

## Visit Report

### Meeting with the Hon'ble President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan New Delhi, for Childrens' day.

As per the directive of the school education department from the Government of Maharashtra vide letter no ES/PA/2002 dated 2nd November,2002 a visit to the Rashtrapati Bhavan New Delhi was organized, for meeting the President of India on occasion of the Childrens' day programme on 14th November, 2002. Accordingly I along with Mr.Sudhakar Joshi was selected to accompany a group of ten children for such meeting with the President of India as and by way of representatives of the state of Maharashtra. A brief report of the visit is submitted as below.

#### Send off : 12th November, 2002.

A send off cum felicitation programme was organized at Bal Bhavan by Ms.Basanti Roy, Director Bal Bhavan at about 5.30 p.m. in which the Hon' Minister of Education. Prof. Ramakrishna More, State Minister of Education Dr. Rajendra Shingde, Secretary School Education Shri. J.M. Phatak,Dr. Kalpande, Director Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad and Mr. M.K. Desale, Deputy Director of Education Mumbai, amongst other dignitaries were present. The students who were from various Schools from all parts of Maharashtra were warmly appreciated and felicitated by one and all present. Thereafter the selected team proceeded to the Mumbai Central station in order to board the Golden Temple Train leaving for New Delhi at 9.30 p.m. On the Railway Station many parents of the respective students had also come to see off their children.

#### Travelling : 13th November, 2002.

The entire day was spent traveling in train in view of the 23 hours long journey. During this journey the students and the teachers developed a good rapport between themselves and were looking forward to meeting the Hon' President of India. The Enthusiasm amongst the students for the occasion was extremely high. At about 7.20 p.m. we reached New Delhi Railway station where we were received by the officials and taken straight away to the Maharashtra Sadan.

We were provided adequate lodging in the comforts of the Maharashtra Sadan where the students expressed their desire to telephonically speak to their parents at home before retiring to bed.

#### Childrens' day : 14th November, 2002.

In unusually high spirits the students appropriately attired themselves for the eagerly awaited meeting with the Hon' President. Initially we proceeded to the Vigyan Bhavan at about 11.00 a.m. for the first programme of the day. The seating arrangements were stipulated for one and all in the auditorium. The Hon' President arrived at about 11.45 am. and addressed the gathering for about one and half hour. He highlighted the dream of a developed India in 2020 and how to achieve the same in his lucid and simple language which impressed the students. The lecture was proceeded by a prayer and a National song sung by the students

of Delhi Schools and composed by the noted Music director A.R.Rehman. The National song was infact written by the Hon' President of India himself which all the students presents there took a great liking. In concluding the programme the Hon' President called upon all the students present to take a collective oath that they would strive towards a developed India which all students responded very enthusiastically.

At about 2.00 p.m. we proceeded to the Rashtrapati Bhavan for the main programme. After passing through tight security check up we were taken to the great Moghul Garden and made to sit in the lawn in groups in order to interact with the Hon' President. The President arrived at the same very shortly.

We were privileged to personally interact with the Hon' President for about five precious minutes. During this brief interaction the President warmly shook hands with the Children of our group. Master Pranav Patwardhan from Thane introduced himself to the President stating that he is the classical singer to which the Hon' President immediately asked him to sing. Master Pranav displayed his vocal talents which the president very much appreciated. The President was also introduced to Master Sagar hailing from Aurangabad as a swimming champion despite his deficiency in hearing. Master Sagar also presented his paintings which was gladly accepted. Master Sagar also enquired with the President as to how disadvantaged children like him can fit into the developmental programme for India 2020. The President was pleased to enlighten the student about the latest technology in hearing aid and also wished Master Sagar and the students of Maharashtra all the very best in life.

After the interaction we had a lunch session with the Hon' President where the Hon' President of India further interacted with the students very freely .At one stage Miss. Savni hailing from Chinchwad pune personally met the Hon' President & presented him with an audio cassette of a song composed & sung by her specially for the Hon' President.The Hon' President then asked her to sing a couple of lines from the said song which she responded very confidently.Miss.Swati a student from the economically weaker section presented a momento to the Hon' President.

While the Hon' President briefly left the moghul garden we were taken towards the Rashtrapati Bhavan.The children got a first hand opportunity to see the intricate design & articles placed in the museum, the marble room & the banquet hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.The gifts & paintings received by the Hon' Presidents of India during their tenure also displayed there, were shown to the students. The students were thoroughly delighted and amazed to visit the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

At about 4.30 p.m. we were assembled in the famous Ashoka Hall for the final session with the Hon' President. This was the third interaction with the Hon' President where a question answer session was called. The delegation of children from Maharashtra were made to sit in a separate row as was the case with the other state. The Hon' President invited questions from the students and on two occasions he came to the section where we were seated. Amongst the

questions raised Master Laxmikant Atre, the N.T.S. topper from Pune requested the Hon' President to intervene in setting up a memorial in the honour of Acharya Atre in Maharashtra and presented him with the request letter. Master Samarth hailing from Nasik and also a topper in class IV Scholarship Exam inquired with the President as to what he should do to become the President of India. The Hon' President smilingly replied that he should do dedicated service to the country, hold a definite dream and vision and perceive patience and perseverance.

The entire programme was concluded at about 6.00 p.m. where we returned back to the Maharashtra Sadan. Before leaving the Rashtrapati Bhawan we were handed over a small memento from the Hon' President of India for gracing the occasion. Even though the schedule of the day was quite hectic, each and every one of us was thrilled and satisfied with the proceedings. The children were specifically impressed by the Hon' President's sincerity and affection which he so graciously displayed throughout the programme. The students conveyed their happy moments with the Hon' President of India to their respective families over the phone and there after returned to bed.

### **Delhi Darshan : 15th November, 2002.**

As organized by the Government of Maharashtra two vehicles were arranged for taking us on a Delhi Darshan trip for the benefit of the students. Amongst the places seen by the students were the Rail museum, Eleven Murtis, Gandhi Smriti, Indira Gandhi Memorial, Qutub Minar, Lotus Temple, Birla Temple etc. The students were enjoying themselves at these places and even took photographs of themselves and the groups. The whole day was spent in sight seeing in the city of Delhi and we finally returned to the Sadan at 8.00p.m. The friendship and rapport amongst the students themselves and with the teachers was quite evident notwithstanding the fact that the students have come from different walks of life and were even differing in their areas of excellence.

### **Returning Journey : 16th November, 2002.**

At 6.30 a.m we proceeded to the New Delhi Railway station for taking the Golden temple train . Throughout the journey the students were recalling their individual experiences of their trip and meeting with the Hon' President of India. They exchanged addresses in order to correspond with each other in future. They were looking forward to relate their wonderful and unique experiences of the visit to their friend and family members. At the fag end of the journey the children were sad when it was time to depart. We reached Mumbai on 17th November, 2002 at 6.00 a.m. and the children dispersed with their respective Parents who had come to receive them at the Mumbai Central station.

{Two students Master Samarth and Gauri Kaore were allowed to leave the team on the 14th November, 2002 with their respective Parents who had accompanied them to Delhi. }

**Conclusion** : The visit organized by the state of Maharashtra for the Childrens' day programme with the Hon' President of India was a grand success and a highly educative learning experience for the students. Over and above the trip was an

extra-ordinary event for the selected students and teachers who felt extremely privileged and happy to be chosen. They were very conscious of the fact that they had represented the state of Maharashtra and had met the Hon' President of India on behalf of the children of the state. The interpersonal relationship between the students added to the success of the visit. In other words the visit organized was the most appropriate way to felicitate the children with a meeting with the Hon' President of India. We consider ourselves fortunate to have escorted a team of such talented, gifted and extremely well behaved team of children. We are convinced that this visit will have a tremendous effect on their thinking and approach to life and add a lot of meaning to their ambitions and aspirations. We have escorted the children to the Rashtrapati Bhavan in a manner in which we will all always fondly remember and cherish for a long time to come.

Mr.Sudhakar Joshi  
(Principal)  
Vyankatesh Vidyalaya,  
Babhalgaon,  
Dist.Latur.

Mrs.Najma Kazi  
(Principal)  
Anjuman-I-Islam's Saif Tyabji Girls'  
High School & Junior College.  
260,J.B.B.Marg.Byculla  
Mumbai-400 008.

To,  
The Hon'ble Chief Minister,  
Shri.Vilasraoji Deshmukh.  
Maharashtra State  
Mantralya.  
Mumbai 400 032

Respected Sir,

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I hereby express my sincere thanks to you for selecting me to escort students to a meeting with the Hon'ble President of India Dr. A.P.J Abdulkalam at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi for the occasion of Childrens' day. Indeed it was a special honour and pride to be a part of the delegation representing our great state of Maharashtra.

Sir, I am pleased to mention that the entire visit to grace the occasion of children's day was excellently arranged meticulously planned and extremely well executed by the Government of Maharashtra through the Secretary, School Education. For this I cannot help but convey my fullest appreciation and satisfaction to you for organizing this unique meeting. The teacher and education fraternity and the students/ children of Maharashtra stand obliged to you.

Sir, the first of such a visit to the Rashtrapati Bhavan provided an excellent interaction between students hailing from various walks and parts of Maharashtra. Not only was the visit educative and enlightening to the students but it was completely befitting the occasion. The thought provoking and inspiring meeting with the President of India has contributed in enriching of everlasting memories of the children. The entire team felt a sense of accomplishment to the purpose behind the visit.

Sir, such visit and exchange programme of students are extremely useful in facilitating the values like mutual understanding, adjustments to different situations, developing friendship, broadening the horizons and understanding of life and hence should be organized regularly.

I once again extend my heartfelt appreciation and thanks to you for providing me the opportunity. It was a fulfilling experience for the entire team.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs. Najma Kazi.  
Principal.

c.c: Secretary, School Education  
Mantralya.

International Red Cross is the supreme authority of Red Cross.

The Conference meets once in four years. It consists of the representatives of Red Cross Societies of the Governments of various countries which are party to Geneva Conventions.

Indian Red Cross Society was established in 1920 by the act of legislature. It is a member of International Red Cross. Its headquarter is in Delhi. The president of India is the President of Indian Red Cross Society. Its activities are controlled by the committee called Managing body. The Minister of health is usually the Chairman, however the President may nominate anyone of his choice. A Secretary General is appointed by the Managing body and is assisted by Deputy Secretary, five Assistant Secretaries and other Sectional officers which are incharge of different sections like hospital services, maternity and child welfare, family planning, blood banks, health education, publicity junior Red Cross and disaster management like floods, earthquakes and epidemics etc. There are altogether twenty one (21) state branches of Indian Red Cross Society, like any other National Red Cross Society, it covers both War time as well as peace time activities.

Finances :- The Indian Red Cross Society is purely voluntary organization and an independent autonomous body. The state Government gives a grant of Rs.25000/- per annum. This has to be supported by raising donations through donation cards from public and institutions. The financial support is also by selling Red Cross flag on flag day. In addition to these the society gets interests from investment and rents from buildings etc.

**Jr. Red Cross** is the Youth's or children's branch of the Red Cross like the parent organization it is non religious, non political and international body. It is a movement for extending the peace time work of Red Cross in schools so that the children may participate in it for the sake of their own education in good citizenship and humanitarian Service.

**The Jr. Red Cross has an interesting history in it self. It was born out of the ghastly tragedy of the World War I.**

It was in the province of Quebee in Canada in 1914 that the children first participated in Red Cross work by making bandages and comfort articles for soldiers. The idea soon spread to other Canadian provinces and also to Europe. But the distinction of making the largest contribution goes to America where eleven million school children were organized to carry such work as providing dressings, bandages and articles of comfort to soldiers of war, furniture to hospitals, and clothing and needful articles to refugee children in Europe. Thus America obtain the first Jr. Red Cross Charter in 1917. After the war arose the question of continuing the Jr. Red Cross work, in schools. The school authorities had closely observed the good and beneficial effects of this work on the minds , characters and personality of children. America 's example were soon followed by other countries and by 1922 the movement of Jr. Red Cross became International. There are about one hundred and fifty national sections of the Jr.

Red Cross in various countries all over the world with a membership of several million.

The Indian Red Cross society took up the Jr. Red Cross work in 1925. The Jr. Red Cross groups were first organized in Punjab in 1926. It soon spread to United provinces, Central provinces, Delhi, Maharashtra and other States. Today in India alone there are more than one lakh Jr. Red Cross groups.

**The objectives of Jr. Red Cross can be broadly defined as**

1. Promotion of health (own health and of others)
2. Understanding and accepting civic and human responsibility i.e. Service to the people.
3. Cultivation and maintenance of the spirit of friendly helpfulness towards the children of all the countries i.e. National and International understanding.

Two fundamental principles of the Jr. Red Cross are

1. Loyalty to the parent body.
2. The school is the background of all the activities.

The schools or the institutions joining the Jr. Red Cross are called its members. The membership is open to all schools and colleges, Government or private. They function as a group within the school. The teacher incharge is called a Counciller. She acts as an advisor and she is the coordinating factor between the school and the Jr. Red Cross activities. The institution has to pay the membership fees of Rs.100/- per year. According to the recent Government circular it is compulsory for all the schools to become the members of the Jr. Red Cross and each child has to contribute Rs.1/- annually towards the Jr. Red Cross.

SALARY CERTIFICATE

Date : June,30<sup>th</sup> 2005

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT MR. SIDDHARTH PRAKASH BADKAR WAS  
WORKING IN OUR FIRM FROM                      TO

HIS MONTHLY EMOLUMENTS WERE RS. 7000/=.

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

Date : June,30<sup>th</sup> 2005

This is to certify that Mr. Siddharth Prakash Badkar was  
working as an Jr. Engineer in this firm from                      to                      .

His duties included full office administration.

He bears a good moral character to the best of my knowledge.  
I wish him all the best for his future prospects.

