

## Report on I-parliament

I-Parliament has been started by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation New Delhi in order to raise awareness on pressing issues, encourage active citizenship and motivate young people to get involved in the Indian democratic setup. In addition, it also focuses on contributing to the personal skills development of the Indian Youth. It provides a forum for young people to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change and come together and challenge themselves for the purpose of empowerment, and to help participate in the leadership and innovation process.

This year, 5 students led by Mr. Mahtab Alam Siddiqui from Pallavan School Jhalawar participated in the 6th Edition of the I-Parliament held in New Delhi from 10th to 13th November 2018. Two of our participants, Sejal Uppadhyaya and Pranjal Gupta were assigned BJP party and one girl, Siddhi Jain was assigned Congress party. They had to fight for elections and form the government. One girl, Nupur was a member of the press and Kashish Patidar was a member of Committee for Welfare of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes.

After forming the government, the participants had to discuss the possibility of Aadhaar Act 2016. The discussion continued for two days in continuation and an amended bill was passed in agreement of both the ruling and opposition parties. The role of the press members was to discuss fair and unbiased journalism while that of the Welfare Committee of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes was to discuss on different schemes benefitting the unprivileged and backward communities.

The students were also encouraged to ask questions to the government, expert teams and fellow participants on issues of national development and national security in addition to social security of several sections of our society.

In the I-Parliament, the students from our school raised the problems faced by unregistered tribes in India by giving an example of the Saatia tribe residing in Jhalawar. The students raised a concern that after more than 70 years of Independence, why this community is still homeless and why they cannot avail the facility of Ration card and not benefited by any government schemes.

In addition, Pallavan school students raised the issues of actual beneficiaries of BPL card holders, misconception with regard to menstruation, social security of eunuchs, lack of good colleges at district level etc.

Though it was a first programme of its kind for almost all the students, the students participated with great enthusiasm and made their presence felt in an environment where around 200 students from different schools of New Delhi and NCR participated.

