

Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane

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I have great pleasure in presenting this brochure of VPM (Thane) Group of Institutions which gives details about its genesis, its group of institutions and the different courses offered by the respective institutions. However, at the outset it is necessary to indulge in nostalgia and thank the founding fathers (1935) and later on in 1957, Dr. V.N. Bedekar and his dedicated team of visionaries who thought of sowing the seeds of institution building in the field of education in Thane.

Over the years, VPM (Thane) group of institutions has emerged as an educational

complex to be reckoned with in global platforms. VPM's Group of Institutions delivers primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education. These institutions at different levels provide education to hundreds and thousands of students from Kindergarten to Post Graduation-KG to PG and even beyond. The network of institutions include primary and secondary, 'English and Marathi' medium schools, multi faculty-undergraduate and post graduate institutions, colleges of arts, commerce, law, management, science, and engineering (VPM's Polytechnic). In 2009, the strength of students is more than 15,000 and adding teaching and non-teaching staff of nearly another 1000, the human assets portfolio of VPM's Group of Institutions is 16,000 (circa).

VPM (Thane) offers a wide variety of degree / diploma courses with affiliation to the University of Mumbai, and National level regulatory authorities like All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and State level regulatory authorities like Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education (MSBTE) and the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Maharashtra State.

VPM positions itself in the field of education as a provider of quality education along with state-of-the-art learning opportunities to all. Today, VPM's Thane College Campus is a hub for a wide variety of learning opportunities to the young and the adults. The campus is a host to a variety of degrees, diplomas and certificate courses. In addition VPM (Thane) offers a range of national and international level autonomous courses. Access to value adding databases is yet another fascinating feature that provides the students and teachers with a cutting edge. All these activities bear eloquent testimony to the fruits borne through the seeds sown by the founding fathers who had championed the cause of education.

Education at VPM (Thane) transcends above and beyond classroom and library driven pedagogy. It aims at a holistic development of students' personality and knowledge ability. Further, students have opportunities to hone

skills and develop their innate attributes. Above all it places great emphasis on character, morality, discipline and attempts to build socially responsible citizens for the nation.

VPM (Thane) is specially privileged and also obliged to position itself in society as contributors to the development of posterity for the nation inasmuch as thousands of students are with us for more than 15 years from KG to PG over the last several decades. Such vast numbers of scholars are a treasure of the VPM (Thane) family, year on year basis. Our alumni are holding VPM's fort through several prestigious and honourable positions held by them all over the world. There are innumerable scientists, professionals in the field of finance and accounting, economists, lawyers, judges, polytechnic qualified technical persons, managers and entrepreneurs that are doing proud to their alma mater.

India is now regarded as a knowledge superpower. It is the world's reservoir of human talent and also an immeasurable source for explicit and implicit knowledge from the dawn of civilisation. Export of knowledge assets, tangible and intangible, explicit and implicit, is the order of the day and also for the future. Indians are being accepted all over the globe as Chief Executive Officers and Chief Financial Officers of large multinationals, entrepreneurs, heads of academic institutions, engineers, doctors, et al. This provides young Indians with many golden opportunities. VPM (Thane) is repositioning itself with greater vigour and rigour on the continuum to play a vital role to be a reservoir of talent in almost all branches of learning to the whole world.

As part of the enlightened involvement of VPM (Thane) in transcending beyond Thane into the rural hinterland of Maharashtra, we have taken on board a new project which includes the establishment of a VPM Campus at Velneshwar, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra State. The Velneshwar Complex is an effort to take state-of-the-art quality education to the rural belts. The initial focus is on an engineering college-Maharshi Parashuram College of Engineering, followed by learning opportunities in other fields too.

Further, in fulfilment of its commitment to surge ahead in a borderless World, VPM (Thane) has established collaboration with a number of institutions / universities. February 2009 saw the birth of VPM's London Academy for Education and Research. This Academy will offer courses in the field of management, Indian culture and other emerging areas. Again, VPM (Thane) has entered into an agreement with the University of Skövde (Sweden) for research and studies in bio-medicine, molecular biology and physiology. Our students will have opportunities to explore and study for the degree courses of the University of Skövde. VPM (Thane) has yet another MOU, this time with California InterContinental University for different courses in management at Masters and Doctoral levels. Another collaboration with Northern College, Canada will provide

opportunities to students to pursue courses like Electrical Power Systems (Advanced Diploma), Instrumentation (Industrial Diploma) and Computer Engineering (College Diploma). A centre for foreign language studies provides opportunities for scholars interested in developing language expertise in French, German, Japanese, Italian, Persian and Arabic. VPM's Centre for Foreign Language Studies has entered into a MOU with Ichikawa Japanese Language School, Chiba, Japan.

In a world of seamless opportunities, VPM (Thane) is exploring ways and means of forging itself with the Government of India's policy of making India a super knowledge power and also bringing about, by way of consequence, a societal transformation. I am sure all friends, well wishers and other stakeholders will join VPM in this journey of pursuing a noble cause of scaling new heights in education in distant lands.

Indeed, VPM (Thane) has been blessed with a network of stakeholders who all speak a common language of commitment and total dedication to the cause of education and the pursuit of developing honest, intelligent and knowledgeable citizens to serve the cause of humanity. May I reiterate that VPM (Thane) will always underscore its moorings in local soil and rich Indian heritage, values, beliefs, practices and its invaluable treasure of Indian wisdom. Every dimension and all activities of VPM (Thane), shall endeavour, at all times, to align, forge and merge itself, with the ethos of the nation to sub-serve the cause of the 'onward march of human progress' through its network of institutions and their diverse range of activities.

VPM's group of institutions would not have seen the light of the day if the founding fathers had not dedicated themselves to the cause of the education movement in Thane in particular and India in general. By providing opportunities in the field of education, Dr. V. N. Bedekar, a great visionary, wanted to awaken people towards independence, self reliance, greater heights of knowledge, and newer and newer horizons of enablement, empowerment and enactment. In the words of Swami Vivekananda, I may say that for the VPM (Thane) Group of Institutions, 'the past was great no doubt but the future will be glorious still.'

Dr. Vijay V. Bedekar

Chairman,

VPM's (Thane) Group of Institutions

The inception of primary education in Thane dates back to 1935, when a primary school, then known as "REGISTERED KHAJAGI MARATHI SHALA" (RKMS) was established in Naupada, Thane.

Vidya Prasarak Mandal (Thane) was established in 1935 and the primary school then came within the governance of **VPM** (**Thane**). Thus, began the ambitious and arduous journey of the great visionary Dr. V.N. Bedekar, who wanted to explore the launch of many more centres of excellence in higher education in Thane.

In 1957, Dr. V.N. Bedekar joined the Vidya Prasarak Mandal (Thane) along with a band of dedicated social workers and so began the mission of extending the horizons of Thane in the field of education. Again, in the same year (1957), RKMS became Dr. Bedekar Vidya Mandir (a Marathi Medium School). There was a lot of societal pressure to provide opportunities for school education in English medium at primary and secondary levels. Dr. V.N. Bedekar with his team of committed citizens of Thane contributed their mite and the Sou. A.K. Joshi English Medium School was established in 1976.

In 1968 VPM (Thane) established a composite multi faculty (Arts, Science, and Commerce), college which was the first of its kind in Thane. The college, comprising three faculties, provided opportunities for higher education with affiliation to Pune University.

In 1976, at the request of the Management of VPM (Thane), Government of Maharashtra permitted bifurcation of the composite college comprising three streams into two separate colleges viz.

• B.N. Bandodkar College of Science

AND

• K.G. Joshi College of Arts and N.G. Bedekar College of Commerce

These three colleges are known in Thanekar's parlance as Thane college and **VPM's** (**Thane**) campus is known as Thane College Campus.

In June, 1974, VPM's Colleges got affiliation to University of Mumbai.

The relentless efforts of the dedicated team of Dr. V.N. Bedekar bore fruit and enabled the accomplishment of many more milestones between 1969 and 2004. A law college was established in 1972 with the help of the then Thane Municipal Council and was named as VPM (Thane) TMC Law College. This was followed by the establishment of a Polytechnic in 1983 and an Advanced Study Centre in 1996. The courses conducted by VPM's Polytechnic were recognised by Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education (MSBTE). Again in 1973, VPM (Thane) established a Department of Management Studies (DMS) as a

wing of VPM's Arts and Commerce College. Keeping in mind, the growing needs and importance of management education, the said DMS was converted into an Institute of Management Studies (IMS) with effect from 1st October, 1991. The year 2000 saw the establishment of an Information Technology Centre as an extension of the activities of VPM's Polytechnic. However, it was not until 2005 (30.06.2005 to be precise) that **VPM's** (**Thane**) Dr. V.N. Bedekar Institute of Management Studies (Dr. VNBRIMS) got recognition to conduct the two year full time AICTE recognised MMS degree course of University of Mumbai.

FUTURE: A new institution is just born. The relentless efforts of Dr. Vijay V. Bedekar, Chairman, VPM (Thane) to transcend beyond Thane into other parts of the world bore fruit on 10th February, 2009 when VPM (Thane) acquired a stake in a company in London, UK. This new company known as VPM's (Thane) London Academy of Education and Research is part of Globalisation of VPM's (Thane) Educational Activities and is an important milestone in the annals of VPM (Thane-India)

VISION

VPM (Thane) is committed to run educational institutions of excellence, driven by creativity and innovation, through state-of-art infrastructure, with a view to provide quality, value based, education seeking holistic development of student's and teachers' personalities to enable them to become socailly responsible citizens.

MISSION

To establish and develop institutions of excellence, in education, research, training and development in different disciplines of learning at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, with learner-centric pedagogically effective learning ambiance and state-of-the-art technology that can encourage learning by spirit of inquiry, group work, discovery, imbibing moral and cultural values and institutional and individual leadership with social responsibility.

GOALS

- To provide students and staff opportunities for intellectual, physical, scientific, social, cultural and professional education.
- To identify the need for professional know-how and provide educational opportunities through centres of secondary and tertiary education viz. Polytechnic, Engineering College, Management Institute, Advanced Study Centre and Colleges in different faculties viz. Arts, Science, Commerce and Law.
- To co-operate, consult and collaborate with other institutions, in the public and private sector, on issues of common interest.
- To identify the human resources needs of industry and meet the same through appropriate human resources management and development.
- Develop innovative methodologies and professionalisation in the management of VPM (Thane) group of institutions.

The emblem of VPM (Thane) speaks volumes



The suggestive symbols of an illuminated lamp, open book, a pen, an inkpot and a flower in the emblem of VPM mentions in Sanskrit that :

प्रज्वोलितो ज्ञानमयः प्रदीपः Prajwalito Dnyanmayaha Pradipaha

Translated into English it means that :

'The lamp of knowledge has lit'
"The Lamp of knowledge has been lit."

Salient Features

Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane Group of Institutions - "Jnanadweepa"

Salient Features

- Close Proximity to Thane Station
- Sprawling Campus of 13.5 acres
- State-of-the-Art IT Centre
- Ample Parking Facilities
- Thorale Bajirao Peshawe Sabhagruha (Auditorium)
- Located in the Heart of Thane City
- Excellent Infrastructure
- © Campus with Fiber Optic backbone and Wi-Fi Connectivity
- Two Open Air Theatres
- Four Auditoriums with LCD and Video Conferencing Facility
- Electronically controlled security gates with CCTV w.e.f. 3rd April 2009

GROUP OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

(Chronological Establishment of Institutions)

Dr. Bedekar Vidya Mandir - Marathi Medium School BVM - MMS 1957 1957

> Dr. B.N. Bandodkar College of Science BNBCS - 1969

1969

K.G. Joshi College of Arts and N.G. Bedekar College of Commerce (Accredited by NAAC, Bangalore) KGJCA and NGBCC- 1969

1969

VPM's TMC Law College (Accredited by NAAC, Bangalore) TMCLC - 1972

1972

Department of Management Studies

1973

Sou. A.K. Joshi English Medium School Sou. AKJ (EMS) - 1976

1976

VPM's Polytechnic (Accredited by National Board of Accreditation, New Delhi) PTECH - 1983 1983

Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane - 1935

GROUP OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

(Chronological Establishment of Institutions)

Institute of Management Studies (Previously knowns as Department of Management Studies)

1991

VPM's Advanced Study Centre ASC- 1996

1996

VPM's Polytechnic IT Centre PTECH IT CENTRE - 2000

2000

Dr. V.N. Bedekar Institute of Management Studies
ISO 9001:2000 (SGS-UK) Certified
(Previously known as Institute of Management Studies)
2005

VPM's Centre for Foreign Language Studies CFLS - 2008

2008

VPM's Department of Defence and Strategic Studies

2008

VPM's London Academy for Education and Research

2009

The governance of **VPM's** (**Thane**) group of institutions is guided by professionalism, quality, values and commitment to society.

Information and Interaction

To keep abreast of state-of-the-art technology in the governance and management of VPM's group of institutions, **VPM** (**Thane**) keenly incorporates all necessary advances in Information Technology and quality awareness in its institutions alongwith emphasis on close interaction with industries. The entire college campus is inter-connected with fibre optic backbone and Wi-Fi connectivity having 24 hours access to internet via leased line/s.

VPM attaches a lot of importance to interaction between industries and its academia by conducting workshops, conferences and seminars under the auspices of individual institutions, from its group of institutions, on a wide variety of contemporary national and international issues cutting across the milieu of prevailing times – social, economic, science and technology, philosophy, management, law et al. A profile of the seminars and conferences held by VPM's group of institutions, between 2001 to 2009 is presented in Annexure one. Annexure two presents the list of publications by the VPM Group of Institutions between 2000 to date.

Activities

Apart from core educational activities, VPM's Group of Institutions is engaged in a wide variety of extra curricular, cultural, and social events all round the year. This contributes to the overall development of students and teachers. A glimpse of different events and happenings in VPM's group of Institutions is presented in the following paragraphs.

Membership of Societies

VPM (**Thane**) has also subscribed towards membership of various recognised associations viz.

- Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
- Maharashtra Economic Development Council
- Bombay Management Association

Interaction with Foreign Institutions

With the help of Institute for Oriental Study, Thane **VPM** (**Thane**) arranges visits of students and teachers to schools in **Oxford**, **London** and **Cambridge**.

Similarly, teachers from UK and China have visited our schools and colleges. These visits help our teachers and students to provide sharper focus to the learning process by stimulating 'creativity and innovation.'

Collaboration

VPM (**Thane**) is always keen to collaborate with industries and other educational institutions, especially recognised foreign universities, to identify and introduce new, modern, professional courses to enable our students to cope with the rapidly changing requirements of emerging times.

With a view to get the benefits of collaboration and introduce state-of-theart courses in diverse fields, VPM (Thane) has entered into agreements with various foreign institutions.

VPM (Thane) has entered into MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) with California InterContinental University, University of Skövde, Sweden, New Panorama and Japanese Language Institute, Chiba, Japan as highlighted below:

- a MoU between VPM (Thane) and California InterContinental University California, USA is already signed and executed. Two programs viz. Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) are to commence with effect from June, 2009. The MBA degree course will have six areas of specialisation (emphasis options) and the DBA course will have four areas of specialisation (emphasis options).
- b MoU with New Panorama has facilitated the introduction of training for the learning of Japanese Language through **VPM's** (**Thane**) Centre for Foreign Language Studies. Further, a MoU between **VPM's** (**Thane**) and Ichikawa Japanese Institute, Chiba, Japan is also a key feature of **VPM's** (**Thane**) interest in promoting foreign languages (Japanese) for the benefit of students.
- c An agreement between University of Skövde, Skövde, Sweden and **VPM** (**Thane**) for research and studies in Biomedicine, Molecular Biology and Physiology and for exchange of students between the University of Skövde institutes and VPM's (Thane) B. N. Bandodkar College of Science was signed on **24**th **February**, **2009**.
- d Vidya Prasarak Mandal's (VPM) Polytechnic is entering into 'a MoU' with Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology, Timmins, Ontario, Canada for the study of advanced engineering diploma courses in :
 - Electric Power Systems (Advanced Diploma)
 - Instrumentation (Industrial Diploma)

© Computer Engineering at Northern College (College Diploma)

This is going to provide an excellent foreign education opportunity to VPM's Polytechnic students who will pass out with 3 year diplomas in these subjects. Our MSBTE diploma holder students will have to study only for 2 to 3 semesters more for obtaining advanced diplomas from Northern College. They will then be able to secure jobs in Canada, US or Europe. All this can be done at a very reasonable fee.

Additional details about these courses are available with VPM's Polytechnic, Chendani Bunder Road, Thane (W) – 400601. Phone nos. 91-22-25339866, 25442233 and e-mail: vpmit.polytechnic.thane@gmail.com

Polytechnic and Allied Facilities Automatic Weather Station (AWS)

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has been maintaining a network of around 1200 surface observations including the one in VPM (Thane) college campus. This is one of the GPS based, satellite linked weather stations, to provide accurate, reliable, trouble free and real time meteorological data to meteorologists for undertaking the complexities of weather. The overall accuracy of the data received from AWS network is well within the required limits specified by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The AWS has instruments to measure Air Temperature, Wind Speed, Wind Direction, Atmospheric Pressure, Relative Humidity and Rainfall.

From the COSMOS- WSSI Safer Cities project USA, we have received two Strong Motion Instrumentation (SMI) equipments which are useful for prediction of Seismic Activities and Earth Quake Measurements.

Energy Park

The Energy Park Project is partly funded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India. The Park will provide display of various renewable energy technologies such as *solar, wind, biomass,* etc. The park is developed with a view to educate general public and students in the area of futuristic significance. In addition, many renewable energy concepts are conceived into project forms and they will be kept for display in the Energy Park. The department plans to undertake renewable energy projects to take care of part of Energy requirements of the campus, with this eco friendly option.

Auditorium Facilities

A fully air-conditioned auditorium, with state-of-the-art audio-video facility and seating capacity of circa 150-200 persons is made available, to all educational institutions in **VPM's** (**Thane**) to provide full scope for extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. Video-conferencing facilities enable global networking at the respective educational institutions.

Social Commitment

VPM (**Thane**) is proud to have taken the right step to fulfil the national dream of providing high quality engineering education. The Velneshwar project will definitely help in eradicating poverty in the region by generating employment opportunities. It will also help to minimise the regional imbalance in professional education. VPM (Thane) is engaged in the noble cause of education in Thane city since 1935. It would now like to diversify its focus to rural areas. **VPM's** (**Thane**) initial focus was to provide diverse range of academic activities aimed at creation, dissemination and application of knowledge and practice. In future, VPM (Thane) will transcend beyond its historic role into a new Avatar of reaching new places and ensure its presence in different parts of the World by locating centres of excellence in various parts of the globe. Further, with the help of state-of-the-art technology like video-conferencing, VPM (Thane) plans to reach out to different places and groups of people – students, teachers and other stakeholders with their diverse range of academic and other products and services. VPM (Thane) will effectively meet the challenges of globalisation and emerging high-tech society and posit the role of a learning organisation and a leader to be reckoned with, in the knowledge society.

VPM (Thane) expanse into the rural hinterland of Maharashtra through the launch of an engineering college and other centres of excellence in various disciplines and its extensions into the global network will always underscore its moorings in local soil and rich Indian heritage, values , beliefs, practices and its immeasurable treasure of Indian wisdom. Every dimension and all activities of VPM, shall endeavour, at all times, to align, forge and merge itself, with the ethos of the nation to sub-serve the cause of the onward march of human progress through its network of institutions and their diverse range of activities.

Providing Safety and Security

Considering the safety and security needs of more than 14,000 students and 700 staff, **VPM** (**Thane**) has decided to install an electronic entry and exit system in the college. Smart (identity) cards are issued to students and staff.

Dr. V. N. Bedekar Memorial Lecture

Every year on 14th April, The Dr. V.N. Bedekar Memorial Lecture is organised. Eminent scientists, thinkers and professionals from different walks of life are invited to deliver a lecture. These lectures are then published. To date, five lectures have been organised from 14.04.2005 as shown below:

| Year | Topic | Speaker |
|------|--|------------------------|
| 2005 | Computer Revolution and India | Dr. D.B. Phatak |
| 2006 | Leadership for Asia's Winning Edge in the Globalised Economy | Prof. Y.K. Bhushan |
| 2007 | Globalisation and Indian Economy | Dr. Vishnu Kanhere |
| 2008 | Phenomology Deconstruction and Indian Philosophy | Dr. R. Balasubramanian |
| 2009 | Science and Society : Lessons from Colonial Past | Dr. Deepak Kumar |

Foundation day

Every year on 1st August the foundation day of Vidya Prasarak Mandal is celebrated. On this occasion, the heads of VPM group of institutions individually present a report on the progress of their respective institutions. VPM also discloses their future plans to the audience.

Convocation

An annual convocation ceremony is held on Teachers Day i.e. 5^{th} September, for successful candidates of autonomous programs conducted by **VPM's** group of institutions. The Certificates are awarded at the hands of eminent persons from various fields.

Disha Vyasapeetha*

Apart from running educational institutions, **VPM** (**Thane**) also publishes its own monthly magazine namely *Disha* in Marathi to share views, ideas and opinions with society. With a view to provide a wider platform to students' talents, DISHA VYASAPEETHA also organises various cultural programmes as well as special lectures on topics of general interest for the benefit of students and teachers.

*Disha means direction. Vyasapeetha means platform or stage. Thus Disha Vyasapeetha means a platform to provide guidance, advice and counsel to students in particular and other stakholders in general.

Annual Gathering

All major institutions of VPM celebrate their annual gathering of students and teachers with great zeal and enthusiasm.

Film Society

Promoting multi-linguistic films that figure in the critic awards lists, **VPM** (**Thane**) organises an activity related to screening of films with program note and discussions on films screened. Further, **VPM** (**Thane**) organises film appreciation lectures, with support from the Federation of Film Society of India (FFSI), by noted personalities from the film and allied fields.

Online Admission System

It's a proud privilege for **VPM** (**Thane**) to be reckoned as an unique institution in Maharashtra State for pioneering '**Online Admission System**' for its colleges. **VPM** (**Thane**) has also started an online transaction system enabling credit / debit card facilities for payment through **VPM's** (**Thane**) website '<u>http://www.vpmthane.org/</u>, for acceptance of school / college fees, donations, sale of seminar proceedings and publications.

VPM (Thane) is proud to state that all its institutions boast of state-of-the-art library facilities, which are accessible to students and teachers between 7.00a.m. to 11.00p.m. All the libraries are fully digitalised and the library book catalogues are available on VPM's website at http://www.vpmthane.org/. To promote and encourage research activities, amongst students and staff , VPM's Arts and Commerce College, has a special research cell, with online reference facilities. PC and Internet connectivity are provided for individual research scholars.

VPM (**Thane**) subscribes to various national and international newspapers, journals, magazines, bulletins etc. in print as well as for online access. An illustrative list is shown below:-

- Asian Wall Street Journal
- ❖ Financial Times
- ❖ Scientific American
- Harvard Business Review
- Current Science
- The Smart Manager
- Down to Earth
- New Scientist
- The Economist
- Nature
- National Geographic
- Far Eastern Economic Review
- Indian Defence Review
- The Examiner
- Indian Literature
- New England Journal of Medicine
- Journal of South Asian Studies
- Journal of Indo-European Studies
- History Today
- The Art Newspaper
- Asian Art Newspaper
- Fortune
- The Lancet
- Social Scientist