



EXCELLENCE IN DEED  
श्रेष्ठतमाय कर्मणे



VASANT VALLEY

Special Issue

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TODAY

## 7TH EDITION OF 'VOICES IN VASANT VALLEY'

### Young Change Makers - Igniting The Next Generation

The last few years have seen the dawn of young change-makers. There has been a massive jump in the number of young individuals who have utilised their skills to make society a better place. The baton is being handed over to the next generation—our generation—who will define tomorrow's society and create change.

The youth, as inspired and aspiring change-makers, see the world of the future as a place defined by their actions and agency, be it by inventing revolutionary products, saving lives, advocating social reforms in our society, or actively taking leadership roles. Each one of us can impact the world positively in our own unique way for a ripple effect that will ignite and inspire the next generation that comes after us!

The shoulders of our highly esteemed speakers bear a massive responsibility, but we are confident that they will continue to carry the baton forward and help revolutionise the world.

- Savya Meattle, 9



### THE STORY BEHIND VOICES

With eminent speakers across various fields, Voices is an event that not only gives us the opportunity to interact with these great minds but also listen to the stories of their awe-inspiring journeys. With the 7th edition drawing to a close, let's go back in time and see how it came to be. In 2014, with the intention of making the work of the External Council more exciting, two prefects pitched the idea of inviting speakers from different backgrounds to come and conduct a session with the students of Vasant Valley School. Voices is an entirely student-led event, and everything, from inviting speakers to welcoming them through school gates to hosting them in the Vasant Manch, is overseen by students.

Since then, we have had numerous speakers, including the likes of Kapil Dev, Shashi Tharoor, and Anand Kumar come and address the students of VVS. At the end of the day, the event inspires leadership and encourages cross-cultural exposure.

-Aarush Kapur, 9

# 'SPIN' THERE... 'RUN' THAT

Hello all, and welcome to the finals of the 2022 Voices Event from The Vasant Manch, Vasant Valley School. Up next into the attack we have none other than our Bhajji, Mr. Harbhajan Singh. The story behind that is pretty simple, 'Bhajan' to 'Bhajju' and somehow that became the Bhajji we know today. Bhajji entered the pitch with insights about defending the googlies life throws at us. Dedication, hard work and perseverance were amongst the few of his best defences to dodge the battles of life.



HARBHAJAN SINGH

Now, coming into the attack from the VVS end, we have none other than the Spin King, Harbhajan Singh. Through his glorious career, he has not once failed to puzzle batsmen with his 'doosras', so be prepared to be bowled over. Jersey number 3, Bhajji has scalped more than 600 wickets across formats. On the crease in 2010, he became the first batter to score back-to-back centuries at number 8. Off the field, however, he is just as talented. In fact, he has even featured in myriad films such as Friendship, Mujhse Shadi Karogi and Second Hand Husband. Let's all roar for the Turbanator as he walks across not to the pitch but the stage of Voices In Vasant Valley.

With his pillar of support, Saurav Ganguly, Harbhajan started off with a bang. After talking to all of us about believing in ourselves in the face of immense pressure, he skilfully took out all our inhibitions about our capabilities by catching the questions thrown at him. All of the students were captivated as he hit right at the stumps talking to us about the importance of friends and family in his career. He then hit a shot with his hilarious story of the time him and Yuvraj landed on the wrong side of the boundary, in the hands of the fielder. Both of them, looking to terrify Rahul Dravid, ended up stripping a poor man of his *lungi*.

The turbanator, after a breathtaking spell, marched off the field as triumphant as the Indian team after winning the World Cup. Ah! He told us this was one of his most uplifting moments in his career just today out on the pitch before the big match. He hit his final chakkha and left the stadium to the roar of the crowd.



Today's speaker is Mr. Jyotiraditya Scindia, the Civil Aviation Minister of India. Through the course of the meeting, he will cover inspirational life lessons, how to be a better person, his life morals- commitment, courage and overcoming challenges faced in life. Make sure to pay attention! Keep your phones switched off or on airplane mode and get ready for an inspiring and informative session!



JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

## GWALIOR'S MAJESTY TO POLITICAL ROYALTY

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome aboard! Buckle your seatbelts as today's captain is Mr. Jyotiraditya Scindia, the Civil Aviation Minister of India. He will cover inspirational life lessons through the course of today's flight. We will also fly past his life morals, such as commitment, courage and overcoming challenges faced in life—make sure to get a good view! In times of turbulence, always make sure to stay optimistic as it will go a long way. Mr. Scindia will mention the crucial importance of teamwork as well. Oh, here comes his

announcement- "A team is only as strong as its weakest link. Fostering the connection and unity of a team is the hallmark of a successful group. And do not forget, a true leader must respond to the multiplicity of ideas and ambitions with inclusivity!" In the seat pocket in front of you, you will find a card with answers to rapid-fire questions answered by today's captain, such as his favourite television show (Money Heist), favourite airline (Air India, Lufthansa and Singapore Airlines), favourite street food (pav bhaji and corn on the cob), his favourite sport (cricket) and many more. One of the passengers also asked an interesting question while boarding the aircraft, which was regarding who supported Mr. Scindia on his expedition to become a politician. The answer to this was his father, who took him through tough times. He also added that at the end of the day, life isn't meant for others to determine—you have to be accountable for yourself and must always ask whether you are doing the right thing. The journey today will surely be exciting and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Have a safe flight!

## SEVA 'IN' DEED

*"Whenever you are your natural self, people will love you for who you are"*

From lands far away, echoed the screams of those suffering during the 2013 Uttarakhand floods...realization dawned upon a young Singh at that very moment, when he saw his grandmother had no answer to whether they would ever return home. Being so close to death and suffering made Harteerath Singh decide that he needed to give back to society and serve humanity, which ultimately resulted in the birth of the Hemkunt Foundation.

Having always been incredibly supportive, and encouraging Harteerath to contribute 10% of his earnings towards charity, Harteerath's father became Harteerath's role model and the very first volunteer in his Foundation. Despite his family's concerns of him endangering his own health, he opted to face the harsh realities of life and continue working throughout the pandemic because someone or the other had to take the lead. When asked about his lowest points in life and how he overcame them, he confessed feeling guilty about conveying COVID to his own mother and then giving the last oxygen cylinder to his friend's grandmother, even though he knew it was the right thing to do as she was in a much more fatal condition.

Moreover, taking inspiration from Sikh faith, he learnt to cope with difficult times by having a positive outlook to life, and focusing on the lives he has saved rather than the lives lost. One act of kindness that has stuck with Harteerath is witnessing people come together to support each other during the pandemic's worst days, despite their differences. He went on to say that it's all about concentrating on the 90% similarities rather than the 10% differences. Harteerath Singh gave constructive advice to the young viewers, saying that age was just a number which does not define an individual's potential. He elucidated that we, the youth, have a lot of energy and must be as creative as possible even though we are sure to fail many times. He concluded by saying that we should take into account our gut feeling and follow our heart, consequently the right path will always unfold.



**HARTEERATH SINGH**

Once, when asked about his motivation, he elucidated on an instance when a truck driver emptied out the only 90 Rupees he had, to contribute to 'seva' via Hemkunt Foundation. Harteerath Singh said that these touching moments- where even a truck driver put his faith in him, made him sure he was doing something right and was further encouraged to continue.

Harteerath Singh's forever 'happy-to-help' nature and positive outlook to life, makes him an inspiration to all...

"When you help someone, you are able to sleep in peace."

Hemkunt Foundation began as a small endeavor to run free schools in 3 districts of New Delhi. As time progressed, and the little sapling of Hemkunt Foundation grew into a large tree with strong roots, so did its ambitions and goals.

When the pandemic struck and all seemed dark, Hemkunt foundation came to the aid of many. It was during these stressful times that the Community Development Director of Hemkunt Foundation- Harteerath Singh shone through like a beacon of light. Through the 'Oxygen Drive-Thru' initiative, he has been able to help innumerable people.

## QUEEN SHARK MAKING HER MARK

First into the tank, India's "Phar-maa", Ms. Namita Thapar- She's here to capture 100% equity of your attention. She explains that the valuation of character is done using the three C's. With 33.3% courage, 33.3% competence and 33.3% compassion, one can achieve true success. She places most emphasis on having the bravery to follow your gut, and do what you feel is gratifying and fulfilling, leaving 0% care for what others may think. Her invaluable work experience in renowned international companies such as GlaxoSmithKline contributes for an immeasurable share of her competence. She says numbers and facts always speak to build credibility and respect as an entrepreneur. She further expresses the need for a compassion and purpose driven life, reiterating the importance of a desire to help others, the need to create an impact,

the need to create an impact, have a mission statement figured out and taking up most equity is the fire in your belly. Ms. Thapar stated that humility makes one a lifelong learner, someone who is always willing to listen and absorb knowledge- "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Her "UpGrad Lesson Of The Day" for us was to accept the inevitability of setbacks and to embrace them as a way to build character. Her portfolio for helping those in different industries includes her expansive network of connections, business acumen and global distribution. As a success story to inspire all aspiring entrepreneurs, she herself believes in the importance of a mentor and role model, being 50-50 between a passive investor and one who micromanages. She proved herself to be a great sport, as humble as can be - laughing about the myriad memes made of her and definitely displaying her "expertise" in inspiring and engaging the new generation of young champions and nation builders - entrepreneurs.

### Meet the Shark!

One of India's leading businesswomen, Ms Namita Thapar is a qualified chartered accountant from ICAI and a graduate of Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

### Shark Portfolio:

She is the Executive Director of Emcure Pharmaceuticals, a global pharmaceutical company headquartered in Pune. She joined as a CFO and made her way up through hard work and determination. She is also a Shark on the tv show, Shark Tank. Ms. Thapar has won many prestigious awards such as The Economic Times '40 under Forty awards, Economic Times 2017 Women Ahead List, World Women Leadership. She is extremely passionate about women's health and even started a YouTube talk show during the pandemic, called 'Uncondition Yourself with Namita'. She believes strongly in the capabilities of youth entrepreneurs and leads an education company called 'Incredible Ventured Ltd' as well. Her Ask: An insightful session with the youth of Vasant Valley School. She wishes to connect with and inspire the aspiring young champions through interactive and encouraging talk.

We have a deal, Shark Namita!



**NAMITA THAPAR**

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