

**Educational Tour of School Principals
of
Vidya Pratishthan, Baramati
to
Singapore**

April 7 to 13, 2015

Organised by

**VPM's Academy of International Education and Research
Dr. Bedekar Vidya Mandir, Naupada, Thane 400 602
Maharashtra State, India
Tel: +91-22-2542-6270 URL: www.vpmthane.org/aier**

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Introduction

Dear Sir/madam

I am glad to learn that you have chosen to join the educational tour organised by VPM's Academy of International Education and Research (AIER), Thane. I take this opportunity to welcome you all to this maiden trip to Singapore. You might like to know that AIER has been arranging such tours for Indian teachers and students to UK and Singapore periodically. The experience of arranging these tours has been both encouraging and fruitful.

Singapore, an island country has achieved the status of a developed nation through systematic planning and implementation. It is known to be one of the four Asian Tigers, the fourth biggest financial centre having the third highest per capita income in the world. The country has a sound industrial base with significant export. The Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system in the city is quite effective in offering a good transport for the citizens of Singapore as well as for tourists. The cleanliness in the entire country is notable. All this has become possible due to the sound education system that the country has developed. You would get an opportunity to see some of the schools in the country.

Teacher preparation is an important parameter in the development of the country. This task is being carried out successfully by the National Institute of Education (NIE). During the proposed tour you will have an opportunity to visit the institution and interact with teacher educators engaged in teacher professional development. Singapore has devoted enough attention to skill development among the young lads. You will also get an opportunity to visit one such Skill Development Centre managed by the professionals from the Singapore Management University (SMU).

The visit programme planned for you has a good blend of academic interaction, sight-seeing as well as social interactions. Apart for visits to educational institutions you would get a chance to visit the places of interest in the city like Science Museum, National Museum, Underwater world, etc. An interaction is arranged with the local people to understand how the citizenship education is offered to young generation in Singapore. I assure you that the forthcoming educational tour of Singapore would be a life time experience for you. I am sure, the experiences gained in this tour would go a long way in improving school education in your region.

Dr. Vijay Bedekar

Chairman

Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane



Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane (VPM, Thane)

Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane, (VPM) was founded in the year 1935. Its founding fathers led by Late. Dr. V. N. Bedekar, a medical practitioner, were the men of modest means imbued with idealism and desire to serve the educational needs of the people of Thane. The depth and breadth of their vision is amply reflected in the objectives of the VPM as stated below.

- To provide the people residing in the Thane city and its vicinity, facilities for their intellectual, physical, scientific, social, cultural and professional education, to give publicity for the same, to establish and operate conducive factors for the above, e.g. parent-teachers association, stores for educational supplies, and thereby adding to the knowledge of the people.
- To emphasize the need for industrial knowledge and for the purpose of providing educational facilities for the same, to start and operate various undertakings such as industrial, educational institutes, Polytechnic, Engineering Colleges, etc.
- To co-operate with other public institutions on special occasions with a view to attaining the above mentioned purpose.

From the modest beginning VPM has grown to be an a major educational organization with sixteen institutions under its umbrella (see the list on the next page). VPM as two educational premises at Thane. One of them is used by English as well as Marathi medium schools. The other campus is for higher education providing degree and diploma courses in different branches of science and humanities. The college campus is equipped with modern educational infrastructure like fibre optic backbone, auditorium with video conferencing technology, leased line internet connectivity, digitisation of libraries and wi fi facility.

Recently, VPM has started a state of the art engineering college namely VPM's Maharshi Parshuram College of Engineering at Velneshwar Taluka Guhagar in Ratnagiri District. It has 35 acres eco-friendly campus on Hedavi – Guhagar coastal highway. It is providing engineering education to students coming from rural areas of the state of Maharashtra.

List of VPM's Institutions

Sr. No.	Name	Year of Establishment Year
1	Dr. Bedekar Vidya Mandir - Marathi Medium School	1957
2	B. N. Bandodkar College of Science <i>(Re-Accredited by NAAC, Bangalore – "A" grade)</i>	1969
3	K. G. Joshi College of Arts and N. G. Bedekar College of Commerce <i>(Re-Accredited by NAAC, Bangalore – "A" grade)</i>	1969
4	VPM's TMC Law College <i>(Accredited by NAAC, Bangalore)</i>	1972
5	Dr. V.N. Bedekar Institute of Management Studies (Dr VN BRIMS) (formerly 'Institute of Management Studies') <i>(AICTE affiliated) (ISO 9001:2008 (SGS-UK) Certified)</i>	1973
6	Sou. A. K. Joshi English Medium School	1976
7	VPM's Polytechnic <i>(Affiliated to Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education) (Accredited by National Board of Accreditation, New Delhi)</i>	1983
8	VPM's Advanced Study Centre	1996
9	VPM's Polytechnic IT Centre	2000
10	VPM's Centre for Foreign Language Studies	2008
11	VPM's Department of Defence and Strategic Studies	2008
12	VPM's London Academy for Education and Research, London	2009
13	VPM's Academy of International Education and Research	2009
14	VPM's Maharshi Parshuram College of Engineering, Velneswar, Ratnagiri District. <i>(AICTE, DTE Recognized & University of Mumbai affiliated)</i>	2012
15	VPM's Institute of Distance Education	2012
16	VPM's Centre for Career & Skill Development	2014

VPM's Academy of International Education and Research (AIER)

VPM's Academy of International Education and Research (AIER) was formally established in 2009 as an international wing of the Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane (VPMT). It has been undertaking a variety of activities as enumerated below.

1. Study Visits of British Teachers: On the request of the League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers (LECT) AIER hosted five educational tours of British teachers to India from 2003 to 2008. The visiting teachers were taken to schools both in rural as well as in urban areas to facilitate their interaction with Indian students and teachers.

2. Hosting Delegations from China: AIER hosted the visits of two delegations from China. The first delegation, from China Association of Science and Technology (CAST), Beijing visited Thane in 2007 while the second delegation from Shanghai Association of Science and Technology (SAST) visited Thane in 2009.

3. Cultural Exchange for Students from Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan: AIER hosted three visits of students pursuing Asian Studies at the Kyoto Sangyo University at Kyoto in Japan in 2012,13 and 14. During these visits students are given guidance in communicative Hindi and English apart and yoga.

4. Educational Tours of Indian Teachers and Students: AIER has been organizing educational tours of Indian teachers and students to UK since 2004. It also initiated conducting educational tours to Singapore since 2010. More than 130 practicing teachers and more than 70 students, both from school as well as college, have been benefited by this scheme.

5. Participation in International Competitions: AIER has been taking a team of school students from Sau. A. K. Joshi English Medium School, Thane to participate in the China Adolescent Science and Technology Innovation Contest (CASTIC) since 2007. So far students have participated in eight CASTIC events held at various places in China.

6. International Conference and Workshops: In order to celebrate the 900th birth anniversary of Bhaskaracharya an international conference **Bhaskara900** was organised at Thane from September 19 to 21, 2014. In addition conducted 65 workshops on Bhaskaracharya's Lilavati were conducted for the benefit of teachers and students.

Vidya Pratishthan, Baramati

Vidya Pratishthan is a name fondly synonymous with education in all its myriad forms and academic aspects. Right since its inception in 1972, the Institution has majestically scaled the ladder of success with profundity that aptly reflects its commitment to accord educational facilities to all sections of society. Duly realizing the absolute necessity of providing class education to the kith and kin of farmers, labourers and villagers, Vidya Pratishthan took it upon itself the need-based endeavour of making education accessible to the poor and the deserving.

Backed by the illustrious visionary, Hon. Shri Sharadchandra Pawar and indomitable leader, Hon. Shri Ajitdada Pawar with experienced guidance by the members of the Management Committee; the Pratishthan ushered in an era of imparting general as well as Technical Education through the Institutions, which are captained by illustrious personalities in their respective fields.

With a sprawling campus of 156 acres, the Pratishthan houses 25 Institutions, where more than 23,000 students are nurtured daily to turn them into the dearest citizens of the nation and sought after persons to the world of Knowledge. The dry, desolate and rocky landmass once upon a time has been turned into an artistically carved out landscape that creates just the right aura and decor of the Academia.

Apart from the campus in Baramati the Vidya Pratishthan has gone further to set up educational institutions in Pimpri, Bhore and Pune. All these institutions are providing yeomen service to the society by providing education at all levels and in different branches of knowledge.

The Vidya Pratishthan has taken due care to provide accommodation to students, teaching fraternity and other staff members. Ultra modern hostels cater to the needs of cozy, comfortable and spacious accommodation for the students, while plush residential quarters are provided to the teaching and non-teaching staff. In a nutshell, it is sheer grandeur blended with aesthetic sophistication that makes Vidya Pratishthan, a truly class Educational Institution with a touch of magnificence in all its fields. Additional information about Vidya Pratishthan can be obtained from its website (www.vidyapratishthan.com).

The visiting team comprises members of the management and principals of the schools managed by the Vidya Pratishthan, Baramati. It is expected that the visit will lead to strong bonds between educational institutions in India and Singapore.

Names of the Participants

1. **Mrs. Sunetra Ajit Pawar**
Trustee, Vidya Pratishthan, Vidya Nagari, Baramati.
2. **Mrs. Neelima Vinodkumar Gujar**
Member Executive Committee, Vidya Pratishthan, Vidya Nagari, Baramati.
3. **Mrs. Nila Sadashiv Kharosekar**
Principal, Vidya Pratishthan's English Medium School (Sec.) Baramati
4. **Mrs. Champa Sankappa Rai**
Principal, VP's Vinodkumar Gujar Bal Vikas Mandir, Baramati
5. **Mrs. Sapna Agarwal**
Principal, VP's Nanded City Public School, Nanded, Dist. Pune
6. **Mrs. Swati Pratap Bhosale**
Principal, VP's Someshwar English Medium School, Baramati
7. **Mrs. Jyoti Sunil Jagtap**
Principal, VP's New English Medium School, Baramati
8. **Mrs. Poonam Shriram Gadkar**
Principal, VP's English Medium School, Bilt Branch, Indapur, Dist Pune
9. **Mrs. Kalpana Avinash Barawkar**
Principal, VP's New Bal Vikas Mandir, Pimpli, Baramati
10. **Shri. Somnath Gangadhar Autade**
Principal, VP's Bhor English Medium School, Bholawade – Bhor Dist Pune
11. **Prof. Sudhakar Agarkar**
Dean, VPM's Academy of International Education & Research, Thane MS

The City of Singapore

Singapore, known as the Republic of Singapore, is an island country located in southeastern part of Asia. It is quite close to equator; the distance of the city from the equator being just 137 kilometres. The country's territory consists of the diamond-shaped main island, commonly referred to as Singapore Island and more than 60 significantly smaller islets. Singapore is separated from Malaysia by the Straights of Johar to the north, and from Riau island of Indonesia by the Singapore Strait to the south. The country is highly urbanised. In order to fulfil the demands of people the country's territory is being expanded through land reclamation continuously.

As per the records, the islands were settled in the second century AD. In the earlier period it was ruled by local empires. The island changed its face when a trading post of the East India Company was set up. Sir Stamford Raffles gave the city a modern look in 1819. Singapore became one of the British settlements in 1826. It was given independence in 1963 along with Malaysia. But it got separated from Malaysia just two years later. Since then Singapore has developed rapidly, earning recognition as one of the Four Asian Tigers.

The name Singapore is derived from its original Sanskrit name Sinhapur meaning the City of Lions. Nearly 5.5 million people live in the city of Singapore of which well over 2 million are foreign-born. While Singapore is diverse, ethnic Asians predominate: 75 percent of the population is Chinese, with significant minorities of Malay, Indians and Eurasians. There are four official languages: English, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil. Multiculturalism is promoted in the country.

Singapore is one of nine countries with the top AAA rating from all Credit Rating Agencies and the only Asian country on the list. It is one of the world's major commercial hubs and the fourth-largest financial centre. Using its strategic position on the globe it has developed a good port system and now boasts of five busiest ports. Its globalised and diversified economy depends heavily on trade, especially manufacturing, which accounted for around 30 percent of Singapore's GDP in 2013. Singapore has the third highest per capita income in the world. It is placed at high position in international rankings with regard to education, healthcare and economic competitiveness.

Politically, Singapore is a multiparty democratic country. It is one of the five founding members of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations). It also hosts the Secretariat of APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation). It is a member of the East Asia Summit, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth of Nations.

Map of Singapore



Some Facts

1. Population: 5.5 million approximately
2. Ethnic Composition: Chinese 74.3%, Malays 13.3%, Indians 9.1% and others 3.3%
3. Official Languages: Four- English, Malay, Mandarin and Tamil
4. Area: 718.3 Square kilometers
5. Population Density: 7,615 per square kilometers
6. Per Capita GDP: S\$ 71,318
7. Time Zone: GMT+ 8.00 hrs.
8. Literacy rate: 96.7 Percent
9. Doctors per 10,000 population: 21
10. Sex ratio (males per 1,000 females): 967

Education system in Singapore

Education in the country of Singapore is mainly supported by the state. There are a few privately managed schools in the country. They are governed by the rules framed by the Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Singapore. The school term starts on January 2nd and ends on November 20. Then there is a six week of annual vacation. The school term is divided into two semesters: January 2 to May 29 and June 29 to November 20. In general the schools have 40 weeks of teaching per academic year.

School education is divided into two parts: Primary and secondary. Primary education comprises six years of compulsory education. It consists of four year foundation course and two years orientation course. Secondary school is for four years. It is categorised as Special, Express and Normal depending on the ability of the students. Those who wish to go to university for further education have to undergo two years of pre-university course often called as Senior Schools or Junior Colleges.

After six years of primary schooling students have to take Primary School Learning Examination (PSLE). The placement of student in secondary education depends on the performance in this examination. After completing secondary education students have to appear for O Level GCE (General Certificate Examination). Those who go to Junior college appear for A level GCE examinations.

Students from Singapore have performed well in international competitions. They ranked first in TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study). Their performance in PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) has also been laudable. Singapore students have always performed well in Science as well as Mathematical Olympiads.

There are two main universities managed by the Ministry of Education. They are National University of Singapore (NUS) and National Technological University (NTU)). In addition, there are a few institutions and universities that are managed by the private bodies. Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore Institute of Management (SIM), Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) are some of the private universities. Until the recent part a large number of students from Singapore used to go to foreign universities for higher studies. Now this number has decreased substantially. On the other hand, the number of foreign students enrolling in Singapore Universities is increasing gradually.

Schedule of the Tour

Date/Activity	Forenoon	Afternoon	Evening
Tuesday, April 7, 2015	Journey from Baramati to VPM College Campus at Thane	Pre-departure discussion and journey to Mumbai airport	Journey from Mumbai to Kuala Lumpur (KL)
Wednesday, April 8, 2015	Journey from KL to Singapore, then to Hotel	Settling in the Hotel	Visit to Marina Bay
Thursday, April 9, 2015	Visit to Juying Primary School	Visit to National Institute of Education	Free time
Friday, April 10, 2015	Visit to LogicMills Skill Development Centre	Visit to Singapore Science Centre	Night Safari
Saturday, April 11, 2015	Visit to National Museum of Singapore	Half day tour of the City covering places of interest	Interaction with Local people
Sunday, April 12, 2015	Journey from hotel to Sentosa Island	Visit to Underwater World	Evening at Sentosa Island
Monday, April 13, 2015	Free time for shopping and packing	Journey from Hotel to Singapore Airport	Journey from Singapore to KL and then to Mumbai

Journey Plan

Mumbai (India) to Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) by MH 195

Mumbai Departure: April 7, 2015 at 23.55 hrs. from Terminal 2

Kuala Lumpur Arrival: April 8, 2015 at 07.30 hrs. at Terminal M

Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to Singapore by MH 611

Kuala Lumpur Departure: April 8, 2015 at 09.25 hrs. from Terminal M

Singapore Arrival: April 8, 2015 at 10.20 hrs. at Terminal 2

Singapore to Kuala Lumpur by MH 608

Singapore Departure: April 13, 2015 at 18.05 hrs. from Terminal 2

Kuala Lumpur Arrival: April 13, 2015 at 19.10 hrs. at Terminal M

Kuala Lumpur to Mumbai by MH 194

Kuala Lumpur Departure: April 13, 2015 at 20.20 hrs. from Terminal M

Mumbai Arrival: April 13, 2015 at 22.45 hrs. at Terminal 2.

Accommodation arranged at

Cultural Hotel Singapore

270 Jalan Besar

#01-1/02 Singapore 209019

Tel: +65-6499-8999 : Fax: +65-6296=3880

April 8, 2015 (Evening Session) Visit to Marina Bay

The first day evening is devoted to visiting a landmark place in Singapore called **Marina Bay**. Located in the southern part of the city it is a place of attraction for tourists. It is actually an extension of the adjacent Central Business District. In the 1970s, land reclamation was carried out at Marina Bay. In this process Telok Ayer Basin and Inner Roads were removed from the map. Singapore River now flows into the bay instead of directly into the sea. In 2008, Marina Barrage was built, converting the basin into a new downtown freshwater Marina Reservoir, providing water supply, flood control and a new lifestyle attraction. There are many places of attractions on the bay: 1. Merlion (the ikon of Singapore), 2. Marina Bay Sands (the hotel), 3. Garden on the bay (artificial garden) and 4. Singapore Flyer (claimed to be taller than London Eye).

April 9, 2015 (Forenoon Session) Visit to Juying Primary School

A visit is arranged to Juying Primary School located at 320 Jurong (East) 32, Singapore 609 476 (URL: www.juyingpri.moe.edu and Tel: +65-6561-8837). Principal Mrs. JaswantShroya has gladly agreed to host the visit. During this visit the participants will get an opportunity to interact with principals, her teachers and students. They will be able to observe the facilities in the school and witness teacher pupil interaction.

April 9, 2015 (Afternoon Session) Visit to National Institute of Education

National Institute of Education (NIE) is located in the green campus of National Technological University (NTU). It plays an important role in supplying teachers to the country. Apart from providing degrees like B. Ed. (Bachelor of Education) as well as M. Ed. (Master of Education) the institute has a sound programme for Ph. D. in education. It is recognised as one of the best educational institutions in the world. Dr. Yew Jin Lee Professor of Science Education at NIE has agreed to show around the insitiute.

April 10, 2015 (Forenoon Session) Visit to Logic Mills Skill Development Centre

LogicMills is a thinking school focused on teaching fundamental analytical skills to children from ages 4 to 16. Founded in 2004 by a group of Singapore Management University professors and other teaching professionals, LogicMills is an innovative company that believes in equipping children with the mental tools needed to independently discuss, question, and answer issues from all walks of life. LogicMills concentrates on five important skills: 1. Basic Analytical Skills, 2. Advanced Reasoning Skills, 3. Language and Communication Skills, 4. Memory Techniques and 5. Exploration. Prof. Mark Nowick, Professor from Singapore Management University has gladly accepted to host the visit and provide information about various activities of LogicMills. It is located in Bugis Village, 155B Rochor Road, 188430, Singapore (Phone: +65 68832171, Fax: +65 68832118).

April 10, 2015 (Afternoon Session) Visit to Singapore Science Centre

With more than a thousand interactive exhibits spanning 14 galleries, SCC is an ideal space to inspire the next generation of scientists. There are fun activities that can be found at 20 permanent exhibitions such as the Ecogarden, which showcases a variety of plants, all growing naturally and receiving no special care. Defending Science exhibits the latest in surveillance, flight, armour and radar used in the battlefield, while Quirky illustrates how fun science can be with displays of unique innovations. Shows and demonstrations are scheduled daily and are designed to make learning exciting. One can witness a spectacular Fire Tornado Demonstration in safety, get up close with a giant hissing cockroach on your hand, or gaze into the stars at the observatory.

April 10, 2015 (Evening Session) Night Safari

A night safari arranged in Singapore is the world's first nocturnal zoo and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Singapore. It was suggested in the 1980s by the former executive chairman of the Singapore Zoo, Dr Ong Swee Law. Constructed at a cost of S\$ 63 million, the Night Safari was officially opened on 26 May 1994 and occupies 35 hectares (86 acres) of secondary rainforest. Night Safari currently houses over 2,500 animals representing over 130 species, of which 38% are threatened species. The Night Safari is managed by Wildlife Reserves Singapore, and about 1.1 million visitors visit the safari per year.

April 11, 2015 (Forenoon Session) Visit to Singapore National Museum

The **National Museum of Singapore** is the oldest museum in the city. Its history dates back to 1849 when it was started as a section of a library at Singapore Institution. After several relocations, the Museum was brought to its present site at Stamford Road in 1887. The museum focuses on exhibits related to the history of Singapore. The Museum was named the *National Museum of Singapore* in 1965. The Museum underwent a three-and-a-half-year restoration and reopened on 2 December 2006, with the Singapore History Gallery opening on 8 December of the same year. The revamped National Museum was officially opened by former President of Singapore S R Nathan and Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Lee Boon Yang on 7 December 2006.

April 11, 2015 (Afternoon Session) City Tour

This will be a privately guided tour that would begin from the hotel. It will have a drive around the Civic District past the Padang, the Cricket Club and the historic Parliament House, Supreme Court and City Hall. Next a stop at the Merlion Park for great views of Marina Bay and a picture-taking opportunity with The Merlion, Singapore's well-known tourism icon, a mythological creature that is part lion and part fish. The tour continues with a visit to the Thian Hock Keng Temple, one of the oldest Buddhist-Taoist temples on the island, before driving past Chinatown to a local handicraft centre. From there you proceed to the National Orchid Garden, located within the Singapore Botanic Gardens, which boasts of a sprawling display of 60,000 orchid plants comprising of 400 species and more than 2,000 hybrids.

April 11, 2015 (Evening Session) Discussion with Local People

Local persons will be invited to the hotel for discussion. It will be an informal interaction to know more about the country. The participants will be able to find out how such a small country could make progress in such a short time. They would also be able to explore how could they build a good social behaviour among local people. There would of course be various other issues of discussion.

April 12, 2015 (Whole Day) Visit to Sentosa Island

The island was named "Sentosa" in 1972, which means peace and tranquillity in Malay language. It must be noted that this word come from Sanskrit word *santosh*. The Sentosa Development Corporation was formed on 1 September 1972 to oversee the development of the island. In 1974 the Cable Car system was built. A series of attractions were subsequently opened for visitors including, Wax Museum, Musical Fountain, Underwater World, etc. The causeway bridge was opened in 1992 connecting Sentosa to the mainland. New Sentosa Express Service was made operational on 15 January 2007. In the area that was to be cleared for the construction of the resorts, over two hundred trees and plants were replanted elsewhere on the island to minimise negative environmental impact. In 2009, construction of a new foot bridge began. The island is, thus, well connected to the main island of Singapore. The participants will have a chance to spend the entire day at this artificially developed island.

Opinions and Suggestions

Please provide your frank opinions about the utility of the tour. Please suggest ways of modifications to make the tour more fruitful.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____ Email ID _____

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sudhakar C. Agarkar
Dean, VPMs Academy of International Education and Research
Thane 400 602.
Email: sagarkar@vpmthane.org