

# THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT GWALIOR

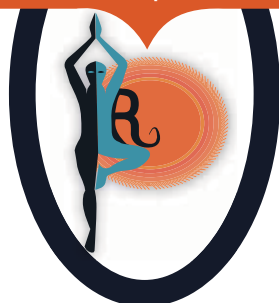
# REVIEW-19



FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2019 | WPP : REGN.NO.GWL.DN.11

## EDITORIAL

Suyash Bansal | X C  
Memoy Mishra | X C



The Scindia School celebrated its 122nd Founder's Day on 21st October 2019. 20th October 2019 was celebrated as the Parents' Day and Old Boys' Day. On the morning of 20th October, the entire fraternity saw the culmination of the first academic term of the session with an interaction between the parents and teachers during the Parent- teacher Interaction. The Chief Guest for the day, Dr Deborah Ford, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin, Parkside, USA; was welcomed by the Principal, followed by Dr Ford's informal interaction with the students and parents of classes XI and XII. The highlight of the interaction was higher studies and career choices abroad.

Meanwhile, Old Boys from various corners of the world marked their arrival on the Fort with the football and cricket matches played in the sprawling fields of the school. Following lunch, Dr Ford lighted the ceremonial lamp and inaugurated the exhibition. The Chief Guest was thrilled by the exemplary potential of the *Scindians* and extended her heartfelt congratulations to all for such a well-laid display of exhibits. The guests thereafter moved to the FRC Lawn for high tea, while the exhibition remained open to the parents and other guests.

The evening was an assortment of an array of performances. The Madhav Pavilion reverberated with the echo of the musical notes of the glorious Brass Band of the School. Then, followed the performances of impeccably talented *Scindians*, who impressed the audience with a Folk Dance and a Yoga presentation. The concluding concert of the evening was that of Meet Brothers (Ex - Jayaji) who came to the show with the jackets marked 'Scindian'.

The morning of 21st October 2019 was special. The mark of the 122nd Founder's Day was evident when Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat, welcomed the DSP of 1994 batch, Mr Pankaj Tibrewala who unfurled the school flag amidst the sound of the bugle. The Morning Assembly concluded with the release of various publications.

In the evening the Chief Guest, Dr Leela Samson and His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia along with the other guests inspected the exhibition. The Brass Band greeted them at the Shukla Memorial Open Air Theatre. The cultural evening started with the School Song, followed by the School Orchestra. Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat, presented the Annual Report and shared with the audience the achievement of The Scindia School being announced as the no. 1 Boys Residential School in the country.

His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia addressed the gathering and reiterated the vision of The Scindia School nestling amongst itself the leaders of tomorrow. His Highness spoke about the commitment to sustain the ethos of the school and reminded the young *Scindians* that greater success in life comes through helping and empowering others.

The Chief Guest of the evening, Dr Leela Samson, thanked the entire fraternity for being splendid hosts and expressed her joy in being a part of such a wonderful event in a school that "believes in excellence". She shared stories about her diverse life experiences right from her childhood, owing to the fact of her parents belonging to different communities.

The Madhav Awardee for the year 2019, Mr Tarun Bakshi, upon his address, asked the young boys to move ahead in life with conviction. He appealed

to the *Scindians* to celebrate the notions of innovation, risk taking ability, perseverance and hard work as keys to success.



Inauguration of Exhibition



Release of Magazines



Inauguration of Exhibition



## FOUNDER'S DAY SPEECHES - 21st OCTOBER 2019

### Principal's Report

Honourable Chief Guest, Ms Leela Samson, President, Board of Governors, His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Members of the Board of Governors, Dr Deborah Ford, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin, Parkside USA; Madhav Awardees, distinguished guests, parents, Old Boys, my colleagues, dear students and ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to welcome each one of you to the 122nd Founder's Day of this wonderful school.

It is my utmost honour to welcome our Chief Guest, Padmashri Ms Leela Samson, a person of exceptional grace, humility, sensitivity and undeniable professional excellence. Apart from being a distinguished artist, an author, teacher, social reformist, she also interprets nuances of life through dance. She has received the prestigious Sangeet Natak Academy award. It is our privilege to welcome such an exceptional person today. Thank you, Ma'am, for gracing the Fort with your presence. Ma'am, with your permission, I would like to share the highlights of the year gone by.

The purpose of sharing this report is not only to give an account of the school's progress to its stakeholders, it is also to assure and re-assure you that the school is working tirelessly towards the holistic development of our children. As a testimony to the increased thrust in all spheres of engagement, with all humility, I inform you that The Scindia School positions itself as the Number 1 Boys' Residential School in India in the Education World Rankings. 'Future 50 Schools Shaping Success', recognised us as the best residential school of the country and we were called The 'Green School of the Year' by Scoo News, Amity University and India Didactics Education also recognized our sincere efforts with accolades. Adobe India honored our institution as Adobe Creative Showcase School. It is with pride that I say that we are part of an elite group of schools that exemplify the best of teaching and learning in the world today.

With academics being the prime focus of our endeavours, special academic sessions were designed for students which culminated in record breaking feats of success this year. In class XII, the aggregate result shot upto 88% with 25 students scoring 95% and above. 27 students scored 100% marks in their respective subjects. In class X the average percentage remained 86% with 13 students scoring 95% and above. These were considerably good results. Nevertheless, we need to strive further. I wish to put it on record my appreciation and gratitude for the efforts and team spirit exhibited by every faculty member without an exception. A special thanks to Mr R K Kapoor, Mr Dharendra Sharma and our Vice Principal, Ms Smita Chaturvedi who guided and coordinated tirelessly round the year. Thank you my friends.

An improvement in the quality of placements in institutions across India and abroad testifies the efforts that we have undertaken. Around 20 students have taken admission in foreign universities- Daksh Gupta and Shubham Agarwal secured admission in King's College and University of Westminster, respectively, on 100% scholarship through ISH, London; 18 other students have taken admission in prestigious foreign universities like NanYang Technological University, Singapore; University of St Andrews; University of British Columbia, University of Wisconsin - Park Side, and Queensland University of Technology to name a few. And most of them have received scholarships ranging from 35% to 60%.

In the field of sports, the success story continued. I take pride in announcing that Sachin Chaudhary of Class X participated in the Commonwealth Crossbow Shooting Championship in Thailand. He secured two Gold medals in U - 17 and Senior Team Category. Many congratulations! Well done my boy!

Within the last 12 months, more than 200 students have participated in one or the other sport activities and many of them brought back laurels as well. Toshani Agarwal, Angad Sahni and Manas Parashar bagged medals in the State Shooting Championship. I am proud to share with you that Rohit Gond has secured the first position in the 100 mts., 200 mts and Hurdle race in the IPSC Athletics recently held at Punjab Public School, Nabha in which 23 schools took part with more than 650 participants. During the same event, Dhan Bhadur Karki came first in Cross Country and took a bronze medal in 3000 mts. Heartiest congratulations to all participants!

In a school like ours, education is not limited to the classroom and thus nurturing



Presentation of the Annual Report

the students holistically remains our primary focus. Please allow me to share some of the achievements in this area too:-

The school successfully hosted IPSC Yoga Competition for boys and girls in U-14, U- 17 and U-19 category and the IPSC Band Competition. The Scindia School became the winner of the IPSC Band Competition 2018-19. I wish to express my gratitude to Mr Ramesh Sharma for his dedication and perseverance for the last two decades.

Three students (Aditya Parashar, Lav Asrani, and Karnik Kanojia) went to do a summer internship for 15 days in Delhi Technical University on Data Analytics & Machine Learning. Arya Adhikari, Namsang Limboo, Sarvagya Goel, Uttam Rai and Abhey Khanna bagged awards in Assam Valley. Prathvi Mishra won the Best Performance award for the events Vine Video and Ennuncio at Wynberg Allen School. Krishnam Purwar, Ujjwal Malik, Vishnudeep Tyagi and Ujjwal Mehrotra bagged the award for Film Making in the COSTACH Enclave held at Mayo College Girls' School. Vedang Nag, Memoy Mishra, Satwik Goyal, Toshani Agarwal, Pranav Wadhwa, and Vishnudeep Tyagi became the winners at Maharani Gayatri Devi School.

The Scindia School secured the first position in the Clay Modelling Competition, Vidya Devi Jindal School. Suprabha Adhikari was awarded the title of 'The Best Chief Whip' at the I-Parliament. Abaan Khan and Yash Arya were declared Zonal Finalists in the National Psychology Quiz.

Aditi Joshi, Suyash Bansal, Ranjan Nagpal, Pratham Srivastava, Nischay Agarwal, Shivansh Bansal and Ujjwal Mehrotra bagged the Overall Running Trophy in Vivek High School for the Business Quiz, Innoventure and Debates. Aditya Parashar, Keshav Dudhani and Utkarsh Goyal bagged the overall runners-up trophy in the Mohinder Bilingual Debate at Pinegrove School. Many more to go! Nevertheless the school also organized a series of literary, social, public speaking and cultural events to give an opportunity to the students to discover their unique potential. The opportunities comprised of 16 One Act Plays, 1 in English and 1 in Hindi were staged by each House: The Annual Hindi Play -Tughlaq, and The Annual English Play- A Midsummer Night's Dream had a cast and crew of nearly 150 students. I congratulate Mr Ganpat Swaroop Pathak and Mr Saurabh Kaul for their wonderful effort.

The 3rd Scindia Literary Fest saw 9 renowned authors grace the Fort. The first Inter House Choreography Competition proved to be an excellent experiment, all thanks to our young star teacher, Mr Parash Moni Dutta.

In the Mrs Russel Science Fair - "Science in Motion" held at Welham Girls' School, our school team bagged the overall trophy. In addition to this, the Solo Singing Competition, IT Week, Workshop on Ham Radio, 46th Platinum Jubilee All India Inter School English Debates, H H Madhav Rao Scindia Inter School Hindi Debates, Inter School Quiz and Triathlon, the Math Quiz and the I Can Conference were held and the list goes on.

During the summer vacation, two cycling expeditions of 5 to 7 days' duration marked the Adventure Camps. The school organized a Scuba Diving Certificate Course in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a Trekking Expedition to Annapurna Circuit, Residential Service Project at Spiti and an Adventure Course at Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering at Manali. In all, 27 students and 5 teachers participated only in these courses.

In the coveted IAYP awards 12 students received the Gold Award, 20 students received the Silver Award and 32 the Bronze Award this year.

In Social Service, the students and teachers of The Scindia School lived upto the ideals of the true spirit of education through participation in Community Service and Round Square Projects. Some good initiatives were undertaken. Our school has undertaken a project in Ladakh for 4 years. This year from 23rd June to 9th July, 33 delegates from 7 schools, including one international school from UK participated in this Service Project. I would like to make a special mention of my colleague, Mr Vishesh Sahai, who has played an instrumental role in leading and nurturing this project for the last 4 years.

Ladies and gentlemen, I take pride in informing you that a boy in the school spends almost 2 hours of service per week for the entire year. Maintaining greenery, digging pits for tree plantation, campus cleaning, clearing, and constructing water channels to maintain the ancient reservoirs are some of the many initiatives undertaken. This year, we also hosted 70 delegates from 10 schools representing all the continents for the Round Square International Pre-Conference for 3 days in the beginning of October.

Since last Founders, a lot has happened in the infrastructure works in the school campus. Renovation of Jankoji and Dattaji Houses and Madhav House was successfully completed. Currently, the renovation work is in progress in Ranoji House. Furniture & furnishing works of SOBA House shall also be commencing shortly. Both the Squash Courts have been renovated with a remarkable outcome. We have successfully completed relaying of roads with pavers for the entire stretch in the North block. This has indeed given a great facelift to the campus. Swimming Pool was also re- opened for the use of students after repairs. Transformation of the landscape of Junior Campus is a mark of our wholehearted effort towards creating a student friendly campus. In addition, several new projects are at hand, like sports and academic infrastructure which will make us one of the best globally. All thanks to the President Board of Governors, His Highness Jyotiraditya Scindia. Thanks a lot!

"A learning curve is essential to growth". In accordance with this dictum, this year, the faculty and the students were involved in several enriching and experiential learning engagements. Keeping with the time, every adult of our campus attended a workshop on the POCSO. Vice Principal, Ms Smita Chaturvedi and Mr Ashish Arora have undertaken a PG certification course in Educational Leadership and Management from the University of Nottingham, UK.

More than 20 teachers attended workshops organized by CBSE this year. The entire faculty participated in an off-site programme on 'Self Engineering' and Psychogeometrics; enhancing their student management skills.

Mr Parash Moni Datta was announced as a top 50 rank holder in the CENTA Teaching Professionals' Olympiad 2018.

Throughout the year a multitude of workshops were organized in order to provide a varied spectrum of exposure to our students. Some of the workshops that took place at the Fort were cyber security, traffic safety and security rules, a session on 'appreciating differences', a motivational course on aspirations, ability, ambition & achievement, a debating workshop, a session on mealtime manners and dining etiquette, a series of workshops on design thinking, sessions in descriptive writing, profile writing and developing creative content, just to mention a few.

Mr Troy D Cline, Director STEM Innovation Lab for NASA Science Education Consortium, and Goddard Space Flight Centre motivated the students and teachers during his visit to the school.

A public school like ours takes pride in remaining a step ahead by means of exposing our children to the light of new knowledge and learning. We also have a sensitive body of parents and Old Boys who steer us through such endeavours. A parent, Mr Pakala, conducted a workshop for students to cultivate interest in artificial intelligence.

This year 12 of our boys visited schools for exchange programme in different countries like Australia, Germany, Ghana, Kenya & Nepal. Presently, James Floye, a student from St Philips College, Australia, is staying with us under the Cultural Exchange Programme.

A number of our distinguished Old Boys visited us throughout the year and we were immensely enriched by the wealth of their experience. We received support from the Old Boys on every front. Mr Kumar Sanjay Singh, Mr Shashwat Alok, Dr Sudhir S Bleoria, and Dr Timir Banerjee visited the school under the Scindia Old Boys in Residence Programme.

Old Boys also continue to bring laurels to the school like:

Former CAG, Vijay Kumar Shunglu (Ranoji - 1956) received Padma Bhusan Award for his contribution to the civil services.

Mr Vijay Jaini (Mahadji - 1976) has won the 'Over 60 Squash Nationals' title held in Pune in June 2019. Mr Hitendra Ghosh (Ravindra 1967 and a Madhav Awardee) received the lifetime achievement award for sound recording at the Indian Recording Arts Award (IRAA).

Aligarh Muslim University Honoured Mr Sanjiv Saraf (Shivaji -1975), the founder of Rekhta Foundation with the prestigious "Sir Syed Excellence Award" for making an outstanding contribution to the promotion of Urdu language.

While we welcomed several new teachers in our family, we also bid farewell to some of our old colleagues-

Ms Supreet Bakshi saw a promotion in her career and joined the Mayo College Girls' School as the Vice Principal. She was the first lady Housemaster for a Senior House and teacher incharge for Round Square Conference.

Dr Maitreyee Bishnoi retired from school after 26 years of dedicated service. Mr Amar Nath Jaiswal after giving 37 years of devoted service and Mr V R Guruji retired after completion of two decades of service. We bid farewell to Mr Nitin Chand and Ms Preethi Chand as well.

We wish them the best for the next part of their journey.

In the end, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the President and Members of the Board of Governors for their support and guidance. I would like to put on record my appreciation for my colleagues from the academic, administrative and services wings for their tireless efforts for the welfare of the students. My personal gratitude to Vice Principal, Ms Smita Chaturvedi and Bursar, Wg Cdr Saxena for their constant support. The team of Prefects with the support of their batch mates and the members of the School Council proved themselves to be extremely worthy while discharging their duties and meeting their commitments.

Thank you all.

A special mention of Aditya Parashar and his team. God bless you all.

I am also grateful to the government and civil administration, police, army, air force authorities and media for their constant support. And last but not the least, all the parents and Old Boys for your continued support, trust and affection.

Thank you.



Orchestra



## Welcome Speech by H H Maharaja J M Scindia

Our Chief Guest tonight, Padmashree Leela Samson ji; Members of the Board of Governors of The Scindia School; our Madhav Awardee tonight, Tarun Bakshi ji; Principal, Madhav Saraswat ji; Vice Principal, Smita Chaturvedi ji; Members of the faculty, alumni, my young students present here this evening, parents, ladies and gentlemen; welcome to the 122nd Founder's Day of The Scindia School. And a special welcome to the classes of 1994 and 2009 who are attending their 25th and 10th Reunion, respectively, welcome back not only to The Scindia School, welcome back home.

I am going to start with an allegory, of a story- a bird once landed on the branch of a tree. The bird rested, enjoyed the view from the safety and security of the strength of the branch, the shelter of the tree and just as the bird was getting used to its environment, along came a very strong gust of wind and the tree swayed with such intensity that it seemed that the branch would snap. But the bird was not worried. And not worried for it knew the important truth and the truth was that even without the branch, the bird knew it was able to fly with the power beneath its wings and the allegory is exactly for all of us. The young boys and some girls present here this evening, that we are capable of so much more than what we realize in our everyday lives. We can release the grasp of the structures that withhold us, around us and then you can see how much you can fly underneath your own power. What is really permanent rests within you, the belief in your unique abilities and therefore the notion that never stop believing in yourself. Education as a tool and a process is what equips us to convert that belief into success.

One should never be apprehensive of failure but instead should never lose faith in ourselves and our aspirations. It is quality education that can maximize your capability and enable true emancipation. And it was exactly this vision that led to the founding of The Scindia School a hundred and twenty two years ago, in 1897. It was this vision, that led to the building of this environment which would nestle amongst themselves the leaders of tomorrow. And it is with great sense of pride today, that we stand here in the amphitheatre, exclaiming the notion that we at The Scindia School have become the premier educational boarding institution of the country standing at No 1 in the Education World Ranking 2019. So I would like the Principal, the Vice Principal and the faculty to stand up and let's have a standing ovation for all of them. Can I now have the students of The Scindia School stand up and can we have a standing ovation for our students. And finally, last but not the least can I have the Members of the Board stand up and can we have a standing ovation for this Board which is so committed to our *alma mater*.

It is truly the achievement of us as a family- the pooling of our energies, the pooling of our resources, the pooling of our commitments, the pooling of our strengths, to balance each other's weaknesses, to bring out the best in us, to be able to perform as a team, that allowed us to attain this hallowed status. But now that we are here, the challenge is to stay here. And that is what we have to commit to ourselves today. How can I use my abilities to empower others, and that ladies and gentlemen is a notion that is embedded very deeply inside the soul of every *Scindian* who becomes a proud Indian.

The world today has become a very tense place and in this environment our philosophy of 'vasudhaiv kutumbakam' where India has always considered herself to be the a part, rather than be apart from the world community. That unified force, deep within our souls is what must face the world today when internationally, the environment is becoming more and more exclusive. Along with this capability also, I must mark, we also have a great challenge before the world, that of the environment. The degradation of our environment today confronts a crisis for humanity across the globe. The 87,000 fires that we have heard about in the Amazon; the fact that in the last 15 years, our neighbouring country Nepal, which is in many ways the lung for many parts of Asia, has lost 25% of forest cover; the very fact that the Arctic today has lost almost 40% of her ice caps. The very fact that today in the Antarctic, the glaciers are thinning at close to a rate of two kms per year, at which rate sea levels will rise to 200 feet, disrupting coastal life across the world. And then, for today it is important that we as an institution also rise to this challenge, and we must make it our goal to incorporate environmental awareness in our lives here at the Fort.



To live with sustainable development, as part of our curriculum, our schools and hostels must become a zero waste regenerating space, where waste is segregated at source and either recycled or bio composed into manure for our use. Greta Thunberg, the environmental activist, a visionary in her thinking said once and I quote "The eyes of all future generations are upon us and we cannot afford to let them down." So, today as the world we know it is constantly under threat and a paramount for each one of us as global citizens of this world, is to safeguard whatever is left through enterprise, advocacy, policies or legislations. But all of that must begin here at The Scindia School.

We are a land of several languages, several cultures, and several traditions. Different ideas, forms of literature, art and architecture have thrived in our country. Multiplicity has always been our hallmark. It is an indispensable part of what it means for us to be humans. And we may not have always agreed on matters but the systems thrive as long as we agree on the ground rules of how we tend to disagree. Evelyn Hall once said and I quote "I may not approve of what you say, but I shall fight till my last breath for your right to say it." And this essence embodies the idea of India, modern or traditional, new or old and the sanctity of expression and that idea of expression is best embodied by our Chief Guest tonight- Leela Samson ji, a renowned Bharatnatyam dancer, choreographer, author, an actor, a recipient of several national and international recognition and awards including the Padmashree. Her work and her achievements are a true manifestation, how our richness as well as the beauty that lies in our cultural values and her culture.

The significance of art, in a student's holistic development can never be overstated. Dance is used in many schools as a technique to improve social relationships, between children, between faculty and students and it is something that enriches our culture. And therefore it is intrinsic to our existence as humans in our quest to create a meaning in our lives. Art allows the process to take place. It is deep in the heart of every culture throughout history and art, I believe is the pulse of humanity. Through her work Mrs Samson has expanded the vocabulary of Bharatnatyam. Her approach lies in the traditional and the contemporary and blending them seamlessly. And this has led to placing our cultural art form on the map of the world. Her successes signify an important learning for all of us that any art form can never be restricted to a single community, be it linguistic, be it religious or cultural but spans across all communities, most importantly, as a unifying force. I believe, Mrs Samson truly embodies the ideals and the principles that we wish to inculcate in every *Scindian* and we wish to behold in every Indian. Her achievements are a great reminder that arts and cultures have always attained a significant position in every society, every civilization and shall continue to do so until the end of time. On behalf of the school, I express my gratitude for her giving the time to be with us this evening and kindly join me in welcoming Mrs Samson to The Scindia School.

Thank you very much.

## Glimpses of the Founder's Day





## Glimpses of the Founder's Day



## Address by the Chief Guest - Dr Leela Samson

I must admit I am rather overwhelmed at this amazing experience. His Highness, Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia; Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat; staff, faculty, distinguished guests, Members of the Board, and students; it is truly an honour to be here on this very happy occasion- 122nd Founder's Day of this illustrious school. Hearty congratulations on being the no. 1 Residential School in the country! I join every one of you and all the past students here, present today but all over the country, who have been proud to study here, a school that believes in tradition, in imparting values beyond a mere engagement of subjects.

Forgive me for telling you a slightly personal story. I feel extremely blessed to have been born to parents who shared in two religions, one Jewish, one Catholic, both who shared two states- Maharashtra and U.P.; who shared two languages, Marathi and Urdu, who shared cultures, who shared different food habits. It is an opportunity to be born into such a family, only to be able to appreciate the vastness of India. I was further blessed that my father belonged to the Defence Services. What an illustrious umbrella that is, an umbrella that brings under it every shade of India and who live in harmony together, where each of us lived in front of each other and usually walked into each other's homes, in our festival days they came to our home.

The next umbrella that I was fortunate to live under was the theosophical umbrella- I went to the Annie Besant School into what was then called the Madras, now called Chennai. A school started in memory of Dr Annie Besant, a wonderful thought process, a wonderful philosophy where every man practised his own religion but believed in the truth of every other religion. And then I am fortunate and thrice blessed to be an artist because in this country, we artists sit together in total harmony, each accompanying the other if you like. I have five musicians, they could be from any region or caste but we make art together.

When I joined the Besant School I was about nine years old and Madam Montessori who had been invited to India by my guru, Shrimati Rukmani Devi and her husband, Dr Arundale. She said that children between the ages of six and twelve are very receptive. When the Principal Mr Krishnaratnam was passing by she complained to him and said "I have asked her to stay out of class because she was not in the class when we began the class." And then he said "Would you like to inspect- I am going around on my inspection of the school. Would you like to accompany me?" And he held my hand. And it was the proudest day of my schooling because he took me around the classes where I wouldn't have been seen as somebody punished outside the class and here I was with the Principal enjoying the scenery, going from class to class and he would ask me "What do you think about this? What do you think about that?" It was the most amazing education.

When you grow up in a traditional gurukulam as I did when I learnt Bharatnatyam, you hear the words-*bhakti*, *shraddha*, *sadhana*, *riyaaz*, *swabhavam*. You were actually unaware of what the meaning was. Nobody explained these words to you. But they kept pressing upon you. And when you translate them you find that the English language is so poor that it cannot affect and translate words like this. You could say *bhakti* is devotion- interested in what you do, that *shraddha* is trailing relentlessly to achieve that. What is *sadhana*? *Sadhana* cannot be expressed or explained in one word. But I would say that it is meditative practice- mindful *riyaaz*, mindful energy put to the same job everyday. And I have to tell you that at five in the morning when I take my dog for a walk in the morning in Chennai, it is dark, but outside every house is the housewife herself, or *aayama* putting *kolam* outside the house, quietly washing the area just outside the front door and having cleaned it making this rice powder, beautiful *kolam*. Within half an hour of her doing it there are insects and birds coming to partake of it but there is also a cycle that goes over it, a car wheel that will destroy it very soon and soon the sun be up and remove it from sight. But every day, 365 days a year, throughout her lifetime she will put that *kolam*, that is *sadhana*. What is *swabhava*? I would like to just read to you a quote, of somebody called Dr Ananda Kumaraswamy, and he wrote this. "Each race contributes something essential to the world civilization in the course of its own self- expression and self realization. The character built up in solving its own problems, in the experience of its own misfortune is itself a gift that each



Dr Leela Samson

country offers the world." The essential contribution of India then is simply her Indian-ness. Her greatness would be to substitute or have substituted for this own character or *swabhava*, a cosmopolitan veneer, for then indeed she must go before the world empty handed. There is no shame in seeking different paths. Every independent thinker and philosopher walked this land and sowed the seed of his philosophy here. Every man chooses his God and changes it at will as long as it sustains him. This is not so only with religions but with political affiliations and with social contracts as well.

Faith is not an entitlement of privilege, that is what I believe. It is duty, it is service, the only bondage is to birth and death, that one thing is true, the rest is what ones makes of it, interpreting ones faith is prerogative of every individual. But it must be done privately, diverted inwards to an inner being. What it now is in India, I am sorry to say, is loud proclamation, vociferous, dogmatic and public display.

Young women in India are trying to break from rigid, unfair, unimaginative social practices. I would like to talk to you about one incident that happened with a television news channel in Tamil Nadu on the International Women's day. They wanted to discuss and it was an idea mooted by married women where old and young, they wanted to discuss whether the *thaali*, significant of the marriage, whether the *thaali* should be worn by women or not. It is a relevant discussion as far as the women were concerned but hooligans came later, attacked the channel office and destroyed what was there. Eminent historian, Romila Thapar came out with an editorial the next day and this is what she said "In the name of hurt religious sentiments the real attempt is to prevent the emergence of a society that can think for itself, that can openly discuss issues that confront it, that can effectively understand the massive process of historical change it is undergoing." And I would like to end with a very beautiful story that I read- a version of the Ramayana, written as a tribal book in India. We think art is not moving forward but listen to the beautiful interpretation. Sita at the end of the Ramayana walks into the forest. And there she hears the *veena* being played most beautifully by somebody and she comes to a clearing in the forest and she finds that it is no one other than the Ravana playing the *veena*. So she goes upto him and she says "Can you teach me how to play the *veena* in this beautiful fashion?" And Ravana says, "Of course I will. I will teach you how to play it as though you were playing your own life." And so saying, he picked up the *veena* and handed it to Sita and Sita said, "In that case put it down, I would like to take my life into my own hands." Amazing, a tribal version of the Ramayana. This is India. I would like to leave you with this suggestion that not only the women of India, but each of us picks up that *veena* and plays it for the service and love of others.

Thank you.



## Citation of the Madhav Awardee - Mr Tarun Bakshi (Ex-Chaitanya, 1965)

The Scindia School believes in nurturing the students and inculcating the *Scindian* ethos so that they 'carry the bold imprint of this institution' in their life as well as in their conduct. As an institution, we take pride in the success and recognition of the partakers and acknowledge such alumni, who have proved themselves to be exceptions in not only their chosen field of occupation but also in serving the society and contributing meaningfully to it. Mr Tarun Bakshi, a technocrat and an entrepreneur, is one such accomplished person.

Mr Tarun Bakshi entered the portals of The Scindia School in the year 1962 and joined the Chaitanya House in Grade IX. The time he spent in The Scindia School left an indelible and enriching mark on his personality. He excelled in studies and passionately represented his House in the field of Sports as well. He completed his graduation from Hindu College and then moved on to do Chemical Engineering.

In his initial days of work, he spent a year with NIPHA Exports, Kolkata, after which he relocated to the United States of America and worked with the Impulse-Montana trading company for the next three years. Mr Tarun Bakshi founded Triburg, which is the largest apparel-buying agency in the Indian-subcontinent. It is the only company in India providing sourcing and technical services for the complete range of apparel products and accessories.

While growing leaps and bounds as an entrepreneur, Mr Bakshi simultaneously emerged as an authentic embodiment of the Scindian value of 'Service Before Self'. He encapsulates this spirit in the working of his company as well, hence Triburg has donated 4.7 crores to a charitable trust, which provides education to over 7500 children in 9 slums in New Delhi along with health care and infant day-care facilities. He also runs schools for the needy and the underprivileged. Mr Tarun Bakshi derives his inspiration from the selfless devotion of Mother Teresa to transform lives.

His friends and colleagues describe Mr Bakshi as "An excellent man manager who gives enough space to professionals to grow. He is down to earth and is a genuine person, who prefers to remain low-key and contributes heavily towards the education and health of the under-privileged."

Mr Tarun Bakshi, is thus a persona, who is dedicated to serve people with uninterrupted conviction. His generous heart and fierce determination is the driving force that has led him to achieve his vision in life. The Scindia School takes pride in acknowledging such a spirit of enterprise, infused with a sense of service, in a man who has become the epitome of the values inculcated at the school. The Scindia School confers on Mr Tarun Bakshi, the Madhav Award as an Old Boy of eminence, for the year 2019.



## Awards and Recognitions 2018-19

Awards	Awardees	Awards	Awardees
1. Umang Mathur Memorial Trophy (for the best Class XI Scholar)	Aditya Parashar (Jayaji House)	9. The Khurshid Lakdawala, Jr. House Efficiency Shield	Dattaji House
2. Mahendra Mishra Memorial Trophy (for the best Class XI Sportsman)	Uttam Rai (Ranoji House)	10. Guru Hargovind Singh (Gurdwara) Trophy (for the Best House in Academics)	Shivaji House
3. Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia II Medal (for All Round Proficiency)	Aditya Parashar (Jayaji House)	11. Nepal Trophy (for the Best House in Games)	Jayappa House
4. Sam Pitroda Award (2017-18) (for the Best Innovative Project- 'Brainy Highway')	Harshvardhan S. Jadon (Daulat House) Dewesh Karan (Jayappa House)	12. The Scindia School, Inter House General Efficiency Shield	Mahadji House
5. The R. B. Pawar Medal (for scoring the highest percentage of marks in Mathematics in Class XII)	Saksham Goel (Shivaji House)	13. Madhav Award	Mr Tarun Bakshi (Ex-Chaitanya, 1965)
6. Governor's Medal (for scoring Highest Percentage in Class XII)	Dhruv Periwal (Mahadji House) Sidharth Jain (Shivaji House)	14. Milestone award - In recognition of dedicated service to the School continuously for over Twenty years, a Silver Salver and an honorarium of Rs. 50,000/-	Mr Aloke Ghosh
7. Field Marshal Cariappa Shield (for the Best Sportsman)	Zigme Gurung (Jayappa House)	15. Milestone award - In recognition of dedicated service to the School continuously for over Ten years, a Silver Salver and an honorarium of Rs. 25,000/-	Ms Niharika Kulshreshtha Mr Kamlesh Singh
8. Maharaja Jeevajirao Scindia Medal (for All Round Proficiency in Class XII)	Himanshu Moojoriya (Ranoji House)		



## Address by Mr Tarun Bakshi - Madhav Awardee 2019

Honourable Chief Guest, Dr Leela Samson; Mr Scindia, President, Board of Governors; Members of the Board; Respected Principal Sir, Dr Saraswat; teachers and Members of Staff, distinguished guests, Old Boys, dear students, esteemed parents, a very good evening to you all. My dear *Scindians*, you had a rollicking time last evening and today has been a very interesting day also. Now, I have been asked to inflict ten minutes of torture on you. So please bear with me! I am deeply honoured to be considered for the Madhav Award and thank the Board of Governors of the school for this. I received the news of the nomination through Shiv Shankar Menon when I was travelling in Europe and for a moment I thought that there had been a mistake or that the illustrious Board of Governors were having an indulgent moment, to consider me- an average student in a traditional education system for such a prestigious accolade. Nevertheless, I whole heartedly accept that I am greatly moved by your generosity. I realize that this award has given me much to think about as I reflect on my journey as an ordinary school boy into an entrepreneur and allow me some time to reminisce about The Scindia School so very dear to my heart. I am overwhelmed by my sense of pride at being associated with the best residential school in India.

The foundations of a person are grounded in their childhood experiences. And so many of us here have our roots in the value system here in The Scindia School. The education that I received in Scindia provided a platform for building my future. As I mention, academically, I was nothing special. But what I learnt here was how to relate to the world around, proved invaluable to me. Like many of you here I formed emotional bonds with teachers and non-teaching staff. The *dhobi*, the dining hall staff, your peers, your seniors, and teachers led by the Principal are one big joint family teaching you to share to respect the authority; the importance of punctuality and the sense of self independence. Through our various trips called *shramdaan* we learnt the value of giving our labour to improve other people's lives. Through our Spartan living at school, we were prepared how to live happily without the luxuries of life. Friendships that are created here last a lifetime. The pride we carry as *Scindians* is immense. What I would like to share with you this evening are some of the key learnings of my life which I hope gives you some pause for thought.

Firstly, while you all enjoy your time here, I urge all of you to pay special attention to the two disciplines- Mathematics and two languages, Hindi and English. I wish I could add Sanskrit to the list, a language so pristine and elegant but one that escaped me entirely. How I passed that exam shall remain between my invigilator, Mr Pawar and me. May God rest his soul in peace! As challenging as it is, Math teachers apply a logical approach to problems. Everything that we are doing today is based on algorithms, and software is driving our lives whether you wish to acknowledge that or not. Languages teach us something equally important- ability to communicate effectively and help you express your ideas cogently. There is no substitute for being able to connect with the people of Bharat in Hindi and language of India which is English. Secondly, while you are here soak in as much as everything you can avail of at school, whether it is sports, studies, extra- curricular activities, because how you spend your time today, what habits you form, will be how your life turns out. So much as you dream of what will happen and who you want to be, everything you do in the future has its roots in what you are doing today.

As ambitious young students I am sure all you want to be is achieve and excel in future. Well I shall share with you the recipe for success. Companies like Google, Apple Uber; applications like Whatsapp are all a reflection of what is going on around us in terms of creativity and innovation. A very young college graduate started a company called Oyo Hotels four years ago and the concept was very simple - how to consolidate hotel rooms across India. Today, that company is worth 10 Billion US dollars, all in four years. So you can imagine what innovation and creativity is doing in our lives. Financial rewards are allowing more to creative people than people with degrees. My organization, the creative side of the business has much higher remuneration than the marketing side that employs MBAs. So there is something here to speak of. 'R' is the next word in the acronym. It stands for risk taking. As young people today you have the privilege of much broader aspirations than my generation. So don't be afraid to follow paths that are unconventional. True satisfaction comes when you love what you do rather than pushing yourself to conform. I'll share a personal story here, I take you back to 1975. I'm employed in a very stable environment, in an engineering company

and I decide to get into the apparel industry. When I shared the news of this change with my family my parents were first shocked, and then appalled. He said "All these years of learning for your degree in chemical engineering to buy a post-graduate degree in foreign trade and you want to become a *darzi*?" That was the perception of the industry. It was in its nascent form and really a cottage industry so nobody thought of any future but I stuck to my perception that this might become something very big and I can say with pride that that industry has awarded me with lots in life. The third letter is



the 'P' for perseverance. For anything to succeed you will need to have patience, practice and perseverance. You need to stay with your idea long enough. And that is something that was shared with us yesterday that you dream of something and you are travelling in a certain way. Stay on the road and travel, don't get distracted and don't give up. There will be times in your life when you will fail. But it is a part of living a full and productive life. The next word is 'H'. H stands for hard work. Success does not come without sweat and tears. In the fashion industry there are two icons : Giorgio Armani and Ralph Lauren. Both of them run businesses over 7 to 9 USD billion. The key element in their success apart from creativity is the 14 hours that they put in Monday through Friday. And mind you both of them are in their late seventies and the early eighties. So one thing is the commitment that you make if you have to succeed in life and do it for a very long time. Now this is something that I have to share with you. Parents work very hard to give the children the very best opportunities in life. I want to remind them also to nurture their children's dream and support them through their failures. To my young friends in school, I wish to remind you that your parents are working very hard to see you through such a fine school. It is my humble request that you never forget this gratitude and repay them many times over in your giving of time here, when they need most.

Another aspect of our life which I think, both Mr Scindia and the Chief Guest I think spoke about was the habit of giving, the habit of sharing. Be a change maker. Our society is facing lots of issues today with the young generation that we have. There is lack of education, there is a problem on jobs, there is a problem on health coverage and most importantly on environmental degradation. You are real when you rise, take a step and try to eradicate or minimize these problems. What ever you are struggling with at present or in future, please take out time and make commitment that you will in either of the three ways make a difference. It could be a volunteer, you could donate things that you don't use any longer and can give financial help with financial resources but the class of 12th leaving or graduating this year, I would request them to make a written commitment with the Principal; say that they will share with him what their endeavours will be in this area when they leave school. It will be worth your while to engage because the joy of giving is many times more than the joy of receiving in life.

Now, my talk will be incomplete if I did not thank my teachers who inculcated the knowledge and values that I have with me today; my parents who nurture me; God bless their soul in peace; my friends who stood by me to do so; my wife Anuradha who has been a delightful and a supportive partner for 36 years. She currently runs schools in slums for 7000 kids aided by 133 teachers. I wish all my young friends the achievement, glory and satisfaction in the coming life and once again thanks to the school for what it continues to give all of us- a sense of pride and belonging. I also do wish to compliment Mr Scindia and the Board of Governors for the team that they have created under the leadership of Dr Saraswat. They have done a fantastic job and brought us to the pinnacle of the rating system here; as Mr Scindia said the challenge is to stay at Mt Everest; that will be difficult. So, gentlemen I think my time is over and I wish you a very Diwali and good luck for the years to come, prosperity, and may you do well in all your lives.

Jai hind and thank you!

## Vote of Thanks by Senior School Prefect - Aditya Parashar

Honourable Chief Guest for the evening, Dr Leela Samson; President Board of Governors, His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia; Members of the Board of Governors; Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat; eminent guests, Old Boys, parents, teachers and fellow *Scindians*; a very good evening to all of you.

It is my proud privilege to propose a Vote of Thanks on this day, in the presence of an artist par excellence, Dr Leela Samson. Ability is what you are capable of doing, motivation determines what you do, attitude determines how well you do it, and a blend of these three attributes is the secret behind the maestro and the myriad accomplishments of our Chief Guest for the evening.

I thank you once again ma'am for taking out time to be with us.

I take this opportunity to thank this year's Madhav awardee, Mr Tarun Bakshi, for being a reference of courage, entrepreneurship and community service for all the young *Scindians*.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Honourable President and other Members of the Board of Governors for their guidance and support throughout this journey of education. We are fortunate to have such exceptional visionaries who have ensured that we develop in the best holistic ways conceivable.

I also thank the Old Boys especially the batches of 1994 and 2009, for coming back to their *alma-mater* to reconnect with their extended family. I am sure you must have observed, that the more the things have changed, the more they have remained the same. I thank you all once again for helping us to learn to value traditions and also ensuring that our basic spirit as a *Scindian* remains untampered.

My thanks are due to all the teachers who have always guided, motivated and inspired us to prosper not just academically, but also morally and spiritually.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the parents who made it to this year's Founder's Day celebration and have graced this occasion with their presence.

Thanks are also due to the administrative staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes in order to ensure that the memories of this evening are entrenched in our heart and soul forever.

Now, I would like to thank the ones who have always been with me throughout this journey of mine. Whether it was celebrating success, or going through a phase of disappointment, I thank my batch for always supporting me in all my endeavours and for the fabulous lifetime memories that I made with each one of you.

For such a huge event, the wheels start rolling weeks ago. I congratulate the entire student body who have strived round-the-clock over the past few weeks to make this Founder's day, a success.

Ladies and Gentleman, when I joined the Scindia School I was like this piece of clay, tender, gullible, confused on what my shape would be, so much so, that I was not able to choose a shirt out of a stack of white shirts. Today, a 17-year old is addressing such accomplished men and women this evening, is a testimonial to the fact that after spending five years in this institution, I have been moulded into an impeccable sculpture, shaped extraordinarily, ready for life's challenges. I stand here today in front of you not because of any extraordinary talent that we were born with, but

because we learned to put our best foot forward in whatever we undertake, and to rise above mediocrity. That is why we say; what fire was to the Stone-age *Scindia* is to our character.

The school packs our mind with varied experiences and our heart with warm memories which are sure to last a lifetime. Yet the most important thing that I have learnt as a student is to accept victory with humility and defeat with grace. Albert Einstein once said and I quote, "There is nobody, who is perfect". But let me tell of you that all it takes to be perfect, is just that *Scindian* effect. I can say this with absolute certainty that all the boys who have been groomed in this institution have been successfully transformed from unsure, little kids of yesterday to fine leaders of tomorrow. And this is *Scindia*. It puts you in the most trying situations, and once you depart from this 8th century Fort, it is then that you realise:

"Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye": which means "Knowledge is that which liberates".

In the end, I thank all of you once again for being a part of this delightful evening and making it even more momentous and remarkable.

Thank you & good night.

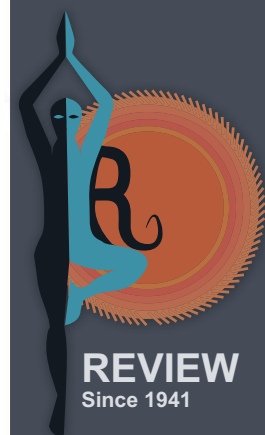
Long live Scindia!



## OLD BOYS' NEWS

The Old Boys' Day was celebrated in the evening of 20th October 2019. The musical show by Meet Bros and Khusboo Grewal enthralled the audience. Dr Anurag Dikshit formally welcomed the gathering and talked of the *Scindian* ethos. He gave a brief summary of the activities held during the previous year. Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha welcomed the Chief Guest of the evening, Mr Pramod Bhandari. The Chief Guest, Mr Pramod Bhandari, expressed his gratitude to be given the opportunity to go back in time. The SOBA Award for 2019 was given to Mr Prashant Gangwal. The SOBA Cup was awarded to SOBA Lucknow.

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