

# SAKSHAM NEWSLETTER, MAY 2016

Dear friends,

Let's start this Newsletter with the best news first ☺

**Sharad Singh** , who has been attending Saksham Vidhyalaya since he was about seven years old, secured a whopping 91 % in the State Board Secondary Examinations. He stood 2<sup>nd</sup> in the District. All the local newspapers carried the news of his achievement.



## हासिल किया दूसरा मुकाम दसवीं में आए हैं 91 फीसदी मार्क्स

■ प्रमुख संवाददाता, नोएडा

सेक्टर-45 के सदरपुर स्थित राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा सदन में दसवीं के शरद कुमार सिंह ने 91.1 परसेंट अंक लेकर जिले में दूसरा स्थान हासिल किया है। शरद के पिता श्रीराम सिंह एक प्राइवेट कंपनी में सिक्युरिटी गार्ड हैं। शरद यहां अपने पिता और दो भाई-बहनों के साथ रहते हैं। मां विमलेश देवी गांव में हैं। लिहाजा शरद को अपना ख्याल भी रखना पड़ता है और घर के अन्य काम भी करने होते हैं। वहीं खाली समय में वह गाना गाते हैं और क्रिकेट खेलते हैं। अब वह नॉन मेडिकल से अपनी आगे की पढ़ाई जारी रखेगा, ताकि अपने इंजीनियरिंग के सपने को पूरा कर सके। शरद स्कूल में अपने गाने की वजह से काफी प्रसिद्ध है। शिक्षक भी उसके गाने के



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## गार्ड के बेटे ने 10वीं में हासिल किया दूसरा मुकाम दसवीं में आए हैं 91 फीसदी मार्क्स

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Sharad and his elder brother **Sourabh** live in Nithari in a small rented room along with his father. Their mother stays in the village. Their father works as a security guard in a small private company. Sharad's brother Sourabh has been taking up odd jobs even as he was pursuing his studies. He too had obtained 73% in the tenth U.P Board exams last year. His elder sister **Jyothi** had to discontinue her studies because of financial constraints and is employed with a family. She is however eager to apply for admission in the Open school and we hope to facilitate this.

Sharad is not just good in academics, but is a confident young lad who is excellent in dramatics and public speaking, apart from having a love for music. We wish Sharad and Sorabh all the very best in life.

**Raakhee** and her sister **Kiran** obtained 70% and 72% respectively in the State Board Senior Secondary exams. **Gaurav**, another erstwhile student of Saksham, secured 76% and **Uddesh** got 77%.

**Nitish Kumar**, who has been pursuing his studies in the Navodaya Vidhyalaya, Dhoom Manikpur, obtained 77% in the Senior Secondary level exams conducted by the Central Board of secondary Education.

In the last Newsletter, we had mentioned about his elder brother **Sunil**, who had appeared for the I.I.T entrance. He couldn't make it there, but with the support and guidance of his father's boss, he has been able to get admission in a college in Noida for Engineering. His exams are about to commence.

**Madhu** had been successful in qualifying for entrance to the Navodaya Vidhyalaya in 2015. However she opted out as she has been selected for continuing her education in the Vishwabharathi Public School in Noida, which comes under the CBSE Board,

This year too another student, **Komal**, has been successful in her attempts in the Navodaya Entrance. Like Madhu, she too has been promised the support of continuing education in the Vishwabharati School and she too may not choose to join the Navodaya School.

Hearty congratulations to all these wonderful kids, from the team of Trustees and teachers of Saksham. Each of you in the Saksham family who has been supporting this cause must surely be feeling as proud as any of us.

We would like to think that the strong basic foundation that was provided to these children at Saksham and the assistance in their studies given by way of the evening classes, even as they went on to join the Government schools at the middle school level, has helped them in many ways in what they have achieved today.



We wish all these children all the very best in life.

A really good thing that happened last year was the introduction of afternoon meals. We are very thankful to **Shri V.V.Ranganathan, Founder of the Sai Anna Laxmi Foundation (SALF)** for visiting the school to gauge the need and for including Saksham in the list of schools they are supporting with Mid-day meals. The meals are wholesome and served hot in clean vessels with a regular change in the menu.

<http://saianalakshmifoundation.weebly.com/>







**Shri Krishnan Venugopal, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India,**

**Shri Ramesh Shamdasani of Saibaba Foundation** <http://www.saibaba-fund.org> and the Team at **Educare Charity,based** in New Jersey, U.S.A <http://www.educarecharity.org/> have been our major donors in the previous years and they have continued to extend their support. We hope that the achievements of the kids listed in the beginning, will substantiate the commitment we have towards this cause.

Thanks to **Shri C.S. Vaidyanathan**, who pitched in with a generous donation.

Apart from the annual financial help towards the salary of the teachers, **Educare** made a further donation for 2015-16 for procuring jackets for the children of the morning session, last winter. The gap in the amount required to provide jackets for the older children attending the evening classes was made up by generous donations **from Shri Sanjeev Ranka, Mrs. Shilpa Garg, Mrs. Meena Jain, Shri Anil Chandra, Mrs. Gambhir, Shri Dorjee, Mrs. Monika Bhandari, Mrs. Anita Arora, Maneesha Seth .**



Financial help from all our other regular donors are also most gratefully acknowledged.

**Shruti Bhardwaj, wife of Dr.Arvind Bhardwaj (Bhardwaj Hospital, Noida)** pitched in to help with the fees of two children, Golu and his brother Abhishek, who have been enrolled in a local private school. Their father passed away a few years ago and the mother, who works as a maid, finds it very difficult to make two ends meet. She also donated two durries and some woollen gloves and caps for the kids. Thanks Shruti.

**Archana Bhandari**, who has been a well-wisher and constant supporter, donated two ceiling fans for the school. All our best wishes to you.

**Manisha Seth** used to volunteer in teaching the children some years ago. Due to some domestic circumstances which required her constant presence at home she had to discontinue. Manisha has however resumed her classes at Saksham and the children certainly stand to benefit from the same.

Manisha has also procured 25 water bottles for the kids Thanks a lot Manisha.

**Heeba Siddiqui, Vikas Jain, Somanth Shukla** and others from "Helping Brains", interacted with the children on a few occasions, giving the older children some career counselling and so on.

**Volunteers from HCL, Noida have** been helping out in many ways.

A team from HCL spruced up the school, giving the walls a fresh coat of paint and made the premises look bright and colourful with colourful motifs on the walls.

A quiz competition was conducted by a team comprising **Sourabh Garg, Parul, Rehman, Sandeep, Subodh Jaiswal, Shilpa Sharma** and others.

Drawing competition was organised by **Amit and Deepak Sharma**, also from HCL

**Sapna Yadav from HCL**, in the capacity of her association with the organisation "**Sahyog**" conducted an awareness class for all the girl students in both the morning and evening sessions, regarding sexual abuse and how to gauge "Bad touch" and "good touch".

**Volunteers from HCL** also **celebrated Christmas at Saksham** in a very enjoyable manner. They distributed snacks and one of them, a good musician, gave an impromptu musical performance which the kids thoroughly enjoyed.













Recently a **team from HCL** coached the children of Saksham about how a debate is conducted and was well rewarded for their efforts when the children went on **to participate in a debate competition conducted by HCL** and secure the first position.

We thank everyone from HCL who has been involved with the children and has helped in opening up fresh pastures in their mental landscape.

Students from Amity College, Noida also visited the school and interacted with the students.





*Raakhee, one of the students of Saksham, who is being sponsored by Mrs. Rajeshwary Thiagarajan for her training in Bharatanatyam , along with her sister Kiran , Sangita, Barkha and a couple of other children at the Thyagaraja Dance and Music Academy, Noida choreographed the dances that were presented at the Basant Panchami event and the Holi Milan event organised by the Society for Sports and Cultural Advancement, Noida . Mrs. Thiagarajan is the Vice President of this organisation.*

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They also won prizes.

Those who had participated in the Basant Panchami event were also given free passes to the **World of Wonder at the GIP, Noida** and they had a great time enjoying the different joy-rides there.

An event was also organised by the **Shankara Special School** with which Mrs. Rajeshwary is involved, at the GIP, Noida on **World Autism Day** and the Saksham kids participated in the buddy-walk for the kids with special needs and presented dances etc.

Thanks **Rajeshwary** for keeping the holistic development of these children close to your heart.

**Diwali Celebrations** were an occasion for sharing love and joy for all the Saksham family. The school came alive with colourful rangolis and the sparkle of lamps at dusk. The teachers were given a bonus of Rs. 2000/, admittedly a very small sum, but with all recognition of their sincere efforts.

**Independence Day** was also celebrated.

**Teachers' Day outing was a film show," Manjhi, the Mountain Man".**

**Milk distribution**, sponsored by **the sister of one of our Trustees, Ms Anita Arora** is continuing.



**Distribution of bananas sponsored by Shri Vinod Poddar Shri Rishi Kapoor and others of the Rotary Club, Delhi South** is also on... The daily Sattu drink that was being sponsored by Mary's Meals has been however discontinued from January 2016, as mid-day meals are now being served by the Sai AnnaLaxmi Foundation. This is in accordance with the policy adopted by them.

**Tailoring classes**, which had been discontinued for a while as there weren't enough girls in the appropriate age group at that point of time, has now been resumed.

Weekly medical check-ups takes place regularly, thanks to Dr. Poddar.





**The Pandies** , have also recommenced their **theatre workshop** in the school . Thanks a lot **Sanjay Kumar** and your team.

Art and craft is also being encouraged.





Sincere thanks to **Shri Madan Jha , our Auditor.**

We do try to acknowledge each and every instance of support that we receive from time to time. Unwittingly, we may skip over some generous gesture. We apologise if that may be the case and we wish to assure you that we remain grateful to you for extending help and goodwill.

At this point of time we have funds sufficient to tide us over for a year or so, keeping in view the current level of expenditure per month. The premises and infrastructure are the barest minimum that our funds allow. Getting alternative suitable premises within Nithari is also very difficult because the place is a very crowded urban settlement.

We hope to do our bit as best as we can, as long as we can.

**Do spread the word and help us maintain the momentum.**

**Thanks to all of you once again.**