

**November 2015**

### **Editorial**

Not since the second world war has one country affected so many others. The boiling cauldron that is Syria today has become a proxy battlefield: Russia supporting Assad, USA supporting the opposition, IS making inroads with support from within Saudi Arabia, and the Kurds being bombed by Turkey on the pretext of anti-IS operations. The horrific attacks in Paris last week seem to be a prelude of things to come. Germany stepped up honourably to welcome refugees, but after this, political will suspicion by the local population in western Europe may halt the influx, thus stranding those who need help the most.

Mr. Modi, after a year and a half in office, has done an admirable job of marketing India (and himself) overseas. Rock-star style adulation welcomes him at every venue. Some of his policies at home certainly don't build confidence. This Editor, for one, believes that government should be kept out of the kitchen and out of the bedroom. Focus should be on infrastructure and governance, not rabble-rousing. Unfortunately for our country, the alternatives to Modi and the BJP (Laloo, Pappu, and their ilk) are simply unpalatable. Let's hope the election manifesto of growth without corruption gets focus.

Our Alma Mater completed its 150 year jubilee last year. That in itself is a tremendous achievement. Whether it is an organization, a company a school, or any institution for that matter, one and a half centuries is just great. Anywhere in the world. To survive and in fact thrive for so long, special qualities are needed. A grand celebration marked the occasion. The School and the PTA put together a series of events through the year, with the Alumni Association pitching in.

Fr. Kenny Misquitta completed his tenure as Principal. We wish him well in his future endeavours. Dr. Fr. Francis Swamy is now at the helm. We welcome him and look forward to interacting with him for the better of St. Mary's.

We lost two Alumni stalwarts: Ameerali Rahimtulla and Rajesh Sanghi. We dearly miss them. Our condolences go out to their families. Obituaries have been included in this issue.

Bimal Goculdas  
Vice President, SMAA. Class of 1985  
bgoculdas@hotmail.com

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## **Excerpts from the Principal's Report for 2014-15**

**'International Year of the Light and Light Based Technologies'** is the theme chosen for this evening's programme. This theme has been inspired by our very own Jesuits who continue to dispel the darkness of illiteracy and ignorance, by lighting the lamp of right knowledge through education all over the world. It is a well-known fact that the Jesuits are credited worldwide for their relentless emphasis on education as the only tool to bring about a social change. It is their untiring effort that has greatly transformed the continents of South America, Asia, Africa as well as Europe in the field of education right from the 16<sup>th</sup> century AD. Their significant contributions in the field of education were rightly recognized by the European countries who called them *'The School Masters of Europe'* in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Today the significance of Jesuits in the field of education in India itself can be gauged by the number of quality educational institutions run by them in the country. There are more than one hundred major Jesuit educational and professional institutions in the country, rendering invaluable service in the nation building process.

### **The School Report**

#### **ICSE Results**

All 122 students who appeared for the ICSE examinations held in March 2015 were declared successful.

57 students scored 90% and above.

44 students scored between 80% and 90%.

20 students scored between 70% and 80%.

One student secured between 60% and 70%.

Neel Dalal stood first among the students with 97.17%. He was followed by Amber Dave and Tanay Beriwal with 96.67%, while Atman Mehta secured a close third position with 96.50%. We congratulate our students on their spectacular success and wish them our very best for their future. I congratulate the teachers for their hard work and dedication, ensuring this spectacular success of our students in the ICSE examinations.

#### **Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities**

The academic year began with the Interschool Cultural Fest, 'IMMACULATA 2014' with the theme 'Dare to Dream.' More than fifteen schools participated in this event which was held on June 29 and June 30, 2014.

The Inter-House Quiz had the Houses sending in their best brains to compete in the interesting and creative rounds prepared by the teachers.

The feast of St. Ignatius, our founder, was celebrated on July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, with much fervor and enthusiasm. On this occasion the staff and the students took the opportunity to felicitate our Jesuits in the school auditorium with a variety of entertainment programmes. This was followed by a solemn mass and get-together of the teachers of both St. Mary's SSC as well as ICSE schools.

Teachers Day was celebrated by our students with lively onstage performances highlighting the significance of the teachers in their lives. The day's events culminated

with a special lunch for the staff at Hotel Sofitel, BKC. A big thanks to the PTA who took great pains in making it a special day for the teachers.

The Inter-House dramatics was a mega event among our students of the secondary section filled with high energy levels and power packed performances. In this closely contested event, the White House emerged victorious while Blue, Green and Red Houses secured the second, third and the fourth positions respectively.

The Annual Athletic Meet, held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2014, at Priyadarshini Park, was a day with a difference. Ms. Sara Alphonso, a former Hockey player who represented India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

It was now the teachers turn to felicitate the students on Children's Day. Children's Day and Principal's Day were jointly celebrated on November 14, 2014. The teachers and the parents put up a variety of entertainment programme for the students and the Principal. The children were given a surprise treat from McDonalds.

The Closing ceremony of the Sesquicentennial celebrations of the school was held on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2014 with a grand musical extravaganza titled '*A World of Dreams.*' Kunal Vijaykar, an alumni and the host of the television show titled 'The Foodie' was the Chief Guest for the evening.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the patroness of the school was celebrated on December 8, 2014 with a celebratory mass and a get-together of the teachers of St. Mary's SSC and St. Mary's ICSE.

'Plain Speaking' and '*An Hour of Music*' of the Primary and Pre-Primary sections gave an opportunity to the students up to class 4 to display their on-stage talents. The Annual Art and Craft Exhibition held by the Primary Section on February 6, 2014, was a glimpse of the artistic talents of our primary students. Meanwhile the Hindi elocution for classes 5 to 9 and the Marathi elocution for classes 5 to 7 gave an opportunity to the students of the secondary section a chance to display their linguistic abilities.

### **Extraordinary Achievement of some of our Staff Members**

Since a decade, Mr. S. Ravindranath, our senior art teacher is been known for the Social Welfare work that he has been undertaking through an NGO named Vedanth Welfare Foundation. He has adopted a tribal village named Ghartahal in Shirpur Taluka of Dhule District of Maharashtra, where about Two Thousand tribals are taken care of by the constant donation and financial help rendered by Mr. Ravindranath.

Recently he was awarded the 'Indo-Nepal Shiromani Award' for his instant monetary help of Rupees Ten Lakh and a large quantity of edible products and clothing that he provided to the victims of Nepal earthquake of 2015.

Recognizing his contributions to the society at large, on August 24, 2014, the Government of India awarded him with the prestigious 'Bharat Vibushan Samman Puraskar' for his outstanding Individual Achievements & Distinguished Services to the Nation.

Monday, January 12, 2015 is one of those very rare days to be remembered in the history of St. Mary's ICSE staff. On this day, the Principal of the school had the honour of releasing two text books of Geography, co-authored by one of our very own staff members, Mr. Austine Vas. Apart from our own school and the Bombay Scottish School, Mahim, a few more ICSE schools have chosen these text books for teaching the subject of

Geography during the academic year 2015-2016. While congratulating Mr. Austine Vas, I wish him all the very best in his future ventures in this field.

### **SOCIAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME**

The school organized a weekend stay-over for the tribal children of Gyan Mata High School, Uplat Patilpada, Talasari, which is our adopted twin school.

Our students participated in the Terry Fox Marathon and raised a sum of Rs. 71,453 for Cancer Research.

### **Regular Field trips**

Regular field trips were also conducted during the academic year for the students of both Primary as well as the Secondary section. The students of the primary section were taken to Kidzenia, Amarson's Park, Jijamata Udyan (Byculla), Mahindra Park and Raj Shroff Garden. Later in the year the kids were also taken on a delightful ride on the Mumbai Mono-rail. This was followed by a visit to Mumbai Port Trust Garden, where the children had a golden opportunity to experience nature. Keeping in mind the need to develop in our children an appreciation for fine-arts and history of the city and the state at large, the boys were taken on a day long visit to Prince of Wales Museum situated nearby. The students of secondary section too were taken for a day-long picnic to Essel World and Water Kingdom. Apart from these, the various clubs of the secondary school organized camps and trips for their member students to various places of interest.

### **Educational Trip to Leh-Ladakh**

An educational excursion was conducted to Leh-Ladakh during the month of May. It was a ten day long trip where twenty eight students and three teachers including the Vice Principal accompanied the students. The experience at Khardungla, the world's highest motor-able pass was exhilarating. The warmth of the defense personnel in the biting cold was something that students will remember for a lifetime. The visit to Akshardham at Delhi, the Hall of Fame at Leh, the monasteries, the palaces were all a great learning experience for the entire team. The serenity and scenic beauty of Pangong Lake was like being in paradise. The hospitality of the locals was touching. The trip was highly appreciated by the students and parents for the kind of experience the students had and the fond memories that they came back with.

### **Educational Trip Abroad**

A twelve day long trip to the USA was held from May 8, 2015 to May 19, 2015. Thirty nine students and six staff members were a part of this trip. Apart from visiting important places such as New York, Washington DC, Orlando and Buffalo, the students had a golden opportunity to visit NASA, where they had a two day training in Space Science and Technology. The students were also delighted to interact with noted astronauts over a sumptuous lunch. Apart from these lifetime experiences, they also had a breath-taking experience at the world famous Niagara Falls.

### **Alumni**

The Annual Alumni dinner organized on February 28, 2015, was attended by more than 200 alumni. This is an opportunity for our ex-Marians to renew their ties with the school and with one another. Apart from their annual get-together, the alumni association of St. Mary's School (ICSE) continues to be a partner in Jesuit initiatives in the field of education of the under-privileged in various ways.

As I conclude this report, I express my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed in achieving a successful academic year at St. Mary's School ICSE and in the eventful closing ceremony of the sesquicentennial celebrations of the School. I thank Mr. Wilfred Noronha, the Vice Principal for his continued assistance and support and in the

maintenance of discipline and in the coordination of curricular and extra-curricular activities. I would like to thank Ms Nirmala Fernandes the Pre-primary and Primary Supervisor, Ms. Clementine Monteiro the coordinator and Fr. Leslie Rebello, S.J. the Administartor for their support and look forward to their co-operation in the years to come, so that together we can be the guiding light to the children entrusted to our care. I also thank the teaching, non-teaching and support for their relentless support in carrying out the day-to-day proceedings of the school.

Finally I give thanks to God Almighty for his protection and blessings. May mother Mary, our Patroness continue to guide us in all our endeavors for the Greater Glory of God. Thank you and have a nice evening.

July 17, 2015.

**Dr. Fr. Francis Swamy, S.J.**  
**PRINCIPAL**

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(Photos courtesy Hersh Acharya)

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## **Inter-School Events**

“When you compete with someone, as good or better than you, you may not always win, but you never lose.”

I have been entrusted the task of highlighting the performance and participation of our students in Inter School events and Sports. I begin with our students performances, here are some of the highlights:

At CHRYSALIS organized by Queen Mary’s School, Grant Road, our students secured the second position in the following events: Photoshop editing, choir singing, musical band and model making. We also won third place in a cooking competition ‘Little Chefs’, table tennis and a picture making event.

At ROCHAK, an inter-school Hindi event, conducted by Christ Church School, our students won the second position in a Script Writing Competition.

At the annual inter-school event CASCADE, organized by Jamnabai Narsee School, our students performed exceptionally well by securing the second position in tele-games.

At ODYSSEY, organized by the alumni of St. Gregorios School, our students won the third place in a football auction. A commendable performance by our students also won them the first place in a surprise comedy event that had to be performed on the spot. Their overall performance was appreciated very well.

In VOGUE, the popular personality competition, conducted by the Rotaract Club of H.R. College, one of our boys, Samuel Sinate, won the much famed Mr. Vogue Runner-Up title. There were altogether 1500 competitors from about 50 different schools for the title of Mr. Vogue. There were four rounds of competition before the final round, when only six competitors were left in the fray. It is important to note that Samuel Sinate had to even compete with the students of classes 11 and 12 to win these prestigious titles. His caliber and personality outshone the other competitors. This was indeed a proud moment for our school.

In a video game programming competition titled ‘Game Jam Titans’ our students from class 5 won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place competing with the boys from higher classes.

At IGNITE 2014 an event organized by HR College of Commerce, our students won the first place in movie making, photoshop editing and an HTML debugging event.

Besides these Inter School cultural fests, our students have made St. Mary’s proud by participating and winning many competitive titles. Some of our outstanding achievers include: Ankit Bhattacharya a student of class 7 won a cash award of Rs 1,00,000/- and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize from among more than 1,50,000 students from all over India for the “All India 1 Genius Scholarship”. He also won the Hindustan Times Essay Writing Competition winning Rs 50,000/-. Ankit Bhattacharya of class 7 was ranked 132<sup>nd</sup> in the International Olympiad of Mathematics and Ojas Binayke of class 5 was ranked 143<sup>rd</sup> in the International Olympiad of Science. Ankit Bhattacharya, Ojas Binayke and six other students of our school were also eligible for Level 2 after being ranked in the top 400 for the International Informatics Olympiad and the International Olympiad of English Language.

Our students were ranked out of 15 lakh students who appeared for these Olympiads from 9000 schools worldwide.

A glimpse of some of the other inter-school events in which our students took part could now be viewed on the screen:

## **SPORTS**

We at St. Mary's ICSE strongly believe that physical development is one of the four dimensions necessary for a complete overall development of an individual.

Keeping this principle in mind, the school gives ample importance to athletics and sports by not only providing the students with adequate infrastructure, ample sporting spaces, coaching and training within the school premises for cricket, basketball, football and roller-skating but also by taking part in numerous inter-school sporting competitions. I wish to thank Mr B. Tiwari, Mr S. Gaikwad and Mr S. Pereira for their contribution to the enhancement of sports in the school.

As usual, the academic year 2014-2015 was packed with regular coaching sessions in football, cricket and basket-ball that were conducted before and after school hours. Besides coaching, our boys were encouraged to participate in Inter House sports such as carrom, table tennis, chess, cricket and basketball during the year. The Annual Football Fiesta was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, which saw the enthusiastic participation of many of our students.

The talented sportsmen of St. Mary's, ICSE have achieved success in various sports at the District, State and National Levels. Here is a detailed report of the same:

### **Football**

We sent up ten teams in various age-group categories and ended up winners of "The Derek D'Souza Memorial Invitational Football Tournament" for Under 16, "The Milind Deora South Mumbai Soccer Challenger" for Under 16, "The MSSA Football Tournament" for Under 10 in the second division, and "The Champion School Inter-Jesuit Football Tournament" for Under 12. We were also the Runners-up at the MSSA Football Tournament for Under 10 in the first division.

At an International Football Tournament organized by Big-7 in Bangalore, our Under 13 boys were declared Runners-up. Kumayle Merchant was adjudged the Best Player of the Tournament and was awarded a prize for being the Best Juggler with the football.

### **Badminton**

At the Inter School Badminton Tournaments our students Nihar Thacker and Darshil Shah won the Under 17 Team Championship, while Hardik Tiwari and Aarush Mittal did us proud by winning the Under 14 organized by the District Sports Association. Our team of Nihar Thacker, Darshil Shah, Hardik Tiwari and Aarush Mittal won the Under 16 Team Championship and in the Single's format of the game Nihar Thacker was declared the Under 16 Runner-Up at the MSSA too.

### **Chess**

Ankit Bhattacharya stood seventh in the Maharashtra State School Chess Championship in the Under 13 age group and Aarav Bhattacharya stood fourth in the ISPL Inter School Premier League Chess Tournament in the Under 10 age group. Ankit Bhattacharya is an

International Fide rated chess player. He is also the winner of a scholarship for overall excellence out of a mammoth 1.25 lakh entries.

### **Judo**

At a tournament conducted by the MSSA, Navya Agrawal won the second place in the 55 kg category for boys Under 12 and Yuvraj Agarwal bagged the third place in the 25 kg category for boys Under 8.

### **Roller Skating**

At the Bombay District Roller Skating Association Championship, Surya Chaudhry won the first place in the Short Distance Race, the Long Distance Race and the Road Race in the Group I - Under 6 age group. Kahan Goregaonekar won the first place in the Short Distance & the Long Distance Races and stood third in the Road Race of the Group II - Under 6 age group. Azhar Banatwala stood first in the Short Distance Race and third in the Long Distance and Time Trial Races respectively in the Under 12 age group.

### **Gymnastics**

In a championship conducted by the Mumbai City Gymnastics Association, the participants won the Team Championship in the under 12 age group and Aditya Vijayakar stood second individually.

### **Sailing**

Aman Hirani has participated in various regattas and won several awards for sailing in various competitions held all over the country. He was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> all over India at the All India Optimist Open Championship held at Pawna. Among his other achievements, he stood second in the boys Regatta in Mumbai, 31<sup>st</sup> in the Optimist Nationals, 19<sup>th</sup> in the Optimist All India Open Championship and 38<sup>th</sup> in the Optimist Nationals in Bhopal. Based on his current achievements he is now eligible to represent India in the upcoming "India International Regatta 2015" in Chennai in November.

### **Athletics**

Neel Ujrekar has reached commendable heights in the field of Athletics. He has participated in major Athletic Meets ranging from the District Sports Meet to the AIAIA Sports Meet in Pune and has won several medals and certificates to his merit. We are proud of his achievements, which include winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 200 meters and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 100 meters events at the District Sports Meet. He also won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 100 meters and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 4 x 100 meters relay at the Bombay City District Amateur Athletic Meet while, winning the third place in Long Jump at the Maharashtra Anglo Indian CBSE Schools Athletic Olympia Meet in Pune.

In the Under 8 age group, Dhrishaan Mehta stood first in the 50 meters and 80 meters races of the Catholic Gymkhana Athletic Meet. Meanwhile Joshua Mendes stood Second in the 100 meters and in 80 meters, while Eeshaan John Mendes stood third in the 100 meters and Surya Gupta won third place in Shot-Putt of the same meet. A noteworthy achievement is that of Dhrishaan Mehta who won third place in the 50 meters race at the Maharashtra State Sub-Junior Athletic Championship.

Before I take leave, I would like to express my thanks to the Management, to our Ex-Principal, Fr. Kenneth Misquita, S.J. who walked with us on the path to all that we succeeded in. He may not be here with us physically but will continue to be a source of inspiration to us all, always. Thank you Fr. Kenny. A sincere thanks to all my teachers for being with me at every step to shoulder the responsibility and today I can proudly say "We Did It". Another year gone by with wonderful memories of you my dear parents for the



constant support that I have from you. Be it IMACULATA, Teachers' Day, Principals' Day or any such event, one call and you are there. A heartfelt thanks to all you wonderful parents who have helped in many different ways and made our journey seem simpler and easier. A word of thanks to Ms. Mona Soningra and Mr. Prakash Pitroda for supporting this report with attractive slides.

I am sure students, that in this academic year too, you will bring laurels under the able leadership of our new Principal, Fr. Francis Swamy, S.J. and you my dear boys will participate in the Inter School events as enthusiastically as you have done in the past. Good Luck, God Bless and a BIG Thank You.

**July 17, 2015**

**Wilfred Noronha  
Vice Principal**

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### **Highlights of the 150 year celebrations**

As our school completed its 150th year, we would like to share with you some of the highlights of this Grand Celebration which started on September 11, 2013 with the visit of our very own Zubin Mehta .Our famous alumni who is an Indian conductor of Western classical music. He unveiled the 150th Year Celebrations logo and also autographed a violin which was displayed at the school and another which is to be auctioned at a future event.

Over the next year starting November 2013 our school held various functions as listed below:

#### Events that were held to mark our 150<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary.

##### Opening Ceremony

Inaugural Function, 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2013:

Thanksgiving Service an opening ceremony of the 150years celebration. The thanksgiving service was performed by his Eminence Oswaldo Cardinal Gracias and the inauguration was done by the Honourable Governor of Maharashtra Shri K. Sankaranarayanan. A special PowerPoint illustrated our glorious past, our famous alumni, our faculties and the Fathers and teachers who taught us. The Inaugural Function was attended by over 1500 persons. The Function started with a Grand Opening Ceremony where through a spectacular sound and light show the audiences were taking through the 150 Years history of our school. The evening ended with a grand dinner catered by Indigo. A special First Day Cover was brought out by the Indian Post and Telegraph Department to mark our School completing 150 years of dedicated service. It was quite an honor for our school to get this. A special thanks to our Alumni member Fali Mehta for all the help extended.

##### Art Workshop, February 2, 2014:

The Social Service Cell set up during the 150th Year organized an Art Workshop for children from economically challenged families. This program also gave a chance to our boys to showcase their passion for Fine Arts.

##### Alumni Conclave, February 8, 2014:

A Grand Dinner and dance was held for Alumni and their families along with a Rock Concert by, Victor and the Crowns.

##### Songs for All Ages, February 9, 2014:

Stage performance by an ex- student's troupe - 'The Stop Gaps'. A musical extravaganza. An evening fill of music put up by Alfred J. D'Souza and his friends.

Sports Extravaganza, February 14-16-2014: Interschool Sporting Fiesta held in our School. The Sports Cell organized competition in various sports events where our boys got a chance to compete and at the same time have a great time.

Rusty Screws, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014:



Boman Irani, Meherzad Patel, and the cast of "Rusty Screws"

This Play would not have been possible without the support of our very own Boman Irani and Meherzad Patel and his Ex Marian team of Silly Point Production. All proceeds from is event were given towards our St. Mary's 150 Years Fund.

Immaculata 2014, June 2014:

Our boys, organized and executed an Interschool cultural festival in our school was held on our grounds.

Coffee table Book , October 7,2014:



Launch of Coffee Table Book Titled 'The Colours of Immaculate White' by Tony Periera (Alumni) and his wife Priya Periera who is a renowned name in the world of Coffee Table Books. Both Tony and Priya spent over two years doing research and interviewing hundreds of Marians , Ex Marians , Teachers and retired Teachers and came up with a MUST HAVE Coffee Table Book.If you have still not bought your copy please contact ( Sharookh Contractor - Mob 9821015343 ).

Closing Ceremony Oprettta, December 7, 2014:



Directed by an ex- student Meherzad Patel, over 700 students of our School performed on the stage. Over 25 teachers and masters were present. We had alumni who had passed out 75years ago present to mark this special evening. A Musical on the lines of what one would see only on Broadway or The West End was held at our School Auditorium over two days. Meherzad Patel helped our school put up this show where we had over 1300 boys who came up on stage in this two hour musical which had the auditorium on 'fire'. Those who were fortunate to have seen this play will never forget this Grand Closing Ceremony.

We now look forward to our school 175 Years.

Sharookh Contractor

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## **President's Report**

St. Mary's Alumni Association - The 150 Years Celebrations and More

Membership - We had 39 new members. The total membership stands at 1818 as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. Every year we get number of students who plan out enrolling for our association's membership when they get their final ICSE marksheets. I wish to thank, Fr. Kenneth Misquitta and our committee member, Mazher Furniturewala for assisting with Alumni membership.

Charity - During the year we donated Rs. 152500 to educational NGO's. Further the Alumni Association organized 2 private shows of a play 'Rusty Screws', with the help of Meherzad Patel of Silly Point Productions. The play was held at NCPA on 1<sup>st</sup> June and the cast included Merzad Patel, Danesh Irani, Danesh Khambata, Sajeel Parakh, Afshad Kelawala, Siddharth Merchant all Alumni of our School and our own Bollywood star Boman Irani. It was a landmark event in the History of Indian Theathre as Boman Irani our Alumni and famous Bollywood Actor returned the stage after 10 years for this special fund raiser for our School. The two shows were a sellout and none of our Alumni took any professional fees thus resulting in a substantial donation to our 150 years fund.

Alumni Conclave and Dinner: ON THE 8TH Feb 2014 we held the annual dinner. This time we had our alumni Dr. Victor (a dentist by profession) and The Crown's performed some rocking tunes. They had the whole crowd dancing and singing along. Fr. Kennith Misquitta thanked all those who had supported our School with donations. Boman Irani too attended and urged all Alumni to reach deep into their pockets and donate with an open heart.

The evening stated with a journey down memory lane where the school had organized a special walk through the school campus where one got an insight into what all happened here during the last 150 years. Over 50 Alumni had come down from various parts of the world such as USA, UK , Canada, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore etc. Even alumni from various parts of India such as Pune, Bangalore, Delhi etc were present. Over 25 teachers and masters were present. We had alumni who had passed out 75years ago present to mark this special evening

The dinner that evening was catered by Joss Catering, our Alumni (Farookh Khambatta) who put out a wonderful spread. It was a super fun filled evening over 700 alumni with spouses attended the event making is the best annual dinner ever held in School.

### **Alumni Dinner 28th Feb 2015**

The Alumni dinner was held in School as usual. To everyone's surprise it rained that evening. The weather playing truant affected the attendance and the arrangements had to be quickly reconfigured to continue the event in the Junior School Assembly Hall. The attendance was low as I guess there was an overload of activities over the last 18 months.

### **An Amazing Team**

It has been a really busy period for all of us at the St. Mary's Alumni Association Committee. For the several events of the 150 years celebration various subcommittee and the overall committee worked really hard and executed several functions and lived up to the expectations of our vast alumni body.

I would not like to single out anyone here as literally everyone did a great job.

Despite this excellent team, we are on the lookout for 3 young Alumni that is anyone who passed of School after 1990, to join our committee.

Sushil Sukhwani  
President, SMAA, Class of 1985

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### **St. Mary's 150 years Fund**

As all of you would be aware our School had launched the "St. Mary's School 150 Years Fund" at the start of our 150 years celebration. The purpose of this fund was to meet the

basic expenses of the various events during the 150<sup>th</sup> Year and launch the KEY PROJECTS viz:

- Mediclaim for all our Retired Teachers and Current Teachers and Staff
- Renovation of our Auditorium
- Support our sister school in Uplet ( a tribal area on the border of Maharashtra and Gujarat )
- Support students in St. Mary's who parents may not be able to afford the fees.

We are happy to inform all Alumani that the total funds available for the projects are appx Rs 1.35 Crs. Unfortunately we are well short of our target collection figure of Rs 10 Crs and have had to prioritise and see what we can achieve and what was felt most critical with the monies in hand. It was hence decided that the school should focus on the first two projects only.

We are happy to advise all that on Teachers Day ( Sept 5 2015 ) we have launched our FIRST PROJECT - MEDICLAIM covering a total of 142 of our Retired Teachers, Current Teachers and Staff of our School. After due negotiations with various insurance companies we were able to get Bharati - AXA to offer us the best possible quote to cover each individual for upto Rs 2 lacs each per annum for life.

We are also happy to advise all Alumani that we have also started work on our SECOND PROJECT Auditorium Renovation. Our school has appointed Mr. Ratan Batloboi & Associates one of Mumbai's leading Architect to undertake the auditorium renovation project. We are pleased to share with you that Ratan has agreed to undertake the project at NIL Management Fees from his side as a token of appreciation for his **Alma Mater**. The initial cost estimate for this project is appx Rs 3.50 Crs. While our school will try and bridge some portion of the gap The Alumani Association would also wish to appeal to all Alumani and Well-wishers to come forward and help individually or as a Batch.

Your contribution can be made by cheque in favour our "St. Mary's 150 Years Fund" and handed over to any office bearer of our St. Mary's Alumani Association or sent to our school to the attention of Principal - Fr. Francis Swamy. OR sent through RTGS / NEFT ( Valid within India NOT to be used for any donation in foreign currency or transfer from outside India )

Account Name - "St.Mary's 150 Years Fund"

Account No - 107101001518

IFSC Code - ICIC0001071

Bank Address - ICICI BANK Ltd, Shirin Manzil, Shop No 3 to 7, 18/24 St. Mary's Rd., Mazgaon, Mumbai - 400 010

All donations are eligible under 80 (G) benefit for which we would require you to give a copy of your PAN Card.

All foreign currency contribution need to be sent by Electronic Transfer only to the below account -

Account Name - The Bombay St. Mary's Society.

Account No - 1203044394

SWIFT Code - CBININBBXOSB

Bank Address - Central Bank of India, Shirin Manzil, 18/24 St. Mary's Rd., Mazgaon, Mumbai - 400 010

Our School Management and The Alumani Association would want to thank all who have contributed towards this worthy cause.

Sharookh Contractor  
Team - St. Mary's Alumani Association ( SMAA )

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## **INTER JESUIT ALUMNI FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**

Place: St Stanislaus School Ground, Bandra

Date: 15 August 2015, 10.00 am

It's the Day of the Independence Day Inter Alumni Football Tournament that has become a tradition of sorts over the years. Initiated by a casual phone call, the tournament started off about 15 years ago as a friendly Football match between Ex Marians and Ex Stanislautians with an understanding that we would get the Beer and they would get the Biryani. An Old Trophy used to be dug out from somewhere and handed over to the winning Team (Usually the St Marys Team, I am happy to say) at the end of the game. This was usually followed by a swim in the St Stan Swimming Pool and then of course the Beer 'n' Biryani accompanied by ribald jokes, raucous laughter and the feeling of contentment of a morning well spent with old friends and the memories from our School Days.... a time of carefree innocence and joy.

Over the years, the casual friendly match has now gradually grown into a much larger event where 9 Teams from 7 Jesuit Schools (including the St Xavier's Team from Nasik) now battle it out for the Trophy, which I may add, is no longer a Dusty Old Relic, but rather, a Glistening Crystal Trophy prepared specially for the Event.

We, St Marians have always been the most enthusiastic participants, with usually 30-40 Ex-Students turning up to participate and play for 2 Teams (A &B). So as I walked into the Ground at 10am I was expecting a huge contingent of Ex- Marians joking and laughing as usual. However, this year, quite contrary to the usual scenario, there was no sign of the Marians at all. No guffawing laughter... not a sign of the familiar Black and Orange Alumni Football Colours ... "Where are these guys?? " I thought to myself with just a hint of panic creeping into my thoughts.

And then, far away, hidden in the crowd, I caught a flashing glimpse of Black and Orange... just a quick glimpse, and it was gone, like a Tiger disappearing into the forest... but it was enough for a seasoned Marian like myself... that was without doubt our St Marys Alumni Football Jersey.

I quickly headed towards it, pushing my way through the 8 other Soccer teams thronging the grounds. I finally arrived at my destination to a sight that brought mixed feeling of joy and despair. It was a St Marian Jersey alright... but our present team consisted of, literally, "2 ½ Men" ... Alain, Connell and Connell's 3 year old baby. Just then, Jerry from the St Stan Organising Committee came up to me and said "Shyam you Guys are ready right, your match is coming up".

My already reeling head reeled a little more and I had visions of the St Mary's Team on the Field, with Alain as Striker, Connell playing Mid-Field, myself, Tottering and Over Weight playing Defence and finally Connell's 3 year old in the Goal.

But we Marians are made of sterner stuff than that. Quickly pulling myself together, I told Jerry that we would be playing only 1 Team today and that we are giving a walk over with Team A (which was to play the first match) and that we will play the Team B match as per the Draw. That thankfully gave us 45 minutes more to get our Team together.

And then...we got down to the serious business of making the phone calls. Strangely everyone said that they were just "10 minute" away. Fifteen minutes passed... no new arrivals... another round of frantic phone calls followed... everyone, it seems, was still just 10 minutes away !!!

And then finally... finally the Sun peeped out from behind the gloomy clouds... a St Marian walked in... and then slowly but surely the Sun continued its journey out from behind the clouds. One by one... we got our team together... with Karan and Dhiren Durante making it just 2 minutes before our Team finally walked out onto the field at 11.00 for our first match.

After a slightly tentative start, the St Marian Football Team really got into the groove... humming along like a well-oiled machine... steam rolling everyone in its path like an unstoppable Tsunami. Every member playing like he had never stepped off the field in the last 15 years... Claude, brilliant in the Goal, Connell and Dhiren and Jas impregnable in Defence, the 2 Hussains and Mikhail solid in the Mid Field, creating brilliant plays for the sparkling forwards Karan, Alain, and Selig who scored the goals to get us ahead. Karan was undoubtedly the Star of the Day, scoring 4 scintillating goals... literally running circles around the opposition to score some brilliant goals which gave our team the breaks when we needed them.

And so the Marian Juggernaut continued to role forward leaving in its wake some celebrated teams from the previous year like last year's winner St Mary's (SSC), St Stan and St Xaviers. And so finally after some brilliant Football, some loud cheering of " Marys Marys Mary ... ISC" which left myself, Rosario and Rishi sounding like sinister versions of "The Godfather"... the Final Whistle of the Day was finally blown and St Marys (ISC) were again crowned Inter Jesuit Alumni Football Champions.

Our players also won some other awards... Claude Won "Goal Keeper of the Day" and our Star, Karan was awarded the "Player of the Tournament"

My thanks to all the Players and Supporters who stood up to be counted on the Day when St Marian honour was at stake. From the bottom of my Heart... Thank you. Their names are: Karan, Dhiren, Alain, Connell, Selig, Mikhail, Hussain Merchant, Hussain Vahanvathy, Jaspreet, Claude, Rishi and finally Rosario without whom we would never had the wonderful photos.

Thanks also to the Alumni Association of St Stanislaus for taking the trouble to organise such a fantastic event.

And so another wonderful day of Football and St Marian memories came to an end with once again St Marys at the top in spite of all the odds being against us. Like they say... "You might knock a Marian down... but you can never, ever keep him down". Our Alma Mater has built into us a spirit of Loyalty, Courage, Integrity, Honesty, the Perseverance to keep fighting for our Goals and finally the Humility to accept our victories with gratitude.

Thank you our Dear St Mary's for making us what we are and for the wonderful memories and life-long friends that you have given to each one of us.

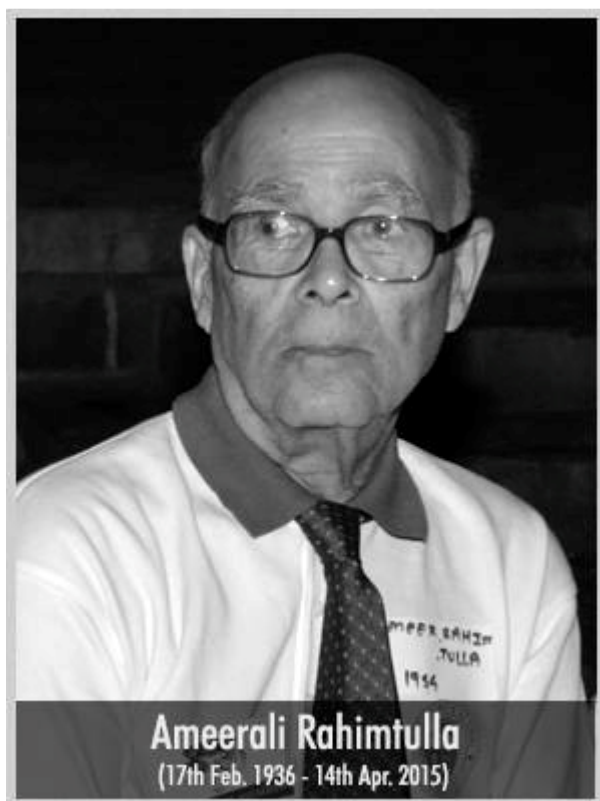
MARYS... MARYS... MARYS..... I S C.

Cheers and God Bless,

Shyam Balsekar (Batch of 1984)

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### **Ameerali Rahimtulla – Marian To The Very End**



1944 saw Ameerali walk into St. Mary's for the very first time. A student of St. Mary's School since the Prep, he completed his Senior Cambridge in 1954. Having always kept in touch with his alma mater, Ameerali realised that an ex-student association, "St. Mary's Old Boys Association" (SMOB), which gave out 2 scholarships to current students, was primarily a defunct organisation and he set out to resurrect it.

With the blessings of then Principal, Fr. Adrian Dias, and several Marian friends, Ameerali set out to infuse life into SMOB and in 1964 organised the first 'Dinner and Dance' at Greens Hotel at Apollo Bunder. Ever since then, the ex-student dinner has been an annual affair and Ameerali had not missed a single one! Ameerali is the only ex-student who has attended 50 consecutive dinners and all in his school uniform!

Ameerali's enthusiasm for all things St. Mary's came forth in every walk of his life. SMOB, under Ameerali's leadership, encouraged many ex-students to meet regularly and to give back to School in any manner they saw fit. Over the years SMOB invited several established alumni to give lectures on various subjects to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> standard students of St. Mary's.



Sometime in 1987 Ameerali alongwith Fr. Austin Fernandes SJ represented SMOB at an All India Jesuit Schools Alumni get-together at Vinayalaya, where he noticed that most ex-student associations were registered.

On his return and subsequent recommendation, the then Managing Committee decided that it was time to register SMOB as a public charitable trust and on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1987 the “St. Mary’s Alumni Association” came into existence. Ofcourse, Ameerali was its first President and Lifetime Trustee!

In 1989, on completion of his Silver Jubilee with the Alumni Association, Ameerali was awarded a plaque appreciating his guidance and diligence in his efforts to ensure the evolution of the Association.

Some years ago, Ameerali and his family moved to Pune and subsequently resigned from Trusteeship of the Association, to give way for younger blood to guide his beloved Alumni Association. However, whenever he visited Mumbai, he made it a point to meet many of us, his fellow-alumni friends.

On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015, after a brave battle with illness, Ameerali passed away, leaving behind his wife, Ratan, his children, Arshad and Rahaab and hundreds of friends, who still think so very fondly of him, his slow drawl, his infectious smile and his eternal love for everything St. Mary’s.

He lived till the very end for his alma mater. Rest In Peace, my friend...

Fali Mehta  
Class of 1973

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### **Rajesh Sanghi – a good sportsman and a great man**



Baldy with some SMAA committee members at the kickoff for the 150 year celebrations

For many Marians, Rajesh was not just a batch-mate but someone who became a mentor, guide and a close friend. Fondly called Baldy, well before he lost his flock of hair, Rajesh was the “go to” person, when in need or in trouble despite being the same age or younger to most of us. The news of him being no more left many in the city shell shocked because each of us in school or college with him, R.A. Podar or University later – Warwick knew we had lost a great champion and an even greater friend. His wife of 18 years, Bhairavi stands tall embracing all that has happened, always reminding us that he led a good life and to the end, enjoyed doing what he loved most – on the beach, running. We miss him every day, from his witty one-line comments, to work ideas, always bringing people together because that was Baldy at his best, hosting friends over cricket or golf discussions and great food.

For me Baldy represents the true Marian spirit of being an all-rounder, committed and visionary as an entrepreneur, a risk taker, a humble professional and a true sportsman – from cricket to golf, he’s created many milestones for us to remember. If this is the legacy Marians leave behind, I know Father will be proud because there is not a soul who has met him who hasn’t been touched by him.

Good man! Rest in Peace

Mazhar Ghadially  
Class of 1987

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### **Perspective from a St. Marian and a parent of a St. Marian**

I cannot begin to express my feelings when I wear this parent's ID card (pic attached) {which has been recently introduced by the Mumbai schools authorities} around my neck each time I visit my alma-mater.

It's thrice the thrill as my father- Amir Furniturewala (also a former president of our St. Mary's Alumni Association) and myself are ex students and my son Zarif Furniturewala is currently studying in the 7th Std. So that makes it three generations in this magnificent educational institution -St. Mary's School -ISC.

Coming fresh from a spectacular yearlong celebrations of our school's 150th year, one can still feel that crispness and freshness in the air, which I crave to soak in the nostalgia each time I get to visit my school- albeit now as a parent for my son's stage performances, inter house quiz competition, dramatics, debates, sports day, elocution etc.

With our new principal Dr. Fr. Francis Swamy, S.J. taking fresh guard, I have no doubt whatsoever in my mind that he will leave no stone unturned in making all the possible efforts of taking our school to even greater heights.

With the road map being laid out and the roles of each and every individual staff (teaching or non-teaching) being assigned to them, the only direction I can see St. Mary's school ISC heading towards is straight up to the top.

At the end of each term, examinations are held after which results are declared. Then comes the "parents visiting day" where each parent gets an opportunity to interact with their son's teachers in various subjects and to take a stock of his progress in academics as well as in extra curricular activities. As a parent you also have an option of taking an

appointment with a particular teacher for a Specific subject to discuss in detail their son's performance during that term.

All in all, I'm enjoying every bit of my time in school. It's been 28 years, but I Just feel that I haven't left school as yet "...within whose walls we long to dwell..."

Mazharali A. Furniturewala  
Batch of 1987.

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### **The oldest living Marian?**

I was asked to send to you the contact details of the two oldest Alumni that I have come across. **Fred Steller is the oldest alumnus by age** that I have come across at **88 years**. He studied at St. Mary's from 1933 to 1944. His batch-mate is the **oldest alumnus by year of graduation** that I have come across, **Fr. Richard Lane-Smith** (age: 85 years) from **1943 batch**.

Fred's father Mr. Charles Steller joined St. Mary's School in 1900. All his 4 sons studied at St. Mary's as well, with Fred being the eldest and oldest one around. Please find below some interesting links and information about them and their contact details etc. below:

It would be great if you could send out a personal invite to them on behalf of the St. Mary's Alumni Association for the conclave. Thanks.

### **Some interesting facts about them and links amongst them:**

1. Fred and his 3 brothers (Late) **Tony**, John (Larry) & Wilfred (Bill) all studied at St. Mary's School. Not only that, their father Mr. Charles Steller also was enrolled to St. Mary's in February 1900.
2. Father Lane-Smith and Fred Steller were batch-mates with **Kenneth Dyer**. Kenneth Dyer became the principal of St. Mary's later. Father Lane-Smith was vice-principal of Champion school for 2 years when Kenneth Dyer was the principal.
3. Father Lane-Smith, Fred Steller, John Steller & Wilfrid Steller all were on the St. Mary's School band and performed at various public events for the Government. Larry took his love for music further and became an internationally known singer and performer having performed all over the world.
4. Fred along with his brother John were pro's at tap dance and performed for the school at various events and also represented the school at various competitions and won awards. I have the scans of the 1938 school magazine featuring their pictures performing the tap dance, will forward the same to you'll.
5. Wilfrid after completing his studies joined ABC News corporations and travelled extensively around the world and has interviewed many famous personalities around the world. A brief write up about him and his times at the school is being attached.
6. Larry Stellar was awarded the OAM (Order of Australia Medal) by the Governor of New South Wales for Services to Entertainment. He had said to Fred & Maxine that day, "Would you believe this could happen to a Byculla boy?"

Please find below the contact details I have of Father Lane-Smith and the Steller Family.

1. Rev. Father Richard Lane-Smith (85 years)

2nd. Floor, Roosevelt House  
Boman Behram Marg  
Behind Taj Mahal Hotel  
Colaba, Mumbai  
Tel# +91-22-2202-9529  
Cel# +91-92232-48242  
Email# [richardlanesmith@gmail.com](mailto:richardlanesmith@gmail.com)  
Batch# 1943

His pic and link to an article on him that I have set up on the blog can be found on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/stmarys150years](http://www.facebook.com/stmarys150years)).

2. Fred Steller (88 years probably the oldest alumnus)

99 Marco Avenue  
Panania NSW 2213  
AUSTRALIA  
Email# [maxinesteller@bigpond.com](mailto:maxinesteller@bigpond.com)

(Fred has had a stroke about 8 months or so back so his wife Maxine is handling his emails.)

Batch# 1933 to 1944

3. Wilfrid Steller (Bill)

12 Tungarra Parade  
Macmasters Beach  
New South Wales 2251  
AUSTRALIA  
Email# [wilfrid.steller@bigpond.com](mailto:wilfrid.steller@bigpond.com)  
Batch# 1938 to 1948

4. John Steller (Larry Stellar - Professional Name)

P.O. Box 209  
Drummoyne  
NSW 2047  
AUSTRALIA  
Email# [larrystellar@gmail.com](mailto:larrystellar@gmail.com)

(Larry is an international star and receives a lot of fan mail therefore the P.O. Box)

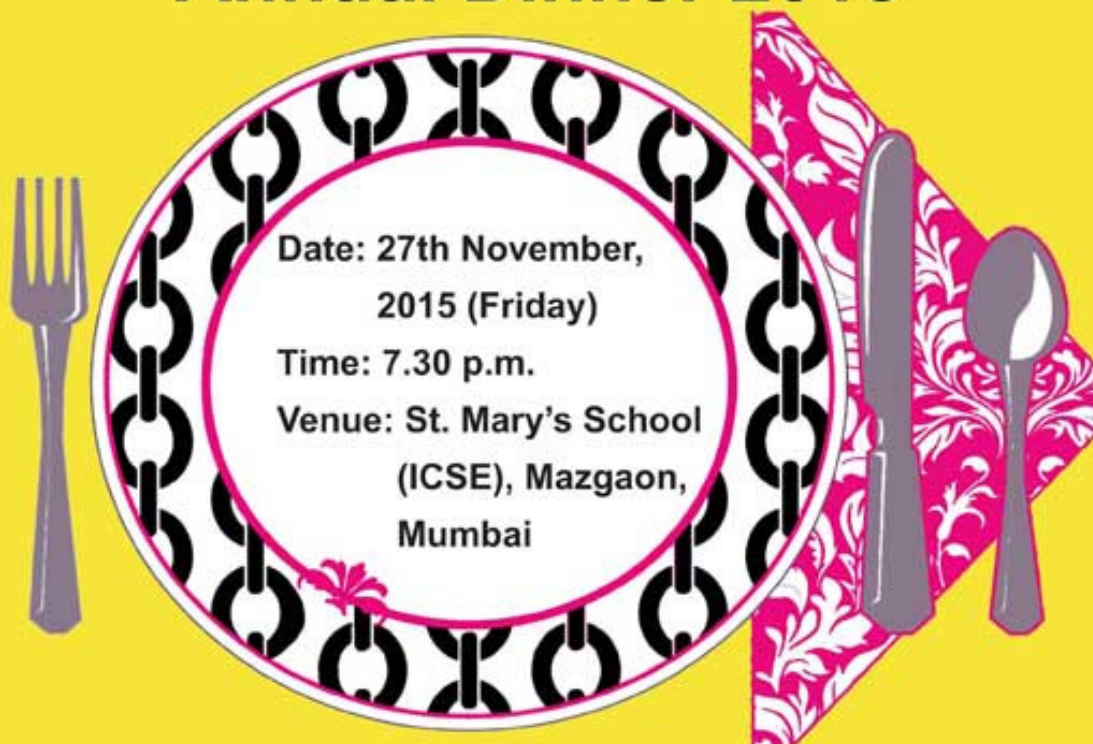
Pranav Sanghavi

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# St. Mary's Alumni Association

Presents

## Annual Dinner 2015



Date: 27th November,  
2015 (Friday)

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Venue: St. Mary's School  
(ICSE), Mazgaon,  
Mumbai

**Invitations for the function are available with below mentioned Outlets/Committee Members**

**Note** - Limited Invitations on a First Come Basis. So collect your invitations by 4.00 pm on 25th November, 2015.

Sr.	Name	Office Tel	Locality
1.	St.Mary's School (ICSE)	23778264	Mazgaon
2.	Rhythm House	43222797	Kala Ghoda
3.	Kitab Khana	61702276	Fountain
4.	Shalimar Hotel	66641000	Kemps Corner
5.	Kavi Desai	9820286092	Opera House
6.	Fali Mehta	40317333	Kala Ghoda
7.	Mazhar Furniturewala	23438044	Mohamadali Rd.
8.	Adil Irani	9223261083	Grant Road
9.	Shyam Balsekar	9930981277	Tardeo / Breach Candy
10.	Sushil Sukhwani	40813436	Marine Lines
11.	Robert Lawrence	9821214141	Bandra / Nariman Point
12.	Saumitra Patwardhan	9820501868	Worli / BKC
13.	Meherzad Patel	9819886090	Tardeo
14.	Sharookh Contractor	9821015343	Altamount Road
15.	Mazhar Ghadially	9820417651	Cuffe Parade