



# RAYS - The Somaiya School Newsletter



Vol 1, Issue 2



## Training Season @ TSS

*"I think, therefore I am (Cogito, ergo sum.)"* - Descartes. The Somaiya School places great emphasis on training for all its stakeholders - staff, students and parents.

This issue has a special focus on Earth Day, various training programmes conducted at the school and the sporting events.

### Highlights of this issue

WORLD  
ENVIRONMENT DAY  
CELEBRATIONS

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

INTER-HOUSE CHESS  
TOURNAMENT



**Best of out waste**  
See how our students created best out of waste

**Behtar India Campaign**



Check out the details of the campaign partnered with TSS



**Mind Benders**  
Check out the various contests and puzzles in this edition



## From the Principal's Desk

At The Somaiya School, we place a lot of emphasis on Learning and Development for all our stakeholders. Albert Einstein famously declared, *"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."* We strongly believe in the power of partnership, and great emphasis is placed on learning and development from our training partners.

TSS Newsletter has been re-christened "**RAYS**" (an acronym of the 4 houses we have in our school - **Rig**, **Atharva**, **Yajur**, **Sama**).

This edition of **RAYS** gives a snapshot of the various training programmes and field visits for June 2017. It showcases our continued approach to have different modes of learning for our staff and students: experiential, field visits, and hands on learning via various seminars and expositions.

It is also interesting to note that our students are taking on civic awareness seriously as they participate in the **Behtar India** and **E-waste** recycling campaigns. We strongly urge our parent community to fully support their wards in these endeavours and encourage our students to become a fully rounded individual who learns while s/he plays - on or off the field.

This newsletter will be available on our website (<http://tss.somaiya.edu/circular-notice.aspx>) and also on your smartphones via the CR network. We urge parents and staff to take a few moments and read this newsletter. Owing largely to page settings, it is best viewed on a laptop / desktop rather than on a smartphone.

We also look forward to suggestions and comments from both our parents and the staff on our newsletter to grow together in this journey.

Warm regards

**Ms. Parveen Shaikh**

**Principal - The Somaiya School.**

## New joinees

Let's welcome the following members into the TSS family. Welcome aboard and wishing you all a successful stint at TSS !

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**Mr. Aaditya Kalele** has joined us as **Manager (Admin)** w.e.f., 3rd July 2017. He is an M.Sc (Physics) graduate and has an M.S from University of Sunderland, UK . He has previously worked in HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) as an Officer in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK for 7 years, and as a HR Manager with one of the ICSE schools in Thane. His interests include music, films, cricket and table tennis



**Mrs. Sharvari Mangesh Dicholkar** has joined TSS w.e.f. 3rd July 2017 as a **Coordinator for grades 6 to 10**. She has a B.Sc in Physics and Electronics and Instrumentation with a Professional Qualification of B.Ed. Ms. Sharvari has a total work experience of 17 years, out of which she has spent 14 years in CBSE schools alone. She has been a coordinator for grades 7 to 10 previously and has taught subjects Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry; she is also a master trainer for Life Skills.

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**Ms. Nirupama Kaushik** has joined us as a **Library resource - cum - educator**. Born and brought up in Bangalore and coming from an Armed Forces family, she has travelled all over India but Mumbai is her home for over a year now. Her qualifications include BA and B.Ed from Bangalore University, and she has earned a Masters degree from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Teaching is one of her biggest passions. She has taught children of different age groups and from diverse backgrounds. Her other interests are reading, travelling, listening to music, baking and craft.



## World Environment Day Celebrations

### WHAT IS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ALL ABOUT ?

Every **June 5th** is **World Environment Day**. On this day, communities and individuals around the world work to increase awareness about the importance of **conserving the environment**, the positive global impact of environmental regulations and controls and engage in activities that serve to educate and improve their environment locally.

It grew out of the efforts of leading environmentalists who recognized the need for there to be a coordinated global focus to begin to make conserving the environment and our natural resources a priority. **The World Environment Day is a part of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) for creating awareness and action worldwide for the environment.** UNEP is made up of elected committee members from various countries that work together to promote environmental issues through creating treaties and regulations for countries to sign that are based in environmental law, environmental health and environmental sustainability initiatives.

As part of the World Environment Day celebrations at school, various events were arranged through the month, which included Best-out-of-waste contests, drama on saving our environment, visit to Solar Panels, vermi-composting, rainwater harvesting plants on the campus, a seminar on e-waste, awareness on Carbon Footprint etc. We are pleased to present highlights of the same in the following pages.



### Solar Panel visits

The Somaiya School has always strived to create environment consciousness and sensitivity amongst their students. And this year was no different! On Friday, 8th June 2017, as part of the World Environment Day celebrations, students of grade 7 and 8 had the opportunity to visit the engineering college on the campus. They met with Dr. K. N. Patil and his team of M.Tech students who are working extensively on the use of solar energy in daily life.

They took us through the various devices built by them such as the solar panel that powered lights and fans in their department laboratory, flat plate collector, Solar water heater, steam concentrator, biogas plant, converting salt water to potable water etc.

The students were very eager with their queries, doubts and ideas. Their enthusiasm and interest was so infectious that Dr. Patil and his team were seen eagerly interacting with the students, engaging them for well over three hours. Even with the Sun beating down relentlessly, the interest and curiosity of the students couldn't be dampened.

- Inputs by **Ms. Gomathi S (teacher @ TSS)**

One of our students Master **Aryaman Santosh (8B)** who was part of the solar panel visit says that the wire connections were highly complex and fascinating. "It was fun to see the machines run on solar power." - he adds.

## Other activities for Environment Day celebrations

### THE EARTH SUMMIT - DRAMA AND SONG (GRADES 1 - 5)

**Grade 3** performed a splendid assembly on the World environment day (9th June) . They had performed a play written by Katie Bagli, a renowned author and a freelancer . The objective of the play



was to emphasize the importance to preserve the Earth and all the creatures living in it. It was followed by a melodious song 'What a wonderful world' that enthralled the audience (Inputs : **Ms. Kalyani Vinod - teacher - TSS**)

### COMPOSTING

On 9th June, the students were taken to a campus visit where they were introduced to the concept of 'composting'. The visit consisted of an eminent speaker explaining the process of transformation of organic waste into natural fertilizer. Students were encouraged to pose questions which were promptly answered. It was indeed a great learning experience.



### TSS ENVIRONMENTAL HERO AWARDS



Students were asked to work on hands-on projects to help make the environment a better place. Based on the work done by them, they were judged and winners were given TSS environment hero certificates and all participants got environment hero badges. The winners also conducted an assembly to explain how they researched, planned and implemented their project. The little heroes pledged to save the environment.

### INITIATION OF SEGREGATION OF WET AND DRY WASTE

To make segregation of waste easier and beneficial for the environment, students from the Primary section took the step to have wet and dry waste bins around the school. Students were given information on how to use the waste bins effectively.



## WATER HARVESTING

Students of Grade 6 were taught the basics of rain water harvesting and how conservation of this precious natural resource is crucial to the environment in the long run.

## BEST OUT OF WASTE

Student Contributor Master **Tanish Chheda (8B)** shares his experience during this campaign :

*During the second week of June, TSS conducted "Best out of waste" contest which refreshed our minds and was a kickstart to the new academic year. Students were challenged to convert waste into usable / innovative products. Class wise themes and topics were discussed, and the students of Grades 1 - 8 left*



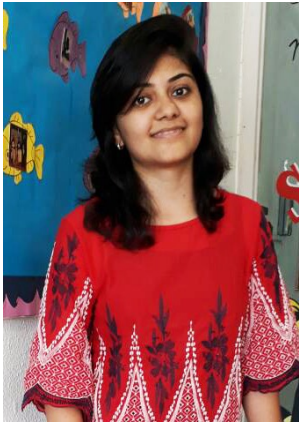
*no stone unturned and the entire school was buzzing with activity.*

*We used waste cartons as tree barks, waste bottles as submarines, old newspapers as spectacles and also made a mini aquarium. The bulletin boards were also decorated with different themes, and the students eagerly waited to see which one of their ideas won them prizes in the keenly contested contest.*

*All in all, the entire school came up with practical yet interesting ideas and worked hard with zeal and team spirit.*

**The winners of this contest are:**

1st Prize - Grade **7A**, 2nd prize -Grade **6A** and 3rd prize - Grade **7C**



## Teacher Spotlight 1

### Ms. Riddhi Shah

#### (Primary Section)

As part of the teacher spotlight **from the Primary section** this month, we have **Ms. Riddhi Shah**. A young teacher having spent 4 years at TSS, she is full of positive thoughts and determination to make a difference in her student's lives.

One of the early recruits at TSS, she has been here since inception when TSS grew from a teacher strength of 10 to 70 at present, and has seen classrooms bring added to the TSS Campus from scratch using brick, mortar and a lot of love.

She shares her views in this short interview. TSS Communications team thanks Ms. Shah for her time and for sharing her experiences with us.

Excerpts from the same:

#### **What inspired you to take up teaching as a profession?**

I used to take some classes in my neighbourhood for younger kids during my graduation, and felt that a professional course of B.Ed. would help hone my skills to a more structured form of teaching.

#### **On challenges of teaching younger kids.**

I love teaching younger minds (she teaches maths at TSS), and its been a 2-way learning process. Kids today are much smarter and more agile than about 5 years ago, so a teacher needs to constantly innovate the teaching methods. I have designed and implemented some game-based learning using the "Playway" method, and each experiment is a steep learning curve.

#### **On her mentor and professional development:**

I would rate Satyavani Ma'am as my mentor who handheld my initial days and led by example on how to deal with younger kids. Parveen ma'am is a great administrator and constantly seeks innovative ideas from the teachers, while raising the bar and demanding excellence from her team always.

#### **One quote to live by : "Be the change you want to see in the world."**

## Teacher Spotlight 2

### Ms. Uma V

#### (Secondary Section)

From the **Secondary section spotlight**, we feature **Ms. Uma V**.

With 18+ years of total work experience, and the past 4 years with TSS, she is a popular teacher who has spent some time in Nigeria also teaching in a CBSE school. She believes in a collaborative approach with students rather than dictatorial to enable students' learning.



An avid reader, a foodie and a wannabe traveller, Ms. Uma shares her views in this short interview. TSS Communications team thanks Ms. Uma for her time and for sharing her experiences with us.

Excerpts from the same:

#### **What inspired you to take up teaching as a profession?**

I started as a primary school teacher post my graduation and liked how I could connect to the younger generation. Over the course of my 18 years, I have taught pre-primary kids, primary section and am now handling secondary section since the past few years.

#### **On challenges of teaching older kids.**

I teach English at TSS, and I love the challenges I face in class sometimes, as students are opinionated and want to be heard and listened to. I might have an opinion of a certain poem, but it's equally important to provide an opportunity for students to express themselves. They are so much more aware today than the previous generation was, and maintaining a conversational tone is extremely important. I also take out time to guide Grade 9 and 10 students on life skills that matters in real life.

#### **On her professional development:**

As an ecosystem, TSS provides for regular professional development training programmes including Adhyayan. There is a very high expectation from teachers of TSS and we have to constantly innovate our teaching methodology.

**Her life mantra: "Discipline, hard work and meticulous planning is the key to success."**



## Behtar India Campaign



TSS has partnered with **DPLI-NDTV** sponsored **Behtar India Campaign**. An extensive assembly was conducted on 6th June for students of Grade 1 - 10 explaining all details about the campaign and how the students could take it forward. Details have also been mailed to parents for their support to make this campaign successful.

Our **Student Contributor** Master **Tanish Chheda** (Gr. 8B) shares the campaign details and his views on the same:

*The Behtar India Campaign co-sponsored by **DHFL Pramerica Life Insurance and NDTV** was conducted at the school : This campaign is about a life-changer for a lot of underprivileged ones. These children do not have material comforts or resources to fight everyday challenges of diseases like malaria / dengue etc. Behtar India focuses on 3 areas : better health, cleanliness and environment.*

*I would urge each of my schoolmates to participate in the Behtar India campaign and help collect online donations to help procure dengue kits. They should also participate in clearing garbage in our environment and keeping our surroundings clean.*

*The presentation given by the DPLI - Behtar India team was very inspiring to all of us. India is suffering a lot due to unhealthy environment, and although the Honourable Prime Minister has launched the "Swachh Bharat" campaign, it is our individual responsibility to keep our surroundings clean."*

### SYNOPSIS OF THE BEHTAR INDIA CAMPAIGN

Behtar India campaign aims to work towards a better future for India. The campaign invites schools, students, ordinary citizens and corporates to join a nationwide movement that focuses on Health, Hygiene and Environment.

This is open to all students and schools in India. Registered schools and students who join the campaign will need to complete 3 stages of the campaign - Swasthya, Swachhta and Vatavaran.

For more details, check out : <http://sites.ndtv.com/behtarindia/register-now-sign-up-for-behtar-india-campaign-74/>



## Staff Training Programs



The workshop on "**Inclusion In Action**" was held by **Dr. Smita Desai** for all the teachers (pre primary and primary) on 1st June 2017. Dr. Desai holds a Ph.D in Educational Psychology from Mumbai University and holds M.Ed degree credits in Special Education. Several school based intervention strategies for SEN kids of different age groups were discussed. Various topics like managing the classroom climate through positive behaviour management, and managing those with ADHD, LD were also covered. The major objective of the workshop was to have an Interactive segment meant to facilitate shared learning in a supportive and enjoyable atmosphere which was fulfilled by the speaker. Several school based intervention strategies for SEN kids of different age groups were discussed. Various topics like managing the classroom climate through positive behaviour management, and managing those with ADHD, LD were also covered. - Inputs by **Ms. Ramya (Special Educator, TSS)**



### Microsoft Training for Teachers

Microsoft Software Training was provided to Pre-primary and Primary teachers on 17th June 2017. The secondary teachers will receive the training shortly.

### ESS (Employee Self Service) Training for all staff

In an endeavour to go paperless, most of the HR policies and documentation including leave applications etc have moved into an online ESS system. The training for the same was conducted by the vendor, led by Ms. Shamika.

**The growth**  
and development of people  
**is the highest**  
**CALLING OF**  
**LEADERSHIP.**  
- HARVEY S. FIRESTONE

## Parent Seminar - Primary section

The school organized a session for the **parents of Grade 1 to 5** on the 17th June 2017.

While the topic for the session was **“Effective Communication, Disciplining Techniques and Handling Electronic Addictions”**, the speaker was Ms. **Kavyal Sedani** who is an NLP practitioner, a counselor and certified hypnotherapist practicing in Mumbai.



The session focused on aspects of communication and discipline. She asked the parents what were the concerns they were facing with their children and she addressed most of those issues. The speaker focused on aspects of communication with examples, also on gratitude, how positive communication with children builds their self-esteem. She highlighted how parents have to be gadget free first and then only the kids can be taught to follow suit.

### Parents' feedback on the Seminar :

**Ms. Binal Shah, mother of Aarav Shah (3A)** ;, “Such workshops help us understand kids emotionally. It was a well structured training”

**Parent of Devaansh Dani (3A)** ;, “In this world of digitization, this workshop was very apt, simplified and relevant to the target audience. There was a touch of humour to every solution that the trainer presented. Thank you for a wonderful seminar.”

**Ms. Nandita (Teacher / Parent of 4B)**: “What an excellent idea ! Thanks to the team for bringing out such an interactive and interesting program. It was surely an eye opener!”

- Inputs by **Ms. Mildred (School Counsellor, TSS)**

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## Workshop for Bus drivers,helpers and housekeeping staff

The workshop on Effective Communication was conducted by **Ms. Vijeyta Kanetkar**- school counsellor, for bus helpers including bus drivers, cleaners and Didis. It started with an energizer as an ice breaker



and later several topics were covered. Role plays on different scenarios that occur during their travel was conducted, and how to handle them was also addressed. Topics like how to handle parents, difficult students were also covered. Many team building exercises were also conducted. Our in-house nurse Ms. **Dipti Kadam** also conducted a session to this audience on personal hygiene, grooming and first aid for the bus staff and an exclusive First Aid training for support staff of TSS.

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## Workshop on tools to enable teachers face Professional Challenges - by Manisha Sridhar

All teachers (Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary) were part of this workshop . It was conducted by a trainer Ms. Manisha Sridhar on 2nd June to equip teachers with skills to face professional challenges.

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### Celebrating our young performers



<< **Soham Ajwani**  
(Grade 6A) Small Hand  
Big Art - Art Olympiad  
winner

Our Young musicians  
**Niramaya Khimasia 8A**  
(Keyboard ) and **Akshay  
Dhotre 8B** performed in  
Miraaya's M.A.D mela

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Picture credits (M.A.D Mela) : **Mr. Sagar Mestry** and **Mr. Anita Shekatkar (Music teachers - TSS)**

## International Yoga Day Celebrations @ TSS - 21st June 2017



Students from grades 2-7 performed Yogasana display with music, and the school assembly was held for all three sections : **Pre Primary, Primary** and **Secondary**. Our students also performed at the SIMSR auditorium in the KJ Somaiya Campus where Shri. Suresh Prabhu (Hon. Railways Minister) was the chief guest. This was arranged by the Sanskriti Peetham within the KJ Somaiya Campus.

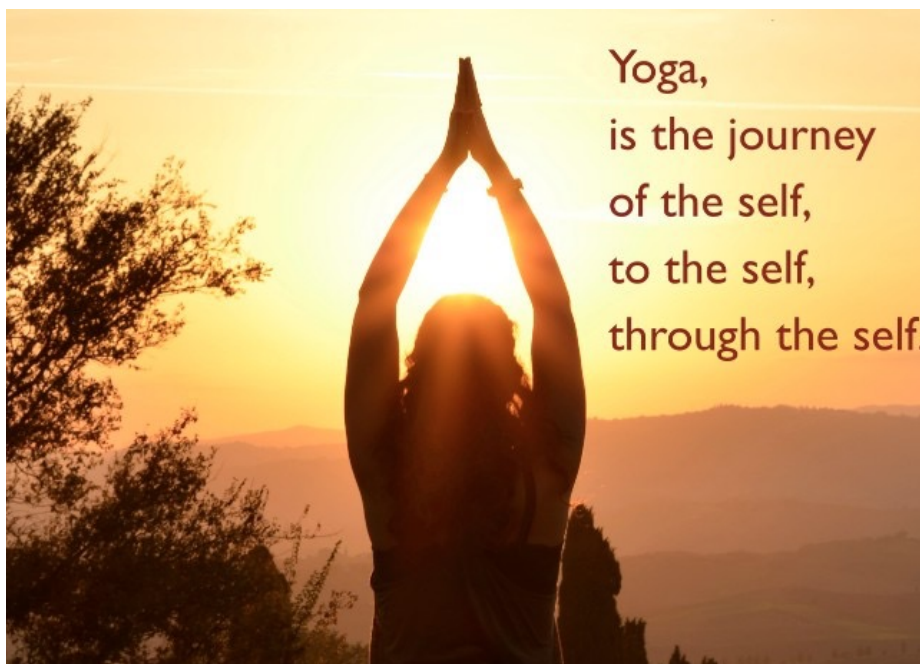
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The Pre-Primary sections also celebrated the International Yoga Day with Sr. KG kids also performing couple of rounds of Surya Namaskars. Aply led by our in-house Yoga teacher, the staff members including teachers and Admin section did a couple of Surya Namaskars and practiced breathing awareness techniques for a calm and composed mind.

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Inputs : **Ms. Kirtida Desai (Yoga Teacher, TSS)**

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## Anti-bullying assembly - Grade 10



**Bullying** is often a deal-breaker at schools. From small incidents to big, the victim goes almost unrecognized or the problem not acknowledged.

On 29th June, boys of Grade 10 presented a small skit at the school assembly demonstrating the impact of bullying. Along with demonstrating different types of bullying (emotional / physical / verbal etc.), the role of bystanders as the good samaritans was well received by the audience too (Grades 6-10). While the CBSE board too recommends measures to curb bullying, its important for all the stakeholders at the school and beyond to recognize the evils associated with bullying.

The Principal also stressed on TSS's zero tolerance to the issue of bullying. The Assembly ended with a showcase of a short Indian film on Anti-bullying called **CHANGE**.

Inputs: Ms. **Mansi** (TSS counsellor) and Ms. **Rashi Shah** (Gr. 10)



## E-waste disposal awareness seminar

Our student contributor Master **Parshva Jain** (Gr. **8B**) writes about the e-waste seminar conducted at school and his take on the same.

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*India is a major dumping ground from developed countries, and we are unwillingly filling our lands with e-waste without knowing how to deal with them.*

*E-waste materials produce a lot of harmful gases which pollute our environment as these electrical/electronic waste contain a lot of heavy metals like lead which can leach into the underground water and soil and produce toxins.*

*In a recent seminar at our school conducted by the K J Somaiya College Of Science And Commerce, we were shocked when we learnt about the millions of tons of e-waste that were dumped in India. We also learnt that there are organizations which recycle most or all of this e-waste.*

*There is also a campaign being conducted at the school campus where we are can dump some of the e-waste carried from home and thus contribute in our small way to save the planet.*

## Earth day Assembly and Carbon Footprint awareness

Our student contributor Ms. **Nayana Vachharajani** (Gr. **8A**) writes about her experiences on the School Assembly held on Earth Day.

*It is crucial to promote environmental awareness amongst students and teachers alike, especially at a time like this. At the school, the staff and students were part of an enlightened assembly session on environmental consciousness and preserve our planet for the future generations. We were all enlightened on the data presented in the seminar on carbon footprints, and steps were outlined on how we could reduce the same. Post the seminar, I vowed to myself to protect*



*and preserve our nature for the benefit of mankind.*

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## Promoting Scientific Research - seminar by IRIS

The Apex Science Fair body for India - IRIS conducted a seminar on 15th June for Grades 6 - 10 on developing a process of scientific enquiry and fostering a culture of research and



innovation for young scientists. Led by Mr. Hemant Sathe, this was very well received by our students who had questions for Mr. Sathe such as: "Can we interchange the brains of two human beings?", "Can the proton structure be changed, if not, why?", "Is it possible to create Super humans?", "Does God exist?" etc. It was heartening to know that TSS as an ecosystem promotes such eclectic yet higher order thinking skills amongst our students.

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# Sports Corner

Inter-house chess championship for grades 5 - 10 was held on 17th June 2017 under the able leadership of our very popular Sports teachers - **Mr. Manik and Ms. Reema**.

Throughout the competition, the students displayed exemplary sportsmanship and patience : both very important qualities for a sportsman on or off the field. Final results and event pictures alongside.

Winners List - Boys				Winners List - Girls			
Name	Grade	House	Position	Name	Grade	House	Position
VIDYUT GANESH	5	R	1st	NITYA NITESH	5	S	1st
ARMAAN GUPTA	5	A	2nd	RUTUJA KOLKAR	5	Y	2nd
SUMANTH NAIK	5	Y	3rd	KRUTIKA AGRAWAL	5	R	3rd
ARNAV POTHARKAR	6	R	1st	HEER MEHTA	6	S	1st
VIDYUTH NVS	6	S	2nd	DIA GHOSH	6	Y	2nd
YASH JADHAV	6	A	3rd	DHRITI TATER	6	A	3rd
URAV MEHTALIA	7	A	1st	NAISHA TECKWANI	7	A	1st
GAJANAN NERURKAR	7	R	2nd	SAANVI KUMTA	7	S	2nd
VIHAN SHETH	7	S	3rd	PREESHA MEHTA	7	Y	3rd
SHLOK SHAH	8	Y	1st	NEMI BHAYANI	8	S	1st
NIRAMAY KHAMASIA	8	S	2nd	KUNJAM KALE	8	A	2nd
MOHIT SHAH	8	A	3rd	VANSHIKA SHARMA	8	R	3rd
YASH KHANNA	9	R	1st	DARPAN SHAH	9	Y	1st
KUSHAGRA ZAVERI	9	S	2nd	SARA ASHER	9	R	2nd
DEEP SHAH	9	Y	3rd	SHAMBHAVI MAHAJAN	9	A	3rd
VISHVA DESAI	10	R	1st	ARYA PILLAI	10	S	1st
PUSHPAK GUPTA	10	Y	2nd	SHRUTI CHAVAN	10	A	2nd
ABHISHEK MATHUR	10	S	3rd	SHIVANI BHANUSHALI	10	R	3rd

House Name:

- ▶ R - Rig Ved
- ▶ Y - Yajur ved
- ▶ S - Sama Ved
- ▶ A - Atharva Ved

