



DESH APNAYEN NEWSLETTER

6th Issue, January 2016

From the Editor's desk

Dear friends,

Hello!

At the outset, we take the opportunity to wish all our readers a very happy new year. May this year bring answers to questions that trouble you and the conviction to move forward on the path of your choice.

How people live, and what they want from their country and government, is changing. As we know, major technological, social, economic and human forces are reshaping the world. In this complex and uncertain time, how will we keep our future secure? And our nation protected?

The only way to secure our future, the only way to protect our nation is through an active, responsible citizenry that engages with the government at different levels of society, takes initiative and launches affirmative action to make a difference for the long term.

Hence, our focus for the coming year is engagement. We want to bring about positive engagement with self, community and finally, the country. The purpose of our movement is to motivate cultural change towards holistic engagement. The hope is that it starts a dialogue about the benefits of engaging with one's communities, country and makes engagement an aspirational attribute.

The beauty of engagement is that it leads to real results. It results in collaboration, leadership and accountability at micro and macro levels.

The most incredible thing we as Indians have done for ourselves is given ourselves power in the form of a constitution. This January as we celebrate our 67th Republic Day, let us remember that only and only positive engagement brings this power alive.

Jai Hind!

Aditi Mehta, Editor

Celebrating India

Republic Day shows us images of our country's strength and power. It makes us stand up straight, with love in our hearts and courage in our minds.

Here are few quotes by great world leaders endorsing wonderful gifts India has given to the world. Do we still need convincing for positive engagement ?

"We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made."

- Albert Einstein, scientist and Nobel Laureate

"If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India."

- Romain Rolland, writer and Nobel Laureate

"Perhaps in return for conquest, arrogance and spoliation, India will teach us the tolerance and gentleness of the mature mind, the quiet content of the unacquisitive soul, the calm of the understanding spirit, and a unifying, a pacifying love for all living things."

- Will Durant, philosopher

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- Will Durant, philosopher

"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend and the great grand mother of tradition"

- Mark Twain, writer

"If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered over the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions of some of them which well deserve the attention even of those who have studied Plato and Kant, I should point to India."

- Max Mueller, indologist and Sanskrit scholar

Contribution from our partner schools

St. Stanislaus High School, Bandra

Students of St. Stanislaus High School set the perfect example of positive engagement with the community by participating in an E-Waste Management and Cleanliness Drive.

50 Students from grades 8 and 9 collected and segregated 110 kg of e-waste. Each student approached 20 families for collecting the same. Their aim was to spread awareness about disposal of e-waste.

Students also participated in the 'Sarva Swachh Abhiyaan' a cleanliness drive held in Bandra Market, Chapel Road and St. Peter's Square. Hats off to these responsible young minds who undertook such a wonderful initiative.

Fr. Andrew Rodrigues, Vice Principal said, "We strive persistently to provide Education for Life in order to create well-balanced citizens who reach out in selfless service."



Pawar Public School, Dombivali

Students of Pawar Public School, Dombivali, started an initiative called 'Spreading Smiles' in their community. As a part of the same, all students from Nursery to Grade 7 donated food grains and stationery to those in need, thereby spreading love and happiness. This initiative of compassion and generosity was led by example by their principal, Ms. Ishita Chowdhury.

We offer our students a plethora of avenues other than teaching that helps develop their skills, creativity and thought processes which contributes to "the content of their character", said Ms. Ishita Chowdhury.



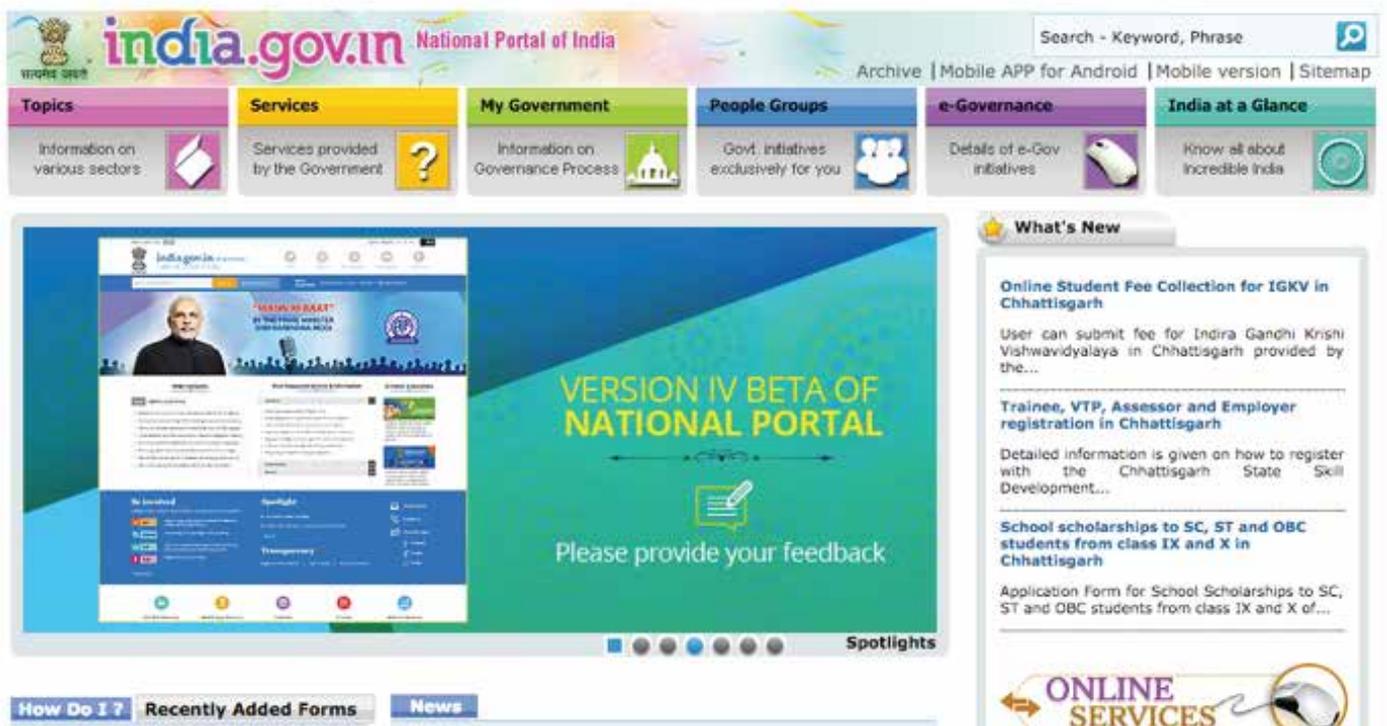
Our monthly favourites

Website of the month

This month, we celebrate www.india.gov.in. This is the Indian government's web portal for citizens. It presents information resources and online services from government sources, accessible from a single point. It is also known as the National Portal of India.

The portal has been developed as a Mission Mode Project under the National E-Governance Plan of the government. The objective is to provide a single window access to the information and services such as passport, driving licenses, company registration etc. being provided by the Indian government for the citizens.

India.gov.in links to Union, State, District and local level official websites and is the most comprehensive portal about the government of India with links to 6,700 government websites.



Our monthly favourites

Video of the month

November 26th 2015 marked the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. This special version of the National Anthem, featuring the unsung heroes of the 26/11 tragic attack is dedicated to the Mumbai police, National Security Guard commandos, fire fighting force, the civilians and the martyrs.

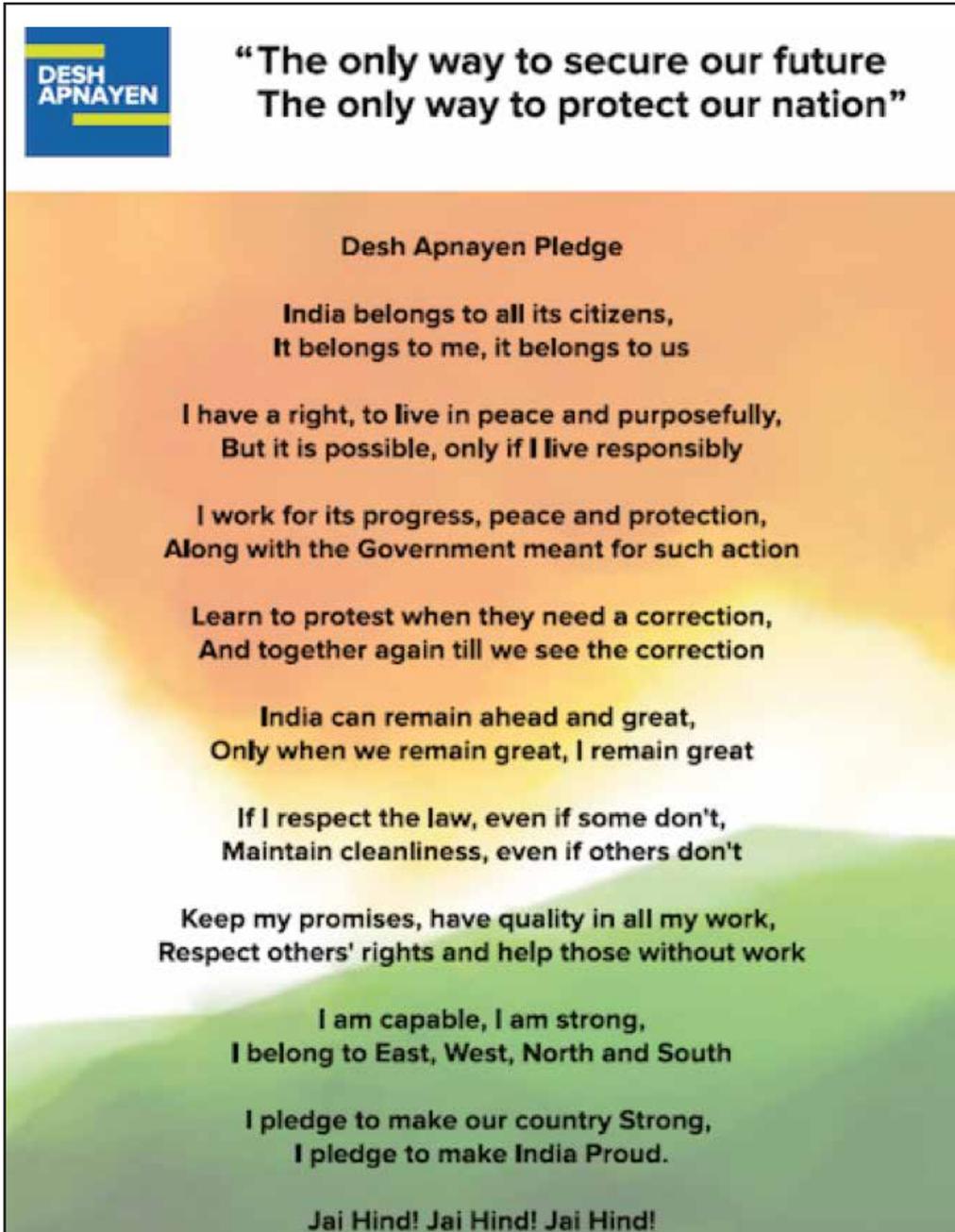
Bollywood writer and star Farhan Akhtar has lent his voice for prologue of this video. Salim and Sulaiman Merchant have lent their music to the film.



Watch the video [here](#).

Please stand up for the National Anthem.

The Desh Apnayen Pledge

A poster for the Desh Apnayen Pledge. It features a blue header with the Desh Apnayen logo and a quote: "The only way to secure our future The only way to protect our nation". The main body of the poster has a light orange background and contains the text of the pledge. At the bottom, it says "Jai Hind! Jai Hind! Jai Hind!".

DESH APNAYEN

**“The only way to secure our future
The only way to protect our nation”**

Desh Apnayen Pledge

**India belongs to all its citizens,
It belongs to me, it belongs to us**

**I have a right, to live in peace and purposefully,
But it is possible, only if I live responsibly**

**I work for its progress, peace and protection,
Along with the Government meant for such action**

**Learn to protest when they need a correction,
And together again till we see the correction**

**India can remain ahead and great,
Only when we remain great, I remain great**

**If I respect the law, even if some don't,
Maintain cleanliness, even if others don't**

**Keep my promises, have quality in all my work,
Respect others' rights and help those without work**

**I am capable, I am strong,
I belong to East, West, North and South**

**I pledge to make our country Strong,
I pledge to make India Proud.**

Jai Hind! Jai Hind! Jai Hind!

We strongly believe the only way to secure our future and protect our nation is active engagement from all of us. We will only go as far as we want to go.

Desh Apnayen is on a mission to change hearts, minds and action for the progress of our nation. Join us by taking Desh Apnayen Pledge.

Answers for last month's quiz:

Maharashtra, Gujarat, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, English but based in Gujarat