



January 2026 Newsletter

Highlights of the month:

- **Senior School Indus Day**
- **Sports Day**
- **Republic day celebrations**

*"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." — **Henry Ford***

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we step into the new year, we are pleased to share highlights from a vibrant and purposeful month at Indus. January has been marked by meaningful learning experiences, strong student engagement, and a deep sense of community across academics, co-curricular pursuits, and life skills development. From large-scale celebrations and competitive events to classroom innovations, leadership initiatives, and individual student achievements, our learners have continued to demonstrate curiosity, resilience, creativity, and responsibility. This newsletter offers a glimpse into these collective efforts and milestones, reflecting our ongoing commitment to holistic education and the partnership we share with you in shaping confident,

compassionate, and future-ready individuals.

Events:

Indus Day 2026: The Spectacle

Indus Day 2026 was a vibrant celebration of imagination and excellence, bringing the school community together to witness a powerful showcase of student voice and vision. More than just an annual display of talent, the event served as a canvas for creativity and discipline, where expression was rooted in purpose. This year's celebration was particularly significant as it introduced a brand-new format: a House Competition. For the first time, our four houses—Pegasus, Hercules, Orion, and Phoenix—took the stage to present seamless performances across dance, drama, choir, and band, proving that excellence is a shared journey built through unity and camaraderie.

The evening was graced by our esteemed Guests of Honor, whose leadership continues to define the ethos of Indus. We were privileged to welcome our Chief Guests, Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd), CEO and Managing Director of the Indus Trust, a visionary leader dedicated to redefining the purpose of education and unlocking human potential and our Deputy CEO, Dr. Sarojini Rao, whose belief in the importance of student leadership and initiative that has empowered our students to take charge of the evening, creating an experience that was both enriching and rewarding.

Throughout the event, each house brought a unique thematic vision to life. Phoenix House explored the "Circle of Life," delving into the cyclical nature of growth, loss, and renewal. Orion House captivated the audience with the theme "Metamorphosis,"

while Pegasus House took us on a journey through "The Odyssey." Hercules House presented a powerful interpretation of "The Hero's Journey," a theme they executed with such precision and passion that they were ultimately crowned the winning house of the competition. It was an unforgettable night that celebrated not just individual brilliance, but the collective soul of the Indus community.





Senior school annual sports day

The 21st Annual Sports Day at Indus International School was a vibrant celebration of passion, precision, and progress. The event commenced with the arrival of our esteemed Chief Guest, Mr. Gopinath K, an International Para Sportsman and recipient of the Kannada Rajyotsava Award, who was escorted by student representatives and school leadership. Following a disciplined march past and the lighting of the ceremonial torch by 35 student-athletes, the atmosphere turned reflective as Mr. Gopinath addressed the gathering. Drawing from his exceptional journey, he spoke about the resilience required to represent India on the world stage. His story served as a powerful testament to excellence and perseverance, deeply inspiring our young athletes to fire their courage even when the world doubts them. Throughout the day, the field remained a spectacle of talent, featuring a majestic equestrian contingent, a unique Yoga Dance, and powerful martial arts performances.

The track events were equally thrilling, showcasing intense 100m sprints, high-stakes inter-house relays, and a spirited 80m sprint for parents. In a display of sheer grit and teamwork that lived up to their motto 'Nulli Secundus' the Orion House bagged the winning house trophy.



Republic day celebrations

Indus International School, Bangalore celebrated the 77th Republic Day with pride and patriotic zeal on 26 January 2026 with the tricolour unfurling and the national anthem.



Achievements:

Yale Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI) Global Essay Competition

We are thrilled to announce that Imaan Zara Khan of grade 10 has been awarded Second Place in the Yale Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI) Global Essay Competition. Her insightful piece on the intersection of leadership and presence stood out in a highly competitive international field, earning her a featured spot on Yale's



Imaan Zara Khan -Grade 10

official platform where her biography and essay will be published. In recognition of this achievement, she has been invited to the Yale University campus for the WLI

flagship annual conference on February 7–8, 2026.

Rubik's Cube Mosaic Building event



Mohammed Arhaan – Grade 6

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the record-breaking achievement of Mohammed Arhaan, who recently played a key role in a monumental feat of skill and coordination. Arhaan participated in a Rubik's Cube Mosaic Building event, where he and his team successfully constructed India's largest Rubik's Cube mosaic. For this remarkable display of logic and artistry, Arhaan was honored with medals from both the India Book of Records and the Asia Book of Records. This dual recognition highlights not only his individual mastery of the cube but also his ability to contribute to a massive, synchronized effort. We congratulate Arhaan on this historic milestone and are honored to support him as he continues to sharpen his talents!

Student Participation at TED^x10X

Khushi Pargaian's TEDx speech, "The Steps That Shaped Me," was a deeply reflective and powerful articulation of identity, purpose, and belonging. Standing on the red dot, she moved beyond prepared words to become a storyteller, weaving her personal journey with the cultural essence of Uttarakhand. Her talk revealed not only disciplined preparation, but also the profound learning that emerged in the moment—trusting silence, embracing authenticity, and forging a genuine connection with her audience. More than a performance, her speech was an act of self-discovery, underscoring the responsibility of using one's voice to inspire reflection and reconnection with one's roots.



PYP

Prep 2: Learning Through Play at LePlay

Our Prep 2 explorers recently visited LePlay, where classroom concepts came to life through purposeful play. This hands-on excursion was designed to align with their current theme, *How We Express Ourselves*.

As they navigated various play zones, students took the lead—making independent choices, collaborating on imaginative role-play, and solving problems in real-time. It was a joy to witness them develop their communication skills and creative confidence in such a vibrant, interactive setting.



Grade 1: A Heartwarming Reading Exchange

On 14th January, Grade 1 students hosted a very special guest session with their peers from the Indus Community School. Together, the students dove into the whimsical world of *Frog and Toad Are Friends*. The children compared the traits of frogs and toads, sharing insights and listening to one another with great curiosity. The session concluded with a lively colouring activity inspired by the book's characters. A standout moment was a presentation by Aditya Shanbag (Grade 1C). Aditya shared his initiative of collecting 130 books from his community, which were donated to

encourage a lifelong love of reading among his new friends. This beautiful morning went beyond literacy; it was a lesson in empathy, sharing, and the power of community.



Grade 3: Building Future Leaders

On 30th January, our Grade 3 students stepped out of their comfort zones for a Leadership Camp. Set in an experiential outdoor environment, the camp challenged students to strengthen their "soft skills" through a series of team-building hurdles.

From high-energy cooperation games to reflective problem-solving tasks, the students demonstrated remarkable resilience. They walked away with a deeper understanding of responsibility, the importance of listening, and the confidence to lead with empathy.

Grades 3 & 5: Sparking Curiosity at the Science Centre

Our Grade 3 and 5 learners embarked on a deep dive into the world of inquiry at the Curiouscity Science Centre. This trip served as a bridge between textbook theories and the "magic" of the physical world. Students conducted experiments involving force, light, and electricity, transforming abstract concepts into tangible discoveries. The illusion and dark rooms were a huge hit, as students explored optical fibers, augmented reality, and the science of how our eyes perceive light and shadow. While Grade 3 focused on the wonders of the natural world, Grade 5 pushed further into advanced topics like plasma (the fourth state of matter) and complex electrical systems.



Grade 5: Real-World Marketing with Guest Experts

To enrich their understanding of business, Grade 5 students attended an insightful session on marketing strategy led by Ms. Vaishali.

The session was grounded in real-world application through the story of Ms. Saritha, founder of *Anucool Adaptive Clothing*. By analyzing Anucool's journey, students saw the 4 Ps of Marketing in action. They learned that a truly successful business doesn't just sell a product—it identifies a human problem and creates a meaningful "value proposition" to solve it. This session turned theoretical business units into an inspiring look at social entrepreneurship.



DP

The academic term resumed with immediate focus, as Grade 11 students undertook their Half-Yearly Final Subject Examinations and Grade 12 students appeared for their Mid-Term Examinations. Following these assessments, the publication of reports in the second week of January provided families with a clear window into academic progress, which was further explored during the Parent-Teacher Meeting on January 17th. This day served as a vital touchpoint for discussing student well-being and identifying specific areas for further improvement.

In addition to supporting our current diploma candidates, we were pleased to host an orientation session for Grade 10 students and parents to introduce the IBDP and IBCP programs. This session clarified program expectations and subject pathways, ensuring a smooth transition and informed long-term academic planning. For our Grade 12 cohort, the latter half of the month was dedicated to refining practical skills, notably through the second Mock Individual Orals for Second Languages held between January 19th and 22nd. As the month concluded, Grade 12 also commenced intensive revision sessions, strengthening their preparation and building momentum for the upcoming board examinations.

Sports

We are immensely proud to celebrate the selection of two of our exceptional student-athletes to represent our school at the prestigious School Games Federation of India (SGFI) national competitions. These selections are a testament to the dedication, discipline, and hard work displayed by our students in their respective sports.

Tennis:



Vivaan Yadav (Grade 12) has been selected to participate in the SGFI Tennis competitions. He will be competing in the U-19 Boys Category at the Thyagraj Stadium in New Delhi from January 30th to February 3rd, 2026. Vivaan's representation at this national level highlights his consistent performance and passion for the game.

Karate:



Representing us in the martial arts arena, **Austin Joshy (Grade 9)** has been selected for the 69th National School Games (SGFI) in the Karate U-17 category. Austin's selection follows his outstanding performance at the ISSO Karate National Tournament. He will be competing in Pune, Maharashtra, from January 30th to February 2nd, 2026, showcasing the grit and skill he has honed through years of practice.

Life Entrepreneurship

January was a vibrant month of creativity, reflection, and innovation across all grades, with students engaging in experiences that nurtured imagination, empathy, and problem-solving. Our youngest learners in Grades 1 and 2 explored expressive learning through a dedicated "Imagination Retreat," where they brought stories to life by designing passports for their favorite toys and inventing original festivals to celebrate togetherness. Using sounds, facial expressions, and movement to represent complex emotions, they also engaged in the "My Khipu" activity. Inspired by the ancient Andean knot system, students reflected on their week by tying knots to represent values like love and empathy, discovering that powerful memories can be shared in ways that transcend traditional writing.

Students in Grades 3 to 5 journeyed further into the Design Thinking Process through curiosity-driven discussions and hands-on ideation. By learning to ask thoughtful questions about everyday designs and framing user-focused problem statements, they developed the ability to brainstorm multiple solutions collaboratively. Through dynamic activities like "Innovation Mash-Up" and the "SCAMPER" technique, students were encouraged to stretch their imaginations and adapt ideas creatively. These technical skills were balanced with emotional reflection, as the "My Khipu" tool helped them express their inner values and feelings through tangible, creative forms.

The senior and junior school students advanced from ideation to strengthening their Proofs of Concept, integrating AI as a functional member of their project teams for validation. Many groups worked in the STEAM Lab to develop low-fidelity prototypes, testing their assumptions and refining solutions through hands-on iteration. Their documentation now reflects a sophisticated connection between

research insights and physical prototypes, while other teams continue to deepen their understanding of the problem space through extended empathy work and research.

Placements

In the month of January, the college counselling team has hosted the following events.

University visits:

Study In Europe session was conducted on 8th January 2026. The list of participating universities is mentioned below:

| S. No. | University |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | EDHEC Business School |
| 2 | ESSEC Business School |
| 3 | Gem Alpine Business School |
| 4 | International University of Monaco |
| 5 | Ecole D'Ingenieurs Engineering School |
| 6 | Lancaster University Leipzig |
| 7 | SRH International College |
| 8 | Bocconi University |
| 9 | Domus Academy Milano |
| 10 | NABA |
| 11 | Instituto Marangoni |
| 12 | University of Twente |
| 13 | Culinary Arts Academy |

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|----|--------------------------------------|
| | Switzerland |
| 14 | HIM Business School |
| 15 | Les Roches Global Hospitality School |
| 16 | University College Cork, Ireland |
| 17 | Trinity College Dublin |

Student Participation in workshops:

1. Saranya Sinha, Grade11 has completed the Makerspace Summer Workshop at IIT Bombay.
2. 19 students have completed the Corporate Gurukul Programme at National University of Singapore.



Boarding

As we step into the new year, the month of January has unfolded as a vibrant tapestry of learning, culture, and joyful participation. From the colorful skies of our Kite

Flying Festival and the traditional warmth of Lohri celebrations to the grandeur of Indus Day – The Spectacle, our students have consistently showcased their talents through the performing arts, embodying the spirit of creativity, collaboration, and confidence.

Beyond these festivities, our weekend programs in Chess and Athletics continue to nurture focus, physical strength, and resilience in our learners. These were complemented by enriching real-world experiences, such as a recent mall visit that added a practical dimension to their classroom learning. Our boarding community also took center stage during the Republic Day celebrations, proudly participating in the flag hoisting ceremony to honor the national spirit. Together, these moments have made for a truly holistic and energetic start to the year.



IICS Updates

Grade 10 Pre-Board / First Preparatory Examinations



The Grade 10 Pre-Board (First Preparatory) Examinations commenced on 5th January 2026. These examinations aim to assess students' preparedness and familiarise them with the Board examination pattern. The process has begun smoothly in a well-organised and disciplined environment. The school extends its best wishes to all Grade 10 students and encourages them to stay focused and confident as they work towards their final examinations.

Proud Achievement: NCC Cadet Selected for Shooting



The school proudly congratulates Rehan Khan, a Grade 9 student and NCC cadet, on his remarkable achievement in shooting. Among 450 participants, only 15 students were selected, and Rehan secured an impressive 6th position. This accomplishment reflects his dedication, discipline, and commitment to excellence. The school applauds his efforts and wishes him continued success in his future endeavours.

Grade 9 Parent Orientation Programme

The Grade 9 Parent Orientation Programme was held on 10th January 2026 to acquaint parents with the school's facilities (CLM MODEL) and the various programmes (ADIRA) offered to students. The session emphasized discipline, school rules, and academic seriousness. Parents were informed about the support available through the school counsellor and career counsellor for personal, academic, and career-related guidance. Information regarding the upcoming preparatory examination, the conclusion of the Summative Assessment, and the early commencement of Grade 10 classes was also shared.

Spell Bee buzzes across the primary grades!

Spell Bee Competition was successfully conducted on Saturday, 10th January 2026, at Indus International Community School for students of Grades 1 to 5. The competition consisted of three engaging rounds: The Spelling Round, the Word Meaning Round, and the Sentence Formation Round. The event provided a wonderful platform for students to enhance their vocabulary, spelling accuracy, and sentence construction skills. The children participated with great excitement and enthusiasm, displaying confidence and keen interest throughout the competition. Their performance was commendable, and the event was a joyful and enriching learning experience for all the participants.



Alumni meet for the Start-up Initiative

The Alumni Meet launched a Start-up Initiative for Community School students, encouraging them to develop ideas that benefit their villages and local communities. The first session held on 10th January 2026, focused on exploration, clarity, and open conversation rather than having everything planned, helping students observe real-life problems and brainstorm solutions. Alumni mentors shared experiences and inspired students to take their first steps toward innovation. The initiative aims to empower students to create positive community impact through creativity and responsibility. Following the first Alumni Meet, which introduced students to community-based problem identification and open idea exploration, the Second Alumni Meet was held on 26th January 2026.

In this session, students presented innovative ideas focused on women's employment in communities, agri-based solutions for farmers, and biker safety products. The

discussions were guided by Ms. Sri Vidhya Swaminathan (Startup You) and encouraged students to refine their thinking and explore practical solutions. Around 16 students participated, making the session meaningful and impactful, and reinforcing the school's commitment to nurturing socially responsible and innovative young minds.



Indian Army Day Celebration

Indian Army Day was celebrated with pride and patriotism on 14th January 2026. Our school was honored to be a part of the celebration, with the NCC cadets actively participating under the guidance of their CTO. The occasion highlighted the courage, discipline, and sacrifices of the Indian Army in safeguarding the nation. The presence of our cadets reflected the school's commitment to instilling values of patriotism, responsibility, and service among students. The celebration served as an inspiring experience for all participants.



Student Participation at TED^x10X



Tarannum Parwin, a student of Indus International Community School (IICS), participated in TED^x10X International School, a student-led event held at the Indus International School campus on 17 January 2026. The event featured 14 thoughtfully curated student speakers who delivered original TED-style talks on diverse and contemporary themes. The talks reflected the voices of young changemakers engaging with real-world challenges and inspiring dialogue, reflection, and action.

TED^x10X International School Youth provided a meaningful platform for students to

share ideas worth spreading, celebrating curiosity, innovation, empathy, and critical thinking across disciplines such as science, technology, society, culture, and the arts. Tarannum's participation in this prestigious youth forum highlights the growing confidence, leadership, and communication skills of IICS students and reflects the school's commitment to nurturing student voice and thought leadership.

IICS student has been selected for PACT 2026



Dr. Rajiv Gandhi, Professor of Computer Science at Rutgers University–Camden and the University of Pennsylvania, USA, and founder of the Programme in Algorithmic and Combinatorial Thinking (PACT), has extended a scholarship opportunity to support students from underserved communities. PACT is a rigorous programme focused on advanced mathematics, algorithms, and computer science, with strong emphasis on problem-solving and logical thinking. We are proud to share that Haripriya (Grade 9) from the Community School has been selected for the PACT Summer Programme 2026, with significant financial support. This opportunity

highlights our continued effort to provide equitable access to high-quality academic programmes for our students.

Warm regards,

Partho Banerjee

Indus International School, Bangalore

| Important Dates – February 2026 | |
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| Date | Event |
| 9th and 10th February | Innovation Day and Art Carnival (MYP &DP) |
| 11th February | PYP Aquatic Meet (Prep 2 to Grade 3) |
| 12th February | PYP Aquatic Meet (Grade 4 & 5) |
| 13th February | Senior School Aquatic Meet |
| 20th February | PAC Meeting |