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# Qila Quotes

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL TRIANNUAL PUBLICATION



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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this edition of the Qila Quotes. If an error has occurred, please accept our apology and contact the editor at [visheshs@scindia.edu](mailto:visheshs@scindia.edu).



Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat receiving the award



Scindians in Canada



# PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha (Ex - Rn, 1981) inspecting the marching contingents on Independence Day



Rousing welcome to cyclist (centre) Sachin Deva (Ex - Jb, 2000)



Dear Member of The Scindia School fraternity,  
On the auspicious occasion of the 121<sup>st</sup> Founder's Day of the School, I extend a warm welcome to your family and you.

The last three months have been marked by several significant changes, excitement and round the clock work. We've been busy with examinations, sports tournaments, community service initiatives, musical concerts, English and Hindi plays, international trips and the list goes on. You will also see the fruits of the restoration and renovation of the school infrastructure that has been going on at war footing. Our endeavour has been to beautify the campus, and enhance safety and comfort for our children, while ensuring that the pristine charm of the school remains flawless.

Moving on, the world today is changing at a much accelerated rate. With ever-changing technology and globalization, the new world citizen is expected to possess deeper knowledge, a higher paradigm of imagination and an ability to constantly innovate. While we encourage all of the above through a holistic curriculum, we also provide an ethos of higher moral values and principles for our students. We at Scindia believe that core strength of a global Scindian comes from learning experiences which emanate from our rich spiritual and socio-cultural roots. A committed and supportive management, dedicated teachers, caring and co-operative parents blend harmoniously to create the above mentioned spiritual ambience.

Today on the Founder's Day, we are going to celebrate our pupils' hard work and achievements with various awards and recognitions in the presence of the entire Scindian community and of course, the larger-than-life Chief Guest – Mr Kumar Mangalam Birla.

So today, let us reaffirm our faith in all those values which have become our distinguishing mark. Let us also rejoice in the fact that we have been successful in nurturing the dream of our Founding father. Here's wishing you a joyous Founder's Day once again

**Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat**  
Principal, The Scindia School



# EDITORIAL

*In the last few months the rain gods have been rather benevolent; sometimes lashing against this magnificent citadel, which once overlooked the expanse of the great emperors; and sometimes whispering softly into its galleries, sending tiny ripples into the taals on the fort. While the taals are filled with water to the brim; boys, brimming with confidence can be seen playing in the lush green playgrounds of the school. Come October, and the school assumes a different hue. The exams having got over, the foremost thing on everyone's mind is not the result but the Founder's Day and how to make it BIG. The new entrants along with the existing students seem to have got diffused in the Scindian lifestyle through engagement in the kaleidoscope of activities which are happening 24/7. There is boundless excitement on the campus - Late night hobby classes and play practice; preparations for exhibition and warm reception for all guests in general, and more specifically, for the larger-than-life Chief Guest - Mr Kumar Mangalam Birla. Here's wishing everyone an enjoyable 121<sup>st</sup> Founder's Day.*

Editorial Board

## Trending

The 12<sup>th</sup> Education World India School Rankings 2018 - 19 has adjudged The Scindia School as the second best all boys' residential school in the country for the second year in a row. Along with this award, Principal, **Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat** was also felicitated for the thought leadership which has been the guiding force behind the recent success of the School. He received the 'Exceptional Leadership Award' for his contribution in the field of education in general and Scindia in particular.

Global Educators Fest, organized by Scoo News in Udaipur from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018, was a rare platform that brought together the brightest minds from the field of education to ponder on how to leverage the country's illustrious legacy and incorporate global best practices to once again place India on the global map as the world's learning capital. Principal, **Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat** was invited as the key note speaker for the same.

## Faculty

**Mr Dharendra Sharma, Mr Raj Kumar Kapoor, Mr Vishesh Sahai, Ms Raksha Siriah, Ms Supreet Bakshi, Mr Ramesh Sharma and Mr Anil Pathania** received the Global Teacher Award 2018 from AKS Education Private Limited, New Delhi. The award was presented to them on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in an event called 'Global Teacher Congress & Awards 2018'.

## Visitors

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2018, 21 eminent educationists, mostly principals and directors of reputed schools from across

the country visited the fort under the leadership summit program hosted by the school. **Ms Jyotsna Brar**, former Principal - Welham Girls' School and **Dr Harish Chaudhary** an IIT Professor were among the prominent speakers.

**Mr Nayem Qureshi**, a renowned author, film maker and journalist, visited the Fort from 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and shared his knowledge about the history of the Fort with the students of Classes VI, VII, VIII. He visited us again on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September and shared his knowledge on the topic 'Lord Krishna and his connection with Gwalior region' with the students of Classes VI, VII and VIII.

Officers of the Indian Army visited the school on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to interact with students of classes XI and XII. The session was addressed by **Major Mahendra Bisht**, Company Commander of 11 Kumaon Unit. The presentation touched upon interesting facts about the Indian Army. The display of infantry weaponry and equipment and a short Band performance was appreciated by all.

The representatives of the following universities visited the School on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018- University of Roehampton, University of Portsmouth, Aston University, Northumbria University, Kent State University - Ohio; Indian School of Business and Finance, and St. George's University. They interacted with senior classes and guided them for admissions abroad.

Prof **Brad Mackay**, Vice Principal (International Strategy and External Relations) University of St Andrews was with us from August 31<sup>st</sup> - September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018. He interacted with students and staff members both at a personal and

Welcoming Prof Brad Mackay



professional level. He was on the fort to explore how Scindia and St Andrews can forge a symbiotic relationship. Talks are on between the two institutions.

#### Round Square

Seven boys namely, **Varun Awasthi, Varun Gupta, Rohan Khanna, Krishnam Purwar, Aditya Pratap Singh, Aman Gupta and Pranav Gupta** went to attend the Round Square International Conference at Ashbury College, Ottawa, Canada. They were accompanied by **Ms Supreet Bakshi** and **Mr Gopal Chaturvedi**. The theme of the conference was 'Bring your difference'. They also enjoyed a pre-conference tour hosted by St Clement School, Toronto, CA from 22 Sept - 03 October 2018.

#### Workshops

**Ms Niharika Kulshrestha** conducted a workshop on 'Bullying Prevention Activity' for the students of Classes VI to VIII in the Assembly Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The Activity/Workshop covered three pertinent aspects associated with bullying- What is it? What can you do to help? Why is it important to help? The students were also told how not to be a 'passive bystander' and report such cases immediately.

**Mr Jagdish Joshi** and **Ms Nandita Saxena** participated in 'Write Right: A Workshop for a Writer in all of us', designed and conducted by **Ms Ratna Vira**. She is a best-selling author and senior HR professional. The workshop was held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Willow Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. 'Stories can change the world. Begin yours today', was the tag line of the workshop. The workshop introduced the participants to the nuances of writing.

#### Events

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day was celebrated in the School with a lot of fervor and enthusiasm. **Mr Rahul Kulshrestha** (Ex-Rn, 1981) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat welcomed him, and Mr Kulshrestha in his address spoke about how the school taught him to be courageous and to challenge the ordinary and the mundane. Several members of the Batch of 2003 were also present for the march past. **Mr Mohnish Jain** (Ex- Rn, 2003) gave a short speech at the *Astachal* in which he expressed how the school shaped their personalities.

35 residents of the *Sonsa* village visited the school on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. All the support staff of the school along with these visitors and school's teachers deliberated on Gandhian values and sang bhajans which were dear to the father of the nation. Eventually, students served food to all of them as a symbolic exercise of social service and integration.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee Memorial Inter School English Debate and Quiz was held in the School from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018. The final round of the debate took place in the parliamentary format between Dhirubhai

Ambani International School, Mumbai and Daly College, Indore. The motion of the debate was- 'This House (as the rational people of India) believes that no individual is free'. Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai, bagged the winning trophy of the 45<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee Memorial Inter-School English Debate, 2018. The Inter School Quiz 2018 saw the participation of eight schools. Gwalior Glory School, Gwalior, bagged the trophy of the quiz. The quiz was conducted by the Quiz master, **Mr Ajay Poonia** (Ex - Sh, 2006).

A Rajasthani Folk Dance Performance by Bhongar Khan Mangniyar Group was organized in the School under the aegis of Spic Macay on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

The Scindia School I Can Conference 3.0 was conducted in School from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Students of Classes X to XII participated in the Conference. The two days' event consisted of hands on activities such as admaking, movie making, poster making, forming a political party and making a government, proposing CSR projects etc. Two students were awarded a cheque of Rs 12,500 for promoting their brilliant business idea.

On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the students of The Scindia School immersed themselves in a Cleanliness Drive. Though cleanliness and preserving the ecology are long standing traditions of the School, the clarion call by CBSE's '*Swachta hi Seva*' campaign to spread awareness for cleanliness, was well taken. Students not only cleaned their Houses and the backyards, but also the lawns and the administrative block.

This time, House-evenings were a joint affair, meaning that two Houses pooled in their resources and talents and put up the show together. Madhav and Shivaji; Mahadji and Jeevaji and Ranoji and Jayaji Houses entertained the entire community in every possible way. These evenings had everything that one could ask for as an audience - Dance, Skit, Western Music, Classical Orchestra, Individual performances etc. Out of the Box Productions, a Mumbai based theatre group staged an English play titled 'Two Adorable Losers' at the Scindia School on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018. The play revolved around a symbiotic relationship between a student and a teacher- in which eventually both emerged as winners. The actors, DarsheelSafary of 'Taare Zameen Par' and Abhishek Pattnaik brought to stage this beautiful idea through their riveting performance. The two hour play was divided into two acts, which engulfed the audience through and through.

#### Festivals and Celebrations

On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Ganesh Sthapanamarked the arrival of Lord Ganesha. Prayers were offered, followed by prasad distribution. Next day in the evening, staff and students joined the procession of Ganpati and moved towards Suraj Kund for Ganpati Visarjan amid loud festivities, music and dance. Prasad was distributed at Suraj Kund after visarjan.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS



Quiz Master for the platinum Quiz - Mr Ajay Poonia (Ex - Sh, 2006)



Entertaining House evenings





Darsheel Safary and other performers along with students

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Hindi Diwas was celebrated during the morning assembly. Chidghan Prabhu gave a speech and presentation and invited **Mr Manoj Mishra**, HOD Hindi, to recite the poem- *Ram ki shakti puja* by the venerable poet-Suryakant Tripathi Nirala.

**Pastoral care**

Of late there have been several improvements in the pastoral care vertical of the school. To begin with, a new telephone system has been installed in the Houses which permits a student a total of 90 minutes of talk time per month (equivalent of 22.5 minutes per week). This will allow for better communication between the parent and the child. A total of 03 Mobile/ Landline numbers for each student shall be fed into the system, and therefore does not require any human supervision. The telephones in the Houses have been installed in the ratio of 1:15 (one phone per 15 students) approximately, to avoid queues at any given time. Student mess committee and student council both have been revived and students are playing an important role in school administration and in bringing forth students' concerns. A new concept of joint house-evenings has also been introduced for the first time ever. In this system, two houses put the show together. This not only builds better team spirit, it also frees up the school calendar to include other fresh activities. New initiatives have also been taken up to help improve students' spoken English and results are already quite promising; and there's a marked improvement in overall administration, coordination, personalized care and timely action in every regard in all the boarding Houses.

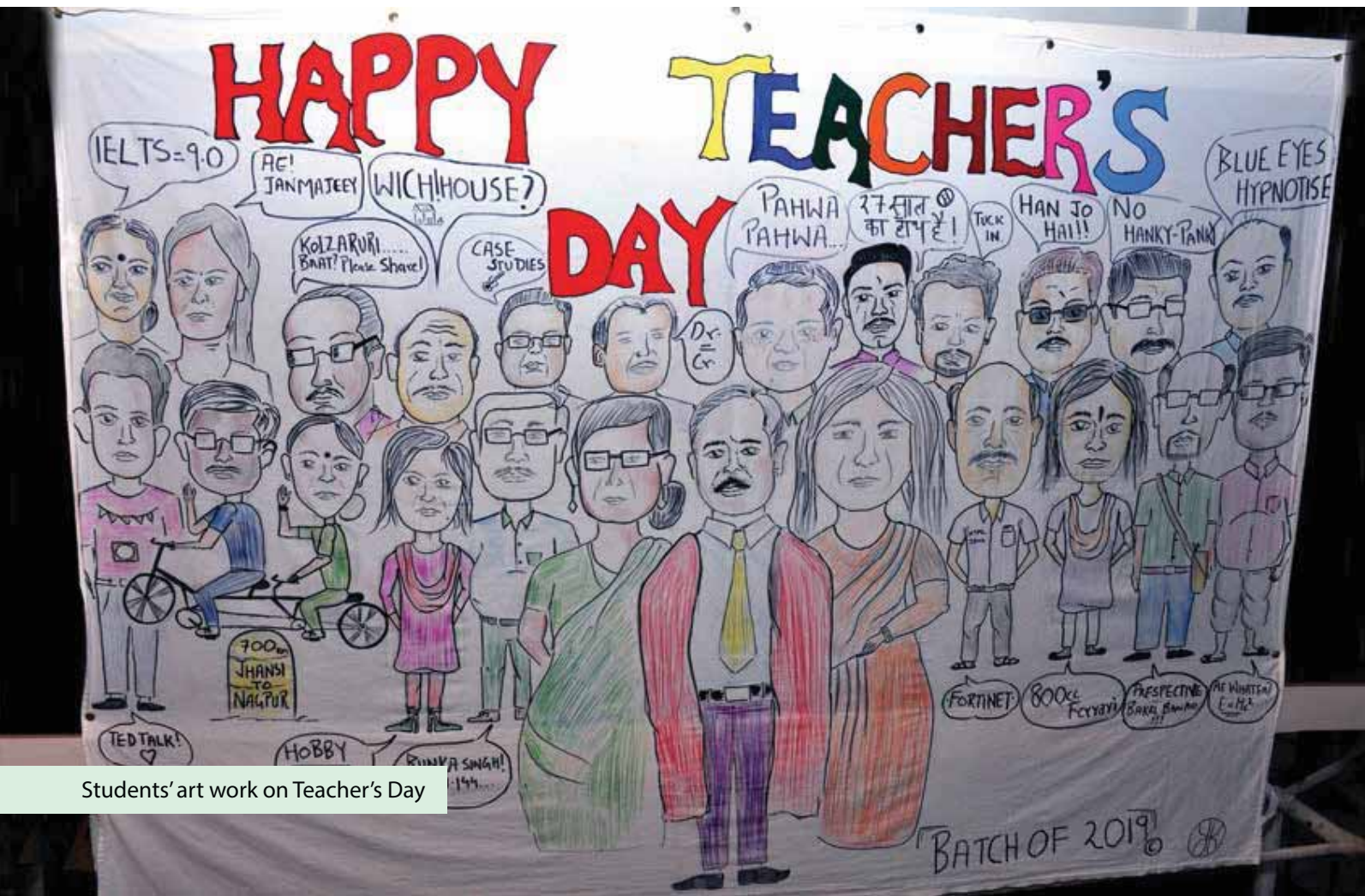
**Academics**

We have concluded our first cycle of periodic assessment.

The performance of the boys has given greater clarity with regard to high achievers and those in need of remediation. The boys' performance was assessed based on the teachers' targets which were set at the beginning of the term. Personalised attention in the form of enrichment and remedial classes has begun so as to help them realise their potential. We also worked out a plan and conducted the Asset exam in September. Asset assessment helped us identify specific weaknesses across subjects for which specific assistance has been provided. First PTM of the term was conducted on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2018. The footfall was impressive and parents were largely satisfied.

**Infrastructure**

In the last few months, we witnessed substantial maintenance and infrastructure related works being done in the school campus at various locations. Kanerkhed House, located in the Junior House campus was fully renovated and handed over for occupation on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2018. Similarly, work was also completed in Nimaji House, and the students moved to the House on 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2018. Rest of the two Houses shall be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019, and the work is going on in full swing. Relaying of road with Polycrrete Pavers has been completed all the way to the VP - Pastoral care's residence in the south block. On date, the same is in progress till the School's guesthouse, after which other side-roads leading to Madhav and Shivaji Houses shall be taken up. This is expected to be completed by the month of December. SOBA House renovation work continues in phases. The civil work shall be completed shortly and the interiors shall be commencing thereafter in collaboration with ITC.



Students' art work on Teacher's Day



Entertaining House-evenings



# OLD BOYS' NEWS

**Mr Pankaj Bhatia (Ex-Vivekanand,1984) has been elevated as a Judge in the Allahabad High Court. He hails from Kanpur, and has been practicing law at Allahabad & Delhi for the last 28 years. We wish him all the very best.**

Manmarziyaan, directed by **Mr Anurag Kashyap** (Ex- Jyotiba, 1989) was released recently. Manmarziyaan began filming in February 2018. It is a love story set in Punjab, India. It premiered at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival and was released in India on 14th September 2018 to positive reviews from critics and audience alike. A special screening of the movie was organized for the Old Boys of the SOBA middle-east on 12<sup>th</sup> September at the Reet Cinemas, Springs, Dubai.

**Dr Kaustubh Harshey** (Ex – Md, 2004) is a practising vitreoretinal surgeon in Jabalpur. He along with his wife, **Dr Chaitali Harshey**, who is a corneal surgeon, has started their new venture, Daksh Netralaya which was inaugurated on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2018. While at School, Kaustubh took interest in music, debating and painting. He was also a School Prefect and the School Quiz Captain. We wish both, all the very best.

He can be contacted at: M : +91 78603 42564 E : kaustubh.harshey@gmail.com

**Dr Pradeep Kapoor** (Ex – Ranoji,1974) has written a book titled –FOSLA - Frustrated One Sided Lovers' Association. He is a pediatrician by profession and is based in Bhopal. He has a distinguished academic record and a number of publications to his credit, which include articles in his area of specialization, short stories and satire. Reading and travelling are his other passions. While at School, he took interest in sports, stage, and literary work. His story was published in the Platinum Jubilee edition of the School Review. He can be contacted at: M : +91 98260 66495 E : p Kapoor10@gmail.com

**Mr Vivek Gangwal** (Ex – Ja, 1988) received the Highest Mobiliser Award by Aditya Birla Capital Group (Select) for 2017 & 2018. He is also their mascot for the Advisory section. While in School, he was a House prefect and Secretary - Business Bee Society. Contact details :M : +91 98200 11398 E : vivek@sobaindia.com

**Dr Shashank Maheshwari** (Ex – Sh,1983) has been elected as a Fellow of the International College of Surgeons (General Surgery) on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 at Varanasi. He is a practising surgeon in Mathura & specializes in general and laproscopic surgery and runs his own 50-bed hospital. He can be contacted on :M : +91 98976 27000 E : drsmaheshwari.mtr@gmail.com

**Mr Sharad Singhi** (Ex – Md, 1985) received an award for the best idea for Control of Allergy and Pollution from a panel of senior doctors at the Allergy Conclave held at Hotel Le Meridian, New Delhi on 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 18. He has done an M.S. from Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi and is now practising as an ENT Surgeon with Max Hospital, Patparganj, New Delhi. While at school, he was in the School Band, and played the Tabla, a hobby which he continues till date. Contact details: M : +91 98110 80970 E : singhisharad@hotmail.com

**Mr Harshawardhan Dhanwatey's** (Ex – Sh,1985) latest film on Human-Tiger conflict has been officially embedded in the US Government's United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website. <https://www.fws.gov/international/articles/minimizing-conflict-between-humans-and-tigers.html>

In continuation of the community service initiatives by the Old Boys, two wheelchairs were donated to Charbagh railway station by SOBA Lucknow recently.

**Mr Nikhil Pradhan** (Ex- Jyotiba, 2003) has got his first book titled – 'Cold Truth' published by Harper Collins. Nikhil was Junior School Captain, Student Editor of the Review, Secretary of the English Debating Society, and School Prefect. He is presently in Bengaluru, associated with an Education start-up, after a long stint in advertising & journalism. Contact details :nikhil@nikhilpradhan.com

**Mr Anurag Sinha** (Ex – Mj, 2000) presented a monologue titled 'Ek Shahar' in our school on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2018. After the monologue he held a no-holds-barred interactive session with the boys through which he offered guidance and counseling to young Scindians. He was also the Chairperson for the final round of the H.H. Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Inter-School Hindi debate. He is professional actor and lives in Mumbai. Contact details: M: +91 98193 06806

Senior diplomat **Mr Vikram Misri** (Ex – Sh, 1981) has been appointed as India's ambassador to China. He is a 1989-batch IFS officer and was posted in Myanmar till recently. We wish him much success in his new role.

**Mr Sachin Deva** (Ex –Jyotiba, 2000) successfully cycled from the highest motorable peak in the world – Khardungla pass (Ladakh) which is situated at a height of 18,350 ft. to down south to Kanyakumari, covering more than 4,000 kms in an attempt to spread awareness about pollution.

Wing Commander (Retd.) **Dr N Khanolkar** (Ex- Ja, 1958) visited the school. Dr Khanolkar organized an Eye Camp in the School on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018. The residents from *Sonsa* village were also tested for eye problems on the second day of the camp.

The Old Boys of four prestigious Schools- Welham Boys' School, Doon School, Mayo College and the host school, The Scindia School played the match entitled-United for Hockey on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018. The trophy was awarded to The Scindia School.

**Dr Nalin Mehta** (Ex - Rn, 1996) Consulting Editor with the Times of India has been promoted as Executive Editor-TOI-Online. Many congratulations!

*Congratulations*



**Anurag Kashyap**

A true Scindian, uncommon in deeds  
born of 'The Common Room'

On the release of



Dr Kaustubh Harshey

Nikhil Pradhan



# STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

The school team participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Karate Warriors All India Championship held at Solan from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The following students won awards in various categories: Individual Bout, Bronze Medal – Sunil Kumar, Mohit Umraiya, Saurabh Gond, and Varun Kapoor. Individual Bout, Gold Medal – Akash Phogat

School participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> Vidya Devi Jindal Art Fest held at Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar from 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Students bagged prizes in different events as mentioned below:

Instrumental Music –	<b>Parth Chandak</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Position) <b>Kaldenla Bhutia</b> (Consolation Prize)
Thermocol Carving –	<b>Uttam Rai and Arya Adhikari</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Position)
Paper Mache –	<b>Yuvraj S. Solanki, Aryan Yadav</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Position)
Acrylic Painting –	<b>Abhey Khanna</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Position)
Art Quiz –	<b>Prince Kumar, Somesh Kumar</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Position)

Seven students of our school shooting team participated in the 28<sup>th</sup> G.V. Mavlanar (pre-national) shooting championship 2018, held at Chennai, from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The results are as follows:

Angad Sahni qualified for the 62<sup>nd</sup> National Shooting Championship and secured VIII position in All India Air Pistol Youth Category

Fatehvir Singh and Memoy Mishra qualified for the 62<sup>nd</sup> National Shooting Championship

Krishna Sharma got a wild card entry for the 62<sup>nd</sup> National Shooting Championship

Shubhamanyu Lahiri, Gaurang Paliwal, Vedanga Nag, Hriday Soni, Harshvardhan Chandel, Irish Rohra, Adwait Sharma and Aryan Yadav participated in the Model United Nations' Conference held at Heritage Girls' School, Udaipur, from 5<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The delegation bagged three best delegate awards, two high commendation, three special mentions and the overall trophy.

17 boys of our school participated in the Inter-School Sahodaya swimming competition held at Neil World School, Morena. The School bagged 2 Gold, 15 Silver and 12 Bronze medals, making a total of 29 medals.

Vedant Choudhary : III- 50m Butterfly Stroke, II- 50m Back Stroke

Aadarsh Gupta : II- 50m Breast stroke, III- 200m Individual Medley

Darshan Singhal : II- 50m Butterfly stroke

Nitya Mehra : II- 50m Freestyle, I- 200m Individual Medley

Parth Thapar : III- 50m Breast stroke, III- 50m Freestyle

Samarjit Nalvade : III- 50m Back stroke

Alankrit Awasthi : I- 50m Breast stroke

Kanul Verma : III- 50m Breast stroke, II- 50m Freestyle

Rakshit Malhotra : III- 50m Butterfly stroke

Prajas Sharma : III- 50m Freestyle, II- 200m Individual Medley

Aaryan Nagpal, Surya Gandra, Mayank Choudhary, Suryansh Gupta : II- 4x50m Freestyle Relay {U-14}

Anmol Mohanka, Alankrit Awasthi, Rakshit Malhotra, Kanul Verma : II- 4x50m Freestyle Relay(U-16)

Nitya Mehra, Samrjit Nalvade, Vedant Choudhary, Darshan Singhal : III- 4x50m Freestyle Relay (U-19)

Our football school team participated in the triangular series held at Mayo college, Ajmer, from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018. Yashkaran Sidhu was awarded the 'Player of the tournament' in the same.

Ten students of Class XI and XII participated in NAEST (National Anveshika Experimental Skill Test) out of which seven students have qualified for the second round. Students are as follows: Karnik Kanojia, Ishaan Agarwal, Pratham Agarwala, Prateek Parihar, Lav Asrani, Himanshu Majooriya and Moksh Jaiswal.

The Australian National Chemistry Quiz was held in the month of August 2017. The following boys qualified with high distinction:

Class X - Eshan Agarwal

Class VII - Krish Gupta and Jayant Gupta

Also, the following boys were awarded with overall excellence award in the same competitive Quiz: -

- 1) Class IX - Akshat Karwa
- 2) Class IX - Aaryan Nagpal

# POETRY BY ALUMNI

## FLYING IN A PLANE

A defined chunk of travel time,  
In the skies as the clocks chime,  
Paid with my million dime,  
Get snack, drink with lime.

All sit in a paid voluntary confinement,  
In less space than a prison requirement,  
With squeezed seats and small toilet,  
In the pressurized cabin most detest.

Sit buckled to the seat with boredom,  
At the mercy of air stewards kingdom,  
Passengers crave for some stimulation,  
From boarding plane to landing station.

Connected by WiFi to Internet,  
In the dry airborne flying jet,  
Can communicate with the world,  
At jet speed with the human herd.

A cramped space most do get,  
After plane landing all forget.  
Traveling fast some get a jet lag,  
Reaching destination collect bag.

Repeat the same flight time & again,  
For work, pleasure with loss or gain.

**Jai Rangappa**

(Ex-Sh, 1960)

## LOOKING BACK

Look back over the roads traveled,  
Watch a whole life fully unraveled,  
A life perhaps fully lived,  
The human race believed.

Perhaps lived the life of misery  
Starved, looked down on poverty,  
In a world with riches and plenty,  
By indifference by rich without pity.

Whatever life lived in the past,  
The Lord will make it very short,  
The rich and the poor will part,  
As an earthly life will soon abort.

Share thy life with one and all,  
With the Lords grace enthrall !'

**Jai Rangappa**

(Ex-Sh, 1960)

## SANCTIMONIOUSLY YOURS

The dome atop a well sculpted temple  
With to and fro of humanity within

Loud ring of bells and chants wafting thru

The minaret blue piercing a deep blue sky  
Atop a squarish white building  
With men in white prostrating below

The muezzin's haunting call from a  
loudspeaker filling the air

A spire with a cross and a belfry  
Majestic upon a gothic structure  
Thru panelled stain glass windows  
I see rows upon rows sitting on the pews

Notes from the pipe organ  
And the choir, rising and falling in melodious pitch

All good in harmony  
For these are the altars of God  
Having foundations deep  
Steeped in the softness of universal love  
As intended with the Word

Why does with sunrise  
Brothers rise against brothers  
And carry their daggers deep into the evening twilight

The shadows of these structures fall wide  
And segregate hearts into dark pockets  
Of me versus them mildly put  
Or worse of burning hatred with bleeding wounds  
Shadows that we could do without

I stood looking at all three in the still of the night  
The minaret, the spire and the dome  
Peacefully they stand and co-exist  
If I were to remove the men from within

**Devendra Bhatnagar**

(Ex-Ja, 1974)



# INTERVIEW

Mr Shivshankar Menon (Ex- Ja, 1964) joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1972 and had a flourishing career as a diplomat. He served as India's Ambassador to Israel and China; High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Pakistan; India's Foreign Secretary; member of India's Atomic Energy Commission; and, in 2010 was appointed as the National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister of India.

Currently, he is a Visiting Professor at Ashoka University, India; Distinguished Fellow of The Brookings Institution, Washington DC; Chairman, Advisory Board, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; Member, Board of Trustees, International Crisis Group; and a Distinguished Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, New York. He was chosen by Foreign Policy magazine as one of the world's top 100 global thinkers in 2010.

He is also the recipient of the Madhav Award, which was conferred upon him as an Old Boy of eminence in the year 2000.

We bring before you a tête-à-tête which our Staff Editor, Mr Vishesh Sahai had with the stylish former diplomat.

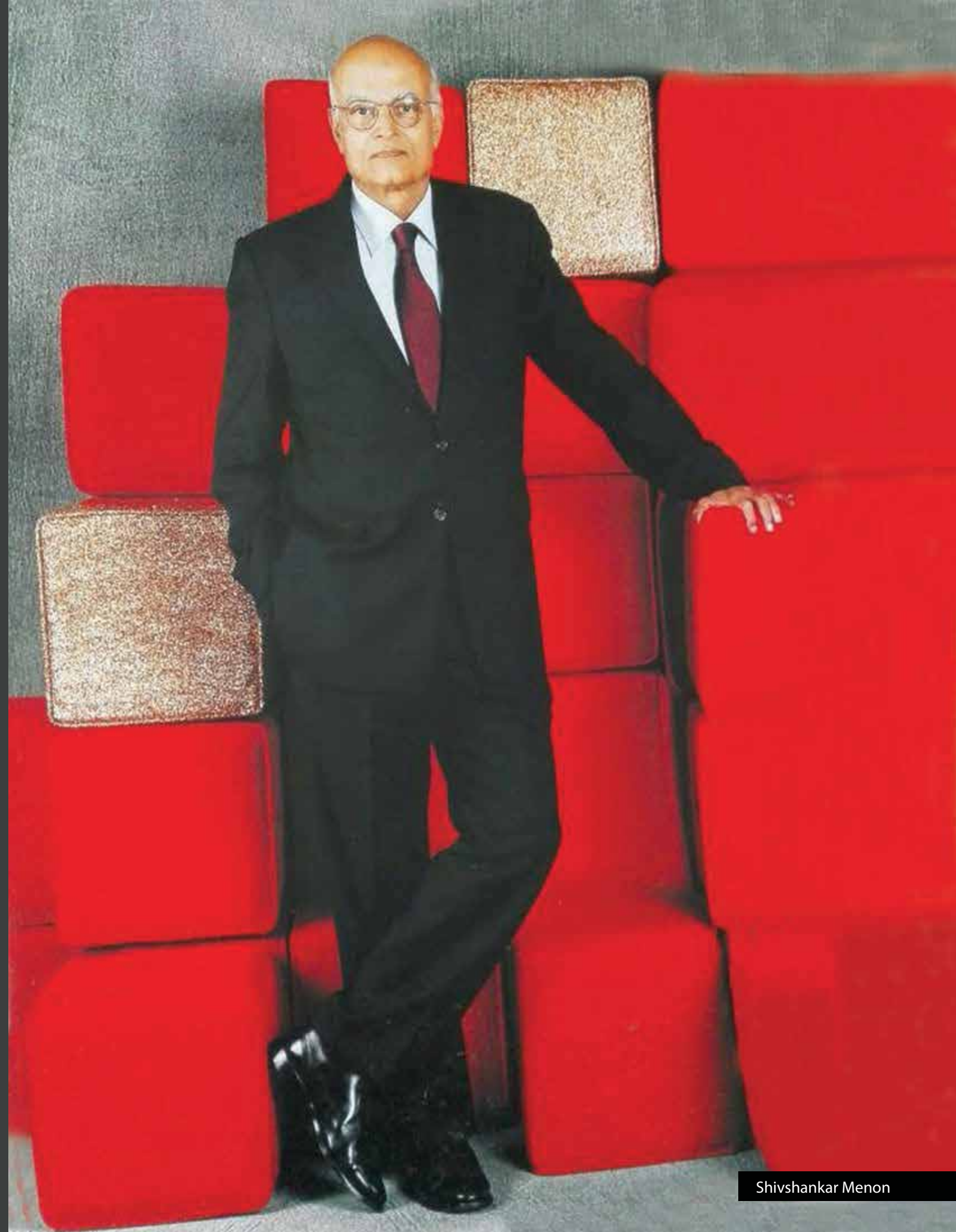
**Q1. You hail from a family of diplomats. Your great-grandfather, Sir C. Sankaran Nair was the president of the Indian National Congress in 1897. Grandfather, Mr K. P. S. Menon (Senior) was India's first Foreign Secretary; your father Mr Parappil Narayana Menon served as India's ambassador to Yugoslavia and your uncle Mr K. P. S. Menon (Junior) was the former Indian ambassador to China. That's a phenomenal lineage, enriched by an amazing environment. In the widely explored nature – nurture debate, which one do you think was predominant in turning you into a career diplomat ?**

A: I actually didn't intend to become a diplomat. I was studying ancient India and China and wanted to do a PhD in history, but also wanted to see China, which was closed to the world in the late sixties and early seventies. So I did the Foreign Service exam with Chinese as one of my subjects, thinking that I would see China and return to academics. Once I tasted the joys of diplomacy, of seeing new places and meeting different people, I was hooked and spent the next forty-two years working for government. Maybe the family dinner table conversations did have an effect on me as a child, even though I was not aware of it.

**Q2. You served as India's Ambassador to Israel and China and as a High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Pakistan. You were also a member of India's Atomic Energy Commission and served India's missions to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. Which of the above did you enjoy the most? And which was the most challenging as well as rewarding out of the above.**

A: Each one was different, so it is hard to compare them. I actually enjoyed them all, because each one had its own challenges. We lived in China thrice: during the Cultural Revolution, during Deng's reforms and Tiananmen, and at the beginning of this century. Each time was like staying in a different country. It was amazing to watch the transformation. Foreign diplomats would probably say the same about India. Multilateral work in Vienna and elsewhere gave one a chance to work with many countries and peoples, to build coalitions of the like-minded on issues that mattered to India, and a good feel for the balance of power in the world. Working with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Atomic Energy Commission in India was a privilege, where you saw how science is a driver of international politics. They were all rewarding. The most challenging, in some ways, was dealing with our neighbours, China, Pakistan and Sri Lanka because the issues with them impinge on our domestic politics. But until recently, most of our political leaders and parties did not play domestic politics with foreign policy when India's national interests were involved and explained to them.

**Q3. Starting from Ottapalam in Palakkad district of Kerala, you've lived in Gwalior, Delhi and various other places. Also, you've travelled far and wide across the globe due to your professional commitments. Having travelled so extensively, what have been your most profound lessons - personally and professionally ?**





A: Scindia taught me that no matter what our different backgrounds and experiences, we could be friends and live together, so long as we did to others what we would like done to ourselves — a useful lesson for a diplomat. As a diplomat, one also learnt that it is not only about winning but about the outcomes you can craft. If you want the other side to implement an agreement, they will only do so if they see some advantage to themselves. If not, they will stop implementing a one-sided agreement the moment they are able to do so. It is possible to be a proud Indian without bragging or boasting, and that is what the world respects.

**Q4. Please share an experience / incident / personality of the school which still stirs you from within.**

A: The thought of Astachal still moves me and motivates me. That moment of reflection, of self consciousness, is something that I treasure and try to practice even today. That meditative moment when you are in touch with your calm inner self is something precious that school gave me.

What I remember most from school is the camaraderie and friends, one of whom is today my brother-in-law! And how good the meals tasted to a hungry boy after games.

**Q5. Would you agree that casteism, communal violence, problems related to urbanization or rootlessness, crimes against women etc. on the social front are dangers perhaps more severe than Pakistan and China. Please suggest how and what Scindians could do to facilitate an authentic social change in India ?**

A: I do feel that the real threats to India are internal. There are no credible external existential threats to India today, unlike the fifties or sixties. And among those internal threats I see the most significant as social violence, as a result of rapid urbanisation, the communalisation of politics, and the growing divide between the haves and have-nots. If we are to build the India of our dreams, we must address these issues, each in our own way within our own lives. Changing society and social habits is the key, as you say, and that takes social activism and awareness by us all.

**Q6. We are excited to know 'The Himalayas' as your hobby along with Classical music. Please tell us something more about the Himalaya hobby of yours. What advice would you give to our young Scindians ?**

'A: I was lucky to spend time in Tibet as a child when my father was posted there in the fifties and was smitten by the mountains. Since then I find the mountains a refuge from work and life in the cities. I was also lucky to be posted in places like Austria, Japan and China which gave me an opportunity to trek in the mountains. But for their sheer magnificence, the Himalayas are hard to beat, and I would urge every one to walk to Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar, or to try the wonderful treks and walks that are now possible all along our northern belt.

**Q7. Will you please share with us your vision as a member of the Board of Governors of The Scindia School ?**

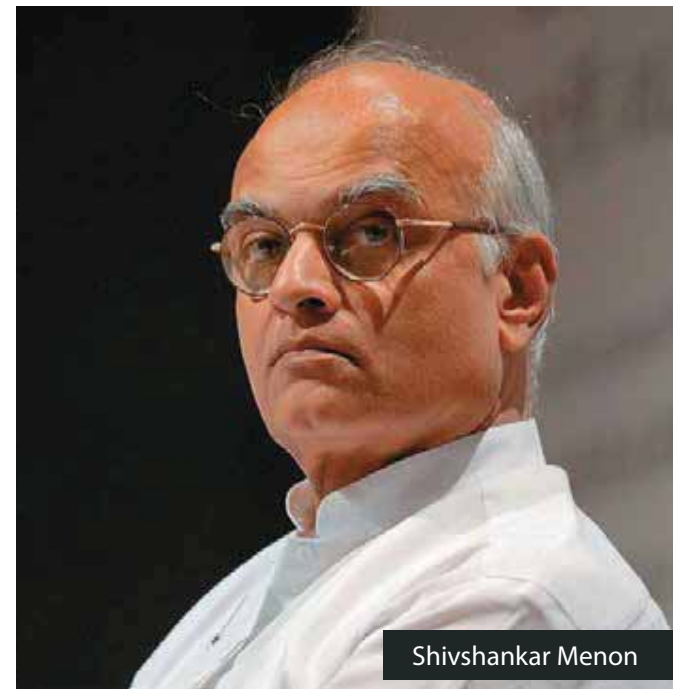
A: I have a simple vision, of Scindia as the best school of its kind in India, maintaining and setting world standards, and producing Indians who have much to be proud of. Our job in the Board is to enable that.

**Q8. Your career and achievements reconfirm the school's brand value, not only because of your name and fame, but for your character, adaptability and drive that is typically Scindian. What are those values which you think helped you succeed in the world and must be re-emphasized in school even today to further build Scindia as an institution ?**

A: My parents sent me to Scindia because it was Indian. They were worried that as a diplomat's child I might lose touch with my roots. And I think they chose well. The value that school taught me which I prize most is to be true to oneself. When in doubt, do what you think is right and good, not what is convenient and profitable. In most cases, that seemed to work out well in my life.

**Q9. You've written a book, namely, 'Choices: Inside the Making of India's Foreign Policy'. Could you please enlighten our budding student writers and editors on the art of writing ?**

A: I think the first rule of writing is to have something to say and to be clear in your own mind what it is. I don't think that any technique such as style or rhetoric or other fancy methods can substitute for the substance of what you have to say. I don't think of myself as a writer, since I assume that writers have a bag of tricks and know the techniques of writing which I do not. Instead, what I try to do is to communicate to others what I find interesting and my enthusiasm for a topic. It helps greatly that my family read my manuscripts and tell me what is wrong and right. So far it seems to work.



Shivshankar Menon

# BEING A DAY-SCHOLAR IN SCINDIA

*In the late nineteenth century when, Richard Pratt founded the first boarding school and almost simultaneously the Roman Catholics and Anglicans started the boarding system for their missionary purposes, not many had realized that they had actually opened up a debate not only in the minds of the parents but also within the student's colloquy ... a debate as quite essential and evergreen as that for and against atheism or that between genders! ... Very often the comparison between the boarders and day-scholars gave way to arguments among themselves as within the social circles too.*

The value-system prevailing between the two was considered different. While day-scholars were considered more privileged, pampered, protected, fortunate and 'lucky', they were also attributed to be with greater freedom and therefore, less discipline. Focus on 'survival' was not something that was equated with the consequences of a day-scholar's life. In contrast, boarders were believed to be in the possession of life-enriching qualities such as discipline, confidence, maturity, independence and speed-decisions. These beliefs became the foundation of the perception that boarders are better equipped to scale the success-ladders of corporate life and that *Espirit de Corps* was likely to be stronger among the boarders than the day-scholars.

Scindia School has been different from other schools where boarders and day-scholars have lived without any comparisons. Let us see how well it applies.

Due to the aforementioned beliefs, admitting their child/children to Scindia School in the capacity of a boarder was a challenging one. To add to the lure of the School was its growing popularity since its inception in 1897 (initially as Sardar School). This growing respectability that it had progressively garnered was essentially due to the success stories of the alumni who went out in the world and excelled in almost all walks of life, something which constitutes the single-most important yard stick for a parent for his child's future. So, securing an admission in a predominantly boarding-format 'Scindia School' was a matter of pride for parents as well as for the students. For the few day-scholars, who were children of the staff-members, the location of the school, relatively isolated and secluded, was like a blessing in disguise as it left them with limited distractions and, thus, per force, had to study

in the same school and thereby compete in the same environment with almost the same conditions.

Within the day-scholars community, the entire school's premises were arbitrarily divided into two primary sections. The portion from the school building to the Principal's bungalow was called 'Rajpath' whereas that on the other side, from the School building till the Suraj Kund and beyond, was 'Janpath'. The day-scholars too, although in meager numbers, were divided into three categories –

1. The Janpath Jacks.
2. The Rajpath Regals
3. The rear barracks

The Janpath Jacks or the day-scholars staying in barracks near the Suraj kund were in higher numbers and had a life of their own. The "duration of discipline" was limited to the classes and games hours. Thereafter, all the rest of the time was at their disposal for any extra-curricular activities that caught their fancy! For instance, when the entire school rested during the after noon hours, they were busy "BER" - hunting and "IMLI :- hunting or sharpening their swimming skills in the Khamba Taal. The elder ones could often be seen with an air gun aiming at any sundry objects and live-forms including the partridges that inhabited the Fort. Their games-time would start after the school's game-time was over... in other words their games-time was an extended one with few or no limits! They would congregate at one ground, make two teams and continue playing until the late hours of dusk when the ball would be reduced to a barely-visible apparition. In there, may lie, the reason why the day-scholars produced some of the finest sportsmen of their times. After a short ill-defined and distracted session at the study-desk, they would, once again, congregate for an evening stroll wherein would be



scheduled the next day's agenda of fun, frolic and pranks.

If it happened to be the ever-endearing weekend, the more courageous ones would plan a late-night swim in the school's swimming pool. They would scale the boundary wall and swim with silent, soundless splashes (an art that only day-scholars had managed to master ... to be silent and stealthy as a shark!!!) lest they be discovered by the dreaded and villainous teachers passing by. A most interesting feature of this nocturnal escapade which certainly deserves 'stark' mention is the sans-swimming-trunk performance in the pool ... to let the water caress every external part of the body.

If the excitement had not ended on Saturday ... Sunday would prove to be the icing on the cake in terms of pleasure and adventure. Some of the consequences of these plucky enterprises were Mr. Packrasy thinking that there were too many monkeys visiting his orange tree or Mr. Joshi always cursing the civets for the attacks on his red-pulp guava tree or Mr. Mishra's never-ending complaints of some 'bad-boys' hurling stones at the 'BER' tree besides his house.

Holi was always a big occasion for them. About 20 days before the festival all the day-scholars would start cutting trees and branches to allow them to dry and use them to build a Holi fire. Then there was the money-collection from teachers to buy sweets to be distributed after the Holi Pooja. Teachers who weren't generous had to pay the price in kind by losing their Bamboo Chick curtains and Moodhaas which added 'surreptitious glamor' in the Holi fire.

The *Surajkund* day-scholars were always occupied. May it be racing between themselves, playing in an organized Rishi Gaalav Football Tournament or exploring the third

exit gate of the fort, ahead of Jahangir Palace.

The Rajpath regals were the discipline donees. After the classes, they would spend afternoons resting and would confine themselves to their study tables after games. If they had to meet the other day-scholars, they would do so on one to one basis. However, it must be mentioned that the life of those day-scholars who lived with their house master parents was little different than that of the boarders... due to the 'tyranny' of the housemaster. The day-scholars who stayed in the rear barracks did seldom gel with the other groups. Beyond the school and sport timings, they were primarily restricted to their group-activities and confined to their barracks.

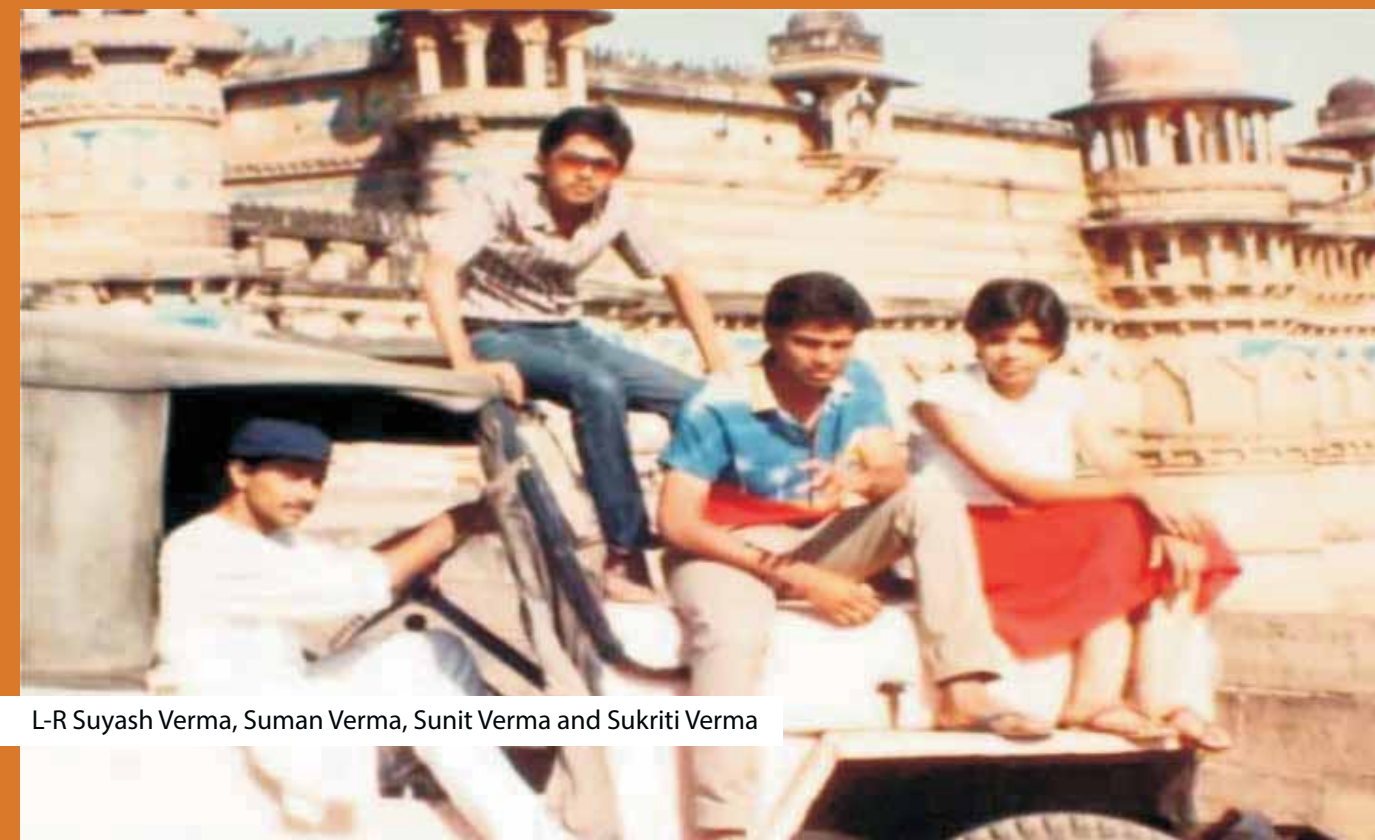
While excelling in sports, day-scholars have been traditionally average or good students from the academic perspective. More over, their prowess of dramatics and debates is also well developed and manifests in another reason for excellence. All this extra-curricular excellence has given way to three Cariappa shield-holders, all of them being from 'Rajpath' which aptly illustrates the underlying importance of discipline for accomplishments such as these.

At Scindia, with the exception of the privilege to conduct nocturnal adventures, most day-scholars have led lives with and akin to the boarders ... what they have probably missed is the mandatory attendance at the *Astachal*.

Long Live the Scindian Day-Scholars !!!

**Hisam Khan** (Ex-Rn, 1977)

School Prefect & Cariappa shield winner



L-R Suyash Verma, Suman Verma, Sunit Verma and Sukriti Verma



Standing L-R Mukul Kapoor, Mr G.K. Kapoor, Mukta Kapoor, Mrs Kapoor, Atul Kapoor



Standing L-R Hisam Khan, Gaurav Garg, Umang Garg, Ehtesham Khan  
Sitting L-R Mr M.H. Khan, Anis Jahan, Mrs Khan, Mrs Garg



# समयांतर

श्री गणपत स्वरूप पाठक सिंधिया विद्यालय के नये सदस्य हैं और अभी चार महीने पहले ही सम्मिलित हुए हैं। आप हिन्दी-संस्कृत के अध्यापक हैं। अनेक सालों से रंगमंच से जुड़े रहे हैं और पिछले दिनों इनकी कविता पुस्तक "छाँव बरगद की" मंजुल पब्लिशिंग हाउस, भोपाल से प्रकाशित हुई है।

प्रस्तुत शृंखला "समयांतर" में एक नई और ताज़ा दृष्टि से सिंधिया स्कूल और उसकी साल-दर-साल चली आ रही परंपराओं का साक्षी बनकर उन्हें ज्यों का त्यों बताने का प्रयास है। आशा है सुधी पाठकों को यह पसंद आएगा।

आपाधापी में मैं क्या भूल रहा हूँ! एक जीवन में रहकर जीवन छोड़ रहा हूँ। ये जो पसारा है, उसी बीच मुझे उतारा है और मैं अपने में लीन सबको कोस रहा हूँ!

गणपति विसर्जन के लिए, जीवाजी सदन छोड़कर मैं तेजी से जा रहा हूँ और उधर पन गिल्लो गिलहरी ट्यूब लाइट पर बैठी कबरी गिलहरी को धता बताकर "कच्च-कच्च-कच्च" चीख रही है। अब उनका खेल देखूँ कि गणपति जी का विसर्जन जो कि कल प्रतिष्ठित हुए थे और आज सूरज कुण्ड में समाधि लेने जा रहे हैं। अब, मुझे मृत हुए तो काफ़ी समय हो गया! ये तो बस संज्ञा शून्य देह विचरती है।

जैसे जैसे कदम आगे की ओर बढ़ते जाते हैं, वैसे वैसे ढोल की डोलती आवाज़ मेरे कानों को उद्वेलित करती जा रही है। समीप जाकर क्या देखता हूँ कि श्री गणेश की सवारी अपने कंधों पर उठाये बालक उन्माद में चले जा रहे हैं! आगे-आगे ग्यारहवीं-बारहवीं के छात्र ढोल-ताशे की थाप पर नाचते और गणपति बप्पा के जयकारे लगाते हुए गणपति को ले जा रहे हैं। ऐसा दृश्य मेरे और बाकी मेरे नये साथियों के लिए बिल्कुल अनूठा और अद्भुत था। कल्पना से परे!

कौल सर भी अपनी कक्षा के छात्रों के साथ पाठशाला के सिंहद्वार से ही नाचते चले आ रहे थे; तो जोश में मैं भी मजे से नाचा। ओह हो, क्या दृश्य था और क्या भक्तिमय माहौल!

छठवीं के बच्चे बड़े कौतूहल से टिमटिमाती आँखों से देख रहे थे। वंशप्रताप, राजवीर और कौस्तुभ को गुलाल में रंगे देखा तो लगता ही नहीं कि इन्होंने अभी दो महीने पहले ही स्कूल में पाँव धरा है। उधर कान्हा शर्मा ने ढोलवाले से ढोल लेकर जो ढमा ढम बजाया है तो सारे नवीं के छात्रों में जोश का सागर उमड़ पड़ा और फिर झूमकर नाचने लगे।

बारहवीं के छात्र और शशिकरण के साथ सभी छात्र प्रतिनिधि गणपति

की सवारी लेकर सूरज कुण्ड के दूसरी ओर चले गए और हम सब लोग इस किनारे पर विसर्जन देखने रुक गए। अध्यापिका रक्षा सीरिया, जावले साहब, संगीता जी और मिश्रा महोदय के साथ दूसरे शिक्षक छात्रों की देखरेख कर रहे थे कि उत्सव भलीभाँति संपन्न हो जाए।

इधर किनारे से आदित्य 'एक दो तीन चार...' का जय कारा लगाता तो प्रतिध्वनि के साथ दूसरे किनारे से वेदांत का लगाया जयघोश "गणपति बप्पा मोर्या" सुनाई पड़ता। जयकारों के बीच सूरजकुण्ड में 'टायटैनिक' पानी को चीरता आगे बढ़ रहा था जिसका नाविक दो ट्यूब की इस नैया को बड़ी बखूबी चलाता हुआ विसर्जन में सहायता के लिए आगे आया।

पूजन के बाद, गजानन को जल समाधि के लिए शिव मंदिर से नीचे सरोवर में उतारा। बहुत वर्षा से सूरज कुण्ड लबालब भरा हुआ था। नमन महोदय ने नाविक को कुछ हिदायत दी; कुछ ऐसा लगा। आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता गणपति को 'टायटैनिक' के सहारे से ससम्मान जल समाधि के लिए उतारा गया। गणपति जी का भार दो ट्यूब की ये 'टायटैनिक' नैया सह न पाई और नाविक संग 'टायटैनिक' उलट गया।

अब जद्दो ज़हद करके नाविक ने अपने को सँभाला। हम सब की जान में जान आई क्योंकि सूरज कुण्ड बहुत गहरा है। बच्चों ने उस घटना के बहुत मजे लिए। सब प्रसाद लेकर उत्सवी उल्लास ले अपने-अपने सदनों को लौट गए।

मैं भी अपनी कहानी को कहने के ढंग के बारे में विचारने लगा और मुख्य पाषाण पथ पर गिलहरियों की लुका छिपी और खदबद दौड़ देखते-देखते जीवाजी सदन पहुँच गया।

यहाँ की गिलहरियाँ पन गिल्लो और कबरी कुछ अधिक ही नटखट हैं। अभी तक उनकी आगा पीछा दौड़ खतम नहीं हुई थी। कभी पन गिल्लो पेड़ पर चक्कर काटते हुए चढ़ती है और फिर घूमकर सीधे

नीचे उतर आती है। कबरीसन्न-सी उसे देखते रह जाती है कि गई किधर!!

जीवाजी से सीधे निकलते ही माधव से होती गई डगर पर मैं बढ़ा चला जाता हूँ, बरबस; अनायास ही! दूर से ऐसा प्रतीत होता है जैसे कोई एक व्यक्ति अस्ताचल में निमग्न है। अग्रसर होता जाता हूँ परन्तु भ्रम नहीं मिटता। गोल घेरे के बीच से गुज़रता हुआ जब अस्ताचल को पहुँच कर देखता हूँ कि गाँधी जी लाठी टेकते कहीं चले जा रहे हैं! वहीं कुछ पल बैठकर जी लेता हूँ!! यूँ कि जीवन तो कुछ बचा नहीं।

यूँ ही बैठे-बैठे, बरबस ही पहली प्रार्थना सभा याद आ जाती है। "उतिष्ठ" के घोष के साथ ही सन्नाटे का पसर जाना। धीरे-धीरे निकट आते कदमों की मंजुल ध्वनि। संस्कृत में वेदों की वाणी और फिर प्रार्थना। बैठते के साथ ही छात्र प्रतिनिधि का विद्यालय का ध्वज लाना और प्राचार्य का कर्तव्य निष्ठा की शपथ दिलाना। और छात्र का सावधान होकर कहना-आय विल!! और फिर अंत में, "छात्र-धर्म का पवित्र मान साथ में लिए.... तुम बढ़ो, तुम बढ़ो, तुम बढ़ो!"

समय चक्र अपने वेग से चलता जाता है और हम भी न जाने किस डोर से बँधे उसके वशीभूत बहते चले जाते हैं।

एक बच्चा, भोजनालय से ठीक बाहर जो मार्ग है, उधर और छात्रों और अध्यापकों के साथ-साथ इतराते हुए चल रहा है।

पारस मोनी, "गुरअंश! आज कल तुम्हारी बहुत शिकायतें मिल रही हैं। बहुत शैतान होते जा रहे हो।"

गुरअंश, "सर! नहीं ऐसा नहीं है।"

पारस मोनी, "ऐसा ही है, गुरअंश। देखो ये ठीक नहीं है। तुम बहुत भले लड़के हो। तुम्हें बिल्कुल शरारतें नहीं करनी है। सिर्फ अपनी पढ़ाई पर ध्यान लगाना है। अब तुम कितनी दूर से आए हो यहाँ पढ़ने। अपने माँ-पिता को ऐसे निराश नहीं करना। ठीक है न! अब बिल्कुल शरारत नहीं करोगे। समझे न!"

अब उसे न जाने क्या सूझता है कि पारस मोनी महोदय की समझाइश ख़त्म होते-होते वहीं सावधान होकर अपने कदम धरती पर पटकते हुए घोष करता है।

"यस सर! आय विल!!"

ये किस्सा मैं न जाने कितनों को सुना चुका हूँ। फिर भी जी नहीं भरता। न मालूम गुरअंश की नटखट मासूमियत है या इननयेचितेयों का सिंधिया स्कूल की परिपाटी और इसकी सौधी मिट्टी को सहज ही आत्मसात् कर लेने का अल्हड़पन है; समझ नहीं पड़ता।

यह अवश्य है कि इस वटवृक्ष में नयी कोंपलें फूटने लगी हैं!

श्री गणपत स्वरूप पाठक  
हिन्दी एवं संस्कृत अध्यापक







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