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QILA QUOTES

The Scindia School

Triannual Publication



President BOGs, HH Maharaja JM Scindia inspecting a model made by a student during the Founder's Day exhibition



Dhan Bahadur Karki, an ace athlete receiving medals and certificates at the Founder's Day Special Assembly. He later broke 40 year old record in A Group Cross Country Race.

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL

THE FOUNDER

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H H Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia

Vice President

Mr Rajendra S Pawar

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Mr Shivshankar Menon

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Yuvraj Mahanaaryaman J Scindia

Government Nominee

Mr Harish Bhojwani

Mr Amar Jyoti Bindal

Invited Members

Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha (President, SOBA Central)

Mrs Darshana Jaini (Parents' Representative)

Mr Ravi Saund (Expert - Infrastructure Development)

Ex officio Member, Secretary & Principal

Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat

Scindia Old Boys' Association

President

Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha

Vice President

Mr Banjul Badil

Mr Nupur Patel

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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.



Mr Tarun Bakshi (Ex- Chaitanya, 1965) receiving the Madhav Award



Dr Deborah Ford inaugurating the exhibition on the Parent's Day

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

I recently attended the Round Square Heads' symposium in London, UK. More than 100 school Heads from Africa, the Americas, Australasia, Europe, South Asia and The Gulf attended this event. At the end of the symposium, when we came down to the brass tacks of education, what unanimously was agreed upon was that it is the 'education for life' and not the 'education for livelihood' which should be the priority of all the schools. So I was very pleased that while we create 'global citizens of tomorrow' by using cutting-edge IT tools and Artificial Intelligence, it is the ageless value of humility, service, inclusiveness & respect for an individual which is at the heart of the Scindian education. Add to this, the dimension of self-cultivation via mindfulness through our age-old practice of Astachal and you'll find the most potent combination for 'education for life' which has timelessly kept Scindians in good stead throughout their lives...



By the time this issue will reach you, SOBA House would have been inaugurated on the Fort. We are perhaps the only school in India which has an exclusive infrastructure for our alumni. This reflects both our community's connectedness and intent. Located right on top of the Fort, SOBA House will be a distinct and welcoming space, that'll serve as a vital resource for alumni as they will be able to stay on campus and relive their good-old days. Words will never be enough to express our heartfelt gratitude for the support and guidance that we received from the Vice President of the BOGs, **Mr Rajendra S Pawar** (Ex-Vivekanand, 1967) and Member BOGs, **Mr Ravi Saund** (Ex-Ja, 1988).

Now that we're No. 1 boys' boarding school in the country, our aspiration is not only to sustain it but to become a global brand in times to come. Although, currently we disburse slightly more than 1 Cr worth of scholarships, to further promote merit, we need to enhance our corpus so that we can attract more inherently talented students into our existing student cohort. In order to accomplish the above, we have initiated a process of building a corpus predominantly funded by our Old Boys. The seed capital for the same was provided by **Lord Amir Ali Bhatia** (Ex-Ja, 1948) a couple of years ago. True to the Scindian spirit, several Old Boys from the class of 1969-70 who were on the Fort to celebrate their Golden Jubilee Reunion have contributed generously to this corpus. These contributions will go a long way in materializing the aforementioned vision for our school.

As we prepare to bid adieu to yet another Batch of Class XII with the confidence that they will live up to the rich Scindian legacy, we wonder what will we start afresh; how will we reaffirm our strengths and promises for scaling greater heights; and most importantly, how will we sustain the momentum of excellence. All come to mind as we ring in the New Year. The achievements and accolades that we earned in the year gone by, particularly for the No.1 rank in the country amongst the boys' boarding schools brought tremendous cheer. But all the while as we enjoyed the fireworks, our minds continued to tick with new goals and resolutions for the New Year. A dedicated team of empowered individuals gives us the confidence that we will achieve all our targets this year too...

This issue is a mixed bag which includes couple of interesting interviews; a fascinating memoir by **Mr Homsy Irani** (Ex-Ja, 1974); a thoughtful article by an ex-parent etc. Hope you enjoy the issue!

Dr M.D. Saraswat
Principal, The Scindia School



Meet Bros rocking the evening on Old Boys' Day



Marching contingent of the batch of 1969-70

EDITORIAL

The Scindia School celebrated its 122nd Founder's Day on 21st October 2019, and Parents' Day & Old Boys' Day on the 20th October 2019. Dr Deborah Ford, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin, Parkside, USA was the Chief Guest for the function on the 20th. She participated in an informal interaction with Scindians and their parents, where the highlight was the talk about career choices and studying abroad. The Old Boys' evening concluded with a special musical concert by the famous Bollywood duo- Meet Brothers, both Ex-Scindians. In the morning assembly of 21st October 2019 the DSP of 1994 batch, Mr Pankaj Tibrewala unfurled the school flag amidst the sound of the bugle and released various publications of the school. In the evening, Chief Guest, Dr Leela Samson and His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia along with other guests visited the exhibition. The Chief Guest, Dr Leela Samson, expressed her gratitude for 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'. The Madhav Awardee for the year 2019, Mr Tarun Bakshi (Ex- Chaitanya, 1965) in 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, perseverance and hard work as keys to success.

Workshop

Mr Pawan Gupta (Ex-Rn, 1970), a US based communications expert was on campus from 1st – 4th November 2019 under the aegis of SOBIR. He conducted a workshop titled 'Talk to Convince' for teachers and a seminar exclusively for the boys of classes XI and XII. Both, the workshop and the seminar dealt with different aspects of effective communication in detail.

16 students attended a zoom interactive session workshop (video conferencing) as a part of Project PyaR (Python and Research) with University of California. The session was conducted by Mr Raja Guha Thakurta, Chair and Professor, Astronomer, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of California, Santa Cruz on 2nd December 2019.

Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat attended a Round Square Heads' Symposium from 10th - 11th January 2020. More than 100 schools' Heads from Africa, the Americas, Australasia, Europe, South Asia and The Gulf were hosted at London County Hall, UK. This conference brought delegates together to learn, share and celebrate the IDEALS of Round Square.

Ms Sangeeta Jain, Dr Smita Trivedi and Mr Pawan Mali participated in the HUBS of Learning workshop at Delhi Public school, Rairu, on 15th January 2020 organized by the CBSE. These HUBS of Learning have been formed to empower the schools to create collaborative 'Communities of Practice'.

Events

It was a moment of great honour for The Scindia School when our Brass Band gave the Guard of Honour to the Chief Minister of Delhi; Chief of the Army Staff and the Defence Minister. Our contingent participated in the PM's rally and marched on the Rajpath as part of the Republic Day parade. For their participation in the Republic Day parade the entire contingent was awarded with official NCC certificates and Band Major, Yash Jain and Aryan Samil were honoured with the rank of senior under officer by NCC. Yash Jain received the 'commendation card' from the Chief of the Army Staff.

Old Boys from the Batch of 1969-70 visited the school on 25th and 26th January 2020 to celebrate their Golden Jubilee Reunion. The Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat formally welcomed the guests in the Assembly Hall where a special cultural programme was organized in their honour. Mr Atul Gupta, Mr Vineet Bakshi, Mr Dilip Trivedi, Justice Sanjay Mishra, and Mr Rajiv Dhar addressed the gathering and expressed that they were overwhelmed by nostalgia and pride. They also talked about the importance of Astachal and the values they learned when they were in school. They also shared some words of wisdom from their own life experiences and attended the special Astachal in the evening. They took part in the Republic Day March Past on 26th January and attended the special Astachal immediately after the March Past. Thereafter, the Old Boys enjoyed lavish breakfast at the Principal's residence following which they visited their own Houses and also

went around the school to see the enticing old architecture which is now endowed with 21st century facilities.

The 71st Republic Day was celebrated at the Fort with a lot of enthusiasm. The Chief Guest, **Mr Vishnu Agarwal** (Ex-Rn, 1961) an eminent Old Boy, unfurled the tri-colour and inspected the parade which included a contingent of the batch of 1969-70. The Chief Guest in his address talked about the promise that the school offers to its students and strongly recommended the community to make the most of the opportunities provided by the school. After the Chief Guest's address everybody moved to the *Astachal* where floral tributes were paid to the Father of the Nation, and the batch of 1969-70 handed over the baton of the Golden Jubilee Reunion to the representatives of the batch of 1970-71. School is working towards building a corpus for deserving students. Old Boys from the batch of 1969-70, namely **Mr Harish Gandhi**, **Mr Brijniti Prasad**, **Mr Vineet Bakshi**, **Mr Ratan Kumar Shah** and **Mr Surat Thakkar** have contributed to this corpus generously. This corpus will be used for scholarships and for advancement of the school. Member BOGs, **Mr Mahesh Gandhi** (Ex-Rn, 1959) too made a contribution towards this corpus.

The Scindia School Model United Nations Conference 2019 was held from 8th - 10th November 2019. Eight schools participated in the event, namely, Sanskar Valley School, Bhopal; Bhartiya Vidya Niketan School, Gwalior; Welham Boys School, Dehradun; Heritage Girls School, Udaipur; Daly College, Indore; Vantage Hall Girls School, Dehradun; Modern School, Vasant Vihar, Delhi and The Scindia School. Welham Boys School emerged as the winner while Scindia school was adjudged as the runner up.

The 4th Scindia Literary Fest was held in the school from 16th - 18th November 2019. Nine reputed authors visited the Fort and coloured the environs of the school with literature, art and creativity. Renowned authors, namely, **Mr Ravindra Singh**, **Mr Sudheer Singhal** and **Ms Aditi Singhal**, **Ms Arthy Muthanna Singh**, **Mr Laxmi Khanna Suman**, **Mr Stephen Alter**, **Mr Salman Khurshid**, **Kevin Missal**, **Mr Aditya Sharma** interacted with the boys on a range of topics from horror to mythology to romance and more...

The school observed the 'Harmony Week' during the last week of November 2019 to create awareness about importance of harmony in the society. Various activities were organized to mark the harmony week.

Visit

On 30th November 2019, **Mr Akhil Bansal**, Deputy CEO of KMPG (an international audit firm) visited the school and interacted with the senior students in the Assembly Hall. Students posed a number of questions on various topics from start-ups to future prospects of business in India. After Mr Bansal's visit to the school, KPMG offered a scholarship for **Sonam Bhutia** which will partly support his living expenses & education in the medical college that he's all set to join after his schooling in Scindia. **Mr Ashish Gupta** (Ex-Je, 1988) arranged the visit of **Mr Akhil Bansal** to the school.

Community Service

The Social Service League of The Scindia School took an initiative to start a kitchen garden on the barren field behind the Biology Lab. With continuous guidance from teachers and strenuous efforts put

in by the students, seeds of coriander, radish, onion and potato buds were sown, and in due course of time a new kitchen garden was found to be flourishing.

The Social Service League of the Scindia School organized Shramjivi sports for the support staff in the Oval field on the 26th of January. It was a wonderful sight to watch the students and the teachers cheer the participants. This day brings the entire community of the Fort together as one without any barriers, perhaps one of the higher aims of education and part of ethos at Scindia.

Celebrations

The 'pre-winter-break-party' was held on 12th December 2019 at the Archery Field, and a special lunch marking the celebration of Christmas was held on 24th December 2019 at the parapet behind the Dining Hall. Both the get-togethers were thoroughly enjoyed by students and staff with music and mouthwatering food!

The festival of Makar Sankranti was celebrated with a lot of fervour and enthusiasm on 18th January 2019. The school's Madhav field became a riot of colours as kites soared in the sky. Yellow, green, blue and white; all colours of the spectrum could be spotted in the sky. The experts showed their skills of kite-flying and the amateurs tried their hands at it. The kite-flying was followed by some traditional mouthwatering snacks from different regions of India.

IT

Cyber Scindia Inter House IT Week 2019-20 was conducted in The Scindia School from 18th November to 23rd November 2019. Following events were conducted: IT Quiz; Digital Poster Making & Multimedia presentation; Video Editing; Photo Editing; Sound Editing; Cartoon Making and Website designing.

Infrastructure

An all-new visitor's room at the Junior House campus has been constructed. SOBA House is complete and is scheduled to be inaugurated on 26th Feb 2020. A new metal staircase has been installed connecting the Science Block to the first floor of the main Academic Block to reduce the commuting time of students and teachers. Ranoji House renovation work is going on in full swing.

Adventure

8 students along with **Mr Anil Pathania** completed a skiing course from 17th - 29th January 2020 at the Indian institute of skiing and mountaineering, Gulmarg. Scindians were successful in bagging 2 out of 6 awards and the Scindian delegation was awarded with an 'A' grade which indicates the highest grade in skiing and mountaineering.



Scindian delegation in Gulmarg



Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebration Mr Vishnu Agarwal (Ex-Rn, 1961) receiving a memento from Dr MD Saraswat and his better-half Mrs Kanan Saraswat



Excited Scindians during kite-flying session on Makar Sankranti

OLD BOYS' NEWS

The Scindia School conferred on Mr Tarun Bakshi (Ex- Chaitanya, 1965) the Madhav Award as an Old Boy of eminence for the year 2019. 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.

The second edition of the much awaited FG Pearce Symposium was held at New Delhi on 3rd February 2020 organized by the SOBA Delhi NCR. The program commenced with a nostalgic presentation by Mr Saumitro Sen (Ex-Ja, 1976) on the life of Late Mr FG Pearce, who ably led The Scindia School from 1929 to 1943 as its first Principal. The Vice President of the Board of Governors, Mr Rajendra S Pawar (Ex- Vivekanand, 1967) gave an insight about our school and also introduced the Chief Guest, Dr Shashi Tharoor, M.P., who is also a recipient of the coveted Sahitya Academy Award for the year 2019. Ms Ruchira Sharma (Ex-Rn, 1996) compered the event and Mr Nalin Mehta (Ex-Rn, 1996) hosted the talk show with the Dr Tharoor on his critically acclaimed book, 'Why I am a Hindu'. This was followed by the launch of 'Dreams of a Billion: India and the Olympics Games', authored by Mr Nalin Mehta. Members from the school's governing body, present teachers, philanthropists, professionals, and illustrious alumni of The Scindia School & Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya attended the evening. The audience also got a delectable taste of religion, when Mr Amitabh Vartak (Ex-Jp, 1989) spoke about his new start-up, <https://seekblessings.com/>, which is committed to delivering Prasad to devotees' doorsteps across the world from major temples in India. We wish him all success in this venture.

Mr Rajeev Merkhedkar (Ex-Md, 1994) has recently been recognized as one of the top ten legal entrepreneurs by Financial Times, London as part of their annual Innovative Lawyer's Award for Europe. This honour recognizes lawyers who inspire entrepreneurial change in law firms and legal services. Many congratulations!

Mr Zigmee Gurung (Ex- Jp, 2019) has been elected Joint Secretary of Ramjas College Student Union, New Delhi. He is presently pursuing B.Com and is the recipient of the SOBA scholarship for 2019. Many congratulations!

Dr Ravindra Gandhi (Ex- Je, 1980) has recently been elected as the National Secretary of the All India Printing Ink Manufacturer's Association. After schooling he did MBBS, DCH, MD (Medicine) from GMC, Nagpur, and worked as Medical Officer in District Hospital, Yavatmal and GMC, Nagpur. He then started Bombay Well print Inks in 1993, which specializes in manufacturing newspaper ink, which is supplied to many prominent dailies in the country and overseas for the last 26 years.

Mr Moksh Jaswal (Ex-Jp, 2019) has made it to the prestigious

National Defence Academy with an All India Rank of 198. He was a member of the School Basketball team and marched on the Rajpath twice as part of the School Brass Band. He was also the recipient of the IAYP Gold Award. He is currently doing his B.Tech from Shiv Nadar University.

SOBA Delhi in association with SOBA Central organized a conclave from 15th-16th November 2019. The objective of the conclave was to enhance a cohesive and interactive relationship within our alumni community through the common room platform. It was attended by representatives from chapters across the country and school. 'The Common Room' is a wonderful platform for alumni to connect and share their experiences. The platform is designed to offer efficient and user- friendly navigation, and quick access to information.

Rahat Kulshreshtha (Ex-Ja, 2007) President of the Drone Federation of India, signed a partnership deal with Amazon Web Service.

The Old Boys' Day was celebrated on 20th October 2019. The musical show by Meet Bros (Harmeet and Manmeet, both Ex-Ja, 1994 & 1995) and Khushboo Grewal enthralled the audience. Dr Anurag Dikshit formally welcomed the gathering and 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 (Ex-Md, 1961-62). The SOBA Award for 2019 was given to Mr Prashant Gangwal (Ex-Je, 1986). The SOBA Cup was awarded to SOBA Lucknow.

On 14th December 2019, members of SOBA Rajasthan, visited the institute for mentally challenged and distributed 317 thermal vests & monkey caps.

On 5th January 2020 the wives of the Old Boys of SOBA Lucknow distributed more than 100 blankets to the needy in town. Our compliments to the ladies for a wonderful gesture!

On 30th November 2019, a special assembly was conducted in which the trophies of cross country race were given away. Mr Mukesh Agarwal (Ex- Chaitanya, 1980) was specially invited for this assembly as Dhan Bahadur Karki of Jayappa House broke the previous record in Cross Country A Group Race held by Mr Mukesh Agarwal set in the year 1978-79. Both the athletes were felicitated. Thereafter, President SOBA Central, Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha gave us an insight on the Golf Tournament organized by SOBA Rajasthan

and presented the trophy won by SOBA to the school. To mark the 60th Anniversary of SOBA, The Scindia School Old Boys' Association instituted a trophy for the Inter House Quiz Competition titled, 'U C Bharadwaj Inquizitive Trophy' for the senior school and the 'Khurshid Lakdawala Inquizitive Trophy' for the junior school. It was conducted by the Quizmaster, Mr Murli Pillai. The Winners' trophies went to Madhav House and Dattaji House respectively.

Former Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir and Former Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Sudhir Bloeria (Ex-Mj, 1962) was on campus from 26th – 29th November 2019. He spent time reading books in the library and talking to the boys.

Zonal Transplant Co-ordination Committee (ZTCC), Nagpur, elected their new office bearers in the annual general meeting. Well-known transplant surgeon from Nagpur, Dr Sanjay Kolte (Ex-Md, 1983), is elected as secretary of ZTCC for the next three years.

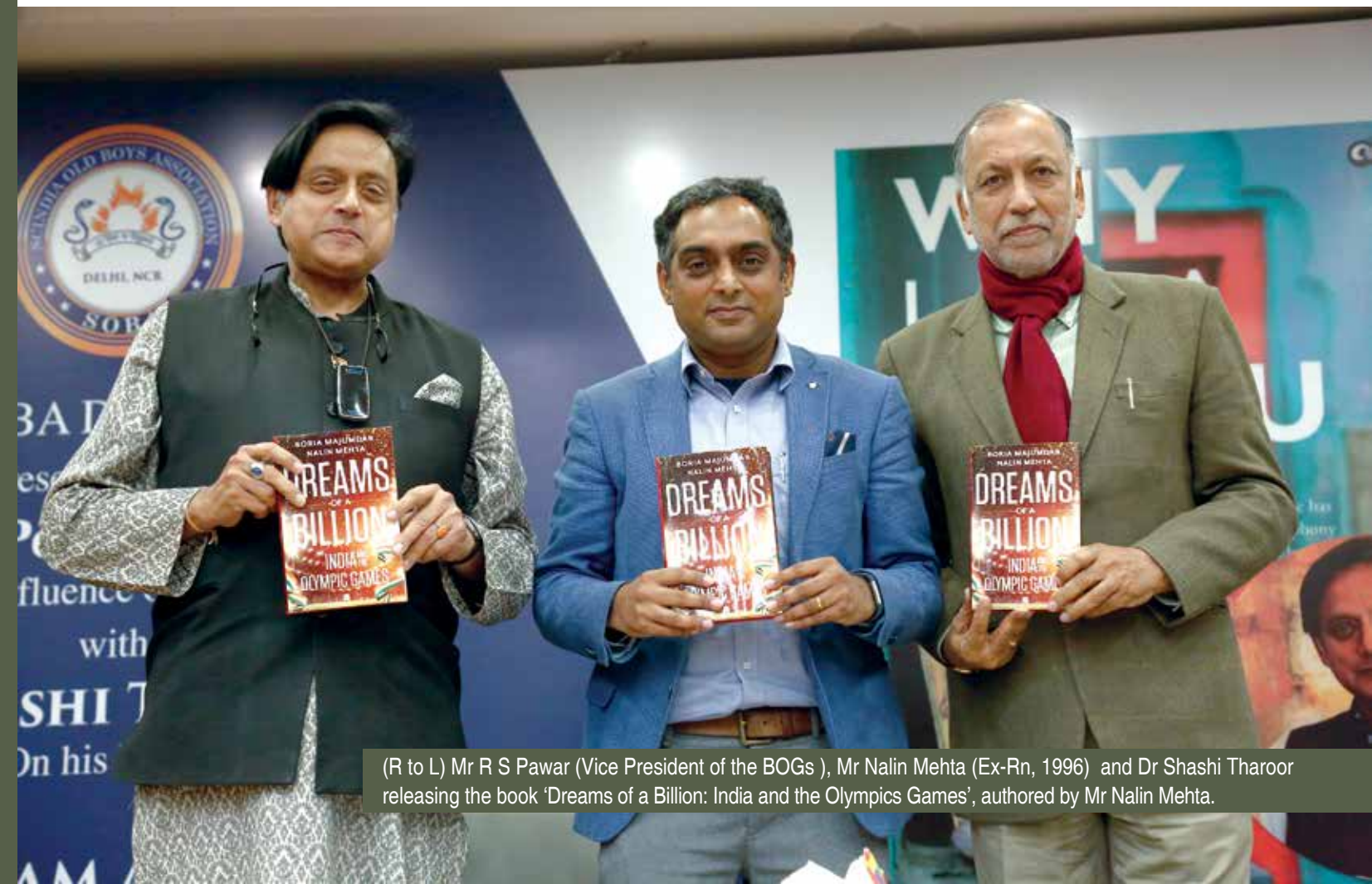
SOBA Lucknow met at the residence of Justice Sanjay Mishra, to announce the new office bearers for the tenure 2020- 22. The new team is as follows: Mr Neeraj Yadav (Ex-Rn, 1990) – President; Mr Manoj Khanna (Ex-Mj, 1980) - Vice President; Mr Udit Garodia (Ex- Sh, 2005) – Secretary; Mr Achintya Lahiri (Ex-Md, 1991) - Joint Secretary; Mr Dhruv Agarwal (Ex-Rn, 1992) – Treasurer

A new committee of SOBA Mumbai was formed on 28th Jan 2020. Following are the new office bearers. President: Mr Amitabh

Vartak (Ex-Ja, 1989); Secretary: Mr Anoop Agarwal (Ex-Je, 1995); Treasurer; Mr Hritik Pankaj (Ex-Mj, 2016); Committee Member: Mr Kuldeep Umaraiya (Ex-Mj, 2016). SOBA Vice President, Mr Banjul Badil was also present during this meeting.



Dr Ravindra Gandhi (Ex-Je, 1980)



(R to L) Mr R S Pawar (Vice President of the BOGs), Mr Nalin Mehta (Ex-Rn, 1996) and Dr Shashi Tharoor releasing the book 'Dreams of a Billion: India and the Olympics Games', authored by Mr Nalin Mehta.



Clouded vision of Talent Shows



The reality of Talent Shows

TALENT SHOWS

If your opinion matches mine, I would be honored! If it doesn't, no problem, you can go back to your TV!

What do you make of the so called 'talent hunt shows' you see on T V almost every night of the week ? Though I am not a regular viewer of such shows, familial compulsions give me the opportunity to watch the odd one on occasion. No doubt these shows throw up some amazing talents which otherwise, probably, would not have got recognized. To that extent they serve a purpose, but at what cost ? My main objection lies in the format of the shows.

You have an M C or moderator who has a job at hand. He/she calls in the contestants, enquires about their antecedents, checks on their preparations and asks them about the selection of the performance/ song – all in rehearsed spontaneity. He warns us about impending commercial breaks. So that it doesn't break our heart, he also assures us of his imminent return with lots more of his antics. The ear-splitting bellow he gives after each commercial break, announcing the title of the show is an aberration we can absorb, albeit with some difficulty. The toothy smile which is a permanent fixture on this genre may be an irritant, but tolerable.

Then there is a panel of three or four wise men and women sitting on one side. Are they the judges or are they the jury? I could never figure that one out. They do make some inane comments after each performance. Whether that is for the benefit of the performer or the viewer is not clear. If they are trying to improve the performance of an artist in a sentence or two, they must be supermen and women. That can not be the case since they are not wearing their jocks above their trousers (is that not the criteria for supermen?). If they are trying educating the masses with those pearls of wisdom, their visit to the shrink is overdue!

The format of the shows, in my opinion, leaves a lot to be desired. Forget the 'clap on clue, shout on clue' audience which resemble animated cartoons. If that was not disgusting enough, one show which I had the misfortune of watching had the moderator urging the contestants to beg for votes from the viewers. The ultimate humiliation that talented bunch of performers had to go through was seen to be believed. It was as if the votes one got would be in proportion to the number of 'please' the contestant included in his/her appeal to the viewers. The first one said, 'Please vote for me'. Not to be left behind, the second one appealed to please, please vote for her. When the turn came for the third one to appeal, it had become, 'please, please vote for me, please'. I was left with no option but to change channels of the idiot box, the wrath of the missus I could take care of later.

How can you do this to those young kids with loads of talents and stars in their eyes ? I do not know about you, but it did remind me of the young and not so young kids you see everyday on railway platforms and bus stations who sing at the top of their lungs to attract the attention of the passers by and seek alms in their humblest of voices. Mind you, some of those street singers are as talented as anyone you would come by (remember Ranu Mondal). It is another matter that the routine high decibel renditions have turned their voices into hoarse whispers. But if you listen carefully you could detect the traces of talent that have reached the end of their bloom, struggling to stay afloat. More than their talents it is the spirit of their young souls which have met with an untimely demise.

Is this what we want to happen to those gifted young artists who are starting on their career paths ? Aren't we playing a cruel joke on them? Dangle a few lakhs in front and ask them to sit on their haunches and beg! If they were of the four-legged variety, at least SPCA would have raised their voice in protest, like they did about the dancing bears on the streets.

Okay, the top finishers may end up having some successful careers. But how many Arijit Singhs and Shreya Ghoshals do we see around us? What about the very many who fall by the way side? Suddenly these kids would find that the applause and adulations that were part of their daily lives have tuned to deafening silence. Its an even bigger task to cope with the absence of fame after one taste the sweet aura of recognition and reverence than getting used to stardom and glory.

Who would care to come forward and put a stop to this rigmarole called reality shows? If I ever get the distinction as the man who started the movement against these shows, I would be honoured!

Mr Nanu Biju
Father of Avinash Biju (Ex- Md, 2010)

BRINGING UP KIDS

I remember it was an effort to get my elder kid to eat anything. As far as the junk food was concerned, he being the first born was kept in dark about its existence. No cookies, chocolates, cola or icecream for him. Still one could not dissuade some over indulgent well-wishers from bringing in toffees or chocolates and therefore I found a novel way out of it. I told him that these fancy looking things are supposed to be aimed at the dustbin:-) and so it was. Till he went to a Birthday party one day, of course unaccompanied by me and came back an enlightened soul. He tells me- You know Mom, you can use these things in another way- just unwrap them and put them in your mouth. You should try one -they taste sweet! I tried novel ways of getting him to open his mouth when I wasn't force-feeding him. Like tickling or narrating stories. Popeye was a big help in getting him to eat his greens. The first time I saw my elder one standing with the Refrigerator open, arms askew on his waist, I asked him what the matter was. 'I am thinking what to eat', he said. I wanted to cry with relief ! I knew my days of fretting and toiling over food were over.

Alas, little did I know. The two of them grew up to be teenagers and were always hungry and had discovered all types of food. I had to hide *laddoos, mathris, namkeens* and *gajar ka halwa* lest my labour of love of three hours ends in their tummies in 30 minutes. By the time I was winding up the lunch, it was time for snacks. 'Do we have anything to eat ?'

Believe me food wasn't the only hurdle I crossed while bringing up the kids. There was the constant noise of squabbling between the two of them , which I gradually learnt to welcome. The kids are like mosquitoes- constantly buzzing. You should start worrying when they are quiet. The noise would lull me into peace and which was only broken when everything went quiet. Then there would be war cries in the bathroom and then a thud and somebody begging for mercy and the moment I banged on the door , it was, ' Go away, we are okay'. A long drive with two of them in the back seats was a test of patience. The verbal tussle ultimately developed into a brawl and on retrospection nobody remembered what started it all. And to think that the books had advised me that an age gap of less than 18 months or more than 3 years reduced sibling rivalry!

Bringing up kids was a daunting task for many of my generation. We have been what I call ' the sandwich generation'. The development from landline to cellphones and Doordarshen to Netflix happened at such a breathtaking pace that it was like we skipped three generations at the blink of an eye. We grew up shadowed by our parents and are archaic for our kids. We had to evolve at the speed of light to keep pace with the knowledge explosion. We had 19th century upbringing, the skills of 20th century and were getting the kids

ready for the 21st century. And I was always assailed with qualms if what I was doing was right for them. The concept of 'parenting' was still in its nascent stage. Most of the times, when I was in doubt, I would visualise what my parents/ teachers would have done in a similar situation and I would go ahead and do just the opposite. Of only one thing I was certain that I was not bringing up obedient and docile kids.

I would have wanted to leave this place better than what I found it to be but sadly as a generation, we have not been very responsible people. We are leaving behind a legacy of polluted air and rivers, dwindling resources , polarised society and shrinking flora and fauna. While the world is coming closer, narrow vested interests are taking over. It is as if the wheel is coming back full circle. The 'perestroika' and liberalisation of the eighties has been reversed.

I wonder what the world would be like once I am long gone and what I would be remembered for most. The world and life are uncertain. My kids may not become the doctors or engineers but they certainly would be good human beings- compassionate and upright. I have imbibed in them the moral courage to question injustice and a solid ground of values which will keep them in a strong stead. Both of them will have their own ways of doing it. While the younger one will be dealing it with his subtle charming ways, the elder one would be highly vocal and would debate and shout at the rooftop. And I will stand behind them- supporting their each endeavor.

Ms Niharika Kulshresth
Faculty



Nurture to expand the horizons



Praying to nurture the soul

INTERVIEW

Based in the USA, Mr Pawan Gupta (Ex-Rn, 1970) has over 30 years of experience in business and product strategy; negotiating alliances; developing businesses and coaching executives. Since 2007 Mr. Gupta has been providing consulting services to companies ranging from Microsoft to startups in the USA and India; coaching in soft skills and mentoring entrepreneurs.

After graduating from Scindia, Mr Gupta did his engineering studies from IIT Kanpur and UCLA and earned an MBA from the Pepperdine University.

He was recently on the fort under the SOBiR programme to share the essence of his highly valuable experience of several decades in the area of Communications. He conducted a workshop for teachers and a seminar for the boys of 11th and 12th from 2-4 November 2019.

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

You have been an achiever in the line that you chose to pursue. That must have meant constantly challenging yourself / disrupting your status quo. What are some of the biggest risks that you took; and what did you learn from them ?

What drives me is the opportunity to solve difficult problems; problems that are looking for solutions and have real life applications. Trying to figure out what happens light years away is not interesting to me. There are others who work on those issues. I am interested in the here and now. As challenging as it was, it has been a very rewarding experience. It's been fun. Some of the lessons I learned were:

Get up to speed quickly on the problem you are trying to solve. Then get totally focused on finding the solution. And, don't just look at the apparent solutions but also at the gaps because it may present a better solution.

Always assemble a team of "A" people. I often said, I am as good as my team. Once you have a team, trust them and take their recommendations into consideration.

Test and validate your solution early on. You don't want to get too far down and discover there were things you did not realize and consider.

Finally, communication skills are critical. You may have the best solution however, there will be people in your team or organization or investors or end-users etc. who you will have to convince that your approach is the right one.

It is believed that travel is the best teacher. Having travelled so extensively, what have been some of your most profound

lessons - personally and professionally ?

I don't know about now, but back then in India, most people believed that India is the greatest of all and somehow, we had a special status from God...architecture, philosophy, people...name it; we were the chosen ones. I too arrived in USA with this sense of pride.

However, when I started travelling to other countries, I realized that there were good people everywhere. Great architectures. Beautiful artwork. Amazing music. It was a very humbling experience. I love India and I am proud of what it has given us for thousands of years but other countries are also great. I began to see people as people.

Before going to each country, I learn a little about their customs and memorize a few basic words in their language. Just this small effort is universally appreciated and people are far more helpful.

Professionally too, I get an edge by simply understanding and respecting their culture...by adapting. A big thing has been to quickly figure out who you can trust, how much, and watch for the "real meaning" of what is being said. I often partner with a local person who can understand the finer nuances and help me to navigate.

What's your take on cross-cultural sensitivity & communication required to fit oneself in a globalized world ?

I think, cross-cultural sensitivity and communication are absolutely essential for success. Years ago, I was trying to form an alliance with Fujitsu in South Korea. So was my closest competitor from UK. They had had a very promising discussion with Fujitsu. Their representative was businesslike, to the point, and believed in short



quick meetings. Their product was equally good and were offering hefty margins.

At this point Fujitsu was meeting me, more or less to do their due diligence of having met with another company as well. My goal, was to displace my competitor and win them over to partner with us. So, how did I win them over ?

I knew that the Japanese like to build a relationship first. You have to be very patient during this phase. When I got there, their product manager and then their general manager talked to me for over three hours. Entire discussion revolved around our families, values in life, business philosophies and the like. No business was discussed until the next day breakfast. We connected at an emotional level; as two people who could get along and work through difficult situation if needed. They felt more comfortable with me and that is how I won them over.

In many countries, language was an issue but I found that active listening, asking right questions, and speaking slowly so that the other person can absorb what you are saying, went a long way.

In a completely US, Europe centric world and after having seen the western world so closely, what are your thoughts on India and her future ?

I believe, India is on the move. There has been a lot of progress in the last few years. One can see it. Most Indians are hardworking and well respected internationally. There are major challenges but I am confident India will work through them.

The biggest challenge will be to absorb the speed at which our society is changing. Parents and teachers will have to play an important role in making sure that our values, that have served us well for generations, are kept intact.

Tell us something about what you absolutely love about USA ?

USA is an amazing country. Just think, even after more than two hundred years, a thin constitution rules the country. There is one law for all.

People are incredible. It may be difficult to believe under the current circumstances, but once they find something that is not working, they eventually fix it. When we deviate from the constitution, eventually the process works itself out to bring us back.

And, if people see something good, they adopt it whole heartedly. You must have noticed how yoga, meditation, vegetarianism, etc. are now widely practiced in USA.

People don't give up easily even under most difficult conditions. It is the most valuable asset we have.

You're an expert in creating Business Strategy & striking meaningful Partnerships for a turnaround for various businesses. From a layman's perspective, briefly, what is it all about ?

Strategy is like a game of chess. You have to think a few steps ahead. To do that, you must first have clarity of your goals.

Once you create a strategy, a realistic execution plan, roadmap is critical. Everything in the plan should connect with your strategy and bring you closer to the goal. An execution plan should include the right measurable metrics so that you can monitor the progress. If needed, make mid-course corrections only after very careful

thought. If you keep changing frequently, you haven't thought through things.

In regards to partnerships, I look for win-win scenarios; both sides should benefit from it. A good partnership should strengthen both sides. There has to be a business and a cultural fit, otherwise it's going to be like a bad marriage. Partnerships where you try to squeeze out everything from the other side don't last long. Also, it is important to agree on a process to solve issues together, if and when they arise.

What has been the highest point of your professional Journey ?

I have been extremely fortunate to come across many people who shared their experiences, mentored me, and helped me throughout my professional journey. With every major challenge, came a turning point and an apex in my career. I wouldn't trade my life for anything.

What message would you like to convey to the boys in the school ?

Life is fun. If you keep a few basics in mind, you will achieve things beyond your imagination and most of all, happiness. Here are a few things they might find helpful:

- Honesty and integrity are necessary for long term happiness. Nobody can take it away from you. It builds character and helps you to make the right decisions. It will make you strong and fearless.
- You are what you think, what you read [or watch, listen], and the company you keep.
- Follow your passion and you will excel.
- Communication is the key to working with others. Learn to communicate effectively.



STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

In the Inter-house Cross Country Race-2019, Dhan Bahadur Karki of Jayappa House broke the previous record of the year 1978-79 set by Mukesh Agarwal of Jayappa House, with a new record timing of 10: 48: 59. Congratulations!

The Scindia School hosted the CBSE Sahodaya Inter School U-19 Cricket Tournament from 21st - 23rd November 2019. The schools participating in the tournament were Central Academy School, Woodstock School, Ramshree International School, Airforce School, Radha Vallabh Academy and The Scindia School. The final was played between The Scindia School and Ramshree International School. The Scindia School won the match by 103 runs and lifted the Trophy. **Vihaan Gupta** was adjudged Man of the Match. Two students, **Arush Prabu** and **Vibhav Kundu** participated in the show 'EPIC IQ Challenge' on 22nd September 2019 which was telecast on Epic Channel on 16th December 2019.

40 students of our school appeared for the Trinity Music Exam in the month of November 2019 in Guitar, Keyboard and Drums.

The school participated in the 'Shri Suryakiran Pareek Smriti Aviral Bhartiya Hindi Debate Competition' held on 14th November at the Birla School, Pilani. **Siddharth Chandel** was awarded as the third best overall speaker. He received a cash prize of Rs 2100. Our school stood third in the Competition.

Kshitij Dogra went to Gurgaon to participate in the *Nanhi Chhaan* - NIIT University (NU) sponsored Personality Development Programme at Neemrana from 9th - 13th December 2019. He earned this educational programme by being selected as one of the top 30 finalists at the national level.

Following students were recognized for their outstanding performance on the Founder's Day.

| Awards | Awardees |
|---|--|
| Umang Mathur Memorial Trophy (for the best Class XI scholar) | Aditya Parashar (Jayaji House) |
| Mahendra Mishra Memorial Trophy (for the best Class XI Sportsman) | Uttam Rai (Ranoji House) |
| Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia II Medal (for All Round Proficiency) | Aditya Parashar (Jayaji House) |
| Sam Pitroda Award (2017-18) (for the Best Innovative Project- 'Brainy Highway') | Harshvardhan S. Jadon (Daulat House) Dewesh Karan (Jayappa House) |
| The R. B. Pawar Medal (for scoring the highest percentage of marks in Mathematics in Class XII) | Saksham Goel (Shivaji House) |

| | |
|--|--|
| Governor's Medal (for scoring Highest Percentage in Class XII) | Dhruv Periwal (Mahadji House) Sidharth Jain (Shivaji House) |
| Field Marshal Cariappa Shield (for the Best Sportsman) | Zigmee Gurung (Jayappa House) |
| Maharaja Jeevajirao Scindia Medal (for All Round Proficiency in Class XII) | Himanshu Moojoriya (Ranoji House) |

The Scindia School Brass Band felicitated its outgoing Band Majors, Senior Under Officer, **Akshay Singh**; Senior Under Officer, **Nitya Mehra** and Band Leader, Senior Under Officer, **Abhishek Mahour** for their contribution in the Brass Band. The appointments for the year 2019-2020 are as follows: School Band Major- **Yash Jain** and **Aryan Samil**; School Band Leader- **Kartikeya Kulshrestha**

80th Inter-House athletics individual results are as under: Senior House : 'A' group Sanjeeva Raje Trophy - **Adwait Sharma**; 'B' group Vikram Bogra Trophy - **Rohit Gound** and **Anoop Adiwasi**; Junior House 'A' group Individual Trophy - **Krish Lokwani** Junior House 'B' group Individual Trophy - **Kushagra Jaiswal**

5 students participated in the 'Infinity 2020 – The Ultimate Mathematics Championship League' hosted by Aditya Birla World Academy in association with BITS Pilani from 10th- 11th January 2020. The Scindia School team comprising **Chirag Rathi**, **Akshat Karwa** and **Shivansh Bansal** were declared winners in the 'Bulb Your Ideas' category.

In the State Level Online Astronomy Quiz, **Sameep Modi** qualified the final round, secured the 4th position and became a 'Member of Pleiads'. He will be visiting ISRO, Sriharikota, and also one of the largest Indian Astronomical Observatory situated in Kodaikanal during summer vacation, sponsored by the Aryabhata NGO.

In the preliminary round of National level Innoventure (Intelligence plus) 2020, 114 students participated from class 6th to 8th. 38 students qualified for the second round, which was a telephonic interview round. Out of these, 7 students from class 6th and 7th qualified for final round of Innoventure held at Pune on 18th and 19th January 2020 for which our school won the Best Enterprising School award at National level for the year 2020.

IN CONVERSATION WITH MS LEELA SAMSON

Leela Samson is a Bharatanatyam dancer, choreographer, instructor and writer. Samson has received several awards including the Padmashri and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contributions to Bharatanatyam. In 1995, she formed Spanda, a dance group to review the traditional vocabulary of Bharatanatyam. Her notable disciples include Aditi Jaitley, Aditi Rao Hydari, Swara Bhaskar & Justin Mc Carthy. She has taught and mentored performers like Aditi Jaitley, Jin Shan Shan from China & Navtej Singh Johar.

She has taught Bharatanatyam at the Shriram Bhartiya Kala Kendra in Delhi for fifteen years. She was appointed as the Director of Kalakshetra, her alma mater. She was subsequently also appointed as the Chairperson of the Sangeet Natak Akademi in August 2010, and as the chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification in April 2011.

She was the Chief Guest for 122nd Founder's Day celebration of The Scindia School. It was an absolute pleasure to listen to her articulate, modern and balanced views on various social, political and religious issues burning today.

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

Q1. Which three words would you like to use to describe yourself?

Active, meditative, honest

Q2. How did the passion for dance begin? Is creativity in your genes ?

My passion began by chance. It was just one of those things that happen to you and you say "This is not half bad an idea!"

Creativity has to be cultured. I have worked at it. However seeing a sense of balance in movement and expression is an instinct and perhaps you can say that I am blessed with those instincts.

Q3. What has been the biggest challenge you have come across in your career so far ?

Handling institutions is not easy. Administration I like and instinctively put things in order. I also love working with people. But being dishonest or hypocritical is hard and I do believe that dealing with people in Government is challenging on that score. On the other hand, some are brilliant and teach you how to manage situations that arise.

The bottom line is that it is a man's world and a woman in a position of authority is treated with some suspicion. Perhaps we deal with ideas differently or, as in my case, was not fully qualified for the job. After all, every one does not have an IAS training.

I also firmly believe that art, educational institutions and even film certification should not be handled by the Government.

Q4. Since you are associated with so many institutions and have so many responsibilities, do you have any spare time for yourself? If yes, then what do you do in your spare time ?

I am thankfully no longer associated with any institutions, except a couple of schools. I enjoy that. In my spare time I love to listen to music or attend music concerts, read and strangely, a new interest is cooking!

Q5. You were born to a Jewish father and Roman Catholic mother; grew up in the cosmopolitan influence of Defence Services and schooled at the Annie Besant School in Chennai. Above all, I presume that the semantic and syntactic dimensions of dance morphology must have influenced you. What are your views on religion and society in general ?

I am a believer in the veracity of all religions. I also believe 'to each his own' and 'live, and let live'. Having said that I love my country and its varied culture. I love its people and their diversity. I believe that every man must follow his heart and that kindness, compassion & good manners must be a thumb rule for a happier life.

Ms Leela Samson



TEACHER FROM THE PAST— MAJOR GHOSH

Major Ghosh joined as the Scindia School Bursar in 1969 and possibly served the school till 1977. Just as he had a penchant tendency to recite a 'ghost story', he himself remains a ghost in the archives of the school. For some reason there is no record of him in the archives of the school records section. But, reader, please do believe me when I say, he existed. In many ways he was larger than life because for us youngsters in the 7th class onwards, for (1) he came from the army (2) he could tell stories (3) he knew automobile engineering. All interesting stuff that boyhood dreams are made up of.

As the School Bursar, he stepped in to fill a class when an 'English' class subject teacher was off. This he did till Mr Arthur Hughes joined in to buttress the English language department. Major Ghosh was given to creating stories on the spur of the moment. Most of his stories revolved around the period when he served in the British Indian Army and had been stationed on the Fort as a very young soldier.

I vividly remember how Mansingh Palace and other historical relics on the fort were the locale settings for his 'ghost stories'. He had a beige coloured Fiat, one of the very few personally owned cars on the fort then. Major Ghosh was always smartly turned out even in summer, in a coat and tie. He did not have an accent and his pronunciation was good. His hair which were slightly curly were greyish and crisp. He sported round steel glasses and with his army bearing gave a vague impression of Subhash Chandra Bose.

The car, an Oldsmobile, bluish grey coloured, I think was donated by one of the mills (JC Mill?) in a non-working condition and was towed up to the school. This was in 1969-70. And that was the year the Motor Mechanics Hobby Class started off.

Mr Ghosh traded his suit for blue overalls stitched by the school tailor. He spent many an hour, undertaking to repair that car with the school bus drivers at the school garage next to Madhav House. Those students who had signed up for this hobby class pitched in as amateur apprentice mechanics. Soon the car was up running under its own power. And once a week the hobby class, was now assigned a section of its own, next to the Wood Working Hobby Class run by the very talented Mr. Ghun.

As a reward for assisting in the repairs of the car, Mr Ghosh gave

very brief driving lessons to his young flock, who were rightly thrilled to sit behind the steering wheel.

Saturday was hobby class day and the apprentices dressed in blue overalls could be seen peering into the open bonnet of the car, learning about the engine, fuel pumps, carburetor, spark plugs etc. The list goes on. There were a lot of parts, toolkit equipment also in the hobby class.

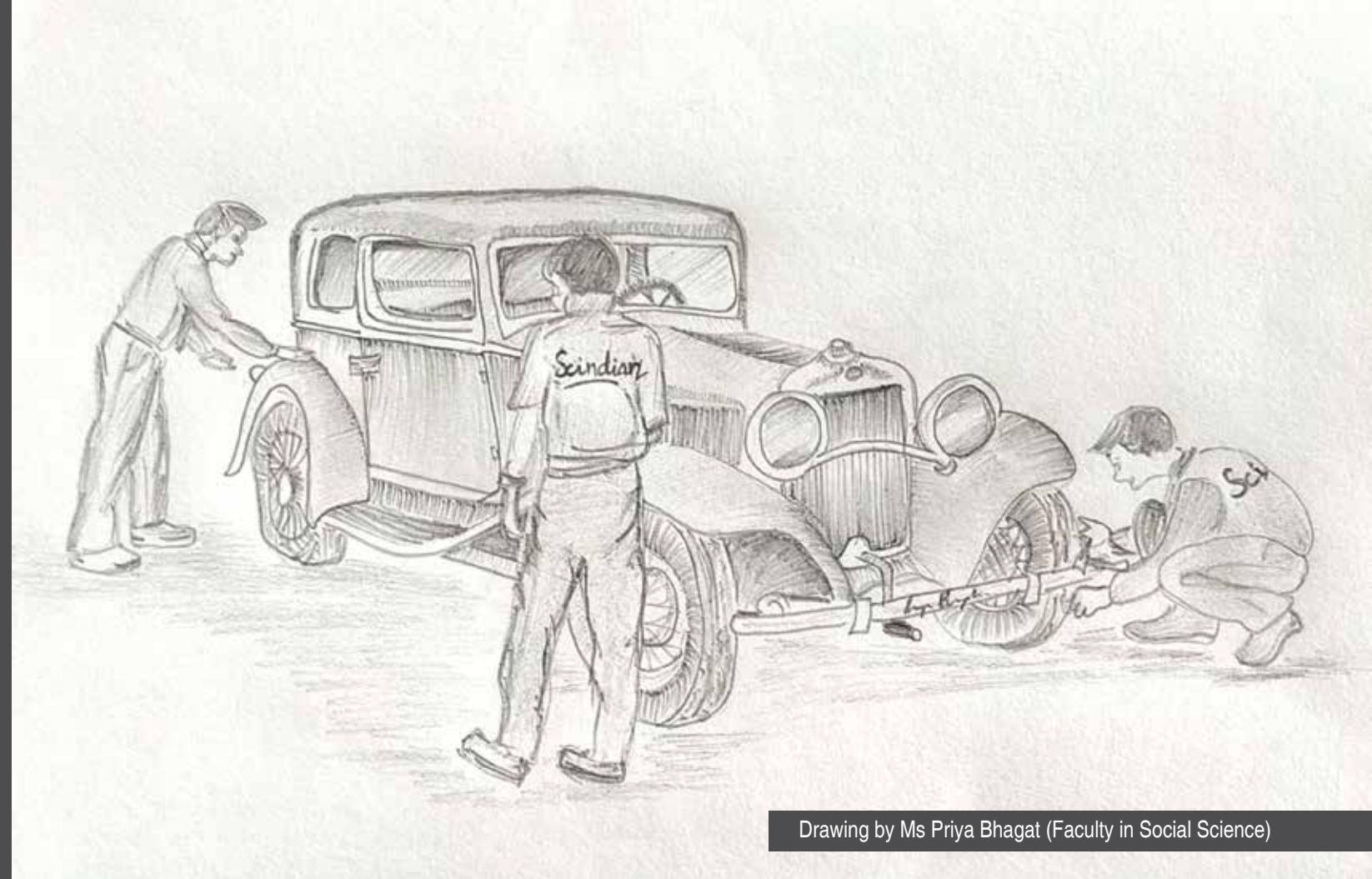
A practical demonstration that I think stood good in life for the young mechanics. They definitely had a swagger about them. I daresay, they sported some grease on their face, hands and overalls to impress others.

I do not recollect if the car had white wall tires. Possibly did. I wonder if it is the same car as now perched up on a platform between the Sick Room and the Shukla OAT. It looks identical. A jigsaw piece of our recalled past.

I am given to understand that the Motor Mechanics Hobby Class was disbanded after he left School in the late 70's. Passion in anything requires a drive, a certain horse power, if I may loosely play upon the words and also the persona to match it. Major Ghosh, he fired up the imagination of the boys in his class.

That car that stands under the elements still is testimony to the old adage- they don't make them like that anymore.

This article is contributed by a Motor Mechanics Hobby Class enthusiast, Mr Homsy Irani (Ex-Ja, 1974)



Drawing by Ms Priya Bhagat (Faculty in Social Science)



Bugle call for Astachal



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