

76th Independence Day

'Being Indian is something that cannot be taught, nor enforced. A tapestry of different languages, beliefs, and backgrounds, it is our diversity that strengthens us.'



On the decadent morning of 15th August 2022, adorned with our nation's tricolour glory, was celebrated in the Bishop's School, Camp, the 76th Independence Day of the country. Beginning its programme at 8:30 a.m., students, teachers and parents of class 6 right up to the students of the Junior College, were assembled in the Lorna Roberts Hall, to honour those whose sacrifice is why we are able to breathe the unchained air we do today.



Scouts and troop leaders raised their bars to welcome the guests of honour—the Headmaster, Mr. Gaynor, along with the Chief Guest, Col. Atul Joshi, and his wife, governing body member, Mrs. Blossom Lillywhite, and the Junior School Supervisor, Ms. M. Barsay. The programme, moderated by Mrs. Ashwini Borde, commenced with an uplifting opening prayer by Ms. Barsay, and the solemnity was followed by the reading of a Bible verse by the Head Boy of the Junior College, Mohammed Rajkotwala, a fitting start to the performances that would lace the rest of the day.



The first of these was a delightful rendition of the patriotic song, *'Vande Mataram'* sung by students of the Junior School, that sparked smiles of pride across the hall. The Head Girl, Rishita Sehgal, then recited Rabindranath Tagore's *'Where The Mind Is Without Fear,'* the eloquence of which is still widely regarded by all who read it.

Leading up to the most anticipated hoisting of the National Flag, the gathering engaged in singing to the hymn, *'I Vow To Thee My Country'* led in harmony by the Junior College Choir. In continuance, Savni Apte, the Vice-Head Girl, asked all those who gathered to bow their heads to a Special Prayer for the country, and for the betterment of all its citizens.



Mr. Gaynor was then accompanied by Col. Joshi out the hall to hoist the National Flag: the most important moment of the day, graced with the singing of the National Anthem. The next voice on the podium was of Rudransh Bagal, the Head Boy of the Senior School, who led the assembly in the National Pledge.

After the dignitaries settled on the stage, Col. Joshi took to the mic and spoke of our nation's unity in its linguistic and cultural diversity. How our vision towards developing India as a whole, should be focused on harnessing the prowess of its youth in the right direction. Shining the much deserved spotlight on our teachers, he spoke about the effects of the pandemic on education, and applauded the efforts of all the teachers who were committed to ensure their students did not miss out. Emphasizing on arming oneself with hope, and making excellence a habit towards fulfilling a dream, he reminisced his time at Bishop's, and the qualities—camaraderie, responsibility, accountability, and self-discipline— that the school is known for.

Following his heartening words of motivation, the choir of the Senior School and Junior College beautifully sang the patriotic song, 'Azadi Ke Liye' after which Col. Joshi and his wife presented the newly appointed Scout leaders with their badges.



The programme came to an end with the usual announcements by Mr. Gaynor, and refreshments served to the parents, guests, staff, and students. The day then steered off into the direction all of us veered it in, keeping in mind the words of Col. Atul Joshi—"Change starts with you. Don't ask or wait for a change; things will only change when you'll start changing them."



Meghna Mallik
12-A Science