



# ST. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL

A JESUIT CHRISTIAN MINORITY INSTITUTION



## Study Material No 1

**Subject: English (Text)**

**Topic: The Passing Away Of Bapu**

**Class – 10**

**Date: 05.05.20**

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**About the Author:** Nayantara Sahgal was born on May 10, 1927 into one of India's most prominent political families. With her mother Vijayalakshmi Pandit as India's first ambassador to the U.N., her uncle Jawaharlal Nehru as India's first Prime Minister, and her first cousin, Indira Gandhi as India's third Prime Minister, it is not surprising that politics and history inspire and underlie much of her writing. Novels bring out Nayantara Sahgal as a writer with feminist concerns seeking independent existence of women. She sees women as victims of conventional Indian society engaged in their quest for identity. Nayantara Sahgal served as an advisor to Sahitya Akademi's Board for English from 1972 to 1975. She was a member of Verghese Committee for Autonomy to Radio & TV in 1977-78. In 1978, she was member of the Indian delegation to U.N. General Assembly. She has also held the post of Vice-President of People's Union for Civil Liberties. She received the Sinclair Prize (Britain) for fiction in 1985, Sahitya Akademi Award in 1986, and Commonwealth Writers Award (Eurasia) in 1987. She was also a Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, Washington from 1981 to 1982.

**Summary of the Chapter:** The given chapter is an excerpt from Nayantara Sehgal's autobiography. It shows the degree of emptiness created by the sudden death of Gandhiji. People all over the nation were shocked at his demise. Initial silence followed by wild crying at the Birla House, showed the effect of an unexpected loss. Gandhiji's funeral took place the day after his death. Hours in advance people lined the route of the procession. The narrator also walked with other people. It was almost impossible to move in the thick crowd. While walking, she felt how walking with Bapu carried a different meaning. Bapu's ashes were immersed in the Ganges in Allahabad. Back in Delhi, the narrator felt at a loss. But gradually, she got over it and felt proud to bear the banner of Bapuji. The narrator understood that Bapu's India would live on in his children.