

## DESH APNAYEN NEWSLETTER

5<sup>th</sup> Issue, December 2015

### From the Editor's desk

Hello!

I look forward to connecting with you every month, but this December is special. December brings with the pleasure of winter, coveted sunshine, Christmas cheer and excitement for the upcoming year.

December also makes us pause, think and take stock. Take stock of our work, our lives and our goals.

This has undoubtedly been a tough but great year for Desh Apnayen. Born out of a dream to make India great again by instilling the value of citizenship in school going children, Shri Vallabh Bhanshali and his team of change makers have shown great drive and resolve in making this possible.

When we started in January 2015, we had a team and a dream. Now, we have excellent, creative and challenging content for citizenship education, ***the support of over 1000 teachers, who we have trained since June 2015 and praise from over 52 premier schools of Mumbai who are running our programme.*** We also have a bigger team and bigger dreams!

We have also helped establish ***Citizenship Clubs*** in almost all our partner schools we work. Desh Apnayen Citizenship Clubs aim to provide life-learning opportunities for our youth, which will significantly influence and benefit their development as committed Indian citizens. The central focus of the clubs is to instill global awareness, principles of democracy, heighten children's appreciation of diversity and enlarge their capacity to work and contribute in an increasingly interconnected world.

Our momentum is also palpable on social media. Our blog, which can be accessed from [here](#), provides original, unique and engaging reading material twice every month. Our teachers love it, as do other readers. We are also active on Facebook and Twitter. Join us on Facebook [here](#) and our Twitter handle is @deshapnayen.

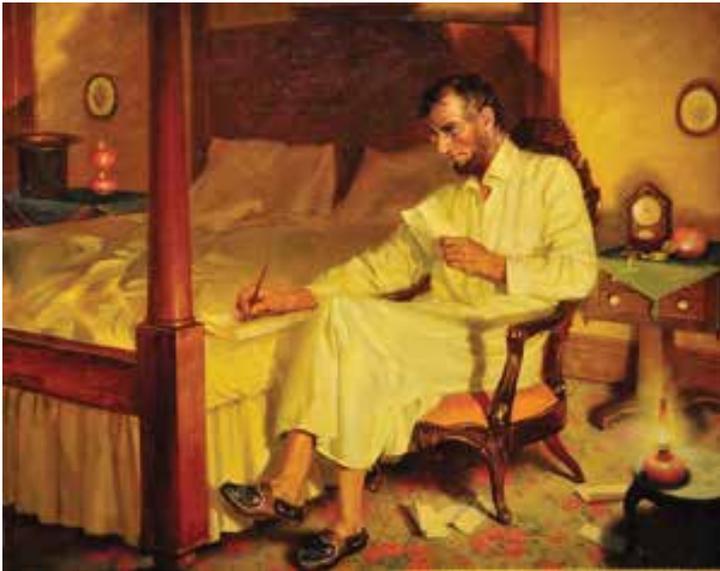
If we were strong in 2015, we only plan to be stronger in 2016. Watch out, world! Here we come, changing this world, brick by brick!

## A letter to my son's teacher

Abraham Lincoln is a man the world looks up to. He was a true patriot and a leader of men. He also believed in equality above all else. In fact, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which began the process of freedom for America's slaves.

He wrote a beautiful letter to his son's teacher on the day he started school. It is our pleasure to share this with you, our readers. The values he talks about are very close to our hearts, and, in fact, at the core of citizenship education.

"My son starts school today. It is all going to be strange and new to him for a while and I wish you would treat him gently. It is an adventure that might take him across continents. To live this life, he will require faith, love and courage.



So dear Teacher, will you please take him by his hand and teach him things he will have to know – but gently, if you can.

Teach him that for every enemy, there is a friend. He will have to know that all men are not just, that all men are not true. But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is a hero, that for every crooked politician, there is a dedicated leader.

Teach him if you can that 10 cents earned is of far more value than a dollar found. In school, teacher, it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat.

Teach him to learn how to gracefully lose, and enjoy winning when he does win.

Teach him to be gentle with people, tough with tough people. Steer him away from envy if you can and teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

Teach him if you can – how to laugh when he is sad, teach him there is no shame in tears.

Teach him there can be glory in failure and despair in success.

Teach him to scoff at cynics.

Teach him if you can the wonders of books, but also give time to ponder the extreme mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun and flowers on a green hill.

Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if every one tells him they are wrong.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone else is doing it.

Teach him to listen to every one, but teach him also to filter all that he hears on a screen of truth and take only the good that comes through.

Teach him to sell his talents and brains to the highest bidder but never to put a price tag on his heart and soul.

Let him have the courage to be impatient, let him have the patience to be brave.

Teach him to have sublime faith in himself, because then he will always have sublime faith in mankind, in God.

This is the order, teacher but see what best you can do. He is such a nice little boy and he is my son.”

-Abraham Lincoln

## Contribution from our partner schools

### Celebrating Desh Apnayen Day

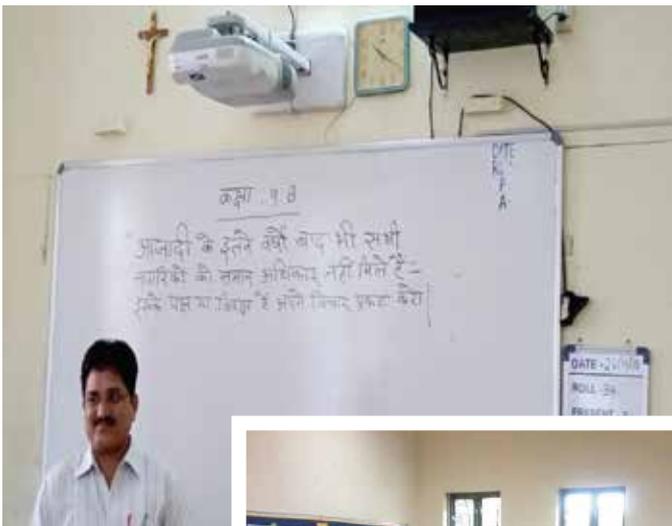
Desh Apnayen Day, also known as Constitution day or Samvidhan Divas, is celebrated in on 26th of November in India to honour Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian constitution.

Almost all our partner schools celebrated Desh Apnayen Day with gusto. The schools took the Desh Apnayen Pledge, did interactive worksheets on the Constitution, made presentations, had debates on various aspects of the Constitution and held special performances.

Here is a pictorial journey of our partner schools celebrating Desh Apnayen Day /Constitution Day enthusiastically.

Campion School  
 JB Petit Girl's High School  
 Cathedral and John Connon School  
 Jamnabai Narsee School  
 Bombay Scottish School, Mahim  
 Hiranandani Foundation School  
 HVB Global Academy  
 JBCN International School  
 Children's Academy, Kandivali  
 Children's Academy, Malad  
 Children's Academy, Thakur Complex  
 S. M Shetty International School  
 St. Stanislaus High School  
 Christ Church School  
 Datta Meghe World Academy  
 St. Mary's ICSE School  
 St. Mary's SSC School  
 Vissanji Academy  
 Beacon High School  
 Pawar Public School, Chandivali

Pawar Public School, Dombivali  
 Parag Academy  
 Rose Manor  
 S.M Shetty High School  
 Pawar Public School, Bhandup  
 Friend's Academy  
 Auxilium Convent High School  
 St. Josephs Convent High School  
 Bai Avabai F. Petit Girls' High School  
 Duruelo Convent High School  
 Yashodham High School  
 Parag English School  
 St. Annes High School







To contribute to this section, please email your piece or photos to [komal@deshapnayan.org](mailto:komal@deshapnayan.org).

## Our monthly favourites

### Website of the month

Our favourite website this month is a soul enriching blog by Maria Popova called [brainpickings.org](http://brainpickings.org). Described as an 'An inventory of cross-disciplinary interesting read of spanning art, science, design, history, philosophy, and more', this blog brings to us pieces on books, music, features a literary jukebox and beautiful illustrations. It is one of the top 10,000 sites of the world and more than 11% of its traffic comes from India.



# brainpickings

### Event of the month

For the first time ever, Saudi Arabian women won the right to vote in their country. "This is something new to women," an unidentified woman told al Ekhbariya, Saudi state television. "I am pretty sure women will have different opinions and thoughts. I am very happy." According to CNN, the December election will be the first opportunity for women to vote since a 2011 order by the now deceased King Abdullah that granted women some opportunities for political participation. According to the State Department, Abdullah issued a royal decree in 2013 mandating the Consultative Council, a royally appointed body that advises the King, be at least 20% women.



## Fun and Games

Where were these heroes who drafted our constitution from? Point out on the map!



- Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar
- Sardar Vallabh Patel
- Kanaiyalal Munshi
- Alladi Krishnaswami
- N Gopalaswami Ayengar
- B L Mitter
- TT Krishnamachari
- Nandalal Bose

### Answers for last month's quiz:

S. Radhakrishnan, Swami Vivekananda, Aryabhata, Chanakya, Rabindranath Tagore, APJ Abdul Kalam, Sankaracharya