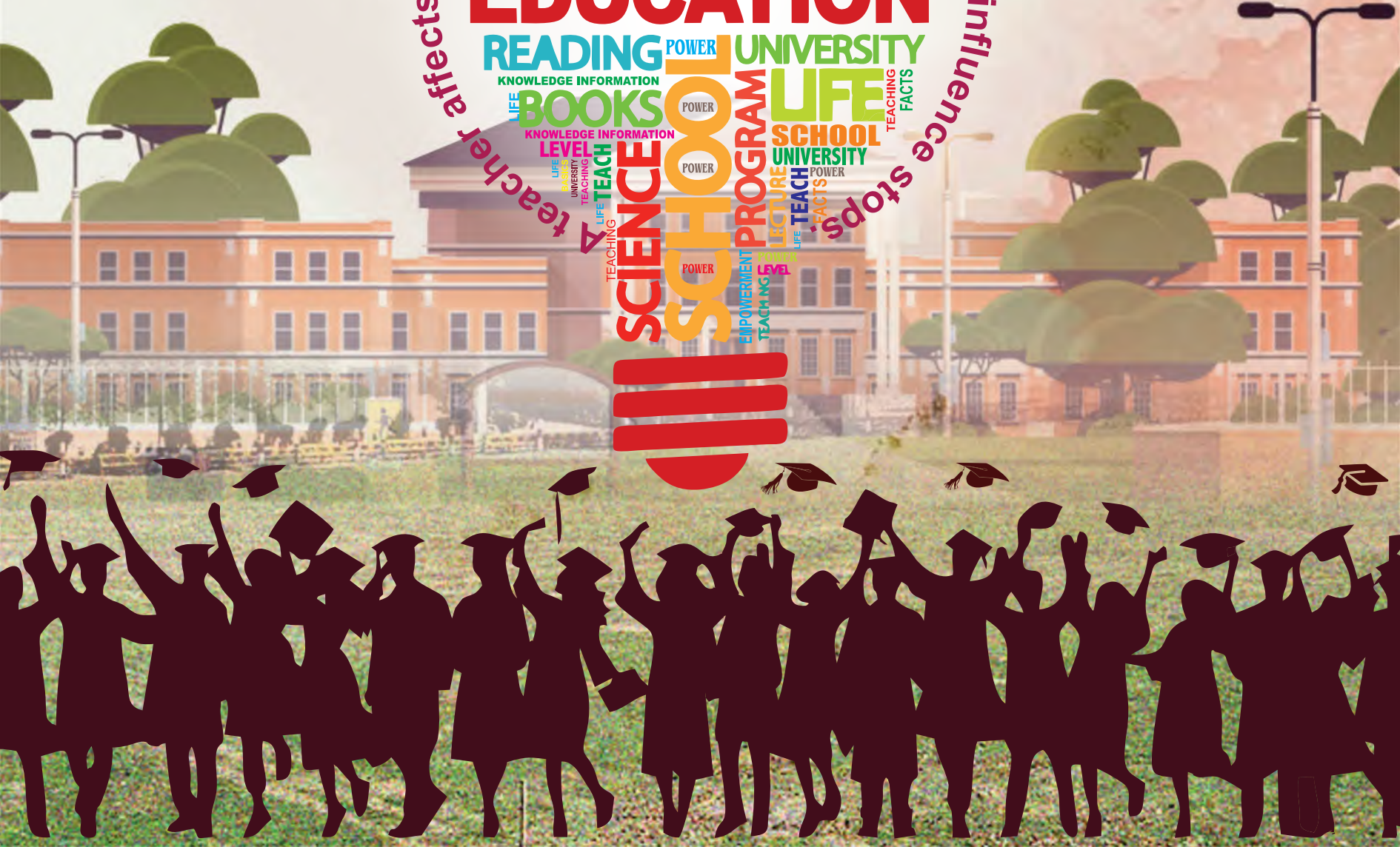
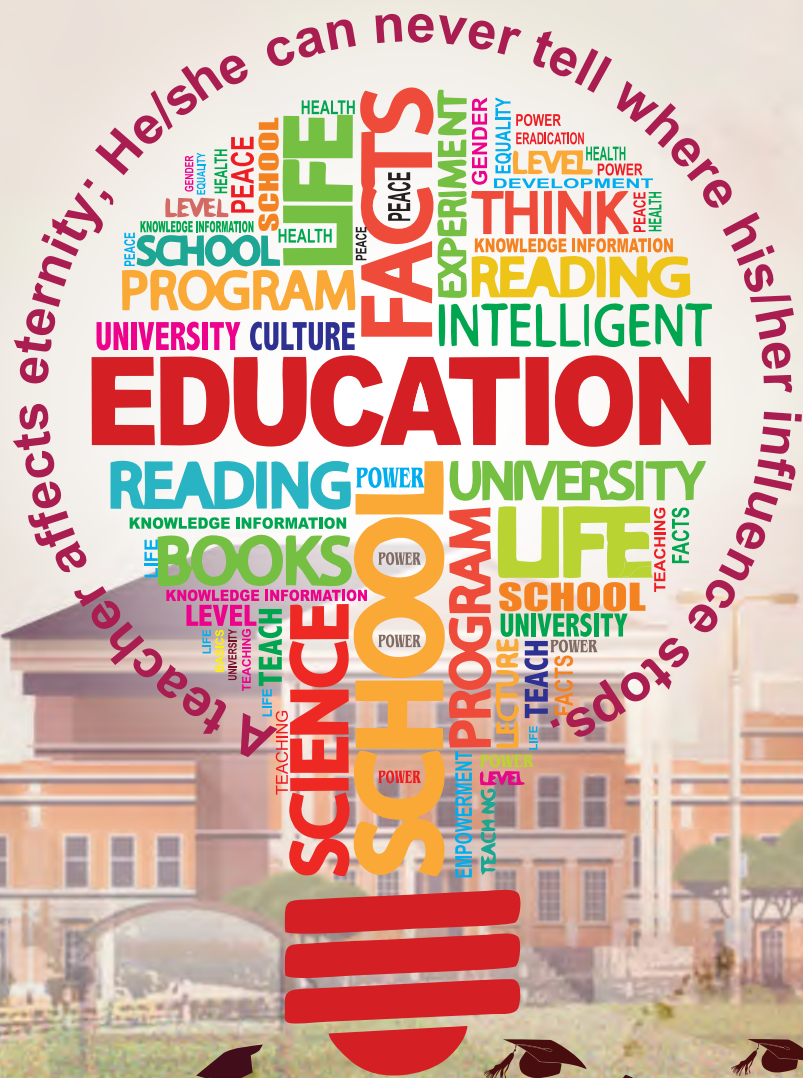




PRESENTS

# EDUCATIONAL ALCHEMISTS

*Transforming Bihar's Districts*

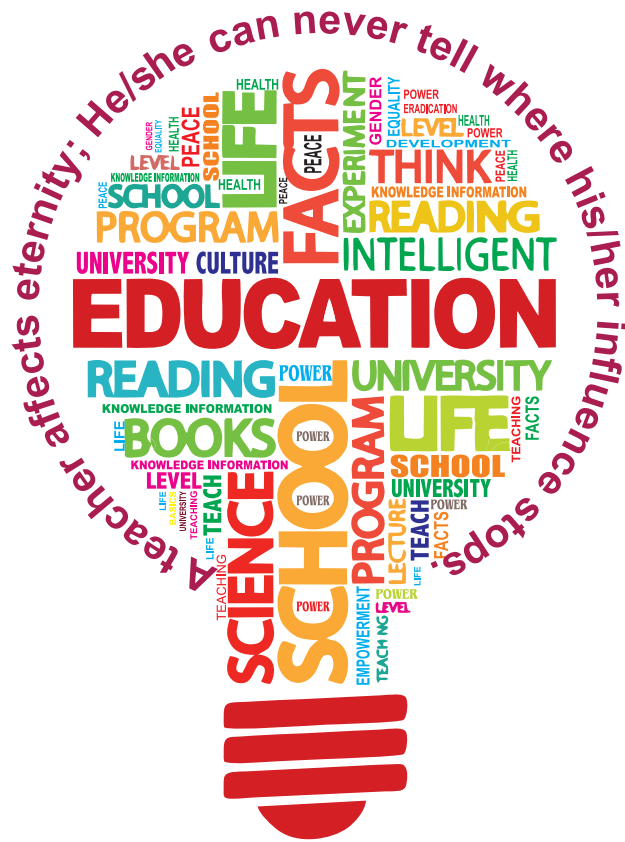




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## *Transforming Bihar's Districts*

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### *Disclaimer*

This inspirational book is a biographical narrative that reveals the unique thought process, grand vision, untiring efforts and enthralling anecdotes of top achievers in the field of private education in Bihar.

Every article is based on the information shared by the featured person in a freewheeling chat with the author. On certain occasions, additional information and photographs were provided by them through their representatives or sourced from the featured organisation's website or its publication available in the public domain.

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## PREFACE

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**T**oday, people from Bihar are the backbone of Indian administrative machinery. They have been doing exceptionally well in the corporate world as well as in different areas of scientific research, medical and engineering. Credit goes to those selfless souls who truly cared about serving the society and worked tirelessly to upgrade the lives of people around them.

Towards the end of the 20th century, certain people took it upon themselves to prepare the future generations of Bihar to meet the challenges of globalisation as well as to make the most of the opportunities it was supposed to bring to the country.

There was a new awakening. Bihar witnessed yet another phase of reform – introduction of English medium schools imparting modern education. Everyone who decided to make a contribution did it for self satisfaction... no matter whether they belonged to a princely state... or came from a family that has been producing top professionals for generations.

As we are approaching the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, we decided to look for those unsung heroes and document their efforts for posterity. We travelled the length-and-breadth of Bihar and came across several individuals who braved the challenges and continued the mission. We zeroed in on indigenously developed CBSE-affiliated schools and selected one top institution from each district.

This book, "Educational Alchemists: Transforming Bihar's Districts," celebrates the legacy of twenty visionary educators who transformed socio-economic conditions in their neighbourhood through quality education.

As you flip through pages of the book, you will come across stories of several real life heroes including someone who was a UGC scholar with a PhD degree at an early age of 23 but decided to forego a lucrative career in research and academics to serve the society. The book also traces the cases of top corporate professionals who quit their jobs to give positive direction to hundreds of youth in small towns. While certain edupreneurs came forward and established quality schools offering modern education, several educationists also resigned from top institutions in big cities and returned home to serve children in their neighbourhood.

We present this book to you with great expectations that it will help shine a light on such a dynamic region of India, demonstrating that the challenges and opportunities confronting Bihar are unique and worthy of discussion by academics, businesses and governments.

—IMRAN MOJIB

## FOREWORD

**“Education is not merely the imparting of knowledge;  
it is the key to unlocking the vast potential within every individual!”**

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**Ashit Kukian**  
CEO, Radio City

**A**s we delve into the pages of 'Educational Alchemists Transforming Bihar's Districts,' we embark on a journey through the educational landscape of Bihar, a state committed to the transformative power of learning.

Over the past decade, Bihar has witnessed a remarkable shift in its approach to education. The rise of private schools has played a pivotal role in shaping the educational narrative, offering not just classrooms but vibrant spaces where young minds can thrive and evolve. In this Coffee Table Book, we celebrate these institutions that have become beacons of quality education, providing a platform for holistic development.

Each school featured in these pages represents more than just an institution; it symbolises a commitment to nurturing young talents, fostering a globally-inclusive community, and providing endless extracurricular opportunities for character development. These educational alchemists are moulding the future of Bihar, one student at a time.

However, we must acknowledge the challenges that persist. Disparities in infrastructure, varying student-teacher ratios, and the quest for quality education create concerns for parents seeking the best for their children. This book serves not only as a tribute to the achievements of these schools but also as a guide for parents navigating the important decision of choosing the right educational path for their wards.

Our Radio City team has embarked on an initiative to showcase a visual and editorial journey through the rich history and legacy of these schools. This book is our effort to honour and showcase the dedication and passion of educators who play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Bihar.

May this compilation serve as a source of inspiration and information, igniting conversations that transcend words. Let us collectively strive towards a future where every child in Bihar has access to quality education, unlocking their limitless potential.

— **Ashit Kukian**  
CEO, Radio City





Constant value-addition has kept the school at the forefront. We focus on hiring excellent teachers, innovative teaching, advanced infrastructure and supportive technology. Similarly, we make all efforts to inculcate the core values of humanity in our students. Together, the policy has helped us create gems year after year.

- V.K. Vicky



*St. Paul's High School, Hajipur*

# Inspiring Young Minds Through STEM



Established in 1989, St. Paul's High School, Hajipur, remains unique as its R&D Department encourages scientific intrigue among the young children. It strives to provide a practical approach to learning through designing assignments, assessments, chapter upshots and various hands-on activities

**"It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."**

**T**his age-old proverb has inspired millions of people across the world to make a contribution to remove the darkness of illiteracy, poverty, discrimination, corruption... in their vicinity.

This adage left an indelible mark on an educated youth of the historic city of Vaishali too. It was the era of 1960s, when Vijay Kumar realised that people were going through abject poverty and facing discrimination due to their illiteracy. He decided to do whatever possible in his individual capacity to remove the darkness from life of the unlettered. With a mission to kindle the flame of education in every house, he made a humble beginning by imparting

education to children in his neighbourhood. Despite numerous obstacles he continued with the mission and kept expanding the reach.

Vijay Kumar's mission and conviction got stronger when he got married to Radha Kumar, who supported him with great enthusiasm. Their eagerness and ardent interest in the pursuit of reaching out to maximum people, made them realise the need of a good school that could go beyond just teaching academics.

The dream came true in 1989, when the husband-wife duo established the St. Paul's High School — the first English medium school in Hajipur. Under the guidance of the visionary leader Radha Kumar, the school continued to prosper.

*Late Dr Radha Kumar*



## MILESTONES

- 1989 : St. Paul's High School, Hajipur, was established.
- 2002 : St. Paul's High School's news campus was established in Izra, Hajipur. It got the CBSE-affiliation till Grade 10.
- 2002 : Academic activities started at the St. Paul's High School, Izra, Hajipur.
- 2015 : The CBSE, New Delhi, extended the school's affiliation up to Grade 12.
- 2011 : Neev, the playschool was established.
- 2017 : St. Paul's Academy, Meenapur, Hajipur, was established.
- 2018 : Academic activities started from Grade 1-8 at St. Paul's Academy, Meenapur, Hajipur.
- 2019 : The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) awarded affiliation to St Paul's Academy, Meenapur, Hajipur.
- 2019 : Ranked 9th Best Co-Ed Day School in Bihar by Education World India School Ranking 2019-20.

*Vikalp Virani*



Today, it has become a group of schools offering students an option to study in a school affiliated with Bihar Board, CBSE or CICSE, besides getting a strong foundation at a play school. Together, the schools are helping thousands of children to excel in academics and acquire skills that will help them enhance the physical, artistic and emotional aspects of their life and survive in this competitive world.

V.K. Vicky, the illustrious son of the late Vijay Kumar and Radha Kumar, continues to lead the St. Paul's High School, Hajipur, to fulfill the dreams of his parents.

### *The Journey*

Recalling his association with the school, Vicky said that the journey started after completion of his studies. He had the choice of making a good career in the field of engineering as he had studied M.Tech. But, true to the expression 'like father, like son', he too decided to do something for the development of his native place, which was not better than a village then.

"In line with my parents' life-long mission, I also decided to do something for children in my native place. I realised the need to prepare our next generation to meet the challenges posed by life in the metro cities, where our youths are bound to migrate. Wherever I went, I heard people saying 'he is from a rural background.' I made up my mind to prepare

the next generation to compete with other children. They should be confident and must be able to say, "Fine, I am from a rural background, but I am not less capable than the competitors from metro cities'," he said.

He decided to provide them a platform that will prepare them for the future. As soon as he shared the vision with his mother, she agreed immediately to make a foray. They decided to set up a new campus which will be affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi.

Soon, they started looking for an ideal location for the new campus of the school and ultimately decided to establish the new school in Izra, Hajipur. They purchased a plot of land and started construction of the school building as per the norms set by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi.

As soon as the campus was ready, the management applied for the CBSE-affiliation. As it fulfilled all the criteria, the CBSE granted the school affiliation till Grade 10 in 2002.

With parents' repeated requests, especially parents of girl students, the school applied to the CBSE, New Delhi, to extend its affiliation up to Grade 12, which was granted in 2015.



“There was a long gap between the CBSE affiliation for Grade 10 and 12. That was because we wanted to strengthen the facilities provided to students from Nursery to Grade 10 before extending the academic activities up to Grade 12. As soon as the CBSE granted us affiliation in 2015, we started academic activities for Grade 12. Initially we started with science stream, followed by adding commerce streams the next year and humanities after a few years,” he said.

The school’s outstanding results in Grade 12 Commerce and Humanities streams have placed it among the top-ranked institutions at zonal and national level. The latest facility added to the school is a mega sports complex spread over a plot of 55,000 square feet.

### ***Neev – The Foundation***

In 2011, the school management realised that they were not doing justice to students by keeping kids and grown-up children in the same campus. Kids love to run around, keep shouting and recite in a high pitch voice.

It was decided to start a separate school for kids and give them a proper environment needed for their foundation. A play school was established in 2011 in a separate building and this campus was dedicated to students from Grade 1 and above.

The playschool was aptly named Neev (Hindi for foundation), as it was established with the aim to give a strong foundation to the students by providing the highest standard of early childhood education.

This colourful centre provides children all the tools and aids which foster their all round development. The place is equipped with innovative teaching aids ranging from puzzles, blocks, flash cards to hammer sets and beads. Music & dance classes, craft workshops and painting sessions are conducted in this beautifully set institution to nurture their talent.

Neev Director Indu Kumar said, “Several researches have shown that early years learning plays a crucial role in the development of a child. Thus, we conduct a wide range of activities to stimulate their mind and inculcate independent behaviour.”

### ***St. Paul's Academy***

V.K. Vicky was convinced that innovation is must to keep one in the forefront. Thus they decided to offer something new to students in the form of Hajipur’s first school affiliated to The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE). Before launching the school, they did a survey. The result was not very encouraging as the majority of the people favoured a CBSE-affiliated school.

“But we had decided to make a new beginning thus we put up a canopy at the site for the proposed school for registration. We were surprised to witness an overwhelming response from the parents. Soon, about 800 students registered,” he recalled.

Encouraged by the overwhelming response we founded the St. Paul’s Academy, in 2017 in Meenapur, Hajipur. Academic activities started from Grade 1-8 from the session 2018-19.





The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) awarded affiliation in 2019 after a virtual inspection, due to the pandemic caused by Covid-19. The physical inspection was carried over after the pandemic got over. Currently the school has over 1500 students.

### ***Winning Confidence***

M.K. Vicky believes that a school is a part of the service industry. To remain at the forefront, one has to keep improving. That can be achieved only through innovation. Thus the school management keeps adding innovative ways to meet the expectation of the parents.

“Parents’ confidence keeps you on your toes. You have to maintain their trust. It is like any private sector organisation where you need to maintain that trust. Thus we are ready to listen to parents 24-hours a day,” he said.

Explaining, Vicky pointed out that unlike olden days when parents had to walk-in to the principal’s office to put up their complaints, today they have various channels to communicate with the school. They can get in touch with the school authorities through phone, SMS, WhatsApp or the school’s mobile App. The school’s liasoning team is always ready to listen to them and resolve the issue as soon as possible.

Usually schools assign one or two persons to take care of a parent's grievances. At St. Paul’s group of schools, there is one in-charge for each floor of the school. He is called floor in-charge or class

coordinator. His job is to maintain coordination between teachers, students and parents.

Every floor in-charge has been assigned eight classes and he is responsible for all 320 students as the school has a maximum of 40 students in a class. Their job includes taking attendance, meeting students, talking to them, listening to their complaints, if they are facing any difficulties to resolve it, to counsel them if needed.

“We motivate students to share their problems with the in-charge, before going to parents, because the in-charge has the expertise to resolve the school-related problems. Children’s complaints are minute, but it becomes a burden if ignored. Thus I have asked them to pen it down, and reach to the core of the problem,” he said.

### ***Marching Ahead***

St. Paul’s High School was the first CBSE-affiliated school in Vaishali district to introduce Humanities stream at Plus-2 level. Also, the school has the credit of being the first in the district to offer a fully digital school library, besides offering a highly advanced and well-equipped 3D Lab. The school stands out from other institutions because of its Mega sports complex spread over 55,000 square feet of land.

Vicky said constant value-addition has kept the school at the forefront. What differentiate one school from another are not just the academic results, but also the efforts to achieve academic excellence with holistic development.

He said, "For academic excellence, we focus on hiring excellent teachers, innovative teaching, advanced infrastructure and supportive technology. Similarly, we believe in the values and make all efforts to inculcate the core values of humanity in our students. Together, the policy has helped us create gems year after year."

He said that the school takes the learning aspects of a student very seriously and in today's world, science and technology plays an important role in day-to-day lives. Thus schools under the group have dedicated Science Lab equipped with the best equipment in the industry. From high quality test tubes and beakers, to the best in class microscopes and telescopes, are some of the instruments used to aid the children explore the different subjects in science such as physics and chemistry through experiments under the supervision of our highly qualified and experienced teachers.

However, what make it different are the additional facilities like 3D Science and Math lab that were introduced at the school eight years ago. The 3D Science and Math lab makes learning come alive, and helps students understand and relate to the abstract and tough concepts with ease. It facilitates an educator to bring about the best learning by combining concepts with real-life 3D simulations and visual representations. The third dimension of depth and distance makes things seem much more real than a picture. It leaves students in awe of the subject matter.

### **R&D**

The school is also unique as it has a Research and Development Department (R&D), which is exclusively dedicated to encourage the scientific intrigue among the young minds. The R&D department strives to provide a practical approach to learning through designing assignments, assessments, chapter upshots and various hands on activities. The R& D team prepares different types of assessment on regular basis for vivid assessments throughout the year.

Vicky said, "We also encourage self-study and self-assessment. We keep telling students to study the

subject matter at home in advance. If they go through the lesson once or twice, they will certainly learn about the subject matter to a certain extent. The entire concept will be clear in the classroom as the students have the option to ask the teacher to clear the doubt, if any. Just doing homework is not self-study. Similarly we have an online test facility for students of Grade 9-10, mainly for science and math."

Another outstanding feature is the language lab. As per the directives of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and needs of the new era, the school has various scholastic and co-scholastic cells in order to instill practical and communicative skills among the students. Students are encouraged to enhance their skills by participating in debate, dramatics, group discussion, quiz competition, anchoring, news reading, news writing.

"Good communication skills are indispensable for the success of any profession. Language laboratories play a central role in the language learning process. The school has a state-of-art Language Lab with innovative tools to assist students with most appropriate pronunciation and boost their imagination skills in various languages including English, Hindi, Urdu and Sanskrit," he added.

### **Future Plans**

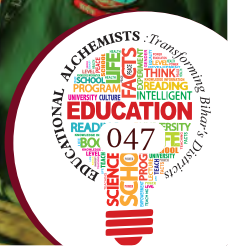
From 1996 to 2023, it has been a long journey for Vicky. Now he wants his son, Vikalp Virani, to take this journey forward.

Vikalp Virani has studied law. Currently, he is looking after the day-to-day affairs of the St. Paul's High School, Izra, Hajipur, which is affiliated to the CBSE, New Delhi.

"He has not been given a free hand yet. He has to prove himself. He is too young now. He has time with him to learn the basics and get the exposure outside. He must make meaningful contributions for the betterment of the school. I am confident he will prove himself worthy of carrying out this glorious legacy," said Vicky.



*Indu Kumar*



**and  
the journey  
continues ...**





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