



# QILA QUOTES

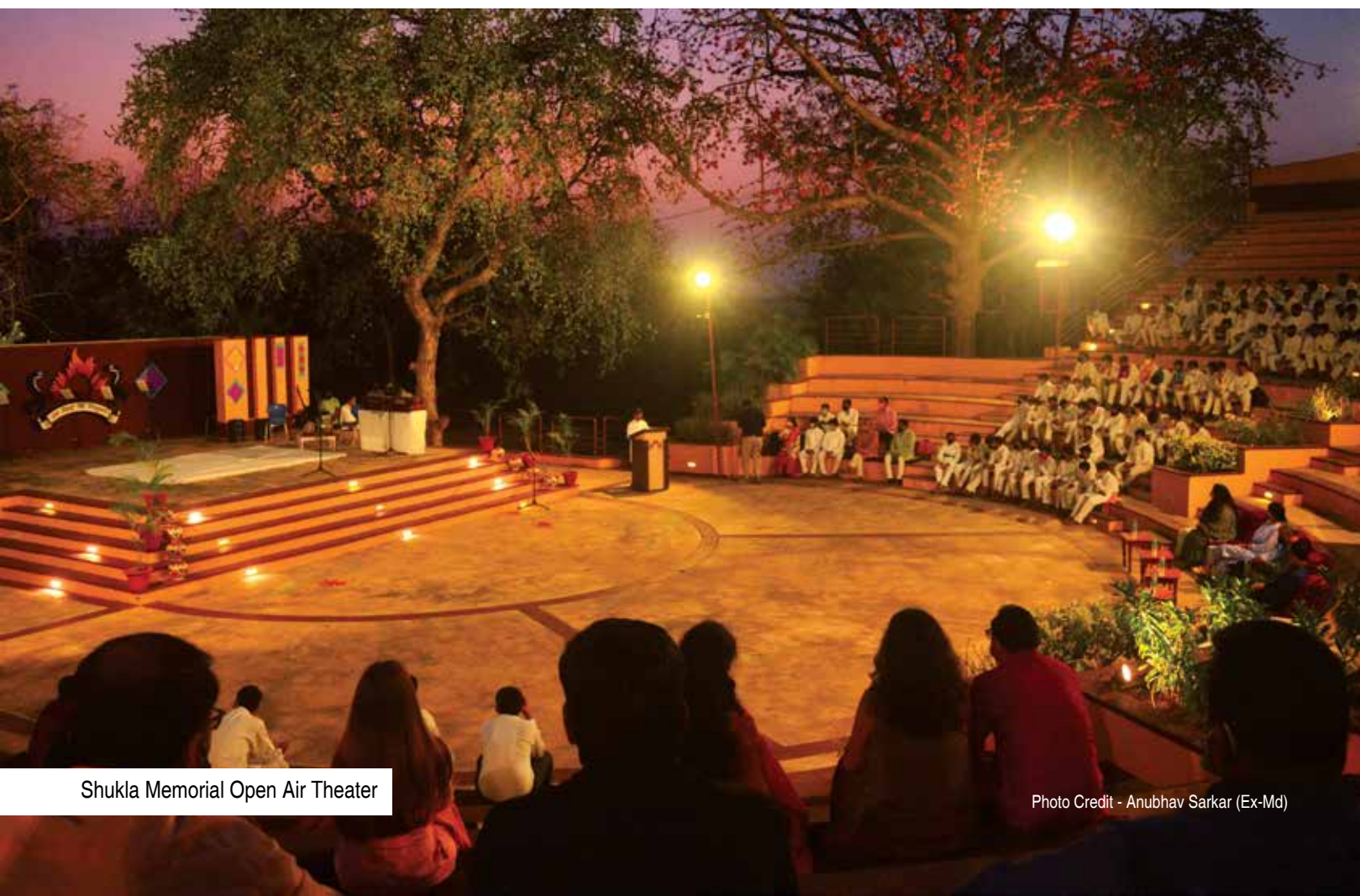
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The Editorial Board



Shukla Memorial Open Air Theater

Photo Credit - Anubhav Sarkar (Ex-Md)

## THE SCINDIA SCHOOL

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Mr Ajay Singh

PAGE NO.

Principal's Message

04

Editorial

6-12

Students' Achievements

13

Old Boys' News

14

Old Boys' Article

15-16

This was once Home, It will always be that  
Atul Takle (Class of 1973)

Student's Article

17-18

Cinema Magic  
Prataksh Sharma, XII

Faculty

19-20

यादें  
मनोज मिश्रा (हिन्दी विभाग)

Old Boys' Poem

20

सिंधिया स्कूल की सुनहरी यादें  
विजेन्द्र वसंत ठोबरे (पूर्व छात्र-2007)

Interview

21-22

Yashraj Nain (Ex-Ja, 2012)

Student's Article

23-24

सह-पाठ्यचर्या गतिविधि: आत्म-प्रकाशन का साधन  
विवेक शर्मा (कक्षा-10)

Faculty

25

NEEV- The Bedrock of my Foundation  
Dr Smita Trivedi (HOD English)

Fort Fables

26

Chyavan Bhargav (Ex-Rn, 1980)

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 [niharikak@scindia.edu](mailto:niharikak@scindia.edu)



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Readers

As we approach our 127<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day, I am filled with pride in our accomplishments. Every issue of Qila Quotes is a testament to the vibrant and transformative life within our school.

The Scindia School is on a winning streak with accolades galore. We have been ranked in the top two of the Best Boys' Residential Schools (Indian Curriculum) category, according to the latest C-fore school rankings. Our students are making us proud with the various awards they have won in the inter-school activities. They continue to excel in various fields—be it academics, sports, arts, or community service. On infrastructural front, we have spruced up the campus with Olympic size swimming pool, renovated basketball and tennis courts, and the newly occupied teachers' villas.

We are in the profession of nurturing young minds through respect, responsibility, and meaningful dialogue. This quote by Bertrand Russell truly aligns with my perspective- "When you want to teach children to think, you begin by treating them seriously when they are little, giving them responsibilities, talking to them candidly, providing privacy and solitude for them, and making them readers and thinkers of significant thoughts from the beginning. That's if you want to teach them to think". Our teachers have been integral in fostering a culture of learning and curiosity, continually innovating in their teaching methodologies. They have been pillars of our success and I am grateful for their efforts.

Our commitment to the environment has never been stronger. The Fort Biosphere Project, encompassing water management, ecology, waste management, and energy conservation initiatives, serves as a validation of our dedication to a sustainable future.

Scindian values and ethos have imbibed in us a sense of purpose and character. I am thankful to the old boys who time and again revisit the school to give back to their alma mater and the society. The SOBIR programme invites them to the school and they come gladly, keen on sharing their expertise and experiences with a bevy of impressionable young learners. While many of them have made their marks in international as well as Indian arena, they remain unwavering in supporting the community.

Our Exchange programmes have been instrumental in shaping our students into future leaders, while also teaching them the power of inclusivity, and giving them the opportunity of real-world learning experiences. Adventure activities have taught generations of Scindians to be resilient and risk takers ready to venture out of their comfort zones.

Looking ahead, we have exciting months in store. Our upcoming events, such as, SCIMUN, IPSC Music Festival, Editor's Conference and Suryodaya IT Fest will offer even more opportunities for our students to thrive, gleam and grow.

**Ajay Singh**  
Principal, The Scindia School





Ganesh Visarjan in Surajkund



Teachers' Day

# EDITORIAL

**"THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED." — MARK TWAIN  
LIFE IS ROOTED IN NEW BEGINNINGS.**

*The new term began on 6<sup>th</sup> July after a long summer break, with students returning in high spirits, refreshed and welcomed by renovated basketball and tennis courts, and a new swimming pool. The rains have been bountiful this year and have transformed the Fort into a vibrant tapestry of greens, oranges, reds, and yellows. The taals are filled to the brim. With new academic initiatives and an enthusiastic group of freshers eager to embrace the Scindian way of life, the promise of an exciting and action-packed term brings an uplifting energy to the campus.*

## Awards

We are proud to announce that The Scindia School has been ranked in the top two of the Best Boys' Residential Schools (Indian Curriculum) category, according to the latest C-fore School Rankings. **Mr Ajay Singh**, Principal, received this prestigious award on behalf of the school on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, in Delhi.

## Celebrations

The Scindia Intra School Model United Nations (SISMUN '24), held on October 1-2, 2024, offered students a platform to engage in debates on global issues. With five committees, delegates enhanced public speaking, negotiation, and critical thinking skills while discussing topics like gender violence and maritime security, fostering leadership and collaboration.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, *Sonsa* villagers were warmly welcomed by the Social Service League. The day featured musical performances and poems on Mahatma Gandhi, followed by a lunch served by students and faculty. The evening *Astachal* reflected Gandhiji's spirit with soulful renditions of '*Vaishnav Jan te*' and '*Raghupati Raghav Rajaram*.'

The IAYP Award Ceremony, held on September 5, 2024, celebrated students' remarkable achievements in adventure sports and community service projects. This year, 22 Bronze and 18 Silver awards were earned, honouring their completion of diverse expeditions and service work.

We celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with joy and devotion, starting with a pooja led by students and teachers to seek Lord Ganesh's blessings. The beautifully adorned idol was later carried to *Surajkund* with rhythmic dhol beats and dances, marking its immersion.

The Teachers' day began with a special morning assembly led by the SSP, followed by students stepping into the role of teachers. Fun activities were organized for the teachers by Class 12, and a meaningful tree plantation marked the afternoon. The evening concluded with a vibrant student-led program and a special dinner for teachers and Class 12.

At Fresher's Evening on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, newcomers captivated the school community with solo drum and keyboard performances, energetic group songs, and dances. The Hindi play '*Panchi ki Aankh*' left everyone in laughter. Principal **Mr Ajay Singh** praised the students' talents and their smooth transition into school life.

Following the flag hoisting and the march past on this Independence Day, the Chief Guest Justice **Pankaj Bhatia**, Principal **Mr Ajay Singh**, along with other esteemed dignitaries, planted saplings near the *Astachal*. The ceremony at the *Astachal* was equally profound, featuring evocative readings on Indian Independence, the chanting of sacred shlokas, and a stirring patriotic song.

The XXV Scholars' Banquet to honour the academic achievers was held on August 4, 2024, in the School Dining Hall. **Mr Ashok Pandey**, Fellow at the Global Peace Foundation, USA, was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

On the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024, freshers enjoyed an informal breakfast with Principal **Mr Ajay Singh**, **Mrs Anamika Singh**, Vice Principal **Ms Smita Chaturvedi**, teachers, and the Pastoral Care team. Held on the Principal's lush lawns, the event featured engaging conversations, student performances, and a delightful meal, warmly welcoming the newcomers.

The Academic Excellence awards for the year 2023-24 were presented to our outstanding students in SMOAT. Principal **Mr Ajay Singh** praised the dedication and hard work of our scholars,



HH Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Hindi Debate

encouraging all students to strive for excellence. He applauded the efforts of the students and their teachers. Based on the grades scored by them, the students signed in the honours book, made it to the Scholars' club, were awarded scholars' tie or Scholars' badge. Subject toppers from class 11 were also honoured.

Amidst pride and enthusiasm, the Investiture Ceremony for the 2024-25 prefects was held at SMOAT. Principal **Mr Ajay Singh** administered the oath, with each prefect pledging their responsibilities with a confident "Yes Sir, I will."

The Scindia School whole heartedly welcomed the new students with the 'Know Your Friends' outing, designed to foster camaraderie and ease the transition into school life.

#### Prefectorial Board and Games Captains 2024-25

17 prefects form the Prefectorial Board this year. Their Names, Designation and Houses are: **Tanish Agrawal**, Senior School Prefect, Daulat; **Kavish Patwari**, School Prefect, Shivaji; **Fravash Vikamsey**, Deputy Senior School Prefect, Madhav; **Vivek Singh**, School Prefect, Daulat; **Keshav Jhunjunwala**, School Prefect, Jayaji; **Saksham Agrawal**, School Prefect, Jayaji; **Aryavardhan Singh Somvanshi**, School Prefect, Jayappa; **Lakshya Arora**, School Prefect- Student Welfare, Jayappa; **Simarjot Singh Malhi**, School Prefect, Jayappa; **Rohil Sharma**, School Prefect- Cultural Activities, Jeevaji; **Ujwal Gupta**, School Prefect, Madhav; **Rohan Asrani**, School Prefect, Ranoji; **Saksham Sameer Kubde**, School Prefect, Ranoji; **Harshvardhan Himanshu Wadher**, School Prefect, Shivaji; **Sameep Mody**, School Prefect- Academics, Shivaji; **Shaurya Prakash**, School Prefect, Shivaji.

The school Games Captains for the year are as follows: Athletics- Vansh Mehra, Basketball - **Vaibhav Agrawal**; Cricket - **Harsh Upadhyay**; Chess - **Rohan Asrani**; Cross-country- **Saksham Agarwal**; Football- **Jahan Nagpal**; Horse Riding- **Fravash R Vikamsey**; Hockey - **Kavin Singh Chatwal**; Tennis - **Utkarsh Gupta**; Swimming- **Arush Agrawal**; Shooting- **Saksham Sameep Kubde**; Squash- **Tanush Somani**; Table-Tennis **Devansh Agarwal**.

#### Extra Curricular

The 23<sup>rd</sup> HH Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Inter-School Hindi Debate and inaugural Pi Summit concluded on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at The Scindia School. Fifteen prestigious schools participated in debates, storytelling, and a math quiz. Scindia School won the debate trophy, while Scindia and Vasant Valley School shared the Pi Quiz title.

Our students shone at the IPSC IT Fest 2024, held at LK Singhania School, Gotan, Rajasthan. **Uday Ahuja** and **Rehan Mansuri** claimed 1<sup>st</sup> place in Website Designing, while **Rohan Asrani** and **Keshav Jhunjunwala** secured 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the IT Quest Quiz.

**Harshit Raj Srivastava** conducted an engaging debating workshop for our students under the aegis of Hindi Debating Society, where

he covered the various types of debates and the intricacies of effectively presenting arguments.

On the occasion of Hindi Diwas, our students showcased their talent at the 'Srijari' festival organized by LAHS, Gwalior. From the captivating performance of 'Three Thugs and a Brahmin' from *Panchatantra*, which earned them the first prize, to **Raghuvveer Kochhar's** outstanding acting, our students truly left a lasting impact. In the debate competition, we continued our winning streak with **Yuvraj Sethia** bagging the Best Speaker award.

The senior Inter-House Instrumental Orchestra Competition was a grand showcase of musical talent, where students brought movie magic to life by performing the signature tunes of iconic films like Inception, Avengers, Rocky Balboa, and Harry Potter. Jayappa House & Jeevaji House were the joint winners, followed by Shivaji House in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Jayaji in the 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The Inter-House Duet Singing Competition at Scindia School celebrated the theme of Dosti with powerful performances from all the houses with beautiful songs like 'apni to yaari atrangi re', 'yaron dosti badi hi haseen hal' and 'tera yaar hoon main', to name a few. Jayappa house won the competition.

The Quasquicentennial Entrepreneurship Summit was inaugurated on August 25, 2024. The event featured an auction, and the Brainy Bucks quiz, won by Bhavans Vidyalaya, Chandigarh. Quest 2024 concluded with The Scindia School winning the overall title. However, in a gesture of sportsmanship, the trophy was awarded to the runner-up, Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya .

The 51<sup>st</sup> All India Platinum Jubilee Memorial Inter-School Quiz Competition took place in the assembly hall on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The quizmaster, **Mr Ajay Poonia**, led a thrilling contest of wits and knowledge among teams from ten schools. The Scindia School team, comprising **Rohil Sharma** and **Rohan Asrani**, emerged as the winners, while the team from Vasant Valley School secured the runner-up position.

Ten schools participated in the 51<sup>st</sup> Platinum Jubilee Inter-School English Debate (Aug 23-25, 2024), with intense discussions on topics like AI-generated art and human suffering. The Scindia School won the final against Emerald Heights School, Indore, but passed the trophy to them as per tradition.

We are immensely proud of our team's remarkable achievement in the finals of the "आज तक" Hindi Debate at Vasant Valley School, where we secured the Runners-Up trophy. A special applause to **Raghav Sharma** for being named the Best Speaker.

Continuing with the endeavour of creating 'thinking' leaders, the Scindia Talk House was conducted on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The moderator for the talk on 'Democracy is the best form of government' was **Mr Anshul Verma**.



Platinum Jubilee English Debate



Finals of the Group A Basketball Match



Freshers' Evening

The Scindia School has won the "Distinguished Delegation Award" at the Tulas International School in Dehradun. We are incredibly proud of our students for their outstanding achievement and for representing us with such excellence. Our boys have also received individual awards which are as follows:

- 1) **Aryan Bhagat** - High Commendation, UNSC
- 2) **Suraj Agarwala** - Special Mention, AIPPM
- 3) **Keshav Rathore** - High Commendation, AIPPM
- 4) **Atharv Tiwari** - Best Delegate, CCC
- 5) **Rajvirr Agarwal** - Verbal Mention SPECPOL

**Mr Anshul Verma** conducted a critical thinking workshop for 140 Grade 9 students, focusing on teamwork, problem-solving, and societal issues. Over four days, students worked in groups to tackle local issues, presenting solutions through skits, presentations, and videos.

Scindians made us immensely proud at the MUN conference of Mussoorie International School, securing 8 awards in various categories:

1. **Granth Mehta**: UNHRC Best Delegate, Night Crisis Honourable Mention
2. **Siddhanth Agarwal**: UNSC Best Delegate
3. **Neil Agarwal**: UNODC Best Delegate
4. **Ishan Chokkani**: Lok Sabha Honourable Mention
5. **Abshikshit Narayan**: UNODC Special Mention
6. **Shiv Shah**: Best Content Writer
7. **Chavi**: UNCSW Honourable Mention

Scindians participated in the Indo-Sri Lanka Cultural Festival, singing the Scindian song with heartfelt melody and performing other beautiful songs. Their dedication and talent shone through, making us incredibly proud. We are delighted to see our students representing The Scindia School with such outstanding performances, showcasing their cultural appreciation and musical excellence on the international platform.

#### Initiatives

The Scindia School has launched "*Abhyudaya*," a transformative initiative aimed at holistic development through the LSIP model. This program focuses on co-creation and collaboration to enhance faculty effectiveness and the school's educational impact. Led by **Mr Sounak Chakrabarty**, a two-day session laid the groundwork for this vibrant future.

The Scindia School hosted the AFS India Regional Meet (Aug 30 - Sep 1, 2024), focusing on "Conscious Choices - Environmental Awareness and a Sustainable Tomorrow." Representatives from 17 schools attended. Chief guest **Mr Rakesh Khatri**, the 'Nest Man

of India,' inspired attendees with his environmental conservation work. Sessions highlighted sustainability, including Scindia's "Fort Biosphere Project."

First edition of the Youth Parliament on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in the Assembly Hall saw seventy-seven students from grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> assuming the role of parliamentarians and discussing on the agenda "Reservation of Women: Now or Never".

#### Workshops and Visits

The Scindia School hosted a workshop for around 80 teachers from the Gwalior region on 'AI in Education', organized by Gwalior Sahodaya. Conducted by the CBSE resource person **Mr Naveen Gupta**, who apprised teachers of tools like Gamma.app, Magic School, Questionwell.org, and Perplexity.

On August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, **Mr Manish Gupta** and **Ms Bela Gupta** conducted a POCSO (2012) Act workshop for students, raising awareness on child sexual abuse. Using the video "*Komal*" and case studies, the sessions covered reporting, false reporting, the Child Line (1098), and child-friendly legal procedures

A workshop on bullying prevention and empathy, led by **Ms Niharika Kulshresth**, was held for Junior Houses. Students learned the difference between bullying and conflict, the role of bystanders, and the importance of reporting incidents.

**Tanush Somani** and **Nibir Jyoti Nath** recently completed a two-week internship at the National University of Singapore, diving into their startup ideas.

A "Good Touch, Bad Touch" workshop was held in the assembly hall, led by **Ms Niharika Kulshresth**. Students learned to distinguish between good and bad touch, the provisions of the POCSO Act, and how and whom to report such incidents.

During the process of gearing up for the new school year, the teachers attended a training session conducted by the Edu Next team regarding the implementation of our new school web application, which is fully compatible with mobile devices.

Our science teachers attended an enriching workshop conducted by **Ms Pragya Nopany**, an expert in experiential learning. Session 1 focused on simple hands-on experiments designed to ignite curiosity and elicit questions from students, teaching them the scientific method. Session 2 provided strategies for teachers to formulate questions that encourage critical thinking among students.

The Scindia School hosted an engaging Road Safety Workshop on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 in the assembly hall, where students of Classes IX & XI learned crucial safety tips. The session, led by **Mr Anil Joshi**, **Mr Dnyanesh Pahune**, and alumni **Scn. Sandeep Agrawal** (Ex-Shivaji, 1980), ended with an exciting quiz, '*Kaun Banega Roadpati*'.



Ladakh Service Project



Inaugural SISMUN

## Sports

The Grand Opening of Scindia School's 84<sup>th</sup> Inter-House Athletic Meet, with march past of the athletes, and torch relay of the sports captains, kicked off with energy and excitement! The event was graced by Chief Guest **Dr. Indu Bora**, Vice-Chancellor of LNIPE.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024, the floodlit court set the stage for a thrilling contest between Shivaji and Ranoji House in the Group B Basketball Finals. The match was marked by intense competition and remarkable plays, with Shivaji House emerging as the winners, securing a 27-16 victory.

On the evening of September 3, 2024, the Basketball court was the stage for an intense showdown between Madhav House and Shivaji House in the Group A finals. Both teams demonstrated exceptional skill and resilience, but ultimately, Madhav House secured the win with a close score of 37-29.

National Sports Day was celebrated on August 29<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player **Major Dhyan Chand**. The day was marked by honoring the memory of the hockey wizard with a hockey match between the teachers and the students. It was an intensely fought match, with the teachers' team scoring a goal in the last minute, securing a 1-0 victory.

In an intense showdown at the Scindia School Interhouse Junior Football Final, Nimaji House emerged victorious with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Dattaji House.

Our basketball season kicked off in style on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024 with an exciting match on our newly renovated basketball court, complete with floodlights. The first game saw the teachers take on the students, with the teachers securing a win with a score of 42-22. A friendly match between our senior and junior group students ended in a thrilling draw.

In a display of spirited teamwork, Ranoji House triumphed over Jayappa House in the group A football finals with a commanding 3-0 victory.

A friendly football match between the staff and the students kickstarted the bonhomie of the new session. The young Scindians gleefully took turns in cheering their peers and the teachers for every goal scored and every goal saved. The teachers won the match by a score of 5-2.

## Adventure and Exchanges

Various summer adventure activities included a cycling expedition from Gwalior to Ajmer, a high-altitude ride from Upshi to Hanle in Ladakh, a 14-day adventure course at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, and a mountaineering expedition to Norbu Peak. In addition, students constructed a greenhouse in Spiti Valley and a multipurpose hall at Lamdon Model School in Ladakh, followed by a trekking expedition.

**Ms Mahvish** attended the Basic Mountaineering Course at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (ABVMAS) in Manali, Himachal Pradesh from 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

A team of 6 students and a teacher escort **Mr Ashok Shivraman** from our school participated in the conference at Aubrick School Sao Paulo, Brazil. The theme for the conference was "Use your voice to change the world".

A group of 28 students and 3 teachers visited Japan. The students quickly adapted to the local customs of punctuality, humility, honesty, cooperation, high energy, and self-discipline, particularly noting the self-discipline observed at Mikunigaoka Senior High School.

A group of ten students along with two faculty members went on an Exchange program to Germany. They explored the culture and landscape of the country. An excursion to Regensburg and Walhalla Museum was filled with an enchanting experience. The students attended classes and enthusiastically participated in the activities offered to them by the host school.

**Keshav Jhunjhunwala**, **Sameep Mody**, and **Tanish Agrawal**, along with **Mrs Niharika Kulshresth**, participated in a month-long exchange program at St. Marks School, Southborough. They engaged in diverse classes, including improv comedy, religion, ethics, and engineering.

## Career Cell

We have partnered with Mindler to offer career guidance and crucial information about the college admission process. **Mr Prikshit Dhanda**, Chief Strategy Officer at Mindler, conducted an insightful session for our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. His team also engaged in one-on-one interactions with our 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students, to help them make informed choices about their future.

## Welcome and Adieu

We welcomed **Dr. Ishani Roy Chowdhury** and **Mr Mukesh Chawlain** the Science Department, while **Mr Pushpesh Pandey** and **Mr Raj Kamal** have joined the Math and Commerce Department respectively. **Mr Ruchir Sharma** and **Mr Sankha Chakraborty** have joined the English Department, while **Ms Mousumi Chatterjee** is the new French Faculty. **Ms Jaya Sahdev** is the new Behavioural Counsellor.

We bid adieu to French Faculty **Ms Ritu Guglani**, **Mr Vikas Soni**, Physics Faculty, **Mr Ritendra Dwivedi**, Math Faculty, and counsellor **Ms Sangeetha P**. Good luck for your future endeavours!

# STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Lakshya Arora, Prataksh Sharma, Aanya Pillai, Suraj Kumar Agarwalla and Lokesh Awasthi won 'Outstanding performance' award in IPSC Dramatics in the 'Strings of Shakespeare' event.

Lakshya Arora won the Best Delegate Award and Lokesh Awasthi along with Rushil Rajan won the Special Mention Awards at the Genesis Global MUN.

Dhir Bharat Jhunjhunwala won High Recommendation in UEFA, Abdul Hadi won specimen in HCC. The team also won the overall Best Delegation award in Shiv Nadar School MUN conference.

Vivek Sharma, Saksham Agarwal and Raghav Sharma Participated in 'Aaj Tak' Hindi Debate organized by Vasant valley School. The team bagged the runners up position, while Raghav Sharma was adjudged as the Best Speaker.

The school participated in Vision 2024 at Mussoorie International School. The theme of the event was 'Bhaav' - art of eloquence. The following students brought laurels to the school:

Nikunj Agrawal - First position in Photography

Shaurya Krishna and Anaggh Naduvath- Second position in Rap Battle (Self Composed)

Vishith Venkatesh, Aarush Sharma, Aryan Singh, Nityam Jain, Shaurya Krishna, Aditya Raj Pandey and Gunveer Singh Gandhi- First position in Musical Band

Shreyansh Jain, Naksha Madhyani, Sagnik Chanda, Akshat Singh, Abhigyan Singh, Agrim Pratap Singh and Naitik Kumar – First position in Mime Show

The school participated in the Oxford India MUN conference 2024 held at the FLAME University in Pune. Atharv Tiwari was awarded "Outstanding Delegate" in his committee (UNHCR).

10 students participated in Silver Jubilee Commemorative Young Thinkers' Conclave organized by Mayo College Girls' School from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Shaurya Prakash was awarded the Critics' Choice award in the creative writing event.

Lakshya Arora, Tanish Agarwal and Prataksh Sharma participated in Mayoor Invitational Debate held at Mayoor School Ajmer. The team won 5 debates out of 6 which was the most for any school in the tournament. They secured the runners up position and Tanish Agrawal won Best Speaker Award.

Sameep Mody and Saksham Agrawal were adjudged as the Best delegates, Keshav Jhunjhunwala and Saksham Sameer Kubde were awarded the Special Mention and Rohil Sharma received Verbal Mention in Daly college MUN.

Krishnav Ahuja, Gaurang Mangal and Bhavya Madaan went for a two-week Round Square International Service Project in Thailand. During the programme, they built a school, taught English to the local children, and immersed themselves in Thai culture.



RSIS Project in Thailand

# OLD BOYS' NEWS

Under the Chairmanship of Mr Manish Rajoria (Ex-Ranoji, 1992), Career College (Autonomous), Bhopal has been honored with the Best Incubation Center Award 2024 by BIRAC-DBT, Govt of India at the Global Bio-India 2024 event held in Delhi. They were selected from among 500+ Incubation Centers, including IITs and Top Universities across India.

Mr Rajeev Jaipuria (Ex-Chaitanya, 1979) has recently received the II A Udyog Ratan Award by Indian Industries Association for the excellent performance of his company, Ravi Fans.



Sachin Sharma

As part of our ongoing SOBIR (Scindia Old Boys in Residence) programme, Mr Atul Takle (Ex- Ranoji, 1973) conducted sessions on two consecutive days with the students and the staff of the school respectively. He shared his journey in advertising and marketing with the students, offering insights into the profession and practical advice on how to succeed in the field.



SOBA Nagpur Blood Donation Camp

Harsh Raj Gond (Ex-Ranoji, 2016) has won the International @ dna\_paris Paris Design Awards 2024 for Typography in the Graphic Design category. He has brought the Gond art form to a global platform with the help of all the artists from his village and IIT Hyderabad. The art form was created to revive and promote the traditional tribal Gond art from Patangarh, Madhya Pradesh.

Mr Sachin Sharma (Ex- Jayaji, 2000), Secretary, Western Railways (IRS) & 1<sup>st</sup> SOBA Youth Awardee has conquered the SILK ROUTE

ULTRA—a 122 km High Altitude Ultra Marathon in Ladakh, completing it in just 20 hours 39 minutes on 6<sup>th</sup> Sep '24! Starting from Kyagar near the Siachen Base Camp, crossing the breathtaking Khardung La Pass (18,000 ft), and finishing at Leh Market, this is one of the toughest races in the world.



IRONMAN- Sushobhan Verma

Mr Sushobhan Verma, (Ex-Ranoji / Jankoji, 2013) achieved the title of "IRONMAN" at the world's toughest one-day sporting event, the North American IRONMAN Triathlon Championships in Texas, USA on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024. In the full Triathlon, he pulled off this spectacular feat with phenomenal grit and made his place amongst a handful of Indian athletes to have achieved this distinction in his maiden attempt.

SOBA Nagpur Chapter, held its 27<sup>th</sup> annual blood donation camp at Jeevan Jyoti Blood Bank in memory of Late HH Madhavrao Scindia. A health talk on 'Diet, Alcohol & Liver' by Dr. Amit Agrawal followed. SOBA members present included President Dr. Sanjay Kolte, Secretary CA. Girish Malpani, IPP CA. Sandeep Agrawal, Pramod Munot, IMS Malhotra, Bharat Goenka, Sachin Chanchani, CA. Tushar Singhvi, Sanjay Agrawal, Varun Rathi, Siddhartha Prasad, and their family members.



# THIS WAS ONCE HOME. IT WILL ALWAYS BE THAT

*I was 9 when my parents sent me to study at The Scindia School, an institution established as the Sardar School, a little over 125 years ago.*



My father was also an alum, and so, when Kolkata became a difficult place to live in, with the Naxalite movement, he decided that I would be better off at Scindia.

I hated the first term. I was fat and was teased endlessly.

Home for the first vacation, I refused to go back. Dad and I had a long chat, and it was decided to give it another shot.

There was no looking back after that.

I was still fat. But I figured out how to overcome that.

The solution was to 'get punished' and be made to run rounds of the cricket field (Madhav field now), just so I got to lose weight.

But, deep within, I hated the thought of running aimlessly around fields – even as self-inflicted punishment.

So, I decided that I would try and excel in areas where fat boys stood a chance.

And a new world opened up for me!

Debating. Dramatics. Elocutions.

Also sports - something I had never thought possible - as a goalkeeper, or fielding in the slips, or being an opening batsman – none of which made one run around fields.

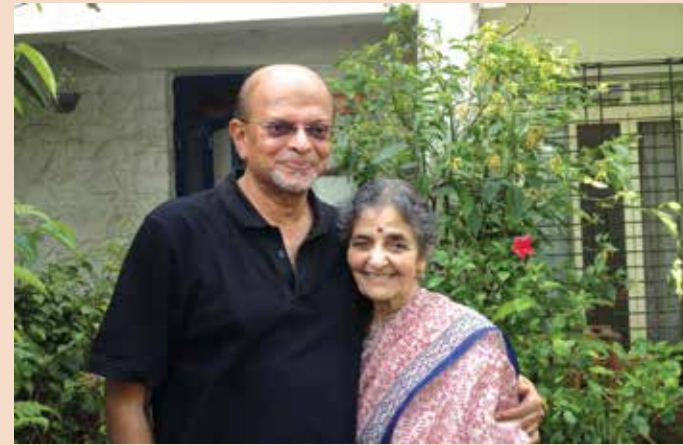
Fortunately, I excelled in those.

Having been recognized as someone who had talent made the vacations bearable.

From there on, I could not wait to get back to school.

And things started going 'swimmingly well' for me.

I was appointed a school prefect in Class 10 (ISC2, as it was called those days. The school followed both the ISC and SSC syllabi).



In my final year (Class 11), I was appointed house captain. That was a stellar year.

My house (Ranoji) won the General Efficiency Shield against all odds - in spite of raiding the tuck shop, having two boys expelled for ungentlemanly behaviour, and being caught by the then Principal of SKV along with another friend from my house (he was also a school prefect), in the precincts of SKV, ostensibly there to meet our 'sisters'.

The then Principal, **Mr S P Sahi**, called us to his office, and while we were expecting to be 'demoted' and having the blue shirts taken away, he just admonished us and said, 'What you have done is unforgiveable. Boys will be boys, but at least have the intelligence not to get caught. Now get out.'

What made the achievement of winning the General Efficiency Shield more special was that Ranoji House achieved this distinction in 1972. The only time before that was in 1944, when my father was the house captain of the same house!!!

Indeed, it was my proudest moment ever.

I graduated and the years passed by.

I visited Scindia only once or twice over the next 30 years.

Then a call from an ex- Scindian changed all that.

**Mr Rajendra Pawar** was the Vice President of the school's Board of Governors and had got my number from another person.

Mr Pawar, or Raji, as he is referred to, is also the Founder of NIIT Ltd – India's first computer education company, which was set up 4 decades back. He is also the co-founder of the non-profit NIIT University, located in Neemrana, and a Padma Bhushan.

"Will you help drive the marketing and communications for the school", he asked?

I said that I would love to. (You don't say no to a Padma Bhushan awardee:-). And since that fateful day, I started visiting Scindia again.

In fact, during one of my visits, the then Principal – **Dr Madhav Saraswat** (with whom I had built up a great working relationship) asked me to come over to his office.

As we were having a cup of his 'famed' masala chai, he suddenly

popped the question – 'Atul ji, I would like you to be the Director – Alumni Relations, and be in the school for at least 15 days a month. Will you take up the role?'

Since I had retired from my corporate job, I accepted his offer.

I was given a home in SOBA House (which was formerly the old Ravindra House) – where old boys could avail of accommodation whenever they visited school.

The 18 months that I spent on the Fort, in school, will forever remain fondly etched in my memory. And I am grateful to the entire community of old boys and the school authorities for making my stay there so wonderful.

Leaving the role for personal reasons was very emotional. My loving mother was ailing and I felt that I needed to be back home with my wife, so I resigned with a heavy heart.

As my late mother (she passed shortly after I returned to Mumbai) used to say, "Atul, I lost you when you were 9. You became independent and never asked us for any help or guidance in any decision you made."

I would like to say this to her on a public platform. "Ma, you and dad gave me not one but two homes. Scindia is one of them."

For the record, I did go back to school with my wife for the 125th Founder's Day.

Thereafter, I have been going back quite regularly, more so because I had made some very good friends among the faculty and staff, and because driving up the Urvaighati always makes my heart beat faster.

In fact, I was last there only a few days back, between the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 to the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2024. The school had invited me, as a part of the SOBIR (Scindia Old Boys' in Residence) programme to speak to the students on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September and to the faculty on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. The days were Monday and Tuesday, but I went there the Friday before, just so I could spend time with my friends on the Fort.

In the above narrative, I have tried to describe what it was like during my days in school as indeed in the past few years. Somewhere, there is this immense love and gratitude I feel for the school.

But words will never be able to describe the feeling.

Because it is the soul of The Scindia School, and what it has given me, which resides deep within me.

**Atul Takle** (Class of 1973)  
10 September, 2024

# CINEMA MAGIC

People who know Prataksh Sharma would describe him as 'melodramatic'. In an all boys' boarding school, whenever a role for female character falls open, everyone fights shy of assaying the part for the fear of being branded and stereotyped. In class 9, Prataksh took on the role of Jasmine in the school's Annual English play, followed by his subsequent roles in *The Tempest* and *Draupadi*, portrayed very sensitively by him and much appreciated. He went on to direct *Great Expectations*, and co-creating an award-winning IPSC play. He owes a lot of his histrionics to being a movie buff. He explains his affectations.....

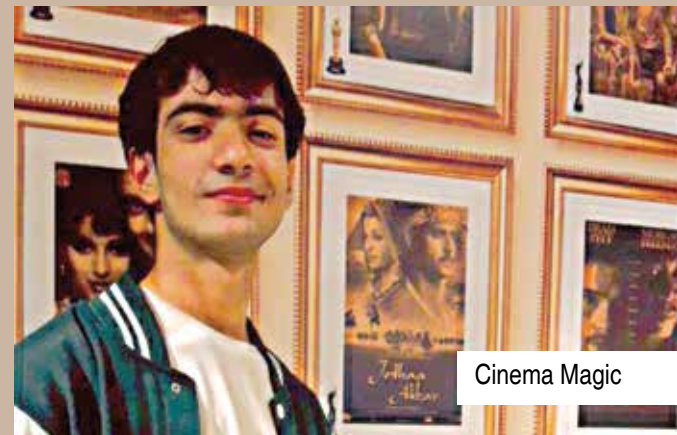
If there's one thing I've come to realize over countless movie marathons and late-night screenings, it's that cinema is more than just entertainment—it's an experience. I remember when I was nine and my father made me watch 'The Mummy' with him. Little did he know that this would be the reason I became fascinated with history and chose to study humanities. That movie was my pride and joy; the soft glow of the screen transported me to another world of Egyptian grandeur, where every emotion felt magnified and every story unfolded with a sense of wonder. From that moment, I was hooked.

The magic of cinema lies in its ability to capture the essence of our dreams, fears, and desires. Each film is a doorway to a different reality, a chance to live countless lives in a single sitting. The characters become old friends, the plots a reflection of our own journeys, and the visual landscapes an extension of our imaginations. As I delve into the vast and varied universe of films, I'm continually amazed by how each movie holds a mirror up to our own lives, reflecting our deepest truths and aspirations. This article is my tribute to the mesmerizing world of cinema, where every scene and soundtrack blend into a human experience and artistic brilliance. Everything I have learned today is because of movies. The screen wasn't just a barrier; it was a doorway that invited me to dive into a world of deep emotions and endless imagination. Every film I've seen has made a lasting impression on me, changing the way I see both the world and myself. From the timeless classic 'Dead Poets Society' to the thrilling excitement of *Star Wars*, movies have a way of striking a chord deep within me. They're not just about escaping reality—they're about discovering new insights and understanding life in fresh, meaningful ways. Through the lens of a camera, I've gained new perspectives, felt a wide range of emotions, and encountered stories that stick with me long after the credits roll.

Let's agree that there's at least one movie we all feel connected to—a movie that has taught us something worth living for. At their best, films can do more than just entertain us; they can open our hearts to each other, show us ourselves through characters, and shine a light on where we've been while making us think about where we're going.

As I prepare to step into the next chapter of my life, I find a deep sense of comfort and excitement in knowing that cinema will always be there for me. Movies have been a constant source of joy and reflection, and I can't help but feel incredibly grateful for every moment I've spent immersed in a great film. Each movie has added something special to my life, shaping my thoughts and emotions in ways I never anticipated. To me, cinema is a magical world where stories come alive and emotions run deep. It's a place where the human experience is explored in all its richness and complexity. Whether it's a heartwarming drama, an action-packed adventure, or a thought-provoking documentary, films have a unique ability to touch our lives and reveal the beauty in our everyday experiences. Here's to there golden magic!

As I look ahead to new adventures and challenges, I know that my love for movies will continue to be a source of inspiration and solace. Cinema isn't just something I enjoy—it's a cherished part of my life that enriches my perspective and helps me appreciate the world around me. For me, and for so many others, movies are much more than just a pastime. They're a profound reminder of the extraordinary beauty that exists in the world and in our own lives. As Stanley Kubrick aptly described it, "A film is-or should be-more like music than like fiction. It should be a progression of moods and feelings. The theme, what's behind the emotion, the meaning, all that comes later."



Cinema Magic



Great Expectations



Jasmine in Alladin

# यादें

मुझे वह लम्हा आज भी याद है जब पहली बार मैं ग्वालियर के इस प्राचीन किले पर अपने माता-पिता के साथ आया था। अपने बच्चों के उज्ज्वल भविष्य और उसे आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के विचार से मुझे इस बोर्डिंग स्कूल में डाल दिया गया। विद्यालय में छोड़कर जाते हुए वे मुझे दूर तक देखते रहे। परिवार के और सदस्य भी साथ थे। दोनों ही तरफ सभी की आँखें भरी हुई थी। मैं यह समझ नहीं पा रहा था कि मेरे साथ ऐसा क्यों किया गया।

घर पर रहकर हर तरह की सुविधा का भोग करने वाला मैं यहाँ अपने कार्य स्वयं करने लगा। रह रहकर घर की याद सताती थी परंतु जूनियर स्कूल में हमारे हाउस की 'मेट्रन' का वह मातृत्व भरा साथ मुझे सदैव स्मरण रहेगा। धीरे-धीरे मैं इस वातावरण में रमता चला गया। सभी तरह के सुख-दुख में साथ देने वाले हमारे मित्रों की एक अच्छी खासी टोली तैयार हो चुकी थी।



Photo Credit - Anubhav Sarkar (Ex-Md)

विद्यालय में सुबह से रात तक हमें पूर्ण रूप से व्यस्त रखा जाता था। समय के पालन के प्रति बड़ी सख्ती थी। हम सभी निरंतर अपने-अपने कार्यों में लगे रहते। सुबह होते

ही पी.टी करते, नहा धोकर-नाश्ता करके विद्यालय के लिए प्रस्थान करते और कक्षाएँ समाप्त होने के पश्चात थोड़ी देर का विश्राम और फिर दिन का चिर प्रतीक्षित समय यानी खेल का मैदान, कभी प्रतियोगी खेल होते तो कभी खेलों के नियम सीखने को मिलते तो कभी खेलों का अभ्यास होता। दूर से आती सीटी की आवाज से हम सजग हो जाते थे। दो सदनों के बीच प्रतियोगिता में सबका जोश अपने चरम पर होता। अपने हाउस की "चीयरिंग" के लिए सीनियर्स के दिशानिर्देशों का पूर्णता से पालन होता।

बहुत कुछ सीखा जूनियर स्कूल में, स्नेह, प्रेम, आत्मज्ञान, आत्मशक्ति, मिलकर रहने की ताकत, कुछ चुहलबाजियाँ और भी बहुत कुछ जिसे मैं आज भी अपने भीतर महसूस करता हूँ। सीनियर स्कूल में आने तक हम इस वातावरण से पूर्ण रूप से परिचित हो चुके थे।

अध्यापकों द्वारा टोका जाना जो उस समय बुरा लगता था उसकी कीमत मैंने स्कूल से जाने के बाद सीखी। स्कूल में हम जो कुछ भी करते हैं उसमें हमारे लिए कोई न कोई सीख अवश्य होती है चाहे खेल का मैदान हो, कक्षाएँ हों, हाउस हो, कोई कैप हो या मेस, इन सभी जगहों पर हमें क्या करना चाहिए और क्या नहीं करना चाहिए, इसकी सीख मिली। गीत-संगीत व विभिन्न प्रकार की जीवनोपयोगी कलाएँ मैंने यहीं से सीखी।

हाउस में हाउस मास्टर सर के साथ बिताए पल, उनकी सीखें उनका स्नेह और पोषक पिता के रूप में उनका व्यवहार ही हम सभी के व्यक्तित्व में निरंतर बहता रहता है इसलिए जब हम यहाँ से अपनी शिक्षा पूरी कर लेते हैं तो जाते हुए हमारी आँखें नम हो जाती हैं। पूर्व छात्र (माधव सदन, 1974) श्री ज्ञान राज मानिक प्रभु ने इसका जिक्र कुछ इस तरह से किया है कि -

“दुर्ग भले ही मुख बधिर हो, किंतु यहाँ जादू टोना है।  
आने पर तो रोना है ही, जाने पर भी तो रोना है।”



Photo Credit - Anubhav Sarkar (Ex-Md)

यह सब इसलिए भी है कि एक परंपरा यहाँ ऐसी है कि जो हम सबको जोड़ती है, वह है - अस्ताचल। संध्याकाल अस्त होते सूर्य के समक्ष अस्ताचल में परंपरागत सफेद पजामा कुर्ता पहने हुए यह छात्र किस प्रकार आत्म मंथन करते हुए आध्यात्मिकता से जुड़ते हैं यह दिखाने और अनुभव करवाने के लिए आपको स्वयं अस्ताचल आना पड़ेगा

आज भी जब मैं अस्ताचल जाता हूँ तो वहाँ का शांत वातावरण हमें सहज ही अतीत की याद दिलाता है और लगता है कि मैं यही कहीं हूँ, मैं यहाँ से कभी अलग नहीं होऊँगा।



आज मैं जो कुछ भी हूँ, अपने इसी विद्यालय, यहीं के साथी, मित्र, सहपाठी और गुरुजनों के सहयोग और आशीर्वाद की प्रतिष्ठाया हूँ। विश्वभर में फैले पूर्व छात्रों का परिवार हमें एक विशाल परिवार से जोड़ता है। जीवन की कठिनाइयों में निर्णय लेने की क्षमता हो या पीड़ा और कष्ट में जी रहे लोगों के प्रति सहानुभूति, श्रम को सम्मान देना हो या सह अस्तित्व की भावना का ज्ञान, इन सभी से मेरा परिचय यहीं हुआ। अब जब भी समय मिलता है तो मेरा मन यहीं खिंचा चला आता है। (एक पूर्व- छात्र से जो कुछ सुना....)

मनोज मिश्रा  
हिंदी - विभाग

# सिंधिया स्कूल की सुनहरी यादें !

ग्वालियर किले की वो ऊँची दीवारें,  
जहाँ बसी हमारी यादों की बहारें।  
हर कोने में बसी है कोई कहानी,  
यादों की सजीव तस्वीरें हमारी,  
वो दिन, वो पल, और वो नादानियाँ  
ऐसी ही अनेकों कहानियाँ।

सुबह की घंटी की मीठी आवाज,  
जहाँ हम सीखते थे जीवन का राज।  
कक्षा के हर पल में छुपे थे सपने,  
ज्ञान के रास्ते पर चल पड़े अपने।

वो खेल के आलीशान मैदान, वो भागना, वो दौड़,  
हर जीत-हार में छुपी थी कोई सीख, कोई होड़।  
सोचना कि दोस्तों के संग हँसी-ठिठोली करेंगे,  
संग बिताए वो पल हमेशा ही दिल में रहेंगे।

सिंधिया स्कूल का हर पत्थर गाता है,  
हमारे बचपन का गीत सुनाता है।  
वो क्लास रूम, वो असेम्बली हॉल,  
हर दिन सिखाया, गिरकर फिर संभल।

अब जब जीवन के रास्ते हैं नए,  
सिंधिया स्कूल की यादें हैं दिल में बसे।  
वो दिन कभी लौट के न ही आएँगे,  
पर ये यादों की मेले हम से दूर न जाएँगे।

सिंधिया स्कूल, तुझ से है प्यार,  
हर कदम पर तेरा है आभार।  
जो सिखाया तूने, हम निभाएँगे,  
तेरी छवि दिल में सदा बसाएँगे।

विजेन्द्र वसंत ठोंबरे  
(पूर्वछात्र २००७)

# INTERVIEW

## MR YASHRAJ NAIN (EX-JA, 2012)

An Interview of Mr Yashraj Nain (Ex- Jayaji, 2012), currently serving with the Indian Revenue Service in Mumbai with Ayaan Shah and Ayaan Agrawal. He visited the school as the chief guest for SISMUN 2024. He was the SSP and was also awarded Maharaja Jeevajirao Scindia Medal for the year 2011-12.



Good morning Sir, before we begin, could you please give us a brief introduction about yourself?

I am an alumnus of Scindia School, from the batch of 2012, Jayaji House. After completing my schooling, I pursued a Bachelor's in Political Science and Economics from Hindu College, Delhi University, followed by a Master's in International Politics from Jawaharlal Nehru University. While studying at JNU, I prepared for the Civil Services exam and cleared it in 2017 with an All-India rank of 272. I was subsequently allotted the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax). Currently, I'm serving as the Deputy Director of Income Tax Investigation in Mumbai.

Can you share some of your fondest memories from your time as the Senior School Prefect at the Scindia School?

One of my fondest memories is definitely the Valedictory Assembly and the Principal's Dinner that followed. It was a deeply emotional moment for my batchmates and me. We realized we were leaving behind an institution that had shaped us so much. The jokes we shared with the faculty at the dinner were quite memorable, too. It was a bittersweet experience.

How did your experience as the Senior School Prefect shape your leadership skills in your current role?

It had a significant impact. It taught me to voice my opinions confidently, even if they weren't popular. I learned to prioritize the greater good of the institution over short-term, popular decisions. These qualities continue to serve me well in my professional role today.

Were there any teachers or mentors who had a profound influence on your life and career?

Absolutely. All the teachers at Scindia played a vital role in shaping my personality. They are truly the backbone of the institution. My housemaster, Mrs. Supreet Bakshi, had a particularly positive impact on me and countless other students in Jayaji House.

What extracurricular activities were you involved in at school, and how did they help in your career?

I tried to participate in a wide range of activities - elocution, debates, quizzes, theater, orchestra, and RDC parades, along with sports like tennis and chess. These activities helped me overcome my fear of public speaking, discover my love for music and sports, and taught me valuable skills that I continue to use today.

Looking back, is there anything you wish you had known as a student that would have helped in your professional or personal journey?



Honestly, I can't think of much because the school and teachers prepared me well for what was ahead.

What challenges have you faced in your career, and did anything you learned at school help you overcome them?

Work can get quite demanding, leading to stress. Pursuing hobbies like chess, playing the flute, and listening to music—things I picked up at school—helped me de-stress. Additionally, the multitasking and time management skills I developed at the Scindia School proved invaluable in balancing the pressures of work.

Discipline was a significant focus during your school days. How did it play a role in your professional life?

Discipline is the foundation of a successful professional life. It keeps you focused on your goals and helps avoid distractions. Punctuality, avoiding time-wasting activities, and following procedures are all aspects of discipline I learned at school, and they continue to guide me in my career.

What was your relationship with academics in school? Do you feel it had a direct impact on your career?

I had an interesting journey with academics. I was quite average in grades from classes 7 to 9, hovering around 65-67%. I focused more on extracurricular activities during those years. But in Class 10, after the advice from my teachers, I shifted my focus to academics. I took my studies seriously and ended up topping the school with a perfect 10 CGPA. That success gave me the confidence to pursue subjects I was genuinely interested in during Class 11, like political science and economics, which laid the foundation for my career in civil services.

Is this your first time returning to school since graduation?

No, I've visited several times, especially for Founders' Day events. It always feels a bit surreal coming back because most people I knew—teachers and students—have moved on. But it's always a joy to reconnect with the teachers who are still here. Their continuity is what keeps the traditions of the school alive.

Do you think the relationship between students and teachers has changed over time?

That's hard to say since I don't have firsthand experience with the current dynamic. But traditionally, relationships in boarding schools tend to be a bit antagonistic—students are rebellious, and teachers are strict. However, once you leave school, you realize how valuable the advice and lessons from your teachers were.

What are some of the most prominent changes you see compared to your time here?

I haven't stayed long enough to notice a lot, but the infrastructural changes are obvious. The new sports complex, the upgraded swimming pool, the improvements in the mess and classrooms, even the air-conditioning in the dorms—all of these are major upgrades.



One last question: In your personal life, have you ever felt that being a Scindian gave you certain qualities that others might lack?

I believe the Scindia School instills a sense of humility and respect for elders, especially teachers, which I find sometimes lacking in people from other institutions. Of course, this is just my observation, but I do think Scindia does a wonderful job at nurturing these values.

What message would you like to share with the current students of your alma mater, especially those aspiring to go for IAS?

A career in civil service will be satisfying in many ways and can be actively pursued if one is inclined towards public service. Students aspiring for IAS should make a habit of reading newspaper daily and being abreast of current developments in the country. They should utilize their time at school to inculcate hobbies such as reading and public speaking that will help them in their career.

# सह-पाठ्यचर्या गतिविधि: आत्म-प्रकाशन का साधन

मेरा मानना है कि हम सबके अंदर एक विशेष प्रतिभा और क्षमता होती है। और हमारा विद्यालय, सिंधिया स्कूल इन्हीं क्षमताओं को खोजने और निखारने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। यहाँ सह-शैक्षणिक गतिविधियाँ जो छात्रों के समग्र विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं, यह छात्रों को पाठ्यक्रम से इतर अपनी आंतरिक रुचियों, कौशलों और प्रतिभाओं को विकसित करने का अवसर प्रदान करती हैं। विद्यालय में सह-शैक्षणिक गतिविधियों और सामाजिक कल्याण की परियोजनाओं की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला की शुरुआत 1930 के दशक में देखने को मिलती है।

हमारे विद्यालय में विभिन्न धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक त्योहारों को मनाने की परंपरा है, जहाँ इन अवसरों पर हम सभी एकजुट होते हैं और आपसी विविधता को भूल गणेश पूजा, रक्षाबंधन, होली, दीपावली जैसे त्योहारों का एक साथ आनंद लेते हैं। विभिन्न त्योहारों से जुड़े नृत्य, नाटक या संगीत कार्यक्रम आयोजित कराए जाते हैं जिनमें हम सब मिलकर पारंपरिक व सांस्कृतिक कला को प्रदर्शित करते हैं।

जैसे हर वर्ष दशहरे में रामलीला होती है और हममें से ही कोई राम बन बुराई पर सच्चाई की जीत को प्रदर्शित करता है। गणेश पूजा और विसर्जन को भी हम सभी विद्यार्थीगण हर्षोल्लास के साथ धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक उत्सवों के रंग में रंगकर मनाते हैं। जिससे आपस में उनकी सामूहिक सद्भावना देखी जा सकती है।

हमारा विद्यालय शिक्षा पर जोर देते हुए भी विद्यार्थियों को सामुदायिक सेवाओं में भाग लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता है और समाज-सेवा के कई सुलभ अवसर प्रदान करता है क्योंकि विद्यालय चाहता है कि सभी विद्यार्थी आधारभूत आवश्यकताओं से वंचित वर्गों के प्रति देखभाल कर उनकी विवशताओं से अवगत हों। इसका जीता जागता उदाहरण है सौसा गाँव का सिंधिया स्कूल के साथ एक अनमोल सक्रिय संबंध, जो सामुदायिक सेवा पर आधारित है। सालाना कई ऐसे कार्यक्रम भी आयोजित किए जाते हैं। जो छात्रों और ग्रामीणों को शामिल कर, सांस्कृतिक संबंधों और आपसी समझ को मजबूत करते हैं। सिंधिया स्कूल ने जो दूसरा गाँव गोद लिया है वह है 'नाथों का पुरा' अर्थात् सँपेरे का गाँव। सिंधिया स्कूल में समाज-सेवा संघ ने उनकी स्थिति को ध्यान में रख कर इन्हें इससे बाहर निकालने का बीड़ा उठाया। सर्वप्रथम इस गाँव में शौचालय बनवाए गए, दो

हैंडपंप लगवाए गए और गाँव में पक्की सड़कें बनवाई गईं, जिसमें हम सबने साथ मिलकर श्रमदान किया। इन्हीं सामाजिक कार्यों और सामुदायिक सेवाओं के माध्यम से छात्रों में सांस्कृतिक संवेदनशीलता और जिम्मेदारी की भावना विकसित होती है।

सह-पाठ्य गतिविधियों के रूप में खेलों का भी अत्यधिक महत्व है जो न केवल शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य को बढ़ावा देते हैं, बल्कि मानसिक और भावनात्मक विकास में भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। खेलों में भाग लेने से हम विफलता से उभरना और लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रयास करना सीख जाते हैं। जहाँ खेलकूद की गतिविधियाँ हमें दैनिक तनाव कम करने और मन की शांति पाने में मदद करती हैं वहीं शारीरिक गतिविधियों के माध्यम से खेल हम सबको स्वस्थ जीवन-शैली अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित भी करते हैं। जब कोई खेलों में सफल होता है, तो उसे उपलब्धि की भावना महसूस होती है जो उसके आत्मविश्वास को बढ़ावा देती है। विद्यालय में कई अन्तर्सदनीय टूर्नामेंट आयोजित किये जाते हैं जो



हम सबको विभिन्न खेल जैसे हॉकी, क्रिकेट, शूटिंग,स्क्वाश, टेबल-टेनिस, आर्चरी आदि में भाग लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करते हैं।



सह-पाठ्यचर्या के अंतर्गत कराई जा रही आदर्श संयुक्त राष्ट्र (मॉडल यूनाइटेड नेशंस) की प्रतियोगिता के माध्यम से आज हम विभिन्न देशों के प्रतिनिधियों के रूप में कार्य कर वैश्विक मुद्दों पर चर्चा कर सकते हैं। यह हमें सामाजिक व राजनैतिक चुनौतियों से अवगत कराते हुए उनका नैतिक सामाधान जुटाते हैं और संयुक्त राष्ट्र की कार्य प्रणाली को भी समझते हैं। इसी मॉडल संयुक्त राष्ट्र में प्रभावी संचार कौशल आवश्यक होता है क्योंकि हमें अपने विचारों को स्पष्ट और प्रभावी ढंग से एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर प्रस्तुत करना होता है। इसलिए, इसमें भाग लेने से न केवल हमारा आत्मविश्वास बढ़ता है, बल्कि हमारी समस्या निवारण की क्षमता में भी वृद्धि होती है। यही दैनिक सह-पाठ्यचर्या संबंधी गतिविधियाँ हमें जीवन की समस्याओं का समाधान करने और विभिन्न प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियों में निर्णय लेने की क्षमता विकसित करने में भी योगदान देती है। इसलिए यह कहना गलत नहीं होगा कि सिर्फ शैक्षणिक कौशल पर जोर न देकर हमारा विद्यालय हमारे समग्र विकास को महत्व देता है।

आज वाद-विवाद, वाग्मिता, नाटक आदि गतिविधियों से हमारी संचार-शैली में सुधार होता है। ये गतिविधियाँ बच्चों को न केवल अपने विचारों को स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त करने का ढंग सिखाती हैं बल्कि उन्हें दूसरों की बातों को प्रभावी रूप से सुनने और समझने में भी मदद करती हैं। वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता में हमें अपने विचारों को तर्क पूर्ण तरीके से प्रस्तुत करना होता है और प्रतिपक्ष का सम्मान करते हुए उनके परिपेक्ष्य को भी समझना होता है। जिससे हमारी तार्किक सोच और तथ्यात्मक क्षमता विकसित होती है। वहीं, नाटक में जब हम विभिन्न पात्रों की भूमिका निभाते हैं, तो न केवल हम उस पात्र के संवादों को बोलते हैं, बल्कि उस पात्र की बातों से जुड़ी उन भावनाओं को महसूस कर उसकी अनुभूति में रम जाते हैं। इन्हीं सारे लाभदायी प्रभावों को देखते हुए हमारे विद्यालय में हर वर्ष हिंदी साहित्य सभा द्वारा एक हिंदी वार्षिक नाटक आयोजित कराया जाता है, जिसमें हम सभी

बच्चे बड़े ही उत्साह के साथ भाग लेकर इस रंगमंच पर खुशी, दुःख, क्रोध, डर आदि जैसी भावनाओं को व्यक्त करने का तरीका सीखते हैं। इन सभी गतिविधियों के माध्यम से हमारी सामाजिक और दैनिक समझ बढ़ती है। वहीं हमें भरी सभा के समक्ष अपनी बात रखने व अपने पक्ष से साथ खड़े रहने का भी साहस मिलता है। यही जीवन जीने के अनमोल तत्वों को सिखाते हुए हमारे सामाजिक कौशल का भी विकास करती हैं।

सह-पाठ्यक्रम गतिविधियाँ हमें अपने समय का महत्त्व बताते हुए उसका सदुपयोग करना भी सिखाती हैं जो शैक्षणिक जिम्मेदारियों और हमारे द्वारा चुनी गयी गतिविधियों के बीच एक स्थिर संतुलन बनाये रखता है। समय के सदुपयोग की माँग तब विशेष रूप से स्पष्ट हो जाती है जब हम प्रतिस्पर्धी खेलों, वाद-विवाद की बहसों में भाग लेते हैं या संगीत समूहों में शामिल होते हैं फिर इन गतिविधियों के लिए नियमित अभ्यास-सत्रों की आवश्यकता होती है। समय का कुशलता पूर्वक प्रबंधन करने की क्षमता एक ऐसा कौशल है जो पेशेवर जीवन में भी अमूल्य बना रहता है। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में विकास का उद्देश्य केवल बौद्धिक बुद्धिमत्ता का विकास नहीं बल्कि चरित्र-निर्माण व आत्मविकास भी आवश्यक है। हमारे जीवन की स्थिरता हमारे ही मौजूदा चरित्र पर निर्भर करती है क्योंकि हमारा चरित्र हमें हमारी दैनिक दिनचर्या की विवशताओं से लड़ने का साहस देता है और सार्थक रूप से नुकसान को दूर करने में सक्षम बनाता है। इन गतिविधियों में भाग लेने से हमें एक मजबूत पहचान मिलती है और इससे हमें हमारा आत्मविश्वास बढ़ाने में मदद मिलती है। सह-पाठ्यक्रम गतिविधियों में भाग लेने से हमें विविध अनुभवों और दृष्टिकोणों से अवगत कराया जाता है जो सांस्कृतिक जागरूकता पैदा कर खुली सोच को बढ़ावा देता है। ये गुण आज की इस वैश्वीकृत विश्व में आवश्यक हैं जहाँ हमें विविधता को अपनाते हुए विभिन्न संस्कृति व पृष्ठभूमि के लोगों के साथ मिलकर शांतिप्रिय संबंध बनाये रखना है।

यही कुछ बातें हैं जो हमारे इस अनमोल विद्यालय को देश की विभिन्न संस्थानों से अलग करती है क्योंकि यह केवल एक शिक्षार्थी नहीं बनाता, बल्कि एक "सच्चे सिंधियन" की संरचना करता है। जिसकी पहचान हमारे अनुशासन, नेतृत्व, और सम्मान में निहित होकर, हमें उत्कृष्टता की खोज में लगाए रखती है। इन्हीं सब मूल्यों के माध्यम से, हमें जीवन में समाज के लिए एक सफल योगदान देने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है जो सकारात्मक परिवर्तन लाने में सक्रिय होता है।

विवेक शर्मा

कक्षा 90, दौलत सदन

# THE BEDROCK OF MY FOUNDATION

*As you grow older in your life, you look back at your sojourn when you were a child and a teenager, in the most objective way. Of course, that is the only way to nurse the child inside of you; the child who longs for your compassion and care all life long—that tiny core of you which never grows older.*

So, this summer vacation (as I have done in almost all vacation during the latter two Covid years) I decided to re-watch the items on my list. Those were the serials that shaped my psyche and the inner core of the beings of my generation.

Needless to say, Neev is the 'Megalosaurus' of our lives. I am talking of the lives that somewhere began in the early 80s and were teenagers in the 90s. Of course, those who read this article and know what I might say further, have a few others also on the list- Sigma, *Vyomkesh Bakshi, Kashish, Udaan, Tehkikat, Farmaan* and for a mature teenager like me- parallel cinema, like *Suraj Ka Satwa Ghoda* and *Woh Chokri*.

Anyways 'Neev' was a fire in those times. Its fan following was immense and in my girls' school, there was no soul not swept away by the charisma of the lead boy actors: the Senior School Prefect, Rakesh Kapoor (mind you the post is SSP as in the Scindian tradition and not the Headboy!) and the newbie, Anurag Sharma. Today when I look back, I am amazed to see as to how the Scindian ethos has found its way into the series, maybe through the then producer and actor- Sanjay Khanna. I suppose he was thinking only of The Scindia School while making this serial which went on for 13 episodes. Oh, how I wish there was a sequel to it! And suddenly I realize that such masterpieces can never have a sequel. They are of that ethereal quality, which when takes a form, cannot be replicated. It is the intersection of an opportune time, space and art which can have no mirror image.

For those who may not be aware, 'Neev' was a television series broadcast on Doordarshan network in 1992. It is based on the life of the students in a boarding school. This show was entirely shot in The Scindia School and on the Fort. It has been directed by Madan Kumar and produced by Scindian Sanjay Khanna. The title song 'Dharti par suraj ki kirnein' is sung by Amit Kumar. So much so for the statistics.

What I wish to bring forth to you, the reader are the finer elements portrayed in the drama. The indomitable and righteous character of Mr Khan the Housemaster-that 'knows all' mentor who understands the pulse of all his students so well. But more than that he teaches

Hindi while he is Mr Khan. His wife Mrs Khan is an art teacher in the school and can be seen preparing Diwali savouries and distributing it amongst the students in the House.

You see Rakesh Kapoor, The SSP, who appears to be so dominating at times; has the courage to fight and get the fraudulent elements punished. In a world where 'misplaced courage' and 'audacity' are taken to be wellsprings of chivalry and confidence, Rakesh Kapoor represents courage which knows when to take the lead and when to take a backseat. Come to the lesson in D' Souza, the side character and foil to Rakesh Kapoor who nurses his own grudge against the school because he is not chosen as the SSP. And now come to the episode where a band of rowdies who have taken an intense dislike to Sanjay Khanna and want to teach him a lesson, rally in front of the main school gate with hockey sticks. When one of them is about to hit the Principal who has just reached the scene of chaos, D' Souza cuts in and takes the hockey stick on his back. What a show of bravery and respect towards the school and the Principal who he is shown to dislike. Come to the Geek-Chatterjee, a fun to be with-a boy who takes life as it comes. Look at Shenaaz, the only girl allowed in this band of boys; she is Mr Khan's daughter; and look at Mr Khan who asks his daughter to spearhead the physical training of Anurag Sharma when he has to play in the football match.

Don't think I am about to talk of only glories. There are such realistic elements which would be enough to prove the realistic portrayal of school life even when we had no idea of the world's modernist or post-modernist literature en masse. The serial has umpteen elements which make it relatable even today- the pranks, the disagreements, the frustrations, the trials and tribulations of the life in a residential school but more than that the lessons in camaraderie, affection, support, comprehension and understanding- all elements which make us more of a human. So, don't just sit back, cull out time and watch the episodes which are all available at YouTube, labelled Doordarshan Archives. Treat yourself to the very best and soak into its flavor at your first opportunity.

**Dr Smita Trivedi**  
HOD, English

# Fort Fables

It was the October of 1973. I was 10 years old and studying in class 6 at The Scindia School. In the Junior School, where we had our academic classes, there was a horse-riding field. We had weekly horse-riding sessions there under the watchful eye of our instructor, Mr Khalil Ahmed. The field was surrounded by high walls and had an eerie, abandoned atmosphere. In one corner stood an old armory, a subterranean storage area for ammunition, which we called the "Battery." There was a persistent myth that a tunnel ran from this place all the way to Agra Fort.

My friend and batchmate, **Kanishk Mishra**, and I were inspired by the adventures we read in Enid Blyton's books and decided to investigate the truth behind the myth. Games time, at 4:00 in the evening, seemed the perfect window for our adventure as we could slip away unnoticed. We managed to evade the guard and made our way to the horse-riding field.

The first wave of fear hit us when we approached the thick bushes that encircled the armory, towering over us like silent sentinels. The field itself was a bit notorious—Mr Star, the mess in charge, had hunted a porcupine there just a few weeks earlier, which added to the sense of danger. I felt a chill down my spine.

Kanishk, braver and stronger than I, reassured me, promising to protect me from whatever lay ahead. We reached the entrance to the Battery, a narrow opening about five feet by four feet. To shield ourselves from the bats we could see hanging near the entrance, we covered ourselves with our blue school counterpens. Kanishk, ever resourceful, made holes in his for visibility and even fashioned a string to keep his glasses in place over the makeshift mask.

Our first plan was to light a mashal (torch) using a thick wooden stick wrapped in a banyan cloth, which we soaked in a mixture of coconut and Java kusum hair oil that we used daily. We managed to get the matchbox from our house servant, Shamu, who smoked. But the smoke from the torch agitated the bats, which began to stir, so we quickly abandoned that plan.

Plan B was to use our battery-operated Eveready torches. Armed with these, we cautiously entered the narrow, four-foot-wide pathway. We had only gone about four or five meters into the tunnel when disaster struck—hundreds of bats suddenly swarmed at us. We panicked and bolted, sprinting back to the school hostel, Sarvapalli, without looking back.

From the safety of the hostel, we turned and watched in awe as thousands of bats filled the sky above the horse riding field. Though I stayed at school for another six years after that incident, I never again ventured near the fabled Gwalior-Agra tunnel.

**Chyavan Bhargav**  
(Ex - Ranoji, 1980)

# Editorial Board

## The Artist's Interpretation



The cover page, created by Mr. Somnath Das, Faculty of Arts, offers a profound interpretation. According to him, the child standing in the pool symbolizes a moment of introspection—a new student's reflection before immersing himself in the vast "pool of knowledge" at The Scindia School. The picture poignantly conveys the trepidation of possibilities which a student experiences. Through his painting, he seeks to encapsulate the school's rich history, vibrant culture, and diverse activities, blending tradition with the student's personal journey of growth and transformation.

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