

VAHANI NEWSLETTER

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• THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF VAHANI •

“We hope to create leaders who will be the inspiration and agents of change in their local communities”

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THE INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Induction Ceremony for 2022 was held on 3rd December, where the scholars were welcomed officially by members of the Board, Mentors, Tutors, Scholars and the Vahani team. Our Chairperson, Reeva Misra, addressed the new Scholars and Board Members, Shalini and Rajeev Misra, assured them of guidance and support throughout their Vahani journey. The new kids on the block were introduced to the history, vision, mission, structure and ethos of Vahani. A brief was shared with them on the various programmes and opportunities. This is always an exciting time as every new batch brings fresh energy and new thoughts.

2022 BATCH ADMISSIONS

2022 closed with all of the 7th batch of Vahani Scholars successfully admitted to the top universities of the country. After the ennui of two years lost to the Covid pandemic, we emerged into intrepid action from February 2022. Offline colleges finally reopened and the students were finally liberated from painfully dull online classes. The vibrancy of life was swift to bounce back. Counselling and peer mentoring began as soon as the new batch received firm offer letters. We were pleased to see a diverse mix of disciplines with new courses like Hotel Management, Biotechnology and Aerospace Engineering thrown into the mix. By November we had confirmed 50 new Scholars, with 44% opting for technical courses, 16% Medical, 14% opting for the Sciences, 8% Arts, 6% Commerce, 4% Law and 2% Journalism. Seven spectacular admissions to **IIT (Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai and Roorkee)**, **a medical scholar at AIIMS (Raipur)** and **an Economics Honours scholar at SRCC, Delhi University**, created a huge buzz at Vahani.

NEW OUTREACH HORIZONS

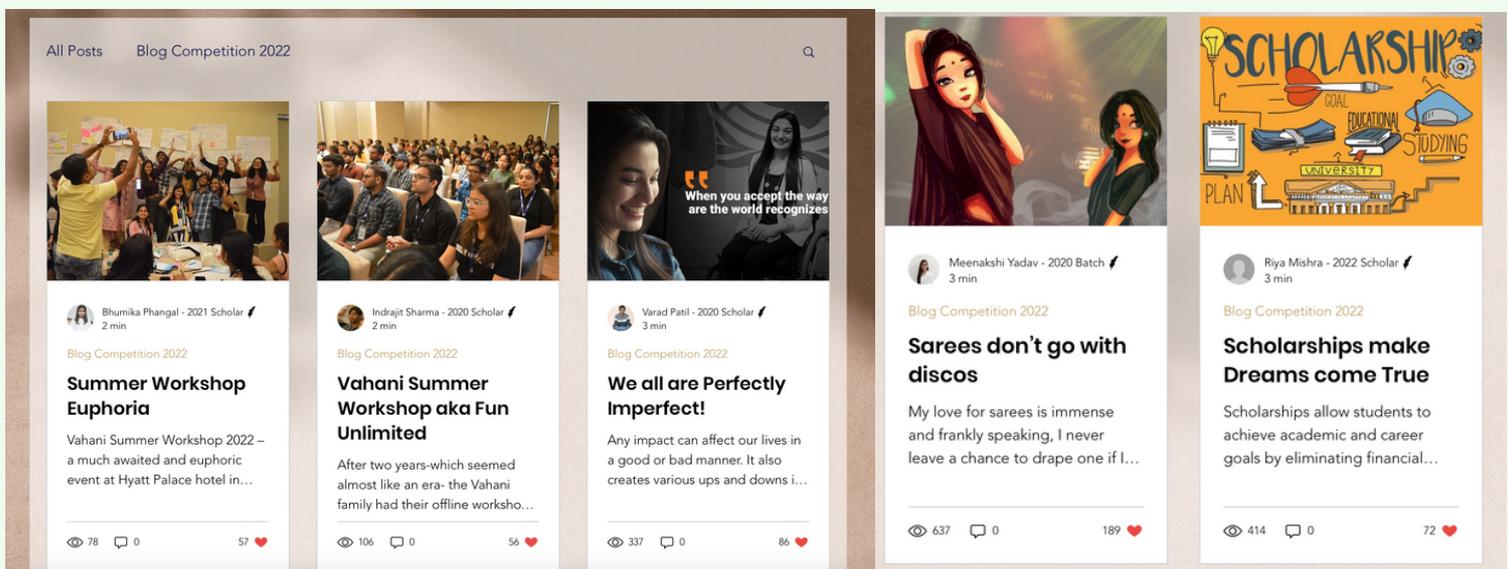
Very specific goals had been identified for the year 2022. This was to increase the number of applications and ensure an even higher quality of eligible students to choose from.

We achieved our target states which were West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, North Eastern States - Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam and Jammu and Kashmir. We saw a 50% increase in the number of applications than the last year where numbers had doubled. An official circular about Vahani was sent to all the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas across India. Three open house sessions were conducted, and successful debate competitions were held covering North, South, East and West. Vahani was listed on 11 scholarship portals and 4 print media organisations.

2022 COMPETITIONS

There is never a dull moment at Vahani with several competitions floated to foster a keen spirit. This keeps the Scholars on their toes as they scramble to win coveted prizes of travel and Amazon vouchers.

- The Vahani Blog Competition 2022 - 1st Place - Meenakshi Yadav bagged the 1st Place with 183 likes and 590 views and 2nd Place went to Varad Patil with 83 likes and 312 views, at 3rd Place Riya Mishra got 72 likes and 392 views.
- The 2022 Outreach Competition was won by Ganga Rani Nautiyal, followed closely by Khushnuma Parveen
- The offline Vahani Debate Competition was won by Meenakshi Yadav and Shrutikriti Verma.
- Vahani Jingle Competition - winners were Rupashree Pradhan, Pratibha Sharma, Meenakshi Yadav and Kaushal Sharma.



Vahani Blog Competition 2022 - [Read Now](#)



Vahani Jingle Competition



Vahani Debate Competition



Vahani Outreach Competition

THE VAHANI 2022 WINTER WORKSHOP

The Vahani Winter Workshop brought excitement and warmth to the December winter chill. Scholars, Board Members, mentors, panellists and team members came together once again. It was an exciting and new experience for those Scholars coming for the first time to the capital of from the southern and coastal regions of the country. Some of them experienced flying for the first time too and enjoyed staying at the Hyatt Place Gurugram where, to their delight, both the hotel and the swimming pool were centrally heated. The theme "Courage is a mind, not a muscle" was one that resonated with everyone present at the workshop. Lionel Messi winning his first World Cup with an exciting match was one of the highlights for some of our Scholars.



Day 1 of the Vahani Winter Workshop at the Hyatt was hosted by two very confident and capable scholars: Khushnuma Parveen and Guddan Kumari. They kicked off by interacting with the Team on popular demand. The chairperson Reeva Misra and the Team were available to address the Scholar's queries. Since our workshops are the only time Scholars from all over the country get to interact with the Team in person, we try to ensure the building of strong bonds, shedding clarity upon different aspects of the scholarship programmes.

The semi-finals of the debate competition were lined up, the enthralling topics debated upon being "Religion should be taught in schools" and "Death Penalty should be abolished". The teams were Meenakshi Yadav (2020) and Shrutikirti Verma(2020) v/s Divyanshu Misra (2020) and Devesh Sharma (2020) and the second semi-final was Ashu Priyadarshini (2021) and Vishu Jain (2022) v/s Divanshi Jain (2021) and Ashish Agrawal (2021). The spirited debate was followed by a delicious lunch in the courtyard on a warm sunny afternoon. The judges Rounak Berman and Rashmani Singh announced the winners Meenakshi Yadav (2020) - Shrutikirti Verma (2020) and Ashu Priyadarshini (2021) and Vishu Jain (2022)

The afternoon culminated into a fun English language activity which brought on a lot of laughter followed by tea and cookies. The Scholars were excited to leave for an excursion with their peers and seniors to explore Delhi.



Day 2 started on a high note where Board Members, mentors and panellists made up the audience. Chairperson Reeva Misra began the morning with an inspiring welcome note followed by Board Members Shalini and Rajeev Misra.

The two-host scholars, Ashu Priyadarshani and Dhanashree Atul Panchawatkar, led us through a very successful program. The Final debate competition with the topic "Sex education should be mandatory in schools" brought about a very lively discussion between the two teams. The two Judges- Dr. Bhavna Barmi and Rashmani Singh had to contemplate long and hard to declare the winner as it was a close tie. The Opposition team Meenakshi Yadav and ShrutiKirti were finally declared the winners as theirs was a more difficult argument to pull off.

A short tea break was followed by an inspiring panel discussion where Hinga (VP of the Alumni Association) engaged with panellist- Dr Asmita Kabra (Dean SHE AUD) , Ms Priti Suri (Founder and Partner PSA) and Akash Gupta (CEO Zypp Electrics). Each speaker reflected on their journey and courage which made them follow the various paths they had chosen. The Q&A session with the audience was energising and enlightening.



Over lunch, the scholars caught up with their mentors, panellists and Board Members. Previous Scholars shared their experiences and benefits of the mentorship, internship, and the English communication programmes followed by a prize giving ceremony to winners of the various competitions.

A traditional workshop at Vahani is incomplete without Board Member Rajeev Misra's words of guidance and encouragement. He inevitably has the Scholars rapt with admiration when he takes the mike. Day 2 wrapped up with a fun open quiz based on random contemporary questions coined by Operations Manager Zubin Sethi. After a refreshing tea break , the Vahani family assembled for a group photograph, captured by the capable Alvia Syed. Buses were ready to take us to an evening of fun and dance at the Misra Farms. Here was music, dance performances and cutting of cakes to celebrate birthdays and hot and sizzling butter naans, butter chickens and rogan josh followed by jalebis in an exhaustive menu.

While the Vahani Team found cosy warm spots next to the fires, the Scholars danced the night away to their favourite tracks.

THE VAHANI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - JAIPUR

The Vahani Alumni Association Meet in Jaipur was a first but created a sense of nostalgia too. It was just a few years ago when the first batch of Scholars graduated. They went on to have the most amazing journeys of their lives, via jobs, fellowships and postgraduate degrees.

Now we are an alumni of 55 members with goals and aspirations not just for ourselves but also the world we live in. The Meet in Jaipur gave us an opportunity to set up goals for the association. It was a time when everyone had the opportunity to voice their thoughts and promise their participation and contribution in our planned future.

The two major goals that we set out for the year 2023 were: Building connections and giving back to the community.

As our strength grows bigger with each passing year, we plan to enrich and increase the engagement and connection among all the members. There is a power in being collective. The Association aims to be an enabling space, with members supporting and advocating for each other's successes. This goal extends to assisting our juniors at Vahani by providing internships or simply by guiding them through college.



The Association also aims to do its best to create a better world filled with the joy of giving and rolling out a Vahani Alumni Association Scholarship for deserving school students. The aim is to create a chain of inspiring stories that use and intermingle all our personal stories: the journey of a student from difficult circumstances building a successful life while also aiding and encouraging children from their community to do the same. The ultimate goal is optimal engagement among the alumni of Vahani. The Jaipur Meet was the highlight of the Association since its inception in 2020.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR VISION & MISSION

- Volunteer/Nominate a potential mentor to guide and shape a Vahani Scholar.
- Join us as an English Tutor for the English Communications Programme.
- Identify opportunities of scholars: Internships and Trainings.

Don't Be a Stranger, follow us:

