

POTPOURRI

Editors' Desk

As editors of *Potpourri*, we take immense pride and joy in presenting this edition — a heartfelt compilation that encapsulates the spirit, achievements, and essence of *The Asian School*. What began as an editorial endeavour soon turned into an emotional journey, as each page unfolded countless moments of inspiration, pride, and togetherness.

For us, *Potpourri* is not merely a publication; it is the voice of *The Asian School*, a reflection of its unwavering commitment to excellence, boundless creativity, and its ever-evolving pursuit of knowledge. Every section we curated speaks of the collective dedication of our pupils, teachers, and mentors who make this institution shine brighter with each passing year.

The **interviews of our esteemed chief guests** add depth and wisdom to these pages, offering insights that continue to enlighten and inspire our readers. The **section highlighting the prizes and accolades** fills us with immense pride, for behind every achievement lies relentless effort, determination, and the steadfast guidance of our teachers and mentors.

We felt a profound sense of unity whilst presenting **all the branches of The Asian School**, symbolising one shared vision and one enduring legacy that connects us beyond boundaries. The **press releases** further document the growing recognition and influence of our institution, proving that *The Asian School* continues to make remarkable strides in the field of education.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the creative mind who beautifully shaped *Potpourri* through its design and artistic vision. Their contribution added grace and vibrancy, transforming our ideas into a truly captivating creation.

As we bring this edition to a close, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to capture the journey of a school that never ceases to inspire. *Potpourri* stands as a proud tribute to every pupil, teacher, and visionary who forms the heart of *The Asian School*. It is not just a publication; it is a celebration of who we are — today and always.



An Exclusive Interaction with the Illustrious Mr. Anupam Kher

Background:

The visit of the distinguished actor Mr. Anupam Kher as the Chief Guest for The Asian School's 25th Founder's Day was indeed a moment of immense honour and pride for the entire Asian fraternity. Four of our students had the rare privilege of engaging in a captivating dialogue with the celebrated thespian a conversation brimming with wit, wisdom, and warmth.

Interviewer 1: Anjumann Panwar

Good evening, sir! We are profoundly grateful to have you among us today. Your presence truly dignifies this special occasion.

Mr. Anupam Kher:

Thank you so much. The pleasure is entirely mine. It's heartwarming to be here.

Interviewer 2: Mehak Arora

Sir, we came across an interesting anecdote that a British nurse once wished to adopt you at birth. What are your thoughts on where you might have been today if that had actually transpired?

Mr. Anupam Kher:

(Smiles) Ah, that's quite true. But my mother would never have permitted anyone to adopt her firstborn! She was merely sixteen when I was born, yet her spirit was formidable.

Had that adoption taken place, I doubt I would have been standing here among such wonderful young minds. I believe destiny had already written that I was meant to be her son. And I must say, I take immense pride in being born an Indian rather than as someone detached from my roots.

Interviewer 3: Shambhavi Singh

Sir, we've often heard your nickname 'Bittu.' Could you tell us is Bittu different from Anupam Kher? How do you perceive that contrast?

Mr. Anupam Kher:

(Reflectively) That's a very perceptive question. Bittu is the boy from a modest town who dared to dream magnificently, while Anupam Kher is the actor who realised some of those dreams.

Bittu keeps me anchored to humility and simplicity he reminds me of where I began. As we grow older, chasing success and recognition, we often lose the innocence of our younger selves.

But preserving that inner 'Bittu' or 'Babli' helps us remain authentic and humane, even when fame surrounds us. It's essential to nurture the child within, for it keeps the soul pure.

Interviewer 4: Aridaman Singh

Sir, you appeared in nearly 60 films during the 1990s, whereas today most actors prefer doing just one or two films a year. Why do you think this shift has occurred?

Mr. Anupam Kher:

Times have evolved tremendously. Today, people have a myriad of entertainment options from mobile phones and multiplexes to Netflix, Amazon, and social media.

The audience has become discerning, and consequently, filmmakers have grown cautious. Creating a film is not an overnight endeavour it demands an enormous investment of time, creativity, and resources. The stakes are much higher now, and therefore, artists prefer precision over quantity.

Interviewer 5: Khushi Bharadwaj

Sir, I happened to read your book in our school library. There's a beautiful line where you wrote "With a warm

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smile, she turned around and told me that not only was I a good actor but a far better son.” Could you tell us about the sentiment behind those words?

Mr. Anupam Kher:

(Emotionally) That line holds deep significance for me. It was during the height of the COVID pandemic. My brother and I had taken our mother for a medical check-up, and she tested positive. My brother too was infected, while I was not.

My mother has always believed in my strength, but during that time, I felt utterly helpless. I couldn't even be by her side. Yet she smiled and told me those words, as if to remind me that love transcends barriers. It was a moment that humbled me profoundly. When you start feeling invincible, life has its unique way of whispering, “Neeche aa ja dost” — come back to the ground, my friend.

Interviewer 6: Naisha Dhyani

Sir, as we approach the end of this inspiring interaction, we would love to hear a few words of wisdom for today's youth.

Mr. Anupam Kher:

(With warmth) Health and happiness are inseparable companions. Strive to be kind, grounded, and compassionate human beings before aspiring for success.

If your intentions are pure and your efforts sincere, success will inevitably follow.

Interviewer 6: Naisha Dhyani

Thank you so much, sir. It has been an absolute honour to converse with you. Your humility and wisdom have left an indelible mark on our hearts.

Mr. Anupam Kher:

Thank you. The honour is mine. Always stay curious, stay grateful, and keep dreaming for dreams are the first step towards greatness.





At the Forefront of Education: Words from the CBSE Regional Officer

On the annual prize giving day held on 23 May 2025, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Manish Aggarwal the regional officer at CBSE to The Asian School. We sat down for an insightful conversation with him—here are some of the highlights from the interview. We had a light-hearted conversation with him, where he shared a few tid bits of his journey from school life to working as the regional officer of CBSE. Here are a few excerpts from the interview.

(Interviewer 1) Pari Jain: Sir, can you share a memorable experience with a teacher or a subject that left a significant impact on you?

Mr. Manish Aggarwal: Yes, I do recall an incident. It was either class 10th or 11th. I used to study in an all-boys school and I had a friend circle of three or four boys— we were all very fond of maths. We liked to study a lot, and that too, from many different books. We were *always* on the lookout for teachers who could satisfy our curiosity. There was this maths teacher in our school who must have been in his 90s at the time, and everybody called him a maths prodigy— he was very good in his field. So, me and my friends— we loved riding bicycles— we rode to his house. We saw that the teacher— who I can't recall the name of— lived in a room *outside* his house. Us being 16–17-year-olds, we didn't realise how lonely he must've been. I think there must have been an argument at his house prior to our arrival, because when we went up to his door to ask our questions, he got angry at us. He started scolding us, and we just stood there silently and took it. Then he took us in, and explained to us in a very lucid, comprehensive language— it cleared all our doubts, and we were so impressed that we couldn't help ourselves— we caught hold of his feet like, "Guruji, where have you been?"

(Interviewer 2) Maanya Tyagi: Sir, as someone who has worked in the examination department, what future reforms would you like to see in India's board exam system?

Mr. Manish Aggarwal: What is the purpose of exams? Let's confront that first, the purpose of the exam is to have an assessment of the students' learning throughout the whole academic year. Unfortunately, in the Indian examination –or education– system, the purpose has been reduced to the collection of marks. It should instead be linked to assessing what the student has learned at school as well as outside the classroom. The process in the current times does not reflect the learning and focuses on scoring marks.

(Interviewer 1) Pari Jain: Sir, the CBSE system's practice of stream selection after class 10th often gives students less time to explore their interests and develop a genuine passion for specific subjects. Do you think this timing impacts students' ability to make well informed choices?

Mr. Manish Aggarwal: I think you're asking the wrong question. CBSE provides many choices and a lot of information about stream selection, and if, despite that, a student is having problems with the stream selection, then it is the shortcoming of their teachers, or their own lack of awareness. CBSE offers more than two hundred subjects of a large variety, and if you have an interest in a particular field, there's a high chance that CBSE does have a place for it. So, the question of lack of time for exploration doesn't come up at all.

(Interviewer 3) Krishna Neel: Sir, what advice do you have for children to succeed academically and personally

Mr Manish Aggarwal: I believe there are two main ingredients of success which are curiosity, and discipline, if you cultivate these qualities you'll

definitely achieve success also not to forget hard work. This is my own experience that many times hard work perseverance yields genius. I have myself found this that High IQ but not working can be beaten by someone less IQ but perseverant and hardworking.

(Interviewer 2) Maanya Tyagi: Sir, parents and students shy away from posing questions and suggestions in fear of being singled out by the authorities. Does CBSE have any plans to bridge this gap? By building forums to submit complaints anonymously perhaps?

Mr Manish Aggarwal: We have counsellors and counselling sessions both online and offline, where children and parents can discuss—or rather—are invited to discuss any inquiries. It is a well-structured and defined system. The details are available on the CBSE website.

(Interviewer 4) Tejashwinee Rai: Sir, what does your role involve as a regional officer of CBSE and what are the most rewarding aspects of your job?

Mr. Manish Aggarwal: My role as a Regional Officer with CBSE is both highly demanding and deeply fulfilling. It involves constant supervision and coordination, as my team and I are consistently engaged in ensuring that every process runs smoothly. Even when I'm seated here giving this interview, my team is working tirelessly in the background. The nature of our work is time-sensitive — actions need to be taken within a specific window, and delays are simply not an option. I love this job and the interaction with parents and students gives me immense satisfaction, and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

(Interviewer 5) Siddhi Bijalwan: Sir, what practices or method from your time do you believe are no longer in use today, but could have a positive impact on children if reinforced?

Mr Manish Aggarwal: Reading a lot, it is lacking in this generation heavily. We need to develop the habit of reading once again, as it builds character and will also help you in your professional and personal life. We should definitely bring it back.

(Interviewer 3) Krishna Neel: Sir, what was the thing or person that motivated you to join the CBSE?

Mr Manish Aggarwal: I believe my motivation was not one person's effort but rather cognitive effort of many personalities with whom I have interacted and who have seemingly inspired me. I believe the institutions have fostered character, also I'm a firm believer of 'Character makes the man' and with CBSE constantly we forget the character development.

(Interviewer 2) Maanya Tyagi: Sir, if you could go back to your engineering or MBA days, what's one skill you wish you had learned earlier for your career?

Mr Manish Aggarwal: I don't think there is any such skill that I wish I had learned earlier. I feel I have learned all necessary skills for my career earlier or later in life.

(Interviewer 1) Pari Jain: Sir, what was your favourite subject in school, and how did it influence you later in life?
Mr. Manish Aggarwal: When I was in school, Maths and Physics were my favorite subjects. If I'm being honest, non-analytical subjects like English and Hindi did not appeal to me back then. But, now that I'm grown, I have to admit that I have grown fond of them. I'm an avid fan of English and History, and I often read Shakespeare and many history books. While I didn't like theoretical subjects in school and was glad to be rid of them, now I realise how very fond of them I have become.

(Interviewer 5) Siddhi Bijalwan: Sir, what is a quality or trait which you admire in today's younger generation that was less evident or not as prevalent during your own childhood?

Mr Manish Aggarwal: In today's generation, the habits of grown-ups are very different, and I understand it, because the current generation has grown up in a different environment with different parental values compared to our generation, which makes the qualities of current grown-ups and adults different.

(Interviewer 3) Krishna Neel: Sir, what is success according to you?

Mr Manish Aggarwal: Sitting here. Answering honestly, this may not satisfy you, but this is a fully honest answer as I believe this reflects that I have grown into someone who can answer these questions.



The Asian School: Carving Dreams, Crafting Destinies

The Asian School, Dehradun, stands today as a beacon of knowledge, discipline, and holistic growth. Founded with the vision of nurturing young minds into confident, responsible, and compassionate individuals, the school has earned its place among the most prestigious educational institutions of India. What makes it remarkable is not just its academic rigor, but its ability to shape children into global citizens while staying rooted in Indian values. Over the years, the school has grown in both strength and stature, becoming a trusted name for quality education.

One of the unique aspects of The Asian School is its blend of tradition and modernity. Situated in the heart of the Doon Valley, surrounded by the serene beauty of the Himalayas, the school provides a learning atmosphere that is inspiring and enriching. Here, classrooms are not confined within walls; instead, the entire campus becomes a dynamic space for exploration, curiosity, and creativity. This harmonious balance between natural surroundings and modern facilities ensures that every student feels connected to both nature and progress.

The institution places a strong emphasis on academic excellence, following a curriculum that sharpens intellect while fostering curiosity. With highly qualified and dedicated teachers, The Asian School ensures that learning goes beyond textbooks. Students are encouraged to think critically, ask questions, and develop their own perspectives. This approach has consistently enabled them to perform brilliantly in board examinations and pursue higher studies in top institutions across India and abroad.

But education at The Asian School is not limited to academics alone. The school truly believes in the motto of "Education Beyond Classrooms." Sports, arts, music, dance, theatre, and public speaking form an integral part of daily life here. The sprawling playgrounds echo with the energy of budding cricketers, footballers, and athletes, while the art and music rooms witness the blossoming of creativity. Inculcating the spirit of teamwork, discipline, and leadership, co-curricular activities ensure that every child's talent finds its rightful platform.

A highlight of the school's journey is its expansion into three flourishing branches. With each branch carrying forward the legacy of the parent institution, The Asian School has made its philosophy of quality education accessible to more families. Each campus is designed thoughtfully with state-of-the-art facilities, experienced faculty, and a warm, welcoming environment. Together, these branches represent the school's commitment to nurturing excellence at a larger scale while maintaining the same high standards that the institution is known for.

The Asian School also emphasizes values and character building, which is essential in today's fast-paced world. Students are encouraged to imbibe respect, empathy, and integrity in their everyday lives. Festivals, cultural programs, and community service activities instill a deep appreciation for diversity and responsibility towards society. This focus on ethics and emotional intelligence prepares students not only to excel in their careers but also to become kind, thoughtful human beings.

Technology, too, plays a vital role in the school's vision of progressive education. Smart classrooms, digital libraries, science and computer labs, and interactive teaching methods make learning engaging and relevant to the modern age. The Asian School ensures that its students are future-ready, equipped with the skills and confidence needed to succeed in a rapidly changing world. Yet, while embracing innovation, the school never loses sight of its foundation—its unwavering dedication to discipline, culture, and holistic development.

In its 25 glorious years and beyond, The Asian School has carved a legacy of brilliance that continues to inspire generations. It is not just a school; it is a family, a community, and a journey of transformation. Every child who steps into its gates leaves with knowledge, courage, and a heart full of dreams. As it continues to expand its horizons with three thriving branches, The Asian School remains steadfast in its mission to ignite young minds, to nurture greatness, and to build a brighter tomorrow.



The Asian School, Paonta Sahib

The Asian School extended its legacy of excellence with a new branch at Paonta Sahib, Himachal Pradesh, inaugurated in February 2025. Located near Mankind Pharmacy, it offers a co-educational day-boarding program with state-of-the-art facilities including smart classrooms, a swimming pool, and basketball courts. The school focuses on academic excellence, personal growth, and career guidance, providing students with a nurturing and future-ready environment in line with the vision of The Asian School network.



The Asian School, Jammu

Situated in Miran Sahib, Jammu, The Asian School stands as a leading day-cum-boarding, co-educational institution, affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Offering English medium classes from Nursery to XII, the school is dedicated to providing a holistic education that blends academic excellence with character development and creative growth.

With its modern infrastructure, including digital classrooms, a fully air-conditioned auditorium, and a spacious 2-acre campus, the school provides an environment conducive to learning and exploration. Students benefit from outstanding sports facilities, including basketball, tennis, and badminton courts, a 25-meter swimming pool, a gymnasium, and wide open playfields.

The school's boarding facilities offer a nurturing and disciplined atmosphere, while GPS-enabled transport ensures safe and efficient travel for all. True to its vision, The Asian School, Jammu continues to inspire young minds to grow stronger, higher, and brighter each day.





The Asian School, Ludhiana

A transformative educational experience that fosters leadership qualities through diverse learning methods. The dedicated faculty consists of highly qualified and experienced educators who are committed to delivering exceptional instruction tailored to each student's unique needs.

Located in Ludhiana, the day school welcomes students from all over India, provides top-notch educational amenities, and strives to create a high-quality academic environment that promotes student growth and success.

The Asian School also aims to instill a love for nature and environmental awareness in its students.

Well established in Dehradun, **The Asian School** is now spreading its wings across the region, with the latest being **The Asian School, Ludhiana**. With a supportive management, dedicated teachers, a nurturing environment, and state-of-the-art facilities, **The Asian School, Ludhiana** is confident of living up to the school's motto — *"Higher, Stronger, Brighter."* It aspires to grow into a happy, child-centric school — one that children look forward to attending.







**THE ASIAN SCHOOL
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