

**Address by CNS on 24 November 2016 at Navy Children School,  
New Delhi**

1. Mrs Ruma Purkayastha, Principal, Navy Children School, Delhi, members of the teaching staff, parents and my dear children. It is indeed an honour for me to be present here today for the Annual Day celebrations of Navy Children School, Delhi.
2. My Dear Children, I have been thoroughly spellbound and inspired with the performances this evening. I congratulate all the students, the ones who performed on the stage, the others who lent their support from behind the stage, the teachers and the support staff for this brilliant show.
3. It is not often that I get a chance to speak to children. I will take this opportunity today to share some of my thoughts and life's lessons with you. Many of these have shaped my life and I hope that they will be helpful to you.
4. I will start by talking about "Habits".
5. The word 'HABIT' is a small, yet very powerful word. My dear children a habit once formed will stay with each of us for long. I want to emphasise to all of you that 'healthy living' is one of the most important habits that we all should embrace. This applies not only to all you wonderful children, but also to all adults.
6. I must admit that the theme of 'KALANJALI' or KALA KI ANJALI (Divine offering to Art) chosen by the school is indeed apt. The way you have showcased 'healthy living' through your show is a novel way of impressing the importance of healthy living to our children and the audience.

7. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, in a world that is getting increasingly fast, networked and technology driven, it is very important that we inculcate right and healthy eating habits. We need to take out time from our many gadgets and get out to play, exercise and get some fresh air into our lungs. The time for developing this as a ‘habit’ in each one of us, is now!

8. Schools are cradles of education and it is natural that many of our habits are formed here. Each one of you works hard with an aim to score good marks. But there are many important lessons that you would learn here that will hold you in good stead for life.

9. Wearing smart uniforms, being punctual, planning and completing work on time, maintaining good hygiene and abiding by the rules are some lessons through your years in school which have become your HABITS. These important life lessons are invaluable throughout your life.

10. Next thing I want to talk to you about is “DREAMS”.

11. They say, ‘yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift - and that is why it is called present’. Young students, while you enjoy your present, each and every one of you should have a Dream and a Vision for the future. Setting goals is the first step. Once you have decided what that dream is going to be, put your heart, soul and all your efforts to achieve that dream.

12. In President Kalam’s words,

“Dreams are not those which come while we are sleeping, but dreams are those which don’t let you sleep before fulfilling them”.

13. After all, if Gandhiji had not dreamt of a free India, our world would have been very different today.

14. The word impossible should not exist in your dictionary and whenever you are faced with a dilemma of whether you can or cannot, your approach should be – Yes, I can. Never let the thoughts of failure deter you from trying new things. After all, success consists of going from one failure to another without losing enthusiasm.

15. Young students, you are the future of our great country. This evening as I see your bright and cheerful faces, the sparkle in your eyes, I am reassured that all of you would grow up to be very responsible citizens of our nation.

16. Always remember that for a nation to become great, each and every citizen has to work hard. Your role in shaping the future of this nation, and carrying forward the dreams of billion plus fellow citizens, would require hard work, dedication, humane approach and character.

17. Each one of you is unique and has potential which if identified correctly and worked on, can become your lifelong strength. I therefore urge all parents and teachers to adopt ways, means and techniques to identify the true potential in each child. No matter what profession you finally pursue in your life, always strive to do your best, you will be able to reach a greater height.

18. We all write our own destiny.I also wish to emphasize that the education that you are receiving here at NCS, Delhi will always remain as your basic foundation. Like every seed needs soil, water and sunlight to germinate and grow into a tree, you too will need this education to blossom into a professional.

19. I would like to suggest that if you have the spirit of adventure in your hearts, if you would like to serve your country with pride on India's land, seas, or in the air, then a career in the Armed Forces may be for you. And, of course, I would particularly recommend the Indian Navy to you!

20. The Indian Navy is not just another job or career; it is a 'way of life'. Personally, I would be delighted if some of you join my wonderful Service. But, It is purely a personal choice; I strongly feel that one should follow his heart; then you wake up each morning, looking forward to the next day, and your job feels like a hobby. That is how I feel.

21. My dear children, you indeed have some very big shoes to fill here at NCS, Delhi. I say this because this NCS is known for its high standards. The award of the 'Best Rolling Trophy' for Humanities stream for Class XII, successful placement of students from this school in colleges across the country, and a perfect result in the Class X exams, are all reflective of NCS, Delhi's excellent academic record. The school's active participation in the Mock United Nations, conduct of the Anchor Festival, and the expanded scope and level of extra-curricular activities, have aided in your all-round development.

22. It is in the fitness of things that I thank the wonderful teachers who are guiding our children. A student may forget many a classmate, but they will never forget a teacher who shows them the path of life. I am indeed thankful to each one of you for shouldering this onerous responsibility.

23. Today, I am reminded of my teachers, whose memory I hold with highest regard and gratitude. They, not only lay the strong foundation on which the children develop their values, beliefs and convictions, but are

also actively involved in causes that benefit the whole nation. I therefore salute all teachers of this school, both past and present, for their excellent nation-building role.

24. I would like NCS Delhi to continue adopting contemporary as well as new teaching practices, so that our students are able to explore all their mental faculties. I am sure this will enable our children to identify and realise their full potential.

25. To the parents, I would request to take that little bit of extra effort and give constructive suggestions. I am certain that the Principal and the School staff are as always receptive. Ladies and Gentleman, I assure you all of my wholehearted support. This school is ‘OUR’ school for ‘OUR’ children. It is our moral duty and obligation to make NCS Delhi the best school that our kids can go to.

26. Children, the spectacular and wonderful show put up today for the annual day has convinced me of your abilities to fulfil your dreams. I am certain a lot of hard work would have gone into preparing and presenting this excellent show this evening.

27. I once again thank the Principal for giving me the opportunity to be present here this evening and for all the hard work that you have put in for this evening, I request the Principal to kindly consider granting you a well-deserved holiday, a Sunday Routine, as we call it in the Navy.

Thank you and Jai Hind.