



RANI VIDYA DEVI

(3rd October 1942 - 20th August 2021)

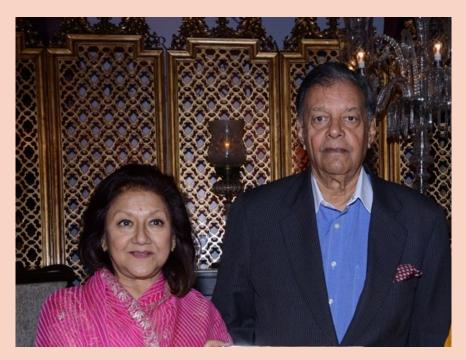
Member of the royal family of Jaipur Former Chairperson, Board of Governors, MGD Girls' School, Jaipur

"Her absence is silent grief,
her life a beautiful memory."

Foreword

Vidyaanjali is a bouquet of profound love, pouring from all hearts that have known Rani Vidya Devi closely or even interacted briefly. Through these pages, we celebrate the life of a Queen who was synonymous with grace, elegance, kindness, humility, and empathy...a Queen who has left behind a legacy of "Aureate" Memories....a Queen who is held in high esteem by one and all. As you peruse through this offering of love, you will invariably resonate with heartfelt memories of the glorious days of Rani Vidya Devi Ji.

Mrs Archana S Mankotia Patron and Editor-in-chief



Rani Vidya Devi with HH Maharaj Jai Singh Ji of Jaipur



Two generations together...

I have known Rani Vidya Devi since she first came to Jaipur as Maharaj Jai Singhji's bride. Rajmata Sahiba took her under her wings and gradually introduced her to all the activities she was handling and was responsible for. Rani Sahiba started where Rajmata Sahiba left. She carried forward her legacy admirably. Walking in Rajmata Sahiba's shoes was not an easy task. She did it in her way, smoothly making the transition and fulfilling the confidence placed in her. She steered MGD to better and greater heights. I have closely interacted with her with issues related to MGD. I found her very receptive, dedicated, and committed-gentle and soft-spoken but firm at the same time. What MGD is today is the legacy she has left behind. She was a great sport and would wholeheartedly participate in the MGD Girls' Guild activities. At times in the evening, she would be on the dance floor, rejoicing and mingling with the reunion batches. She, in her inimitable way, endeared herself to one and all. I will always treasure and cherish her memory. She will live in our hearts and minds always.

Mrs Jane Himmeth Singh (Prafulla Kumari)

Member, Executive Committee, President, MGD Girls' Guild

and founder student







Rani Sa was one of my closest friends, and for me, it's a huge personal loss. Despite the age gap, there was immense trust and understanding between us. Not only did we spend a lot of time together, but we also shared a lot. It was a friendship that spanned decades and will always remain alive in my heart. Her passing away has left an irreplaceable void.

Mrs Nirmala Durlabhji Member, Executive Committee



Rani Vidya Devi was not only the chairperson of my alma mater but also my mamisa who was like a mother to me. My best memories with her are those when we laughed so much together, her laughter still rings in my ears! She was greatly concerned about the school and how students would attain their 'Utmost for the Highest.' She bore her responsibilities seriously and even when she was unwell, MGD remained her priority. She has left a huge void in my life as well as that of the MGDians. Miss you mamisa! and the laughs we had together.

Princess Urvashi Devi of Baria



I am deeply honored to write about Rani Sahiba Vidya Devi of Jaipur, a towering personality, whose presence will always be felt. My association with her started in 2003, MGD had just completed 50 years since it was founded and Her Highness Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur and Rajmata Shiv Kumari of Kotah were chairperson and vice-Chairperson of the Board of Governors. Both of them had contributed immensely towards the education of girls in Rajasthan. Rani Vidya Devi was serving as a member of the Board when I got inducted onto it for my first term. Immediately, we established a warm association which was only to grow with time. While professional matters about the school kept us engaged during meetings, there were many common interests which we shared and discussed outside the board room. As a young student from Sanawar, I had gone to her father's palace at Jubbal near Shimla. An architectural wonder, it was designed by a French architect and made of sandstone and deodar wood. Set amidst pine and cedar trees it was built in a Chinese-Indian-European style. It had left an indelible impression on my mind. We could both converse in Nepalese which she had picked up so well when studying at Loreto Convent, Darjeeling. Her personality reflected the vast canvas of her childhood in Himachal Pradesh, her schooling across India, and her marriage into a traditional family. Rani Sahiba loved MGD. It was always in her thoughts. She steered the school with great aplomb from 2009 onwards, working as a team with all the stakeholders. Thanks to her indefatigable effort, today MGD is a perfect blend of traditional Indian and British Public school education and a leading IPSC school. Rani Vidya Devi was extremely soft-spoken and graceful, compassionate and empathetic. It was an honor to have known and worked with such a great person. We shall always remain inspired by her. She will never be forgotten. She will always remain in our hearts.

Maj Gen Kanwar Vijay Singh Lalotra, AVSM, YSM, SM (Retd)

Member, Board of Governors

Rani Vidya Devi was my childhood friend. We were of the same age and as little girls, we used to play together. In later years too, we met twice every year- in the summer and winter holidays. She was always known for her intelligence and quiet demeanor. Her work experience abroad widened her horizons. When she married into the Jaipur royal family, my aunt, Rajmata Gayatri Devi of Jaipur, found her efficiency and capacity for hard work perfect for Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School. She trained her to follow in her steps and when in time she did so, it was with success. The diagnosis of her cancer came as a shock to all of us who knew her well. She bore it with fortitude and never complained. Her sudden passing away was perhaps a blessing for her as she was spared the intense pain that cancer could bring. But for those of us who were left behind, her absence will be deeply felt. Wherever she is now, may her soul rest in peace.



Maharani Uttara Devi of Kota

An institution has gone. Well-versed, elegant, humble, and totally dedicated to the MGD school, Rani Vidya Devi was an absolutely brilliant leader. The late Rajmata Gayatri Devi always said she had nothing to worry about as Rani Vidya would be the perfect person to look after her schools. She had actively managed MGD's affairs, always decisive and prompt in ensuring that nothing stops the school from excelling. She shall forever live on in our memories and be eternally remembered, for her charisma and her invaluable contribution to the promotion of education here at MGD.

Madhuwanti Singh Member of MGD Society

Two words that come to mind when I think of Rani Vidya Devi are gentle and approachable. She was an admirable person, well-read, compassionate and with a sense of humor that came across with such elegance in her speeches. She had the capacity to make every person she interacted with feel valued and at ease. I saw this on multiple occasions, even when she had to pose for unending rounds of photographs with students and alumni. With her perceptive and deep understanding of education, she steered MGD on the path that Rajmata Gayatri Devi had set. She often narrated anecdotes about Rajmata Sahiba to underline a point she was making. Her reassuring presence during every crisis and the unflagging interest she took in every aspect of the school gave me strength. It was indeed a pleasure to have worked under her guidance.

Suniti Sharma Former Principal, MGD Girls' School



Ode to a beautiful soul - Rani Vidya Devi

A smile on her benign countenance Grace personified I encounter her for the first time

And am awed by the dignified simplicity.

A perfect example of a gentle leader

Her understated dynamism was felt, rather

than seen

She charmed her way into the hearts of all just like the iridescent petals of a freshly bloomed flower

With twinkle in her eyes as the effervescent evening star.

No one who ever met her came away, without being allured

by the fragrance of her soul.

She breezed into MGD like a breath of fresh air

A softly blowing zephyr which soothes and calms

the turbulent ministrations of everyday.

The light banter shared with her

the serious discussions

the routine deliberations,

She would be polite yet firm

Patiently listening

Serious, still with a sprinkling of humour Effectively handling issues with finesse, and empathy

It was not for her to be pretentious For she spoke from the heart.



Over time,

Little did I realize

when the staid authority as a Board member just melted away like the crisp winter sun stealthily melting the frigid snowflakes

And I found in her

a guide, a mentor, and a kind-hearted soul.

Her tiny personal notes

whether writing 'enjoy' on my request for leave or her concern for safety during the pandemic times Or the very last note received from her

"You have been remarkable as a principal"

Leaves me teary-eyed

All indelibly inked on the horizons of my being. We were shocked yet impressed and overwhelmed when she stoically revealed about her ailment Her courage, her poise, and her sense of humour Firmly in place.

Even in the months of suffering
She taught us lessons about what true resilience is,
No self-pity expressed; no sympathy expected
She sailed through with dignity
Such elegance such refinement
Rarely found.

She is not there

Yet, she is there

In the winsome smiles of the little girls,
in the aspirations and dreams of older ones,
in the hearts and minds of the MGD family
in the benevolent shade of the tree she planted,
in the fresh smell of rain in the rose garden,
in the prancing of the peacocks, the sprint of the squirrels
the warbling of the birds

in the delightful unfolding florets under the crisp winter sun No, she is not gone

She is there in the very soul and spirit of this beneficence institution

Residing forever and ever

Archana S Mankotia, Principal, MGD

"The song has ended but the melody lingers on"

Apostle of Humanity

Oh, fairest of creation! last and best
Of all God's works! Creature in whom excelled.
Whatever can to sight or thought be formed
Holy, Divine, good, amiable, or sweet.
- Milton -

Rani Vidya Devi- a true inspiration... My first memories of Rani Sahiba date back to an interview that I had to appear for, in the early winter of 2015 at Rambagh Palace Hotel. I was indeed a bit nervous about meeting the who's who of the Royal family. As I waited for my turn to face the board, I saw three ladies with pleasant demeanor sitting across the table. It was a tightrope moment for me, I couldn't fathom the reason, but one person who could feel the pulse was none other than Rani Sahiba. She was soft in her expression. For an Army officer it was difficult to catch the whispers, but thanks to the seasoning of the Special Forces, understanding the lip-sync did the trick as she said "Colonel, hope you are comfortable!". Truly, it touched my soul; from within and I got connected with Rani Sahiba with respect. Over the years, working in School under her guidance was both an honor and a pleasure. I am loaded with numerous personal incidents where I expressed my views frankly on professional and personal matters but never did Rani Sahiba ignore them. She patiently heard every bit of it and honored it adequately. The bond of understanding and trust got stronger with the passage of time as I grew in the ambit of MGD ethos based on -" Selfless Service Before Self". Rani Sahiba was a leader with a cheerful disposition and adopted a positive approach when faced with any challenge. She was very clear in her thought process, and as a professional, her decisions were quick and balanced. Her visit to the school was cherished by each one she came across while walking through the corridors. She greeted everyone with her pleasing smile and stood for a while to check about their well-being. Never ever did one see her flustered for any reason. In fact, not even on the ill-fated day when she came to the school for an Executive Committee meeting and while chairing the meeting in her office, she surprised all of us with a smile and told us about her ailment. We were aghast !!! But she was firm and natural. She braved it through, over two years with very positivity. I can continue with this eulogy endlessly, but no words will be able to replace her absence from our lives. She was here and shall remain with us for life and times immemorial... a beacon of light to inspire and guide us.

Col S S Sangwan, SM * (Retd)

Administrative Officer



It is with profound grief and a feeling of void that the MGD Guild records the passing away of our dearly beloved and deeply revered Rani Vidya Devi Ji. Her going away so soon has left an irreparable void in our hearts. Her charming persona, her gentle and graceful ways, and her caring words of appreciation and encouragement will linger in our hearts always. After the demise of Her Highness Rajmata Gayatri Devi on July 29, 2009, the mantle of Chairperson of MGD Girls' School, Jaipur fell on the shoulders of Rani Vidya Devi Jai Singh- a role she fulfilled with remarkable ability and aplomb. To step into the place occupied for a very long period, stretching across the early six decades, by such a dynamic and towering personality like the late Rajmata Sahiba was not easy. But with her innate dignity, grace, charm, and beauty Rani Vidya Devi Ji took it all so seamlessly in her stride. We will treasure and cherish the memory of her graceful presence at all our functions- the dandiya nite, all our reunions, and dance/dinner nights at the SMS Convention Centre, Rambagh Palace Hotel - every year. Rani Vidya Devi Ji leaves behind a rich legacy of traditions, charming inclusivity, sustainable reforms, and upgrades in the school curriculum and administration. MGD campus has never looked more beautiful than it does today. She walked in beauty and grace. Dear Rani Saheba, though you have gone, the glow of the light you carried will illuminate our path and be an inspiration for all at MGD and MGD Guild in the years to come. Farewell and rest in peace.



Mrs Chandralekha Mathur (Batch of 1954)

Editor Guild Today

MGD Girls' Guild Executive Committee



"The arrival of Rani Sahiba Vidya Devi Jai Singh came like a breath of fresh air to Jaipur society in general and Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School in particular. Her marriage in 1982 to Maharaj Jai Singh (the second son of Maharaja Sawai Man Singhji) brought a charming new face to the scene. Lovely to behold, petite and soft-spoken, yet full of cheerful fun, she became a very popular member of the MGD family and the Board of Governors. Educated at the renowned Loreto Convent, Darjeeling, and the famous Loreto House College in Kolkata, Rani Sahiba has a cosmopolitan outlook matched with a very practical and contemporary approach. With her varied work experience with the Tea Board of India when she was based at their London office, and later as Secretary to the Chief Minister of West Bengal, the late Sidhartha Shankar Ray, Vidya Devi has been a real asset in guiding the functioning of MGD School. She is present at all school functions, either as a Chief Guest or as an invitee, and her graceful and gentle presence is always so welcome, reassuring, and appreciated by all. As Rajmata Gayatri Devi Ji wrote in the concluding chapters of her book, A Princess Remembers, "I have of course to take care of institutions I have started. As Chairperson of the Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School, I preside over the Governing Body Meetings. Vidya now chairs the Executive Committee. She has taken a burden off my shoulders. Her quiet understanding and gentle approach are far more effective than my rather volatile reactions! Vidya is a tremendous help to me. When I am gone, she will, I am sure, take on the mantle of all my work." Rani Vidya Devi became the President of the Board of Governors in 2009.

Our collective hearts are heavy with grief as we have lost one of our pillars of strength, Rani Sahiba Vidya Devi. Her presence at all school functions as a guest or as a host will be deeply missed. She was a very special woman- a true inspiration to many. Our thoughts and prayers are with her friends and family, now and always. May she remain peaceful and happy wherever she is.

Mrs Sadhna Singh (Batch of 1970)
Mrs Sarandha Singh (Batch of 1983)
Members, MGD Girls' Guild

The tragic news of Rani Vidya Devi Ji's demise is unsettling. She was a lady of immense grace and charm. Her humility was beyond measure and her quick and resolute continuation of Rajmata sahib's work and legacy has been commendable. She was a guide and patron of everything MGDians did and would never miss any opportunity to celebrate our successes. As a long-time member of the Guild committee, I have known Rani Sahiba from when she would come with Rajmata Sahiba for all school and guild events. Her simplicity won my heart when she would acknowledge our presence and graciously complement the guild's progress. Her elegant and regal approach to everything was a heartwarming accompaniment to her presence. A lovely and iconic lady who will be missed ever so dearly by all members of the guild. May her down-to-earth values and magnanimity live on as her legacy.

Mrs Pranati Lunia (Batch of 1972)

Member, MGD Girls' Guild







"Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because for those who love with heart and soul, there is no such thing as separation."

Walking down the memory lane I remember a brief interaction with Rani Vidya Devi Ji during the inauguration of the SrJNA Lab. Her knowledge of science and the latest innovations around the world left me amazed and fascinated. She went and practically worked on each model with the curiosity and inquisitiveness of a child. It was her intellectual acuity that paved the way for MGD to create a laboratory for exploring scientific concepts through practical hands-on learning. She supported and welcomed new ideas and wished that the young students enhance and satisfy their creativity and curiosity. We feel blessed to have worked under such a brilliant visionary who motivated us to achieve new milestones in Innovation and Science. She was an avid nature lover, a glimpse of which we got to see when the annual calendar based on the theme of 'Trees in MGD' was released. She will remain in our hearts forever.

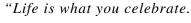
Mrs Pramendra Khangarot School Coordinator

In My Heart Always

विद्या ददाति विनयं, विनयाद् याति पात्रताम्। पात्रत्वात् धनमाप्नोति, धनात् धर्मं ततः सुखम्॥

The christening of her name Vidya Devi was apt for her as it signifies the goddess of knowledge, the science of learning connected to Devi Saraswati who is thought to purify, empower and uplift individuals. Rani Vidya Devi, a unique personality, a symbol of selfless humanity as her name denotes, was a vibrant soul, the kindhearted, strong one who literally lit up the mise en scène with her charismatic, petite persona. The glow on her face, her charming smile, her pleasant demeanor were majestic. Rani Saheba was full of joy and always eager to help out no matter what the time was, she never ever turned anyone away. She was an outstanding torchbearer of the vision of HH Maharani Gayatri Devi Ji of Jaipur and was successful in steering the School in achieving greater heights and emphasized the importance of high-quality education and all-around development of the students. She was always there for MGD in her special way. She was a blessing to all of us - and a lesson to the world on how to do things right, how to be a perfect leader, how to appreciate the MGD traditions and history, and carry forward the legacy of Rajmata Gayatri Devi Saheba with elan. Rani Vidya Devi's generosity with her time, her energy, her adept advice in many ways provided invaluable guidance and support to many extraordinary people at MGD. My lasting memories of Rani Sa are of a softspoken - incredibly dignified lady, her indelible sense of humor, a pillar of strength who had a passion for life. Our one-on-one conversations, her narrative of her own experiences, her valuable tips, her unwavering support, and her belief will always be cherished by me and will linger in my heart always. Her eyes sparkled as we spoke of Kunwar Ajay Singh Ji wherever we met. She graced MGD at several functions and events and those of us knew her, respected her, and loved her she graced our lives. Even though she has gone. I know that her legacy will live in all of us. She was an incredible RANI who inspired everyone who knew her. Her administrative acumen was par excellence combined with her exemplary soft skills her originality in the way she did things was unique. Your memory Rani Saheba will live in our hearts forever!!

It's hard to turn the page when you know someone won't be in the next chapter, but the story must go on !!



All of it. Even its end."

Ms Benu Puri

Coordinator, Prep Section

(Batch of 1980)



"This is not a goodbye, this is a thank you."

I first saw Rani Saheba at Rambagh Palace when I was in college. I was captivated by the way she carried herself and her soft-spoken demeanor and whenever I got an opportunity to meet her, I found her to be a lady with extensive knowledge in all fields. I remember how vividly she described the importance of the Khejari tree to the girls during the Round Square Conference. I cannot forget how curious and attentive she was when the girls talked about their future plans during the inauguration of the Biology Laboratory. MGD will always cherish fond memories of Rani Saheba. Her simplicity and scintillating smile will never fade from our memory chart.

Dr Annu Mathur, Academic Coordinator

Rani Vidya Devi, an epitome of grace and elegance will always be remembered for her rich legacy of traditions and sustainable reforms and how she was an inspiration for all of us at MGD. She illuminated a path for us and we shall continue to move along this path in the years to come and strive to do our utmost for our dear MGD.

Dr Sonia Ahuja, Activity Coordinator

Rani Vidya Devi Ji, our former Chairperson, gentle of heart, walked in beauty. She has been an inspiration to all of us. Equally rare and precious are her memories. I was privileged to interact with Rani Sahiba during a few cultural programs and closely at the faculty induction sessions. She would always mesmerize everyone around with her soothing voice, charming smile, and witty remarks. How she used to pronounce my name with such an added rhythm to it is unforgettable. I specifically remember one such experience while interviewing English Faculty at the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh Vidhyalaya. Rani Sahiba, in her soft voice and unique style, added to my introduction as given by the Principal to the members on the Interview Board there, "She's our Star." What I felt then is beyond description.

Another memory that I cherish was during the compilation of material related to the Round Square. I was a part of the Editorial team, and we had requested some photographs of Rani Sahiba. She handed me a CD to select a few photos from it and, to my surprise, sat near me for a twinkling while I worked on my laptop, helping me select the photographs. The moment that I shared with her that day is etched in my heart forever; her modesty touched me to the core. I will miss her charismatic smile. With folded hands, I wish her eternal bliss!

Ms Cherry Goyal, Cultural Coordinator

Rani Vidya Devi Ji was the epitome of dignity and charisma. She was an enthusiastic sportsperson and always took full initiative in the field of sports. Her gracious presence in every annual sports day always kept our spirits high. Her encouraging words always embarked the spirit of positivity in our hearts and minds. Always in our memories and lingering in our hearts...the ever-smiling face of Late Rani Vidya Devi Ji.

Dr Monika Mathur, Sports Coordinator



Rani Vidya Devi Ji or as we fondly called her Rani Sahiba was the epitome of grace, elegance, and warmth. The ever-smiling Rani Sahiba will always remain in our hearts and continue to inspire us in years to come. You are missed and your beautiful memories will forever be treasured. Om Shanti

We all are extremely saddened to learn about the untimely demise of dear Rani Sahiba. It is an irreparable loss to MGD and Jaipur. We had met her several times, and she always reached out as a warm, humble, down-to-earth Maharani. During the golden anniversary of the 66 batch and the Ruby jubilee of the 76 batch, Rani Sahiba danced with us as one of us, throwing care to the winds, reveling in our happiness. She especially asked our mother, Smt Krishna Kumariji Rathi, aged 90, to dance with her to the 'ghoomar' beat. It was a spectacular moment that is embedded deeply in our hearts. Ranisahiba also came to Beawar to pay her respects after the demise of our father, Shri MD Rathi. This action of hers deepened our connection with her. Our mother always has such wonderful things to say about her. They spoke over the phone several times as friends. Our mother was devastated by the news of Rani Sahiba's illness and then her sudden onward journey. Approachable, soft-spoken, amiable, and a noble soul, Rani Sahiba never imposed her royal lineage on anyone; it was what made her so endearing. Our school flourished under her able guidance. It is not surprising why Rajmata Gayatri Deviji chose Rani Sahiba to be her successor. Rani Sahiba handled the affairs of so many institutions with firmness, diligence, and great responsibility as if justifying her name 'Vidya'. Our deep and sincere condolences to the family. May God bless her and guide her to peace and freedom.

Mrs KK Rathi, and the Rathi sisters - Shashi, Rajshree, Madhu, Kumkum, and Vandana









ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने वाली जयपुर राजघराने की परम पूजनीया रानी साहिबा विद्या देवी जी के आकस्मिक निधन पर अश्रुपूर्ण श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित । ईश्वर से प्रार्थना है कि अपने श्री चरणों में स्थान देने की कृपा करें, उनकी आत्मा को शान्ति प्रदान करें और परिवार जनों को हिम्मत, साहस, धैर्य बंधाये । यही ईश्वर से करबद्ध प्रार्थना है। Just got the sad news of our former chairperson, Rani Sahiba's passing away. It is very hard to believe. She was so lovely, kind, and cultured. My deepest condolences. May her soul rest in peace.

Dr Chona (Batch of 1958)

Ex-MGDian, Former Principal, DPS, RK Puram, New Delhi



Rani Vidya Devi was a woman of substance. She had the heart that cared completely. She had a smile that brought so much pleasure and she had the love that brought joy beyond measure. My heart is saddened by her loss and my thoughts and prayers are with the family. You are gone from sight but never from my heart.

Grievingly

Kiran Karki Misra, Ex-MGDian (Batch of 1965)

Deepest condolences. May her soul rest in peace. Had the opportunity to meet her.

Nonika Sakhuja, Ex- MGDian (Batch of 1968)

Dear MGD Family,

I learned about the demise of Rani Vidya Devi Ji, former Chairperson, Board of Governors, MGD, with profound grief. May she rest in eternal peace. Om Shanti!

With you in your grief and sorrow

Jyoti Kathju, Ex-MGDian (Batch of 1970)

Another sad news. Chanting for Rani Sahiba. Safe journey to the unknown. Thank you for being a part of our MGD school.

Anu Medhi Borcherdt, Ex-MGDian (Batch of 1971)

An irreparable loss. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and to our MGD family.

Anupama Kalia Gangwal, Ex-MGDian (Batch of 1982)





नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः। न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः ॥

A gorgeous woman with a scintillating smile, a heart of gold, and a beautiful soul. Rani Vidya Devi walked on this earth, luminous with the light within, leaving inspirational footprints of kindness, philanthropy, knowledge, and altruistic deeds with each of her graceful strides. The well-founded academics, quintessential traditions, and dense sense of moral values acquired at MGD have helped us to stand firmly,well-poised amidst the quick changing sands of time, and have aided us to deal with the favorable and the adversities on the pathways of life as we marched on the road of distinct excellence. Rajmata Maharani Gayatri Devi Ji's thought process, foresightedness, and timely endeavors have changed the perspective on the life of millions of families in India, especially in the state of Rajasthan. Stepping into Rajmata Gayatri Devi's shoes was no easy task for her. Rani Vidya Devi Ji with her gentleness, simplicity, and intellect fitted smoothly in the "mega-shoes", adding a little more space of her own. She was a forever teacher, passionately moulding lives as a vital artisan, keeping pace with the modern strategies and advancement, taking MGD to newer heights. As Franklin D. Roosevelt quoted "Confidence thrives on honesty, on honor, on the sacredness of obligations, on faithful protection and unselfish performance. Without them it cannot live ". Rani Vidya Devi carried out her duties with confidence, indomitable determination, and wisdom.

Rani Vidya Devi was a very special woman and she would be missed by many. We deeply mourn her untimely and sad demise. She is gone from our sight, but she will forever remain alive in the heart of each MGDian.

Dr Vinita Patni nee Sharma (Batch of 1983)



It is a sad day for MGD. May her soul rest in peace. Heartfelt condolences to the family and to all MGDians.

Chochong Hangshing, Ex-MGDian (Batch of 1984)

Rani Vidya Devi was the epitome of elegance, sophistication, warmth, and affection. I had the privilege of meeting her many times at the AGM (Annual General Meeting of the Old Girls Guild) and, of course, during the 25th Silver Jubilee Reunion of our batch (1991). She was wearing a bright and pretty yellow chiffon sari that day and was all smiles as we went up to her to exchange some pleasant chit-chats. She was the chief guest of the occasion, and she gave each of us (we were about a hundred) mementos and tokens from the MGD family one by one. We all got pictures clicked with her. Needless to say, I have got that picture with Rani Sahiba framed in a silver frame and put it in my bedroom. Those pictures will remain with us as a treasure -a precious memory for a lifetime. Death may do us apart but we created such beautiful memories which we will cherish throughout our life.

Today, I remember you fondly, Rani Sahiba. We will always remember you as an integral part of MGD. May you be happy, peaceful, and smiling as always wherever you are.

Anjali Kinra, Ex-MGDian (Batch of 1991)

I had a chance to meet Rani Sahiba at the 75th year celebrations of MGD more closely and was bewitched by her pleasing and positive aura. She would greet each and every MGDian with so much love and affection. At every reunion, she made sure she had a word with each girl present. We will miss her smile and presence at all functions of MGD. Rani Sahiba was very dedicated and committed towards MGD and will always be missed by the MGD fraternity.

May her soul rest in peace

Meenakshi Rathore Ex-MGDian (Batch of 1992)

Very sad news...an era comes to an end. Rani Vidya Devi Ji will be fondly remembered by all the MGDians.

Om Shanti!!

"Goodbyes are not forever,
Goodbyes are not the end.
They simply mean I'll miss you,
Until we meet again."

Kritika Banerjee, Ex-MGDian (Batch of 1997)



An eternally smiling face, a motherly figure, a team leader, an able administrator, and a meticulous multitasker, memories of Late Rani Vidya Devi Ji will linger in the hearts of MGDians forever. I am proud that my daughters, Riddhima Gupta and Falguni Gupta, are a part of this esteemed institution which has achieved great heights through her indefatigable endeavors. Rani Vidya Deviji will be deeply missed and remembered.

Gunjan Ghiya
Ex-MGDian (Batch of 1998)
M/O Falguni Gupta (9th E) and Riddhima Gupta (5th B)

I was introduced to Rani Vidya Devi Jai Singh Ji for the first time by Rajmata Ji at her residence at Lily pool. The purpose of our meeting was to discuss the future of Chand Shilp Shala, a skill-building initiative started by Rajmata Ji to support women entrepreneurs. She immediately called Rani Jai Singh Ji. I think she mentioned to Rajmata Ji that she would take time to come as she was in her salwar suit. Rajmata Ji asked her to come as she was. That was my first introduction to her.Rani Vidya Devi Ji always had a big smile on her face. She was a very humble, soft-spoken person and treated everyone with utmost respect and dignity. She was always interested in increasing the impact of Chand Shilp-Shala on shaping the lives of young women entrepreneurs. I remember her love for 'khandawi', so I made sure to carry a plate of it for our meetings. She was one of the warmest and kind-hearted persons I have known. I will remember Vidya Devi Ji for the pillar of strength she was for Chand Ship Shala and all the work together in these past years.



Our deepest condolences to everyone. She did a great job guiding MGD. She will be greatly missed.

Madhu Kumari Singh

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."



Huge loss to our family. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Aishwarya Rajvanshi Yaduvanshi

Another strong pillar of MGD is gone...May her soul rest in eternal peace and attain salvation...Om

Shanti

Rashmi Singhal





A Eulogy to a Queen

The light has gone out of our lives with the sad demise of Rani Vidya Devi Ji. She was a paragon of virtue and beauty, ever-smiling with a soft demeanor and a calm, soothing voice. A lady who shone like a sparkling diamond, an eternal beacon. This light will be seen and will give solace to all at this institution. She was well-bred, well-read, and had all the qualities of a queen. Queens are not made, they are born. She epitomized grandeur and feminity to its hilt. My interaction with the Royals of Jaypore in my youth attracted me to join this edifice of knowledge that is MGD Girls' School. A great visionary like her kept the founder's vision alive and left a legacy of strong leadership, honesty, compatibility. The talent and energy she was endowed had endeared her to the great MGD Family. Rani Vidya Devi Ji, you will be missed.OM SHANTI.....

Mrs Meena Bahadur



This is to convey my deepest condolence on the sad demise of our former President, MGD Girls' School, Rani Vidya Devi Ji. She will forever remain in our hearts through her manifold contributions towards the growth and achievements of our Alma mater. She will truly be missed by us all.

Kanika Fauzdar, Head Girl (Batch of 2019-20)

आदरणीय रानी साहिबा . आपके जाने पर मुझे याद आ रहा है अपना साक्षात्कार, मेरे शोध प्रबंध पर आपके पुछे गए विभिन्न प्रश्न, और मेरा उत्तरों का पारावार अरावली पर्वत माला से पूछे गए आपके विशाल प्रश्न, और उसके बदले में वन संपदा जैसे मेरे उत्तर. साल दर साल बीत गए दो दशक, पर याद आते हैं आज भी , मेरी आंखों में वह चित्र फलक एक बार किसी समारोह में मेरा आपसे मिलना और मिलकर पूछना क्या आपको मेरा साक्षात्कार याद है? सहजता से आपका समस्त वाकये को बताना मुझे आज भी आश्चर्य से भर देता है। साक्षात्कार में आपके द्वारा कहे गए प्रशंसनीय शब्द , अब मेरे जीवन की धरोहर हैं। आपका व्यक्तिगत स्तर पर मुझसे बात करना अविस्मरणीय है अविस्मरणीय रहेगा ।

डॉ रश्मि पारीक विभागाध्यक्ष सोशल साइंस विभाग



सौम्यता आप की सुगंध थी, आनंद आपका जीवन था. सत्कर्म आपकी शोभा और परोपकार आपका कर्त्तव्य हम सबकी प्रिय रानी साहिबा, हमारा विश्वास है कि वटवृक्ष की छांव के समान हम सब पर सदैव आपका आशीर्वाद बना रहेगा । ईश्वर आपकी पवित्र व दिव्य आत्मा को शांति प्रदान करे।

डॉ सीमा शर्मा विभागाध्यक्ष हिंदी विभाग





If wishes could come true!!

I wish...

There was a walkway to the heavens I would love to be by your side, To walk beside you amongst the

To talk to you in soft whispers To tell you of the milestones crossed by the MGDians

And tales of the numerous others inspired by you.

If visitors were allowed to visit the heavens

You would not for a single moment Miss the history created by dear **MGDians**

Tales of the legacy you have left behind

For them to nurture and treasure. Oh! I wish there was at least a postal department in Heaven We could write and tell you then Of the sadness that is in the air: For a void exists now, Our dear Rani Vidya Devi

Rests in the abode of the Almighty *In eternal peace and bliss.*

Fondly remembered and missed

Dr Swapna Chandra Head, Department of English

Above 1500 heartfelt messages poured in for Rani Vidya Devi Ji. We are deeply humbled to share a few.

Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls'

With profound grief, we inform everyone that

former Chairperson, Board of Governors, MGD,

Rani Vidya Devi Ji, left for her heavenly abode.

School

May she rest in eternal peace.



Saddened to know that Vidya Devi chairperson of MGD& SMS is no more May God give solace to the family & May her soul rest in Peace We will miss her sweet voice.

5 w Like Reply

Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary
I'm too, overwhelmed in grief and
sorrow over the sad news about the
sudden sad demise of Rani Vidya
Devi, who was really a woman of
paramount importance in all
spheres. I do solemnly condole her
sudden tragic death and pray the
almighty God to accord a heavenly
abode to the departed soul of the
deceased so as to enable her soul
to rest in peace in the heavenly



"There are some who bring a light so great that even after they are gone the light remains."







Marie-thérèse Bienvenu
She was so nice, I met her when I
came to Jaipur, she liked to speak
French with me, so sad

5 w Like Reply

T

Teena Chandrima Very sad to hear the news...she was an awesome personality...Jaipur will miss her...









Flavia Weedn rightly said, "Some people come into our lives and leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same."

I had the good fortune of meeting Rani Vidya Devi when I appeared for my interview for the post of TGT(English) in 2018. Rani Sahiba was truly graceful, simplicity personified. In my panel interview, she asked me questions gently and made me feel comfortable. The brief interaction with her is still fresh in my memories; her aura, poise, and affectionate voice. She truly inspired all of us. She was the epitome of empathy and encouragement. May her blessed soul rest in eternal peace. Om Shanti!

Mrs Neetu Mathur PGT English



MAY SHE REST IN HEAVENLY BLISS

Mrs Sunita Rathore TGT English

School had completed 60 years balloons, buntings, and happy cheers

The stage set for a grand celebration

we all were part of the function. And I saw her on the stage, watching the rehearsals, suggesting a change.

Clad in soft hues, speaking in a soft voice,

Rani sahiba personified perfect poise.

When Rajmata would arrive, she would greet,

and touch her feet,

Be all ears to take review of all the proceedings in the view.

While Rajmata was the trendsetter,

she exemplified it even better That progress and tradition go hand in hand

a royal who made school life feel so grand.

I have not known anyone like her,

who made the best of what life had to offer...

who proved life is, after all, just your turn

to play the role for all to see and learn.

She became a perfect pillar, to the dreams of the founder. The corridors of MGD will forever miss

May she rest in heavenly bliss.

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near; still loved, still missed and very dear."

विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि

बेमिसाल व्यक्तित्व ,खूबसूरत, सौम्य एवं शांत-स्वभाव की धनी बहुमुखी प्रतिभा से लवरेज़, रानी विद्या देवी जी । विद्यालय के कार्यक्रमों में विशेषकर वार्षिकोत्सव एवं टीचर्स-डे के समय उनसे बहुत बार मिलने का मौका मिला । एक-दो बार उनसे बातचीत भी हुई । एक ख़ासियत थी रानी साहिबा में,जब भी वे हम लोगों से मिलती थीं तो ऐसा कभी महसूस नहीं हुआ कि हम राजघराने की शि़ष्ट्रियत से मिल रहे हैं। वे सदैव हम सभी की प्रशंसा एवं प्रोत्साहन करती थीं। मेरा एक अनुभव में आप सभी के साथसाझा करना चाहूँगी।वार्षिकोत्सव के दौरान प्रदर्शित नृत्य -नाटिका "गुलाबी विरासत" जिसमें गुलाबी नगरी और उसकी धरोहर को दिखाया गया था । जब फिनाले के दौरान मुख्य अतिथि के रूप मे रानी साहिबा को आमंत्रित किया गया तो सबसे पहले वह मुझसे मिलीं और उन्होंने मुझसे प्रश्न किया कि तुमने यह नृत्य नाटिका कितने समय में लिखी ? मेरा जवाब था कि दो-तीन महीने लगे हैं। वह बहुत खुश हुई और कहा-अच्छा लिखती हो उन्होंने नाटिका की बहुत सराहना की। उनका व्यक्तित्व इतना प्रभावी था कि कोई भी उससे आकर्षित हुए बिना नहीं रह सकता था ।ऐसे व्यक्तित्व की धनी आज हमारे बीच नहीं हैं लेकिन उनके द्वारा जलाई हुई मशाल हम सभी के हृदय में सदैव प्रज्ज्वलित रहेगी । शांत और सौम्य स्वभाव की धनी ऐसी विनम्र शख्सियत रानी विद्या देवी जी को नम आंखों से विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि

डॉ रत्ना शर्मा हिंदी विभाग (प्राध्यापिका)



"A silent thought,
a secret tear,
keeps her memory ever
dear.
Time eases the edge of
grief,
Memory turns back
every leaf."



Your beautiful smile has gone forever

And your blessing hands we can't touch.

Still, we have so many memories of you, Rani Sahiba, we loved.

Your indelible memory is our keepsake with which we will never part.

God has you in his keeping, we will always have you in our hearts.

You gave us years of happiness and hopes in our life.

There came the moment when life divides,

giving sorrow and tears.

But you left us with beautiful

memories

we will treasure through the years.

Mrs Nirmala Sharma House Secretary

विदा वेला

आज पुनः स्मृतियों के वातायन खुल गए और विगत क्षणों को निहारते सहसा एक मोहक दृश्य स्मृतिपटल पर छा गया, वह था जब वर्षों पूर्व मैंने प्रथम बार रानी साहिबा को देखा | वो उनके व्यक्तित्व का जादू ही था , व्यवहार की सरलता, सौम्य मुस्कान ही थी कि मैं उन्हें अपलक निहारती ही रह गई | राजसी शान और सहज व्यक्तित्व का अनोखा मिश्रण थीं रानी साहिबा | वार्षिकोत्सव , विद्यालय के मेले एवं शिक्षक दिवस के अवसर पर विद्यालय आना सभी से स्नेह के साथ मिलना , मधुर मुस्कान के साथ देखना हम कभी भूल नहीं पाएंगे | आज जब वो हमारे बीच नहीं हैं , मुझे बरबस ही महादेवी वर्मा द्वारा लिखित कविता विदा-वेला का स्मरण हो आया | उस कविता की कुछ पंक्तियाँ रानी साहिबा के प्रति काव्यांजलि के रूप में प्रस्तुत हैं –

यह विदा-वेला ।

अर्चना-सी आरती-सी यह विदा-वेला
जग उठे मधुमास बन पतझार सब जिसके सहारे,
आज क्या प्रतिदान में देंगे उसे दो बून्द खारे ?
कलश जीवन स्नेह जल हो हर नयन शतदल कमल हो,
'पंथ शुभ' निश्वास औ' सांसें कहें 'चिर मिलन पल हो' ।
भेंट में उसको हृदय विश्वास का संसार दे ला !
स्वर्ग-भू की संधि-सी है यह विदा-वेला ।
अमर वेला ।

सुश्री विजयश्री मिश्र हिंदी अध्यापिका



Rani Sahiba Vidya Devi, our former Chairperson, warm-hearted, graceful, modest, amiable, a pure and noble soul. A true inspiration for each one of us, she will be sorely missed by the MGD fraternity. I will never forget my interview day, she asked me to sing a few lines when I mentioned music as my passion. She said, "Bhawana, you have a soothing voice, so pleasing to the ears, you must learn classical music, you can do wonders." I will always cherish these precious words. She is out of our sight now but will remain alive in our hearts forever.

Bhawna Kashyap Computer Science Teacher Ex-MGDian (Batch of 1985)

"Goodbye doesn't always mean it's the end."



Her Highness Rajmata Gayatri Devi once said, "Vidya is a tremendous help to me. When I am gone, she will, I am sure, take on the mantle of all my work". And true to this compliment, she was; known for her charm and kindness. What she gave to this school is irreplaceable. I would say that her unforgettable memories would always be treasured and cherished by us.

Kamakshi Jadon

VII D







Meera Malik , III A School Birthday 2019

"Only in the agony of parting do we look into the depths of love."



When the great souls, like air around us, become light,
rare, sterile
we breathe, briefly

Our eyes see with a hurtful clarity.

Our memory, suddenly sharpened, examines, gnaws on kind words unsaid.

Promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to them, takes leave of us.

Our souls, dependent upon their nurture, now shrink

Our minds, wisened, formed, and informed by their radiance, fall away

We are not so maddened as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves.

And after great souls die, a period of peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly

Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration Our senses, never to be the same, whisper to us.

They existed...
They existed...
We can be, for they existed.

XII D
(Batch 2021-22)

"Life is eternity and love is immortal and death is only a horizon and a horizon is nothing but the limit of our sight."

Our former Chairperson, Rani Vidya Devi Ji was the torchbearer of Rajmata Sahiba's legacy. Her graciousness, warmth will always stay alive within us as in some ways she had bridged the gap of Rajmata Saheba's passing away. On behalf of everyone who loved, admired, and adored her, we offer our deepest condolences. Shat Shat Naman

Ridhima Magon Head Girl (2021-22), XII-B "Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure."

Our beloved chairperson, Rani Vidya Devi Ji, always encouraged MGDians to give their best in every situation. She was a motherly figure for all of us. A mentor like Rani Vidya Devi Ji is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget.

We miss your gracious presence.

Bhoomika Mathur

XG





As far as my memories take me back, I remember having seen Rani Vidya Devi Ji at the annual function and few other occasions, and that too when I was in primary classes. But my mother, Mrs. Ruchi Narang, an ex-MGDian (from 1999 batch), says that she had interacted with Rani Sahiba many times when she used to go to SDMH for her treatment as my mother has been working with SDMH for the last three years. My mother mentioned that even when she came for her treatment, she was very energetic and used to come carrying that flawless smile on her face. She felt very touched when Rani Sahiba asked her about my online classes. Rani Vidya Devi Ji was an intellectual woman. She looked after the school really well after Her Highness Maharani Gayatri Devi Ji. Rani Sahiba possessed a dynamic personality, and the glow on her face just said it all. It's a sad loss for the MGD family that she is not around. She will be missed and always remembered.

Vedanshi Narang

VI F



Elegant and graceful are words synonymous with Rani Vidya Devi Sahiba. She occupied a special place in the heart of every student of M.G.D school. From the conceptualization of the school, its initiation, and its rapid expansion, the lion's share of the credit goes to Rani Sahiba. Her efficiency coupled with calm composure was what we all would like to emulate. She was our pillar of strength.

Aaradhya Kothari VI A



Rani Sahiba was our guiding star who led us towards greater heights. Her warm, magnanimous, gracious and down-to-earth persona will always stay alive within us. May she be blessed with eternal peace!

> Kairen Mahfooz X G

"When I am brave enough to say goodbye I'll use the wings you gave me and away I'll fly."

A shining star for the Jaipur Royal family and the torchbearer for our MGD,

Her absence has created a void. Every passing day, she toiled just to make us, MGDians, proud.

For help, she was never too far,

To make our school what it is today,

She reached for the highest cloud.

A beautiful and calm soul,

Whose demise left our hearts with a deep hole.

And what can I say about her personality,

She was precise, and her work had originality.

Soaring great heights,

She assured that all girls had education rights.

She was an inspiration for many young minds.

She gave education a new direction A direction of fun, enthusiasm, and affection

Uvika Nawalakha VIII C

तुम को ना भूल पाएंगे

बंधे थे हम ऐसी डोर से, जिसे चाहकर भी नहीं छोड़ पाएंगे हम आपका साथ ,

आओगे हर क्षण आप हमें याद ,चाहे ग्रीष्म हो या बरसात ।

लाखों दिलों पर राज़ कर , आपने सबका दिल जीत लिया .

अपने कार्यों में समर्पणता दिखा कर, ओरों के जीवन का मीठा गीत रच दिया।

शिक्षा के दान का पुण्य, आपने जीवन भर कमाया

तभी तो आपको सब ने मन में हैं बसाया। करुणा की थी मूरत और वात्सल्य की सरिता, कुशलता को इनकी देख, सब बन जाते इनका चहिता।

ऐसी पुण्य आत्मा को प्रणाम करु उतना कम है, तभी तो आज उनके जाने से मन में बहुत गम है।

Yasha Ajmera



भीगी हुई आँखे हैं और मन विचलित वो टिमटिमाता हुआ ध्रुव तारा टूट गया जिसने हमें अमावस्या में भी राह दिखाई आज वह कहीं दिखाई नहीं दे रहा

हां हम जानते हैं कि कुछ ही दिन के किराएदार हैं यहां पर, फिर भी यह दुख असहनीय है जिनकी शीतल छाया में हम सुरक्षित महसूस करते थे अब ना वो छाया है ना वृक्ष

सब कुछ बदल गया लेकिन आपकी शालीनता और सौम्य स्वभाव हमेशा हमारे मन में रहेगा, ऐसा लगता है कि विनम्रता अगर इंसान का रूप ले ले तो आप की ही छवि बनेगी

हम कृतज्ञ हैं
बहुत कुछ सीखा है आपसे
आपकी यादों को हमेशा संजो कर रखेंगे
आपको हमेशा मुस्कुरा कर याद करेंगे
शत्-शत् नमन

Deepali Sharma

XII F

Our esteemed Rani Vidya Deviji's efforts to create a conducive environment at MGD have instilled resilience and faith in our lives. I was extremely touched by the generosity and selflessness displayed by our school during the COVID crisis in the form of a fundraiser campaign. It was made possible under the able guidance and support of our beloved former chairperson, Rani Vidya Devi Ji, and our dear Principal ma'am. This campaign helped us become better human beings, making us live up to our motto 'Our Utmost for the Highest'. The memories of Late Rani Vidya Devi Ji will linger in the hearts of students and teachers alike.

Falguni Gupta IX E





Calling all tego ions ! This year we celebrate 7 decades of M.G.D. It is a momentous occasion for us all and we will collaborate it with forp, gaiety, fondness and nostalgia. I wish to invite all of you to join the celebrations in Decorber, details of the events have been sent out earlier 18.6.B. is one of the top girls schools in the country. Neuch of the reputation in the country. Ruch of the reputation is because of our alumni all of whom have taken the ressage of our Founder, Rajvata Gayatri Den to all posts of the world. core, lots collebrate our 70th, birthday in Jaipur the horce of this great institution ! Video Don

A great woman lies at rest
The friend of man,
The friend of truth,
The friend of age,
And guide of youth.
Few hearts like hers
with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so
inform'd;
If there is another world,
she lives in bliss;
If there is none
she made best of this.

"May the winds of heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear How much we love and miss you and wish that you were here"

Gratitude

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