



# *Qila Quotes*

The Scindia School  
Triannual Publication  
**Volume 31**



The Education World Award Ceremony



A still from the Hindi play in the Freshers' evening.

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**04** **Principal's Message**

**06** **Editorial**

**09** **Old Boys' News**

**10** **Students' Achievements**

**11** **Faculty**

नई पीढ़ी किस ओर ?

Dr Bhakuni, Dean of Discipline and Student Welfare

**13** **Literary**

Blue Whale Challenge:

Kushagra Patwari, XI C

**15** **Alumni**

Battle Royale:

Dr Ranjeet Choudhry (Ex Md-1993)

**17** **Alumni**

On Reunions:

Sachin Jha (Ex Rn-1989)

**19** **The Gossip Society:**

Pavan Jaini, XII B

**21** **Literary**

भारतीय दर्शन व संस्कृति

Chidghan Prabhu, XI C

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this edition of the Qila Quotes. If an error has occurred, please accept our apologies and contact the editor at [pujap@scindia.edu](mailto:pujap@scindia.edu).



The Independence Day celebration in school.



Serving lunch to shramjeevis on Gandhi Jayanti.

# PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Readers

A very happy 120th Founder's Day to all.

Founder's Day is an auspicious day of joy and celebration when our heart swells with pride as we bask in the richness of our legacy. It is an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of our Founding Father. High standards and expectations from each student in regard to academic performance, co-curricular participation and responsible citizenship are the foundation of our school. Through all these years we have held onto each of these guiding principles with pride. We constantly motivate and support our students to maintain the extraordinary record of achievement and contribution that has been the legacy of The Scindia School.

Everytime I look back at my student days I recall how simple the entire teaching learning process used to be then. Unfortunately over the years education has ceased to be a blissful activity and has become a cause of stress to students, teachers and parents alike. Living up to parental expectations, coping with peer pressure and grappling with the fear of being left behind in the mad race of crazy cutoffs has divested education of its pristine charm which was simply the joy of intellectual pursuit. However, things are completely different at The Scindia School. We sincerely believe that the academic environment needs to be shorn of any kind of pressure, be it for the teacher or the taught. Learning needs to be a joyful activity cleansed of all high-sounding jargon and other meaningless trappings. It is this credo that has been captured by my talented colleague Mr Aloke Ghosh through the front and the back cover of this edition of the Qila Quotes.

The cover page illustration depicts our emphasis on scholastic discipline. A discipline which thrives in an atmosphere of peace, mutual trust, truthfulness and honesty sans any fear, as epitomised by the figures of the Budhha and the Mahatma. The back cover aptly painted in the Scindian blue shows that we don't aim to fill heads with facts. Instead we help to create minds that are shaped by original thinking. We insist on a well formed mind...a mind that reacts to unfamiliar facts and details, which can actually synthesize information that it hasn't studied before. We nurture minds that can react to the bigger examination called life which often doesn't test you on what you are prepared for. The soaring birds show how we empower learners to grow academically, socially, and emotionally by developing and supporting independent thinkers and problem solvers who strive for excellence in the classroom and community.

Our endeavour at school is to provide to our boys the stability of a caring home and also to keep motivating them to come out of their comfort zone to attempt new challenges. They are made adaptable and equipped with the skills to learn the art of living in a community particularly one with cultural and ethnic diversity. Each student achieves his or her own potential in the classroom, art room, sports field or on the stage. There are several opportunities for each individual to explore and hone his unique talents. We encourage all our students to persevere, participate and take responsibility for their own development. This ensures that each day in our life is an adventure, with something new and exciting to engage us.

I would just conclude by saying that I am proud to be the principal of a school which has both an impressive history and an exciting future. The commitment of our teachers, the support of the parent community and the passion of our students will define that future. I really look forward to being a part of it.

I am confident that the Scindians have it in them to go ahead and make a difference in the world...Why Not?

**Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat**  
Principal, The Scindia School



Hands on fun activity during the Science Fest.



The members of the Qila Quotes Editorial Board.

# EDITORIAL

*It was not just an educational institution that took birth in the year 1897. It was actually an ethos, a credo, a belief system that set up roots. The aim was to nurture students into intellectually, emotionally and spiritually enlightened individuals who would be equipped with all the necessary tools to make a difference in the world they inhabit. Today on the occasion of the 120th Founder's Day of the School, let us rededicate ourselves to this very ideal of our Founder. Let us also take a moment to thank all those who have guided and assisted us on our journey, often impacting our lives in ways they will never know.*

*In addition to being a day of celebration, Founder's Day is a constant reminder of the innate value of relationships in our life. Every October, Scindians- old and new, converge on the Fort to relive memories, reunite with classmates and teachers and to revisit places that bring a smile on their faces and warmth in their hearts.*

*We welcome you all and wish you a very happy Founder's Day.*

It is a matter of great pride that The Scindia School has been ranked second best all Boys' Boarding School in the Education World India School Rankings 2017-18. A total of 12,357 educationists, principals, teachers, and senior school students across India were interviewed on several parameters which included Teacher Competence, Infrastructure, Academic Reputation, Sports and Co-curricular Education etc. to decide the same. The Scindia School is ranked first under the parameter of Community Service and second in Internationalism. Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat, Senior School Prefect - Snehil Tripathi and Mr Vishesh Sahai received the award at the Education World Awards Ceremony held in New Delhi. Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha (SOBA President and Member Board of Governors) also joined them for the same.

A number of activities were conducted in school as part of the 'Swachhta Pakhwada', an initiative by CBSE. Students took part in poster making, writing articles, debates, posting messages for the website and being a part of the cleanliness drive. It gave the students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the national mission.

The School aims to look into the comfort and welfare of students and teachers alike. In order to improve the quality of life of faculty and staff on the campus a number of measures have been taken up. The School Fitness Centre will henceforth remain open for faculty, staff and their family members after the regular Sports hours of the students. An expert trainer/Coach will also be available for guidance and to plan for health and fitness work out of the

staff. The School Library witnessed a fresh arrival of books for the professional development of the teachers on the Fort. A Convenience Store from where the faculty can buy grocery and vegetables has been opened in the campus.

### Visitors

Prof. Sato from Mausashino University Japan, visited the School and interacted with the students about Indian culture. He is pursuing research on Indian philosophy and religion. However his main area of interest is Vedanta Philosophy that he studied at the Sampurna Anand Samskrit Vishvavidyalay at Varanasi for two years.

### Participation

400 boys from Classes VIII-XI and 50 girls from Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya attended the 'I Can Conference' at school. This conference is a co-curricular activity aimed at the development of life skills and soft skills and is modelled as a simulation of real world corporate, media and political affairs. It focused at allowing 13 - 19 year olds to explore possible career options, judging their present levels in skills relevant to their chosen simulated career, identifying key areas in which they can improve their skills, and offering them avenues to continually develop those skills.

Four students (Keshav Sarawgi, Yohen Thounajaom, Madhav Agarwal and Aadya Mishra) along with Mrs Puja Pant attended the 5th edition of the Young Leaders Conclave hosted by Modern School, Vasant Vihar. The theme of the conclave was 'The Cost of War'. In the course

of the five day conclave students got to hear stimulating talks by a couple of eminent speakers. Through videos and activities students were made aware of the horrors of war and its human cost. They composed poems, speeches and dialogues to express their angst. On the penultimate day, the students were taken to the army cantonment where they saw a display of weaponry and some of the training drills the soldiers go through. The aim was to give them a first-hand understanding of the lives led by the men in uniform. The conclave left them with many questions to mull on and it is hoped that these leaders of tomorrow will help in the creation of a conflict free world.

Forty five students from Classes IX and X attended a workshop on composing microfiction at Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya. It was hosted by the organisation 'Terribly Tiny Tales' (TTT) and gave tips to children to create unforgettable stories in under 2000 characters.

### Events

The Scindia School hosted the 44th Platinum Jubilee Debate and Quiz. The debate was contested in three formats namely Oxford, Modified Cambridge and Parliamentary. Seasoned debaters from ten reputed schools presented cogent arguments laced with wit, logic, humour and every other weapon in their arsenal to annihilate their opponents. The debate was won by The Scindia School, Gwalior. Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai, was the runner up.

Six leading schools from different parts of the country participated in the Annual Platinum Jubilee Memorial Quiz hosted by the School. It was conducted by Mr Ajay Poonia (Ex- Sh, 2006). The participants faced a wide variety of questions covering different fields of knowledge. The quiz trophy was bagged by Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Gwalior and the host school; The Scindia School was the Runner up.

The School hosted the HH Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Inter School Hindi Debate. Seven schools contested for the coveted trophy. The debate was contested in two rounds and had the participants present the pros and cons of the motion with great passion. The debate was won by The Scindia School, Gwalior and the Runner Up was Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Gwalior

Eleven schools participated in the Science Fest hosted by the School. The fest was envisioned with a view to 'taking science out of the Labs into the corridors'. The three day event offered a smorgasbord of activities which enabled students to completely immerse themselves in the spirit of Science. They took part in a quiz, Just a Minute session in which they prepared an enactment on an advertisement, put up an exhibition and also enjoyed a hands on activity. Ms Niharika Kulshrestha, Faculty of Science gave a presentation on 'Physics at CERN'. The participants also took part in a panel discussion on the topic 'Under Representation of Women in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in Higher Education'.

### Service

In accordance with the School's initiative towards Women Empowerment and Skill development for the Women of Nathon Ka Pura, ten women and girls from Nathon Ka Pura village visited the School for three days. They were trained in the art of 'Tie and Dye', Applique work and tailoring in order to make bed sheets, table mats, napkins and doormats with crochet work. Our endeavour is to impart them skills which make them financially independent.

### Sports

A five days' table tennis Coaching camp under the aegis of Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) and STAG India was organized in the School. Fifty Students from grade VI-X participated in the same. This camp is an ambitious project that targets to train one million table tennis players from across the country by 2020. The Table Tennis Hall has been recently upgraded with New TTFI approved synthetic flooring and automatic ball feeding Robot.

With a view to promoting health and fitness the Department of Sports has started a bi monthly Campus Run during games time for the entire school. The event was competitive and the students showed a lot of enthusiasm for the same.

### Academics

The Scindia School prides itself on being a community of learners. Our goal is to provide the students a challenging academic environment which opens up their minds and arouses their intellectual curiosity. We inspire our students to question and learn by doing and, a rich and rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum has been designed specially at the Middle School level to inspire creativity and critical enquiry. Learners and teachers are constantly encouraged to fully exploit the very best of modern learning opportunities. While students get the best possible pedagogical support, teachers too continue to receive training and support to improve their instructional practice.

A well thought out enrichment and remediation program was put in place for the students of all Classes from the month of July itself. Extra classes are being conducted for the students in the morning and evening hours. These look into both the breadth and depth of our academic enhancement efforts and have been tailored to meet individual needs. Extensive drilling of concepts and clarification of doubts is being carried out on a regular basis so as to bring about thoroughness.

Based on the guidelines of CBSE, formal testing has been reduced thereby creating more opportunities for learning. Mindspark for Math students of Classes VI and VII remains very popular as it allows students to advance into higher levels as per their own pace. ASSET was conducted for all subjects in Classes VI-X. The Diagnostic Assessment series was revived and this time English too was included along with Science and Math.

For sparking interest in Science we have tied up with Innoventure 2017 - India's first ideation and entrepreneurship challenge for students. Twenty eight students participated in the first round of the exam conducted by the organisation. The assessment pattern encourages a spirit of enquiry and finding solutions to problems.

Students of Classes VI-IX participated in the preliminary round of the State level Astronomy Quiz 2017 organised by 'Aryabhat'. Five students have qualified for the final round which will be held in the month of December at Bhopal. Students will be judged on two parameters namely paper presentation and aligning the telescope on the specified star. The student who gets selected in this round gets the chance to visit the observatory and meet the scientists sponsored by Aryabhat.

Anveshikas are centers for developing innovative experimental skills related to Physics teaching and learning, and promoting experiment-based Physics teaching. National Anveshika Network of India (NANI) conducted a screening of National Anveshika Experimental Skill Test (NAEST) at the Gwalior center for around 100 students. Nine students from The Scindia School participated in the screening test which involved a video quiz. Five of our students qualified for the Preliminary Round. Himanshu Moojoriya from our school made it to the top three from the Gwalior Anveshika.

### Career Cell

Representatives of five UK Universities (Queen's Mary University of London, University of Sheffield, Middlesex University, Anglia Ruskin University and Teesside University) visited our campus and interacted with the students of Classes XI and XII. They discussed the admission procedure, eligibility criterion and benefits of UK education with the students.

Two Professors from the University College of Dublin, Ireland visited the school. They had sessions with the members of the Science and Commerce faculties and the students. They introduced Ireland as an education hub, informed about the courses taught in their Universities and apprised all of the teaching learning process at the University.

The School Career Counsellor Ms Divya Verma attended a two day International Career & College counselling Conference at New Delhi. She interacted with the University representatives from USA, Canada, UK, Singapore and Hongkong and was successful in making connections with high ranking universities like University of Arizona, USA, University of British Columbia, Canada and Sussex University, UK.

Cogito Consultancy conducted an 'Education Abroad' workshop with students of Class XII.

The representatives from the Whistling Wood International School visited campus and students were exposed to Media as a career option. The topic of interaction was

Indian narratology and the students were also informed about direction, editing, composition and music as the subsidiary fields.

### Faculty enrichment

Mrs. Niharika Kulshrestha, Physics Faculty was selected by CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research), one of the world's largest and most respected centres for scientific research for the three week High School Teacher Programme. Forty-three teachers from thirty-four countries attended the same. It was a wide-ranging programme, which entailed 100 hours of lectures, visits to research facilities and Q & A and discussion sessions. In addition, the programme included 24 hours of activity in the work group 'Gender inclusive teaching of Physics'.

Mr. Somarajan K S and Mr. Piyush Vaishnav participated in a four days conference on the topic 'The Idea of India' at the Yule Hall, Tollygunge Club in Kolkata. The conference was organised to discuss and formulate new ideas and methods to use History as a subject in the class rooms for imparting fact based education on the past and to encourage progressive thinking among the students. The Conference was blessed with the gracious presence of veteran scholars like Prof. Romila Thapar and Prof. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and many other eminent writers, scholars and media celebrities.

Dr Smita Trivedi attended CBSE's Master Trainer's Programme at Jabalpur and was selected by CBSE for training teachers for English Communicative.

### ICT

With a view to giving a boost to the usage of IT facilities in school the proposal is underway to issue netbooks to students of Classes VI-VIII also. Refresher programs are being conducted for the members of the faculty as per their needs and requirement to help them gain more confidence in the use of different software. It is very heartening to see students make extensive use of Office 365 for sharing various group projects. Class notebook has gradually started replacing registers and copies for assignments.

The School website has been revamped. A few malevolent bugs have been removed which has led to the upgradation of the website and increased its speed. A backup fibre optic line has been planned for the South Block to ensure uninterrupted net supply.

# OLD BOYS' NEWS

Aditya Sharma (Ex Jp, 2014), former Editor-in-Chief Review and Qila Quotes, was a finalist among 1200 poets at the Wingword Poetry Prize, 2017. This is a national Poetry competition organised by the Delhi Poetry Slam. His poems have got published and the book titled Wingword Poetry Prize 2017: Winning Poems Anthology will be released later this year. Heartiest congratulations to Aditya and we wish him lots of success in his literary journey.

The Madhav House Reunion took place on the 24th of August. In addition to the Madhavians of different Batches the School also welcomed former Housemasters and former teachers Mr PM Khar, Mrs Khar, Dr Aditya Sharma, Mrs Bharti Sharma and Mr Raghunath Mukherjee. It was a nostalgic moment for all. The alumni expressed deep gratitude to their alma mater for shaping their lives and destiny. The Former teachers also spoke about the richness of their professional experience during their stay at Scindia.

Mr Sarvjeet Singh Boora (Ex Md-1982) has gifted a 5 inch X 5 inch self designed model of the Astachal to the school. The aesthetically designed replica was unveiled on the occasion of the Madhav House reunion at the assembly hall on the 24th of August. The model is a proportionate recreation of the Astachal and is an outcome of four months of painstaking work which involved taking dimensions of each structure and then having it digitally designed. The individual portions were made with absolute precision and then assembled into one mould. The completed model was finally encased within a special plastic dome to enhance its visual appeal. The manufacturer of the same is Mr Anuj Mehta (Ex Rn- 1974). The souvenir is available for sale to all interested Scindians.

Electric Moist Heat therapy Unit was donated to the School Health Centre by Mr Ashish Gupta (Ex - Je, 1988). The machine has heat therapy pads which relax the muscles and reduce the pain.

A good news for all music enthusiasts. An archival Doordarshan interview of legendary radio announcer Mr Ameen Sayani (Ex Ja- 1949) is being telecast by Doordarshan - on Doordarshan Bharati at 7.30 p.m. every Sunday. This started on 3rd September and will continue for six weeks.

Rhythm Gupta (Ex Jp-2015) is pursuing his Undergrad Studies at Coventry University, UK as Mechanical Engineer. As a part of his course he has selected and joined Innovative Technology, Manchester as an Intern for a year.

Real estate developer and Angel Investor Sankalp Shukla (Ex Md-1989) was featured in a cover story by Zee Business. The untold success saga of this self made hero was an inspirational watch. His steady rise which started with selling of mobiles, stint in a cement company to dealing with luxurious villas proves the role of merit and tenacity in reaching heights. It was heartening to see him credit the school and teachers for all that he has achieved in life.

We congratulate Mr Maitrey Bajpai (Ex DI- 2001) for writing and directing a short movie entitled, 'CARBON' starring Mr Shashi Bhushan (Ex Mj, 2001). The movie can be watched at the following link: <http://bit.ly/CarbonTheFilm>

Heartiest congratulations to Mr Sangram Kadam (Ex Ja, 1984) for becoming the life member of Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association. We wish him all the very best.



Principal Dr Saraswat releasing the model of the Astachal.

# STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

The Scindia School participated in the 24th All India Inter Public Schools' Cultural Festival of Art, Music, Dance and Literary Skills at the Jindal Art Festival 'ABHIVYAKTI' at Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hissar. Our students participated in various events and won prizes in different categories. **Cheopus Limboo** secured the first rank in Wood Carving. **Chidgan Prabhu** was adjudged first in Hindi Essay Writing, **Sunil Kumar** and **Aditya Rathore** stood second in Clay Modelling, **Rohan Jain** was placed second in Card Making and **Harshil Ashok** was adjudged second in Sitar Performance.

Three students of our school participated in the Open National Martial Art Competition held in Shimla and won medals: **Akash Phogat** and **Sunil Kumar** won a silver medal each. **Adarsh Tulsian** won a bronze medal.

The School team recently participated in the Cascade, 25th Annual Inter-School Cultural Festival organised by Jamnabai Narsee Alumni Association, Mumbai. In the Table Tennis Tournament **Ansh Gupta** and **Darpan Agarwal** won the Silver Medal in U-19 Doubles Event.

Twelve students participated in the 'Silver Jubilee Commemorative Young Thinkers Conclave, 2017' organised by the Mayo College Girls School, Ajmer. The conclave had a series of events ranging from debates to drama and saw participation from 25 Schools across the country. **Eshaan Sharda** and **Prashant Bansal** stood 3rd in the Web-page Designing Competition.

Seven students attended the '3rd Creative Eye Film Festival, 2017' at The Assam Valley School, Assam. **Varun Kapoor** and **Vishvajeet Singh** won the award for Best Screen Play and Best Actor respectively.

Our students participated in the MUN hosted by Mody School, Laxmangarh. It was a good exposure for them and helped them gain a lot of confidence. **Utkarsh Vats** received high commendation Award in the United Nations Security Council, **Kushagra Agarwal** and **Vedanga Nag** received verbal mention and **Gaurang Paliwal** got the Second best Reporter award in the International Press Committee.



Martial Arts Competition winners.

# नई पीढ़ी किस ओर ?

वर्तमान भारतीय समाज अन्याय, असमानता, ईर्ष्या, जाति-पाँति, वर्ग-भेद, वर्ण-भेद आदि कई कमियों से ग्रस्त है। यहाँ भाषा, धर्म तथा प्रांत के भाव इतने प्रबल हैं कि सर्वत्र लड़ाई-झगड़े, आंदोलन और आतंक की घिनौनी कृतियाँ नित्य हो रही हैं। यह स्वस्थ समाज का लक्षण नहीं है। हमारा समाज अभी भी अशिक्षित है, गरीब है, अंधविश्वासी है। इन बुराइयों को दूर करके समाज में शिक्षा, समृद्धि, समानता एवं वैज्ञानिक दृष्टि लाना परम आवश्यक है। तभी सच्चे समाज की स्थापना हो सकती है। व्यक्तिगत तथा सामूहिक कार्य ही समाज की थाती है। समाज का उत्थान एवं पतन इन कार्यों के सत्य-असत्य पर ही आधारित होता है। इन कार्यों का संबंध भावी पीढ़ी से अधिक घनिष्ठ होता है। राष्ट्र एवं समाज का भविष्य कैसा होगा ? इसका उत्तर भी नई पीढ़ी के कार्य कलाप एवं सोच को देखकर ही सरलता से मिल सकता है। अतः नई पीढ़ी ही आदर्श समाज एवं राष्ट्र का निर्माण कर सकती है।

हमारी नई पीढ़ी अर्थात् युवक वर्ग, जिनके मन में परिवर्तन लाने की क्षमता है, जो अन्याय को देखकर उसके विरुद्ध खड़े हो सकते हैं, अपनी कल्पनाओं को साकार करने के लिए सर्वस्व दाँव पर लगा सकते हैं। केवल शरीर से जवान होना ही युवा नहीं है, जो लोग परिस्थिति का मुकाबला करने में कतराते हैं, वे बूढ़े हैं। उनसे किसी निर्माण की आशा करना व्यर्थ है। समाज में परिवर्तन करने वाले हर युग में युवक ही रहे हैं। राम, कृष्ण, गौतम बुद्ध, महावीर स्वामी, शंकराचार्य, चाणक्य, चंद्रगुप्त, महाराणा प्रताप, शिवाजी, राजा राममोहन राय, सुभाष, नेहरू सभी ने युवावस्था में ही सामाजिक परिवर्तन का बीड़ा उठाया था।

आमतौर पर यह देखा जाता है कि पुरानी पीढ़ी को अपनी परवर्ती (युवा वर्ग) से सदा ही असंतोष रहा है। यही कारण है कि आज के युवाओं पर बड़े-बूढ़ों का आरोप रहता है कि युवा अनुशासनहीन हैं, वे नियमों का पालन नहीं करते हैं, वे माता-पिता एवं अपने से बड़ों की आज्ञा का पालन नहीं करते हैं। मेरे मन में बार-बार एक प्रश्न उठता है कि अनुशासन का प्रश्न सदा युवा पीढ़ी के साथ ही क्यों जोड़ा जाता है ? यह कटु सत्य है कि परिवार से लेकर समाज तक समय-समय पर सभी युवा वर्ग के व्यक्ति यदा-कदा ऐसा कार्य करते हैं जिनको अनुशासन की सीमा से बाहर माना जाता है किंतु सच यह है कि बच्चे, बूढ़े और महिलाएँ अगर कोई नियम तोड़ते हैं तो वे समाज के बजाय अपने लिए खतरा पैदा करते हैं। परंतु जब युवा पीढ़ी नियम तोड़ती है तो सभी को अपने मान-सम्मान का खतरा प्रतीत होने लगता है। वास्तविकता यह है कि युवा का अर्थ है - जोश से युक्त। जहाँ जोश होगा, बल होगा, वहाँ नई सोच भी होगी, वहाँ उफान भी होगा, वेग भी होगा, तूफान भी होगा, वहाँ

बँधन भी टूटेंगे, सीमाएँ भी लॉंघी जाएँगी, नई राहों की ओर उड़ने की उमंग भी होगी, कुछ नया कर दिखाने की चाह होगी। अतः स्वभाविक है कि अनुशासन एवं शासन की निश्चित रेखाएँ टूटेंगी। उनके साथ अनुशासन की समस्या बनी रहेगी।

कहा जाता है कि युवक देश के भावी कर्णधार हैं। देश के स्रष्टा और मार्गदर्शक हैं। उपयुक्त कथन के आधार पर यदि हम अपने राष्ट्र के छात्रों एवं नवयुवकों के कार्यों पर दृष्टिपात करें तो कभी-कभी हमें गहरी वेदना होती है। हम राष्ट्र एवं समाज के भविष्य की कल्पना करके निराशा के सागर में डूब जाते हैं। हमें लगता है कि हमारी संस्कृति, सभ्यता एवं महान आदर्शों का अंत हो जाएगा। हमारे पूर्वजों के स्वप्नों का भारत कभी भी साकार स्वरूप धारण नहीं कर पाएगा। आज प्रायः यह देखा जाता है कि युवा पीढ़ी अपनी माँगें पूरी करने के लिए गलत राह पर चलती है, हड़ताल व शहर बंद करके कानून को अपने हाथ में ले लेते हैं। कुछ लोग इसे जन-जागृति तथा लोकतंत्र की सफलता का चिह्न समझते हैं। काश! यह सत्य होता। लोकतंत्र में विचाराभिव्यक्ति एक महत्वपूर्ण मौलिक अधिकार है। लेकिन अधिकार व कर्तव्यों के पारस्परिक संबंधों को हम क्यों भुला देते हैं ? अपना-अपना कर्तव्य संपन्न न करके अधिकारों के लिए ताल ठोकना, क्या यह पेड़ न लगाकर फल प्राप्त करने की असफल चेष्टा नहीं है ? फिर भी मौलिक अधिकारों का उद्देश्य तो व्यक्ति की गरिमा, समाज की संपन्नता तथा राष्ट्र की गरिमा को बनाए रखने के लिए है। उनका प्रयोग संकुचित स्वार्थ व हीन साध्य के लिए कदापि उचित नहीं है।

वर्तमान में हमारे समाज में अनेक चुनौतियाँ हैं। अशिक्षा, गरीबी,



We impart lessons of responsible citizenship to our boys.

असमानता, शोषण, सांप्रदायिकता और वर्ग-भेद ऐसी चुनौतियाँ हैं जिनका मुकाबला किए बिना समाज की नवसंरचना संभव नहीं है। प्रश्न यह है कि इसका मुकाबला कैसे किया जाए ? प्रायः नवयुवक जोशीले होते हैं। यदि वे अपने जोश को सकारात्मक सोच के साथ जागृत करेंगे तो उपर्युक्त चुनौतियों का समाधान आसानी से किया जा सकता है। समाज की सभी बुराइयों को आज की पीढ़ी एक साथ समाप्त नहीं कर सकती है। किसी भी निर्माण-कार्य को करने के लिए पहले युवकों को अपना विवेक जागृत करना होगा। उन्हें यह निश्चित करना होगा कि कौन से सामाजिक मूल्य श्रेष्ठ हैं, फिर उन सामाजिक मूल्यों को अपने जीवन में ढालना होगा। जब तक ऐसे ढले-ढलाए जीवन चरित समाज में नहीं होंगे, तब तक आदर्श समाज नहीं बन सकता। समाज को बदलने के लिए युवा पीढ़ी को पहले स्वयं को बदलना होगा। कथनी-करनी में एकरूपता लानी होगी तभी आदर्श उपस्थित होगा। यों तो सुन्दर

जीवन स्वयं में ही जन जागरण करता है, किन्तु प्रयास करके लोगों को भी उन सामाजिक मूल्यों के प्रति सजग किया जा सकता है। इसके लिए युवा पीढ़ी के द्वारा उठाए गए कदम अहिंसात्मक एवं शांतिमय होने चाहिए। अशिक्षा और अंधविश्वास समाज से तभी दूर हो सकते हैं, जब युवा पीढ़ी स्वयं शिक्षित हो और लोगों को शिक्षित करने की कोशिश करे। लोगों के शिक्षित होते ही असमानता, शोषण व सांप्रदायिकता के विरुद्ध आवाज उठने लगेगी। युवा पीढ़ी सकारात्मक सोच, कर्तव्य परायणता, साहिष्णुता, अनुशासन एवं संयम से समाज एवं राष्ट्र को ऊँचे शिखर तक पहुँचा सकती है। अंत में, मैं यही कहूँगा कि युवा पीढ़ी क्या चाहती है ? किस प्रकार के समाज का निर्माण कर राष्ट्र को कहाँ ले जाना चाहती है ? यह सब कुछ उनकी सोच पर ही निर्भर करेगा।

डॉ. बी.एस. भाकुनी

# THE MURDEROUS BLUE WHALE

*Welcome to the Blue Whale Challenge. I shall be your curator and take you on a journey like never before. I shall assign a task to you every day - it would be fun and adventurous like slashing parts of your body, watching a horror movie, or waking up at an unearthly hour. I'll demand a photographic evidence of you having completed the assigned task. Banish any thoughts of befooling me as I would immediately discover and shall punish you in the most unimaginable way for such a deviance.*

*Welcome to the ultimate game, a game so deadly and gripping that by the time you reach the end you would be inextricably entwined in it. You wouldn't even know whether what happened to you was a reality or if you were inhabiting a virtual world.*

**So let's BEGIN.**

This dear readers are not the words spouted by a villain from a horror movie. These are the deadly instructions of a lethal game that has some gullible teenagers in its thrall. Philipp Budeikin, a former Psychology student from Russia who was expelled from his university is purportedly the inventor of the game. He stated that his purpose was to "clean" the society by pushing to suicide those he deemed as having no value. Back home in India though all of us have been hearing stories of this macabre game for a while we have been somewhat unsure as to how much of it was to be believed and how much was to be dismissed as mere media exaggeration. However a rude shock came on August 1, 2017 when a 14-year-old boy from Mumbai jumped off the terrace of his Andheri residence. This was the first case of death due to 'Blue Whale Dare' in India. With the enemy at our doorstep we could no longer afford to be blasé about it.

Let me give you a few more details of the game. The challenge is based on the perception that blue whales 'beach' themselves on land as a form of suicide. Teenagers actively seek this game considering it to be cool or a test of bravado as most of their peers are scared of it. Some feel that they can get in and get out of it as per their own free will and want to just experiment with this worldwide fixation. Then there are those that are depressed or have strong suicidal tendencies. For them this challenge glorifies their negativity and gives it a purpose. Being the game of death its power of seduction is immense. It is not available as an app in playstores or any other app applications. Instead it is played on social media like Instagram, online gaming groups, messaging boards, etc.

From the time the game made its debut in Russia back in the year 2013 till date, around 100 deaths across the world have been linked to it. It has also been linked to other rising self-harm trends. The modus operandi is simple. The game draws in people, mostly children and teenagers, through online chat rooms. The administrator sniffs out vulnerable candidates and switches to a private chat mode where the player has to take up 50 macabre dares. These include cutting and isolating oneself, listening to disturbing songs, spending time in graveyards, watching horror movies and finally, jumping off a building. For the last dare, the player is given a choice - kill yourself or watch someone close die. By the time the player reaches the last stage he has no choice but to give in i.e be a helpless puppet in the hands of the administrator.

The speed at which the Blue Whale Challenge managed to spread its tentacles all around the world has been extremely distressing. Governments, parents, schools and IT Departments have finally woken up to the situation and want to battle it out. Schools and law enforcement agencies have been issuing advisories to parents urging them to be vigilant and to keep an eye on what their children are sharing on their social media accounts. Police has also prepared a digital primer to warn young people about the dangers of the game. The internet companies have been asked to remove all links which direct users to the game. However rules and regulations always have a limited scope of success. What is most important is that as adults and peers we have to be watchful of any redflags



The real sports one should play.

in the form of unnatural behavior of the youngsters. Their digital behavior needs to be carefully monitored. An atmosphere of trust should be fostered between parents and their children for sharing things openly.

At the end one needs to understand that the only effective antidote to such a game would be an emotionally and mentally strong teenager who would NEVER fall into the trap of a psychopathic administrator.

**Kushagra Patwari, XI C**



# BATTLE ROYALE

*The assembly hall...*

*I can see the lectern on the stage and can still sense the sheer thrill of standing behind it. It was actually a style statement...the way one held it; left hand grasping the top left corner and the right hand resting on the bottom right corner.*

*The assembly hall is a daily fixture in the life of every Scindian. It also is a fierce theater of war for it is here that many a bloody battles of words and wit have been fought to bring home a princess...actually a trophy for the best house in debates and elocutions named in honor of the first health minister of independent India, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.*

Winning over a princess never is an easy task and nowhere is this grim reality better experienced than in the format of this competition. It was split in three categories, senior, middle and junior. The former two categories had elocutions and debates in English and Hindi and the junior category only had elocutions in both the languages. So do the math...4 debates, 6 elocutions comprising 20 speakers from each House, spanning almost an entire academic year. It was akin to a relay marathon, 20 guys contributing in bits and pieces to a final score that would decide the eventual winner. It was a contest like no other... one that I was closely interwoven with, one that harbored so many bitter sweet memories.

Public speaking is a microcosm of a gymnastics routine; weeks often months of relentless honing of a performance that gets done in a few minutes with no retakes. Elocutions perhaps are more brutal, one has to stand before a packed house with hands clasped behind, hundreds of eyes boring through, hanging on to every word of an unalterable set piece; debates at least offer the protection of a lectern and the scope for improvisations.

The academic year 1987-88 was witness to an unheard of 'tug of war' for the Rajkumari. The suitors were Jayaji House, who had a hegemonic hold over the trophy and lo and behold, Madhav House. It was the unlikeliest of matchups, for Jayaji housed the most suave, polished gents with exotic accents in contrast to Madhav which had a notorious reputation of being a haven for the most rugged and brawny guys who excelled at the simpler tasks of settling scores on a sporting field. However just for a change, Madhavians decided to throw a monkey wrench in the works. They ran Jayajians close throughout, so much so that it all boiled down to the final contest, Hindi elocutions of the Junior Group.

A fervent search was made for a speaker in the poetry

category, tensions ran high for at stake was a trophy which we hadn't won for a long time. I was shortlisted in that category, not finalized because there was another guy in the mix, my batch mate Deepak Govil.

Imagine an amateur preparing for his first match on the tour which happens to be the decisive rubber of a final Davis Cup tie against an opponent country who literally owns the cup. Ever wondered how would the guy feel... trust me I know that feeling.

Both of us were allotted the same poem, 'भैंसागाड़ी' by Late Shri. Bhagwati Charan Verma. It started off as... चरमर चरमर चूं चरमर चरमर which sounded funny but the rest was as poignant as you would ever come across. Thus began an intense war like preparation, mentored by the best the House could boast of, several times a day; unrelenting, punishing schedule to eke out a version that was even better than the best embedded within us.

Finally one day the choice was made and Deepak was asked to step aside. Boy! I was ecstatic, I knew what the seventh heaven felt like.

And so it went on for several more days, hours and hours of practice, until we reached the penultimate day of the competition. That fateful day is so vividly entrenched in my memory for what was supposed to be the final practice session was interrupted by, guess who, Deepak Govil. He requested a hearing of his rendition of 'भैंसागाड़ी' as well and was politely declined. However he persisted and finally was granted an audience, but just one recitation...he was told.

Deepak and I go back a long way. I have known him for 33 years now which obviously is a long time considering I am only 41 years old. The bond that we have shared has only grown stronger with time. He was a fantastic all rounder but one quality that was his hallmark was

tenacity, so much so that any illustrated dictionary would have proudly displayed his image next to the word. Despite being rejected initially, he kept on practicing in isolated places like 'nahanis' (don't google that word, only a Scindian would know what it is) refusing to let go of his dream to be a part of an unforgettable story.

Thus began the ordeal for me, as both of us were made to recite Vermaji's 'pièce de résistance'. Just as we both finished the recitation once, one pesky senior who perhaps was fed the 'pursuit of perfection' instead of Mugli Ghutti 555, barked..."एक बार फिर से सुनाओ". That command was repeated 'ad infinitum', quite felt like a mushayara with the audience fervently chanting 'muqarrar'. Oh! how much I wanted it to stop then...

After several renditions and what seemed like an eternity, the same senior gently placed his hand on my shoulder and led me to an adjoining room. Now that was a real scary moment; any Scindian would confirm that an overt display of affection from a senior is an ominous sign. Infact that precise moment marked the genesis of those epochal words, "थप्पड़ से डर नहीं लगता साहब, प्यार से लगता है", which were used later by a fellow Scindian in his flick without crediting Madhav...shame on you, ungrateful Ranojians.

My worst forebodings were justified when he benignly asked of me, "यार कल गोविल को बोलने दे". My heart broke in 'n' number of pieces (I am not quoting figure because it would be a gross understatement of the number of fragments that must have resulted then), but I meekly said, "जी ठीक है"...as if I had a myriad options.

I knew there was nothing much separating the two of us but the fact was that perhaps he sounded wee bit better on that day, at that moment...it was a shame that only one of us could have been chosen but that is how it was.

The next day, everything went as per script. Deepak aced the poetry category crushing the second placed by a formidable margin. Madhav House not only won the Hindi elocution but also the coveted 'Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Trophy' after god knows how many years and poor Jayajians were left licking their freshly carved wounds.

Everyone was ecstatic but I felt absolutely terrible, I'd be lying if I said I felt otherwise and in defense of my feelings I invoke Raju and Farhan from 3 idiots..."दोस्त फेल हो जाए तो दुख होता है....लेकिन दोस्त first आ जाए तो ज्यादा दुख होता है".

Except that my situation was far worse, I could have been 'first' here. I and everyone else was in full cognizance of the fact that it so easily could have been me on the stage with perhaps the same result.

Trust me it is a horrible feeling, few experience it, may be the closest someone came to it was a dear chum of mine who lost a closely contested championship match in the summer of 2008 on the green lawns of SW 19 to a Spaniard.

Ouch, it hurt. The world seemed to be such a cruel place, all my hard work had petered down the drain, I was forgotten- or so I thought.



Dr Ranjeet Choudhry, Ex Md-1993

The roll-call at night turned into a wild celebration, every individual who had been a part of this journey was made to step out to a thunderous applause which stopped only after the last name had been called...that of Deepak Govil.

Just when it seemed over, I was asked to step forward, then someone spoke about the immense effort I had put in, the potential I harbored and how hard it must have been for me to be benched at the last moment. Someone else emphasized that despite the fact I had not added to the points tally, my contribution was as good as anyone who actually did. A couple other people also spoke about me at the end of which there was a loud cheer and a deafening applause even louder than the previous one...I wasn't being consoled or commiserated with; I was being celebrated and cherished by a whole bunch of people whom I looked up to...It was an indescribable feeling, I could have walked on air then.

Looking back there was so much this experience taught me, perseverance will always compensate for a minor difference of ability and both coupled together is an indomitable combination. Moreover one is most powerful when he has nothing to lose.

In the times to come I turned out to be more than a decent speaker, spoke in many a contests, won quite a few. However if you ask me to recollect any, the one that first comes to my mind is the one I described above where I did not even take the stage. There is a fundamentally simplistic explanation behind that; the experience not just bolstered my confidence, most importantly it left my pride, self belief and respect intact.

In life that is the barometer of strength of any situation or relationship which may end but years later if you can look back and feel empowered and good about it than it was worth every bit...this one surely was.

Dr Ranjeet Choudhry, Ex Md-1993

# ON REUNIONS

*Sachin Jha is a technocrat (B.Tech, IIT Delhi) who runs a chemical manufacturing business in Rajasthan. He has authored a book on happiness titled 'The ordinary, the enchanted, and the quaintly happy'(Rupa Publications). Another book authored by him is a biography of Mr V.K.Bansal. It's titled 'It all adds up'(Penguin India).*

*Jha is currently pursuing a degree in law. In his spare time, he likes to paint in oil and acrylic and has had a few well-received exhibitions."*

Eight full years had passed since Raghu and Abeer had last met. Considering what they had once meant to each other, Raghu couldn't help wondering how things had come to such a pass.

They had obviously kept in regular touch for the first few years after college. Then distance gradually began to get the better of them. Mails and telephone calls got sparser with passing time till the point that they were reduced to the mandatory ones on birthdays, anniversaries, and big holidays. No one was to blame actually, for there is only so much that a telephone-call or mail is capable of. The best conversations that happen between friends are usually the ones that grow out of languid silences. And there is no such thing as a silent mail or a silent phone-call. Of course, there is also the issue of mismatched moods and circumstances. A single perky & frivolous phone call that is answered in a business-like tone (no matter how genuinely engaged the person adopting that tone may be) can instate a month long moratorium on future endeavors of its kind. Two such consecutive incidents and the moratorium could run up to half a year. Three, and the fate of frivolity is about sealed. What remain are the birthdays and anniversaries.

Raghu, half reclined on the back seat of his taxi, couldn't help hypothesizing how Abeer would have changed in this while. There of course was the initial temptation of giving in to the romantic'...no matter after how long we meet, we always pick the threads of our friendship from where we'd left them last', but Raghu was too much of a pragmatist to believe in that. He well knew that two people separated by time and distance were likely to ripen in their own different ways. During their separation, the atoms of experience which each gathered were bound to be different, and hence were bound to be the different personalities which these atoms in turn moulded. Also, assuming that one of them hadn't in fact changed, it was obvious that he would appear different to the altered perceptions of the other. So one way or another, it was back to the wall! No, concluded Raghu, the thread theory was absolutely no good. That theory was at best a temporary illusion; an illusion that could sustain as long as those laboring under it confined themselves to the common ground of past acquaintances

and experience ('How's so and so? Do you remember the time when...')

The actual meeting turned out to be quite the mixed bag. First impressions indicated that Abeer was much the same; his welcome was warm yet unostentatious, he looked as unassuming as always, and he still blurted things with characteristic plainness of manner. In short, he was still very simple; simple in the most extraordinary sense of that ordinary word.

And yet, despite all that genuine warmth, it somehow didn't seem like old times. A wall appeared to have cropped up between them. It was a wall very faint and frail, but it was nonetheless a structure that impeded free passage. Even as Raghu hurled those seemingly inadvertent genial abuses at Abeer(that puerile acid test which friendship is so often subjected to), he all the more became aware of that cropped-up barrier. Time alone was to tell whether it was a permanent fixture or one that would wear away with renewed acquaintance.

The threads, though found and picked up, hadn't quite been untangled.

**Sachin Jha, Ex Rn-1989**



# THE GOSSIP SOCIETY

*Gossip! Is it a necessary social tool or should we summarily discredit it as an unnecessary social evil? Why is it that a simple exchange of information, that begins with “I heard” or “someone told me”, seem so suspect? Well, make no mistake, this article is not in support of gossip but what's wrong with getting a reality check. While gossiping may have negatives aplenty but so are the benefits. It entertains leading to enhanced productivity, relieves anxiety, encourages social bonding and of course is a major contributor to exchange of important information. Moreover an organisation where gossip flourishes freely is an irrefutable evidence of an environment where people can, do or will openly and freely express themselves. So here we have Pavan Jaini talk about the Gossip Society which flourishes in The Scindia School*

In a day and age of instant messaging and social media with personal mobiles and the internet at our fingertips, there is one method of communication that rules them all and that too without the aid of any cutting edge technology. While I'm sure that its presence is felt in all areas and organisations but for the benefit of my readers I'll confine myself to its workings in The Scindia School. Yes dear readers I'm talking about the Gossip Society. Through this article I will be revealing to you the inner workings and functions of one of the most active yet undercover, societies of the school.

Let me clarify at the very outset that the Gossip Society does not indulge in the frivolous fabrication of news nor do we wish to defame or undermine an individual. All that the Gossip Society does, is provide a chain of (extremely fast) communication between the students (and sometimes the teachers...). Albeit it is another matter that this communication does sometimes end up in a situation of 'Chinese whispers', with one person saying a particular thing and another stating a 'slight' variant of the same. But after all isn't it perfectly understandable that as the means of communication is purely by talking (gossiping) hence the authenticity of the information lies with the understanding of the individual.

The content itself, as I have come to witness over the course of many years, deals mainly with information relating to school activities. That being so, the degree of relevance and credibility of the information does tend to vary. It can range from mundane events such as the school schedule, morning fitness, holidays, etc; to metaphorically ground breaking, game changing, gravity defining information that has the unique ability of raising the excitement levels of the students to ridiculous levels. This end of the

spectrum deals with rumours such as the possibility of a SKV social (just an example, don't get too excited...) or the rumour that a major interschool event that the school hosts might just get cancelled (\*wink wink\* Editors' Conference). Another truly amazing feature of the Gossip Society is the speed at which it operates. Rumours spread like wildfire, their more 'interesting' variants spreading even faster, until each and every student has some semblance of the information being passed around.

## The Motto

*“Bhai sunne mein aaya hai ki...”* (Bro, I've heard that...)

This is the mantra of all Gossip Society members and is the phrase which actually preludes the news that has been spread. Let me elucidate with an example, *“Bhai sunne mein aaya hai ki tomorrow is a holiday!”*. Upon hearing this the person receiving the news will immediately foot the question, *“kahan se sunna?”* (Where did you hear it from?) or *“Kisne bataya?”* (Who told you?). Now you all must understand that this follow up question is extremely important as it establishes the credibility of the news. It determines whether or not the origin of the information is reliable and therefore if the news can be believed. After hearing the origin of the news, the receiver has three options: spread the news to others, keep it to himself/herself or, the third and most annoying, debunk.

## The Debunkers Society

The Debunkers Society, not to be confused with the Bunking Society (see QQ 19 Founders' Edition), is another secret society that runs antiparallel to the Gossip Society. While the Gossip Society helps spread information, the Debunkers actively works towards disproving that



Harmless exchange of information

information by undermining its logic, relevance, origin, etc. That being said, the Gossip Society and the Debunkers Society actually have quite an interesting love-hate relationship. They both despise one another but realise their counterpart's role in the school. Without either one there would be a disbalance in the (Force) Scindian line of communication of news. And inspite of them being bitter enemies, members of both sides regularly (and casually) switch sides. Capital punishment for defectors is still a work in progress...

In recent times, the scope for the Gossip Society to flourish has reduced as our most important time slot has been mercilessly truncated: The Morning Assembly. With the new 'silence scheme', students have started to refrain from talking to each other, and hence our daily dose of the "Morning News" has been disrupted. Although this time

has been taken from us, there are still multiple occasions for the society to express itself in its truest form, all meals being an especially valued time.

In conclusion, we all must truly understand that the Gossip Society is a society that has been made by the people and for the people. Membership in itself is quite an uncomplicated and easy process, all one must do is... well... talk.

**Pavan Jaini, XII B**

# भारतीय दर्शन व संस्कृति

भारतीय दर्शन एवं वेदांत “एकं सत् विप्राः बहुधा वदन्ति” इस श्रुति सिद्धांत पर आधारित है। इस वाक्य का अर्थ है कि वह सत्य एक ही है पर विद्वान अनेक प्रकार से तथा अनेक रूपों में उसकी व्याख्या करते हैं। भारतवर्ष के 5000 से अधिक वर्षों के इतिहास में अनेक धर्म, जाति, संप्रदाय एवं देश के लोग यहाँ आकर बसे और इसे उन्होंने अपना घर बना लिया। सबको अपने अंदर घुला-मिला लेने का गुण ही भारत की सबसे महत्वपूर्ण विशेषता है इसीलिए भारतीय संस्कृति इतनी समृद्ध एवं सर्वसमावेशक है।

भारत में हमेशा से ही खान-पान, पहनावे आदि के विषय में स्वतंत्रता रही है। लेकिन कुछ लोग धर्म के नाम पर हत्या कर धर्म के असली मतलब को ही चुनौती दे रहे हैं। “मज़हब नहीं सिखाता, आपस में बैर रखना, हिंदी हैं हम, वतन है हिंदोस्ताँ हमारा” धर्म कभी हिंसा का मार्ग नहीं दिखाता। वह तो प्रेम और ईश्वर-भक्ति का मार्ग है।

कुछ लोग साधु-संत अथवा बाबा होने का ढोंग कर जनसाधारण की भोली भावनाओं का गलत फायदा उठा रहे हैं। राजनैतिक कारणों से हिंसा भी समाज के लिए एक बड़ी चुनौती है। इन परिस्थितियों में हमें धर्म का असली अर्थ समझने की आवश्यकता है। धर्म का अर्थ तो धारण करना है। हिंदू, इस्लाम, सिख, बौद्ध आदि संप्रदाय तो भगवान तक पहुँचने के अलग-अलग तरीके हैं इसीलिए हमें एक दूसरे से साथ प्रेम से रहना चाहिए क्योंकि वही धर्म का असली तात्पर्य है। व्यक्तिगत आस्था और श्रद्धा को दूसरों पर थोपना गलत है। मुझे लगता है कि सबको अपने-अपने संप्रदाय का अवलंबन करना चाहिए और अन्यों के प्रति आदर की भावना रखनी चाहिए। सभी संप्रदाय अपने अनुयायियों को ईश्वर की प्राप्ति कराने में सक्षम हैं। यही भारत की महान आध्यात्मिक धरोहर है।

विश्व की पुरातन सभ्यताओं में भारत का नाम अग्रगण्य है। भारत में अनेक संस्कृतियों का जन्म हुआ एवं अनेक संस्कृतियों का मिलन हुआ। धर्म हमेशा ही हमारी संस्कृति का एक अभिन्न अंग रहा है। इन विविध संस्कृतियों के मिलन के कारण ही भारतीय संस्कृति इतनी समृद्ध एवं सशक्त बन पाई है। पिछले हजार वर्षों में विश्व के अनेक प्रदेशों से लोग यहाँ आकर बस गए। उन्होंने अपनी अनेक विशेषताओं को भारत की संस्कृति में धुला-मिला दिया। यह सब आपसी प्रेम एवं भाईचारे के बल पर ही हो पाया।

विश्व के चार मुख्य धर्मों का जन्म भारत में हुआ – हिंदू, जैन, बौद्ध एवं सिख। इस्लाम एवं इसाई धर्म पर भी भारतीय संस्कृति

का गहरा प्रभाव पड़ा। इसी कारण भारत में राजनैतिक, सामाजिक, आर्थिक सभी क्षेत्रों में धर्म का हिस्सा अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण होता है। लेकिन लोग यह अक्सर भूल जाते हैं कि धर्म व्यक्तिगत आस्था एवं श्रद्धा का विषय है इसीलिए इतिहास में ऐसी कुछ घटनाएँ घटीं, जिनके कारण सांप्रदायिक सद्भाव पर संकट आ गए। हमारा यह निरंतर प्रयास रहना चाहिए कि हम इतिहास से सीखें और भविष्य में ऐसा होने से रोकें।

गौतम बुद्ध, महावीर, शंकराचार्य एवं विवेकानंद जैसे महान संतों ने सदैव आपसी प्रेम एवं भाईचारे के साथ उस परम सत्य अथवा आध्यात्मिक ज्ञान को प्राप्त करने का उपदेश दिया है। “वसुधैव कुटुंबकम्” के सिद्धांत को मानने वाला हमारा देश सारे विश्व में भाईचारे का अद्भुत उदाहरण बन सकता है। हमें केवल आपसी द्वेष एवं मनमुटाव को हटाकर सौहार्द को बढ़ावा देने की आवश्यकता है।

विश्व के अनेक देशों से लोग भारत में धर्म एवं संस्कृति के बारे में जानने के लिए आते हैं। पुरातन काल में वेद, पुराण, उपनिषद एवं शास्त्रों ने इस महान साहित्यिक धरोहर की नींव रखी। अनगिनत संतों ने, साहित्यकारों ने एवं कवियों ने इसको समृद्ध बनाया। कबीर, मीरा, सूर एवं तुलसी के भक्तिरस से भरे पदों ने उसको और अधिक मधुर एवं सुंदर बनाया। ऐसा महान आध्यात्मिक धरोहर के होते हुए भी आज हम धर्म अथवा संप्रदाय के कारण एक दूसरे से लड़ते हैं तो वह इसका अपमान होगा। हम सबको एक साथ मिलकर इस महान् सांस्कृतिक एवं आध्यात्मिक धरोहर की रक्षा करनी चाहिए। इकबाल कहते हैं –

“यूनान मिस्र रोमाँ, सब मिट गए जहाँ से  
बाकी मगर है अब तक, नामो निशाँ हमारा  
कुछ बात है कि हस्ती, मिटती नहीं हमारी  
सदियों रहा है दुश्मन, दौर-ए-जहाँ हमारा।



Tradition with modernity is our hallmark.

यहाँ “कुछ बात है” पंक्ति विशेष रूप से ध्यान देने योग्य है। यह ‘कुछ बात’ वास्तव में हमारी संस्कृति की गहराई व गंभीरता है जिसके कारण हमें ‘विश्व-गुरु’ कहा जाता रहा है।

हम छात्र, संस्कृति के संवाहक होते हैं और हमारा दायित्व बनता है कि हम अपनी संस्कृति को नष्ट होने से बचाएँ व अपने दर्शन को विश्व में फैलाएँ और यह तभी संभव है जब हमें हमारी संस्कृति पर गर्व हो। हम पश्चिम की ओर देख कर वहाँ की संस्कृति को अपनाने की होड़ में हैं जबकि होना यह चाहिए कि पश्चिम के लोग पूर्व की संस्कृति जो कि प्राचीनतम संस्कृति है उससे कुछ सीखें, कुछ ग्रहण करें जिससे हमारी संस्कृति अक्षुण्ण बनी रहेगी। ऐसा

नहीं कि हम कहीं से कुछ सीखें ही नहीं बल्कि हमारा जो दर्शन है ‘सार सार को गहि रहे, थोथा देय उड़ाय’ के सिद्धांत पर चलकर अपनी संस्कृति व दर्शन को और अधिक समृद्ध बनाएँ।

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Printed by : Galaxy Printers - galaxyprinter22@gmail.com, +91-9826214644