



CHRONICLE - THE MODERN SCHOOL WEEKLY

MODERN SCHOOL, BARAKAHAMBA ROAD, NEW DELHI

www.modern School.net

Estd: 1920



Modern School, Barakhamba Road, 1935.



Modern School, Barakhamba Road, 1935

Modern School, Barakhamba Road- March, 2020

100 YEARS OF MODERN



Founder- Lala Raghbir Singh

Every human achievement of any significance begins with a vision. Lala Raghbir Singh's legendary Modern School, Barakhamba Road was built in accordance with Mahatma Gandhi's nationalist ideas to promote modern education without tarnishing Indian values and ethics. Over the years, the School has maintained its legacy and stands tall amongst all other institutions of national repute. The year 2020 will witness the chequered and historic event where this iconic institution will complete hundred glorious years and celebrate this landmark event with soigne.graciousness. This memorable event will be peppered and cherished with celebrations to mark the essence of this treasured and historic institution. The founder, Lala Raghbir Singh born in a Jain family on 5th September, 1885, fondly known as Lalaji, envisioned a School that would run along western lines, upholding Indian traditions. Modern School heralded the call for a better education which rested on the edifice of freedom and social change.



The Lala ji's Family Picture

In 1913, Lala Raghbir was married to Premvati, the daughter from a prosperous Jain family of Pahari Dhiraj, near Sadar Bazar. His father, Sultan Singh had hoped that his son would take over the management of his substantial interests in banking and real estate. The next six years were a period of serious apprenticeship when Lala Raghbir Singh was taught about his father's business.

Lala Raghbir Singh was initiated into a life where study, sports and fine arts would be balanced by a sense of responsibility for family affairs, including the intricacies of running a complex and diversified business but Rai Bahadur Sultan Singh soon realized that his son's interests lay elsewhere.

Lala Raghbir Singh's vision was to raise a generation of boys and girls whose outlook would be modern, but who would respect their rich Indian culture, traditions dedicated to their legacy. In 1917, Lalaji took the first concrete step towards this goal.

Lalaji knew that his vision had finally taken the shape when the former Prime Minister of India Mrs Indira Gandhi visited the School in the year 1968 and commented-

The Modern School has become a pace-setter for the capital..."

Modern School became a reality as a result of a dedicated team of people- the founder, the mentors, the teachers, the patriots- who stood behind the vision and believed in the idea and the ideal.

THE SCHOOL CREST



The School Crest was designed by Sarada Ukil, an artist of great repute and amongst the first few staff members of Modern School in 1921. He worked with the School for nearly a decade. The School Crest signifies the circle of eternity crossed by the three elements in human development of body, mind and spirit; the sun shining between the triangle and the circle. Inside the triangle there is a banyan tree to represent stability and firmness of character, the swan and the lotus represent refinement, culture and the arts which are the fundamental elements of progress in life.

FAMOUS VISITS



In 1928, acting Chief Commissioner, J.N.G. Johnson recommended to the Government of India, the School's application for a plot of land in New Delhi.. On 4th August 1930 after prolonged negotiations between the trustees and the government of India, the present site on Barakhamba Road, covering twenty-seven acres of land, was handed over to the School and the lease was registered.

Handover of the present site at Barakhamba Road to the School



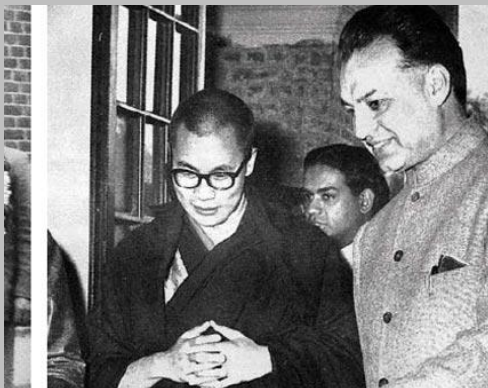
Mahatma Gandhi visits the School

Mahatma Gandhi during his visit to the School on 13th January, 1935. Mr Gandhi was extremely impressed by the cleanliness of the School. He realised the motive behind the inception of the great institution and wanted it to progress. His only fear was that in the flush of the Modern if the ancient was lost, it would greatly harm the young generation.



Rabindranath Tagore at School.

The Hall of Religions was inaugurated by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. The fresco on the wall depicts men and women of all religions and nationalities advancing towards the 'Light of Truth'. The artist was Sukumar Bose of the School's art department. Rabindranath Tagore was greatly impressed by the overarching milestone and said that he had no doubts that it was one of the best place to meditate , which had a natural life's growth of its own and therefore was helping the young minds to grow in a milieu of various activities.



Dalai Lama visits the School

Dalai Lama visits the School and specifically the Hall of Religions, where prayers of all denominations were held every Thursday. He admired and commented on the spirit of exclusiveness imbibing from every part and every place, which was necessary for the benefits of the younger generation. He marveled at the way the School was bringing together the éclat elements inhabiting the country in a small manner and trying to integrate them.



The figurine of Goddess Saraswati, the idol of learning, originally enshrined in a concrete sculpture by Ramkinkar Baij, one of the pioneers of modern Indian sculpture holds a place of immense pride as it adorns the left wall at Modern School's Reception since the year 1933.



M. N. Kapur Hall, 1952

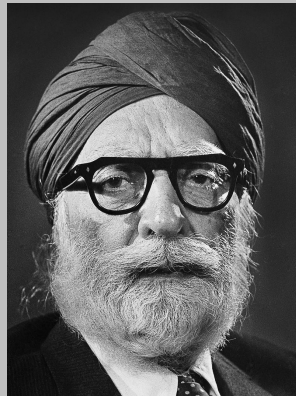
The Saraswati Idol

The MN Kapur Hall is legendary because it was the Polling Booth during the First General Elections held in free India in the year, 1952 and continues to be a polling booth station to date.

OUR GUIDING LIGHTS



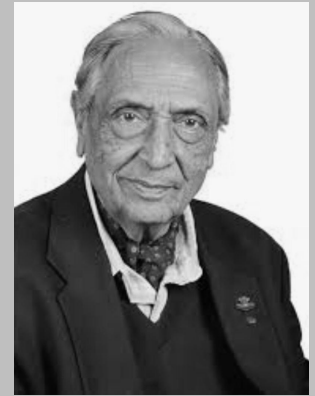
Mr Sultan Singh



Sardar Bahadur Sir
Sobha Singh



Mr Pratap Singh



Gen Virendra Singh



Dr SK Sen



Dr Sita Sen



Mr Bhagwant Singh



Sardar Teja Singh
Malik and Sardar
Narain Singh