



# SANDESH

## MODERNITES NEWSLETTER

A PART OF US STILL LIVES IN SCHOOL



SEPTEMBER 2019

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Modernite,

The elected Executive Committee of MSOSA has completed one year in office and I am delighted to inform you that we, as a MSOSA team, successfully organized ten quality events during the past one year.

This edition of the newsletter covers events that were organized by us between April and September 2019, which included the Senior Modernites Dinner, Modernites Conclave and Excellence Awards, 5th Pradeep Virendra Singh Memorial Badminton Tournament and Gurupranam function. All these events were roaring successes and I must give credit to the Conveners, Joint Conveners, Co-Conveners and members of the sub-committees formed for each event, for their hard work and perseverance. I wish to convey my heartfelt gratitude to each one of them.

The Senior Modernites Dinner was held in school against the spectacular background of the majestic Modern School building. The 1959 batch which completed its 50th year of being Modernites was felicitated at a special ceremony while the 1989 batch was welcomed into the senior fold for crossing the threshold of 30 years of being Modernites. On the occasion, the Modernites Trust also presented 'Guru Dakshina' purses to some retired teachers from the junior and senior school.

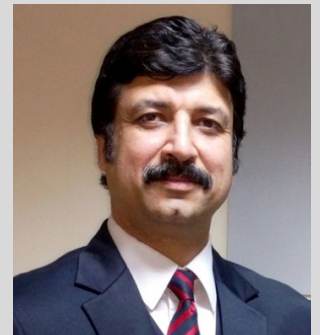
The Modernites Conclave and Excellence Awards, held on April 27, 2019 was a grand success. MSOSA honoured Late Air Chief Marshal S.K. Mehra (Posthumously), Mr. Gurcharan Das, Dr. Navin Dang, Dr. Cyrus M. Shroff, Mr. Pablo Bartholomew, Prof. Meeta Narain, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Mr. Ajay Bisaria and Mr. K. Bhaskar Pillai. The main theme for discussion for the conclave was 'Do Globalisation and Technological Changes Threaten Liberal Democracies'. This session was chaired by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Supreme Court of India.

The 5th Pradeep Virendra Singh Memorial Open State Ranking Championship was an astounding success with over 1500 entries. MSOSA is proud to organize an event of this magnitude, which has certainly created a niche in the sports circles of Delhi. I would like to extend my gratitude to Ms. Mira Pradeep Singh, Treasurer, Board of Trustees, for supporting MSOSA to host and conduct the championship each year.

Gurupranam is one of the most cherished projects for MSOSA. It is not just an opportunity for us to meet the retired teachers but also show that we care for the people who have helped shape us in a significant way. The Gurupranam function which was held on September 7, 2019, was attended by over 70 teachers and several Modernites.

The teachers shared some of their experiences and interesting anecdotes during the event. In addition, the Gurupranam team led by Ms. Sujata Kashyap organized visits to meet the teachers at their respective homes throughout the year.

The year 2020 is going to be a historic year, as we shall be celebrating the centenary of our great alma mater. I am glad to announce that in addition to the regular events on the MSOSA calendar, we shall be organizing a 'Mega Centenary Event' in September 2020. Furthermore, MSOSA, in close collaboration with Ms. Ambika Pant, Secretary, Board of Trustees, Modern Schools, has launched an initiative called 'Modern Masterclass' wherein a select group of about 50 Eminent Modernite Achievers from both Barakhamba Road and Vasant Vihar branches are being interviewed. Besides, about 200 Modernites, who may not be very popular but have made significant



VINEET S. SARIN (1987)

contributions to society would be profiled in 90 seconds video clips which would be shared by MSOSA across the social media. NewsX is the media partner for this initiative and I would like to thank Mr. Rishabh Gulati, TV anchor and Managing Partner of NewX for supporting MSOSA.

Furthermore, the Board of Trustees have also launched the centenary project, which is to establish an 'Institute for Research & Development in School Education – A Centre of Excellence' on the premises of Modern School, Barakhamba Road. The institute is aimed to provide a much needed platform for teachers from not only India but even South Asia to enhance their skills so as to significantly improve the quality of education across the world and especially in India. MSOSA is fully supporting this project and, taking this opportunity, I would like to urge you all to contribute generously towards this noble cause.

The centenary year will be filled with events as we embark upon this special journey. It is surely a matter of great pride for each of us, as our school turns a hundred years old. I invite each one of you to be a part of the year long celebration and urge you to lend your support for the events and the projects that shall be undertaken to mark this outstanding milestone. I look forward to your continuous support and active participation to make these events memorable and successful.

Best Regards

Vineet S. Sarin  
President  
MSOSA

## CENTENARY BYTES

Many have vision but few execute it. We owe it to the Founders of the school, who transformed their dream into reality – 'Modern School' Rai Bahadur Sultan Singh was a prominent businessman in the British ruled India, in the early 1880s. His son, Lala Raghubir Singh was the primary Founder of the school, who relentlessly worked for the creation and improvement of the school.

Lala Raghubir Singh, teamed up with Sardar Sobha Singh to build a legacy that continues till today and is growing from strength to strength with each passing year.

Sardar Bahadur Sir Sobha Singh was the Co-founder of the school. One of the illustrious builders in British India, he was responsible for constructing numerous famous buildings in Lutyen's Delhi.



## GURUPRANAM VISITS

The year 2019 has been a year full of love and affection showered by our beloved teachers. The Gurupranam team made a number of visits to the retired teachers and shared some candid moments with each of them. Each visit, amidst the stories and anecdotes by the teachers, was reminder of our school days. Their voice and their stature may have changed, but their authority remains the same. Our love and respect for them too remains the same.

-Sujata Kashyap (1979)



MSOSA Gurupranam servers spent a magical evening with Mr. S. P. Bakshi. Mrs. Bakshi spoke fondly about their bond with school. Mr. Bakshi began his journey in 1963 and went on to become a

beloved Principal of the school. The evening ended with Sir quoting his favourite Urdu couplets and entrancing us with his signature charm and wit.



We were welcomed into the home of Mr. Ashok Kumar Puri and Mrs. Neelam Puri with unparalleled warmth and hospitality. Mrs. Neelam Puri began her career with Modern School in 1972.

She regaled us with stories of times when she would search for 'pharras' in the school toilet. Now, Mrs. Puri tirelessly works for two branches of Modern School.



Ms. Mulla was as delightful as she was during school. She told a story of a Modernite who made his driver pose as his father for a PTM. She is busy fulfilling the role of a mother while shuttling

between Delhi, Hyderabad and Singapore. She continues her journey with the English Language as a textbook writer of Cambridge Press.



It was a delight to meet Ms. Anjali Dayal (1998-2015 RSJMS) and her 'Modernite' family, who welcomed us warmly into their beautiful home. She talked at length of RSJMS & her colleagues, especially

remembered Geeta Ma'am, sharing anecdotes and memories from school. It was a lively walk down the memory lane with enchanting stories.



The Independence Day Function held in school was graced by Air Chief Marshal B.P. Dhanoa (PVSM,AVSM,YSM,VM,ADC).

## NEWSFLASH

1. Justice Mr. Partha Sarthy (1987) has been appointed Hon'ble Judge of Patna High Court in April 2019.
2. The inauguration ceremony of IPSC under 19 Cricket Tournament was held in school on 13th May 2019. Fifteen schools participated in the tournament.
3. Mr. Amitabh Kant (1973) has been granted a two year extension as the CEO of NITI Aayog, by the Government of India.
4. The Annual Interaction and Award Function of the Modernite Trust scholars was held on 20th July 2019 in school.
5. In the 'Plant a Million Trees' initiative held on 20th July in school, almost 6000 seeds were distributed among the teachers, parents and the staff of the school by the school management.
7. The Modernite's who contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections are as follows: Mr. Kirti Azad (1976), Mr. Bijendra Singh (1989), Mr. Jayant Chaudhary (1996), Mr. Gautam Gambhir (2000) and Mr. Raghav Chabra (2006).
8. Mr. Neeraj Shekhar (1987) has been re-elected to the Rajya Sabha.
9. Mr. Ssumair Pasricha (1998), the famous 'Pammi Aunty', was honoured with the Bharat Shiromani Award in April 2019. In the past, Mother Teresa, Ms. Kiran Bedi, Mr. Sachin Tendulkar have been bestowed with this honour.



The batch of 1969 celebrated their Golden Jubilee Year with unmatched enthusiasm with Modernite's travelling from all over the world to be part of the celebrations.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BIRTHS

1. Aditi Dalmia Rungta (2007) & husband Ankit were blessed with baby girl Ahimsa, on April 16 2019.
2. Ojaswita Sana Arora (1996) & husband Amit were blessed with baby boy Devang in August 2019.

### MARRIAGES

1. Navdha Kapur (2010) & Akash Wig on February 22 2019.
2. Devika Bakshi (2003) & Siddharth in April 2019.
3. Akanksha Garg (2008) & Kumar Adit on April 21 2019.
4. Shivika Gupta (2011) & Shashank Singhal in May 2019.
5. Sucharit Katyal (2000) & Katherine Sumati Brekke on July 25 2019.

### OBITUARIES

1. Mr. Ajay Mohan (1967) passed away on May 4 2019.
2. Mr. Jogesh C. Ahuja (1966) passed away on July 1 2019.
3. Mr. Sanjay Singh Sandhu (1977) passed away on July 3 2019.
4. Mr. Rahul Marwah (1996) passed away on July 17 2019. The organ donation by his family gave life to 6.
5. Dr. Jasvir Khurana (1976) his wife Dr. Divya Khurana and their daughter Ms. Kiran Khurana passed away in a tragic plane crash in USA on August 8 2019.
6. Capt. Ranjeev Lal (1982) a decorated pilot passed away on August 21 2019 in a helicopter crash while he was on a flood relief operation in Uttarakhand.



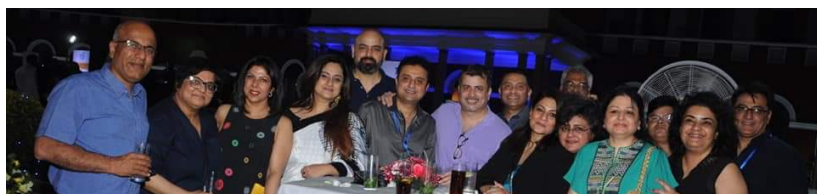
## SENIOR MODERNITE'S DINNER

One of the most awaited events on the MSOSA calendar, the Senior Modernites Dinner was held on 30th March 2019 in the School lawns. It was a pleasure to welcome this year's Golden Jubilee class (Class of 1969), as they participated in the milestone celebration in full strength. The Class of 1989, joined the august club of 'Seniors', this year.

The highlight of the evening was presentation of 'Guru Dakshina' purse to our retired teachers, Mrs. Anita Makhija, Mr. Kanwar Juneja, Late Sh. Rama Kant Chaturvedi (posthumously) and Ms. Tara Chadha.

It was a indeed a fun-filled evening, with senior Modernites in large numbers shaking a leg to peppy Bollywood numbers from across decades, performed live by a talented and energetic band – Muzicafe.

-Ashish Jain (2001)



## BADMINTION CHAMPIONSHIP

The 4th Pradeep Virendra Singh Memorial Open State Ranking Championship 2019 was organized jointly by Modern School and MSOSA from 14th to 22nd May 2019. It was held under the aegis of the Delhi Capital Badminton Association.

It started in 2016 in memory of Late Shri Pradeep Virendra Singh. The championship has, over the years, acquired tremendous stature as a part of the sporting calendar of Delhi.

MSOSA is proud to be a part of a sporting event of such magnitude. Maybe, a future Olympian or a World Champion is among the young players who participated in the championship held on the badminton courts of Sir Shankar Lal Hall.

Matches played over 9 days attracted over 1500 entries. The event saw some of the best talents fight it out for the state ranking. The matches went well into the night without dampening the spirit of either the competitors or that of the organizing MSOSA Team, ably led by Convener Parag Arora.

- Ashish Jain (2001)



# MODERNITES CONCLAVE

The 8th Modernites Conclave & Excellence Awards was held on April 27, 2019 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. It was a day to celebrate the legacy of Modern School - a legacy extremely praiseworthy for the contributions Modernites have made to society over the last 99 years!

The event highlight was the inspiring debate on the topic 'Do Globalisation and Technological Changes Threaten Liberal Democracies', which was chaired by Hon'ble Justice Mr. Sanjay Kishan Kaul.

The vast and diverse experience of the awardees ensured that the debate was engrossing and captivating.

- Praima Jain Mittal (1995)

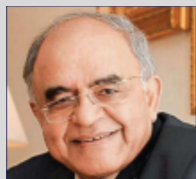


## THE AWARDEES



**LATE AIR CHIEF MARSHAL S.K. MEHRA**

Class of 1948, Air Chief Marshal Mehra was commissioned in the Indian Air Force in 1952. In August 1988, he was elevated to the position of Chief of Air Staff



**MR. GURCHARAN DAS**

Class of 1959, Mr. Das is a prolific writer and the author of bestselling books. Mr. Das, today, is a sought after speaker at world forums and a regular columnist in prestigious papers.



**DR. NAVIN DANG**

Class of 1972, Dr. Dang is the recipient of the prestigious Dr. B.C. Roy National Award for his contribution to the socio-medical field.



**DR. CYRUS M. SHROFF**

Class of 1973, Dr. Shroff has been practicing exclusively in the field of Vitreoretinal Medicine and surgery for over 34 years.



**MR. PABLO BARTHOLOMEW**

Class of 1973, Mr. Bartholomew is a three time World Press Award winning documentary photographer. He has been bestowed with the Padma Shri in 2013.



**PROF. MEETA NARAIN**

Class of 1976, Prof. Narain is currently the Chairperson of the Centre of Russian Studies, JNU. She has contributed immensely to the advancement of the Russian Language.



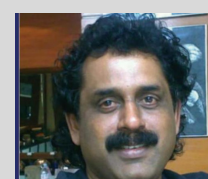
**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA**

Class of 1977, Hon'ble Justice Khanna became a permanent Judge of Delhi High Court on February 20, 2016 and has been appointed as a sitting judge of the Supreme Court of India w.e.f. January 18, 2019.



**MR. AJAY BISARIA, IFS**

Class of 1980. Mr. Bisaria joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1987 and is currently the High Commissioner of India to Pakistan. He went on to be appointed Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of India in 1999 -2004.



**MR. K. BHASKAR PILLAI**

Class of 1980. Mr. Pillai has played 95 first-class matches scoring 5443 runs at a batting average of 54. He has 18 centuries and 21 fifties to his credit and has a batting best of 222 not out.

## GURUPRANAM FUNCTION

The Gurupranam Function was held on Saturday 7th September 2019 in India Habitat Centre. It was a day when the stars came out to bless the Modernites.

More than 70 teachers graced the event reminding each of us about their role in laying and strengthening the foundation of Modern School. We cannot thank them enough, this is just a small way to show we care.

It was also a day when the teachers turned and thanked their own mentors. We witnessed an emotional moment as Ms. Vichitra thanked Ms. Jogindra for being her mentor.

Amidst the stories and the smiles one could see the entire journey of the school. Through this eye glass, one could see the dreams these 'Gurus' have for the school and Modernites.

The hard-work of the Convener Sujata Kashyap and the entire team was rewarded with the beaming smiles of the teachers.

- Daksha Jaidka (1993)



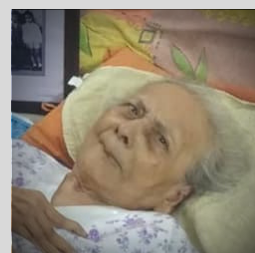
## MODERNITES TRUST ANNUAL FUNCTION

The Modernites Trust had organized an interaction with the MSOSA scholars, their parents', teachers and the donors/ batch sponsors on 20th July, 2019 at Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi.

Presently there are 34 MSOSA scholars studying in School.



## OBITUARY



Mrs. Sengupta, 95 years old, passed away peacefully on 21st June 2019.

She joined KG school Barakhamba Road during 1950's. Late Shri M.N. Kapur encouraged her talents and she soon became one of the most loved Nursery teachers. A loving mother and a greatly admired colleague has left behind a lot of cherished memories.

## EDITOR'S DESK



Daksha Jaidka

The year is drawing to an end after a successful and an eventful year. The enthusiastic and committed MSOSA team is gearing up for yet another power packed year.

As you all know it, this is a very special year as Modern School turns 100! Keeping in view this extremely important milestone, we would make all efforts to make our newsletter more interesting and informative. I would like to invite contributions from Modernites in the form of articles, old photos etc. Some of these, I am sure we would be able to share with our Modernite fraternity through the upcoming editions of the newsletter. As always, I would love to hear from you and get suggestions or a feedback. You can write to me at [daksha20@yahoo.com](mailto:daksha20@yahoo.com).

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