



## **YAMUNA TRIP**

ON 30th March, 2015, Ms. Datta organised an educational trip to river Yamuna. We all were very excited and were anxiously waiting for this day to arrive. Post assembly we left for our journey. All of us in the bus were too impatient and restless and had a list of questions to be answered. More than halfway through the journey, Ms. Datta reminded us of the presentation we had seen before this trip. She had told us that out of the 22 drains 18 are in Delhi and we were going to witness the dirtiest and smelliest drain; the Najafgarh drain (nala). There couldn't be a better definition of a black hole than the Najafgarh drain. We all were horrified to see that our generation is witnessing such deterioration of our environment and the government is doing nothing about it. Every year there is hue and cry about the cleanliness drive but nothing is done at the ground level. We all hoped for something better but alas our next stop was even a bigger environmental disaster. Welcome to the Wazirpur barrage ; the store house of Delhi's junkyard. Tons of waste; polythene bags, crushed cans and untreated excretion etc. I tell you we are all sitting on an environmental disaster a time bomb waiting to explode Delhi. The levels of pollution that make us sick , where we are breathing toxic and poisonous air everyday thanks to these untreated drains , and failed waste management efforts . We then stopped by the river Yamuna to observe it closely and study its course and features. Rather amused to see the little water body being weighed down by pooja matkas, flowers, grass and muck besides ashes etc. People sure take the challenge of how to pollute a river and choke it to death very seriously, in spite of the huge guarded wired gates they still manage to basketball all wastes and dump the river with their half baked religious ideas , Navratras this time !!!! God! Must be giving them extra credit for throwing all the worshipped flowers and offerings in the river and we are bearing the brunt by falling unwell every now and then and fighting the resistant viruses like swine flu and dengue. It's such a pity that people throw food , clothes etc in a river but don't have the heart to feed the hungry slum children who dive in the river hoping to find food or coins .We shared our disappointment with the local priest who too felt that our government and local authorities are doing nothing to save the Yamuna .

The day came to an end, we journeyed back to school. Contrary to the joyous mood in the morning we travelled back with a heavy heart , unanswered questions as to why do we live in such a degenerative society where nobody does anything to save our nature and respect our environment .But thanks to our teachers we learnt and came back with resolve of making small changes at our end .

-Arshya Gaur 6C