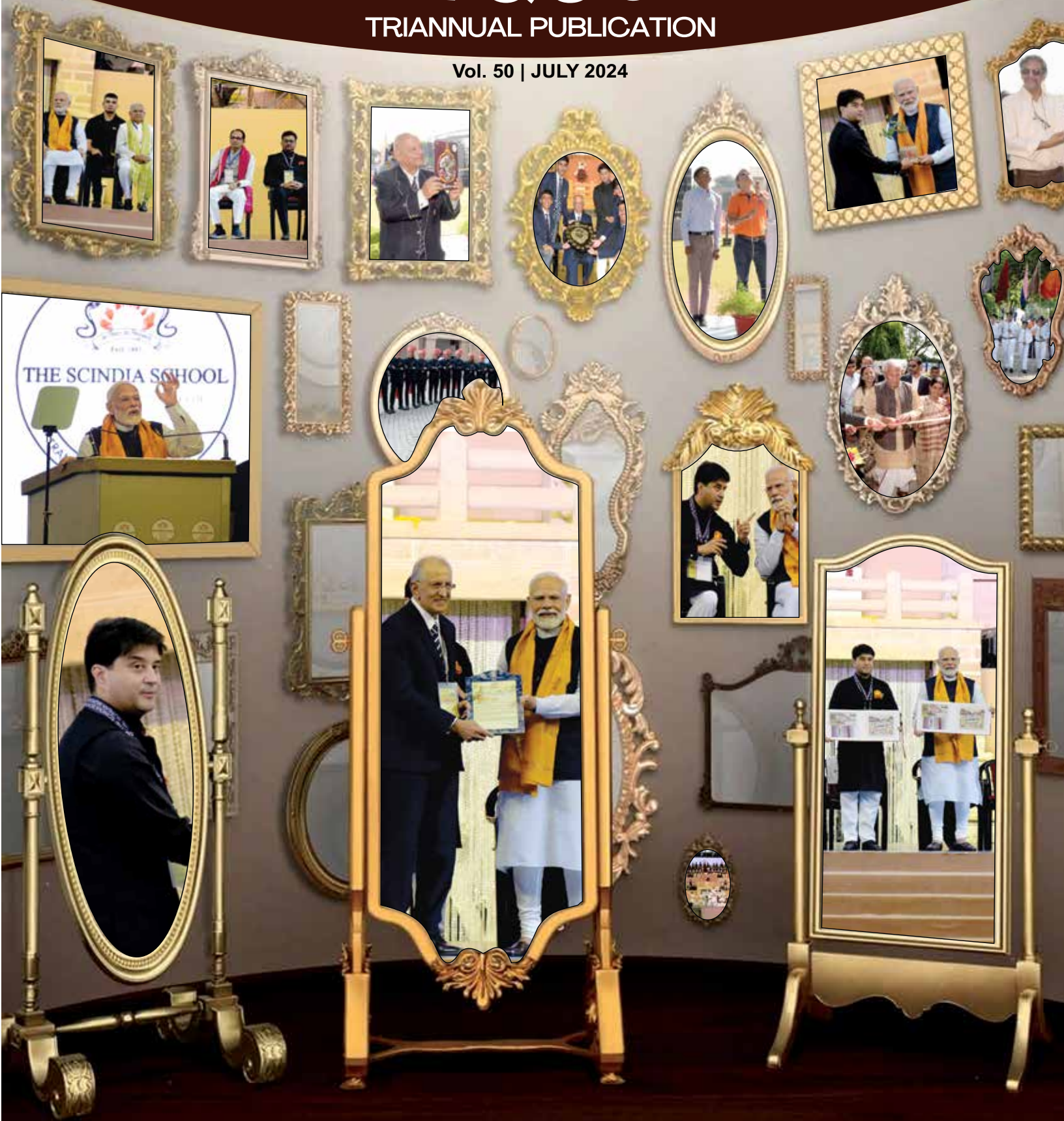


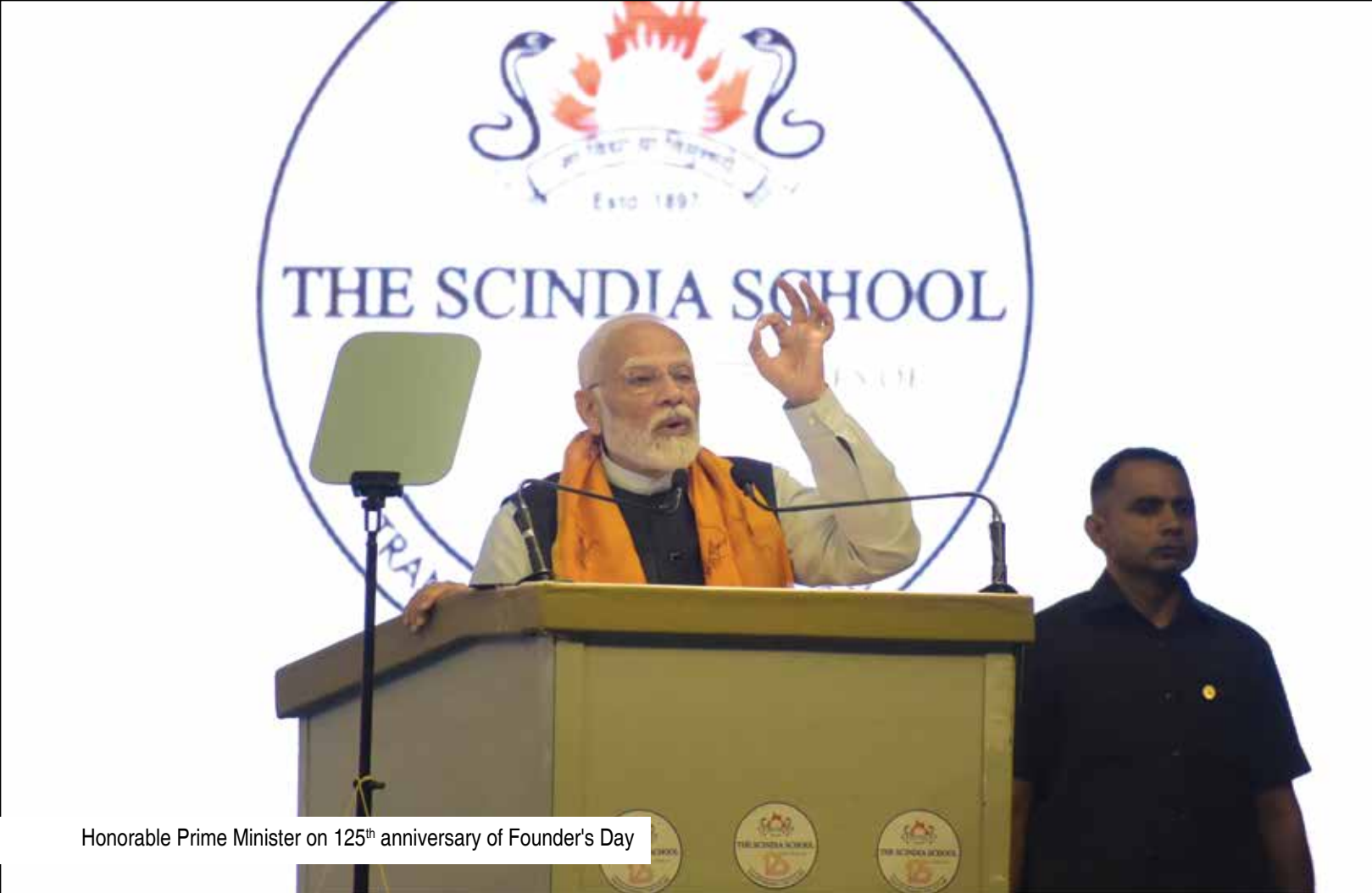


QILA QUOTES

TRIENNIAL PUBLICATION

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Honorable Prime Minister on 125th anniversary of Founder's Day



Release of Postal Stamp

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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 smitat@scindia.edu



Visit of the BoGs to recently built bungalows



Principal and Shivansh Sahu lighting the torch

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

The academic year 2023-24 has drawn to a fruitful close. The Batch of 2024 has left the nest and in the following few months a new set of boys of VI and VII has joined our fold. Many have entered the portals of this hallowed institution and I must say with firm assurance alongwith my team; they have settled well. With the culmination of the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of this great institution, which has sweetened our stay at the Fort now and we will draw such vigour and inspiration from it for all times to come, has ushered in a new felt fondness and belongingness for the work that we do. Passion is one of the key elements in the pivot of education at a boarding school and I feel there is a great responsibility on our shoulders, to not only educate the students but prepare them for life itself, for according to Martin Luther King Jr. - "Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education."

The environs of a residential school offer a challenging yet a progressive environment. The Scindian community all over the world remembers their alma mater fondly for making them drink 'life to the lees'. The Old Boys time and again talk of the numerous opportunities that they got at school which exposed them to numerous learning opportunities. They expanded their horizons and found a new side of themselves which they were not aware of before. I'm sure all would unequivocally agree that we provide our boys with a challenging academic environment emphasizing learning, as well as social and personal growth. The numerous immeasurables which go on to change their lives in ways they could never have imagined is the trait of education imparted at Scindia, unknown to otherwise famed institutions. What I find immensely gratifying is that we teach them to seek quality over mediocrity and to set goals worthy of their highest efforts.

In a world full of materialistic concerns gratitude has gone in for a toss. To revive and revisit this side of the human psyche, we have brought in the 'Inside Out Club' which draws our mind to various forgotten aspects of human existence like gratitude, forgiveness and so on. At the school we teach our students- the appreciation of diversity, the respect for excellence, the opportunity for service to others, and the natural flow of empathy. You must be well aware of the Fort Biosphere and the Wildflower Meadow. Some more innovative thought is going into the everyday running of the school. We have initiated a 'zero hour' which connotes that we switch off the electrical gadgets of the Houses on Sunday for an hour. This is our gift to ecology, which tends to give a kind of sensitiveness to every Scindian to become responsible stewards of the planet. On Tuesdays comes another tribute. We observe a 'no vehicle day' on the campus.

Our endeavour is to produce a generation of well-informed and emotionally sound individuals and I am sanguine that we will continue to unflinchingly achieve this. We won the 19th edition of His Highness Maharaja Madhav Rao Memorial Cricket Tournament and slowly and steadily we have grown into a school that continues to build on its accomplishments.

So, let's walk together and enlighten the path for our protégés!

Ajay Singh
Principal, The Scindia School



Celebratory Song



FIDE rated Chess Tournament

EDITORIAL

The 125th Anniversary of the Founder's Day of the school was celebrated with great splendour on 21 October 2023. The Chief Guest of the programme was Honorable Prime Minister of our country, Shri Narendra Modi. Before the arrival of the Chief Guest, a film on the Scindian sojourn was screened. Upon arrival of the Chief Guest, a contingent of the School Riding Team escorted him and brought him into the school's Academic Block wherein he was greeted by The Scindia School's Brass Band. The Prime Minister was then introduced to the Members of the Board and the School Management Committee, faculty and senior students.

The Prime Minister inspected the exhibits, where he was informed about the various unique features of the School like the Fort Biosphere and the *Astachal*. He also laid the foundation stone of the 'Multipurpose Sports Complex' to be built in the school. The Prime Minister planted a sapling as a memorial. Thereafter, the School Song "*Rishi Galav Ki Tapasthall*" was presented and the special Celebratory Song "*Ham hain Scindian, Scindian*" was sung marking the grand celebration. Thereafter the Garba Geet '*Maadhi*' composed by the Prime Minister was presented by none other than the famous Bollywood Singing Duo- Meet Bros. President, Board of Governors, The Scindia School and Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, **Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia** felicitated the Chief Guest and presented him with a symbolic carving of the *Astachal*. **Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia** also felicitated **Shri Mangu Bhai Patel**, Governor, Madhya Pradesh and **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh. The Principal, **Mr Ajay Singh** felicitated the Minister of Agriculture, **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar**, and Union Minister of Science and Technology, **Shri Jitendra Prasad**. President, Board of Governors, **Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia** expressed the heartfelt gratitude of the Scindian community towards the Chief Guest for his esteemed presence. The special Postal Stamp was released by the Chief Guest and other eminent guests. The first round of awards was given away by the Chief Guest: Governor's Medal- **Gourav Mehra & Jayesh Nitharwal**, Maharaja Jeevaji Rao Scindia Medal- **Mayank Choudhary**, General Efficiency Shield- Ranoji and Mahadji House, **Khurshid Lakdawala** Junior House Efficiency Shield- Dattaji House, and the prestigious Madhav Award- **Shri Ranjan Tandon**. The Madhav Awardee handed the lamp symbolizing the values of the school to the youngest Scindian- **Raghuveer Kochar**. Congratulating The Scindia School on its 125th anniversary, the Chief Guest thanked the School community for giving him the opportunity to become a part of the legacy and history of the school. He said that the history of Gwalior dates back to many years with Rishi Gwalipa and

the music maestro, **Tansen**, **Shrimant Mahadji Scindia**, **Rajmata Vijayraje Scindiaji**, **Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, and **Ustad Amjad Ali Khan**- the city of Gwalior has inspired generations. He gave nine tasks to the students- spreading awareness towards water conservation, spreading awareness in villages towards digital transactions, mission for cleanliness, vocal for local, travel in India first, spreading awareness towards natural farming methods, and handholding at least one financially weak family. The Chief Guest thereafter departed and the programme resumed after a couple of minutes. The awards for the second round were given by **Mr Ranjan Tandon**, the Madhav Awardee- Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia II Medal - **Dev Pratap Bansal**, Mahendra Mishra Memorial Trophy- **Dharmendra Singh**, Umang Mathur Memorial Trophy- **Kushal Agarwal**, R.B. Pawar medal - **Tushar Saini**, Guru Hargovind Singh (Gurudwara) trophy- **Daulat House**, Nepal trophy – **Ranoji House**, and Sam Pitroda Award (2022-23) for the Best Innovative Project- **Tanish Agrawal**.

Astachal, the musical presentation showcased the power of the spiritual waterhead of the school. After the mesmerising presentation, the Senior School Prefect, **Aditya Singh** presented the Vote of Thanks. The magnanimous celebration closed with *Vande Mataram*.

A special treat accompanied the Dinner laid out at the Oval Field and the Scindian Band- PSYX serenaded the audience with their mesmerising tunes.

SOBA Icon Awards 2023 Night was held on 22nd October 2023.

Celebration

The Scindia School celebrated the 75th Republic Day of the Nation on Friday, 26th of January 2024, with great vigour and gusto. The celebration began with the arrival of the Chief Guest, **Mr Kirti Arora** (Ex- Je, 1974).



Kavi Sammelan

Awards

Dainik Bhaskar's School Excellence Awards 2024 recognized The Scindia School for its premier education.

The Scindia School Brass Band has made us proud once again by performing at the 75th NCC Day Celebration of M.P. and Chhattisgarh Directorate from 25-26 November 2023. SOBA Bhopal chapter organized a dinner to honour the achievements of the boys of our brass band.

Round Square

A delegation consisting of six students attended the International Round Square Conference in São Paulo, Brazil, on September 15, 2023.

Extracurricular

10 students participated in Innoventure 2024 held at the Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Pune. The school won the Best Enterprising School Award.

14 students participated in HIXS MUN and brought laurels to the school.

The 6th Scindia School Literature Festival commenced with **Ms Rupa Pai** inaugurating the event, emphasizing the importance of reading. Authors like **Ms Aditi Krishna Kumar** discussed the origin of ideas, **Ms Shabnam Meenawala** shared insights on her novel "Zen," and **Mr Anupam Arunachalam** conducted a cartoon workshop. Sahitya Academy Award winner **Ms Paro Anand** spoke about her book "Being Gandhi." The festival continued with authors **Ms Megha Gupta**, **Mr Sanjeev Sanyal**, **Mr Saksham Garg**, **Ms Nidhi Sharma** -discussing their works. **Ms Rupa Pai** returned for another session on "The Yoga Sutra." The festival showcased diverse literary perspectives, fostering a love for reading.

The Valedictory Assembly for the Batch of 2024 was held at the Open Air Theatre on 14 February 2024.

The Annual House Reports for session 2023-24 were read out on 11th March 2024.

In the 28th JTM Gibson Debates and Quiz 2023, organised by Mayo College, Ajmer, **Arnav Joshi** received the prestigious 'Best Speaker' award.

The Bhabha Scientific Society organised the 'Best out of waste' competition for students of classes VI to VIII.

Inter-House English Elocution for senior group took place in the assembly hall. The theme for the elocution was 'Classical Literature.'

Inter House Middle Group Hindi Debate was held on 6th February.

9 students of The Scindia School Brass Band were awarded with various trophies.

Inter House Junior Group Music Competition was held in the Assembly Hall. Jankoji House emerged as the winner.

28 students participated in IIMUN. The school won the overall Best Delegation Award.

The Junior Group Inter House Hindi Debate was conducted on 27th January 2024.

The Junior Group Inter House GK Quiz was conducted on 28 January 2024.

The Inter House Middle Group English Elocution was held on 20th January 2024.

6 students participated in Model G20 at Mayo College, Ajmer.

11 students participated in the O.P. Jindal Global University Model United Nations..

The Scindia School hosted the IPSC Brass and Pipe Band competition on October 27-28, 2023. The Scindia School won Best Brass Band, and Sainik School, Kapurthala, was the Runner-Up. Rajkumar College, Rajkot, secured Best Pipe Band, with Motilal Nehru School of Sports, Rai, as the Runner-Up. **Vansh Pratap Singh** of The Scindia School and **Tej Pal Singh** of Sainik School, Kapurthala, jointly received the Best Drill and Band Major trophy.

The Sahodaya Inter School Heritage Quiz was conducted at The Scindia School on 1st December 2023. The Scindia School stood first in the quiz.

The first edition of the Quasquicentennial Entrepreneurship Summit was organized by The Scindia School from 27th to 28th November 2023. The Fest included various events such as business quizzes, product pitching contests, exhibitions showcasing innovative products and services, making of advertisement videos, and simulated stock market investments. The Scindia School claimed the overall trophy; however being the host school, it was passed on to the Runners-up team of Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya.

On 6th April, the Geo Scindia team of 15 members conducted a field study along the Sind River in the Bhitwar district of Madhya Pradesh.

The Young CEO Boot Camp, organized by White Canvas India, took place at The Scindia School from 18th to 21st December. Students of grades VII, VIII, IX and XI participated in the camp.

Sports

The Scindia School emerged victorious in the XIX HH Maharaja Madhav Rao Scindia Memorial Cricket Tournament, held from March 28 to April 1, 2024.

In the 18th IPSC Boys Shooting Championship was held at Emerald Heights International in which a team of 14 students represented the school. **Shourya Agarwal** won a silver medal and will play in SGFI Nationals.

The Scindia School hosted its inaugural International FIDE Rated Rapid Open Chess Tournament on 5th and 6th November in collaboration with the MP Chess AD-HOC Committee.



Sports' Banquet



Quasquicentennial Entrepreneurship Summit



Suryodaya IT Fest

Major Kripal Singh Pannu Tennis Open 'A' Group The Open 'A' Group Tennis Championship was conducted from 8th to 12th March 2024. Visith Venkatesh emerged as the winner.

On the Birth Anniversary of H.H. Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia II, a commemorative cricket match was organised by the Sports Department between Principal's XI and Bursar's XI. Principal's XI emerged victorious, winning the match by a margin of 22 runs.

The Junior Group Chess Tournament was held on 26th January 2024.

Half and Full Colours are awarded to 50 players who have shown extraordinary performance in their sport while representing the House or the school in tournaments.

In the Junior Group Cricket tournament Dattaji emerged victorious.

Intra-Set Shooting Championship 2023-24 was conducted on 4th and 11th February 2024.

Cross-country Race was conducted for students.

On 6th March 2024, Sports Banquet was held. The Chief Guest for the same was, **Mr Kulvinder Singh Gill** (Vikram awardee and Secretary General, Basketball Federation of India).

Inter House A Group Hockey Tournament was conducted in December 2023 and January 2024.

The Inter-House B Group Hockey Tournament was conducted from 2nd to 9th February.

Inter House 'A' Group Cricket Tournament The Inter House 'A' Group Cricket Tournament was conducted from 17th to 21st January 2024.

Kishangarh Shield – Triangulars were held in The Scindia School



from 30th January to 2nd February. The Kishangarh Shield was bagged by Daly College, Indore.

The Inter-House Junior Group Hockey Tournament was conducted from 3rd to 7th February.

Adventure

A group of 9 boys, embarked on a remarkable 480-kilometer cycling expedition from Gwalior to Ajmer.

Educational Camps

The students from classes VI and VIII recently embarked on a journey to the National Adventure Institute in Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh.

Class VII in their camps to Tadoba National Park recounted an eye-opening experience that revealed the challenging realities faced by tribal communities.

Class IX embarked on a labour camp journey to *Snehalaya* on the morning of 23rd October 2023.

50 students of class XI along with 4 teacher escorts went for a trekking expedition to Indarhar Pass at Mcleodganj, Dharamshala.

On 23rd February 2024, the students of Class IX-A and IX-C embarked on a journey to '*Amla Anusandhan Kendra*', Tapovan.

On 14th March, students of class X went on a trip to Ranthambore.

Workshops

On 27th January 2024, an eminent author and Old Boy **Mr Nand Kishore Agarwal** (Ex-Jp, 2001), took a workshop on 'The Art of Story Writing and Telling.'

On 16th March 2024, a Gratitude workshop was conducted by the Behavioural Counsellor, **Ms Sangeetha P**, and **Ms Ritu Guglani** for classes VI and VII.

Her Holiness **Maa Purnananda Ji**, a disciple of **Sri Guru Swami Chinmayananda Ji** from the Satyavrat Institute of Subjective Sciences, gave a talk on spirituality.

Mr Sarabjeet Walia and **Ms Kamakshi** from Entendido conducted workshops on teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking etc.

Mindler Sessions were organized in school.

Ms Divya Saxena, Head of Bhopal Campus of 'Canvas France,' visited the school, for an orientation session for students of class XI about the French Universities and Courses.

Ms Sangeetha P. and **Ms Divya Verma** participated in the National Teachers Conference on Guidance and Counselling in Guwahati, Assam.

The Young CEO Boot Camp, organized by White Canvas India, took place at The Scindia School from 18th to 21st December 2023. Students of classes VII, VIII, IX and XI participated in the camp.

Mr Sandeep Agarwal (Ex-Sh, 1980), conducted a session on posture correction which was held at the School's Assembly Hall.

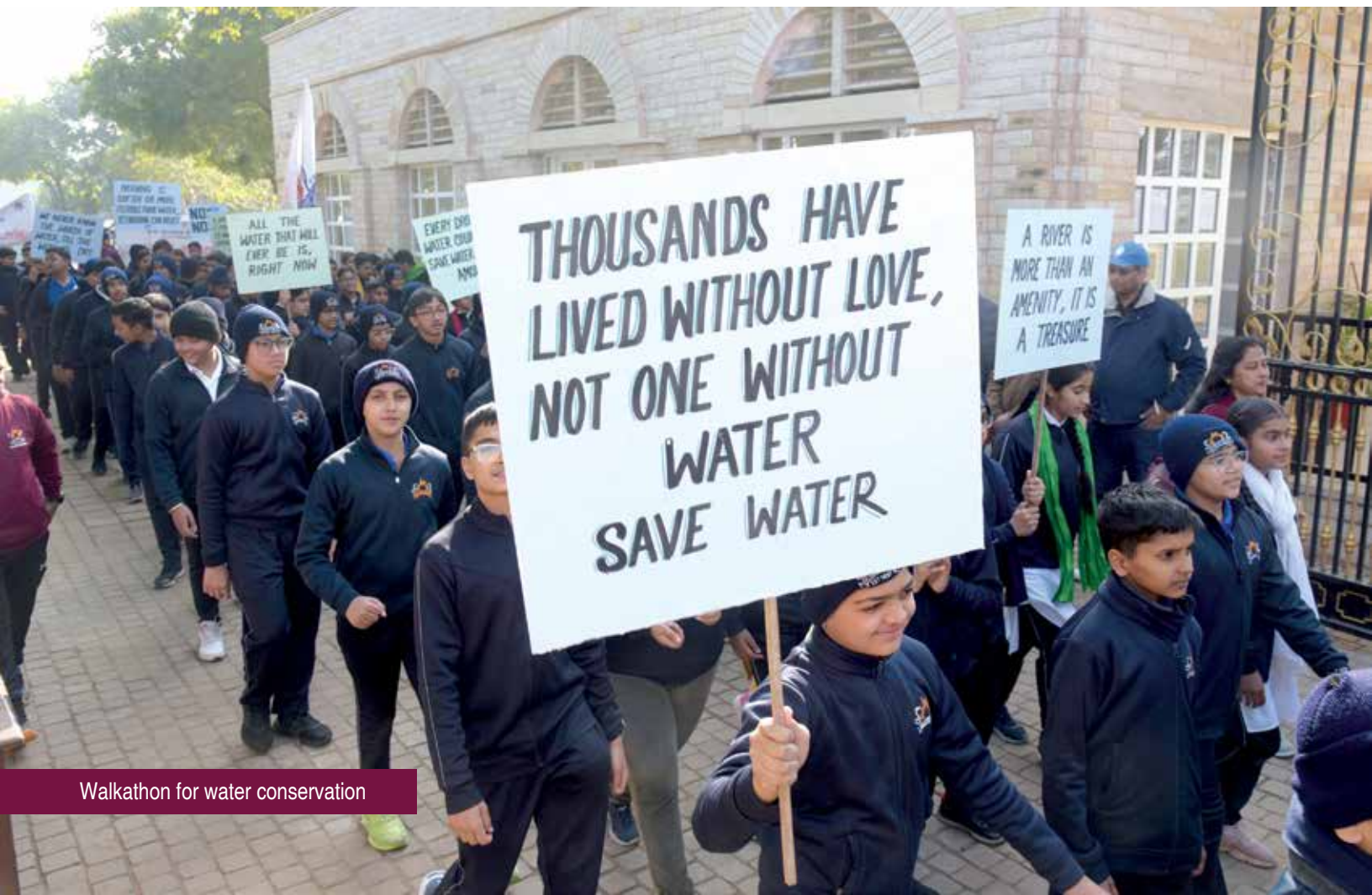
From 22nd to 24th February 2024, a delegation from The Art of Living took workshops for classes VI to VIII in the assembly hall..

On 21st February 2024, **Ms Sangeetha P**, the school's behavioural counsellor, conducted a workshop on Self-esteem.

On 19th January 2024, renowned author **Ms Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan** took an enlightening session on the art of crafting diverse poems.



IPSC Band Competition



Walkathon for water conservation

Exchanges

Beniamino Ravera, an exchange student from Milan, Italy, bid farewell to our school campus on 30th October 2023.

13 German students along with 3 teachers came to our school for an Exchange programme from Deutschland, Germany.

5 students were part of The Dubai International Program with Rochester Institute of Technology held from 22nd to 29th January.

13 students went to Oxford University, Oxford, for participating in the Oxford MUN.

Visits

27 students and 2 teachers, **Mr K S Paware** and **Mr S D Guttewar**, from Lok Biradari Prakalp School visited the school from 5th to 9th November 2023. These students enthusiastically participated in all the activities of the school and on the penultimate day of their stay, gave a captivating display of Mallakhamb.

35 women entrepreneurs from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry visited the school on 21st February 2024.

On 25th January 2024, the Golden Jubilee Batch of 1974 returned to their home away from home. After 50 years the batch relived their days.

Special *Astacha* was held as **Mr Rajiv Kathpalia** visited the school.

The meeting of the Sahodaya Samiti, Gwalior was held in the library of the school on the afternoon of 7th November 2023.

156 students from Sanskriti School, Delhi visited The Scindia School campus for a school tour. The students attended the spiritual water hole of the school, the *Astachal*.

Service

On 21st January 2024, the Scindia School organized the impactful 'Stride for Solutions: Join Water Warriors in Walkathon for Change.' Engaging 120 students, teachers and staff, the event traversed Gwalior's landmarks, spotlighting pressing environmental concerns, particularly water conservation and pollution.

On 4th February 2024, the Social Service League went to *Sonsa* village and organized multiple sporting events. 'Digital Literacy' as



mentioned by the honourable Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, was the primary goal of the League.

New Initiatives

Ms Sangeetha P, the school's behavioural counsellor, took the initiative to start the Inside Out Club.

The much awaited gathering of the Ladies Club was finally organised on 24th February 2024.

Under the Fort Biosphere project, the school has taken steps towards energy conservation with initiatives like 'Zero Hour' and 'Non -Motorised Vehicle Day'.

Farewell

Mr Mustaq Khan Chowdhury and **Mr Dinesh Madhwal** were given farewell by the students of Mahadji and Jayappa House respectively. Both have hung up their boots as they retire from the school this year.

Outreach Programmes

Outreach Programmes were organized in the cities of Rourkela and Bhubhneswar.

MOU with IDP

The School has signed an MOU with IDP. IDP Education India is a wholly owned subsidiary of IDP Education Limited, Australia, a global leader in international education services. The MOU will help the students of The Scindia School to access top overseas universities, eminent scholars and professors. The MOU would also provide professional development opportunities, IELTS training, internship opportunities and Fastlane services to the students to get quick admission offers from Universities.

Welcome and Adieu

We welcomed **Mr Anubhav Anshu** and **Mr Chirag Sharma** in the departments of Humanities and IT respectively, as the new members of the Scindian Faculty.

We bid adieu to **Ms Neha Nautiyal**, House Mother of Jankoji House. We wish her luck in her future endeavours!

New Appointments

Dr Ruchira Chawla and **Mr Shiv Kumar Sharma** have taken over as the Heads of Department of Humanities and Mathematics, respectively. **Mr Perminder Singh Ghai** has taken over Shivaji House as the new Housemaster. **Mr Pawan Kumar Mali** has taken over as the Housemaster of Jankoji House. **Mr Anoop V** is the new Resident Tutor of Jayaji House. **Mr Brijesh Kumar** will look after Jeevaji House as its new Resident Tutor. **Mr Sumit Bhadouria** is the new Resident Tutor of Daulat House. **Ms Sangeetha P.**, **Ms Pratiksha Chhetri** and **Ms Mahvish Panwar** will look after Kanerkhed, Nimaji and Jankoji House, respectively, as Resident Tutors. All the very best!

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Lakshya Arora and Ayaan Shah went to NIIT university for a 4-day completely sponsored personality development workshop. They participated in university lectures, trekking and sports.

Lakshya Tulsian distinguished himself in The Climate Olympiad by achieving a top 100 ranking, securing a spot in the finals.

The Pandit Atmaram Sharma Trophy for Excellence in Hindi was awarded to Vivek Singh.

Jayappa House was awarded the prestigious Narmada Trophy for Middle Group for their exceptional contribution to the Social Service League.

Dr Ruchira G Chawla presented a paper on 'Astachal: A Journey Towards Spiritual Enrichment' at the ICSSR sponsored National Conference on Learning, Department of Education, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Trophy for the year 2023-24 was awarded to Daulat House.

Aadi Dev Goel secured the 9th position in the Aryabhat Astro

Quiz 2023 and was selected to go to the Udaipur and Mount Abu Observatories.

Shayn Rohra, Fravash Vikamsey and Umar Sadik Khan were appointed as captains for Lawn Tennis, Horse Riding and Cricket respectively. Congratulations!

P M Khar award is awarded to the Best Science student of class XII. For the year 2024, it was awarded to Dev Pratap Bansal (Ex-JP, 2024)



ग्वालियर चाँद है!

ग्वालियर चाँद है, कोई टूटता तारा नहीं है,
ग्वालियर खामोश है बस, हारा नहीं है...!!

बहुत शान्त हैं गलियाँ मुरार के संतरों की,
चहल कदमी भी कम है बाड़ा चौक की,

हाँ ये सच है -

ग्वालियर खामोश है, मगर ग्वालियर हारा नहीं है....!!
सच है कि आज फूलबाग का फूल भी मुरझाया हुआ है,

सरस्वती नगर का स्वरूप बहुत गमगीन है,
ग्वालियर ये कर रहा है अपनी हिफाजत के लिये,

ग्वालियर आज चुप है, कल ये फिर तराने गाएगा...!!
ग्वालियर आज खामोश है, मगर

कल ये फिर मुस्कुराएगा.....

डॉ. विजया लाड
(पूर्व छात्रा महादजी, 1965)



OLD BOYS' NEWS

Old Boys' Day was celebrated on 22nd October 2023. The day started with a special Morning Assembly which was attended by a number of Old Boys.

Mr Ranjan Tandon (Ex-Je, 1967) and Mr Ankan Banerjee (Ex-Ja, 1991) hoisted the school flag followed by the speeches of the Old



Her Highness with guests

Boys. After the assembly, the students witnessed a football match between the Old Boys and the current class XII. In the evening, a



SOBA Icon Awards Night

lively and enjoyable interactive session was held for all the alumni in the lawn in front of Jayaji. This session featured engaging activities,



SOBA Icon Awards Night



SOBA Icon Awards Night

musical performances by current students of the school. Our Principal, Mr Ajay Singh, shared his insightful thoughts about the esteemed alumni of the school. After this engaging session, 'The Scindian Icon Awards Night' commenced. The SOBA evening was graced by dignitaries like Maharani Priyadarshini Raje Scindia, Mr Ranjan Tandon, and the Scindian fraternity. They had all gathered to honour the Scindian luminaries. The Madhav Awardee, Mr Ranjan



Principal and Ms Anamika Singh during SOBA Awards Night

Tandon addressed the gathering with his inspiring words. As the owner and President of Libra Advisors LLC, a multi-billion-dollar hedge fund in New York, he shared his gratitude for the solid education and lifelong friendships the school provided. Notably, he was also honored with the M.P. Governor's Medal for the Best Scholar of the Year 1966-67, a testament to his outstanding achievements. Mr Sachin Deva (Ex-Je, 2000), Secretary - SOBA read out the Annual SOBA report. In the end, all the Old Boys danced to their hearts' content on various bollywood songs. It was amazing to see such an energetic and cheerful multitude celebrating the event together.

LOOKING BACK...

Well, it's difficult to sum it all up in one article – a journey of five years that shall always remain close to my heart. But, what's even more difficult is facing and accepting the end of this beautiful journey. What merely started as a step towards a better, holistic education has finally found its destination in a confident, young man ready to use that very education for nation-building and public-service. Yes, my journey from a feeble young boy to the Senior School Prefect in the 125th year at The Scindia School might have come to an end, but it has only prepared me to take on greater challenges ahead.

Like every other Scindian, let me start with the cliché of remembering my first day at Scindia. Not very different from the usual story, my day was filled with initial excitement which later turned into homesickness. However, what set my experience apart was finding solace in helping others around me fight their homesickness. That's how slowly, but eventually, I made friends with the entirety of Kanerkhed House. Things seemed a little too hard that year, with every small mishap upsetting me. But, I continued with spirit and ambition. It is now that I realize that those mishaps and difficulties were what truly forged me.

The experiences of junior school have become nostalgia to me now. I look back to the good and not-so-good memories with equal admiration. Whether it be my role in the freshers' evening play or whether it be my first inter-house debate – every opportunity, every challenge is something that I am grateful for. I remember that after building my foundation in junior school, it was time for me to transition to senior school, which I felt I was not ready for.

However, that transition was interrupted by COVID-19, which shifted everything to an online medium. But, I stayed connected to my house there as well, organizing and attending my house Astachal on MS Teams every day. That was the first time when I missed being physically present in school, missed playing football with my friends, and missed eating ice cream at the Sunday cafeteria with them. Eventually, school reopened, and I was back at school. And now, it was time for grade 10!

What an extraordinary phase of time it was! Our entire batch was staying together and since our board exams were split across two terms, we seemed to care less about the first one which was an all MCQ format. It was during this time that I could truly connect with everyone in my batch. These were some of my best and favorite memories of Scindia.

At the onset of grade 11, where we were relieved to have finally become seniors on one hand, on the other, we could feel the weight of responsibility for the first time. But that is also something that I am eternally grateful for. Learning to manage a house is something which



Aditya Singh with housemates during Holi Celebration

teaches you a lot about how to get things done in the real world as well. With the support of my housemates, I managed to keep things on track. Don't confuse that I only had fun with my batchmates or that it was only limited to my house. I had a lot more fun representing school in inter-school competitions, organizing events, beating others in debates, winning academic and extra-curricular accolades, and running things.

And finally, in grade 12, the time of our appointments arrived, and I was sworn in as the Senior School Prefect. After that, I had even more fun. Founder's Day was a grand success, with Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi gracing the occasion and every event of the school revolving around the theme of the 125th Founder's Day anniversary. The entire year was so well spent that I didn't realize how quickly it came to an end.

Three weeks after leaving school, I can accurately say how much I miss Scindia. Every small detail—from my dorm bed to my cycle rides across the campus—is something I crave right now. And everyone who was a part of this journey has only made it more special. My parents, teachers, batch mates, seniors, juniors, house bhaiyas, school helping staff, and everyone who allowed me to have them in my journey, thank you so much!

Aditya Singh (Ex-Md, 2024)

VIVECK RAI MARWAH ON HIS BOOK-"MIND TRAVELLER"

Viveck Rai Marwah is the author of 'Mind Traveller'. The Old Boy and author visited the Fort during the 6th Scindia Literary Fest. Hereunder he talks about his book in detail.

The book talks about struggle and how it defines and moulds character. The protagonist has a choice, like most of us in life. Either confront or confirm. If you confront, the struggle starts. You adapt, change, and rise.

On the other hand, if you confirm, you succumb, you give up. You become a victim. We can draw on instances from various stages in life; when we look back, we will know. The character reflects all mythological heroes, be it Shri Ram, Shri Krishan or even Guru Gobind Singh. You will notice that they all rose from struggle. They made a selfless choice to fight their circumstances and rise beyond them.

The Yuans, a Mongoloid race, started their first invasion of Tibet around the 12th century AD. A plot by Genghis Khan to invade Tibet was formalized as early as 1206 AD. However, the first invasion finally occurred around 1240 AD into the Tibetan plateau led by a Mongol general named Darkhan Doodra (the antagonist). This forms an intrinsic part of the story. What is of particular interest is that a lot of our Vedic scriptures are stored in Tibet, more specifically, the Kangyur texts, which literally translate to the spoken words of the Buddha. The narrative largely reflects the geographical and spiritual aspects of the land and its culture.

Well, the book draws on specific aspects of the Kangyur text, specifically the Kalachakra Sutra. It's a polysemic term that translates into what we can call the wheel of time. It contains knowledge of cosmology, soteriology, and metaphysics (yoga and tantra). It also talks about a mythic reality whereby cosmic and socio-historical events correspond to the processes in the bodies of individuals. In simple words, it explains how karma influences destiny. Like any other religion, the Buddhist way of life talks about 'life balance,' which is explained in the book. Death is considered a transient phenomenon that exists only as an earthly nuance.

Life still goes on, and while it does, there is always a chance for something more exciting! Yes, in the book, that experience or encounter with the monk changes the protagonist's life. There is one such experience that I was privileged to have had, and it reflects and comes across in the book as Kalimpong, the monk, the teacher.



It's his struggle that generates empathy for others. Well, the one lesson that each one of us can draw from this is never to give in or give up!

Yes, it does open a window. As I explained earlier, I have drawn from the Kalchakra Sutra from the Kangyur texts. As the name signifies, Kal Chakra is about the flow of time for the world and the individual. It's just not about this life but the times and lives gone by. A critical takeaway from this is that no matter how difficult and tempered these times are, they will change! That your karma today can change your life tomorrow.

Its principle is easy to understand: never give up on struggles and have faith in that universal power, by whatever name you call it. Trust your belief and, importantly, your actions today as they shape your tomorrow. The relevance of the Kal Chakra has been weaved into the story in simple words without emphasizing the religious aspect of it all. Its unique narrative contains many elements irresistible to readers: time travel, the paranormal, conspiracy, intrigue, and love make the novel not only inspiring but very entertaining.

Viveck Rai Marwah (Ex-Md, 1984)

SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION : MORNING ASSEMBLY

It is 7:30 am, a row of us stand in front of the house, eyes clamped shut, eyes pressed close. Amen we echo as the prayer ends. My walk to the mess is a moment of reflection.

The pale yellow of the Scindian Prayer book can be seen all around the fort. If not in its physical form it manifests itself in memorised hymns sung during the day. Every verse chosen from a myriad of sources, from Tagore to Tennyson; is reincarnated by the chorus of voices that sing their words everyday. They have become a part of me, a continuous question that I leave at the feet of the universe every day in offering.

Every time a prayer is uttered the world comes to a pause and I am allowed to reflect.

Suddenly I've finished my breakfast the bell rings and a the deafening clamour of chairs being pushed back fills the air as we rise for the prayer. Its soft chorus this time, grateful for everything- from the food we eat, to the air we breathe, to the people we spend time with. The Sanskrit pours over me like warm water, drenching me in an understanding that transcends words. I know exactly what it means without understanding its words.

Dun

The gong sounds and we rise. Assembly will begin with a *shloka* as is tradition. I try to remember which one it is today.

*yad-æmi prasfurān iva bhrthirna dhmātoradrivaha mrdā sukshtra
mrīdeyā āpām madhye tsthivānsam trashnā vidijaritam mridā
sukshatra mrīdeyā*

Which, in English, means:

If like rain clouds in a storm, I drift without purpose, O Lord forgive.

If living as I do in water, thirst for water, O Lord forgive.

I take a deep breath and with new found clarity and conviction take my seat. These words often glide over me, but today they click. I look around knowing that those who once donned the very clothes I wear and sat in this hallowed hall must have had similar epiphanies. I am at once in the past, present, and future.

The principal recites the opening lines of 'Where the Mind is Without Fear' and I am now sure, that the power of prayers lie not in the words themselves but the questions they ignite. Like sparks to kindling, in choice of words, I have been confronted with the most innate of moral and existential questions. And I couldn't have asked for anything else.

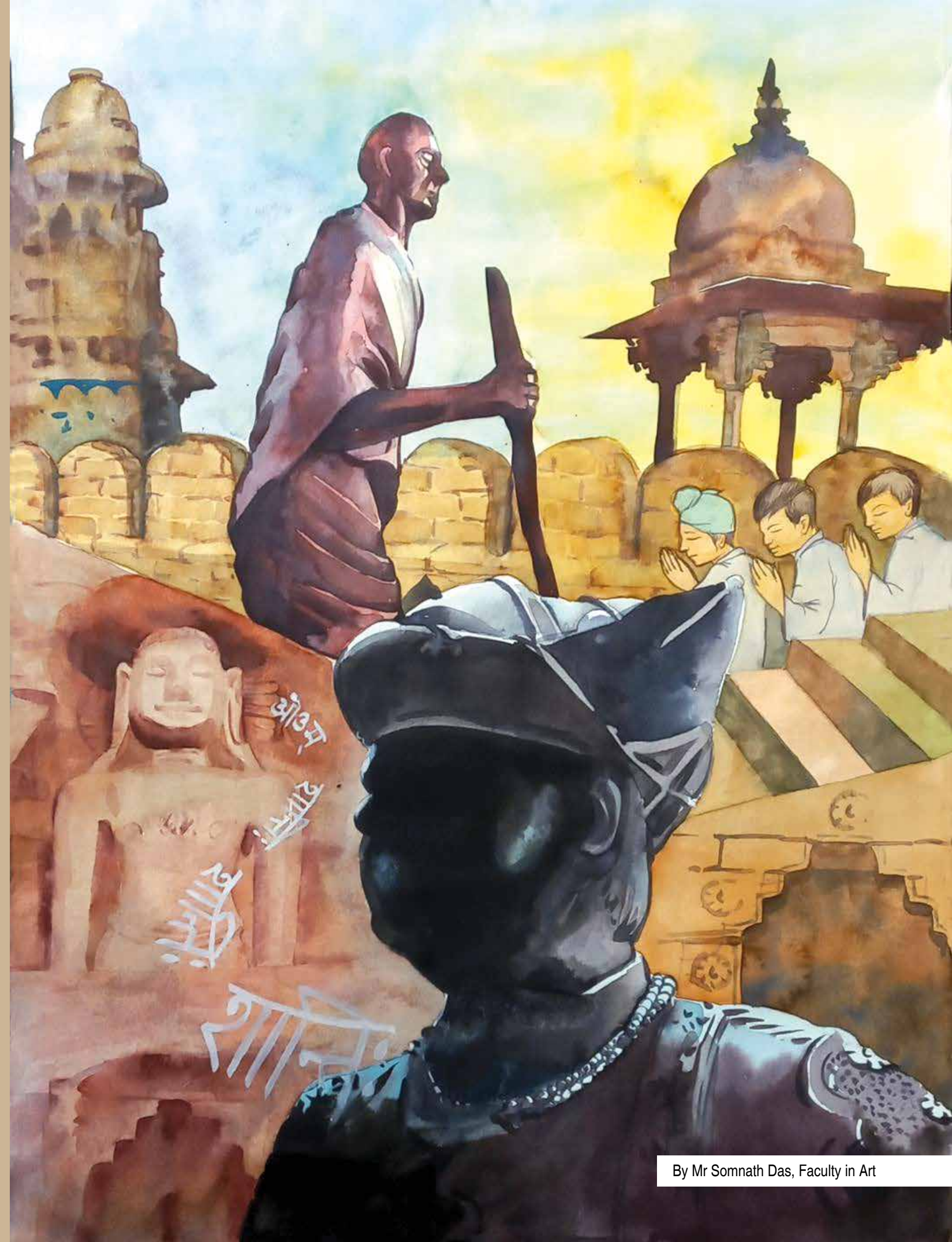
Ayaan Shah, XI-B

THE RAVINES ARE SUBDUED

What fearsome men rode thru
On horses lathered in salty sweat
Dust flying to engulf the very air
Faces covered not in any fear
Eyes alone seen blazing ahead
Glint of sunlight on blue steel
Pride, ego, mistaken wrongs
What was true, imagined or not
Resulting in hardship and death
Fear draped a vast swath of land
As dacoits played Robin Hood

Names they curdle the very blood
Mother's would hush the children
Man Singh, Madho, or Mohan Singh
Hark, they will come; be quiet you
Today the ravines are very quiet
All the brigands aged or laid to rest
Chambal, you still inspire stories
For who knows who will rise again

Mr Devendra Bhatnagar (Ex-Ja, 1974)



समाज-सेवा : एक पुण्य कार्य

परहित सरिस धर्म नहीं भाई, सेवा परमो धर्मः, कार सेवा या सेवा करो, महापुरुषों के इन वचनों ने सेवा कार्य के लिए समाज को सदा ही प्रेरित किया है और यह समाज-सेवा की भावना यदि विद्यालय के स्तर पर प्रारंभ हो तो यह आजीवन साथ रहता है यानि कि व्यक्ति समाज-सेवा के कार्य को धर्म की भाँति निभाता है। प्रत्येक व्यक्ति का कर्तव्य है कि वह समाज के लिए कुछ न कुछ अपना योगदान दे। वह चाहे किसी भी रूप में हो विशेषकर उनके लिए सेवा कार्य अधिक आवश्यक है जो समाज में किसी न किसी प्रकार शोषित होते हैं या जिनके जीवन में बाहरी मदद की आवश्यकता होती है।

समाज-सेवा का अर्थ है अपने आस-पास के जरूरतमंदों की भलाई के लिए निःस्वार्थ भाव से काम करना। यह दूसरों की तकलीफ को कम करने, उनकी जिंदगी को बेहतर बनाने और एक न्यायपूर्ण और समान समाज बनाने में योगदान देने का सच्चा प्रयास है। सिंधिया स्कूल समाज-सेवा के आदर्श सिद्धांतों को अपने हृदय में समेटे हुए है।

इन्हीं बातों को ध्यान में रखकर सिंधिया स्कूल ने 1950 के दशक की शुरुआत में श्री जे.एन. दर, श्री खानोलकर, श्री अग्निहोत्री, श्री राधाशरण, श्री नियोगी और तत्कालीन प्रधानाचार्य श्री के.सी. शुक्ला द्वारा स्थापित सिंधिया समाज-सेवा संघ का उद्देश्य छात्रों को जरूरतमंदों के जीवन का अनुभव कराना, उनके साथ सहानुभूति रखना और समाज सेवा में योगदान करना था।

इसी सिंधिया समाज-सेवा संघ की ओर से सन् 1952 में विद्यालय से करीब 22 किलोमीटर दूर सौसा नामक एक गाँव को गोद लिया और इस गाँव में विकास कार्यों की शुरुआत की। समाज सेवा संघ के उल्लेखनीय कार्यों में से एक सौसा और नाथों का पुरा गाँवों को गोद लेना है, जिसमें कृषि, शिक्षा, बुनियादी ढाँचा आदि में उनके विकास का समावेश है। विभिन्न शिविर जैसे रक्तदान-शिविर, दिव्यांगों के लिए कार्यक्रम, नेत्रदान-शिविर और विभिन्न स्कूलों में दिव्यांगों के लिए कंप्यूटर जागरूकता-कार्यक्रम भी आयोजित किए गए हैं। सौसा के ग्रामीणों के लिए स्कूल द्वारा आयोजित एक नसबंदी शिविर एक और बड़ी सफलता थी।

समाज-सेवा संघ हर साल चार बड़े आयोजन करती है जिसमें गांधी जयंती पर सौसा से श्रमजीवियों और बड़ों के लिए भोज की व्यवस्था करना, बाल-दिवस पर श्रमजीवियों के बच्चों और सरकारी स्कूल के छात्रों के लिए खेल-कूद

का आयोजन करना, गणतंत्र दिवस पर श्रमजीवियों के लिए खेल-कूद का आयोजन व फरवरी के दूसरे सप्ताह में सौसा दिवस का आयोजन करना प्रमुख है।

सर्वप्रथम सौसा गाँव में एक मिडिल स्कूल की स्थापना के साथ ही वहाँ के ग्रामीणों को शिक्षा के प्रति जागरूक करने का कार्य किया। बाद में यह विद्यालय हाई स्कूल तक हो गया जिसमें सिंधिया स्कूल के समाज-सेवा संघ का योगदान अभूतपूर्व था। विद्यालय में वार्षिकोत्सव की तैयारी हो या खेलकूद का महोत्सव सभी कार्यक्रमों में सिंधिया स्कूल के समाज-सेवा संघ के सदस्य छात्र यहाँ आकर श्रमदान करते रहे हैं। आज सौसा विद्यालय के पास खेलने के लिए एक विशाल मैदान भी है जहाँ प्रतिवर्ष खेलकूद के कार्यक्रम आयोजित होते हैं। इस विद्यालय के कई छात्रों ने राष्ट्रीय स्तर तक के खेलों में भाग लिया है।

सिंधिया स्कूल ने जो दूसरा गाँव गोद लिया है वह है नाथों का पूरा अर्थात सँपेरे का गाँव। इस गाँव के अधिकांश लोग साँप नचाकर अपनी रोजी-रोटी चलाते थे परंतु इस कार्य पर प्रतिबंध लगने के बाद ये लोग लगभग बेरोजगार हो गए। इन्हें कहीं-कहीं पर मजदूरी का काम मिलता था, नहीं तो उनके जीवन की स्थिति अत्यंत दयनीय थी। सिंधिया स्कूल में समाज-सेवा संघ ने उनकी स्थिति को ध्यान में रखकर इन्हें इससे बाहर निकालने का बीड़ा उठाया। सर्वप्रथम “राउंड स्क्वायर सर्विस प्रोजेक्ट” के तहत इस गाँव में शौचालय बनवाए गए, फिर दो हैंड पंप लगवाए गए और अंततः उनके गाँव में पक्की सड़कें बनवाई गईं, जिसमें देश-विदेश से आए छात्र-छात्राओं ने सिंधिया स्कूल के छात्रों के साथ मिलकर श्रमदान किया। इनके पास जीवन-यापन के साधन की कमी थी। अतः सिंधिया स्कूल समाज-सेवा संघ के द्वारा

यहाँ के स्त्रियों को कुछ कौशल प्रदान करने की आवश्यकता थी जिससे ये अपनी रोजी-रोटी चला सकें। अतः सिंधिया स्कूल के कलाध्यापकों विशेषकर सुश्री कीर्ति घोष के द्वारा इन्हें सिलाई-कढ़ाई और इसी से संबंधित वस्तुओं के निर्माण का कौशल सिखाया गया, जिसमें रुमाल, तकिया-गिलाफ, टेबल-मैट, डोर-मैट जैसी अन्य वस्तुएँ बनाने की कला सिखाई गई और इसके बाद इन महिलाओं को सिलाई मशीन भी सौंपी गई ताकि वे इस व्यवसाय को आगे बढ़ाकर अपने परिवार का पालन-पोषण कर सकें। वर्तमान में भी स्कूल नाथों का पुरा के ग्रामीणों के लिए रोजगार के अवसर पैदा करने की दिशा में काम कर रहा है। महिलाओं को ‘टाई एंड डाई’ का शिल्प सिखाया जा रहा है। लिंग समानता को भी वार्ता और विचारोत्तेजक नुक्कड़ नाटकों के माध्यम से बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है, और यह पुरुषों के दृष्टिकोण में बदलाव देखकर दिल को छू लेता है। यहाँ एक प्राथमिक विद्यालय भी है जिसमें केवल दो कमरे थे जिससे विद्यार्थियों को परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ता था। सिंधिया स्कूल समाज सेवा संघ ने “राउंड स्क्वायर सर्विस प्रोजेक्ट” के तहत इसमें दो कक्षाओं का निर्माण करवाया। इसके अतिरिक्त समाज सेवा संघ ने विद्यालय के सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के सहयोग से यहाँ के बच्चों को कम्प्यूटर साक्षर बनाने के लिए कई प्रशिक्षण अभियान भी चलाए हैं।

इस वर्ष श्रमदान के लिए हम लोग अहमदनगर में स्थापित एक गैर सरकारी संगठन की ओर से स्थापित एक संस्था जो गरीब बच्चों और समाज के जरूरतमंदों के लिए कार्य करती है, वहाँ हमारे छात्रों ने दान किए गए कपड़ों और अन्य वस्तुओं को छाँटने में उनकी सहायता की, जरूरतमंद लोगों की भलाई में योगदान दिया और एक मानसिक पुनर्वास केंद्र की दीवारों के निर्माण में अपना श्रमदान दिया। इस तरह के सार्थक प्रोजेक्ट का हिस्सा बनना हम सबके लिए एक संतुष्टिदायक अनुभव था। जैसे-जैसे दिन खत्म होने लगता , हम सब लोग उन लोगों के जीवन में सकारात्मक प्रभाव डालने के अवसर के लिए उपलब्धि और कृतज्ञता की भावना के साथ विद्यालय लौट आए।

आइए, एक कदम सिंधिया स्कूल के छात्रों के साथ उठाएँ और समाज सेवा के पावन मार्ग पर चलें। आज हम संकल्प लें कि हम किसी न किसी जरूरतमंद की मदद अवश्य करेंगे। यह निश्चित रूप से हमें एक बेहतर इंसान बनाने में मदद करेगा और हमारे आस-पास के लोगों के जीवन में सकारात्मक बदलाव लाएगा।

अथर्व तिवारी

कक्षा - 9

एक स्मृति

नीम चमेली फूल तुम्हारे,
कितने सुन्दर कितने प्यारे।
बसे हुए हैं आज तलक भी,
मन में हमारे,
मन में हमारे।

रंग है इनका श्वेत,
देते प्यार का ये संदेश।
महक है इतनी प्यारी,
सारा जग ये महका दे रे।

बालों में महके यह,
फूल बनके गजरे।
इनको पाकर जीवन,
सजे और सँवरे।

खड़े हैं इनके वृक्ष,
यूँ राहों में घेरा डाले।
देते हैं जैसे,
सीमा पर प्रहरी पहरे।

बसी हुई हैं यादें कितनी,
इन फूलों में हमारी।
इनकी ही खुशबू से बना,
ये जीवन फूलवारी।

इनका रूप है सबसे सुन्दर,
शोभा इनकी न्यारी।
देख कर इनको जागें,
कितनी स्मृतियाँ प्यारी प्यारी।

बीता बचपन नीम चमेली,
ठंडी छाँव में तुम्हारी।
चले गए हम दूर बहुत,
पर बिछड़ी न याद तुम्हारी।

कितने सुन्दर, तरह तरह के
फूल हैं कितने सारे,
लेकिन....नीम चमेली.....
तुम्हारे फूल हैं.....
सबसे न्यारे!

शुभा गौड़ भारद्वाज
(पूर्व छात्रा रानोजी, 1971)

A TRIBUTE TO LATE SHRI AMEEN SAYANI (EX- JA, 1948, PADMASHRI 1985)

“There was a tremendous unity of all religions in The Scindia School atmosphere; so all these various aspects of religion started growing into my life- loving each other, working together and going ahead towards a great freedom which still lies in my heart. I will salute The Scindia School! Thank you Scindia School; you have done a lot for me.” (Late Mr Ameen Sayani, The Scindia School's Alumni Reminisce the Good Old Days, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKzWD7eX-Jw>)

The radio lost its beloved friend as Mr Ameen Sayani, the voice of the radio in the country passed away at the age of 91. His unique style reached every household in the country, be it rural or urban. The listeners got hooked onto his voice. While we deeply mourn his passing away as an era ends with him, QQ pays a tribute to him with his own words. Given below is the interview of Late Mr Ameen Sayani taken by the then Editor- Ms Puja Pant who very vividly remembered the interview and directed the current editor to it when her help in locating it was sought. The interview was published in Qila Quotes, Volume 3, April 2009.

Ed: Your family was deeply involved with the Indian struggle of Independence. Are there any special moments of those formative years which had a great impact on you?

AS: My parents were close to the great leaders who strove for and ushered in our Independence. I was therefore fortunate, as a child, to have sat at Bharat Pita Gandhiji's feet, stood next to the scintillating Pandit Nehru, heard the orator Maulana Azad at my grandpa's house and had lunch with 'underground' leader Aruna Asaf Ali at our home.

My initial years at Scindia, too, were nationalistically eventful: I stood and saluted the first tricolour flag to be raised on the Fort on 15 August 1947, was shocked and wept at the news of Bapu's assassination, sang Bapu's beloved *bhajans* in the choir led by our Vice Principal Pathak Saheb when we went down to the city along with the urn containing Gandhiji's ashes.

Ed: As a student of The Scindia School did you take active part in debates, dramas and elocutions?

AS: I had injured a kidney before joining Scindia in 1946, and was forbidden all sports for over a year. But that didn't diminish my



fever for participating in other activities. My great love was acting, and there are two related events I still remember:

My first play on the Fort was 'Crimson Coconut', in which I was playing an inebriated waiter. Our dear guru and director- Khanolkar Saheb had accidentally left a half empty beer bottle on a sideboard of the restaurant set, which I mistook for water and took a big gulp. Consequently, I kept slurring and stumbling so realistically that, for many days, the whole school talked about "*kya zabardast acting thi Ameen ki, sharaabi waiter kay role mein!*" (I've hated beer all my life)

Another great guru, Thakar Saheb, announced that the annual school play in 1948 was going to be 'Macbeth'. I pleaded to him for the title role, but was found to be too short and too plump and so the tall, tough and handsome Sami Khan was given the role. Seeing my disappointment Thakar Saheb said, "Look, why don't you be the understudy for all the main characters, and step in if anybody falls ill. So that's what I did, and 'fortunately' Sami fell ill, and I began to rehearse as Macbeth. But alas Sami (who much later became Lt. General in the Army) recovered promptly in a few days and played Macbeth in the final show and I was shunted off to the role of Second Witch!

Ed: How did you get a break in the All India Radio?

AS. My brother Hamid (who was an outstanding broadcaster in English) inducted me into All India Radio Bombay's English programmes when I was just seven. Besides English, the only other language I had really studied was Gujarati. When Hamidbhai was appointed Director of programmes for the Indian agency of Radio Ceylon, I asked him whether he could give me some work, since he was after all my guru. He pointed out that the scope was for only Hindi/Urdu voices, and I was weak in both languages (though I had familiarized myself with written Hindustani).

So, crestfallen, I began attending some of the Hindi recordings. And once, by sheer fluke, I got the job of reading (with much exaggerated fervor) the weekly commercial announcements in a sponsored Hindi amateur singing show for a health drink called Ovaltine. Thereafter, with many helpful kicks from the almighty and my "never say die" spirit of a "naye bharat ka naya naujawan", I kept slowly inching towards my career.

Then in December 1952, I got landed with 'GEETMALA' (because nobody was willing to touch it at the low fee being offered). Fortunately AIR had banned film music by then, and Radio Ceylon was playing it in abundance. So the programme became a hit overnight and I, the poor 'nausikhiya' was soon thrown into undeserved prominence as a 'bangaamaydaar, bulldbaaz Radio Madaari'!

Ed: According to the Wikipedia you are the most imitated announcer even today. What do you have to say about this? Do

you think it is right if some freshers begin with imitation and gradually evolve a style of their own or should they have their own original style right from the beginning?

Though nearly three hundred radio presenters all over the world still copy that old sergeant- major style of mine, I have thankfully mellowed! I don't think anyone (except mimicry artists) can ever make a mark except by developing one's own individual personality and then pouring into one's style. And, particularly for Radio, you need to learn the spoken (not just the written) form of the language you are working in. The aim should always be to communicate accurately, clearly, simply and sincerely. And however much fun and frolic you indulge in, always remember to be 'in sync' with the world and its values.

Ed: You have won numerous awards, the latest being the Padmashri. Which award or recognition do you value the most?

AS: My favourite awards (prior to Padmashri) are:

(a) The Advertising Club Bombay's 'Golden Abby' Award to 'Geetmala', as the 'Best Radio Campaign of the Century'. (The credit should actually have gone to Indian film songs, which were absolutely divine.)

(b) The Indian Society of Advertiser's 'Gold Medal' for my contribution to Advertising through Radio. (What they probably meant that I had sold millions of analgesic to cure the millions of headaches my programmes generated- and if the pills didn't cure them, I sold millions of tubes of toothpastes to help people "grin and bear" those headaches!)

(c) Delhi's Hindi Bhavan's 'Hindi Ratna' Award. (This perplexed me since I had never really studied Hindi! But fortunately they clarified that the trophy was only meant for people from other language streams who had helped in propagating simple Hindi.)

Ed: You have ruled the airwaves and are undeniably the Golden voice of the Indian radio. Could you please share with us your success mantra?

AS: Funnily, it was my initial 'foghorn' voice and 'dramaybaaz' style that seemed to make an impression in the aura of funereal seriousness that AIR had receded into those days. Among the many things that later rescued me from my obnoxiously loud style was Lin Yu Tang's definition of CULTURE (read "decency"): "CULTURE IS THE CIVILIZED EXPRESSION OF ANIMAL INSTINCTS"!

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