

40th Anniversary Celebrations at Gyan Bharati School

22nd September 2020



Forty Years Down,

Forever to Go!!

It was **a was a proud moment in the history of Gyan Bharati School, Saket** as the school commemorated its **40th Anniversary and Founders Day** on 22nd September, 2020.

This very important milestone was celebrated over three days, on the virtual platform, streamed on the school YouTube channel, starting with evening concerts on 20th and 21st September and culminating in the grand celebration '**Walking Down Memory Lane**' on 22nd September, 2020.

The list of imminent guests included the school Chairman, **Mr. Gopal Ansal**, **members of the school governing body**, the school Director, **Ms. Lata Vaidyanathan**, the Principal, **Ms. Nishi Manglik**, the Vice Principal **Mr. Sanjay Bhardwaj**, the **PTA members** and **parents**, along with a **group of alumni, current students, faculty, staff** and **guests** to celebrate the landmark occasion of completion of school's first four decades.

The **curtain raiser**, which began on 20th September, marked the official start to the anniversary celebrations. It was aired through the school YouTube channel. The opening remarks were made by the Principal, Ms. Nishi Manglik congratulating the Gyan Bharati fraternity on the landmark occasion of the 40th anniversary celebrations of the glorious institution. Ms. Manglik expressed her salutation and gratitude to the founding visionaries, who have nurtured and mentored the school over the years, since its inception in 1980 to where it stands today.

The evening concert commenced with an invocation to Ma Durga, the Shakti Avtar, the primitive source of all power, through a powerful dance performance based on the shlok '**Mahishasur Mardini Strotam**' performed by **Ms. Bipasha Talukdar**, an ex-student of Gyan Bharati.

Ms. Dirshiti Bassi, an alumna of the 2015 batch, hosted the cultural bonanza with Ms. Sawinder. She expressed her deep affection for the school and her profound respect for the teachers, who shaped her personality during her formative years. Her first interaction was with **Mr Romit Sharma**, an alumnus, who graduated from the school some three decades ago and now works for the aviation industry and is an airline pilot by profession. He shared his experiences at GBS and reminisced how the school served as a great platform for all the cultural exposure he had received, including the chance to witness some of the most amazing performances of stalwarts like Ustad Zakir Hussain and Ustad Amjad Ali Khan. Mr. Romit performed a **tabla recital** on a vegan Tabla, much to everyone's delight.

The next alumnus **Mr Dipanshu Paul**, from the 2018 batch, completely enthralled the audience with his soulful musical rendition of 'Bole re papeehara' in Hindustani Classical form.

Mr. Agam Sharda, who graduated from Gyan Bharati School thirty years ago, belonged to one of the earliest batches, waxed eloquent on his days spent at GBS. He cherished the SUPW classes, stay backs and the house functions, which gave him a chance to think beyond the textbook and broadened his vision. The speaker spoke highly of **Mr. M.N Kapoor**, the co-founder of GBS. Mr. Kapoor was a 'larger than life figure', a great mentor, who had an incredible impact on all his students.' said Mr. Sharda. Finally, Mr. Sharda transported the audience to another plane with his *sitar rendering*.

Mr. Varun Rajashekharan, from the 2013 batch, fondly remembered the former director, Late **Mr. Shekhar**, a great mentor. He also expressed his gratitude to **Mr. Debashish**, the percussion music teacher, who Mr. Varun believes was instrumental in inculcating a love for music in him in his early years. Mr Varun played the Mridangam in school, and also other percussion instruments in school, played the *ghatam* on '**Kriti**' released by the jazz fusion band, '**Shakti**' in 1945, which was originally sung to the accompaniment of the guitar, tabla, violin and the ghatam.

The concert on the first Day ended with **Ms. Rishita Sankrit**, paying a heartfelt **tribute** to Gyan Bharati School. She was full of praise for the holistic education provided by the school and the incredible teachers she was lucky to have. Ms. Rishita graduated from Gyan Bharati in 2015 and is currently a teaching fellow at the Ashoka University.

It was indeed a day to express our gratitude to our founding fathers and value their legacy. The programme also served to provide a peek at the incredible learning environment fostered by the school and the well-connected community that the school has developed in this beautiful journey.

Day Two

The anniversary celebrations continued on 21st September. The programme on **Day two** was introduced with greetings from **Mr. Radha Mohan**, a parent representative in the school governing body. Being associated with Gyan Bharati for more than a decade, he has been working closely with the staff, teachers and the administration. Mr. Radha Mohan took this opportunity to stress on the importance of education, which has reached new heights in the modern times and which at Gyan Bharati School goes way beyond the textbook. Appreciating the concept of learning by doing and experiential learning imparted by the school, the speaker was quick to assert that Gyan Bharati was one of those few schools that provide integrated and comprehensive education, grounded in strong moral and spiritual values. Without doubt, the school has nurtured students who global citizens but with feet firmly rooted in the universal and eternal human values that makes them balanced and grounded. Their robust foundation equips them to respond to the challenges of the modern world.

The cultural evening began with an **invocation offered to Lord Shiva**, based on the *Shiv Thandav Strotam*, in Odissi classical dance form, performed by **Archisha Arya** of class SS1.

Mr. Prajesh Kashyap, the host for the evening, from the 2015 batch, shared his experiences at Gyan Bharati. An active member in all cultural activities, Mr. Prajesh firmly believes that it was his participation, be it in instrumental music, debating or drama, which eventually shaped his personality. **Dr. Rahul Rao** Gyan Bharati alumnus, currently a dentist in Mumbai, was all praise for the phenomenal impact made by the music teachers of the school and spoke of the cultural exposure he had throughout his school years. Being an exceptional violinist, Mr. Rahul graciously presented a violin performance with his son.

The students of Class 11 serenaded the audience with the song '**Dreamer**' from **Ozzy Osbourne's album 'Down to Earth'**. Released in 2001, it describes the Rockstar's vision of people and humanity destroying Earth and his hope for a better world sans anger, hatred and bigotry.

Mr. Raja Ray, an alumnus, currently a CEO in a US based company, has also done exceptionally well in the field of instrumental music. Paying heartfelt tributes to his music teachers at Gyan Bharati, he started his recital on the **sarod**, with a short alaap, taking the audience through the journey of a beautiful composition. The enchanting waves of music from the sarod were one of the highlights of the concert.

Ms. Bhavya, an ex-student, mesmerized the audience with a beautiful rendition of a Carnatic classical recital in raag Hansadhwani, which she dedicated to Late Mr. Shekhar, the former Director and Late Mr. Rakesh, the music teacher, who have been the pillars of support in her musical journey.

Ashutosh Behera, the young flutist from the middle school, performed '**Rag Hamsadhwani**', a rag of melody and joy on the bamboo flute. The magical notes of the baansuri had the audience spell bound.

Mr. Janardhan Nair, who has had the longest and steadfast association with Gyan Bharati School, wished the school well and shared his thoughts on the momentous occasion. He spoke of times when he joined the school in 1980, at its inception and expressed his happiness on seeing the school reach the great heights of glory it has attained today.

A fitting closure was given to the 2nd day of anniversary celebrations through the group song, '**Jagao Mera Desh**' the Hindi and Bangla rendition of **Rabindranath Tagore's** poem "Where the mind is without fear", performed by a group of students from the secondary section.

22nd September saw the culmination of the 40th anniversary celebrations, with the Principal, **Ms Nishi Manglik**, greeting **Mr. Gopal Ansal**, the School Chairman, **Mr. Gaurav Mohanpuri**, member of the Board of Governors, the Director, **Ms. Lata Vaidyanathan**, the PTA members, parents and students, both old and new. With utmost sincerity and a solemn heart, she urged the audience to reaffirm their commitment to the vision of the founding fathers of the school. It was an opportune moment to express her gratitude to all the visionary stalwarts for nurturing this illustrious institution and moulding it into one of the leading schools of Delhi. She also complemented the school Alumni on their exemplary and enthusiastic participation which had inspired a sense of pride and gratitude towards the Alma Mater, in the hearts of students, parents and teachers alike.

The School Director **Ms. Lata Vaidyanathan** addressed the gathering by extending her heartfelt greetings to everyone on this landmark occasion. She added that Gyan Bharati has beautifully equipped its children with the essence of India's cultural traditions which showed through their art, drama and music performances. She hoped that the words of wisdom spoken by the alumni will set forth further milestones for all the students to emulate and carry the legacy forward. She expressed that the school is beautifully disposed as an emotionally stable, academically brilliant and socially skilled institution. Its students are disposed to be global citizens and leaders ready to serve the world community, who would make sure that it's a sustainable world and a greener planet. 'Be more humane than just being human', to quote Ms. Vaidyanathan.

The beautiful evening began with the tradition of **lighting the lamp**, accompanied by the beautiful evening lamp lighting prayer, 'Shubham Karoti Kalyaanam.' by Sohini of M1. **Ms. Anupama Chand** along with **Aanya Minhas**, of SS2, hosted the Founder's Day programme for the evening.

An illustrious alumnus of the first batch (1988) of Gyan Bharati School, **Ustad Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar**, the Padma Shri Awardee (2010) is an Indian classical singer of the dhruwad genre. Blending patient phrases with fine rhythmic control and an effortless vocal elasticity, he presented the Saraswati Vandana, a melodious performance par excellence.

A tribute was paid to the founding father, **Lala Chiranjeel Ansal**, a legend and a great visionary who founded the Gyan Bharati School, dedicating it to the community on 20th September 1980. He stood testimony to what an ordinary Indian with an extraordinary spirit of courage and service could achieve. He believed in giving back to society in a meaningful manner. The school paid homage to the great soul for having founded an institution, deeply rooted in the Indian culture.

The interaction of **Mr. Anupam Bansal**, an architect and a student of the first batch of 1988 with the school Chairman, **Mr. Gopal Ansal**, was interesting. Mr Ansal spoke at length about his father, the foundations he was associated with and his love for charity. Mr. Ansal also reminisced the joy he experienced in establishing Gyan Bharati School during its infancy and the subsequent expansion of the school. He spoke of the time spent with Mr. Kapoor, Mr Shekhar and Mrs. Chaturvedi, all of them being leaders and great personalities in the field of education.

Mr. Gaurav Mohan Puri, a pro-active member of the School Governing Board, congratulated the management, administration, staff and students and parents on having achieved this milestone, appreciating and lauding the achievements of the school in the field of academics, sports and co scholastic activities he sincerely hoped that the school would grow by leaps and bounds in the years to come.

The school marked this momentous occasion by **releasing two very special and innovative e-books** curated by the students. As an ode to Mother Earth, the students of the Primary Section presented its e- book titled '**Nature is Healing**', featuring an amazing gallery of photographs, clicked by budding photographers from class P1 to P5. The middle and senior students' short story collection, an anthology of, '**Musings on Covid Times**', was a re-affirmation of the youth's faith in humanity.

The segment, '**Down the Memory Lane**', co-hosted by **Ms. Sapna** and **Mr. Anant Bhargava**, both students of the very first batch, shared snippets of their friends articulating their experiences at Gyan Bharati about 30 years ago.

Mr. Deepak Prakash, an entrepreneur by profession, recited a self-composed poem expressing his thoughts on what school was for him. **Mr. Sanjay Rijhsinghani**, a portfolio manager in London, recalled some wonderful anecdotes, from sharing food during lunch, to watching the construction of the new blocks, and laying the cricket pitch, or hosting the first ever house-function and last but not the least, interacting with wonderful teachers. **Ms. Sumita Nigam**, working in the field of Data Analytics in London, expressed her deep gratitude to Mr. Kapoor for inculcating values of simplicity, contentment and cleanliness during her formative years, values, which, she believes are still an integral part of her life. **Ms. Sonia Sikand**, a real estate investor from California spoke of the sense of community, the deep feeling of belongingness and the happiness the school has given her. She fondly

remembered the assemblies, with rows of inquisitive minds sitting on the auditorium floor and listening carefully to Mr. Kapoor eloquently share his experiences. She expressed her deep gratitude to the stalwart; whose words of wisdom still echo in her heart. **Mr Akhil Kakkar**, a business consultant in Delhi, paid a heartfelt tribute to **Ms. Chaturvedi**, the noble soul, who was a great friend, guide and mother to all her students. He also thanked **Ms Savita Shangari**, the accounts teacher. **Ms. Shalini Miglani**, a spiritual guide and holistic practitioner, remembered her mentors Mr. Kapoor and Ms. Chaturvedi with love and respect.

Ms. Chaturvedi in an interview with an old student, herself walked down memory lane and spoke with fondness of her years at school. **Mr Anupam Bansal**, shared that horse riding and sports were his main attractions and reiterated that the life's lessons learnt back then at school had stayed embedded in his mind even after so many years. **Mr. Tripat Singh**, was proud to announce that he was chosen as the sports captain for all the 8 houses. **Mr. Arvind Balakrishnan**, a Quality manger in Atlanta, spoke fondly of the lunch break scenario at school, which he said 'was definitely the survival of the fittest'. **Ms. Vandana Dureja**, working at the World Economic Forum at New York remembered the red brick building, beautiful arches, the long winding ramps, the teachers in the classroom and the everlasting friendships made during school years – a journey with lessons learnt every step of the way. **Ms Sangeeta Gupta**, a baker by profession, learnt her very first lessons in baking during the cooking classes at Gyan Bharati. **Ms Sujatha Varadarajan**, a scientist and writer reaffirmed that it was school that taught her to be herself, stand up for herself, to express herself with confidence, to be sensitive and to accept challenges in life with positivity. **Mr Atin Kukreja**, an investment banker from Singapore, equated Mr Kapoor to Sage Dhaumya, who lovingly imparted life lessons to his not so sharp-witted students. The school, said Mr. Atin, imparted a sense of belonging and Mr. Kapoor gave them a sense of identity. The doctors of the batch, **Dr. Rajashri Bahadur**, a radiologist, grabbed the opportunity to thank all his teachers for their untiring efforts. **Dr. Vineet Sahai**, a neurosurgeon at Sydney, shared some of his cherished moments. As a frontline doctor, he did not forget to remind the audience to be covid safe, maintain social distancing and wear masks in public places. **Mr. Parag Shan**, a wealth manager based in Gurgaon, spoke volumes about the sports teachers, who transformed him into a fitness freak. **Mr. Rajat Rajgarhia**, an investor in Delhi wished the school many more years of glory. **Ms. Shibani Sehgal**, an artist and art historian in Delhi remembered **Ms Arora**, the art teacher, who sowed the seeds of an artist in that little mind, a passion that grew to be her profession. **Ms Monica Chaddha**, an educator from Toronto stated that Gyan Bharati was not a school but an enriching experience for her. She gave credit to this great institution for all that she has achieved in life. It was the school that kindled in her a passion for teaching, which held her in good stead later in life. As a Principal of her school, she hopes that she too can instill in her students, the very same values she acquired at Gyan Bharati years ago under the able guidance of Ms. Chaturvedi and the visionary leader, Mr. M. N. Kapoor. **Mr. Sunjoy Daadhicch**, the director, Expo Media Gurgaon listed his two takeaways from the teachings of Mr. Kapoor- the need for self-confidence and the power of thinking big in life. **Mr. Balendu Tiwari**, presently Master Mariner, sent a voice message to wish the school on its 40th anniversary celebrations. **Mr. Harish Narang**, a Marketing Professional from Gurgaon, spoke about the roopaks, house plays, ballets, house songs and functions of Gyan Bharati, all clearly etched in his memory. **Ms. Sarita Mishra**, who as the co-curricular in-charge of the school in its early phase, taught students the nuances of acting and dialogue delivery appeared virtually and talked about and praised the students of the first batches of the School. **Mr. Susmit Sethi**, a student who left for his heavenly abode quite early in life, was fondly remembered by all his batchmates.

The rendition of the **school song 'Ek Naveen Drishti aur Ek Naveen Chetana**, helped to showcase the galaxy of the school fraternity, both past and present, who have been instrumental and integral in the making of this great institution.

The programme culminated with a fitting tribute to Late Mr. Shekhar, the former principal and Director of the school, through ***an interview*** conducted in 2016 by Gaurav Chanda and Prajesh Kashyap, batchmates of 2015. It enumerated the principles upheld by Sir and often reiterated by him for his students and staff to emulate. His message to his students was to serve the society with utmost conviction and positivity. **'Becoming a good human being was the fundamental calling in life'**, said Mr. Shekhar.

Ms. Anupama Chand proposed **the vote of thanks** and acknowledged the contribution of all those who worked tirelessly to give a beautiful shape to the Founder's Day celebration. On behalf of the school, she expressed gratitude to the Chairman, Mr. Gopal Ansal for his overarching vision and constant encouragement and to the Director, Ms. Lata Vaidyanathan for her wisdom and encouragement and for specially being the inspiration behind the two E-books. Ms. Anupama thanked the Principal, Ms Nishi Manglik for being the catalyst that envisioned and set in motion the programme, encouraging the team to do their best and for standing as a pillar of strength at all times and last but not the least, the Vice-Principal, Mr Sanjay Bhardwaj for supporting and applauding all endeavours.

This Founders Day was truly special in all its sense. It was a time to reflect on the school's past and remember all those, who have influenced the character and values that embody the vibrant, engaging, and safe environment we see today. It was an opportunity to laugh, cry, remember, and to praise the memories of this wonderful school. It celebrated the many achievements of the school and epitomized the enduring and collective memory of its journey taken over the years, inculcating a sense of pride, belongingness and connectivity with the Gyan Bharati fraternity and appreciating the institution's involvement with and contribution to the community.