

PROJECT HAUSALA

Delhi Public School, Gurgaon, steered to a new venture called 'Project Hausala' with a vision to inculcate the students with one of the most important life skills, 'compassion'. Students from classes VI to XII have been chosen to be a part of the project wherein they would interact with various paraplegic patients and soldiers and learn their story of hope and determination.

An online introductory session was conducted on 26th May 2022, to give the students a better understanding of the project and how to delve into the lives of paraplegic patients with solicitude. The session was presided over by Consulting Director(Education Program), MSMS II Museum Trust, Mr. Sandeep Sethi, Retired Air Commander, Mr Nitin Sathe and founder of the NGO, Nina Foundation, Dr Ketna L. Mehta and attended by principals, teachers and students of various schools. Dr Mehta sensitised the students through her own life story of how an adventurous and fun-filled camping trip in 1995, resulted in a grave spinal injury when she had gone for paragliding. She further went on, to tell the audience about her journey thereafter and how she never let loose of her '*hausala*'.

She established the NGO, Nina Foundation with the aim of rehabilitating people suffering from spinal cord injury, a permanent disability. She also shared some challenges that paraplegic people go through on a regular basis, be it travelling or doing personal chores. Mr Sethi ended the thought-provoking session and urged the students to research, for their next session, about Flying Officer, Mr M.P. Anil Kumar, who became a quadriplegic as a result of a motor-cycle accident.

Though these stories are full of pathos, the journey of these fighters evokes a spirit of perseverance and will power.