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THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT GWALIOR

# REVIEW-15



SUNDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2015 | WPP : REGN.NO.GWL.DN.11

## EDITORIAL

Mr Vishesh Sahai



Dear Readers,

Diwali Greetings to all of you.

The auspicious festival of lights was celebrated with gusto and gaiety all over the country and on the Fort as well. Many children who stayed on campus for one reason or the other during Diwali vacations were ensured a cracking Diwali by the school, which took it upon itself to make merry for them. Boys went for an outing down the Fort and then to Orchha, and a menu was specially innovated by the mess staff to suit their palates and the festivities.

On the 21st of October we commemorated our 118th Founder's Day with great enthusiasm, zest and pomp and show. One more milestone was added in our journey from our humble beginnings to its eminent stature today. Our founders were Royal as well as magnanimous. We remember our founders and their glorious vision, which, like the calm sea has cast its spell on the Scindian fraternity and enveloped everybody in its net of wonder, motivating us to further contribute to their impeccable vision of quest for knowledge and progress for humanity.

The school was in the grip of Founder's fever from almost 1st of October. But on the last three days - 19th, 20th & 21st the excitement reached its climax.

After a couple of final rehearsals on the 17th and the 18th and the smoothening of all the creases, final shining and polishing of places and persons; manicured gardens and decorative lights enhancing the splendour of the Fort, we were all set to welcome the guests.

On the 19th and the 20th of October 2015, the school warmly welcomed the Old Boys of the Class of 1975, 1990, 1995, 2005 along with their families. Students displayed their Yoga and Karate skills and Rhythmic exercises and Inter-House Athletic Final was held. The young daring riders displayed their equestrian feats, parent teacher interaction was organized, SOBA AGM was held, and Cricket, Hockey and Basketball matches were played between Old Boys and the students. In the evening, an entertainment programme at the SMOAT by the Old Boys of 1990 Batch, who were celebrating their Silver Jubilee Reunion was organized with active participation of SOBA office bearers where an all new Alumni card and SOBA flag was unveiled. The Chief Guest for the Old Boys' day was Wg Cdr (Retd) Dr Nandan Khanolkar.

Finally the D-Day arrived. An extravaganza of activities was conducted since morning. The much awaited evening began with the arrival of the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest was none other than the Indian politician, writer, public intellectual, former diplomat who is currently the Member of Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram and is the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs - Dr Shashi Tharoor. It was a real honour for us to also welcome our charismatic President, Board of Governors, H.H. Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia who enthralled the audience with his speech. Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat read out the school's Annual Report and recounted the school's journey towards excellence.

School orchestra played a beautiful composition entitled, 'Stirrings of joy' and the Brass Band captivated the audience with some amazing tunes. Awards were given to the meritorious students and Houses. Dr Shashi Tharoor gave

a spellbinding, thought provoking speech which had innumerable messages - each embellished with anecdotes and personal experiences. This was followed by an exciting on-stage conversation between the students and the Chief Guest. The prestigious 'Madhav Award' for Old Boy of eminence was conferred upon Professor Gautam Barua. Finally, the ceremony symbolizing the handing over of the traditions of the school by the Madhav Awardee to the youngest Scindian was performed. Prof Gautam Barua read out the message and handed over the lamp with the replica of the school flag to Ansh Raj. It was an emotional moment for students, faculty and the parents. The evening culminated with a memorable ballet, beautifully choreographed and performed, entitled - 'Mrignayani'.

It was indeed a befitting celebration, establishing the fact that we are all stars and deserve to twinkle with our own luminance.

The Founder's day has come and gone. Time flies, but leaves its shadow behind for us to cherish.

Half of November is gone. Falling mercury and early sunsets are the harbingers of winter, although the political climate is warming-up due to interesting results in the recently concluded Bihar elections, and the returning of medals and awards by eminent personalities.

May the lights of Diwali show us the way and lead us together on the path of peace and harmony in the true spirit of the school's motto - "Knowledge Liberates"...





## FOUNDER'S DAY SPEECHES

### Principal's Report 2015

Honourable Chief Guest Dr Shashi Tharoor, H.H. Maharaja Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, President, Board of Governors, Her Highness Maharani Priyadarshini Raje Scindia, Members of the Board of Governors, Professor Gautam Barua, distinguished Guests, parents, Old Boys, my colleagues, dear students, ladies and gentlemen. It is my privilege to welcome each one of you to the 118th Founder's Day of this wonderful school.

I consider myself honoured welcoming Dr Shashi Tharoor amongst us. Dear Sir, I welcome you to this wonderful place that not just offers education but goes beyond being an abode of knowledge/learning.

I extend a warm welcome to the students of the batches of 1975, 1990, 1995 and 2005 who have gathered here for their batch reunion. With warm smiles and open arms I welcome you back to the place that taught you conviction.

A sincere welcome to our guests from the Woodbridge School, UK, who are with us on this occasion and to Mr Tony Hyde, Honorary Member of Round Square and former teacher of Aiglon College, Switzerland.

Today is also the time to remember and extend our gratitude towards our founder Late H.H. Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia I, and subsequent patrons who held the rudder of the institution and guided it on its journey towards becoming the pre-eminent institute through the ever changing currents of the Indian Society.

I find myself privileged to follow a path that has been paved by wonderful minds, as the principal of this institution starting from Mr F G Pierce to Mr Samik Ghosh.

I am a son, a husband and a father. I am also a teacher. All these roles, all the stories and all those conversations with my mentors come down to just one thing;

Life is not what you make of it.

Life is not what we know if it.

Life is not something that goes on.

But, life is one that has a purpose. Its purposefulness is what makes a life, a life, worth living and cherishing.

My purpose to be here is not to head this institution although it is the way of the process. My aim is to be a better teacher and guide many more beautiful souls to a brighter, promising and purposeful future.

As an institution, our purpose is to strongly bind the roots in the soil so that our kids never forget to come back, once they are gone. Our purpose is growth of every individual, of every child.

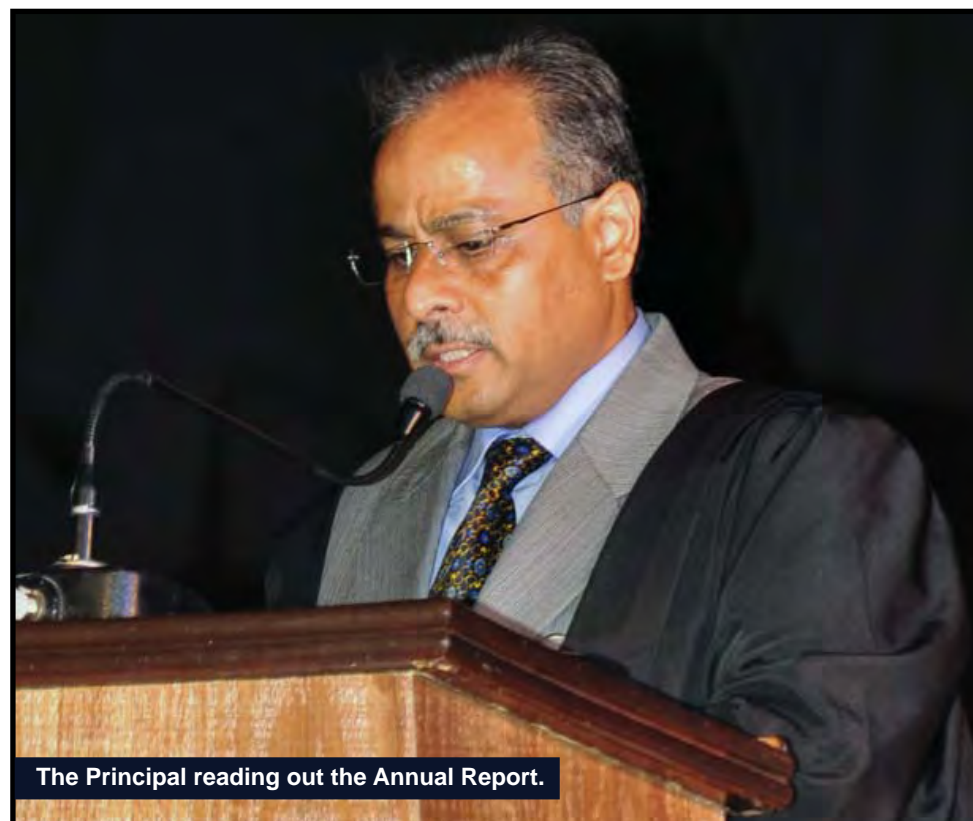
I was an anxious parent too. The only solution to this anxiety was confidence in my child's ability and potential and faith in the institution where she was studying.

I urge you to trust your child and the school enough. Enough to let them grow in harmony and prosper in sync together and live a life of quality and substance.

Dear Sirs, with the permission of the President, Board of Governors and with your permission I would like to present the report of the school for the year gone by.

#### Faculty:

I would like to start my report by welcoming the faculty members who joined us this session. Col. Sanjiv Kaushal, Bursar, who has already made his presence felt. Mr Rohit Sood and Ms Priyanka Agarwal - English, Mr Naman Saraswat - Physical Education, Mr Ajay Kumar - French, Mr Mohit Shrivastava - Computer Science, Mr Ajay Kumar - French, Mr Partha Mukherjee - Social Studies, Mr



Arunava Das - Chemistry, Mr James Mathai, Mrs Y V Rama Devi and Mr Srijat Pillai - Mathematics. I wish all of them a long and fruitful career in The Scindia School.

Mrs Shalini Mehrotra, Lt. Col. R D Sharma, Mrs Rakhi Sharma, Mr Amit Kumar and Mr Shamik Chakravarty left us and have taken over their new assignments and I wish them all the best.

I would also like to congratulate Mr G S Bakshi, who has recently retired from active service after a long and illustrious career of 37 years and will now serve as the Director of Alumni Relationship for The Scindia School. Similarly, Mr Dharendra Sharma, a senior Mathematics teacher is now the Dean of Studies, Mr Dinesh Madhwal, a Senior Social Science Teacher, is the Head of Humanities and Ms. Puja Pant, is heading the Department of English.

#### CBSE Results & Academics:

While we provide every possible opportunity to our students for the all-round development, academics remain our prime focus. An important feature of most of our academic awards is that the students have to meet certain criteria, which motivates them to actualise their potential to the fullest instead of competing for the top three positions.

A total number of 68 students appeared for the CBSE Class XII Board Examination 2015, out of which 55 students scored above 80% marks, 40 scored above 85% marks and 27 students scored above 90% marks. Anustup Garai topped the Batch in all subjects by scoring 97.2% marks and the average percentage was 85.9%. I am sure we would continue to do better in the years to come.

In Class X Examinations, a total number of 84 students appeared. Average CGPA of the Batch was 8.4 and the average percentage was 79.78%.

We have been taking regular feedback from the students on the various academic facilities provided by the school and gave due consideration to their opinions to make the learning environment student focused.

We all know that learning any language while young, gives children an advantage that will stay with them all their lives. Keeping this in mind, we have introduced GESE Programme in collaboration with Trinity College, London. Trinity's GESE exams tests the English speaking and listening skills of people whose first language is not English.

For senior classes, representatives from various Indian and foreign Universities were invited. Few of them have offered Scholarships ranging from 25% to 75%. This excludes the 100% scholarship offered by Westminster and NYU Universities. The number of seats offered by NYU has increased from two to three. The School is in process to identify more such scholarships in other good universities and preferential status in Indian Colleges.

#### **Workshops and Career Counseling:**

Representatives of various Universities visited the school and updated Class XI and class XII students about the career opportunities within India and abroad. Some of the Universities, which visited our school, are New York University - Abu Dhabi, University of Westminster, King's College - London, Ashoka University - Delhi, Swiss School for Hotel Management, Indian School of Business and Finance - Delhi and S.P. Jain School of Global Management - Mumbai.

SIUK Education Council along with India representatives of various UK Universities visited the school and interacted with the senior students about the various courses, colleges, admission processes and scholarships. Students from city schools also participated in the event.

Next in the plan is to organise a Career-Counselling week where representatives from various universities from India and abroad will be invited to inform our students about courses available.

Ms Renu Mehra, an Image Consultant was with us for a workshop for the faculty on 13th September 2015.

#### **Infrastructure:**

The school has taken up a planned approach for the development of infrastructure. Every year certain projects are taken up to be completed from one Founders celebration to the next. The last six months have been marked by a massive drive to give a facelift to the school. While the original historic character of the school is being restored, I am sure you must have noticed that due care has been taken to enhance the aesthetics and functionality of all places.

The Shukla Memorial Open Air Theatre presents a modern look, however its basic frame and spirit has been left untampered. It is now equipped with a centralized control room. The seating capacity too has been enhanced with better lighting facility. The first phase of the renovation of the Health Center has been completed. The infirmary vehicle has also been modified into an ambulance.

The athletic track has been re-laid. However, its finished look will be visible in a few months' time when the greening gets complete. Our cricket field meets the highest standards of excellence and has been accepted by BCCI for the conduct of matches at U-14, U-16 and U-19 levels. The Hockey field too has been re-laid and is being watered and maintained on a regular basis.

We have also taken proactive steps to augment the water supply on the Fort. This enhanced water supply is being used for the greening of the campus and for meeting the requirements of the Fort denizens. In keeping with our water conservation efforts very soon we will have a Bio Digester Plant for converting the toilet water of the Gurudwara into raw water for watering the playgrounds in the North Block Area. We take pride in the fact that we are recycling most of our water at the Fort.

The School Dining Hall has been renovated. Aesthetically and ergonomically designed furniture has been provided to create a healthy, happy and welcoming space for children. There is not only qualitative but also quantitative improvement in the food which we have in the school Dining Hall. To ensure high standards of hygiene and sanitation a wringer trolley for mopping floors and a dishwasher have been installed.

The Faculty Resource Center has got a major facelift. Comfortable work stations have been created for the members of the faculty. A major attraction is the Conference Hall which is equipped with facilities for video conferencing and webinars.

The Guest House has also undergone renovation with aesthetics and comfort being the guiding principles of all the changes that have been introduced. We now have a comfortable place for the visiting faculty, school guests and teachers who visit us on Exchange Programmes.

North Block Housing which will be called Heritage Housing is also ready to welcome new teachers.

While so much has been achieved in the past few months there are many more interesting plans on the anvil. We will be sharing some more of our proposed projects in due course of time.

#### **IT Initiative - Beyond Computers**

We are indeed proud of our achievements in the use of IT, both for academic and creative purposes. The students and teachers produced some outstanding work all through the year. A Cyber Scindia team comprised of three students was declared winner of Computer Quiz organized by Computer Society of India Gwalior Chapter in January 2015. Cyber Scindia students won the Suryodaya IT Fest - 2015 held at our School where eight premier IPSC schools of India participated.

Assam Valley School hosted 1st 'Creative Eye Film Festival' in September 2015, where seven premier schools of India participated. Cyber Scindia students came out as winner with best movie titled 'Survival of the Fittest'. Master Yohen Thounaojam of class IX was adjudged the best director for this short movie.

NDTV conducted a workshop for our students through their School TV programme. On the basis of their learning during the workshop, students made two short movies which were shown on NDTV Prime.

Last year we launched a pilot project for our Class XII students by making their preps Wi-Fi enabled with BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) concept. On account of this successful pilot project, Board of Governors has approved to enhancement of Wi-Fi facility in our campus especially Senior Houses, Main Academic Block and Modi Science Block. These areas have been enabled with Wi-Fi solutions. Very soon, students from Classes VIII to XII, will have personal Net-books in the school.

Coming to IT infrastructure, all old servers have been replaced with latest edition of network server from Microsoft where virtualization has also been implemented. Stacking of core-switch has also been implemented. We proudly announce that computer network backbone of our school, is running on 10 giga bits. All desktop machines available for students and teachers in various labs have been upgraded using latest Microsoft solutions. Present school website was launched on 20th May, 2015. Internet Bandwidth has also been enhanced to 20 Mbps.

#### **Window to the World:**

Mriganka Ghosh's movie titled 'Act Today and Change Tomorrow' was showcased during the Roy McCommish Art Competition in the recently concluded Round Square International Conference at United World College, Singapore and was awarded for the best original digital art work. 106 schools from across the globe participated in the competition. Can we put our hands together for this wonderful boy?

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 for the year 2014-15.

We participated in the Young Round Square Regional conference, South Asia and Gulf Region at PPS Nabha and Singapore International School, Mumbai.

Mrs Supreet Bakshi, Round Square Representative attended the Regional (South Asia & Gulf) Round Square AGM in February 2015. She has been appointed as the Regional (South Asia & Gulf) Coordinator for Service.

Eight boys along with Dr. Maitryee Bishnoi went to attend Round Square Junior Cultural Exchange to the Atlantic destination of Miami where St. Andrews is situated. Our students showcased their talents which were much appreciated



by the hosts; their repertoire in sports and dance in particular amazed our American friends.

Dr. Geeta Shukla went to attend the Teacher Exchange programme to the Woodbridge School, UK. Aditya Banka also went for a student exchange programme to Woodbridge School, UK.

A total number of 22 students went on student exchange programme.

The Round Square Service Project at Nathon Ka Pura Village was held from 11th to 16 December 2014. A total of 45 students from 5 schools participated in the project. This was the fifth consecutive project in the last three years in this village. The students constructed a 125 meter long and 1.5 meter wide road that would connect the village to the main road and taught the village women how to make Jute bags; mobile covers; tab covers; cushion covers; multi-purpose decorative bags etc. Purpose of this activity was to empower the village women by educating them in market savvy skills to become financially self-reliant.

Indo German Exchange programme was hosted by us from 03rd December to 20th December 2014. Two teachers representing the teacher's team of the Fontane-Gymnasium in Rangsdorf with 16 German students visited school to participate in a project titled 'Plant-Life Giving'. They were partnered by 16 Scindia School students and two teachers.

Under the banner of 'Deutsches Indisches Khassenzimmer' 16 students accompanied by Mr Gopal Chaturvedi and Mrs Sangeeta Jain went for an exchange programme to Germany.

A team of 19 boys, 2 teacher escorts representing India and The Scindia School went to Turkey for attending the Mersin Citrus Festival from 15 November to 22 November at the invitation of the Mayor Mersin. The students showcased brilliantly the culture and ancient Indian tradition by dressing in traditional Indian attire.

#### Activities:

The school continues to give wider exposure to its students and teachers to grow beyond the Fort.

We hosted the much awaited and talked about 4th Editor's Conference in September 2015. Eleven schools from all over the country participated in the conference. Senior Journalist Mr Kishlay Bhattacharjee addressed the students. Other Key Note Speakers were Mr Akhil Hardia, much acclaimed photo journalist from Dainik Bhaskar, Mr Rakesh Mewade, from Times of India and Mr Arindam Mukherjee (Ex Jayappa 1991), Associate Editor of India Today, Mr Nalin Mehta.

The 42nd Platinum Jubilee Inter-School Memorial English Debate and Quiz were hosted by us. Ten schools from across the country participated in the Debate. The topic for the Final was 'Girls have it better than the boys'. Maharani Gayatri Devi Girl's School, Jaipur won the debate. Lt. General Syed Hasnain, one of the most highly decorated Army Officer was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

We hosted the H.H. Maharaja Madhavrao Memorial Hindi Debate on 30 September. A total number of 9 schools participated in the event and the debate was won by us.

We hosted the Scindia School Model United Nations conference (SCIMUN) and 85 delegates participated in it. It was impressive to see how the delegates had come prepared with their country's stand and the passion with which they presented their case was commendable.

Department of Sciences organised an Inter-School Science Fest from 8th- 10th August where schools from various parts of the country participated. Eminent people from the field of Science attended the Fest and addressed the students.

In the memory of Swarn, an Old Boy, the 2nd Swarn Sadana Memorial Inter-School Music and Dance competition popularly known as Swarnotsava was

held on 29th November 2014.

The Millennial Edition of the fortnightly publication of the school REVIEW came out on 15 April 2015. Review is the Scindia School Newsletter and much more than that it is an idea, a vision, a living part of the School. I would like to congratulate all the students and teachers on this achievement.

The latest issue of Qila Quotes is the Silver Jubilee issue. This quarterly publication is a catalogue of events in school life and serves as a link between the school with its well-wishers and friends and other sister institutions in India and abroad.

Other school publications such as French Magazine, German Magazine, Uplabdh - Hindi Magazine, Nucleus - Science Magazine, Axis - Geography Magazine and Infozone - the e-newsletter and other publications continue to impress the readers.

The Annual English Play 'As You like it', a pastoral romantic comedy by William Shakespeare was staged during the month of April and the students who acted did full justice to their respective roles.

The Hindi Play entitled 'Trishanku' was also staged during the month of April. The play was directed by Mr Manoj Mishra and it was appreciated by everyone.

#### Social Service League:

The 3rd IPSC Service Project was organised by us at the Nathon Ka Pura Village from 27 October to 1 November 2014. Seven IPSC Schools participated in the project. Delegates built a 90 meter long cobbled path for the village. Some initiatives were also taken to teach the women and young girls of the village the techniques of making Tie and Dye, to encourage them to start earning for their basic needs.

Class X boys attended Labour Camp in Sevagram Ashram. To serve at an Ashram which had association with Gandhiji and Acharya Vinoba Bhave was a chance of a life time and like a pilgrimage for the boys.

Sonsa Day was organised under the aegis of the Social Service League on 8th February 2015. Chief Guest for the occasion was an eminent Old Boy Mr Devendra Gadgil. Two special prizes, one for a talented girl child of Sonsa Village and the other for a talented child of the helping staff of the Scindia School was instituted from this year.

*Shramjeevi* sports were organised by the Social Service League in which various games were played by the *Shramjeevis*.

#### Moving to Games & Sports:

Cycling Expedition was organised from 27 October to 01 November 2014. 14 students along with three teacher escorts participated in the expedition from Bharatpur to Bikaner. A distance of 516 Kms was covered in six days during the expedition.

We hosted the 13th HH Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Cricket Tournament. Eight public schools teams participated in the tournament and it was won by Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi.

School Cricket team along with the then Dean of Sports Mr G S Bakshi went to England during May 2015. We played four matches there and won all 4 of them. The team was captained by Sarthak Talwar at Bradford and Harshraj Malik at Birmingham.

A group of 9 students accompanied by a teacher escort went to Spiti Valley as a part of their IAYP Project. This project included building a greenhouse for a family in a small Spitian village.

IAYP Awards and certificates were distributed by the then Principal Mr Samik Ghosh to students who qualified for the same. 10 students received gold, 13 silver and 20 got bronze awards. Dhananjay Saraf and Manikya Bansal received the prestigious Anirudh Sharma Memorial Trophy for Excellence in Adventure Sports and the Special Blazer respectively.

Akshay Bhargava was selected for the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Team U-14 group for Raj Singh Dungarpur Trophy.

Our Shooting Team has again impressed us with its outstanding performance in various tournaments. It attended the 9th Maharaja Dr. Karni Singh Memorial Shooting competition in Jaipur and bagged medals in various categories. Shashank Kumar won Gold Medal in Air Pistol men in Under -12 category, Uddhav Sharma won Silver Medal in Air pistol Men, Handicap category, Aryan Kapoor, Silver Medal in Air rifle men U-12 category, 3 students won Gold Medals in Air pistol men Sub Junior category, 3 students won Team Bronze in Air Rifle men Sub Jr. Category, Kshitij Bajaj won Air rifle ISSF men Sub Jr. Category Team Silver Medal and Toshit Goyal won Air Pistol ISSF men Sub Jr. Category Team Gold Medal.

We hosted the IPSC Squash tournament in which 12 public schools from all over the country participated. Akash Jaini participated in the National Games twice for Squash.

Vivek Singh participated in the CBSE Nationals for Football.

Our Under – 19 Hockey team participated in the IPSC tournament held at MNSS Rai and stood fourth in a very competitive tournament.

#### **Old Boys:**

In order to strengthen the bond between the school and the Old boys, school has embarked upon a new initiative called SOBiR (Scindia old Boys in Residence). This noble idea was given by Mr Prashant Prabhu, Ex – Madhav 1967. The first SOBiR programme was held between 13th August and 15th August 2015 with much fanfare. Dr. Abhimanyu Acharya and Dr. Dnyanraj Manik Prabhu were the participants of the inaugural SOBiR programme. During their two day's stay on the Fort, they interacted with the staff and students and shared their experiences. The inaugural programme was attended by Mr Gopal Bhargava, President Central SOBA, Mr Vikram Mathur, Immediate Past President – Central SOBA, Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha, Vice President – Central SOBA and Mr Sandeep Agarwal, Secretary – Central SOBA.

SOBA organised the Late H H Maharaja Jiwaji Rao Scindia Memorial Lecture, themed VISION INDIA 2025 on 22nd February in New Delhi. Air Vice Marshal Shouvik Roy, Mr Dipak Haksar, Mr Raghav Chandra and Dr. Arunava Sen were the panelists. Each speaker wove the theme in his talk, touching upon Defence, Public Policy, Governance, Tourism and Economics.

Mr Gagan Khosla of 1974 Batch and Mr Arjun Saraswat of 2010 Batch along with other Old boys did cycling covering a distance of 337 Kms from Delhi to Gwalior in 14 hours. It is an extraordinary achievement. This cycling event was the brain child of Batch of 1974.

Golden Jubilee Reunion of the Class of 1964-65 was celebrated on the Fort from 25th to 27 January 2015. The highlight of the visit was the participation of 1964-65 Old Boys in the Republic Day Parade held on campus.

Batch of 2000 visited the school for their Crystal Jubilee Reunion on 15 August. They participated in the Independence Day March-Past, attended the cultural programme at Astachal. The Old boys shared some of the best practices of their time and were generally curious about the happenings on the Fort.

It is a matter of pride for us that Utsav Mehra, Ex Daulat 2015 has joined the University of Westminster and Manas Pant and Sugandha Shukla have joined the New York University – Abu Dhabi on a full scholarship.

Ms Gurpreet Gill, Physics Faculty went to Geneva on an invitation to attend a workshop organised by CERN on Physics.

SOBA Scholarship for Higher Studies has been awarded to Vivek Singh Sahariya, Ex Mahadji 2015. SOBA will fund up to Rs. 1.50 lakhs for him, for the next three years.

Mr Vijay Jaini, Ex Mahadji 1976 won the National Title in the Men's over 55 category of the 62nd National Squash Championship held in Mumbai.

Mr Yashwant Mahadik Ex JA 1974 has joined the Sun Pharma as its HR Head. He will be leading a work force of 30,000 people.

Vaibhav Singh, Ex Daulat 2012 received the prestigious Durham Award from the University of Durham, UK for his skills in leadership, team work, initiative taking / Problem solving, commercial awareness and communication. Vaibhav is now doing M.Sc. in Accounting, Organisations and Institutions from London School of Economics.

Mr Anuragam Vatsa (Ex RN, 1988) has written a book entitled 'Listen to Heart: The Other side of life.'

#### **Visitors:**

We organized an immersion programme for the Principals of Bhutan Schools from 27 August to 01 September 2015. The Royal Government of Bhutan is in the process of establishing 'Central Schools' across several districts of Bhutan. As part of this endeavor, a delegation of seven school Principals of Bhutan accompanied by Ms. Usha Pathania of 'Universal Learn Today' visited the school. The immersion programme was aimed to contribute towards designing a policy blueprint for school education in Bhutan.

On 26 July, The President Board of governors, H H Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia along with other Board Members was on the Fort for the Board Meeting. Prior to the scheduled meeting, the BOG Members visited the various locations on the campus along with the Principal Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat.

Mr Tony Hyde, a round Square veteran and currently the Honorary Member of Round Square was on the Fort during August. He gave presentations on the Tchadar Trek and the Zanskar Valley to the boys and also addressed the staff and students.

#### **Homage:**

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt condolences on behalf of the entire Scindia School fraternity to those who lost their loved ones during the period under report.

Mr V S Saxena (Ex Housemaster Daulat House), Shri Prabhakar Mahadev Ghangrekar, Ex Lab Assistant of Chemistry Department, Shri Santosh Savita, House Attendant, Daulat House, Mr Gautav Patel, Ex Jayappa 1991, Capt. Sanjeev Soni, Ex Vivekanand 1973, Mr Gagan Sethi, Ex Shivaji 1992, Shri Rohit Kapoor, Ex Shivaji 1985, Dr. Jawahar Dar, Ex Jeevaji 1958, Shri Vasant Mishra, Ex Mahadji 1956, Shri Umesh Vaish (Ex Jeevaji 1968, Shri Rohit Dass, Ex Jayaji 1982, Dr. Bhartendu Madeka, Ex Shivaji 1975, Mr Harsh Vardhan Modi, Ex Jayappa 2009, Mr Varun Nepram, Ex Jeevaji 2015, Sri Nitish Naharas (1986, Jeevaji), Mrs Padma Bhardwaj, Wife of Mr U C Bharadwaj (EX Housemaster Jayaji House) and Mr Chandrapal Singh, Ex Chaitanya, 1984.

I request the gathering to kindly rise and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the departed souls.

#### **Before I End:**

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the President and members of the Board of Governors for their support and guidance. I thank all the parents for their support, understanding and valuable inputs. I am thankful to my colleagues from teaching, administrative and services wings for their team work and understanding. I sincerely appreciate the help that I have received from the band of bright youngsters; our team of prefects. I am also grateful to the government and civil administration for their constant support, Army and Air Force authorities for their help and LNIPE whenever we turned to them for any need.

I expect that you will carry back beautiful memories of the Founder's Day 2015 and faith in what The Scindia School does with the budding citizens of India in our care.

Thank you.



## Welcome speech by H.H. Maharaja J.M. Scindia

Our Chief Guest this evening, my colleague and friend in Parliament Hon'ble Dr Shashi Tharoor, Members of Board of Governors of the Scindia School, Principal Dr Saraswat, Members of the Faculty, Parents, Students, Alumni, our Madhav Awardee this year- the distinguished Prof Barua, Ladies and Gentlemen: Welcome to the 118th Founders' Day at the Scindia School. It is on this day that we reaffirm our commitment to the vision of the founder of our Institution, His Highness Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia the first. His vision articulated the creation of a learning environment; a learning environment that would create leaders of the future corporations, leaders of International organizations, social organizations, government and NGOs. Many a times we have struggled in our lexicon to find the meaning of what a future leader involves. Bill Gates said it best, "As we look ahead into the next century leaders will be those who empower others".

And what is that essential ingredient that must go into the recipe of making a true leader? One of the all time greats John Kenneth Galbraith said a while ago, "All great leaders have had one common characteristic - the willingness to confront unequivocally, the major anxiety of the people in their time. This and not much else is the essence of leadership".

In today's world a simultaneous feeling of hope and the feeling of energy are there but along with that there is also a feeling of anxiety and a feeling of disillusionment. Hope and energy stems from the fact that with the economic development over the last several years, we in our country have been able to lift millions above the poverty line. The anxiety is from the fact that still millions live in poverty, do not have an access to health care and do not have access to proper education, and most important of all is the challenge of diversity that we are facing today. The freedoms that are enshrined in our constitution, the freedom of speech, the freedom of thought are under threat today. When we look around us and you have the episodes such as the ones that we have seen over the last two and a half years, whether it is the incident of Dadri or the the desecration of great Sikh Granth, these are issues that stir our inner being because when the fringe becomes the centre, then the obvious question is, where does the centre move to? Our country is a country that has been built as Swami Vivekanand said, "Many many years ago on the concept and power of her *adhyatmic vikas*". That spiritual powering is what takes forward India's growth, technology and globalization which are interconnected. It has proven to be a paradigm shift in the way we converse with each other and connect with each other. As in the movie Spiderman says, 'With great power comes great responsibility.' Jeff Bezos of Amazon.com once said, "Always remember that technology is a gift. How you use it, is a choice - your choice". Therefore today the leader of the future has to be able to take the advantages of the gifts of the modern world, stand up to the challenges and address the social and economic problems of today.

While mainly I hope to address students but I do hope to find a receptive audience in the parents and the faculty. The question that we have to face is, what type of education model is that we must have in our country? What is the vision of this Institution? What is our role in the society? And to that end, education isn't just about completing the syllabus, or completing the exam. It isn't about moving to the next grade because then we start thinking that life is as simple as memorizing what is in our text book. But in thinking that, we don't account for the changing world and the fact that it is not going to be linear any more as we move from one grade to other. Facebook's COO Sheryl Sandberg said in her book 'Lean in; Women Work and the Will to Lead', "Think about your career as a jungle gym and not a ladder". And therefore it is incumbent upon all of you that we must move simultaneously, horizontally and vertically, left and right, up and down and this, young boys, is the best time for you to explore all those options. No wonder, people say the school years are the best time of your life. You must explore your interests. Find out what is that, that you are interested in, not necessarily what your teachers or your parents think should interest you. Not that you should not listen to your teachers and parents, but you must find your inner calling while you spend time here at the Scindia School.

Life also isn't about encompassing knowledge. It is also about understanding and relating to people. Barack Obama said, "The biggest deficit that we have

in our society and in the world right now, is an empathy deficit". We are in great need of people who can stand in some body else's shoes and see the world through their eyes. Therefore to deal with multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-racial and a dynamic world, it is extremely important that we are able to deal with people across the range of this spectrum. And in

this world today, as the Principal talked about iPads, iPhones which you will soon get, we seem to forget that most important thing is an eye contact and building relationship with people. It is deeply distressing that we continue to see violence against women in our country today. Therefore it is incumbent upon this young generation of men not only to provide that safety net to the environment, but I strongly believe that if India has to be the provider of human resource potential to the world, we can do it only if we empower our women to stand up and take charge of every opportunity that life has to offer to them.

I have always been a firm believer in the role of sports, arts and theatre. It teaches you the functioning of a team effort. It teaches you to always remember, the team is as strong as the weakest link within your team. Arts on the other hand provide exposure to culture. It teaches you much more about history much more than possibly any text book can. Here at Scindia School we also provide opportunities for self-reflection. The *Astachal* is a wonderful testimony to that. Those three or four minutes that we spend in *antaratma ka awlokan* - the concept of self reflection, understanding your strengths and your own weaknesses, and to be able to build upon them is the very key to take life forward, as we go along.

It is very important in life to remember that you must have a conscience, must do good deeds. Here I would like to recount a very old story, 100 years or so. There was a farmer who went out to crop his fields in England. He heard a shout in a nearby wood. He scampered into the forest and found a boy waist deep in quicksand. He immediately cut out a branch for the boy and saved his life. The boy went back on his way home. Next day a horse carriage stopped in front of his house. A young nobleman stepped out, thanked the farmer profusely for saving his young son's life. He said, "How I can repay you"? To this the farmer said, "I don't need your money". At that point of time, the farmer's young son came to the door way. The noble man turned around and said that let me return that favour by providing education to your son. The young boy went on to study in the Queen Mary Medical Hospital, England. He graduated from there and went on to become the Father of Penicillin - Sir Alexander Fleming. Couple of years later the Nobleman's son was sick in pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. What was the Nobleman's name? Rudolph Churchill. What was his son's name? Winston Churchill. So always remember what goes around comes back. Therefore one must always try and do good deeds in our life.

Einstein once said, "I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide them conditions in which they can learn". That is what I believe is our mission, here at The Scindia School. The unique juxtaposition of modern amenities whether it is the new interiors of the dining hall, restoration of the main building, the wonderful open air theatre where we are standing, the provision of technology, the Wi-Fi tablets that the Principal mentioned we are intending to provide to students going forward. All this juxtaposed along the ramparts of the 6th century Fort. This should be the metaphor of education that we provide. This



H.H. Maharaja J.M. Scindia welcoming the Chief Guest.

allows our students, to bridge the gap between the past and the future. Once you create a foundation within you i.e. soul of India, you are better able to channelize this education in India in your leadership, in the coming days on the global stage.

Therefore with that background, ladies and gentlemen it is only befitting that I welcome in our midst today an individual who embodies all of these values who has the proven track record of success both nationally and internationally. If we want to think what we mean by a global leader, Dr Tharoor is truly an inspiration to all of us. Symbolic of the Jungle gym that I talked about, he is the archetypal renaissance man, as much at home listening to classical Indian *Ghazals* dressed in a crisp white *kurta - pyjama*, as he would have been, I suspect, in a crisp western suit sitting as an Under Secretary General of the United Nations dealing with international issues. He continues to be the renaissance man even today in his ability to appeal to multiple sections of the society and his reach, now not only being pan Indian but global. A self-professed frequent air traveler, since he was a few months shy of being six. He too, like a lot of you sitting here tonight, was packed off by his parents to a boarding school, willingly handed over from one air hostess to another; I guess, it is during this period that he acquired this ability of being able to charm the people in his life that he has so well expressed in his later years and all through the Parliament. We all know that he has accomplished a lot but he has done it much earlier. Many of his achievements date back to when many of us could not spell the word achievement. He began writing fiction when he was six years old. He wrote his first novel when he was age eleven. By the time he was thirteen he had published short stories in the several news papers. He has written three plays that have been produced on stage. He earned his PhD at the Fletchers school of Law and Diplomacy along with an award for the best student when he was just twenty two years old. And if there were an award for the most well behaved Parliamentarian Dr Shashi Tharoor would have got it hands down in the Parliament. But that poses a very tough task for someone like me who is the Chief Whip of the Congress Party and my job is to push him into the well of the House. No pun intended. But I obviously failed very much at that onerous responsibility that has been given to me. He has had an illustrious career at United Nations serving as the Under Secretary General. He has been inspirational in the way he has dealt with the challenges of the world, be it refugee crisis, peace keeping operations, civil wars, end of the cold wars, even 9/11, and I hope tonight he tells us how these have affected his career and how has he dealt with their consequences. He has been a trend setter in life and in Indian politics. He pioneered the use of social media, one

of the first to get 10000 followers and one of the first to get 100000 followers. Because of his disarming charms and quick wit and perennially good looks he was even offered a role in a big banner Bollywood production. I know lot of us parliamentarians would have jumped at that opportunity. In 2011 along with the famed actress Vidya Balan he was voted the PETA's hottest vegetarian celebrity beating Amitabh Bachchan and Shahid Kapur. His life indeed has been multidisciplinary and this is best seen in his books both fiction and nonfiction on foreign policy, on economics, on films and even on cricket. He has been a cricket buff since childhood and also an actor in his college days when he acted along with the famous director Meera Nair. He has always been an eloquent public speaker and a debater. His ability to construct an articulate, sophisticated argument was evident most recently in his Oxford Union Society debate which went viral almost immediately. He represents the essence of Scindia School's values and morals. He is inspiring because he made a mark on the International arena but chose to return home to serve his country. He has brought back his global experience to try to make a difference in the peoples' lives in our country; but continues to be a global icon. And in that, he embodies the essence of what we at Scindia School aspire to create in all of you seated here tonight. Without much further ado let us welcome Dr Shashi Tharoor in The Scindia School.



Mr Gopal Chaturvedi receiving the Milestone award.

## Awards and recognitions 2014-15

Awards	Awardees		
2. Umang Mathur Memorial Trophy (for the best Class XI Scholar)	Pulkit Agarwal Madhav House	8. Field Marshal Cariappa Shield (for the best sportsman)	Harish Kumar Jayappa House
3. Mahendra Mishra Memorial Trophy (for the best Class XI Sportsman)	Shivansh Kalra Jayaji House	9. Maharaja Jeevajirao Scindia Medal (for All Round Proficiency for Class XII)	Shishir Garg Daulat House
4. Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia II Medal (for All Round Proficiency)	Divyaditya Singh Jayaji House	10. The Khurshid Lakdawala, Jr. House Efficiency Shield	Kanerkhed House
5. Sam Pitroda Award (for the best innovative project- 'Producing standing Sound Waves using fire')	Atul Korkoo Jayappa House Pulkit Agarwal Madhav House	11. Guru Hargovind Singh (Gurdwara) Trophy (for the best House in academics)	Madhav House
6. The R. B. Pawar Medal (for scoring the highest percentage of marks in Mathematics in class XII)	Peter Lairenlakpam Jayappa House	12. Nepal Trophy (for the best House in games)	Jayappa House
7. Governor's Medal (for scoring Highest Percentage in Class XII)	Anustup Garai Madhav House	13. The Scindia School, Inter House General Efficiency Shield	Jayaji House
		14. Madhav Award (Ex Jayaji, 1970)	Prof. Gautam Barua
		15. Milestone award - In recognition of dedicated Mr Gopal Chaturvedi service to the School continuously for over Ten years, a Silver Salver and an honorarium of Rs. 25,000/-	



## Glimpses of the Founder's Day



The Old Boys' team being greeted by the Principal.



Old Boys being greeted by the Bursar.



Where the past and the future meets.



Bombay SOBA being felicitated for maximum blood units collected during Blood donation camp.



The triumphant spirit of a Scindian.



A Scindian during the Horse Show.



## Glimpses of the Founder's Day



Mayank Arora (Ex-Rn, 1990) releasing the publications.



Dr Shashi Tharoor inaugurating the exhibitions.



Guests appreciating the works of the students.



KD House receiving the Khurshid Lakdawala shield.



The Band display in the honour of the Chief Guest.



Jayappa House receiving the Nepal Trophy.



## Address by the Chief Guest

Good evening everyone, on this pleasant evening here. Felicitations to my dear friend and Parliamentary colleague Jyotiraditya Scindia, Principal Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat, Members of the Board of Governors, Madhav Awardee Prof Barua, other distinguished guests, teachers, dear students, parents, ladies and gentlemen and friends -I hope that covers everybody.

I know it is customary on these occasions to say it is a pleasure to be here but after what I have seen at the school today, and indeed my all too brief interaction with the students, I can truly affirm that it is indeed a real pleasure to be here at your 118th Founder's day.

There are very few schools in India that can boast such a long history and such a magnificent and historic campus in such a splendid setting. I think you all are lucky to be here.

I have to thank Jyotiraditya for such an extraordinary introduction. I have to say that it is a kind of introduction that my late father would have been proud of and only my mother would have believed. It is also clear that he has taken enormous amount of trouble to look up all sorts of nuggets about me on the Internet. Though I am often introduced to the audiences, but he has managed to find things nobody else has been able to unearth while introducing me. I have to say that he has been thoughtful in leaving out all that was unpleasant. The least kind thing he could say about me was that I resisted his insistence to become a badly behaved MP. So, I think I have come out of it alright. You know that is the habit of good introducers like Jyotiraditya to put a nice gloss on your deeds and misdeeds.

Here, I recall the story of my friend in New York who also used to like looking up speakers on the Internet but unlike Jyotiraditya he didn't contend to look at the speaker's own bio data and accomplishments. He specialized in going up the family tree to sins, missions and commissions of parents, uncles and aunts and so on. Once, while finding out the details of a speaker, one thing he found out about this chap was that one of his uncles had been electrocuted in Sing-Sing Prison for kidnapping and armed robbery or for something equally horrible. For having taken the trouble of looking up, he felt he had to use it, and he said, "Our distinguished speaker had an uncle who occupied the chair of applied electricity at one of the nation's leading institutions". This is my way of saying, that these introductions can be so generous; that even your worst sins can be well portrayed and therefore please take his words with a large pinch of salt.

Let me not ask you to put a pinch of salt in congratulating the prizewinners today whose talents and efforts we have just recognized. I know there are others whom we didn't see on the stage but we know that they have also done remarkably well in school. I think we all appreciate their enormous efforts and the efforts put in by the school together to organize this wonderful Founder's day. At the students' exhibitions, I was greatly impressed by the sheer range of immense talent on display. I was struck both by the gifts and talents among the students and the work of the school in bringing out those talents and allowing them to flourish. There is no doubt under the Principal's and the faculty's guidance the school will continue to serve as the beacon of inspiration for all proud Indians. We all know, and so many adults are here, the school days are undoubtedly the most formative and influential years of one's life. This evening I was struck by the various scientific experiments that were displayed. These are the experiences that are forming and shaping the character of these young men and women who will go up. I say women because I am told that there are five girls also studying in the school, though I didn't see them on the stage this evening. They are there making their remarkable presence. I was so pleased to hear about the social service especially the works that you do at Sonsa and at Nathon Ka Pura. To be here, at the Scindia School is a privilege and to reach out to those less privileged is both to acknowledge your advantages and to extend yourself to share those advantages with others. Well done Scindians! Keep it up. That is really important.

To the students here, let me say how important it is and you please continue to focus and develop beyond your school work. Whether it is school magazine

- I saw them - your English one, French, German and Hindi as well - or Games, sports or various other activities - Choir, Bands the Orchestra - all of this -it is essential for you to develop an avocation at this age. This is what gives meaning to your life at the later stage as well. It is wonderful to see the students take lead part in several activities in various aspects of life. I was particularly struck by that award

winning film on story writing competition because that reminds me of myself. I was an asthmatic child in Bombay and there were no distractions in those days. There weren't any computers in those days, or televisions. As a child the sole thing I had was books to read. I rapidly finished my parents' books. I was the eldest child and I had no elder sister or brother to get the books from. Whenever my parents took me to library I was inconveniently fast to read and would finish the book in the car on my way home. And so I needed to create my own world to involve myself while lying in bed wheezing, unable to sleep and unable to be physically active and so I started writing. My writing was simply my way of dealing with my life and because of lack of distractions I was creating my own world of distraction. I am grateful for the way that my parents encouraged this. My father would get my story typed by his secretary so that it could be shared with friends and circulated. When I was 10 years old my first story was published in a daily newspaper. And that to my mind is the tribute not to me as much as to the fact that these scribbles of an asthmatic child were taken seriously by my parents and encouraged. I urge the parents present here that those students who are sensitive and tempted to write should be encouraged. Sometimes children do something outside the classroom which they do really well and sometimes better than what they officially do in school. Your encouragement to the child at the young age - teachers and parents, can make all the difference to them later in life. There are so many talents that are wasted because the child didn't persist, since no one gave the child the faith to believe that the talent was worth the persistence. Let's not make that mistake. I am glad that what I have seen, the Scindia School doesn't make that mistake. The bright faces that I have seen this evening, I am convinced I have seen amongst us many stars of India's tomorrow. And despite what you have heard about me, spending time on Facebook and Twitter it doesn't count much. I must say that you really have to do something else, that you will be able to make something more of in your life. Not all children in our country get that opportunity. Not all children of our country get decent education and so it's clear we have to go a long way to fulfill for what we call this nation's destiny. There is a big gap in education, there is the class divide, the gender divide, the rural divide and all these are still wide. It seems to me that you are in a position from where you should be all the more conscious and believe in bridging the gap. As you grow up, you all must fill that divide. It is entirely possible. You can make a difference by changing the mentalities of your friends. Young students, when you go home in vacation you can make a difference by teaching your parent's domestic help. Can they read and write? If yes, great. Can they both read and write in Hindi as well as in English? If you can teach them, then why not? It is a one day's task, a very simple thing.

Swami Vivekanand's slogan - each one, teach one is of much importance. If each one of us taught one person, since we are a little more than 60% literate, we can solve the literacy problem overnight in this Country. But do we extend ourselves to do that? We need to make a difference in our communities. I was with Jyotiraditya Scindia today in a *Kisan Rally*. We went about 65-70 KMs



away from here, dancing through some pretty awful roads to meet people who are facing some appalling hardships in life after droughts in some places, hailstorm in other places, excessive rains paradoxically in some places. And they are really, really suffering fundamentally. I saw Jyotiraditya reaching out to all people, offering consolation and encouragement. But there is a need to recognize that just an hour and a half from this oasis of privilege - there is a real hardship, a real want, real suffering and that you all have a responsibility not to close your eyes to it. That to my mind is extremely, extremely important. You know our society can be transformed if all of us just reached out and touched someone. It is something easier to say than to do. Extend yourself to make that effort - frankly speaking it is not that easy, because it takes us away from obvious things, like pleasure perhaps. But believe me the satisfaction that comes from making a difference in others' lives in whatever way you can are unparalleled and unmatched in human existence.

We are a very unusual country in many ways. Despite what some people would like to say, that nothing has happened for seventy years. I am sorry to say that they are wrong. There has been enormous change in this country. Just a few years ago I wrote the book, "The Elephant, the tigers and the cell phones", in which, I spoke about India as the slow clichéd elephant - this large ponderous beast called elephant covered in dust with flies, slow to move, slow to change. Then suddenly to everyone's surprise this appears to have been acquiring the stripes of the large, sinewy, Asian tiger. You may ask - but where is a cell phone? It's coming in many ways. I know the cellphone is banned in school & during the school term. But in many ways it is an embodiment of the times that have changed. I am talking about when I went off to graduate in a school in US. There were Six Hundred Million people in India and the entire Country had just two million land line telephones. This figure didn't improve much till early Eighties and the fact that those two million land line telephones obviously could reach only to a few privileged people. Unless you were a very prominent politician, or a very important person like a journalist, a successful businessman you wouldn't get a telephone and you may be languished in a waiting list - wanting to get a phone. The Members of Parliament like Jyotiraditya and me, much before our times, actually had the privilege of allotting 15 telephone connections to whomsoever we deemed worthy. That was the special status to get a telephone. In fact, even if you were lucky enough to get a phone it wasn't necessarily a blessing. In many parts of India it didn't work very often. I grew up and went for High school in Calcutta. I still remember walking past a telephone, picking up the receiver to check whether it had a dial tone that day. Even if you had a dial tone it was not good enough. When you dialed a number, the day it had a dial tone, you often heard the word, 'wrong number' more than the word 'Hello' Or you could stumble across somebody else's conversation, going on in full flow and unaware that you were listening in, on them. There was a technical term for that. It was called 'cross connection'. They were the connections that made us really cross. Now as late as 1984, a Member of Parliament stood-up and criticized the government for its monopoly and for being so useless. The Minister for Communications replied in a lordly manner that his government had no obligation to provide a better communication facility in a developing country. He said, "Communications were a luxury in a poor country like ours and if you Mr. Parliament are not happy with the telephone services, may please return the instrument, since there was an eight year long wait list for the phone that you don't want". That was the attitude - as you see. If you fast forward this to 2007, when I wrote this book - The elephant, the Tiger and the Cell phone - and I was able to write that we have set a new world record for the number of telephone connections established in a month as compared to the entire history of telecommunications. When I finished writing my book, there were 7 million mobile phones, sold in India - and that was a world record. Not even US and China have come close to that record. By the time the manuscript of my book went out to be printed and get bound - and by the time my book emerged in the Bookstores - that figure was already out of date. India has broken its own record several times. In December the figure raised up to 8.2 million. Following year without the book being reprinted, we crossed 9 Million, then 10 million and in just two months in 2010, we actually sold 20 million mobile phones. In other words, when I went out to study in America, as compared to that time, we have sold 10 times more cellphones than the total telephone connections our country ever had.

Now, what I want to say is, what a long way we have come from the day when if you wanted to call from Bombay to Calcutta - you had to book a trunk call, you

had to sit, by the phone, the whole day waiting for that phone call to mature, for that tring... . If you didn't pick up the telephone when it rang, the operator passed you by and would go to the next person on the list. And again you will have to wait for hours for that trunk call, unless you paid some eight times more for that trunk call - they called it the lightening call; But in those days even the lightening used to strike slowly in India and a lightening call took about half an hour instead of 7 or 8 Hours, the trunk call might have taken. Can you imagine how far we have come from there?

That's not just a question of numbers only. It's a question who is carrying those Mobile Phones? What is absolutely striking today is not just the number. Now we have a billion telephone connections in this country. Jyotiraditya himself was the Minister of State for Communications, for a short while. He knows the story. What is far more satisfying is that these connections are held and these phones are carried by people, whom in the old days, we could never presume to be in the wait list I spoke about.

Your chauffeur, who brought you here, undoubtedly is carrying a mobile phone and it is his own, I am sure, you didn't buy it for him.

If you come to Delhi, you can see the sight anywhere. A wooden-cart - whose design will be of 17th century - on which sits a man with a coal-fired steam iron who looks like 18th century - 'Istreewala' - must be carrying in his pocket a 20th century mobile phone. Because most of the incoming calls are coming free and it cost nothing to get summons from the houses and apartments, in the neighborhood, telling him to come and collect a saree or a shirt to iron.

In the old days, what would the *Kissan* do at the harvest time? They used to send an able bodied person or sometimes an eight to ten year old boy for perhaps 10 KMs long journey, in the hot sun, to the nearest market town to find out if the '*mandi*' was open and the harvested crop will be sold, and for how much? Then the poor boy will walk back again in the hot sun, put everything in the cart and go back to the market. Now all that is saved by a one minute phone call. Half a day's back breaking work is gone for the poor farmer.

For the fishermen in my State of Kerala, where fishermen carry cell phones with GPS, given to them by the State Government, for free. They get the indication where the best shoals of fishes are. They catch the fish and as they come back and once they are near enough to the coast to get the signals, start dialing the markets all around on the coast, to know where they can get the best price, of a particular fish they have caught.

I was in my constituency in Thiruvananthapuram, not too long ago, on a very hot day, in the farmhouse of a friend. We were some 20 KM away from the nearest urban place. My friend asked - "would you care for coconut water"? Everybody knows that the coconut water is one of the most nutritious things to drink on a hot day, so I said, yes. He picked up his mobile and dialed a number. The man on the top of the coconut tree, with a lungi around his knees, with a hatchet in one hand and a mobile in another, was a local paddy field laborer, who proceeded down with a coconut for us to drink!!

That is what socialism really means. It is about how you use technology to transform the lives of ordinary people. Give them hope, give them connectivity, give them opportunity. This is what the empowerment is all about. This happened well before the transformation that has happened in our country about a year and a half back. There are some people who need reminding of this. Please forgive me for doing so. When you, young boys, come out of your school, remember this that there has been this long journey before every giant discovery. Charles Darwin and Isaac Newton have said whatever have been their giant discoveries; they have walked on the shoulders of the giants to reach where they have reached today.

British left us with 17% literacy. I don't remember to have said this in my Oxford speech, did I? Now the literacy percentage in our Country is about 74%. It is not good enough. We want to be near 100% but it is a lot better than 17% than the British left us with. British left us with 90% of our population below the poverty line. Today we have 23%. It is too much. But it is still better than 90%. We have made progress and you must take heart in it. We must continue to make progress. And that must be your determination.



We have celebrated a number of accomplishments today. I am proud of having given so many prizes, and more so because the prizes were given for other than the academic distinctions. I say this personally because I have been rather good at exams. I kept winning academic prizes. I wasn't particularly good at sports. To me it seems that there are some quality patches that we haven't seen here being recognized though it really matters in the school. The teachers the administrators and the faculty will tell you. The qualities of kindness, helpfulness, compassion and even the ability to just listen sympathetically. These are all the abilities for prizes. If you have these as young students, they will hold you in great stead in your adult life. They will transform, in many ways, lives of those, you meet later.

The fact is that unfortunately the Indian education system, for decades, perhaps, for more than a century now, has tended to be, and I know it is not true for Scindia but generally has tended to be seen as an exercise in cramming children's heads, in making them mug up lessons full of facts. Making them regurgitate, what they have been taught by the teachers from the text books, what teachers have told them to write on examination paper. Such a method of course, produced children with well filled minds. But, you don't need a well filled mind. You need a Google or two clicks of the mouse to find out what needs to be found out. What we really need in the world is not a well-filled mind, but a well-formed mind. A mind that is capable of dealing with unfamiliar facts, the things that you haven't read in a text book, a mind which is able to synthesize unfamiliar situations and problems and is able to find solutions to it. In a big examination, called LIFE, it tends to ask you questions that you couldn't guess from seeing the last years' question papers or from so many years before. We need to inculcate that preparedness for life at a very early age. I am told Scindia does it. I am very glad because truly, true education is what is left behind in your mind while you have forgotten all that you prepared for examination. That is what will ultimately see you through in life. It is important to ask the teachers 'Why?' It is sometimes equally important to ask 'why not?' or 'why couldn't it be this way?' Teachers must know, and I say this to the teachers here that by saying, 'It has always been like this'- they know, is not a good enough answer. You must, as Steve Jobs used to always say - think out of box. How important it is to think out of the box? So, where is the Box? The Box is conventional thinking. In India, part of the Box is our respect for hierarchy - the respect for the teachers and elders, and therefore reluctance to challenge the wisdom that comes down from high above. I know that it is not unfortunately good enough. Because innovation is what the world is looking for, today. Not that there isn't any. If you Google the word - 'innovation' the first 20 innovations that you will get relate to Indians only. The worlds' cheapest cardiogram, the world's cheapest insulin injection, the cheapest car Tata Nano, and so forth. But these are all basically invented by all the other people that we have stripped down to make it more affordable and manageable. We celebrate 'jugad', carving short out, and getting things done. Is that good enough? When can we think of, once again, being the part of that society which can think of what no one has thought before? We used to be a society like that. You see, we are a Nation that gave the world - Zero. We had scientists and astronomers who actually anticipated what Copernicus, Galileo and Newton thought centuries before. The theory of gravity can be found in our 'Vedas' centuries before the apple fell on Newton's head. And the fact that Aryabhata figured out the distance between the Sun and the Earth and that the Earth revolves around the Sun thousands of years before Copernicus and Galileo thought about this. We have been the pioneer of knowledge in several fields.

What happened to that quest for originality? The only way we can get there again is by encouraging our kids to think beyond convention, to think out of the Box. Let me give you a mundane example. I need glasses only for distance. I don't need them to see notes in front of me. I don't need them in conversation etc. If I have to see the people sitting in the back row then I need my glasses. The fact is that because I use them so rarely, may be for five-ten minutes in the entire day, I am constantly breaking and losing them. I have lost and broken many pairs of glasses. I was speaking to a friend about this and the fact that in the last 150 years, the glasses have been made in one way - to hangover the ears and join them on the middle of your nose. I find that inconvenient and uncomfortable, unaesthetic and unappealing. Actually I don't like to wear them unless I need to see something at a distance as I said before. And they are the only kind of glasses that exist in the world. My friend said, "Wait for some time. I'll find you a solution". After a couple of weeks he came in with

something which I can hang around my neck and forget about it. They tend not to fall off, not to easily break off, lost or misplaced. When I actually need to use it, to see something at the back of row, all I had to do is to click them together with a pair of magnets in the middle - and there I can see all of you today, although it is too dark. Very simple idea. But it says, we can reimagine some thing what others have already done - something as simple as a pair of glasses. Then think about the children who have shown some innovative scientific experiments today. How many more things you can reimagine and do differently than what has been done before.

I believe it's never too late to learn. I think we have the capacity to learn something new, every day. There is always something new to learn every single day. It might not necessarily be a fact, it could be a word, and it could be an insight into human behavior. It could always be something new we can learn. So you shouldn't go with a closed parachute unless you are looking for a one way ticket upstairs. Mind is like a parachute. It functions best when it is open. So keep it open, use it to learn. Learning works to make you the best, you can be. You know winning prizes is not actually being better than the next person. Learning is the big prize of life that really matters. Most important thing is being better than your less good self. It is about fulfilling whatever God given potential you are born with. As I said then, it may not be a talent to come first in an exam and win these prizes, or be outstanding in sport. It may be a talent to bring cheers to the people around you. God says develop that talent. It is highly valuable. No one can be a better you than you yourself. If you can be the best, then you've made it. That is the prize that you need in life.

For the children, who are graduating this year, if you are going out of India - let me say that now India is full of opportunities. Far more opportunities than my generation had when we left school. You can truly live an Indian dream; it is equivalent to the long spoken American dream. The Indian dream is a dream that you have to dream with your eyes open. You can't fulfill a dream by sleeping and dreaming. You have to get out there and do what you need to do. You know some people are accused of being lucky. The luckiest persons are usually the ones who have worked the hardest. Someone said - harder I work, the luckier I get. Yes some people make it look effortless. Jyotiraditya is a very good example. I just think how much he had to put in for that 10 to 15 minutes speech that he gave today. He didn't look at a single note - did he? It is quite remarkable! The quotations, the knowledge, the insights and even the facts about my life - he was able to present to you all. He made it look so easy. That means you do the hard work first and it doesn't need to show. When you are out there the proof is automatically visible. The truth is that, what is important is worth taking the trouble. Luck comes disguised, on the hard roads. You work hard; you develop whatever you have within you. You will succeed. All I can say, to the young ones - don't hesitate to take risk. It is said that sometimes our system makes children afraid to fail. You shouldn't definitely be failing in class. Sometimes setbacks will come in your way. Not everyone can be Jyotiraditya Scindia and go from time to time from success to success. Most people in the world whom you think have accomplished success have had major setbacks along the way. If you have that faith in yourself then you know you can rise again. It is not, how hard you fall; it is how quickly you pick yourself up. It sounds difficult, but it is true. It is not just a cliché there. I myself have been there. I think, if anybody tells you that he has never had a setback in his life, either he is blind to real setbacks, or there is one waiting for him round the corner. The truth is, everybody has faced disappointments. So don't be afraid to risk. You can risk all the more because you have fewer responsibilities, burdens and worries. You can take the chances. Now Bill Gates dropped out from a place like Harvard, sat in a garage and tinkered with software and now he is the richest person in the world. He still doesn't have a college degree, except what has been given to him honorarily by various universities. So let me just say and I want to wrap-up here. You folks, you youngsters are already in the majority here because more than 50% of the population is under 25, so the parents here I am afraid are already in the minority. India belongs to you youngsters, you have to go on and make something of it. And I am going to end with a story, a story that I did not write. Although I have written it but it isn't my own invention. It actually is an ancient story from our Puranas. It's a Puranic story about a young warrior who wants to marry a beautiful princess. So he goes to the princess's father, a king, and asks for her hand. The king thinks that the warrior is a bit too cocksure and callow and so he says you may marry my daughter when you find 'truth'. Well the warrior leaps on

his feet and canters off in the quest of truth. He goes to mountain tops where ascetics have hidden themselves; he goes to monasteries where sages have hidden themselves meditating, he goes to forests where people are scouring themselves. He goes everywhere where people are looking for truth but nowhere does he find the truth. Despairing one day and seeking refuge from a thunderstorm, he finds himself seeking shelter in a dark and musty cave. There in the darkness he sees an old hag, a withered old lady with matted hair, rocking teeth, with wrinkles on her face, bad breath and gloomy eyes. She approaches him and says – what are you looking for? And he says that I am looking for the truth. And they start talking, and keep talking and they talk all night. And as they talk and the more they talk, the warrior realizes that he has come to the end of his quest. She is – truth. When dawn breaks and the storm disappears, the warrior decides to return to the palace to claim his bride. As he leaps on his horse he asks her – what shall I tell them at the palace about you? The old hag smiles and she says, tell them, and tell them, that I am young and beautiful. And that really is a two thousand years old story. Truth is not always

true, even though truth exists. This means that you have to search for your own truth. I hope you will find it. When you find it, keep a little percentage of doubt that the truth that you may have found may not be the truth after all. We are currently ruled by a few people who believe that they have the truth and many of us think that they don't. Let us understand that as learners you bring the best of yourself, to the quest of truth. Then India will be able to rejoice in your story of success. Think out of the box, think creatively, and continue to be talented and enthusiastic as the Scindia School has encouraged you to be. Also be kind and loving and compassionate and humanitarian and do that kind of social service after school as well. Do all of those things. And let me say to all of you, that future is yours and India needs you. Thank you, Jyotiraditya and the school for this opportunity to speak to the children here. Be proud of what you have already accomplished, be optimistic about what you will accomplish, and I hope you will make all of us, present here today swell with pride when we will hear about you in years to come and we will recall that we saw you at the school on this Founder's Day in 2015. India needs you – make it a better place. Jai Hind.

## A conversation with Dr Shashi Tharoor

*This on-stage conversation was moderated by Mr Vishesh Sahai - Staff Editor of the Review. Mr V. Sahai, Akash Jaini and Shantanu Kulshreshtha asked a few questions to Dr S. Tharoor. We present before you the dialogue, the three had with him.*

**Q1. India has been known as the land of snake charmers in the past, then as a land of call centers and some other stereotypes at different points of time in history. How does the world look at India today? (Akash Jaini)**

Ans: Thank you Akash for that question. You are right; there has been a major transformation in the perception of India since the time that I went to the west for education. In my graduate school, it was very much the image of naked *fakers* on beds of nails, the snake charmers, and the Indian rope trick, at best the Indian Maharajas with their comparisons. It was not particularly a pleasant image that we had. Then the transformation came, particularly in the western world – in Britain and America and all Indians were seen as being computer geeks, engineers and doctors, because these were the professionals they saw. In fact nowadays so many Indians have done so well in the Silicon Valley, where 40% of all startups are by Indians; that the cliché has become, that the IITs are as well known in some places in America as MIT and Caltech. And the risk is that people like me, who have only studied History, will have a challenge when we go abroad. A friend of mine got accosted by an anxiously perspiring European at the airport, who requested my friend to help him fix the laptop because he was an Indian! So you see, there is now this new image as you said of technological geeks. You are probably too young to have seen the TV serial called ER some 15 years ago, which was very popular in the western world that ran in India also for a while. ER stood for Emergency Room in a hospital. When the first premier of that show came up, it was criticized by the American critics who said that no one has ever heard of an emergency room in America without an Indian doctor in it. And they actually had to write a part to include an Indian doctor and they cast an Indian actress in it. It was only then, ER became a success story. So this change also happened. What is the change I see today? Aspects I just discussed are continuing, and as indeed Modi said in the Madison Square garden that we have gone from people thinking of us as snakes to people thinking of us as mouse (due to computers). But sadly what is happening in recent months is a little more negative. You read the foreign press about India, whether it is the American, the British, the German or the French. You get this alarming image of a country of mounting intolerance and division of society, and of inter-religious, inter-caste violence and hatred and of assaults on women and on minorities. These are the stories that are now making the news and it is alarming for the well-wishers of India. They can't somehow reconcile this image with the image of the technologically sophisticated and successful computer geek playing with the mouse. And I must say that as an individual and Jyotiraditya Scindia's remarks also alluded to this problem at least obliquely; this is something that worries many of us because it is not the India that Mahatma Gandhi fought to free. The India that Gandhiji and Nehru

and that entire founding generation created was an India open to everyone. An India where all ways of beliefs and habits were not just tolerated, but they were accommodated in the framework of our diverse democracy. Ours is a country where you can have the differences of the caste and creed and color, of culture, cuisine and of conviction, of costume and custom and still rally around a simple consensus enshrined in our constitution. And what is that consensus, that in a country like ours you don't need to agree all the time, so long as you agree on the ground rules. That is what the democracy is all about. And that's why you can go to the schools in India and in the same classroom see somebody sporting a crucifix, somebody with a turban and somebody with a veil. And it doesn't matter, as they are all the same in the eyes of everyone else. That's the India I grew up, and that is the India I wish to return to. My big worry is that people are losing the sight of that India because of the level of the noise being made by those who have a different view of India.

**Q2. Sir, you have been at the helm of affairs at the UN. What role does the UN, which represents all the nations, see for itself in resolving the issue of mass migrations / refugee crisis which has hit the world recently e.g. the Rohingya and the Syrian refugee crisis? (Shantanu Kulshreshtha)**

Ans: Well there are three categories of people basically recognized in the world in this situation. Those who are refugees are defined in legal conventions as people with a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, gender, membership of any social group for example gay people or something like that. They fear persecution and they leave their country and they are called refugees. Then there are the internally displaced people, due to war and insurrection and these are internally displaced people and are not really refugees. Finally there is third category of people who are not being persecuted but they are sick of the lives they've got and are moving to other countries in the hope of a better life. These are called economic migrants. Now each of these three categories has a different kind of consequence in terms of an international response. Refugees are helped by the UN high commission of refugees, provided they are determined to be refugees. So normally when you come to a particular country seeking asylum, you are interviewed and a process has to be followed in that country with the UN present, to determine if you have a well-founded fear of persecution. If you do, then you are



Dr S. Tharoor (sitting on the chair) in conversation with the students.

deemed a refugee. If you are internally displaced then all that can be done is that you can be given temporary assistance until the circumstances that caused you to be displaced change. And if you are an economic migrant then everything depends on the policy of the receiving country. If their policy is not to take economic migrants then they are entitled to send you back home. Now ultimately, for the refugee, the objective is to find a durable solution, not temporary asylum. Now again, there are three solutions to this, first is voluntary repatriation. So when the government which was persecuting you falls, and now the new government does not persecute you for your beliefs, you want to go back. This is voluntary repatriation. Or you might just settle down in the first country that you've gone to, which is often a neighboring country and you make your permanent life there and that is called local integration. The third option is when you are taken to a country half a world away and you are resettled there, and that is called resettlement. So for example the Vietnamese war people came to neighboring countries but in most cases they came to western countries and they were accepted in UK, Canada and the US etc. and they went about starting a new life there and in all these three solutions the UN is involved. But when it comes to the problems that you are describing like the Rohingyas, the UN tries to help them but the countries that they are seeking refuge in, are not willing to take them as refugees. They claim that these are just migrants. Burma says they are all migrants from Bangladesh and Bangladesh says their ancestors left their country two hundred years back and why should they take them back. Hence they become unwanted group of people and it is a very sad human tragedy. There are some 10 or 11 thousand Rohingyas who are living in horrendous conditions outside Delhi, and I can tell you that there are things that assault our conscience for people who do not fit into any particular category but are genuinely deserving of our help. Similar is the case with Syrian war. All these people fleeing, and some of them are genuinely fleeing for persecution due to their beliefs and some for their lives, because nobody knows which bomb might have their address written on it. And therefore they are fleeing off to Europe. Are they all refugees? Some of them are motivated by migration. It is very difficult to sort this out. Indeed when you have large groups at one time, there is a tendency to make a blanket determination as was done for Vietnamese and we said that let us keep all of them and treat them as refugees and help them. That seems to be happening

right now in Europe after some delay. Some countries like the Slovakia and Hungary have been quite hostile towards refugees but some have welcomed them. Germany for example has been most generous with refugees and has integrated them well.

**Q3. I was listening to your speech at the Oxford Reunion Society which was nothing short of electrifying. It was eight minutes long. My question is - how long did you take to prepare for it? (Mr Vishesh Sahai)**

Ans: Ah...that's a big question. But I will tell you a true story. When I was posted in Singapore, with the UN as a young man, I went to the home of a friend who held a special leaning for a very famous Chinese calligraphy artist who was visiting Singapore. That artist had these very special brushes which one could scroll over on a paper. So this artist took this brush and in just three minutes flat, he finished a painting. And then somebody asked him how much did it cost? To which the artist said -25000 dollars. The woman gasped and asked 25000 dollars for three minutes? The artist looked at her and said, "Three minutes madam and 45 years". So those three minutes were a destination of what he had been doing and perfecting over 45 years. So that is ultimately the lesson. So what I said of Jyotiraditya's speech, same is true of my Oxford speech. I had done some homework before, I knew what the broad topic of the debate was, I didn't know what order I would be speaking, and I knew I would be speaking for the motion which was - 'Britain owed reparations'. I didn't know what the other side's arguments would be, so I did some homework in terms of facts and figures and had them ready with me and thought through, in my own mind, that which kind of arguments worth making would be compelling and effective. And then I listened to what they had to say, and scribbled down my refutations on a simple paper. And then the rest just came - you stand up and initially the words are slow to come. The reason why some speakers start with a joke that warms them up and then the rest of the fluency just follows. So generally the joke is a well-practiced one. So they use it and then they just pick up from there.

But yes, there was quite a bit of homework done for that speech...

## Citation of the Madhav Awardee - Prof. Gautam Barua (Ex Jayaji, 1964-70)

The Scindia School aspires to cultivate the spirit of adventure and profound thinking, imbued with courage, conviction and confidence in every Scindian. Prof. (Dr.) Gautam Barua's life is an incredible timeline of these attributes spread across all endeavours of his life.

Prof. Barua was the School Captain in 1970 and received the President's Gold Medal for his commendable performance in the school. After graduating from IIT Bombay with a B.Tech in 1976 and an M.Tech in 1978 in Electrical Engineering, he obtained a Ph.D. in Computer Engineering from the University

of California. Following a brief stint as a Visiting Lecturer at UCSB, he returned home and joined IIT Kanpur as a Faculty Member and later as the Head of the Department, contributed towards the modernization of IT facilities. He has been awarded the 'Distinguished Alumnus Award' by IIT Mumbai for the current year i.e. 2015.

In 1995, Prof. Barua joined IIT Guwahati and became the Director in 2003, and in 2013 was elevated as the Mentor Director of the institute. During the same time, he also had the additional charge as the Director of NIIT Silchar, and in 2008 was appointed the Mentor Director of IIT Patna when the Government of India decided to open six more IITs across India. His constant efforts have led to the development of Technical Education in the North East, especially in the sphere of Information Technology. He is committed to breakthrough advances in the field of Technical Education, move towards single-entrance-exam scenario in engineering, and his resolute stand on the autonomy of educational institutions, especially the IITs.

Prof. Barua is keenly interested in Operating Systems, Networks and Research. He is a passionate teacher and has more than 50 publications to his credit. He serves on the Board of several PSUs and government educational institutions. He is an independent Director of Indian Oil Corporation Limited and is the IT consultant to the Government of Assam.

We are honoured and privileged to have amongst us Prof. Gautam Barua, who is a stellar example of the ideals of scholarship, leadership, and true citizenship.

The Scindia School confers on Prof. Gautam Barua the Madhav Award as an Old Boy of Eminence for the year 2015.



Prof. Barua receiving the Madhav Award.

## Dr Gautam Barua (The Madhav Awardee's speech)

Mr Jyotiraditya Scindia, Dr Shashi Tharoor, Principal Saraswat, Dignitaries, Members of the Board, Faculty and my dear students. It is indeed a great honour that has been bestowed on me by The Scindia School to have given me the Madhav Award. I am deeply humbled and overjoyed at the recognition. Coming here after some fifty years always brings back old memories. The speakers before me have talked about what the school provides and what the school does to you. I am now transported back 45 years ago to 1970, which is a long time ago, although it seems like I graduated just the other day. I learned a lot and I stayed here for six and a half years. I learnt how to study and do well in exam. I still remember in my final year, the Principal Mr Sahi who had joined from the Doon school made us mug-up the entire Macbeth and then of course taught us the meaning too. And so when examination time came, we were able to make quotations left, right and center and we were able to understand what we were quoting. But we learnt so many other things. I remember the *Raheem ke dohe* which Mr Verma used to teach us from *Saral Sahitya Parichay*. It was everything but *Saral*. It was awfully hard although it was extremely enjoyable and I still remember some of those *Dohe*. It was not just studies that I picked up here. I learnt how to play football, hockey and cricket and all other games.

The school gave me the opportunity to try almost everything, even things that I could not do well. So for example, I wanted to sing and play an instrument and Mr Kapase who was the music teacher, was so kind to me, back then. Although now I know that I am horrible in both. He didn't allow me to sing but he allowed me to take part in the school orchestra. My 'talent' was hidden due to the noises around me and so I passed. I learnt to appreciate leathery *chapatis* and the dark liquid which used to have some potatoes called *Saada*. I don't know if *Saada* is still served in our wonderful mess. But that *Saada* and the *Rotis* were like nectar that we really enjoyed and grew strong.

School thus made us all-rounders. It gave us the courage to go after our passions. The role of prefect gave us leadership and that helped me particularly in my career in the last 40 odd years. I have to thank the school for making me what I am and I hope the students who are here and those who will continue to come will keep the flag flying high and take all the things that the school gives in their stride and move forward into the future.

Thank you Scindia, thank you everybody.

## Vote of Thanks by Senior School Prefect - Arindam Bharadwaj

Honourable Chief Guest of the Evening, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, President, Board of Governors, Your Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia, Your Highness Rani Sahiba Priyadarshini Raje Scindia, Members of the Board of Governors, Madhav Awardee, Prof Gautam Baruah, Principal, Bursar, dear teachers, Members of the SOBA Executive Committee, Old Boys, parents, fellow Scindians, Scindians of the future, other invitees to this august function and anybody else who may have been unwittingly missed out,  
 Aadab, Namaskar and Good Evening

I thank you all for joining us as we celebrate 118 glorious years of teaching, learning and imparting the best of education, which though global in outlook is quintessentially Indian in character. Tonight is special not just because we display the glitter and celebration of our Founder's day, but because tonight we have all congregated here to look back, remember and cherish each and every moment of these wonderful 118 years. I feel honored to be a part of such a magnificent moment in the life of our school in the distinguished company of such accomplished people.

It is my privilege to propose a vote of thanks in the presence of the exceptionally erudite author, politician, former diplomat and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs Dr Shashi Tharoor. It is an incredible honour to have amidst us a leader who has made a mark nationally and internationally and found a connect with the youth of the country. Thank you Sir for gracing the occasion with your kind presence.

I express my wholehearted gratitude to Madhav Awardee Prof Gautam Baruah and other dignitaries. Your presence is a source of encouragement for us.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Honourable President and the other members of the Board of Governors for guiding us throughout the year. Thank you Sirs for being there to inspire us towards excellence not only through your plans but also through your visits and rich interaction.

I would like to thank all the former teachers who have been the link between generations of Scindians. We thank you for being present with us this evening.

I also thank our Old Boys especially the batches of '65, '75, '90 and 2005 who I'm sure are experiencing that certain and indescribable mix of emotions and nostalgia which we as Old Boys will experience one day. I thank you all for always being a constant source of inspiration and support.

I thank all my teachers and the members of the faculty for having sculpted

our characters through intensive grooming. We owe you all our learning, wisdom and way of life. You have taught us to work hard and taste the sweet fruit of success. Thank you for visualizing the potential that we couldn't see for ourselves.

My thanks are due to the parents who have made it to this evening and have graced the occasion with their presence.

Last but not the least let us not forget that behind all these celebrations stands the SCINDIAN, the SCINDIAN who is everything an INDIAN should be with just 2 letters before the word INDIAN to add distinction. So I'd like to thank the entire student body who worked tirelessly to make the Founder's Day such a resounding success.

Today as I stand here just a few months away from passing out I feel overwhelmed by the cyclonic flood of emotions. Each day of this seven year journey is fresh in my memory. I salute this amphitheatre, the corridors and the silent ramparts of the Fort which witnessed us grow up. The spaces where we ran about. The shadows under which we learnt lessons of life. We owe a lot to every little thing of this Fort

In short I salute this great institution for providing us an environment where we learn to live and not simply survive.

I would like to conclude by thanking our founding father for having the vision to create a school, succinctly encapsulated by a line from late His Highness Madhav Rao Scindia II. I quote "the school is built on the bedrock of Indian culture, where the old and the new blend seamlessly and echo on the ramparts of an eight century fort".

Thank you once again for being with us

Goodnight, *Shubhtratri* and *Shabbakhair*.  
 Long Live Scindia!!!





# FORT NEWS

The Fort, a place etched with the ethos and poetry of this land of various influences is beginning to see another chapter in its array of seasons. The warm Sahara winds have finally given way to what can be called as the Atlantic breeze. Mornings and late evenings in particular have become poetic as you can see the effect of the same in these beginning lines.

118th Founder's Day went off extremely well and it was followed by the Educational camps. We will give you articles and reports on the educational camps in our 1st December issue.

The 2015 Round Square International Conference was hosted by United World College South East Asia in Singapore from Friday, 2nd to Thursday, 8th October. The theme was - "Act today, Change tomorrow". Delegation comprising Abhijeet Nagpal, Ayush Agarwal, Ribraj Bhuyan, Lashay Garg, Aditya Agarwal and Mrs Supreet Bakshi represented the school. Mriganka Ghosh sent his film on the theme "Act Today Change Tomorrow" at the Roy McComish Art Work. His film was adjudged the best out of all the entries.

A team comprising Akash Jaini, Shantanu Kulshreshtha and Divyaditya Singh represented the school at the Vasant Valley Debate for the India Today Cup from Wednesday, 28th to Friday, 30th October at Vasant Valley School, New Delhi accompanied by Mr Vishesh Sahai. The team qualified for the Semi-Final and stood overall 3rd. 22 top schools from across the country participated in the debate. The motion for the Semifinal was "This House will not shoot Osama Bin Laden" where the house was defined as Robert O' Neil, the man who took the final shot at Osama. Our team was against The Shriram school, Mousari. The debate ended with a 4-1 split decision of the jury and the Shriram school won the debate. The Quarterfinal round was against Cathedral and John Connon School, Mumbai, on the motion "This House would take away FIFA 2022 from Qatar". The Scindia School won the debate with a unanimous decision of the jury. Akash Jaini was adjudged the best speaker for the debate and was awarded a cash prize of INR 1000.

Dr Abhinaba Ghosh, who is working with the Laboratory of Molecular Microbiology at the University of Cambridge - United Kingdom, visited our school on Monday, 2nd November. He spent one full day on campus and interacted with the students of grade 9th, 10th and 11th. He discussed about his research work and explained about the deadly bacterial strains which are used as biological weapons for biological warfare and for creating terror in the society. He shared his insights on the scholarship and application process in the universities abroad.

## 76TH INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS MEET 2015-16 (RESULTS)

### SENIOR HOUSES:

Sanjeev Raje 'A' Group Individual Trophy For The Best Athlete – Divyaditya Singh, Aviral Jain, Ashish Khare.  
Vikram Bhogra 'B' Group Individual Trophy for the Best Athlete – Anurag Yadav  
'A' Group Athletics Trophy – Jayappa House  
'B' Group Athletics Trophy – Ranoji House  
Senior House Overall Athletics Trophy – Jayappa House  
Athletics Captain Shield – Ashish Khare

### House Positions:

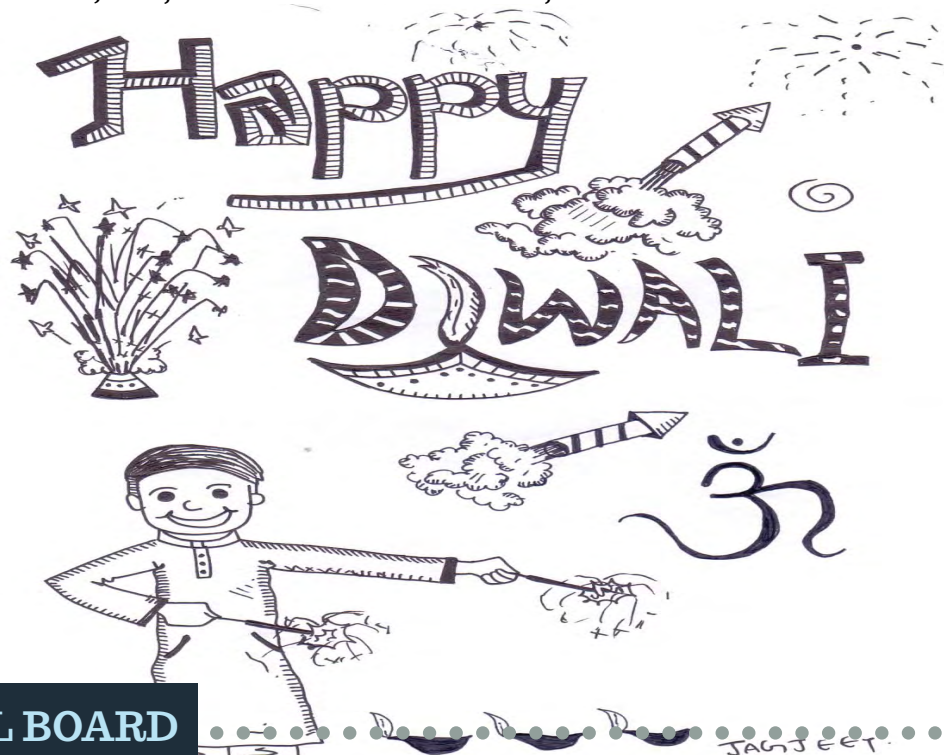
I	Jayappa	II	Ranoji	III	Shivaji
IV	Jayaji	V	Jeevaji	VI	Madhav
VII	Daulat	VIII	Mahadji		

### JUNIOR HOUSES:

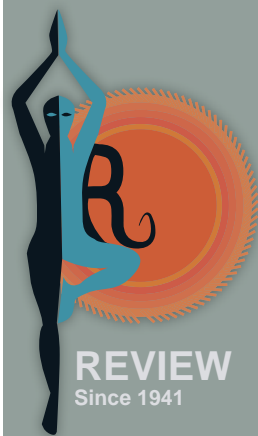
Best Junior House 'A' Group Athlete – Adwait Sharma  
Best junior House 'B' Group Athlete – Kartikeya Kulshreshtha  
Junior house Overall Athletics Trophy – Dattaji

### House Positions:

I	Dattaji	II	Kanerkhed
III	Jankoji	IV	Nimaji



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