Vidya Vikas Education Trust's
Universal College of Engineering

Accredited with B+ Grade by NAAC
(Permanently Unaided | Approved by AICTE, DTE & Affiliated to University of Mumbai)
Gujarati Linguistic Minority Institution

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College Profile

Everything you need to know about us.

Embraced by lush greenery and scenic beauty, Universal College of Engineering is a treasured place for aspiring engineers to leave their imprints on success.

As a college within the wider network frame, we are one of the fastest- growing institutions in India. Our institute has been accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a B+ grade in the first cycle of accreditation. Times of India Survey Ranked No. 1 in India among Top Emerging Private Engineering Institutes for 6 consecutive years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 and the saga of accolades still continues.

In response to the expectations of quality technical education, our college is approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi; Recognized by the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Government of Maharashtra; affiliated to Mumbai University.

Our college is also associated with professional bodies like IEEE, IETE, ISA, and CSI to update the revolutionary technological advancements.

We offer 5 years of full-time Bachelor of Technology in Computer Engineering, Civil Engineering, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Information Technology Engineering, and Data Engineering.
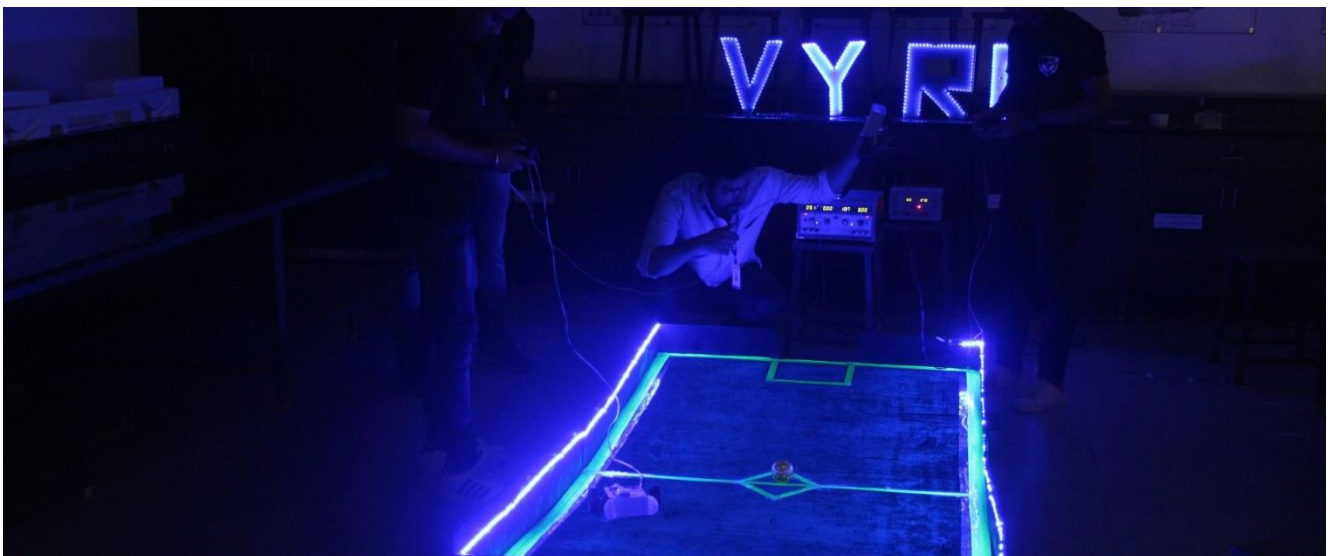
The unique state-of-the-art facility of the institute has been carefully designed to accommodate the needs of the students. Laboratories are equipped with world-class facilities based on the latest technology of different sectors. Our smart classrooms are well ventilated, spacious, and equipped with overhead and LCD projectors along with the public address system. The College library provides a rich collection of specialist library resources and services to support student's academic work and enrich their research skills.

We are obliged to equip our students to get placed in highly reputed companies by mentoring their necessary skill set for cutting-edge technologies. The core highlighted areas are helping students with their technical competency, communication skills along with career guidance and counseling.

Universal College of Engineering has produced a large number of successful alumni who are working in reputed organizations in India and abroad and have contributed immensely to the cause of nation- building and society. We welcome all engineering aspirants to create an incredible legacy in the field of engineering.

Fighting for climate justice

The COP26—the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference—began in Glasgow on Sunday, 31st of October. What's on the agenda? Well, apart from the usual climate-related talks, we could also see a bill related to climate change—one that emerging economies will be hoping to present to the more advanced economies so that they can get their business in order.

And in this newsletter, we explain why this is in many ways a call to justice

Policy
The story

70% of India's electricity needs are met through coal. And when you burn coal, you get noxious fumes—a cocktail of carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and other greenhouse gases. In fact, coal-fired plants release more greenhouse gases than any other source of electricity and that's a massive problem.

Like India, most emerging economies are still heavily dependent on coal. They've already incurred substantial costs in setting up coal-dependent energy grids and shifting to renewable isn't cheap. Take India for instance. Our estimate is that a climate-change plan will cost us more than $2.5 trillion through 2030. To put things in perspective, that's the entirety of the country's current GDP! But with the looming threat of climate change, everyone's being pushed against the wall. And that's creating a few problems.

The point of contention?

Over the past couple of centuries, advanced economies have burnt their share of fossil fuels to grow their economies.

And now when it's finally time for emerging economies to develop their infrastructure and improve the lives of people, they're being pushed to adopt costlier renewable.

For instance, India has contributed only about 4% to total planetary emissions since the 1850s. But today, it's the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

So, what's the way out?

Enter the calls for climate justice. India's belief is that the "polluter pays."

1. Advanced economies have historically been big polluters. And, they have to cut back their emissions more drastically and make room for emerging economies.

But more importantly, they have to "pay" in the literal sense. That means advanced economies must compensate developing economies because it's their fault we're being pushed against the wall.

Why is this important?

Because places like India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are "countries of concern" for climate change as per a recent UN report. The more vulnerable these countries are, the more money they'll first have to spend to climate-proof their geography and the economy—While simultaneously making the switch to renewable energy.

There's a bigger problem at hand too. Climate change is increasing global income inequality. It's the poor countries that are facing the brunt of more extreme weather events. Which means, they need the money, to set up the necessary infrastructure to adapt themselves to changing conditions?

So, any sort of fund dedicated to fighting climate change will help.

While a fund sounds interesting, is it feasible?

First, the good news.

Yes! There is a fund of sorts. And wealthier nations have taken some initiative. Since 2010, they have agreed to donate and build a US$100 billion per year 'Green Climate Fund'. The target was to reach this figure by 2020 in a bid to lead climate change efforts in emerging economies.

Now, the bad news.

All that promised money hasn't been coming in as people expected. This year, the funding is likely to be to the tune of $83-$88 billion. And by 2023, this should rise to $92-$97 billion. That means advanced economies will hit the promised target 3–4 years too late.

And that doesn't bode well for us. Why are these rich countries dilly-dallying with their contributions? Well, let's just say that incentives are the culprit. "Part of the problem is that, similar to the overall structure of the Paris Agreement [of 2015] itself, all developed countries are responsible for delivering the cash. There is no requirement that a given country contribute a set amount of funding, creating a classic collective action problem where each country is incentivized to free-ride on the efforts of others."

There's no real accountability. And the end result?

46 of the least-developed countries in the world don't have enough money to protect themselves against the impact of climate change. Between 2014–18, they only received US$5.9 billion. When in fact they need at least US$40 billion a year to adapt to climate change. So now they are fighting back. They are demanding advanced economies to pay their fair share and help battle climate change. And to this extent, you may see new climate change bills at COP26 this week.

Reliance Industries' Smartphone experiment, JioPhone Next, is finally here after a hiccup or two. But can it help Reliance Jio fulfill its ambitions of a "2G-Mukt Bharat" (2G-free India)?

Business
The story

In case you missed the news, last month, Reliance announced their new Android-based Smartphone in collaboration with Google. Priced at Rs 6,499, Reliance is attempting to put a Smartphone in the hands of every Indian. But why is Reliance getting into the Smartphone business, you ask? Especially, with Google as a partner?

Well, to understand that, we need to go back in time. In 2016, Reliance Jio had just blitzed the telecom market with its sharply low (practically free) tariffs, for voice and data. It was a disruptor. And within six months of its launch, India went from consuming 200 million GB of data a month to over 1 billion GB! Let's call it the "Jio effect".

But Jio also had another ace up its sleeve. In 2017, Jio launched the JioPhone in the sub-Rs, 2000 range. It was a 4G-capable feature phone that was packed with smart capabilities like access to Face book, YouTube, and JioTV. Reliance then followed it up with a slightly more advanced feature phone in 2018 that was priced closer to Rs 3,000. With both phones, its target was to get 2G users to switch – since the company only had a 4G license. And they were hoping to get them to switch

to Jio. And it kind of worked. In 2017, there were about 500 million feature phone users in the country. By 2021, Jio got around 110 million of these users to sign up to its 4G network. Bundle cheap tariffs with a cheap phone, and you can get a bit of magic.

But Jio wants more. It wants everyone to switch and it wants them to switch to the 4G network. Hence, its slogan for a "2G-Mukt Bharat" (2G-free India)! And with JioPhone Next, it's attempting to entice the 320 million users who're currently on Airtel's and Vi's 2G networks to do just that.

But that isn't going to be easy. Especially considering the price tag of Rs. 6,499. Granted, it's probably a bargain when you consider it's a smartphone, but 6,499 is no chump change.

And when you look at what happened with the first two versions of the JioPhone, you'll begin seeing why this may be the case.

Research consultancy Counterpoint found that between 2018 and 2019, the Jio Phone's market share dropped from 47% to 28%. And that's not because people weren't buying feature phones. But cheaper phones from Samsung and Lava began hitting the market right about the same time.

JioPhone 2 didn't fare well either. In 2019, out of the total JioPhone shipments, JioPhone 2 contributed less than 1% to sales. Perhaps the pricing had to do something with this as well. After all, the average rural Indian home has a monthly surplus of just about Rs 1,413. And if people weren't fully buying into the idea back then, maybe this new phone will meet the same fate. But let's suppose, it doesn't. Let's suppose people take to this smartphone like never before and join Reliance in echoing the mission statement of a "2G-mukt Bharat."

How could all this play out for Reliance?
Well, for starters, there's the obvious benefit of getting them on Jio's 4G network. If more people get a Jio sim, that would create a steady stream of recurring revenue. So technically, adding more subscribers could breathe new life into the telecom business.

Then there's Jio Mart—the e-commerce platform for groceries that Reliance launched in 2020. With a presence across 200 cities, the goal was to connect 3 crore Indian Kirana shops to their customers. And, as more users switch to Jio's 4G ecosystem, JioMart could receive a fillip as well. In fact, Reliance also has plans to tap into the JioMart network to sell digital electronics, including the "Next" phone. So yeah, time will tell if Jio's target market will switch to a 6,500 smartphone. But for now, the company seems pretty bullish on the whole scheme.

Global cellular IoT chipset shipments grow 70% in Q3

The Report:

Global cellular internet of things (IoT) module shipments grew 70 per cent (on-year) in the third quarter this year and Qualcomm led the cellular IoT chipset market with more than one-third share, a new report said on Thursday.

In terms of overall revenue, the market crossed the $1.5-billion mark during the third quarter. China continued to dominate in terms of volume, followed by North America and Europe.

5G was the fastest growing technology (more than 700 per cent on-year) due to a lower base, according to data provided by Counterpoint Research's Global Cellular IoT Module, Chipset and Application Tracker.

Telegram rolls out new privacy features for chats, groups on Android, iOS

Topics:

Telegram

Encrypted messaging app Telegram has started rolling out its latest monthly update for Android and iOS devices, adding numerous new features for users.

Some significant features include protected content in groups and channels, deleting messages by date, log in via calls, and many others.

"The new Protected Content feature will help creators protect the content they publish on Telegram and ensure that it is available only for their intended audience. In order to provide complete control to users over their digital footprint, the Delete by Date feature will enable them to easily find and delete date specific chats from the history," the company said in a statement.

With protected content feature group and channel owners can now restrict their content to group or channel members only, prevent message forwarding and screenshots, and disable the ability to save media from posts. It aims to help creators and channel admins protect their media and posts in groups and channels.

Delete Messages by Date will allow users to delete any messages from a conversation at any time, and with this update, it's been made even more convenient as one can now clear chat history from a specific day or date range in any one-on-one chat.

With new ways to log in via call, Telegram has now allowed some mobile devices with an option to receive a login call from Telegram and then enter several digits of the phone number that called - instead of getting codes via text message.

In the last update, Telegram introduced 8 new global chat themes; however they were only available on iOS so far. With this latest update, now Android users would be able to select from these 8 new chat themes for their UI.

Chat Settings have been fully redesigned, giving the new themes centre stage. Built by the Telegram team, every theme has a day and night mode, colorful animated background and gradient message bubbles.

Acronis report:

The report also shows that during the second half of 2021, only 20% of companies globally reported not having been attacked, as opposed to 32% last year.

India ranks fourth among Asian countries for Ransomware detection percentage which has doubled to 7.34 per cent in Q3 of CY2021 from 3.65 per cent in Q2 of CY2021, according to a report by cyber security firm Acronis. Managed service providers (MSPs) are particularly at risk — having more of their own management tools, such as professional services automation (PSA) or remote monitoring and management (RMM), used against them by cybercriminals, and thus are becoming increasingly vulnerable to supply chain attacks. Supply-chain attacks on MSPs are particularly devastating, since attackers gain access to both their business and clients — as seen in the Solar Winds breach last year and the Kaseya VSA attack earlier in 2021, one successful attack means crippling hundreds or thousands of SMBs. The report also shows that during the second half of 2021, only 20 per cent of companies reported not having been attacked — as opposed to 32 per cent last year — indicating that attacks are increasing in frequency across the board. "The cybercrime industry is a well-oiled machine, using cloud and machine intelligence to scale and automate their operations. While the threat landscape continues to grow, we see that the main attack vectors stay the same — and they still work," says Candid Wuest, Acronis VP of Cyber Protection Research.

"While the attack surface is growing and 2022 will surely bring us surprises, cyber protection automation remains the only path to greater security, reduced risks, lower costs, and improved efficiency," he added.

The report said that as cryptocurrencies become more and more popular, there will be more attacks on crypto exchanges and cryptocurrencies owners. For example, the crypto exchange Coinbase has recently disclosed that atleast 6,000 customers had fallen victim to a phishing campaign earlier this year — resulting in funds being stolen from their accounts.

It also highlighted that Apple's mac OS has also been a target for cybercriminals, as Macs' market share is growing. Some Windows malware has been ported to work on Macs, as well as some specific malware created for utilising mac OS vulnerabilities.

Best Electronics Quotes

- "The five essential entrepreneurial skills for success are concentration, discrimination, organization, innovation and communication." *Michael Faraday*
- "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." *Thomas Edison*
- "Fear is a real killer. I try to trudge through the jungle with as little fear as possible." *William Shockley*
- "If ethics are poor at the top, that behaviour is copied down through the organisation." **Bob Noyce**
- "The complexity for minimum component costs has increased at a rate of roughly a factor of two per year." *Gordon Moore*
- "We, in the semiconductor industry, know that only the paranoid survive." *Andy Grove*
- "When I walk through the Valley I fear no evil, because I am the biggest son of a bitch in the Valley." *Jerry Sanders III*
- "Larry's hype has expanded to fill his ego." *Bill Gates*
- "I wish him the best. I just think he and Microsoft are a bit narrow." *Steve Jobs*
- "If a PC was a car you'd only be able to drive it round your backyard and you'd still have to buy Steering Wheel 7.0." *Larry Ellison*