



## Editorial

It is time for yet another exuberant sports meet at BITS, which we bitsians fondly call the "BOSM". Competition is acute, expectations are high and amidst all these there's always the pressure of academics that has made BOSM all the more exciting and worth-waiting for. Sporting spirit is in the air .

Let's answer a simple question now....why do people sport.? We can expect a lot of answers varying from a six year old kid's- "It's Fun.." to Swami Vivekananda's saying which goes like this- "You will be nearer to Heaven through football than through a study of the Gita". Some do it for fitness, some for fun, some like playing, some like watching and some out of passion. They like one sport better for entertainment, another for the fitness it gives and so on. We as students of science have little time for sporting out of passion, but there is no dearth of talent

in the country pertaining to any specific sport. But, is this talent pool really being nurtured??

India clinched its first individual gold medal in 108 years of Olympic participation, a stellar performance by Abhinav Bhindra. India has shown the best of the performances this Olympics, winning 3 medals in all. Obviously there are lots of things that can be done to improve the performances. Funding and decisions are solely in the hands of the sports ministry mandarins. The government alone cannot be trusted to better sports in the country, there has to be a PPP(PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP). For the first time since 1928, the Indian Men's Hockey Team was unable to take part in the Summer Olympics due to its failure to qualify. Despite being our national game, Hockey is not what it was a few years back, "the pride of the nation". Sub-standard training conditions



and non-maintenance of infrastructure are other major hurdles.

True sport holds fairness, inclusion, excellence and fun as its key values. It helps erase ethnic and religious differences. In modern times the fun element has been replaced by profitability. Modern sports has become a multi-billion dollar business. In this commercialization of the sport which is stated as a need to popularize it, the true meaning of a sport is lost. The various sports federations setup should ensure that young and promising talent gets regular international exposure and concentrate on honing their skills without bothering about financial constraints.

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*You are never really playing an opponent. You are playing yourself, your own highest standards, and when you reach your limits, that is real joy.  
-- Arthur Ashe*

# PROJECTS' UPDATES...

## **Inter Connection of Schools (ICS)**

As a part of the implementation of the program, four schools in Pilani namely BAL NIKETAN, PADIYA, SAABU and GOENKA were visited. All the school managements seemed to like the aims and objectives of the project. As there was a positive response from all the school principles, we have planned to conduct an intra-school quiz in the respective schools to select a set of students from each school for the various inter-school competitions planned for the mid-October. Satisfactorily all the schools have agreed to the event.

The volunteers would be regularly visiting the schools to maintain contacts with the management. The first intra-school quiz is scheduled to be organized in SAABU school on this Saturday.

## **School Adoption Program (SAP)**

We are in the process of taking permission from the government authorities for formally adopting the Rashtriya Prathmik Pathsala, Hanumanthapura. The required documents have been forwarded to the District Education Officer (DEO) and we are awaiting for the response.

Meanwhile, all the groundwork for installing a water pipeline in the school premises has been done. As soon as we get permission from the DEO, the construction work of the pipeline will start.

## **Gyan Bodh (GB)**

The gyan bodh sessions at Gyan Vihar for this semester started on 18th august. Before starting the sessions all the people in the nearby places were informed about the re-opening of the center. The students of classes 3rd to 12th are being taught science, maths and English here in the evening classes. Approximately 60 students have been coming regularly.

## **Self Help Groups (SHG)**

The SHG team is in operation in two villages around Pilani this semester. The training in the stitching centre in KHEDLA village is going on well with 6 people a day on an average. But as the agricultural season has started, the number of women coming to the center may go down. At present, they are being trained in kurthas for both males and females. Once they are done with the training, they will stitch kurthas for all the NIRMAAN volunteers.

A new team specially appointed for the search of a new village potentially capable of sustaining our SHG project has come up with an area outside our campus called HARINAGAR COLONY. After an initial survey in the colony followed by a pamphlet distribution, a meeting was arranged for the people of the colony to make them aware of our project and its objectives. There was a pretty good response from the colony. The team has ambitious ideas of starting a training centre in the area seeing the overwhelming response of the local people.

## **Rural Employment Incubator (REI)**

This semester our REI team has planned to setup biogas plant(s) in the village of KHEDLA. We have taken permission from the sarpanch of Khedla to implement this project. The officer of Agricultural department and the Block Development Officer (BDO) have been approached, and we got good contacts and helpful inputs about the execution of the project. Steps are now being taken to collaborate with other NGOs for technical and financial support. As soon as we find a good contact, a pilot run will be conducted, and if successful we will implement this project on a large scale in Khedla.

## **Funding from the BITSAA Kolkata Trust**

We are very happy to announce that the BITSAA Kolkata Trust has agreed very recently to fund three of our major projects in Pilani. These include funding for GB hut ( a building where Gyan Bodh classes will be held), 5 sewing machines for the SHG in Khedla, and additional infrastructural facilities in the Rashtriya Prathmik Pathsala, Hanumanthapura as a part of our School Adoption Program.

## CLUES

### ACROSS

1. Asia's youngest International chess women master 1999(6)
2. Captain of world cup winning Indian hockey team 1975(7)
3. Poster boy of Indian football(8)
4. First Indian athlete ever to win a world championship(9)
5. Winner of 8 world titles in billiards(9)
6. Shooting arrows using bows.(7)
7. Oldest football tournament in India.(6)
8. Synonymous with the game of badminton...his daughter a famous actress.(8)

### DOWN

1. First Indian women archer to qualify for Olympics.(12)
2. Popular Indian Game.(8)
3. Board of Control for Cricket in India.(4)
4. Indian Olympic Association.(3)
5. Bronze medal winner in 1996 Atlantic Olympics.(7)
6. Ace Indian long distance swimmer, lawyer by profession.(8)
7. First Indian to win individual gold in Olympics.(6)

### NIRMAAN Chapters across the country

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ◇ <b>Pilani</b>       | ◇ <b>Hyderabad</b> |
| ◇ <b>Bangalore</b>    | ◇ <b>Goa</b>       |
| ◇ <b>Vizianagaram</b> | ◇ <b>Warangal</b>  |

## OUR MAIN CHAPTERS

### Bangalore Chapter:

We have surveyed 10 schools and adopted 5 schools in the city of Bangalore.

#### Government Kannada School, Ulsoor:

This school has been adopted by us and we have taken the following activities:

1. Constructed Toilets, Drinking water facilities and dias with a Flag pole funded by Modelytics India Pvt. Ltd. and Azko Nobel India Pvt. Ltd.
2. Distributed Bags and shoes to 210 students in the school by funded by Modelytics India Pvt. Ltd.
3. Donated two computers as part of computer lab by GE India Pvt. Ltd.

Apart from these infrastructural projects, we teach computer, spoken English classes every week.

#### Government Telugu School, Ulsoor:

Nirmaan has appointed and pays salary to a computer faculty for teaching students the basics of computers. He is being effectively used by the school.

Our volunteers take up computer, science, mathematics classes every Wednesday and Saturday. We have conducted extra circular activities like elocution, dance, etc.

#### Government Kannada School, ShriRam Nagar:

Distributed school bags (on August 15th) to 110 students funded by Modelytics India Pvt. Ltd.

Apart from all these, our volunteers go every weekend and teach the kids academics or computer classes as per schedule. We have also conducted painting competition in the school on sep 5th.

### **HYDERABAD CHAPTER:**

Nirmaan organization, Hyderabad have adopted 3 schools after surveying 8 schools.  
Government School, Kothguda:

This school has been adopted by us with the collaboration of corporate "CTS - OutReach".  
The activities done in the school:

1. Distribution of school bags ( August 15<sup>th</sup>) to 133 students funded by Flagstone India Pvt. Ltd.
2. OutReach and Nirmaan volunteers take up English, Mathematics, Science classes every week.
3. Scholarships were given to three of the 10<sup>th</sup> class school toppers of 2007 - 08 academic year as an encouragement for their performance and also to improve competitiveness among the present 10<sup>th</sup> class students.

### Government School, Yenkapally:

This school has been adopted by us last year and our volunteers have succeeded in bringing out the dropout rate and also have increased the pass percentage in the school.

Recent updates:

1. Distributed notebooks to 300 students (1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> class), each student with 5 notebooks and other stationery items like pencils ,erasers, sharpeners and pens by "CTS - OutReach"
2. Our volunteers take up regular class subjects to the children and also create awareness to the parents about importance of education

### Government School, Safilguda:

This School has been adopted by us recently and we have distributed notebooks to 210 students, each student with 4 notebooks with help of "CTS - OutReach"

## **To the Outstis...**

You can help us open a new chapter in your city or college..

A very special thanks to all the donors for funding us and supporting our activities. Our volunteers would be coming to the respective boys hostels for collecting funds.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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### **CROSSWORD ANSWERS...**

*ACROSS*

*DOWN*

1.koneru

1.Dola Banerjee

2.Ajitpal

2.Football

3.Baichung

3.BCCI

4.Anjubobby

4.IOA

5.Geetsethi

5.Leander

6.Archery.

6.Mihir Sen

7.Durand.

7.Bindra.

8.Padukone.