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# EDUCATION IN COVID-19

Vidya School's persistent efforts during COVID-19 to provide education.

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## Wondering through the corridors of time

Establishment of Vidya School, its mission, vision and journey so far.



## A Paradigm Shift in Education

School's Executive Director Mrs. Dilruba Kalsi's note on Education in Vidya, how it is different from other private schools.



## Vidya Beyond Education

Persistent efforts to provide more than just education during the COVID-19 pandemic

### ◆ Teachers

"Social distancing is the new norm; our homes have turned into classrooms."

### ◆ Students

"I hope that this pandemic ends very soon so that we all can learn while having fun"

### ◆ Alumni

"Trapped, still with a hope to see the sunlight again on streets and roads"

# Wandering through the corridors of time..



## **Mrs. Rashmi Mishra**

The journey of Vidya goes back to 1985, when Mrs. Rashmi Mishra (Founder and Chairperson) picked up five slum girls to teach at her home. Since then, with a mission to optimize the potential of youth. Vidya has grown tremendously into an integrated development program for youth and women, empowering and transforming thousands of lives through education.

Vidya School, Gurgaon is one of the many remarkable projects under the scheme, and has shown discernible success through a unique model of education system, precisely designed for underprivileged children. Vidya School has been working day-in and day-out to guide these ignited minds and break the shackles of social constraints, thereby preparing visionary leaders for tomorrow. The VIDYA School is an award-winning CBSE affiliated K-12 school. The school was awarded the British Council International School Award for implementing a curriculum with a global dimension. The Brainfeed and Expressions India award have been conferred on the school for exemplary community service.





# A Paradigm Shift In The Realm Of Education



Every child admitted is looked upon as a unique individual and provided with an enabling environment where VIDYA values of fortitude, integrity, and altruism are inculcated. VIDYA School can boast of the state-of-the-art facilities including a Robotics Lab (Robo Shiksha Kendra), and an English Language Learning Lab. To empower learners to study at their own pace, we have partnered with Khan Academy and the impact has been significant in terms of the upward trend in the scholastic scores of the students. Self-directed learning and design thinking have been well received by our students. Our goal is to foster a love of learning for the sake of learning. Our curriculum is dynamic, activity-driven and has been designed to encourage learning by doing. To keep pace with current technological trends we have digitized our classroom transactions. The VIDYA experience is unique as we enter into a partnership with the family of the child. Our outreach extends to the community that the child lives in and it is our earnest endeavor to empower the members of the family too.

Thank you, students, for helping us forge ahead in our mission of educating, empowering and transforming lives.

God bless!

Dilruba Kalsi  
Executive Director  
VIDYA Integrated Development For Youth And Adults



## “Hope in all the doom-gloom”

It is an unprecedented situation, the likes of which we have never seen before. The virus has not only killed lakhs of people, but it has also destroyed the international global economy as well as national economies and disrupted supply chains, markets, labor and capital.

We are living through a nightmare, but in the middle of all this doom and gloom, there are stories of hope and courage.

Our frontline workers - Doctors, nurses, hospital staff, the police, the scientists who are racing against time to discover a vaccine, the media and it's reporters who are educating and informing us about this horrible pandemic 24x7. The NGOs, the Gurudwaras, the humanitarians who are feeding people, making masks etc. They are the true heroes.

We, as responsible individuals, should eat healthily, be positive and boost our immunity to beat the virus.

Unfortunately, the lockdown has affected the poor the most. The migrant labors were left stranded. The daily wagers, the street vendors, the domestic servants have no income. The rich and privileged living in gated residential colonies can afford to amuse and entertain each but for the poor social distancing has no meaning.

The lockdown has to end for life to get back to normal, the economy has to revive, the government also has to put money into the hands of the poor through fiscal measures.

Zal Daver, Education Consultant  
Vidya School, Gurgaon





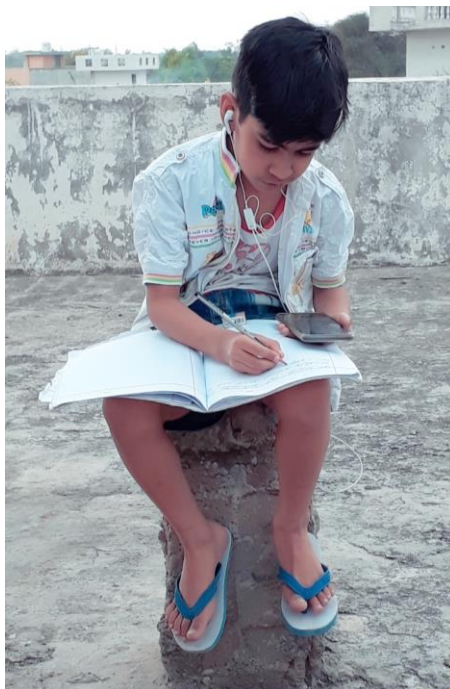
# Vidya's persistent efforts during Covid-19

## ONLINE CLASS

COVID-19 is not an excuse for Vidya. Vidya actively responded to the situation and scheduled online classes for students from 27th March onwards for all the classes from 1 to 12, without any delay. The remote-learning facility is implemented through the medium of Zoom App- video call meeting assistant. Topics and notes are shared by the teachers a day prior to the meeting. After the session ends, students are provided with assignments with a specified date of submission time. All the records of assignments are being maintained so that it can be used for internal assessment marking. To avoid learning loss, Vidya called the shots to insulate the learning process amidst the perilous crisis.

## Was it easy?

**No, but it was possible!**



## Beyond Education.

Vidya not only imparts education, it adopts the entire family to bring about social change. The lockdown resulted in a complete shutdown of the economy which adversely befell on the families of Vidya students. Vidya is supplying food packages to those in need

Certainly, all the students do not have access to laptops/desktops/smartphones, thereby the turnout is comparatively low. Those who manage to get access to these gadgets face connectivity issues; besides that interface time is limited due to which one topic is barely completed. Despite this, the average attendance falls between 60-70%. In spite of the obstacles, the teachers and children are cooperating with each other in order to accomplish the academic goals.



*"If I share my personal experience, I have learnt many different skills during this period like more empathy, child protectiveness, technology usage, exploring many of unusual sides."*

**– Perna Oberoi**

(Business Studies Teacher)



*"Several students of my class could not connect to the internet either due to lack of data plans, or no internet facility in the areas (those who have gone to distant rural locations). To resolve this issue, we recharge their sim cards with satisfactory data plans, and for the latter case, the students are being explained the concepts over private telephonic conversations. Though these distant learning methods are not as effective as classroom learning, we are managing well with whatever resources we have at our disposal."*

**- Shoib Mirza** (Mathematics teacher)



*"Social distancing is the new norm; our homes have turned into classrooms."*

**– Yashika Munjal** (English Teacher)



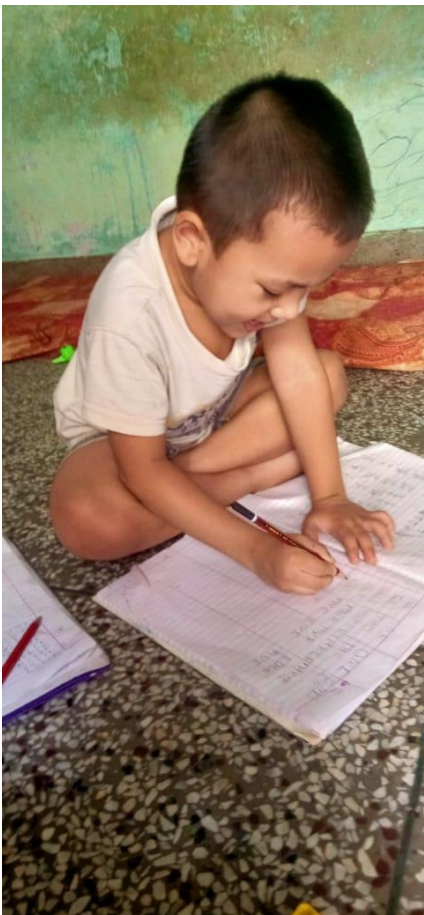
# ONLINE CLASSES IN TIMES OF CORONA

The year 2020 will go down in history as 'the pandemic year', where a virus jolted the entire foundations of the world and brought life to a halt. Since social distancing is the new norm, our homes have turned into classrooms. Teachers have tried to adapt to this new challenge and have quickly resorted to new platforms of teaching; they have contributed to the continuation of the education successfully.

However online teaching comes with its own sets of challenges. At VIDYA we as a team of educators and facilitators are still trying to make our students' lives easier.

As a teacher, I feel work from home makes life more challenging, as you are always on a double duty. You are a homemaker and a teacher and now in your living room – you have to simultaneously juggle between life and teaching. It is demanded of us, to maintain a balance where we have to prepare lectures typed, recorded or presented and at the same time, have to think of the next meal to be cooked, and the preparations required. It sure isn't easy, but we are learning the tricks of the trade. We started with baby steps, and are now heading towards finding solutions to problems such as finding tools for assessment and evaluation. I pray and hope that the world recovers soon from this pandemic so that normalcy gets restored, till then life goes on, we adapt in this jungle.

Yashika Munjal

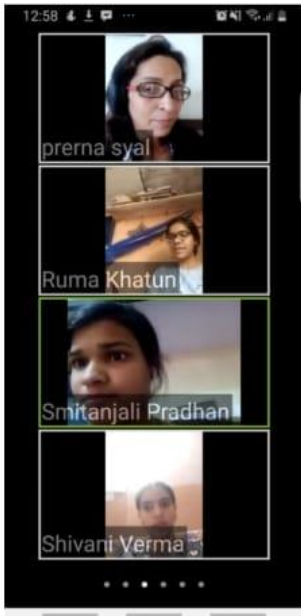




# ONLINE TEACHING (ALL CLASSES)



- ONLINE CLASSES THROUGH DIFFERENT MODES LIKE : ZOOM CLASS



supplying food  
packages



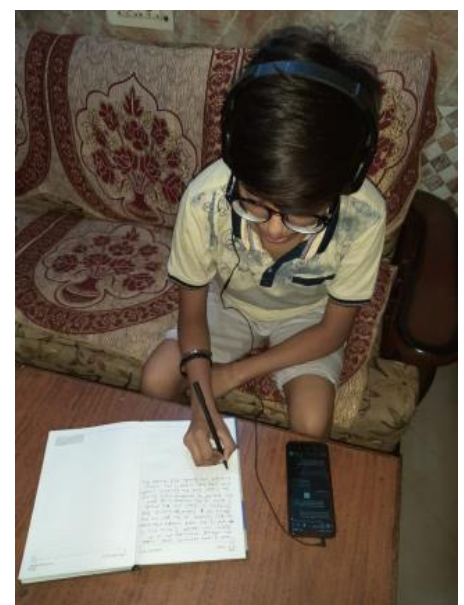


# “Invincible visions”

The students are eager to share their experiences about online learning and activities they are performing at home. Sakshi, a brilliant student of class 12th is preparing for board exams for the session 2020-2021. She said "It's been almost above 100 days that we are locked down in our homes and are not allowed to even step out due to which the availability of basic essentials has been in an ongoing tussle. But for the students, the learning process has been affected gravely. In order to mitigate the loss of academic learning, our school is providing us online classes for all subjects so that studies are least affected. Our teachers are always available offline also so that nothing is missed and our doubts are cleared." On being enquired about assignments she says, "we are getting our assignments through e-mail and WhatsApp and once completed, we are instructed to submit them by a certain deadline via the same means. I think this is one of the most helpful steps taken by our school as this year we are going to appear for boards. I miss going to school as learning in school is fun. It's fun because we get to meet our friends , we share our food, we work together on assignments and extra - curricular activities is the main reason behind missing school.

I hope that this pandemic ends very soon so that we all can learn while having fun."

Muskan Mishra, a talented artist of class 12th talks about the issues faced by her. "Due to Covid-19, our studies were initially being affected. Many of us are facing internet issues/network issues. Hence we are unable to pay attention to some of the online classes. Our school has shortened up our problem by instructing some of the teachers to take classes on WhatsApp conference calls, rather than taking live classes on zoom. So Vidya is doing their best to not let children's studies be affected in whatsoever ways."



# **“Hum kam kam kha rahe hain taaki baad k liye bacha sake!”**

“Kids are smart!” chuckles Sangeeta, “they are the ones who ask us to wash and sanitize our hands regularly.” Her son Arpan is in the primary wing. Sangeeta shares that her son’s eyes gleam during online lessons. Kesari, her neighbour and best friend, nods in affirmation as well. Kesari shares that Subodh, who has recently been promoted to class 10th, is already obfuscated about the stream he would choose in class 11th. He aspires to be a footballer some day, and is upset about the lockdown, as he doesn’t get to play. Presently, he passes his time by studying and playing online games.

When I ask the two ladies about their favorite pastimes, they coyly shift in their chairs and mumble that their day winds up in doing household chores. Sangeeta points out that she often reads affirmative verses from the Bible to maintain her sanity during these catastrophic times. Her exhilaration regarding adequate ration stock (provided by school) for another fifteen days, suddenly diminish while Kesari’s forehead immediately wrinkles, when I suggest the possibility of an extended lockdown. Sangeeta, shrugs off her predicament. She acknowledges that tension leads nowhere, all it does is deliberately invite illness to the body. “At least we haven’t caught the deadly virus. Many out there are dying horrendous death. In such circumstances, I am grateful for each breath.” She forces a smile on her face, although her dark-saggy eye bags narrate a different tale. Sangeeta and her husband used to run a momos vending kiosk down the main street. Dismally, their livelihood is currently in abeyance until lockdown ends. The family of four succumbing to their savings. They have been judicious about each penny they spend- “If earlier we were spending Rs. 50, now we have reduced the expenses to Rs.15. Our family has done away with all extravagant expenditure.” Kesari adds, “hum kam kam kha rhe, taki baad ke liye bacha sake.” (We are eating frugally, so that the stocks last long.) For example, if earlier the family consumed three packets of milk, now they have cut down the demand to one packet. Her husband is employed in the lower tier of the corporate sector. Fortunately, he has been granted his salary for this month (April). By heaven’s grace, unlike their other friends next door, who were intermittently pestered and were at last thrashed out of their rooms for not paying rent, their landlord on the other hand has shown mercy on them.

However, they both let out a heavy doleful sigh, as they are uncertain of this precarious mercy. Nonetheless, they smile, unwilling to lose faith. Both Sangeeta and Kesari seek God’s blessing for the world to heal soon, so that many like them could restore their lives, literally from scratch.



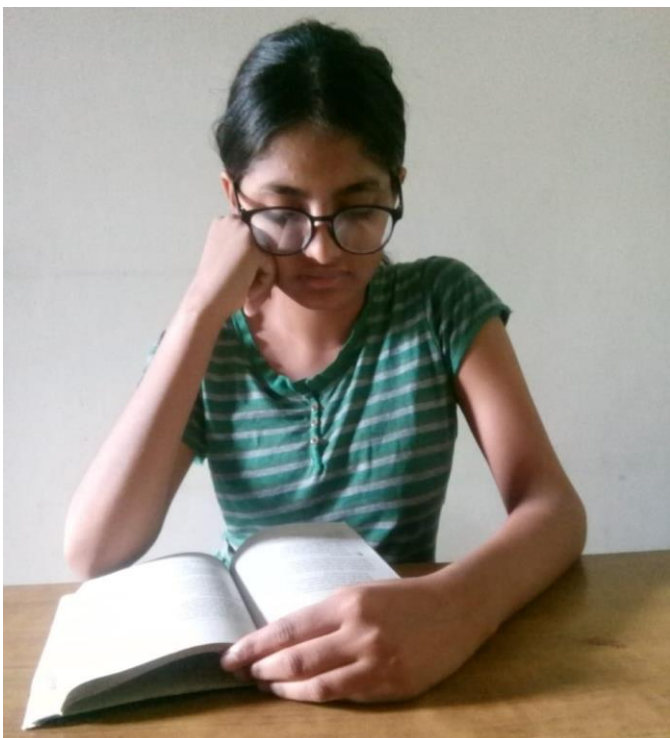
## "Wish this gets over soon"

I am utilizing the quarantine time by learning to play the flute and enhancing my ability to talk music. It feels great to spend my leisure time learning something new. I have my online classes daily, so does my younger sister. However as we have only one android device at home, our class timings usually clash and then either of us end up missing a lecture. It is something we have to tackle everyday. Despite that, we try to cope up with the syllabus being covered.



I am reading for next semester in advance as well as helping my younger sister in her studies. I wish all this gets over soon, so that I get to perform on the college stage again.

— Kanishka Yadav



# महामारी (कौरोना)



इस आज़ादी की जंग में आज,  
मैं फ़ौजी बन बैठा हूँ,  
बैठा भीतर घर के अपने,  
मैं फ़ौजी बन बैठा हूँ।

नाकाबंदी है सड़कों पर,  
डण्डे बरसे ओले हैं,  
पुलिस हकीम और मेहतर वो,  
बने देश के शोले हैं।

तू कहीं लुप्त है?  
या छुप गया है डर से,  
कुछ तो कहो ना पापा,  
क्या पानी उतर चुका हैं सर से।

मानव की आवाज़ नहीं,  
क्यूँ सड़के सूनी-सूनी हैं,  
ऐसा क्या संकट आया माँ?  
जो पानी बना घी नूनी है।

क्यूँ हैं आज हम डरे हुए,  
ज़िन्दा हैं पर मरे हुए,  
कैसी दुर्गति में हम पड़े,  
एक समय के भोजन को,  
लाइनों में कई लोग खड़े।

निकल चले हैं वो कदम,  
पैदल मीलों घर की ओर,  
गुपचुप आईयो तू बनजारे  
ना करीयो एक पल भी शोर।

कइ मंज़िलें सील हुई हैं,  
लंबी चौड़ी वो इमारतें,  
खंडर में तब्दील हुई हैं।

ये कैसी कशमकश है,  
वो इंसान आज बच्चों को अपने नहीं छु पाता  
इस बात पर गौर करना दोस्त,  
ये हिंदु-मुस्लिम से परे का नाता।

इस आज़ादी की जंग में आज,  
मैं फ़ौजी बन बैठा हूँ,  
बैठा भीतर घर के अपने,  
मैं फ़ौजी बन बैठा हूँ।

-अनमोल मेहरा



# Trapped Inside



Never knew that everything would seize so suddenly and movements would come to hold, the hustles would turn into silence, the roads would become barren and the shops and public places would become mere storehouses of stocks lying untouched from months.

From a fast and furious way of living, the pandemic has been successful in changing our lifestyles and bringing an unforeseen pause. From school kids to old grandparents, everyone is trapped inside.

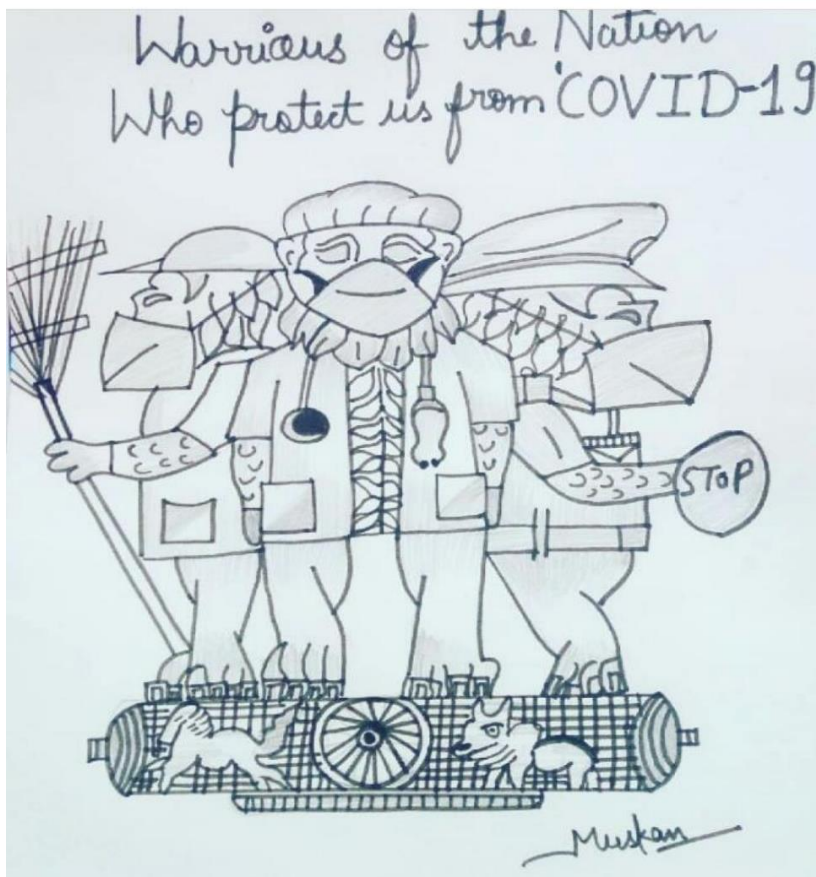
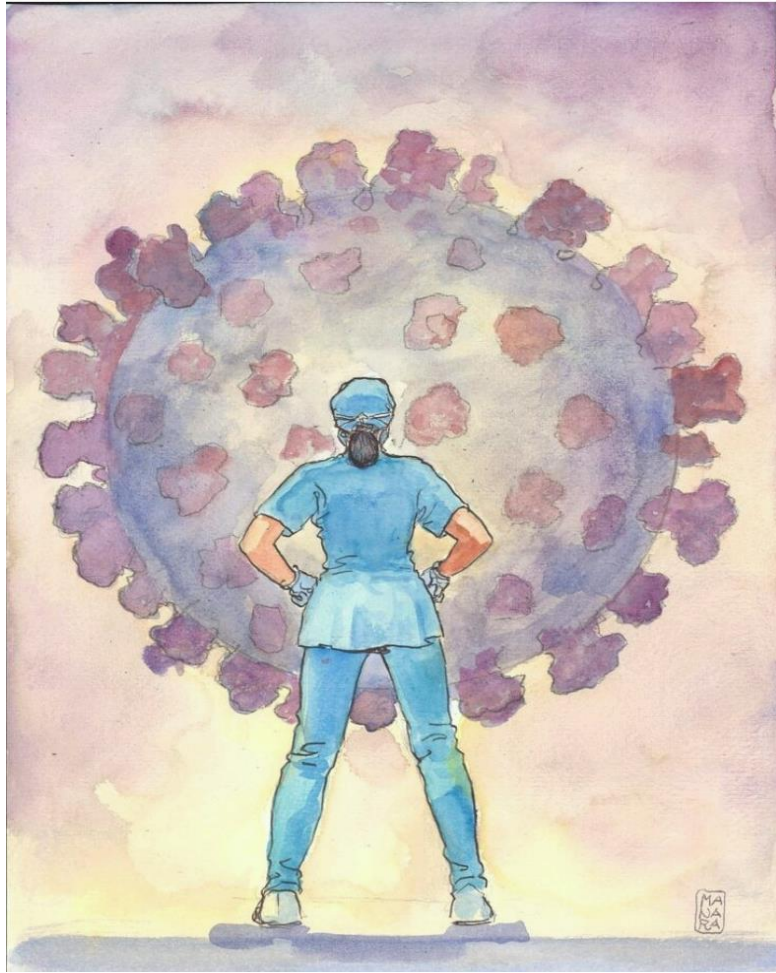
Trapped, still with a hope to see the sunlight again on streets and roads, to meet their beloved soon, to be again with their friends and to be back home again if they are not.

All and all because they are trapped inside, trapped with hope!

**-Komal Yadav**



# Artwork by students







## About Us

Vidya Vaani is the alumni-led initiative, which aims to connect Vidya School to the outer world. We put forth this e-newsletter with a desire to allow you a sneak peek into the day to day affairs of the school, thereby also, creating a space for the students to exhibit their talents in terms of artistic or poetic expression. We welcome you to our first edition of the series and hope to keep you engaged. Vengaaa! Board the train to Vidya Land and let Vidya Vaani echo unsung vignettes of inspiration into your ears.

## Meet the editorial team



*"The most beautiful woman is unafraid to be herself" is something that I firmly believe in. I'm currently pursuing Bachelors in Computer Science from the University of Delhi. It's a proud privilege for me to introduce you to the E-Newsletter of Vidya along with my team to bring you a step closer to our family. I always believe that success isn't permanent and failure isn't fatal and it is something that motivates me to keep sailing through odds. I'm always on the path that interests me with a clear picture of the destination in my mind. I strongly believe that dreams do come true if one puts in constant efforts, perseverance & dedication to not to give up.*

**Komal Yadav**



*It is absolutely incredible to witness Vidya Vaani transform from a vision to reality. I am more than delighted to share the responsibility of executing this dream. Zeal for writing is embedded in my skin and the core principles of humanity govern my soul. What could have been more enthralling for such a soul than becoming a voice to those who often go unheard? "So long as you write," said Virginia Woolf, "what you wish to write, that is all that matters; and whether it matters for ages or only for hours, nobody can say." With fingers crossed, and a thumping heart, hail to all our prospective readers.*

**Sanjana Nagar**



*'There are 10 types of people in this world: those who understand binary and those who don't.' I belong to the first category. I am a computer geek pursuing B.C.A from Jamia Hamdard University, who is enthusiastic about the technical as well as artistic world. I take pleasure in having eccentric opinions and never fail to stand out. Its my pleasure to work on Vidya's first edition of monthly newsletter.*

**Ismail Sekh**



*As a part of the alumni association, I am glad to introduce you to Vidya's E-Newspaper "Vidya Vaani". I am pursuing Bachelors in Journalism from the University of Delhi. I am a keen observer of things happening around me. "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment" is what I believe in and I always feel, when I am myself I can achieve anything. My goal is to connect you to events taking place in Vidya. I hope to achieve this by sharing in a manner that is both enjoyable and informative. I hope you find this E-Newspaper engaging!*

**Suchita Munda**