



■ The Jashanmal Auditorium, cultural and sports centre

# Setting the standards

**A** forward march towards excellence for six decenniums is no mean achievement in the history of an educational institution.

So it is with the Indian School Bahrain (ISB), the Diamond Jubilarian.

The Indian School Bahrain opened its doors in 1950 to cater to the educational needs of the community, based on Indian curriculum.

By the selfless service and untiring efforts of many individuals and establishments, on the auspicious day of Dusserah in 1950, the Indian Primary School had its genesis.

It was located on the first floor of Abdul Wahab Khunji building on Al Khalifa road, in downtown Manama.

Six decades ago, with just 30 students and three teachers, the ISB had its humble beginning.

As the student strength increased further, starting a bigger school in a bigger campus became imperative.

A collective request for land was made to the late Amir, His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al Kalifa, and the land was donated.

The foundation stone was laid in Isa Town, on July 20, 1978 by Bahrain's education minister Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Mohamed Al Khalifa.

In 1978, the CBSE granted permission to upgrade the school with plus two systems.

On December 31, 1979, the new school building in Isa Town was inaugurated. Later, on April 27, 1985, the Jashanmal Auditorium, the cultural and sports centre, was inaugurated by the then education minister Dr Ali Fakhro.

The student enrolment from LKG to class XII has reached an incredible strength of 9,000.

Of this, almost 10 per cent are Bahraini and other 14 different nationalities make the school multi-cultural and heterogeneous.

The school has a strong and committed workforce of about 500 faculty members.

This makes the ISB the largest single shift school in the Arabian Gulf.

They are a school with a constant track record for achieving the highest academic results among the CBSE affiliated schools in



■ ISB chairman Abraham John

the region.

The student strength has been growing in ISB and there arose the need for another building.

Loving hearts and helping hands of the Indian community, especially the parents who stood behind the executive committee led by Abraham John, generously contributed their might.

The Diamond Jubilee building is already put to use.

A good infrastructural environment is a necessity to create a congenial educational atmosphere for the academic growth of the school.

Keeping this in mind, the school campus has been rejuvenated with gardens, facelifts for buildings, canopies for multi-utility and tree plantations for eco-friendliness, to name a few.

The administration of the school is well organised under the able governance of the principal V R Palaniswamy, assisted by the vice-principals, academic coordinator, head teachers, class coordinators, discipline coordinators and head of department or subject heads.

Another salient feature of ISB is the involvement of students in the day-to-day affairs of the school including monitoring of discipline through members of student and prefect councils to maintain the decorum.

"We salute the great visionaries of our school including the founder members, former executive committee members, the Indian embassy, community leaders and the donors whose philanthropic services have helped in its journey of growth," said school officials.

"Our heart goes all out to thank the noble gesture and the royal patronage of our beloved king His Majesty Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the prime minister His Royal Highness prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the crown prince His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the loving citizens of this beautiful island.

"We wish peace, success and happiness to this country, its people and the ruling family in particular.

"May God bless Bahrain on this auspicious occasion of its 40th National Day."



■ The school's new Diamond Jubilee building

Banks and financial institutions play a major role in an economy as they are a prime source of credit.

This then generates income that gets cycled back into the economy.

Lenders can help individuals and organisations through difficult times by lending short, medium and long term fund solutions.

There would be a lot of complications if banks were not around.

People would be unable to borrow for a family holiday, a much needed new car or a house. The banks use the deposits from people to then lend to others.

The interest rates paid out to depositors are always less than those offered to borrowers and the bank makes its profit from the difference in rates as well the fees.

As the internet era has dawned, banks now have a faster, more convenient way of helping with finance.

The super highway allows the sharing of information between two or more parties, acts as a research and information tool, and allows people to connect with each other.

With the introduction of the internet, a new, more convenient form of banking arrived - online banking.

With security measures and features now available through the web, online banking is safe and secure.

It allows for the purchase

## A convenient new way of banking...

of anything from groceries to insurance and savings plans or even a new car.

Online banking means people can use a bank that doesn't have banking premises or branches and all the transactions can be carried out online.

In the West, these banks have increased in popularity as without the need for premises, their costs remain low and savings can be passed on to the customer through lower interest rates and lower or no transaction fees.

It can also mean using online services provided by more traditional banks that do have retail street branches.

When deciding which online banking service provider to use, check how easy it is to get in touch with a physical person. Also carry out research to

confirm they are all legitimate, evaluate their offers and read the terms and conditions to see there are no hidden charges and fees. It is also very important to ensure that the online banking platform has high security measures in place and there have been no complaints about them.

Online banking was first introduced in the 80's and has since grown to attract a large following.

This is not a surprise considering people can bank from home, office or even on the move through their mobile.

While it does have a big following now, there are still some that are concerned about how safe and secure it is and continue to use the more traditional methods.

By using online banking,

individuals and companies can perform a number of activities.

It allows the registered user to request statements, review account transactions and transfer funds, which help with credit card, loan, water, electricity and phone bills payments, and much more.

Online banking is convenient as one can bank 24 hours a day, every day of the year, even public holidays.

It definitely beats having to queue up at a physical branch to process transactions.

It can also be a big and safe alternative to traditional banking when out of the country as funds can be transferred to another accessible account.

With the new 2 Factor Authentication (2FA) technology, online banking today is safe.

People should make sure

their bank offers 2FA for financial and non-financial transactions before they begin using online banking for these purposes.

Apart from this, some basic discipline around not sharing your passwords, not clicking on any bank websites urls that is emailed to you and a few such precautions can make online banking a great experience.

Banking online is a fast and efficient way of performing transactions and is done in a cost effective manner.

It gets done in real time, immediately, at the click of a mouse.

It is also environmentally friendly as transactions carried out online cuts down on paper waste.

Internet banking is also cost effective for users, as with no need for expensive premises, it cuts down costs, allowing banks to offer more competitive interest rates and transaction fees to customers.

Nowadays one can purchase anything online, from groceries through to cars and purchases get delivered to the doorstep without the need to leave home.

It is unquestionable that internet banking will continue to grow as more secure technology is developed.

So, those who currently feel that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages, might change their opinion further down the line.