

QILA 
QUOTES

Volume 23 | Feb. 2015



President Board of Governors His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia with Guest of Honour Shri Milkha Singh.



Mr. Rajendra S. Pawar with celebrated actor Mr. Farhan Akhtar.

QILA QUOTES

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL
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Jt. Secretary Mr. Subhash Sharma		

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 apologies and contact the editor at pujap@scindia.edu.



Principal Mr. Samik Ghosh at the Poetry Evening.

Principal's Desk



A desire for immortality is present in every human heart, though we know that we cannot live for ever. We aspire to live in the memory of others in a variety of ways. We try to hold on to our dear ones and when death takes them away they remain in our fond memories.

Perhaps stronger than the desire for immortality is the dream of having perpetual youth. Life teaches us soon that it can only be a dream that cannot be attained. But youthfulness is a quality that we can retain if we have the right spirit and attitude and it reflects in everything we do, in initiatives we take and in the way we interact with our surroundings.

In the current issue of Qila Quotes you will find two distinct ways of achieving the dreams I have spoken about. We remain in the hearts of others if we donate our organs after our death which are used to save lives or to give meaning to the life of another person. The article on organ donation will surely motivate many towards this noble way to immortality in the broader sense.

To relive your past and to relish the beautiful moments of the days gone by brings a soothing touch to our existence. Reminiscences shared by the alumni are always a pleasure to read and give us a touch of a beautiful way of retaining our youth.

From the smallest to the larger things of life a touch of beauty and aesthetics always lends pleasure and meaning to it. The concept of design is fundamental to all humans endeavors encompassing orderliness, utility, balance and beauty. The article on the concept of design will surely be of interest to many.

While we talk philosophically about past, present, future and aesthetics the realities of today such as Board Examination, student's achievements and other news cannot be overlooked. This issue of Qila Quotes covers all such matters and I am sure will be of interest to readers with different tastes.

Request for nominations for Madhav Award 2015

Dear Alumnus,

The process for receiving nominations for the prestigious Madhav Award for the year 2015 has begun. I request you to nominate Old Boys of The Scindia School who have distinguished themselves in their professional fields and send your nominations kindly to me by 31 March 2015. The nominations received will then be taken up by the Awards Committee for consideration. According to the procedure, the proposer needs to submit:

1. Brief particulars of the nominee mentioning his/her achievements and contribution on the basis of which the nomination is being made.
2. Nominee's correct contact information.
3. Names and contact information of two Referees who have no link with the School in any manner.

I shall appreciate your kind cooperation in this important endeavour to honour our distinguished alumni.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Samik Ghosh

Principal



Class IX rafting at Shivpuri



Fire Drill in school

Editorial

The academic year 2014-15 is drawing to a close. The last four months were full of excitement marked with celebrations, visits and interschool activities. Our boys went on student and cultural exchanges to different countries and got exposed to different styles of learning and more diverse cultural experiences. We reaffirmed our commitment towards social welfare causes through very meaningful engagement with the less privileged folks of Sonsa and Nathon ka Pura. We are now bracing up for the Board examinations and are confident that our outgoing students will do us proud with their brilliant performance.

The School celebrated the 117th Founder's Day with traditional pomp, splendour and enthusiasm. The campus remained abuzz with dignitaries, parents, alumni and guests joining us to share our happiness. The Guests of Honour were veteran Olympian Mr. Milkha Singh and celebrated actor Mr. Farhan Akhtar. The wonderful exhibitions and the entertaining cultural evening won applause from all quarters. After a short Diwali break the boys left for educational camps to various exciting places. They came back rejuvenated with their mind and memory card full of beautiful experiences.

Academics

Come February the school acquires a special character. With most major activities having got over the focus becomes strictly academic. While all classes are nearing the end of their syllabus our prime concern is Classes X and XII who are to appear for their Board Examinations. Students of Class X who are over with their ASL and FA cycle have now started with revision exercises and are preparing in all earnestness. The atmosphere of academic sobriety is palpable with the diligent group and individual study sessions during prep time and later in the dormitories.

Class XII feels a lot more confident after two Pre Boards. Detailed feedback sessions have helped them identify their areas of weakness. Extra classes have been worked out and are tailored as per their requirement and convenience. We have also been inviting resource persons from CBSE and other reputed schools to further supplement the knowledge of our students. The boys have had very enriching sessions and have got valuable inputs about exam writing skills.

It is very gratifying that two of our students **Manas Pant** and **Sugandha Shukla** from the Batch of 2015 have got selected to the prestigious New York University, Abu Dhabi on 100% scholarship. We are confident that the other students of the outgoing Batch will also get admission in the colleges of their choice.

At the middle school we remain focused on strengthening the concepts through experiential learning as promoted by the GREYA classes. All lessons remain deeply embedded in technology and our students are becoming increasingly proficient in the use of computers.

Career Cell

Our Career Counsellor, **Mr. Shamik Chakravarty**, went to Singapore and the United Kingdom for exposure to foreign universities. The trip to Singapore was organised by S.P. Jain School of Management where they gave him presentations on the benefits of a global education, highlights of their organization and an opportunity to think and interact with Indian and international educators on the current state of education. The trip to the UK was a tour of universities along with Career Counsellors from other

prestigious schools. This was sponsored by Aspire Education, New Delhi. The various universities he went to were University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University, Loughborough University, University of Bath, Durham University, University of Birmingham and an informal trip to the University of Oxford. At each university, representatives gave presentations about life in the university, career opportunities and there were departmental presentations in which professors gave a tour of their departments, highlighting various aspects. He is now more informed about how a lot of these universities cater to various needs of students and is in a better position to talk to students to give them a clear picture of what to expect from campus life in these universities. This will help them make a more informed decision for choosing their universities and go beyond the cursory information that is found on the internet.

This year, the Annual Career Counseling and Aptitude and Personality testing for Class X students was carried out by One Step Up, New Delhi. Apart from the traditional aptitude testing and one-on-one counselling for stream and subject choice selection, they also had an interactive personality test. In this the students were asked to list down various interests and through a process of introspection, were encouraged to identify their own areas of strength. This has been of great help for Class X to make the right choices while deciding the subjects they wish to read in Classes XI and XII.

The Career Counsellor has made presentations in the School Assembly on how to prepare oneself for admission to foreign universities, on the SAT examination and on various career opportunities that come along with different subject combinations. The response has been overwhelming.

Faculty news

Principal, **Mr. Samik Ghosh** visited the Fabindia School located in Bali, Rajasthan, as the Guest of Honour for their Founder's Day celebration. On his return he shared with the school community interesting facts about the ideology, policies and successful practices of the Fabindia School. He also announced the possibility of there being a student and teacher exchange programme with them in the near future.

It is a matter of great pride that our Band Instructor, **Mr Ramesh Sharma** was given the post of Band Coordinator at the Republic Day Camp in New Delhi. He was the overall incharge of eight NCC bands from all over the country. Mr. Sharma has the unique distinction of being the only Band Instructor who has attended the prestigious Camp continuously for the past 11 years.

Mrs Anita Pandey (Faculty of English) has been invited to participate in the GESE(Graded Examination in Spoken English) International Research Project by Department of Linguistics and English Language, Lancaster



The students give a captivating performance in Turkey.



Making a point.

University, UK. She is currently the teacher coordinator for GESE, India for Grade 4-6.

Moulding Attitudes and Responses

Our endeavour at all times is to not just impart bookish knowledge to our students but to make them sensitive and tolerant individuals who have respect for all. Keeping this in mind our first step was to organize an Anti Bullying workshop for students of Junior school. This was in pursuance of our zero tolerance policy towards bullying. It aimed at educating the boys and raising awareness about this menace. It also highlighted ways of preventing and responding to it.

Another step in the direction of creating liberal young adults was the observance of the Communal Harmony Week. The boys expressed their views on the topic through poems, essays, posters, graphic designs on coffee mugs and T-shirts. The week culminated in a discussion on the topic 'Gandhian Strategies for Promoting Sustainable Communal Harmony and Nonviolent Reconciliation'.

As a first step in a series of Disaster Management workshops which have been planned a mock fire drill was organized for faculty and students. This was to raise awareness regarding the necessary safety measures and procedures to be followed in the case of such an outbreak.

Sports

The Scindia School hosted the IPSC Squash Tournament. The Squash teams of 12 Public schools played under three categories; Under 14, Under 17 and Under 19. The matches were highly engaging and keenly contested. Daly College was the winner in the Under 19 and Under 14 category while Mayo College won in the Under 17 category.

Visits

A team of 19 boys and 2 teachers represented The Scindia School in the 'Mersin Citrus' festival held in Turkey. The boys, dressed in traditional attire, gave two dance performances called *Dashavatar* and *Hanuman Chalisa*. The students also took part in the opening march-past and enjoyed interacting with local School children. There was a perceptible interest in Indian music after the classical renditions by our boys.

On the last day of the festival, the students toured Istanbul and visited the famous Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, the Dolma bachee Palace and the strategic point that separates Europe and Asia.

Round Square

Our teams of students and teachers attended Round Square Conferences at PPS, Nabha and Singapore International School, Mumbai. The conferences with well thought themes like 'Out of Aladdin's Amazon' and 'Code Green: The power of one to Make a difference' provided tremendous scope for learning. Stimulating barazza sessions, panel discussions and talks by keynote speakers led to increased awareness of issues like Globalization and cultural diversity. The delegates also became more sensitive towards environmental problems and attempted to find solutions to them. **Mriganka Ghosh** of Class X was a student mentor for the conference at Mumbai.

The Round Square Service Project was held at Nathon Ka Pura. A total of 45 delegates from 5 schools participated in it. There were three main objectives of this project and it is a matter of immense gratification that we achieved each of them. The first was to empower village women by educating them in market savvy skills to make them financially self reliant. 15 women learnt to make jute bags, mobile covers, tab covers,

cushion covers, multipurpose decorative bags, stitch blouses and the art of tie and dye. Some of their creations were also sold. The second objective was to construct a 125 m long and 1.5 m wide road that would connect the village to the main road. The third was to conduct a socio economic study via a questionnaire to be answered by the villagers in order to get the brasstacks of village life. This led to increased awareness among our children and the findings brought out some very interesting facts about gender roles, changing social aspirations for the girl child and gave the important message of inclusivity.

A fete was organised under the banner of Round Square. Items crafted by students during the hobby classes were put up for sale. The other attractions included the food and games stalls. The money collected has become a part of the Prince Alexander Project Fund and will be used to fund our social welfare activities.

MUN

The Scindia School Model United Nations hosted its first Inter School Conference in December. An educative orientation set the tone for the three days of intense cerebral activity. While thought provoking and informed discussions on the policies and perspectives of the countries and parties represented by the delegates provided food for thought the creation of sudden crisis situations and their solutions kept the committees abuzz with excitement. The last day saw fervid activities in the form of drafting of resolutions and directives which was followed by voting. The Chairs for all the committees were young college and school students and their candid comments were very well received by all the delegates. If the response to the first conference is to go by then we have truly arrived on the MUN scene.

PASCH Project

16 students from the Fontane Gymnasium school along with their teachers visited the school to work together with the Indian counterparts for the project 'Plant: Life Giving'. Together they visited the Jobner Agricultural University in Jaipur and the Entomology Museum amongst many other educational experiences. Through visits, talks and group activities sensitivity towards plants and related issues has been created. Our students will go there in the month of May for the second and final phase of the year long project.

Inter school events

The School hosted 'Swamotsava', the 2nd Swam Sadana Memorial Inter School Music and Dance Competition. Five Schools from Gwalior participated in it and presented their talented vocalists, dancers and keyboardists adding uniqueness to the event. It was an evening of music and melody marked with fond remembrance of our dear student Swam (Ex Daulat, 2012). Gwalior Glory High School bagged the overall winner trophy.

Obituary

With profound grief the entire Scindia fraternity mourns the sad demise of **Mr. V.S. Saxena** (Former House Master Daulat House, Dean of activities, Head of Department- Hindi). Mr. Saxena who retired in April 2010 was a dynamic teacher most remembered for the amazing theatrical productions that were staged under his guidance.

Students' Achievements

It is a matter of great pride that on the occasion of Republic Day, The Scindia School Brass Band marched on Rajpath for the 11th year. It was a proud moment for the entire Scindia community to watch the band cross the saluting Dias at 10:46 am playing the tune 'Kadam Kadam badhayaja'. Kabir Verma, Pranshu Sharma and Nikhar Patel have been conferred the rank of Under Officer which is the second highest rank in NCC.

Our budding cricket star **Akshay Bhargava** was a part of the Madhya Pradesh Under-14 Cricket Team for the Raj Singh Durgapur Trophy. He shows great promise and it's a dream for all of us to see him in the India Jersey one day.

Seven students along with Mr Kamlesh Singh took part in the inaugural Creative Eye Film Festival at Assam Valley School. The theme of the festival was 'The Rat Race'. The participating teams attended a workshop on script writing by Mr Moji Riba a renowned documentary film maker. Our boys with their superlative, literary and video editing skills coupled with the knowledge acquired after having attending the NDTV workshop earlier made a mark with their shortfilm.

The team won the Best Film award for their film 'Survival of the Fittest' and the Best Director award was won by **Yohem Thounaojam**.

The Scindia School Quiz Team comprising **Snehl Tripathi, Hrithik Malhotra** and **Yash Agrawal** came first in the Computer Quiz organized by the Computer Society of India, Gwalior Chapter.

Eklavya Sampat and **Divyaditya Singh** participated in the Nanih Chhaan National Essay Contest. Their entries being amongst the

top 30 they were selected to participate in a Personality Development Program at NIIT University, Neemrana. It was a unique opportunity for our boys to meet and make friends with students from across the country. They also learnt to share ideas and debate on issues of national importance. Via a mix of games, interactions and interactive classroom sessions they learnt skills and received tips that will help them throughout their life.

Our skaters participated in the 2nd National Roller Skating Open Championship 2014 held at Agra.

Following boys won medals in the event.

Name	Category	Short Rink	Long Rink
Shashwat Puri	(In)	Gold	Gold
Kushagra Kaushik	(Q)	Bronze	Gold
Keshav Agarwal	(Q)	Silver	Silver
Raghav Gupta	(In)	Silver	Gold
Sajal Gupta	(In)	Bronze	Bronze
Moksh Wadhwa	(In)	Bronze	



The Scindia Brass Band marching with pride on the Rajpath.

Old Boys' News

On the occasion of the 117th Founder's Day of the School the Madhav Award was conferred on Mr. Sanjeev Aga (Ex- Jeevaji, 1966). Various awards were also given on the occasion of the Old Boys' Day. The SOBA Award was conferred upon Mr. Neel Madhav Roy (Ex- Ravindra, 1968). The coveted SOBA Cup went to the Indore Chapter. A certificate of appreciation was given to the Kanpur SOBA for maximum blood donation.

The **Batch of 1974** took the initiative to organize a Cycle Rally before the Founder's Day to commemorate their 40 years of passing out. Two Old Boys **Gagan Khosla** (Ex- Jeevai, 1974) and **Arjun Saraswat** (Ex- Ranoji, 2010) cycled from Delhi to Agra covering a distance of 330 kms in 14 hours. They were joined by the School cycling team and other Old Boys from Agra. The cyclists' group expanded with the joining of students from IITM, LNIPE, SKV, cycle champions from Sonsa village, as well as the Old Boys of Gwalior Chapter at Rairu. On their arrival at School, on the evening of the 19th of October, they were given a very warm and ceremonial welcome. The Batch of 1974 gave 10 cycles to the school as a gift.

Mr Vijay Jaini (Ex-Mahadji, 1976) won the National Title in the Men's over 55 category of the 62nd National Squash Championships 2014.

Twenty Scindians gathered to meet and spend time with **Mr Rajendra Pawar** (Ex- Vivekanand, 1967, Vice President, Board of Governors) in Manhattan on 5th Nov, 2014 during his visit to the USA. Mr Pawar talked to all the Scindians at leisure and spent an hour explaining in-depth the progress of and activities at School and all the work being undertaken and planned with respect to School's Infrastructure and Academics.

He expressed a keen desire that SOBA should engage in alumni networking with a mission to connecting with the School in various ways. The senior most Old Boy present was **Pradeep Nayyar** (Batch of 1964). The get-together was well represented by Old Boys from 1974 and the young brigade of 2000- 2009 graduates.

Mr. Aman Gupta (Ex-Madhav 1989) a founder director in RusHydro International India Private Limited was recently featured in the Economic Times and other major business publications. RusHydro is a company owned in majority by the Government of the Russian Federation. RusHydro has signed a Joint Declaration of Intent with Anunachal Pradesh Government on cooperation in the field of Hydro Power in the state. The pact aims at creating a mechanism for possible collaboration on hydropower education in the North-eastern state. This is expected to benefit the youth as a large number of new hydropower projects are coming up in the state.

Arjun Saraswat (Ex Rn, 2010) has been shining on the tracks in more ways than one. He successfully ran the "Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon 2015" 42.195 kms in 3 hours and 10 minutes. His country wide rank in the marathon was 21 out of 4500 runners and 41000 participants. A four month long rigorous training which involved running 100 kms a week went into achieving this feat. We wish he earns more laurels in future. Arjun also participated in a Cycling Race 'Delhi Gran Fondo' where he stood third out of 165 cyclists.

Divyash Agarwal (Ex-Madhav, 2013), has joined Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch.) Program at California Polytechnic State University, USA. The University is ranked 1st in the World in the Bachelor of Architecture Program. Divyash and his family expressed their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the school and teachers for providing him opportunities which helped him groom into a well rounded individual.



Arjun Saraswat (Ex Ranoji, 2010) and Gagan Khosla (Ex Jeevaji, 1974)

If it Bleeds it is Read

The ISIS carries out yet another brutal beheading, civilians are getting killed in massive numbers in the Israel Gaza conflict, people are falling prey to deadly diseases and aviation disasters happen in, what seems like, a weekly basis. Though most of us are physically removed from this death and destruction yet we get to experience them almost firsthand via the newspaper and the Television channels. The obvious questions that arise in one's mind are, "Is the world falling apart? Why don't we get to read anything nice? Are we to believe that NOTHING good is happening anywhere?"

A search of some powerful news headlines on the net showed a very strong negativity bias. Though there were a few that accompanied positive stories yet they were hugely outnumbered by those covering news of brutality, violence and loss of lives.

Why is it that newspapers and news channels have merely become vendors of bad news? Why do the encouraging stories get suppressed by saturation coverage of rapes, murders and mayhem? Perhaps it is to satisfy the insatiable beast 'Breaking News'. Another possible explanation could be that in the stiff competition to capture reader attention headlines are designed to sell papers. Unfortunately it seems that death is more profitable to the press than hope or success.

Psychologists feel that most of us have a 'negativity bias' which accounts for our hunger to hear, and remember bad news. It is not that we are sadists who love to see the suffering of others but just that we've evolved to react quickly to potential threats. Bad news, maybe, reminds us of the need to recognise threats and build safety networks. The other reason of our predilection for bad news is that sudden disaster is definitely more compelling than slow improvements. The drama and the stirring of emotions it brings cannot be matched by routine stories.

It is said that the readers or viewers, with their penchant for negative news, have trained journalists to focus on these things. Many people would contest this charge as they say that they wish to read happy and uplifting news but don't ever get such an opportunity. So one is just left wondering whether it is the media which creates the negative news bias or does it simply respond to our preference for bad news over good news?

But before we completely dismiss these negative stories and pass a judgement on newspapers as

peddlers of misery let us objectively consider if there could be any benefits that such news offers. For example, anyone who read about the dastardly attack on the army school at Peshawar must have wondered how people coped with the horrible loss. Similar other stories remind us of the indomitable human spirit. We marvel at people who experience inconceivable pain and loss yet don't give up and move on. It helps people become empathetic and feel one with others forgetting any differences that may have been there. This is exactly what happened when the entire world showed their solidarity with Pakistan and Paris after the army school attack and the Charlie Hebdo episode respectively. Moreover people who are suffering need an audience and this extensive media coverage makes them feel heard, understood and gives them a sense that they are not alone.

Another very positive outcome of coverage of negative news is that it leaves us not just shaken but also stirs us into action. It is commonplace that as we go on with our daily life we sink into complacency and become self absorbed. It is at such times that we need someone who yanks open the doors and reveals the bloodied mess inside. Not to forget that with all tragic news we also get to celebrate local heroes who behave in an exemplary manner in times of crisis.

So I would urge the readers not to get disillusioned when they glance at the morning newspaper with headlines screaming of violence and tragedy. As long as such happenings affect us, stir us into action or bring out the hero in us there is cause for cheer. What would indeed be worrisome is the advent of a day when such news stops affecting us. That would be the real tragedy.

May such a day never come.

Astiva Pandey
X B



Catching up with the latest.



Positive stories of care and concern should get due coverage.

Live life and then give life

Life is a journey of the soul. The body is the medium. All achievements be it in terms of wealth, power or property are meaningless if one does not leave a legacy.

To sustain life, a harmonious functioning of the body's vital organs is essential. When the vital organs fail collectively or individually death ensues. While any other remedy may only treat the symptoms caused by the disease or slowdown the progress of the "Organ failure"; it is only "Organ transplantation" which brings total and comprehensive relief to such patients. Patients who are suffering from liver and kidney failure and a diseased weak heart should prepare their minds in this direction and demand organ replacement instead of wasting time on alternate medicines or running from pillar to post in search of a miracle.

The facility of organ transplantation is yet to gain firm roots in our country, how ever it is budding, flowering and beginning to bear fruits at some places. The Government infrastructure is inadequate and grossly lacks the will, the manpower and equipment. Moreover the paucity of funds and the misuse of whatever available, too has played its role in this speciality falling behind in Government hospitals while finding favour with the private & corporate hospitals. The Government too doesn't seem to mind being relegated to a mere regulatory role. Scarcity of organs for transplantation is an important issue as well. There is very little guarantee for success in attempts to create artificial hearts, kidneys etc as compared to transplantation of real organs. Hence the only way forward is to procure organs either from live donation or brain dead patients (Such brain dead patients are termed as cadavers). Live donation is only permitted through blood relatives, spouse or grandparents of the patient with kidney failure, as per the human organ transplant act of 1994 (HOTA). The other source i.e. from brain dead donors (cadavers) is unknown to general public and hence under utilised. Almost all brain dead donors are cremated without their organs being used for transplantation. This amounts to wastage of human resource. Nobody knows what brain death is?

What common man understands of death is

that when the heart stops to beat one dies. However there are times when only the brain ceases to function but the heart continues to beat. The respiration also stops but can be compensated for by artificial ventilator support. This condition is known as brain death. This too is an irreversible form of death. Such patients can never come back to active life and in due course of time, the heart too stops functioning. This critically important phase of "brain death with the heart beating" is a window where the organs of such a person can be utilised for donating to the needy organ failure patients. All the other organs in this condition, except the brain are functioning well as the heart continues to perfuse them with blood. The entire set of organs of these patients (called Cadavers in medical language), if transplanted, can sow seeds of normalcy in eight different patients who have failed organs like the heart, the liver, the kidneys, the pancreas, the intestines, loss of skin and the eyes. The causes of brain death commonly are - accidents with head injury, unsuccessful attempts of suicidal hanging, brain haemorrhages etc. We may say that if such brain dead patients are allowed to be cremated, at least eight others too would die with each of them for want of organ transplant. A universal realisation of the concept needs to percolate rapidly.

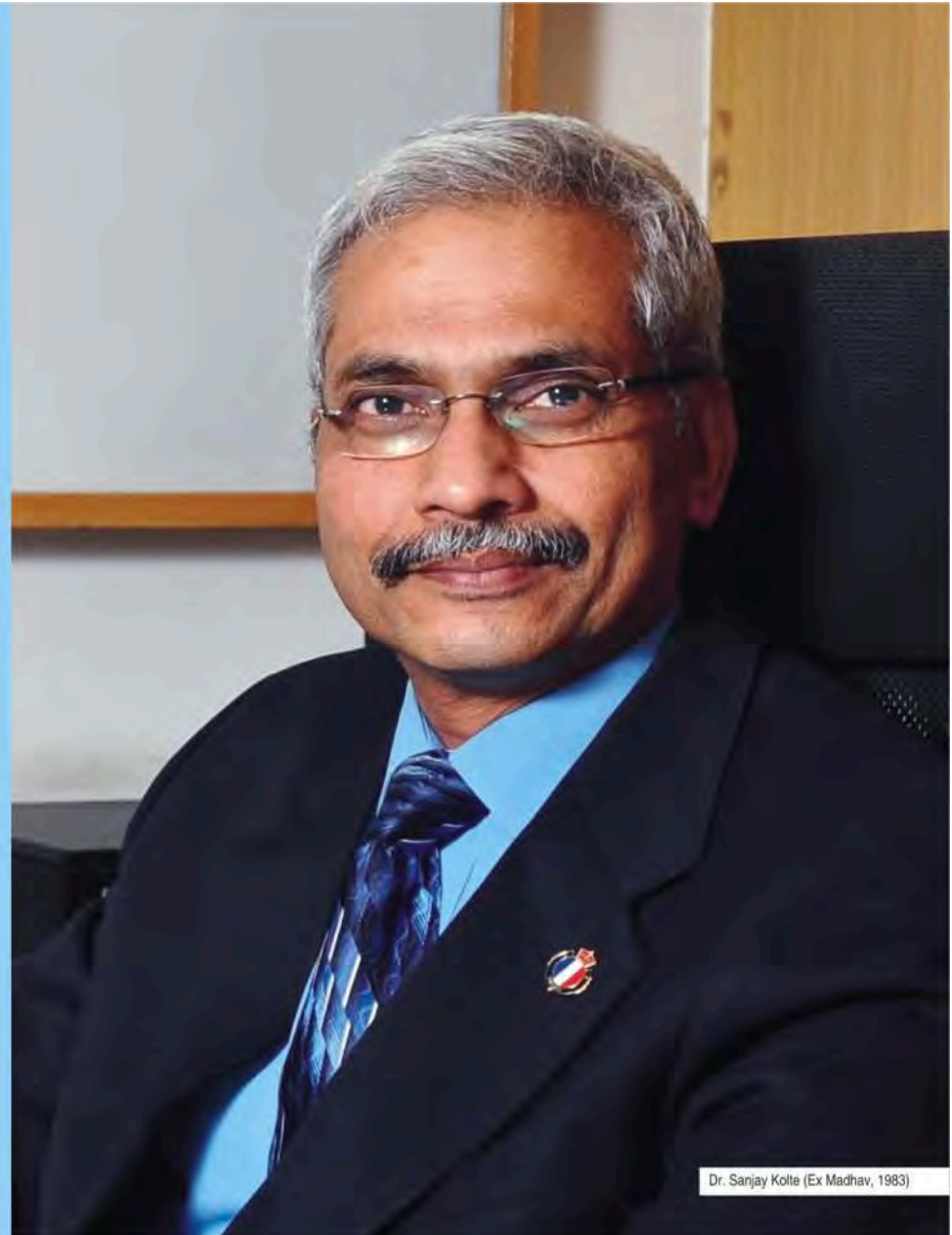
Patients of kidney failure have a slow, tardy and an unending journey of misery throughout their illness. Not only are they physically troubled, their financial resources too are depleted. Their self sufficiency and thus self-esteem too is lost and they live a life which they persistently wish comes to an end. Dialysis maintains life but does not stop the ill effects of kidney failure which continue to erode the integrity of the body and mind insidiously. Kidney transplantation can bring about a successful end to their woes. Being a kidney transplant Surgeon I come across patients of kidney failure and feel fortunate to be able to make a difference to their lives. It was indeed a feeling of immense pride when as a team we could

successfully initiate the cadaveric kidney transplantation in the city of Nagpur in April 2013.

Coming out of the Operation Theatre early in the morning at 5:30 a.m. after a nightlong of continuous activity did not exhaust me that day. I felt as fresh as the morning itself. The Scindia school routine of lights out at 9:30 p.m. and reveille at 5:30 a.m. was well ensconced in me even after coursing through a lengthy medical career and the quirks of clinical residency. Late night surgeries always caused a lot of lethargy the following day. I frowned at myself in not being able to camouflage this exhaustion in my appearance as it was in sharp contrast to my contemporaries who would embarrass me with their perennially long spells of work of 3 or sometimes even 4 sleepless nights of work during residency. I could never achieve these feats.

But this morning seemed different. I felt no fatigue. This opportunity of performing a cadaveric transplantation had come after a decade and a half of my pursuit in kidney transplantation. For 15 long years I was transplanting kidneys from live donors. Cadaveric kidney transplant had not made headway despite incessant efforts. We succeeded in making it happen that morning. It followed a culmination of three very successful surgeries that we performed on the intervening night of 4th and 5th April. The flame of life was rekindled in two patients while the third (the cadaver) was consigned to flames after passing on the baton of life to these two by donating his kidneys. I was proud to be a vehicle in this transition.

It all started with a routine phone call the previous morning when a Neuro surgeon colleague called up to inform about a patient who was brain dead following a motorbike accident. The 18 years old patient named Amit, had been a sweet, young, healthy lad of eighteen till some hours ago full of life and raring to go on his bike as most of us at that age do. Little did he know that he would skid himself



Dr. Sanjay Kolte (Ex Madhav, 1983)

into this unknown domain of organ donation. His brain stem was irreversibly damaged and he was brain dead. The parents of this boy were willing to donate their son's organs. I was cautiously happy sensing a probability of the first cadaver donation coming our way, but grimly optimistic at the same time due to the previous failed attempts in carrying such events to their logical conclusion. It was encouraging to see that despite being from a rural background, the parents were well versed with the concept of organ donation and forthcoming to do so. I could not believe that they stood by their consent. Having sensed my anxiety they took extra efforts to assure me that they had steered clear of all dissuading relatives and superstitions and were firmly decided on proceeding with the donation. They believed that after donation of his organs their son would continue to live through the bodies of the two patients who would receive his kidneys and see the world through his eyes that would light up the world for two others. Their faith in their action nudged me into activity. Legal formalities were completed. Diagnosis, confirmation and documentation of brain death were done by statutory committees of doctors. Search for suitable recipients (patients who would receive the organs) began. As the donor's blood group was O positive, he could donate to a patient of any blood group. Thus the first two patients on the wait list were summoned. One of them was in Amravati 150 kms away and was heading to the haemodialysis center for her routine dialysis. She consented to receive one kidney and prepare herself in the short time at hand. The other recipient was from nearby Kamptee i.e. 15 kms from Nagpur. They reached Nagpur the same evening i.e. 10 hrs from the time we informed them. Their blood was checked for a cross match. By 9:30 p.m. the tests' results arrived. They matched well. Meanwhile the formalities of medico-legal permissions too were completed. The Physicians did a commendable job in maintaining the vital parameters of the cadaver and ensured that his organ functions did not deteriorate while the contingencies were being met. Such a surgery was going to need three operation theatres and three teams of surgeons and at least two teams of Anaesthesiologists. We only had two surgical and two Anaesthesia teams. Nagpur had facilities for kidneys and eyes transplant only so we had to focus only on these two organs. The liver, heart, lungs would still be wasted unless they were airlifted and transferred to other cities with facilities for their transplant. This was not to be. The facility for

liver transplant in our country is in infancy and available only at very few places. Heart and pancreas transplant is practically not there. The irony is that all these are a regular practice in various centres in the USA since the last three decades. One is simply at a loss to see such a vast difference in the pace of things that exists on the globe even today.

In Nagpur we had no trails to follow and this was going to be the first. With the limited available teams we decided to utilise the donor harvest team to do the job of retrieving one kidney initially while we prepared the first recipient for transplantation. This went off as decided and we put the first kidney in the first patient. It poured urine on table and we poured tears of joy at our first successful cadaveric transplantation. The job of closure was carried out by a surgical assistant as we proceeded to prepare the second lady for receiving the other kidney. The second kidney was till then allowed to remain in the heart beating cadaver so as to continue perfusion with blood. As we were ready with the bed for reception of the organ we signalled the donor team who now retrieved the organ for us and handed it over to us. We transplanted this in the second recipient and here too things went off smoothly with the urine spurting out immediately. We were ecstatic but treaded cautiously till the end. The eyes were taken away by the eye bank professionals. By God's grace all surgeries went off well. With breaking of dawn we had two successful surgeries to celebrate and one surgery to mourn (that of the cadaver, who now would head for cremation). The cadaver donor was bid farewell and handed over to the relatives for his heavenly abode. It was an experiment completed with tenacious efforts on the part of so many professionals working in unison so much like the numerous players of an orchestra while composing a song.

Incidentally 5th April also happens to be my birthday and as I left the operation theatre, I had reasons to believe that this coincidence was not by default but by divine design. In the entire exercise I could see things falling into place one after the other flawlessly. The gratitude I felt towards the Almighty at that moment is unfathomable. This event brought relief to two families who had lost hopes on two of their near and dear ones suffering from kidney failure. For them the world had undergone a complete turnaround.

Unfortunately cases of brain death are not reported and thus, major opportunities of benefiting patients of organ failure are lost.

Reasons are aplenty. First and foremost "End of life issues" generate negative response towards brain death and transplantation. There is a perception amongst people of all religions that donation of organs tantamounts to mutilation of body integrity and breaking of God's trust. Secondly the acceptance of a heart beating person as dead is difficult for the relatives and many times they disallow organ donation in the hope that their loved one may rise again. In the countries like USA, Spain, South Africa and even Turkey the system is well oiled and the related medical and paramedical fraternity are fully soaked in the programme. The infrastructure is well developed, firmly established and the government regulations are clearly aimed, well applied and facilitatory. In our country the transplantation programme has moved at a snail's pace. The Human organ transplant act 1994 was passed to curtail organ trade that had flourished in the nineties. It has done wonders in that direction but has also prevented the acceleration of the transplant programme in general. It has made the process very elaborate and complicated by laying down multiple legalities. It does not permit voluntary live donation of organs for the fear of money transactions that may culminate into regular trade of organs. Consequently the transplantation rate in India has continued to keep low. Robust awareness campaigns in the public and full involvement of the Government in promoting transplantation services are some of the important steps that can take it forward.

Our school takes care of our entire physical, emotional and spiritual well-being but being away from parental supervision our curious minds are sometimes easily swerved into abusive tendencies. It is important to refrain from addictions and enjoy the benefits of a healthy body while we live. In the end when our soul decides to call it a day an opportunity may crawl our way and enable us to give life to someone with organ failure.

Dr. Sanjay Kolte
Ex Md 1983
Chief Transplant Surgeon
Wockhardt hospitals
Nagpur



Dr. Sanjay Kolte (second from left) performing a surgery.



The children making posters to create awareness about organ donation.

Interview

Interview with Madhav Awardee (2014) Mr. Sanjeev Aga (Ex Jeevaji, 1966).

Mr Sanjeev Aga has been Managing Director of three corporates - Blow Plast, Aditya Birla Nuvo, and then of IDEA CELLULAR. An outstanding business leader, his recognitions include being awarded 'CEO for the Year 2009 at the 'Indira' Innovation Summit, and being in the shortlist for 'Indian of the Year 2010' by Forbes. He is presently an Independent Director and Adviser to reputed corporates, and is also involved with 'Not for Profit' service organizations.

If you could talk of any person/incident of your school days which had a huge impact on you, what would it be?

The school years are formative years. Many teachers impacted me, the most lasting impact was of those who planted the seed of curiosity in my mind. Only as one example, I think my predisposition to clarity in reasoning and accuracy in expression, derives in large measure from the Geometry classes of Shri PM Khar way back in 1964.

Most people believe 'Business ethics is an oxymoron'. What are your views on it?

I would first like students not familiar with the term oxymoron to look it up, because it has a most delicious meaning. Roughly, it means a set of words with contradictory meanings. Like make haste slowly.

Now, to your question. Are Business and Ethics inherently contradictory? Or are Business and Politics inherently contradictory? These questions arise because of what we see in society today. It is certainly true that ethical standards are tested more searchingly and more frequently in occupations like business. But otherwise being ethical or unethical is a personal standard, which is independent of occupation. Most human beings do not like to be unethical. Most human beings value self-respect. There is a process and a science to improving ethical standards in societies. If there is just one role a good leader can perform, it is to establish in the organization a sense of right and wrong.

You have managed a very demanding career and also pursued your passions and been a devoted family man. How did you strike a balance between your work and personal life?

It is misleading to think that a job high up in the

corporate ladder places higher demands on physical time. At best it keeps one switched on mentally. I never had a problem of imbalance, so I did not have to strike a balance.

What were your feelings when you handed over the torch and replica of the school flag to a young Scindian on Founder's Day?

When I saw the young boy, only somewhat older than my grandson, my mind went back to the time when I was in school as a ten year old. I realized that I formed a link in an unbroken chain of Scindians, going back generations, and which will go forward into generations. It was a great feeling.

Your Founder's Day address exhorted the students to strive for a sense of decency, character and fair play. How do you think they should work towards it?

These are the qualities we observe in persons we truly admire and respect. There are always temptations to take short cuts, and no human being is perfect. But if we are sensitized to these values, they serve as an invisible life-long moral compass which guide our actions.

What is your success mantra?

I do not judge success in stereotypical terms. A life of simplicity and grace can be more fulfilling than one of sterile achievements. Achievements are very important, in whichever sphere, but a person should also be at peace with himself or herself.



Mr. Sanjeev Aga receiving the Madhav Award.



Handing down of traditions.

Reminiscences

What is it that you miss the most about school and why?

Companionship and interaction with my friends. I still crave for my Scindia friends and seek them out as best as possible.

Byravam Viswanathan, Ex-Mahadji, 1956

The seasons, the camaraderie, the routine, going home and coming back are the things that I miss.

Prashant Prabhu, Ex-Madhav, 1967

The school, with its magnificent surroundings, is what I miss the most. Set in the most historic of locations with history all around it, the amazing campus is dotted with monuments from different eras. With rich flora and fauna adding to its beauty the Fort beats any other campus in the world. We as students were blessed to live in such glorious surroundings.

Vikram Mathur, Ex-Jayaji, 1974

1 for sorrow, 2 for joy, 3 for letter...The joy of receiving a letter from home and reading it umpteen number of times. I really miss those letter writing sessions. Sadly, technology has killed this art.

Vinod Ladia, Ex-Madhav, 1974

My happy school days, friends and all that the teachers taught us about future life. Another thing that I miss is the Astachal and the setting sun which brought us to the end of another day in life.

Saumitro Sen, Ex Jayaji, 1976

Saada : awesome lingering taste.

Sandeep Agrawal, Ex-Shivaji, 1980

School was a big family with no strings attached. I miss being with the members now.

Sanjay Kolte, Ex-Madhav, 1983

I miss my mutton *puri* meal on Fridays and mutton *pulao* on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Somehow food has never tasted better.

Banjul Badli, Ex-Jayaji, 1988

The friends that were made in those 9 years and the everlasting bonds thus created. Coming out of school at the age of 18, I had spent more time with some of my classmates

than I had even with my own siblings! I have since lived in 3 countries but the best friends everywhere, be it in Dubai, US or Canada, have been the ones from Scindia.

Rajan Gosain, Ex-Madhav, 1989

It will not be correct for me to say that I miss School or something about School because that's not what School ever wanted. The school wanted us to learn and grow and use this in our future. It wanted us to excel in our social as well as professional life. I loved discipline, the fitness regime/ sports, sharing (home food or nihari or tuck-shop snacks or notes or House Prefect responsibilities...). I loved camaraderie amongst friends, the Saturday evening movies, the morning assembly and the Hindi/ English/ Sanskrit prayers. I loved decorating the House for Founder's Day, Old Boys visiting the House during Old Boy's Day and sharing their stories. I loved the school's focus on extra-curricular activities. All these have helped me at some point of my life in the last 25 years. I can be grateful to the school but do not miss it!

Saurabh Agrawal, Ex-Jayappa, 1989

During my most tiring days as a corporate professional I still find my school time memories a favourite hide out. One thing that I still savour the most is the 'Kachodis' we used to get on Tuesdays for breakfast. Even after so many years that taste still lingers on. I have never found anything so sumptuous ever again.

Anshul Mathur, Ex-Jeevaji, 1994

I would say it's the Art/ Stone Carving Department in school. It's been more than 15 years now that I passed out and have never been able to sculpt again in life. However I am determined to go back to this skill at some point in my life.

Navin Chandra, Ex-Ranoji, 1998

I miss the bonding and the quality of living above one's own self. This is hard to find in today's fast and self centered world.

Jai Khande, Ex-Mahadji, 1999

I miss almost everything about the school, from the worst of situations to the best ones. Every

minute spent in school taught us to stand out in the world.

Dr. Sukant Garg, Ex-Jyotiba, 2004

I miss the fire that raged inside. The fire to learn, to excel and to experience everything that came my way. That is what my school instilled in me. To think of it I'd say it's pretty much the best thing you can give to a kid.

Abhishek Khetan, Ex-Daulat, 2004

I miss everything about school but as the question wants me to be specific I would mention the amazingly hilarious House evenings that we used to have. Another thing would be the epic Inter House sports encounters.

Prithvi Khanna, Ex-Madhav, 2010

The six years, from 12th July 2007 to 3rd April 2013, that I spent in Scindia were the best years of my life. To be very honest, when you are out of school, you tend to miss everything. You just wish that you could rewind time and relive those years of fun. But if I had to mention one thing that I really miss then it would be the friendly relations with all my teachers. I am so glad to have studied from some of the most wonderful teachers who shaped my personality.

Anubhav Sarkar, Ex-Madhav, 2013

Once you pass out of school there is not just one specific thing that you miss. Starting from the morning P.T till the lights off! You just want to live those seven years again and again! As if there was no end to it.

Jaskaran Singh Bakshi, Ex-Jayaji, 2014

I miss the Band practice and the late night chats with friends. We thought that we were having a good time, but we didn't realise that we were actually making memories.

Ayush Agrawal, Ex-Jayaji, 2014



Close friendships which last a lifetime.



The creative pursuits which leave a lasting imprint.

The wonder that is DESIGN

A lot has already been spoken, written and discussed about Design and the process of Designing but since it is a very captivating and engaging topic it can be viewed with a fresh perspective each time.

Simply put, Design is a way of life....It is often noticed that our children have very little or no idea about Design as a serious career option. They are not aware of the relevance and significance of Design in everyday life.

The purpose of contributing this article is to create awareness about its importance and establish it as a career option in future. In order to make this possible it would be a good idea to introduce Design as a subject at school level itself preferably from Class VII or VIII onwards.

I am sure many of us would agree that our mind set is still limited to orienting our kids in medicine, engineering, law and of late in the IT streams. We fail to understand the wide reach and scope of design. Design is actually a huge umbrella under which fit a large number of topics that are otherwise not considered part of Design education. Let me quote an excerpt from the foreword of the book 'Thinking Design' by S. Bairam: "There is something strange about the word Design. It is used in association with a wide variety of other words to form countless compounds like for instance, Design Activity, Design Career, Design Community, Design Concepts, Design Critique, Design Drawing, Design Education, Design Gallery, Design Institution, Design Method, Design Movement, Design Practice, Design Profession, Design Scene, Design Semiotics, Design Situation, Design Students, Design Teaching, Design Tools, Design Training..." So I would like to reassert that Design is an all encompassing subject and a way of life.

Is it possible for us to provide an early platform to the young talented minds to make the classroom a melting pot of creative ideas, dreams and passions which will result in churning out exemplary designs? I'm sure these will in turn make a positive and fruitful difference to the lives and lifestyles of our fellow countrymen. With a clear focus on creating products and processes, systems and services for India, the Schools can play a proactive role all along.

Students need to be trained to identify and appreciate design. This will go a long way to sensitizing young minds to aesthetics. The fields where a keen sense of design may open up new opportunities are product

design, graphic design, animation, film and video making, lifestyle accessories design, exhibition/ space design, furniture & interior integrated design, automobile design, new media, strategic design management, textiles, apparel design, jewellery, footwear, ceramics... the list is long.

Design Education is a sure shot way of meeting the demand and supply of a better life and great ideas and products. No doubt we have some great design institutions but the gap between the requirement of good designers and the number of designers being trained and qualified is still a matter of concern because this facility is only available at UG and PG level, not at school level.

It would be a great idea to start a Design debate here for it to be taken up as main subject in our early classrooms. All are welcome to contribute their opinions and suggestions.

Cheers for the New Year! Let's design a new year, collectively.

Mrs. Gayatri Singh



Mrs. Gayatri Singh.

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Harshraj Gond

Cover Page Design
Mriganka Ghosh

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URL: www.scindia.edu
Old Boys' Site:
www.scindiaoldboys.com

The Scindia School

The Fort Gwalior- 474008, MP, INDIA
Telephone : +91-751-2480750
Fax : +91-751-2480650
Email : office@scindia.edu
Website : www.scindia.edu

Old Boys' Site : www.scindiaoldboys.com

Printed by Galaxy Printers
galaxyprinters22@gmail.com/ +91 9826214644

