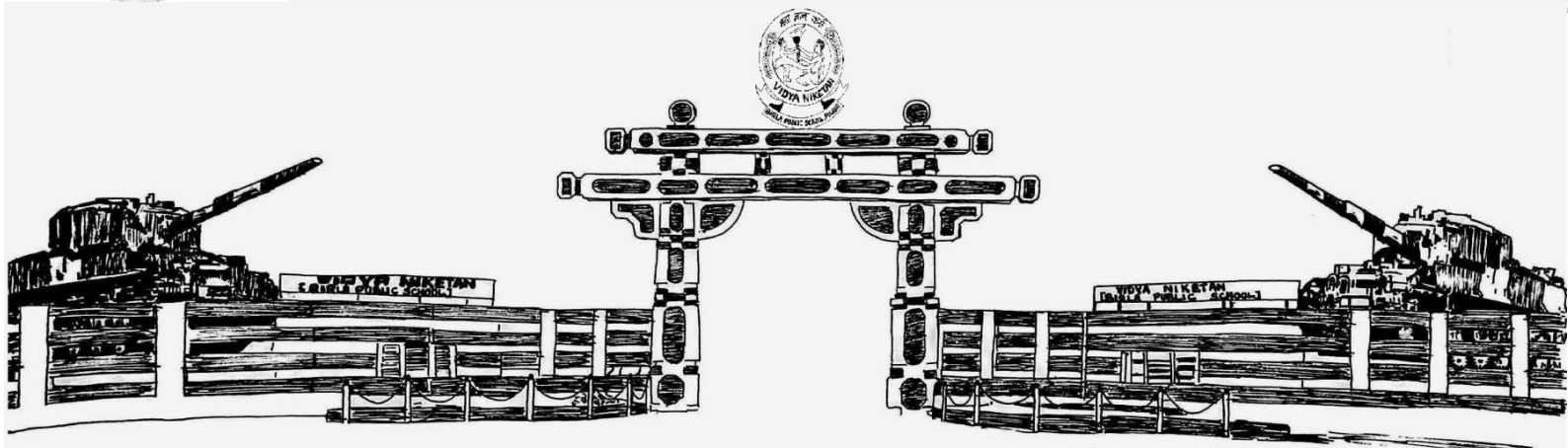




Vartakar

OCTOBER 2018



Editorial

Two write-ups featuring in this issue by Saubhagya Aggarwal and Shreshtha Sinha might ruffle the feathers of the chauvinists and earn the labels of disparaging assertions against our political system, but a diligent reading makes it crystal clear that these articles are the outcome of a broadened mental horizon and analytical ability. These write-ups vouch for the fact that our students want their country to be a better place to live and contribute towards global harmony. The articles show that they are not ready to be blinded by the ethno nationalist identities and are motivated by a drive to usher in gender equality, peace and global citizenship. They have strong desire to uproot what they feel is corrupt and hinders the path of progress.

The Vartakar might look elfin in size and has a 'no frills' design but is doing a great job by giving us a peep into the minds of our students through their write-ups and poems. Whatever a student pens down for the Vartakar means a lot and says a lot to those who have a discerning eye and an empathetic mind and our readers, we are sure, have both. We solicit the feedback from our readers.

J.S.

Events & Achievements

- BPS teams (U-14 and U-16) finished runners-up in the IPSC Volleyball tournament held at Vallabh Ashram School, Valsad. Rohit Basera was adjudged the Best Player of the tournament and eight players of our team have been selected for the Nationals.
- Six students each from the Middle Section attended Round Square Conferences at the Doon School, Welham Boys' School Dehradun, Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar and Daly College Indore. These conferences were aimed at developing global competence, character and confidence among students.
- Interhouse General Knowledge Quiz Competition was organized on 06 Oct. Guru Nanak House won the competition and close on its heels, Dayanand House finished runner-up.
- Dr. Sharad Sarin, a professor with XLRI and an alumnus of BPS gave a motivational lecture to the staff and students on 14 Oct. He motivated the students to exploit their full potential and dream big.
- Vijayadashmi was celebrated with befitting zeal. During Godhuli function attended by the students of class 7, 8 & 9, *bhajans* were sung by the students and Dr. Abhinav Shukla and Mr. M M Pathak gave talks on the importance and relevance of the teachings of this festival in the modern times.
- BPS Handball U-17 team finished second runners-up in the CBSE West Zone Handball Tournament held at DPS, Bharatpur from 12-16 Oct 2018.
- Yoga Team of BPS secured overall third position in the IPSC Yoga Competition held at Scindia School, Gwalior. Both, the U-14 and Under-19 teams got second position.
- BPS Band participated in the IPSC Band Competition held at Scindia School, Gwalior and secured fourth position.

LITROSARY

Life's colours

As blue as the sky,
The young angel'd fly.
Dim to the people below
And witness only to the water shallow.

It is just like him, that we live
Thinking we have nothing to give.
Our reflection betrays us,
Just like our senses thus

For we live only with a hope,
A promise of a purpose to withhold
And we act bold,
Only because we're told
That it's the bold ones that fortune
favours.

But we live life in the reverse,
And since then we've caused havoc.
Our pride hath now, taken us for a
freefall.
It is high time we learn how to properly
crawl.

**Divij Ganjoo
IX-F**

**Optimism is the faith that
leads to achievement. Nothing
can be done without hope and
confidence.**

- Helen Keller

Drifting Apart....

On the first page of our story the future seemed so bright,
Then this thing turned out so evil ushering in pathetic plight.
Even angels have their wicked schemes,
But you take them to new extremes,
But you'll always be my hero though the mix-up holds you tight.

Now there's disdain in our voice the glass is shattered by the fight,
In this tug- of- war you'll always win even when I'm right,
'Cause you feed me fables made of hurting words and threats,
More you pierce darts the more I fret.

I can't explain how your carnage feels like
They slice my tender heart like a steel knife.
My wind pipe gets choked and refuses to breathe
But my eyes on justice, I still fight.
I can fight as long as the wrong feels right
Sometimes I wonder, whether it really is a 'fight'

**King Sakar
VIII-D**

The Sky is the Limit

'The Sky is the limit', was the topic of the motivational lecture given by Mr. Sharad Sarin, an alumnus of Birla Public School, to the students and staff of his Alma Mater on 14 Oct 2018. The contents of his insightful lecture perfectly aligned with what BPS wants its students to believe and leaves no stone unturned to get these beliefs rooted in their psyche by fueling their motivation regularly through various means.

I listened to Mr. Sarin with rapt attention but the moment the topic was announced, I was reminded of one of my professors during college days who, once while discussing Don Quixote in our class, shared with us the fact that the phrase, 'The Sky is the Limit, was coined by Cervantes, the author of the Don Quixote. Even the coinage of 'wild goose chase' and the proverb 'don't put all your eggs in one basket' are attributed to Cervantes (though debated and considered as fallacy by many.) While silently appreciating Mr. Sarin for his excellent lecture, I couldn't help appreciating my professor also who had taught us in such a way that the learning was intact even after many decades. Indeed, the sky is the limit for enriching one's teaching style also.

Jaskaran Singh

Agony of Indian Politics

I study in class nine and there are still many years left to attain my voting right. Some people might opine that I am too young to understand and comment on a subject, which is considered a complicated one, yes, I'm talking about politics. I somehow feel that I have understood the Indian politics reasonably well. It is not possible to describe the whole scenario of politics nor can it be summarized in a few words.

The main people working out there are the ministers. We all know that they all belong to different parties but most of them have the same mindset and that is rooted in the tendency to befool people. All they want is power, power and only power, which they try to gain through money, by misleading innocent people and even using muscle power. While campaigning for elections they promise us education, water, electricity and what not. But once the elections are over the promises are thrown to wind and nothing is implemented on ground.

They use the money (the taxes paid by the people) to live a luxurious and lavish life. Most of the money which is meant to be utilized for the betterment of the people ends up in the pockets of the politicians and their supporters. It is common-sense that if the money allotted for a particular project is not utilized on it, it would result in usage of low quality construction materials and when these bridges and buildings collapse it leads to a large number of casualties and many precious lives are lost.

The politicians in connivance with anti-social elements bribe and intimidate the common people to vote for their party. They do not let the honest and enterprising candidates contest the elections and try to hijack the elections. They even bribe the people who dare to blow whistles about their misdeeds. If bribe does not work, they have other means to silence their voices.

Almost everyone knows that even media, one of the major pillars of democracy is also corrupt. Many of media persons become puppets in the hands of politicians. Instead of doing their duties as watchdogs they start helping corrupt politicians by misleading the people. The whole system needs a complete overhaul. If welfare minded and honest people take the reins of the country in their hands, they can make a lot of difference and make our country a better place to live. After putting our house in order we will be able to contribute towards world peace and help in solving other major problems afflicting our world.

Shreshtha Sinha
IX C

Rationalism over Nationalism

Ah! In this era of modernization, globalization and one-upmanship, yet stand we Indians in the way of progress so instinctively that we don't even flinch while disagreeing with it. What is even bigger than our misunderstanding is our ego. The Indian pride. The '*saare jahan se achha*' fallacy. Where has it led us? At the tail end of the ranking of countries when it comes to standard of living or happiness quotient and we are ensconced where we are. We frivolously pat our backs even when we are perched on the lowest rungs of the progress ladder. Really, there is no confines to our ego even for perhaps the stupidest thing in the whole wide world.

Political leaders and bureaucrats treat the citizens as their servants and expect them to respect the nation (and them) unswervingly. We have failed to check the monster of terrorism because some politicians have their own axes to grind in the despicable world of politics. The rapists roam scot-free while we thump our chests and say our women folk are rightly treated. We let fraudsters get away with hundreds and thousands of crores of our tax money and then say India has the best democracy. Isn't it ridiculous? Aren't we wearing the lenses of utopianism? Aren't our leaders selling only dreams and dreams to us? Stupid I am, to write for the people to respect others who cannot even respect themselves. The words like 'self – respect' and voice of 'conscience' sound aliens to them.

We say we have the oldest civilization. True, but it does not mean we do not come out of our oldest and disgustingly orthodox mindset. Yet again friends, it is never too late to change anything. We still have the time to change our mistaken pride into a well-earned and well-deserved one.

There is still time to break the stereotypes the world has in store for us. Perhaps we could start with owning up to the difference between misconceptions and superstitions, and let the horizons of our minds grow. Perhaps we could learn from our past experiences and let our children explore, not bind them. And perhaps my friends, we should broaden our mindset and think in terms of the progress of the world and not just our nation. We are living in the times when the world is destined to become one entity. Today we stand not for just India but for the rest of the world as well.

I entreat you not to let your immersion in the nationalism come in the way of your rationalism.

Let us come out of the shell of utopia that we have woven around us, keep our fingers on the pulse of time, get our priorities right, think rationally and take our nation towards the heights it has the potential to reach and broaden our vision to encompass the world.

Saubhagya Agarwal
IX- E

Why and Why not of Video Games

While walking down a shopping complex, one comes across many things but a very common sight these days is that of the kids sitting beside their parents glued to a smart phone in their hands playing internet games oblivious of the world around them. One gets prompted to ponder over certain facts like - Is it safe? Do these games have benefits as well? How is it being improvised by the scientists and technocrats all over the world? What should we do then ? Wean them from these? Make them use these judiciously? or Let them enjoy these as much as they wish?

So, beginning with the very first question- Is that safe? The answer is a big ‘No’. We all know how severely these screens are harming one of the most precious organs God endowed us with- our eyes. The delicate eyes of kids suffer the effects of the radiation caused by the mobile screens. Another precious thing that goes down the drain is ‘time’ the teenagers and children spend on these devices. It really stings the parents. Let us take into consideration the fact that inventors are developing anodyne screens as which allows the teenagers to get their packet of entertainment without spoiling their eyes.

The second question is – Are there any benefits from these games? The answer, surprisingly, is, ‘yes’. Research has shown that these games really increase the concentration and focus of those who play them. Also, it hones one’s creativity and memory manifolds.

Now, let us deal with the final question – Should kids be allowed to have as much of the video games as they wish? The answer is Let it be, but within the limits. Though there are many advantages of playing these games but the fact is that they take players to an unrealistic world and detach them from the reality. So, there are reasons why one should and should not get into the computer games. Last but not least, the children who develop obsession with the video games have a tendency to shirk physical activities, which are very important for our growth.

Pranav Dogra
IX-G



Editorial Board

Chief Patron :- Principal
Student Editor- Divij Ganjoo
Assistant Editor - Saubhagya Agrwal
Designed By – Mr. Anil Brar
Contact : Vidya Niketan, Birla Public School, Pilani-333031

Published By:- Headmaster(Mid. Sec.), BPS
Staff Editors- Mr. Jaskaran Singh, Ms. Kushagra
Art – Mrs. A. Kedar
Feedback: hmmiddle@bpspilani.edu.in