

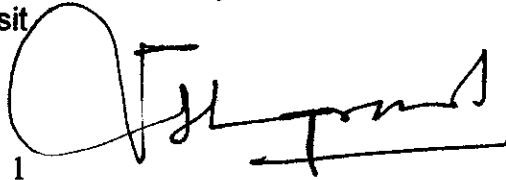
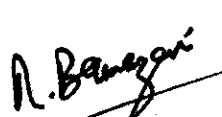
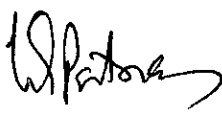
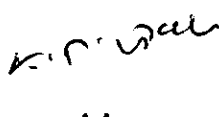
REPORT OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL OF VISTAS, CHENNAI FOR GRANT OF DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY STATUS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE UGC ACT.

The University Grants Commission received a proposal from Ministry of Human Resource Development for grant of Deemed to be University status to Vel Institute Of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS), Chennai.

With a view to examine the proposal and to make an on the spot assessment and evaluation of the academic programmes, infrastructural facilities and other aspects of the institution, the Chairman, University Grants Commission constituted an Expert Committee comprising of the following members:

1. Prof. Ramamurthy Naidu ... Convener
Member, UGC
2. Prof. L.M. Patnaik
Department of Computer Science and Automation
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
3. Prof. K.N. Tripathi
Prof. of Electronics, University of Delhi, Delhi
4. Prof. R.N.K. Bamezai
Dean, School of Life Sciences
JNU, New Delhi
5. Prof. S.S. Aggarwal
Principal
Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Research, Delhi
6. Prof. M.S. Turan
Prof. of Management
Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar
7. Prof. S.L. Yadav
Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Dr. (Mrs.) Renu Batra, Joint Secretary was nominated as the coordinator of this Expert Committee visit



The Committee visited the Institute on 31st March and 1st April, 2006. The Committee was welcomed by Dr. Ishari K. Ganesh, Chairman of VISTAS. A brief presentation on the academic programmes and future plans of the Institution was given by the heads of the respective Colleges / programmes. The presentations also highlighted the necessary justification for conferring deemed University status on the Institution.

The Committee visited both the campuses located in Pallavaram and Thalambur of the Institute and visited class rooms, various laboratories, central as well as departmental libraries, infrastructural facilities, hostels and students' amenities.

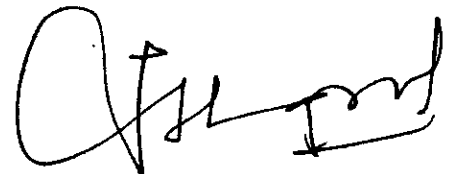
The Committee also had an exclusive interaction session with faculty members, a group of students and administrative staff of the Institute.

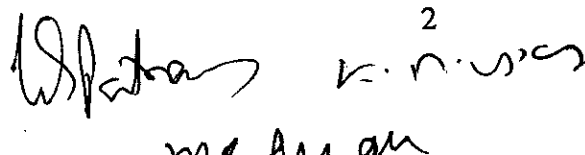
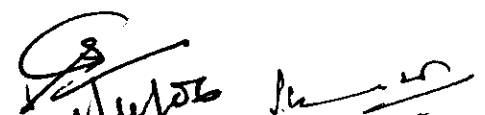
After thorough inspection of the infrastructural facilities, study of the documents furnished by the Institute and the discussions with the Management, the Committee makes the following observations and recommendations:

The Institute

VAEL's Educational Trust (Established in 1992) and Sri Balaji Charitable and Educational Trust (Established in 1999) have been merged to establish Vel Institute of Science & Technology Trust. For the academic programmes run by this trust they have made a proposal for conferment of deemed to be university in the the name of "Vel's Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS)". The aims and objectives of the proposed deemed to be university are :

1. To establish a centre for higher learning and research that would strive to accomplish excellence in theoretical and applied fields of knowledge
2. To make education and training relevant and meaningful in tune with the changing times and increasing demands.



3. To provide Internationally acceptable quality education and research in Arts, Science, Commerce, Management, Teacher Education, Engineering and Technology.
4. To provide teaching, training and research in emerging spheres, especially in Biosciences, Physical Sciences, Management, Medicine, Paramedical Sciences, Nautical Sciences, Engineering and Technology pertinent to Industrial and Societal needs.
5. To provide Courses exclusively for women and marginalised sections of society leading to their empowerment.
6. To establish Community colleges to provide vocational training leading to sustainable income generation through employment opportunities.
7. To establish Career Guidance Cell to help the students to identify and develop their potentials and to secure a profession to match their skills and interests.

The Trust at present is running 5 institutions;

- a) Vel's College of Science – Established in 1993
- b) Vel's College of Pharmacy – Established in 1992
- c) Vel's College of Physiotherapy – Established in 1993
- d) Vel's Srinivasa College of Engineering & Technology – Established in 2001
- e) Vel's Academy of Maritime Education & Training – Established in 2004

Colleges of Science, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy operate from the campus located at Pallavaram and College of Engineering and Academy of Maritime Education is located at Thalambur.

The vision of the growth of VISTAS is to become a pioneer Deemed to be University to produce highly skilled professionals in Basic and Applied Sciences, Engineering and Paramedical Sciences. The institutions have got

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necessary approvals, affiliations and recognition from the authorities concerned.

The proposed Deemed to be University now has a student strength of 4000 boys & girls, faculty of about 300 and enough supporting staff. It has got required infrastructural facilities such as Land, Building, Class rooms, Libraries and necessary laboratories. The institution offers now some innovative programmes and courses such as Nautical Sciences & Maritime Education. The Institution has proactive tie-ups with many Hotels, Companies, Banks and IT firms to equip the students with better applied knowledge. The Institution has 75 laboratories which could still better be used for research and development activities.

Infrastructure

The total land possession of the trust is 56.87 acres with the total built up area of 56,720 Sq.m.

The Institute is provided with 95 lecture halls, 75 laboratories, 4 seminar halls, 5 hostels (750 boys and 350 girls), 2 multi-purpose air conditioned auditoriums with modern audio-visual aids with the total capacity of 1800 seats, five drawing halls, 8 well maintained computer labs with 2 MBPS (2 nos.) leased line internet connection, 2 chemistry labs, 2 physics labs and well equipped 27 departmental libraries.

Library

The Institution has a spacious and well stacked central library as well as the departmental libraries. Taken together all the libraries have a collection of 17,226 titles and 35,934 volumes of books on different subjects being taught to the students. Besides, the institution subscribes to 274 journals including 181 national and 93 international journals. The Central Library has also been endowed with 57 online journals and automation of library operations. At present, there is a total investment of Rs.1,63,97,000/- in the books and journals in the library.

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Research & Development

Faculty members of some departments have long research experience and have motivated young faculty for the research. There are 19 approved research guides, 42 faculty with Ph.D. and 57 with M.Phil degree. Faculty has over 100 research papers to its credit.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES OFFERED

The Institute is offering the following UG and PG Programmes under its 5 different colleges:

**a) Vel's College of Science
(Affiliated to University of Madras)**

S. No.	Name of the Department	Year of establishment	Sanctioned intake	Admitted Strength (2005-2006)
U.G.				
1.	B.Sc., Biochemistry	1993-1994	50	16
2.	B.Sc., Computer Science	1993-1994	100	100
3.	B.Sc., Microbiology	1993-1994	70	57
4.	B.Sc., Hotel & Catering Mgmt	1994-1995	130	112
5.	B.Com.,	1993-1994	70	53
6.	B.C.A.	1998-1999	100	98
7.	B.Sc., Nautical Science	1999-2000	90	88
8.	B.B.A	2003-2004	70	53
9.	B.Sc., Biotechnology	2004-2005	50	49
P.G.				
1.	M.Sc., Applied Microbiology	1997-1998	26	26
2.	M.Sc., Computer Science	1999-2000	26	08
3.	M.C.A,	1998-1999	120	60
4.	M.B.A.	1998-1999	120	60
5.	M.Sc., Biotechnology	2000-2001	26	26
6.	M.Sc., Information Tech.	2001-2002	26	25
7.	M.Sc., Bioinformatics	2002-2003	16	16
8.	M.Sc., H.C.M.	2002-2003	26	05
9.	M.Sc., Biochemistry	2003-2004	26	26

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10.	M.Sc., Industrial Chemistry	2003-2004	26	14
11.	M.Sc., Chemistry	2004-2005	26	26
12.	M.Com., International Business	2005-2005	40	08

II. VEL'S COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
(Affiliated to The Tamilnadu Dr.MGR Medical University)

S. No.	Name of the Course	Year of establishment	Sanctioned intake	Admitted Strength (2005-2006)
1.	B.Pharmacy	1992-1993	60	60
2.	M.Pharmacy a) Pharmaceutics b) Pharmacology c) Pharmaceutical Analysis d) Pharmaceutical Biotech. e) Pharmaceutical Chemistry f) Pharmacognosy	2002-2003 2003-2004 2004-2005 2004-2005 2005-2006 2005-2006	10 05 08 08 08 08	10 05 08 08 08 06
3.	Ph.D. (Pharmaceutical Sciences)	2004-2005	06	06

III. VEL'S COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPY
(Affiliated to The Tamilnadu Dr.MGR Medical University)

S. No.	Name of the Course	Year of establishment	Sanctioned intake	Admitted Strength (2005-2006)
1.	B.P.T	1993-1994	50	39
2.	M.P.T a) Advanced Physiotherapy in Orthopaedics b) Advanced Physiotherapy in Cardio Respiratory Diseases c) Paediatric Neurology d) Sports Physiotherapy e) Hand Conditions.	1998-1999 1998-1999 1998-1999 1998-1999 1998-1999	04 02 02 04 04	04 02 02 04 04

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VEL'S SRINIVASA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
(Affiliated to Anna University)

S. No.	Name of the Course	Year of establishment	Sanctioned intake	Admitted Strength (2005-2006)
1.	B.E., (E.C.E)	2001-2002	120	120
2.	B.E., (E.E.E)	2001-2002	60	44
3.	B.E., (C.S.E)	2001-2002	60	60
4.	B.Tech. (I.T)	2001-2002	60	60
5.	B.E., Mechanical Engineering	2005-2006	60 *	-
6.	M.C.A	2005-2006	60 *	-

* Approval from AICTE was received after the admissions for 2005-06 were over. Therefore, the Institute could not fill up the seats.

VEL'S ACADEMY OF MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING (VAMET)

S. No.	Name of the Course	Year of establishment	Sanctioned intake	Admitted Strength (2005-2006)
1.	B.E., Marine	2004-2005	80	78

Faculty

- There are 292 faculty members in all the 5 institutions (28-Professors; 10- Readers; 28-Assistant Professors; 42-Lecturers(SG&SS), 137 Lecturers and 47 other supporting staff)
- The Institute has certified that all the faculty members have the required essential qualification for the posts they have been appointed for.
- Out of 292 faculty members 42 are having Ph.D. degree, 57 are M.Phil degree holders and 19 faculty members are approved research guides.
- 31 faculty members are enrolled for their Ph.D. degrees.

R. Banerjee

W. K. Srinivasan

K. N. S. S. S. S.

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Curricular and Extra-curricular activities

National and Regional level seminars, workshops and conference are conducted regularly in all departments. Industrial visits are periodically undertaken. Social and cultural activities such as blood donations, visits to orphanage, old-age homes, tsunami relief and flood relief, NSS have been undertaken.

Innovative Activities

Vel's Academy of Maritime Education & Training (VAMET) has been established in accordance with the new guidelines of Directorate General of Shipping to render high quality maritime education coupled with intensive practical training, through the "Ship-in-Campus" laboratory. The Academy has the AICTE approval under the VEL's Srinivasa College of Engineering and Technology for conducting the 4 years degree course in Marine Engineering. The "Ship-in-Campus" facility offers hands on practical training to the cadets, on hardware machinery of a conventional merchant ship. There is also available a full Mission simulator room, which offers practice on trouble shooting to the cadets to attain reinforced knowledge about the power plant system of ships and how to deal with defects which arise in the ship's power plant.

The various auxiliary machinery available in the ship in campus are meant to be operational in course of time offering operational understanding to the students, as they would be indeed handling on board their ships at sea. Cadets are further trained to attain great skill of operating various lathe machines, milling / shaping and drilling machines, gas and electric welding, which are demanded of them to effectively handle repair on board ships while performing international/coastal voyages at sea. Attainment of practical skill on electrical repair and maintenance is a must for every cadet passing out the Academy, and is indeed one of the primary objectives.

A. Banerjee

L. S. Srinivasan

K. Ramesh

G. Srinivasan

K. Srinivasan

Academy offers four year B.E. Marine Engineering course approved by Director General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India and has approved intake capacity of 80 cadets per year.

VAMET is certified to ISO 9001:2000 by Det Norske Veritas, Norway and has faculty strength;

5 Marine Chief Engineers holding First Class Marine Engineering Certificate of Competency

1 PG Mechanical Engineer, 1 PG Mathematics, 1 PG English Literature, 3 Seamanship Instructors, 5 Workshop Instructors

Observations:

1. The management is committed to provide quality education in the innovative areas of nautical sciences, maritime engineering and information technology. The management was receptive to all the suggestions made by the expert committee members.
2. The Institution has adequate infrastructure in terms of land and buildings. The laboratories and library in VEL's Srinivasa College of Engineering and Technology are sufficiently equipped.
3. The management should rectify/improve the following deficiencies:
 - i) High Pressure Thin Layer Chromatograph (HPTLC) with all accessories, Gas Liquid Chromatograph, DSC, FTIR (Fourier Transmission Infrared spectroscopy) single pan balances, physical balances, stereotaxic apparatus, small centrifuge of different specifications, etc. should be procured for the Pharmacy College
 - ii) More emphasis be laid on practical experiments.
 - iii) Certain labs in the College of Science including Physiotherapy Labs should be strengthened in terms of latest equipments and hands-on training to both UG and PG students.

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iv) A continuing educational programmes be conducted for teachers on an annual basis to upgrade their knowledge and skills in different science subjects within the college of sciences.

Finances :

The Institution has submitted the copy of audited Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2005 which shows a surplus balance of Rs.1,45,35,606.62. They have also enclosed a copy of Form No.3A filed for the purposes of Return of Income for the Assessment Year 2005-06 filed with the Income Tax Authorities. In view of this it can safely be concluded that the financial position of the institution is sound.

Compliance of other conditions laid down under UGC guidelines

1. The Institution is registered as a Public Charitable Trust and is registered vide No1456/BK4/04 dated 18.12.2004.
2. The Institution has submitted document for taking over movable and immovable assets of Vale's Educational Trust and Sri Balaji Charitable & Educational Trust
3. The institution has also submitted Fixed Deposit Receipts (Nos.) issued in the name of Vel's Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies for a sum of Rs.5,00,00,000/- towards Corpus Fund.
4. The Institute has submitted a copy of the revised MoA as per the UGC model MoA.

Recommendations

VISTAS has been able to generate a chain of institutions mostly with a vision of innovative programmes, not prevalent in the region or the country such as, Nautical Sciences, Maritime Education & Training which have been a source of providing certain unique areas with a job-oriented education.

On considering the strengths in terms of the infrastructural facilities and other amenities, holding discussions with management, faculty, staff and students, and

R. Balasubramanian

W. Lakshmi

K. P. S. S.

J. S. S.

G. S. S.

H. S. S.

examining all relevant records of the institution, the expert committee recommends that the Vel's Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS) be granted the status of Deemed to be University by including the following colleges under its umbrella:

- a) Vel's College of Science
- b) Vel's College of Pharmacy
- c) Vel's College of Physiotherapy
- d) Vel's Academy of Maritime Education & Training

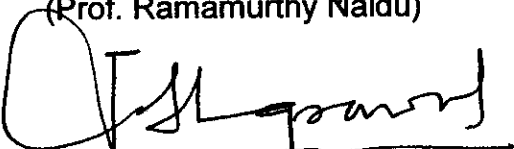
Bringing in the Vel's Academy of Maritime Education & Training under the umbrella of Deemed University status will be subject to fulfilling conditions laid down by Directorate General of Shipping, Government of India.

Further, the Committee also feels that once the Institution is granted the status of Deemed to be University, it should also be advised to further upgrade its infrastructure, particularly the laboratories, develop the research profile of its faculty and engage the services of eminent people in respective fields of study to advise the institution on matters of academic and professional significance.

The Committee places on record its appreciation for the cooperation and assistance extended by the Chairperson, Principal and other Faculty Members of the Institute during the visit of the Committee.


(Prof. Ramamurthy Naidu)


(Prof. L.M. Patnaik)


(Prof. S.S. Aggarwal)


(Prof. R.N.K. Bamezai)


(Prof. M.S. Turan)


(Prof. K.N. Tripathi)


(Prof. S.L. Yadav)