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Vision **UVCE**  
*Rejig to Reform*



# SAMPADA

*Your window to UVCE*



Edition  
**124**

## EDITORIAL

ಎಂತಹಾ ವಿಪರ್ಯಾಸ ಅಲ್ಲವೇ?! ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಮಾನವ ಬೇರೆ ಗ್ರಹಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸುವುದು ಹೇಗೆಂದು ಯೋಚಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನಾವು ಈಗ ನಮ್ಮ ಭೂಮಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಾಣ ಉಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೇಗೆ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಚಿಂತೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ತಲುಪಿದ್ದೇವೆ. "ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ"ಗೆ ಶರಣು ಅಷ್ಟೇ.

ಕೊರೊನಾ ಎಂಬ ವೈರಸ್ COVID-2019 ಎಂಬ ಹೆಮ್ಮಾರಿ ಆಗುವ ತನಕ ಪ್ರಪಂಚ ಮೈ ಮರೆತಿತ್ತು (ನಮ್ಮ ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನೂ ಸೇರಿಸಿ) ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಅಕ್ಷರವೇ ಸತ್ಯ. ಕೊರೊನಾ ಇರುವಿಕೆಯ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ ಹಲವೆಡೆ ಇತ್ತು ಎನ್ನುವ ಹಲವರ ಅಭಿಮತದ ನಡುವೆ ಇಂತಹಾ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ಹೆಮ್ಮಾರಿ ಹರಡೋ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಒಬಾಮಾ, ಬಿಲ್ ಗೇಟ್ಸ್, ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಭಾರತೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳೂ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೂ ನಾವ್ಯಾರೂ ಅದನ್ನು ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿಲ್ಲ. ದುರಂತವೆಂಬಂತೆ ನಾವು ಈ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲೂ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಯ ತಾಳ್ಮೆಯನ್ನು ಇನ್ನೂ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

ಲಾಕ್ ಡೌನ್ ಅನುಸರಣೆಯೊಂದೇ ಪರಿಹಾರವಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೂ ಒಂದು ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿ ಕ್ರಮ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಸುಳ್ಳಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳ ಹೊರತಾಗಿ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಹೊರ ಬರದಿರುವುದು ಸೂಕ್ತ.

ಈ ಅಂಕಣ ಓದುತ್ತಿರುವ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಪುಣ್ಯವಂತರು, ಅಲ್ಲವೇ?! ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು, ಆಟೋ, ಕ್ಯಾಬ್ ಚಾಲಕರು, ದಿನಗೂಲಿ ನೌಕರರು, ಕೆಲಸದ ನಿಮಿತ್ತ ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಂತ ಊರು ತೊರೆದು ಬಂದವರು, ಅಂದಿನ ದುಡಿಮೆಯನ್ನೇ ನಂಬಿ ಬದುಕು ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದವರ ಕಷ್ಟ ಉಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲೂ ಆಗದು. ಉಟ್ಟ ಬಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಈ ಬಿರು ಬಿಸಿಲಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಒಂದು ಬ್ಯಾಗನ್ನು ಕುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ನೇತು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಮಾತ್ರ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಹಸಿವನ್ನೇ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಚ್ಚಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪೋಲೀಸ್, NGO-ಗಳು, ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ, ಪೌರ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಜೀವನ ಪಣಕ್ಕಿಟ್ಟು ಕೊರೊನಾ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಹೋರಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಲೋಪದೋಷಗಳು ಹಲವಿವೆ. ಆರಾಮಾಗಿ ಅವನ್ನು ಬೆಟ್ಟು ಮಾಡಿ ತೋರಿಸುವ ಬದಲು ನಾವು, ನೀವು, ನಮ್ಮ ಆಪ್ತರು, ಸಮಾಜ ಸ್ವಸ್ಥವಾಗಿರಲು ನಾವೆಲ್ಲಾ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಮೀರಿ ಶ್ರಮ ಪಡೋಣ.

- ಪ್ರಮೋದ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಎಂ, ೨೦೦೮ ಐ.ಎಸ್.ಇ

Special Thanks to Pramod for agreeing to write the special Editorial. We are glad to invite more guest editors for Sampada in the coming editions. One other important announcement is that next edition of Sampada will be dedicated to Silver Jubilee Anniversary of 95 batch. If you belong to this batch (graduation year of 1995), you can reach out to us and we will be glad to publish your profile or your interviews in the next edition. Our email-id: [sampada@visionuvce.in](mailto:sampada@visionuvce.in)



# SURVIVING THE PANDEMIC - AN OUTLOOK

Namaste,

I am Ajay Bidari, Information Science and Engineering (ISE) 2009 batch. I am an Indian Revenue Service(IRS) officer of 2017 batch currently posted as Assistant Commissioner (GST) in Tamil Nadu.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an unprecedented crisis world over. As the pandemic has spread exponentially across the world, India has been able to manage it from wreaking havoc like the one in some countries such as Italy or the US. Government faces numerous challenges for which solutions were found and many are yet to be addressed. I, as a part of government, would like to throw light on a few challenges faced and how they were solved and the after effects of the pandemic.



The nature of infection characterized by a 2-14 day incubation period, symptoms that are similar to common flu made it only more difficult to the government and makes it even today. The PM gave call for a voluntary lockdown popularly called as “Janata Curfew” on 22nd march when there were around 400 confirmed cases of COVID-19. The 1st phase of nationwide lockdown started 3 days later on 25th of March, which was evidence to the grave situation prevailing in India at that time.

This was first nationwide lockdown in India due to an epidemic, which not only necessitated people to stay put in their places but also expected a particular social behaviour on their part. The underfunded public healthcare system and fragile economy were issues that tied the government hands when we went down for lockdown. Needless to say the administrative machinery in 700 and odd districts in India had little idea of the challenges they would face.

The District administration and the Police department were at the forefront of the war against COVID-19. Whenever an individual is tested positive for COVID-19 he/she is first isolated. The patient's contacts are traced, rigorously screened and are quarantined at home or isolation wards and are then monitored. There were many examples where in the primary contacts of the COVID-19 infected individuals would not come forward to undergo testing and isolation. There have been instances where localized and yet massive combing operations have been carried out on war footing with devised electronic survey including smart city control center, drones, CCTV cameras etc.

The State, district administration and frontline workers coordinated their efforts in Command and Control centers also called war rooms like the one in Bangalore set up by BBMP. Civil servants and experts together make setting up a war room and its functioning a reality. It is proud fact that the war room in Bangalore was set up in under 24 hours and the efforts of the people involved received accolades nationwide.

Migrant crisis was one of the first issues that the district administrations faced all over India. While Karnataka had a help line for redressing grievance regarding migrant laborers or daily wagers, many officers across services were bridges between authorities and people in distress. While governments were doing all possible arrangements for their shelter and food, multiple in-formal officer WhatsApp groups were flooded with request to help stranded laborers in different parts of the state as well as other states. Many times when the government help could not reach them, we made sure that interested NGOs helped them or we ourselves went to help them. NGOs played a big role in managing this crisis.

Public transport, rightly, was shut down during the lockdown and hence there was an imminent need of transport service to transport essential items, medicines, agricultural produce etc. While Railways was running express parcel trains between different parts of the country, SETU, an initiative of young Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officers expanded the scope for already existing parcel train service network.

The team is virtually acting as a bridge between suppliers and purchasers with the difference that the service is limited to overcome the shortage of essential commodities. SETU was helping someone from Bangalore get their essential life-saving medicines from Delhi or helping transporting PPE kits from Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu to Delhi hospitals or transporting fruits and vegetables from a farmer in Karnataka to a buyer in some other state. While the trade came to a standstill due to pandemic, it had to be ensured that the import of essential medical equipment, medicines etc. had to take place without hassels. The Customs department was providing 24\*7 custom clearances during such difficult times. While Air India was bringing in the Indians stuck abroad to India during such times, the customs had set up special teams to give customs clearance of such passengers at different airports.

Businesses are facing existential crises due to COVID-19. During such times, it was of paramount importance that they have disposable cash with them. The income tax and GST departments worked towards giving refund to tax payers in swift mode. Around 11,000 crores rupees worth of GST and Customs duty refund was granted in a span of around 15 days.

COVID-19 has radically transformed lives. The 5-week lockdown in India to prevent the spread of the virus was unprecedented in scale. Fortunately or unfortunately, many norms during the lock down will be new normal. The high transmission nature of the virus and absence of any vaccine for now necessitates that we learn to live with the virus. The immediate effect of such prolonged lockdown will lead to economic hardships all over the world. Reduced consumer demand, loss of jobs may lead global depression and we may need months to recover from it.

Increased expenditure in the public health would probably be the first after effect of COVID-19, which is necessary and desirable. Telemedicine will witness a phenomenal rise. Online consultations with the doctors will reduce overcrowding of hospitals. It will also reduce the patient-doctor interaction and also protect frontline fighters - doctors, nurses & health workers.

The outbreak will drastically change the way we work. Work from Home will be a new norm. This will offer unique opportunity to specially abled individuals and women to contribute significantly from home. It will also reduce time spent on commuting, enhance productivity and improve work-life balance. Education is another sector, which can see a major overhaul by replacing the physical classrooms with online classrooms. With increased penetration of mobiles and digital networks, it will only make education more accessible and affordable.

Social distancing is an effective way to fight the virus. We will find out ways of reducing social gathering in the temples by using technologies such as video conferencing. The need for Social Distancing will lead to emergence of Contact less deliveries, particularly food and medicine supplies. E-commerce is the future.

When the whole of healthcare system, government machinery along with hundreds of NGOs are at frontline fighting the virus, how can students, teachers, the alumni contribute to fight against COVID-19? Here are some simple ways to help.

- Stay safe. Keep everyone around you safe. Follow the instructions given by the government and the authorities.
- Be a responsible citizen and do not spread false information. False information does more harm than the pandemic itself. Be a responsible Netizen.
- Be empathetic to someone who has tested positive. Social Distancing does not mean discrimination. Do not discriminate. Spread awareness so that others also do not discriminate.
- Spread Awareness about the epidemic through pamphlets, some announcement system etc. without bringing people together in groups. Educate people to come forward and get tested whenever necessary.
- Help elders and old aged who are more susceptible to infection by buying groceries, medicines, or other essential items for them.
- Register yourself as a COVID-19 volunteer on mygov.in

Our lives will never be the same. The COVID-19 pandemic will probably end when a vaccine is found. However, we cannot rule out emergence of such pandemics in future. COVID-19 has taught us many lessons that are valuable in case of emergence of new pandemics. Adaptability is the key.

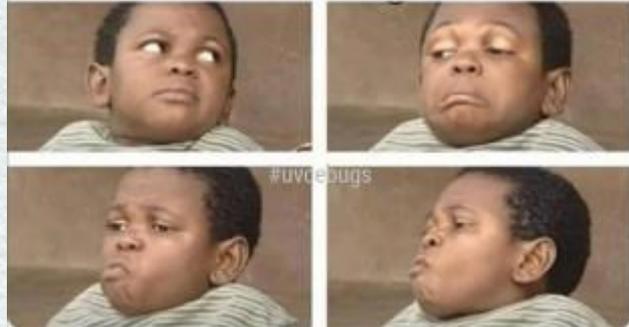
As Charles Darwin rightly says “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, it is the one that is most adaptable to change”.

# BUGS OF UVCE (@bugs\_of\_uvce)



Lab attender : ee CRO nenne chennage work agittu !!

Me (who damaged it by pressing every switch on it 5 mins ago):



VTU students explaining us how their valuation process sucks.



Me & my bois when the college reopens



To check the members and register - [www.uvcega.org/members](http://www.uvcega.org/members)

**400 Members**

[www.uvcega.org](http://www.uvcega.org)

# VIRTUAL UVCE ENTREPRENEURS MEET

From UVCEGA, we are trying to create a platform of UVCE Entrepreneurs and we had conducted a “Breakfast Meet” in February. The idea was to conduct such meetings on a regular basis. But, due to the Lockdown, we were forced to rethink and plan an “Online Meet” on 9th May. Around 30 people registered and attended the online meet. Here are the highlights from the event:

Sridhar Aghalaya from 1987 batch (Co-Founder of Nanocare Solutions) and Satish from 2009 batch (Founder of Ideasparkz) managed the gathering. Sridhar welcomed everyone and briefly explained the agenda.



Rupa Rao from 1988 batch (Cofounder of Healthelife) shared her thoughts about the present condition. She mentioned that her company is focussed on Information driven healthcare – simplifying the complexities of healthcare technology ecosystem. She said that though the Covid-19 situation provides opportunities, whether those will convert to revenue generation will have to be seen in coming days.

Rajesh from 2000 batch had joined us from Sweden. He works as a Director at CNH and also is part of Sweden India Business Council. He spoke about the global impact and shared some interesting facts on business and future projection planning. He mentioned that most of the players have taken the “Wait and Watch” approach and being cautious until Q4 of 2020. The vaccine, whenever it happens, can be the game-changer is the thought across various domains according to Rajesh.

Govind Lakshman from 1971 batch had joined the meet from Chicago, USA. He is the President of Polyurethane Products Corporation and has manufacturing units both in USA and India. He mentioned that condition is definitely a matter of concern with employment rate at its all-time low across the countries. But, in his own company the situation is different. Because they manufacture some parts of ventilators, they had to start work after only one week of lockdown, with all necessary security measures.

Ramachandra Kamat from 1984 batch, who is based out of Mumbai and runs venture - “Srinidhi Engineers” shared his thoughts with everyone and how he is facing this challenging conditions. He wanted to collaborate with someone from Bangalore who can help him complete orders since the output rate will be reduced with lesser workforce and widespread health concerns.

Sanjay Swamy from 1987 batch, who is an early-stage Fintech Investor and part of PrimeVP Venture Capital firm spoke about how early stage startups can make use of this situation and convert it into their advantage. As the field is levelled for sales and marketing, they can approach global clients (via online platforms) and work on customer acquisition. There are no baggage associated with certain sectors who can focus on the revenues by end of this year.

Shubham, current final year student from ECE Department and UVCE E-Cell co-ordinator spoke about the events conducted by the Club and how they plan to move forward. He is also part of the Incubation programme at NSRCEL, IIMB as TinkerTorq Innovations Pvt Ltd shared his experience of being topper in All India Design Innovation contest and about his idea – Airbag jacket for 2 wheeler riders – of which 2nd prototype is getting ready.

Myself–Satish, later gave a demo of an online application dedicated for UVCE Entrepreneurs Forum which is being developed to build the platform further and help in collaboration. I also requested everyone to become members of UVCE Graduates Association to strengthen the alumni community. Many of them obliged as well and became members on the spot.

Later, Sridhar opened the forum for everyone to share their opinions. Sudhakar from 1982 batch, Prasanna M from 1984 batch, Manjunatha from 1983 batch, Ranadhir Hebbar from 2002 batch, Jayashree from 1988 batch, Shobha from 1992 batch shared their ideas and thoughts with the group along with some glimpses of their ventures and challenges.

We have received great response for the online meet and have been asked to conduct these events on a regular manner. We have also received some suggestions on making it more structured and organized so that some outputs/collaborations can be achieved in short-term.

On behalf of UVCEGA, we thank everyone for participating in the meet with enthusiasm and sharing their views. It is definitely a beginning and we intend to take it further and make it more effective. For us, to be able to connect alumni from various batches across the globe in a short span is a success to claim the start of something exciting. We will keep everyone updated and invite more people in the future.

- Satish A G, Batch of 2009 ISE

## UVCE - PHOTO OF NOSTALGIA



Pradeep Rupanagudi posted this “Group Photo of 1972-77 Mechanical Batch” in one of the [Facebook groups](#). One of the Sampada Team members checked it and we immediately agreed to publish it. If you have any group photos, please share it with us and we will publish it in coming editions – [sampada@visionuvce.in](mailto:sampada@visionuvce.in)

## MEMORIES DOWN THE UVCE LANE

I am Akash Nadkarni from batch of 2005 Computer Science. Me being part of this illustrious college was kind of a luck I must say. After my 2nd PUC and CET in 2001, I was not very sure whether I should pick medicine or Engineering. Even though I had a medical seat available at KIMS (Thanks to the sports quota!) in the early rounds of CET counselling, I picked chemical engineering at NIT, Suratkal. My dad was little sad and he wanted me to stay back in Bangalore and in the next subsequent round, I found Computer Science at UVCE and rest is history!

Some of my memories at UVCE, you ask?

Hmm...firstly I was pretty proud that I was at UVCE and at the heart and power corridors of the city. While we started in 2001, the new computer science and Information science buildings was almost complete. For us as freshers to engineering, this place was like perfect in the middle of the UVCE campus with its dense covered greenery. When we joined, it was rainy season and due to new construction, it was all watery and messy everywhere, but the trees were a treat to watch. That was the time, making new friends and sitting there all day long and chit chatting was the order of the day.



My unforgettable memory at UVCE was the first class that K.R Venugopal Sir took the newly constructed computer science class room. That lecture was mind bending in some sense. The concepts he shared and the motivation that we got was of some other level altogether. One other important memory is of playing tennis in front of the new computer science building. The boys group was pretty quick and we were playing hand tennis starting from noon till late evening most of the days. How can one not remember the iconic mechanical building, its ingrained in our memory of UVCE. The old, dilapidated Mechanical building and the lathe room, were straight from the creepy hollows, but we loved it and we still hope and wish it remains the same. Amazing experience and staff who were kind to us to do our assignments for a cup of coffee.

Talking about the effect of COVID-19?

Incidentally, I had quit my job at my company in Oct 2019 seeking a much awaited year end break with my family after 12 continuous years of work. By the time, I wanted to get back to work, COVID had started and this has now deeply affected me getting an opportunity immediately. But, on the other side, it has given me valuable time with my family and an opportunity to do something I really love. It has given me a good time to re-skill and up-skill myself with the industry now and helped me pave a way with Data Science which always wanted to get into. This time has also given me time to pursue my failed startup and reignite it with a new perspective and business proposition. No doubt COVID situation has affected me in a way, but has really helped me gain new skills and given me opportunity to pursue my dream and sports.

I think we should start living a kind of different life going forward post COVID. There will be new normal now and this will open up a new window of opportunity for everyone. I would request everyone to keep themselves healthy, fit and keep eyes open for new ventures and take risk.

- Akash Nadkarni, Batch of 2005 CSE

## GET. SET. GAMING!

We all have our hobbies don't we ? Some love to paint, some love to sing or dance, but a lot of us, we settle for much simpler things, like gaming. Me however, I didn't choose to play them. Instead, I chose to make them.

I started game development as a hobby back in my second semester and I never looked back. It has become my favourite hobby and go-to activity when I am in need of a pick-me-up or I am really just flat out bored with work ( or life in general.). I always make a game prototype almost every month in roughly 2 or 3 days to keep my mind fresh and re-invigorate my interest for programming if I feel fatigued at some point. During this quarantine I ended up making 3 prototypes in a month XD. One of which I entered in a Game Jam (i.e an online game making competition). Anything gaming related in our country is perceived as a waste of time but I intend to try and change that perception. If you would like to know more, read on and know how game development can help you to improve your coding skills.



First things first. You have to know about the different tools required– the software needed for each aspect of the game varies. You'll be needing separate tools for audio, graphics design, modelling etc. Along with that, you will also need a game engine to keep everything together and actually build your game. In the past you would have to make your own game engine but now there are many available online for free, some of which are open source as well. The most popular among them is the Unity game engine which is even used for 3D rendering and animation.

I thought I would start there since the minimum skillset required for beginner level wasn't difficult and I had good understanding of C++ programming language. When I look back now, I feel that I was a bit naïve at the time to think that would be enough. Many concepts that I know now about programming are what I learnt while game development, which I can apply to my other academic projects as well.

So, we have a game engine and we have to learn the programming language required to script in the engine. Are you thinking that's pretty simple? Nope!

There isn't any point learning the language required to develop the game if you don't have any objects within your game. And hence, we need an image editing software for 2D textures or images and a modelling software for 3D models. There are many free online softwares available, with Blender being the most popular one for 3D modelling. However, I was a fan of old pixelated 2D games and so I went in that direction. In this case there are many image editing options, most of which are open source as well.

The same applies to audio editing and creation tools. You can browse the internet for all the tools that you would ever want, along with the tutorials to learn how to use them. And then of course there's the documentation. That is something I can't stress enough. If you learn to read the documentation, it will help you in the long run. So now we have all the tools required. And now..... we can create.

My game development journey started as a simple hobby which has caught up now as a passion. I have loved every second of the process . I have participated in a few online game jams and the experience of people playing a game you developed and receiving the feedback is something you have to experience. It is true for anything you have created on your own, be it a painting, a video or a mobile app. As for the games I have developed, you can check them here :

<https://vcp.itch.io/>

## CAMPUS SAYS



An Online Scrabble event was organized by Vision UVCE on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020, between different branches. Team schedules and rules were sent in the group beforehand in which proper details regarding the event was explained. Students from ECE and Civil contested against each other. The event started at 7 PM, with rectification of the doubts regarding the event rules and procedure by the organizers which comforted the participants of both of the teams. The limit for each round per team was 1.5 minutes. In the two teams, ECE team was given a jumbled word from Civil team and in the given time ECE team found the maximum number different words possible from the given jumbled word. The words were typed on the chat screen by two chosen participants of each team. For ECE Team, the typing was done by Ajay and Prajwal H S, and others helped to find the words then commenting in the chat box. The same thing was repeated by the other team too, i.e. a jumbled was given to Civil team by ECE team, the typing was handled by Pairoz Khan and Prajwal W of Civil Team. There was slight confusion as the Jumbled word given by Civil team wasn't actually jumbled and later it was rectified. Two rounds were held for both team and results were computed. The next day, Team Civil was declared as winner after tallying scores.

The event built a good bonding between the branches. It refreshed the participants in the period of the Corona Lockdown. The event made us realize that winning is not easy, better the teamwork is, better will be the outcome. The teams came to know where they were lacking in coordination and made it a point to improve it next time. Everyone enjoyed the event built a competitive spirit in them.

**- Prajwal, 4th sem ECE**

If you ask me what grabbed lot of attention for students even during lockdown. Then answer is the Scrabble event conducted by VISIONUVCE as a part of Best Class 3.0. We were very excited and happy to be a part of this event. It successfully started with 80+ students with 8 teams. Event went triumphantly till end with 4 winning teams. Filled with fun and made us to learn new words. It was like a jump of joy during the lockdown for many of our class members. At the end I felt like an happy camper. I wholeheartedly thank team VisionUVCE for this event .



**Harshavardhan.T , 2nd sem Civil-A**



Having our department away from the main campus is actually something students of architecture feel upset for, we don't usually get to attend events , meet people and socialize more but having this best class competition is one of the ways we have started to come closer to our main campus and we get to know more and more people.

Moreover, We end up doing amazing and interesting stuff because of best class which helps us to spend more time with our class mates , we people work together with unity towards one goal. Keeping in view the lockdown as well, where we all are inside our homes it didn't stop doing its work , conducting online games and stuff like that also helped us to work together. So here is a big thank you to best class team to make it possible for us to strengthen our bond with college and people as well. We are thankful to VisionUVCE team on behalf of Architecture Dept. We will be looking forward for the next iteration of the Best Class!!!

**- Sheikh Mehrukh, 2nd Sem Arch**

# CORPORATE COPING WITH COVID CRISIS

**Team Sampada:** *Tell us briefly about yourself and your career journey.*

**Shankar:** I am Shankar Shastry from the batch of 1992, Computer Science. After graduating from UVCE, I briefly worked in India for about a year in Verifone before going to the US for my masters. After finishing MS in Computer Science from Purdue University, I joined Microsoft Corporation in Seattle, Washington as a campus hire, where I still work now.



During my rather long career at Microsoft, I have worked on various products such as windows, mobile applications, developer tools, software verification technoligise, hybrid cloud services and cloud platform services – initially as an engineer and later as a Manager. I now work on the Azure Storage Service

where we build and manage one of the largest cloud based distributed storage services in the world. I moved to India in 1998, and have been part of the India Development Center of Microsoft ever since its inception.

**TS:** *Being in a senior IT role, how has the lockdown affected jobs and the hiring sector in your perspective?*

**Shankar:** Covid-19 has given rise to an extraordinary situation that most of us haven't seen in our lifetimes. The impact of this is still unfolding and it is difficult to fully predict what the long term impact would be. As a society, we are better prepared now than ever with advances in technology to deal with the physical distancing norms that we have to follow and still be productive somewhat in large sections of our workforce. While we in IT sector have been able to carry on with our work, the broader impact on the business due to the slowdown will be felt in the coming quarters and years. There will be slowdown in hiring for sure, but the impact could be less overall because the need for technology solutions and IT could in fact grown in some areas while it shrinks in some others. Larger companies will be able to tide over the crisis better, but it is the small and medium companies that will face an acute impact in the short term due to demand slowdown across the board.

**TS:** *How would you suggest the current students of UVCE to be prepared for the near future?*

**Shankar:** One thing is for sure – our life as a whole and our behaviors, preferences, spending patterns, investment areas won't be the same post Corona and in fact are likely to change quite irreversibly, though, one can't predict exactly how. Many industries and sectors might see a sharp decline while new ones would come up very strongly. All of us, including students, will have to think and plan regarding how we spend these times wisely. While this has disrupted classes, labs and interactions for students, and might potentially impact short term prospects in employment for recent grads, we should remember that this has created a huge level playing field for students from all institutions.

Everyone is learning remotely, and everyone can – pretty much from the same sources. Investing in long term transportable skills - problem solving, communication, analytical skills and foundational knowledge and technical depth in one's field of expertise – will always be useful in the future.

**TEAM:** Akshatha (8th sem) Hamsa, Niranjan, Sanjana (6th Sem), Harsha S, Chitra S Reddy, Meghashree G, Satish A G & SriHarsha D V (VisionUVCE Team)

## ONCE UPON A TIME.....

Vinimaya - abode of books, movies, TV shows, anime, comics and so much more for our UVCEians! During the lockdown period, we came up with an interesting activity open to everyone. We posted a line and anyone could comment on the post to take the story further. This was done to tap into the creative side of people and give them something fun to do. Without doubt, it went very well, with enthusiastic participation from students. We'll definitely be conducting more such events. Here is how the story went ahead:

Once upon a time in a remote galaxy, there was a porcupine way ahead of his time. His mean comments were sharper than his skin. Everyone thought he was just an average porcupine, but he sure had a lot hidden up his little porcupine sleeves. He literally had a lot up his sleeves because he was a part time magician. In addition to his other job, which was, well, nobody knew what his other job was. He was very secretive about it. He used to be awake all morning, which was very strange for any porcupine. He used to spend his time sharpening his quills. These were not typical spines as they also doubled as his wands and swords. And oh boy! Were they sharp.

Was he keeping a vigilant watch over me? is he a mean critic during the night and a guard during the day? Hard to say. Everybody was afraid that his quill was capable of killing, never tried to know what made it so sharp. No, his mind is too sharp to do the obvious. He acts like a real prick during the day to conceal his identity.

He preferred working silently and all alone, to avoid any spiny situations, for others simply would not be able to comprehend his actions. And in those nights for which he desperately waited sharpening his quills, he rode away to a more familiar galaxy- a lacteous one, to meet his teacher, P.C. Sorcar XXVI who gave him a whole new world. A world of porcupines. He was beyond awe to see this world. He never thought there were many others like him. Reality hit him like a brick as he realized he wasn't special. That is why he started training to become a ninja. He worked out hard and trained day and night to be the best ninja the city had ever seen. One day, while firing a bullet that would eventually kill JFK, he laid his eyes on the most beautiful lady porcupine he'd ever seen.

He set off to planet earth on a huge spaceship to set things right. Along with the most beautiful lady porcupine, of course. Off they went, sailing through space, hoping to reach earth as fast as they could. But the spaceship swung another way and they crashed onto a beautiful realm, prettier than earth, Asgard where everything was so mystical. But it was too late until he stood before the hero- Thud crashed the hammers and with lightning striking, out came a young, tall and a muscular hero Thor. But this wasn't how it all seemed.

The evil ninja porcupine who envied him...he was disguised as Thor in a fake Asgard, a hero-looking man with a helmet having 2 horns. He had golden eyes and before noticing anything else, they magically landed in front of a very green person wearing specs who was eating tacos for some reason. Before being a ninja, the porcupine had a very deep relationship with tacos. But since it was high on carbs, he had to part ways with it. The big green guy who was travelling alone was gigantic, physically intimidating with a few cosmetic exceptions.

Yes, it was Shrek, the ogre. The porcupine looked up to him and was suddenly taken aback, for the fake Thor produced a very real looking Mjolnir and sent a gigantic bolt of lightning right at the female porcupine!



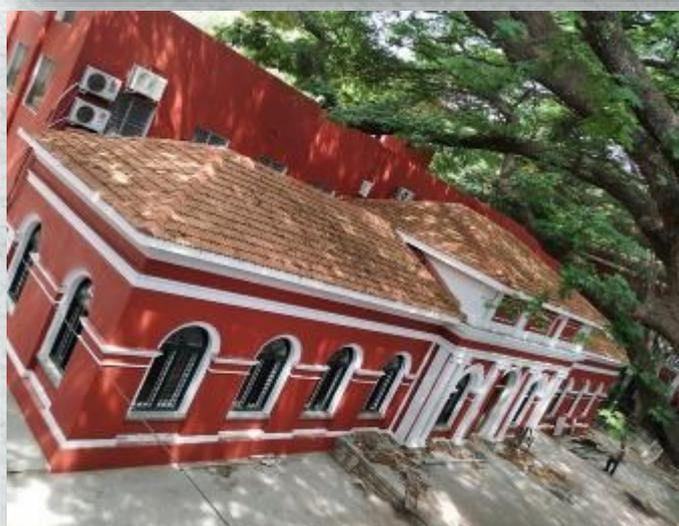
The female starts yelling “Jump in front of me! Jump in front of me!” Our mysterious hero not at all willing to sacrifice his life (come on, they just met) reluctantly jumps in front of her, preparing to die a meaningless death, except, he doesn’t die because physics.

The magical swords on his body are made of metal and so is the shell. They conduct electricity sending it into the ground proving once again the wonders of rational thinking (and how girls are just smarter).

Everyone is stunned to see the female porcupine transform to Thor’s low-key brother and all of a sudden realize that he has been in an illusion, that this whole story was just a dream. He sadly yet energetically woke up to see the sunshine of another day, and realized yet he needs to go find food for his living. The porcupine sat idly, and made 25 people write a story about himself.

## NAMMA UVCE

Team Sampada was glad to find these photos of Namma UVCE in its new shining glory after the renovation. Such beauty our alma mater holds! Special Thanks to one of the Engineers - Deepu Reddy - working on renovation of the college for sharing the photos with us.



## UVCE'S LOCKDOWN STRATEGY

During this Lockdown time, we decided to interact with Dr Thriveni J, who is the Special Officer for Engineering Exams of Bangalore University, to get some idea on how the classes are being conducted in UVCE.

From Sampada Team, when we asked her about the present scenario of classes to the students, she says “We are very proud to inform that the classes are being conducted every day as per the timetable. And even the response has been good from the students side as well. Most of the classes across departments have around 90% attendance. Though we are facing some issue over the network connectivity and bandwidth issues, overall it has been very effective.”



“Though there were initial concerns of the security about using Zoom, we have continued with it since it was very easy to use and access. The faculty are well-trained (for some of the Departments in Bangalore University, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Dr Venugopal K R, himself gave the demo) to use Zoom Platform and are sharing Recordings, Presentations and Notes. We are also considering conducting Seminars using the same platform. I do agree that Engineering Departments found it easier than few other PG Departments of Bangalore University who took some time to get adjusted. But now, most of the departments have got use to this mode of teaching.”

We wanted to know what are some of the major challenges faced during the online classes and next plans for this academic semester. She replies “Most important challenge is the device accessibility. Some of the students do not have laptops and have to manage with mobiles because of which they may not be in a position to access the various programs (in Computer Science Department scenario). The other challenge is of the network connectivity and bandwidth in remote places where our students are currently staying, as mentioned earlier. With the limited resources, we do some online practical examples and ask the students who have the option to solve one example as a demo during the classes. We may not be able to address each student’s concern, but we are trying our best.”

“The important challenge is what if the lockdown is further extended and conduction of quizzes, internals and exams. Some of the Departments have conducted online quizzes and internals already using the Zoom platform. Few other departments are planning to follow the same suite in the coming weeks. As per UGC notification, the college might be reopened by July. But, we are preparing for the worst case scenario and evaluating our options. The Vice Chancellor, Principal, Dean, Training & Placement Officer and few other faculty members have discussed with some of the vendors on knowing the online applications to conduct exams and how feasible are these solutions. It is an ongoing process and we hope that conditions will improve in few weeks. Many departments have requested that, when the lockdown is lifted for colleges, they will need 4-6 weeks of minimum classes (mainly focussing on the practical experiments and internals) to help the students. The Training and Placement office have also approached companies w.r.t campus hiring and conducting online tests. ”

We mentioned that we hear about the Parents-Teachers meeting that has happened during the Lockdown period and asked Dr Thriveni madam to give some more details about it. “Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University, Dr Venugopal K R himself suggested the idea and suggested to have Parent Teachers meeting with every class of all branches of UVCE. We came up with a schedule for each batch in which, along with the Vice-Chancellor, Dean of Engineering, Principal of UVCE, Training & Placement Officer, Head of the Department and faculty members attended live interaction with the parents. The response was tremendous and very encouraging. The parents from remote places especially, North Karnataka were very glad that they got an opportunity to communicate directly with the VC himself and the staff members.”

The final question was about comparing online classes with the classroom sessions and her thoughts about the overall exercise. She says “Every system will have it’s own Pros & Cons and we will have to manage it. In the classroom sessions, we can monitor each student where as in the online classes it is difficult since some of the students might not have switched on their camera due to low bandwidth issues. The other point is the students get an opportunity to feel the 1-to-1 interaction with the faculty and can make the best use of it. It depends on the interest level of the students. Some of the students might feel that personal touch is missing since they are adjusted to classroom sessions. We have asked them to make best use of the time by completing online certifications which are mandatory for BTech Honors. It is a very challenging time for everyone and we have to learn to adapt. Online classes are lot better than not having anything at all.”

On behalf of Team Sampada, we thank Dr Thriveni madam for speaking with us and giving an insight on the current scenario of the classes in college.

## **STRIKING THE PERFECT BALANCE - WORK & FAMILY**

**Team Sampada:** *Could you introduce yourself for our audience, please.*

**Anugeetha:** I am Anugeetha and I graduated from Information Science - UVCE, 2008 Batch. I relocated to Singapore in 2015. I am currently busy being mom to a 3 year old and working as Senior Developer with 'Rohde and Schwarz' (who make test and measurement Equipments - like the oscilloscopes, spectrum analyzers etc in our electronics lab)



**TS:** *In your opinion, how has the current COVID situation affecting the corporate sector (or livelihood in general) and what do you think are some effects forthcoming that we must prepare for?*

**Anugeetha:** In Singapore, we are having a circuit breaker measure until June 1st. All of us are required to stay home. Our lives in general are not adversely affected as such, as essential services are up and running, Thanks to the support of the government and all the wonderful front-line workers.

Its just a change in routine and working environment, with toys and the kid instead of my lovely colleagues. On the positive side, we are able to stay connected and socialize, thanks to the internet. We are getting to spend so much time together as a family. Something I never visualized happening until retirement.

My company is into manufacturing equipment. Factories are currently not running. The software, hardware and firmware team are completely working from home. The impacts of these downtime on the turnover will only be known in the next quarter.

Having burnt big reserves on handling the COVID situation, Governments across the world will be forced to Rejig projects and plans. What gets the tag as essential and what as luxury will define which industries thrive or suffer.

We need to be prepared for the financial strains which is eventually going to hit us. In these testing times, we need to be more human, more empathetic, more understanding, more socially responsible and aware. Together we will get over this. Stay strong. Stay Positive.

# LOCKDOWN STRUGGLE OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

**Team Sampada:** *Could you please give a small Introduction about yourself Sir*

**Anand:** Hi, I am B N Anand from 1971 Electrical batch. I run a small scale industry of manufacturing Corrugated boxes – Chirag Card Containers – at Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru. I started this venture in 1981 and have been able to run the show for almost 40 years now. I am part of various MSME Associations and served at various capacities.



**TS:** *Before we proceed further, it would be good to know a bit more about this domain of corrugated boxes. Can you please tell our readers more about your industry?*

**Anand:** Corrugated boxes are the main packaging mechanism used majorly by industries around the world now. Consider industries like Processed Food, Pharmacy, Clothing, etc which need proper packing to help in shipping across to multiple locations. We use “Kraft” paper for manufacturing these boxes in our company. As per requirements, these boxes are manufactured in various forms and using different types of methods. Universal Style Boxes which are used by majority of the logistics companies (of various sizes) are one of the types which we manufacture as well. We rely on raw materials like Kraft paper which are sourced from various places. But high-quality of the material can only be imported. And the Glue (which is starch based) is mainly obtained from Mumbai after processing. For other raw materials (based on the need), we obtain it from different vendors. We have one line of production and capacity of producing 2.5 to 3 tonnes of paper into boxes per day. We outsource most kind of printing, be it, offset or box printing

**TS:** *About the Current Corona Situation. What are your thoughts? How it has impacted you?*

I agree that MSME are hit badly because of Corona situation around the globe. Getting skilled labourers itself is a very difficult challenge in small scale industries and retaining them is even harder. Now, when many of them are struggling for basic essentials, it will be challenging to make them stay back. If we specifically talk about our company, we were totally shut for initial 1 week. But, because packaging is required to transport anything, we were given special permission and we delivered couple of orders to the clients. One or two orders had to be turned down because we did not run on full capacity. But, we have tried our best to take care of our workers. I do think that the forecasting from the Govt on the magnitude of the effects was missing. The Bureaucrats needed to spearhead the planning and could have made sure that sufficient amount of advance notice was made to the public and enterprises to prepare themselves. I am very concerned about the migrant labourers and their conditions. They are the supporting pillars of any industry. We need to care more about their well-being along with stopping the spread of corona.

In parallel, I also think it's an opportunity who are willing to innovate and adapt. One of the example that can be considered is the Bed/Cot for quarantine patients of corona constructed of the packaging material. These can be easily assembled, disposable as needed. They are light-weight and transporting is not a concern. Along with these benefits, they are cost effective too. So, such ideas can benefit the society and also help in sustaining the industry.

**TS:** *We request you to share some advice to our readers who are aspiring to be entrepreneurs*

**Anand:** To start something on your own means you have to be enterprising. Along with intelligence, you also need to be street smart and be ready to wear different hats as needed. You need to be a labourer in front of the machinery, interact with the client and get orders as salesman, get the payments done from them as an owner, keep innovating and adapting to the situation as a leader along with being a team player. So, if you aspire to be independent, it is always good to start with small companies which will help in learning different aspects – market, raw materials, network, process, art of marketing etc. Also, you will get exposure to challenges that you may face in future, when you start on your own (like dependency on machinery or sustenance of skilled labourers etc)

I also urge the Entrepreneurs of UVCE to come together and develop a network which can be beneficial to each other. Also, they can inspire and motivate younger generation to take the leap and start their own ventures by supporting and guiding them.