



# SANDESH

## MODERNITES NEWSLETTER CENTENARY CELEBRATION SPECIAL



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VINEET S. SARIN



Vineet S. Sarin (1987)

Dear Modernite,

Greetings! As you are all aware, the year 2019-2020 was a landmark Centenary year for our alma mater. The five branches kicked off the centenary celebrations on October 20, 2019, with the unfurling of the Centenary flag in their respective school premises.

Modern School, Barakhamba Road also organized a special cultural program in Sir Shankar Lall Hall to mark the occasion.

MSOSA too kicked off the momentous year with a well-planned calendar of activities during the Centenary year (October 20, 2019 to October 20, 2020), which included the Centenary Sports Carnival, Centenary Winter Reunion, Centenary Heritage Walks, Centenary Modernites Annual Play, Centenary Modernites Golf Tournament, Centenary Senior Modernites dinner, Centenary Modernites Conclave & Excellence Awards, Centenary Open Badminton Tournament, Centenary Gurpranam and a very special Mega Centenary Event, as a grand finale in October 2020.

We began with a big bang by having more than 3,000 Modernites, their families and guests, for the Centenary Sports Carnival organized on the cricket field in December 2019.

Needless to say, this was the largest ever attendance for a MSOSA function and was a grand success. Thanks are due to Convenor Mr. Parag Arora, ably supported by Mr. Puneet Raman, Sadhna Bhasin, Daksha Jaidka, Pratima Mittal, Dhurv Tulli and others.

The Centenary Winter Reunion was another record-breaking event. The contributory passes were all picked up online in advance and we had an all-time high attendance of more than 1,400 Modernites and their guests. Several Modernites from 1950s to the most recent batch of 2019 were in attendance and enjoyed a very memorable evening on the front lawns of the school. I would like to thank Convenor Mr. Aman Tandon supported by Mr. Rohit Jain, Ms. Sadhna Bhasin, Mr. Abhimanyu Garg, Mr. Ashish Jain, Ms. Jahnvi Sharma and the team for their great work.

The two Centenary Heritage Walks (Sair-I-Viraasat) were organized by MSOSA as well. The first one was a walk on the premises of Modern School, Barakhamba Road, in December 2019, which was in collaboration with the 'Sau Saal Sau Salaam' initiative of the Board of Trustees and the second one was held at Lodhi Garden in January 2020. Both Heritage Walks were very ably curated by Ms. Beeba Sobti, a teacher in Modern



## CENTENARY BYTES

Rabindranath Tagore after visiting school on 27th January, 1936 said :

"It was unfortunate that owing to my weak health I was unable to inspect the school in all its details as was my intention to do .....

But what I could see has impressed me greatly and left no doubt in my mind that it is one of the best educational Experiments in India having a natural life's growth of its own and therefore helping the young minds to grow in an atmosphere of happiness and background of varied activities of culture"

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## CONTD.

School and a noted historian, and had full capacity participation. My thanks are due to the Convenor Ms. Daksha Jaidka, Mr. Aman Tandon, Ms. Pratima Mittal, Ms. Jahnvi Sharma, Mr. Dhruv Tuli and the team for working hard to organize the event.

The Centenary Modernites Golf Tournament was a grander affair this year. While the number of golfers was 120 (due to golf course limitations), the arrangements were on a much grander scale. The tournament was held at DLF Country Club, Gurgaon and was again very generously sponsored by DLF Limited, thanks for which are due to Mr. Rajiv Singh, Vice Chairman, DLF Limited. The event concluded with a gala awards presentation ceremony followed by live music, cocktails and dinner. I wish to acknowledge the hard work done by the Convenor Mr. Amit Bhasin, Mr. Sandeep Parashar, Ms. Daksha Jaidka, Mr. Aman Tandon, Ms. Pratima Mittal and the entire team.

Further to above, as President of MSOSA, I also had the honour and privilege of addressing and welcoming the batch of 2020 to the MSOSA fold at the graduation ceremony organized by Modern School, Barakhamba Road in January 2020. Later, in February 2020, I was also invited by Modern School, Kundli branch to address the first graduating batch at the graduation ceremony organized by the school. I availed the opportunity to introduce MSOSA's activities to the students of Kundli branch and encouraged them to work towards putting together their own version of MSOSA.

Before concluding, I must say that none of the events could have been possible without the strong commitment and the hard work put in by respective MSOSA sub-committees formed for each event. I thank members of each sub-committee from the bottom of my heart. I wish to also thank my fellow office bearers and the MSOSA EC members and, last but not the least, all Modernites for their great support. Best wishes,

**Vineet S. Sarin**  
**President**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MARRIAGES

1. Vikrant Badhwar (1989) married Shalini Malhotra on 3rd October 2019.
2. Anirudh Bakhru (2011) married Anshula Laroia on 13th October 2019.
3. Tooba Shahzad (2011) married Shahan Ulla on 2nd November 2019.
4. Kanwar Preet Singh (1993) married Jyoti Malik on 2nd November 2019.
5. Arushi Marwah (2008) married Vishal Grover on 8th November 2019.
6. Harshita Aggarwal (2014) married Arjun Gandhi on 21st November 2019.
7. Vasundhara Narula (2013) married Aditya Sangra on 23rd November 2019.
8. Aakanksha Kaul (2005) married fellow Modernite Aadil Khorana (2007) on 1st December 2019.
9. Aashna Harjani (2009) married Shantanu Engineer on 1st December 2019.
10. Sanya Thadani (2011) married Sahil Kataria on 11th December 2019.
11. Anushree Narain (2005) married Arjun Jain on 9th February 2020.

### Congratulations to the newly married!

### BIRTHS

1. Nidhi (Singh) Sanan (1993) and husband Amit were blessed with baby girl Anaya in September 2019.
2. Priyanka (Luther) Bhasin (2003) and husband Jiten Veer were blessed with baby girl Ananya on 4th October 2019.
3. Gaurav Khanijo (2001) and wife Amrita were blessed with a baby boy Zayden on 15th October 2019.
4. Vinati (Malhotra) Johar and husband Mandeep were blessed with baby girl Meher on 19th November 2019.

### God bless the little ones!

### OBITUARIES

1. Mr Chaitanya Nagpal (2001) passed away on 4th October 2019.
2. Mr Tarun Chandra (1972) passed away on 5th October 2019.
3. Mr Anand Tewari (1990) passed away on 25th October 2019.
4. Mr Ajay Jaggi (1982) passed away in October 2019.
5. Mr Tulu Patnaik (1971) passed away on 17th November 2019.
6. Mr Vivek Bijnoor (1974) passed away on 18th January 2020.
7. Capt. Vivek Nair (1983) passed away on 4th February 2020.





## MODERN SCHOOL TURNS 100!

I remember my first step like it was yesterday. Tiny little footprints that soon became confident strides as I marched towards the future of my dreams. As I walked, in awe I watched the wheel of time turn and the tide change. I was there when we made history, upheld the incomparable doctrine of non-violence and earned the invaluable gift of freedom.

I beheld the light in the young Raghbir Singh's eye, as it twinkled with the idea of an ideal educational institution back in 1920. I felt the heat of the fire kindling in his heart as he swiftly moved ahead with determination to make his dream a reality. I witnessed a dream become a reality, a reality which then provided bountiful dreams to many.

I quivered with excitement as bright young minds walked through the doors for the first time. I held their hands, I inspired a smile and yes, I even evoked some tears, but they too soon changed into smiles resonating with confidence.

I was proud to see the teachers give wings to aspirations as they embarked on a journey towards freedom and as they opened bound doors to make way to ignite the young minds in a place that not only allowed them to innovate but also encouraged to experiment beyond the textbooks.

My journey has been, to say the least, momentous. My learnings have been exceptional. I participated in and inspired freedom. The freedom of a country, the freedom of mind and the freedom of thought.

I was there standing glorious then and I stand, today, triumphant as ever – 100 years later. I AM MODERN SCHOOL

Pratima Mittal (1995)

ALL BRANCHES OF MODERN SCHOOL KICKED OFF THE CENTENARY YEAR WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND A GRAND CEREMONY.





# NEWSFLASH

1. Modern School has been awarded the Global (permanent) membership of Round Square International.
2. Modern School has been honoured with the Confederation of Educational Institution of India.
3. Modern School students were part of 10,000 students setting Guinness Book of World Records by 'Assembling and Lightning' their solar lamps as part of Global Student Solar Assembly at IGI Stadium, New Delhi
4. Namita Pathania (2018), a Modernites Scholar, represented Delhi University at the All India Inter University Badminton Tournament held in Pune. They won the Gold medal in the team championship.
5. Dhruv Shorey(2010), Hrithik Shokken(2018) & Divij Mehra (12th grade) were felicitated by the Delhi District Cricket Association as the Upcoming Budding Cricketers on the occasion of renaming of Ferozshah Kotla Grounds as The Arun Jaitley Stadium, held on 17th August 2019.
6. RSJMS won Best Song of the Year Award at the Itihaas Festival-Anveshan 2019 held at Indira Gandhi National Center of Arts on 13th October 2019.
7. The Blood Donation Camp was held in school on 19th October 2019. 101 units of blood were collected.
8. Modern School, Barakhamba Road, celebrated its 99th Founder's Day on Saturday, 9th November 2019. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, AVSM, Padma Shri, Khel Ratna, Arjuna Awardee, Member of Parliament and an Olympic Medalist was the Chief Guest for the occasion.
9. Modern School organized an informative training session - Emergency Health Program, in collaboration with Northern Island Ambulance Service on 19th November.



10. Modern Schools celebrated the Centenary Sports Day on 7th December at Modern School Barakhamba Road with the participation of all branches of Modern School. Modern School Barakhamba Road, Modern School Vasant Vihar, Raghubir Singh Junior Modern School, Modern School Kundli & Modern School Faridabad came together to celebrate the spirit of sports and harmony. Cricket Legend Mr Kapil Dev was the chief guest on the occasion.



11. Mr. Ajay Bisaria (1980) High Commissioner of India to Pakistan has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Canada.



Class of 1979 celebrated their 40th year reunion in school on 2nd Nov 2019

Class of 1994 celebrated their 25th reunion in Agra on 21st Dec 2019



# MODERNITES CENTENARY SPORTS CARNIVAL

December 8, 2019

The Modernites Centenary Sports Carnival was celebrated on 8th December 2019 in Modern School Barakhamba Road. This year the annual Modernites sports day was teamed with a carnival to include the Modern school families.

The Sports day was an enthusiastic display of the Modernites might against the very worthy opponent in Modern school teams. They valiantly fought the battles of hockey, squash, badminton, tennis, table Tennis, cricket & football.

The Modernites reclaimed the M.N. Trophy by beating the Modern School Team. Every match was an ode to the spirit of the sports, with a life lesson to learn. The Modernites team comprised of some very worthy senior members, who displayed their expertise on the field and left the younger players speechless. A goal by the senior member or dynamite service in table tennis left the opponent perplexed warranting to not take the seniors lightly.

The carnival was memorable with over 2000 people attending the same. The bright beaming winter sun brought smiles and cheers as the families enjoyed the carnival games and the sumptuous food. The infectious laughter of the children could be heard as they enjoyed the rides, bouncy and horse riding.

MSOSA joined the centenary celebrations of the Modern School and the Centenary Sports Carnival provided the perfect beginning for the glorious year to come.

Daksha Jaidka(1993)







## SAIR-I-VIRAASAT

MODERN SCHOOL BARAKHAMBA ROAD

WITH MS. BEEBA SOBTI

The Modern School building is, without doubt, an iconic structure but for us Modernites, it's our pride. Each part of the 25 acres campus has a history to boast of. Each building an ode to the metamorphosis of India. The majestic red building is a heritage building, but more than that it is an inspiration. It stands in the heart of the city whispering to all that go past it – "Self-Realisation cannot be achieved by the weak willed"

The Sair-I-Viraasat series of MSOSA takes us down the path of the heritage of the city and Modern School takes its rightful place in the history of the enigmatic city of Delhi. The 3rd edition of the Heritage walk of MSOSA in association with the Sau Saal Sau Salaam Series retraced the progression of not just Modern School, but of a country through the years.

More than the history of the school, what fascinated me was the enthusiasm of the shared past of the Modernites from across the generations. Each of us reflected the same pride and excitement as Ms Beeba Sobti went on to illustrate an incidence. Each of us was reliving the same past in a place that binds us together.

I hadn't been to the roof even though I have spent most of my life in school. There was a childlike excitement on each of our faces, as we feasted on the bird's eye view of the entire campus. Ms Beeba Sobti certainly left the Modernites mesmerised with her wit and knowledge about the school.

Jahnvi Sharma (2011)

## THE BEGINNING

*In the summer of 1931, building operations commenced on the new site. The designs and plans were prepared by Messrs. C.G. and F.B. Blomfield, Architects. The foundation was laid on 24th April 1931, when the whole school, including the staff and several members of the Managing Committee, assembled at the site and each laid a brick on the foundation.*





## SAIR-I-VIRAASAT

**FEBRUARY 2, 2020**

**Lodhi Garden with Ms. Beeba Sobti**

History is a mixture of events and feelings that blend together into a series of moments that leave a lasting impression and a lesson to learn. If history is conveyed to you with passion and conviction taking you through the journey with vibrant words and animated emotions, the effect is truly magical.

It is this magic that Modernites witnessed as the lively and exceptional History aficionado – Ms Beeba Sobti led us into the old world with stories and incidences that go way beyond the history books. The journey included the sentiments behind the creation of the magnificent gardens, the gates and their relevance and the symbolic tombs. Each route we walked transformed us into a different era, almost all of us could feel the excitement that the kings and queens must have felt as they enjoyed these colossal gardens.

Ms Sobti holds a special place in all our hearts and has had an enormous role to play that ignited love for history through her own passion and her expertise in the subject. This centenary edition of Heritage Walk was an exceptional and delightful experience.

Dhruv Tuli (2018)



Lodhi Garden during the Heritge Walk from the lense of an 11 year old - Reyaansh Mittal S1F





# MODERNITES CENTENARY REUNION DINNER

## December 21, 2019

The Modernites Winter Reunion Dinner turned into a Centenary reunion dinner this year in honour of MSOSA's year-long centenary celebrations. As promised, the event took place in the lush front lawns of Modern School Barakhamba Road. The magnificent front facade enriched with a long-standing heritage was awe-inspiring. The bright lights of every colour highlighted all the blocks and ensured that every corner was filled with memories. The front lawns were a spectrum filled with twinkling lights and lamps of every shape and size.

The theme of the dinner was - Masquerade Ball. The reunion of old friends became ever so exciting with all attendees wearing masks. The naughty backbenchers hiding in plain sights and friends having a blast looking for each other in the maze!

The center stage was alive with the band entertaining over a thousand attendees who were simply enchanted with the all-time favourite music and the night brightened even more as the Modernites hit the dance floor.

The Banyan tree was an enchanting sight. The banyan tree adorned chandeliers and masks keeping up with the Masquerade theme which made the statue of Buddha even more striking.

The centenary year saw an unprecedented increase in the number of Modernites attending the much-awaited event. It was no wonder that we were full house days in advance and a few passes at the gate were swept away in minutes. It was heartening to see the young Modernites grooving with the older Modernites, sharing stories from school which is the common thread that binds us together across generations. It was truly was a centenary reunion.

Jahnvi Sharma (2011)





## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2020-21

### PRESIDENT

Vineet S. Sarin 1987

### VICE PRESIDENT

Sharat Prakash 1990

### SECRETARY

Vikas Mishra 1980

### JT. SECRETARY

Pratima Mittal 1995

### TREASURER

Manu Narang 1984

### MEMBERS

Sunil Kapoor 1975

Sandeep Parashar 1976

Atul Marwah 1980

Puneet Raman 1985

Amit Bhasin 1991

Daksha Jaidka 1993

Ashish Jain 2001

Abhimanyu Garg 2005

Ishaan Verma 2010

Jahnvi Sharma 2011

Dhruv Tuli 2018

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dr. Vijay Datta

Mrs. Manju Rajput

Mr. Atul Khanna 1980

Mr. Aman Tandon 1993

### CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Dr Arvind Lall 1965

Ravinder Taneja 1983

Parag Arora 1985

Rohit Jain 1987

### SPECIAL PERMANENT INVITEES

Sundar Hemrajani 1972

S.D. Mudgil 1976

Ajay Verma 1979

Ashwajit Singh 1980

Chander M. Lall 1983

### SPECIAL INVITEES

Suresh Gupta 1970

Sujata Kashyap 1979

Sadhna Bhasin 1988

Udit Arora 2005

Arunima Malik 2010

Rythm Nagpal 2019



Modern School Old Students Association EC team 2018-2020

## CENTENARY BYTES

In their leisure hours some students made relief maps of India and the continents on the ground.

A striking achievement was a cement 'Relief Globe' made by the students of sixth standard, showing physical features of the different continents.

The globe, inclined at an angle of 66.5 degrees, rotating on its axis stood testimony to the hard work and innovativeness of the then young minds!



## OBITUARY



Ms. Annapoorna Rao passed away on December 25, 2019 after a kidney failure. She had joined the Chemistry Department of Modern School on July 11, 1983 and retired in the year 2005.

Much loved teacher, a guide and colleague, she leaves behind numerous memories in the hearts of the students she taught.

## Editors Desk

Daksha Jaidka

The year 2020 marked a 100 long eventful journey of Modern School. A Modern proudly joins the elite club of schools that boast of unequivocal heritage and excellence of over a century. A magnificent accomplishment that each Modernite is not only proud of and but is also grateful to be part of the phenomena we call Modern School.

MSOSA has had a busy year, making each of our celebrations worthy of this great occasion. MSOSA Sandesh team too has been busy trying to catch the events in the pages of the Sandesh and create a worthy chronicle. As always I hope you enjoy reading this edition and look forward to hearing from you. You can write to me at [dakshazo@yahoo.com](mailto:dakshazo@yahoo.com).



Editor  
Daksha Jaidka  
(1993)

Co-Editor  
Pratima Mittal  
(1995)

Abhimanyu Garg (2005)  
Jahnvi Sharma (2011)  
Dhruv Tuli (2018)