

## **Voices of Students Dispatched to VIT in 2025**

**Visiting period: September 18–October 5, 2025**

**(These are translations of parts of the student survey.)**

### **1. What I learned in terms of training and language at the host university**

– Participating in an international conference held in India marked a major turning point in my research activities. I realized firsthand how crucial and globally relevant safety research on lithium-ion batteries is, especially in rapidly developing countries like India. Moreover, my English skills, which had previously focused on reading and writing, evolved into practical conversational abilities through discussions at the conference. Presenting my research confidently and responding to questions amid diverse accents gave me great confidence in discussing my work in English.

– During my training at VIT, I learned many valuable lessons. One of them was understanding why India has made remarkable progress in science and technology in recent years. For example, in the university's laboratories and lectures, efforts were made to spark students' interest in research, and an environment was created where students could learn and improve together. In other words, India has cultivated a strong foundation for producing skilled researchers and engineers.

– Indian English often has strong accents that are unfamiliar to Japanese speakers, and I initially had difficulty understanding it. Gradually, I became accustomed to it and was able to communicate smoothly with many people I met locally. This experience also made me realize the difference between English used in practice and English learned from textbooks.

### **2. What I learned about the lifestyle, culture and society of the host country**

– My stay in India was a continuous series of experiences that stimulated all my senses. The fundamental difference from Japan was the country's diversity. Differences in language, religion, and culture were part of everyday life, and the environment was often unpredictable, with things not always happening on schedule. From this, I learned to let go of my assumptions and adapt flexibly to the situation at hand. Many situations also required assertiveness and negotiation, providing a valuable opportunity to develop mental resilience and reflect deeply on what constitutes richness and abundance—something I had not fully recognized in Japan.

-Daily life in India was very different from that in Japan. Life required strong self-expression; unless I clearly communicated what I wanted or needed, things would not move forward. Even buying water at a campus shop involved crowds, loud voices, and active communication with staff. Through these experiences, I developed a stronger ability to express myself—something I had previously lacked.

- Culturally, religious faith was far more deeply rooted than in Japan. Deities were enshrined everywhere, and the rituals and practices of prayer were often complex. Since it is difficult to gain such an understanding of religion in Japan, this experience provided a valuable opportunity to deepen my global and cultural awareness.