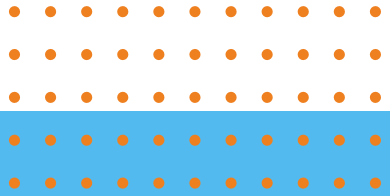


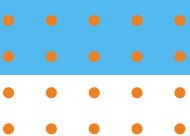


Be Frank Review Meet - 8th March 2025

Index



- Editor's Desk
- Major Events
- Increasing Outreach
- Donor Connect
- Honours & Recognition
- Alumni Corner
- VSM in Numbers



Dear All,

Greetings from Vidyadaan Sahayyak Mandal (VSM). We have pleasure to connect with you once again through our Quarterly Newsletter "VSM Connect".

In this 34th issue of April 2025, we have covered the following:

- Major events at VSM during the past quarter
- Visit to Educational Institutes to increase our outreach
- Donor Connect - Interaction with our Donors to build their Trust & Confidence
- Honours and Recognitions of VSM students
- Success stories of two students who fought tremendous hurdles in their quest for education

We look forward to your continued support hitherto and also critical comments to the newsletter to make us achieve our goal of "Nation Building through Mentoring".

With Warm Regards,



Mehfil 2025 - Welcoming New Year

MEHFIL - An online event that celebrated emotions, a spectrum of poems and songs that captivates, transcends and liberates was held on 1st January 2025.

VSM students and even some KPs presented online their Skills, Hobbies and Hidden Talents with passion across the fields of Arts & Creativity, Photography & Nature, Handicrafts & Drawings, Dance, Poetry and Music.

The program brought together students, KPs and volunteers to celebrate the talents of artists, musicians, singers, poets, photographers and creators. It marked the start of the New Year with enthusiasm, creativity and joy.

Healing Hands, Bright Future: VSM OTPT Team Celebrates OTPT Day 2024

The VSM OTPT Team marked Occupational Therapy and Physio Therapy (OTPT) Day with an inspiring celebration on 24th November 2024 at Vishranti Bungalow, Thane. The event began on a harmonious note with the VSM Geet, beautifully sung by Rutuja Salunke, followed by a heartfelt welcome by a VSM alumnus. Graced by the presence of eminent professionals from OTPT field, the gathering

was further enriched as Dr. Shailaja, Head of the OTPT CG Team, provided an insightful overview of VSM's initiatives and contributions.



A workshop under progress under supervision of Dr Sriharsh Jahagirdar,

The day was filled with thought-provoking sessions led by esteemed professionals. Dr. Jaimala Shetye, former Professor of Physiotherapy at Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, delivered an enlightening lecture on maintaining cardiac and respiratory hygiene for a healthy lifestyle. Dr. Rashmi Kulkarni, Founder of Rashmi's Physiotherapy Clinic, highlighted the importance of preventing low back pain, while Dr. Shilpshree Palsule, Assistant Professor in Occupational Therapy at



Alumni of OTPT team with Geeta Shah and Dr Shailaja Jaywant; OTPT Team Lead

Seth GS Medical College, discussed rehabilitation and intervention strategies for neck pain. Dr. Shriharsh Jahagirdar, Assistant Professor at TN Medical College & BYL Nair Hospital, guided students on effective communication skills in their respective fields.

After a refreshing lunch break, VSM students from Mumbai and Nagpur captivated the audience with a skit on their journey in Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.

VSM alumni Dr. Kajol and Dr. Dipali shed light on the vast scope of these professions, followed by an engaging brain teaser session by Dr. Kajol.



Group Photo of OTPT Day workshop

The celebration concluded with an interactive session and a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dr. Kajol, leaving attendees inspired and motivated.

VSM Engineering Hackathon - An Immersive Experience

In line with the VSM Mission of "Empowered Students, Empowered Nation," the VSM Engineering Career Guidance Team organized a 24-hour in-person hackathon on 8th and 9th February 2025 in Pune. With 40 students from engineering colleges from Amravati, Chandrapur, Sangli, Mumbai, Pune, the event was a thrilling opportunity to apply knowledge, collaborate, and tackle real-world problems.



Hackathon Event Leads

Students travelled together to Shirwal by bus, building camaraderie before diving into intense problem-solving. Five teams, pre-assigned balanced skill sets, selected challenges like Smart Personal Finance Tracker, Alumni Association Platform, and Hospital Queue & Inventory Management System. Fueled by passion, they worked through the night, brainstorming, debugging, and refining their solutions, supported by VSM alumni mentors.

Apart from coding, the event featured a lively fun session with games, quizzes, poetry, and music, showcasing students' talents. The closing ceremony saw teams presenting their projects to industry expert judges, receiving valuable feedback and recognition.

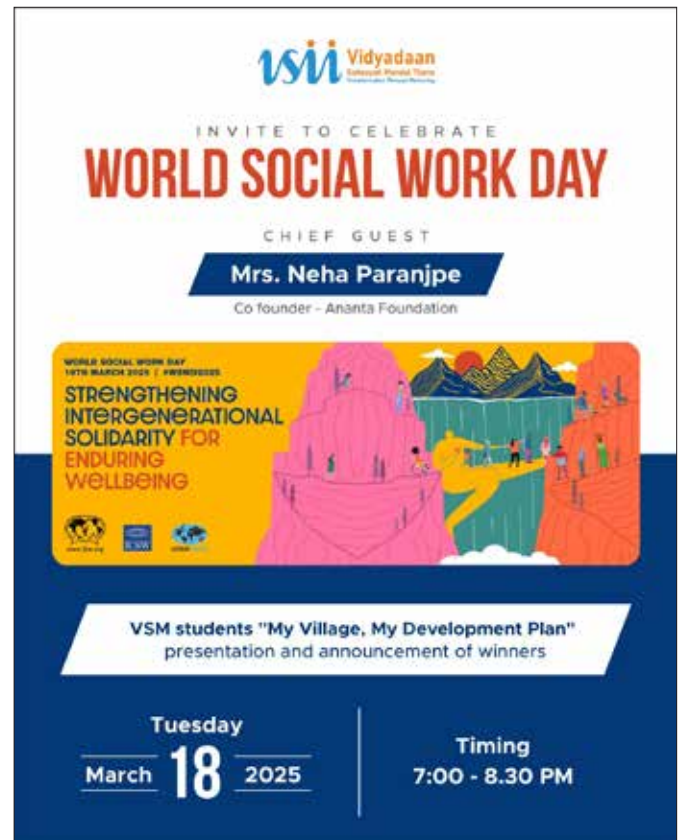
The hackathon's overwhelming success led to the decision to make it an annual event, reinforcing VSM's commitment to fostering innovation and teamwork. A huge thanks to the Uday Gujar Foundation for their generous support in making this an unforgettable experience!

World Social Work Day 2025

The Social Work team of Vidyadaan Sahayyak Mandal (VSM) celebrated World Social Work Day 2025 on March 18th as an online event. The theme, "Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing", emphasized the importance of cross-generational respect, environmental sustainability and shared wisdom for a better future.

The event was anchored by Ritesh Mane, with support from Sakshi Patil, Prasad Kapse, and Neha Dahat. Chief Guest Ms. Neha Paranjape, Co-founder of Ananta Foundation, shared her experiences in selecting and monitoring CSR projects. She emphasized that commitment and sensitivity toward social causes are more important than professional expertise.

She concluded with Emerson's poem, The Mountain and the Squirrel, highlighting the value of individual contributions.



World Social Work Day

Ms. Paranjape also launched an e-booklet, "Village Development as I See It!!" featuring presentations by 15 VSM social work students. In total, 45 students prepared presentations on "My Village Development Plan", identifying key issues in their villages and proposing action plans.

The top three winners, judged by Ms. Vandana Chakraborty, ex Pro Vice Chancellor of SNDT University Pune, were:

1. Sanskruti Dalvi (ISDM) – Waste Management Initiative at Diksal Village, Satara
2. Naman Minj (TISS Mumbai) – Wage Challenges of Tea Garden Workers
3. Arshiya Pathan (Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai) – Youth Development Plan for Ganori Village, Yavatmal

Ms. Geeta Shah, VSM Trustee and Management Committee Member, concluded the event, appreciating the students' efforts and reinforcing VSM's vision: "Empowered Student, Empowered Nation."

Strategic Visioning Workshop: VSM @ 2030

Accelerating impact through non-linear growth initiatives

On March 2, 2025, leaders of VSM, and other champions of its cause, participated in a strategic visioning workshop to chart out the organisation's future trajectory and answer key questions related to growth & impact acceleration. Purpose was to collaboratively shape VSM's roadmap for 2030 by defining its theory of change, key initiatives, target demographics, vision, organizational requirements, and funding implications.

Workshop was conducted by Rohan Agarwalla, Manager, Bridgespan, Mumbai and an expert in the field of strategic planning, fundraising for NGOs etc.



Vision @2030

It was culmination of efforts of Sanket Kale 2007 batch Indian Revenue Service officer & VSM volunteer/mentor & present Commissioner of Customs. Dr. Archana Damle, VSM volunteer & Medical & Science Team member coordinated the workshop proceedings.

VSM Celebrates Science Day with "Bytes meet Beakers"

Science Career Guidance Team celebrated Science Day on 2nd February 2025, with the theme "Bytes meet Beakers" to elaborate integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in various fields of science.

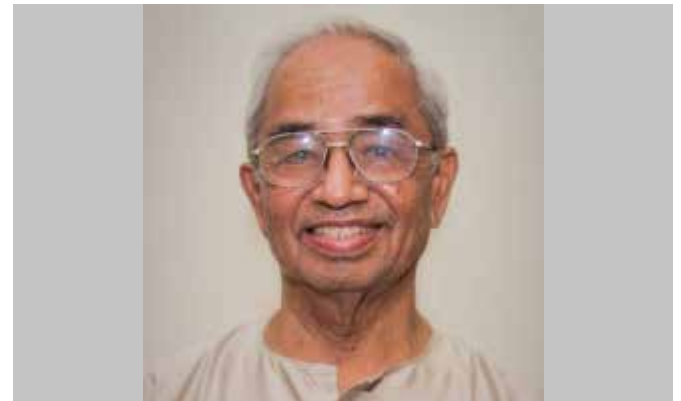


Session was conducted by Pharma Career Team Lead & VSM alumni Vivek Nimkar. Advantages & disadvantages of AI, its misuse, threat and future advancements were well explained by our Science students - Agriculture (Vaishnavi), Biotechnology (Pralhad), Environmental Science (Suraj), Paint Industry (Kiran) and Pharma (Gayatri). More than 100 students & KPS attended this Event.

Remembering Bhau on his Birthday

On December 29, 2024, VSM celebrated the birth anniversary of Mr. Shriram Krishnaji Nanivadekar, fondly known as Bhau, as 'Karyakarta Palak Din'. Bhau, one of the founding members of VSM, was a guiding light of righteousness and rationality, whose influence continues even after his untimely passing. The event featured a special talk by two Karyakarta Palaks (KPs) - Anand Sapate and Dr. Amit Karkare. Anand, shared his personal journey as a former student mentored by Bhau. He fondly recalled the values instilled

in him - punctuality, meticulous note-taking, self-sufficiency, discipline, and warmth. Anand also presented a heartfelt poem that resonated deeply with the audience.



Remembering Bhau on his Birthday

Dr. Amit Karkare, Volunteer explored the concept of 'Purushartha' illustrating how Bhau embodied the four pillars of human life: Dharma, Artha, Kaam & Moksha.

Be Frank Review Meeting

Team "Be Frank" held its review meet at Flim City Goregaon on 8th and 9th March 2025. Around 50+ students from Be Frank Team from Mumbai and other centres from Maharashtra took part in the review meet.

"Be Frank" has been a flagship Brand of VSM - a Unique programme run "By the students and for the students" basically aimed at liberating them of all inhibitions from expressing their inner thoughts and behaviour and helping them to communicate better, making them extrovert and improve their overall personality.

Visit to GMC Alibaug

A team from VSM had pleasure to meet GMC Alibaug medical students viz. Pooja Kendre, Lubaba Sheikh, Nikita Wanare & Manish Yadav on 19th January 2025, Sunday during Alibaug Vedh.

Post Vedh, we had a visit at our volunteer Smita tai Bhasghare's home and had a good time at her farm along with students. Could understand the stories of Manish, Lubaba,



Visit to GMC Alibaug

We could also meet Dr. Rupali Khedu, Dermatologist at GMC Alibaug, who had referred deserving students to VSM earlier. She was very happy to know about VSM and its work and has promised to extend all her support to VSM.

Visit to Sinhgad Institute Lonavala Education Trust Colleges



Geetatai's visit to Lonavala Education Trust group of Colleges



Geetatai with Principal Shri S.D.Babar during Visit to Sinhgad Institute of Technology, Lonavala

Geetatai's visit to Deepak Gawde's house at Madha, Dist Solapur



Geetatai's house visit to Deepak Gawde's home at Madha, Dist Solapur

Visit by Myer Chemicals - Our CSR Partners



Visit of Mr Prajwal of Myer Chemicals our CSR Partners to Khopat office

Visit to Ramesh Kacholia - Valued Donor



Geetata With HNW Donor Mr Ramesh Kacholia and VSM Trustee Mr Arunbhai Sheth

Visit by SBI SG Group - Presentation of Laptops and Smart Phones

SBI SG MD & CEO - Mrigank Jain and CFO Prakash Kumar distributed 15 laptops and 10 smart phones to VSM students at VSM Thane office on 28 February 2025



Donation of Laptops to VSM students by SBISG team

Visit by IIT, Prayog to Khopat Office on 7th January 2025

A team from Prayog, IIT Mumbai visited VSM office on 7th January 2025. The visit was intended to discuss VSM's proposal of conducting a study of Impact Assessment of VSM's model of work.



Visit by IIT, Prayog to Khopat Office on 7th January 2025

Visit by Dedicated Donor Rishabh Mathur from USA to office on 10th January 2025



Visit to Khopat office on 10th January 2025 of Mr Rishabh Mathur from California USA

Visit on 31st Dec 2024 of Dedicated Donor Mr Hrishikesh Deshkulkarni & his wife to Khopat office



Visit on 31st Dec 2024 of Dedicated Donor Mr Hrishikesh Deshkulkarni & his wife to Khopat office

Geeta Shah, VSM Trustee visiting our consistent Donor Shapoorji Palonji and Sons



Geeta Shah visiting Shapoorji Palonji and Sons



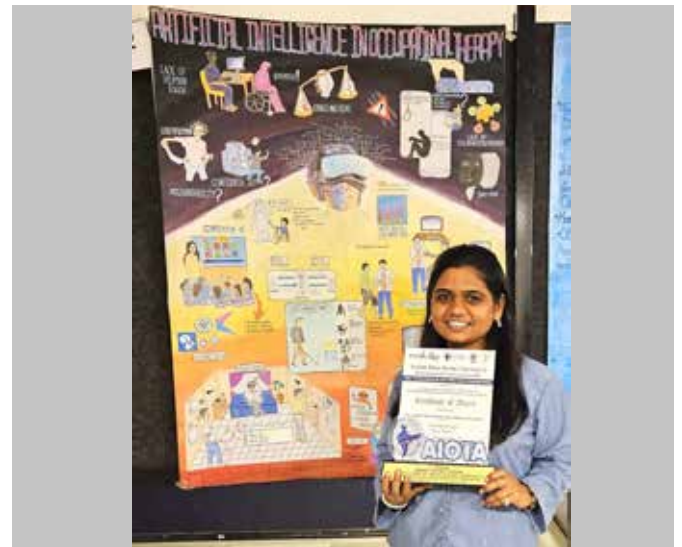
“Mindspark” winner - Tanmay Shingde



Tanmay Shingde receiving Trophy and Certificate at MINDSPARK COEP Pune

Tanmay Shingde, Engineering Student from Walchand College participated in Webscape competition which was part of Mind Spark event at COEP, Pune. There were 130 teams and it included two rounds: an MCQ Quiz on core web Development concepts followed by a website building round given problem statement. Tanmay emerged as the Winner of the Webscape competition.

Occupational Therapy” along with her Team from G S Medical College, Mumbai at 62nd Annual National Conference of Occupational Therapists Association (AIOTA) held at Goa, India.



Tejaswini Salpe - Best Poster Award

Best Poster Award - Tejaswini Salpe, Our OTPT student

Tejaswini Salpe Final year Occupational Therapy student of VSM won FIRST Prize for Best Poster titled “Artificial Intelligence in

Sunil being presented an award



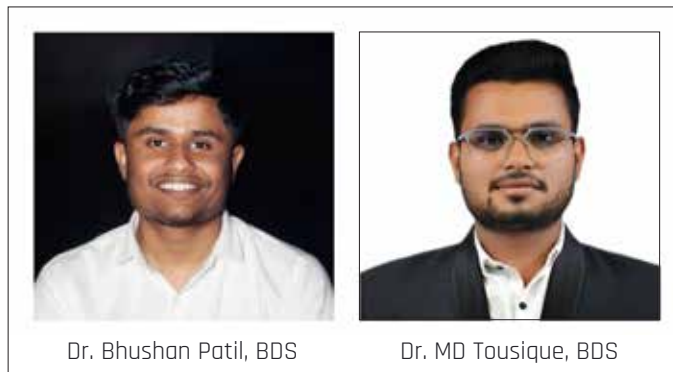
Sunil Dange, Fine Art Student from Pune receiving Art Society of India's prestigious late Shri Prafulla Dahanukar and M.K.J.R. Mistry memorial award from eminent artist Shri Vidyadhar Nimkar sir at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai

FLASH NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

34 students of VSM Passed out Final MBBS with flying colours. Its one more feather in VSM's Cap along with two Dental Surgeons Passed out BDS.

Two more Dental Surgeons from VSM



Dr. Shraddha Jadhav

Rising Against the Odds: A Doctor's Journey



I am Dr. Shraddha Jadhav, a 2022 graduate in Occupational Therapy from Seth G.S. Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai. I come from a small village in Ambejogai, Beed district, where my father is a farmer and my mother a homemaker. Financial struggles were a part of my journey, but my determination and hard work helped me crack the NEET exam and secure admission in an allied health course.

Moving to Mumbai was a turning point. Adjusting to the fast-paced life, improving my

communication skills, and building confidence were major challenges. There were days when I couldn't afford even one proper meal. In my second year, I found VSM through a classmate, and they welcomed me with open arms. Dr. Avani Mavshi and my mentor, Dr. Shailaja encouraged me to join English-speaking classes, which boosted my confidence. Regular meetings, especially during COVID, kept me motivated academically.

With VSM's support, I graduated with distinction. Today, I practice in Pediatrics, working with children with ADHD, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, and learning difficulties. Overcoming self-doubt was my biggest challenge, but mentors like Geeta Mavshi helped me believe in myself.



I am deeply grateful to God and VSM for shaping me into the Doctor and responsible citizen I am today, dedicated to serving society.



Dhiraj Aaware

Breaking Barriers - My Path to Success



I come from Uplai Budruk, a village in Madha Tehsil of Solapur district, where my family depends on farming. Growing up, I worked alongside my parents in the fields, learning the value of hard work and perseverance.

After completing my 10th standard, I moved to Pune for higher education, studying at Modern College and later earning a BA in Economics from Fergusson College. To support my expenses, I joined the 'earn while learn' program and tutored students. My passion for economics led me to pursue a master's in Financial Economics at Gokhale Institute.

Despite financial and academic challenges, I remained determined. I learned about Vidyadaan Sahayyak Mandal (VSM) through a senior and was fortunate to join.

My Karyakarta Palak (KP), Sanjeev Bendre, provided unwavering support, and the Career Guidance Team, especially Kulkarni Sir, helped shape my journey. With perseverance, I secured placements at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Nikore Associates and later achieved my dream job at EXIM Bank as a Grade I officer.

I actively support VSM students and plan to uplift education in my village. Proudly, I cleared UGC NET in Economics on my first attempt and won a paper presentation award.



-  Website: www.vsmthane.org
-  YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/vsmthane
-  FB: www.facebook.com/vsmthane
-  Twitter: www.twitter.com/vsmthane
-  LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/vsmthane/
-  Instagram: www.instagram.com/vsmthane
-  www.vawesomes.wordpress.com

Contact Details - Head Office: 102, 1st Floor, S.T. Stand Bldg., Khopat, Thane (West), Maharashtra, Pin - 400 602.

Tel: +91 9987437446 (Trust Reg. No. E-6717 (Thane) dated 21/03/2011)

Email: connect@vsmthane.org