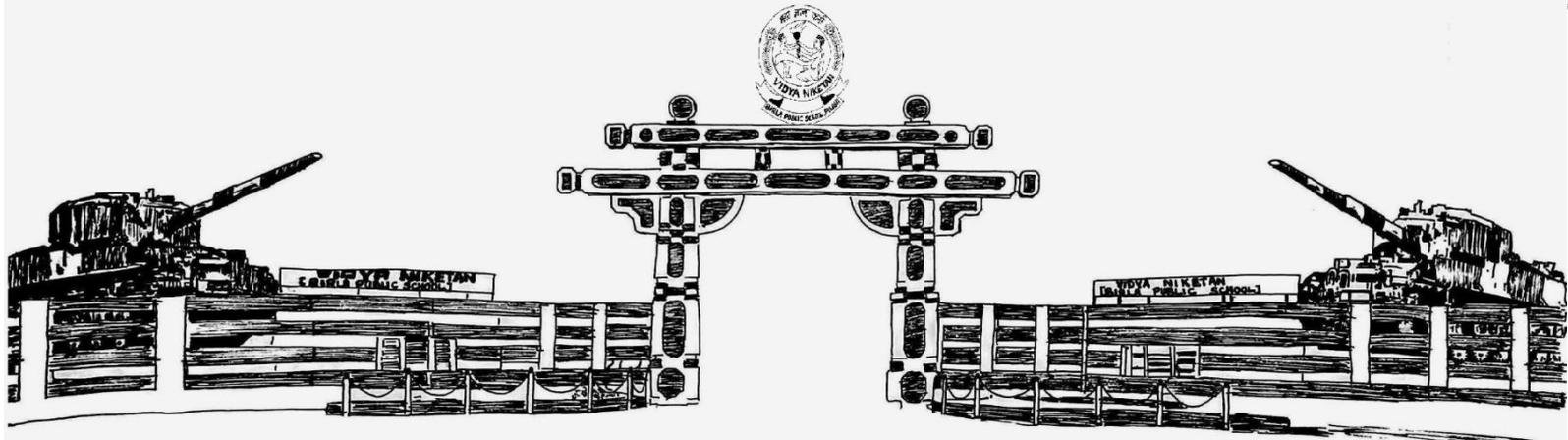




# Vartakar

July 2019



## Editorial

Summer Vacation is the period which sends most of the schools into two months' hibernation. Birla Public School also misses the buzz of its students for two months and wears a somewhat melancholic look, but it is not bereft of activities or achievements altogether. Something somewhere goes on. For example, 45 students went on Russia tour in the second half of May and our handball team grappled with the teams of foreign countries in Germany, Sweden and Denmark. The school opens in the mid of July and again gets abuzz with activities. Therefore, the first issue of the Vartakar after summer vacation (Jul issue) has always enough to share with its readers.

The travelogue written by the participants took much of the space of this issue and only two more poems could be accommodated. But it's not the number of write-ups or poems which matters, what matters is the quality of the content. Hope readers will enjoy the travelogue and the poems.

Happy Reading

## Events & Achievements

- 45 students accompanied by five escort teachers went on an educational tour to Russia from 18 May to 25 May 2019. They visited all important places in Moscow and Saint Petersburg.
- Parikshit Sood of the Middle Section made the school proud by fluttering the flag of BPS at 16,000 feet high peak along with the climbers from the USA, Canada and Switzerland. He was the youngest climber in this group of the bravehearts.
- Vijay Diwas was celebrated in the Middle Section on 26 Jul to commemorate India's military victory over Pakistan in Kargil.
- BPS handball team participated in three international tournaments in Germany, Sweden and Denmark from 26 Jun to 14 Jul 2019. The team won silver medal in Dronninglund Cup and bronze medal in Luber Cup. 5 boys from the Middle Section were the members of BPS team.
- A Yoga and Meditation club has been formed in the Middle Section. 06 teachers including Headmaster Dr. Abhinav Shukla attended an orientation course at the Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Mumbai during summer vacation and now they have started teaching stress management through Meditation and Yoga.
- Vanmahotsav was celebrated on 29 Jul. Teachers and students of the Middle Section planted saplings and took a pledge to save trees.
- Dayanand and Buddha House shared the first position in the Interhouse (Middle Section) Jingle competition on 27 Jul.
- Staff and students of the Middle section had a picnic at 'Pahari Mandir' on 17 Jul.
- Cyber Safety week was celebrated in the Middle Section to raise awareness of cyber security among the students. Poster Making, Online Quiz, talks and presentations on Cyber security were the highlights of the programme.
- Vivekanand House lifted the Interhouse Football Championship trophy 2018-19 (Middle Section) by defeating Mahavir House by 1-0 in a thrilling final match played on 31 Jul. Mr. Apoorva Joshi gave away prizes to the winners.

# LITROSARY

## **An Unforgettable Visit to Russia**

Global tours are an integral part of our school curriculum. This year our school organized an educational tour to Russia. Russia undoubtedly is a fascinatingly beautiful country. The thought of visiting the world's largest country which covers nearly twice the territory of Canada, the second largest, was sure to cause excitement amongst the students. Moreover, the fact that Russia and India have always been friendly nations also has a role in elevating Russia to the status of a special country by us, the Indians.

Sixty students were enrolled for the trip, but some students were dropped due to some problems with their documents or other unavoidable reasons.

We were happy to be among those 45 students whose parents had readily agreed to allow them to be a part of this exciting tour and the passports and other documents required for the VISA procurement were in order.

Our school closed on 11 May for the summer vacation and we left for our homes. Our 8-day Russia tour had to start from 18 May 2019.

On 18 May, we assembled at the terminal 3 (Departures) gate 4 of the Indira Gandhi International airport, Delhi. Principal, Capt. Alokesh Sen, Dr. Abhinav Shukla, Jaskaran Singh Sir, Vijay Rathore Sir and Kailash Sir were already there waiting for us.

We boarded our flight at 02a.m. and landed at Tehran Airport early in the morning. We boarded another flight destined for St. Petersburg. It took three hours to reach St. Petersburg.

A comfortable bus and a Russian guide were waiting for us outside the airport. We boarded the bus and the city tour of Saint Petersburg commenced. Our guide made the interesting historical facts of the city sound even more interesting with his unique style of speaking.

We saw many magnificent buildings like Moskovskya Ploshchad, Dvoret's Belsel'skikh and Central Bank of Russia. These were superb from architectural angle. Being in the close proximity to Europe, St. Petersburg architecture has liberally drawn from the European architecture.

We visited the five-domed dazzler, 'Savior on the Spilled Blood' which is also known as Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ.

We noticed that in Russia, the roads are very wide and lined with flowers along these. These flowers are specially brought from warmer countries every fortnight. After having our late lunch at an Indian restaurant, we checked-in to our hotel.

Next day, we went to see St. Isaac's Cathedral. Saint Isaac's Cathedral which is also known as Isaakievskiy Sobor is the largest orthodox church and it is the fourth largest cathedral in the world. We all were wonderstruck, and our cameras never stopped clicking to sweep in as much wonder as possible.

Next day we went for the Neva river cruise around St. Petersburg. It provided a spectacular view. We saw famous buildings like Faberge Museum, Alexander Garden, Summer Garden, Peter and Paul Cathedral, Head quarters of Megaphone, State Hermitage and Winter Palace. Our guide shared with us an interesting fact about the ship Aurora, from which two cannons are fired every night at 12 as a Russian tradition.

We had our lunch at an Indian restaurant and went to the nation exhibit at the Grand Model- Russia, also known as Grand Market Russia.

Next day we visited the Hermitage Museum. It is the second largest art museum in the world after the French Louvre, founded in 1764. Our guide heightened our excitement further by telling us that the museum had 117 staircases and more than 18,800 doors. It was clear to even those who are not very brilliant at maths how much of the museum we could see within 3 hours we had chalked out for this museum.

In the evening we visited Peterhof Palace which was commissioned by Peter the Great. Peterhof is a large complex outside of St. Petersburg. It contains grand palaces, gardens, fountains, and other amenities.

The awe-inspiring majestic palace at Peterhof, the Grand Palace, is sited above the Grand Terrace and Samson fountain. The basic structure of it was conceptualized and constructed in 1725 by the architects J.F. Braunstein, J.B. Le Blond, and N. Michetti. The palace was, however, enlarged and renovated over the centuries.

Next day we took a train from Saint Petersburg to Moscow. It was a memorable train journey. The train moved at great speed but was so comfortable that it felt like being in a stationary train.

After reaching Moscow we went to see Kremlin. Kremlin is a fortified complex, which houses the residence and office of the President. Moscow's Kremlin is said to be the best of the Kremlins. It houses five palaces, four cathedrals, and an enclosing wall. We all took keen interest in the Artillery Pieces which is the collection of artillery items of the Moscow Kremlin Museum. It numbers 800 items which again is said to be the largest of its kind. Exposition of Russian Wooden Sculpture and carvings and Treasures of antiquities of the Moscow Kremlin exposition were the other highlights of our visit to this great site.

We checked in our hotel in Moscow. The hotel staff was very warm and cooperative. We not only enjoyed the Indian lunch specially prepared for us by the hotel chefs but also their hospitality.

In the evening we went for the Folk Music and Songs show at the Golden Ring. This show was amazing. The costumes worn by the artists were mind-boggling. The performers were very professional and did their acts with precision and perfection. The girls glided across the stage as if they were on roller skates, but they were not.

It was the sixth day of our tour and second day in Moscow. We were eagerly waiting to visit the icon of Russia: St Basil's Cathedral situated in the south of the Red Square. It is also known as Pokrosky Cathedral. We reached the Red Square in a bus and there stood beautiful and majestic St Basil's Cathedral. Our guide told us that it was built in 1555-1561 by Tsar Ivan to commemorate his victory over the Kazan Khanate, which took place on the religious holiday of the intercession of the Holy Virgin.

That's why its official name is the 'Cathedral of the Intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos on the Moat.' This iconic cathedral is said to be Moscow's most photographed sight. Next on the day's schedule was a visit to All-Russian Exhibition Centre. We reached there by underground Moscow Metro. The architecture of the Metro Stations perfectly blended with the Russian architecture.

The Centre was supposed to showcase the achievements of the Soviet Union in various spheres and for this purpose many exhibit halls were built each dedicated to a different branch of science or technology. In 1992 the exhibition centre was renamed the 'All-Russia Exhibition Centre'.

What we liked the most there was the Peoples Friendship Fountain. This beautiful fountain features 16 beautiful gold-coated statues of ladies representing each of the then 16 republics of the Soviet Union. Being there felt like roaming in mythical *Inder-Lok*.

The temperature in Russia varied from 3 degree to 16 degree during our stay in Russia. The seventh day was comparatively colder but pleasant. All the boys in group had persistently requested our escort teachers and guide to take us to a big mall. On our demand a visit to Gum Mall was adjusted in the itinerary in place of visit to Mosfilm Studio which could not get materialized due to some technical reasons.

The GUM shopping mall is considered to be a landmark in Moscow's Red Square. We noticed that the floors were connected by bridges which gave it a graceful look associated with the finest buildings of Moscow. What added to the grace was a lovely fountain at the centre of the complex, a popular photo opportunity. From GUM Mall we proceeded to the Museum of Cosmonautics but not before having lunch at another Indian restaurant (there are many in Moscow).

The first sight that welcomed us at the Cosmonautic museum was a monument of a rocket flying off with a trail of smoke behind it. The best group photo of our team was the one that we took at this place. The museum is in the base of this monument called the 'Monument to the Conquerors of Space.' Our guide informed us that the Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics was opened on 10 April 1981 to mark twenty years of Yuri Gagarin's great achievement as the first person to orbit the earth.

There are 85,000 items on space technology, astronomy, and space travel in the museum. Next on the itinerary of the seventh day was Ostankino Television Tower which is the tallest free-standing building in the world.

Ostankino Tower is a television and radio tower in Moscow. Erected in 1967, the Ostankino TV & BC Tower is 1,771 feet tall, this Tower is an architectural wonder in the Moscow city which is not known for its skyscrapers.

Finally, it was the moment to bid good bye to the intriguingly beautiful country, Russia and set sails for our country which was waiting for us with open arms. We checked out from our hotel early in the morning and reached the Moscow airport from there we took a flight to Tehran.

Another airbus brought us to Delhi airport at 2a.m. After immigration formalities and luggage collection we came out from gate three of arrivals where the parents of many of the students were waiting to pick them up and some of us went to the terminals from where they had to take their domestic flights.

This tour will remain etched in our memory for ever. We are thankful to our Principal Capt. Alokesh Sen, Dr. Abhinav Shukla and teacher-escorts Mr. Jaskaran Singh, Mr. Vijay Singh Rathore and Mr. Kailash Sharma who not only facilitated this tour but also painstakingly took care of our security and comfort during the whole trip.

**Anikait Agarwal**  
**Class X-A**

### **Destiny**

An embargo of kings and rulers to feel.  
A deadlock of history, horrifyingly discreet.  
Facts are spread by the survivors to brief  
And guiles this land has bred to weep.

An embargo of kings and rulers to feel.  
A deadlock of history, horrifyingly discreet.  
Facts are spread by the survivors to brief  
And guiles this land has bred to weep.

Of chaos and hate we are told aflame,  
Of risings our brothers took to avenge,  
To us, a life's fortune weighs more than friends  
As we search for evil without and adraind.

A thousand years contribute to this,  
Of things we revise on absolute wisps.  
Our past lies rootedly to our graves,  
And our miseries pauperise us, something of a trend.

Somewhere evolution took a wrong turn  
Learning nothing, we took form sever'nd  
For the umpteenth time, ask me nothing,  
Of why try to adjust, but to no good.

We search for daring adventure,  
But relieve ourselves of the woods.  
Our injuries are not hurting,  
But still our blood runs cold.  
Being ambitious men, we play on uneven grounds  
In mind and in love, we aren't sound.  
Our cruelty now knows no bounds,  
It's time to salvage and create bigger mind rooms

**Divij Ganjoo**  
**Class X A**

### **My Mother Kept a Garden**

My mother kept a garden,  
A garden of the heart,  
She planted all the good things  
That gave my life its start

She turned me to the sunshine  
And encouraged me to dream,  
Fostering and nurturing  
The seeds of self-esteem....

Her constant good example  
Always taught me right from wrong  
Becoming milestones for my pathway  
That will last a lifetime long

I am my mother's garden  
I am her legacy –  
And I hope today she feels the love  
Reflected from me

**Aaditya Gelani**  
**VIII-F**

**EDUCATION IS WHAT REMAINS  
AFTER ONE HAS FORGOTTEN  
WHAT ONE HAS LEARNT IN  
SCHOOL**

**- ALBERT EINSTEIN**

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