On the 65th Republic Day, VIDYA salutes the spirit and power of the Common Man.

“What is true of an individual will be true tomorrow of the whole nation of individuals” .... Gandhi ji
Coming of Comforts

It was a sunny Sunday morning when the Comforts came calling. Nathalie and William Comfort, the great supporters of VIDYA were warmly welcomed in the school. They were accompanied by their grand children. The occasion was graced by Ajay Relan with his sister and brother in law along with Tara Bindra, S.K.Gulhati and Col. R. P. Madan of VIDYA. The grand children lovingly planted a sapling.

A special assembly was organized on Christmas and New Year followed by success stories of Comfort scholars. The Comforts later presented badges to the school council and interacted with the staff and students. Madam Nathalie was highly impressed with the confidence and competence of the students. The grand children were captivated by the experiments being conducted in the physics lab.

Today VIDYA is a dream converted into a reality through the love and generous support of William and Nathalie Comfort.
The school came alive with the spirit of patriotism on the Republic Day with Principal unfolding the tricolor. The flag hoisting was followed by a March Past by all the students and a school choir presenting Jai Jan Bharat, a patriotic song. Dance, music and inspiring speeches highlighted significance of the Day.

Meenakshi Roy-Principal unfurls the National Flag

Competing for Excellence
An English declamation competition was held for senior classes on either of the topics:
• What do children need-parents’ attention or expensive gizmos?
• What suits students more—continuous and comprehensive evaluation or formal education?

It was a powerful display of speaking skills with Sutlej House walking away with the first position followed by Narmada and Godavari. An inter house dance competition was based on various Indian classical dances. Narmada house danced to the top position followed by Sutlej and Ganga.
Republic Regalia

In the true spirit of democracy which is the pillar of a Republic, the annual elections were held in the school. Leaders- Head Boy and Head Girl were elected by the students in a due process of voting. Republic Day was celebrated at Panchsheel Club. Sixty students and five former students performed a cultural programme choreographed by Manju Prasad, noted choreographer. The toddlers of Nursery and KG created tiny national flags with the help of ice cream sticks! On the other hand, the students of the primary classes displayed their artistic talent in colourful Rangolis.

The school reopened after the winter break on January 15.
2. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Motilal Nehru Camp, Munirka, Delhi

*Munirka Salutes...*

The community awoke to the melodies as people walked through the lanes and by-lanes singing songs of patriotism on the Republic Day. These Prabhat Pheries are often used as a powerful medium of collective strength. Cross Cultural Solutions volunteers are helping to develop English Communication skills, various arts and craft activities. The children visited Raj Ghat on January 30th to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi.

*Activity Spectrum*

In addition to academics, activities like computer training, Taekwondo and music classes are being held regularly.

*Morning Melodies on Republic Day*
2. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Pappankala Community Development, Delhi

Republic Day Celebrations

There were songs. There was dance... Merriment on the Republic Day

The long winter break is over and the centre is back to its regular activities. Apart from academics, Lotus Club classes have also commenced.
2. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Bridge Course, Okhla, Delhi

Youth Management

They Came... Yes, they came, they saw and they won the hearts. These General Electricals (GE) Mentors are truly charming. Viplav-Vice President, Treasury led the team of Yogita, Saurav, Shirley, Prachi and Anne, mesmerizing the students of Okhla Bridge Course. This is an yearly New Year visit, eagerly awaited. Viplav speaks with authority laced with compassion, urging, persuading, cajoling and encouraging the students to open up and speak about their aspirations and dreams. It took some time to warm up on a cold winter morning of January 22 but once the inhibitions were down, the students were in a full flow of a fruitful interaction.

When Farhan Khan spoke about his interest in modeling and did a small catwalk, Shirley got up. Shirley, who has been modeling, took the initiative of walking the ramp and her spontaneous catwalk won her much applause.

Six students of Bridge Course Sainik Farms were also present.

GE mentoring classes are very popular, thanks to the warmth of the mentors. VIDYA is grateful for the gift of woolens.

Price Water Cooper (PWC) held a mentoring class on January 24.

Congratulations!!
Imam Hussain, a student of batch 2009-10 is today working with Jabong.com earning a salary of 17,000pm. VIDYA is proud of Imam.
2. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Bridge Course, Sainik Farms, Delhi

Youth Management

To mark the end of winter, Lohri is celebrated in North India with bonfires and joy for next harvesting season. Peanuts and popcorons were popped as the students went around the fire praying for a glorious spring.

Bani Jagtayani

The Bani Jagtayani Trust team visited the centre and interacted with staff and students. VIDYA is grateful for the Trust’s trust in the students’ competence and for their ongoing support.

Celebration Time

Documenting

Neeraj- volunteer of Adobe Youth Voices (AYV) and Manju Chauhan-educator, accompanied by AYV students are currently shooting documentaries on Reconstruction and Reinvention.
2. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Okhla Community Development, Delhi

**Sports Day**

Annual Sports Day was held with great aplomb. Students of remedial centre, computer and English speaking classes participated in different sports, be it a hurdle race, spoon race, a game of volleyball, badminton... Bandana Agarwal-Project Head was the chief guest and distributed certificates to the winners.

*Overcoming Hurdles in the Race*  *Bandana Agarwal Honours the Winners*

**Self Defence**

To target the ever increasing number of eve teasing and sexual harassment cases, VIDYA conducted a ten day self defence training camp with PHD welfare society. Most of the 83 girls were in the age group of 14-18.
2. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Okhla Community Development, Delhi

New Year, Lohri, Republic Day...

Each occasion comes with joy and pride. Following the New Year, Lohri in mid January marked the end of winter. Children enjoyed their peanuts and popcorns as they went around the bonfire. Nationalism was the highlight of Republic Day celebrations.

Talent Workshop

Lisa from India Talent Revolution Organization conducted a workshop for nurturing talent. Lisa is from Belgium and passionate about encouraging children to spot and hone their god gifted talents in various fields. The workshop was an ice breaking exercise followed by a story telling session conducted by Kulsum- Project Coordinator.
2. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Okhla Community Development, Delhi

Activities Spectrum

- Azad Foundation conducted a learner enrollment drive for driving classes.
- Health Check-up was organized for diagnosis and relevant treatment specially for eye related ailments.
- Remedial Centre students participated in an art and craft workshop learning to make paper flowers, birds, animals etc.
- NIIT Basic IT exam was conducted for students who finished their three month training schedule.
- Another IT exam was conducted for students who have finished their six months training.
- VIDYA computer centre runs with the support of Fena Foundation.
- Parent Teacher Meeting was well attended by parents who shared their concerns.
- Students of Social Work- MSW and BSW visited the Okhla project for an orientation. Three students from the group have joined the centre for field work.

Drive for Driving

Round Table
Passion and Professionalism

International Management Institute (IMI), Delhi organized a round table on Passion vs Professionalism in NGOs on January 23. As they say-

Round tables-or, if not round, the square or squarish-still and inevitably serve people well, symbolically and functionally, when they gather in a mutual spirit to puzzle out a problem or construct a vision(David Perkins).

Passion drives the NGO to break new frontiers. Professionalism ensures that the NGO remains in the run. Dr. Rekha Chaturvedi- Vice Chairperson along with Sujata Kaushic- Editor attended the Round Table. Dr. Chaturvedi presented a summary of her thoughts on reinventing ,constant transition, intelligent networking and implementation. It focused on winning together to achieve short and long term goals.

The Round Table provided an excellent opportunity of networking that concluded with the thought provoking address by Dr. Pritam Singh- Director General IMI.
The Standard Charted Mumbai Marathon (SCMM) 2014 had a huge VIDYA participation. Thirty five students and five staff members went for the dream run. Ganesh Kshirsagar - an alumni turned teacher, youth icon and leader ran the half marathon. Pradeep Deshpande - a true blue mentor, friend, fund raiser, dream maker also ran the half marathon. In addition Mumbai Core Management team raised an online handsome donation. VIDYA is grateful to Rashmi Misra - Chairperson for seeding the spirit of Marathon almost three decades ago.

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**Enrichment Camp**
National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) team organised a three day enrichment camp addressed by three speakers including the VIDYA mentor Pradeep Deshpande. Issues like diet, health, aspiration mapping and careers with Armed Forces were discussed.

**Health and Nutrition**
VIDYA Margam organised a two day orientation training course on Nutrition conducted by Food and Nutrition Board (FNB). Talks and discussions on Nutrition and Cooking within a limited budget were the highlights of the training of 30 women participants.
Science Exhibition Kicks Off!

Like every year, VIDYA is organizing the mega Annual Science Exhibition with a unique theme. This time around the Exhibitions will include each of the four communities that VIDYA works with, aiming to spread scientific temperament deeper and wider!

Vikas is Special

Vikas Waghmare, the 17 year old student of Beyond School Programme is a student with special needs. He needed assistance in academics. A disability certificate was obtained from the Government to aid him during exams. After frequent consultations and visits, today Vikas holds a certificate granting additional time during exams helping him to answer at a pace suitable to him. Vikas has also started his pre-vocational therapy sessions with MBA Foundation. The month long therapy is showing positive results with his Mathematical abilities. Recently he scored 16/20 in the assessment carried out by the Beyond School Programme. Thanks to MBA Foundation for nurturing Vikas.
The Finishing Touch was the Celebrity Art Event organised by VIDYA with VEDA Art Gallery on January 25. It was an auction that won awe and admiration. The finishing touch was provided by Radhika Verma Hormusjee- a renowned artist and great granddaughter of Raja Ravi Verma- the artist almost revered by the art community.

The chief guests were Mrs. and Mr. Ashwini Mehra- Chief General Manager, State Bank of India(SBI) Karnataka. Other eminent personalities who graced the occasion, to name a few were Narayanan from Winkworth, the main sponsor, Nandini Rodrigues- GM II SBI, Hedley Adkins- CEO of Synergy, Mrs. and Mr. Satish Manandi- Incoming President of Rotary Bangalore, Rekha Rao of Mali Foundation, Rajini Seetharam of VEDA Art Gallery, Shubh Ganguly- Head of Prestige. Sulaiman Jamal was the auctioneer.

Going... Going... Saved Auction was a delight for lovers and connoisseurs of art.
This captivating masterpiece is created by Charan Sharma-legendary master of Indian Contemporary Art. A blend of old culture and new vision is visible in his works. The current price is estimated as Rs. 30,00,000/- and VIDYA is selling at base of Rs. 18,00,000/-

VIDYA acknowledges the support received from SBI and Winkworth for being the official sponsors of the event. All the proceeds will go towards the programmes of VIDYA Bangalore. The sale and the bid at the auction will help the less privileged women and children.

Interested individuals and connoisseurs of art can still have the opportunity to own Paintings done by renowned artists and support the VIDYA cause. To get a preview of the paintings auctioned and available for sale please visit VIDYA website or visit this link [http://vidya-india.org/sneak.htm](http://vidya-india.org/sneak.htm).

For VIDYA Bangalore, January has been a month totally focused on the art auction “Going...Going...Saved”. Republic Day was celebrated with a huge Jai Ho!
Start looking for people and things to be thankful about... thank the blue of sky, softness of a toddler’s hand, sound of a child’s laugh... these are blessings all around us, be in a thanks giving mode everyday..

**Power of One!**

“If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in the dark with a mosquito!”  .. Betty Reese

**Friends of VIDYA**

**Why should you become a friend of VIDYA?**

- Be a part of a huge moment to educate, empower and make a difference to your neighbourhood, your city, your country.
- VIDYA has been creating a meaningful impact for almost three decades in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore and needs your support.
- Education: Over 2,50,000 underprivileged students have been educated providing access to good quality education.
- Empowerment: Women across the country are educated and vocationally trained.

You are welcome to join the VIDYA network. For details get in touch.

**VIDYA IS JUST A CALL AWAY**

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