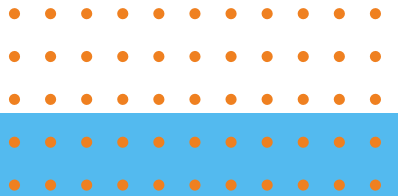


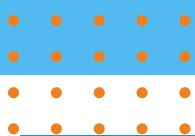


VSM in Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026 as a participating NGO on the United Way Mumbai philanthropy platform.

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- Honours & Recognition
- Increasing Outreach & Donor Connect
- Alumni Corner
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Hard work transforms possibility into reality!

Namaskar

Bravo!!! Expectations Surpassed. What an outstanding efforts! Was it under estimation of our strength or was it a conservative target. Anyways we proved that collective we stand we can surpass any hurdle irrespective of whether we are new to it or seasoned. Yes correctly understood, we are talking about Tata Mumbai Marathon in Jan'26 where VSM got for the very 1st time an opportunity to participate in the Fund raising platform of United Way of Mumbai along with several other NGOs.

You can read this most interesting story of how VSM got on the platform of Tata Mumbai Marathon. Apart from this, couple of stories that will be of interest to you are Medical Mentor Workshop done again. Then, Engineering Summit was held to encourage students for leadership role & to improve communication and Hackathon was conducted by the students. We also celebrated KP Din remembering our founder Bhau Nanivadekar. Please do go through how Science Team celebrated Science Day & the unique way in which Women's day was celebrated by reaching out to women in Shahapur and making them realize their self-strength.

In outreach section you can find how VSM reached to the larger masses and in Donor connect how our CSR Team visited to various Corporates and Donors. Nothing stops VSM students from grabbing headlines & prizes while displaying their talent which you should not miss out in Honours & Recognition section . Alumni Corner and Volunteers Speak sections are equally interesting.

Do read & let us know. Your feedback is important for us to improve.
Wishing you all Happy Akshay Tritiya!

Warm regards
Team Connect

FLASH

NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

All 5 Final Year Students of Occupational & Physiotherapy cleared finals with flying colours. Rashmi Bhange University Topper from Seth GS Medical College secured 3rd Rank, MUHS whereas Sakshi Srirao GMC Nagpur stood 1st in her college.

Running for Education: Team VSM at Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026



VSM Team gathers at designated corridor & meets participants.

The Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026 was a powerful celebration of purpose, community and collective action for Vidyadaan Sahayyak Mandal (VSM). As an official Charity Partner, VSM proudly participated for the first time in this iconic event, bringing together students, volunteers, runners, donors, and well-wishers to champion the transformative power of education.

This year, 113 passionate fundraisers represented VSM, with dedicated runners participating across multiple race categories, symbolising resilience and commitment to a shared cause. Adding to the spirit of the occasion, VSM students and volunteers gathered at the Charity Corridor near Flora Fountain, creating a vibrant and energetic presence. Through banners, standees, placards, slogans, and enthusiastic cheers, the VSM team proudly showcased its mission to thousands of runners, supporters, and spectators. The most inspiring outcome of VSM's participation was the remarkable fundraising achievement. Through the Tata Mumbai Marathon platform, ₹58.49 lakhs

were raised, along with an additional ₹14.03 lakhs contributed directly to VSM, bringing the total funds raised through TMM 2026 to ₹72.52 lakhs. Complementing this effort, the 'Utsavtun Samajakade' crowdfunding initiative raised ₹31.15 lakhs. Together, these efforts helped VSM cross a significant milestone, ₹1.04 crore in total crowdfunding reflecting the strength of collective intent and the unwavering trust of our supporters. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every fundraiser, runner, donor, volunteer, and supporter who contributed to this journey.

The whole activity began almost 3 months prior to the event gathering all documents & reports required by TMM Team. The amount of tireless & voluminous efforts put in by volunteers specially Trupti Dharap who originally came up with this idea as VSM was totally new to this along with Aditi Pandit and Durga Gurav is worth applauding. This was augmented by continuous cheering, pushing, and pursuing all Fund raisers to move beyond their targets by VSM's Founder & Trustee Geeta Shah. The initiative by Ravi Amdekar, Sandeep Ghodke of creating SOP and resolving issues of all Fund Raisers and guiding them in inching towards their targets is highly commendable. It was truly surpassing our expectations and realizing our true strength.



VSM's Runners participants in TMM 2026

Innovation Meets Impact at VSM Engineering Summit 2026

The VSM Engineering Summit 2026, held from 24th to 26th January at Uday Gujar Foundation, Shirwal (Pune), was a dynamic three-day conclave designed to give engineering students hands-on technical exposure along with leadership and communication development. In all 50 students from all Engg branches CS, IT, Electronics, Electrical, Civil, Mechanical & Textile and from 1st yr to 4th yr actively participated in the event.



Engineering students & CG Leads at Engineering Summit at Pune.

Planned and managed by Engineering career team Leads Nilima Patwardhan and Swati Khare, with technical guidance from Vijay Jadhav, the summit combined innovation with real-world problem solving. A key highlight was the 24-hour coding hackathon, where five balanced teams – Vanadium, Nickel, Sulphur, Mendeleevium and Hydrogen – worked on socially relevant challenges in agriculture, healthcare and governance. Problem statements included farmer market access, ASHA worker support, AI-driven crop disease management and government service assistants.

Alongside this, the CoreNova challenge focused on low-cost, sustainable engineering solutions for rural waste and water management. Industry mentors Vijay Jadhav and Deepti Jadhav, along with student mentors who are national-level hackathon winners, provided continuous guidance. Planned and managed by Nilima Patwardhan and Swati Khare, with technical guidance from Vijay Jadhav, the summit combined innovation with real-world problem solving. A key highlight was the 24-hour coding hackathon, where five balanced teams – Vanadium, Nickel, Sulphur, Mendeleevium and Hydrogen – worked on socially relevant challenges in agriculture, healthcare and governance. Problem statements included farmer market access, ASHA worker support, AI-driven crop disease management and government service assistants.

The summit concluded on Republic Day with project presentations and an award ceremony attended by VSM founder & Trustee, Geeta Shah, senior VSM volunteers, and Uday Gujar Sir and his team. Overall, the summit successfully nurtured innovation, teamwork, leadership and confidence, preparing students to become socially responsible and future-ready engineers.



Students, Swati Khare, Nilima Patwardhan, Geeta Shah at Engineering Summit 2026.

Science Day Event, 2025-26-“Sci-powered Viksit Bharat @ 2047”

Science Team celebrated National Science Day on 22nd Feb.'26, with the theme “Sci-powered Viksit Bharat @ 2047”. Our Nation's mission of Viksit Bharat, 2047 is aligned with this year's National theme 'Science for sustainable future' to build self-reliant, sustainable and progressive India. Students explained the role of their specific science field in Viksit Bharat, 2047.



Science Team celebrates Science Day.

Session started at 5pm with warm welcome by Dhanashri Bansode, giving introduction of Viksit Bharat, 2047, with its mission, vision, objectives, road map and role of youth. Vijay Kavchat, an Agriculture student, then presented developments in Agriculture field. He explained about strong, modern and sustainable Agriculture developments in India. Aditya Atkarne, a pharma student, presented about engagement of pharmaceutical Industry in Viksit Bharat. He elaborated role of Pharma industry with opportunities, future scope and investments Shubham Chaudhary, a student of paint technology provided insights about

the paint Industry and its projected developments till 2047. Dhanashri Bansode, a student of biotechnology, presented scope in research field and opportunities to youth with government schemes and policies. Chetana Paralkar, a student of food technology, elaborated with graphical, pictorial and audio-visual presentation.

Session was summed up with recap and assurance of youth for making Viksit Bharat, 2047 as projected to make strong self-reliant India.

Celebrating KP Din - Remembering Bhau

“Karyakarta Palak” concept originated from the deep thinking of Bhau Naniwadekar. His birthday 29th Dec is celebrated as Karyakarta Palak Din across VSM Centres online. It was celebrated on 14th Feb at Thane branch & was attended by more than 35 volunteers, sharing their experiences. The program was facilitated by Rajita Sawant and Jayshree Matsey. Alka Bangar explained how students sometimes misuse the financial aid they receive. They accept fee support but do not participate in various activities. Rajita Sawant discussed the importance of building a good rapport with the students. Weekly communication between KP & students helps in creating awareness & making students responsible & going forward we should continue making consistent efforts with them. Because of their academic workload, students are often unaware of the various activities conducted by VSM. Volunteers stay connected with VSM because of its educational mission and they can contribute in many different ways.



KP Din celebration at Thane & Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar

At Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar branch, Karya karta Palak Din was celebrated on 4th Jan along with monthly meeting & was attended by 12 KPs. Neelima Sant, the host welcomed everyone at her House, Maithili Joshi, outlined that Karyakarta Palak Day is observed in remembrance of Bhau's birth anniversary. Observing 2 mins. silence, KPs paid homage to Bhau. She expressed her gratitude and shared thoughts about Bhau, highlighting how deeply emotional & disciplined person he was in his approach.

Following this, detailed guidance was given regarding the role and responsibilities of a Karyakarta Palak like Submission of reports, identify important details, the need to remain alert while approving student expenses & precautions to be taken. It was also emphasized that the role of a KP is not limited only to report submission and expense approvals, but also involves building a special emotional bond with the assigned student. At the end members interacted with Geeta Shah. She spoke with each KP, enquired about everyone and made everyone feel warmly connected.

Medical Mentor Workshop: Empowering MBBS Mentors

First time in VSM, a career stream specific workshop for Mentors was conducted by VSM Medical team on Feb.1, 2026 at Shreeram Vyayamshala, Thane. Mentors from Thane & Mumbai joined in person and others participated virtually.

Dr. Anita Mokashi, lead of VSM Medical team welcomed all and explained the objectives of the workshop. Dr. Archana Damle (Co-lead, Medical Team) gave a presentation elaborating on the MBBS course details including subjects, postings, Exams (University & College), eligibility criteria etc. Academic year wise issues of students were highlighted by Dr. Anita giving examples. Both sessions were highly interactive with mentors raising their problems and medical team guiding them on the solutions.



Participants, Sessions & Role Play

Role Plays by mentors Dr. Mona Ayachit and Seema Sawant depicted the importance of ideal communication with palya for effective mentoring. Neeta Apte and Tanmoy Mavinkurve shared their views on various important aspects related to students.

Maithili Joshi told about the challenges and also about fulfilling moments as a mentor and a co-ordinator of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar branch. A brainstorming session on challenging cases related to medical students was conducted by Dr. Anita by assigning cases to mentor groups & asking them to present same, aim was to create awareness of problems faced as a KP and effective handling of same. Geeta Shah, founder & trustee of VSM briefly addressed the participants.

The workshop was successful in creating awareness in mentors about many important aspects of MBBS course, understanding student problems and ways of solving them with guidance from VSM Medical team.



Sharing by Mentors & Case Discussion

Women's Day at Shahapur with rural women- Realisation of Self

On the occasion of Women's Day, VSM organised a special programme for women from rural areas of Shahapur. The idea came from Geeta Shah Founder & Trustee, who felt that many rural women are still not aware of their own abilities, identity and self-worth. The organisation therefore decided to create activities that would help women discover and understand themselves better.

VSM volunteers and students took the initiative and invited women from the area, many were mothers of VSM Students. On Sunday, 8 Mar.'26, nearly 125 women gathered for this unique celebration. Instead of celebrating Women's Day through typical activities like outings, parties or competitions, this programme focused on self-awareness and discussion, making it a truly meaningful experience.



Enthusiastic participants at Women's Day at Shahapur

All the invited women arrived at the hall by 11 a.m., beautifully dressed after finishing their household work. There was excitement and curiosity on their faces. The coordinator, Rajita, conducted games, group discussions and counselling sessions that encouraged the women to express themselves freely.

Most of these women spend their entire day managing their homes, families and farms, and rarely get time to think about themselves or their interests. Through simple conversations based on their daily lives, the concept of "self-identity" was explained to them. Students helped them open up through small games and activities. Dr. Vaidehi Bhide, coordinator & counsellor from IPH spoke to the women in simple language about the importance of self-awareness.

The participants were divided into ten groups to discuss topics such as sharing household responsibilities, savings and financial management, girls' education and marriage age, health and nutrition, unity, participation in village meetings and gender equality.

Students also performed short street plays to explain these themes. Many women spoke on stage for the first time, sharing their experiences, struggles and achievements. Some even sang songs. Ayurvedic Doctor Ajit Potdar also spoke about menstrual health and women's well-being.

The programme left a deep impact on everyone present. The women returned home inspired and requested more such programmes in the future.



Participant expressing her thoughts and Students & Volunteers



In group discussion & participating whole heartedly

Alka Bangar, VSM KP, honoured with Special Excellence Award

Mrs. Alka Bangar was honoured with the “Vishesh Naipunya Puraskar” (Special Excellence Award) on 1st Feb'26 by Thane Shahar Kunbi Samaj Seva Sangh for her dedicated contribution to the social sector. The award was presented by the President, Mr. P. N. Patil, during the organization's annual function graced by MLA Kisan Kathore, Mr. Nilesh Sambare of Jijau Samajik Sanghatana, & others.



Alka Bangar receives Excellence Award

An active KP of VSM for 14 academy & 2 ITI students, she has managed two girls' hostels and mentored numerous students, including those preparing for Police Academy training. She is also a member of the Police Academy Career Guidance Team.

Nehru Centre Art Gallery organizes camp for Students of Visual Arts

Visual Arts student Vaidehi Raut (Final yr Applied Art, J K Academy of Art & Design, Wadala)

attended the Watercolour Landscape Camp at Nashik organized by Nehru Centre Art Gallery, from 11-17 Jan'26, along with 10 shortlisted students from different colleges.

The students explored the art of composition through mono-colour landscapes at diverse locations including Panchavati Ghat & market, Pandav Leni, old Nashik streets, Gondeshwar Temple (Sinnar) and heritage sites such as Sarkar Wada, Aurangabadkar's Wada, Kalaram Mandir, along with visits to Nashik Kalaniketan, Chitrakala Mahavidyalaya and Garge Art Studio.



Vaidehi Raut VSM student among 10 shortlisted students for Camp at Nashik.

Sandhya Pandey participates in 77th Republic Day Parade

A national-level program was organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at its 8th Battalion Headquarters in Ghaziabad, Delhi, from 23rd to 27th Jan'26. Sandhya, 2nd year student of Tirpude College of Social Work Nagpur

was among 150 top Aapda Mitras selected from across India, invited on behalf of the Government of India and the Hon'ble President of India.



Sandhya Pandey at Rashtrapati Bhavan, With other Aapda Mitras & Certificate for Training completion from Govt of India.

The program aimed to recognize the dedicated service of Aapda Mitras, promote experience sharing, and strengthen disaster preparedness strategies. The highlight was direct interaction with Shri Amit Shah, Hon. Home Minister. The Aapda Mitras were invited as Special Guests to attend the Rashtriya Ekta Parade. The participants visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan, to meet the Hon. President of India.

Anuj Pandey of Govt. Medical College, Gondiya gets Certificate of excellence

Anuj secured 3rd position in PITCH RX conducted by M.A.F.I.A (Finance Society) held during annual fest Synapse 2026 in Maulana Azad Medical College Delhi.



Certificate of Excellence for Anuj Pandey-GMC Gondiya

Rishi Maskare wins 2nd prize

Rishi Maskare 3rd year Engg student, stood 2nd in Coding competition Codethon in Tech Fest of P.R.Pote Patil college of Engg -Amravati



Rishi Maskare wins 2nd prize, felicitated by College Management.

Pankaj Warghede & Shranav Yadav bag Merit Certificate

The 65th Maharashtra State Art Exhibition was organized by the Government of Maharashtra at Kalavishwa Mahavidyalaya, Sangli & was inaugurated by Hon. State Minister

Mr. Chandrakant Patil, VSM Student Pankaj Warghede, 2nd yr Visual Arts, JJ School of Architecture won the Merit certificate in Student Category for one of his art works although both of his art works were exhibited. Total 1275 art works were exhibited out of 5680 entries.



Pankaj Warghede receives Merit Certificate in presence of Hon. Min. Chandrakant Patil & Vishal Patil MP-Sangli.

Another VSM Student Shranav Yadav, 1st yr, Painting, JJ School of Architecture too bagged Merit Certificate & Cash prize of Rs.5000 for his Painting "Emotions" in the Foundation Category. The award was presented by Hon. Minister Mr. Chandrakant Patil, Mr. Vishal Patil (MP, Sangli) & Dr. Kishor Ingale (Director of Art Maharashtra) in the presence of other dignitaries.



Shranav Yadav receives Merit Certificate in presence of Hon. Min. Chandrakant Patil & G S Majgaonkar retd. Principal of Kalavishwa Mahavidyalaya - Sangli

Vishal Narawade in All India Art Exhibition by Bombay Art Society

The sculpture "Darpana Sundari" an artwork out of scrap metal was created by Vishal Narawade, 1st yr student of M.F.A Metal work dept of Sir JJ School of Art.

It was selected for the 134th All India Annual Art Exhibition organized by The Bombay Art Society and was displayed from 24th Feb to 2nd Mar at Jehangir Art Gallery.

For Annual Art Exhibition at college, he presented 10 artworks based on his research topic in sheet metal sculpture, receiving the "Best Work" award from Vice Chancellor.



Vishal Narawade receiving "Best Work" award from Chief Guest Dr. Tasneem Zakaria Mehta Managing Trustee & Hon. Director Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum & his sheet metal sculpture "Darpana Sundari" & another sculpture "Buddha".

Swapnali Bharate Final year Arts student invited as Chief Guest

Swapnali Final yr Arts student is a writer, poet, podcaster. On the occasion of Classical Marathi Language Fortnight to preserve & promote rich heritage of Marathi Language, she was invited as chief guest. The event took place at Shivlingeshwar College of Pharmacy, Latur where various competitions, a book exhibition, and cultural programs were organized from 14th Jan to 28th Jan. Swapnali guided students on how to use Marathi effectively on social media & internet.



Swapnali Bharate Final Yr Arts Rajarshi Shahu Mahavidyalaya, Latur was invited as Guest Poet & received Trophy for Guest of Honour.

She also presented various cultural, social, historical, and motivational poems related to the Marathi language.

Ketaki receives Outstanding Nurse Award

Ketaki Nanaware, Nursing Student in Sau.Minatai Thakare Nursing Institute, Thane, received an outstanding student Nurse award given in the memory of Late Smt. Indubai Ramrao Jape.



Ketaki Nanaware with her Trophy for Outstanding Student Nurse.

Aditi Pandit invited for Seminar by Indian Institute of Political Economy-Pune.

Aditi Pandit Managing Committee Member & VSM Pune Branch Head was invited by Indian Institute of Political Economy to attend a research discussion on the post-degree employment trajectory of students in last 10 years on 10th Jan'26. She participated as a Session Moderator. The study findings and discussions were insightful and thought-provoking, in the context of higher education and employability in rural areas which is

model and vision, she emphasized on unique Mentor-Mentee model, selection process and career guidance activities thus getting standing ovation from Rotarians.



Geeta Shah at Rotary Club of Bombay Chembur West.

VSM in Maha Expo Exhibition at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar

VSM Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Branch set up a stall in the Maha Expo Exhibition from 8th to 11th Jan'26 to promote awareness about its activities and to engage with visitors and corporate representatives. The stall was managed by VSM volunteers and students & opened up networking opportunities for CSR partnerships, volunteering opportunities and organizational collaborations.



Aditi Pandit moderating session at Indian Institute of Political Economy Pune.

Geeta Shah as Guest Speaker at Rotary Club of Bombay

Geeta Shah was invited as a Guest Speaker at Rotary Club of Bombay Chembur West on 10th Feb'26. While presenting on our mission, working



VSM Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Team at their stall in Maha Expo.

VSM Team at AI Workshop

VSM Team Geeta Shah, Varsha Joshi, Nivedita Joshi & Sarita Bhosale attended a workshop on Basics of AI Tools & Prompt Engineering on 15th Feb'26 at M L Dahanukar College of Commerce, Vile Parle.



VSM Thane Team at AI Workshop in Vile Parle, Mumbai.

Visit to Nursing Colleges in Pune



Team VSM at Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth Nursing College, with BJ Nursing Students, with students of Tehmi Nursing College & S.K.Jindal College of Nursing

VSM Team of Geeta Shah, Vidya Jathar & Prachitai Dharap, Rohini Joshi, Aditi Pandit, Sunil Dixit and

Manisha Kshire, KP visited Nursing Colleges in Pune on 23rd Feb. Before visiting colleges, Team met donor Burude guruji (93 yrs) who gave corpus donation for the Nursing students. Team visited S K Jindal college of Nursing and Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth's college of Nursing. Later, VSM students of BJGMC and Tehmi Grant Nursing College met with the Team.

Donor Connect



Nomura Services India Pvt Ltd - 19th Jan'26 with Shekhar Parpattedar Executive Director & Vivek Vyas, Executive Director, Human Resources Compliance & Policies & Corporate Communications Head of Employee Relations at Nomura



VSM Team Visit on 19th January '26: Visited Scorpio Marine Management India Pvt. Ltd., Powai, with Mr. Anand Ghanekar (Fleet Manager), and Vinati Organics Ltd., BKC, along with Meghana Kadam (CSR donor & reference) and Mr. Milind Musale (GM - EHS & Sustainability)



Pioneer Legal Firm Nariman Point Office with Narendra Digambar [Founding Partner], Mariyam Bharmal HR Manager & Shapoorji Palonji, Nariman Point Office with Ms Sheetal Arora, Ms Zarin Commissariat (Head of CSR) & VSM team on 2nd Feb'26

VSM was felicitated by the owner of Pitambari well-known for Household products on 4th Feb'26 on the occasion of 63rd birthday of owner Dr Ravindra Prabhudesai. A cheque of Rs 75000/- was received by VSM.



Owners of Pitambari Mrs. Vrushali Prabhudesai, Dr. Ravindra Prabhudesai, Mr. Parikshit Prabhudesai with VSM Team, Mrs. Nivedita Joshi & Mr. Narayan Ponshe.



Engel (Engelglobal, Austria) office on 11th Mar with Shruti Poojary HR, Raveena Suri Finance Head & VSM Team



Dedicated Donor Anil Sapre in the center with the VSM Team at his residence.



BPR Brassica on 2nd Feb'26 with Mr. Navneet Vaid & Mrs. Vandana Vaid (Owners of BPR Brassica), Mr. Deepak Kelaskar from BPR Brassica with VSM Team.



Geeta Shah with Donor Burude Guruji.



From Rural Roots to the
Legal Forefront

Srushti More

Hailing from Khed in Ratnagiri district, Srushti More's journey is one of resilience, determination and transformation. Raised in a modest farming family, with her father a farmer, mother a homemaker & three sisters. Srushti completed her 12th standard at New English School and Junior College, Ambali, excelling in her board exams and earning admission to the prestigious Fergusson College for a degree in Economics despite a high cut-off. It was here that she discovered her interest in the intersection of economics, policy and law, leading her to pursue an LL.B. at Siddharth Law College.

A friend introduced her to Vidyadaan Sahayyak Mandal (VSM), which became a turning point in her life. VSM provided hostel support and complete funding for her law education, easing her family's burden. An active NSS member, Srushti led innovative online initiatives during the pandemic. Through the Young India Inspirators Network (YIIN), she rose from Fergusson College President to Pune District President and was later selected for the Maharashtra Mantri Mandal, where she worked on a proposed bill to raise the legal marriage age for girls to 21. She also interned at the Human Rights Commission and was selected for the Indian School of Democracy, Delhi.

With VSM's support, she even co-founded online coaching for Law CET aspirants. Guided by her mentor, Jayant Udar ("Kaka"), Srushti now aspires

to build a career in Service Law litigation, inspired by advocates Rahul Walia and Ravi Shetty. Grateful to VSM, she says, "They don't just care—they truly show up for students."



A Journey of Perseverance
and Purpose

Yogesh Nyaharkar

Yogesh Nyaharkar's journey reflects quiet resilience, determination and deep gratitude. Hailing from Lasalgaon, he comes from a humble family where his parents run a small general goods shop and take up seasonal weaving work. Yogesh was the district topper in Mathematics during school. He finished 12th at NVP Mandal Arts, Commerce & Science College and went on to pursue a B.Sc. from Fergusson College. He is currently completing his Master's degree at Savitribai Phule Pune University.

Yogesh connected with Vidyadaan Sahayyak Mandal (VSM) on his own by searching online and reaching out. The financial and emotional support he received became a turning point in his academic journey. His internship at IITM Pune in air quality research led to selection by the Zoological Survey of India, and an offer from The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). He has attended wildlife management training in Jammu, and worked with the Global Opportunity Youth Network as a Youth Trainer. He fondly acknowledges his Karyakarta Palaks, Neela Sahasrabudhe and Anjali Sahasrabudhe, for their constant care and guidance. Grateful to VSM, Yogesh says, "Whatever I am today is because of VSM."

From Karyakarta to Mentor: My VSM Journey



Ashwini Dixit

Member of Commerce Stream
& Karyakarta Palak

I have been associated with VSM since the past 10 years. Like most of the volunteers, I started my journey as a Karyakarta Palak. Gradually I got to know the other functions. After getting to know the various functions for a year, I became a part of the Commerce Career Guidance Team. The team was relatively new when I joined it. We started going to Shahpur every weekend to teach/solve the doubts of students studying there. We did this for 2 years.

In the meantime, we arranged to get the deserving students to Thane Hostel and also made sure that they got admission in colleges in Thane and Mumbai. We explored different vocational courses. During Covid when the entire world was moving towards Digitalisation, VSM also started emphasizing on the same. The Commerce team also started implementing various programs on digital platforms.

So far, I have mentored 5 students. These students were pursuing diverse courses, some pursuing

vocational courses while others pursuing professional courses. As a result, I got to handle students with different intellectual capabilities. I am not from a teaching background. But in VSM I learnt how to mentor students from different social strata. I learnt that you cannot take emotional decisions everytime. At times you need to inculcate discipline, sometimes you need to handle the students by talking to them sweetly and patiently. At other times, you need to scold them when necessary.

Every small or big success that the student achieved gave me immense satisfaction. It gave me a feeling that I have achieved something in life.

Since I am from a Finance and Accounting background, I try to use my experience and education to help the accounts team in VSM. We implemented cost center concept in accounts. Our alumni upgraded iVSM to incorporate expense module in collaboration with our accounts team.

VSM is now spreading its wings. Apart from the financial support, VSM needs new set of volunteers. Both of these are very important to sustain in the long run. Every volunteer should realise this and keep trying for the same.



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