



Stephania



St. Stephen's Newsletter

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HOPE

“

When we possess the treasure of hope, it gives rise to other treasures, too. Hope draws forth our inner potential and strength.

- DAISAKU IKEDA

HOPE: ANCHOR FOR LIFE

No matter how much the world tries to hold you back, always continue with this belief that what you want to achieve is possible. Having a belief and hope that you can become successful is the most crucial step in achieving success.

A new beginning comes with new possibilities and challenges. Let us throw away the shackles of the past and welcome the times to come with a hopeful heart.

“Hope is a waking dream”, inspired by this thought of Aristotle, we continue to step up to the challenges with an abundance of optimism, aspirations and dreams. Focusing on the overall development of the students, we are continuously on the move to make our students self-reliant, dutiful, disciplined and socially responsible citizens for the years to come. Apart from academic brilliance, the School endeavours to provide many opportunities to the students to unravel and explore their latent talents.

Schools have reopened ensuring safety, instilling confidence in parents and the community, and the teaching fraternity continues to innovate to close learning gaps. Appreciation and encouragement from our side would facilitate the students’ learning and bring them closer to their aim. A renewed enthusiasm is visible among the students as they prepare for the forthcoming exams.

The advent of Spring, a symbol of growth and hope, renews our self-belief in the relentless pursuit of excellence. It reminds us that no matter how hard the path ahead is, life will surely improve for as Desmond Tutu said, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.”

- THE EDITORS

SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Stephen's is committed to Making Quality Education Accessible and building the character of its students by inculcating the values of Self Discipline, Integrity, Mutual Respect, Pursuit of Excellence, Learning for Life and Environmental Management (SIMPLE). The School will build language fluency and improve reading habits of the students and will also continue to introduce one educational innovation each year to make learning more meaningful. The School will continue to be a model employer and invest in teacher training and development.

CAMPUS STORIES

Of the people, by the people, for the people

Republic Day is one of the most significant days for all Indians. Though the pandemic has changed the course of everyone's lives, yet the enthusiasm of celebrating Republic Day remains the same among all. The pandemic years have taught people the importance of freedom and democracy and what it means to them. The School celebrated this glorious day with great zeal and patriotic fervour on January 26, 2022. It was a matter of great pride for all of us as on this day, in the year 1950, the Constitution of India came into force and India became a Republic country due to the great efforts of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution. The Music Teachers of the School presented a melodious patriotic song followed by the speeches delivered by Ms. Manju Sharma and

Ms. Priyanka Nelson. Their speech encouraged us to remain committed to building a secure and prosperous future for ourselves, our students and for the entire humanity.

The School conducted various activities digitally, for the students of Classes L.K.G. to XII, which included, Origami & Rangometry, Kite Making, Drawing of the Monuments of India, Online Quiz, Collage Making and Poetry recital. The drawings and the collages made by the students are shown here. These online activities showed the students' enthusiasm in the celebration. The Principal exhorted the teaching faculty to work with renewed zeal towards building a strong student community that is inspired to keep the nation's glory high.



Learning For Life

1. Ms. Deepa Thadani (Vice-Principal) and Mr. Lionel Ellis (TGT) conducted an interactive session on 'Online Gaming and its Hazards', on December 23, 2021, an initiative by the School to create awareness among young adolescents with access to gadgets
2. CBSE conducted a training session in partnership with Microsoft on 'Exposure to the curriculum of Coding and Data Science' from January 22 to February 9, 2022, which was attended by the Computer Department of the School
3. Dr. (Mrs.) Charu Jain (PGT) conducted a session on 'Art Integration' for English Teachers on February 14, 2022. The workshop focused on how to integrate art with the teaching of the English language to create rich integrated learning experiences for the students
4. NABET conducted a two-day online workshop on 'Preparing School for Accreditation' on February 25 & 26, 2022. The workshop was attended by the Vice-Principal, the Headmistress and the members of the ISO Internal Audit Team
5. An in-house workshop was conducted on 'SMART Goals' on March 8 & 15, 2022 for the staff members by Ms. Baljeet Kaur (PGT), Ms. Deepika Sharma (TGT), Ms. Krutika Sharma (PRT) and Ms. Supreet Kaur Ahluwalia (PRT)



Reading Programme

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers. The School organised English and Hindi Reading Programmes for the students of Classes VI-VIII during the Winter Break. MCQ based assessments were conducted and certificates were awarded to reinforce the much needed reading habit.

Martyrs' Day

India marks the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as Martyrs' Day. The School observed Martyrs' Day on January 30, 2022 and paid humble homage to the Father of our Nation and the other freedom fighters who laid down their lives for our country's Independence. It was Sunday and the students observed 2 minutes silence at home.

IN MEMORIAM



A memorial service was held on February 26, 2022, to commemorate the 17th death anniversary of our Founder-Director Shri Gilroy Martins. A Floral tribute was offered by the staff members.

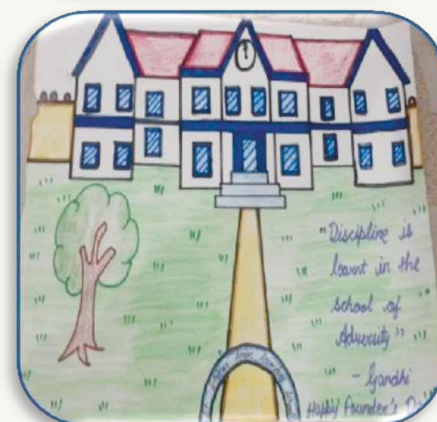
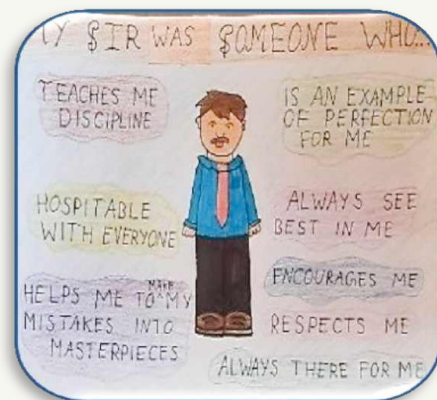
Nostalgic Moments

Remembrance & Reaffirmation on Founder's Day

Founder's Day is a day that celebrates the transformation of a thought or a vision into concrete reality. As February 20, 2022 was a Sunday, the School celebrated the Founder's Day on February 19, 2022, commemorating the 72nd birthday of our founder, Shri Gilroy Martins. The students wrote poems, anecdotes and articles which showed their gratitude to the founder of the School. The students read the suggested chapters from the book, 'My Sir' authored by Ms. Shefali Martins (Secretary, St Stephen's Society, Ajmer). They also prepared PPTs, Collages, Posters and Cards based on the values of life and moments in time and the values unified in the acronym SIMPLE. The day was a reminder of the School's great legacy and the institution's role in the life of each one associated with it.

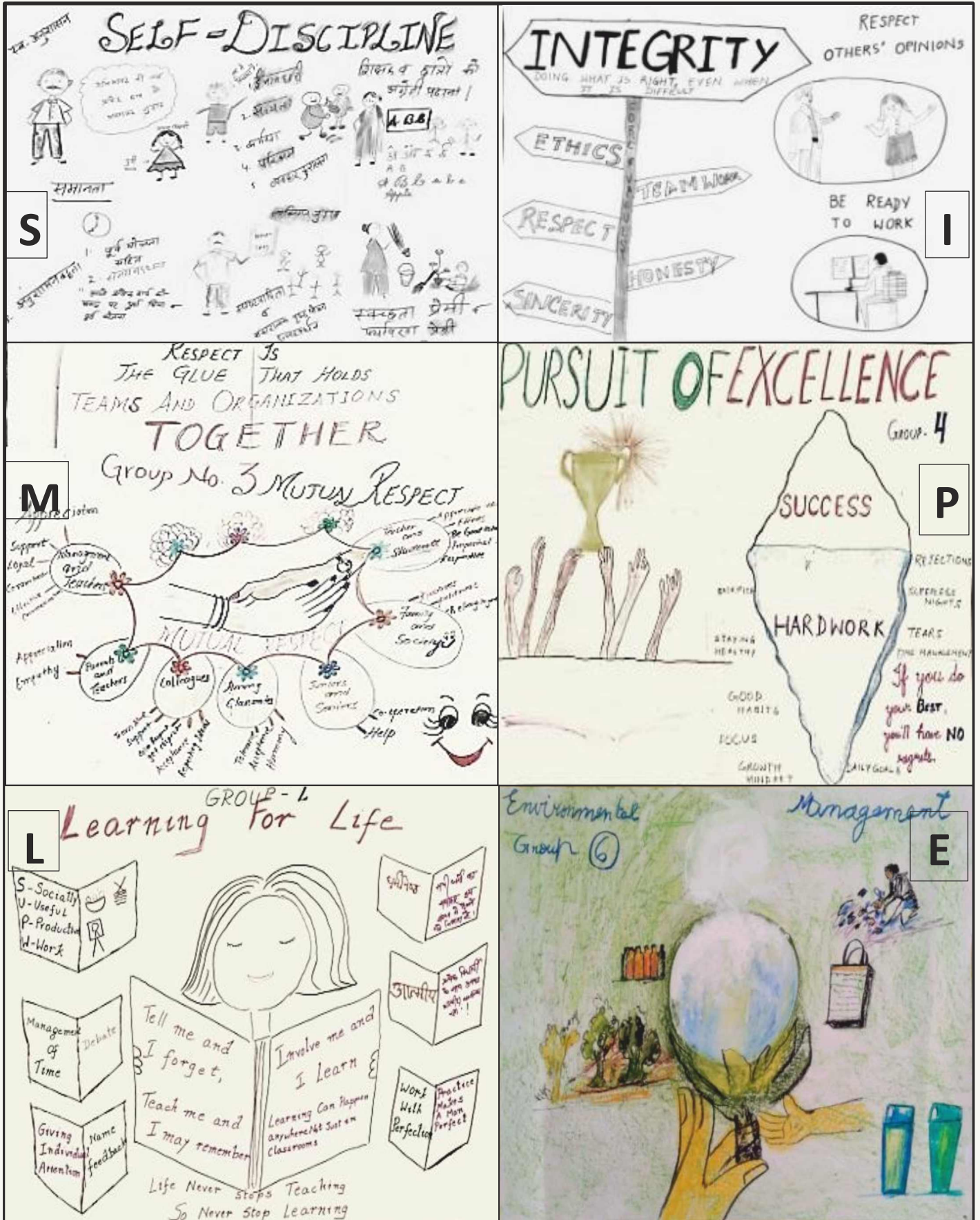
The teachers also celebrated the Founder's Day on February 22, 2022. The celebration began with the lighting of the lamp followed by a Speech delivered by

the Principal. In her address, she expressed her gratitude to Sir Gilroy Martins and appreciated his commitment and selfless service to the School and society at large. The Vice-Principal spoke about Sir's influence on the lives of many teachers and also exhorted us to imbibe his values in our lives. Ms. Shefali Martins read an excerpt from the chapter 'Moments in Time', taken from her book, 'My Sir'. The Chapter spoke about Sir's birthday and the love that the children had for him. These moments created a feeling of nostalgia among all. Looking back at the past achievements, from the School's inception till date, the team of founder teachers also shared some exceptional experiences. An activity based on the core values of the School was conducted with the staff members. Each group was assigned one core value and they drew their vision around it. They presented their work at the end of the allotted time. (The posters are shown on the following page.)



Founder's Day Activity

The School Core Values Depicted Through Art By Teachers



Happy Anecdotes

Joyful Experiences of Teachers During Online Teaching

‘Change is the only Constant’

Education is not limited to the classroom. It takes place in the kitchen, on the corner, as you walk, when you listen, and in silence.

Never be apprehensive about new beginnings, be brave to explore, you never know you might end up loving the latter.

All educational institutions moved teaching online as an emergency due to the pandemic COVID-19, shutting down all classroom teaching and only delivering virtual classes. Online classes did appear stressful to begin with but soon both teachers and students adapted to the new

normal like a hand to a glove. There were many enjoyable moments which broke the monotony and stress of online teaching-learning, some of which have been shared by the Pre-Primary and Primary teachers.

Ms. Poonam Srivastava: One day, I was left with some time, after completing the chapter and I said to the students, “Let’s enjoy !” So I asked them to



recite poems other than the ones from their course book and to sing if they like. In those 10 minutes the students recited poems and sang songs.

It was an enjoyable time for all and my students were so happy and said – “Ma’am *bahut achcha laga aaji!*” I realised that I did nothing except give them just 10 minutes from our schedule and that gave the kids immense happiness.



Ms. Mamta Rajput: Sometimes, if a student was not feeling well, we would tell him or her, “You can leave the class and take rest.” So, one day, when I had a sore throat and bad cough and was not able to speak properly, the students noticed that I was not feeling well and had trouble in taking the class. One student showed her concern and said “Ma’am please leave the class if you

are not keeping well.” Other children also followed her and repeated the same. Despite my sickness, I felt elated at earning their love and concern.

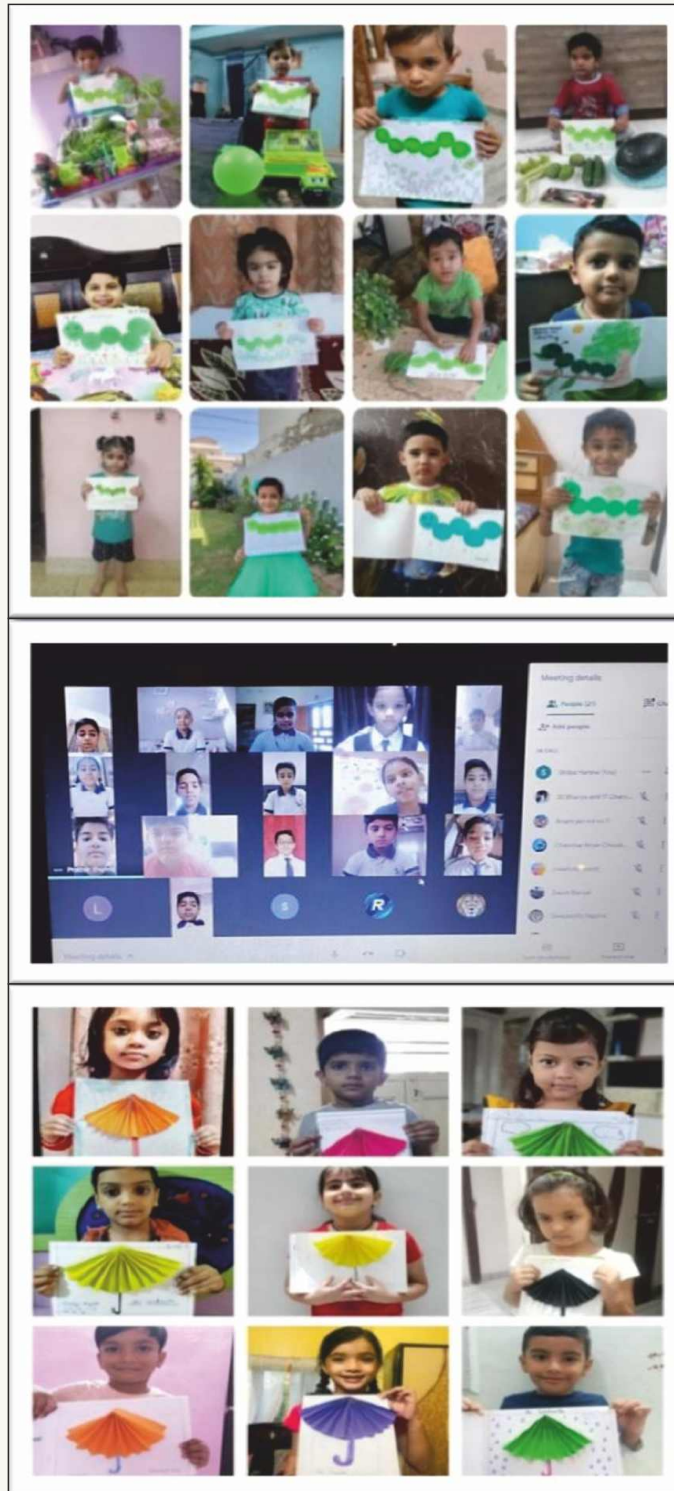
Ms. Anjana Daisy: During online classes, we still would celebrate birthdays of the students. The birthday boy/girl would sit wearing party clothes. When we began coming to School for offline classes, I wore a new dress. Seeing this, the students asked

me “Ma’am, is it your birthday today?” And, they started singing the Birthday song for me. I was deeply touched by this gesture and enjoyed the moment.

Ms. Namita Chaturvedi: One Saturday, during the online classes while I was asking questions in the class, a few students raised their hands and made funny gestures by waving their hands like a snake. Noticing this, the other students too raised their hands, waving them about, to draw my attention, waiting eagerly to answer the question. It was a very funny moment in the class that we all began laughing. Such moments bring a lot of joy during the teaching sessions and act like stress busters.

Ms. Kanchan Datwani: “Cling to Joy: audacious and unbridled joy, which looks for light in everything, even in your waiting.” This quote reminds us of our Saturday activity that we plan for the students to have a fun-filled class. The joy in their eyes inspired us to keep planning activities such as - Origami, Colouring, Explore & Express and most importantly Learning by Doing.

Ms. Puja Khandelwal: Amongst the many instances, I would like to share is the experience of the Grandparents’ Day, where I really enjoyed talking to the students as well as their grandparents



and it was a nostalgic trip down memory lane for me, too. Moreover, children participating in an activity with their grandparents were blissful to watch.

Ms. Bhunesh Mathur: Making teaching and learning joyful is a teacher’s priority but the efforts of a teacher increases manifold when she gets recognition and encouragement from the parents. It was my pleasure when some parents showed their gratitude towards me for teaching the concepts so patiently and clearly to the children with the resources available. Watching the way we taught the students online also helped them to handle their wards in a better way.

Ms. Garima Rohella: One of my joyful experiences which I would like to share was that once when I taught my students to find meanings from the dictionary. They liked the activity so much that they

kept reminding me of the same activity even when I was either running short of time or I had to complete other activities during the period. In spite of the confusion, chaos, uncertainty and sadness during the pandemic, we are grateful to the Almighty who guided us through this unpredictable situation and gave us these moments to cherish with our students.

BE THE CHANGE

That You Wish To See In The World

Cleaning the environment is the key to existence and survival of life and planet Earth. A group of students of our School took up the initiative of cleaning the surroundings of Chaurasiawas Lake. An interview was conducted by **Vividha Vinod** of XII Arts to know more about this cleanliness drive.

Vividha: I really appreciate what all of you have done. From where did you get this idea and inspiration to clean the surrounding area of Chaurasiawas Lake?

Manas Jain: One evening we went out with our friends and we found a great mess and food wrappers lying around. It was so disappointing to see such a lot of garbage around us, so we decided to take up this initiative.

Vividha: What was your parents' response when they came to know about this idea?



Rahul Mankani: Generally when our parents tell us to arrange our things and tidy our room, many times we don't listen to them. So when they heard about me taking this initiative, they were quite surprised at first but were also proud of my seriousness towards the environment and its cleanliness.

Vividha: Very true. How did you feel while you were involved in this? What was your experience?

Manas Jain: People feel awkward in picking up the trash that they themselves have contributed to. When we went there and started cleaning, we too felt the same. But after we realised our misdoings, we had the courage to accept our mistakes and also to correct them.

Ahaan Choudhary: Since my childhood, I have always thought about how garbage can ruin a beautiful place so when I heard about this

cleanliness drive, I took it as an opportunity to change for good. I feel really happy and proud that I was able to participate in such an initiative.

Vividha: Very thoughtful of all of you. How would you get others involved in this mission?

Bhavya Jain & Ahaan Choudhary: According to me the best way to get others involved in these activities is that we should actually take them to these particular places and show them the reality. We should also make them aware of the consequences and the

impact we are experiencing because of the polluted environment and tell them that if we, the students of Class X, can take this initiative, anybody can.

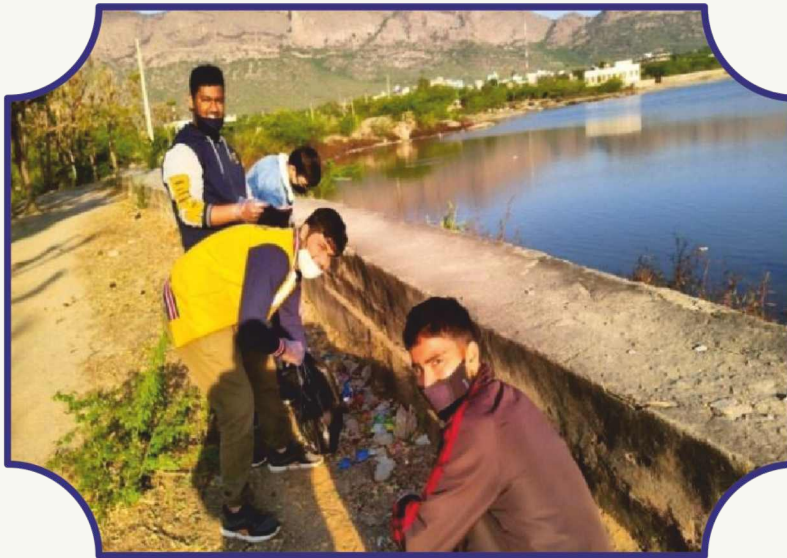
Vividha: Brilliant! What according to you are the values and benefits that one gets while participating in such a cleanliness drive?

Vansh Jhamnani: While participating in such activities, one learns teamwork, hardwork and how to support each other while working.

Akshat Pareek: We also learn the importance of cleanliness around ourselves and the major role it plays in our day-to-day life.

Tanushree Jain: This teaches us that even the small steps we take, can make a huge difference. So we should never stop in between because one day it will turn out to be something good and big.

Vividha: So it is good that you learnt a lot of soft



skills. Why do you think people care to keep their homes clean but litter the surroundings outside their homes?

Divyang Ojha: This is a feeling in everyone that cleaning their homes is their responsibility and of vital importance but the government authorities are responsible for cleaning the outside area. This mindset is totally wrong because we ourselves are the ones who ruin the surroundings.

Vividha: You all have learnt a lot during this cleanliness drive.

Would you like to get yourselves associated with other such environment missions?

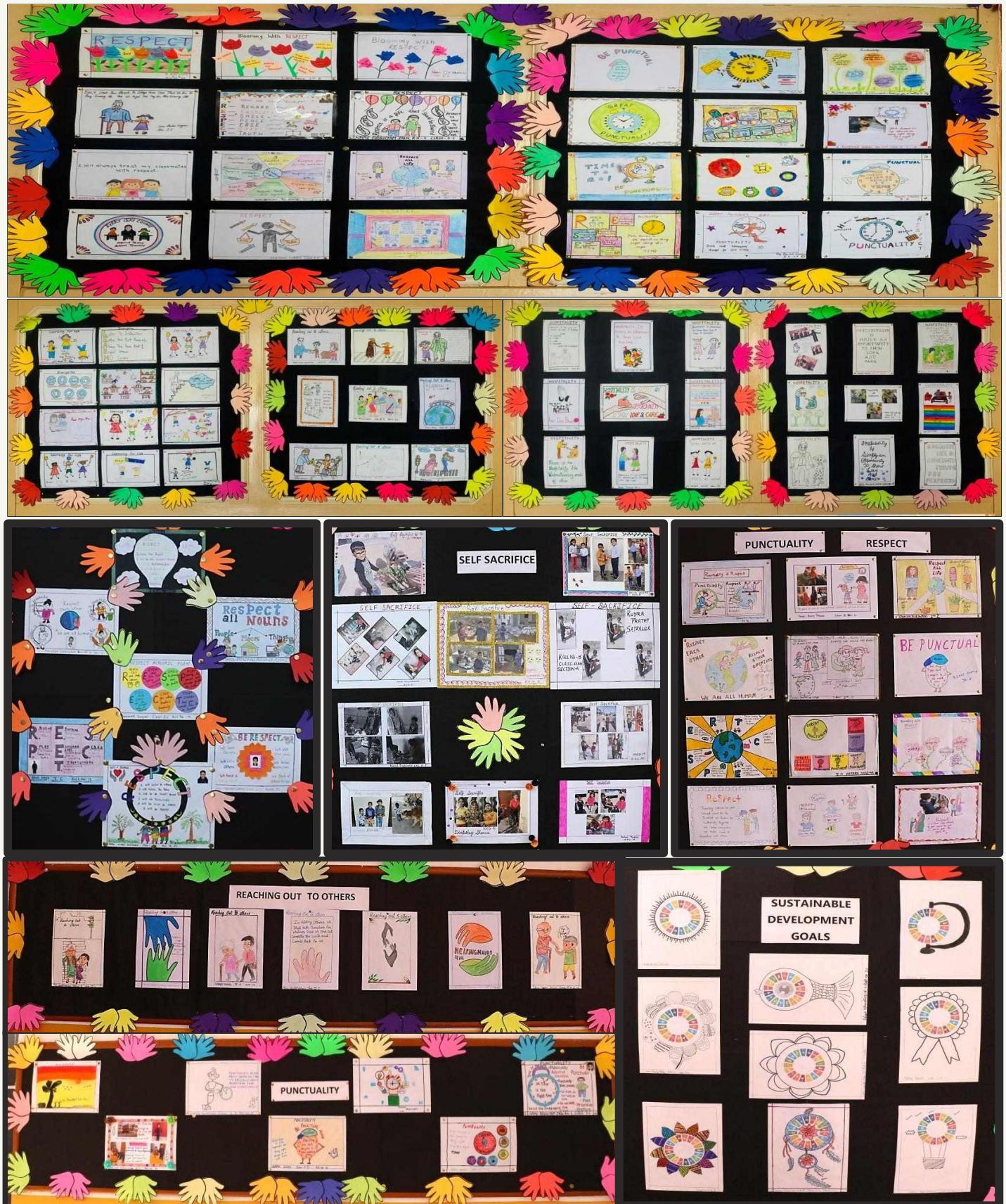
Harshit Pareek: Yes, of course! We would like to get involved in such programmes because we are gifted with such a beautiful planet and are grateful that we are getting an opportunity to take care of it.

Vividha: Yes, we need to preserve planet Earth for the future generations. What message would you like to convey to the people about keeping the surroundings clean?

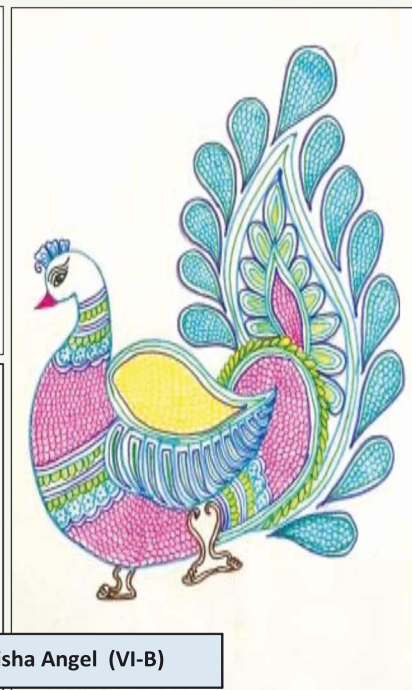
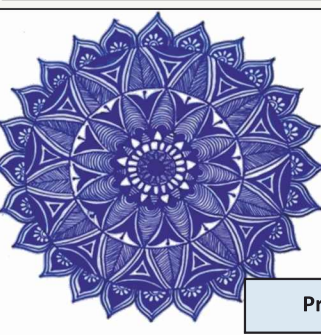
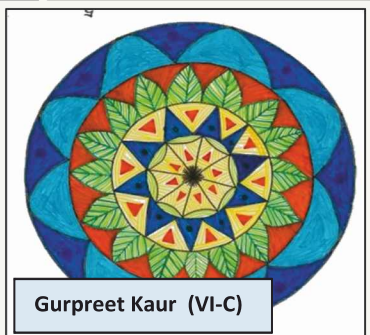
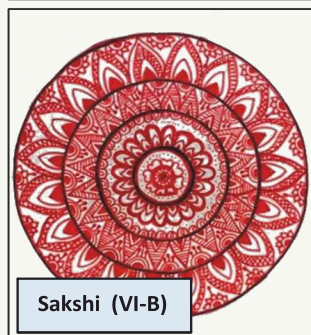
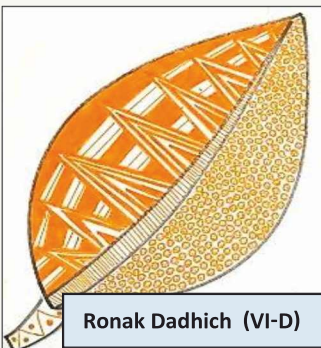
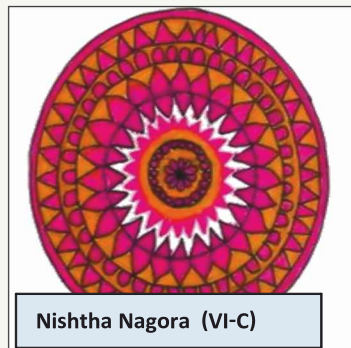
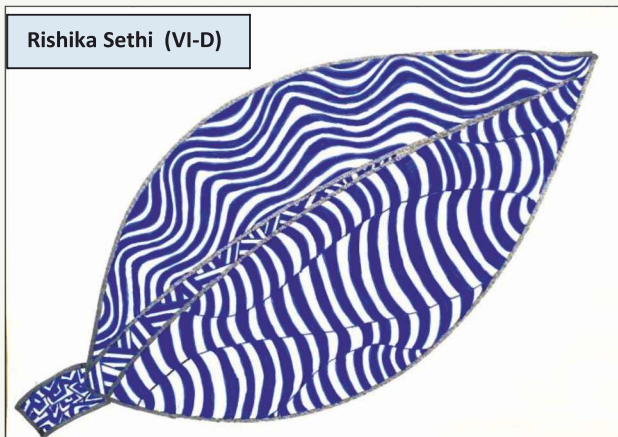
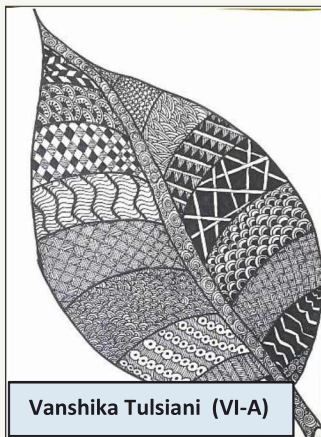
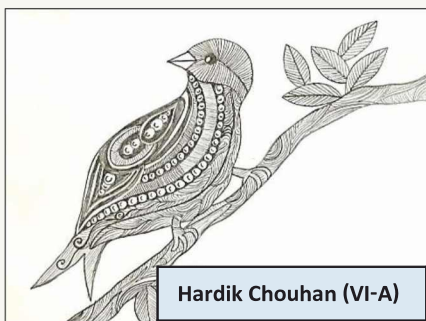
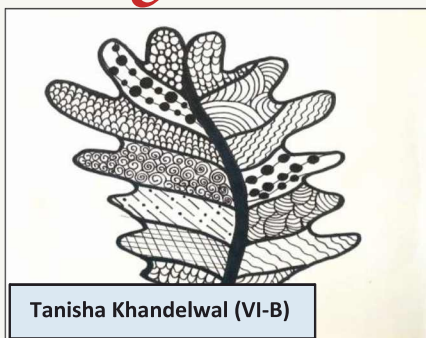
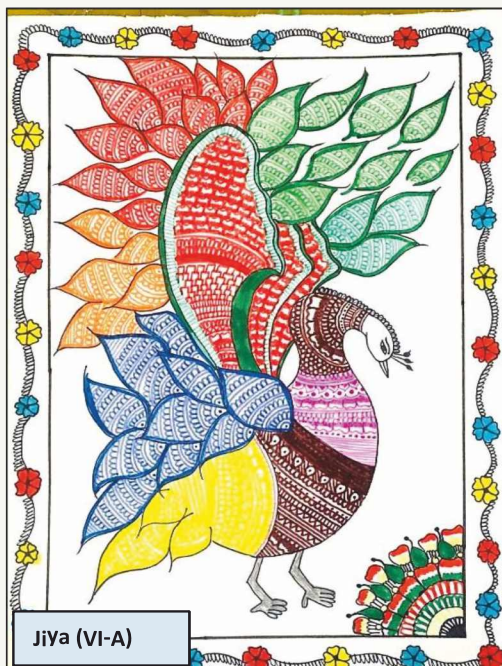
Yash Sharma & Akshat Pareek: Our Earth is what we all have in common, so it's our moral duty to keep it clean. Maintaining cleanliness is not the responsibility of one person alone but it is a collective responsibility. The health of humans and flora and fauna depends on the cleanliness of the environment.

IMPRESSIONS

Our principles drawn and displayed by the students



Creativity at its best!



WORDSCAPE

Hope is the greatest happiness of humankind. It is the remedy for all despair and grief. It is the chief blessing as it helps one overcome adversity and cope in a positive and adaptive way. Hope is a motivation to persevere towards a goal. Students have tried to instil hope and resilience through their articles, stories and poems in Wordscape.



Anant Krishan Pareek (VI-C)

Hope

Don't know how it looks...
Don't know where it belongs
The only thing that keeps us going
Is the whisper of 'Hope' in our heart.

No matter what happens
No matter what someone says.
If there is hope
Fear will never stay.

One can't break even if hit hard...
One can't quit even when things get tough.
It's nothing but hope
That keeps the fear apart.
It is not an object,
Or anything that's distant.
But a simple speck of hope
That arises within the heart.

If there's hope,
You will be fine.
Don't worry much,
It will be alright.

Heyanshi Pant
X-E



Sanskriti Gandhi (IX-A)

Candle of Hope

It was dark and dreary.
Inside my soul,
Was praying for help.
Life came by,
All bright and kind,
And lit the candle of hope.

Kshitij Dadhich
VII-C

Hope is Indispensable

Hope... Something that every human should embrace, it's the assumption for a positive outcome. It's the optimistic will power of a human that consists of the ability to swing our misery towards ecstasy. It helps us pursue and accomplish our goal. Hope comprises the potential which unbelievably can help a person hanging between death and life. Thereby, hope is a huge sigh of relief in our life which, during the time of suffering, serves as a pathway to the next stage. Hence, it is an indispensable part of our life.

Deependra Singh Jodha
X-B

Discipline

As I sat dreaming about my chances of success, I stumbled upon a topic that could lead me to the crest,

A topic my teacher was bent on making me learn,
so that could, with ease let success be churned.

Discipline is what my teacher stressed on,
A word that could let me make up for the time that was gone,
Be it in academics or sports or any other field,
There are countless benefits a confident mind could yield.

A confident mind is the product of a disciplined approach,
That, through months of hard work, let the mind be coached,
Discipline in school plays an important role,
In turning us into responsible citizens on the whole.

Discipline at home makes our parents shower on us praise,
Relieved they are to see that there is no need to mend our ways,
Indeed, discipline and obedience often go together,
They help us to reach out to success in times of bad weather.

I now realize why my teacher scolds us for being naughty,
If we are disciplined now, we shall be successful before forty,
Today, I am trying to be disciplined in each and every step.
Come tomorrow, I shall thank my teachers for turning me into the best.

Ruchika Bijawat
IX-C

Guiding Light

Smile of life that makes it bright,
Like sunrise which blooms our life,
Song of hope changes the mode,
Confident pose with a booster dose,
Develops faith, keeps us awake,
Helps to decide which path is right,
Spectacular vision as god's light,
Life goes on as hope shines bright.

Shreya Bansal
VIII-B

Source of Strength

When situations are not right
When everything does not seem to be bright

There is something
Which will make you ready for a fight
It's HOPE, because it makes you strong
It gives you a solution to change the wrong.

Jiya
VI-A



Rishika Sethi (VI-D)

आशा से बेहतर कल

कल एक बेहतर दिन होगा,
मनचाहा जब हासिल होगा,
जो आज अधूरा छूट गया,
जग जिससे मानो रूठ गया,
उधम की राह चलते-चलते,
कल वह भी पूरा होगा,
और कष्ट के बिन होगा,
कल एक बेहतर दिन होगा।
आज सभी दरवाजे बंद हों,
रोशनी की उम्मीद कम हों,
आशा का दीप जलते-जलते,
कोई झरोखा कल खुलेगा,
पथ आलोकित फिर होगा,
कल एक बेहतर दिन होगा।
अगर ढूँढ़ लाई जिंदगी
सौ बहाने रूलाने के,
और आ गए अवरोध कई
कठिन सभी हराने के,
हिम्मत की सीढ़ी चढ़ते-चढ़ते,
हजार हटेंगी बाधाएं
हँसना भी मुमकिन होगा,
कल एक बेहतर दिन होगा।
रात अंधेरी ही होगी न,
आँख मूंदकर कट जाएगी,
कल एक बेहतर दिन होगा,
मनचाहा जब हासिल होगा,
कल एक बेहतर दिन होगा।

राखी कासट
कक्षा दस-अ



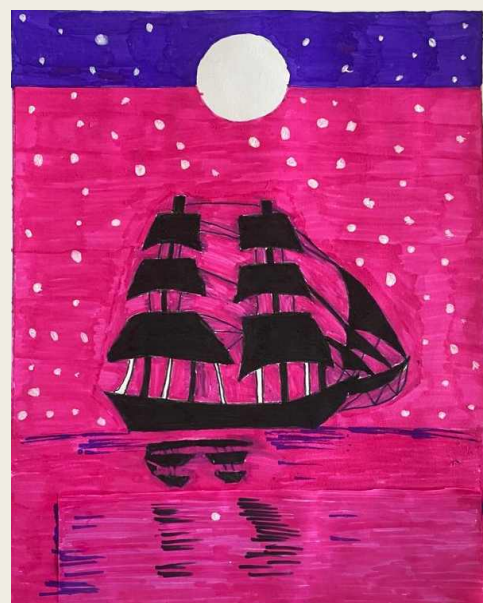
Jiya (VI-A)

आशा क्या होती है?

आशा क्या होती है? आशा होती है जो हर जीवन को जीने की वजह देती है, जैसे बुजुर्गों को आशा होती है कि उनके बच्चे स्वस्थ रहें और माता-पिता को आशा होती है कि उनके बच्चे पढ़-लिखकर कुछ बने। बच्चों को आशा रहती है कि उनके परीक्षा में अच्छे अंक आए। वे जीवन में सफल हों। यह आशा केवल मनुष्य तक सीमित नहीं है, पशु-पक्षियों की भी अनेक आशाएँ होती हैं।

अगर हमारे जीवन में आशा शब्द नहीं होता तो जीवन ही अर्थहीन हो जाता। आशा जीवन को किसी मुकाम पर लाकर खड़ा करती है, अतः यह आशा ही तो है जो हमें जीवन में आगे बढ़ने के लिए प्रेरित करती है। आशा पूरी नहीं होने पर हम टूट जाते हैं और नकारात्मक विचारों से ग्रसित हो जाते हैं। हम दूसरों को इसका दोषी करार देते हैं। लेकिन वास्तव में, हमें जीवन में हार को न मानते हुए, नकारात्मक विचारों को अपने विचारों से दूर कर सकात्मक विचारों को गले लगाकर जीवन को सफल बना कर प्रगति के मार्ग पर चलना चाहिए।

ईशिता शर्मा
कक्षा नौ-द



Deepal Tanwar (VI-A)

नई शुरुआत

मैं हूँ बूँद ओस की
नीर बनने की आस है
खुशियों भरी ये शुरुआत
मेरे लिए कुछ खास है ।
कुछ अड़चन भरी राहें मेरी
कुछ उलझन भरी आहें मेरी
चलूँ किस पथ, ना मुझे आभास है
फिर भी शुरुआत कुछ खास है ।।

मैं हूँ एक कली पुष्प की
खिलने की मुझे आस है
नया जीवन, नई उमंग
यह शुरुआत कुछ खास है ।
कुछ कीट कुछ पतंगे भक्षक मेरे
कुछ पत्ते कुछ परिंदे रक्षक मेरे
क्या होगा क्या पता, ना मुझे कोई भास है
फिर भी शुरुआत कुछ खास है ।।

मैं हूँ बादल घनेरा
बरसने की मुझे आस है
खुशियाँ बरसाती नई शुरुआत
मेरे लिए कुछ खास है ।
कुछ धुंध छाई जमीं पे,
रोके मेरे कदम
कुछ नमी आई जमीं पे
थामे मेरे कदम
कुछ नमी आई जमीं पे
चूमे मेरे कदम
नमी की धुंध पर
जीत हुई मैं बरसा जमके
मुझे जमीं से प्रीत हुई ।।

मैं हूँ धूल जमीं की
उड़ने की मुझे आस है
खुशियों भरी यह शुरुआत
मेरे लिए कुछ खास है ।
आँधी रोक रही राह मेरी
बरखा सुन रही आह मेरी
किसी की ना सुनूँ मैं
मेरे अपने मेरे पास है
खुशियाँ मेरी शुरुआत
मेरे लिए कुछ खास है ।।

तनिष्ठा सोनी
कक्षा नौ—द

आशा क्या है?

मनुष्य ने भगवान से पूछा, क्या है आशा?
राहगीर ने फकीर से पूछा, क्या है उम्मीद?

वे बोले :
एक किरण जो संवारे आपकी जिंदगी,
एक डोर जो आपको डूबने से बचाए,
एक ऐसी ऊर्जा जो शक्ति दे आपको
उड़ने की,
जो आपको आपका सपना साकार कर दिखाए,
वह है आशा, वह है आशा ।

अंधकार व मायूसी के समय इसे मत भूलना,
गिरकर उठने के लिए तुम्हें है इस सहारे
को खोजना,
सूरज के उगने से होता है नया सवेरा
चाहे कितनी ही काली क्यों न हो रात
हर विडम्बना टल जाएगी, बस उम्मीद का मत
छोड़ना साथ ।

निराशा जिससे डर भागे, उस हथियार का
नाम है आशा,
जिसके कारण सफलता दामन चूमे, उस सोच
का नाम है आशा ।
इसके जरिए लिख सकते हो, अपने मन में
उठे हर सवाल का जवाब,
इसकी शरण में पूरा होगा, तुम्हारा देखा हर
ख्वाब ।

तो उठाओ कागज, देर किस बात की,
आशा की कलम से लिखो अपनी कहानी ।
यह है जीवन का अनमोल तोहफा,
इसका लाभ उठाने में न है कोई हानि ।
वह है आशा, वह है आशा ।

संस्कृति गाँधी
कक्षा नौ—अ

BACKDROP

SAFETY IS A PRIORITY

Students in the age group 15-18 years participate in the vaccination drive



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