



PRERNA

E-Magazine of PARVATI RADHAKISHEN FOMRA SCHOOL Mathura

14th Founders' Day Celebrations

WELCOME ADDRESS *by* Dr. S. Ganguli



Respected Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Smt. Rajashree Birla, Mr. & Mrs. Arvind Newar, Mr. & Mrs. Vinod Maheshwari, Mr. Jad, parents, staff and students! It is my proud privilege to address the august gathering and welcome you to our 14th Virtual Founders' Day Celebration.

The school has successfully completed its fourteenth year, and it has grown multi fold in both scholastic and non-scholastic areas. Today, we have a student population of nearly 1300 and a committed team of 60 staff members.

I hereby take the opportunity to welcome Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, the venerable Indian Multinational, which operates in 36 countries across 6 continents. His vision for the Group has made the companies concerned do robust business nationally and internationally.

In India, he chairs the Boards of Hindalco, Grasim, Aditya Birla Nuvo, Ultratech, Idea and Aditya Birla Retail. At a very young age, Mr. Birla has been able to write a success story for the Group, whose trajectory is running sky high. He believes in meritocracy, accountability and transparency in the systems at work; made 40 successful acquisitions in 18 years in India and globally the highest by an Indian multinational.

Mr. Birla holds several key positions on various regulatory and professional Boards. He was a Director on the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India; Chairman of the Advisory Committee constituted by the Ministry of Company Affairs and served on The Prime Minister of India's Advisory Council on Trade and Industry. Mr. Birla also served as the Chairman of SEBI's committee of Insider Trading.

Mr. Birla is deeply engaged with education. He is the Chancellor of the Birla Institute of Technology. He is also the Chairman of IIM Ahmedabad. On the global arena, Mr. Birla serves on the

London Business School's Asia Pacific Advisory Board and is an Honorary Fellow of London Business School.

His concern for human welfare engagements has brought around 3000 villages under the Group's purview reaching out to 7 million people.

Sir, you epitomize the corporate business world with your vast knowledge and keen acumen of detailing.

We are very fortunate to have our Chairperson, Smt. Rajashree Birla with us. Her presence inspires and rejuvenates us all. She is extremely busy, but always finds time for PRFS. The whole year round we work on her philosophy and her vision and perception about our school. It is her interest and expertise in the field of education, that drives us to work hard and consistently in a healthy manner. Ma'am, it is our privilege to be a role player in fulfilling the dream that you had envisioned. I, on behalf of the entire PRFS family, extend to you a hearty and a warm welcome.

It is my proud privilege to welcome Mr. & Mrs. Newar and Mr. & Mrs. Maheshwari and thank them for their continuous guidance and support.

This pandemic has taught us that values of compassion, kindness and solidarity hold more significance in life than materialistic possessions. The journey seems to be smoother if we consider navigating with positivity and hope, happiness and yearning ...It is very obvious that we do not have any control over the afflictions of our surroundings, but what is important is how peacefully, stably and with absolute calm mind we deal with it.

Agreed as a parent, one might feel frustrated and on the verge of giving up at times, but as parents, equally important for us to remember is that our children are learning from us and they are watching us all the more closely.

My deepest appreciation and regards for teachers, parents and students alike who are constantly trying with lot of patience and alacrity to adapt to the quick changes.

Let's all remember -

एतदपि गमिष्यति

'This too shall pass!'



ADDRESS *by* DR. KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA



It gives me great pleasure to connect with you virtually for the 14th Founders' Day and address you the young students, teachers and parents of PRFS.

Engaging with young minds is always energizing for me and this opportunity is special as PRFS is close to my heart, as you perhaps know my mother has built the school in memory of my maternal grandparents, Smt. Parvati Devi and Shri Radhakishen Fomra, both of them were progressive and firmly rooted in Indian values. Their life exemplified simple living and high thinking, the very values, which have undergirded this school.

As you know this has been a very unusual year, the global pandemic that has spared no one. It has also had a profound impact on education since schools have had to switch to online mode. I am sure that it must not have been an easy transition, but kudos to the teaching fraternity in PRFS for making this happen. My compliments are to all of you too, the students and parents, for your active support in coping with this unprecedented disruption. I am sure that all you must be missing the familiar rhythm of a day in school, the sound of the school bell, the silence of the classroom, the bustle at lunch time, the joy of playing a team sport. Staring at a screen can never be the same as being in a real classroom.

Hopefully with a vaccine now finally on the horizon, we can all see a return to normalcy soon enough. A function like this one today, takes me back to my school days and it's striking to see how the landscape of opportunities has changed so dramatically over the last few decades.

Today, as a student, you have a plethora of choices to build a career and make a mark. Many of these options didn't exist when I was in school. The opening up of economic opportunities along with the evolution of technology has now made it possible to pursue many more careers. What all this means is you have the capability to paint your own canvas. As Bengt, the master of typography said and I quote, 'The most beautiful thing in the world is a blank piece of paper'. Your life, students, as of now in school, is also like a blank piece of paper. What you write or paint on it will shape your destiny. You could become a designer or a painter, a singer or a cricketer or an entrepreneur or may be a scientist. So, pursue your passion with full intensity, but that of course in no way means that you compromise on academic rigour and depth. In any field, the journey is all about the pursuit of excellence. This journey, in my experience, is never-ending. Achieving excellence doesn't happen overnight; it is a process of accumulating skills, accumulating knowledge and accumulating experience. I call it building reserves, and it is very important that you, during this current phase of your life, do just that, build reserves. It will hold you in good stead throughout your life. Think about it. If Steve Jobs had not built his reserves in design thinking by pursuing calligraphy in his college days, the great company

'Apple' wouldn't have been the iconic design company that it is today. So everything you do today, every move you make, comes a bit like this good Rubics Cube which continues to be one of the most famous puzzles in the world, even in this age of immersive computer games. Every move you make counts. There are 43 quintillion, yes, 43 quintillion likely outcomes, and yet only one winning result which is to have all the same colours on each side of the cube. It took even the inventor Arnold Rubric, 30 days to get it right the first time. The inventor said and I quote, 'cracking this puzzle takes resolve and an unusual level of tolerance for multiple failures in the hope of a distant reward'. This was true irrespective of the problem that one is trying to solve. The harder you work, the more likely you are to succeed.

It is as simple as that. I remember an incident from my early days at work when I was being mentored by my father. Even back then, I had grueling work days, back-to-back. At the end of one such week, I decided not to travel to a plant over the weekend, as I was just exhausted. When my father got to know about it, he had just one thing to say which was, 'I do not know anyone who has died of working hard.' Even today whenever I am tempted to take an undeserving break, those words ring loud. The pursuit of excellence takes patience and perseverance and also involves failures often multiple times. I am reminded of a line of Safalta or failure from a very famous poem,

**"Asafalta ek chunoti hai, sweekar karo,
kya kami reh gyi hai dekho aur sudhar karo.
Jab tak na safal ho neend chain ko tyago tum,
sangharsh ka maidan chor mat bhago tum.
Kuch kiye bina hi jai jaikar nahi hoti,
koshish karne valo ki kabhi har nahi hoti".**

I don't think I can do justice to these words by translating them in English.

To all the parents, who have logged into the session, I have one piece of advice and this comes after 26 years of being a parent. Do recognize that the world has changed. Don't trap your child into age-old stereotypes. Don't retrofit them into established moulds. An Engineer's child is not ordained to be an Engineer. So, provide your children with the freedom and opportunity to discover their talent and unearth their passion. 10 years from now, you won't regret it. Trust me on that.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank Dr. Ganguli, Mr. Jad, the faculty and the entire team at PRFS for investing so much of their emotional and intellectual equity in making this institution what it is today. My heartfelt congratulations to my mother Mrs. Rajashree Birla for building this outstanding institution in this beautiful city of Mathura, the land of Krishna. And finally, I am going to turn to the prophetic words of Sir Edmund Hillary to summarize all that I have said. Much before he conquered Mt. Everest, he famously said, "I will come again to conquer you, because as a mountain you cannot grow, but as a human being I can," and then as we know, he made it to the top of the world. So, children keep growing.

Thank You very much.

ADDRESS *by*



SMT. RAJASHREE BIRLA

Kumar Mangalam, Neerja, Vasavadatta, Manju Arvind Ji, Sangeeta, Vinodji, Dr. Ganguli, Mr. Jad, Parents, Teachers, and my dear Children.

I am indeed delighted to reach out to you virtually on our 14th Founders' Day. It is a day of rejoicing. It is a day for applauding the accomplishments of our students, teachers and parents. So, let me begin by appreciating the perseverance of our Principal, our faculty, the management, and the parents, moving forward under the

visionary guidance of Dr. Ganguli. We are indeed privileged to have such an ace team totally dedicated to our vision of holistic education.

I marvel at the enthusiasm of our PRFS team in organising this virtual Founder's Day, despite the COVID-19, which almost posed an epic challenge, making the world take a pause. Waves of disruption have hit the horizon. People have had to reset their lives. Institutions, in every field are reengineering themselves. You can't forecast anything because you don't have a fix on the metrics. Today, is the new normal, and we have to all move on.

But amidst the pain, teachers, across the globe, accepted the challenge and created a new normal for the education world. Overnight, the pandemic imposed a radical switch to remote teaching and learning.

The pandemic has opened the eyes of society to the role that teachers play in shaping the future of our nation. Saint Poet Kabir's words ring true even today. Let me quote, Kabir's most famous doha,

**"Guru Govind Dou Khade, Kake Lagu Paye,
Balihari Guru Apne, Govind Diyo Batay"**

A teacher to him is akin to a God. Our teachers live up to this image.

I strongly feel that during these difficult times, we need to be more resilient to overcome any adversity facing us, and to adapt to challenging situations. Those with a high level of resilience, will get back on their feet quicker.

Basically, there are three important areas which we all need to focus on. First of all, the sense of belonging is very fundamental during these times of isolation and remote working. It is critical to be in touch virtually through social media and other electronic technologies. The pandemic has caused many of us to experience drastic changes to our daily lives. Some reassurance can make the process easier and ensure that you do not feel aloof and alone.

Second, help-seeking can contribute to resilience. If we ask for help and obtain feedback, we can overcome setbacks and grow. The newfound

confidence to seek advice from colleagues will help professionals, including teachers, develop and build up resilience.

Third, we have to continue the learning process, as it strengthens the resilience quotient. The mind must not waver. Matters of the mind can be overcome with a learning based positive mindset.

Moving on, let me share with you two very noble thoughts deeply ingrained in us by our parents. First, be a humanist, and second, be an environmentalist. They impressed upon us that this would develop in us the capability to change the trajectory of our country in our own humble way. Their thoughts were profound and are applicable to mankind as such. They are age agnostic.

On the path to become more human, they shared their ideals with us, and these have impacted the lives of we four sisters. First, in life one needs to be unselfish, and be aware of one's obligations to reach out to those in need, to give back to those, not as privileged as you are all. And as you grow up, be sensitive to the huge gulf between the haves and have nots. Reach out to the latter. Intangible rewards accrue from selflessness. Listen to your heart and have the compulsion to follow your conscience.

They goaded us to do our best, to continue to dream, to follow our passion and aspire for the moon. I remember what Vince Lombardi said, and I quote, "Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is". To do your best, keep your focus, commitment, discipline and the desire to win.

It is important to be honest and to be truthful. Starting as children, most people mouth white lies, for whatever reasons. From the start make this unacceptable. Be values driven, for values form our character.

To be an environmentalist is to care about mother earth as your own mother. I remember a Kenyan saying - "Treat the Earth well. It is not inherited from your parents; it is borrowed for your children". Khalil Gibran aptly said "Trees are poems, that the earth writes, upon the sky". So learn to enjoy nature's beauties, enjoy its vibrant colours.

Make choices to lower the impact of your action on the environment. Be conscious of what you are doing. The exploitation of mother earth has led to a multitude of natural disasters - rising temperatures, unpredictable weather conditions, floods, and droughts, to say the least.

Simply put to follow this path, you must be an enthusiast, a doer, a giver and have the passion to make it happen. This is your arena. How well you play is up to you.

Our wonderful team here will do its best as always, to help you reach the next level, as will your parents with their abiding faith, in this prestigious and much-loved school.

Thank you and God bless.

Annual Report 2020

Hon'ble Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Smt. Rajashree Birla, Mrs. and Mr. Newar, Mrs. and Mr. Maheswari, Dr. Ganguli, parents, teachers and my dear children !

I extend a warm welcome on the occasion of 14th Founders' Day of PRFS, the most awaited day in the calendar of our school.

Founders' Day is an opportunity to reflect on the contribution and inspiration of our Founders. Thanking them to make us a part of their dream. It is also an occasion to celebrate the hard work that our students and teachers have put in for the growth of school.

Presenting an Annual Report is an enduring tradition... to take time, to pause and turn around to look at the fruitful year gone by, achieving both expected and unexpected while setting milestones and then synergizing ourselves to move ahead and face the challenges of coming year with a positive attitude.

I start with the academic achievements. PRFS focuses on holistic development of every student, but at the same time, we ensure that academics takes the center stage in our system and our results do showcase this fact.

CBSE RESULTS CLASS X

127 students appeared in class X CBSE Examination-2020. 28 students secured above 90% marks. 2 students got above 95% marks. Vaibhav Sharma topped the school with 97.8% marks.

CBSE RESULTS CLASS XII

75 students appeared in class XII CBSE Examination-2020. 23 students secured above 90% and 5 students above 95%.

OVERALL RANKING IN GROUP: 2nd

Khyati Arora topped with 97% marks

PLACEMENTS: This year our students were placed in various institutes of repute like NITs, IIT, Delhi University and several Medical Schools.

ONLINE TEACHING: Due to pandemic situation, the school has been conducting online classes from Pre-Primary to class XII, since April 2020. Parents are highly satisfied with classes. All the assessments are conducted online. Various activities like Inter House competitions, webinars, Alumni Meet were conducted online.



WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS :

It is rightly said, if we teach today, as we taught yesterday ...we rob children of tomorrow. The frontiers of knowledge are expanding at phenomenal pace. New page in the history is written even before yesterday's ink is dry. So it becomes very important to keep our teachers and students updated with the latest developments in the field of education

ONLINE WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS FOR TEACHING STAFF: Online workshops and Webinars were organised for teachers (during lockdown) in the following areas: Artificial Intelligence (organised by INTEL), Augmented Reality (in collaboration with CBSE and FACEBOOK), Experiential Learning, NEP, Communication Skills, Creativity and Innovation, Blooms Taxonomy, ICT Integration in teaching, Literature in classroom Environment, conservation, Mathematics made Easy etc.

PRFS organised a workshop for teachers for various subjects and general motivation. Career Counselling workshops were conducted for the students of classes XI & XII. CBSE has nominated PRFS as the lead school under the project Hub Of Learning. The school has been selected as the lead school for its excellent academic results and best practices.

30 students participated in the ROBOTICS workshop in IIT Mumbai. Very soon PRFS is organising a mega workshop on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence in collaboration with IIT Mumbai.

3. INTER SCHOOL COMPETITONS :

- Students from classes VI to XI participated in Inter School Robotics organised by IIT, Mumbai in January 2020 at IIT campus. Our students got 2nd & 3rd position in Robochamp and Robotron respectively.
- In the International Olympiad organized by Science Olympiad Foundation, one student of grade IV got International Gold in Mathematics, 8 Zonal Gold medals in Science, English and Computer Science.

Several initiatives were taken in for the infrastructural growth of school. The wicker fencing, Cricket net practice pitch, tree plantation, has added to the beauty of PRFS.

I am highly grateful to Smt. Rajashree Birla ji and Dr. S. Ganguli for the unstinted support, guidance and cooperation. All this and much more would not have been possible without this support.

Well, Annual Report can only scratch the surface of activities in a given term, especially in school like PRFS which is so vibrant and eventful.

Ladies and gentlemen! PRFS marches on, we look forward with pride seeing each member of PRFS family striving for excellence... every day... every moment.

I request parents to continue their unstinted cooperation.

Thank You.



Goverdhan Hill

Glimpses of Founders' Day Celebrations





Dwarkadhish Temple

Glimpses of Founders' Day Celebrations





Latthmar Holi

Earth's Cry



When we cry
 Our mother makes us quiet
 But when mother Earth cries
 Shouldn't we make it quiet??
 Our world is our mother
 But mother Earth's world is our care
 We live and use our Earth
 But Earth never uses us
 But when our desires take over us
 It makes mother Earth shiver in fear
 We don't think twice and make it cry
 But she never makes us fear
 Cause we are her son
 And it's our mother
 So, I take a step ahead
 And swear to make it happy again
 May my mother Earth forgive me
 For all I did to it

- Ajitesh Baghel (X-C)

The English Language

When the great writers of the past, such as Oscar Wilde described America and Britain as 'two great countries divided by a common language, it most definitely was witty as well as true. There always has been a war of words between America and Britain, each rankled by the others English speaking. Britishers feel that Americanism is uncouth and is corrupting their beloved Queen's English. To every other Britisher, Americans have a classless way of speaking English. Whereas, for the Americans, The brits are just too pretentious and prim fussing over the perfect and proper use of English. This ambivalent love-hate relationship makes for a great study for any English teacher.

As the world is shrinking into a global village, There is no clear divide left between the two languages. Nonetheless some glaring differences still remain. One among those being the evident distinction in pronunciation. Most Britishers pronounce 'tomato' as 'toe-ma-toe'. Whereas, most Americans pronounce 'tomato' as 'toe-may-toe'. 'Privacy' is pronounced as 'pri-vacy' in Britain and 'pry-vacy' in the US. 'Schedule' is 'sheddewl' in Britain and 'skedjool' in the US. The most conspicuous difference is the pronunciation of 'r' by the Americans. The Americans deliberately pronounce 'r' in words such as far, 'mother' and 'hard', whereas the British pronounce these as fa, 'mothe' and 'haad.'

The British distinction between practice (noun) and practice(verb) is not endorsed in America, where practice is common for both.

Most Americans pronounce words such as 'pin' and 'bin', so that they sound like 'pen' and 'ben.' The second very important difference between American and British English is in the way words are spelled. Though in olden times, the times of Shakespeare 'color' and 'colour' co-existed and so did 'centre' and 'center'. But now all there is to it is unending enthusiasm of the British and the Americans to use the opposite words of the other.

The needs of international communication are causing the two types of English to come closer together, the impact of which is felt strongly on our own country especially in the rapid adoption of the supposed Americanism by the youth of today. Even the generation which has grown up learning the orthodox British English in India are incorporating facets of American English. All being due to of course our very own 'Google Baba' and the rant of how technology is changing what we thought of as permanent still goes on. But truly in my opinion technology might just end this decade long battle of choosing British English or American. I mean English is English, be it of one country or another. The gap is bound to be bridged more and more over the coming decades.

Yours truly.... British or American?!?!

Asnita Sharma (Teacher of English)



Radha Kund

Discipline

A life without discipline is a life without any goal and a student with discipline is a student who can win any throne. Successful people always say that the secret to their success is meticulously following discipline in every aspect of their life. We all know that discipline is essential for each and every person, but then also most people try to ignore it. Everybody says that discipline is the route to success but do we ever stop and ask ourselves that what is discipline? Discipline is a simple word that literally means your attitude towards your goals and accomplishments. Discipline is a bridge to success, and via this link one can reach the epitome of success. This success will give you not only external happiness but also internal contentment.

Vaishnavi Singh - (X-B)

If Nature could Speak

Have you ever thought, how would it be if nature could speak? How wonderful would it be when the trees, plants and flowers around start speaking to us? I think, if nature could speak, no man on earth would ever destroy it to fulfill his needs and greed.

Just think of nature, and you get filled with happiness. Your heart starts flying like a butterfly and if the same nature started communicating with you, how amazing it would be! Nature is a gift of God, powerful, yet silent. How nice would it be if it gets voice. If nature gets voice to speak it could express its feelings to us. Imagine! you go to your garden, and the flowers out there start speaking to you, singing with you; the trees being cut could express their pain and anger; the flowers being plucked could ask the selfish man to spare them and their beauty; the plants dying out of thirst could ask for water. We don't know whether the trees, plants, flowers around us are happy with us or not, but I strongly feel that if nature could speak then the world would be even more beautiful than it is now!

Drishti Sirohi-(X-A)



Life Without 'Social Media' is the Best

Today, social media has become a very important part of our lives. It plays an essential role in our lives, both in a good and a bad way. It connects us to a person sitting far away from us while distancing us from one sitting next to us. While we get busy on our Smartphone, the world around, for us, stops. As we are proceeding towards the 22nd century, we are getting even more dependent on social media. Earlier, people used to send letters to one another and had to wait for replies, but nowadays, if we want to send some message, what do we do? Take out our phone, open WhatsApp, just type our message and click the send button. And presto...it's sent. Agreed, it helps in saving time and paper, but still it has a lot of adverse effects.

Social media has destroyed all our creativity and we have lost our real time connectivity.

Just imagine a day without social media! Children would go out to play in the evening, even parents would be spending more quality time with kids, and the old people at home wouldn't feel ignored and neglected any more. Everyone would sleep early and we would have a healthy happy society. People would visit their relatives, children would spend more time doing their homework and playing, instead of posting pictures. Life without social media would be so wonderful. It definitely would take away some facilities, as we would not be able to talk so often. People would have to switch on TVs to find out about the news instead of being able to check it on their phones, and it would take a lot of time to locate our long lost buddies, yet, life would be so simple and happy, something that our parents and forefathers enjoyed and we are deprived of.

Eshanika Agnihotri (X-C)



Save Girl Child

A girl child brings joy, she is no less than a boy. Women are the most important section of the society and equally participate in every job nowadays. It is very necessary to save the girl child in order to maintain the ratio of women in India. Since the formation of the society, there has been discrimination on how society looks on both the genders. It is through the lens of the society that we build up our conceptions. Women are considered as being inferior to men on the aspect of physical strength and working capabilities. Women have always been deprived of certain things which only men get the liability to enjoy all together. Society decides the role of the women and builds certain parameters in which it judges and makes the conclusion about women. Female infanticide is the most common practice of killing girl child in the mother's womb. Which is prevalent in many states today also. Girls in India are considered a burden for their families. People love to have a 'MOTHER' and a 'WIFE' too.... Then why not a 'DAUGHTER.....? Strange....but true. Firstly, violence against women is a very grave issue faced by women in India. It is happening almost every day in various forms. People turn a blind eye to it instead of doing something. Domestic violence happens more often than you think. Further, there is also dowry-related harassment, marital rape, genital mutilation and more. Moreover, there is also a lack of female education and the gender pay gap. Women in rural areas are still denied education for being a female. Similarly, women do not get equal pay as men for doing the same work. On top of that, they also face workplace harassment and exploitation.

We must all come together as one to fight these issues faced by women in India. Every citizen and government must try to make it a safe place for women to be in. They must make more stringent laws against people who commit crimes against women. They must also be implemented properly to ensure everyone takes them seriously. Furthermore, opportunities must be provided equally for men and women. In every field, we must encourage women to give their best. It does not matter whether it is the medical field or sports field, opportunities must be equal. Moreover, education must be stressed upon gravely. It must be made a compulsion to educate every girl and woman for a better future. We must join hands to protect and safeguard our women in India. It will help us thrive as a country and make the world a better place. Therefore, each one of us must be ready to treat women as equal counterparts. We must help them at every stage and more than that empower them to make their own decisions. After that, these issues can be eliminated so women need not face discrimination in the name of gender.

AISHWARYA CHAKRABORTY, (IX-B)



VARANASI

The City of Mystery

Varanasi is the oldest settlements on the earth dating back to more than five thousand years. It is incredible that ancient Hindus built their city of death in the exact middle of Ganges, not in the end because they believe that death is not an end but it is a mere stage in the journey of "atma" to reach the moksha. Varanasi or Banaras or "Kashi" or "Anand Kaanan" the name derives from the five "kos" of land between "Varuna" and "Assi". The heart of Varanasi lies along the river on ghats and each ghat has its own history, religion, means of livelihood and myth. A linear walk through the ghats is the only way to see the city's many cultures. The city has 88 ghats. Assi ghat, Manikanika ghat and Dashashwamedh ghat are the most popular ghats visited by hundreds of pilgrims everyday. A morning boat ride on the Ganges across the ghats is a popular attraction for the tourists. It is a mesmerizing experience to see the city life on the banks of the Ganges during the early hours or evening. Sunrise and sunset are the best time to see Varanasi. Varanasi is a bustling city with more than 3 million occupants known as Banarasis. It might look dirty, lacking services and infrastructures but be assured however, that this ancient city can teach you a lot of things about the cycle of life and death. Not only is Varanasi a place for pilgrimage, it is a home to one of the oldest school of Indian Classical Music in the country- the BANARAS GHARANA, known for its traditional alaaps and bandish. The banaras Hindu university is one of the oldest universities in the country. The place is also famous for Kashi Vishvanath Temple which is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Shivaratri is the main festival of Varanasi. Banarasis head to kachouri gali for an early breakfast of kachouri-sabji and jalebi. Thandai, a milk base drink and the Banarasi pan at Keshav Pan wala at Lanka are a must for anybody visiting this ancient holy city. Sarnath which was previously known as Mriga Vatika, the deer park, is located just 12 kilometer from the holy city of Varanasi is the place where Gautam Buddha gave his First Sermon. Varanasi exhibits the time essence of India which has a divine and a holy touch. The atmosphere of Varanasi always has a fragrance which is same as an incense stick. In 1897, a famous American author Mark Twain said, "Varanasi is older than history, older than tradition and older even than legends".

Devita Dubey (X-B)



Today, we feel we are being oppressed
for having to wear a school dress.

Today, we feel books are a burden,
and all these subject's jargon.

Today, we feel the teachers are jailers,
and we, just prisoners who they think are failures.

But when these days would end,
and no threat of exams and no threat by teachers
to suspend,

When we pass out someday,
Our hearts filled with nostalgia would say...

We wish we could go back to those days
when we would go and pick out books from the
library rack!

With wonderful memories we would remember
those pre-board study nights in December.

We would fondly recall our teachers
who we would think of as ruthless creatures.

With teary-eyed joy we would remember
those nasty cat fights over our best friends' rights.

And we might as well remember
those bunking of classes without class passes,

And those doe-eyed moments
checking out senior students.

I have a lot to say
but unfortunately, I haven't whole day.

So, all I want to pray
is that we all live the good way!!

Natasha Sharma (XII-Comm.)



Nidhivan Temple

STORY

Selina and Agraj were the son and daughter of Mr. and Miss Carvalho. They both used to go in the same Army school because their father was an army officer. There was a school celebration for Independence Day and because that school was for the children of the Army officers, Independence Day was taken quite seriously. On that day Selina and her brother were chosen for making a song related to independence or the Indian army. They both were very confused about what to write. Their dad had also gone for training because China was gonna have a war with India.

The night before the celebration, he had just arrived. They took help from their father and wrote a beautiful song on the army men. Their father said "even on the saddest events, you will sing this song for me." The kids felt a bit strange but their mother was very scared. In the morning the kids found out that their father had gone for a war with China and their mother was praying for him. They still went to school, sang that song and got an award for it, but still wished if their father would be there with them. It had almost been a week since their father had not returned and everybody was scared because the war had ended two days ago.

The next day a few army men (their dad's close friends) had come home with their dad's body wrapped in the Indian flag. The kid's mother when heard this, ran downstairs to hug Mr Carvalho's body where she slipped from the stairs and died due to severe injury. The kids were crying immensely. Selina was just 13 and Agraj was 15. They had hardly spent time with their parents and they both died. It was a huge shock for them. They ran to their mother's bedroom crying before their family picture where they found a letter saying "Dear Agraj and Selina Your father has died, I came to know this three days ago. I just did not have the guts to share this heartbreaking news with you. I love your father and I just can't live without him. So I had planned this suicide three days ago. I'm sorry for leaving you both alone. But remember you are an Army man's children, a very fierce army men's children. Always believe yourself and make the right decisions. I love you Selina and Agraj. Your mother".

The brother and sister sang that song on their parent's cremation ceremony and Agraj decided to be an army officer and left his sister in the college hostel for further studies. Selina was very serious now about her studies. She was determined that she would not let her brother's money go in vain. At first, she would talk to her brother for hours because she missed her parents and brother too. But later, when Agraj's training was more important because he was a big boy now, so the hours became minutes. Selina was now twenty three years old and now she was not just Selina, she was Dr

Selina Carvalho. More than her brother she used to talk to her brother's army batch mates and used to find out how her brother was doing. In fact, she would also go to Agraj's campus and give her services to treat the injured and the disease stricken. Her attachment with her brother was now twice as much because she used to look at him as her father and brother. But now there was an exam for Agraj, and the exam was a war with China. If he comes back alive, that means he passed, and if he's dead, he failed. Agraj was very nervous. He did not want to tell this to Selina, but gave her a visit. Selina was so happy. She played with him, introduced him to her friends, took Agraj to dad's favourite park and in spite of all this, Agraj just had tears in his eyes. He went back to the campus.

On 23rd August, Agraj left for the battlefield. He could hear the screams of the army men imagining the tears of his sister. The bullets were as fast as a strong wind touching our face. Agraj was now imagining that if he died, the news of his death should be as slow as tortoise, and not like these bullets. The Smell of blood and sweat was over his nose as he was saving himself fighting with his gun. He was fighting bravely. The bullet Agraj had shot went to the heart of the last Chinese army man but unfortunately, that was Agraj's last bullet. Just like the death of Mr Carvalho, this time too Agraj's friends had come to pay a visit to Selina but not alone. They also had brought the dead body of Agraj wrapped in the flag and gave her a letter which said "Dear Selina, I am sorry, I did not tell you about this war but I am sorrier for you because I have given you so much trouble, we never could spend time together. Remember my last visit we had practised the song that dad had written. I think that was my favourite pastime with you. Dad had fought in so many wars but look at me ! I died in the first war only. I am feeling so sad that I have failed in my first exam. Jai Hind! Your brother" Selina read this letter with tears in her eyes and on the cremation ceremony sang the song for the first time without her brother. She was proud of her brother as he had sacrificed his life for the nation. She thought that her brother didn't fail, but passed the exam with distinction as he had become immortal. But Selina was very sad too as she was all alone.

"Every army officer's family becomes alone when he dies, and it is our duty to respect them and treat them well."

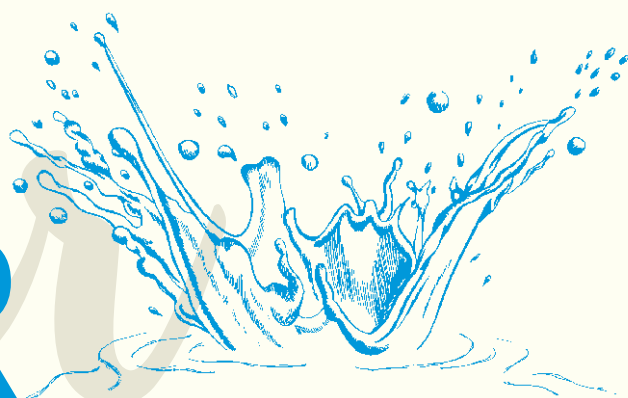
Jai Hind!

Jahnva Sachdev (VIII)



Govind Dev Temple,
Vrindavan

WATER



Water, water everywhere
But not a drop to drink
Someone said this true because
The words do link
Listen to me my dear friends
Before the day ends
There is water here
There is water there
But not a drop to drink
How can we live on this earth
When we are going to sink
Cause we have got the least of least
Because of human beast
Please, listen to me
This time you won't deny
Cause the time has come
When we have to conserve water
It's not funny
Let's run
Cause it's our future
And we must save it
As it is very mutual
Water, water everywhere
But not a drop to drink

Dear friends,
The time has come
When we have to cross our ends
We will strike and strike and strike
And use our very voice
Cause Water, water everywhere
But not a drop to drink
Dear friends,
The water has come near the danger line
please, this time don't deny
Cause it's not very nice
it's our future
And we must save it
As it is very mutual
Water, water everywhere
But not a drop to drink
Spread this message to everyone
Even to dog and mice
Cause my friends,
It might get true
That we will meet our ends
Save water, conserve water
Before it gets extinct
Cause Water, water everywhere
But not a drop to drink

GAYATRI A. GUNDAD (IX-B)



Bankey Bihari Temple,
Vrindavan

बचपन की मीठी यादें

कभी विचार करती हूँ उन लम्हों को तो आँखें भर जाती हैं। उन धुँधली यादों के साये में वह असीम आनंद प्रतीत होता है जो समय के उसी हिस्से में दफन हो गया। बचपन के उस आनंद को न तो मैं इन इंद्रियों से व्यक्त कर सकती हूँ, न ही इस तर्कशील बुद्धि से। मैं तो क्या, इस संसार में कोई भी नहीं कर सकता। याद आता है वह बचपन, वह निर्मल मन, जो राग, द्वेष, छल, कपट, कामिनी, एवं कंचन इन सब से भी परे था। याद आती है, वे रातें जब आँखें क्षीण नहीं थी और आकाश तथा चंदामामा को देखते-देखते तारे गिनते-गिनते आँख लगती थी। जब परी कथाओं को सुनने की जिज्ञासा रहती थी व उन पर यकीन था। पर अब तो यह संसार निरर्थक मालूम पड़ता है। न तो अब वह आनंद रहा और न जाने कहा गया वह निर्मल मन, परंतु सत्य को नहीं नकारा जा सकता है कि सुख व दुख एक ही सिक्के के दो पहलू हैं। जब गहराई की खाई में उतर जाती हूँ, तो जगजीत सिंह की गाई ये पंक्तियाँ याद आ जाती हैं—

ये दौलत भी ले लो, ये शोहरत भी ले लो,
भले छीन लो मुझसे मेरी जवानी।।
मगर मुझ को लौटा दो, बचपन का सावन,
वो कागज़ की कश्ती, वो बारिश का पानी।।

अनन्या शर्मा (नवी-ब)

पड़ोसी

सबके होते पड़ोसी तमाम,
कुछ करते हैं नींद हराम।
सुबह होते ही मुँह उठाए चले आते हैं,
मुफ्त की चाय पी जाते हैं।
कपड़ा धोने के लिए “सर्फ” तक ले जाते हैं,
हर शनिवार को मुट्ठी भर माँग कर ले जाते हैं।
कुछ पड़ोसी होते हैं बहुत ही अच्छे,
जो नहीं करते हैं यह सब,
और होते हैं दिल के सच्चे।
विचारों के हैं वो बहुत ही नेक,
हमसे कुछ माँगने की जगह हमें ही दे जाते हैं,
जरूरत पड़ने पर काम आते हैं।
लेकिन हम सब को भी ये याद रखना चाहिये,
एक अच्छा पड़ोसी बने रहना चाहिये।

क्षिति (नवी-ब)

अन्तरिक्ष में भारत



शुरुआत से ही मानव के मन में अन्तरिक्ष को जानने और समझने की जिज्ञासा बनी रही। आज मानव अन्तरिक्ष के भेदों को जानने के लिए अपनी ज्ञान एवं बुद्धि का प्रयोग कर न सिर्फ चन्द्रमा तक जा पहुँचा है बल्कि ब्रह्माण्ड के अन्य ग्रहों तक जा पहुँचा है।

आज भारत भी विश्व का एक ऐसा विकासशील राष्ट्र बन चुका है जिसने रूस और अमेरिका के साथ अन्तरिक्ष में अपने पग रख दिये हैं। विश्व में अन्तरिक्ष की यात्रा रूस ने शुरू की थी और आज भारत भी उसके साथ कदम से कदम मिलाकर चल रहा है।

भारतीय अन्तरिक्ष कार्यक्रम डॉ विक्रम साराभाई की संकल्पना है जिन्हें भारतीय अन्तरिक्ष कार्यक्रम का जनक कहा गया है। वर्तमान प्रारूप में इस कार्यक्रम की कमान भारतीय अन्तरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (इसरो) के हाथों में है। इसरो का गठन 1962 में किया गया था जिसमें डॉ साराभाई को सभापति नियुक्त किया गया था।

इसरो की उपलब्धियाँ —

- सन 1960 में डॉ साराभाई ने नासा के साथ मिलके कृत्रिम उपग्रहों का अध्ययन किया तथा भारतवर्ष में कृत्रिम उपग्रह प्रक्षेपण वाहन (एस. एल.वी.) का निर्माण प्रारंभ किया।
- इसरो ने 1975 में रूस की मदद से आर्यभट्ट का प्रक्षेपण किया।
- सन् 1980 में देश में निर्मित उपग्रह रोहिणी प्रथम का प्रक्षेपण किया।
- इन उपग्रहों का प्रयोग संचार प्रणाली को कम लागत में उत्कृष्ट बनाने तथा अन्तरिक्ष संबंधी तकनीक उपलब्ध कराने में किया जाता है।
- इसरो ने 2008 में चंद्रयान-1 भेजा जिसने चंद्रमा की परिक्रमा की।
- सन् 2014 में मंगल ग्रह की परिक्रमा करने वाला मंगलयान भेजा। इस प्रकार भारत पहले ही प्रयास में सफल होने वाला पहला राष्ट्र बना तथा सफलतापूर्वक मंगलग्रह की कक्षा तक पहुँचने के लिए इसरो का चौथा स्थान रहा। भारतवर्ष द्वारा सन् 2016 तक 20 अलग-अलग देशों के 57 उपग्रहों को भेजा गया। भविष्य की योजनाओं में भारी उपग्रहों को भेजने के लिए जी.एस.एल.वी. का विकास मानव अन्तरिक्ष यान तथा सौर मिशन अन्तरिक्ष यान का विकास है।
- हाल ही में भारत चंद्रयान-2 को चंद्रमा की कक्षा तक पहुँचाने में सक्षम रहा।

भारत के अन्तरिक्ष में सफलता का पूर्ण श्रेय हमारे वैज्ञानिकों को जाता है।

अनवद्या शर्मा (दसवीं-अ)



Rangji Temple,
Vrindavan



जिंदगी

प्रकृति है यह बहुत सुंदर
जिसमें आते पहाड़ नदियाँ एवं समुन्दर
इसके पहाड़ है बहुत विशाल
ये आसमान को हैं छूते
और सदा ही ऊँचे रहते
बर्फ से ढकी चोटियों से निकली नदियाँ
जिन्हें बनाने में लग गई सदियों
प्रकृति के पेड़-पौधे हैं बहुत जरूरी
जो हमारी चीजों को करती हैं पूरी

प्रियांशी बंसल, (छठवीं-अ)

है जिंदगी एक खूबसूरत सफर
उड़ जाओ इसमें लगा के तुम पर
पार करो दुखों को सारे
ना हो तुम्हें कोई फिकर
हँसकर जियो खुलकर जियो
जहर डर का बिल्कुल मत पियो
व्यर्थ न करो एक भी पल
पल को वापस लाने का नही है बल
जिंदगी एक मधुर गीत है
इसको मुस्कुराते हुए गाते चलो
जिनको किया है दुखी
उनको मनाते चलो
खाना-पीना घूमना गाना
जिंदगी है एक छोटा सा फसाना
इसे हँसी खुशी काटो
ना ढूँढो तुम कोई बहाना
पल दो पल की है ये बात
फिर छूट जाना है सबका साथ
इतने सुंदर नजारे को
ना करो तुम बरबाद
क्या लाए थे क्या ले जाएँगे
आओ सब बाँटते चलें
छोटी सी तो है ये जिंदगी
इसे सबके संग गाते चले।

तनिष्का अग्रवाला (सातवीं-ब)

मेरी माँ

जिंदगी की कड़ी धूप में छाया बनकर
खड़ी रहती है सदा माँ मेरे लिए
माँ के आँचल में आकर हर दुख भूल जाऊँ
हाथ रखे जो सर पे चैन से मैं सो जाऊँ
खड़ी रहती है सदा माँ मेरे लिए
वो जाने मुझे मुझसे ज्यादा
वो चाहे मुझे सबसे ज्यादा
मेरी हर खुशी को मुझे देने के लिए
खड़ी रहती है सदा माँ मेरे लिए
हर चोट का माँ है इकलौता मरहम
गोद में उसकी सर रख के मिट जाएँ सारे गम
खड़ी रहती है सदा माँ मेरे लिए
जिंदगी की हर घड़ी में साथ उसका है जरूरी
माँ के साथ बिना हर खुशी है अधूरी
इस दुनिया के काँटों को फूल बनाए हुए
खड़ी रहती है सदा माँ मेरे लिए

श्रेष्ठा चक्रवर्ती (सातवीं-ब)

हम नन्हें-नन्हें बच्चे हैं

हम नन्हें-नन्हें बच्चे हैं
नादान उमर के कच्चे हैं
पर अपनी धुन के पक्के हैं
जननी की जय-जय गाएँगे
भारत की ध्वजा फहराएँगे।
अपना पथ कभी न छोड़ेंगे
अपना प्रण कभी न तोड़ेंगे
हिम्मत से नाता जोड़ेंगे।
हम हिमगिरि पर चढ़ जाएँगे
भारत की ध्वजा फहराएँगे
हम भय से कभी न डोलेंगे
अपनी ताकत को तोलेंगे
जननी की जय-जय बोलेंगे
अपनी सिर भेंट चढ़ाएँगे
भारत की ध्वजा फहराएँगे

प्रगुन (तृतीय-अ)



Barsana Temple

ज्ञान मार्ग पर गुरु चलाते

ज्ञान मार्ग पर गुरु चलाते
अच्छी बातें हमें सिखाते
जीवन में हम हार न माने
गुरु हमको यह सिखलाते
सिखलाते सच्ची मानवता
क्रोध न मन में हो
सहनशीलता हम अपनाएँ
दूर भगाते गुरु दानवता
ज्ञान का दीप गुरु जलाते
अंधियारा, अज्ञान मिटाते
जीवन में कुछ पाना होतो
गुरुओं का सम्मान करो
शीश झुकाकर श्रद्धा से तुम
मित्रों उन्हें प्रणाम करो



जान्हवी सिंह (सातवीं-ब)

मैं और मेरा शरीर

एक बूँद सा शरीर है मेरा
चट्टान सी मेहनत
किस्मत पर विश्वास नहीं
मैं चढ़ सकता हूँ खड़ी दीवार
है खुद पर विश्वास मुझे
ना डरा मैं किसी चट्टान से
ना रोक सका तूफान मुझे
यह दो वक्त के मेहमान है
मेरे इस संसार में
रखता हूँ लाज मैं अपने काम की
है खुद पर अभिमान मुझे
डर है न मुझे किसी का
है ना ऐसा इंसान कोई
जो हो खुद पर भरोसा
ना मार सके शैतान कोई

अरिन (नवीं-स)



पतंग

मेरी पतंग मैंने बनाई
लाल रंगाई
हवा में उड़ाई
पतंगों से लड़ाई
खेल में जिताई
हार न मानी
पतंग कटाई
मेरी पतंग मैंने रंगाई

पार्थ चौधरी (पांचवीं-स)

पर्वत



पर्वत होते हैं बहुत बड़े,
कुछ सफेद कुछ भूरे।
उसके ऊपर है पेड़ है सारे,
कुछ छोटे कुछ बहुत बड़े।
पर्वत की इन ऊँची-ऊँची, चोटियों को देखकर न घबराना।
इसने दिए हैं जो संदेश, बस उनको ही अपनाना तुम।

लिखनमोदक (पंचम-‘अ’)

मॉनीटर

जो क्लास में बने मॉनीटर
कोरी शान दिखाते हैं,
आता जाता कुछ भी नहीं
पर हम पर रोब जमाते हैं।
जब क्लास में टीचर नहीं
तो खुद टीचर बन जाते हैं
कॉपी, पेंसिल, कलम लेकर
बस नाम लिखने लग जाते हैं।
खुद तो हमेशा बाते करते,
हमें चुप करवाते हैं
अपनी तो बस गलती माफ
बस हमें बली चढ़ाते हैं।
क्लास संभल पाती नहीं,
बस चीखते और चिल्लाते हैं
भगवान बचाए इन मॉनीटर से
इन्हें हम नहीं चाहते हैं।

नियति अग्रवाल (चतुर्थ-ब)