

Qila Quotes

VOLUME 39



THE SCINDIA SCHOOL

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Mrs Darshana Jaini (Parents' Representative)

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Ex officio Member, Secretary & Principal

Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat

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July 2020

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this edition of the Qila Quotes. If an error has occurred, please accept our apology and contact the editor at visheshs@scindia.edu.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

Greetings & Welcome!

Just as every cloud has a silver lining, the unprecedented tough times brought immense opportunities to arm ourselves with skills that most of us were alien to. Our teachers have been on their toes in every aspect that you can think of, particularly in the last few months. Contrary to what people might feel due to the closing of physical school, in some ways, teachers have been even more busy than they were before covid19. Our teachers went through hours and hours of technology related training sessions so that they could deliver online lectures; offer online counselling sessions; conduct online class teacher's meetings; plan & execute online hobbies, societies, fitness & sports and music lessons. And not to forget the online House-led Astachal & Guided meditation especially directed towards students' emotional and spiritual health. In one line, with pardonable pride I say - the engagement of our teachers with our students is simply phenomenal!

What a shared privilege it is for me to have such a fine group of optimistic teachers and for children to be taught by such Gurus! In the same token, I must also inform you that we've had absolutely stellar Board results this year. Please do go through the overview inside the magazine.

The new session that started on 6th of July 2020, has a carefully curated 'Daily Schedule', which has slots to fill the mind, body and soul. Our focus on the wholesome development of the boys has remained the pivot of the planning exercise. However, our endeavor must be supported by elders at home who are also co-teachers now. Of course, our intention must be supplemented with the students' own quest for learning. Whilst the preparation to welcome the students at the 160-acre breath-taking campus is a continuous process, we have already taken all reasonable precautions to begin the new academic year of 2020-21. We are waiting for further directions from the government regarding reopening of School. Of course, till such time, online classes will go on to ensure that there is no academic loss for any student.

Yours Sincerely,
Dr MD Saraswat

EDITORIAL

SOBA House Inaugurated

On 26th February 2020, Old boys, Board members, Principal, Vice Principal, staff, retired teachers, and well-wishers gathered on the fort for the inauguration of the SOBA House. **Mr Vinay Modi** along with **Mr RS Pawar** inaugurated the new block by unveiling a plaque and lighting the lamp. Vice President of the BOGs, **Mr RS Pawar** addressed the gathering and thanked all those Old Boys and staff members who contributed towards the fruition of this beautiful edifice. **Mr Pawar** acknowledged the contribution of **Mr Ravi Saund**, **Mr Ajaydeep Singh Jamwal** and **Mr GS Bakshi** among others. **Mr Vinay Modi** also addressed the gathering and shared his views regarding the SOBA House and the school in general. **Mr Saund** in his address apprised everybody of the ambitious expansion plans of the school for the next decade or so.



Dignitaries at the inauguration ceremony

Donation

We hereby humbly acknowledge the generous donation of Rs 1 Cr by **Mr Vijay Bhargava** (Ex-RN, 1953 – 1957) towards the SOBA House. **Mr Bhargava** finished his schooling from Scindia, completed his higher studies from BITS, Pilani and IIM-Ahmedabad. After working in large and medium industries in Nagda, Pune and Ahmedabad, he started his own business of digitizing engineering drawings. Indian Railways is his company's major customer and the company is highly profitable. He enjoys



All-new SOBA House



Principal, Dr MD Saraswat presenting a souvenir to Mr Vinay Modi

collecting Classic Books, Classic Photographs, Classic Artworks etc. of world-famous artists and photographers.

Trending

During this period of lockdown, Principal, **Dr Saraswat** has participated in about a dozen panel discussions, and has been interviewed by independent media and other educational firms wherein he has shared his views on a variety of topics including Life, Livelihood, Technology, Pedagogy, Covid-19 mitigation etc. Educators and parents across the country have simply admired him for his honest views and learnt from what he had to share via these forums.

Workshops & webinars

The teachers teaching Class X and XII attended a workshop on CBSE Spot Evaluation on 7th February 2020 in MCR-1, Modi Science Block at 3 pm. The Resource Person for the same was **Mr RK Kapoor**, the Dean of ICT. 29 teachers attended the workshop.

Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat was part of an enriching panel discussion organized by BW Education on Wednesday, the 19th of February 2020 in Delhi. The School Leaders Conclave was a unique initiative which combined keynote presentations, round table discussions and workshops to facilitate effective partnership building for senior management from schools with other important stakeholders from the educational landscape.



Principal, Dr MD Saraswat at the conclave

Academics

Due to Covid-19, the academic transaction had to switch from physical classrooms to virtual platforms. Therefore, our teachers were trained to use Microsoft Teams with the help of sessions from Microsoft representatives. The training sessions by NIIT experts were also taken in separate batches. Wacom interactive devices were distributed department wise to bring the interactive White Board into the classroom. Attendance was a feature that was added by Microsoft into the Teams. The Rosemounts Institute also conducted the training sessions on the 'Virtual Teacher Part I Series'. Teachers attended several Webinars from time to time. We already had the ICR system with us; the videos and assignments were given through the ICR as well. All the

teachers further attended a webinar on 'Pedagogy and Motivation' by **Mr Arun Kapur** on 22nd June. Apart from the above-mentioned sessions, teachers, on their own attended several webinars organized by the CBSE, under the direction of school management to enhance their online competencies. Many of them have done courses on online teaching. In addition, School shared pertinent articles and links of webinars / important interviews with the teachers for reading and viewing followed by discussion and sharing learning outcomes etc.

Events

The Central Library, Delhi (A Government of India set up) had put up a Book Fair in the Library Corridor from 8th - 9th February 2020. Students could purchase books worth Rs 2000. The purpose of the Book Fair was to collect funds for tribal welfare.

Kishangarh Hockey Shield 2019-20, the triangular series between Mayo College, Ajmer; Daly College, Indore; and The Scindia School, Gwalior, was held from 8th February to 9th February 2020. Mayo College won the final match by 3-2. **Sher Bahadur Dahal** of The Scindia School was declared as the Best Player and the Hockey Shield went to the Mayo College, Ajmer.

Martyrs' Day was held on 30th February 2020. Poems in Hindi and English focusing on the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi were recited. The song 'Yadi teri awaz pe koi na aaye toh tu chal akela re' inspired the school community. The customary silence gave us the opportunity to delve in the depths of our consciousness.

Basant Panchami celebration was held on the Fort with a lot of enthusiasm. **Shantanu Yadav** talked about the festival of Basant Panchami. A poem 'Dekho Basant Aaya' and the Saraswati Vandana soothed all present.

The Valedictory Assembly was held on 14th February 2020. The Senior School Prefect, **Aditya Parashar** on behalf of his batch expressed heartfelt thanks to the school

community for moulding the 'unsure boys of yesterday' to the 'men of tomorrow'. The tradition of lighting the candle was performed which symbolizes that our boys will carry the light of knowledge out into the world. The boys of Class XII were greeted by the Brass Band with the tunes of 'Kabhi alvida na kehna' as they left the OAT. The event culminated with the dinner at the Principal's residence.



Class 12th students: Taking the light to the world

The 25th Annual Sports Banquet 2019-20, was held on 29th February 2020 in the Dining Hall at 8 pm. The occasion marked the celebration of the achievements of the students in the field of sports. **Mr Rajinder Pal Devgan**, a distinguished educationist and sportsman who served as the Principal of Yadavindra Public School and served as an English teacher at The Doon School for almost three decades, was the Chief Guest for the occasion. **Aditya Parashar**, The Senior School Prefect and **Uttam Rai**, the School Games Captain, thanked the Chief Guest for his inspirational words and the Principal for giving them all the opportunities.



SSP -Aditya Parashar addressing the gathering at the Sports Banquet



Mr RP Devgan and Dr MD Saraswat sharing a light moment during the Sports Banquet

The festival of Holi was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm as the entire community became a riot of colours as they played in the Oval Field. The festivities began a day earlier on 9th March with Holika Dehan, which symbolizes the victory of good over evil.



At Holika dahan

The Senior House Reports were read out on 14th February 2020. **Aryan Samil**, **Gaurang Paliwal**, **Shivang Kumar**, **Arya Adhikari**, **Kshitij Dogra**, **Shivansh Bansal**, **Aditi Joshi** and **Hriday Soni** read the reports of Daulat, Madhav, Ranoji, Mahadji, Jeevaji, Jayappa, Jayaji and Shivaji House respectively.



Tushar Gupta receiving the 'Best in Sports' cup from Mr Jagdish Joshi (Housemaster - Daulat House)

Community Service

The members of the Social Service League of the School, along with the other faculty members, went on a visit to Sonsa on Sunday, 9th February 2020. The representatives of The Scindia School included 25 faculty members and 64 senior students. The day was celebrated as the 'Sports Day' in which the village boys and girls competed in various sports like kabbadi, 100-meter dash, 3-legged race, sack race, balancing the pitcher on the head, balancing the lemon in the spoon and peacock race. The major attractions were the fast cycling race, 2 kilometers' race and the avid gymnasts. The gymnasts of the village left us spell bound as they displayed breathtaking talent. The Sports Day concluded with the Prize Distribution Ceremony. The Vitthal Govind Gadgil Memorial Award was awarded to **Ms Versha Nath** of Nathon-ka-pura and **Ms Kajal Pal** of Sonsa Village. The villagers expressed their thankfulness and appreciation towards the school. The event brought smiles to many faces.



Mr Dhirendra Sharma & Mr Jitendra Jawale at the closing ceremony on Sonsa Day



Way to go...

With the arrival of rains on the Fort, Community Service members are busy looking after saplings planted in previous years - the vegetable garden near Biology Lab and new plantations, specially the fruit saplings in the vicinity of boarding Houses. As an extension to this effort, with the support of **Colonel Romeo Singh** of 8th Madhya Pradesh Battalion NCC, Gwalior, "Plant Tree Save Environment" drive was organized on the Fort. On Tuesday, 28th July 2020, students and staff members planted about 50 saplings mostly of Custard Apple and Chiroor near the school main gate and close to boarding Houses.



Go green...

Co-curricular Activities

It was important for us to connect with our students for their cerebral, emotional, physical, social and spiritual wellbeing during this pandemic. Therefore, we engaged with our students via meaningful activities during this summer break. A brief report on the same is given below: -

English Debate

The English Debating Society of our school organized Webinars from 18th May to 24th June 2020. These webinars took place on every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. These were a combination of workshops and mock debating series in different formats. All the members of the society attended as trainers and trainees for different sessions. It was thereby an initiative for the students and by the students, where teachers were guides and facilitators. Two guest sessions included a session by Rhythm Kukreja, School Prefect, 2020, who talked about "How Debating had helped him secure a fully

funded course at NYU, Abu Dhabi. Another session was conducted by **Shantanu Kulshrestha**, Activity School Prefect, 2016, who guided the students on building a solid case for debating.

Public Speaking Skills

Public Speaking Skills society conducted activities to improve students' vocabulary, expression and thought process and rectification of grammatical errors etc. The students were encouraged to participate in 'Monologue'. They were encouraged to elocute Greta Thunberg's speech at UN COP24 Conference, 2018. In an open forum they discussed about Corona virus and preference of a residential school over a day school in the given circumstances. In Elocution, the students were introduced with the nuances of recitation. They were asked to recite - Night of the Scorpion by Nissim Ezekiel and Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost. The students were encouraged to select themes and write their own poems. The English Literary Society also introduced a Dramatic Monologue in which how to use props to create characters on the given topic was explored. They were taught the art of connecting to the audience. The students were divided into pairs and each pair was allotted a topic. Like this, every student had a defined role to play. Thus, we gave every child an opportunity to speak up and build confidence.

Art and Craft

Art Department motivated students to discover their artistic and creative aspects. Activities like clay modeling, craft work, paper cutting, thumb painting, thread painting, origami, clay Jewelry, wall-hanging, and handmade pottery was taken up by the students with great enthusiasm. Paper Mache department taught how to make vases out of wastepaper. Special art classes were conducted wherein using utensils as tools which are easily available at home to draw images was taught. They also built bird houses, learnt stone painting and fabric painting. The students were asked to paint their used t-shirts as well.



Artwork by Ayaan Agarwal



Artwork by Vinayak Kohli



Artwork by Divas Chahal

Hindi Dramatics / Debating / Elocution

The students were given themes and situations to prepare their own videos and were encouraged to speak fluently. Continuous feedback about the performance helped the students to learn the minute techniques of drama. The Hindi literary society teachers apprised the students with new formats of debating. They worked towards enhancing the quality of debate by giving more emphasis on a content rich debate. The discussion was mainly based on social issues.

Music Society

The Music Society taught the school song to the new admissions on priority after which several other melodious songs were taught via synthesizer. Students were also taught basic vocal notes which helped the learners to

perform better. Musical instrument like sitar, harmonium, mouthorgan and tabla were also taught to the students.

Sports & Fitness

Months of lockdown severely restricted our movement, forcing us to remain indoors most of the time. Therefore, the Sports department of school organized online classes for Yoga and Fitness, for all our students, using Microsoft Teams. Classes began from 18th May 2020 and continue till date. We even celebrated International Yoga Day on the Fort.



Yoga Day celebrations on campus



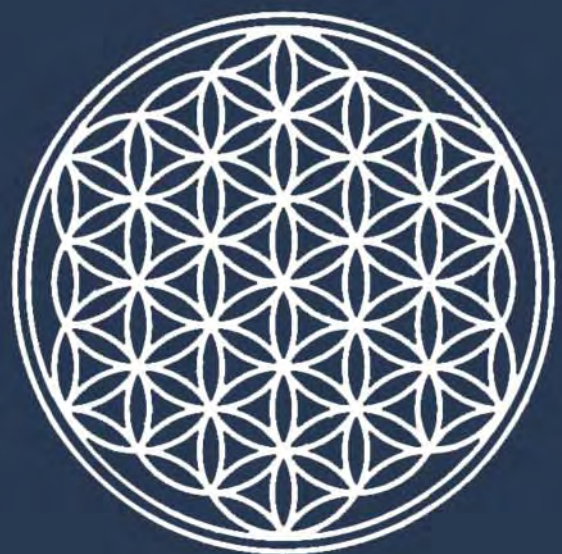
H.H. Maharani Priyadarshini Raje Scindia visited the school on 8th Feb 2020. She's seen in the pic alongwith Mrs Kanan Saraswat and Ms Smita Chaturvedi



Lunch with Royalty at the Principal's residence

MOU

The Scindia School and the New York Institute of Finance (NYIF) - a global leader in professional training for financial services and related industries have entered into an agreement. As per the agreement NYIF will annually allocate two full scholarships of 100% tuition fee waiver for their G2020 & Young Finance Scholar Programs (One for a high school student and the other for a middle school student). NYIF will also deliver in-demand skills-based training, and organise relevant webinars for students and teachers.



OLD BOYS' NEWS

Mr Vivek Sarkar (Ex-JA, 1976) has been appointed as the new Chair at the School of Computer Science, Georgia Tech, USA. Before entering academia, Sarkar served as Senior Manager of Programming Technologies at IBM Research. He became a member of the IBM Academy of Technology in 1995 and was inducted as a fellow of the ACM in 2008 and a fellow of the IEEE in 2020. He has served as a member of the US Department of Energy's Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC) since 2009, and on the board of directors for the Computing Research Association (CRA) since 2015.

Wishing him all the best!



Capt. Vivek Saihgal (Ex-JA,1977) is now an Associate Professor, teaching Maritime Logistics at Symbiosis University, Pune. He is widely experienced in this field, having worked for 38 years in commercial logistics and shipping with national and international firms. While in School, he took part in the Founder's Day plays, was in the NCC, a House Prefect, and interested in Basketball and Football. After passing out, he did B.Sc. from St. Stephen's College, Delhi and M.Sc. (Shipping Mngmt.) from HumberSide University, UK, along with a PG Diploma in Supply Chain Management from ICFAI Hyderabad.

Wishing him all the best !

Mr Anurag Sehgal (Ex-MJ,1983) is manufacturing Oxymeters, Face Shields & Surveillance Cameras at Delhi. He was at Scindia from 1977-83, and took a keen interest in Basketball and athletics. After passing out, he completed B.A. (English Hons.) from Delhi University, and then started his firm, AV Systems in Okhla. He is offering his products to Scindians at highly discounted prices.

Mr Abhishek Ramkrishna (Ex-SH,1999) has joined Biocon in the capacity of Sr. Director (Corporate Communications) in Bengaluru. While in School, he was a House Prefect, Art Secretary, Cartoonist, participated in debates, elocutions, football, athletics and also topped the biology stream. His contemporaries vividly remember his role as King Duncan in Macbeth. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry and Microbiology from St. Xavier's College and a Post Graduate Degree in Marketing & Advertising from Xavier Institute of Communications. He also holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Marketing & Brand Management from MICA Ahmedabad. We wish him all the best.



LEARNINGS FROM QURAN

Since the beginning of human existence God has bestowed humanity with divine guidance through various channels. Almost all religions have some books which they revere as sacred and utilize it as guidance in their lives. There are numerous scriptures in this world which are said to be inspired or revealed by God to many prophets and saints like Bible (Old & New Testaments), Vedas, Guruganth and Quran to name a few. This article is focused on Quran with a brief introduction and significance of some of its specific verses.

Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammed around 1400 years ago through archangel



Jebreel (Gabriel) over a period of 23 years. The Quran has 114 chapters known as 'Sura'h' (with individual names) which contains more than six thousand sentences or verses known as 'Aaya't'. The message was revealed in Arabic, the language of the people it was initially addressed to, although the message was ultimately for the whole of humanity. The Quran specifically mentions that Muhammed was the messenger to the whole of mankind. In fact, the Quran addresses human beings as 'Ya aiyuhal Naas' (O Humankind) directly 306 times and indirectly more than 2000 times in Quran. In contrast the Quran specifically addresses Muslim men and women (Ya aiyuhal Muslimun/Muslimat/Muslimatun etc) by name only 49 times.



It will not be out of place to mention that like other divine scriptures Quran has also been subjected to misinterpretations and misconceptions amongst its followers and non-followers as well. There are many stories, parables and metaphors in Quran which were revealed in specific circumstance prevailed at the time of prophet Muhammed

therefore it is of utmost importance to see those verses in that perspective only. As a result extremists take few verses, cherry-pick partial sentences and remove the surrounding context and incorrectly believe in their misinterpretations to pursue their personal or political interests. Attempts to portray the Quranic text as preaching violence do not stand up to academic scrutiny, and in fact, can be dispelled by simply reading the entire sentence and the immediate context.

The teachings of Quran and its message is for all the time and all the people. Since Quran came as a source of guidance and warning for all mankind with wide range of knowledge that includes morals, ethics, justice, personal and social life conduct, administration, leadership, economics, civilization and spiritualism. Due to constraint of space, it will be prudent to choose few short verses which are most relevant in the present times, therefore I have selected 8 random verses which are mentioned below with their literal meanings:-

1. 'La iqra fiddeen' (2:256)

There is no compulsion in religion.

2. 'Lakum deenukum wa liya deen' (109:6)

To you be your religion, and to me my religion.

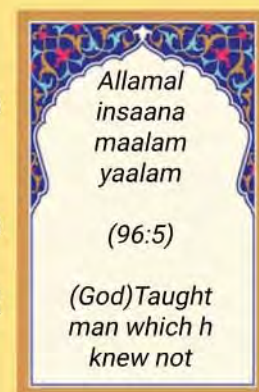
3. 'Wa laa talbisul haqqa bilbaatili wa taktumul haqqa wa antum ta'lamoona' (2:42)

And do not mix the truth with falsehood or conceal the truth while you know [it].

4. 'Rabbi zidnee ilmaa' (20:114)

My Lord, increase me in knowledge.

5. 'Haaa antum haaa'ulaaa'i haajajtum feemaa lakum bihee 'ilmun falima



tuhaajjoonaa feemaa laisa lakum bihee 'ilm; wallaahu ya'lamu wa antum laa ta'lmoon' (3:66)

Here you are - those who have argued about that of which you have [some] knowledge, but why do you argue about that of which you have no knowledge? And Allah knows, while you know not.

6. 'Yaaa aiyuhal lazeena amanoo laa ta'kuloo amwaalakum bainakum bilbaatili 'illaaa an takoona tijaaratan 'an taraadim minkum; wa laa taqtuloo anfusakum; innal laaha kaana bikum Raheemaa' (4:29)

You who have believed, do not consume one another's wealth unjustly but only [in lawful] business by mutual consent. And do not kill yourselves [or one another]. Indeed, Allah is to you ever Merciful.

7. 'Fa aati zal qurbaa haqqahoo walmiskeena wabnassabeel; zaalika khairul lil lazeena yureedoona Wajhal laahi wa ulaaa'ika humul muflihoon' (30:38)

So give the relative his right, as well as the needy and the traveler. That is best for those who desire the countenance of Allah, and it is they who will be the successful.

8. 'Wa maa umiroo il-la liy'abu dul laaha mukhliseena lahud-deena huna faa-a wa yuqemus salaata wa yu-tuz zakaata; wa zaalika deenul qaiyimah' (98:5)

And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, [being] sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayer and to give zakah (The obligatory charity out of one's income due to the poor and needy). And that is the correct religion.

Ms Mubashir Ahmed

Faculty in the department of English



Tough Yet Tactful

This pandemic would have a debilitating impact on India's tourism sector with the industry estimating an overall loss of Rs 5 lakh crore and job cuts for 4-5 crore people. The numbers will keep on varying from industry to industry. Yes, this arrangement in the economy is temporary, but would almost take minimum 2 years to get back on track. The nation-wide spending power will be affected for longer duration, say close to 5 years from now. Which in other way can be explained is increase in unemployment levels leading to recession. Ways in which it could be avoided are:

A. Either the employees or students try to get on to the job which are being offered to them without being choosy or else target those industries which would in any circumstances resist the hardships like FMCG, Health Care, Information Technology, Network Marketing, etc. This would help in enabling job security.

B. Get on with maximum online courses related to your specialization and increase knowledge or the required skills like Digital Marketing, Communication Effectivities, Analytics, Risk Management, Online Advertising, etc. This would warrant the risk of job swing.

C. Students who have just been placed or having existing jobs kindly avoid investments for the time being and maintain liquidity till things settle. If you're still struggling to pay for your expenses, go for moratorium being offered on all retain loans.

D. If you have some amount available to invest but not enough to continue all your regular investments, you should ideally focus on near-term goals that are non-negotiable. For long-term goals, there is more leeway to make up the difference when normalcy returns. Indian economy, which was already in slowdown phase for last six quarters, will record the slowest growth rate since

economic reforms of 1991. Well, is it still possible for India to achieve the target of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25? Today, it seems a distant dream. I kind of still believe that with some policies in place, we can still achieve the big target. But that also means government needs to let go a lot. Currently the way it is being handled, its effect on students will be devastating. The outcomes of it would be: 1. Higher Degrees with No Guarantee 2. Tuition Fee Hike 3. Smaller Endowments for College 4. Unhealthy life & Job Instability. Few methods I can suggest to tackle this are:

1. Widen Focus

Don't wait for the perfect opportunity to come by. If you are interested in health care, for example, think of areas even vaguely related areas where you can get a toehold. Consider viable options so that you are not out of the job market for too long and lose your skills.

2. Find Means of Advancement.

You may not find an ideal job, but you can find means that may lead to your dream job before long. For example, if you are an MBA and want to get into investment banking but can't find a job, look for an opening as a corporate financier or financial analyst, which may lead you to your goal.

3. Enroll for Internship.

Instead of doing nothing after graduation, volunteer to work for free in the sector you're interested in, or try to bag an internship. You will gain useful insights and also make some good connections.

4. Go for Career Counselling.

Career coaches are available in schools offering their services for free. Free and paid services are also available outside the campus. Job seekers should go to them, not only to identify job openings, but also to become more self-aware and aware of potential employers and industries.

5. Do Some Research.

Students should actively start looking for scholarships as soon as they finalize their post graduate school plans. There is no putting off this search since the demand for scholarship is the highest during a recession. Graduates should bear in mind where funds for further education are going to come from.

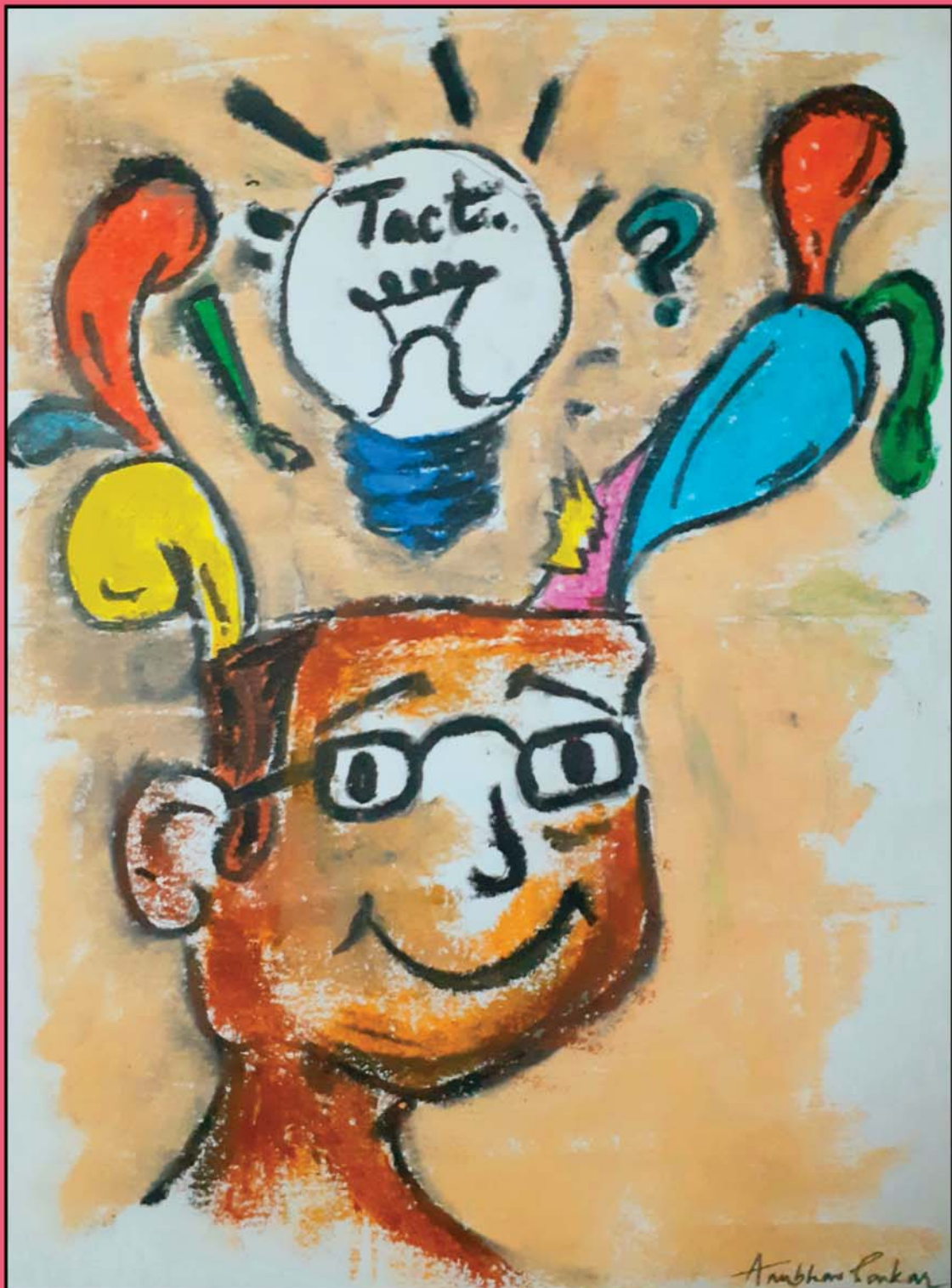
I hope this all could help the student community to at least get the notch of the rope which could help them reach the mountain eventually.

Mr Yash Dugar

(Ex-MD, 2008)

High Mile Travels (Tourism Industry)

Surat.



KEDARKANTHA TREK

Unaware of the challenges, a group of 63 students along with 4 teacher escorts namely **Mr Manoj Mishra, Mr Kamlesh Singh, Mr Chandan Baitha** and **Mr Dharmendra Mourya** left for the scenic hills of Uttarakhand on 2nd of March 2020. But the upcoming days weren't relaxing, rather they completely demanded us to leave our comfort zones and get moving. After 24 hours of travelling in combination of trains and buses we reached Mora from where the adventure was about to begin. We were welcomed by experienced instructors on the Tons campus. It was called so as it resided on the shore of the Tons river. After refreshments and briefings, we were divided into 2 groups out of which group 1 summited first and group 2 followed with a gap of 2 days. As I was a part of group 1, there were a few cycling and mountaineering sessions for the next 2 days. The phases of our journey were: Cycling for 23 kms to Sankri and 15 kms. trek to peak of Kedarkantha. As it was a student learning programme, we had to plan out everything from managing our backpack spaces to deciding our menu for the trek. Our group finally came down to essentials leaving behind all the tasty delicacies.

The next morning (5th March), we left the campus after a heavy breakfast. We started cycling from Mori (7 kms from the Tons campus) with high enthusiasm. It was neither sunny nor stormy, with light showers throughout the ride, each one managed to complete the first stage by arriving at the campsite in Sankri. While cycling, small kids looked at us in surprise and talking to them was a pleasure. As our camp was located on a terraced valley, the scenic beauty cannot be expressed in words. The next day, after breakfast we started trekking uphill. As it had poured heavily the previous evening, the route was muddy and slippery.

For the first time, I experienced real snowfall, but I realized that things are not as easy to counter as they appear. Without our snow boots on, it became hard to walk on fresh snow. But as it's always said - united we stand and divided we fall, we managed to help each other out by making chains. Under heavy snowfall we pitched our tents after which snow fights awaited us.



We were supposed to summit by 9th march with regular rest intervals that were necessary, as none of us was accustomed to such a cold climate. Unfortunately, the weather worsened day by day making it difficult to survive. As the sun refused to come out, our spare clothes remained wet which made us prone to slight cold and cough. After several discussions amongst ourselves, we decided to descend the very next day, but our instructors refused to give upon us. By god's grace, the sun was overhead shining bright the next day. All our hopes were alive again and we dropped the idea of descending. We had a snow skilling session and an acclimatization walk to the Juda lake. Our counterpart, Group 2, made their way to the Juda ka taalab campsite on the same day. After several exchanges of gossips, we left to gear ourselves for the summit. The journey of 3 days had to now be completed within 9 hours of constant walking.

On 9th March at 4:00 am, we left the campsite in the early morning darkness. We aimed to summit by 8:00 am and wished to see the sunrise from the peak. While climbing, the help extended by some of our teammates was worth appreciating. If it was not their constant motivation and our patience, it would have become impossible to summit as a team. The full moon was at its peak and its light fell on the fresh snow which had tiny crystals that reflected the moonlight and created an enchanting picture.

At around 8:30 am, we were at the summit, celebrating. It was the time for several clicks not only through lens but also with our eyes so that they last forever. The snow-capped mountains around the peak insisted me to stay there longer. Downhill was more challenging due to the softness of fresh snow.

There were only two things whose absence was making me restless – a bath and food. How could I forget the Holi celebration – the perfect end to our trip. The last two days involved activities like cliff jumping into a 32 feet deep chilled pool, archery etc. The best of times was spent in the volleyball court. On 12 march Group 2 returned after a successful summit. A talent evening marked the end of the

trip. On 13 March, we boarded the buses for school.

The motivation, team spirit and support throughout the trip reduced our efforts to half. The instructors' faith and their sleepless nights so that we get a good night's sleep will always be remembered. No doubt that there were times wherein we had almost given up due to problems like sanitation, unbearably cold weather, huge blisters, and the mud around our tents. But there was something that constantly refused the idea of descending before the summit. We are grateful to our teacher escorts for being there at every step and capturing the everlasting moments. If it were not for the school's plan, we would have never undergone such wonderful 12 days of our life.

"Life is not measured by number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." - Maya Angelou

Aditi Joshi
Class XII, Jayaji



What goes around, comes around. Really?

'Honesty is the best policy'- some may say but I think that sometimes we may be in a situation which could contradict this saying. I would like to talk about Karna, a character from the epic, The Mahabharata.

Karna was a Kshatriya who was raised by a charioteer and he loved archery. However, he being the son of a charioteer was not allowed to get trained in archery. Therefore in order to learn archery, he disguised himself as a Brahmin and went to Parashurama to learn archery. Parashurama taught him. One day, Parashurama was sleeping and had kept his head on Karna's lap. Suddenly Karna felt uneasy and looked at his feet. He saw that a scorpion had bit him and was eating his flesh. However, Karna did not move an inch so that his master could sleep peacefully. When Parashurama woke up and saw his injury, he asked that why did he not wake him up and help himself. Karna said that he didn't want to disturb Parashurama and thus did not wake him up. This alone was enough to know that he was a loyal and dedicated student. However, Parashurama got red with anger and said that only a Kshatriya can do what Karna had done and thus his true identity was revealed. Therefore, Parashurama cursed him that whenever he would need his skills of archery the most, it would be the time that he would forget it. This curse eventually led to his death in the field of Kurukshetra.

I now would like to talk about a different instance in Karna's life. Karna loved archery but being a charioteer's son, he was not allowed to study or participate in competitions. He was regarded as an outcast in the eyes of the Pandavas because he was the son of a charioteer but Duryodhan accepted him as an equal because of his skills. As the epic progressed, he came to know that he was actually a brother of the Pandavas. However, he chose to take the side of the Kauravas as Duryodhan had helped him during his bad times while the Pandavas had not. However even after doing such great acts of loyalty, he still met

death at the end of the day.

Another great quality of Karna was that he promoted charity a lot and always selflessly gave things in charity. There have been stories about him that once a man asked him for wood to burn in order to survive the winter night and Karna axed his whole house down to provide him with wood. Another instance was that when he was dying and was breathing his last breaths, Krishna disguised as a beggar and begged Karna for food. Karna told him that he had gold tooth and that he could uproot it and sell it to buy food. Thus, Karna had remained daan-veer till his last breath.

I think that after performing all these great deeds listed above why a man should face such consequences. Isn't it unfair? I think that what happened with Karna was not right.

I would now like to tell about a play which was performed on the founder's day of Scindia School which was known as "Charandas-the Thief". The story revolved around a thief who decided and vowed certain things. However, due to circumstances, he faced many problems in which his commitment towards his vows was tested. He emerged successful as he did not break his vows but protecting his vows led to his death.

The question I pondered upon was that is it necessary to safeguard our ethics, morals because in both the cases we observed that loyalty served them no good. What would have they felt when even after being loyal and innocent, they met with an undesirable fate. We all know the law of karma-"What goes around comes around" but is it really the truth?

On the other hand, we have sayings like - "Rules are made to be broken". This may seem childish to many but I think that they too have a purpose. Many times, people may find a situation where they cannot safeguard their ideals and have to lower their guard.

By saying this I do not mean to promote rebellion or manner-less people. I seek to know that whatever we do in life is it morally and ethically correct or not? Have we yet understood to differentiate between right and wrong things? that whatever we do in life is it morally and ethically correct or not? Have we yet understood to differentiate between right and wrong things?

Memoy Mishra
Class XI, Daulat



Quarantine Musings

26 Jan 2020, was a red letter day for us 69ers, as we assembled for our Golden Jubilee on the Fort's premises, a gregarious bunch of the bald, the beautiful, the blessed, the blithe and the blissful. Many of us making the pilgrimage after five decades, with a promise, as we parted that we shall meet again, in thunder lightning or in rain. Perhaps even the Bard had not factored in the ruthless, relentless malevolence of a virus, which could keep us "locked down".

In these eight weeks or so, since the quiet set up of a "Janata Curfew", and an evening nine pm clapping caucus, followed by the awe and shock of a lock down a couple of days later, much water has flowed down the constantly purifying Chambal. As Ramayana and Mahabharata unfolded, penniless migrants, that unsung, unnoted forgotten yet essential vote bank started one of the greatest human migrations seen by India since 1947. These hapless citizens took bi-cycles, or started trudging on highways, rail tracks, dirt tracks from the unforgiving cities back to the sinecures of their villages, where at least a shelter and munificence of their villagers assured them of their "Jaan" if not any "Jahaan". My wife of many decades too, on a visit to her siblings in Chandigarh, found herself on an extended "lockout" from her home and hearth. That assured feeling of contentment and comfort of four decades, metamorphosed into a painful sense of separation. With the restrictions on our age group travelling, the "GharWapsi" wait seemed like a night without end! The stuttering economy too seemed to comply with the "lockdown" orders. From Raghuram Rajan to Gita Gopinath, many opined about the deterioration of not only our economy but that of the rest of the world. Strangely in this gathering gloom, our stock market seemed strikingly supernatant and sunny.

I help to administer a group of schools, where there are children who come from not an affluent back ground, as less than fifteen percent have home computers. The switch over to distant learning, for an unprepared school, students or their parents therefore became a challenge. To my surprise, a fair amount was achieved, as various forms of resources and mediums were explored and used, as varied as, Google Class, Zoom, WhatsApp, Khan Academy, Diksha, e-Basta, SMILE, You Tube, self-videos, amongst others. An indication of the impact of the upgrading of skill sets and use of technology, was the daily review of the progress by my 86 year old mother, who is the Chief Mentor and Academic Director, via video conferencing every evening! And to think, before that fateful day in March, she would not even use a "smart phone".



Mrs Urmil Bakhshi at a Video Conference

As the shadows shorten, and spring gives way to summer, we seem to have missed the overture, and the aria of Wuhan. The world seems surprised at the intensity of the duets and choruses from across the globe, as the cogs of civilisations cease their constant churn. The much needed "Sanjivani Booti", a prophylactic, an anti COVID-19 pill or a vaccine, seems to be there, right ahead, just over the horizon, at Land's end. The great quality of a collaborative global scientific effort

promises to be that life giving placenta where the clear streams of reason promise a new world. The world anxiously waits for "The Hanuman". We see the possibility of a deliverance, but also a need to strengthen our resolve for the long haul without being dismayed or daunted. In these testing times, the ghastly shadow has also brought out the amazing resilience of our first responders, as they take on the gruelling task of providing succour and relief through their empathy, compassion and professionalism to those in need, often at the risk to their own lives. The situation is nothing less than seen in a war, except now the enemy is unseen and not much is known on how to tame the beast.

There is much hard work that lies ahead of us to rebuild our society and lives from the ravages of an insidious and uncompromising contagion, to bring back laughter and joy and the "sukoon" of a grandchild's hug. The hour of danger has not passed, and the sixty minutes of distant run promises to be long and arduous. It will be the initiative and creativity of the scientific community, when harnessed astutely, which will eventually leave an imprint on history that we as a people, were creative, hardworking, law abiding, compassionate, and humane and were a generation to emulate. Till then, stay at home, stay safe.

Mr Vineet Bakhshi
(Ex-Chaitanya, 1969-70)



Tête-à-tête

with Mr Vikram Misri

Ambassador Misri(Ex-SH, 1981), a career diplomat of 1989 batch of the Indian Foreign Service has served in various capacities at the Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi. He has had the privilege of handling some very important assignments along with Prime ministers - Mr IK Gujral, Dr Manmohan Singh, Mr Narendra Modi and President Mr Pranab Mukherjee. He has served in various Indian Missions abroad in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. His overseas assignments include Belgium, Tunisia, Pakistan, USA, Sri Lanka, Germany, Spain and Myanmar. He is currently the Indian Ambassador to People's Republic of China.

Born on 7th November 1964 in Srinagar, he finished his schooling from The Scindia School in Gwalior and went on to earn a bachelor's degree with Honours in History from the Hindu College, University of Delhi and an MBA from XLRI, Jamshedpur. Ambassador Misri is a Fellow of the Aspen Institute, USA's India Leadership Initiative. He speaks fluent Hindi, English and Kashmiri and has some working knowledge of French.

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

We went through your speech delivered at India House Beijing on the International Yoga Day Celebrations. Do you find people in China are enthusiastic enough to make this ancient Indian practice a part of their lives?

Yes. In fact, when I arrived here last year, I was pleasantly surprised to see the enormous popularity of Yoga across the country. We have a Yoga teacher at our Cultural Centre and her classes are always oversubscribed. The International Day of Yoga, which is celebrated across the globe in June every year, is a very popular event in China. Last year, we had events in more than a dozen cities in the country to celebrate IDY. There is an India China Yoga College in Kunming where we have sent instructors for teaching Yoga to local students and teachers. And, of course, there are innumerable yoga studios around the country, many of them run by Indian gurus. I think the people of China appreciate the value that the practice of Yoga delivers, if not always from the spiritual perspective, then certainly from the physical and mental health perspective.



The inauguration of the India Week in Wuhan, aptly titled 'Colours of India' was aimed at showcasing the very best of art and culture of 'Incredible India'. Has the festival been able to capture the Chinese imagination?

The festival was quite popular. It combined a

dance performance, a film show, a photo exhibition and a food festival, thereby offering something of interest to a broad cross-section of people. This is quite a successful template and something that we have done in multiple locations in China.

On 9th January 2019 at the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas ceremony you said that it is the character and attitude of our Pravasi communities e.g. their work ethic, their law-abiding nature and their ability to become a part of the communities they are living amidst etc. which brings us the greatest credit. Any thoughts on why is it that all these qualities seem to be rather lacking in Indians when they are in their own country?

I think it's a bit unfair to say that these qualities are lacking in Indians when they are in their own country. If you look carefully, you'll find these qualities in abundance around you in Indian settings. It's just that, in a foreign setting, our expatriate communities stand out for their behavior, whereas back home the generally ethical and law-abiding conduct of the majority is drowned out by the inevitable publicity that cases of bad behavior by a few people tend to attract. Our media needs to preserve a balance in this regard, and we need to be careful not to sell ourselves short.

What are your greatest strengths as a diplomat?

Well, there's an old joke about a diplomat's greatest quality being to tell you to go to hell in such a way that you actually look forward to the journey! Personally, I would like to think that the ability to listen and empathize is what has helped me the most in doing my job well.

What are the most pressing issues you want to address during your current assignment?

There are two important deficits in the relationship between India and China. One is the obvious one - the trade deficit that India faces in its goods trade with China. Rationalizing this and promoting a healthier and more balanced commercial relationship is one of my highest priorities. The second deficit is less obvious - a deficit of understanding each other's culture, ethos, motivations and



behaviors. This is a direct result of the relatively little contact between civil societies on the two sides. I hope that, during my assignment, I can bridge this gap somewhat.

What brings you happiness? Tell us something about your interests and hobbies.

When serving abroad, we increasingly find ourselves in situations where a fellow citizen is in need of assistance. To be able to help people caught up in difficult and unfamiliar situations when they are far from home, family and friends is always a great source of satisfaction and joy.

I have always enjoyed reading. The demands of the job, however, have often made it difficult to do it regularly. But whenever I am able to find time and get my hands on a good read, I enjoy it greatly.

After having served in a number of western countries what major difference do you feel between the western world and the Eastern world (more specifically in the context of India and China)?

Well, these two worlds are different in every possible way, from language to cuisine to social mores and levels of formality and informality. From my perspective, the most important difference is that there is less of a cultural leap to be made when dealing with eastern cultures as compared to western ones. Even if you're very familiar with western culture, there is

greater ease in settling down in eastern cultures. I certainly experienced that wherever I have served in our own neighborhood. Eastern cultures are extremely complex cultures with very unique features, but I instantly felt a cultural affinity in the countries in our neighborhood that I served in, an affinity that takes longer to develop in the west, if it develops at all. No doubt it has something to do with the fact that we ourselves are an eastern culture and so there are fewer leaps of faith required to make sense of things.

Any one memory from school that you'd like to share with us please?

There are lots of great memories and it's really difficult to pick out one in particular. My most abiding memories are of the large number of plays that I took part in, whether in an acting, directing or producing role. It's something that led to a lifelong love for the stage arts and, even today, reading or watching a great play is something I really look forward to.



STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

The historic result that is presented to you today is the result of our strategic plans that we have worked on since 2018. With each passing year, we have seen how our results have improved. These improvements have pushed us to continue to plan purposefully, prepare prayerfully, proceed positively, and in the end pursue the plan persistently.

These steps helped us achieve big milestones in the history of The Scindia School. Firstly, in Class 12th, a 7% jump in the school's overall result and secondly, a school average of 92%. However, none of this would have been possible had we not planned ahead of time. Any historical change to happen, one must toil to bring those dreams to fruition and so did we!

Overview of 2020 (Class X) Results:

Name of the student	Percentage
Memoy Mishra	97.4
Abhey Khanna	97.4
Prashant Agrawal	97
Svastik Arora	97
Keshav Dudhani	96.6
Ujjwal Mehrotra	96.4
Parth Bansal	96.2
Saransh Agarwal	96.2
Rajdeep Semil	95.8
Yash Gupta	95.8
Harkirat Singh	95.4
Utkarsh Gupta	95.4
Pratik Garg	95.4
Siddharth Chandel	95
Shantanu Yadav	95
Khushal Agarwal	94.6

Overview of 2020 (Class XII) results:

School Topper Class XII (All Subjects)

Pratham Agarwala : 99.80%

School Result(Best 4):

Average Percentage = 94

Stream-Wise Results – Best 4 Aggregates

Science: Aggregate – 95.57%
Topper – Pratham Agarwala : 99.80%

Commerce : Aggregate – 92.33%
Topper – Mridul Singhi : 97.80%

Humanities : Aggregate – 93.91%
Topper – Sundaram Malik : 99.80%

Games excellence Awards

Games	Full Colour	Half Colour
Football		Kenchey Lepcha Tashi D Bhutia Dup T Bhutia
Cricket		Vihaan Gupta Abhey Khanna Abhyuday Chauhan Mridul Singhi Guransh Johar
Hockey	Lalit Kumar Anoop Limboo Sher bahadur	Binay Chettri
Basketball	Shivang Kumar	
Table Tennis		Keshav Agarwal Mridul A. Singh Arpit Mittal Yash Jain
Tennis	Irish Rohra	Gatik Bhonwal
Squash	Agraj Pathania	
Swimming	Samarjith Nalvade	Vishnudeep Tyagi Rakshit Malhotra Harsh Jain Akshat Karwa
Shooting	Toshan Aggarwal Fatehvir S. Bahia Harkirat S. Bhinder	Krishna Sharma Aditi Joshi Manas Parashar Varun Goyal Aryan Agarwal
Horse Riding	Gautam Agarwal	
Cross Country	Dhan Bahadur	Sher Bahadur
Athletics	Adwait Sharma Rohit Gond	Anoop Adiwasi Krish Lokwani

For meaningful engagement during lockdown, we enrolled some of our students in various competitions. The details of the same and the positions secured are as below:

Organization: Banasthali Vidyapith University,
Jaipur (Rajasthan)
Date: 21 June 2020
Age category: 6-15 years

Event: Slogan writing

1st position: Vinayak Todi (Class VII)
2nd position: Vivek Sharma (Class VII)
3rd position: Rishabh Singhania (Class VII)

Event: Poster Making

2nd position: Rishabh Singhania (Class VII)
3rd position: Vinayak Todi (Class VII)

Event: Rhythmic Yoga

1st position: Vinayak Todi (Class VII)
2nd position: Ayaan Agrawal (Class VII)
3rd position: Harshvardhan Himanshu Wadher (Class VIII)

Birla Public School (Vidya Niketan)

Date: 20 June 2020

Event: Yoga exhibition for students

(Age category: 6-15 years)

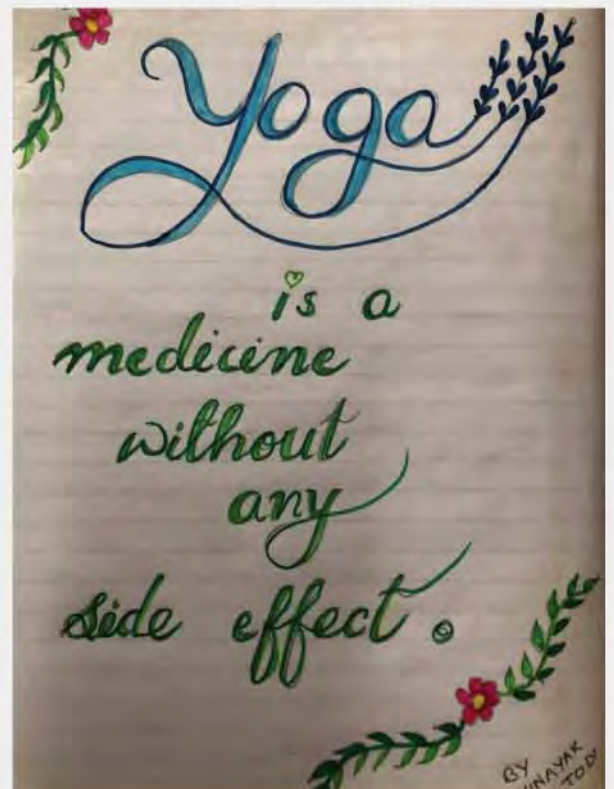
BLISS - Yoga

Participants:

Vinayak Todi (Class VII)
Ayaan Agrawal (Class VII)
Aanya Pillay (Class VI)
Harshvardhan Himanshu Wadher (Class VIII)



Harshvardhan Wadher



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