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QILA QUOTES

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Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat receiving the award



VP-Ms Smita Chaturvedi presenting a memento to Mr Aditya Bondyopadhyay, the Chairperson for the Platinum Debate

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Secretary	
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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 apology and contact the editor at visheshs@scindia.edu.



Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat greeting RSIC Pre-conference delegate



SSP-Aditya Parashar greeting Mr Anurag Chaudhary (IAS)-Chief Guest for the Scholar's Banquet

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



The mesmerizing beauty of the Fort sways every beholder to pause and look, to admire the cascading beauty of nature. The Fort is lush green as the rainy season has settled its realm and the taals are almost full to the brim. Beautiful yellow, white and blue coloured wildflowers are blossoming at every nook and corner, and the fragrance of Parijaat breezes all over the Fort creating a mystical aroma.

The year till now has been full of splendor and we felt a sense of great honour as The Scindia School was ranked as India's #1 Boys Boarding School in the annual Education World India School Rankings. Moreover, ScooNews Global Education recognized The Scindia School as 'Green School of the Year' and IDA Education Awards recognized The Scindia School as 'The Residential School of the Year in K-12 Education' for the year 2019.



These awards and recognitions authenticated all our collective endeavors which have come to fruition. And can I humbly say that, maybe, we've accomplished our vision, which is, to be the pre-eminent center of learning in the country, producing future leaders with a global perspective and an Indian ethos. In educational audits by independent agencies, the areas where we've done exceptionally well are: Faculty Competence, Academic Reputation, Leadership Development, Infrastructure, Life-Skills Education, Internationalism and Special Needs Education.

In the months gone by, the boys' schedule has been busier than ever before. After the academic hours, the bell announces the beginning of sports scrimmages, play, music, dance rehearsals, brass band practice and much more. We have reasons to believe that involvement of the boys in their chosen areas promotes in them positive values, higher self-esteem and better academic achievement. The last two months in particular were dedicated to co-curricular activities where students were exposed to numerous opportunities in areas of their inherent talent or expertise. This time of the year was especially chosen so that after they have done their bit in extra-curricular, they would get engrossed in academics for the finals. Boys travelled far and wide to various schools to participate in Inter-School debate competitions; Shooting & Archery championships; Round Square Conferences, Business Fests, Video-Making competitions; IT based events; Quiz competitions; Chess and Table-Tennis tournaments; Art competitions etc. In quite a few, our boys secured the top positions and I am sure you would've read about them via The Review.

Back home we celebrated the 73rd Independence Day of our nation with much fervour and gaiety; Buddhi World Foundation conducted a workshop on the POCSO act (2012); India's youngest professional theatre company, 'Out of the Box' Productions staged a Play titled 'Kaise Kareng' in the school; Festival of Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated on the Fort with great enthusiasm; **Ms Saloni Khanna** an ace debate trainer, based in Delhi, conducted a debating workshop for the students of Hindi and English Literary Societies; **Ms Manikjeet Kaur** from Dehradun conducted a 'Meal Time Manners and Dining Etiquette' workshop for our boys; **Ms Shubhangini Prasad** conducted a 'Design Thinking' workshop; The XIX Scholars' Banquet for the academic year 2018-2019 was held to honour our academic achievers and last but not the least, we also hosted over 70 delegates from across the globe for the RSIC Pre-Conference 2019 at the Fort.

This issue is a mixed bag of flavours as it has something for everybody. Starting from an interview with our very own prolific poet-**Mr Devendra Bhatnagar** to the reminiscences of the Golden Jubilee Reunion of the batch of 1968-69 to what an ex-parent has to say about the experiences of her son who graduated last year with flying colours. Hope you enjoy this issue.

I wish you a very Happy Diwali.

Dr M.D. Saraswat
Principal, The Scindia School



RSIC Pre-Conference Delegates



Still from the play - Kaise Kareng (Darsheel Safary in the pic)

EDITORIAL

The Scindia School hosted the Round Square Pre-conference from 29th September – 1st October 2019. 10 schools from across the world participated in this Pre-conference. The participating schools were: Scotch Oakburn, Australia; Bermuda High School, Bermuda; Belgrano Day School, Argentina; Hackley School, USA; Shirakatsy Lyceum International School, Armenia; St. Philips College, Australia; Gordonstoun School, Scotland; Stanford Lake College, South Africa; Guiyang Concord College, China and Begemann Schule, Germany. Visitors were given a taste of India and Scindia in as many ways as possible. From the Taj Mahal to Indian food; from cultural programmes to Indian dance sessions; from visits to the various palaces in Gwalior to a session of guided meditation at the Astachal and more! The Pre-conference had it all.

Trending

The Scindia School, Gwalior, has been ranked as India's #1 boys boarding school in the annual EducationWorld India School Rankings (EWISR) 2019-20 after being ranked second for the past two years. The #1 ranking of The Scindia School is the result of a massive countrywide field survey encapsulating the perception and opinions of carefully selected sample of stakeholders in primary-secondary education which included educators, principals and teachers from across the length and breadth of the country. The areas where we focused our energies and grew by leaps and bounds in the last few years e.g. faculty competence, academic reputation, leadership, infrastructure, parental involvement, life skills education, internationalism, special needs education etc. have been instrumental in this recognition of ours.

Amity University along with Future 50 Schools Shaping Success in India recognized the leaders behind India's finest schools at Amity Leadership Summit held on 19th August 2019 in Jaipur. Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat was felicitated as 'Future 50 Leader Shaping Success' in a grand award ceremony. Mr Ajay Singh Shekhawat, President SOBA Jaipur received the award on behalf of the Principal.

IDA Education Awards recognized The Scindia School as 'The Residential School of the Year in K-12 Education' for the year 2019 in an award ceremony held in Bengaluru.

The ScooNews Global Education recognized The Scindia School as 'Green School of the Year' and Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat as 'The Education Icon of the Year' by ScooNews in an award ceremony held on 10th of August, 2019 in Udaipur.

Staff Enrichment

Mr Dhiraj Malik attended the French Teachers' Training Programme in Agra from 10th – 12th August 2019. Attendees learned how to engage the students in games which required them to use extensive vocabulary and respond in detail rather than a simple yes

or no. Another session was aimed at enhancing the spoken skills of the students via interviews and group activities. Another session, the objective of which was to inculcate awareness in students to see through social values, myths, stereotypes and prejudices in various cultures was enjoyed by everybody.

Ms Niharika Kulshrestha attended the Fulbright Teacher Alumni Conference 'Teach to Ignite: Classrooms for GenZ and Beyond' from September 20-23, 2019 in New Delhi. The workshop was organized by United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF). Apart from being the resource person for the session "Incorporate Applied Learning Projects in STEM Classrooms", Ms Kulshrestha chose to attend a session on 'Developing creativity and critical thinking in students and teachers'.

CBSE in association with Microsoft Corporation (India) Private Limited, conducted Capacity Building Programme for teachers for which The Scindia School was chosen as the only centre in Madhya Pradesh. The programme introduced latest technologies and IT tools that would help teachers enhance the learning experiences and 21st century skills of students. The training took place from 11th September to 21st September 2019.

School Events

India's youngest professional theatre company, 'Out of the Box Production', which has been producing original and relatable content for audiences across India staged a Play titled 'Kaise Kareng' in the school on 12th August 2019. The cast included Mr Darsheel Safary (from the National Award Winning Film 'Taare Zameen Par'), Mr Abhishek Pattnaik, Mr Prakhar Singh and Ms Gaurangi Dang. The story revolved around two brothers which had several interesting themes within the main storyline.

The Choreography Society of the school –'Chorean Souls' organized the first Inter House Choreography Competition for the senior houses on the 31st of August, 2019. The audience was thrilled by the spectacular performances delivered by the boys. Each house presented their choreography based on themes

assigned to them. The event was followed by special dinner and DJ for the boys.

Inter House Hindi Skit Competition was held on 6th September 2019 in the Assembly Hall. Eight plays were put up on stage, namely, **Balgobin Bhagat** by Jeevaji House, **Akbari Lota** by Mahadji House, **Prayashchit** by Jayaji House, **Panchlight** by Shivaji House, **Netaji Ka Chashma** by Jayappa House, **Kamchor** by Madhav House, **Bholaram Ka Jeev** by Daulat House and **Namak Ka Daroga** by Ranoji House.

The XIX Scholars' Banquet for the academic year 2018-2019, was held on 30th July 2019. The Chief Guest for the same was **Mr Anurag Chaudhary**, IAS-2009 Batch. He is a graduate from IIT Kanpur and as an IAS he is presently posted in the city of Gwalior.

Freshers' evening was held on 27th July 2019. New students and teachers gave wonderful performances which included songs, bhajans, instrumentals etc. Lastly, the Choreography Society of the school named Chorean Souls, put up a dance performance and a farewell song followed.

We hosted the Platinum Jubilee Memorial All India English Debate, His Highness Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Hindi Debate, Platinum general Quiz and first ever Math Triathlon in the first week of October. A total number of 11 schools participated in this conclave. Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer lifted the Platinum Jubilee English Debate trophy and Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya won the HH Hindi debate's running trophy. The Platinum Quiz, hosted by Quizmaster Ajay Poonia (Ex-Sh, 2006) was won by Modern School, New Delhi with a huge margin. Vasant Valley School, Delhi bagged the trophy for the 1st Math Triathlon 2019.

Visits

On 2nd October Mr Troy Cline, NASA STEM innovation lab director gave a talk and presentation on the wonders of planet Earth, the Universe and how innovation is the need of the hour for a better and sustainable world. **Mr Mitul Dikshit** (Ex-Md, 1993) was instrumental in bringing Mr Cline to the school.

The department of Science organized a talk on Chandrayaan II, India's recent progress in the field of Astrophysics on 17th August 2019. Dr Mathur, former Scientist, ISRO; an expert in the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics was invited as the Chief Speaker. The session revolved around the launch of Chandrayaan II and the Mars Orbiter Mission.

Workshops

Buddhi World Foundation conducted a workshop on the POCSO (2012) Act on 29th August 2019 for teachers, administrative staff and the non-teaching staff of the school. The resource persons **Mr Manish Gupta**, **Ms Khushbu Kumari**, and **Ms Bela Gupta** conducted this workshop. The central theme of the workshop was to inform the recent amendments in the POCSO Act and the role that teachers can play in addressing child sexual abuse in society.

Illumany, a design thinking company, organized a series of workshops for the boys of classes VI to VIII in the school from 28-29 August, 2019. The workshop, conducted by **Shubhangini Prasad** and her team used out of the box techniques of solving problems and designing models based on creative thinking and innovation.

The objective of the workshops was to craft out prototype designs for various products, catering to the needs of a section of clientele in society.

A workshop on 'Meal Time Manners and Dining Etiquette' was organized in the school for students of classes VII-IX. Six sessions of two hours each were conducted on 7th, 8th and 9th September 2019. The resource person for the workshop was **Ms Manikjeet Kaur Sadana**, a Dehradun based soft-skill specialist. She introduced the students to Continental as well as American dining etiquette. Many important dining tips such as placing of the napkin, correct way of using silverware, passing the condiments, rightly setting the table etc. were shared with the students.

Ms Saloni Khanna an ace debate trainer, based in Delhi, conducted a debating workshop for the students of Hindi and English Literary Societies from 10th-12th August 2019. She trained the boys in three verticals, namely, technique and methodology; substance and presentation, and language.

Mr Sarabjit Walia conducted sessions with students of Classes IX and XI from 8th - 9th September 2019. The sessions began with assessing each individual's preferred Learning Styles (LS) and progressed to discover alignment between LS and the individual's preferred Methods of Instruction (MoI) and Assessment (MoA). This research and analysis is part of the longitudinal study on student performance which will conclude in 2022. The idea behind this is to lift the whole school's performance to a higher level in times to come.

Celebrations

On 2nd October Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated in the school. In the afternoon, Shramjeevis put up a Bhajan Karyakram and they deliberated and spoke about the values and guiding principles of the life of Mahatma Gandhi. This was followed by lunch which was specially organized and served by the members of the Social Service League for shramjeevis, guests from Sonsa village, Nathon-ka-Pura village and support staff.

As per the tradition, the 73rd Independence Day of our nation was celebrated with much fervour and gaiety on the Fort. Despite the incessant rain, smartly turned out boys on horses escorted the Chief Guest, **Captain Devendra Bhatnagar** (Ex-Jayaji, 1974) who hoisted the flag, presided over the parade and took the salute of the marching contingents. At the end of the ceremony, our much decorated and possibly the finest Brass Band in the country gave a special performance in the honour of the Chief Guest.

The Scindian fraternity celebrated 'Ganesh Chaturthi' on 2nd September 2019. The entire community came together for Ganesh Shapna amidst the chanting of the shlokas and later for the Aarti in chorus. As customary, the next day, the idol was taken to Suraj Kund where it was immersed in water with hearts full of gratitude and prayer.



Young Scindians enjoying the DJ night



Still from Inter-House choreography competition

OLD BOYS' NEWS

SOBA is all set to celebrate its 60th anniversary on the fort from 20th - 22nd December 2019. This will be a golden opportunity for Scindians to go back to school, live in their own houses, network with Scindians from all age groups, Houses, batches and different occupations. There are several things lined-up, and there's something or the other for everybody including sports & entertainment too. All details are available on the Commonroom app. If you haven't, then please register for the same as soon as possible. There are only 550 seats available and they're all on first-come-first-serve basis. **Remember, there's no nostalgia like Scindian nostalgia!**

Mr Viraj Kohli (Ex-MJ, 2012) who heads the 'Uviraj' Group, has been awarded 'India's Fastest Growing Brand 2018-19' by Asia One - Asia Business and Social Forum awards held on 16th Sept 2019 at Taj Lands End, Mumbai. He was also recognized as the- '40 Most Influential Indians under 40' at the same event.

Mr Vaibhav Singh (Ex-DL, 2012) who's heading the Bhagawati Group has been awarded 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2019' in the Annual Dealer Excellence Programme Conference 2019 of Mahindra & Mahindra held at Hyatt Berlin, Germany on 23rd June 2019. Dr Pawan Goenka, Managing Director, M&M gave away the award. At 24 years of age, he is the youngest recipient of this award till date.

Mr Devendra Bhatnagar (EX-JA, 1974) has penned a book of his poems titled 'Of Dreams and Mermaids'. It is a meditative canvas of verses from the seas and shores. Without preaching, the poems gently guide you into realizing that every day is as precious and beautiful as the exotic and the adventurous. The book was officially released on 15th August at the Astachal.

Mr Teyjanveer Singh (Ex-Md, 2015), currently studying architecture in Mumbai participated in an international design competition titled 'THE HOUSE, Crafting Home through Spaces' organized by 'archdais network private limited'. His design was recognized in the top 50 out of 1248 participants from across the globe. Many congratulations!

Mr Vishwaraj Singh (Ex-Mj, 2002) has been appointed as the Secretary of the MP Congress Youth Wing. Many congratulations!

Mr Ajay Poonia (Ex-Sh 2006) recently participated in Ironman Lake placid 70.3 in New York, USA. Ironman is a gruelling one day endurance event that consists of 3 disciplines - Swimming, Cycling and Running - to be done back to back. The athletes swim 1.9 km, cycle for 90 km and then run 21.1 km to the finish. No stranger to the world of sport, while in school, Ajay won the Cariappa Trophy for the Best Sportsman. After Indonesia, Australia and England, this was his 4th Ironman event. He intends to compete in all continents in his quest to qualify for the Ironman World Championships 2022. The Scindia School wishes him best of luck.



SOBA Bengaluru get-together

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Sachin Chaudhary of Class 10 participated in the Commonwealth Crossbow shooting championship organized by the International Federation of World Crossbow in Koh-Chang, Thailand. In the aforementioned championship, Sachin won two Gold medals, one in the U-17 category and the other in the senior team category. Due to this feat, he has been selected to represent India in the World Championship slated to be held in Russia.

17 Students of our School Shooting Team participated in 22nd M.P. State & 18th M.P. State Inter School Shooting Championship 2019, held at Emerald Heights International School, Indore, from 20th - 26th July 2019. All participants qualified for the Pre-National Shooting Competition. Our school's Air Pistol Team won a Bronze Medal in Youth & Senior category and a Silver Medal in the M.P. State Shooting Team Event.

The following students won medals individually:

Air Pistol Event - **Toshan Aggarwal**: Gold Medal

Air Pistol Event - **Angad Sahni**: Bronze Medal

(Air Pistol ISSF Event)

Air Pistol Event - **Manas Parashar**: Bronze Medal

Vrushank Malhotra, **Utsav Jain**, **Aikansh Choubey**, **Prathvi Mishra** and **Pranav Wadhwa** participated in the Business Fest held at Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie, from 26th - 27th July 2019. **Prathvi Mishra** won the award for the best performance in the events entitled - Vine Video and Ennuncio.

Shishir Pandey, **Aryan Yadav**, **Somesh Kumar**, **Bhavesh Goel**, **Sukhyog Singh** and **Chewang Bhutia** participated in a series of art competitions held at the Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar, from 7th - 8th August 2019. 13 schools participated in the Clay Modelling art competition. **Sukhyog Singh** and **Chewang Bhutia** represented the school in this competition and secured the first position. In the Art Quiz competition, The Scindia School stood 4th and received a consolation prize. **Shishir Pandey** and **Somesh Kumar** participated in the quiz.

Memory Mishra, **Pranav Wadhwa**, **Toshan Agarwal**, **Satwik Goyal**, **Vedang Nag** and **Vishnudeep Tyagi** participated in the Technack - IT Fest 2019 held at Maharani Gayatri Devi School, Jaipur, from 5th - to 8th August 2019. The Scindia School was declared as the overall winner of this tournament. Individual positions are given below:

Website Designing - **Vedang Nag** and **Memory Mishra** - I

Cartoon Making - **Satwik Goyal** - I

Multimedia Presentation - **Toshan Agarwal** and **Pranav Wadhwa** - II

Video Making - **Vedang Nag** and **Vishnudeep Tyagi** - I

Abhey Khanna, **Lav Asrani**, **Krishnam Purwar**, **Ujjwal Malik**, **Aditya Parashar**, **Pratham Agarwala**, **Tushar Gupta**, **Vishnudeep Tyagi**, **Ayush Agarwal**, **Mridul Singhi**, **Shivam Suri**, **Aayush Yadav** and **Ujjwal Mehrotra** participated in the COSTACH Enclave held at Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer, from 26th - 28th July 2019. **Krishnam Purwar**, **Ujjwal Malik**, **Vishnudeep Tyagi** and **Ujjwal Mehrotra**

made a film on the topic : Tilonia in it's true essence. They stood fourth in the competition. 12 students participated in the 7th session of I-Parliament from 8th - 11th August 2019 at Jawahar Bhawan, New Delhi. There were five categories of awards for the parliamentarians; **Suprabha Adhikari** was awarded the title of 'The Best Chief Whip' for the session.

Abaan Khan and **Yash Arya** participated in the National Psychology Quiz held at the Fortis Hospital, Jaipur, from 18th - 20th August 2019. We made it to the Zonal Finals from among 4000 schools. Congratulations!

Aditi Joshi, **Suyash Bansal**, **Ranjan Nagpal**, **Pratham Srivastava**, **Nishay Agarwal**, **Shivansh Bansal** and **Ujjwal Mehrotra** participated in the Annual Inter School Business Quiz and Business Venture held at The Vivek High School, Chandigarh from 22nd - 23rd August 2019. Out of the 18 participating schools, The Scindia School bagged the Overall Running Trophy in the event. Many congratulations!

The Scindia School team participated in 'The Mohinder Memorial Bilingual Turncoat Debate Competition' held at Pinegrove School, Himachal Pradesh from 29th August - 1st September. **Aditya Parashar** and **Keshav Dudhani** made it to the final round where the topic under the hammer was 'Abrogation of Article - 370 is justified'. We won the runners-up trophy.

Pranav Wadhwa, **Vishnudeep Tyagi**, **Memory Mishra**, **Vansh Raj Chahar**, **Satwik Goyal**, **Pratik Garg** and **Hriday Soni** participated in the IPSC IT Fest held at Hyderabad Public School from 20th - 25th August 2019. **Hriday Soni** and **Toshan Agarwal** stood second in the 'Multimedia Event'. **Hriday Soni** and **Memory Mishra** stood third in 'User Interface Design'. Congratulations!



Sachin Chaudhary



Dhruv Perival with parents



Dhruv with father & grandfather

LIFE OF MY BUTTERFLY

I have a tale to narrate of this alluring butterfly of mine who has flown to Singapore to study Business at Nanyang Technological University. I personally believe that our lives offer experiences, both joyous and challenging, and they eventually happen to shape our lives.

Not really a random leap of faith but with a lot of trust in the institution, we lay our egg with a positive outlook in The Scindia School back then in 2015. I vividly remember, I was surprisingly bold while the rest of the family was in tears as this tender yet committed soul, aware of this opportunity began his life-cycle. Somewhere down the line we were a little unsure about the path he would choose, however, one thing we were sure was the fact that whether our egg walks in a dark, lonely path he would always bear the glowing torch of our sanskaars, morals and values as his guiding light.

Within a few weeks, the egg grew into a larva, as from there began its feeding stage. With continuous guidance, motivation and encouragement the larva started to unfold its magic and charm. The early stage was a little overwhelming as he was laying his foundation. Once he very smartly decided to come back to Jaipur (his origin) with the scindian delegation for the Jaipur Literature Festival to spend some time with us. Apparently, a point to be noted is the fact that he did not stay at home but he stayed with his friends in a hotel making it no less than his home. We were glad to meet the delegation and interact with his mates. They had such promising eyes and positive vibes. There is something really special about Scindians.

Our larva then challenged himself every now and then. It's always necessary for a person to challenge his comfort zone to drill the latent potential. He took part in Swarnotsav, an Indian classical dance event and I was enthralled and so glad as I realized its not easy to shoot the confidence to such a level where you embark upon to break certain prejudices relating to boys especially in an all-boys school. We knew our larva has entered the transition stage and has become a pupa.

I started to notice a lot of calm and composure in his attitude towards approaching situations. He knew the path he was progressing towards and the importance of this stage of his life. He has a sense of maturity and a logical outlook which has been built by the experiences he has been exposed to. He maximised the opportunities given to him. He was always a free soul with enough liberty and minimal monitoring. When I sit back and read his personal journal he used to maintain and regularly feed, I literally feel the journey he has been through. I feel all the ups and downs described in the beautiful journal, the actual keys of which only he has in his heart.

A supportive and strong family also plays an integral role in letting the child groom meaningfully with positivity. While his sister had

her own reasons to morally support him because she became the sole owner of the kids' room interestingly (haha!). His grandparents had a tough time with their heart and soul away for a long time, yet they envisioned the colourful butterfly and hence supported his endeavour.

When it was time to return to school, he always used to have tears in his eyes which reflected his sensitivity but we always embraced his inner zeal to resume his adventure at Scindia. He was always academically focused although he tried to get a little better in sports as well. His commitment and interest always led him to take part in various co-curricular activities ranging from round square service projects to leadership programmes. Above all, we were always keen to look forward to what he learnt. A mummy's boy, he always called me up to take advice for all small and big things even till grade 12 in 2019. For instance, he called me up to confirm the name he wanted to get printed on his batch jersey and once he cried over the phone due to a difficult examination.

His friends and batch mates have helped him all the way through. Friendship lies in the fabric of a residential school. The enthusiasm with which he used to introduce his friends to me and talk about them resonates the impact of his peers in shaping this butterfly in known and unknown ways. I am in awe, when I see them so connected with hearts full of love and the brotherhood they share.

Each scindian has a story to share and possesses a lot of potential. I feel fortunate to have interacted with various stakeholders of this wonderful school throughout the life-cycle of my butterfly. I also consider myself as a part of the extended Scindian community. We are so grateful to every teacher both academic and non-academic and all the support staff and would not miss mentioning Amarsingh & Tejvaan Bhaiya of Mahadji house for helping the egg turn into a butterfly we see today. I take this opportunity to acknowledge all the efforts of the school for shaping the life of kids by casting them in moulds of their exclusive personality and being an impeccable facilitator for these young boys to realise their passion and providing them with a compass to direct their dreams in the right direction.

We would definitely find reasons to be at School as with every breath we take at the FORT, vivid picture of transformation runs in our eyes !!

Dr. (CA) Sunita Perival

ADVENTURE IS SELF EDUCATION

After 18 years of journey in the adventure field sometimes I wonder, what is it which attracts me to go for trekking & cycling expeditions every time: The answer is that the experience and learning which I get through these expeditions is something no book or movie can give me.

In today's world, when all of us are very busy with our work, we don't even get time to understand what we really want and just continue day after day the same way. We hardly get to enjoy the beautiful nature, and usually stress becomes our partner without us even realising that. It is during the days that I go for adventure activities that I feel at peace in the real sense, and find myself very close to the nature. Such expeditions give me the opportunity to not think about anything else but to admire the beautiful nature, the mountains, rivers, villages and different people. There is enough time to refresh your senses and be at peace with no disturbance of any kind: Be it pollution, mental stress or electric gadgets.

Born in the hills, I used to walk a lot. As kids we used to go for picnics in the pine forests and walk to nearby villages without any transport. I loved it, and I think the same interest continues even today.

It was in 2001 when I first shared my wish of going for a mountaineering expedition to Stok Kangri to the Principal. He encouraged me to go for it and it felt as if my childhood dreams were turning into a reality. I was very happy and excited. The experience was wonderful and even though I fell seriously ill due to an infection during the last days of my first expedition, the attraction of mountains was so strong that I never looked back and continued to go on expeditions almost every year.

I didn't know how to cycle, but that did not stop me from learning to bicycle and going for my first cycling expedition from Gwalior to Ajmer! It was a thrill for me to learn balancing on a cycle and completing the expedition successfully. There has been no stopping since then. Every year I look forward to these expeditions and cannot think of missing any. I feel strong as a person and happy that I am able to be a part of such activities. It is when I go for an expedition each year, be it mountaineering or cycling, that I realise how important it is to give oneself this kind of exposure. It not only rejuvenates your mind and body but also gives you the luxury of spending time without having to worry about anything. You not only give time to yourself but also to people around you as in remote areas there are no modern amenities to keep you busy on your own. You get time to feel the nature so close, soak in the surroundings, and learn so many things. The entire day is spent talking to the members, discussing about various topics as a way of sharing thoughts but also of getting

to know your students and colleagues as well. You learn to work together as a team, helping each other in every way. Also, you get to meet new people throughout be it the trek guides, porters, small store owners other trekkers or the friendly dogs which are a common sight during trek everywhere and who follow you all through. Each one has his or her own stories to share and after a hectic day, each evening becomes interesting when everyone shares their experience.

In all these years, I have had a chance to visit many places and have experienced different cultures and there are innumerable memories which I will always cherish. I feel lucky as not only does it make me happy but at the same time, I have learnt a lot. I can proudly say that I have achieved a part of what I wanted to do and enjoyed every bit of it.

To go with students who are almost 35 years younger than me, I have to be physically fit. Before every expedition I do get a little doubtful, if I will be able to match the fitness of my students as the age factor cannot be ignored. However, this only motivates me to practice even more to keep my body ready for the next expedition and thanks to all my students who have always been with me. When we opt for an expedition, we all think in the same way. Difference of age or thoughts never come in the way of our joy, happiness, togetherness and we always complete our journey with full josh!

Ms Raksha Siriah
Hindi Teacher



On way to the summit



Cycling through high mountains

INTERVIEW

Mr Devendra Bhatnagar (Ex-Jayaji, 1974) joined The Scindia School in 1970. He graduated from school with exceptional credentials and joined the training Ship T S Rajendra and sailed till 2001 serving for 27 years as navigation deck officer of which 11 years were as Captain of various ocean going ships. Currently he is serving as the Managing Director of Whole Foods India, a premier healthy foods brand based out of Delhi.

He is a prolific poet who has explored numerous themes in his poems including that of love, loss, music, struggle, freedom, women etc. A rather predominant theme in his poems is the universality of human beings, and also the need to escape the logical world. His first book titled 'Of Dreams and Mermaids' was released on the Independence Day at the spiritual center of the school, the Astachal; a place, he insists, where 'It All Began'.

We present before you a candid conversation which our staff editor Mr Vishesh Sahai had with him.

(Q1) Do you come from a literary background ? What writers did you enjoy reading as a child, and when did you start writing poetry ?

My father served in the Indian Foreign Service and this resulted in a lot of travel to new countries, exposure to spoken English at home because that remained the common communication language with others outside. Our home always was with magazines but I do not recall very many books as transfers were every three years and that added to the 'baggage'. But since passing out of school till date books line my shelves. Most of the initial 'seed volume' of comics and books came as birthday presents. After reading, these were exchanged with others and this 'lending-exchange-library' withstood the transition till I joined Scindia School in 1970.

Earliest recall of authors I read are:

Enid Blyton- a prolific author – Noddy Series, Famous Five & Secret Seven

Franklin Dixon (pseudonym) author of the Hardy Boys,

W.E. Jones author of Biggles

Comic Books/ Adventures of Tin Tin / Super Heroes- Batman, Tarzan, Superman, Archie etc.

I was a prolific reader right from the age of five and I had devoured all the hundreds of books written by the above by the time I completed my 6th grade. Thereafter, I migrated to more mature reading- James Hadley Chase / Perry Mason/ Alistair Maclean /

By the 9th - 10th class I was onto experimenting with Kafka, Freud, and definitely Khalil Gibran, Omar Khayyam, Manohar Mulgaonkar, Somerset Maugham and Ernest Hemingway. The list is endless. Each year there are new authors, new ideas and new vistas to explore through books. But one thing I have continued is to not limit but read both fiction and non-fiction.

As a child I do not remember writing any poetry. My first attempt at poetry was in the 9th Class when I contributed to the School Review. But I was drawn to poetry for there was always this emotive streak in me that could express in lesser words what my thoughts wanted to communicate. Like most initiates, it started with trying to rhyme the last words of two consecutive sentences or alternate lines in the stanza.

(Q2) How does a poem begin for you - with an idea, a form or an image ? Most of your work is in which form ? Are there any other forms of poetry you haven't tried but would like to ?

It is indeed funny but I have never been able to contrive a subject and then write a poem. It has to be spontaneous. And that is why I am prolific because life offers so many subjects to touch upon on a daily basis.

In that context, the surroundings, the moods, the seasons, the landscape and of course one's personal inclination provides the impetus. As one matures and gets exposed to different aspects of daily life through travel, work, reading or interests, one's perspective becomes multi-dimensional and this allows for greater



expressiveness. Combined with fluency in language, one can express oneself even better.

I like simplicity in writing; not much hyperbole and definitely find subject material from everyday life. For last several years I stopped reading other people's poetry as I wanted to evolve my own style of writing. Earlier, Walt Whitman impressed me most as he dwelt on a subject with common words and kept it simple. That is what I have tried to be. Very rarely do I touch upon the abstract. I have always found Khalil Gibran lyrical and mystical. That drew me to Nature and the human element in my poems.

I further attribute my sea career of 27 years to have given me a unique perspective on the strength and varied beauty if not also vagaries of Nature and the resource of will-power and determination in men who sail the seas.

If there is a form of poetry that I would like to attempt - it is the Japanese style of Haiku. Perhaps I must still mature into it for it combines a unique temperament.

(Q3) Do you also write short stories or any other forms / pieces of literature ?

I have not written any short stories but definitely some essays off and on. Poetry satisfies one's creative urge to express but one can only read a couple of poems at a stretch but not a whole book of poems in one read. However I read novels extensively and if the fiction is good then it could be start to finish, from cover to cover in two days. At one time I would read three different novels simultaneously as I found that the mind requires different pace / style of rendition depending on the time of the day.

(Q4) They say that to see the world with complete honesty, one should look at comedians, artists and poets. What do you think emerges naturally from your work ?

Through language and communication, Mankind has progressed to the present age. We all are aware of the two hemispheres within our cranium- the analytical section and the creative one. Without both our sense of appreciation, inventiveness, sensibilities and dissecting of complexities would be incomplete. Comedy (humour) highlights and focuses on our mortality; art gives us a canvas to work upon, whilst poetry gives us the wings to soar.

(Q5) Poets are often said to be unconventional or even eccentric for want of a better word. Would you, for the pleasure of the reader, like to share something about yourself which is strange, unusual or fascinating ?

The word pedestrian is not what you can prescribe to any poet; for to capture the imagination of the reader, one must have a viewpoint that can keep a multitude of readers interested. One's thought process will definitely border on the creative but that does not translate into wearing of 'sandals, kurta-pyjama or slinging a jute jhola'. The only eccentricity I have is that I prefer wearing shorts and a comfortable tee. And yes I love browsing in book stores.

(Q6) Please share with us some of life's lessons that you've learnt from your travels across the seas ?

I get lyrical about the sea. Its expanse, its moods, its depth, the marvels below and within it; the mystery it still holds. All this have intrigued man since the beginning of recorded history. There are many lessons to be learnt. The very first is to respect it; learn basics about it before sailing initially and imbibe what it teaches. The power of the sea humbles man and machine. Those who learn not to batter it come out safe and stronger mentally. For days, if not months a couple of dozen people are cooped up together. One learns very fast about camaraderie, discipline, obedience and respect for knowledge.

The geography of the world, its people, trade and customs are so varied that in my years sailing I have not covered every corner. But one common denominator I have found- It's a world that bereft of politics would have been more wonderful and if we could curtail the devastation we bring to Nature, the Earth would be Paradise itself.

(Q7) Please share something about your family life ?

Sometimes I marvel at the beautiful family I am blessed with. Especially as I spent 17 years of my marriage away at sea but for the 3-4 months between each contract every year. Those holidays were spent devoted to my daughter, son, wife and the dogs. I made every moment count. My wife Hemangi is the backbone of the family and during my years at sea she gave the two children Nehha and Jay an exposure to delve in performing arts, crafts, sports and learnings other than what they did at school. Both were toppers academically and excellent sportspersons. Now young adults both have turned out just fine; family individually and as a whole gives back of its time to Society. Nehha is an internationally recognized Bharatanatyam performing artist, runs her own NGO for empowering 200 girls from the weaker section of society. Hemangi, my wife is totally involved in its smooth functioning. Jay, a head hunter with international firms is presently doing his MBA from INSEAD Singapore but also does the strategizing and pitches in with support for the Sarvam Foundation. Today they are both away from home, with Nehha being married to Ompi, a wonderful son-in-law. We remain a close knit family.

What I admire of my family is that they are sensitive to their surroundings, people other than family; they're well read and well informed. Debates at the dinner table can be vigorous as each remains an individual.

(Q8) To end the interview, please share a few lines from one your favourite creations ?

Each poem that I craft (I like to be called a 'wordsmith') is like one's child- 'exclusive'. However there are some that remain favourites because they were closer home to real experience. In most that I write there is an underlying message.

Words they can talk:

I juxtapose them
This way and that
Hoping for impact

They must roll off
The page mellifluous
And stand out in a group
But yet carry the thought

To tease the reader
Have them re read
Pages turning; thumbed
And book marked
Eagerly waiting for ears

With gravitas and a pause
The eyes drink in
And the mind assimilates
All things written
For words well thought out
Can walk the talk
And hold their own

Conversation between a sigh
And the hungry mind
Meanders in an alley
Boxed high with ideas
Scaling the fence of limits

Leaping with abandon
As the story unfolds
There is a chuckle
Between a grammar stop
And astonishment
And exclamations as the lines
Into paragraphs merge

Some words jostle for space
Others nudge knowingly
Each a gem polished with care
Assembled together
They race beyond reason
Words they can outstrip mere talk



FROM START TO FINISH

Reminiscences of the Golden Jubilee Reunion of the batch of 1968-69

On 26th January 2018, my dearest friend Deepak Uppal of Mahadji House of 67-68 batch gave us the baton at the Astachal. This ceremony marked the beginning of our preparations for the reunion of the batch of 68-69.

We were given a small batch-list from the school. We were determined to bring a battalion of minimum 50 batch-mates. Accordingly we started our efforts methodically. First we made 9 House coordinators who were asked to give names of their Housemates from their memory and / or from the House photograph. After completing the House-wise list, we divided the entire list into North, South, East, West, Central and Overseas zones. We then made zonal coordinators and gave them the zone-wise list.

We did not have the address and the contact details of many, so we made one missing-list of those whose contact details were not known. We also made one list of the deceased batch-mates, who had left us early. Our chairman, **Mr Raj Singh** headed zonal meets in each zone by inviting each batch-mate in the zonal meets. We did zonal meetings in Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Indore, Bhopal, Noida and Gurgaon. Our three batch-mates went abroad and contacted our overseas batch-mates.

We prepared a kit for them which included school's tie, crest, cap, T-shirt, sweat-shirt, two mugs and a personalized 24 carat gold-plated Swiss photo-frame for each. All this was packed in a school jute carry bag and sent by courier to each batch-mate. Also, at this stage we coordinated with school in making all the plans. We were a batch of 90. We were successful in tracing all but one batch-mate of ours. **Dr Pankaj Kumar Shrivastva** of Vivekanand House couldn't be traced. It was found that 18 of our batch-mates had left for their heavenly abode. We managed to contact 13 families of deceased batch-mates and invited them for the reunion.

The D-day arrived. Kolkata and Mumbai parties arrived in Gwalior along with me from Delhi. **Shamsher Singh Beri**, Prodosh & Niraj too arrived from USA and Canada on 23rd of January. Courtesy H.H. Maharaja J.M. Scindia Ji, we were invited to visit Jai Vilas Palace with our spouses on 24th of Jan at 3 pm. Our inaugural session in the evening was at 6.30 pm at the Usha Kiran Palace Hotel where due to certain preoccupation, His Highness could not come to grace the occasion. Principal, **Dr M.D. Saraswat** was the Chief Guest. We paid homage to 18 deceased batch-mates, the then Principal, Housemasters and other staff who left for the heavenly abode in last 50 years. Each one of us lit-up a candle near the standee bearing their names. This brilliant idea was of Madhav Awardee and former Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh, **Mr R. Parshuram**. This was followed by a musical evening, cake-cutting ceremony and dinner.

On 25th we organized a House-wise introduction and interaction of each batch-mate at the Central Park Hotel. Then, at 2.30 pm, we

arrived on the Fort and were warmly received by young Scindians. I was given the honor to introduce our entire batch in the assembly hall. As a batch, we presented four trophies to the school. Later in the evening we enjoyed the serenity of the Astachal. In the evening we went around the entire fort and saw the sound and light programme at the Man Singh Palace. To end the evening, there was a gala dinner and a cultural programme at the Central Park hotel on 25th night. On 26th, we reached the fort at sharp 8 am. Our marching contingent was led by two gallantry award winners: **Col. Harsh Kaul** and **Col. V.S. Guleria**; both of them, recipients of the Shaurya Chakra. A special ceremony was held at the Astachal after the march-past on 26th morning where we passed on the baton to **Mr Harish Gandhi** of 69-70 to mark the beginning of the next batch's reunion scheduled on the same dates in 2020. This was followed by a sumptuous breakfast at the Principal's residence after which we spent the entire day visiting Houses and soaking ourselves in nostalgia. On 26th Jan we had our farewell dinner with Ghazal night at the Central Park Hotel when we parted to meet again.

We all enjoyed the hospitality of school. They welcomed us with great warmth and love. We have no words to thank the Principal, **Dr M.D. Saraswat**, **Mr G.S. Bakshi** and all other teachers of the school. In the end I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to zonal coordinators who hosted zonal meets in different zones. Also, very special thanks to my dear friends: **R. Parshuram**, **Raj Singh**, **Ashok Lohia**, **Upendra Gupta**, **Jimmy Dastur**, **Shamsher Beri**, **Hemant Bhasin**, **Dr Nandkishore Taparia** and **Col Harsh Kaul** who contributed wholeheartedly towards the success of this reunion. Special thanks to spouses who participated in great numbers. We missed those who couldn't come due to weddings and other compelling priorities in their families. We're happy to inform that batch of 68-69 has set an amazing benchmark with one of the largest ever gatherings of Old Boys for any reunion. Lastly, 'thank you' to all my batch-mates for putting their faith in me and giving me the responsibility to coordinate this reunion.

Memories are the threads that hold together the patchwork of friendship. But every memory of friendship shared, even for a short time, is a treasure, like sunshine and warmth in our lives, like a cool breeze on a humid day, like a shower of rain refreshing the earth.

Anil Ghai
Chief Coordinator
Golden Jubilee Reunion 68-69



Get-together with spouses



Batch of 1968-69 with spouses

फोटोग्राफी और मैं

बचपन से ही मैं तस्वीरों से आकर्षित होता था। जब कक्षा में तस्वीरों को देखकर उनके बारे में लिखने के लिए आता था। यह कितनी पुरानी तस्वीर है या यह अभी हाल में ही खींची गई लगती है। इसे किसने खींचा होगा? क्यों खींचा होगा? यह सभी सवाल मेरे मन में आते थे। अब धीरे-धीरे तस्वीरों से मेरा लगाव बढ़ने लगा था। तब मैंने घर से एक कैमरा मँगवाया और तस्वीरें खींचना शुरू कर दिया लेकिन मुझे अपनी इस छिपी कला के बारे में तब पता चला जब एक दिन मैं गले में कैमरा लटकाए स्कूल में घूम रहा था तो मुझे एक गिलहरी दिखी जो मेरे बहुत नज़दीक तक आ गई थी। वह देखने में बहुत सुंदर थी तो मैंने उसकी तस्वीरें खींच ली। अब अपनी खींची हुई तस्वीरों को जब मैंने देखा तो मैं दंग रह गया। मुझे वे तस्वीरें बहुत अच्छी लगीं। अब वे तस्वीरें मैंने अपने प्रशिक्षक श्री दिनेश सीरिया सर को दिखाई। वे बहुत खुश हुए और उन्होंने मुझे शाबाशी दी और ऐसी तस्वीरें खींचते रहने को कहा। मुझे विद्यालय के फोटोग्राफी क्लब की सदस्यता भी मिल गई और इस प्रकार अपने इस हुनर को प्रदर्शित करने के लिए मुझे एक मंच मिल चुका था। इससे फोटोग्राफी के प्रति मेरी रुचि दुगुनी हो गई।

मेरी समझ से फोटोग्राफी वह कला है जिसे आज हर व्यक्ति अपना रहा है। हर व्यक्ति अपने जीवन के पलों को यादगार बनाने के लिए उन्हें कैद करके रखना चाहता है और वह माध्यम है - फोटोग्राफी। मोबाइल के कारण आज हर व्यक्ति के पास कैमरा है। वह उसका प्रयोग किस तरह करता है यह देखना महत्वपूर्ण है। फोटोग्राफ हम केवल सुबूत के लिए ही नहीं बल्कि भावों को सँभालकर रखने के लिए भी खींचते हैं। समय के साथ लोग बदलते रहते हैं परंतु उस तस्वीर का भाव सदा ही स्थिर रहता है। तस्वीरों में यह समय जो कैद हो जाता है वह हमेशा हमारे साथ बना रहता है और जब कभी भी हम किसी तस्वीर को देखते हैं तो उस तस्वीर से जुड़ी सारी बातें याद आ जाती हैं या यूँ कहें कि उस क्षण को तनिक छूने से ही उसके साथ जुड़ा सारा इतिहास जीवंत हो उठता है। तस्वीरों में वह ताकत होती है कि वह बीते हुए क्षणों को आपके सामने लाकर खड़ा कर देती है। तस्वीरें बोलती हैं क्योंकि उनको किसी न किसी उद्देश्य से खींचा जाता है इसलिए मैं कह सकता हूँ कि फोटोग्राफी एक सोच है, एक दर्शन है, एक दृष्टि है।

यूनानी भाषा में फोटो का अर्थ है प्रकाश, व ग्राफी का अर्थ है चित्र जो उचित प्रकाश में लिया गया हो। इसलिए इसके लिए एक निश्चित व निर्धारित समय व उस समय की प्रकाश व्यवस्था बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। रात में प्रकाश की व्यवस्था के लिए ही फ्लैश का प्रयोग किया जाता है। विशेषकर 'श्वेत-श्याम चित्र' अर्थात् 'ब्लैक एंड व्हाइट' फोटोग्राफी के लिए सुबह और

शाम का समय सबसे अच्छा रहता है जब प्रकाश टेढ़ा पड़ता है।

फोटोग्राफी के लिए धैर्य की अत्यंत आवश्यकता होती है। कभी-कभी कुछ तस्वीरें लेने के लिए आपको कई घंटों और कभी-कभी तो कई दिनों तक इंतजार करना पड़ता है। विशेषकर जीव-जंतुओं से संबंधित जानकारियाँ एकत्र करने में धैर्य की परीक्षा हो जाती है। कभी-कभी जंगलों में ट्राइपॉड लेकर भी घूमना पड़ता है। आपके पास हमेशा कैमरा होना चाहिए क्योंकि कुछ घटनाएँ बार-बार नहीं होती और ऐसे में यदि हमारे पास कैमरा न हुआ तो फोटोग्राफर मन मसोसकर रह जाता है। मेरे साथ भी ऐसा कई बार हुआ जब मुझे लगा कि इस समय मेरे पास कैमरा होना चाहिए था। ऐसे दृश्य हम दूसरों को दिखा नहीं पाते जिससे कि दूसरे भी उन घटनाओं के गवाह बन सकें।

फोटोग्राफी व्यक्ति को एक सकारात्मक दिशा भी प्रदान करती है जब आप अपने रोजमर्रा की ज़िंदगी से थक गए हो और फोटोग्राफी आपका शौक है तथा आप अपना मन बहलाना चाहते हैं तो आप कैमरा लेकर निकल जाइए तस्वीर खींचने। आप देखेंगे कि अपनी रुचि व एकाग्रता के कारण आप सभी तनाव को भूल जाएंगे।

फोटोग्राफी के विभिन्न क्षेत्र हैं परंतु मुझे व्यक्तिगत रूप से प्रकृति, भावनाओं, आर्किटेक्चर एवं टेक्सचर की तस्वीरों को खींचना पसंद है। यह ग्वालियर दुर्ग एक ऐसा स्थान है जो इन सभी क्षेत्रों में तस्वीर खींचने के लिए सर्वोत्तम स्थान है। यहाँ विभिन्न

प्रकार के जीव-जंतु, पक्षी, ऐतिहासिक इमारतें और उन पर बने विभिन्न प्रकार की चित्रकारी, उनका रूपाकार, उनमें उभरी कलाएँ सभी हमारा ध्यान खींचती हैं। हमारा यह जीवंत विद्यालय परिवार भी विभिन्न भावनाओं का विशाल भंडार है। इस प्रकार यह किला एक प्रकार से फोटोग्राफी के लिए आदर्श स्थान है। इस विद्यालय में कक्षा सात में ही मैंने प्रवेश लिया था, तब से यह स्थान मुझे प्रभावित करता रहा है।

विद्यालय में फोटोग्राफी का इतिहास बहुत पुराना है। छात्र फोटोग्राफी में बहुत रुचि लेते हैं। इसके लिए कोई निर्धारित समय नहीं होता है कि इसी समय में हमें फोटो खींचना है बल्कि कैमरा हमेशा आपके पास होना चाहिए। हमारे विद्यालय में एक 'फोटोग्राफी क्लब' है जिसमें बहुत से बच्चे अपने रुचि अनुसार नामांकन करवाते हैं। विभाग का कैमरा होने के साथ ही छात्रों के पास भी व्यक्तिगत कैमरे होते हैं जिनसे वे फोटोग्राफ खींचते हैं। पहले 'ब्लैक एण्ड व्हाइट' फोटोग्राफ का अधिक चलन था। रंगीन फोटोग्राफी बहुत कम चलती थी। विद्यालय के 'डार्क रूम' में ही फिल्म को साफ किया जाता था परंतु आज डिजिटल फोटोग्राफी का समय है।

पहले फिल्म बहुत अधिक लगते थे तो फोटो बहुत सँभलकर खींचे जाते थे परंतु अब डिजिटल फोटोग्राफी के कारण आपके पास चयन के लिए बहुत से चित्र होते हैं। आप जिन चित्रों को बड़ा करवाना चाहते हैं उन्हें बड़ा करवा सकते हैं। डिजिटल फोटोग्राफी में ज्यों-ज्यों नए-नए कैमरे आते जा रहे हैं फोटो का स्तर बढ़ता जा रहा है। अब बहुत दूर से भी छोटे-छोटे 'डीटेल' खींचे जा सकते हैं, उनमें सफाई बहुत होती है। फोटो खींचने के बाद उनमें रंग और प्रकाश को भी घटाया-बढ़ाया जा सकता है। ये सब तो तकनीकी बातें हैं परंतु सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि फोटो किस तरह से खींचा गया है और वह क्या संदेश दे रहा है? डिजिटल फोटोग्राफी के होते हुए भी उसकी

आत्मा आज भी वही है बस अब हम उसके रूप-रंग पर अधिक कार्य कर सकते हैं। विद्यालय में होने वाले विभिन्न समारोहों व उत्सवों में हम सभी को फोटोग्राफी करने का अवसर मिल जाता है। हमारे फोटोग्राफी क्लब की एक पत्रिका 'साइलेंस' पिछले दो वर्षों से विद्यालय के होनहार फोटोग्राफरों के लिए एक मंच प्रदान करती है। 'फाउंडर्स डे' के दिन हर वर्ष हम फोटोग्राफी की प्रदर्शनी लगाते हैं। सभी इसमें बढ़-चढ़कर हिस्सा लेते हैं और साल भर इसका इंतजार करते हैं और इसके लिए हम साल भर समय व प्रकाश व्यवस्था के अनुसार फोटोग्राफी करते रहते हैं।

फोटोग्राफी करने का कोई निश्चित समय नहीं होता सुबह व शाम की फोटोग्राफी का अपना अलग स्थान है ही लेकिन दिन या रात में किसी भी समय कैमरा लेकर निकल जाइए। मैं भी मौसम की परवाह किए बिना निकल पड़ता हूँ अपने हाथ में कैमरा लिए। अगर आज मुझसे कोई पूछे कि - 'अगर तुम्हारे सामने शेर आ गया तो तुम क्या करोगे' तो इस प्रश्न का मेरा जवाब यह होगा कि 'मैं सबसे पहले उसकी फोटो खींचूँगा फिर वहाँ से भागूँगा। फोटोग्राफी एक लोकप्रिय और आधुनिक कला है जिसको लेकर आज हर व्यक्ति चल रहा है। सेल्फी खींचना फोटोग्राफी के नए रूप में शामिल हो गया है। परंतु तस्वीर ऐसी हो कि वह अपने आप सब बयान कर दे। जो कुछ और जिस कोण से हम वस्तु या प्रकृति को नहीं देख सकते उस कोण से, उस नज़रिए से उसे कैमरे की आँखों से देखना ही फोटोग्राफी है। चाहे ज़ेन कैमरे कितने ही फोटो ले लें परंतु मनुष्य अपनी भावनाओं में बहकर जो तस्वीर खींचता है उसकी तो बात ही अलग होती है और होती रहेगी। मेरा नाता फोटोग्राफी से ऐसा ही बना रहेगा और आप भी फोटोग्राफी से जुड़कर देखिए।

रोहन खन्ना

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