

# REVIEW-19

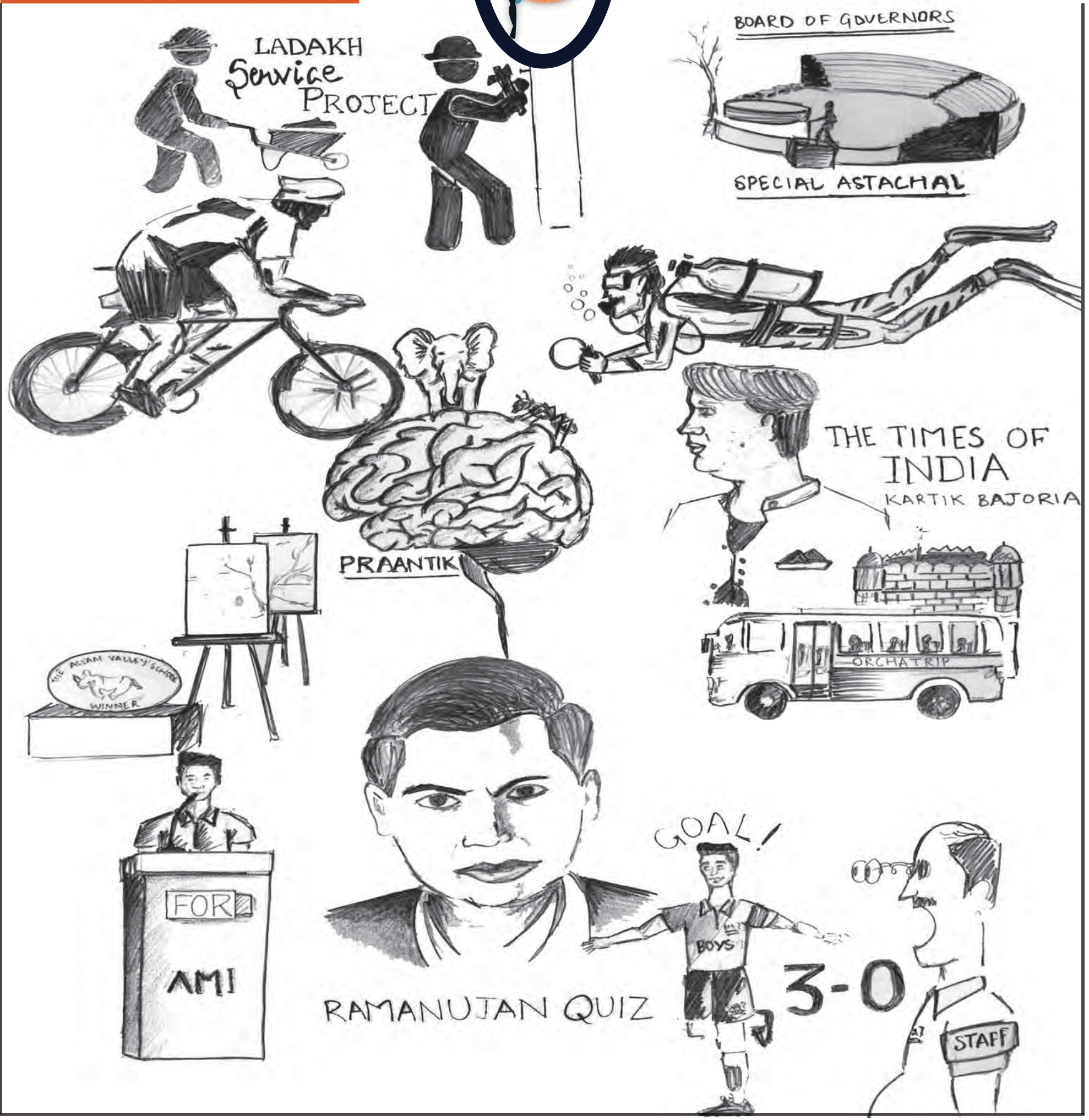
THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT GWALIOR



THURSDAY, 1 AUGUST 2019 | WPP : REGN.NO.GWL.DN.11

## Art Editorial

Abhey Khanna and Suyash Bansal







# FORT NEWS

The summer break months of the session of 2018-2019 were marked by significant developments that cemented the bonds between the teacher and the taught; and among the faculty, and made us evolve into a vibrant learning community, where strong relationships among teachers and students were at the heart of an educational experience which was invariably extraordinary. We tethered ourselves to the pristine splendour of the Himalayan peaks during the cycling and mountaineering expeditions and immersed ourselves in the rigours of academic learning during the Summer Camps. Social Work, that we did locally or in the lap of the Himalayas, taught us about the systems that inform and structure people's lives. It made us develop a deeper practice of self-reflection, to become a life-long learner, dedicated to the understanding of complexities and dynamics of interconnected relationships. In summary, the students were exposed to an unprecedented- integrated educational milieu with an appropriate level of structure and supervision for physical, emotional, behavioural, social, intellectual and academic development. The school aimed at the development of an individual, be it a teacher or a student: emotionally, morally, intellectually, socially, spiritually and physically. All members of the community contributed and participated towards this vision so as to broaden their experience, understanding and sense of achievement. For the first time, the faculty also gave a full reign to experiential learning in the form of numerous learning opportunities that they undertook- some along with the students and some as a part of the teaching fraternity at Scindia.

Ms Niharika Kulshrestha had the opportunity to be a part of SASEP (South Asia Science Teachers Education Programme) from 22nd April to 26th April 2019, as an instructor. The first-of-its-kind professional development programme for



Ms Niharika Kulshrestha

high school teachers was an international collaborative initiative by CERN, The International School of Geneva (Ecolint) and Life Lab Education and Research Foundation. Designed and delivered by senior school educators and eminent CERN scientists, this training programme was conducted with the aim to empower teachers with 21st century pedagogical knowledge and skills in interdisciplinary STEAM fields.

The Junior House evening was held on 24th April 2019. The programme started with a welcome dance, devoted to Lord Ram. Thereafter, the orchestra was presented.



The proud awardees

The Junior House presented its original theatrical presentation "The Case of the Missing Mummy"- a tale filled with mystery, action and an adorable mummy. Then came- the Junior House Song. Adiraj Dewan played on the mandolin. After this, a dance sequence enthralled the audience. Abhishek Chauhan and Saksham Malik performed on brass instruments. Lastly, the Annual House reports were read out.

44 teachers participated in the offsite programme for teachers, conducted by Mr Prantik Panigrahi at Raj Mahal, Orchha, from 29th to 30th April 2019. The workshop was based on the thought "I don't fix my problems, I fix my thinking, problems fix automatically".

As a sequel to the workshop, Mr Panigrahi interacted with the faculty and visited the school for two days- 30th June and 1st July 2019. The workshop was based on 'Psychogeometrics' which is based on the notion that we tend to be attracted to certain shapes and forms in the environment because of our personalities, attitudes, education and experiences, as well as the ways in which our individual brain functions. He interacted with the students of Classes X and XII, as well, on 1st July 2019.

Rhythm Kukreja, Shivansh Bansal, Svastik Arora and Vidit Gupta participated in the Slater Debates, 2019, held at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, from 6th May to 12th May 2019.

The Summer Camps for Classes X and XII gave us a head start in the process of additional building of academic capacity aiming at the enhancement of the grades of each and every student. The camps ran rigorously for 11 days, starting on 24th June and continuing till 4th July. The culmination of the meticulous work both by students and faculty was in Periodic Test I, which started on 5th July 2019 and continued till 13th July 2019, spanning 9 days.

Two cycling expeditions marked the adventure camps- 14 students and two escort teachers, namely, Mr Anil Pathania and Mr Srijith Pillai, went on the Bhutan Cycling Expedition, from 2nd May to 11th May 2019, cycling for approximately 190 kilometers. In the second expedition, 10 students along with two teachers- Mr Dharendra Sharma and Mr Vishesh Sahai went to Nubra Valley for a cycling expedition from 3rd June to 14th June 2019. They touched the height of 18,300 ft.

9 students went to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, alongwith one teacher- Mr R K Kapoor for Scuba Diving, from 3rd May to 10th May 2019. It is a certification course- the PADI Scuba Diver course which is a subset of the PADI Open Water Diver course. The Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) is a recreational diving membership and diver training organization.

9 students along with two teachers, namely, Ms Divya Verma and Ms Raksha Siriah went on a Trekking Expedition to Annapurna Circuit from 4th May to 18th May 2019 and touched the height of 16000 ft.

13 students along with a teacher escort, namely, Mr Shailesh Agarwal went to Spiti for participating in the Spiti Residential Service Project from 1st June to 15th June 2019.

4 students and two teachers- Mr Vishesh Sahai and Mr Jagdish Joshi, participated in the Ladakh Service Project from 23rd June to 9th July 2019.

Mr Suggu Shekhar took up the Basic Mountaineering Course at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering in Manali, from 30th April to 27th May 2019.

17 students and two escort teachers, Mr Nitin Chand and Ms Preethi Chand, participated in the 10 days' adventure course held at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering in Manali, from 11th May to 20th May 2019.

4 students took up the adventure course in Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, from 12th June to 27th June 2019.



A number of teachers went for subject related workshops organised by CBSE, enlisted as follows: 11th May to 12th May 2019, Mr Kamlesh Singh for Psychology; 13th to 14th May, Mr Manjeet Bainipal for Geography; 15th to 16th May 2019, Mr Pawan Mali; and 17th and 18th May 2019, Mr Aniket Garud for Chemistry.

22 teachers attended a series of workshops conducted by the 'Institute of Counsellor Training Research and Consultancy' from 1st June to 5th June 2019 at the Indian Social Institute, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. 2 teachers, namely, Mr Achanta Trimurthulu and Ms Kirti Srivastava have undertaken the course entitled- 'Diploma in Guidance and Counselling'. 9 other faculty members have also enrolled for the aforementioned course.

Sports Orientation Programme was held in the Assembly Hall on 8th July 2019.

The Investiture Ceremony for Prefects was held on 9th July 2019. The Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat expressed that the selection of the prefects was the recognition of talent, perseverance and more importantly, of trustworthiness. Abhishek Mahour, Karnik Kanojia, Anirudh Tyagi, Nischay Agarwal, Karma Lepcha, Ujjwal Malik, Pratham Agarwala, Uttam Rai, Rhythm Kukreja, Arya Laddha, Sonam Bhutia and Rohan Khanna were sworn in as School Prefects. Nitya Mehra and Luv Asrani took the oath as Deputy Senior School Prefects. Aditya Parashar was sworn in as the Senior School Prefect.

Orientation Programme for Hobbies and Societies was held on 12th of July 2019 in the Assembly Hall, for the new students of Class VI to XII.

Mr Kartik Bajoria, a renowned writer, visited the Fort and stayed with us for five days- from the 14th July to 18th July 2019. He took a series of lessons in Descriptive writing, Profile writing, Review writing and so on; for the students of Classes VI to XII.

Shirish Mehra, Arya Adhikari, Sarvagya Goel, Uttam Rai, Raghav Mahajan, Abhey Khanna and Namsang Limboo went to The Assam Valley School, Tezpur for a series of art competitions held from 16th July to 18th July, 2019. They awards bagged by them are as follows:

- I Arya Adhikari and Namsang Limboo - Digital Photography
- II Sarvagya Goel - Face Painting

## OLD BOYS' NEWS

Mr Ankur Mody (Ex - Sh, 1995) has recently been appointed as the Additional Advocate General of Madhya Pradesh. Previously, he held the position of the Assistant Solicitor General of M.P. After school, he completed his LLB from Cardiff University, U.K. and LLM from Washington University. Our heartfelt congratulations to him!

Mr Vijay Jaini (Ex-Mj, 1976) has won the 'Over 60 Squash Nationals' title held in Pune in June 2019. Mr Jaini is a keen adventure enthusiast too. Our heartiest congratulations to him!

Mr Hitendra Ghosh (Ex-Ravindra, 1967) received the lifetime achievement award for sound recording at the Indian recording arts award (IRAA). He is an iconic figure in this segment and has worked with directors like Raj Kapoor, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Satyajit Ray, and Yash Chopra to name a few. He is also a Madhav Awardee of The Scindia School in the year 2017. He is the son of Late Mrs Monica Ghosh, who was an Art teacher at the school.

Mr Mitul Dikshit (Ex-Md, 1993) successfully completed a 50-days 16000 kms road trip to London. He was flagged off from Imphal on 14th April 2019 and reached London on 2nd June via Myanmar, Thailand, China, and many European countries en route.

Mr Prashant Gangwal (Ex-Je, 1986) has been recently elected as Joint-President of the MP Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the term 2019-22. He has earlier served as Secretary of Central Soba for four years. Our heartfelt congratulations to him!

SOBA Gurugram hosted and organized its 2nd edition of the Invitational Golf Tournament followed by an alumni networking lunch on Sunday the 17th of

- III Uttam Rai - Wood Carving
- III Abhey Khanna - Composition Painting

The Members of the Board of Governors visited the Fort and stayed with the Scindian fraternity for two days- 17th and 18th July 2019. The Annual Board



HH Maharaja J M Scindia shaking hands with the prefects

Meeting was held on 18th July 2019. A special *Astachal* was held on 17th July 2019.

The Orientation Programme for the International Award for Young People was held in the Assembly Hall on 19th July 2019.

53 students went to Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya to attend a workshop on Cyber Security on 20th July 2019.

The personnel from the Income Tax Department visited the school on 20th July 2019 and interacted with the students and the faculty members in the Assembly Hall.

March 2019 at Karma Lakelands Golf Resort, Gurugram. Two present students, Varun Awasthi and Surya Gandra also attended the event. Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat was the Chief Guest along with several other dignitaries.

Dr Atulya Misra (Ex- Mj, 1983) has recently released his first book - 'Oxygen Manifesto: A Battle for the Environment'. He is a senior officer of Indian Administrative Services currently posted as the Principal Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management Department at Chennai, with the Government of Tamil Nadu. The book is a story of the triumph of ordinary people over the might of the establishment in their battle to save the environment. It is an engaging story about environmental degradation and the impact of the Anthropocene. It exposes the myth around wealth creation and the paradigm of economic growth. This is a must-read for anyone who cares about the future of human civilization.

SOBA Allahabad, now SOBA Prayagraj held a meeting on 18th May 2019 at hotel Yatrik to elect their new team of office bearers. The house unanimously elected the following :

- Mr Jyoti Agarwal- President
- Mr Swapnil Kumar- Secretary
- Mr Chyavan Bhargava -Treasurer

Mr Rahat Kulshreshtha (Ex-Ja, 2007) has recently been awarded the Entrepreneurial Award by the University of Westminster for his innovative and enterprising use of drones across the industry. After graduation, Rahat directed some films which required shots from very high and difficult angles which led him to explore the use of drones. This experience helped Rahat identify a huge gap in the Indian market, where drones were completely non-existent. Following this, Rahat set up Quidich Innovation Labs in 2013, as one of the first few drone service providers in India which has worked with leading companies like National Geographic, BBC, Red Bull and PepsiCo to name a few. Our heartfelt congratulations to him for this recognition!



## Leh to Nubra Valley Cycling Expedition

Akshat Karwa | XI A

Leh is a high-desert city in the Himalayas. It is the capital of the Leh region in northern India's Jammu and Kashmir state. Originally, it was a stop station for trading caravans, but today, Leh is known for its Buddhist sites and nearby trekking areas. The magnificent 17th-century Leh Palace, is modelled on Dalai Lama's former home (Tibet's Potala Palace), and overlooks the old town's bazaar and mazelike lanes. Ladakh has much to offer to its visitors. You can spend weeks here and will still not savour the taste of it- fully. There are high altitude passes, labyrinth roads, sparkling lakes, inviting treks, whispering valleys; enough to keep you, your gaze and your camera occupied with soulful and serene scenes of natural beauty. One such prime highlight of the trip to Ladakh is the beautiful and enchanting Nubra Valley. Nubra Valley is a small mysterious placed tucked in the lap of the mighty Himalayas; away from 'the madding crowd' nurturing a beauty still untouched. It is located at a distance of about 100 kilometers from the city of Leh; on the other side of mighty Khardung La. Its original name is believed to be "Ldumra" meaning "Valley Of Flowers". Now also known as Orchard of Ladakh, this beautiful part of our country is on top of the list for every tourist traveling to Ladakh. The main road access to the Nubra Valley is over Khardung La pass which is open throughout the year. An alternative route, opened in 2008, crosses the Wari La from Sakti, to the east of Khardung La, connecting to the main Nubra road system via Agham and Khalsar along the Shyok River. A third route, made operational in 2013, connects the valley from Pangong Tso side, via the villages of Durbuk and Shyok.

A team of 10 students, namely- Akshat Karwa, Shaurya Agarwal, Kartik Agarwal, Sidh Agarwal, Ayush Gupta, Aryan Yadav, Rishabh Parecha, Ayush Agarwal, Varun Goyal and Arnav Kapoor, accompanied by two teachers namely Mr Dhirendra Sharma and Mr Vishesh Sahai were a part of a 300 kms Cycling Expedition from 3rd June to the 13th June 2019, in the mountains and valleys of Ladakh. They covered two mountain passes, which are, the Khardungla Pass, also known as the highest motorable pass on the planet at 18380 feet, and the high Changla Pass at 17590 feet.

Cycling for 10 days, at an average altitude of 15000 feet was not an easy task at all. The rigorous journey demanded hours of everyday cycling; requiring the body to acclimatize well in the high altitude, and also needed determination and dedication. The first day was provided to us to acclimatize, and we had a small acclimatization ride of about 7 kms to aid us additionally. The next day, we began our journey from Leh to Thiksey covering a distance of about 22kms, not only cycling to the village, but also up to the famous Thiksey Monastery. The day after was all about improving our skills, and getting used to cycling with gear cycles, especially, on the blind- curved roads and beautiful valleys of Ladakh. We rode for about 33 kms from Thiksey to the Sakti Village on this day. The 7th of June was the most cumbersome day of all. For one- we were not used to cycling for long distances; we had not stepped onto a high altitude ever in one go and we had never before cycled up on a diagonally inclined mountain. Our task for the day was to cross the Changla pass at 17590 feet, by covering approximately a 22 km slant uphill and then cycling 45kms downhill to reach Tangste via Durbuk. After numerous difficulties, throbbing headaches, oxygen problems and a lot more- we were finally able to complete the task and it was one of the best experiences one can ever have.

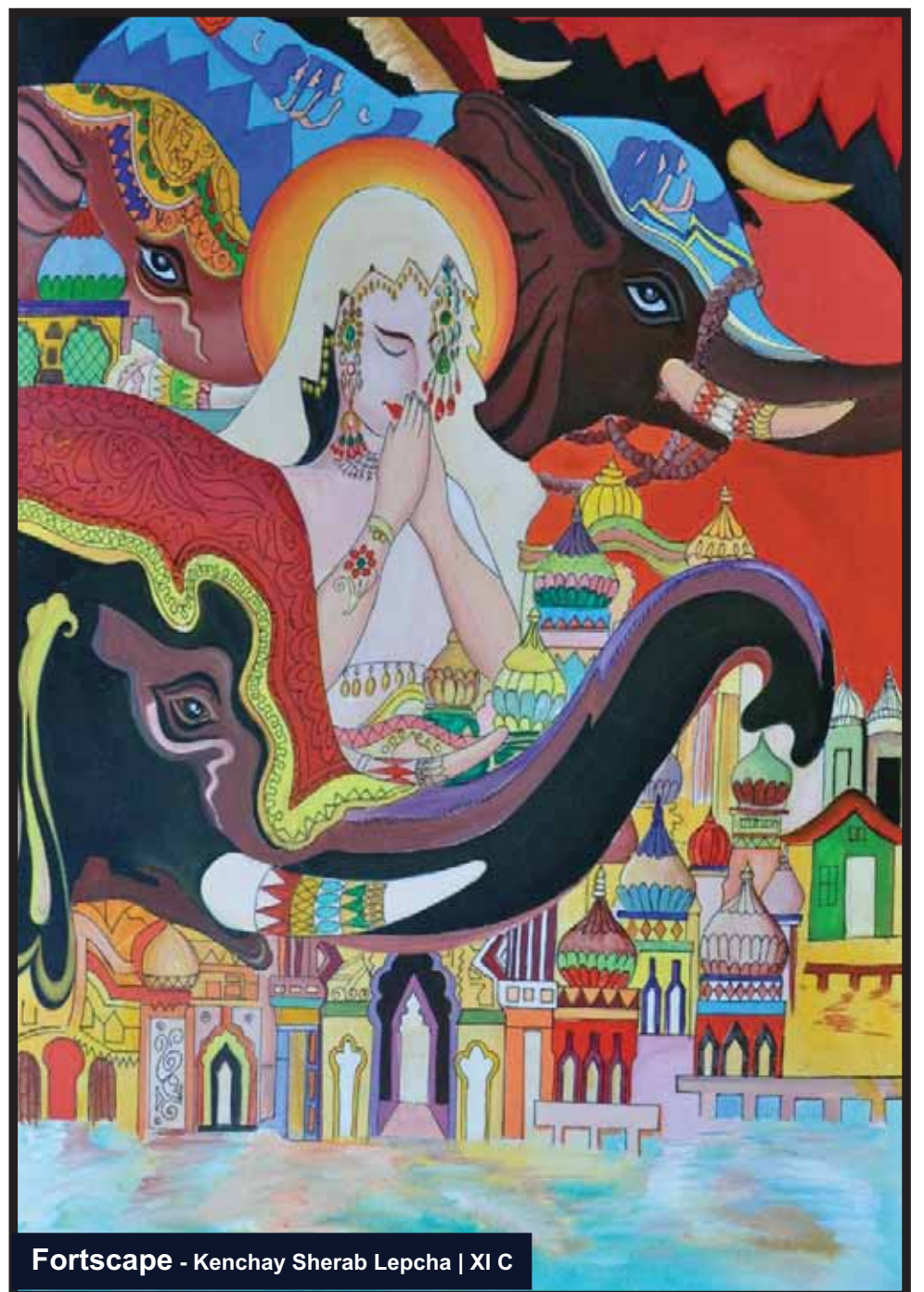
It is strange how one can forget all his pains, disturbances and troubles when one sits amidst and in peace with nature. The experience we had on the next day was a similar one. We departed for the Pangong Lake, and it took us almost no time to cover the 38 kms journey to reach the mesmerising Pangong Lake. The lake was exquisitely beautiful and was the clearest and cleanest lake any of us had ever seen. In the following two days, we covered approximately 100 kms and reached the Nubra Valley: Diskit and Hunder via Agham Village. The scenic, lush green destinations: Diskit and Hunder were amazing to stay in. The actual cold desert of Ladakh, Hunder and the well-established place Diskit, were truly incredible locations. The night sky, the camel ride, the spine-chilling



The avid cyclists

wind were all experiences that one can never forget and it will always remain with us to cherish.

The last day of the cycling expedition was the most demanding, and the most rigorous one. A total of 73 kms of cycling across the highest motorable pass in the world at 18380 feet was something very tough to do. But, even after endless, long hours of cycling, subsequently getting tired and fatigued, we completed the expedition successfully at Leh. While cycling downhill the Khardungla Pass, we had to face the driving snowfall which tried to prevent us, stop us, but with the 'never giving up attitude' in us, we finally did it.



Fortscape - Kenchay Sherab Lepcha | XI C



## Report on Scuba Diving at Andaman

Mr R K Kapoor

Those of us who have watched 'Finding Nemo and Finding Dory' have always had the fascination to discover the underwater world. Well, this dream came true for all of us this summer, as our school for the first time included Scuba Diving into our summer adventure programmes. "This was it", I thought to myself, "I am no longer going to envy Aunt Dory to live among fleets of fish and under the corals."

Well, we embarked on this journey on May 3rd, 2019. We took our flight with Saurabh Sir from Delhi to meet Raj Kapoor Sir at the Kolkata Airport and then we flew together to Port Blair, Andaman. We were all excited as finally, we were about to discover the myriads of secrets that the oceans always have to offer.

Even though our flight was delayed by an hour or so, it didn't cloud our optimism, and with all the enthusiasm, we finally made it to Port Blair. After the check-in, we hurriedly moved to watch the Cellular Jail Light and Sound show. It was an eye opener for us. The struggle of our freedom fighters was real, and the show managed to convey to us every bit of it. Right from spotting Vir Savarkar's cell to the daily hardships that the prisoners went through was eye-opening, and anyone who visits Andaman should definitely pay a visit to the Cellular Jail, as one should understand what their freedom is worth. Later on, all of us went back to our hotels. We were exhausted after the long journey, so we had a lip-smacking dinner and went to sleep in our rooms.

The second day included a little traveling as well; we were to move to Havelock Island for our PADI Open Water Diver's Course. A beautiful cruise was waiting for us at the dock, and the excitement to experience the lifeforms under the ocean mirrored on our faces. Most of us were sleepy though, as we had to wake up at 4 in the morning to catch our ferry ride at 6. However, after a 2-hours long ferry ride, we made it to Havelock island and were awestruck by the beauty that the island had to offer - beautiful blue water and the white sandy beach in stretches all around. We couldn't have asked for a better place for vacation and to enjoy our diving course. After unloading our luggage at the hotel, we students, had an informative session near the pool and were introduced to our diving instructors from ScubaLov.in. Our instructors briefed us about the dive, the equipment, the daily schedule, and about the theoretical studies we had to take up to qualify for our exams in diving.

From the third day onwards, we started with our learning experience. There was a lot to learn and assimilate. From meeting the team at 6.30 in the morning, to learning of how to set up our own equipment and gears, we did it all. The first day was a bit tiresome, but all of us signed up for this kind of a watery trail. We surrendered ourselves to the ethereal beauty of the blue depths.

Our daily schedule remained more or less the same. We would learn about the various equipments and go through the sessions on necessary breathing skills, fixing the weight harness around the waist, and what to do with the oxygen cylinder on the shoulders. We would learn how to maintain our neutral buoyancy under water and how not to disturb the aquatic life while doing so. We would sit under water and watch the curious fishes swim around us. The trainers would prepare us for any untoward experience that we may have under water. Even though each of the sessions had its own difficulties and easy sides, but it taught us a lot of things. It taught us primarily, to believe in ourselves and to hear our own voice before everything else. Following this, we faced practice sessions in the shallow waters to test all that we had learned.

Finally came, the last day of the course, when we were all ready to dive in the deep waters of Andaman Sea and surround ourselves with beautiful corals, vibrant fishes and of course the great, vigorous ocean. The last dive took place at Juve's Reef. We were taken to this reef on a speed boat - the journey to the middle of the ocean sent some shivers down the spine. The moment we reached there, all of us were set to backflip and enter the ocean. The sense of triumph after fathoming the unfathomable ocean, was divine. We were all lost in the heavy silence of the ocean. The ocean water has a different taste and color that is invisible unless you get into it. Right from spotting Pirate fish,



Scuba divers

Butterfly fish, brain corals, wire corals to Bandit sea crate and the Octopus- the vibrant and vivid colors of aquatic life grabbed our attention. Even though the surface water seemed like a separate world, which we didn't want to go back to, we had to retreat. Breaking the translucent surface, we emerged from the water to gulp fresh air only to find out that our mind's eye was still stuck in the purlieu of the deep blue ocean.

Our ZNMD (reference to 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara'- 2011 Indian buddy road film directed by Zoya Akhtar) happened, and like they say the first dive changes your perspective on how you perceive life, that is precisely what happened to us. We felt liberated and free - exactly what Andaman is all about. We now know why and how did our freedom fighters keep their dreams of freedom alive. It was from the ocean, that very ocean!

## हार मत मान

सारांश अग्रवाल | 10 सी

खेल, खेल मचा दे हलचल,  
माता-पिता होंगे गर्वित पलपल ।

भिड़ जा सब मुश्किलों से,  
सफलता मिलेगी  
अगर हुआ रियाज़ मन से ।

लड़-भिड़ गिरेगा तू जमीं पर,  
खड़ा हो उठ, चलेगा तू नभ पर ।

इस भेड़-बकरी भाँति दुनिया में,  
नई उमंग की धारा खिला ।

लड़-लड़-बढ़ अपने लक्ष्य की ओर,  
विश्व बहुत चंचल है, तू खो न जा ।

अगर करेगा तो आएगी क्रांति  
खोजेगा चीज़े जो कभी न सोची ।

हाँ तू हारेगा, हाँ तेरा दिल रोएगा,  
पर हार मत मान, बढ़ते जा सखा ।

जहाँ होती हार, वहीं विशाल जीत,  
हार सीख के निडर बन,  
फिर लगवा विजयी तिलक सम्मान ।

बढ़ते जा अपनी कामयाबी की ओर,  
मेरे बढ़ते सखा, तू हार मत मान ।



Sketch by Mr Mustaq Khan Chaudhary





## The Ladakh Venture 2019 - A Report

Mr Vishesh Sahai, Project Leader

The Scindia School successfully organized 'The Ladakh Venture 2019' this summer, from 24th June to 9th July 2019. Twenty nine students along with four teachers from seven prominent schools of India and one from Shropshire, United Kingdom participated in this venture.

The participating schools were: The Scindia School, Gwalior; Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Gwalior; Mayo College, Ajmer; Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar; Vivek High School, Chandigarh; Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai and Ellesmere College, Shropshire, United Kingdom. The venture was led by the Project Leader- Mr Vishesh Sahai. The venture was assisted by Ms Kimmy Dhanoa, Vice Principal of Vivek High School, Chandigarh; Mr Parraysh Chheda from DAIS, Mumbai and Mr Jagdish Joshi from The Scindia School.

As a part of this service project, students along with the accompanying adults, constructed three classrooms for the younger children of the Lamdon Model School situated in Thiksey village in a period of just 6 days working in scorching sun for 6 hours a day. To complete this task, they passed heavy bricks to the masons / workers; fetched bamboo (Taal) from a nearby farm, mixed mud with water (Ladakhi cement) and occasionally (whenever it was safe) assisted the laborers in construction too. The fact that the students could see the difference they were making in the lives of the school children motivated them to carry out this work enthusiastically.

During this phase, students displayed leadership qualities and fantastic coordination. They helped each other and learnt about the Ladakhi architecture. Strong bonds were built within the group as well as with students and teachers of the Lamdon Model School.

In between, we took a break to visit the famous Tso-moriri Lake. It was a long and arduous drive but the landscape made the effort worth it; we were surrounded by beautiful snow-capped mountains, large expanses of sand and the cool, clear blue waters of the lake.

Delegates trekked from the 4th of July to the 8th of July. The trek on the 4th of July was a short one, from Zinchen to Rumbak. This trek was a good warm-up. On the 5th of July we trekked up to the Stok Pass, but it was not compulsory for everyone to complete the trek. Anyone could trek to any distance they wanted to and then return to the base camp as it was also a trek for better acclimatisation and adventure. Then on the 6th of July we left Rumbak for the Ganda-la Pass and camped at the Ganda-la Pass base camp at approximately 4500 meters. Next day i.e. on the 7th of July, we trekked up to the Ganda la Pass, which was about 4 km uphill and then from there, we had to trek downhill all the way to Skiu village, which was approximately 20 km. Everyone completed the trek at their own pace. Some delegates completed the trek in 8 hours while some of them completed it in 12 hours. We camped at Skiu village for the night. Next

day, which was also the last day of our trekking expedition, we only trekked for about 3 hours to Chilling village, only to be picked up by the hotel cars. On way, we stopped at a Gurudwara which was run by the Indian army. Most were apprehensive about the strenuous trekking expedition. However, all the students constantly motivated and encouraged each other, allowing everyone to leave with a sense of accomplishment.

The mountains were mostly bare but the shades of green, brown, orange and purple exhibited starkness unparalleled. During the trek we came across snow-fed water streams, wild bushes with beautiful pink flowers, old wooden bridges, mountain goats, rabbits and enthusiastic trekkers who greeted us with a 'Julley'.

Mountaineering is not merely a hobby, a sport, a type of holidaying but a refined version of exercise. The great conservationist John Muir wrote: "Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life." This held true for most students as they were fascinated and humbled by the landscape around them.

Every evening, reflective writing was taught and discussed so that the students could dwell on the nuances of their experience and ponder on the day spent. Evenings were full of laughter, dance, fun and frolic. All said and done, strong bonds were built along with building of the classrooms. There was music and dance, rehearsals for the cultural show and debates along with the volley-ball with the students of Lamdon Model School.

The project positively proved to be a voyage of immersing into the Ladakhi culture. It also proved to be a journey of knowing oneself and others, of being independent, of making new friends, of leaving the luxuries behind and being one with nature, even to the extent of perhaps finding a new purpose of life. Participants saw themselves as global citizens, looking beyond gender, race and nationality. The students practically learnt about the delicate interdependence between humans and the planet. They also learnt the role of their environment in shaping their behaviour and values and thus learnt from each other as well. It was an intense, challenging activity that enabled them to gain confidence and problem- solving skills. Students did learn that leadership is about serving others and requires kindness, wisdom and justice. By practically helping others who were less fortunate, students learnt how they could make a positive difference.

Finally, just before we concluded the project, we crowd-sourced the takeaways from this project. Following are the learning outcomes from this venture: a huge sense of satisfaction, for they worked extremely hard for no return whatsoever - thus imbibing the concept of altruistic service, a sense of appreciation for nature's beauty in its raw form, something which our urban lives do not offer us at all, happiness has nothing to do with material pleasures and technology.

It is a state of mind which comes through a feeling of selfless service and gratitude, understanding the value of gratitude and sharing even when you have little with yourself. Looking closely at the lives of local children was an eye-opener for them.

Delegates returned with immense confidence which they developed through evening debrief sessions where they learnt the art of public speaking, dancing, singing and sharing experiences freely and positively in an encouraging environment. They evolved their socio-emotional skills which is an essential life skill. The structure and routine of the project and the community living helped delegates forge life-long friendships with each other.



The Ladakh Venture



## A Walk in the Park

Mr Girish D Chandorkar (Ex-Ja, 1975)

It's been a momentous and truly memorable two weeks in my life. Along with Dr Rajiv Gupta, classmate from school, my partner in crime, and Dr Smriti Mhatre who has trekked with us before ( my instinct for self preservation is apparent!) and some others, I did the Everest Base Camp trek which commenced on 16th May from Lukla and concluded on 29th May at Namche Bazar. Rajiv and I both completed 60 years in 2018, and this trek was undertaken to celebrate this seminal point in our lives, which, at least for me, represented a rebirth in symbolic terms. What better way to celebrate our 60th than to pray at the altar of Everest, God's mightiest creation. This was the Holy Grail of trekking. The traditional EBC trek, with all due respect, is a relatively smooth trek. Therefore after reaching Namche Bazar, which is the launching pad for all major mountaineering expeditions in the Solukhumbu region, and which is rightly considered as hallowed ground as the legends of mountaineering have left their imprint here, we went on to Kyangjuma, then on to PhortseTenga, Dole , Machermo, and Gokyo.

The trail was along the Dudh Kosi River, winding its way through Rhododendron and Magnolia covered hillsides, some flowers still radiating colour. In full bloom, this would be a magnificent sight. We were deep in the Sagarmatha National Park, in a remote area, penetrating further into still more inaccessible areas which were inhabited only by the indomitable Sherpas, hard core trekkers, and the ubiquitous Yaks. We familiarised ourselves with exotic names of beautiful peaks such as Thamserku, Kusum Khangkaru, Kangtega, Cholatse, Tebuche, Ama Dablam, all of them regal and imposing.

As we approached Gokyo Lakes at 15000 ft, there was a stark reminder of human frailty. We saw a memorial to Japanese climbers who were killed in an avalanche at that spot in 1993. The lakes were gorgeous, stunningly beautiful - stretches of aquamarine turquoise blue, ringed by needle sharp craggy peaks. Their eternal calm is deceptive as last year 3 trekkers drowned in the largest lake. This leitmotif of beauty and danger lurking just below the surface recurs throughout the Sagarmatha National Park. The mountains are impersonal, cold and distant but they have an allure which is captivating, even irresistible.

The ascent of Gokyo Ri, a trek-able peak of 17500 ft began at 3.30 am, definitely one of the difficult phases of the trek which culminated in the most exquisitely beautiful view I have ever seen. The mountains bathed in soft moonlight, later yielding ever so gradually to the distant rays of the dawning sun, the subtle change of colours, the magnificent turquoise blue lakes strung together far below , it was an unforgettable sight. Renji La, and Tibet on one side, with the imposing Cho Oyu close at hand. The massive Ngozumba Glacier, which we were due to cross the next day, was glistening in the dawn. The Cho Oyu Glacier, home to the Cho Oyu Base Camp, was visible from a little further down. And then, the icing on the cake - views of Pumori, Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse standing tall and proud but with their silhouettes framed against the rising sun, Makalu, its cone making a statement, further to the right, far away. It was undoubtedly the most serene moment of my life, this communion with God's creation, the most surrealistically beautiful sight I've ever had the fortune to see. Rajiv and Smriti were there, good friends both, enhancing the joy of the moment.

The Ngozumba Glacier, the largest in the region was crossed the next day, following a very tricky and dangerous descent. The crossing was marked by eerie and ominous sounds of falling rocks, of shifting ice, and of blocks of snow and ice falling into small glacial lakes.

The next day was definitely the toughest day of my trekking life - the crossing of the dreaded Cho La Pass at 17800 ft. While Gokyo Ri was physically draining given the 70 degree climb which was unrelenting, Cho La was an imposing wall of rock and granite stretching upwards, at almost vertical angles on occasion, where a few trekkers had sadly died on account of falling rocks in April this year. The authorities changed the route in order to avoid the rock fall zone, by hammering in pitons, strung together with wires to hold, across the almost vertical part of the Pass. It was safer, yet extremely dangerous, and physically enervating. The effort of bending down, piton by piton, to grasp the wire and then standing up and ascending vertically, resulted in a feeling of

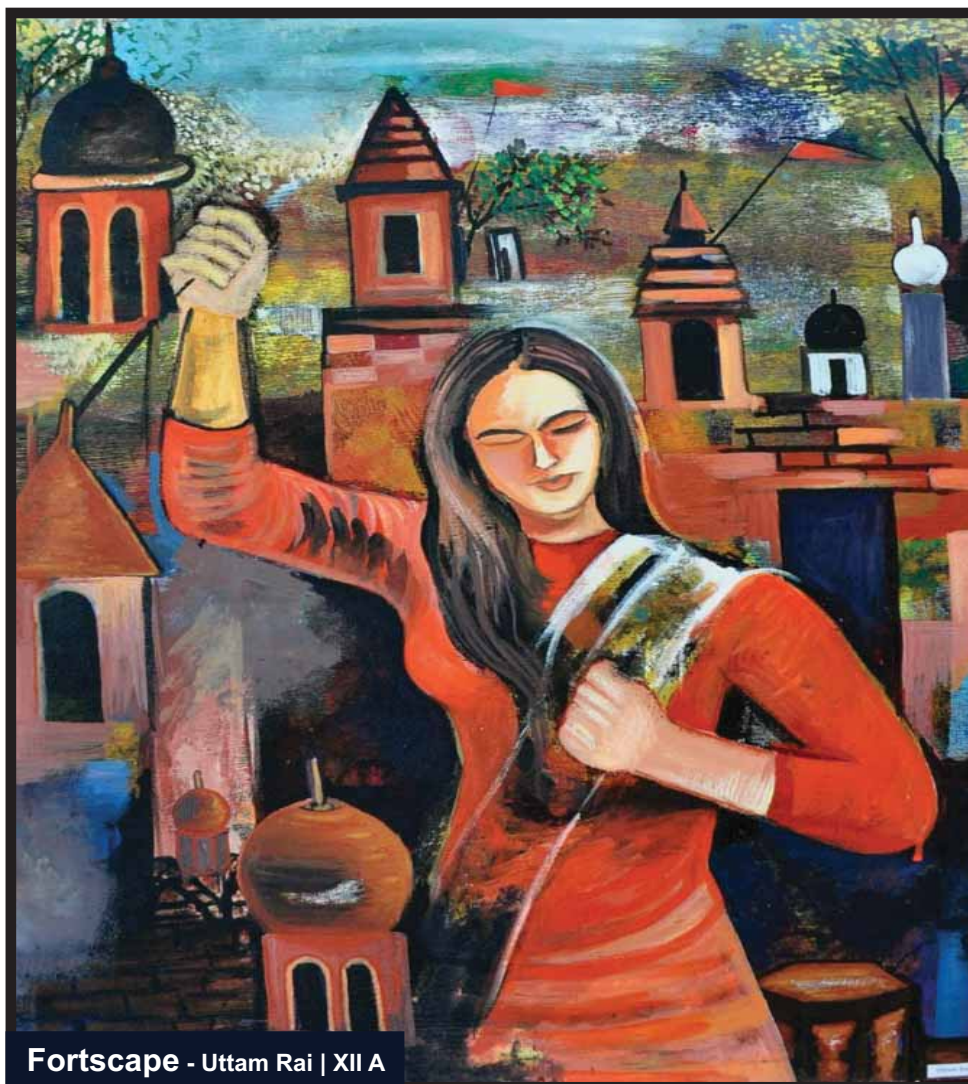
light headedness which was compounded by the altitude and lack of oxygen. A lapse in concentration or loss of focus could have resulted in very serious injury if not worse. Reaching the top was an achievement. We had initially laughed, when we first saw the Pass, at the ridiculous predicament that we had put ourselves in, but we could justifiably be happy at the conclusion.

On the other side of the Pass is a Glacier, which is apparently used by Everest aspirants to train on, for the more treacherous and forbidding Kumbhu Icefall. We stuck to the right hand side while going down because of the crevasses on the glacier.

One more objective was Kalapathar at 18200 ft. Having done Gokyo Ri and Cho La Pass, we were physically attuned and could have done it. But I couldn't sleep a wink the night before, and coming down the next morning across an extremely dangerous ridge requiring the fullest concentration, I developed a headache. Sadly I had to give Kalapathar a miss. The weather had also turned hostile. Only two ladies in our group, Smriti and Preeti made it to Kalapathar - Smriti did it for her sons. Hats off to the intrepid ladies.

Then finally, the D Day arrived. 27th May 2019 will remain etched in memory. A long walk along the trail with moraine studding the landscape. Yak trains in the midst; Kumbhu Glacier to our right; the Popcorn field and the treacherous Kumbhu Icefall visible. Nuptse to the right, imposing and forbidding; Everest deigning a glimpse of its visage to its worshippers. Pumori to the left; Everest Base Camp is a flat stretch of ground at 17500 ft, hemmed in by these imposing peaks with their impossible slopes. Not surprisingly, this is an avalanche prone area. Deadly avalanches have killed numerous people here in 2014 &15. The risk is well known but the call of the mountains is a siren call, it is irresistible.

Finally the EBC was done and the "Walk in the Park" (a facetious remark made by somebody known to Rajiv) was over. The mandatory photo ops, the hugs, the back slapping was over. Walking back, alone, I remembered my father. As the GOC of a Mountain Division and later as a Corps Commander, he ensured he was fit enough to walk to the border pickets if required to do so. I wondered what his reaction would have been. I clearly heard his voice "I am proud of you son, well done ". The tears welled up, and I let them be. I dedicate this trek to him - the man I admire the most, from whom I learnt what rectitude, self-respect and living with dignity meant. Miss you, Dad.



Fortscape - Uttam Rai | XII A



**CBSE RESULTS****CLASS X, OVERVIEW OF 2019****School Result (English + Best 4) : Average Percentage = 86%**

No. of Students : 95    95% &amp; Above : 13    85% - 94% : 45    75% - 84% : 29    65% - 74% : 8    55% - 64% : 0    Below 55% : 0

**TOPPERS LIST (BEST 4) – 85% AND ABOVE**

| Name of the Student   | Percentage | Name of the Student   | Percentage | Name of the Student   | Percentage | Name of the Student   | Percentage |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Aditi Joshi           | 98.2       | Arya Adhikari         | 94         | Rakshit Malhotra      | 91.6       | Sanchit Saraf         | 88.4       |
| Chirag Rathi          | 98         | Agastya Bubber        | 94         | Shishir Pandey        | 91.6       | Rishabh Parecha       | 88.4       |
| Akshat Karwa          | 97.2       | Yash Kumar Jain       | 94         | Gourav Kumar Agrawal  | 91.4       | Vishnudeep Tyagi      | 87.4       |
| Aaryan Nagpal         | 97         | Ujjwal Singh          | 93.8       | Hriday Soni           | 91.4       | Harshit Kumar         | 87.2       |
| Irish Rohra           | 96.8       | Parth Chandak         | 93.4       | Abhigyaana Ranjan     | 90.8       | Jalaj Agrawal         | 87.2       |
| Shivansh Kumar Bansal | 95.8       | Fatehvir Singh Bahia  | 93         | Tashi Dadul Bhutia    | 90.8       | Kartikeya Kulshreshth | 86.8       |
| Ojas M Agarwal        | 95.6       | Shubhamanyu Lahiri    | 92.6       | Chaitanya Agrawal     | 90.6       | Shaurya Agarwal       | 86.8       |
| Angad Sahni           | 95.2       | Aryan Yadav           | 92.4       | Siddharth Bahl        | 90.4       | Shashank Kumar        | 86.2       |
| Utkarsh Agrawal       | 95.2       | Ansh Rai Goel         | 92.2       | Ajay Chettri          | 90.2       | Vansh Vardhan Kanodia | 85.8       |
| Harshil Ashok         | 94.8       | Adwait Sharma         | 92.2       | Harsh Vardhan Chandel | 89.6       | Pratyush Raj Singh    | 85.6       |
| Aryan Yadav           | 94.8       | U R Shakthi Mahendran | 92.2       | Vedanga Nag           | 89.4       | Shikhar Agarwal       | 84.8       |
| Satwik Goyal          | 94.6       | Harsh Jain            | 92.2       | Aryan Samil           | 89.4       | Sukhyog Singh         | 84.8       |
| Pratham Gupta         | 94.6       | Krishna Sharma        | 92.2       | Kshitij Dogra         | 89.2       | Yashovardhan Dikshit  | 84.6       |
| Mehul Mittal          | 94.4       | Kartik Agarwal        | 92         | Gaurang Paliwal       | 88.8       |                       |            |
| Yatharth Gupta        | 94.4       | Abhyuday R. Chouhan   | 91.8       | Yash Singh            | 88.6       |                       |            |

**100% in FIT** - Chirag Rathi, Harshil Ashok and Aaryan Nagpal**CLASS XII, OVERVIEW OF 2019****School Result (Best 4) : Average Percentage = 88%****School Result (All Subjects) : Average Percentage = 85%****School Topper (All Subjects) : Dhruv Periwal - 97%****Stream Toppers (Best 4 Aggregates)** Science : Satya Prakash Singh (96.30%), Humanities : Sunil Kumar (96.50%), Commerce : Dhruv Periwal (97%)

No. of Students : 99    95% and above : 25    85% - 94% : 44    75% - 84% : 23    65% - 74% : 07    55% - 64% : 0    Below 55% : 0

**TOPPERS LIST (BEST 4) – 85% AND ABOVE**

| Name of the Student | Percentage | Name of the Student | Percentage | Name of the Student   | Percentage | Name of the Student | Percentage |
|---------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| Dhruv Periwal       | 97.0       | Vishvjeet Singh     | 95.0       | Zigme Gurung          | 93.00      | Chirag Thirani      | 89.8       |
| Sunil Kumar         | 96.5       | Sourabh Gond        | 95.0       | Abhinav Sachan        | 92.80      | Akshat Puri         | 89.8       |
| Kunal Tyagi         | 96.5       | Nikhil Kumar        | 95.0       | Kushagra Gupta        | 92.50      | Toshit Goyal        | 89.0       |
| Darshan Singhal     | 96.3       | Ayushman Dhiraj     | 94.5       | Yashkaran Sidhu       | 92.50      | Rishab Jain         | 89.0       |
| Shubham Agarwal     | 96.3       | Shrey Agarwal       | 94.5       | Shubham Sultania      | 92.50      | Mukund Agarwal      | 88.5       |
| Sidharth Jain       | 96.3       | Mohit Umraiya       | 94.5       | Akash Phogat          | 92.50      | Kushal Konsam       | 87.5       |
| Satya Prakash Singh | 96.3       | Moksh Jaswal        | 94.5       | Daksh Gupta           | 92.30      | Yash Yadav          | 87.5       |
| Devansh Agarwal     | 96.3       | Utkarsh Vats        | 94.3       | Kushagra Agarwal      | 92.30      | Pratham Ballabh     | 87.3       |
| Shashank Kilhore    | 96.0       | Pranav Wadhwa       | 94.3       | Rachit Agarwal        | 92.30      | Varun Kapoor        | 87.3       |
| Prateek Parihar     | 96.0       | Kushagra Patwari    | 94.3       | Chidghan Prabhu       | 92.00      | Chleopus S. Limboo  | 87.3       |
| Pranav Pahwa        | 95.8       | Kaldenla Bhutia     | 94.0       | Akash Agrawal         | 91.50      | Ishan Gangwani      | 86.3       |
| Abhinav Siddharth   | 95.5       | Aryaman Vikamsey    | 94.0       | Yajur Bhardwaj        | 91.50      | Umang Agarwal       | 86.3       |
| Siddharth Agarwal   | 95.5       | Janmajey Pargaian   | 94.0       | Mohit Asrani          | 91.50      | Yuvraj Maheshwari   | 86.0       |
| Eeshaan Sarda       | 95.5       | Siddharth Jain      | 93.8       | Suyash Khatiwara      | 91.00      | Keshav K. Agarwal   | 86.0       |
| Ashutosh Chauhan    | 95.5       | Himanshu Moojoriya  | 93.5       | Vivek Pratap S. Mavai | 91.00      | Sanskar S. Shetty   | 84.5       |
| Saksham Goel        | 95.5       | Kavin Chaudhary     | 93.3       | Shashikiran Gonugunta | 90.80      |                     |            |
| Jai Chahar          | 95.3       | Mani Maloo          | 93.0       | Sameer Manger         | 90.50      |                     |            |
| Anant Narayan Rai   | 95.3       | Kartikey Agrawal    | 93.0       | Shivansh Singh        | 90.00      |                     |            |

**100% in Painting** - Siddharth Agarwal, Shrey Agarwal, Vishvjeet Singh, Sidharth Jain, Siddharth Jain, Kartikey Agrawal, Zigme Gurung, Arnav Mehra, Kushal Konsam, Yash Yadav, Somansh Girdhar, Priyanshu Agarwal, Jai Chahar, Ishan Gangwani, Chleopus Subba Limboo, Akash Agrawal, Abhinav Siddharth**100% in Geography** - Sunil Kumar**100% in Psychology** - Anant Narayan Rai, Shubham Agarwal, Aryaman Vikamsey, Yajur Bhardwaj, Ayushman Dhiraj, Kavin Chaudhary, Toshit Goyal,**100% in Music** - Yuvraj Maheshwari, Saideep Kukreja**EDITORIAL BOARD**

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