



भारतीय इकोनोमी,  
सुल्तानात ऑफ ओमान

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS INDIAN SCHOOLS OMAN

## NEWSLETTER VOLUME I

# VISION 2020





## Chairman's Message

Dear All,

It is my pleasure to introduce a new initiative from the Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman – a quarterly newsletter, presenting updates from the Board and the entire Indian School network. We, as facilitators of our community schools, seek to connect better with the community, teachers and parents, and provide all with a broader understanding of the actions and activities undertaken by the schools and the BoD.

Our ultimate vision and aim is to ensure that every child from our schools undergoes transformative learning and is equipped with the knowledge, skills and well-being to find their identity and purpose in life. Now, where do we begin?

While the educational system itself is vast, and in need of continual review and update, there are some areas that are more critical, timely and relevant now than ever before, affecting every stakeholder. We intend to build on these areas with concrete strategies and collaborative efforts.

It is estimated that in a few years, around 45% of the activities that we currently perform will be done by machines. In the era of the fourth industrial revolution, our best assets – our minds, our reasoning and therefore, our cognitive jobs, are under threat of being replaced by Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Automation.

How can our children sustain and flourish in such a world and economy? By being future-ready NOW!

This is why our schools need to be child-centric & to have a child-first approach. It is time to transform our schools from centers of information to centers of holistic education, and make them places where our children are readied academically, physically and mentally to face a new future. This shall be achieved through a

multi-pronged approach that includes enhanced intrinsic and external motivation for teachers; better teaching and learning criteria; increasing the role and presence of counselors and, most importantly, making our children self-aware, self-empowered and in pursuit of excellence.

On the academic front, we are identifying and implementing new initiatives that can significantly improve access to core academics, enhance preparation for competitive examinations, and ensure consistent improvement. Simultaneously, we are developing new ideas for co-curricular, extra-curricular and soft skills and personality development for our children. In the pages ahead, you will come across our vision for the educational system as well as the projects that we have already implemented in the past few months in line with this vision.

One of our primary focuses will also be on our teachers. It is their commitment and service that determine whether a child is merely being instructed or educated. Every one of them has spent years in academia accumulating a wealth of expertise and experience. The BoD is committed to underline this realisation through initiatives that are aimed specifically at the teaching community such as appreciating the hard work of faculty and empowering and motivating them to be their best versions in order to similarly mold children as empowered and future-ready beings.

It's equally important to continue the initiatives of the previous board pertaining to Academics, Safety & Infrastructural Development and also give momentum to the critical initiatives taken up by them and stabilise these as permanent, running projects of the Board/schools.

In the coming years, we hope to streamline all the processes and bring about a true communion among the management, teachers, parents and children.

We do hope that this newsletter as well the future issues shall set the path to greater synergy and advancement.

With thanks,  
**Dr. Baby Sam Saamuel**  
Chairman



## Educational Advisor's Message

Dear All,

I consider this a privilege, and it gives me immense pleasure to be a part of this Quarterly Newsletter, which is yet another initiative from the new Board that took over in April 2018 under the chairmanship of Dr. Baby Sam Saamuel. Indian Schools in Oman has a three-tier administrative system. The Board of Directors is the apex body of the Indian Schools in the Sultanate of Oman. There are about forty-six thousand students studying across twenty Indian Schools in Oman as of today; thanks to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the wise and visionary ruler of this great nation for his magnanimity in facilitating the educational needs of the children of Indian diaspora living in this part of the Gulf region.

The Indian Schools in Oman are unique for several reasons, the major being that they are community schools. The Board strives to do its best to provide quality education to all the Indian students at affordable cost. The Board is very keen that no child is deprived of his/her education for any reason whatsoever. To ensure the quality of education imparted in schools, appropriate measures are taken. Well qualified and experienced teachers are recruited from time to time to meet the requirements; thanks to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower for their unstinted support. Teachers are provided with appropriate in-service training courses and workshops regularly for keeping them updated with the latest trend in this ever changing education scenario. This has indeed reflected in the performances of students not only in the CBSE Board exams but also in the careers they have chosen subsequently. In the recently declared results of CBSE Class XII exams, two students of Indian schools in Oman stood first as Gulf toppers. Ms. Aliva Das of Indian School Muscat and Mr. Vegi Manas of Indian School Sohar secured 98.6% marks to bring this laurel to Indian schools in Oman.

It is imperative to mention that parents are the backbone of any community school and Indian Schools in Oman are no exception. There is a need to have a medium of communication between the Board and the parent community. I am certain that this Newsletter would serve the purpose of reaching directly to the parents. It would keep updating all its stakeholders with the latest happenings in the Indian school system in the Sultanate and also new initiatives and policy decisions taken by the Board from time to time.

It is sincerely believed that every stakeholder finds some time to read the Newsletter on a regular basis.

With best wishes,  
**M P Vinoba**  
Sr.Principal & Edn.Advisor

## Statistics at a glance



## Introduction



भारतीय विद्यापीठ  
इण्डियन स्कूल ऑफ ओमान

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS INDIAN SCHOOLS OMAN

The Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman is the apex policymaking body for all the Indian Schools in the Sultanate. Currently, the board governs 20 Indian Schools, with more than 46,000 students on the rolls. The Board, as empowered by the Bye-Laws approved by the Ministry of Education of Oman, establishes Indian Schools to impart education to the students of the Indian community residing within the Sultanate. The primary objective of the Board of Directors is to ensure that every Indian expatriate child in the Sultanate of Oman has access to quality primary and secondary education that's at par with the national standards in India. The schools function and operate as non-political, secular, non-profit-making and self-sustaining institutions, with the sole aim of serving the educational needs of the Indian expatriates.

The Board of Directors consists of eminent members of the Indian community in the Sultanate of Oman with varying professional and entrepreneurial expertise that render their voluntary services for the development of the future generation of Indian expatriates in Oman. This policymaking body consists of both elected and nominated members, and takes collective decisions with the sole objective of the development of the educational system for the benefit of the Indian expatriate community in the Sultanate. Across the years, the Board has evolved into a participative management system by involving various stakeholders from the community such as parents, expert resources etc. in developing various projects for Indian schools. Ably supported by the Indian community, the Board strives to make sure that the educational system of the Indian Schools in the Sultanate reaches greater heights in molding better individuals.

## The Board of Directors



**Dr. Baby Sam Saamuel**  
*Chairman*



**Dr. C. M. Najeeb**  
*Vice Chairman*



**Mr. Mohammad Sabir Raza Faizi**  
*Finance Director*



**Mr. Sirajudeen Nhelat**  
*Director*



**Mr. Selvichen Jacob**  
*Director*



**Mr. Nitheesh Sundaresan**  
*Director*



**Mrs. Asawari Deoras**  
*Director*



**Mr. Sabir Yumkhaibam**  
*Director*



**Mr. Prabhakar Vithalrao Tijare**  
*Director*



**Mr. Ahamed Rayees**  
*Director*



**Mr. Harshendu Shah**  
*Director*



**Mr. Alkesh Joshi**  
*Director*



**Mr. Ajaykumar J.**  
*Director*



**Mr. Jaikish Pavithran**  
*Director*



**Mr. Vinoba M.P.**  
*Senior Principal & Educational Advisor*

# Principals & Presidents



**Mr. D Nageshwar Rao**  
Principal



**Mr. Alkesh Joshi**  
President



**Mr. Dominic John**  
Principal



**Mr. Fazal Ur Rahman**  
President



**Mr. Trevor Brown**  
Principal



**Dr. Debashish C Bhattacharya**  
President



**Mrs. Sanchita Verma**  
Principal



**Mr. Abraham George**  
President



**Mr. Prabakaran P**  
Principal



**Mr. Jolly Mathews**  
President



**Mrs. Narayanikutty**  
Principal



**Mr. Mohammad Ameen**  
President



**Mrs. Leena Francis**  
Principal



**Mr. Moidu M.K.**  
President



**Mr. Santhakumar Dasari**  
Principal



**Mr. Shaheen K.K.**  
President



**Mr. Shaik Ismail Shareef**  
Principal



**Mr. Siddique Hassan**  
President



**Mrs. Shanthi Krishnan**  
Head Mistress



**Dr. Abdul Jaleel**  
President



**Mr. Biju Varghese**  
Principal



**Mr. Abdulla Paneguri**  
President



**Mr. Shyam Sreedharan**  
Acting Principal



**Mr. Rassal C.H.**  
President



**Mr. Harish**  
Principal



**Mr. Lal Daniel**  
President



**Mrs. Lekha**  
Principal



**Mr. Rejjal K**  
President



**Mr. Regi Oommen**  
Principal



**Dr. Munirudheen A**  
President



**Mr. Mohanan P**  
Principal



**M. Abdul Kalam**  
President



**Mr. Suresh**  
Principal



**Dr. Thomas Varghese**  
President



**Dr. Rajeev Kumar Chauhan**  
Principal



**Mr. Ajaykumar J.**  
President



**Dr. Sridevi Thasnath**  
Principal



**Mr. Jaikish Pavithran**  
President



**Mrs. Papri Ghosh**  
Principal



**Mr. Ahamed Rayees**  
President

# VISION 2020

Vision 2020 has been developed by the Board of Directors for 2018-2020 with the ultimate objective of ensuring that every child from the Indian schools undergoes transformative learning and is equipped with the knowledge, skills and well-being to realize his/her identity and purpose in life. Vision 2020, thus, lays greater emphasis on the concept of holistic education. Holistic education is based on the principle that each child should be nurtured and educated through both academic and non-academic means, with the focus on the overall development of the child.

With this objective in mind, Vision 2020 is designed to achieve considerable enhancement in the following areas:-

- Academic development
- Extra-Curricular development
- Psychological/emotional development
- Physical development

To gain broader insights and valuable feedback, we have conducted multiple surveys of our stakeholders. These include the Training Need Identification Survey among Teachers, and the Academic Survey among Teachers, Parents and Students.

A detailed plan to realize Vision 2020 is being readied from these surveys and our understanding. Accordingly, diverse initiatives have been envisaged for accomplishing the Vision 2020 objectives. Some of the projects that are underway include Teachers Training Programs, Competitive Exam preparation plans, Academic Council formation, International Career Fair, Gavel Clubs in all schools, Peer learning programs, Common question paper system, Manuals on Academics, Counseling, Physical Education, Fine Arts, Charity Clubs, e-magazines in all schools and many more.

Out of these initiatives, the following two important initiatives have already been launched during Synergy 2018.

## Gift a Book, Help the Needy, Save the Environment

The 'Gift a Book, Help the Needy, Save the Environment' scheme is yet another initiative that has been implemented. Aimed at developing social responsibility, this activity by Indian school students intends to promote efficient and optimal use of existing resources. The scheme endorses the ideals of Reuse, Reduce and Retain while teaching children to value their textbooks and minimize wastage.

At the beginning of each academic year, the schools shall issue a circular to parents explaining the objectives and arrangements of the 'Gift a Book: Help the Needy, and Save the Environment' scheme. The students joining the scheme commit to preserving their textbooks so that the next batch of students can reuse the textbooks. The scheme shall not only benefit the environment but also reduce expenses and help the needy.



Gift a book initiative launched by Mrs. Siddiqah Abdul Majeed Al Lawatiya - Director International Schools Office, Ministry of Education, Sultanate of Oman along with Mr. Harshendu Shah, Director BoD

## Young Communitarian of Indian Schools (YCIS)

As already elaborated, our primary focus is to ensure Holistic Education in our schools. And what better way to inculcate values than Voluntary Social Service? It offers a third dimension to education by allowing students to contribute through their services to the cause of the community. It empowers students to feel, experience and understand different walks of social life while also helping them to develop their personality and ultimately to become responsible human beings.

In order to inculcate the habit of selfless volunteering among the students of Indian Schools, it has been decided to constitute an award titled 'The Young Communitarian of Indian Schools. This award will be given to those students who walk the extra mile of serving the community, assisting the needy and preserving the environment. In a nutshell, this award will be conferred upon those students who have exhibited commendable social commitment and responsibility as one of their primary goals in life.

We are hopeful of developing many Young Communitarians in the Indian Schools in the years to come.



YCIS inaugurated by Mrs. Khadija Ali Mohamed Al Salamia -Assistant Director General, Private Schools, Ministry of Education, Sultanate of Oman along with Mr. Ahamed Rayees, Director BoD

## Upcoming Initiatives

### Avenir 2018

AVENIR 2018 is a mega career fair being organized for all Indian Schools in the Sultanate of Oman on the 11th & 12th October 2018 at Indian School Al Maabela. The escalating need of career guidance among high school students has prompted the Board of Directors, Indian schools, Oman to initiate the mission of a comprehensive career assistance programme - Avenir 2018, organized for the students of all Indian Schools in Oman. We intend to provide a platform for around 40000 students, teachers and parents of the Indian diaspora to explore the vistas of various prospective courses and career opportunities.

Representatives from reputed colleges, universities, vocational and technical institutions in India, Oman, GCC and abroad are invited for the career expo. For more information, please visit

<http://www.aveniroman.com/>

### Counseling Service 24 x 7 x 365

The Board of Directors understands the concerns of students and parents alike with respect to the future of our children. As such, a timely provision of guidance would be of great help for these stakeholders to overcome various forms of concerns. Therefore, the Board of Directors has instituted a 24 x 7 x 365 professional counseling helpline for the benefit of students of Indian schools. This initiative is expected to help large number of students to tide over difficult times through appropriate counseling.

## Directors' Corner



Dear All,

2018, like all the previous years, has been a period to rejoice after the excellent performances posted by all the institutions of the Indian Schools in Oman. All the school managements have expressed their delight and satisfaction at their students' performances at the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 10 and Class 12 examinations. Now that the celebrations are over and a new academic term has commenced, it must be emphasized that everyone associated with the BoD and School Managements should not rest on their laurels but focus on the years ahead and strive for better performances in ALL areas. The Indian Schools in Oman have, over the years, carved sizeable niches for themselves but having said this, it must be pointed out that there are certain areas that need to be looked into and tackled on a war footing.

The BoD of Indian Schools have, over the years, endeavored to provide the best of services to the nearly 46,000 students studying in 20 schools, which are supported by a 2000-plus strong teaching staff. These include setting up of new schools, special efforts to do away with the afternoon shifts, creation of a Teacher's Forum to address their needs and grievances, introduction of innovative methods of teaching, provision of an excellent and safe transportation system for all schools and introduction of safety audits in these institutions to impart road safety education within the schools premises. In addition, the main objective of the BoD and School Managements has been to educate our children to excel in life with exemplary values and goodness, upholding the unity of India. Through education, they can be taught to help less privileged children who urgently need help from all possible sources.

The learning of the Arabic language would be a boon for Oman-based students who could someday follow in the footsteps of their parents and seek employment in the 30 odd Arabic speaking nations in Africa and the Middle East. This would not only assist them in their job seeking efforts but also help them communicate easily and effortlessly with Arab speakers in the region.

In spite of the various measures taken to identify problematic areas and resolve issues, there are still difficulties faced by the students in all schools which should be redressed at the earliest. Students and parents are encouraged to bring issues to the notice and to list them on THINGS TO DO. With each passing year, we can expect new challenges and hurdles to surmount. The key factor to note is that we should at no time let our collective guards down; instead, utilise our energies, focus and determination to overcome all odds and achieve good results in all areas at all times.

**Dr. C.M. Najeeb**  
Vice Chairman

***“Books are the means  
by which we build  
bridges between  
cultures”***

***– Dr. Sarvepalli  
Radhakrishnan***

## Directors' Corner



Dear All,

Indian schools in Oman is a classic example of community schools. Presently, there are 20 Indian schools being operational, having 46000 students and around 2000 teachers. This is one of its own kind in the whole of GCC. The Board of Directors (BoD) School Management Committees (SMC) ensure smooth functioning and impact best education to all students at affordable price. It is the policy of BOD to make sure that every Indian student gets education irrespective of parents' financial status.

In the current era of technological explosion, it is always a challenge to prepare our future generations to meet the challenges.

However, it's with great pride that we could let the world know that Indian Schools in Oman have grown beyond the expectation of everyone in providing the best possible education to equip our children with required knowledge, skill and attitude that help them to scale greater heights in life. Of course, it's equally challenging for the Board to run these institutions of learning since there has been a steady growth in the number of new admissions to Indian Schools. This situation not only resulted in stretching existing resources to maximum capacity but also forced administration to look for avenues to establish new schools to meet the demands. Such bold steps to establish new schools are backed by the parent fraternity through their active participation in these initiatives.

I'm confident that in the years to come, these schools will become centres of excellence, spreading light into the lives of thousands of youngsters as they experience success in their personal and professional life.

**Mr. MSR Faizi**  
Finance Director

## Resource Development

### Student Counselors' Training on "Tele Counseling" at Mumbai

Under the aegis of Board of Directors of Indian Schools Oman, eight student counselors from various Indian Schools attended training on tele-counseling for three days in Mumbai from June 28<sup>th</sup> 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

The counselors who attended the Training programme were:

1. Dr. Benny Paduvan (ISM)
2. Mr. Preshob. V (ISM)
3. Ms. Bincy M. Ezahac (ISM)
4. Ms. Tanuja Sharma (ISM)
5. Mr. Bejoy Kurian (ISG)
6. Ms. Jovita Lobo (ISG)
7. Ms. Priya John (ISML) and
8. Mrs. Anumol Linz (ISAM)



## International Conference on STEM Education

An International STEM Conference was organised at Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey, between 8th June 2018 and 10th June 2018. Mr. Gajendra Varathan, AVP (Academics), attended the conference.

The conference covered various facets of STEM including Promoting STEM Education through Student Motivation, High school students' knowledge about daylighting STEM skills, Innovative Question generating across STEM, Tales as tools for STEM learning, How an inquiry-based approach may be used to teach STEM within foundation phase, the effect of STEAM, STEM with ART, Monitoring of talented students trained in STEM Education etc.



## International Science Education Conference 2018



The International Science Education Conference 2018 (ISEC 2018 Singapore)-- organised by the Ministry of Education and the Natural Sciences and Science Education Academic Group (NSSE), National Institute of Education, Singapore under the theme "Re-researching science education: Same issues from different lenses" -- aimed to provide a platform for intellectual dialogue on issues in science education using alternative lenses. It was attended by Mrs. Jona Anthony Ambrose, Ms. Preetha Vinod, and Ms. Priya Murali of Indian School Muscat.

## Training for Administrators

Ms. Bindhu Saji and Ms. Bijimol Sebastian of Indian School Muscat participated in the Quality Vidyalaya Leadership Programme held between 25 -29 June, 2018 at Bangalore. It was organised under the aegis of the Learners Confluence for Senior Faculty members and administrators of schools.



Mrs. Priya Murali – Vice Principal – Primary Section participated in a three-day Awareness Workshop on School Accreditation Standard in Mumbai. This was organised by the National Accreditation Board for Education & Training, QCI (An autonomous body under DIPP, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India) The workshop was organised on 28 – 30 June, 2018 at Mumbai.

# Indian School Al Awabi



Indian School Al Awabi (ISAA), a new flagship school under the Board of Directors, will be yet another boon for the Indian diaspora in the Sultanate of Oman. It is envisioned to provide excellent learning experience with extraordinary facilities that encompass 21st century education. This school, which is expected to be the home for another 3500 students in its current capacity, has state-of-the-art infrastructure offering secured campus amenities with high quality educational opportunities and cutting edge classroom technologies. The hi-tech facilities are coupled with character development of pupils through provision of a trusting and caring environment that respects diversity. Thus, this institution of learning is visualized to poise towards making the learning experiences of Indian students truly world-class.

The school building with 18000 sq m of built-in area will have laboratories with modern facilities, Multipurpose Hall, Swimming pool, Gymnasium and other allied facilities that could potentially enhance the holistic development of each student. The school is nearing the completion of its construction and is likely to be operational from the next academic year i.e., 2019-2020. This facility is located within about 15 km radius from residential centres such as Ghala, Al Khuwair, and Ghubra. With the motto of 'Molding Young Minds', the school is conceptualized to achieve the vision of transforming children into empowered global citizens and life-long learners through academic excellence and holistic education.



## New Campus & Facilities



المدرسة الهندية - الرستاق

INDIAN SCHOOL RUSTAQ



INDIAN SCHOOL  
AL BURAIMI



Indian School Ibra

Knowledge is Power

# NEWS CORNER

## Indian Schools in Oman outshone even the best National Results

The Class X and XII CBSE Board Results of 2018 have set an all-time record for Indian Schools in Oman with the highest percentage of high achievers, setting another benchmark for excellence in academics. Indian Schools in Oman have outshone even the best of national results of Class XII with an overwhelmingly impressive pass percentage of 98.69. In Class X results, Indian Schools in Oman have achieved an incredible 100% pass rate.

Indian Schools do not put any restriction on admissions and every child who seeks admission finds a place irrespective of academic performance. Teachers make persistent efforts to enhance the academic levels of children by providing remedial and additional coaching on off days and evening hours.

The 'Gurukulam' introduced in many of the Indian Schools in the interior regions have helped the students to perform well in their board exams. The children were given opportunity to stay in the school campuses for almost a month before the board exams, while the teachers meticulously monitored and assisted with their studies day in and day out. This has certainly enhanced the confidence level of students and enabled them to come out in flying colours.

## Best Teacher Award by Ministry of Education, Sultanate of Oman

As part of the 'Teacher's Day Ceremony', the Ministry of Education of the Sultanate of Oman honoured outstanding Indian School teachers for excellence in teaching, motivating students and developing individual skills. Mr. Avinash Kumar Mathur (India School Muscat), Mrs. Lekha Jackson (Indian School Al Seeb) and Mrs. N. Sujatha (Indian School Sur) were the proud recipients of the prestigious Excellence in Teaching Award of the Ministry of Education.



Mr. Avinash Kumar Mathur  
India School Muscat



Mrs. Lekha Jackson  
Indian School Al Seeb



Mrs. N. Sujatha  
Indian School Sur

## Visit By Director – (Vocational & Training) CBSE

Dr. Biswajit Saha, Director (Vocational & Training), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) paid a visit to the office of Board of Directors and had a fruitful discussion with Chairman – BoD and Educational Advisor. Discussion mainly covered areas like training and development programs for teachers, Train-the-trainer program for teachers, and Entrepreneurial Development programs for students. The meeting concluded with a positive note that CBSE would provide wholehearted assistance to Indian schools in Oman.



## Majan College in association with BoD organised Leadership Training Programme for Indian School students

As part of its corporate social responsibility, Majan University College has initiated the Majan Youth Development Programme in order to enable youth to identify and discover their true potential and to develop leadership skills such as problem solving, team building and communication skills.

The programme, organized at Majan University college auditorium on 15 May 2018, was attended by 30 students from Indian Schools. Certificates and mementos were given to the participants at the end of the programme by Dr. Maha Kobeil, Dean & CEO of Majan University College.



## Indian School Board organized Synergy 2018

The Board of Directors (BoD), Indian Schools in Oman, recently organized 'Synergy 2018' – a meeting of Presidents and Members of the Management Committees of all the Indian Schools in Oman. The event, held on Saturday, 5th May 2018 at Indian School Muscat auditorium, was aimed to enhance the symbiosis and synergy between the crucial administrators of the educational system.

H.E. Indra Mani Pandey, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and also launched the Board's website revamped with additional user-friendly features. The Guests of honor at the event were Mrs. Khadija Ali Mohamed Al Salamiya, Assistant Director General for the Educational Affairs and Mrs. Siddiqa Abdul Majeed Al Lawatiya, Director, International Schools Office, Ministry of Education.



## Indian School Board allotted seats to all applicants

Like in the past years, the Indian School Board managed to provide a seat to every child who applied for admissions to its schools. A total number of 4422 children applied for admission and were allotted seats through the online random draw system in the Indian Schools of the capital area for the academic year 2018-2019. The number covers admissions from KG 1 to Class IX.

In the first random draw held in the first week of March, 4098 students were allotted seats for various classes. Efforts were made to augment facilities in the second draw so as to accommodate all the waitlisted students. In spite of the large number of applicants, the Board managed to allot seats to all waitlisted students in the second draw.

The online application portal was again activated for fresh admissions to all classes from 5 April 2018. Parents need to take a printout of the duly filled online application form and approach the school where admission is required. Admission will be granted subject to availability of seats.

The Board of Directors in its commitment to provide quality education to the children of Indian diaspora ensures that no child would sit at home for want of admission. The upcoming School at Al Ansab, which is expected to become operational in April 2019, will help decongest the existing schools and ease the burden of parents whose children are currently studying in the afternoon shifts.

# Major Events in Indian Schools

## Care & Special Education



Care & Special Education Sports Meet



Play Area Inauguration



Mothers Day

## Indian School Ibra



Times Quiz



Investiture Ceremony



Yoga Day

## Indian School Ibri



Debate Competition



Annual Day



Election Day

## Indian School Muscat



Earth Day



Annual Academic Excellence Award Ceremony



Investiture Ceremony Student of Office Bearers

## Indian School Nizwa



Investiture Ceremony of the Student Governing Council



Sports Day



Ministers Visit Day

## Indian School Buraimi



Yoga Day



Annual Science Exhibition



Annual Day

## Indian School Seeb



Annual Day



Parent Orientation Programme



Investiture Ceremony

## Indian School Darsait



Educational Excursion - Trip to Delhi



Inter School Annual Athletic Meet



SEN Resource Room Inauguration

## Indian School Jalan



National Kindergarten Day



Investiture Ceremony



Yoga Awareness Session

## Indian School Muladha



National Science Day Celebration



Annual Day



Annual Guides Camp

## Indian School Maabela



Annual Sports Meet



Seventh Annual Day



Scouts & Guides Training

## Indian School Sur



Green Campus Plan



Mathematics Week Celebration



"Art Out of Waste" Exhibition

## Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir



7th Science Fest



Staff Support Day



Interschool Hindi Extempore

## Indian School Rustaq



Annual Day



Anti-Tobacco Day



Earth Day

## Indian School Al Ghubra



First Aid Workshop



Ramadan Food Collection



Children for Children of Yemen

## Indian School Salalah



World Environment Day



CSE Inauguration



An Expedition To Muscat

## Indian School Saham



Ambedkar Jayanthi



Gift a book initiative



Yoga Day

## Indian School Khasab



Inter-House Sports Competition



Investiture Ceremony



Parent Orientation

## Indian School Sohar



Inauguration of New Buses



Investiture Ceremony



Food Donation Drive

## Indian School Masirah



Yoga Day

## Congratulations



Mr. Mohanan P. - New Principal  
Indian School Jalan



Mr. Santhakumar Dasari - New Principal  
Indian School Buraimi

## Individual Achievers

### Care & Special Education Proud Achiever - Master Suleiman Masoud

Master Suleiman Masoud, CSE Student attended the Special Olympics MENA (Middle East-North Africa Region) the 9th Regional Games held at Abu Dhabi in March 2018. He won 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals in Power Lifting.



### Gulf toppers in CBSE Examination A.I.S.S.C.E - CLASS 12

Ms. Avila Das from Indian School Muscat and Mr. Vegi Manas from Indian School Sohar have topped the CBSE examination with 98.6%. The toppers have brought pride to the Indian Schools by topping in the entire gulf.



### Indian School Ibra Proud Achiever - Master Amal Mathew

Alumnus of Indian School Ibra, Master Amal Mathew has secured accolades in many competitive examinations that include JEE Advanced Examination conducted by IIM Kanpur (85th Rank – All India), JEE Mains conducted by CBSE New Delhi (160th Rank – All India), Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Exam (1st Rank – All India), CUSAT – Cochin University of Science and Technology B.Tech. Entrance Exam (1st Rank – All India), Kerala Engineering Entrance Exam (1st Rank). Amal Mathew is now poised for entering the prestigious IIT Bombay aiming to achieve greater benchmark of success.



## Gold Medalists From Various Sports Events

Students who won gold medals in various sports events conducted by the Ministry of Education were also felicitated on the occasion of 'Teachers Day'. Rajvardhan Virendra Jadhav (Swimming: Gold in 50 m free style, 50 m butterfly and 100 m free style), Alfina Joe Thomas (Athletics: Gold in long jump and bronze in 4x100 m relay), Aryan Joshi (Gold medalist in Chess) and Shybi Binoj (Gold medalist in Chess) Indian School Muscat and Aditya Bose (Swimming: Gold Medalist in 50 m breast stroke) of Indian School Al Seeb were the sports stars of Indian Schools who were felicitated on the occasion.



Four students of Indian School Ghubra (ISG), Ashish Sawant, Godwin Vinoy, Karthika Vinod and Sabyasachi Choudhury, performed exceedingly well in the Green Olympiad Examinations 2017 conducted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). They were declared 'Country Winners' from the Sultanate and were awarded certificates and mementos. Their interest in the environment will undoubtedly help them to be responsible citizens who will make valuable contributions towards its conservation and well-being.



Indian School Al Ghubra student, Shonal Kunimal, clinched the runner-up spot in the recently-concluded IAME X30 Bambino Cup Championship in Ras al Khaimah, UAE. This highly talented boy had earlier finished overall runner-up spot in the X30 Bambino Cup Championship and also clinched the overall title in Bambino class in the Oman-UAE Rotax Max Challenge Series last month. In the X30 event, Shonal missed two of the six rounds but ended up with a total of 697 points to finish behind eventual champion Zachary Stimpson of UK, who also won the last race. "This boy is super fast. He has wealth of talent and potential. Mark my words, he will go a long way in future." These were the words of Oman's motor sports legend, Hamed al Wahaibi, after watching Shonal Kunimal.

## Oman Cricket's Women's Twenty20 Knockout Tournament

Nayan Molly hammered an unbeaten 49 in 37 balls and an allround show from Saya Channa led Indian School Ghubra (ISG) to a convincing seven-wicket victory over Indian School Muscat (ISM) in the final of the Oman Cricket's Women's Twenty20 Knockout tournament, which concluded at the Al Amerat ground recently.



## Wimbledon Participation - Mr. Venketeson Karthikeyan

Mr. Venketeson Karthikeyan, an experienced umpire and Physical Education teacher of Indian School Muscat, has been selected by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to officiate at the Wimbledon starting with the qualifying rounds and with the likelihood of getting an opportunity to call the shots against the global superstars in the main championships. There are around 1,483 officials around the world and to be selected among the 120 overseas umpires for Wimbledon duty is a great honour.



## International Conference on Education, Athens, Greece



Dr. Gokuladas (Head-Operations) represented Board of Directors in 21st International Conference on Education held in Athens, Greece from 22-23 May 2018. He presented a paper on 'Leadership and Management Development Concerns of New Era Academia Leadership' which is focusing on developing a conceptual model for conducting leadership and management development programs for academia leadership so that they could effectively take on their responsibilities in the most efficient manner.

# Me, Myself and AI

Dr Siva Kumar

Member, Academic Committee SMC - Indian School Muscat

Try this. While sitting at your desk, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles with it. Easy, huh? OK, while you are still doing this, try drawing the number '6' in the air with your right hand. Not so easy, right? (Not to mention the fact it makes you look weird.) Don't worry—most people can't do this, so you're not alone.

But this is the kind of talent that leading fast-food chains expect from their staff; both hands doing different things, legs hurrying between different locations to serve food ever faster. If you asked the operations manager of such a business, he would be very critical of human limitations. Needless to say, machines have no such constraints. Remember the robots rotating their heads in Rajnikanth's popular movie Enthiran or Robot?

It is, indeed, a fact now that the machines that are created by us are far better than us. They can work without any constraints and can efficiently handle multiple tasks. Robots with artificial intelligence are now everywhere. They don't always have to be like a humanoid robot; they can be a chip or a piece of software in washing machines, microwaves, smart phones, drones or driverless cars.

## Robots and Artificial Intelligence

We now have the various technologies needed to develop machines that can substitute and replicate human action. At times they are better than humans because they can survive and work in dangerous environments such as in the presence of radioactivity or very high temperatures, and they can detect and deactivate bombs.

Robots are now essential in assembly-lines at car factories, self-driving cars are already on public roads and drones can fly and deliver smartly without any problems. There are many online portals where you can order robots, including two-legged walking robots that can walk along with you, or cleaning robots that quietly clean and mop the floor when no-one is home, and they sell like hot cakes.

As the market has become saturated with the number of powerful computer chips being manufactured, firms are now putting such chips inside gadgets, dwellings, apparel and even inside our bodies. This means they become "smart" and possess intelligence of their own.

This has led to the merging of modern technologies with traditional industry practices. Farmers no longer have to bear searing sun to pick crops: robots, drones and various equipment attachments can do such jobs quickly, efficiently and, more importantly, at a lower cost. Irrigation robots are already becoming common where human workforce is scarce.



The intelligence possessed by these robots is known as artificial intelligence or AI. The simplest example of artificial intelligence is the popular mobile app called Akinator. You think of a famous character and it reads your mind by asking a series of questions. The app will then analyse who the character is and tell you. In the case where it can't, it asks details about the person and expands its database. 'Alexa' and 'Siri' are further examples of the application of artificial intelligence with self-learning algorithms. Many organisations provide customer support through artificial intelligence. Customers hardly know they are chatting with or talking to a robot.

Robots are fascinating, aren't they? How interesting would it be to actually make one?

Robotics is an interdisciplinary branch of engineering and science. The engineering here includes mechanical engineering to build the robotic “body”, electronic engineering to create the “nervous system”, and computer science to develop the “brain”.

A course on robotics will normally include concepts like robotic engineering, motion planning, AI, machine learning, computer vision, and programming. To study for a Bachelor Degree in Robotics, you need to take subjects like Physics, Mathematics and, optionally, Computer Science at school.

Universities offer these courses under Robotics Engineering, Robotics and Control Systems, or Artificial Intelligence. Many US universities remain world leaders in offering such courses, including: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University, Stanford University and University of Pennsylvania.

After earning a Bachelor Degree in Robotics you can take advantage of internships, which involve observing work or being actively involved in a project, offered at engineering or robotics companies. This can provide work experience and help you to grow your network. After your employment, it is also possible to study for a Master’s Degree that can advance your career further and earn you a higher salary.

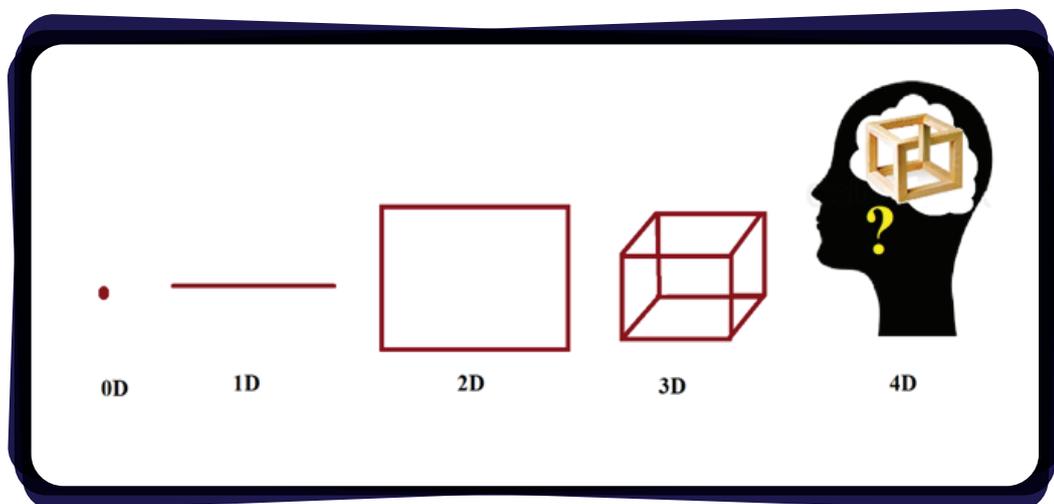
In India, Robotics and Mechatronics are mainly offered as a Master’s Degree. One notable course is M.E. Robotics Engineering offered by The Centre for Robotics and Mechatronics at IIT Kanpur. BITS Pilani also offers M.E. in Computer Science with Robotics specialisation.

Job prospects after obtaining such qualifications are bright as there is huge demand for robotics engineers at manufacturing industries, space organisations like ISRO and NASA, and automobile and appliance industries.

## Learning Robotics

The future and growth of robotics and AI is really promising and is developing faster than expected. Many new areas of application for robotics are being continuously explored by scientists. Robots are believed to be able to give a helping hand to humans suffering from a variety of constraints, not only in physical dimensions but also in terms of intelligence.

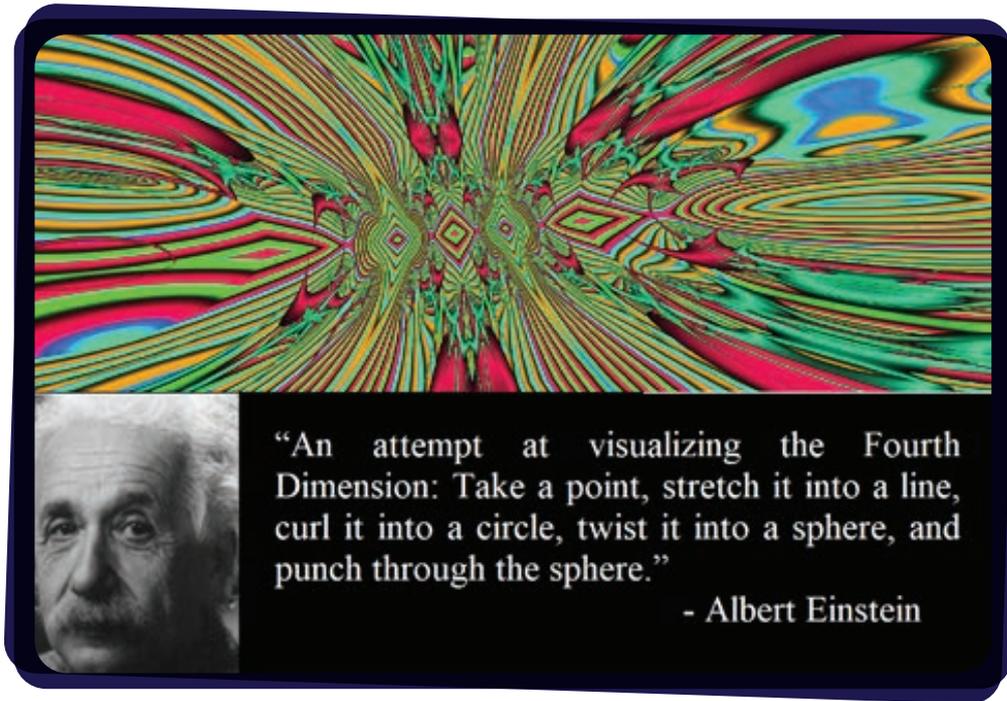
To understand this, let’s try an example. Take a piece of paper and a pencil. Put a dot on the page, which you know has zero dimensions. Next, draw a line, which has one dimension, and then draw a rectangle, which has two dimensions. Now stand your pencil upright from the middle of the rectangle, which gives it three dimensions. Did you know there is fourth dimension?



Visualizing Dimensions

## Future of Robotics and AI

Unfortunately, I can neither explain nor show you how a fourth dimension looks. It is beyond human comprehension. If we could travel in the fourth dimension, we could time travel, exist in multiple places at once and be moved from one place to another wirelessly. This would mean we could not only send images, videos, contacts and locations in WhatsApp, but also real people! Yes, we could attach someone in a message and send them overseas without needing an air ticket or a visa and without any time delay. This might happen one day, but I suspect clicking 'send to all' or 'delete' may cause some problems!



Fourth Dimensions is beyond our comprehension, but may not be same for robots

These words, written in 1970s by American poet Clarissa Pinkola Estés, seem to accurately explain much of our human limitation:

*My brain has no heart, and my heart has no brain.  
That's why, when I speak my mind, I appear heartless,  
and when I say what's in my heart, I appear thoughtless.*

Robots, who do not have these limitations, work effectively and intelligently. However, when considering the field of robotics and artificial intelligence we should not forget the irony found in Moravec's Paradox: *What's hard for humans is relatively easy for robots, and what's easy for humans is nearly impossible for robots.*

A hand is shown from the bottom, cupping a glowing blue sphere. The sphere is filled with intricate, electric blue patterns resembling lightning or energy currents. The text 'VISION 2020' is centered within the sphere in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background is dark blue with faint, glowing lines and particles, suggesting a futuristic or digital environment.

# VISION 2020

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