



DESH APNAYEN NEWSLETTER

8th Issue, March 2016

From the Editor's desk

Dear readers,

Hello!

Spring has arrived, and yet, what blossoms in our hearts and minds are not flowers, but empathy and tears for all those in Brussels and Lahore. What happened in these two cities is another example of senseless brutality, of annihilation from anger.

It is scary to think this is the world our children are and will grow up in. Obvious dread fills our hearts.

But it is from this dread that a voice emerges, strong and convincing. A voice that is certain that education is the most powerful tool we have to battle this bitterness, this apathy. It is education that holds the power to give birth to more Malalas and more Kalams. Teachers who serve as positive role models to children day in and day out, year after year are the world's real heroes, and in fact, the real winners.

Hence, it gives us so much pride that we have spent the last few weeks honouring teachers and school leaders of Mumbai, who, on a daily basis, are inspiring their students to engage with the country. They are doing so by emulating best practices in citizenship education in their classrooms, implementing our 'Disha' curriculum in an impactful way, engaging with children in citizenship club activities and being exemplary human beings that all their students can look up to. These schools have also implemented the citizenship clubs in their schools with great gusto, collaborating and co-creating new and engaging initiatives with children.

We owe our schools and teachers a great, great debt. The only way to make them proud is by spreading their work and bringing about a transformation from within us. Let us use our education as a force for good.

Desh Apnayen, Desh Padhayen, Desh Badhayen.

Aditi Mehta, Editor

The Desh Apnayen Awards: Celebrating the heroes among us

Our unique initiative, 'Desh Apnayen Awards', was instituted to celebrate exemplary schools, school leaders and teachers that work tirelessly to promote the spirit of citizenship education and civic participation.

For the academic year 2015-16, out of 55 Desh Apnayen partner schools, eight schools won the Desh Apnayen School Award. This prestigious title recognises a collective effort from the entire school community.

Teachers from three schools also won the Desh Apnayen Champion teacher award, a title that honors outstanding teachers and the efforts they undertake to make their children curious, aware and engaged with civics as a whole.

A panel of experts was called upon to select schools and teachers that supported and motivated children on this march from apathy to ownership.

The broad judging criteria used for selection and felicitation included parameters such as:

- Number of citizenship club activities carried out by the school
- Quality of the execution of citizenship club activities
- Level of social impact made on students and community
- Contribution to their local neighbourhood
- Constant engagement with Desh Apnayen, sharing their success stories and reaching out to us for support and feedback

We congratulate the following schools and teachers!

AWARDEE SCHOOL	AWARD TITLE	NAME OF PRINCIPAL & HOD
JBCN International School	Desh Apnayen School Award	Ms. Debika Chatterjee Ms. Snehlata Alphonso
Campion School	Desh Apnayen School Award	Mr. Paul Machado Mr. Sunil Almeida
Bombay Scottish School	Desh Apnayen School Award	Ms. Molly Paul Ms. D' Souza
Children's Academy, Thakur Complex	Desh Apnayen School Award	Ms. Sona Matoo Dhingra Ms. Reshma Shah
St. Mary's School SSC	Desh Apnayen School Award	Fr. Jude Fernandes Ms. Emmy Fernandes Ms. Gulnaz Khan Ms. Mehjabeen Bagasrawala
HVB Global Academy	Desh Apnayen School Award	Ms. Chandrakanta Pathak Ms. Shulagna Banerjee
J.B Petit Girls School	Desh Apnayen School Award	Ms. Benaifer Kutar Ms. Navaz Batliwala
Pawar Public School, Bhandup	Desh Apnayen School Award	Ms. Suma Das Ms. Erica James
St Mary's School ICSE	Desh Apnayen Champion Teacher	Ms. Davina Menezes Ms. Zeenat Surka Fr. Francis Swamy
St. Stanislaus High School	Desh Apnayen Champion Teacher	Fr. Andrew Rodrigues Ms. Anna Correa Mr. Elias Corriea
Pawar Public School Dombivali	Desh Apnayen Champion Teacher	Ms. Ishita Chowdhury Ms. Anita Guruji



Three cheers to Bombay Scottish School! Kudos to the Principal Ms. Molly Paul and the teachers for promoting citizenship education.



Desh Apnayen School Award



Compliments to Mr. Paul Machado, principal, Mr. Sunil Almeida and all the children under their tutelage! Three cheers to Camplion School!



Congratulations to Children's Academy, Thakur Complex, for winning the Desh Apnayen School Award! Three cheers to Ms. Sona Matoro Dhingra, principal, and Ms. Reshma Shah.



Dr. Chandrakanta Pathak, principal, HVB Global Academy, and Mr. Vallabh Bhanjali, Founder of Desh Apnayen Sahayog Foundation & Co-founder and Chairman of ENAM Group, holding the Desh Apnayen School Award trophy. Kudos to the Principal Dr. Chandrakanta Pathak and Vice Principal Ms. Shulgana Borejee.



Mr. Vallabh Bhansali, Founder of Desh Apnayen Sahayog Foundation & Co-founder and Chairman of ENAM Group, taking the citizenship pledge and answering questions from students of the HVB Global Academy.



Congratulations to Ms. Debika Chatterjee, principal, and Ms. Snehlata Alphonso of JBCN International School!



Three cheers to J. B. Petit High School for Girls on winning the Desh Apnayen School Award! Congrats to Ms. Benifer Kutar, principal, and Ms. Navaz Battiwala!



Congrats to Pawar Public School, Bhandup, for winning the Desh Apnayen School Award! Kudos to Principal Ms. Suma Das and teachers Ms. Erica James and Ms. Seema Nair. Three cheers for Chairperson Ms. Supriya Sule.



Three cheers to St Mary's High School (S.S.C.) for winning the Desh Apnayen School Award! Kudos to the Principal Fr. Jude Fernandes, and teachers Ms. Emmy Fernandes, Ms. Gulnaz Khan and Ms. Mehjabeen Bagosrowala.



Desh Apnayen Champion Teacher Award



Kudos to Father Andrew Rodrigues for winning the Desh Apnayen Champion Teacher Award! Congrats to St. Stanislaus High School, Ms. Anna Correa, principal, and Mr. Elias Corriea.



Congrats to teachers Ms. Davina Menezes and Ms. Zeenat Surka for winning the Desh Apnayen Champion Teacher Award! Three cheers to St. Mary's School (ICSE) and Principal Fr. Francis Swamy!



Congrats to Ms. Anita Guruji for winning the Desh Apnayen Champion Teacher Award! Cheers to Pawar Public School, Dombivli and the Principal Ms. Ishita Chowdhury. A round of applause for Ms. Supriya Sule, Member of Governing Body for Pawar Public School.



Our monthly favourites

Educational initiative of the month

Lawtoons

The concept of Lawtoons is simple: to create interesting cartoons on Indian laws for kids. Through storytelling and cartoons, Lawtoons enables children to set upon a journey to discover how laws affect us in our daily lives. With the potential to reach out to a large audience to create awareness about laws and rights, the Lawtoons expedition has two characters – Pugloo and Judgni.

Pugloo is ten years old, and lives in Ahmedabad. He is studying in the fifth standard at Kendriya Vidyalaya, and is one of the naughtiest children in his class. Pugloo lives with his parents, grandmother, and his only real friend – his dog, Sinsin!



Judgni (Judge + Genie) has quite an enigmatic aura around him – too bad only a few can actually see him! He takes his liberty to appear in our human world at the most random times very seriously and believes Pugloo to be his responsibility!



To read a Lawtoon comic online, please click [here.](#)

Fun and Games

It's cricket season! The Indian team has done really well so far in the T20 world cup, and we wish our captain, MS Dhoni, leads us to a victory. However, we take this opportunity to celebrate the Indian women's cricket team. The ladies in blue battled it out to the end and succumbed bravely in the World T20 quarter final state to West Indies by narrow 3 run defeat. Let's see how much we all know about these wonderful champions!

1. Who is the captain of the Indian ladies cricket team?
2. Who is the oldest member of this team?
3. Can you identify this player? What is her strength?



4. Why is it that in a cricket crazy nation like ours, this team does not get its due?
5. What is our team's global ranking?
6. What is one message you would like to give our captain?
Send your responses to komal@deshapnayan.org We will pick the best answer and tweet it!

Answers for last month's fun and games section:

1. Fathima Beevi, 1989
2. HL Dattu
3. Supreme Court of India
4. Leela Desai
5. Suo motu, meaning "on its own motion," is a Latin legal term, approximately equivalent to the term sua sponte. For example, it is used where a government agency acts on its own cognizance, as in "the Commission took suo motu control over the matter."
6. Science, study and theory of law