

From our Chief Executive



Lt. General Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)

Dear Friends,

The past five years have been an exciting journey. We have truly come of age as an international school. The school has over 823 students of which about 40 percent are from 28 countries, an example of how diverse and multicultural we are. The Indus journey would not have been successful without the close support from you parents, an empowered and experienced faculty under the bold and imaginative leadership of Principal Sarojini Rao, and the absence of fear on the campus.

In the initial three years or so we were under pressure from several quarters to impose military-type discipline, but we resisted it with all our might. We believe that discipline is about self-management and moderation, about responsibility and righteous conduct, and not an externally imposed force. Discipline is about the absence of all fears only then can individuals and societies maximise their full potential.

Every organization and institution must be driven forward by a central idea that provides direction and identity. At Indus it is *leadership*. The single biggest crisis the world faces today is not poverty, it is not terrorism, and it is not the environment. It is the crisis of leadership. Take a serious scan of all

countries. How many transformational leaders can we find? The question on everyone's lips is: where have all the leaders gone?

Leadership is the most strategic and the rarest resource available today. In the Knowledge Society our concept of investment has to change. While we invest in property, in gold, and in stocks and shares, we now must also invest in Knowledge. That's our first line of defence; that's our insurance policy for an uncertain future.

At Indus of leadership is more about developing the inner potential of children through self-awareness, and instilling in them the universal values of love, empathy and discipline; only then can she lead herself. Leadership in practical terms must result in one's transformation and in turn of others. The ultimate test of successful leadership is not the marks scored in examinations, the profits earned for the company, or the legacy of the intellectual capital left behind. The real test lies in how that financial and intellectual wealth has been deployed to make a difference in the lives of the community, especially those who exist on the fringe of poverty and ignorance.

I take this occasion to share with you some bold and avant-garde steps we have taken to develop leadership in Indus. First, the **Indus School of Leadership** is being set up on a 10 acre plot close to Sri Sri Ravi Shankerji's Ashram. This school will be ready next session and will provide practical and innovative training to students and teachers in developing their leadership competencies and self-awareness.

Secondly, formal **leadership training will start from the age of five**. We believe this is crucial because fifty percent of a person's development takes place by the age of ten. Concepts of life, of mind, and of matter are learnt by the age of five and values by the age of seven.

Thirdly, we are introducing nine gateways to **personalizing learning**. We believe that learning has to be customized to meet the specific needs of a student. In this form of schooling, education will empower students to become independent, creative and lifelong learners. In other words, the onus of learning will shift decisively from teachers to students, with teachers becoming facilitators. To fast-track this concept technology will play a vital role. Towards this educational goal, all Indus schools will introduce the **One Laptop per Child** policy in August 2009. We are mindful that before introducing laptops for all children, their safety on the Internet has to be ensured. Consequently, this November, we are planning to conduct a global **seminar on Internet safety for children**. The world's very best experts will be invited to advise us on this crucial subject.

I wish to assure all parents that we are prepared for all challenges – **In Omnia Paratus**.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arjun Ray". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Lieutenant General Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)
Chief Executive Officer,
Indus Trust.