



JULY 2018

THE SHISHUKUNJ

GAZETTE

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EDITORIAL

Namaste

Welcome back to school after what I hope was a productive summer session for all the readers. Learning never stops, whether it be the summer vacations or the daily school life. Continuing on this thought, we learn new things everyday, regardless of the minuscule scale they are. It is a continuous process that has no limits and makes us aware of our surroundings, a more informed and aware individual, a better individual.

Today, more than ever, the times call us to be knowledgeable individuals. The times are changing and social conventions are retreating to make space for the new-age thinking that we, the new generation possess. The world is not the same as it was a decade ago. Tectonic shifts in today's culture have made us to look at all worldly things from a different perspective and outlook.

On this note and in this spirit, it is my distinct honour and privilege to introduce THE SHISHUKUNJ GAZETTE. The Shishukunj Gazette will be a student run newsletter, published monthly. From politics to economy to career advice from a vibrant and successful alumni, the newsletter aims to address the aforementioned and more. Not forgetting our roots, a word of motivation from the Head Boy and the school news from the past month and some creative work guaranteed to leave you in awe.

Welcome to The Shishukunj Gazette. Happy reading!

Garvit Zalani
Student Editor

SHISHUKUNJ MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2018

There don't often come opportunities that make you a part of something bigger than ourselves, opportunities that push us to go that extra mile and prove ourselves on a platform for the whole world to see.

In India, where the constraints of our education system create a lack for practical experience, experiences that challenge us to pursue more than the walls of our classroom are much warranted for. In today's world, skills like organisational skills, managerial skills, interpersonal skills, communication skills and general intellect are much sought after, been provided an adequate platform to learn and better ourselves is an opportunity that does not come often.

Shishukunj MUN 2018. The fourth iteration in a long-standing legacy of bringing a perfect conference that combines the elements of today's world with the dynamic of debate and the resolute of coming together and providing sustainable solutions. Shishukunj MUN 2018 brings to you 9 committees across various dimensions, all centred around this year's theme "Ecology, Economy, Equity." Committees lead by a proficient Executive Board staff and helmed by an enthusiastic Secretariat, this year's iteration promises to set a benchmark in the legacy.

To be held in the last week of September, preparations for Shishukunj MUN are already in full swing and it's on the way to be one of the most successful endeavours of the school year.



Visit: shishukunjmun.com for more details.

WHY I DON'T WATCH THE NEWS ANYMORE

Democracy is not just something you read about in your civics textbook, but it is the very way of life under which you and I are, under which you and I breathe, eat and live. Traditionally, we find three pillars of democracy - the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. However, in the modern period, a fourth one has come up - the media. And today that very fourth pillar lays in shambles.

On May 28, a not-for-profit news organisation called Cobrapost did a massive exposé on a number of media houses, and not only the small ones, but the big mainstream ones including Times Network, Zee Media, Hindustan Times, ScoopWhoop, to name a few among the two dozen companies that accepted the deal.



"LET THE PEOPLE KNOW THE FACTS AND THE COUNTRY WILL BE SAFE"

- Abraham Lincoln

The entire operation was called Operation 136 under which Pushpa Sharma, a Cobrapost journalist held meetings with managers, executives and editors of various media houses under the name of Acharya Atal, a RSS activist. The sting operation revealed that the media houses were willing to accept cash to broadcast news in favour of the Hindutva agenda as a favourable build up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections for the current ruling party. The favourable broadcast would include primetime news segments, social media outreach and editorials in print media.

Now this comes as a major threat. For a country like India where the majority of its population depends on visual medium for news, biased news could easily be a major instrument in changing their political opinions.

Strangely, none of the mainstream media houses or even the newspapers have talked about this. I can say that the majority of the readers will not have known about this news. This is a news which makes us question the entire construct of the media establishment and its ability to deliver unbiased news.

Correct news is as important as any second thing because a person's opinion is the most valuable thing. And if that valuable thing can be easily manipulated, then there is hardly a scope for us to be more informed and logical individuals. Unfortunately, there is no news source easily available which is willing to compromise on profits to deliver proper news.

Democracy is built on all the four pillars and those four pillars make the house that we famously call India. What happens when one pillar falls? The obvious. The house falls, India falls.

**"I AM CONFIDENT
THAT THIS IS ONE OF
THE BEST DECISIONS
OUR COMPANY
HAS MADE"**

- WALMART CEO

We all have heard and used the e-commerce major Flipkart at some or the other time. In the last week of May, major news came in from the company as the American retail giant, Walmart, announced an acquisition of a \$16 billion dollars for 77% stake in Flipkart, valuing the decade old startup at a whopping \$21 billion. For a company that started as an online bookstore a decade ago in Bengaluru by two young entrepreneurs with a vision, this news comes as a proud moment for the Bansal boys. This deal is the biggest of its kind as far as acquisitions of e-commerce companies are concerned.

Coming in the wake of a major policy shift sometime in May when the government allowed a 100% FDI in online retail, this deal has revolutionized the e-commerce sector in a massive two-way competition between Flipkart-Walmart and Amazon. This deal shows a number of benefits. Firstly, this deal undoubtedly gives much hope to India's startup ecosystem and builds up entrepreneurship among prospective visionaries. This deal also gives a signal to US-based venture capitalists and analysts that an Indian e-commerce company is ready to play in the big leagues. Secondly, given the next avenue for competition lies in delivering fresh produce, Walmart's brick and mortar stores as well as its contractual farmers can bring efficiency in the delivery system that Amazon finds difficult to realise. Thirdly, this acquisition gives a chance to Walmart to create a mark in e-commerce which it has found difficult to do. Fourthly, given Flipkart's numerous acquisitions, Walmart acquires a considerable growth in the Indian market unlike its debacle with the Bharti-Walmart venture.

HOW WALMART FLIPPED THE KART

Fifthly, Walmart has committed a long term growth strategy and considerable future investment in Flipkart which will lead to a positive effect in the job growth cycle.

Now for the criticism. Every coin has two sides and this deal comes with its fair share of downsides. Firstly, the deal which is being earmarked as the big "investment" is not exactly an investment as there are no new assets being created. The money is majorly being used to repay the existing investors like Softbank which means that almost \$14 billion of the \$16 billion investment will go outside the country to places like Japan and South Africa where the investors are situated. The actual investment is a paltry sum of \$2 billion. Secondly, the large market of unorganized sellers faces stiff competition as the new Flipkart will deal in discount selling which will negatively affect the small sellers in the short run or the long run too. This may affect a large number of buyers as more and more sellers start losing to the price war between e-commerce companies and go out of business. The large part of India which still depends on the small and local sellers may be forced to undergo a half-hearted digital revolution which may be counterproductive for the economy as a whole.

Stated above are the positives and the negatives of this deal and in whose court does the ball lie, how the future lies, is all to unforeseeable. This deal may be the biggest one for the e-commerce sector or could just be a spillover of the competition of two major US-based companies in India, against the interests of the consumers. We will have to wait and watch.





LETTER FROM THE HEAD BOY

Some time ago I was asked to write this piece for The Shishukunj Gazette. Needless to say, I panicked. No matter to what lengths a person goes to achieve things, it is extremely difficult to place trust in themselves. But as I look back over the past years, it is also extremely difficult to overlook how much I have matured, and how confident I have become as a person. This begs the question: who, or rather what, is responsible for this change?

Shishukunj.

The Shishukunj family, the school, or however you prefer to call it, has been responsible for my development. And not just for me, but for a huge number of other students as well. It is time we start paying back to the school, bit by bit, what we owe it. We are as much responsible for the school's growth as it is for ours. Session 2018-19, just like the previous years, brings to you multiple opportunities to prove yourself in front of everyone and to show the school how well it has moulded your personality. There are certainly a lot of expectations riding high on all Shishyans – expectations of parents, teachers, peers, and the school management. Fulfil those expectations and hopes by contributing wherever you can in school work and activities. Work better than you did last year and look towards activities that will build your own personality. In short: study hard, be disciplined, participate, make friends, and remember to trust yourself!

With hopefully some changes, new ideas (exhibit A: this newsletter), and undoubtedly a fresh start, I hope you will not fail to seize all the opportunities that pass by you this year, while showing exemplary character, learning more, working harder and most importantly, having fun!

Kartik Devpura
Head Boy

MY STORY TO IVY LEAGUE

I was dazed when I heard back from Dartmouth College. And overjoyed beyond description to know that I got accepted with a full scholarship tuning to almost Rs. 2 crores. Becoming an Ivy League student is not in the cards for anyone. You have to have more than just academic achievements to fall back on. Enterprise, artistry, and inventiveness do the bit in making you stand out. And some luck too, I'd say.

People consider the entire procedure to be very exhaustive. The US admissions process, being mostly holistic, is very beautiful of its own. Never did I calculate how much I loved nature until I wrote a 1000-word long essay about it. It helps you explore yourself. Being yourself, both on paper and otherwise, is the most important thing for applications and life in general. Other than that, try scoring well on standardised tests, starting early with essays, and doing interesting things out of the classroom. Standardised testing, though important, is only a filtration test. Academically in class room, maintain rigour and performance. Extracurriculars supplement your academic capabilities. Have at least one skill, interest, or passion that becomes the highlight of your entire application, which in my case was my fondness for international affairs. But don't lay empty claims; colleges know when you bluff with them. Show them what you have done, how much you've done, and tell them a story that revolves around that subject. For me, Model UN conferences were important in setting up the base, but they surely weren't enough. I travelled to the UN Headquarters in New York just to participate in an event at the actual United Nations, revolutionised the Shishukunj MUN, and opened a non-profit called Chanakya with two other partners to encourage ideas. At school, I conducted general awareness quizzes, organized events as the head boy, and represented the school at countless competitions. All of this helped me show them my spike in internationalism and my leadership qualities. Basically, rather than doing a hundred different things at once, do one thing a hundred times. Become a leader, or become a pundit. Don't be another student in the herd. In India specifically, opportunities don't come to you, you have to go to them. Keep searching for unique opportunities around you, and be ready to accept them. If you keep yourself confined to the realms of your immediate surroundings, trust me they don't need you. Do some research, and try publishing it. Intern with an organization of your interest. Most importantly, do whatever you love, but do it to the best of your abilities.

No one admission factor per se is singularly important. Remember, you are a culmination of a multitude of talents and skills, so, never give up if one of them goes missing. Nobody can be perfect, and the colleges don't expect you to run a billion-dollar company even before you're eighteen. All they want is someone who has the aptitude to prepare to go out and change the world.

Pranit Gupta
B.A. in Economics
Dartmouth College, Ivy League
Class of 2022

Night

The sun was out of sight
The stars sparkled high
And the moon shone bright
It was indeed a wonderful night.

I went out to admire the night
And don't know the reason why
However hard I try
The stars shine at such a height.
And soon
I saw the beautiful moon
And decided to watch it till monsoon.

The sky was dark
With only some spark of the Moon
Which came with its amazing glow
I sat down and applauded the show.

- Naqiya Barnagarwala, Class VIII



- Swasti Solanki, Class XII



- Asmi Manudhane, Class X

STUDENT CORNER

EVENT SCHEDULE

29
JUN

Ojas Academics

The top scorers take the stage.

30
JUN

Wall Magazine

Redecorating the school wall with the finest creativity and imagination.

28
JUL

PRATIBIMB

Creativity to the furthest expressed in a beautiful exhibition of art, drama among others.


ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Shishukunj produces the best results in the city for class X and XII.
- MA-1 rescheduled to July 9.
- A new venture, speaker series to help create awareness about career options, exclusively for classes X-XII.
- For all commerce students, a commerce event to experience the practical aspects of what you learn in class.
- For budding instrumentalists, the Inter-house Music Competition this Independence Day.



"A SMOOTH SEA
NEVER MADE
A SKILLFUL
SAILOR"

- FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



You could get a chance to be featured in this space for the next issue. Mail us your creative piece, a writeup, a short story or some artwork or a photograph. We are always on the lookout for the next creative mind.

- The Shishukunj Gazette Team

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH

THE TEAM

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Reach Out

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