

April-May 2014

# शिवेपुत्र वीती



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**Maa Tujhe Salaam! I am because you are.**

“Like a mother who protects her child, one should cultivate a heart of unlimited love and compassion towards all living beings.”

- Gautam Buddha

**VIDYA bows in gratitude to our caring mothers and teachers. Happy Mother's Day( May 6)**

**School Watch**

**Community Update**

Getty

## Hello Ma'am

Welcome Prerna Bhargava. She has recently taken over as Director, Operations and Strategy in VIDYA. Prerna is an old associate and a friend of VIDYA and we look forward to a long fruitful journey under her leadership.



*Prerna Bhargava*

## Charismatic Chaurasia

One major reason for combining April and May issues of the Newsletter is the visit of Bansuri(Indian Bamboo flute)maestro Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia on May 3. He was with the VIDYA family throughout the day and this event had to be included along with other important happenings.



## 1. SCHOOL WATCH

## The VIDYA School, Gurgaon

*May 3 Morning*

The VIDYA School shines in the morning glow, all decked up with fresh flowers and Rangolis. The stage is set with breathtaking props, the tables are ready with latest brochures and other literature, the walls glow with banners showcasing collages of VIDYA activities, the stall of VIDYA Vishesh handicrafts awaits visitors...the ambience is touching.



*Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia arrives with Debopriya Ranadive and Rashid Mustafa, his team members*



*Pandit Ji plants a Chandni sapling*

Pandit Ji arrives and is welcomed in a traditional Indian way. Soon he is seen sprinting ahead with the reception team trailing behind. He is brisk, smiles often, looks almost divine in his white silks with strings of pearls around his neck and red tikka on forehead.

The new brochure which the VIDYA team has lovingly created is released by Pandit Ji. He unveils his portrait painted by Namrata, the art teacher of VIDYA School and autographs it. He is awe struck by the excellent painting. The children take over the stage and their songs and dance performances are applauded by the appreciative audience of parents and well wishers.



## 1. SCHOOL WATCH

### *Guru Cool*

As is well known, this internationally acclaimed maestro of North Indian bamboo flute is also a dedicated Guru and teacher of Music. Pandit Ji takes over the stage with his team of musicians. He is grounded and so very humble as he invites the children on the stage. There is an excited rumble-tumble as the 400 odd children surround him on and around the stage and share his space. These little flowers, he says inspire him.

What follows is a sheer delight, and impromptu conversation as Pandit Ji becomes one of them, almost childlike. Jovial, naughty, he recalls his student days and shares anecdotes. Children are no longer in awe and join in with their innocent queries and answers...this session will remain in the memories of these children for years to come. He plays popular melodies that will linger. "Do you know the difference between a flute and Bansuri?" Pandit Ji asked. Think about it and let us know.



*Little Flowers of VIDYA*

### *May 3 Evening*

The Stein Auditorium, Habitat Centre, Delhi. The connoisseurs of classical music are spellbound. Pandit Ji performs to a packed house and regales with renditions of Hindustani classical ragas and folk tunes. He also responds to requests from the audience. This mesmerizing concert of Pandit Ji is a priceless contribution for VIDYA's welfare. VIDYA is deeply touched to receive his blessings.



*Jyot se Jyot Jale: Lighting the Traditional Lamp. Rashmi Misra ,Pandit Ji and Chandan Roy- VIDYA Well-wisher*



## 1. SCHOOL WATCH

### *School Activities*

Summer vacation is here till early July. Till date, the usual activities consisting of elocution, music, dance, yoga, sports, remedial classes etc. have continued as per schedule.

### *Inspiring Visitors*

April started with the new session with students moving into next classes. They now have new insights with the new syllabus. The school is blessed with the presence of valuable guests who interacted and inspired the students.

- UK's Action Break Silence group conducted a training session to promote empowerment of women through self defense. Almost 150 girls from standards IV-X attended the session which was conducted by Debi Steven. Twenty girls from Bal Vihar, Delhi also attended this session.



*Learning Self Defence*



*James Franke of UHG visited the School*

- James Franke and his team from United Health Group (UHG) visited the school with lots of gifts for the entire school. Later few juniors visited UHG with the school social worker as an activity under the friendship programme.
- A friendly inter house basketball match was conducted by UHG. This match was played by the VIDYA students- senior boys and girls. The winners were duly awarded.
- A special assembly was organized for General Kochar who visited the school mid April. The General was floored by the confidence and competence of the students.

### *Health is Wealth*

A health camp was organized in the school premises by AON Hewitt in association with specialist from ARTEMIS Hospital Dr. Anusha Singh and Dr. Nikita Jain were in charge of check up of 150 students.



## 1. SCHOOL WATCH

**Bal-Vihar, Delhi**

### *Friday Specials*

The new session is marked with new curriculum. Special assemblies have been introduced on every Friday. The subjects cover a wide spectrum like- God helps those who help themselves, pollution is our enemy, importance of parents, save trees etc. The main objective of these special assemblies is to promote mass participation, develop verbal skills and confidence in the students.

Every Friday, the four houses- Liberty, Equality, Freedom and Sincerity conduct various competitions to develop a healthy competitive spirit.



*Friday Assembly*

*Rangoli Competition*



## 2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Motilal Nehru Camp, Munirka, Delhi

### *Hi and Bye*

It is ironical that in April, as new entrants walk in, there are many who leave the school for better prospects.

Munirka Centre is rightfully proud to find placements for all the children above four years of age, in different government school.

These children of humble families are now groomed enough to become mainstream students.



*God Bless Us*

### *Mother to her Little Brother*

- Health checkups are regularly conducted.
- Eight young artists were selected for Champak Creative Child Contest, Season 6. Congratulations.



*Happy Mother's Day*

## 2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Pappankalan Community Development, Delhi

#### Top Ranking Remedial Students



*Jishan, Ashish, Neeraj, Rudra. Well done.*

#### Lotus Club Music

It was a proud moment when the Lotus Club music students performed at Music Basti's ReSound Concert at India Habitat Centre. This concert celebrated children's music and voices from communities. The children received certificates and applause. Children from Okhla Centre also joined the concert. It is heartening to see these less privileged children shedding their inhibitions and performing on stage with professional ease.



*Masti at Music Basti*

#### Women's Group

These young women are not only the home makers but also adept at creating wonders with ordinary material. The everyday items like notebook covers, book marks etc are given a new look with beads, glitter, embroidery etc.



*Perfect Hands*



## 2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Bridge Course, Okhla and Sainik Farms, Delhi Youth Management

The Youth Management programmes under the Bridge Course provide a bridge to help the less privileged youth return to mainstream hence known as Bridge Course.

- Price Water Cooper mentoring classes continue and are popular with the students who are now preparing for exams
- New admissions and registrations for National Institute of Open School are going on
- The students have painstakingly created a board on “ Know Your Rights”



## 2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Okhla Community Development, Delhi

#### *Social Media Awareness*

Social Media is an effective tool for reaching out. A workshop to highlight this awareness was organized at Bal Vihar spearheaded by Pratima Goel and Alpna Manchanda. The meeting was attended by community leaders and publication unit of VIDYA.

This meeting is relevant in today's scenario when online communication is the best and the fastest. The highlight should be regular updates wherein one does not just communicate but also tracks impact. The follow up session was recently organized at VIDYA Head Office.

#### *Power Performance*

The students of theatre class presented a street play on women's safety. Twenty girls participated in this play under the guidance of Kids Power Media. Posters and charts were put up in the community to create an awareness about speaking out against eve teasing, stalking and fighting off the attackers.



*Street Play*

#### *Power Performance*

Laura's cooking classes are going for the next high with four more batches learning the basics of cooking. A master chef competition was organized for cooking class students. It focused on the What, Why, How and When of cooking. The goal was to encourage the participants to select their own dish with their ingredients and style. But they had to honour the deadline and work as a team.



*The Master Chef Challenges: Creativity, Nutrition, Taste, Technique, Hygiene and Team Work*

## 2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

### *Library Liberates*

Tahzeem has recently joined as librarian and has stepped up library activities. A puppet show was organized in the library for the Beyond School and other programme children. The children also learnt to create paper puppets. This library cum activity centre is supported by FENA Foundation, thanks.



*Creating Puppets*

### *IIT NSS VIDYA Remedial Education Programme*

This programme runs from the premises of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) with cooperation from National Social Service (NSS) students, IIT faculty and volunteers. Holistic remedial education is provided to school dropouts including extracurricular activities.

This centre reaches out to students from preschool to standard XII. The recent results of the exam are very encouraging. Prominent visitors regularly bless the students.



*IIT- NSS family with Rashmi Misra, Founder Chairperson VIDYA*

### *Jocelyn at VIDYA*

Meet Jocelyn Devaney, the charming volunteer from USA.

She has joined at the Head Office, VIDYA to provide guidance for fundraising, upgrading website, teaching English and any other activity that may need her help. Welcome.



## 2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

### *The Board Meets*

The VIDYA Executive Board meeting was held on May 6.

The Board Members appreciated the Pandit Chaurasia concert and planned out the next line of action.

Summer programme and partnerships were discussed along with importance of social media and celebration of 30 years of VIDYA.

### *Deloitte Delights*

Deloitte, a leading international professional service provider based in Gurgaon organized a day long seminar on Leveraging IT in NGO world.

Dr. Rekha Chaturvedi, Vice Chairperson VIDYA along with Sujata, editor attended the seminar on May 9. Social Media, Library Science, HR Tools, Media Management and various online paperless interventions were discussed.

The focus was on creating a presence that strikes a chord, having regular news updates, cultivating relevant journalists and BE HEARD in a cluttered noisy environment of mass media and website.



## 2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

### VIDYA, Mumbai

#### *Action Breaks Silence*

Debi Steven, founder of UK based Action Break Silence conducted two workshops for VIDYA students of Bhavishya-yaan programme. The focus was on girls' personal safety and self defence. A highly trained team from UK assisted by instructors from CSK Kalari- Kerala and Red Brigade from Lucknow encouraged the girls to shed their inhibitions and fight back.



*Empowering the Girls*

#### *Summer Camps*

The summer months are marked for the much awaited summer camps.

The grand finale was at Powai attended by Rashmi Misra.

The event created a peer learning environment full of dance, songs and theatre.

#### *Of Sweets and Greens*

It was a day when tiny tots turned into little bakers. They visited Monginis factory and learnt processes of baking and decorating cakes. They were excited to see the makings of yummy cakes and pastries.

While the younger kids were busy with cakes and muffins, the older kids were Going Green in a farm nursery at Panvel. They explored a variety of medicinal, indigenous and rare plants, bushes and tabletop landscapes. It was a memorable experience amidst nature's serenity.

## 2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

### *Mystical Magical World*

The students of Bhavishya-yaan enjoyed a day into the mystical magic of fantasy world exploring cartoon characters from Alladin to Chota Bhim, the classes were alive with tips on animation, word games, story telling...

There were much song and dance, debates and mock elections and finally a visit to Museum and biscuit factory.



*With Favourite Cartoon Characters*

### *Being Heard*

To ensure being heard in a cluttered world, a presence on social media creates a huge impact.

The Mumbai team along with Chairperson Rashmi Misra and the Social Media Expert Alpna Manchanda from Delhi met at IIT Mumbai to assess the past and plan for the future.

In a heart warming session, the new and old members discussed the plans, stated the goals and developed the strategies.

The meet was concluded with a motivational session by Prof Mohan Krishnamoorthy, CEO, IIT-Monash, on the benefits of making Big Audacious Goals (BAG) and how to achieve these goals both personally and professionally.

Team bonding, visionary insights from the founder and SMART goals captured the essence of the meet.



*Planning the Way Ahead*

## 2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

**VIDYA, Bangalore**  
**Bhavishya-yaan**  
**Gottigere Primary and High School**

### *Summer Fun*

Come Summer and the camps follow, they are funfilled, carefree, creative moments that children enjoy together after hectic exams



*Creative Hands*

A group of about 40 children participated in the camps enjoying various activities like fabric painting, rangoli designing, cooking without fire, and learning about environment conservation through reduce- recycle-reuse etc.

There were captivating story telling sessions along with dance and songs. For the first time, Nakul from the Rotary family introduced a Maths Club, setting a stepping stone for future maths Wizards .

## 2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

### VIDYA Bhagini Programme Mali Foundation

#### *Innovatia's Innovative Skills*

To be bold and better equipped specially to face interviews, group discussions, internet working and in general being a better communicator, Innovatia introduced innovative life skills. The women attending the session felt special and courageous to go out there and face the world.

On the similar track, Taj Vivanta, one among the famous Taj Group of Hotels encouraged the VIDYA women to face the interviewers for job openings. Also being offered is training in government certified courses in housekeeping.

The women entrepreneurs who showcased their products in Kynkyny Art Gallery donated 10% of their revenue to VIDYA. The empowered women thus share their Shakti.



*I am Special*

#### *Community Camping*

This was a summer camp with a difference. For the first time along with their children, women went all out, to enjoy carefree 11 days of camping. Along with environmental issues, the families learnt various techniques of yoga for physical fitness. There were fun-filled sessions of creativity bursting in to energetic activities of making chocolates, collages, decorative glass jars, etc.



#### *Thanks Giving*

- Sackhumvit Trust has offered to support NIOS programme at Mali Foundation.
- The Association of Friday Convent has agreed to fund the Aahar programme scheduled to start in June.
- Themb & Runi, two dedicated volunteers have started a jewellery making training programme to create simple and elegant pieces.

*Camping With Families*



## The Best

The best 'age' is courage

The best 'stand' is to understand

The best 'day' is today



The best 'mile' is smile

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