



Dear Review,

I haven't written to you ever before so just thought I'd let you know what you have meant to generations of us. Fortnight after Fortnight you have provided us news and views. You have kept us informed and helped shape our opinions. Class VI or XII, students or faculty, Old Boys or former teachers, parents or our sister schools you have meant something to everyone.

How accurately you have chronicled the eventful life of our glorious institution. The cheer that you bring to many a face, each time you document their achievements or print their articles or pictures is a sight to behold. Not to miss the stellar role you have played in spotting, nurturing and burnishing literary and artistic talent. Most importantly, you never failed to catch the flavour and spirit of the events. We can never thank you enough.

Continue with your good work. Keep us enlightened and entertained, today and always.

Thanks,
Yours truly,
Scindian

QILA QUOTES

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL | TRIANNUAL PUBLICATION

The Scindia School

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Principal Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat with former Principal Mr. Samik Ghosh.



Mr. Mustaq Khan Chowdhary presenting a token of love to Mr. Samik Ghosh.

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TRIENNIAL PUBLICATION

CONTENTS

Volume 24 | July 2015

THE FOUNDER Maharaja Madhavrao Jayajirao Scindia	04	Principal's Message
President H H Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia	06	Editorial
Vice President Mr. Rajendra S Pawar	09	Students' Achievements
Members H H Rajmata Madhviraje Scindia Mr. Vinay Modi Mr. Mahesh Gandhi Mr. Harpal Singh Mr. Arun Kapur Mrs. Gayatri Singh Mr. Vikram Mathur Mr. Jyoti Sagar Mr. Amar Jyoti Bindal Mr. Harish Bhojwani	10	Old Boys' News
Ex-officio Member Secretary Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat	11	Alumni To Censor or Not to Censor: Debarshi Dasgupta (Ex DI, 1999)
Bursar Col. Sanjiv Kaushal (Retd.)	13	Faculty My tryst with the Review: Mr Jitendra Jawale (Ex DI, 1986)
Scindia Old Boys' Association	15	Interview Interview of Nalin Mehta (Ex Rn, 1996)
President Mr. Gopal Bhargava	17	Guest Reminiscences: Mrs Deepika Tandon
Vice President Mr. Rahul Kulshreshtha Mr. Banjul Badil	19	Alumni The Review Speaks: Anustup Garai (Ex Md, 2015)
Treasurer Mr. Praveen Bhargava	21	From the Archives Life of a Review Editor: Sugandha Shukla
Secretary Mr. Sandeep Agarwal		
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.



Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat with some senior members of the faculty.



Friendly interaction.

Principal's Desk



I am your new Principal, and honoured to be so. It is a privilege to follow so many great Principals, and to build on their decades of experience.

I have come with all my heart and energy. My sights are high, and my hopes are great because I know that I have become a part of a school that has a distinct sense of identity and pride in its legacy.

I know that The Scindia School students are good not only in the academic area but also in sports, leadership and the organization of activities. As a teacher, I sincerely appreciate the school's great effort and commitment to providing all-round education to students. There could not be a better opportunity for me as a professional to be the next Principal of this great institute.

I also realize that the achievements of any school do not come easy. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the entire staff for their professionalism and commitment in building a solid foundation of the school, thank the parents for their support and also thank the students for their diligent work and engagement in the school.

As a Principal, I always consider students' well being to be the first priority. I strongly believe that 'we are because you are' and we therefore we must co-exist and co-create to make our lives beautiful. Everything in an educational institute revolves and MUST revolve around the welfare of the student. It is our responsibility to ensure that every child, without any exception, gets a conducive environment for learning. We must also ensure the safety and security of every child. All our efforts should be directed towards creating a learning society sans fear, sans inhibitions, sans reservations and sans hostility. Purposeful living and the right direction come naturally to a school when all stakeholders work together in harmony. However if this is not happening then it is indicative of a serious problem which needs to be immediately reflected upon and addressed. It is my firm belief that if any degradation sets in the system it invariably comes from within so the corrective measures too must be initiated from within. Hence, there is always a constant need for introspection and reflection for a living organization like ours. There is nothing like status quo for a school. Either it improves or it goes down. And this movement depends on our own endeavours, intent, efforts, integrity and commitment.

There is always a road for excellence in whatever we do. Let us put our heart into whatever we do every day. Dedication is neither rare nor elusive. It is there in our heart, we only have to feel and let it grow. It is the only ingredient for us to make our task complete and useful however hard it might be. Don't cradle mediocrity in your heart, it will never bear good fruits. The school is the bridge between the pupil's dreams and their accomplishment. I would like this great school to be a strong and forceful bridge for the pupils' welfare and their future. With the help of all my colleagues and the accomplished management I promise that we will provide you this bridge.

My young friends, education is reinventing itself for the new age. By the time you will pass out from this school, the challenges you will face, the opportunities you will be able to explore and the contributions you will be able to make all of these will extend beyond our own campus and country. And we need to prepare ourselves for that unknown future.

For me, learning is a sacred endeavour, so I would like everything in this school to reflect learning's elevated status. Together we should help create an inviting space for learning in Scindia.

At this point of time, I would also like to share that the only identity this school will recognize is your individual identity your character, your scholarship, your humanity. So come to me as an individual. I will be at your service if you will come to me as a learner, a person in quest of knowledge. As an individual, I know just one religion that is 'being human'. Your association with the school will revolve around this most basic prerequisite for any human being. I would also like you not to forget ever that this is an abode of knowledge which was created to make better human beings. And I am determined to make that happen.

In the end I'd just like to say that we should always look back at our distinguished past and take pride in it. But at the same time let us resolve to keep adding the new with the old.

Please join me in imagining and creating The Scindia School of the future.

Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat
Principal, The Scindia School



Mr. Samik Ghosh and Mrs. Shalini Mehrotra



A still from the Hindi Play

Editorial

The Scindia School Review is a newsletter and much more. It is an idea, a vision, a living part of the School. On the 1st and 15th of every month the students as well as the members of the faculty can be seen immersed in its pages catching up with the events of the fortnight gone by. The Review informs, educates, entertains and edifies its readers.

Having made a modest beginning in 1938 as a monthly not many would have imagined that one day this would become the most accurate barometer of the Scindian way of life.

The Review kept growing from strength to strength and it is a matter of great pride that its 1000th issue came out on the 15th of April. This issue of Qila Quotes is to commemorate this special milestone in the life of our school newsletter. This issue has contributions from Old boys and faculty (present and old) who talk about the Review, share the memories of their association with it and also express how they would like it to be. So here's wishing the Review a 1000th birthday and many more such glorious milestones.

The closing of the last term was marked by several important developments. The School gave an emotional farewell to Principal, Mr Samik Ghosh who served as the Principal from June 2009 to June 2015. A true intellectual, gifted orator, keen sportsman, music lover and a passionate photographer Mr Ghosh made a significant impact on various areas of school life. His calm handling of the most difficult of situations, empathetic nature and brilliant sense of humour will be missed by all. We wish him all the best for his new assignment and will continue to stride on the path shown by him.

The School also bid farewell to Vice Principal, Ms Shalini Mehrotra who has joined Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hissar as Principal. Ms Mehrotra served the school for four years and brought in a lot of rigour into our academic routine. A great motivator she made both the staff and students constantly raise their own bar and provided all the support that was needed to achieve the ends. We wish her all the best.

We will also miss Bursar Lt Col RD Sharma, Head of Middle School Mrs Rakhi Sharma, Mr Amit Kumar (Faculty of Social Studies) and Mr Samik Chakrabarty (Career Counsellor). We wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

The School extends a warm welcome to the new Principal Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat. Dr Saraswat is a Post Graduate in English and Hindi and has a doctorate in Hindi. He started his teaching career in a college. Thereafter he joined The Doon School and served there for sixteen years, with six years as a Housemaster. Like a true public school master, he garnered a host of experiences through engagement in a variety of activities ranging from academic, cultural, adventure, sports and social service. He was also actively involved with Round Square and other community service related activities. Dr. Saraswat moved on from The Doon School and started two schools as the Founder Principal. The Sapkal Knowledge Hub, Nasik subsequently promoted him to the post of CEO of their wider educational venture which included four colleges apart from the Orchid School. Dr. Saraswat brings to The Scindia School a rich experience of various aspects of educational management, an understanding of the spirit of a public school and an

innate Indianness. As Principal his philosophy is to build a strong school community where the students, teachers, administration, parents and support staff all work together as a team. Dr. Saraswat aims to create a healthy educational ecosystem whereby the faculty is able to unleash the creative potential of each student by making him feel safe, respected and valued. We wish him a long and fruitful tenure at The Scindia School.

The School extends a warm welcome to Bursar, Col Sanjiv Kaushal and heartiest congratulations to Mr Dharendra Sharma on his appointment as Dean of Studies.

Ceremonies

The closing of the last term was also marked by ceremonies whereby we recognise and reward excellence. The Annual Sports Banquet and Scholar's Banquet were organised with traditional regalia to felicitate our sports and academic high achievers.

The House Report Ceremonies of Senior and Junior Houses had the entire school celebrate the achievements of the Houses and individuals in the course of the year.

The extremely entertaining annual English and Hindi plays were the perfect culmination of yet another eventful academic year.

Academics

Attaining academic excellence remains at the heart of all our endeavours. Through educational visits and regular workshops we aspire to provide students and faculty with rich learning experiences. Apart from ensuring academic rigour we also work towards the development of skills such as inquiry, investigation, and experimentation.

The months of March and April saw our students appear for the Board Examination and Summative Assessment. The months preceding that had been spent in providing personalised remedial and enrichment programme. Time management, which is a crucial component for



The members of the faculty designing a Lesson Plan during the workshop.



Clarifying doubts

success in any exam, was another important skill we imparted to our students by making them undergo a series of practice examinations. We are proud to share that the hard work put in by the faculty and students bore fruit and our students performed exceedingly well. Anustup Garai with an aggregate of 97.2% and Manas Pant with an aggregate of 96.6% have secured the first and second rank respectively in the Gwalior region. Peter Lairenlakam secured 100% in Chemistry. Three students (Anustup Garai, Karanveer Singh and Manas Pant) secured 100% in Psychology and two students (Manas Pant and Shishir Garg) secured 100% in Fine Arts. We are confident that we will be able to scale new heights with the current Batch.

We believe that our students deserve the best so we constantly work towards the professional development and upgrading of the skills of our teachers. Members of the faculty are involved in research, collaborative inquiry, and professional standard-setting. The faculty attended a workshop on ICT skills. The new members were familiarised with the basics of eportal while the others were introduced to its new features. The faculty also attended a workshop on Interactive methods of Pedagogy by Ms Asheema Singh and Ms Trapti Rai. The two day workshop helped them to collectively produce several lesson plans involving the Interdisciplinary and experiment based approach to teaching learning. The School will form a core team of teachers who will now take this model forward after a few more such training sessions by the resource persons.

The School takes complete ownership of the boys and takes all possible measures to provide them a competitive edge vis a vis the students of other schools and colleges. With this view the Commerce Department has started specialised coaching for preparing our boys for CA and ICWA.

The Department of English has planned a few language enhancement activities for the students of Junior Houses. This includes guided Library periods, role play and story telling sessions followed by teacher moderated discussion. Debating and Public Speaking remain robust as ever.

Visits

A group of 16 students and two members of the faculty went on a three week educational exchange to our partner school, Fontane Gymnasium, Rangsdorf, Germany. This visit was the second and concluding part of the year long project 'Plants Life Giving' supported by the Robert Bosch Foundation. The Scindian delegation along with their German counterparts attended workshops on plants, visited the Botanical Garden in Berlin and worked on projects and activities based on this. The students stayed with host families and got a firsthand experience of German culture and customs. They have returned with very fond memories and greater confidence in the use of the language. Apart from sightseeing in Germany the group also visited CERN in Geneva.

Eight boys along with Dr (Mrs) Maitreyee Bishnoi went for a Round Square Junior Cultural Exchange to St. Andrews School, Miami. The three week exchange had our boys visit a number of educational institutions which exposed them to new styles of teaching and they were able to imbibe from the cultural diversity of the place. The boys also went sightseeing and took part in community service.

Career Cell

SIUK Education council along with the India representatives of various UK Universities visited the School Campus school after the reopening of the school. University representatives from various campuses interacted with senior students and informed them about the various

courses, colleges, admission processes and scholarships. The response was overwhelming and the students feel they can make more informed choices now.

Sports

The Scindia School Cricket Team comprising 14 players along with the then Dean of Sports, Mr G.S. Bakshi and Cricket Coach, Mohammad Hasrat went to England on a Cricket Tour from 11th 21st May 2015. The tour was organized by Turf Sports Management. The Scindia School team played 4 matches and won all 4 of them. The team was captained by Sarthak Talwar at Bradford and Harshraj Malik at Birmingham. Our boys played exceedingly well and won accolades for their fine game. Sarthak Talwar, Akshay Bhargava, Harshraj Malik and Abhishek Agarwal were adjudged Man of the Tournament, Best Batsman, Best Bowler and Best fielder respectively.

Workshop

The English Debating Society organized a workshop to further hone the skills of our avid debaters in the Parliamentary format of debating. Mr. Tarang Tripathy (Ex- Je, 2010) and Mr. Vibhor Mathur founder members of 'Awaaz', a Delhi based NGO were invited by the school to conduct the workshop. Three gruelling sessions were organized and the boys got specific tips pertaining to preparation for the debate. They were also told about effective debating jargon, appropriate body language, video links of good debates and the judgement criteria. Practice sessions entailed collaborative preparation on the assigned topics followed by intensely competitive debating sessions and audience assessment. The workshop was a great success and the boys feel a lot more confident now to handle this extremely challenging format of debating.

Faculty News

Mrs Raksha Siriah received the Meritorious Certificate of Recognition at the IAYP award ceremony held at New Delhi. The award was conferred by Raja Randhir Singh, the sole representative of India on the International Olympic Committee. It was in recognition of her contribution to the IAYP activities in school.

Dr. Geeta Shukla went on a Teacher Exchange Programme to Woodbridge School, UK in the month of June. In the course of her stay she attended the Science classes for a better understanding of the teaching learning practices followed there. She also helped the faculty at Woodbridge in the teaching of the lesson based on India. Dr Shukla actively involved herself in the celebration of the Anglo Saxon week which was being observed there. She has come back with many new ideas which will surely benefit our students.

Students' Achievements

The Batch of 2015 has done us proud with their brilliant performance in the CBSE Board examination. It is a matter of great pride that **Anustup Garai** with an aggregate of 97.2% and **Manas Pant** with an aggregate of 96.6% have secured the first and second rank respectively in the Gwalior region. Peter Laurenlakam secured 100% in Chemistry. Three students (Anustup Garai, Karanveer Singh and Manas Pant) secured

Dhananjay Saraf and **Manikya Bansal** received the prestigious Anirudh Sharma Memorial Trophy and a Special Blazer for displaying excellence in Adventure Sports. The King Constantine Medals were given to Dhananjay Saraf, Shishir Garg and Anirudh Gangwal for their outstanding work in promoting the IDEALS of Round Square.

A group of nine students along with Ms Jasman Randhawa went to Spiti valley for a seventeen day **IAYP** project. They successfully completed the construction of a greenhouse for a family in the small Spitian village, by the name of Khwang. The greenhouse was inaugurated on the 18th of June by the national director of IAYP Mr Kapil Bhalla. The Scindian delegation also went sightseeing to some of the most beautiful locations around the worksite.

Eight students (Aditya Bajaj, Akarsh Mittal, Manas Pant, Sugandha Shukla, Pratul Jain, Utsav Mehra, Yash Dugar and Yash Nagpal) received the **IAYP Gold Award** in a special ceremony held at India International Center, New Delhi. The award was conferred by Raja

Randhir Singh, the sole representative of India on the International Olympic Committee.

Satyam Chaturvedi and **Shubham Madhwal** attended the International German Youth Camp at St. Peter Ording, Hamburg on a 100% scholarship. The visit was sponsored by the Goethe Institute under the PASCH project. During the twenty one day camp they attended classes which laid a special focus on acquiring fluency in German, went sightseeing to various tourist destinations and also enjoyed friendly football matches against the German team. They have returned with greater proficiency in the use of the German language, many beautiful memories and lots of international friends.

Old Boys' News

Dr. Sanjay Kolte (Ex Md, '83) Senior Transplant Surgeon, & Consulting Urologist in Nagpur has been appointed by the Govt of Maharashtra as Associate Professor in Urology at the Govt Medical College and Super speciality hospital Nagpur, to initiate kidney transplantation there. He would play a pivotal role in the kidney transplantation programme.

Sanjay Arora (Ex Md'80) of Shells Advertising Inc. has been elected as the new President of the Advertising Agencies Association of Nagpur (AAAN). Many congratulations to him for heading such a prestigious and influential association.

With a view to enriching and broadening the educational experience of the students SOBA has launched the **SOBIR** 'Scindia Old Boys in Residence' programme. It is envisaged that Old Boys with expertise in different areas will share their knowledge and practical experiences with the boys, while being physically present on campus. The sharing of knowledge will be in congruence with the CBSE syllabus that is being taught to the boys in school. Sports, dramatics and other probable areas of engagement are also being looked at. Through a series of meetings with HOD's, Staff members, Academic Council members the areas of engagement and possible ways to achieve the desired objective have been worked out. A core committee comprising the Principal, Mr G. S. Bakshi, Mr Dharendra Sharma and Mr Shailesh Agarwal has also been formed for the same. Mr Dhyranraj Manikchand and Dr Abhimanyu Acharya will be on the Fort for the inaugural SOBIR programme scheduled to take place from 13th 15th of August 2015.

SOBA organized a farewell for Mrs and Mr Samik Ghosh and also

welcomed the Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat along with the Bursar, Col S. Kaushal on 22nd of May 2015. Dr Vikram Mathur shared beautiful memories of his personal association with Mr Ghosh and spoke eloquently about Mr Ghosh's simplicity and the support and encouragement that was given to SOBA activities during his tenure. Mr Ghosh gave a heart-warming speech where he spoke at length about all that the Scindia School gave him in the past six years and how his life was much similar to the way he had lived in Santiniketan decades ago. He expressed his gratitude to the Old Boys for their wholehearted support to him in all his endeavours throughout his tenure.

Dr Saraswat in his welcome speech promised his full fledged support for an ever evolving, mutually satisfying relationship between the Old Boys and the school in times to come. He also lauded Mr Ghosh for the great achievements and work done in school during his tenure.

Vaibhav Singh Kirar (Ex DI, 2012) has received the Durham award at the University of Durham. The award is conferred on students who demonstrate 5 key skills i.e. leadership, team work, initiative taking/ problem solving, commercial awareness, and communication. It is aimed at providing an opportunity to students to stand out from the crowd and become more employable.



The Scindian delegation at the IAYP Award Ceremony.



The inaugural SOBIR meeting.

To Censor or Not to Censor

"A good newspaper, I suppose, is a nation talking to itself." This is how writer Arthur Miller had described an ideal newspaper. It is logical to deduce from this that a good school journal is one in whose pages the school talks to itself. If a school journal does not echo the chatter from its corridors, then it is fair to accuse it of being not entirely honest. The Review, which celebrated its millennial edition earlier this year, has been a reasonably loyal chronicler of The Scindia School's evolution since 1938.

The changes that have swept through the Review's pages in the last decade or so have been welcome and need to be lauded. It has made it more spunky and reflective of the school's youthful character. That this has come about despite the limitations under which the Review works, is a credit to the numerous student and faculty editors who have toiled selflessly to achieve this.

But the thought I want to broach in this piece is to ask how the Review plans to keep up with change in the coming years, especially loosening its self-censorship norms to match the more liberal society that we strive to establish. One appreciates that a school journal has in-built limits on its freedom of speech. But it is about time to ask how innovative and questioning they are within that circumscribed space? And what stops them from pushing the envelope further?

When we were in school in the 1990s, merely allowing students to work on producing the Review, editing articles and conceptualising the layout, was a path breaking and rebellious thought. Today, it is a sine qua non. Does the Review want to be content at merely letting this relatively harmless tradition continue or does it want to breach new frontiers of school journalism? I would like to think the latter is what the Review aspires to.

With school students now having greater exposure to conventional media and unprecedented access to social media, they today have more opportunities to engage in free-flowing conversations on a range of subjects. This is unlike the time we spent at school when avenues to express oneself were limited. How does a fortnightly like the Review stay relevant and appeal to its readers if it doesn't talk of some vexing issues that confront the school and the country at large.

Times have changed to coax school authorities to be much more permissible of debate and dissent. What harm does a disparaging food review of Saturday's dinner do? A review of a foul movie that was chosen for the school's weekly screening? Or, for that matter, a critical take on the latest acquisitions in the library? How about an honest, even if anonymous, appraisal of a teacher?

And here's a thought that is even more provocative - how should the Review deal with sensitive subjects like ragging or bullying? Complete ignorance? Or can the editors/reporters go around asking students about their thoughts on ragging and then produce a piece based on their experience? Why not, I will argue. A school journal must enable these conversations responsibly and convey them to its readers. The Review, after all, must not be relegated to being a glorified notice board.

It was in March this year that one of India's leading colleges, St Stephen's College in New Delhi, was caught in the throes of a controversy that had its makings in a similar debate about what is permissible in a college journal. A student had launched an independent online journal and decided to go ahead with the publication of an interview of the college principal without seeking his clearance. Not only was the right of the college authorities to censor content being challenged, even the basic premise that only the college authority had the sanction to start a journal had been thrown out of the window.

Smarting at this act of rebellion, the vindictive college decided to sack the student and even had an award that was set to be given to him withdrawn. The student didn't take it lying down. He appealed against the order and the Delhi High Court ruled in the student's favour and reinstated him. It was a big victory. How would Scindia School react if one of its students were to launch a parallel and independent online publication? Presumably, with the same swiftness and firmness. One can concede that school students do not enjoy the same level of independence as college-going students (or at least those in leading institutions like St Stephen's) do. But it is a luxury that is coming under greater challenge and school journals must not shy away from taking it on headlong. The Review must not always be about comfort and easy reading. It has to provoke, stimulate and contribute to the school's and its students' wholesome development.

As a student editor who passed out in 1999, I left with a fond recollection of my relationship with the Review. I remain indebted to it for having given me my first go at producing a journal, something that has always held me in good stead. I would like to think that student editors who pass out of The Scindia School today in 2015 do so being equally thankful to the Review for being the place where they first honed their basic journalism skills. But I would also like to think the Review does more today. It is where student editors must begin learning how to engage responsibly with freedom of expression, accommodating varied opinions and making space for dissent in their columns. Imbibing these traits will see them go far in the larger world of journalism, should they wish to take that plunge.

Debarshi Dasgupta, Ex DI- 1999

Debarshi Dasgupta was the Review's editor in the late 1990s and is currently a freelance writer based in New Delhi.

The views expressed are personal.



Mr. Debarshi Dasgupta interacting with budding reporters during the Editors' Conference.



Mr. Debarshi Dasgupta giving his views about the News Letter

My tryst with the Review

I remember clearly it was February 1995 when I began my association with The Scindia School Review. Mr. A.N. Dar, Former Principal, convinced me that when an alumnus of The Doon School could help out in publishing their 'Weekly' then why could a Scindia School Old Boy not do the same. I was obviously left with no choice but to offer my services for the task demanded of me.

Mr Dar wanted to modernise the printing process by switching the Review from the traditional Letter Press Printing machine (which was situated in the present clothing store) to Desk Top Publishing (DTP). With his determination and drive he ensured that this happened very soon and the first issue on offset machine was issue no. 697. It came out on 15th February, 1995.

When I began Mr. Dhir was the Teacher Incharge of the Review and Dr Bhakuni looked after the Hindi section. I used to get the typed hard copy (on type writer). I had to then take this to the city, type and format it on computer and then get it proof read by the staff editor in school. I was also assigned the task to coordinate for providing paper, from the Stationery Department, to the offset machine printer. Finally the printed Review had to be brought back. This task was both tiring and time consuming but offered great opportunity for learning. As an Old Boy I enjoyed rendering my services and expertise to my alma mater and did not charge anything for an entire term's work.

After Mr. Dhir, Mr. D. Jaya Kumar and then Ms. Deepika Tandon took over as Teacher Incharge. Apart from the staff editors I also enjoyed worked in close coordination with Mr Dar. and Mr. N.K. Tewari. Mr Dar, himself a man of letters, was always keen to provide platforms for creative expression to the boys. The Review therefore held a special place in his heart. He was very particular that it should release on time so he, himself, along with Mr. N.K. Tewari and Ms. Deepika Tandon, used to sit in the DTP room (presently, our server room) at night to ensure that there was no delay.

The designing, graphics, placement of photographs and sketches which seem so simple today were quite elaborate and tedious tasks back then. In my initial years a scanner was not available in the entire city of Gwalior so

for printing pictures and illustrations, positives used to be made on film through camera. They were then pasted on the blank spaces left for them. In 1996 the school purchased a Laser printer and a scanner. This along with Photoshop software made a great difference to the quality of printing and also saved time. During this time Ventura Publisher was used for formatting and Word Star for typing.

From 1st January 1997 I was formally appointed as the DTP Incharge. Adapting to this new role was a bit difficult for me in the beginning. I was now a colleague to many of my former teachers. Around the same time the computer revolution in The Scindia School had started taking shape. Even after so many years I remember with appreciation the determination and tenacity that everyone displayed in acquiring ICT skills. Gradually as computers became a way of life in Scindia working for the Review started getting easier and simpler for all. We introduced the practice of getting the text typed on computers in school itself. The time for formatting also reduced considerably. The designing and layout which earlier would take more than eight days could now be accomplished in just four days. Another important development around the same time was the purchase of MS Office software. It was much easier for students to edit articles on MS Word as compared to Word Star.

Gradually we started becoming more ambitious about design and layout therefore in October 2003 we switched from Ventura Publisher to PageMaker. This is a more advanced and user friendly software and allowed us more scope to showcase our creativity.

The Review meanwhile changed a few more hands and I kept getting enriched by imbibing something from the each of the staff editors. After a long innings with Ms Tandon I worked for a year each with Mr Mehfooz Aslam and Mrs

Sujata Aslam.

In July, 2007 Mrs Puja Pant was made Staff Editor Review. Her teamwork and style of working was worth appreciating. A series of changes were planned in the look and content of the Review. To provide scope for having more content and enhancing its visual appeal the page size of the Review was changed from A4 to A3. The first such issue which came out on 1st December 2008 was formatted by a Delhi based agency 'Studio Print'. From the next issue onwards, however, we took over the formatting. After a year and a half of having continued on Pagemaker, in August 2010 we switched over to InDesign, a far more advanced software. This has allowed us to play around with various design elements which have been appreciated by our readers.

The present Teacher incharge of the Review is Mr. Vishesh Sahai who I am sure will take it to greater heights. He is a mine of imagination and ideas and perhaps the only Teacher Incharge who is not from the Languages Department. While talking so much about the Review one cannot forget the prompt help provided by Mr. Kapoor and his ICT team. It is this team that ensures our soft copy reaches all readers far and wide. They also share the reader feedback with us and on many occasions help us in crowd sourcing for special columns.

Now after almost two decades of involvement with the Review I often recall the 80's when I was a student. In those days it was a matter of great honour to be a member of the Review Editorial Board. There used to be a separate room for Review editors (present Photography Department); Mr D.N. Verma and then Mr Atma Ram Sharma were the Teacher Incharges at that time. A careful perusal of the old issues will reveal that the creative writing, during that time, was of a very high standard. Getting one's article printed was a privilege one earned by

displaying exceptional literary skill. It was very hard for a student like me to get any chance as my own Batch had about five or six prolific writers (Jitendra Muchhal- Ja, Navodit Mehra- Jb, Partho Sanyal - Ja, Rohit Chikara- Jp, Manish Mishra- Jp) who were equally proficient in both English and Hindi. One of my brother's friends used to write Hindi stories on a frequent basis and his stories were also aired on Aakashwani Gwalior. I often wondered how these people could write stories and poems. It was only after I started working in a professional capacity with the Review and 'Uplabdh' that I learnt how to present my thoughts in a refined and organised manner.

In those days the students could be a part of the Editorial Board only as writers. However

now the possible range of involvement has diversified. They can join as editors, photographers, cartoonists and as graphic designers. I would appeal to the present students to join the Review as per their area of expertise. The dedication and commitment which the Review demands of its editors would bring a positive change in your outlook. I would also urge the Old Boys to continue contributing to the Review and its success. I sincerely hope the creative writing goes up in the Review as compared to plain reportage. The Language Departments can play a very important role here.

As the Review keeps progressing and moving from one milestone to the next I salute all those known and unknown people who have played an important role in its journey. The Review is

not just an ordinary newsletter. It is almost a record book for the School where all activities get documented. For Old Boys and former staff it is a link between them and the School. It is also our window to the outside world. The columns of the Review are a perfect training ground for all those students who want to make their career in the fields of printing, journalism, cartooning and photography.

Any school newsletter is a reflection of the ethos and culture of the school. Let us all resolve to make The Scindia School Review truly rich and meaningful by writing for it, reading it and also by giving our valuable feedback and suggestions for its growth.

Mr Jitendra Jawale (Ex DI, 1986)
Faculty of ICT



Mr. Jawale and the Chief Creative Editor Mriganka Ghosh.

'If the Scindia School is a country, the Review is its Embassy'

Abhijeet Nagpal, Senior Editor, Qila Quotes, interviews award-winning social scientist, journalist and author Nalin Mehta (Ex-Rn, 1996). Mehta's recently-released new book 'Behind a Billion Screens: What Television Tells Us About Modern India' is a national best-seller and he is currently Associate Professor at Shiv Nadar University; Consulting Editor with Times of India; Co-Director, Times Literary Festival Delhi and Editor, South Asian History and Culture (Routledge). He spoke about the state of the Indian media, his work and the importance of the School Review.

Sir you started with Television journalism and are now into print media. What do you find more challenging?

I would say that both are very different. Although essentially you deal with the same news but there is a difference in the way you do it. Print media allows you much more time to think through what you are doing so you get a lot more time to piece together a story. Television however is more immediate and you have to go with the flow. A lot of times while watching TV you wonder what is happening as they almost seem to make up the story. However I'd still say that they both have different pleasures. TV is great for the excitement, for its speech, energy and for the picture. Print on the other hand is for a more detailed picture.

This year marked the 40th year of Emergency, which had earned a lot of notoriety for the muzzling of press freedom. How much of political control exists over media in the present times?

I think it's difficult to imagine the horrors of emergency forty years after it took place. But yes talking of political control over media I'd say that if you look at television networks state by state you'd get some startling facts. Something like 70 to 80 percent of all television news networks in every state in this country are owned by a combination of three kinds of people - politicians or political parties, or real-estate agents or chit fund companies or big corporations. So basically, in states like Andhra Pradesh, about 21 or 22 television news networks are owned by politicians or political parties. Other ways of exercising political control on television network is not

just by running the network but by also controlling the distribution. The Badal family controls almost the entire cable network of Punjab. In Tamil Nadu, the DMK which is aligned to Sun TV controls the cable distribution and there is almost a similar story in Orissa. These are also different ways to exercise control.

How much of reporting in your opinion is driven by the desire to earn TRPs?

I think, in news channels I would say, a vast majority of it is TRPs. Essentially, because TV news does not have a viable economic model in India so far. There are 800 TV channels in India. 400 of these are news channels out of which only 3 or 4 make some actual money through their entire lifetimes. So what happens is that you depend entirely on advertisements for survival. In the West channels earn 70% from subscription and 30% from advertising. But in India the nature of the market is such that they depend 70% on advertising and 30% on subscription. Most news channels are free so some channels depend 100% on advertising. In such a scenario TRPs become far more important than they should be.

What do you have to say about traditional newspapers getting supplanted by news blogs and social media sites as primary sources of news?

I think with the digital revolution and the rise of mobile phones in India we are at the cusp of a very inspiring change. Our country has got tremendous cultural diversity and many divides across different registers of caste, class, religion, language and so on. In this scenario we realise that a lot of the strength of the Indian

democracy has shifted online. This is something which commercial mainstream media is also careful about. Basically what I am trying to say is that we are in a more transparent world and you can't hide things under the carpet anymore. It is impossible to control the flow of information. No government or media can do so and this has given a lot of power back to the readers. I think for a very long time journalism operated as a top down thing where in some fancy editors thought that they could tell the nation what to think. But now we have a lot of editors who have realized that they can't tell anyone what to think. In-fact readers are the producers as well as the consumers of news.

What are things you don't like about current journalism practices that you wish to change?

If you ask me there is a lot in Indian journalism which is not dark and gloomy. On the positive side, when we look at the larger picture the first thing we realise is that in the world we are still the most diverse media market, the largest newspaper market, the second largest T.V market, one of the largest mobile markets and the fastest growing Twitter and Facebook market. Secondly news remains independent when there are diverse points of views. When only two or three different groups control the news then there is much more chance of managing it. Right now because of our language diversity we have not seen the kind of consolidation that you see in the US, the UK, the Australia which are comparable democracies. We remain very diverse and that's because it's very complicated for big groups with money in their pockets to go into

languages which they do not understand. For example when we look at the market leaders in the thirteen big language groups of India we find that one of the top three positions is occupied by an indigenous media group and not by a national media group. This I think is a very good sign. On the bad side I think the problem is that we talk a lot about freedom of the press and the freedom of expression and so on while in practice that is a lot more difficult to attain in Delhi because somehow the dynamics work in a way which make it difficult. Journalism in Delhi is far more difficult than journalism in any far off state and this is cutting across party lines. The second problem, which is very huge, is the problem of paid news.

How do you juggle between your different avatars like that of a journalist, an author and as member of faculty at institutes of higher learning?

Look, I see them as different sides of the same coin. The mediums, the crafts and techniques and the audiences are different for each of these, but the primary impulse for me, as to why I do it is the same. My interest lies in finding out how society works, what's actually

happening around us, what are the underlying forces of power and what are the hidden forces that shape the world we are in. Journalism I think allows you a sort of inside view, the front row seat into the Delhi theatre of India and you really get a sense of what's happening. Academia allows you to take a step back from the immediate day to day headlines and look at the processes which are affecting us. That is why I do these things. How do I manage it? Actually am I not so sure how I manage it, I think it is all about time management. I work all the time, I mean, I basically work early morning and late night and on weekends. So I just manage my time.

What is it that you absolutely love about your job?

What I love about the job is being able to ask a question without fear. I like to get a chance to see what's going around us, to see things up close and to be able to make a difference.

What advice do you have for the young Scindians wanting to get into journalism?

Read as much as you can and educate yourself as much as can. If you are really passionate about it you surely win. There's also no

substitute to really working hard.

The Review came out with the millennial issue in April 2015. What importance do you think it holds for the Scindians?

I think the Review is a fantastic institution. Even when I used to be in school, I used to be the editor of the School Review and it was the best thing I did in school. I was the School Captain as well but my best times were as the editor of the Review. In-fact when we were in school Mr. Dar was the Principal and we completely changed the design. But what you guys have done with the Review is something that we could never imagine was possible. So I think that it is a fantastic product that the students bring out now. It is very well produced and written and holds tremendous importance in the life of an institution like The Scindia School. It provides a platform for people to express their creativity and is also a link to the wider community of the Old Boys and the parents outside of the school. So in a way I think it is absolutely irreplaceable as an embassy of The Scindia School. The Scindia School is like a country and the Review is like its' embassy. I really love reading it and truly appreciate what you guys are doing. All power to you.



Mr. Nalin Mehta (Ex Rn, 1996)

Reminiscences

Beyond the realms of the Fort walls if one could see, it was the horizon and a foggy city lying asleep in the dizziness of its old culture of the Scindias. The Fort gave a look of a fortress to the heavens that stood outside its world. This was the first impression I formed of the school's sturdy appearance in 1996 when I joined!

I wished to run away on entering the school. I felt quite caged! But then continued to be entrapped for 16 long years, in its beauty and charm and was still able to grow to head four schools, which is quite a thing to achieve. This is what Scindia gave to me. It nurtured, nourished and burnished me to what I am today.

Review was a beginning and then there was no looking back because it was followed by the ECHO of Round Square!

My first editorial board was a set of most devoted boys who revived the Review to a new avatar. They brought out the school's first coloured Review for the centenary when there was no Photoshop. The front cover was a collage with layers of picture. The Photography Department and Printing Press were located side by side where the present Clothing Store exists. Editors used to sit the whole night through to see the words arranged in the tray and wait for the first print to come out. Then in the wee hours of the morning just before their roll-call they would rush door to door to deliver it! I have yet to see such passion for it in any of the teams that followed.

Then we graduated to DTP. Devotedly boys would sit with me after school hours and type articles. I learnt to type from Mr. Tewari and edit and proof read from Mr. AN Dar and my dad. Mr. Dar would patiently wait for us to finish our typing and get him the print outs to proof read. He gave me the liberty to bully him, demanding the Review to be done at any time! Even late night! This was allowed because it had to be in the hands of the readers before the break of day on every 1st and 15th!

I was handed over the Review within three months of my joining because Mr. Jaya Kumar, my then HOD, and Mr. Dar felt that my corrections were excellent and that I would do a good job. Astonished as I was to be given such a responsibility, it did not deter me from being overjoyed at the opportunity. It meant my

over occupation on the campus as I stayed alone! Sadly though, my reading time was the biggest casualty.

The school nurtured and inspired in me the strength to develop skills in my boys. I am grateful to all the Housemasters- Aditya, Anirudh, Jorawar, V. S. and Mr. Jaya Kumar who trusted their students with late nights at the Computer Centre doing the Review every fortnight.

The Principal was completely an invisible guide to us. He would sit so relaxed and content in the DTP room when we generated the final issue, while earthquakes between Mr. Tewari and Mr. Jaya Kumar rocked the room. There were times when Jawale would type the whole Review all over again because we would lose the content due to some technical mishap. Among all verbal earthquakes, and technical crashes Review would still be delivered at every door step in the wee hours of the morning and I would still see Saunak, Probir, Debarshi, Vohra, Siddhartha effortlessly breeze in the Dining Hall on time to grab their breakfast! That was the energy level my boys had! It was infectious! A never dying spirit! A spark that blossomed in their life as careers.

Any newsletter should be readable with sketches, drawings, pictures and of course cartoons. We tried to bring this all in the Review. Today the school newsletter comes out on a much more sophisticated software. I do hope boys have as much fun bringing it out. The staff editor must just push and be a guide. The staff MUST NOT bring the issue. The beauty is to teach kids their responsibility and team work. Wonders happen when boys get motivated.

I end with a piece of advice in the words of J. R. Moehring, the famous novelist and journalist....

"Write every day; never give up; it's supposed to be difficult; try to find some pleasure and reward in the act of writing, because you can't

look for praise from editors, readers, or critics. In other words, tips that are much easier to give than to take."

Editors must enjoy writing and have passion for their work else all would be too tedious to carry out and in the end the teacher would have to finish it. No fun guys in this! I am glad Debarshi Das Gupta and Nalin Mehta could actually live Review in their lives by taking it up as a profession.

Writing is the most beautiful way of expressing. Sadly it lost its way in the dreary desert of dead habits of technology!

Deepika Tandon



Brainstorming and planning the next issue



Ms. Deepika Tandon (extreme left) along with the Review team.

The Review Speaks

The hall was abuzz with noise. Apparently, a very special guest was to come and receive some award in the morning assembly today. But the issue was that no one present in the hall knew who he or she was. The masters and the seniors, who were the only ones that knew what was going on, had not yet arrived. Every single one of the rickety chairs creaked as their occupants leaned over to whisper something into the ears of the others.

"Hey, I hear this guest of ours is some really old and fat guy," murmurs one of the young ones to his neighbour. "Hey, I don't know nothing about any fat guy, but I overheard some elders discussing the arrival of this guest. As far as I know, this visitor ain't no ordinary person," was the response. And at that very moment, the speaker of those words found himself being pulled up by the cover as a voice behind him snarled, "Well, I guess you aren't anything ordinary either, daring to converse with a senior on the rounds, eh? Meet me outside the library after this is over." "Yes sir, I'm sorry sir," came a meek reply.

From the back of the hall the head senior announced, "All rise." This was accompanied by a scraping of chairs, a fluttering of pages and the thudding of covers as the five hundred odd publications and newsletters stood up on the tips of the spines to catch a glimpse of their special visitor. And how he looked! A brightly coloured and smartly dressed aged gentleman strolled down the aisle, arm-in-arm with a much younger, pretty lady, followed by the entire staff of masters. The way he carried himself exuded such a lot of power and charisma that most of the audience were in awe of him within seconds of having seen him. This handsome old mystery man glided down to his seat in the first row and the grand master began the assembly almost as if it were just another day. But as the assembly neared its end, the grand master announced, "Today we have amongst ourselves a gentleman of great repute. He is renowned for his perfection and excellence within the school publications forum. A man of immense pride and honour, he has dutifully served his institution for 77 long years, and like a bottle of wine, he has become better and better as the years have rolled by. In fact, one has often wondered if it was actually possible for him to get any better than he already was,

but he did. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my proud privilege to introduce to you, The Review!"

Thunderous applause followed. So, this is who he was! The legendary newsletter of The Scindia School who had just completed a thousand issues! Any admiration that the members of the house had for him was multiplied tenfold. But the grand master was not done with his announcement yet. As the clapping died down, he continued, "Today, we would like to present The Review with a special award. For his years of dedicated work, we would like to give to The Review his very own logo!"

The applause that came after that statement was unlike anything that those present had ever heard. At this, The Review stood and walked up to the podium. He cleared his throat and immediately the hall went from noisy to so silent that you could hear a pin drop. And he spoke, "Greetings everyone. I am honoured by the enthusiastic reception I have gotten. And as for the award, I don't value it nearly half as much as I value your support and admiration. For those are the things that have given me inspiration and have driven me forward from one milestone to another. Ah, I quite like the sound of those words. Driving forward. Indeed, all I have done for a long time now is just that. I have been moving ahead relentlessly and I have obstinately pursued my goals and that along with your support, of course has brought me to where I am today. But as I stand here, I see not the goals that I shall set my eyes upon in the future but the path on which I have trod to get to the present.

I was born in 1938 as a very ravenous and ambitious little newsletter. Even at that time, all I could think of was growing. Growing bigger and bigger. And it was in accordance with that that I set my first target. Becoming a regular

monthly. Needless to say, I achieved that goal. Since then I have not looked back. My primary goal was to increase readership. Soon I had become a fortnightly, following which I started catering to the tastes of those who preferred not only English, but also Hindi. But that was not enough. I was simply not satisfied. These objectives were too easy to reach. So, I decided to aim for a bigger target, quite literally. And only in the recent years was I able to realize my dream. I became A3. But the acquisition that I am the proudest of is my lovely little companion, the Qila Quotes. She came into my world like a storm and changed it completely, I must say, for the better." At this the Review pointed towards the young lady who had accompanied him and made a small bow. "Ahem! But that is a story for a different time. Now, along the way many other milestones were achieved namely my 100th, 250th, 500th, and 750th anniversaries. And most recently I also attained my 1000th anniversary issue. All this on the way to my next goal: Becoming a weekly.

All this, though grand, is not the primary thought in my head at this moment. What I'm remembering is the journey from one milestone to another. It is often said that what matters is not the destination but the journey. I, for one, have never thought too highly of that statement. After all, isn't it the destination that gives the journey its meaning? Yet, at this moment, I can't help but recollect the experiences of my travel through the ages.

I have always been a mere chronicler of facts. Through my columns I have covered events both big and small ranging from the Second World War to the annual sports meet. This feat is nothing out of the ordinary. But the Homo sapiens thought otherwise. Ah, they are indeed a fascinating race. To them I was more than just a record of the happenings of the past.

Whenever I included an event that they were present in within my leaves, they would eagerly come up to me and read. No I don't think read is the proper word here, I believe devour is a better expression given the context. In fact, some would even collect my copies and store them safely away in their folders as a keepsake. Those few words which meant no more to me than any other, meant the world to them. And I take pride in the fact.

Sometimes these humans would come and read me for an entirely different purpose. They would go through my columns and be enchanted by the very magical content present

in them. Yes, for I have always tried to be the paragon of excellence. I stood apart from the rest solely because I never, I repeat, never let any of the general rabble and nonsense that the young newsletters of today seem to like so much come within a mile of my covers. This alone has helped me receive a large percentage of the readership that I possess today.

And... Well, Umm... Ah, it is indeed remarkable! At this moment, when I am bursting with emotions on the inside, I fall short of things to say on the outside. I guess I'll have to stop here then. As far as advice to you kids is concerned,

I haven't much to give. All I have to say is that there is no set formula for perfection. You can only perform a certain set of actions and hope for the best. And remember, consistency is the key to getting it right. But most important of all is that you believe in yourself. As long as you think that you are special, you are. I guess that will be all. Oh, and never forget to present yourself with a smile and say the two magic words: READ ON!"

Anustup Garai
ExMd, 2015
Former Editor-in Chief



Breathing life into sketches.



Catching up with School News.

Life of a Review Editor

I still remember that fine, pleasant July morning, almost three years ago when Mrs Puja Pant asked me if I would like to be a part of the Scindia Review Editorial Board. The offer had left me speechless and I had great difficulty in suppressing my delight. In fact the grin remained cemented on my face for a full fifteen minutes. I was on cloud nine because I had been considered capable enough but felt a bit nervous as I had never written anything much before coming to school and was very slow while typing. My joy doubled when I got to know of the other privileges like the annual movie outings which the members of the Review Committee enjoy.

Being a Review editor is a matter of great pride and the position is of great significance. All of a sudden you feel important and are given importance. It makes your chest swell when your classmates and juniors hand you their articles, begging and pleading and placing in you their hopes of getting them printed. Although giving them the unfortunate news that their article would not be published afterwards, to see their disappointed faces and their confidence in you shatter is a painful and difficult task.

Whenever there is a special occasion, a special dinner or tea, one or two Review editors get to attend it. After all, who else will make the entire school aware of what took place? During the Round Square Conferences and Inter-school competitions hosted by the school, we are automatically involved and invited everywhere. Though it is not entirely a picnic to be running all over the place, interviewing people, who though usually verbose, have nothing sensible to say when asked to. It also involves observing everything, making notes and copying down speeches given by visiting dignitaries who do not seem to notice a poor student sitting on the last row, trying to hurriedly copy down their precious words. What a pity that they do not consider speaking slowly! Yet all this is still worth a special meal and above all who minds getting that special attention.

However these short term frivolous advantages in no way distract us from the importance of the work that we have at hand. We realize that we have to give an authentic and accurate account of the events. Scouting for photographs, getting good sound bytes and recreating an event (after due research from different sources) through words is no mean task. Each event, visit, tournament is covered in great

detail because often the Review becomes a good reference point whenever there is an ambiguity regarding things.

Earlier I had written a couple of stories and an article for the Review but they were just average as my vocabulary was limited. Joining the Review made me an avid reader of the Review and introduced me to a vast range of new words and phrases. I realized how writing the Fort news or a report is different from writing a story and requires great skill. Before writing my first Fort news I read the older Reviews to get a better idea of how to start and then connect all the bits of information. Now I have learnt to observe everything around me and can now describe things and events better. This newly acquired skill is also helpful in English exams and projects.

Another problem that I always had was initiating a conversation with strangers without appearing very aloof or boring. Interviewing students from different schools has helped me overcome this problem to a great extent.

Review has also taught me euphemism. I have learnt the art of criticizing without appearing to do so and without sounding very rude and offensive. I have mastered the art of replacing harsh (though true) words with diplomatic and politically correct words. This has helped me a lot in my daily life, in pointing out mistakes in people without offending them and thus not sounding like a 'know-it-all'

It has given me and several other Review editors opportunities to interact with eminent people from the field of politics, mass media, sports, entertainment etc. Interviewing them has been a very enriching and educative experience.

If we try to have a more far-sighted and deeper

point of view, we will realize that writing down the news and articles in the Review is akin to writing the history of the School. While writing one of the articles for the Review, I had been given the Reviews of the 1990s and going through them gave me very clear picture of what the school would have been at that time—the rules, the practices followed and most importantly the students of that time. I got a clear sense of how the school has changed in many respects yet has not lost the essence of its traditions. This gave me the realization and a sense of responsibility that by writing in the Review we too are actually writing down a part of its history. What we write down in the Review is how we represent the school of our time to the future batches of the school.

Being in the Review committee is not a party time. All our Sundays, our mailing time and most of the vacations have to be sacrificed in order to meet deadlines and then on top of that at times we face the apathy and criticism of readers. Many read the Review only if their name or article is published in it. I find it extremely funny that people who don't even care to read the Review and criticise it, are the ones who would be dancing with joy if offered to join the committee. One reason for this is that they only see the outings and the several other privileges that we get and think it to be a child's play. They don't realize the immense responsibility and hard work that come with it. Or perhaps it is just a case of sour grapes!

We also have the difficult task of satisfying so many readers (students, teachers, Old Boys, parents) with eclectic tastes. Due to the limited budget, we have just four, black and white, unattractive pages to entertain and attract the readers. We also understand that since not all the articles written by people can be printed so causing disappointment is inevitable.

I would take this opportunity to urge all the readers to come up with suggestions in an organized manner instead of commenting randomly. This is the school newsletter and so it should be full of the ideas of the students. Each student should feel a sense of ownership towards the Review. Coming out with a quality publication is not simply the responsibility of the handful of Review

Editors, but the responsibility of each Scindian. Unfortunately, one thing that I could not learn from the Review, due to my own fault, was how to express myself in short. And so after having written so much I shall now stop, thanking the staff editors and the Review for teaching me so much. The experience and exposure shall never go in vain, I'm sure.

I feel proud to be an editor of a 950 issues old magazine of a 114 year old school.

Sugandha Shukla, IX A

(Extract from the School Review, No. 950, February 15, 2012)



Each moment of school life gets captured by the Review photographer.