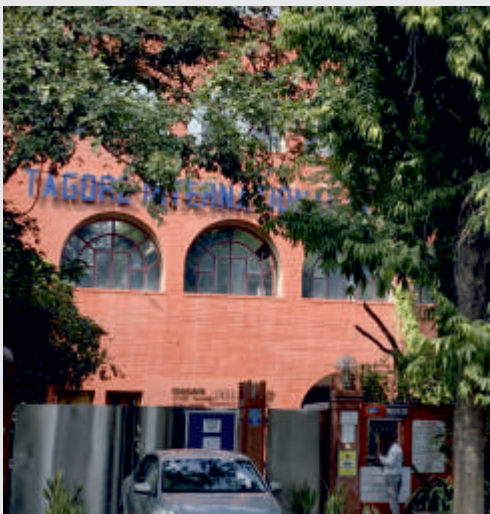




Fun Facts about Vasant Vihar

The first notification for the formation of the Vasant Vihar Society went out in 1956. It was then called Basant Nagar and on June 7th, 1968, its name was changed to Vasant Vihar.



Tagore International School, established in 1964, was the first of the 17 schools in Vasant Vihar.

Princess Diana inaugurated the Tamanna Special School in D Block in 1992.

From small tot lots to large parks with over 2 acres of greenery, there are 53 parks in Vasant Vihar.

More Fun Facts on Pages 10



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just kabaddiwalas!
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Gurpreet Singh Bindra



August is a month when the monsoons are in full flow. August also marks a month when our summer water woes come to an end and water is available in ample quantity. August is also a month where the greenery everywhere is at its best. I go for a walk every morning in the District Park and it's amazing as to how green the grass is looking and how beautiful the park is.

Covid is still widely prevalent, but it is obvious that everyone wants to move on. We in VVWA, are putting together the work which we intend to take up as soon as we have a respite from the monsoons.

Traffic is an area where Vasant Vihar is facing severe issues. While we are pursuing the traffic authorities for resolution of these bottlenecks, VVWA has started work on Speed Breakers. PWD has made a slow start on installing Speed Breakers on the main Margs. Very shortly, VVWA is going to start work on installing Convex Mirrors at T-junctions and other dangerous crossings. We are in discussion with MCD regarding permissions to install Speed Breakers on internal roads. If MCD is unable to install these Metallic Speed Breakers, then **VVWA will organise the funding and do the work themselves.**

Security is another area that needs urgent attention. Last week we had held a meeting with Mr. Manoj C, DCP and his officers. Elsewhere in this issue, Ms. Parul Gaur has given a detailed report.

Senior Citizens Welfare is something that is very high on our list of priorities. This formed a substantial part of our discussions with the Police officials. By the time this issue emerges, VVWA would have compiled and forwarded a list to the DCP and the SHO. We intend to regularly pursue this.

We keep receiving several requests for trees to be pruned. In many cases, we are hampered by delayed permissions from the Forest Department. They are extremely slow and permissions take till eternity. However, wherever possible, the MCD Horticulture has assured us that they shall undertake this from the second fortnight of August onwards.

Before I end, I would just like to say that a lot of our work is dependent on Government agencies like MCD, PWD, BSES, DJB etc. The wheels of machinery move very slowly in the Government and it takes a long time to get the desired results. VVWA on its part pursues the Government agencies very vigorously. However, it does take considerable time to achieve the results and we would request everyone to be a little patient. Sooner, rather than later, we do achieve our objectives.

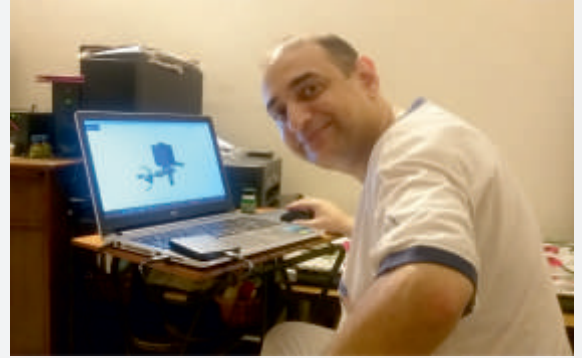
On this note, I would end with the hope that everyone enjoys the monsoons and the pleasant weather it brings.

My Very Special Son

By Piyusha Mehta

I am the proud mother of a hearing-impaired son; Gaurav and we have been living in Vasant Vihar for over 40 years. There has been a vast change in recognition of the abilities of the handicapped over these years. However, awareness and acceptance are still negligible, mainly due to lack of understanding and knowledge among the public. I would like to share some of my personal thoughts and experiences with you.

- **Deafness is an invisible handicap**, and most people do not realise that the other person has this impediment until they speak to them.
- **Their speech is not typical**, since they do not hear tone and sound, and often it is difficult for others to understand what they are saying.
- **Please do understand, although these special people cannot hear, it does not naturally follow that they cannot speak.** Their vocal cords are fine and if trained properly, they can make themselves understood by enunciating simple words. Presently, with so many technological advances it has become easier for them to communicate via mobiles on WhatsApp and through video calling.

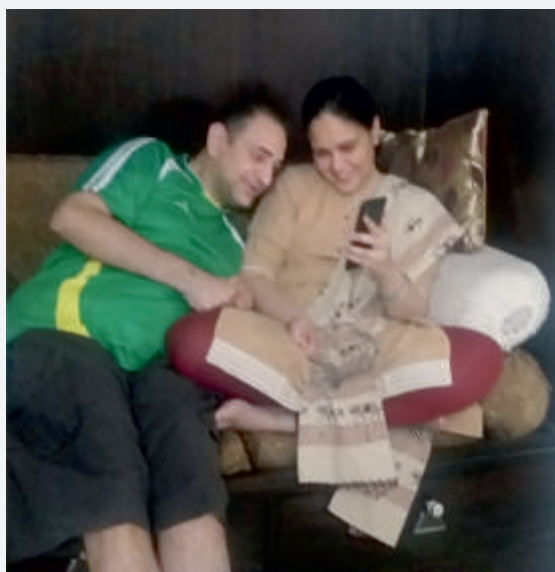


Gaurav designing a 3D machine on his computer.

My son and his other compatriots can also communicate very well by sign language. Unfortunately, there is no universal sign language in the world. Worldwide there are more than 300 different sign languages. This makes it harder for them to be able to communicate with others from different countries. However, recently the Indian sign language has been acknowledged as an entity on its own and is being used as a second chosen language in some schools.

- ❖ It is truly amazing to see the amount of silent chatter that goes on amongst the deaf.
- ❖ They are intelligent and diligent in doing their work. Companies are now eagerly hiring deaf people, for the sheer hard work they put in and their perseverance, dedication, and devotion to the work they are assigned. They seldom indulge in gossip and are mostly focused on the job assigned to them.
- ❖ Many NGO's have started holding seminars and creating awareness about their special world among the "normal" people.

Any article on deafness and I am promptly sent cuttings by friends and well-wishers about **hearing aids!** Hearing aids are helpful but most often due to amplification, they create a lot of disturbing sounds. They help in hearing



Gaurav and his sister Puja

but cannot restore normal hearing and it takes a lot of time to adjust to them, thereby adding to the many issues they face.

Similarly, with a **cochlear implant**, one requires a lot of training before a hearing-impaired person develops speech. Language is only developed between the ages of two and four years, so these electronic aids are of little use to someone who hasn't heard sounds at all in his life. Besides, as with every electronic gadget, they require constant repair and are expensive to maintain.

In 2013- 2014 Gaurav had voluntarily designed a banner and flyer for VVWA for their Basant Festival during Kailash Vasudev's Presidentship.

Despite all these pressures and frustrations while nurturing and bringing up a speech and hearing-impaired child, I feel blessed to have such a loving, giving and forever caring son. He makes our world so much brighter and special, and we are truly privileged to be a part of his life.

God Bless these very Special children.

A WALK AROUND F BLOCK

By Harminder Rana (F 3/2)



**I see trees of green.....
Louis Armstrong**

The welcome monsoon has sailed into the city bringing in cool temperatures which draw one to a walk in the neighbourhood. Walking in F-Block has never been easier than after a week of closing half the street gates, restricting thoroughfare between Poorvi Marg and Munirka Marg (since reopened)

What is the most striking feature observed in the walk? Greenery in the variety of trees lining the streets- peepul, amaltas, khirk, neem and more, in plants hugging the boundary walls of homes, some hosting shy flowers of the season, dappled leaves of a faux money plant circling the curly iron rods of a fancy fence: our residents are truly green in thought! In F-block you can walk in tree shade almost everywhere.

Our walk takes us to many types of houses: single story bungalows of the Old World built half a century ago, double and triple floors constructed 2-3 decades ago, and the more recent 4-storey buildings reflecting modernity, demand for housing, and several architects' use of technology spiked with imagination. Every new building has an individual face, in the colour of the fronts, the balcony style, windows and gates. Potted plants and occasional seasonal flowers peep down, willing the walker to look up and admire them. Construction is on in several plots, and a year hence we will see many more

buildings in F block. Let's hope the infrastructure, water particularly, keeps pace.

The jewel of F is the adjacent Metro, not just the facility but the exceedingly well-developed landscape around the station- sunny, breezy, open spaces. Munirka Marg residents enjoy the brightest open airy spaces in the colony. Thank you, Metro Management for beautifying our colony.

Traversing Munirka Marg towards F-1, the shortest street on the block, we are humbled in the presence of our stately Gurdwara. With an almost spiritual reverence the residents maintain the street - it is generally clean, lined with potted plants along the boundary wall; I've often seen a resident clear the roadside and water the plants.

Walking past two consulates on F-2, we reach F-3: the longest street, 22 house plots, the highest number of residents. Three entry points regrettably make it a thoroughfare for vehicles trying to beat the traffic to Basant Lok, undeterred by residents' cars parked on both sides of the street.

The heart of F block is the beautiful well-maintained park, circled by F-4, F-5, F-6 and F-7. Over the years, the Block Association Committee has in coordination with MCD transformed it from a patch of grass and bushes to an



Metro Landscape

inviting park, hosting a variety of trees and shrubs outlined by a stone paved path for walkers. A mosaic of colourful blooms sprinkles the flower beds from January to March. The main problem in this area is the thoroughfare, and the solution rests in closing the gates of F-7 and F-3.

F-8 and F-9 and F-10, the home of Arya Samaj, are treelined with lush greenery like most of the other streets. Fascinating are two striking banyans on F-9, very old, gnarled, seeking life around their trunks and in the ground. This magnificent architecture by Mother Nature evokes images of a bygone era of sadhus and scriptures. How old are these glorious trees, and may they be considered a natural heritage of Vasant Vihar?



Proud, resilient, nature crafted sentinels

A WALK AROUND F BLOCK

contd...

Finally, our walk turns towards E-block market for a cold drink and quiche, and a grocery to take home. The market is the lifeline of F block, supplying a range of consumables from vegetables, meat and bakery items to medicines, hardware, and stationery. Although online delivery services are slowly edging into our homes, E-block market will maintain its place in our hearts.

Our coverage would not be complete without the single eyesore of the Block, as for all blocks: the ubiquitous dhalao. Cows and dogs break open garbage bags, spreading filth and disease. **Is there a long-term solution to maintain the dhalao in reasonably clean condition?** A difficult question, to which the answer evades us.



SRI GURU NANAK SATSANG SABHA

Charitable Clinic

By Dr. Gunita Singh



Sri Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha, the holy shrine of Sikh's in F block Vasant Vihar, is in true words living up to the moral values taught by our gurus.

"Kirt Karo vand chako naam japo" (Work diligently and honestly, share with needy and poor, and focus on God)

Our little dispensary in the Vasant Vihar Gurudwara Sahib is a true example of KIRT KARO and doing good.

Our main goal is to provide medical help to all the underprivileged at very nominal rates. We serve everyone in a very reliable, sincere, clean, and sterilized environment.

Here are a few of the services we provide to one and all:

Dental: DENTEM runs a free dental clinic every morning and evening, providing all dental services under one roof.

Physicians: 3 allopathic and 1 homeopathy physician are available daily,

Medicines: These are provided free of cost,

Super specialties: Eye doctors, ENT specialists, paediatricians and gynaecologists are all available and we have excellent medical equipment's to assist them.

Physiotherapy: A very well-equipped physiotherapy centre is one of our most popular facilities and is open every evening.

First Aid Services: Besides that, we provide free first aid service, through a nurse who is available every evening for injections, dressings etc.,

Not only the medical service, our langar sewa is open and free for all.

"Vandchako" - share everything: whatever we eat ourselves, we also distribute and share- one of the key public services of our institutes.

This dispensary has been running successfully for over 30 years and has served many. It is popular among our patients due to the selfless service provided by its team and its volunteers. Many committees have come and gone, but the dispensary has continued serving, nobly and gallantly, all those who come through its doors.



S.NO.	DEPARTMENT	Professionals	DAYS	TIMINGS
1	ENT	Dr S K Sathi	Monday & Thursday	4.30 pm- 5.30 pm
2	Physician	Dr Tara Bhatt	Wednesday & Friday	4.30 pm- 5.30 pm
		Dr Baljeet Kaur	Wednesday	10.30 am-11.30 am
		Dr Baljeet Kaur	Tuesday & Thursday	4.00 pm- 5.00 pm
		Dr Gopa Chakraborty	Tuesday & Thursday	10.00 am-11.00 am
3	Homeopathy	Dr Saema	Monday-Friday	9.30 am-11.00 am
4	Eye	Dr Gauri	Tuesday & Thursday	4.00 pm- 5.30 pm
		Dr Kathuria	Monday	10.00 am- 11.00 am
5	Dental	DENTEM	Monday-Saturday	9.30 am-11.00 am
		DENTEM	Monday-Saturday	4.30 pm- 5.30 pm
6	First Aid	Sister Yashvika	Monday-Saturday	4.00 pm- 6.00 pm
7	Physiotherapy	Dr Shalendra	Monday-Friday	4.00 pm- 6.00 pm

Power Girls of V.V.

'POWER GIRLS' IS A SPECIAL SERIES ABOUT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND PROFESSIONALS IN V.V.



Recently moving back to Delhi, **Preneet Malhotra**, CEO and founder of Designiche, established the company after experiencing the hardships and hurdles of moving and settling during the Covid-19 Pandemic. From sourcing furniture from multiple retailers, to measuring dimensions and struggling with movers and builders, she decided to create her own solution to these problems. Utilizing her extensive experience across global retail brands. Highly skilled in Corporate Development, Strategic Planning, Operations and Finance, with experience as CEO, COO and CFO roles at internationally acclaimed retail brands, technology and media firms; Preneet set up **Designiche** as a hub for everything interior design related to create the process of moving and settling down seamless for others.

Designiche is a design focused web and mobile platform. Our focus is purely on the interior design space, offering design help and products to both professionals and consumers who would like to embark on projects on their own. We have our own in-house design team, offer tech enabled design tools and resources. We also have an external panel of Interior designers and architects to whom we refer projects. We continually build our product range and curate our offerings, identifying and partnering with suppliers who meet our vision and standards. We approach only those potential partners with whom we have experience or those who have come by recommendation. It is not an open platform.



We offer access not only to hand-picked furniture and design elements, but also the tools and support you need to visualize and discover your own aesthetic, the freedom to realize your own perception of design. From avant-garde furniture to well-established brands and stores, Designiche curates an offering of quality and variety. We work hard to find and source reputable, trusted partners to suit our customers' palette. Our partners are brought on board by invitation or recommendation only.

Designiche sells ideas, concepts and aesthetics, not just furniture. It is curating an offering from India, for India and beyond global standards. An offering for a confident India,

which is worthy of nothing but the best. We believe that Luxury is more than just price and accessibility; it's about how a design resonates with you Home design is an art, and your home is a blank canvas. We can help you integrate your ideas to create an ambience you will enjoy. Our ethos is reflected in our commitment to offering exceptional and distinct flavors of design. **Visit us at: <https://designiche.com>**

SANGEET SHYAMALA

by Maj. Gen. (Retd) S. P. Murgai



In our August/September **Seen but Unseen series**, we are covering a highly respected and well-known fine arts institution in our midst, which has been the brainchild of a renowned musical scholar. Do visit this institution and enjoy the variety of facilities it offers.

Located on the A-11 street of our colony is **Sangeet Shyamala**, a cultural centre for performing and fine arts that offers classes in vocal music, instruments, dances, martial arts, painting, yoga etc. for both children and adults. As you enter the gate, you notice various art works done by their students. The striking ones are an old model car and a Guard Room artistically

painted by the teachers and the students. The car belongs to **Som Tewari**, the founder of **Sangeet Shyamala!**

Initially, the institute was started in a garage in E block in the year 1974 by Ms. Som Tewari, herself an internationally acclaimed musical scholar, with a few children on it's rolls. In 1984, the institute was allotted half an acre of land at its present location for the purpose of constructing a full-fledged Art centre. Over the years Sangeet Shyamala has grown into a full-fledged academy promoting

performing and fine arts with a vision to enlighten young creative minds that are fresh and receptive to an artistic awakening.



Som Tewari learnt vocal music from **Pandit Maniram**, a Hindustani classical vocalist of the Mewati Gharana and the elder brother of Pandit Jasraj. According to **Ms Vasundhara Tewari Baroota, daughter of Som Tewari**, it was Pandit Maniram who dreamt that Som Tewari will one day head an institute which will be called Shyamala. So, when Som Tewari started her school, she named it Sangeet Shyamala. As per Hindu scriptures, Shyamala is

the name of goddess Saraswati – the goddess of learning, wisdom, music, and aesthetics.

The institute has an art gallery, amphitheatre, and children's library. Many well-known artists including Pandit Jasraj, and others have performed at the institute's amphitheatre. Every year the Institute celebrates Janam Ashtami in a grand style with performances by the students throughout the day.

Underprivileged children are charged fee at half the rate. "In several cases the training expenses are borne by the residents for the children of their service providers", says **Acting Director, Vasundhara Tiwari Broota, who is also the head of the Visual Arts section.** A great deed indeed!



The institute is open to collaboration, co-working and offering their facilities to professionals for events, art exhibitions and performances.

YOU ASKED, WE ANSWERED

by Maj. Gen. (Retd) S. P. Murgai



Ms. Archana Khandelwal
C Block Representative

VVWA has 12 block representatives – two representatives for each block elected by the residents of their respective blocks. The block representatives are responsible for resolving day to day problems of the residents of their block at the first instance and report the unresolved matters to VVWA for their indulgence.

Most of the block representatives in the present team are young working professionals hard pressed for time. Utilising their own resources, they work for the community for a better quality of life in their blocks.



Ms. Neena Jain Bimbrahw
C Block Representative

We caught up with Archana Khandelwal and Nina Jain Bimbrahw (C Block) and Usha Gupta and Shashi Narang (D Block) representatives to find out first hand the day to day problems being faced by them and the system being followed to resolve them.

Q1. What are your responsibilities as block representative?

As block representatives, it is our responsibility to look after the welfare of the block, and deal with block-specific issues faced by residents. We routinely help solve resident complaints concerning overall cleanliness, sewage, streetlights, water wastage, waste management etc., and ensure that these are tended to in a timely fashion. We work very closely with VVWA Office Bearers to solve issues at a macro level.

Q2. What are the problems your block is facing and what measures have you taken to overcome them?

In addition to other issues faced by our colony, cleanliness is a huge problem of our block especially our back lanes which are filled with garbage, old furniture, construction material, malba and so much more. We have initiated waste management in our block to ensure disposal of waste material in a proper way and continue to increase awareness among residents by way of door-to-door camps organized with ITC and SSIL (the agency for waste management) for segregation of wet and dry waste.

Q3. There is a general feeling amongst the residents that neither they are being consulted nor being associated in resolving the problems jointly. What is your take on this?

While we would love to involve all residents, it is practically impossible to consult 150+ households in our block, and to arrive at a unified solution. Hence, we sit and understand from with those directly impacted by a problem, and then work internally to solve the problem in the best manner possible, keeping in mind government directives. We strive to ensure that it works for the benefit of all.

Q4. Our marketplaces are being encroached unabated. The worst affected blocks are C and D because of their proximity to the unauthorised colonies. The residents feel that if this trend is not tackled at this stage, soon our colony will turn into something like Lajpat Nagar. What is your take on this?

Due to an increase in population at the neighbouring camps, C-block is witnessing an influx of people. While many are working in our homes or for us during the day, its addition to encroachment, and the related nuisance factor is also growing, which is indeed cause for concern. While it is important to address this issue, the solution may not be as simple, because it cannot be eliminated. Finding a way to better manage this is what we are striving to do.

Q5. Are there any difficulties in the performance of your duties as block rep?

There are several challenges as a block rep. Firstly, we are 100% dependent on the civic authorities for all work that needs to be carried out. Hence, we are unable to provide any time lines or updates to the residents. In several instances, we are not even sure if it will be done. Secondly, we require help from residents to ensure the success of any initiative and in some instances, we don't always get the support from all. Thirdly, as working professionals, both of us run on tight schedules, and try to balance our work, our families and our block.

Q6. Are there any suggestions that you would like to make for turning your block into a better living place?

For our block to be better, all residents must collectively come together and share the same vision. We all should take pride in our colony, and our block, and realize that we are only as good as our block or our colony. As block reps, we cannot be in every street, hence would invite residents to be on the lookout for themselves, their neighbours, and the overall betterment of the colony. It is only when each of us can think of the block, and not just about us, that we can make C-block a better living place.

Q7. Have you made any efforts to mobilize collective effort in your block?

We do try on a regular basis to bring residents together - whether it is in the form of casual get-togethers (Holika Dahan) or much needed services such as camps (vaccination, HRSP, etc).

Additionally, we also contact residents when funds are required to carry out a certain work for the block (eg: fumigation) for which certain residents have been very forthcoming with their contributions. Recently, we also organized a C-Block Open House which was attended by a handful of residents who shared their concerns. It was a great forum for all to openly discuss issues and find our way ahead, as a group. This type of collective efforts and Resident-VVWA partnership is critical for the smallest block of Vasant Vihar, to become a model block!

YOU ASKED

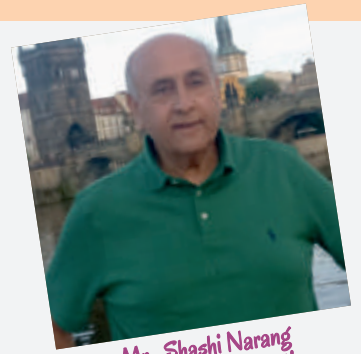
contd...



Ms. Usha Gupta
D Block Representative

In continuation to our series on 'You Asked, We Answered', we caught up this time with Usha Gupta, representative of D block to elicit her response to our questions.

We could not talk to Shashi Narang as he was out of station.



Mr. Shashi Narang
D Block Representative

What are your responsibilities as block representatives?

To be always available and to resolve all issues faced by the residents on a priority basis. We also work closely with all authorities and with VVWA to help solve all the problems.

There is a general feeling among residents that neither they are being consulted nor being associated in resolving the problems jointly. What is your take on this?

It's not the case in our D Block, all residents are directly in touch with both representatives, and they know we are always available to help them, whenever they contact us. Our marketplaces are being encroached upon unabated. The worst affected are C and D because of their proximity to the unauthorised colonies.

The residents feel that if this trend is not tackled at this stage, soon our colony will turn into something like Lajpat Nagar. What is your take on this?

Yes, it is very correct, we must find ways to disconnect Vasant Vihar colony from the adjoining slums. VVWA is working towards getting rid of the encroachments. We realise that this is a major issue, and it is a matter of concern for all our residents.

What are the problems your block is facing and what measures have you taken to overcome them?

1. Garbage dhalao management is poor, it's mostly filled with stinking garbage.
2. Back lanes are not getting cleaned.
3. Pruning of trees is not done when required.
4. Other general problems – stray animals, short water supply, traffic from slums etc.

We call the concerned persons and authorities, we follow up with them constantly, and are always in touch with them to get the jobs completed.

Are there any difficulties in the performance of your duties as a block rep?

As such there is no difficulty, but sometimes the solution is out of our hands as the concerned authorities take their own sweet time to respond.

Are there any suggestions that you would like to make for turning your block into a better living place?

One solution would be to install gates at our entry points, but as per the law it is not permitted. However, CCTV cameras would be of a great help, and we know that the process of covering the D & C Block markets with cameras is about to begin. We would like our residents to join hands with us, and work with us towards making our block better and cleaner. Your support is our biggest strength.

Surprising Facts about Vasant Vihar

1. The first notification for the formation of the **Vasant Vihar Society** went out in 1956. It was then called **Basant Nagar** and on June 7th, 1968, its name was changed to Vasant Vihar.
2. **Tagore International School**, established in 1964, was the first of the 17 schools in Vasant Vihar.



3. In 1962, when the Society was allotted land there were only 1325 members who were given plots! We now have over 4400 families who live in Vasant Vihar.



4. The size of our area is approximately 5.52 square kilometres.
5. **Princess Diana** inaugurated the Tamanna Special School in D Block in 1992.

6. The first **Green Chic Chop** shop in Delhi was opened in our **E Block Market**, much before it grew into a large chain of retail shops.



7. The very popular Modern Bazaar chain started out in bedroom in a home in C Block.

8. There are approximately **58 embassies** located in Vasant Vihar and counting!

9. Approximately over 60 IAS, IPS, IFS officers have made Vasant Vihar their home.

10. We have over **6000 trees** here, and we are adding more every year.



11. From small tot lots to large parks with over 2 acres of greenery, there are 53 parks in Vasant Vihar.

12. We have an unusual forest in the Munirka Park – where trees have been planted under the **Japanese Miyawaki system**.



13. One of the main entrances to the **Aravalli Biodiversity Park** is from Vasant Vihar – at the end of Poorvi Marg.

14. There are **19 schools** in VV and approximately 16000 children come here every school going day.

15. D Block market has the only **PCO in Vasant Vihar** – entry by password only.

16. C Block is the smallest block, but it has the maximum number of embassies in one block, including 6 on C6 road – a 100 yard road!

17. We are surrounded by 5 JJ Clusters – **Kusumpur Pahari, Bhanwar Singh Camp, Nepali Camp, Coolie Camp, and the Basant Gaon cluster**.

18. There is a Wikipedia page on **Vasant Vihar** - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasant_Vihar,_Delhi

19. There is a blog on Vasant Vihar, curated by **Vandana Bhargava**, <https://vasantviharhardiary.wordpress.com/>



THE BUZZ AROUND VV & VVWA

August/September Edition

Visit to VVWA Office by DCP, Shri Manoj C and his team:

We were honoured by a visit to the Kalyan Kendra by the new DCP of Vasant Vihar, Shri Manoj C, accompanied by our ACP and SHO. Greater details about this meeting have been given in our **VVWA Initiatives** section. He told us that at a meeting of the DCP's, RWAs were discussed and it was felt that **VVWA was the best RWAI**. We were delighted to hear words of praise from the Delhi Police.

Goonj Collection Camp under the auspices of VVWA:

On Saturday 23rd July, a **Goonj Collection Camp** was held at the Kalyan Kendra, under the auspices of VVWA and GOONJ. The camp was held to facilitate the collection of items for the disaster areas and those in need. Over 60 people came and donated varied items. Two van loads of material was dispatched to the GOONJ workshop at Sarita Vihar.

There are more details about how and what you can donate to GOONJ, on page 13 of this issue.

Kudos for your Journal:

May we blow our trumpet today?

Our **aVVWAz** has received wide support from our Vasant Vihar residents, with comments such as vibrant, interesting, innovative and "a cut above the rest". The President of another RWA in South Delhi presented our previous issue to his team, with a question – why are we not producing something like this? It is your active support that encourages us and inspires us.

Thank you very much - from our entire Editorial Team.



**- VVWA and GOONJ -
COLLECTION CAMP**

Please bring clothes, shoes, dry rations, linen,
utensils, books and many more items.

**ON - SATURDAY 23 JULY , 2022
FROM - 10 AM TILL 3 PM
AT - KALYAN KENDRA, PASCHIMI MARG,
VASANT VIHAR**

CONTACT: MILLY MURGAI - 98100-32527

The poster features a yellow background with a GOONJ logo at the top left. Below the title, there are icons representing various items: a purple and green bag, a pair of white sneakers, a stack of blue and pink books, a stack of green and blue books, and a pair of white socks. The text is in bold, black, sans-serif font.

Youth Ki aVVAz



NEIL MUKHERJEE, D 6/34 VASANT VIHAR, DIRECTED HIS FIRST MUSIC VIDEO FOR RAPPER TAAJ. THIS IS HIS TREATISE ON FILM MAKING, BOTH AS A PASSION AS WELL AS A CAREER.

Filmmaking: A Passion A Career and A Way of Life By Neil Mukherjee



Filmmaking is one of the most complex art forms that humans have created so far. To truly make a good film, you need talented people producing high quality music, art, performances, visuals and so much more. Due to how much you have to depend on other people. there is a chaos that is inherent in this art form.

This chaos chases many people away but personally, I love it.

My first memories involving film making were when I made my debut short film "Mermaid Attack" when I was 6. With the help of my uncle on the camera, my sister played the mermaid, and I the shark. That was probably the first time the film bug ever bit me. After that naturally i noticed that all the activities that I had chosen were in the realm of cinema and storytelling.

Slowly through the drama society in school and with some other school friends I began making shorts (YouTube Shorts is a short-form video-sharing platform offered by YouTube). Making them was so much fun, that those shoots ended up being the real moment where I actively found what I wanted to do with my life. After that, all I had to do was, to go get it.

From what I have learnt, the only way to get better at making movies, is by making and watching them. If you want to become a great filmmaker, start making something. The first few films could be horrible cringey projects that you wouldn't ever want to share. But every one of these projects, will teach you something.

If you are interested in becoming a film maker, here are some hot tips!

Ok, so now you've made a few shorts and/or you've got some film training. The next step is to get actual experience. Work under someone who's work you like and suck everything up like a sponge. Bear in mind that the film industry isn't for the faint of heart. You will work 12+ hour shoots at an average, you can face verbal abuse, people will be slimy with your payments, and you will feel the exhaustion. Crazy enough I still believe that all these things are worth it if you truly love the art form.

Eventually you learn enough to make your own smaller scale projects.

This is where I am right now. Although i work in house at a production company as a scriptwriter, i also work on my own projects as a writer/director.

I recently directed my first music video for a rapper called TaaJ. Even with my industry knowledge this shoot was a hectic one and a crazy learning experience. That's how you should view every single one of your projects. Even if you don't like it, just know that as you're making something or the other, you will learn from it and keep moving forward and eventually you'll be so good at what you do, that the career will chase you and not the other way around.



Link to my recent music video - **TAAJ - TRUE RELIGION (Official Music Video)**

GOONJ – much more than just kabaddiwalas!

By Milly Murgai



GOONJ is much more than an echo of the voices we hear around us. It is also the name of a renowned organisation which has made a name for itself for its innovative solutions for complex issues. We are not “glorified kabaddiwalas”, we do collect old clothes and utensils and shoes etc., but **our forte lies in what we do with these items!**

What do we accept:

Anything and everything - books, clothes, shoes, utensils, linen, toys, furniture (not bulky items), cassettes, CD's, bags, and so much more. They can be delivered to the Vasant Vihar Dropping Centre at C 6/6 between

10am and 5pm on all days, except Sunday. They should be clean, **please do not give us soiled clothes;** they should be packed in cartons or plastic bags; and they should be usable. Clothes can be of any shape and size, and of any material, we will make sure that nothing is wasted.

What we cannot accept:

Non-working electronic items, they are of no use to anyone! Soiled clothes which need to be washed - these only add to our workload. Underclothing needs to be burnt or disposed of, we have no use for it. We are very unhappy if you ask us to empty out your suitcase and give it back to you. Please bring the items in a bag that you can leave behind. All dropping centres are run by volunteers, please respect their timings. Do not come or call them at unearthly hours, they also have a life apart from GOONJ. **WE DO NOT PICK UP ITEMS FROM INDIVIDUAL HOMES.**

What do we do with these items?

- **Expensive clothes** – we make wedding kits for villagers. They are overjoyed to receive a wedding saree which their daughter can wear. Gota suits are distributed among other family members. We make wedding lehngas with some of them.
- **Large sized clothes** – we make bags, backpacks, purses with these items. They are sold under the Green by Goonj banner.
- **Cotton material** – after it is washed and cleaned, it made into sanitary pads under our “NJPC” – (not just a piece of cloth) project.
- **Synthetic materials** – these are converted into sujnis (quilts) by village women. They earn money by selling them and also distribute them among the community.
- **Usable clothes and utensils**– these are added to the **Family Kits** under the **Cloth for Work** packages which are distributed among the villagers. Every family receives a bag which consists of utensils, clothes for all members, mats to sit on, shoes, sanitary pads, and some dry rations among other things.
- **Vaapsi** – during disasters many people lose their source of livelihood. But give a barber a razor and a mirror and he will be able to begin his livelihood again, give a woman some utensils and she will set up a tea stall; give a tailor a sewing machine and he can start stitching clothes again. These are but a few examples of how your discards can be a boon for someone else.
- **Rahat** – during a disaster we are among the first to reach the area and among the last to leave. We help them by providing instant material relief and later help them recover and restart their lives.

Join us by contributing material and monetary assistance, by becoming a volunteer, by holding camps, by spreading the word around and above all by remembering that the dignity of the receiver is paramount.

Vasant Vihar Collection Centre – C 6/6, Vasant Vihar

Timings – 10 AM to 5 PM

Closed on Sundays and all Public holidays



VVWA INITIATIVES

by Parul Gaur

In the normal course of things, I write about the initiatives that we are going to take. But today I am going to write about the two significant meetings which were held to take our initiatives forward. Our first meeting, jointly hosted by the Society and VVWA, took place with the **Dy. Commissioner of Police, Mr. Manoj C. Southwest Zone at the Kalyan Kendra. The DCP was accompanied by his ACP, Mr. Subash Chand and SHO, Mr. K. P. Sah.**

After VVWA's brief presentation about the security environment, the SHO informed the members that as part of the SAFE DELHI CAMPAIGN, Delhi Police was planning to install **57 Automatic Number Plate Reading (ANPL) Cameras**, at various intersections. One specialised camera, which can distinguish gunshot sounds and zero in on their latitude and altitude, would also be installed in Vasant Vihar.

With regards to the crucial issue of encroachments the DCP requested that we give him an updated list. He promised that in coordination with Dy. Commissioner, MCD, he would ensure removal of these encroachments. The list has since been compiled and given to the DCP. The other major take away was that he also wanted to update their **list of Senior Citizens in Vasant Vihar**. VVWA is taking necessary action in this regard.

The horrendous traffic situation in Vasant Vihar also came up for discussion. The DCP assured us that in coordination with Traffic Police, the SHO would pay special attention towards this issue. He also approved of the suggestion of Vasant Vihar providing Marshals in the markets to control traffic and encroachments.

Finally, the DCP drew our attention to the **rising cases of Cybercrime**. He gave details and made suggestions about the precautions which should be taken. In conclusion, VVWA President thanked DCP and his officers for having taken out time and hoped that such meetings would become a regular feature.

Regarding the second meeting, VVWA had given a list of traffic issues to the **DCP (Traffic) and his inspector, Mr. Ashu Girotra**. Beset by issues of school traffic, it was mutually decided to address this issue first.

Mr. Girotra convened a meeting of Vasant Vihar schools. The discussion was restricted to school traffic issues. After welcoming the school representatives, he highlighted the necessity of restricting traffic movement within the colony and ensuring orderly disembarkation and pick up of the students. He sought necessary cooperation from all concerned

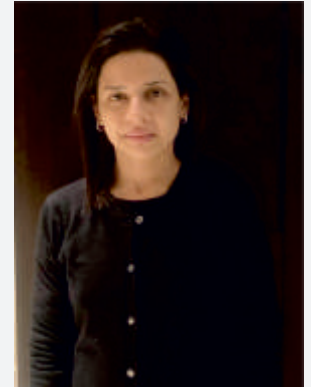
VVWA President also welcomed the school representatives and thanked Mr. Girotra for having convened the meeting. The members requested that internal roads should not be used for school traffic; buses should ply only on major roads and margs; and parking of cars and buses near the school should be as per rules and norms. VVWA also suggested the possibility of some roads being declared one way during school traffic timings should be considered. Finally, the schools should give preference to Vasant Vihar children, since this would reduce the traffic on the roads.



Various schools highlighted their problems and suggestions on how they would like to resolve them.

Concluding the discussion, Mr. Girotra wanted each school to give a traffic plan within ten days, which would be discussed amongst us and settled. He also wanted each school to appoint Marshals to control the traffic environment. He asked schools to discuss the possibility of staggering their school timings to reduce traffic. He warned the school officials that if no action was taken, the police would have to resort to punitive action.

These were two very useful meetings, and we have every intention of following up on them and taking them to their logical conclusion.



मेरा वसंत विहार

by Subhadra Sethuraman (सुभद्रा सेतूरामन)

वसंत ऋतु की बहार है वसंत विहार
दिले खुश नजार है वसंत विहार
हरियाली की फुहार है वसंत विहार
तरह तरह के पक्षियों की चहचहाहट की झंकार है वसंत विहार
वसंत विहार क्लब ऐक्टिविटीज की बहार है वसंत विहार
विदेशी embassy की भरमार है वसंत विहार
ब्लॉक ब्लॉक में बाजारों का त्यौहार है वसंत विहार
ब्लॉक ब्लॉक में हरे भरे पेड़ों की बौछार है वसंत विहार
आपसी प्रेम और सद्भाव का बुनकार है वसंत विहार
गीत संगीत का फनकार है वसंत विहार
मंदिर गिरिजाघर गुरुद्वारे का ध्वजराज है वसंत विहार
विद्या का केन्द्र है वसंत विहार
भारतीय संस्कृति का उदगार है वसंत विहार
हरे भरे फूलों और पेड़ों का संगीतकार है वसंत विहार
ये मेरा सुंदर दिले यार है वसंत विहार
मेरा पहला और आखिरी प्यार है वसंत विहार

FROM THE EDITOR



As always, it is a pleasure to interact with our friends.

However, this month our journal will be taking a break, since our Editorial Team is busy with their own personal commitments. I will be away for over a month, visiting my children living abroad, Nina Jain will be travelling to leave her daughter at a University in Canada, our designer Surveen is having her exams in the next month.

However, in the month of October we will be back with a bang, celebrating our festivals with you and giving you all the news and articles, our gift to you during these festivities

Enjoy the good weather, stay away from Covid, which seems to be all around us, and pray for fewer infrastructure issues.

God Bless all our neighbours and friends.

Regards
Milly Murgai
Editor - aVWAz



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