

Speech by Lt Col Yogendra Singh, Sena Medal, Veteran
Investiture Ceremony at Samsara World School, Sector 37, Greater Noida
on 08 May 2026

(The speech had some interesting anecdotes from the Principal's Army days – they have been removed from here.)

1. Thank you for the introduction. It is my singular honor of speaking to this young, fertile and attentive group.
2. I promise to make most of it and at the same time be short and crisp. *Main aapko batata hun ki maine beete ek saal mein kya dekha aur seekha.*
3. **I present a very poor and disturbing report card –**

Most children are hooked to mobile phones. Cannot eat, cannot sleep, cannot wakeup, cannot study, cannot make friends without it. In short they cannot live without it.

Most children do not read enough – Not just school syllabus, children are not reading anything - novels, short stories, magazines, newspapers.

Most children do not write enough – stories, poems, diaries, or even own answers to English/Sci/SST questions.

Most children do not speak enough – language skills are weak. When speaking one language, it mixes with others.

Most children do not get challenged with real life issues – how to conduct yourself in a bank, or a government office, or how to wash own clothes, or manage own food, or keep your school bag properly organised. In short, children do not have real life skills.



4. **Ab karen kya? What is the solution?**

Ek sasta feature mobile phone use karo. These costly phones have been made by IIT Delhi Computer Science graduates who later went to IIMs and Ivy League colleges. These extremely smart, intelligent, school toppers and hugely paid individuals have only one job. *Ek school ke bachhe ko kaise iss phone me uljha ke rakhen?* You stand absolutely no chance of escaping this device. *Isliye, isko rakho hi mat! Yeh poori nasl ko barbaad kar raha hai* – an entire generation is getting written off!

School ki library ka istemal karo. Padho, read beyond the course books. Read written words from a printed page.

School ke saare events mein participate karo. Debate, extempore, ethics bowl, story writing and reading, quiz competitions, assembly speeches. Leave nothing, volunteer for all, prepare for all, try to participate in all.



Contribute towards school, NCERT magazines. Similarly, write your own speeches. Language skills are the number 1 skill you should possess. And, for your own sake, do not use AI to generate your contribution.

Go for treks with reputed trekking organizations. Generally, the minimum age requirement is 10 years – that is class 4th onwards. Throw your best tantrum at your indulgent and stressed parents and I am certain that you can bend them to your will. Trust me – you will come out better after a week in the mountains without mobile coverage and with strangers from different walks of life. The conversations would enrich you to no end.

5. **Children know this** - every grown up who wants the best for you would keep repeating these words, for there is truth in this. You are privileged to be studying in such a fantastic school. The management, teachers, staff – they are all aligned to make you the best version of yourself. Make most of the opportunities you have.



6. I am absolutely certain that I have not offered anything fresh in my talk. Parents, children and academicians gathered on this solemn and auspicious day already know all of this and more.

7. This is all that I had to offer, thank you to the management, for giving me a mic and a captive audience.

Thanks again.