Union of India. This prompted Patel to pursue Menon to become his secretary.

Appointment of Menon as the secretary of the Ministry of the States made him responsible for the political integration of over 565 princely states that encompassed a third of India's land mass and over 40 % of the Indian population, most of whose rulers were incompetent and extravagant. Gaining Patel's trust and leadership, who greatly admired Menon's political diplomacy and ingenuity, he assisted Patel in drafting the sole document for the instrument of accession with India.

It had to be signed by the princely rulers, relinquishing control of their defence, foreign affairs, and communications to the Union government. Acting as the envoy of the Union Government, on behalf of the Ministry of States, he handled the tedious task of striking deals with these princely states and convincing these hundreds of rulers to accede to accession with India. He faced peculiar challenges where states like Kashmir, Hyderabad, and Junagarh denied cooperation, whereas Travancore chose no sides while others discussed plans to form their union. He used all means to lure them, including financial inducements and also some stern methods.

When Kashmir was under attack by Pakistan, the Union Government assured military intervention in J&K only after the ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, agreed to sign the instrument of accession with India. Wasting no time, Menon joined in to obtain the accession of Kashmir into India. Likewise, he also worked with Patel assisting him with military action to force the hostile states of Junagadh and Hyderabad into colluding with India.



Since then, the unique case of Kashmir has been a bone of contention in our relations with our neighbour Pakistan. However, Menon's exemplary diplomatic skills and strategy prevented such long-term conflicts from surfacing and destroying the social fabric of the united India that we see today. "V.P. Menon: The Unsung Architect of Modern India", written by his great-granddaughter, Narayani Basu, documents the contributions and sacrifices of VP Menon. As the title rightly suggests, he was the unsung hero who once even denied the Knighthood from the British government, owing his allegiance to independent India. He devoted himself to the cause of national integration, painstakingly working with Patel in structuring our modern India.

As we come together to celebrate 75 years of our independence under the tricolour flag, we realise that we shall forever be indebted to his remarkable contributions that accomplished the enormous task of bringing together disintegrated pieces of land and creating a united India. His tact, brilliance, and ethics shall continue to inspire the youth of India.



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## BIRTH OF INDIA'S FREEDOM

NATION WAKES TO  
NEW LIFE

Mr. Nehru Calls For Big  
Effort From People

"INCESSANT STRIVING  
TASK OF FUTURE"

Assembly Members Take  
Solemn Pledge

WILD SCENES OF JUBILATION  
IN DELHI



Pandit Nehru  
NEW CABINET  
OF INDIA

STATE VISIT TO KARACHI



Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Mountbatten speaking to Service representatives at the Mauripur Airport on their arrival

FRENZIED ENTHUSIASM  
IN BOMBAY

Crowds In Festive Mood

THE national flag was hoisted over the 74-year-old  
Bombay Civil Secretariat at midnight when the citizens  
of Bombay greeted the dawn of independence with solemn  
invocation and frenzied rejoicing.

"Citizens of free India—you  
are now free"—said the Prime  
Minister, Mr. B. G. Kher, in  
raising the flag at the midnight  
ceremony, which was attended  
by all Ministers and depart-  
mental heads and employees of  
the Bombay Government.

His declaration was greeted with  
cheers from the thousands who  
gathered at the approaches to the  
Secretariat.

Several police guard kept order

with the greatest difficulty till the

conclusion of the ceremony when

they lost control and hundreds

swarmed through the Building in

"MAY BOMBAY  
PROSPER"

Governor's Message

GOOD WISHES TO  
FREE INDIA

Sir John Colville, Governor of

## INDIA @ 75

At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation long suppressed finds utterance. The service of India means service to millions who suffer. It means ending poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. These are the statements delivered by the first prime minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in his historical speech tryst with destiny on midnight of 14th August 1947, in the Indian constituent assembly. These words are the most concise way to summarise the aim and ideas with which the foundation of this nation stands strong.

From being an impoverished British colony 80 years back to becoming the IT hub of the world today, the Indian landscape has come a long way.

Taking 15th August 1947 as our frame of reference, we find several fields like Science and Technology, economy, and human development where India has shown remarkable progress. The responsibility of taking a country to its farthest heights lies with the youth who upscale it on the foundations laid by their predecessors. India is in no way perfect, it is yet to overcome innumerable problems like corruption, terrorism and sectarianism, but at the same time, Indian democracy has delivered! India has turned itself into the world's largest talent pool, a space power, military power and much more.

As India celebrates its past achievements on the occasion of its 75th independence, it also has a clear vision of its future which proudly describe India @75.





# INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT UNIVERSITY

On 15th August 2022, our college celebrated the 75th Anniversary of India's independence since this day marks the end of British Rule in our country. The event embarked with the arrival of our guest of honour- Lt. General ML Naidu, former vice chief of the army.

Everyone was filled with the "Feeling of Patriotism" at the "Flag hoisting ceremony". After the hoisting ceremony, the National Anthem filled the attendees with pride for the nation. The parade by NCC cadets drew the attention of the attendees and reminded them of the theme "Nation First, Always First".

Lt. General ML Naidu then participated in the tree plantation drive and urged everyone to plant a tree and celebrate this joyous occasion that makes every Indian proud. The auditorium was full of students cheering with a feeling of patriotism as the time drew near for the highlight. The Registrar, honorable VC, and our chief guest Lt. General ML Naidu addressed the student gathering. The presentation of patriotic speech and beautiful poetry by Paras Jain sir and a patriotic song performance by music club students followed.

Two enthusiastic dance performances filled the

auditorium with enthusiasm and zeal. Several sports tournaments like- Badminton tournament, table tennis, volleyball, and basketball for boys and girls followed. Prize ceremony for the winners and runner-up students followed.

Memento presentation to our chief guest Lt. General ML Naidu, and closing remarks by DSW drew the final curtains to an eventful day.



# CAMPUS AFFAIRS



## NSS PLANTATION EVENT

On 4th August 2022, VIT Bhopal organized the tree plantation program on the university premises by coordinating with the NSS club. The event was presided over by Dr Pradyumna Yadav, registrar of VIT Bhopal university, and Dr Vinod Bhatt, Coordinator of the NSS club.

Dr George C. Chandran J (DSW), Dr Saravanan, Dr Paras Jain (ASS. Academic Dean), Dr Bala Guru S (Mechanical Dean), Dr Manisha Jain, and Dr Lakshmi D (Assi. Director, CITL) graced the event to make it successful.

## DANCE WORKSHOP

VIT Bhopal University organized an enigmatic dance workshop on 26th August 2022 with great zeal and enthusiasm. Held in the college auditorium—this event allowed the students to learn more about this art form from the renowned choreographer and dancer, Mr Harsh Bhagchandani, who is also the founder of the Feel The Vibes Studio.

It was a one-day offline event in which 150 people participated with great enthusiasm and zest. The workshop started with some basics about freestyle dancing by Rakesh sir, followed by a warm-up session. Then Harsh Bhagchandani sir taught students an astounding footwork routine. The workshop lasted about four hours, and students learned one-on-one from experienced professionals. And at last, this exceptional workshop concluded with an enlightening questions-and-answers session, where Harsh sir also talked about his experiences.



National Service Scheme (NSS) Club of VIT Bhopal prides itself on conducting various community service activities and programs in the past. The NSS aims to provide hands-on experience to young students in delivering community service.

# EVENTS AND WEBINARS

## SIH

The results of the Grand Finale of Smart Hackathon 2022, the world's biggest open innovation model aimed to inculcate the culture of product innovation and problem-solving among students, were recently announced.

About 139 participants from 24 teams all across the country fought for glory over two days. Nine teams from VIT Bhopal University qualified for the Grand finale, where they impressed all the attendees with their skillset. Kudos to our champs! VIT Bhopal has yet again proved its excellence through the hands of our wonderful & super talented students. This admirable achievement has caused a stir, and all of us can't help but feel proud and motivated.



## TALENT HUNT

VIT Bhopal organized a Talent hunt on 3rd August 2022 in the auditorium to give students a stage to showcase their talents to motivate them to nurture their skills. It had categories like Music and Dance, where we witnessed some awe-inspiring performances. The judges for the event were Dr Manisha Jain, Dr R Rakesh, and Dr Ajay Kumar. In the music category Devyanshu Gagneja, Sarthak Shrivastava, and Stiena Wilson Anthony won the first, second, and third places, respectively. While Akshar Vyas, Suhani Panda, and Mudrika Sharma won first, second, and third place in the dance category.

# EVENTS AND WEBINARS

## NUKKAD NATAK

"PUKAAR", organized by the Ekfraseis Dramatics Society, on the 8th of August, near Underbelly, showcased the budding actors of our university. How Mental Health problems are impacting students and pushing them towards toxicity like- drug addiction and suicidal thoughts was the theme of the first act.

The second drama, Sangharsh, clearly stated that violence is wrong against both women and men. The next drama, AZAADI, had enough potential to remind us of the struggles our forefathers faced for the independence of India, and we should cherish this boon of freedom. The act stuck like thunder on the youth, who were beginning to forget the importance of a Free India.

The event closed with AZAADI being the star of the day, as per the decision made by the judges, Dr Sheetal Sharma, Dr Rajeev Saxena, and Dr Saurav Prasad.



## MICROSOFT CLUB INAUGURATION

The Microsoft Technical Club opened its doors on the 9th of August 2022- with the club inauguration ceremony. From a pool of over 150 applicants, Pranav Pore, Rishita Yadav, and Ishita Ahuja hosted the event with enigmatic energy. Anuj Singh Negi and Abhijeet were the chief guests and speakers for the event.

Registrar of VIT Bhopal, Dr Pradyumna Yadav, Director of Student Welfare, Dr J George C Chandran, and Dean of School of Computing Science and Engineering (SCSE), Dr S Poonkuntran, inspired the students with their words. The audience interacted with the esteemed guests who talked about their experiences working for Microsoft. The guests also had a profound and interactive Q&A session with all the students.

# EVENTS AND WEBINARS

## HEALTH-O-TECH

The 'Health-o-tech' club was inaugurated on the 9th of August 2022, at 3 PM in the Auditorium. The club focuses on revolutionizing "healthcare incorporating technologies" by conducting expert webinars, events, and much more. The event was honoured by the presence of Dr Sung Hoon Chung, Assistant Professor of Systems Science and Industrial Engineering at the State University of New York at Binghamton. The event inauguration started with zeal and enthusiasm, with the lighting of the lamp initiated by the chief guest, Dr Sung Hoon Chung, and respected faculty coordinators. The chief guest, Dr Sung Hoon Chung, was called upon to address the gathering and share his words of wisdom. Lastly, the event concluded with an inspiring message from the Dean of SCSE and the Director of Student Welfare.



## IOT CLUB EVENT

The IoT club of VIT Bhopal organized a workshop on August 25th 2022, to provide an opportunity to learn how to use Esp32 for developing Smart Home Automation with the two best orators in their field, "Dr Ankur Jain" and "Dr Dheeresh Soni". It was a long practical event from 11.45 am to 3.45 pm at the Auditorium of VIT Bhopal.

The workshop started by lighting a lamp as an offering to the lord and introducing the chief guests "Dr S Poonkuntran" and "Dr Lakshmi D" and proceeded with the lecturers' briefing about the workshop, which gave a great opportunity to the students present to learn more about IoT and get ideas on how they can make their home contemporary and modern by learning about different microprocessors and the interior of Esp32.

The students received certificates of participation at the end of the workshop.



# OBITUARY



## DR. MANICKAVASAGAM

With deep sorrow, we inform you all about the sad demise of Dr Manickavasagam, Assistant professor of VIT Bhopal. He was a great teacher who used to motivate us through his words. He left for his heavenly abode on 10th August 2022 and will always be present in our hearts. May god bless his soul.

## NAITIK ANAND

With a heavy heart, we regret to inform you about the demise of Naitik Anand(21MEI10017), School of Computing Science & Engineering, VIT Bhopal University, on 17 August 2022. May god bless peace to his soul and courage to the bereaved family.

