

“Education is not the learning of many facts, but the training of the mind to think”

- Albert Einstein



VAHANI SUMMER WORKSHOP 2022

Much to the delight of our Scholars and the Vahani team, in February 2022 the government announced that all students could finally return to college. Despite the efforts of colleges and the team to keep online classes and training going, it had become apparent that many of the scholars had missed out on important aspects of a regular college life; from experiencing a live classroom lecture to meeting with the faculty, social interactions, live sports, arts and hanging out with friends on the campus. To compensate for not having met in person for two years, we used July to organise the best comeback Summer Workshop experience for the Scholars. For the first time we had two batches joining us (2020 and 2021), who were 'Summer Workshop Virgins'.

Highlights of the Annual Summer Workshop 2022:

- “When in Rome do as Romans do” - The workshop took place at The Hyatt Place Hotel in Gurugram, which created an altogether new experience for the Scholars. As most of them aspire to be young professionals and entrepreneurs, first-hand corporate conference experience at a 5 Star hotel helped them overcome fears and doubts over what to expect at such a venue.
- 150+ Scholars, Mentors, Tutors, Board Members and the Team came together to make it a huge success. We had Mentors fly in from different states and countries for the event. Scholars from across India checked in too, fully enthused with excitement.
- On Day 1 we had a panel discussion on “Life changing opportunities”, with awe inspiring speakers - Chandini Di, Founder Voice of Slums, Dr Nikhil Modi, a Critical Care Medicine and Pulmonologist at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals and Anirudh Gupta, the co-founder of Climes. Vahani Alumnus K. Hinga was their efficient moderator.



- The day was wrapped up with a skillful Bharatanatyam performance by Anannya Chatterjee, who not only enthralled everyone with her perfect mudras and forms but also explained the history of the art form and its relevance today.
- This was followed by a "Talent Hour" where Scholars and Alumni entertained everyone with their own performances ranging from singing to poetry recitation, dancing and a rendition on the flute.



- As tradition goes, a workshop is incomplete without the entire family jamming and dancing their hearts out together on whatever makes them groove, from Punjabi songs to Hindi blockbusters or the latest English beats.



- After a fun action-packed day, Day Two was more evenly paced. The focus was on Mental Wellbeing and Health, a topic very close to the heart of Vahani Founder and Chairperson Reeva Misra - Founder and CEO of Walking on Earth. Ms. Reeva planned a workshop called "Miracle Morning", beginning with a fun ice-breaker exercise. Miracle Morning not only helped Scholars understand the importance of a routine but also taught them how to declutter their minds and prioritize their tasks in a productive way.

The workshop did not end there as the Scholars were encouraged to set up Whatsapp groups amongst themselves to follow up on practicing Miracle Mornings everyday.



- By the end of the workshop the walls of the conference room were covered with beautiful, thought-provoking and creative posters depicting the plans and goals of each scholar for the year to come. This is something they can revisit at next year's summer workshop to see how much they have achieved. To this end, these notes were collected and have been kept safely to be opened next year.



- The summer workshop is incomplete without an outdoor activity/visit. On the last day of the workshop, the Scholars spent a thrilling and fun-filled evening at Smaaash Arcade Station in Gurugram. We had bowling, go-karting, air hockey and station games, all with unlimited coke, pizzas and mouth-watering snacks on offer. As we wrapped up on a high note, everyone immediately started making plans for the winter get-together.



SUMMER INTERNSHIP 2022

Interning is a mandatory programme at Vahani to ensure that Scholars get many opportunities in the world of work and also become well-rounded individuals. Throughout the pandemic, we had Scholars interning online, so returning to offline internships now overcomes the challenge of missing out on in-person interactions. In the last two years we have grown our internship network with new opportunities for scholars in Axis Bank, Edupress, Asaco, Innacel, Globalbees and Faad Network to name a few. Over 44 scholars senior and freshers completed their summer internships at prestigious corporate companies, which gave them the experience they need to broaden their horizons and understand professional work cultures. Several internships in the past have converted to employment opportunities for Scholars and, importantly, each internship has added to their CVs and networking opportunities.



SCHOLARS' SECTION



A special memory at Vahani Summer Workshop - Bhumika Panghal 2021 Scholar

Summer workshop - An event where everything was full of zeal, learning and New. I experienced a lot of *firsts* like my first time staying in a hotel, first time interacting with so many new faces and first offline Vahani Workshop. My most special memory is when I took Ms. Reeva Misra's interview. I remember how nervous I was, it was really a big thing for me.

To be honest I was stuttering while practicing but ma'am was so supportive and all the Vahani Members were so encouraging that helped me a lot in successfully conducting the interview. When I was walking out of the conference room after the interview my happiness and confidence was skyrocketing.



No more classes in bed! - Meenakshi Yadav 2020 Scholar

Alarms, not mothers wake us up these days,
Weekends started to count like it always used to.
Hustle and haste, back in the mornings,
with the crowded metros and the rushes of the students.
Hastily as they run to the professors,
bargainings they do to save for a canteen samosa.
Chillings and chattings as it smoothens,
Often we turn our way to places other than classes.
Life is back to normal as we have always envisioned.
Happily we have walked from online to offline.

VAHANI ALUMNI SECTION

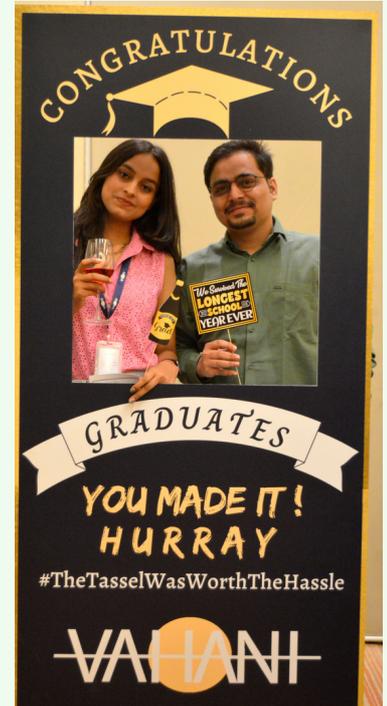
It is time for the baton to be passed on. Vahani Alumni Association has new office bearers as Ritu Chauhan steps down as President. A very capable Preet Patel of 2018 Batch takes the oath as in-coming President to develop the vision and plans for the association. He is backed by an efficient team of office bearers - Vice-President: K Hinga, Joint Secretary: Aarti Sachdeva, Treasurer: Chelsi Shah and Executive Member: Sakshi Gupta.

The new Association has already planned some big events and Alumni get together, focussing on the motive of giving back to the Vahani family and to society. They hope to create opportunities for their juniors too to become great Vahani Ambassadors like them.



Graduation Ceremony and Alumni Dinner

A highlight of the workshop was an exclusive evening spent with 55 Graduating Scholars and Vahani Alumni at an elegant Italian Graduation Ceremony and Dinner at the Hyatt Place Ballroom. Graduation is a much awaited event world over. The thrill of walking up to the stage to receive your memento and certificate, hearing your peers applaud your achievements. After the 1st Grad Dinner held in 2019, subsequent batches that graduated during the pandemic were also felicitated the same evening. Chairperson Reeva Misra was called upon to raise a toast that evening. Selfies at the specially designed kiosk, inspirational speeches, emotional messages and photographs galore made it a memorable dinner with all the quintessential elements.



WHAT'S NEW?

- K Hinga 2018 Scholar, joins the Vahani Team as Operations Analyst
- Team Member and Alumna Ritu Chuhan joins KPMG to begin a new adventure
- The Vahani Team is now working in a hybrid mode, with an offline base at Defence Colony, New Delhi

LOOK OUT FOR!

Nominate a student that deserved everything but has close to nothing.

- Application portal for 2022-2023 opens on 1st September 2022 - www.vahanischolarship.in
- Competitions Lined up: Blog Competition (only for Vahani Scholars), Vahani Jingle Competition (only for Vahani Scholars) Vahani Debate Competition (for all schools: those who are interested should enroll their current 11th/12th students by writing to: info@vahanischolarship.com)
- Reeva Misra's exclusive interview is available on Vahani's You-tube Channel.

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