

Good morning present dignitaries, respected principal, members of the staff, and my fellow students. I consider it an honour to stand here and address you at the inauguration of Tatva Moksh Lakshya 2015. It indeed has been an eventful year; a roller coaster ride which has challenged us to outdo ourselves in every aspect of college life and set new levels of achievement.

The year began with the welcome of our new students and for the first time, the F.E. Orientation was handled completely by the student council. With all student council and chapter representatives elected, we entered the academic year with a different vision, a vision we were enlightened of by our principal, Dr. Alka Mahajan. The aim (pause) to unite all student chapters and various cells under one umbrella and make Cognition, our technical festival conducted in the odd semester, an event of grandeur and technical excellence.

On Independence Day, our NSS volunteers put up a show that celebrated India but also highlighted one of our biggest problems- lack of cleanliness. They also put together a small documentary on the Clean Ganga campaign and in line with the government's vision, we took the Swachh Bharat oath. In a first, all of us led by the NSS volunteers took up an initiative of singing the National Anthem, before the start of lectures, every morning. Soon it was time to express our gratitude to our teachers and put a smile on their face, Teacher's day was celebrated with many fun activities for the faculty and a video was compiled where students dedicated a few lines to their favourite professors. As students from IEEE, IETE, CSI, Student Council and EDC came together, we could see on the horizon, an event which would display the full potential of SIES Graduate School of Technology (one entity)- COGNITION 2014. On 15th, 16th and 17th September, this dream turned into reality, with Tech-X-ter 4.0, Innovations++, Tech-O-Pedia, Matrix and many other Inter collegiate events being conducted at a grand scale.

The IEEE council was in-charge of Tech-O-Pedia, an event which combined the best of technical and world skills in the participants and tested their abilities to present them. Innovations ++, handled by CSI, was celebrated with Engineer's day on 15th September, and comprised of 3 events, TechnoKreig, a technical debate, WebWeaWers, which involved website development and Innovations, the national level project presentation competition.

For the fourth year, IETE conducted Tech-X-ter, a highly competitive technical paper presentation event which saw numerous papers from various streams being sent in for consideration and some of the best work being presented on the final day. Matrix, a science quiz dedicated for first year engineering students was also a grand hit.

The joy of our success however, was short lived. The loss of one of our own clouded Cognition. Hitendra Singh left us on the 17th of September. He was humble, hardworking, an intelligent student, and a dear friend. His absence shall always be felt. (Pause for 10 seconds)

In other technical activities, The SAE student chapter installed its first BAJA team and participated in the Virtuals round of the competition at Ahmedabad. They have also recently participated in SUPRA for the first time. I would also like to commend the students on the installation of a new student chapter in our college, ISHRAE, Indian Society for Heating Refrigeration and Air conditioning Engineers.

This academic year, we have focussed on conducting many workshops for the students, sharing knowledge beyond books and classrooms. Amongst many, E-yantra workshop was conducted by Akash Kochare and team who also secured the second position at the intercollegiate competition at IIT Bombay. The Robotics club in association with IEEE chapter, the team also conducted a robotics workshop focussing on the Arduino bot, a highly customizable machinery. Third year student and Technical Co-ordinator, Tejas Salian and team conducted a session to teach participants Creo, a 3D modelling software used in the industry for component design. Other than these, under the guidance of our alumni, we also held workshops for Photoshop, Python, PHP and many more.

The making of an entrepreneur begins way before he sits in the boss' chair. To that end our EDC cell has been spreading its wings and have achieved many laurels. Our EDC team were winners of the National Entrepreneurship Challenge conducted by the E-cell of IIT-B, a 24 task competition in which our students scored top marks. The EDC cell has also participated in Sakal's initiative – 'Young Inspiration Network' where a group of four students were invited for seminars and interactive sessions with IPS officials, Politicians and eminent personalities. Their national level competitions Imprenditore and Bizence 2k15 have gone completely online and are using technologies like web conferencing.

The Literary Club, which was installed last year, reached new highs with its activities. Ashwin Sanghi, famous author, was invited to our college for an interactive session with the students where he shared many ideas and entertained questions from admirers as well as budding writers. The GST Gazette, our college newsletter, and Samanvay 2014 were released and Scintilla, the college blog was updated regularly.

To empower a woman, is to empower a family. Our Women Development Cell under the Ladies Representative Dekshita S. has been working tirelessly to organize various activities in college, this year, a 2day No smoking campaign and also an awareness campaign against Sexual Harassment.

No institute is complete without contributing to the society and fulfilling its moral duties. The NSS volunteers take this initiative very seriously and have conducted a Blood Donation Drive, made dustbins to keep the campus clean, participated in a Rally from Churchgate to Azad Maidan to promote the BMC complaint Management System with sheer dedication and devotion. The annual NSS camp was held at Mamoli for 7 days where volunteers worked towards the upbringing, development and help of the local residents.

It is always a happy event for us when our alumni return to their alma mater, the faculty feels proud of the many responsible citizens that have studied under them. The annual alumni meet Reconnect 2015 was one such event. Seeing old faces with fresh perspective fosters bonds deeper than friendship, many contacts are revived and nostalgia was the theme of the night.

This year, under the directive of Mumbai University, a convocation was held, for the first time, for the class of 2014. Friends cheered and hooted as their colleagues walked to the stage to collect their degrees after 4 years of hard work.

Every year, the students make us proud at the university level competitions, this year accolades have been one in all fields, sports, cultural as well as technical. Sweekar Shetty, a final year student stood first in cartooning in the Zonal level.

The college once again adorned the tricolour in spirit of patriotism for Republic day where Aarambh, the drama club and NSS volunteers performed dances and a skit to celebrate our country and create awareness about the 'Swacch Bharat Abhiyan'.

Before we knew it, we were planning and organizing for this very day. A lot of hard work, dedication and time has been invested in the build up to this event. Not to mention many new ideas put into action and completed with the efforts of the students. For the first time we have introduced a paperless registration system on the fest website and also launched multi-platform mobile apps for the fest which featured all information about the festival, including registration features. Under the guidance of their seniors, a new Student council website has also been developed by our second year students Vighnesh and Ashwin to know about its different activities and members among the numerous students in college. This year's sports fest, Lakshya 2015, was one of the best organized and participated events of the year, and I would like to congratulate the entire sports team for their efforts. I would specially like to mention the success of our annual charity marathon Dream Run which was conducted to raise funds for the Burns Rehabilitation and Plastic Surgery dept. of Seth G.S. Hospital which helps in complete recovery of children who have suffered heavy burns. My special thanks to Pravin Jagtap who helped in raising Rs. 40,000 for the cause.

I would like to thank the entire student council for their efforts and time, the sponsorship team for raising funds for the event, the office for guiding us in all matters, our principal for being supportive and pushing us to achieve up to our potential.

I would also like to thank the person without whom, none of this would ever be possible, Mrs. Sumitra Padmanabhan, faculty in-charge of the Student council. Ma'am, thank you for being such a steady hand over all of us, thank you for your love and care.

In conclusion I would like to say: Believe that you can, and you are half way there. Thank you.