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Not just magnitude, but direction also!

VECTOR

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Vidyalankar seminars guide students on higher studies

Technical manpower is an asset to the Indian economy. India has witnessed a big boom in the BPO/ KPO sector and in order to uphold this trend we have to produce a vital mass of extremely skilled manpower at an accelerated pace. Understanding the importance of the same, India's Higher Education Policy of the 1950s, which envisaged schools of excellence, especially in technology and sciences has encouraged Post Graduate Studies in Technical and Management areas. Higher education beyond graduation is the need of the industry and hence it is the need of the hour.

Looking at the prerequisites of the industries, engineering colleges have realized the importance of higher studies and they have started encouraging students to pursue further studies. Increasing demand of higher studies from institutes such as IITs and IIMs has led to a rise in competition at the common entrance exam itself. For example, the number of students who appear for the GATE entrance exams increases by about 20-25% every year, which implies that more number of students will be competing every year for gaining admis-



sions into their desired colleges and courses. Also, GATE has become a qualification in itself as many PSUs like BHEL, TOCL etc. are recruiting on the basis of a valid GATE score. Likewise, besides the IIMs, over 150 colleges all over India accept the CAT scores to admit students into their Business Schools to produce good manager-leaders.

It is important for engineers to widen their knowledge and skills in the management area to become senior managers in the industry. MBA completes the circle (Technology + Management). The role of an engineer is changing in the indus-

try; the engineer is likely to be the manager who has to implement new practices and new technologies. Thus the engineer often becomes the primary manager of change within the modern organization.

Vidyalankar, the prestigious educational megabrand, has been successfully and consistently training students for various competitive exams at the State and all-India level since the past 51 years. Recently, it has initiated the "Student Career Guidance Program" to reach out, and communicate to students on the need for Post Graduation and the expert approaches to deal

with and ultimately crack entrance exams for the same.

Vidyalankar believes that if students are expertly counseled and directed suitably, they can identify their true potential and thus select the right career path after graduation, which would eventually help them to plan well earlier, and settle better.

As a part of this initiative to create awareness amongst students about the Technical and Management career options, Vidyalankar has conducted seminars in various engineering colleges such as K.J. Somaiya College of Engineering, Lokmanya Tilak CoE, St.

Xavier's CoE, Saboo Siddik Institute of Technology, Terna CoE, SIES Institute of Technology, Fr. Agnel CoE, Saraswati CoE, Atharva CoE, Watumull Institute of Technology and MGM CoE to mention a few.

Vidyalankar has also conducted seminars in non-engineering colleges like Ramnarain Ruia College of Arts & Science, Swami Vivekanand College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Valia College of Arts, Science & Commerce etc.

Vidyalankar also conducts "Plan Career Seminars", free of cost, specifically designed for engineering students after their semester exams at their centers in Mumbai every year to guide and help them to climb the hierarchical ladder of success in their careers. The Schedule for

Hello Readers!

As you turn the pages of 2011's last issue of Vector, it is time to reminisce on the events (personal, local, national or global) that have left an indelible impression on your mind, how you have evolved as a better person and how the boundaries of your mind have expanded with new knowledge during this year.

The Vector team extends a warm thanks to you for sharing and reading Vidyalankar's many success stories and laurels won throughout the year, regularly sending in your interesting articles and your feedback, and for responding to the contests. As always, you are welcome to continue sending in your articles on

vector@vidyalankar.org for the next issue which will be published in February 2012.

Meenakshi Nandula
Coordinator

the "Plan Career Seminars" this year is:-

Attend Free Seminar						Sem. V (Approved)		Sem. VII (Approved)			
						CAT / CET + GATE		GATE		CAT/CET	
Seminar Topic	Date	Day	Centre	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	
Career Options After Engg. [GATE / CAT / CET]	26 December	Monday	Dadar(E)	11 a.m.	3 pm	4 pm					
	27 December	Tuesday	Thane	11 a.m.	3 pm	4 pm					
	28 December	Wednesday	Borivali	11 a.m.	3 pm	4 pm					
	29 December	Thursday	Nerul	11 a.m.	3 pm	4 pm					
	3 January	Monday	Andheri	11 a.m.	3 pm	4 pm					
	4 January	Tuesday	Parvaty	11 a.m.	3 pm	4 pm					
	5 January	Wednesday	Dombivli	11 a.m.	3 pm	4 pm					

Higher Studies Division Vidyalankar Classes and Publications

-Sacheta Aneja

From a college dropout to heading an over \$350 billion Apple empire, Steve Jobs dramatically transformed the worlds of personal computing, music and mobile phones, ushering in a new digital era. Jobs, who died on October 5, 2011 at the age of 56 after a seven-year battle with pancreatic cancer, was also the man behind the stupendous success of the computer animation firm Pixar (makers of Toy Story and Finding Nemo). Though he himself never designed a computer in his life, it was because of him that the Apple products, while largely providing the same services as those from other companies, are perceived to be different.

Born on February 24, 1955 to Joanne Carole Schieble and Abdulfattah Jandali, Steven Paul Jobs was adopted by Paul and Clara Jobs. From an early age, Steve Jobs was interested in electronics. As an eighth grader, after discovering that a crucial part was missing from a frequency counter he was assembling, he telephoned William Hewlett, the co-founder of Hewlett-Packard. Hewlett spoke with the boy for 20 minutes, prepared a bag of parts for him to pick up and offered him a job

Remembering Steve Jobs



as a summer intern. Jobs met Stephan Wozniak, with whom he co-founded Apple in 1976, while attending Homestead High School in neighbouring Cupertino.

Personal computing had been pioneered at research laboratories close to Stanford and was spreading. Wozniak designed the original Apple I computer simply to show it off to his

friends. It was Jobs who had the inspiration that it could be a commercial product. In early 1976, he and Wozniak, using their own money, began Apple in the Jobs family garage in Los Altos with an initial investment of \$1,300 before securing the backing of former Intel executive A C Markkula, who lent them \$250,000. Wozniak would be the technical half and Jobs, the marketing

half of the original Apple I Computer. In April 1977, Jobs and Wozniak introduced Apple II at the West Coast Computer Faire in San Francisco, creating a sensation. The company went public in 1981, when its sales touched \$600 million from \$2 million in 1977.

Jobs was ousted in a bitter boardroom battle in 1985, a move that he later claimed was the best thing that could have happened to him. Jobs went on to buy Pixar, the company behind some of the biggest animated hits in Hollywood cinematic history including Toy Story, Cars and Finding Nemo.

The purchase, though a significant gamble as there was little market then for computer-animated movies, proved profitable. When Pixar went public in a record-breaking offering, Jobs became a billionaire.

Jobs returned to Apple in 2000 when it was being written off by rivals. What followed was one of the most remarkable comebacks in business history. Starting with his brightly coloured iMacs, Jobs went on to launch hit after hit and transformed personal computing. Then came the phenomenal success of the iPod, which revolutionised the music industry, leading to a col-

lapse in CD sales and making Jobs one of the most powerful voices in an industry he loved.

His firm was named in homage to the Beatles' record label, Apple. But the borrowing was permitted on the basis that the computing firm would stay out of music. After the success of the iPod, the two Apples became engaged in a lengthy legal battle which finally ended last year when the Beatles allowed iTunes to start selling their back catalogue.

Jobs' remarkable capacity to spot what people wanted next, came without the aid of market research or focus groups. In 2006, the Walt Disney Company agreed to purchase Pixar for \$7.4 billion, making Jobs its largest single shareholder, with about 7 per cent of the firm's stock.

Jobs stepped down in August, 2009 as chief executive of the company he helped set up in 1976, citing illness. Jobs wrote in his letter of resignation: "I have always said if there ever came a day when I could no longer meet my duties and expectations as Apple's CEO, I would be the first to let you know. Unfortunately, that day has come."

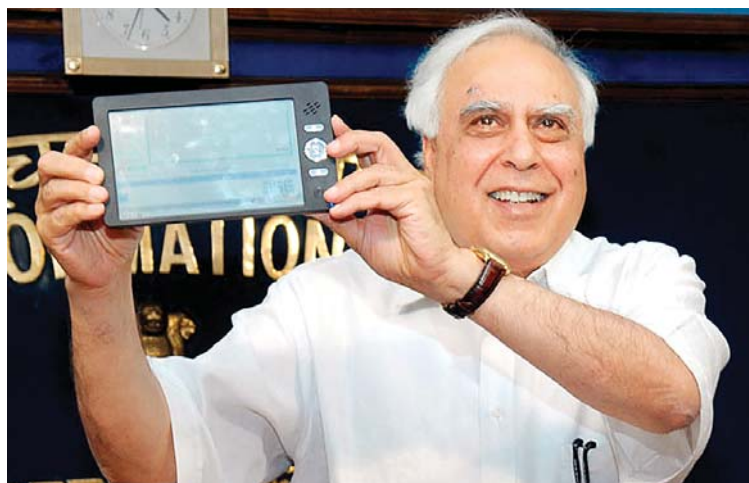
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Aakash: The Nano of the tablet world

The Indian government's ultra low-cost tablet 'Aakash' is finally in front of us. Kapil Sibal, the Indian Minister of Human Resources and Development, has been the driving force behind the tablet project. The device was produced entirely in India - a point of pride for the Indian government. The official launch comes after nearly one year telecom minister Kapil Sibal flaunted a prototype of the device. Previously nicknamed as 'Sakshat', the Aakash is being touted as the “World's cheapest tablet”. A contract between the Indian government and the Canadian development partner DataWind, should put between 10 and 12 million devices in the hands of students across India by the end of 2012, according to Computer World. The tablet is considered to be a significant accomplishment for the government, which believes the device will bridge the gap between the rural India and the ongoing technology boom in the country.

Building a cheap tablet that is also user friendly is no easy feat which is what the intellectuals from IIT Rajasthan found out the hard way. I think it's great that they've managed to deliver on what they set out to accomplish, making the world's cheapest tablet, but that alone does not make it a good product. There will be different editions available and the one that was launched was the student version.

For roughly Rs. 1200 (for institutions), you get a 7-inch tablet with a resistive touchscreen. This makes the interface quite unresponsive and not user-friendly. Aakash is running Android 2.2, Froyo, with the UniSurfer browser installed. Made by DataWind, UniSurfer is supposed to make web-



pages process faster, probably to compensate for the slower processor and connection speeds. And given how slow navigating the user interface is, watching videos on the device is incredibly impressive. Currently, the student edition does not support 3G, only Wi-Fi. However, there are plans of launching a 3G model sometime in the future. You do get two USB ports so it should be possible to use a 3G USB dongle, provided they've added support for it. Also you

can plug in a keyboard, of course, and still have a free slot for an external hard drive, or some other device. Some of the pre-loaded apps include Documents to Go and arXiv Droid, of which the latter lets you browse science articles on physics, math, etc.

At the heart of the Aakash tablet is an HD video co-processor that will connect viewers to one of the largest educational libraries ever assembled: YouTube. When the Aakash tablet reaches villages across India, an entire generation will have instant access to rich educational content such as the Khan Academy, and anything else their hearts desire. While the Aakash tablet reads pen drives, it will read file formats natively supported, which is pretty limited with stock Froyo. Common formats like AVI and FLV are not playable on the stock player which is something I have witnessed on most Android phones as well. You may think

that this is easily remedied by installing VLC, MoboPlayer etc, but the harsh reality is that you cannot install apps from the Marketplace, which is a big downer. A major problem is that the device heats up really quickly even in an air-conditioned room. This could be attributed to poor design and cheap components. The battery life seems to be really poor as well, three hours isn't exactly ground-breaking, but it comes with an AC adapter. What's important isn't that the tablet can run off of the battery for long periods of time, but that it will still be able to work and surf the net when the power goes out.

I feel what makes the Aakash tablet different is that its creators didn't strive for perfection. Instead, the emphasis was on getting the product into the market quickly so it could be adapted, tinkered with, and improved over time. Since their main priority was price and to get the cost down, you have to make some compromises. If the tablet is meant for educational use, it's probably going to have to contend with some pretty rough handling, dirt, dust and moisture. Better that it should withstand damage than look the extra bit nicer and with the Aakash tablet in hand, students across India will be free to do what their global counterparts do with their computers. There are the educational basics such as creating documents and spreadsheets, and browsing the web for research materials. But as with anything, young people will probably spend a fair amount of time playing games online and chatting with their friends. The tablet is an example of the Indian way of managing things with minuscule resources.

Rushil Dahisaria
TE EXTC 1, VIT

Remembering Steve Jobs

from pg1

Jobs initially hid his illness but his startling weight loss started to unnerve his investors. He took a six-month medical leave of absence in 2009, during which he received a liver transplant, and another medical leave of absence in mid-January before stepping down as chief executive in August. Jobs leaves behind an estimated \$8.3bn, but he often dismissed others' interest in his wealth. “Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me ... Going to bed at night saying we've done something wonderful ... that's what matters to me.”

Bill Gates said in a statement that he was “truly saddened to learn of Steve Jobs' death”. He added: “The world rarely sees someone who has had the profound impact Steve has had, the effects of which will be felt for many generations to come. He is survived by his wife, Laurene, and four children. Steve leaves behind a company that only he could have built, and his spirit will forever be the foundation of Apple.”

And President Obama said: “There may be no greater tribute to Steve's success than the fact that much of the world learned of his passing on a device he invented.” Indeed, Jobs truly made technology relevant to everyone.

—Siddhi Sarang and Onkar Patwardhan
SE (CMPN 1), VIT

Developing the Reading Habit through ‘Book Review Activity’

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”— Dr. Seuss

One of the initiatives of the Department of Management Studies at VIT is 'Book Review' to encourage a readership habit among students. Book review assignments encourage students to go for an in-depth analysis of books, exponentially improve critical thinking abilities and help in formal expression of thoughts, thereby improving written communication skills.



sequently, the titles were circulated among students who were given an opportunity to decide on the book they would review. Once the student registered a book with his/her name then he/she was not allowed to change it and also no other student can take that book, with an intention of avoiding plagiarism and duplication. Students were given two months to complete reading the book. The faculty declared a date for book review presentations after two months. Each student presented the book review with an introduction (including the title, author and publication details), the central theme, the contents about the chapters covered in the book, key learning from the book and an application of the learning to improve their management acumen.

This activity not only helped students to share their opinions about the book, but also helped others to decide whether a particular book is worth procuring or not. With this it is ensured that a student not only reads a book but get a glimpse of the books read by other students as well. And this is how the chain of reading and analysis continues...

—Smita Mukherjee, MMS, VIT

Safeguard your Credit and Debit cards from Cyber Crime

E-commerce has gained rapid growth and it has a significant impact on the markets of most nations. Today plastic money is the convenient, easy and fashionable alternative to paper money. With one swipe, plastic money has changed the way we live. As more and more people prefer debit cards and credit cards, due to the virtual explosion of credit card business through out the world, security has become critical in the entire process. Unfortunately, along with the convenience has come related crime.

Credit card fraud involves withdrawal of funds and obtaining of goods and services by using an unauthorized account. Even personal information stored on computers is stolen in order to use a card. However, by taking certain precautions, users can prevent their credit or debit cards from being misused both online and offline.

1. Never provide photocopies of both the sides of the credit card to anyone. The card verification value (CVV) which is required for online transactions is printed on the reverse of the card. Anyone can use the card for online purchases if the information is available with them.
2. Do not click on links in e-mails seeking details of your account - they could be phishing emails from fraudsters. Most reputed companies will ask you to visit their website directly.

3. While using a credit card for making payments online, check if the website is secure. The CVV will also be required.
4. Do not give any information to persons seeking credit card information over the phone.
5. Notify your bank / credit card issuer if you do



not receive the monthly credit card statement on time. If a credit card is misplaced or lost, get it cancelled immediately.

Use Strong Passwords

- For each computer and service you use (e-mail, chatting, online purchasing, for example), you should have a password.
- Avoid common words or easily guessable words. Some hackers use programs that can try every word in the dictionary.
- Don't use your personal information, your login name or adjacent keys on the key board as passwords.
- You should neither write them down where it can be accessible to someone, nor should you share them with anyone, even your best friends.
- Computer intruders use trial-and-error, or brute-force techniques, to discover passwords.
- The password should be as long as possible (preferably more than eight characters). Use a combination of alphanumeric characters and special characters in your password.

—Ujjwala Sav, VSIT

Conquer exam anxiety and ace those tests!

Most of us experience some level of anxiety when anticipating something stressful, such as taking tests, interviews, or presenting on stage. This tension is normal and positive; it motivates us to want to perform at our best level. In fact, a small amount of anxiety may be beneficial because it sharpens the senses and the mind.

Exam anxiety becomes problematic when this nervousness is so high that it interferes with test preparation and performance. One form of test anxiety results from such things as poor study habits, inadequate organizational skills, and ineffective time management. When not prepared, it is rational that the student is then faced with increased tension. Another form is feeling overwhelmed with exams in spite of being adequately prepared and letting anxiety overshadow performance. The good news is that there are many tools and strategies that students may use to combat test anxiety and bring it down to manageable levels. Like tools, they don't work unless they are used and used properly.

Time Management Tips:

“Procrastination is the thief of time.”

— Edward Young

- To begin managing your time you first need a clearer idea of how you now use your time. To get a more accurate estimate, you might keep track of how you spend your time for a week. This will help you get a better idea of how much time you need to prepare for each subject.
- Identify and temporarily eliminate your time wasters.
- Give yourself manageable sections to study each day. This way, it will not be overwhelming.
- Most importantly, make it work for you. A time schedule that is not personalized and honest will be ineffectual.

Prioritizing Tips:

“Tough times never last, but tough people do.”—Robert H. Schuller

- Prioritizing your responsibilities is very important. It is not only the quantity of study time that you are delegating, but also it's the quality of preparation that matters.
- You need to set achievable and realistic goals, but they should also be challenging.



- One method is the ABC list. This list is divided into three sections; a, b, or c. The items placed in the A section are those needed to be done that day. The items placed in the B section need completion within the week. The C section items are those things that need to be done within the month.
- Resisting friends and relatives is important. If any social invitation interferes with your schedule, put your foot down firmly! Politely saying no to friends and acquaintances should become a habit. Saying no frees up time for the things that are most important.

Preparation Tips:

“Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted.”—David Bly

- Revise methodically. Write out important formulae or equations, use lots of coloured pens and underline key phrases. Skimming through the most important sections refreshes your memory right before the exams.
- Focus on the task at hand. It's important to get away from nagging family members, friends, meaningless chatter on social networking sites, phone, TV, etc.
- Indulge in smart networking. The more time you spend with motivating people and activities, the more alive you will feel.
- While we cannot control the behavior of others, we can often make choices that reduce stress caused by our surroundings. Look for

stressors within your environment, then take steps to change or eliminate them.

- Innovate! If it is group study, a small challenge among friends such as a quick quiz or 10 questions on a particular chapter may zing up things a bit.
- There is a huge difference between 'I think I know' and being well prepared with the material that could possibly appear on a test.
- Quiz yourself on the material you studied, without using your books or notes.
- Don't just memorize; that lasts only a few days and gives you limited knowledge. You really have to sit down and understand the concept, formula, or theory.
- To have a thorough knowledge of a particular concept, it's better to refer to different books and sources of information to master that particular concept. That way you are equipped to handle most conceptual questions.
- After about an hour of studying take a 10-minute break. You need to take a little break and relax, then go back to the books.

Self-help Tips:

“The greatest mistake you can make in life is to continually fear you will make one.”
—Elbert Hubbard

Many students put themselves down by believing that they are “underprepared” and “ineffective,” especially in comparison with their peers. These feelings of inadequacy can lead to the paralyzing anxiety that “blocks” successful performance in the exams.

- Try being your own best friend! Praise yourself once in a while and forgive yourself for mistakes.
- Visualize the best possible, yet realistic outcome.
- Ask yourself what is the worst possible thing that could happen if you made a mistake or missed the deadline.
- Remember that you are a unique individual who is doing the best you can with what you have at the time.
- Remember that an exam is never the difference between life and death or successful and unsuccessful people.

All the best for your forthcoming exams!

Prof. Seema Shah
Principal (Acting) VIT



We Care

Exams are just around the corner, accompanied by their usual share of stress and anxiety. Exam anxiety results when a student is adequately prepared for an exam but experiences symptoms of physical, cognitive, behavioral, and emotional distress that inhibit to some degree the ability to learn and perform. Distress signals can be insomnia, headaches, anxiety, upset stomach, lack of concentration, colds/flu, and excessive tiredness.

Some quick health tips to help you breeze through your exams!

- Make sure you sleep the night before the exam, to be able to give it your best shot. The last thing you want to be is groggy and unfocused during the actual exam in case you follow the 'last minute cramming' style at the expense of your forty winks.
- Allocate time to exercise, play some sport or just unwind.
- Eat lighter meals and at smaller intervals to stay fresh and focused. This will also help reduce acidity, which tends to shoot up with anxiety.
- A healthy diet of green leafy vegetables and fresh fruits will help you stay alert.
- Avoid carbonated drinks and do not overdo the caffeine.

Stay healthy! Good luck!

Tech review: Apple's iPhone 4S

It wasn't just the latest iPhone that drew people to Apple stores. Many consumers waited in queues for hours - sometimes enduring chilly temperatures and overnight thunderstorms - to remember Steve Jobs, Apple's visionary who died last week. The company's first iPhone release since Jobs' death turned into another tribute. Some customers even joked that the new model 4S stood “for Steve.” Just like any other Apple product, there were numerous rumours about how would the product turn out to be. Although many reports suggested that it will be just a hardware update with the same design while a few reports were indicating a totally revamped phone design and that it will be called as iPhone 5. When it was officially unveiled on October 4, it turned out to be the iPhone 4S, a suc-



cessor to last year's iPhone 4.

At the first glance everyone was disappointed as they expected an

iPhone 5. But although iPhone 4S has exactly the same case as iPhone 4, the internals were totally new. Some of

the biggest features of the device are:
Dual-core processor (Apple A5 chip)
8 megapixel camera with 1080p video
iOS 5 software
iCloud
Siri AI assistant

Although the specification looks quite ordinary on paper specially when compared to other smartphones in the market, the iPhone 4S still ranks top in stability, security, usability and customer satisfaction.

The camera is the best camera ever built on a phone. In fact quality wise it is said to replace mid/higher range digital compact cameras.

The most popular and the amazing feature is the Siri assistant. You can talk to it in a natural language and it will interpret and reply to you. It can

read/send a message, it can set a reminder, it can search for any information you want to get and can also be used to dictate text. Although this kind of system was already there in the market, Siri seems to be a true Artificial Intelligence as other systems just fail to recognize even the simplest words.

People just couldn't resist but buying the device and thus it breaks all previous single day sales records in the US, thanks to Siri and the awesome camera. In India, iPhone 4S is expected to be launched in December.

The bottom line is that if you are an existing iPhone4 owner, buying a 4S makes little sense but it is great choice for the owners of older iPhones or the first time buyers.

Viraj Chaudhari
M.Sc. (IT), VSIT

And the **Five Red** **Lights Go Off!**

The extreme speed and high-octane adrenaline associated with fast vehicles has always fascinated and thrilled mankind. Car racing began way back in 1906 and over half a century later evolved into what we know today as Formula 1 or F1 racing.

The first ever official F1 season was 1950. F1 racing is actually FIA Formula 1 championship. Where the word “Formula” is for a set of rules all the drivers and teams must follow. Each race is called a Grand Prix (English - Grand prize). 20 odd races per year constitute an F1 season. Drivers and teams get points according to the position they end up in every race. At the end of all races the driver with maximum points is crowned as the F1 champion and the team with the Constructors Championship.

Each team has two race drivers and a couple of substitute or test drivers. Each team manufactures two cars which have to be the same throughout the season and there are many specifications regarding them, the most prominent one being that the engine's capacity can't exceed 18000 RPM. These days with the evolution of technology, new additions like KERS (Kinetic Energy Recovery System) and DRS, the top speeds have gone up to 340 Km/hr. The race consists of a qualifying session and the main race. The qualifying is held on the Saturday just before the main race held on Sunday. The person who has the minimum lap time in the qualifying stage gets to start at the front of the grid at the main race.

India has always been connected with F1 with some capacity or the other. Narain Karthikeyan was the first ever Indian to drive an F1 car in the 2005 season for the Jordan Racing team. He also was the test driver for the Williams team in 2006 and 2007. Then Vijay Mallya led consortium bought the Spyker team and India had its own F1 team by the name



Force India Racing in the 2008 Season. From thereon India has grown rapidly in the motorsport field. The Force India team is one of the top six teams and India now has Karun Chandhok and Narain Karthikeyan as two Indian drivers in the F1 arena.

On 30 October 2011 Indian announced its arrival on the grandest stage by hosting the first ever Indian Grand Prix in Greater Noida. With the drivers' championship already in Sebastian Vettel's bag and Constructors Championship with Red Bull Racing, there was nothing to lose for drivers and a lot to gain of the new Buddh International Circuit. The start was an eventful one with as much as 4 cars going out of the race with accidents. Vettel ran a perfect race with no hiccups whatsoever. He drove fast and he drove steady. He not only won the race but also the



hearts of a billion Indians. Force India managed a point with Sutil finishing ninth.

It was a great race and the world watched in awe as the circuit impressed drivers and spectators alike. We can hope India will grow from here and soon we will have an Indian team or a driver finishing with the F1 championship.

—Harsha Ambardekar
SE ETRX, VIT



GUESS WHO?!

Do you know who the person in the picture is? Mail us your response on vector@vidyalankar.org, and you could be the winner of an exciting prize!

The correct answer to “Guess Who?!” in Vector, October issue is **Nandan Nilekani** who currently serves as the Chairman of the new Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), after a successful career at Infosys Technologies Ltd. He is also now heading Government of India's technology committee, TAGUP.

Thank you readers for all your overwhelming responses! Congratulations to **Harshada Pathak**, the lucky winner!



Ra.One: A Damp Squib

DIRECTOR: ANUBHAV SINHA
ACTORS: SHAHRUKH KHAN,
KAREENA KAPOOR, ARJUN RAMPAL,
ARMAAN VERMA
RUN TIME: 153 MINUTES
CERTIFICATE: UA

Shahrukh Khan's new film Ra One is a tribute and a gift to his own children, a superhero version of their father. The film stars big actors like Shahrukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Rampal and a new little actor Armaan Verma. Shahrukh plays two roles of Shekhar Subramaniam and G One. Kareena plays Shekar's wife and Armaan plays Shekhar's son (Prateek Subramaniam).

The movie starts with Prateek's dream of his game in which he visualizes his father (Shahrukh Khan) as a superhero. He faces many obstacles, reaches the stereotypical villain (Sanjay Dutt), fights with him, defeats him and saves the damsel in distress (Priyanka Chopra). It's when this dream sequence ends, that the real story begins. The level of humour is no different in the “real”

world - Shahrukh plays a guy who dresses up as Michael Jackson to impress his son, eats noodles with curd, speaks in a Tamil accent and goes on to design and release an advanced video game. His son, who is a tech savvy-game crazy youth wishes that his father would design a video game in which the villain is more powerful than the hero.

The first half of the movie is a visual delight. The second half of the movie meanders a bit, until Arjun Rampal comes in and lights up the screen. Shahrukh Khan fails to maintain his robotic gait. The digital team of the movie is to be blamed for it. Another factor that works against is that its title Ra One gets its proper footage only in the second half the movie. Ra One's character somewhere resembles the “Terminator.” The Ra One-G One face off is something that is worth watching.

The music of the film is quite entertaining. The song “Chammak Challo” by Akon is a popular chartbuster. On the whole Ra One can be described as an assortment of the elements of Robot, Toonpur ka Superhero, Spiderman, Terminator and many such movies.

As Shahrukh's movies are incomplete without melodrama, “Karwa Chauth” comes into the picture, which is not at all required. The movie also has Rajnikanth's guest appearance as “Chitti” which was also a waste as G One was enough to throw the baddies away.

There are certain dialogues in the movie, which are best avoided considering the fact that the movie was promoted as a family entertainer. Its visual effects have raised the bar in Bollywood. A thumbs up to the digital scene where Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai is shown crumbling to pieces after a local train is taken over by Ra One. Kareena Kapoor manages to serve as eye candy and takes her Golmaal gibberish-abusive legacy ahead.

After all the publicity overdrive, the movie definitely does not live up to public expectations. At best it can be considered as an average movie and no more than a one-time watch.

—Jaayesha Obhan
EJ1E-A, Vidyalankar Polytechnic