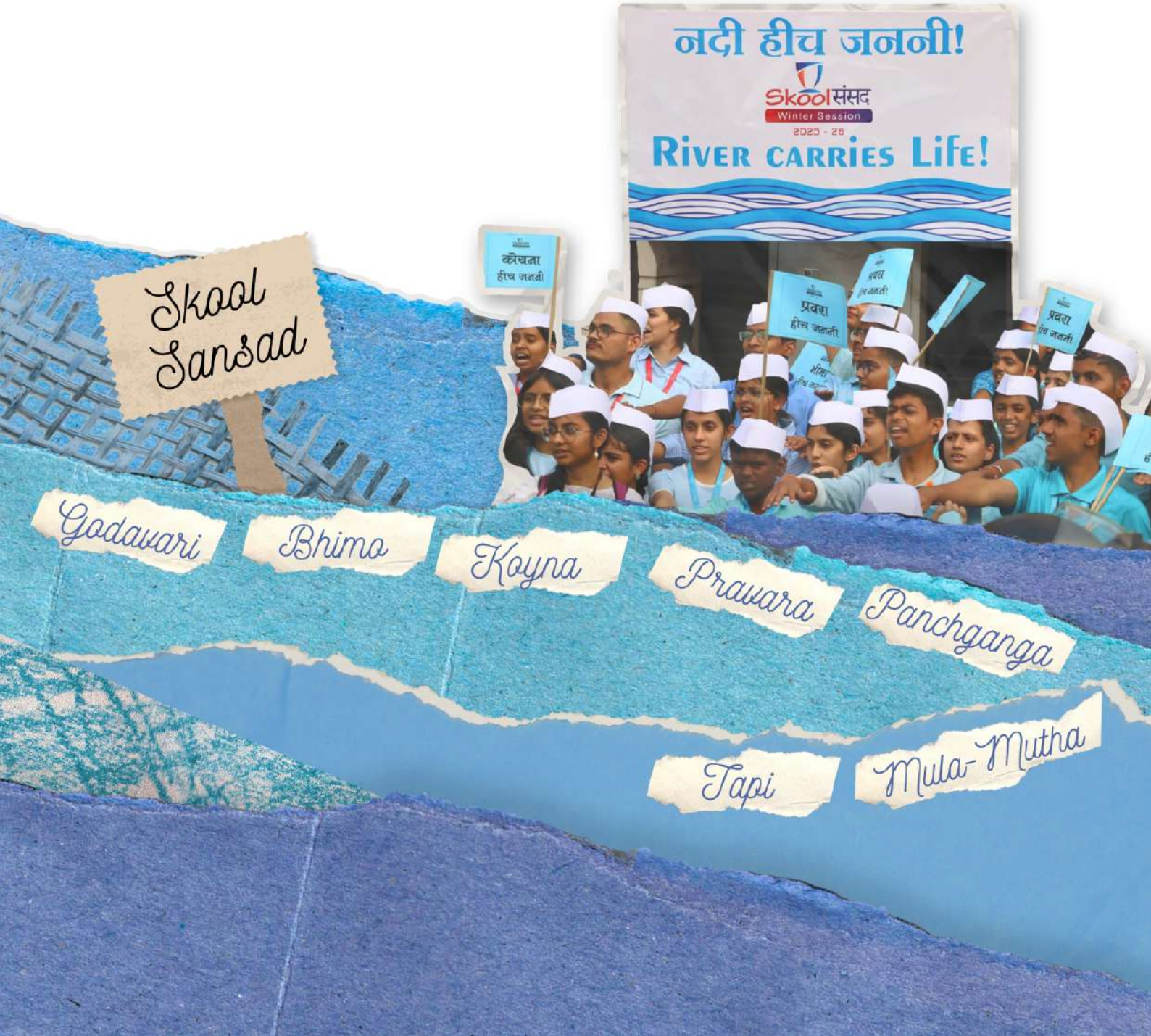




Deepastambha Charitable Trust, Pune.

प्रतिरव

APR 2026





By the team

The word "participation" is one we hear often. It sounds important, even necessary. But in reality, it is something much simpler—and much more personal. It shows up in small decisions. In choosing to step forward, to ask a question, to stay involved just a little longer than expected. This edition of Pratirav is shaped by those moments.

Across these pages, participation takes different forms. In Skool Sansad, students step into roles that ask them to think, speak, and listen. What begins as an activity slowly becomes something more—a space where they realise that their voices matter, and that being part of a system also means shaping it.

In other spaces, participation looks quieter, but no less important. It appears in conversations around road safety, where everyday choices affect everyone around us. It appears in discussions on menopause and andropause—topics often left unspoken, now being approached with openness and care. It appears in efforts to encourage voting awareness, where simple conversations remind us of our role as citizens.

The project updates in this edition reflect the same spirit. They are not moments of sudden change, but examples of steady work—of people showing up, contributing, and building something over time.

What ties all of this together is not scale, but intent. A shared understanding that change does not happen on its own. It takes participation—not once, but again and again, in ways that may seem small, but are never insignificant.

As you read this edition, we invite you to see these stories not just as activities, but as reflections of a larger idea—that being involved, in whatever way possible, is where change begins.

Warm regards,
Team Pratirav.



माझ्या स्मरणात कोरलेले चार दिवस

Skool Sansad मध्ये सहभागी होणे हा माझ्यासाठी केवळ एक उपक्रम नव्हता, तर नेतृत्व, विचारशक्ती आणि जबाबदारी यांचा प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव होता. प्राथमिक फेरीतील लेखी परीक्षा आणि मुलाखत यशस्वीरीत्या पार केल्यानंतर आम्हाला पक्ष, Mentors आणि Guides नेमले गेले. त्या क्षणापासून चार दिवसांच्या एका सशक्त प्रवासाला सुरुवात झाली.



पहिल्या दिवशी Ice-breaking session झाले. अनोळखी चेहरे हळूहळू सहकाऱ्यांत रूपांतरित झाले. आम्ही आमच्या पक्षातील भूमिका निश्चित केल्या. प्रत्येकाच्या स्वभाव, ताकद आणि विचारांनुसार जबाबदाऱ्या वाटल्या गेल्या. प्रत्यक्ष भेटीच्या दिवशी मनात उत्सुकता आणि थोडीशी धाकधूकही होती. अमेय सरांनी Skool Sansad ची संकल्पना, रचना आणि पुढील चार दिवसांचा सविस्तर आराखडा सांगितला. मात्र या प्रक्रियेत त्यांनी दिलेले अचानक सरप्राइज संपूर्ण वातावरण अधिक जिवंत करत होते.

पहिला सरप्राइज होता, पंतप्रधान पदासाठी आघाडी करणे. इतर पक्षांशी चर्चा, वादविवाद, युती आणि त्यातील बदल यामुळे राजकीय व्यवहाराचा प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव मिळाला. शेवटी आम्ही स्वतंत्रपणे निवडणूक लढवण्याचा निर्णय घेतला आणि उमेदवारी अर्ज भरले. त्यानंतर 'Save Water' मोर्चा काढण्यात आला. आकाशी निळ्या पोशाखात, हातात फलक घेऊन "जल है तो कल है" चे नारे म्हणताना एक वेगळीच ऊर्जा निर्माण झाली. त्या क्षणी समाजाशी नाते अधिक घट्ट झाल्याची जाणीव झाली.

यानंतर पक्षनेत्याने मुलाखती घेऊन अंतिम पंतप्रधान उमेदवार निश्चित केला. आम्ही Elected PM निवडण्यासाठी मतदान केले. सरकार स्थापन करण्यासाठी पुन्हा युती झाली आणि त्या प्रक्रियेत आमच्या पक्षाची Deputy PM निवडली गेली.

Parliamentary sessions सुरू झाल्यानंतर संपूर्ण वातावरण अधिकच गंभीर आणि वास्तववादी वाटू लागले. पांढऱ्या कुर्त्याच्या पोशाखात आम्हाला ही मंत्र्यांसारखे वाटत होते. प्रत्येक session साठी Chairperson बदलत होते आणि ते सर्व त्यांच्या क्षेत्रातील तज्ज्ञ होते. प्रत्येक पक्षाचा ठराव मान्य की अमान्य हे

उर्वरित १४ पक्ष मतदानाद्वारे ठरवत होते. चर्चा, प्रतिवाद आणि मांडणी यातून लोकशाहीची खरी प्रक्रिया अनुभवायला मिळाली. Press conference मध्ये प्रवक्त्याच्या भूमिकेत माध्यमांशी संवाद साधताना आत्मविश्वास आणि संयम किती महत्त्वाचे आहेत, हे शिकायला मिळाले.

निकालाच्या वेळी मला वैयक्तिक पारितोषिक मिळाले नाही. क्षणभर मन खिन्न झाले; पण लगेच जाणवले—या चार दिवसांत जे शिकलो, ते कोणत्याही पारितोषिकापेक्षा मोठे आहे. आमच्या पक्षाला Deputy PM आणि Best Cabinet Minister अशी मानांकने मिळाली. मात्र माझ्यासाठी सर्वात मोठा पुरस्कार म्हणजे मिळालेली मैत्री, नेतृत्वाची जाणीव आणि आत्मविश्वास.

Mentors आदर्श दादा, श्रावणी ताई आणि Guide विशाल दादा यांच्या मार्गदर्शनामुळे हा अनुभव अधिक समृद्ध झाला. दीपस्तंभ संस्थेने दिलेले हे व्यासपीठ माझ्या आयुष्यातील एक संस्मरणीय पर्व ठरले..

- Yashraj

Skool Sansad is not just a stage to represent our talent; it is a stage where you get to interact with different people, different ideologies, and different strategies.

While going to Pune, I was completely blank about how it would be, how the members would be, and what the overall experience would feel like. But while returning from Pune, everyone carried wonderful, beautiful memories that none of the 150-member MPs or mentors can ever forget. The memories of mentors, MPs, and the experience of the election, being in the ruling party, and supporting our Hon. PM were truly unforgettable. Listening to the speeches of the PM candidates, who had different solutions with huge budgets, and listening to the loopholes in those solutions from the Speaker, Sir, was the BEST learning experience.

Four days of Skool Sansad passed quickly, but during those four days, when everyone was in political mode—that is, deciding which party to ally with, how to improve the PM speech, and much more—it was something that we really felt like we were in the real world of politics.

The efforts taken by the Deepastambha members for the future of India, to make students familiar with the real meaning of politics, were really very appreciable. Skool Sansad is the stage where we get to know the different problems India is facing and to think deeply about their solutions.

- *Bhumi*



As a volunteer at Skool Sansad with the Deepastambha Charitable Trust, I had an absolutely fantastic experience! Working with 9th-grade students, I connected with peers from my own grade, making the event super enjoyable and relatable. The four days of Skool Sansad flew by in a whirlwind of activities—interactive sessions, engaging discussions, and loads of fun. We bonded over shared interests and ideas, and I loved seeing the students' enthusiasm and creativity shine through. The march was a thrilling finale that left a lasting impression on me. I'm really glad I got to contribute to this wonderful initiative and learn valuable lessons about teamwork, leadership, and social responsibility along the way. The experience was enriching, and I'm looking forward to more opportunities like this to make a positive impact.

- *Anvi*

Between the lines

The ability to pause, analyse, and understand.

During the recent matches of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, public opinion seemed to change with every ball. A missed shot or a slow inning was enough for timelines to erupt with criticism. Players found themselves under the familiar scrutiny of a nation that watches every move closely.

In moments like these, judgment arrives quickly—often before the match has even finished. Yet as the tournament progressed and the final told its own story, the question quietly emerged: can a player's contribution to the country really be measured in a few overs?

This habit of quick judgment extends far beyond cricket. It plays out in politics as well. Whenever a Member of Parliament or a legislator is caught on camera briefly dozing during a session, the image quickly circulates online, accompanied by sarcasm and memes. The assumption is immediate: carelessness, disinterest, negligence.

Rarely do we pause to ask what the larger picture might look like.

Earlier this year, during Skool Sansad's Winter Session, students were allowed to step into the role of legislators themselves. What seemed like a simulation quickly turned into a demanding exercise in responsibility. The session lasted two full days, preceded by two days of preparation, and activities that allowed the Student MPs to interact with the society. Once the proceedings began, the schedule stretched from morning to evening, filled with debates, discussions, and constant engagement.

The experience was exciting—but it was also exhausting.

At one point, a few student MPs quietly dozed off in the air-conditioned Sansad hall. It was a small and very human moment, but it also triggered an unexpected realisation. Suddenly, the images we often see on television—parliamentarians briefly nodding off during long sessions—looked very different.

What once appeared careless now seemed understandable.

Because governance, much like any serious responsibility, is not a highlight reel. It is hours of preparation, negotiation, listening, and debate. It is demanding work that rarely fits into the few seconds of footage that circulate online.

And perhaps that is precisely the lesson worth remembering.

In a world where information travels faster than ever, opinions often travel even faster. Headlines, clips, and short videos make it easy to react immediately—but they rarely provide the context needed to understand the systems behind them.

This is exactly the kind of gap that Skool Sansad attempts to bridge.

Within DCT, students are encouraged not merely to consume information but to question it. Why do governments make certain decisions? How do institutions function beyond what appears in the news? What responsibilities and pressures shape those who work within public systems?

Through discussions, debate, and immersive experiences like Skool Sansad, students begin to see governance not as a distant spectacle but as a complex process shaped by ideas, responsibilities, and human effort. They learn that policies are rarely simple, that disagreements are often necessary, and that thoughtful decision-making requires patience and perspective.

In many ways, this kind of learning stands in quiet contrast to the pace of the world outside. While the internet rewards speed and instant reactions, spaces like DCT encourage something far more valuable: the ability to pause, analyse, and understand.

Because meaningful education does not simply produce informed observers. It nurtures thoughtful citizens—individuals who recognise that behind every decision, every debate, and every public institution lies a process that deserves to be understood before it is judged.

And in a time defined by quick opinions, that ability may be more important than ever.

- **Mahek**

An Ecosystem of Learners, Leaders, and Legacy

Some of the most meaningful learning at Deepastambha doesn't happen during the sessions—it happens after.

A few years ago, during a feedback discussion after a Skool Sansad session, we found ourselves revisiting one of the topics that had come up earlier: betting in India. The Cabinet Minister presenting it had suggested a solution that felt clear and practical—impose high taxes on those involved in the business. The Honourable Chief Minister added to it, saying that this revenue could then be used to support people who had been negatively affected by betting.

At that moment, it felt like a solid answer. Thoughtful. Complete, even.

But what stayed with me wasn't just the idea—it was what happened next.

Some of the older members of Deepastambha reacted with visible surprise. Not in a dismissive way, not as if the idea was wrong—but almost as if there was more to be said. And slowly, the conversation opened up. Questions came in. Perspectives shifted. The issue became bigger, more layered than it had first seemed.

Looking back, that moment didn't feel like someone being corrected. It felt like something was being expanded.

And maybe that's what Deepastambha does best

In the journey of Skool Sansad, I've started to realise that the impact we talk about so often isn't created by one group alone. It comes from the way different generations show up—together.

School students bring a kind of honesty that's hard to miss. They ask questions without hesitation, sometimes without filters, and often without the weight of "what should be said." Something's refreshing about that. It pushes conversations to start from a real place, not a rehearsed one. Their ideas may not always be perfect, but they are always sincere—and that sincerity keeps the space alive.

Then there are the young volunteers and college students. They exist somewhere in between—no longer just participants, not quite mentors yet. They take on responsibility, figure things out as they go, and learn in ways that aren't always visible. I've seen people in this space grow quietly—from hesitating before speaking, to leading discussions, managing teams, and making decisions they once felt unprepared for.

It's not always smooth. There are mistakes, moments of doubt, and things that don't go as planned. But somehow, that becomes part of the learning, too.

And then there are the mentors and senior members. Their presence feels different—not louder, not overpowering, but steady. They don't always step in immediately, but when they do, it shifts the conversation. Sometimes it's a question, sometimes it's an observation, sometimes just a pause that makes you rethink what you just said.

They remind us that every issue has a context. That every solution has consequences. That thinking deeply takes time.

What makes all of this work is that learning here doesn't move in just one direction

That moment from the Skool Sansad discussion is a good example of it. A student approached a complex issue with clarity and confidence. The response they received didn't shut that down—it stretched it. It added layers, context, and new angles. And in that process, everyone in the room learned something—not just the person who had spoken.

That's what an intergenerational space can look like when it works.

There's a kind of balance that naturally forms. Young people bring urgency—the need to question, to act, to not settle too quickly. Older generations bring perspective—the ability to slow things down, to connect ideas to reality, to see what might not be immediately visible.

On their own, both are important. Together, they become something much stronger.

Of course, it's not always easy. There are disagreements. Moments where perspectives don't align, where one feels too idealistic and the other too cautious. But those moments don't break the space—they shape it. Because here, disagreement doesn't end the conversation. If anything, it deepens it.

And that feels rare.

We're used to spaces where opinions are formed quickly and defended even faster. Where listening sometimes takes a backseat. But Deepastambha has always felt different. Conversations take time here. They pause, they circle back, they evolve.

And somewhere in that process, you realise that learning isn't just about finding the right answer—it's about asking better questions.

Maybe that's why this intergenerational exchange matters so much.

Because generations aren't just about age—they're about experience. About the different worlds people have lived in, the different challenges they've faced, the different ways they've learned to see things. When those perspectives come together, they don't cancel each other out—they make the conversation richer.

*A student might ask, "Why does this system work this way?"
A mentor might respond, "Let's look at how it got here."*

And between those two, something shifts. The question becomes deeper. The answer becomes more meaningful.

Through initiatives like Skool Sansad and other grassroots work, I've come to see this not just as a structure, but as a kind of ecosystem. One where everyone is constantly moving between roles—learning, contributing, questioning, guiding.

You don't stay in one place for too long. You grow, and the space grows with you.

And maybe that's the quiet strength of Deepastambha.

It doesn't just create opportunities for learning—it creates relationships with learning. It teaches you to be comfortable not knowing everything. To be open to being challenged. To listen, even when you're sure you're right.

For me, that's been one of the most important takeaways

Because in the end, what we're building here isn't just a set of initiatives or programs. It's a way of thinking. A way of engaging with the world—and with each other.

And in that space, every generation matters.

*Not because they play different roles,
but because they make each other better.*

- Rushikesh

Behind the Seamless

For the longest time, I thought Skoolsansad just... worked.

Everything was always on time, people were where they needed to be, and the whole thing felt so put together that I never really questioned it. As a mentor, I just assumed that's how things were supposed to be—smooth, structured, almost effortless.

It was only when I became part of the volunteers that I realized how far from the truth that actually was.

In the post-event briefings, people casually mention things that had gone wrong—permissions at the boys' hostel coming through at the last minute, kids getting sick unexpectedly, someone losing their belongings somewhere. And the strange part was, most of us had no idea any of this was happening while the event was going on.

That contrast stayed with me. On the outside, everything looked perfect. On the inside, it was anything but—and yet, it still worked.

I think that's what drew me in the most. Not just the event itself, but the kind of work it

takes to keep something like that running without letting it fall apart.

There was one moment this year that I can't stop thinking about. On Day 2, the "Save River" campaign rally was scheduled to depart from the S. M. Joshi campus. I was told to make sure everyone in the girls' hostel was ready by 4:30. It sounded simple enough until I realized it was already 4:05, and I was the only volunteer there.

So I just... started.

I was running up and down the stairs, knocking on doors, telling people to hurry up, repeating the same thing over and over again. At some point, I stopped asking nicely. I was rushing people, pushing them, trying to get them out of their rooms as fast as possible. I even started helping them clean up just so we could save time.

I remember thinking, they're definitely going to hate me for all that nagging.

Because in that moment, I wasn't the friendly mentor or the calm volunteer. I was just the person who wouldn't let them take their time.



Team Skool Sansad in preparation for the Winter Session

And I didn't even notice how intense it had gotten until it was over

But when the rally ended, and everyone was leaving, a few of the girls came up to me and handed me chocolates. They thanked me for helping them get there on time. Some of them even said they would've been late if I hadn't pushed them.

I didn't really know how to react to that.

I think that's when something shifted for me. I realized that a lot of the work we do behind the scenes isn't always going to look nice or feel comfortable. Sometimes it means being strict, or annoying, or even a little unlikable in the moment. But that doesn't take away from its value.

If anything, it makes it more real.

And the funny thing is, despite all of this—the chaos, the pressure, the running around—none of it ever feels unappreciated. There's always someone telling you that you did well. Even when you don't know how to take the compliment, it's there. And at the end, when every single person—from volunteers to decorators to photographers—is acknowledged, it doesn't feel like a formality. It feels genuine.

I think that's why I keep coming back to Skoolsansad.

Not just because I enjoy working with the kids, or because I like organizing things, but because it constantly reminds me that the most important work is often the kind that no one really sees while it's happening.

And that's okay.

Because sometimes, the best part of being there isn't being in the spotlight.

It's knowing you helped keep everything together.

- ***Khushboo***



Team Skool Sansad

Mark your calendar:

**MAY
10**

Upayn

Date: 10th May 2026

Venue: 128, 2, JP Naik Rd, off Karve Road,
Mayur Colony, Kothrud,
Pune, Maharashtra 411038

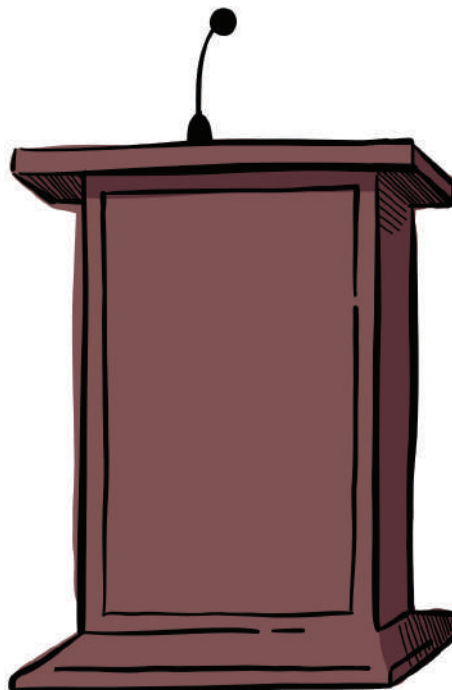
Multiple donations including clothes, blood,
e-waste, etc.

Pause and Ponder

A space to think, reflect, and engage.

Do you know?

Q. Who was the first speaker
of the Lok Sabha?



Word Search

Find words that fit the genre of Skool Sansad.

A	R	T	Z	Y	W	X	U	X	S	E
B	M	S	Y	U	E	V	L	P	T	G
B	O	P	Z	A	T	K	H	A	G	O
A	N	P	N	C	H	R	D	P	L	S
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Send us your answers at 9970704444 or
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Upayn....
...donation in the form of gifts



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