

Qila Quotes

Volume 40

ऋषि गालव की तपस्थली पर बसे हुए अभिराम !
पुण्य-तीर्थ हे, ज्ञान-तीर्थ हे, हे विद्या के धाम !
शिक्षार्जन-रत छात्र देश के हर प्रदेश के वासी;
भाषा औ, संस्कृति के संगम, समता-प्रेम-प्रकाशी;
भारत की आत्मा से चित्रित, हे गुरुकुल के ग्राम !
पुण्य-तीर्थ हे, ज्ञान-तीर्थ हे, हे विद्या के धाम !

खुले गगन की छाँह, स्वच्छ धरती की गोद सुहानी;
संस्कारित कर सीख सिखाती, गुरु-वाणी बरदानी-
सदाचार-सेवा-अनुशासन, व्रत-पालन निष्काम !
पुण्य-तीर्थ हे, ज्ञान-तीर्थ हे, हे विद्या के धाम !

तुमको विनत प्रणाम तुमको विनत प्रणाम
तुमको विनत प्रणाम !

– श्री देवेन्द्र नारायण वर्मा



THE SCINDIA SCHOOL

THE FOUNDER

Maharaja Madhavrao Jayajirao Scindia

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H H Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia

Vice President

Mr Rajendra S Pawar

Members

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Mr Vinay Modi

Mr Mahesh Gandhi

Mr Harpal Singh

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Mr Shivshankar Menon

Mr Shashank Vira

Yuvraj Mahanaaryaman J Scindia

Government Nominee

Mr Harish Bhojwani

Mr Amar Jyoti Bindal

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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

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Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha

Vice President

Mr Banjul Badil

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Treasurer

Mr Virupaksha Kadam

Secretary

Dr Anurag Dixit

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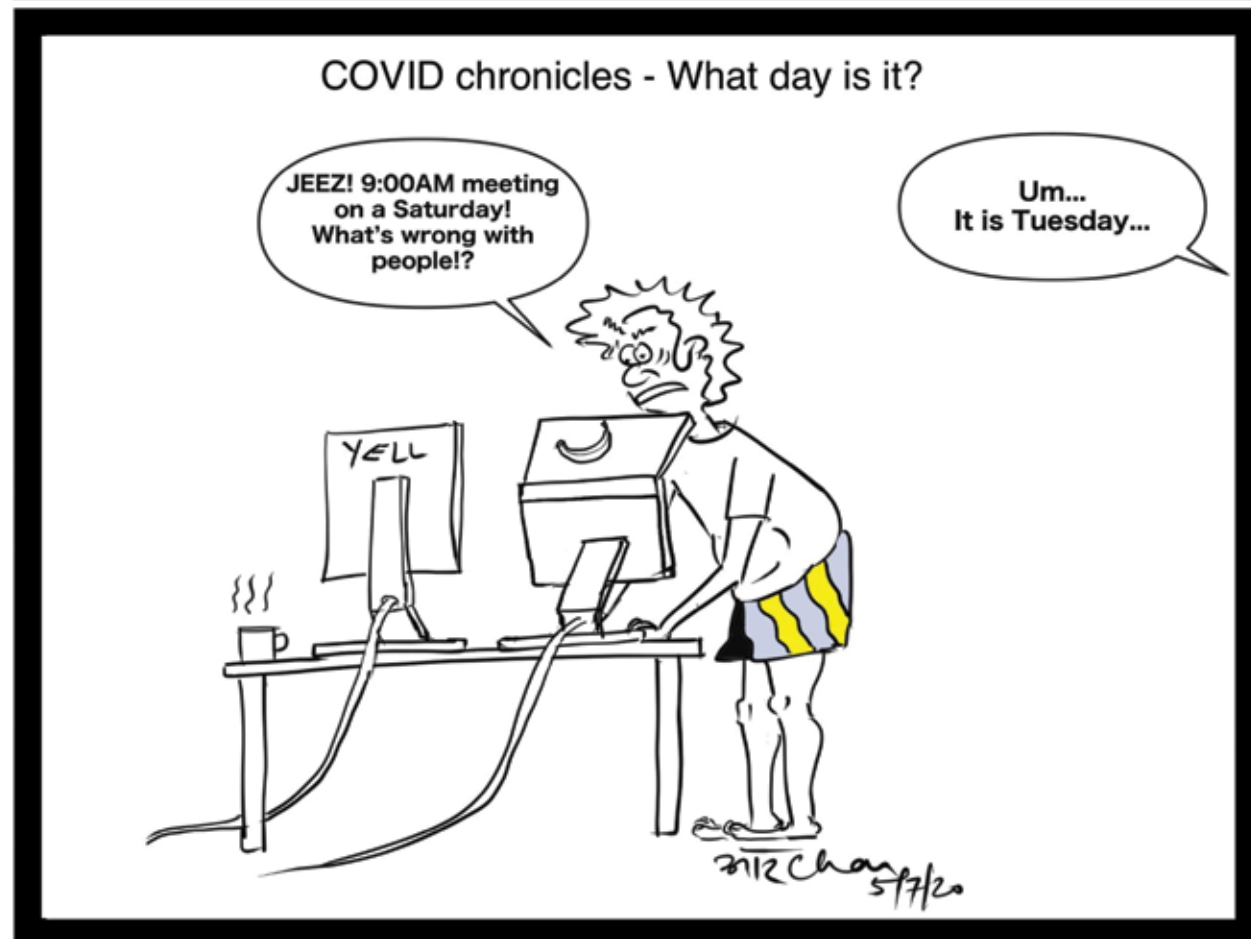
Scindia - A Legacy of Leadership

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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.



Sketch by Dr Jyoti Puri - former teacher at Scindia School (2004-06)



Chartoons - by Mr Rajeev Char (Ex-JA, 1983)

Principal's Message

Dear Readers,

Greetings to all on 123rd Founder's Day!

The current COVID-19 pandemic has brought new words into our vocabulary. But they are not just mere words, as they also carry with them an associated adaptation to a new lifestyle.

Lock-down. Self-isolation. Quarantine. Stay safe. Social distancing. Be cautious. Travel ban. Work from home. School at home. Sheltering in place. And so on...

However, all the distancing that is rightly prescribed did not lock our desire to connect with our fraternity; it could not lock our creativity and aspirations as we decided to not only go online in our academic, sports and co-curricular verticals but also the Astachal and now our celebrations!

Usually, our Founder's Day celebrations are grand. Approximately two thousand people including parents, alumni, students, ex-teachers, guests etc. congregate on the 8th century Fort to celebrate the annual journey and partake in the festivities which last three days. This year due to the unprecedented times that we are in, we have had to prune our gala celebrations. However, given all the limitations, we are sure, we'll still be able to nurture our social-emotional-spiritual bonds on this virtual Founder's Day.

Moving on, I must make a very special mention of the support that we have received from our parents in every aspect that one can think of. From addressing absenteeism to ensuring motivation and participation in so many online competitions – parents have become an extension of teachers at home. I would also take this opportunity to thank my staff for their ability to learn and deliver high quality education in the all new IT paradigm which has matched our students' quest for learning. When globally online engagement is dropping, our average class attendance has been phenomenal & almost 100% students attempted the periodic 1 assessment exam! This reflects the genuine bond of a boarding



school community. Also, I am extremely grateful to the Board for their support, guidance and personal investment in every possible way that has helped us respond to this unique situation very effectively.

This issue of the QQ is rather special – from a personal interview of our President BOGs, His Highness Maharaja JM Scindia to articles from the much celebrated Mumbai based journalist, Mr Dilip D'Souza and our Round Square friend based in Canada, Ms Melina Mancini – it has something for everybody. So I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Just before you flip through this page and move on, I must tell you that we are fully prepared in every possible way to welcome our students back on campus. If you – my dear parents, will extend this trust in us, we will travel any distance not to disappoint you.

Lastly, there are hidden opportunities in every situation. The COVID-19 pandemic is a possibility for humanity to stay connected and understand ourselves at a deeper level. If we cannot go outside, let us go within!

Dr MD Saraswat
Principal, The Scindia School

EDITORIAL



Chief Guest, Mr Yashwant Mahadik addressing the gathering



Teacher's day celebrations

Award and Honour

Mr Rajendra S Pawar, Vice President, BOGs, was felicitated with the “Lifetime Achievement Award” at Dataquest ICT Awards, 2019 on 18th August 2020. He completed his schooling from The Scindia School in 1967, graduated from IIT Delhi and went on to co-found NIIT Limited that revolutionized the IT Training industry in India. For his contribution in shaping the country’s IT sector, he has been awarded the prestigious Padma Bhushan, in 2011. Currently he holds the prestigious position of the Chairman of NASSCOM Cyber Security Task Force and of the Board of Directors of the Data Security Council of India. He is also on the Board of Governors of the Indian School of Business (ISB). He has served on the boards of IIT Delhi, IIM Bangalore, IIM Udaipur etc.

Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat, Principal, The Scindia School has been recognised as a “Great People Manager” by Forbes India, and is featured in the list of Top 100 Great People Managers- GMP, in their October edition. It is a moment, wherein we take pride in Dr Saraswat's impeccable leadership and of the fact that the world has applauded his credibility yet again. This year, Forbes India witnessed the participation of more than 6200 managers in the assessment - Great People Manager Study 2020 (GPMS 2020). The Top 100 Managers' list includes managers from all levels. The Study was focused on assessing people management effectiveness of managers across levels, tenure, and age groups; it was analyzed through a 4-layered methodology.

Celebrations

The 74th Independence Day of our nation was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm at the Fort with adequate safety precautions and careful social distancing. **Mr Yashwant Mahadik** (Ex- SH, 1985) an eminent Old Boy of the school was the Chief Guest.

The festival of Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated on the Fort

with great enthusiasm, due precautions and careful social distancing. The custom of Ganesh Sthapna was observed on Saturday, 22 August 2020, amidst the customary puja, bhajans and chanting of shlokas. As customary, the next day, the idol was taken to Dhobi Taal for visarjan, where it was immersed in water with hearts full of gratitude.

The National Sports Day was celebrated in the school on 29 August 2020 with due precautions and social distancing. The day marks the birth anniversary of Major Dhyani Chand, the legendary sports player, who has been honoured with India’s third highest civilian honour of Padma Bhushan in 1956. The Vice Principal, **Ms Smita Chauurvedi** paid a floral tribute to the legendary player. The event was attended by The Dean of Co-curricular Activities, **Mr Dharendra Sharma**, the representative teaching fraternity, and the Sports Coaches. **Dr Smita Trivedi** welcomed the fraternity and apprised the audience of the contribution of the legendary Sports Player and lesser known facts about his life.

Amidst the pandemic, the students found new ways to show their love and affection towards their teachers in an innovative way by using the virtual platform. In the morning, the teachers received their digital cards and the caricatures made by students, through mail. In the evening, the teachers were invited to the Assembly Hall where proper seating arrangements had been made to ensure safe physical distancing. **Aditi Joshi** and **Kartikey Kulshrestha** welcomed the teachers. Several students contributed to the success of the programme, namely, **Ranjan Nagpal**, **Parikshita Singh**, **Devarsh Lokwani**, **Arya Adhikari**, **Aditya Tibrewala**, **Sidh Agarwal**, **Kshitij Dogra**, **Chirag Rathi**, **Aaryan Nagpal** and **Shivang Kumar**.

Online Sports & Co-curricular activities

Sports department has engaged the students in fitness and sports activities despite the lockdown. Besides the dynamic warmup exercises, boys have learnt Shooting, Football, Swimming, Cricket and Tennis via the online

route! Basic stretches, rotations, footwork, safety rules, avoiding injuries etc. are few of the aspects that the boys have learnt in their online sports classes. All the hobbies and societies have been running successfully online too. Very enthusiastic participation was seen in Debating, Drama, Elocution, Creative Writing, Bhabha Scientific Society, Pi-Club, Business Bee, MUN, Reading Club, Commercial Art, Metalwork, Woodwork, Food and Hospitality, Music, Photography, IT etc. Some of these classes were not just led by teachers but students too who assumed leadership roles and therefore the engagement became multidimensional.

Online Academics

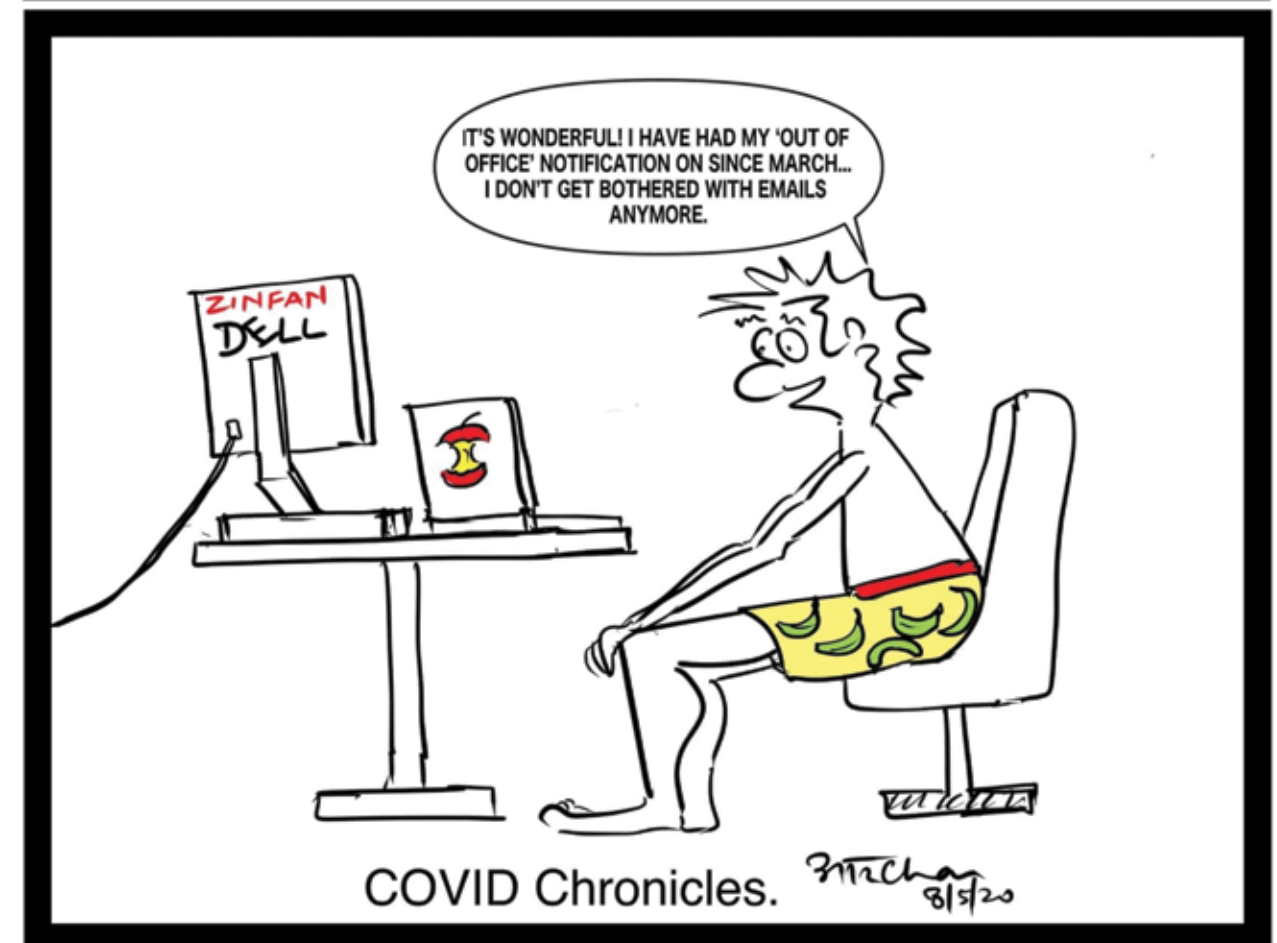
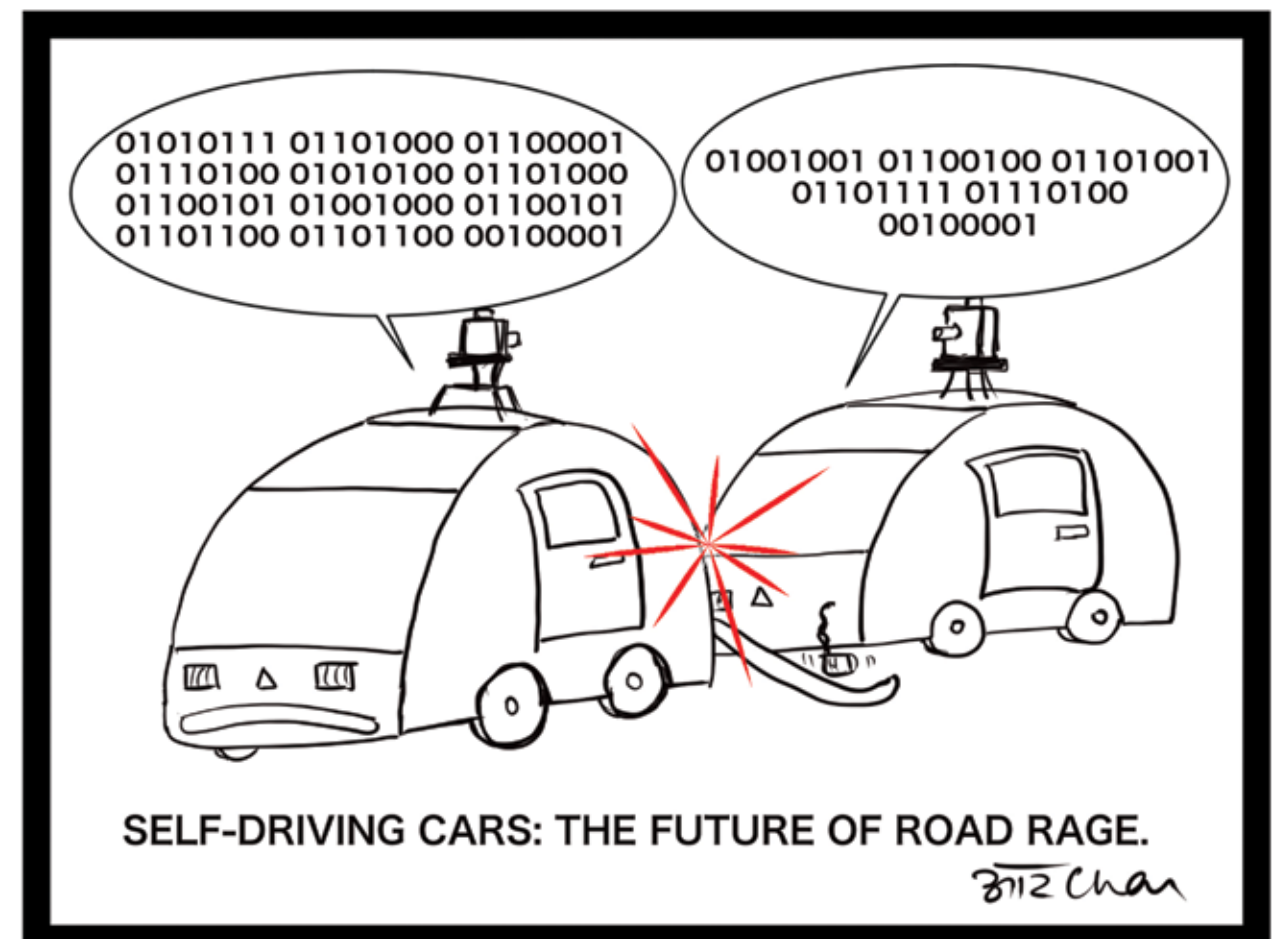
Last 3 months were spent in not only online academic transaction but in mock tests, invigilation, periodic assessments, corrections of answer sheets & discussions with students, result declaration and finally, a PTM!! We have had 86% attendance of students for regular classes and almost 100% attendance for assessments. This speaks volumes about the bond between students and teachers and the quality of engagement between the two.

MOU

Scindia School and Arizona University have signed an MOU. A normal student's tuition fee is approximately \$3600 per course when students attend a US University. The UArizona Academy has brought the course fee down to \$233 per credit hour specifically for Scindia School students. Students who would earn 3 GPA or 6 units in the courses offered by UArizona Academy will be considered for prestigious, multi-year UArizona Academy Scholars merit award valued at up to \$9000/year in the fully online Global degree program or \$15,000-\$25,000 per year depending on GPA and number of units completed.



Artist on the job



Chartoons - by Mr Rajeev Char (Ex-JA, 1983)

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS



Ujjwal Mehrotra of Class 11th started his own e-commerce company during the lockdown and stood 3rd in all India business conclave. He also participated in the Wharton Business School investment

competition which is currently going on. He is also the squash captain of the school.



Yanglem Arjun Singh of Class 11th currently holds the prestigious post of a Senior Secretariat Member at the world's largest youth run organization i.e. India's International Movement to Unite Nations and has gone on live interviews with

renowned luminaries and celebrities. He has been chairing multiple MUNs and Debates organized by different institutions that have been verified by the UN and is also currently exploring multiple debating formats. He was shortlisted as one of the top 15 finalists out of thousands from all over India for the prestigious *Nanhi Chhaan* national essay writing competition wherein he was awarded with a smartphone for his outstanding performance. He is the founder and Editor-In-Chief of the first ever, soon to be released collaborated



magazine of The Scindia School and Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, titled – UNMUTE.

Angad Sahni of Class 12th received admission offers from University of Bristol, UK and University of Adelaide, Australia. He has completed two

online courses - Introduction to Aeronautical Engineering from Delft University of Technology and Hypersonics from University of Queensland.



Shivang and Vishnudeep of Class 12th have founded an NGO named Hotdogs which specifically aims at providing food and medical support to stray animals, especially to the dogs. They have also initiated a fundraiser campaign for the same and are hoping to extend their reach through different states for this humanitarian deed soon.



Chirag Rathi of Class 12th wrote an essay for ISRO's cyberspace competitions 2020 and was awarded a certificate by ISRO for the same. He volunteered at an NGO called 'Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre' for

the Welfare of Animals for 100 Hours across 8 weeks. During this endeavour, he raised monetary and material resources worth 50,000 INR from his neighborhood, by visiting more than 400 households, to provide food and medical help to all the animals in need.

Following students from our school have qualified in the preliminary level of Aryabhat Astronomy Quiz 2020-21, which was conducted online for the current academic year: Keshav Jhunjunwala of class 8th with 1st rank; Sameep Mody of class 8th with 11th rank and Atharv Tiwari of class 6th with 28th rank. The results of preliminary level was announced by University of Arizona, US by eminent Astrophysicist and TED fellow Dr Erika Hamden.



Aaryan Nagpal of Class 12th has attended 3 astronomy courses, 2 of them were on a national level and certified. He is the Under-Secretary General and Chief Advisor of various MUNs. He organized online MUN and donated the delegation money to various charities including the PM

cares fund. He has hosted 5 online debate workshops on a local level as well as 2 more for the school students. He went for an animal welfare drive to help street animals during the lockdown.



Veer Raj of Class 11th is the founder of Tabula Rasa, non-profit organization that works for the rehabilitation of the inmates of the Bihar prison. It is currently functioning in the four Central Jails of Bihar

by reaching out to around 200 prisoners. By the end of 2022, Tabula Rasa is aiming to reach out and transform the lives of around 500 prisoners.



Shaurya Prakash of Class 8th completed a course on Introduction to American Law from University of Pennsylvania.



Akshat Karwa successfully completed three courses - Harvard University's CS50: Introduction to Computer Science on edX, Stanford University's Machine Learning through Coursera and the Complete Java Script Course from Udemy.



Vedansh Balasaria of class 9th participated in the Young Finance Scholar Program by New York Institute of Finance and won 100% scholarship. Later, he

also submitted a project and won another prize by NYIF. The stocks that he studied and suggested were tracked for a month and it was found that those stocks showed maximum growth.

11 students were sworn in as prefects in the Investiture Ceremony held virtually on 29th September 2020. **Chirag Rathi-MD, Aditi Joshi-JA, Shishir Pandey-JE, Kartikeya Kulshrestha-JA, Aditya Tibrewala-RN, Shivansh Bansal-JP, Ajay Chettri-MJ, Fathervir Singh-SH, Arya Adhikari-MJ, Irish Rohra-DL, and Yash Jain-JP** were appointed as School Prefects. **Akshat Karwa-MD and Hriday Soni-SH** were given the responsibility of Deputy Senior School Prefect. **Angad Sahni – JA** was appointed as the Senior School Prefect. All the best to the new prefectorial team.

OLD BOYS' NEWS



Mr Achintya Lahiri (Ex-MD, 1991) has developed a proprietary process to manufacture an odourless, organic manure solvent, which assists in the decomposing process of bio-degradable waste. He is willing to give this product free of cost to all Scindians

across the country (only actual freight payable).



Dr Subodh Agarwal (Ex-DL, 1983), Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Rajasthan Government and Head of State Level Committee for Interstate Migration, along with his team helped 13.86 lakhs incoming migrants and 6.20 lakhs outgoing

labourers reach home. He ensured that proper roles and responsibilities were assigned to the right people and logistics & appropriate infrastructure was put in place. For example, setting up a platform where migrants could register their request (call center), along with arranging trains, buses, establishing shelters and camps with provisions of food, water, medicines and other necessities were successfully taken care of and executed flawlessly. His team also ensured proper entry points for returning migrants, health checkups, quarantine facilities etc. were also provided. Along with this, 8500 foreign migrants were registered to return to Rajasthan from different countries.



Mr Vipul Vikamsey (Ex-MD, 1991) and his son, **Mr Nirmitt Vikamsey** (Ex-Md, 2018) have founded Veon Events, which is putting together an event called 'SOW Summit', an online virtual business summit for Start-ups, planned for 22nd - 23rd October 2020. It will act as a bridge between start-ups and investors to promote initiatives like Make in India, Start-up India and Vocal for Local. The event aims to provide networking for an estimated 10,000 attendees and 3000 startups, along with eminent speakers from companies like Policybazaar, Kotak Bank, Kolkata Ventures, Shell Ventures etc. They are presently looking to connect with like-minded Scindians looking for funding of their start-ups, as also with those looking to invest in such ventures.



Mr Devendra Darda (Ex-DL, 1989) has been elected as Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC), which certifies and audits the circulations of major publications, including newspapers and magazines in India. He is the Managing Director of Lokmat Media Group, which is a leading multi-platform, pan-India media company, with interests in a diversified portfolio of publishing, broadcast, digital, entertainment, community, and sports verticals.

MY STORY – MY PASSION

When I was born, the then Vice President of India **Sh. V.V. Giri** sent my grandfather a letter, bearing his signature in blue ink. So, it was hardly surprising that I would grow up to become an avid collector of autographs.

A hotelier by profession, my family still believes I am behaving like a teenage fan, writing letters to celebrities, and standing in line to get their autographs. A large chunk of my autographs came from my school days. Studying in Sh. Madhav Rao Scindia's school had its benefits. Every year on Founder's Day, there would be a match between Parliament XI and Scindia XI. Some celebrity was sure to attend as chief guest. From Rajiv Gandhi to Sunil Gavaskar, I have met all of them there.

One happy memory is the surprise helicopter ride the late Maharaja of Gwalior gave a handful of us students when we were in Class IX.

After school I returned home to Kolkata in 1988. The following year I found a bunch of letters and testimonials signed by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose and a few other founding fathers, in a cupboard at home. The letters were addressed to one of India's oldest railway catering services that covered 400 stations and was started by my grandfather Seth Ballabhdas Agrawal of Ballabhdas Eshwardas the famous family of Khandwa in 1923.

Since that day, I have collected over 65,500 plus autographs, which include those of all Indian Prime Ministers, all Presidents, all Bharat Ratnas and Dada Saheb Phalke awardees, 70-80 Nobel laureates for peace, 28 American presidents, over 3000 sports personalities and even the rare autographs of Thomas Edison, Graham Bell, Adolf Hitler, Albert Einstein, Fidel Castro, Picasso, MK Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose. Lord Mountbatten, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Neil Armstrong and many more.

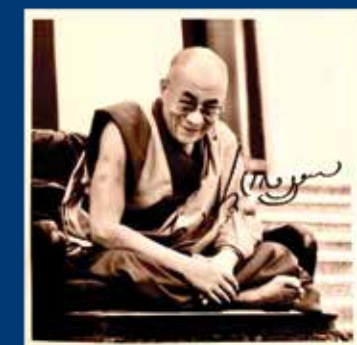
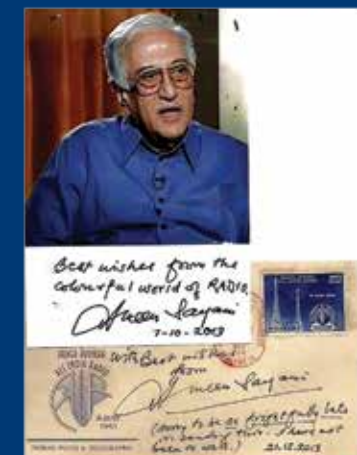
The hotelier, even today at age 52, spends hours waiting in queue whenever and wherever a celebrity puts in a public appearance, autograph book in hand and jostling with kids.

My biggest regret and miss was of not getting the autograph of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was the day after the Parliament attack. The Prime Minister was there for a CII meet at Netaji Indoor Stadium. At the end of the program, I mingled with

industrialists and approached him. I had even bought a collection of his poems for him to sign on. But the moment I stepped forward, his guard gave me a stern look. So cold was the gaze that I lost my nerve.

I am a founder-member of The Autograph Collector's Club of India. My collection spans so much period that I call it a lesson in history. I am co-authoring a book on autograph collection tips. I hope to hold exhibitions in schools so that children can benefit from my hobbies.

Mr Gopal Das Agrawal (Ex-Jyotiba, 1988)
hotelbalajihowrah@gmail.com
Contact: 9831195666
Kolkata, India.



A TEACHER FOR LIFE

S.B. Salvi – a teacher par excellence

Certain memories are indelible and certain teachers who had played central role in shaping us as school children remain etched, easy to recall, even after 45 years.

Sh. S.B. Salvi joined the Scindia School as an English Teacher on 16th July 1949 and subsequently served as House Master of Vivekananda House and of Jayaji House till his retirement from the Scindia School on 20th April 1976.

A teacher for life indeed for he went on to teach / mentor more or less till his demise in 2009.

I often wondered how without much effort, for he was a mild-mannered man, he shaped my lifelong interest in the English Language and Literature. And beyond studies, how to maintain highest standards of integrity and respect for the other.

Today I look back and realise that the very act of how we live our lives shapes the lives of others around.

In the classroom his love for the language and the written word was very deep. His mastery over the subject, his passion made us get equally involved whether it was prose, poetry, or grammar. This despite he had a marked accent. Then as now I learnt to not read superficially but to delve into the subject in depth. When re reading classics, his voice still resonates.

As a House Master, even though he was strict, his dignity and empathy towards the young wards under his care, drew our compliance and respect for him.

It helped that **Mrs. Leela Salvi** dulled any punishment by cooking something special from her own kitchen for the affected us

Mr. Salvi had a wry sense of humour, very fond of rose gardening and had two Siamese cats as his pets. Elegant in his dress sense, his specs perched on the bridge of his nose, his grey penetrating eyes, saw easily through the mischief and antics of us all, his boarders. Daresay he did try and get the house prefects to percolate his message down the ranks.

They both were our teachers, mentors and de facto parents.

Mr Saumitro Sen
(Ex-JA, 1975)

After passing out from the Scindia School in 1956, my father **Siddharaj Manik Prabhu** (Ex Madhav) was keen on developing a model of his alma mater in his hometown – Maniknagar, a hamlet in the Bidar district of Karnataka. The aim was to provide quality education in the rural region, but with an affordable fee structure. With the inception of the school (Manik Public School) in 1972, my father approached his Scindia School Principal **Mr J.L. Dar** to help him materialise his vision. Mr Dar readily accepted and served as the founding Principal of the school until 1978. As the school, under his watchful eyes gained a firm foundation, my father wanted someone with a Scindia school background to take up the responsibility after Mr Dar's retirement. Little did I know that a senior faculty who taught my father and me, who helped and encouraged me in the extra-curricular activities at school, who was a dear friend of my House-master **Devendra Narayan Varma**; and who was a regular visitor to my house (Ravindra House) – **Mr S.B. Salvi** would one day settle in Maniknagar to help us in managing the affairs of the school.

In the late 1970s, Mr Salvi, who was enjoying his retired life in Mumbai, accepted my proposal to visit Maniknagar to explore the possibility of his joining our school. In his very first visit, he fell in love with the place and decided to spend rest of his retired life in Maniknagar. He not only accepted our request but also managed to invite a couple of his colleagues like **Mr N.A. Jose** and **Mr M.C. Packracy** to join the school.

Mr Salvi was both an astute academician and a kind hearted mentor. His doors were always open for students as well as teachers who approached him for guidance. He not only trained students but also conducted classes and seminars for English language teachers of the surrounding rural schools. Such was his love for education that he personally tutored a young boy who worked as his domestic help to become a graduate and appointed him as a teacher in the school.

Mr Salvi spent almost thirty years in Maniknagar working for the development of the school. His wife **Mrs Leela Salvi** was a great support to him as were his children – **Rajendra, Prakash, Sudhir**, and, **Jyoti** (Ex Scindians), who frequently visited him.

In 2009, due to Madam Salvi's deteriorating health, the couple unwillingly shifted to Mumbai. Things took a worse turn and Madam Salvi passed away. Unable to bear the loss, Mr Salvi too breathed his last within a couple of weeks.

Mr Salvi's contribution to education in Maniknagar is immense. He spent a great retired life here, doing what he always loved – teaching.

Mr Dnyanraj Manik Prabhu
(Ex-Ravindra, 1975)



Mr and Mrs Salvi



Mr Shankar Bhikaji Salvi

Tête-à-tête with HH Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia

HH Maharaja Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia (born 1st January 1971) is a young and dynamic Indian Statesman. An eloquent speaker, he belongs to the Royal House of Scindia that once ruled the Gwalior state. He is a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, representing the State of M.P. He is a linguaphile - fluently speaks Hindi, Marathi, English, French and Nepalese; one of the many reasons for his unique ability to connect with people from all over the world.

HH studied Economics at the undergraduate Liberal Arts College at Harvard University and later received an MBA from Stanford University.

He is the President of the Board of Governors of The Scindia School, Gwalior, which was founded by his great-grandfather H.H. Maharaja Madhavrao Jayajirao Scindia I in 1897.

He is the Chairman of the Madhav Institute of Technology and Science - one of the most prominent Engineering Colleges of Gwalior Chambal Region and the Hereditary Patron of the Daly College, Indore.

Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia is profoundly involved with the growth of The Scindia School. With his impressive understanding of the objectives, functions and scope of quality education, the school has grown into a high ranking residential public school, keenly sought after by prospective parents.

QQ had the privilege of a candid conversation with His Highness. Staff Editor of QQ, Mr Vishesh Sahai, conducted the interview.

In your experience as a seasoned statesman, is there anything you can compare with your role as the President of the Board of Governors of The Scindia School? What does success look like in this position, and how do you measure it?

The two are just different ways of serving people, and therefore, both the roles demand effective leadership; making tough calls, and holding one's ground in times of adversity and change. One cannot possibly be prepared for unprecedented times like today, but it's all about showing grit and staying the course with regard to your vision for the people or the institution.

I strongly believe that statesmanship should manifest itself in the selfless service of others. As a leader, it is imperative to put others before yourself. That said, the number of lives you impact or transform is the only true yardstick of your success. This also reflects in the dynamic curriculum of the school, which emphasises on academia, as well as life-skills, governed by a strong sense of service. All Scindians

must strive to put these in practice and therefore, measure their success in terms of the people they help succeed.

This is a historic moment for school education in this country. For the first time, schools are moving classes to virtual formats and encouraging independent learning, remote scholarship and partnership with parents whenever possible. How will this impact education in the long term? Any speculations?

These are indeed unprecedented, challenging times, but we can choose to look at this challenge as an opportunity, and learn some important lessons along the way. I suspect that for the short term, an emphasis on evolving certain key competencies of students may be evident, so as to ensure learning continuity and minimise academic loss due to COVID-19.

For the long-term, we must view it as a new dawn for education, which will usher in more effective tools of teaching and learning. We will embrace learning 'anywhere, anytime'. Technological evaluation systems,

touchscreen paper corrections, digital books and smart boards will become the new reality. There is, therefore, an urgent need to address the digital divide that exists in our country, as well as in the world.

Personally, I do not believe there is an adequate substitute for face-to-face learning and peer interaction within the classroom. Therefore, while schools with their traditional in-person teaching model will remain important centres of learning, the mediums for imparting education will certainly undergo a change. One hopes that online tools will only complement such in-person mode of instruction instead of replacing it.

The economy is in such disarray. Challenging times demand tough decisions. As the President, have you made any difficult calls yet? Are there examples from history that you draw on?

Indeed, the economic situation of the country has been negatively impacted, more so on account of the lockdown which resulted in the economy coming to a standstill. Naturally, none of us remain insulated from the impact of the pandemic. Recognising that, the school has had to take some decisions to respond to the adversity - to ensure that our children remain safe and can continue their learning through this time.

One decision that comes to my mind in this context, was to reduce the school fees for this academic year. Taking cognisance of the financial burden on parents caused by the pandemic, and to express solidarity and empathy, we believe this was the right call to make.

What are the implications for Boarding School education as a result of the pandemic? Are there any silver linings?

I studied in a boarding school myself, and I believe my time in school was instrumental in shaping the person I am today. The approach in education should be holistic, and not restricted to textbook learning - and a boarding school experience embodies that. Learning at a boarding school is not limited to the school hours. Sharing the hostel space with peers, engaging in extracurricular activities and accepting the responsibility that comes with independence, are all essential for students' overall development.

Of course, at the onset of the pandemic, students had to be sent back home. While the academic year may have been temporarily disrupted for them, the silver lining is that the students get to spend some quality time with their parents and families. Besides, in such uncertain, difficult times, it is important for students to stay with their families.

And when boarding schools reopen, they will perhaps

prove to be a safer option for children - as compared to a day school. While children at home might not be able to go out for sports or further their interest areas, they can safely do so within the secure confines of our school. With all the necessary safety protocols in place, our 'fortified' campus will - for all practical purposes - be as safe as home.



What is a typical day like for you, working from home?

I like to organise my day well since I juggle between various activities/responsibilities. First and foremost, I outline my work hours for the day and the tasks that need to be accomplished. With work from home, it is also important for me to divide my time between work and personal and self-care activities.

We know through our sources that you have an amazing ability to understand, appreciate and quickly respond to issues at hand, and at the same time swiftly juggle between competing demands. Please tell us how have you nurtured this ability?

I keep myself aware of everything that concerns my people, along with the happenings around the world. The habit of reading about anything and everything has always helped me stay in sync with myriad issues, and respond to them promptly. Besides, I believe in giving undivided focus and attention to one task at a time as opposed to switching between tasks. This helps me to perform a task with maximum productivity at any given point in time.

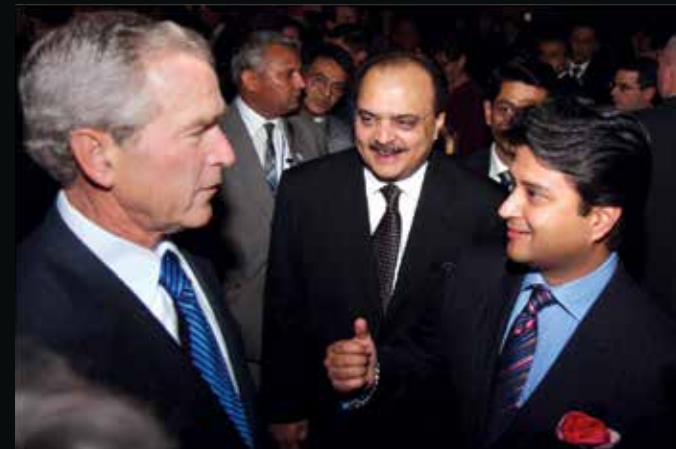
Everything about you is very exclusive – from your lineage to your education. Yet, we wonder at your marvelous ability to gel with masses as fish takes to water. Is it natural or have you acquired this over a period?

The ability to connect with people comes with being accessible and easily available to share their concerns. As a public servant, I cannot work in their true interest, if I cannot identify with their concerns. I grew up watching and learning from my father who was a true people's leader; he would reach out to as many people as possible daily, and have an ear to the ground with respect to their issues. Besides having cultivated the same ability over the years, what helps me strike a chord with people is honesty. It's great to strive to set an example for others, but it's more important to say what you do and do what you say.

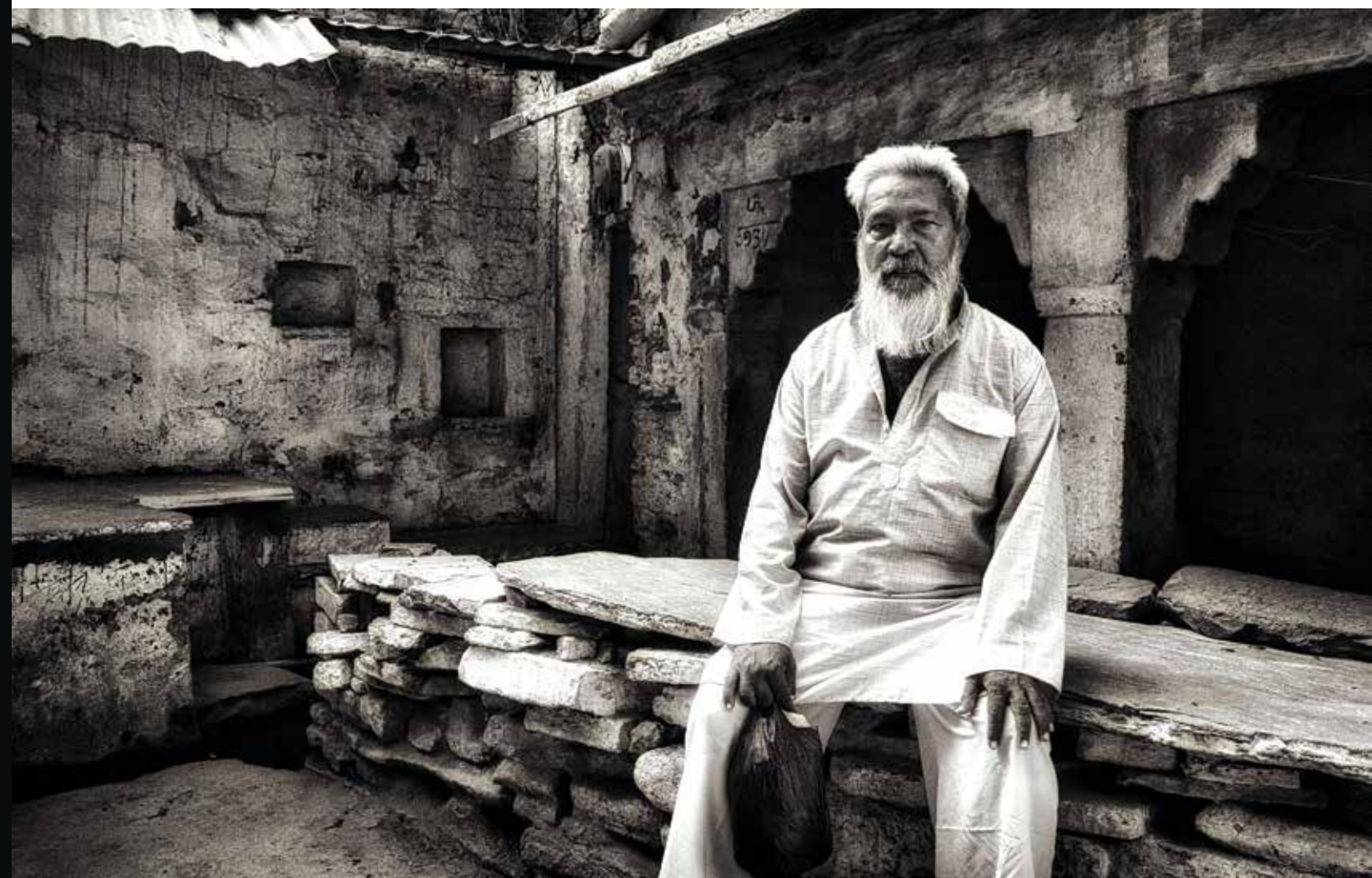
Is there a message you'd like to convey to the Scindian community, recognizing that the full impact of the crisis is yet to be felt?

The world is never going to be the way we knew it before this pandemic. Moving forward, Scindians should be the flag bearers of a safe environment and new thinking in the post-pandemic world. We need to shift to new ways of living, and set an example in new-age teaching and learning methods; build a learning environment that encourages the enhancement of real-world, practical skills, to improve productivity and employability.

Besides, the Scindian community should help more and more people get on board with the new normal. Encourage your community members to continue practicing safety and sanitation measures. I urge you to continue to uphold the Scindian principles of resilience and service. Be there for fellow citizens and contribute towards fostering a better world in your own unique way.



Street Photography during Lockdown by Anubhav Sarkar (Ex-MD, 2013)





Parents of Memoy Mishra interacting with the Principal



Ms Niharika Kulshreshtha - In loco parentis

STUDENT – TEACHER

गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णु गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः

गुरु साक्षात् परब्रह्मा तस्मै श्रीगुरुवे नमः

Since time immemorial, our tradition and culture has created a special altar for Guru. We respect our Gurus. Guru continues to be our guiding light, shaping our physical & moral development. In a nutshell, GURU molds the unstructured child to a developed character, with holistic built up.

While thinking of a true Guru, without saying our head bow down at the feet. The feet of Guru have been described as the Lotus feet of Lord Vishnu. As Lotus feet shower its benediction so as Guru's feet flow with blessings for his pupils.

Students are always close to their hearts and in a true sense, real students take place in Guru's heart more than their son and daughter. It is because of this we extend our heartfelt gratification to revered Gurus having brought us to this stature.

Our parents give birth to us, but it is our Guru who gives us trust, belief, and confidence to build our career.

Here is an adage...

“By sowing a grain, you will harvest once. By planting a tree, you will harvest tenfold. By educating the pupil, you will harvest hundred folds.”

It is, therefore, that a teacher is a father, mother, mentor, and a path setter for pupils - by shaping their character, they glorify a society as a crusader - path setter.

In our ancient mythology - 'Mahabharat' and 'Ramayan' there are many exemplified 'Guru-Sishya' relationship - Krishna and Balaram of famous guru 'Sandipani'. Ekalavya, Aruni, are best examples of our 'Gurukula' system.

Gurukula means the place of the teacher. Literally, guru means teacher, and kula means family. So gurukula means more than just a school, but the place where the student comes to be a part of the family of the guru for some time - and learn the culture and etiquette as well as the knowledge.

In the Vedic educational system, the focus is always on progressive life, ultimately leading to service and surrender to the Supreme Lord. There are many gurus in ones' life, beginning from the mother, then father, then teachers, and

finally the spiritual master. So, the system of gurukula is very deep and significant in the life of a devotee and is one of the stages in accepting authority of the spiritual master.

Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan was one of the most Distinguished Diplomats, Scholars and Teachers of India. The first Vice President and the second President of our country, was a great teacher and opined that teachers are real back bone of the Country's think tank and as a Statesman, redefined the Guru-Sishya Cult of Indian tradition.

However, over the times, student teacher relationship has gone a sea change. There are instances of less feeling of teachers and parents "on the same page". It is the call of the hour to change our young minds through the clarion call – with the strong bonding of Guru and sishyas, the system of education-conception of guru and spiritual authority becomes very healthy and natural, thereby accept a spiritual master to progress in the career trajectory towards a better human being.

It is even more important and challenging for the teachers to keep pace with the time and shape the minds of the young students for a better society and building nation. A teacher, who communicates effectively with his students should give right and helpful feedback to their students. Interaction between the student and teacher becomes extremely important for a successful relationship. With this a successful teacher can clear darkness from the academic horizon through his mesmerizing personality and vision to see his self-esteemed pupils in the years to come.

'The Scindia School' as a modern-day 'Gurukul' having temple like academia, with eminent teachers and skilled supportive staff has been imparting model teaching, both mental and physical to its students. This has been also displayed during this unprecedented difficult COVID-19 pandemic period, the school has taken all out efforts and initiatives to keep students mentally fit within school - even though they are far away from their dream campus. The teachers of The Scindia School rightfully reflect in their pupils' eyes

अज्ञानतिमिरान्धस्य ज्ञानाञ्जनशालाकया ।

चक्षुरुन्मीलितं येन तस्मै श्रीगुरुवे नमः ॥

Dr D S Mishra
Father of Memoy Mishra
Class XI, Daulat

THE COURAGE TO RAISE UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTIONS

Some years ago, a man visited whom I had known some more years previously and had lost touch with. He asked me to come listen to him deliver a lecture at a suburban hotel.

In the years we had been out of touch, my friend had joined Amway and had risen to become one of its global shining stars. Everyone in the room had heard of him and was fawning over him. With the multi-level marketing giant now poised to enter India, they had sent him here to persuade people to sign up. They couldn't wait to hear his mantras for Amway success.

But the way he started gave me a start. "I won't take any questions," he said firmly, "so just listen to me carefully." Wait, I wanted to ask, you're going to tell these people about setting up an Amway business, you want them to invest money, and you won't take questions? But he promptly launched into an hour or more of what seemed to me nothing more than handwaving, illogic and bluster. I mean, there was nothing of any substance, plenty that even a child would find downright absurd. Amazingly, it brought him plenty of adoring applause. Was I missing something? How could anyone swallow this stuff so ... unquestioningly?

So when he was done, it struck me that I might have just had a lesson in demagoguery, and how the faithful — there are always the faithful — lap it up. Because demagogues can't stand questions.

Why should he have allowed questions? Because joining Amway needs a substantial investment of time and money, and anyone contemplating it deserves full disclosure of what's involved. Shutting down questions suggests only that there are things to hide.

Which may be the point. I couldn't help wondering: Had my friend risen high in Amway in spite of his ability to evade questions? Or because of it?

Now perhaps you think it's not such a big deal, with Amway. But asking questions is fundamental to larger themes too. Like democracy. Democracy works as a way to live when its

citizens are able to, encouraged to, ask questions. Absent that freedom, other freedoms disappear. Demagogues appear. Profound miseries ensue. Therefore, ask.

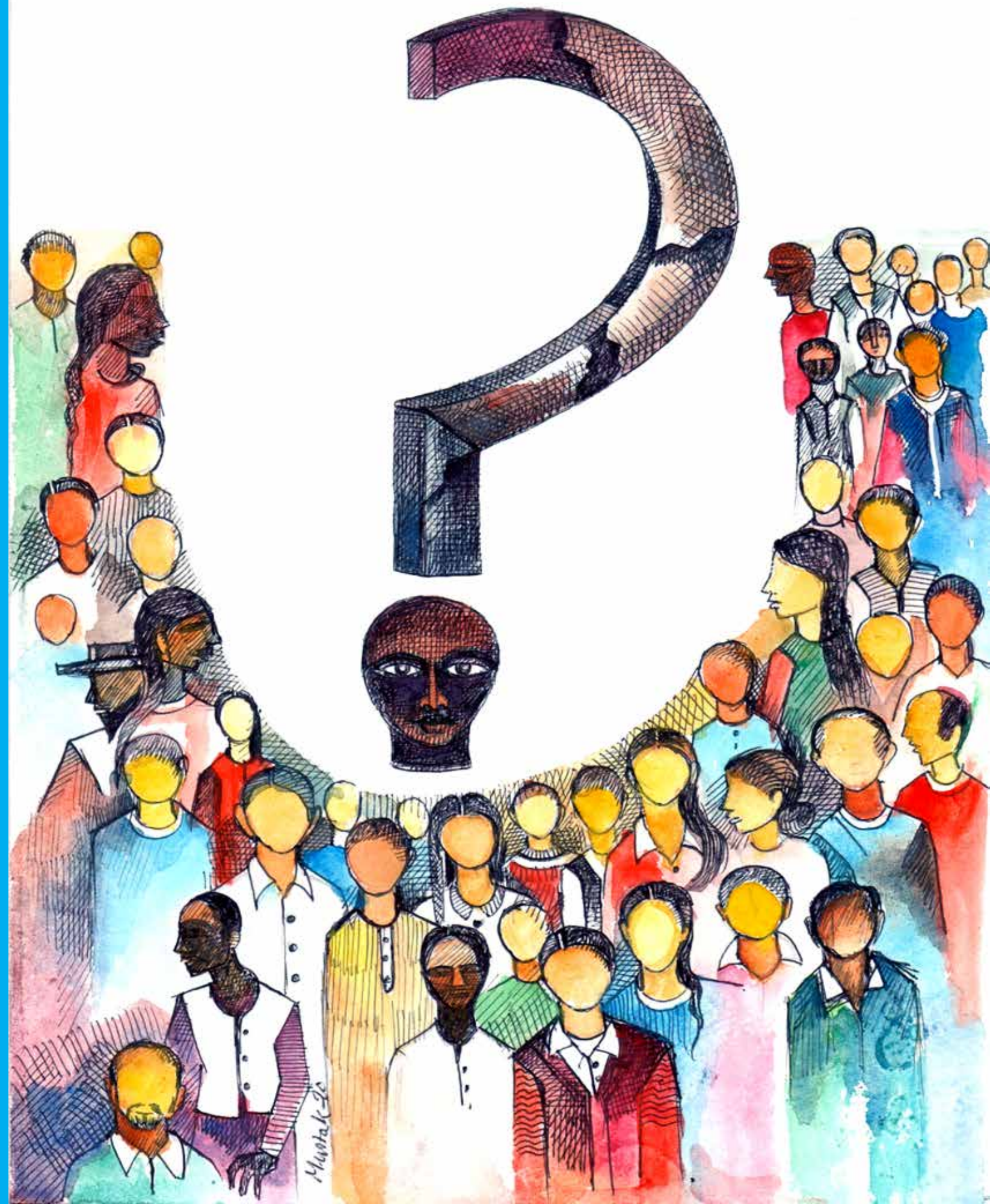
I'm going to hypothesize here, using just one example: what happened in Rwanda in 1994.

There are two major tribes in Rwanda, the Hutus and the Tutsis. Hutus are in the majority, but Tutsis had usually held power. For years, this fuelled resentment among Hutus, directed against their Tutsi fellow-citizens. Leading up to April 1994, there was a stream of Hutu hate propaganda against Tutsis: politicians referring to them as cockroaches, radio broadcasts urging Hutus to stock up on weapons and get ready to exterminate Tutsis, and more.

The result was a three-month orgy of slaughter in that country: Hutus killed about a million Tutsis. That's 10,000 murdered every day, seven every single minute: the swiftest, most efficient episode of genocide in history. And they were murdered in astonishingly personal, intimate ways: Hutus bludgeoned Tutsis with shovels, others locked groups of Tutsis into churches and set them on fire, but most of the killing happened with machetes.

This disturbing Rwandan reality was what a stunned world, unable or unwilling to stop the carnage, had to grapple with. Previous genocides, like the Jewish Holocaust or in Armenia in 1915-17, were largely carried out by soldiers. But in Rwanda, ordinary citizens — postmen, housewives, priests — did much of the killing. Consider the title the journalist Philip Gourevitch gave to his 1998 book about the massacre: "We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families". That phrase came from a desperate letter, pleading for help, written to the Hutu pastor of a church by a group of Tutsis who had taken refuge there. The next day, they were indeed killed. Much later, the pastor was convicted for aiding the massacre.

Rwanda's bloodletting left much of the world bewildered. Why did none of these ordinary citizens ask questions



about the propaganda, about the slaughter? Sure, it needs uncommon courage to stand against a tsunami of hatred. But even so, why did no Hutus find that courage? What if even one had expressed some reservations, questioned the calls to kill? What if that one managed to catalyze others? Am I naïve, or is it at least conceivable that there might have been enough questioning to stop the slaughter for at least a while in at least a few pockets? Might at least a few Tutsi lives been saved? Maybe more than a few?

No, not naïve. In Rwanda in 1994, questioning the indoctrination and carnage would have been subversive and dangerous. Yet I must believe that if enough people did it, it would have at least given the murderers pause. At least slowed the killing.

That's what dissent, asking questions, can do.

So this is not just a one-time lesson from an orgy of slaughter, nor even from an Amway pep-talk. In the face of such major events that affect us all as demonetization, or building a wall on a border, or measures to fight a deadly virus, or a rise in lynchings, or much else that goes on, it's worth wondering: what if we demanded regular, unscripted press conferences from our leaders? What if we refused to rest content with them merely tweeting, or merely taking shouted questions in front of a noisy helicopter?

What if we insisted on what's just our right and instinct as citizens, as human beings: asking questions? I use that word "instinct" deliberately. In a very scientific, rational sense, I believe asking questions is the hallmark of being human: the essence and reason for our existence and evolution, the fount of our intelligence.

150 years after he was born, we might remember Mohandas Gandhi like that. Paro Anand wrote in the Indian Express for that 150th birthday (Sept 29 2019): "We need to humanise Gandhian principles rather than put him on a pedestal. We have not allowed children to question a man who had the courage to raise uncomfortable questions." "We could all use a dose of that courage."

Mr Dilip D'Souza

(He writes about political and social issues, travel, sports and mathematics. His writing has won him several awards, including the Statesman Rural Reporting award, the Outlook / Picador nonfiction prize and the Newsweek / Daily Beast South Asia Commentary Prize. He has published eight books, most recently "The Deoliwallahs: The True Story of the 1962 Chinese-Indian Incarceration" (Pan Macmillan, 2020). Dilip lives in Bombay with his wife, children and cat Aziz. He misses his Rhodesian Ridgeback, Shaka.)



Street Photography during Lockdown by Anubhav Sarkar (Ex-MD, 2013)



INSIGHT INTO CANADIAN MULTICULTURALISM

Greetings from Toronto, Canada! I am honoured to have been asked to submit a second article for the Scindia School's newsletter. I hope all of you are safe and doing well as we enter the sixth month since the pandemic knocked the world into its current surreal state. Here, life is trying to return to a form of normal and we are preparing to open schools in two weeks and are maintaining cautious optimism as we see how this plan unfolds. In the meantime, as a means to distract you from global meltdowns, I will share with you some information on what makes Canada a unique and special country.

Canada is a proudly multicultural country of 35 million. We embrace and benefit from immigrants who have come here from all over the world for over 150 years to make Canada home. We are the second largest country in the world, with 3,854,083 square miles (India is 1,269,010 square miles to put this into perspective) of forest, lakes, mountains, rivers and plains. And occasionally, we get a little (ok, perhaps a lot) of snow.

From 1867 to 1914 Canada opened for mass settlement and became home to millions of immigrants from around the world who were seeking a better life, my family included. My grandparents on both sides are from rural farming communities in Southern Italy as they were struggling to rebuild their lives after the devastation of World War II. At that time in Italy there was no work, education or opportunities for those who "worked the land". Between 1946 and 1953 over 750,000 immigrants came to Canada from Italy. The Italian "wave" was one of many such immigration waves to Canada which have left their cultural imprint; the India diaspora has also been an important part of what makes us Canada, and we have happily and thankfully assimilated a little of the colour, food (oh, the food!!), and energy of India, particularly in Toronto.

While all citizens of Canada are technically 'Canadians', only 32% Canadians feel that "Canadian" is the term which best represents their ethnicity, and this is owing to the

multicultural mindset that has evolved here which places great value in embracing, celebrating and not forgetting the countries and cultures that we come from. In terms of how other "Canadians" define their ancestral roots: 18% identify as British, 13% Scottish (as distinct from British!), 13% French, 13% Irish, 5% Chinese, 5% Italian and 4% Indian, to name but a few.

What this means for a traveller or resident of Toronto is that the best of every culture can be experienced within biking distance of home. Almost every neighbourhood in the core of the city is culturally unique. Little India in Toronto, for example, is home to the city's famous Gerrard India Bazaar, which is North America's largest South Asian ethnic market. While the colourful silks and textiles are famous, the real magnet (at least, for me!) is the beautiful aromatic food where one can try a variety of delicacies from North and South India along with Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh (rich masala dosa, fresh tandoori chicken etc). Similarly, Toronto's Chinatown is one of the largest in North America and offers a sensory experience into the city's Asian community – everywhere are the fragrant herbal remedy shops, cafes, produce markets, and the sound of bartering. To step into these diverse neighbourhoods is to step into another country - minus the jet lag. Our various cultures live harmoniously and in peace, side-by-side, and whenever a particular neighbourhood throws a festival, it becomes an occasion for everyone in Toronto. We are proud of our multiculturalism, our liberal democracy and our sense of common humanism, and I think we serve as an example of how different cultures and religions can exist in harmony.

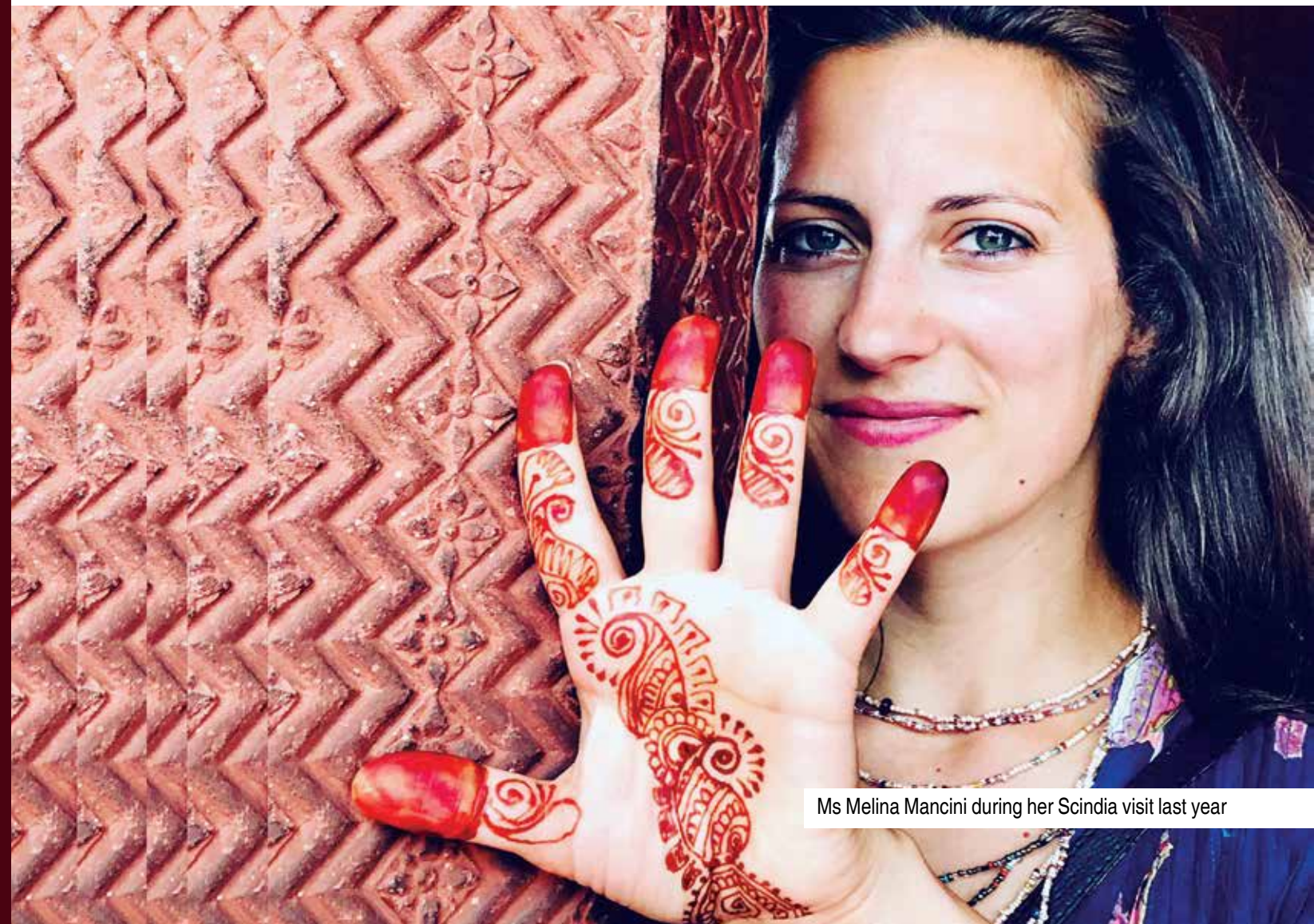
Should you have the opportunity to travel from India to visit us here in Toronto, you can be sure of finding something familiar from home – a warm welcome, and good food!

Peace & blessings from across the pond

Ms Melina Mancini



Rath Yatra, a festival of Odisha being celebrated in Canada



Ms Melina Mancini during her Scindia visit last year

स्नेहिल, सिंधिया स्कूल और हम

आज हमारे पुत्र स्नेहिल को सिंधिया स्कूल से उत्तीर्ण हुए 2 वर्ष से अधिक हो गये। हफते भर पहले जब मिश्रा सर का दूरभाष आया तो मन में तमाम यादें एक चलचित्र की भाँति कौंध गयीं, लगा जैसे कल की ही सारी बात हो। एक बार पूरा अवलोकन किया तो कुछ महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं व उनसे मिली सीख याद आ गयी।

स्नेहिल के विद्यालय में प्रवेश के लिए हम लोग कई आवासीय विद्यालयों के बारे में पता कर रहे थे। सिंधिया स्कूल हमारे लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण विकल्प था क्योंकि सिंधिया स्कूल के बारे में और इस तरह के कई स्कूलों के बारे में हम एक दो सालों से पता कर रहे थे, हमारे मन में पुत्र को ऐसे ही किसी विद्यालय में पढ़ने की अभिलाषा थी। हमने सुना कि यह भारत के महत्वपूर्ण व विशिष्ट विद्यालयों में एक है। सिंधिया स्कूल की प्रसिद्ध विरासत, प्रभावशाली आधारभूत-संरचना, विहंगम परिसर, समाहित भारतीयता जैसे तमाम मापदंडों पर इसका स्तर हमें अतुलनीय लगा।

स्नेहिल की प्रवेश-परीक्षा के लिए हम ग्वालियर प्रथम बार जा रहे थे। मैं, मेरी पत्नी ज्योति और स्नेहिल तीनों कार से ग्वालियर गए। हमारे लिए यह एक बिलकुल अनजान जगह थी फिर भी हमें रहने के लिए उत्तम स्थान मिल गया। पहली बार विद्यालय-परिसर को देखकर हम प्रभावित हुए बिना नहीं रह सके, तमाम खेल परिसरों ने हमें बहुत प्रभावित किया। तमाम भवनों के आर्किटेक्चर ने हमें प्रभावित किया। हम छात्रों से भी मिले और बातचीत किया, फिर निर्णय लिया। दूसरे दिन परीक्षा हुई, उसके बारे में एक चीज याद है स्नेहिल ने एक गीत सुनाया था “माँ सुनाओ मुझे वोकहानीजिसमे राजा न हो न हो रानी” बाद के सालों में मैंने उससे कई बार ये गीत सुनाने को कहा लेकिन उसने नहीं सुनाया। फिलहाल सिंधिया स्कूल में प्रवेश मिला, ये बात मई 2011 की है।

हम दिल्ली लौट आए। सारा सामान खरीदने लगे, अब शायद हम भावुक होने लगे थे अकेले बेटे को आवासीय विद्यालय भेजने की अनुभूति अब ज्योति को भी आने लगी थी पर हमने कहा - ज्यादा सोचना नहीं जो उसके लिए अच्छा है वही करना है। एक महीने बाद हम उसे स्कूल में छोड़ कर आ गए। एक महीने बाद स्नेहिल का फोन आया था, वो काफी भावुक पल था। आज हमें लगता है हम आश्वस्त उतने नहीं थे, थोड़ा डरे हुए थे कि स्नेहिल वहां के वातावरण में अपने को समायोजित कर पाएगा कि नहीं पर धीरे धीरे हमारा विश्वास बनता गया, फिर क्रमशः एक

प्रणाली-सी बनती चली गयी, कुछ अंतराल बाद फोन आता रहा। फिर किसी त्यौहार होने पर हम जाते। फिर फाउंडरडे, फिर शीतकालीन अवकाश, फिर स्कूल, फोन, कोई त्यौहार, फिर ग्रीष्म कालीन अवकाश। बीच बीच में बच्चे बाहर यात्रा पर या कार्यक्रम में बाहर जाते तो दिल्ली होकर अगर जाते तो स्टेशन पर उनसे मिलने जाना एक सामान्य बात होती थी। स्नेहिल पहले साल जूनियर हाउस में कनेरखेडहाउस फिर निमाजी में रहे। श्री शामिक घोष सर उस समय प्रधानाचार्य हुआ करते थे। वो एक प्रभावशाली व्यक्तित्व के धनी व्यक्ति थे।

एक साल स्नेहिल का जन्मदिन था और बच्चे कहीं कार्यक्रम में बाहर जा रहे थे तो निजामुद्दीन रेलवे स्टेशन पर रात को कमसम रेस्टॉरेंट में हमने सब बच्चों के साथ जन्म दिन मनाया। उस समय हमें ऐसा लगा कि हम एक विस्तृत परिवार का हिस्सा हैं और अपने को परिवार के सुख-दुःख का भागीदार मानते हैं। इस परिवार के लिए किसी भी स्थिति में तन मन धन से तत्पर रहेंगे। विद्यालय में एकांत ऑफिस, गेट वाले भैया, हाउस वाले भइया, टेलर भैया, बार्बर भैया सबके साथ जुड़ी तमाम यादें हैं व इस यात्रा के वे प्रमुख भागीदार रहे हैं।

स्नेहिल का हर साल स्कॉलरशिप मिलना, सिंधिया टीम का फिल्म निर्माण में असम वैली स्कूल में प्रथम आना जिसमें स्नेहिल ने अभिनय किया था, फाउंडरडे के तमाम कार्यक्रमों में भाग लेना, 26 जनवरी को राजपथ पर मार्च करना, हिंदी वाद-विवाद व इंग्लिश डिबेट में प्रथम आना, फाउंडरडे पर उदघोषक होना, ग्वालियर म्यूजियम में स्नेहिल की आवाज का होना, ग्वालियर इंदौर साइकिल यात्रा अभियान, यूनानपीकमाउंटेन अभियान, 12 वीं में प्रथम आना, नुक्कड़ नाटक में अभिनय जैसी तमाम सुखद यादें स्नेहिल से जुड़ी रही। हमारी तमाम यादें व एहसास फाउंडरडे से जुड़े। साल दर साल कक्षा 6 से कक्षा 12 तक हम हर साल आते रहे। आनंद महिन्द्रा, राहुल द्रविड, शशि थरूर जी, मिल्खा सिंह और फरहान अख्तर, रतन टाटा व ज्योतिरादित्यसिन्धिया जी के विचार सुनना एक अलग अनुभव रहा। श्री ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया जी का उदबोधन हमेशा प्रभावशाली व दिशा निर्देशक रहा है। स्नेहिल के सीनियर स्कूल प्रीफेक्ट होने के साल में कुणाल बहल (सहसंस्थापक: स्नैपडील) विशिष्ट अतिथि रहे। यह साल हमारे लिए विशेष रहा। इन अवसरों पर माधव पुरस्कार सम्मानित सदस्यों के बारे में जानना एक सुन्दर अनुभूति रही। इस अवसर



Snehil's (Ex-MD, 2018) early days at Scindia School

पर सोबा के सदस्यों से मिलना हमेशा प्रेरणा दायक रहा। इस दौर में स्कूल परिसर का पुनरुद्धार हुआ जो कि एक सुखद एहसास रहा। एक आर्किटेक्ट व इंटीरियर डिजाइनर होने के कारण हमारा इस विषय से हमारा सरोकार रहा व इसके होने से बहुत खुशी व गर्व महसूस हुआ। स्नेहिल का ज्यादा समय माधव हाउस में रहा व मिश्रा सर से हमारा बहुत सरोकार रहा जिन्हें हमने बहुत ही सकारात्मक सोच का पाया। उनके परिवार से हम बहुत जुड़ाव महसूस करते हैं।

क्लास 10 के बाद तमाम अभिभावक भ्रमित थे व कहते थे कि अब कोचिंग की आवश्यकता है तो बच्चे का प्रवेश दिल्ली के स्कूल में करा दिया जाए। हम तीनों ने इसको सही नहीं समझा, हमारी सोच हमेशा यही रही कि 12 वीं तक जो सकारात्मक व समग्र वातावरण सिन्धिया स्कूल दे पा रहा है वो बाहर नहीं हो सकता। बच्चे अपनी इच्छा के अनुसार तमाम क्षेत्रों में जा रहे हैं। हम तो ये भी तैयार थे कि यदि जरूरत पड़ी तो एक साल प्रतिस्पर्धा के लिए अवकाश दे देंगे पर बहुमुखी विकास से उसे दूर नहीं करेंगे। जैसा स्नेहिल चाहते थे, उनको भारत के प्रमुख डिजाइन स्कूल सेप्ट यूनिवर्सिटी, अहमदाबाद में आर्किटेक्चर में प्रवेश मिल गया, हम संतुष्ट हुए।

तमाम छात्र जैसे कबीर, शिवम, ऋतिक, योहेन, युवराज, सत्यम, माधव, आद्या आदि हमेशा स्नेहिल के साथ हमसे मिलते रहे। इन बच्चों को हमने किशोर से युवा बनते देखा व इनका विकास देखा। इन सालों में हम तमाम अध्यापकों के संपर्क में आये, जिनसे हमने अनेक बार अनेक विषयों पर चर्चा की। प्रधानाचार्य डॉ माधव सारस्वत सर का विद्यालय के विकास में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रहा है। अभिभावक बैठक में उनकी बातचीत हमारे उम्दा अनुभवों में से एक रहा है।

मार्च 2018, जिस दिन हम स्नेहिल को अंतिम बार लेने गए थे वो क्षण हमारे लिए बेहद भावुक था। हमने अस्ताचल पर स्नेहिल के साथ फोटो खिंचवाए। यह सभवतः विद्यालय में बच्चों की यादों का सबसे प्रमुख स्थान है। विद्यालय की परम्पराओं में यह सबसे आकर्षक स्थल है जहाँ प्रत्येक संध्याकाल में बच्चे आत्मचिंतन के लिए बैठते हैं जिससे उनका मानसिक व आध्यात्मिक विकास होता है। यह उनके अंदर के संस्कार को मार्जित करता है। भारतीय वेष-भूषा में प्रद्वति की गोद में गोधूलि वेला में राष्ट्रपिता के सामने साल दर साल बैठना एक अविस्मरणीय व संजोकर रखने वाला अनुभव है। हम दोनों के मन में हमेशा से ये था कि हमारे बच्चे का सर्वांगीण विकास हो व वह बहुमुखी प्रतिभा का संस्कारी बने। आज हम संतुष्ट हैं और गर्व करते हैं कि स्नेहिल ने हमें कभी मायूस नहीं किया। विद्यालय में स्नेहिल की नेतृत्व क्षमता का विकास जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में उपयोगी सिद्ध होगा, ऐसी आशा ही नहीं मेरा पूर्ण विश्वास है। सबको साथ लेकर चलने की आदत हमेशा आपको जमीन से जुड़ा हुआ रखेगी।

इस सारी प्रक्रिया में हम सिंधिया स्कूल, संस्थापकों, संचालको, प्रिंसिपल, समस्त शिक्षकगण, वहां की ऊर्जा, समस्त कर्मचारी गण, समस्त छात्र एवं उनके माता पिता के चिर ऋणी रहेंगे।

श्री हरीश त्रिपाठी

श्रीमति ज्योति त्रिपाठी

(स्नेहिल त्रिपाठी-सीनियर स्कूल प्रीफेक्ट 2017-18 के माता-पिता)



Snehil (SSP 2017-18) addressing the gathering during banquet

SCINDIA – A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

Principal, **Dr MD Saraswat** arrives for the morning Assembly at the Seksaria Hall along with the Senior School Prefect, in the ceremonial black robe. It is an important everyday event for the entire school gathering. Apart from the usual prayers & announcements, he invests the occasion with solemn dignity, weaving everyday happenings inside and outside of the School to emphasize the stamp of self-discipline, integrity, service, humility and prosocial behavior on which great civilizations are built; and also to ensure the bold imprint of the Institution on each boy, who for all his life, will popularly be known as 'Scindian'. In fact, Dr. Saraswat's vast repertoire with community service and Round Square has served the school exceptionally well – School is not only connected with many more Round Square schools globally but leads Community Service initiatives right from Gwalior to as far as Uttarakhand and Ladakh. His mission as the Principal has remained constant: the young pupils must learn some important value-based lessons before they can set forth on the path of leadership.

Scindia is more than a century old School - born as the Sardars' School in 1897, School was founded by **H.H. Maharaja Madhavrao Jayajirao Scindia I** for the sons of the chieftains of Gwalior State, with a medieval mindset back then, to instill progressive ideas of leadership. **Mr FG Pearce**, the first British Principal, an alumnus of the Oxford University was deeply influenced by Indian philosophy. He was responsible for giving School a uniquely Indian ethos and for laying the foundations of a culture that is better known as 'Scindian' to this day. In 1933 he shrugged off the idea of admitting only Royals and transformed it into a modern Public School, open to all, irrespective of class, caste or creed. He, assisted by his senior colleague and a future Principal, **Mr KC Shukla**, also conceived in the 1940s, a common spiritual space & practice of Astachal. Ever since then, nurturing the soul has been an integral part of the success mantra of the school. Hundreds of boys clad in pristine white kurta-pajamas meditatively contemplating at the setting sun is a stirring sight and an experience which remains etched in the consciousness of every Scindian. And this memory survives long after the school years are done and dusted. During **Mr FG Pearce's** tenure, School became the founder member of the Indian Public Schools Conference too.

Over the decades, many other dramatic changes occurred keeping with the educational, political and economic reforms taking place throughout the country. The School boys and their teachers still live in the British Barracks. Though renovations have managed to give the interiors the trappings of modernity, the colonial façade of the buildings remain intact. The dining hall's automated kitchen churns out all the mouthwatering meals. Eco friendly solar water panels and water recycling plants make Scindia a leader in using renewable energy. The School has more than 21 sporting arenas which include tennis courts, squash courts, basketball courts, riding ground and a modern swimming pool to name a few. A modern shooting range and archery field have ensured many accolades for the boys at various levels of competition. Apart from the compulsory and a variety of outdoor and cerebral games, students also get chance to try their hands at adventure sports like white water rafting and trekking-cycling-mountaineering expeditions. Rock climbing and roller-skating are exciting diversions available within the Fort.

School has always concentrated on objectives, functions and scope of quality education. The route chosen to strengthen academics is the technological one – concentrating on the school's traditional strength in IT. Curriculum innovations and pedagogical shifts were introduced using IT as the medium. In fact, during the tenure of Principal, **Dr SD Singh**, The Scindia School was the first school in the country to include IT in its curriculum in the early 1980s. The first batch of four boys who appeared for the CBSE class 12th computer exam was from Scindia. The IT revolution in Scindia was unleashed by one of its iconic teachers, **Mr NK Tewari**, who later became the Principal of The Scindia School. Technology has brought a sea change in the teaching methodologies at the Scindia School. Blackboards are giving way to Hi-resolution LCD projection screens and teachers use multimedia presentations instead of chalks to bring lessons to life. In fact, in times of lockdown, the school has arguably been swiftest in the country to switch to very effective online teaching because of the availability of cutting-edge IT infrastructure in place for a long time. For more than two decades, Chairman NIIT - **Mr RS Pawar** who guides the school in the capacity of the Vice President of the Board of Governors, has personally ensured that latest technology and best of the professionals are available 24/7 to assist the school community.

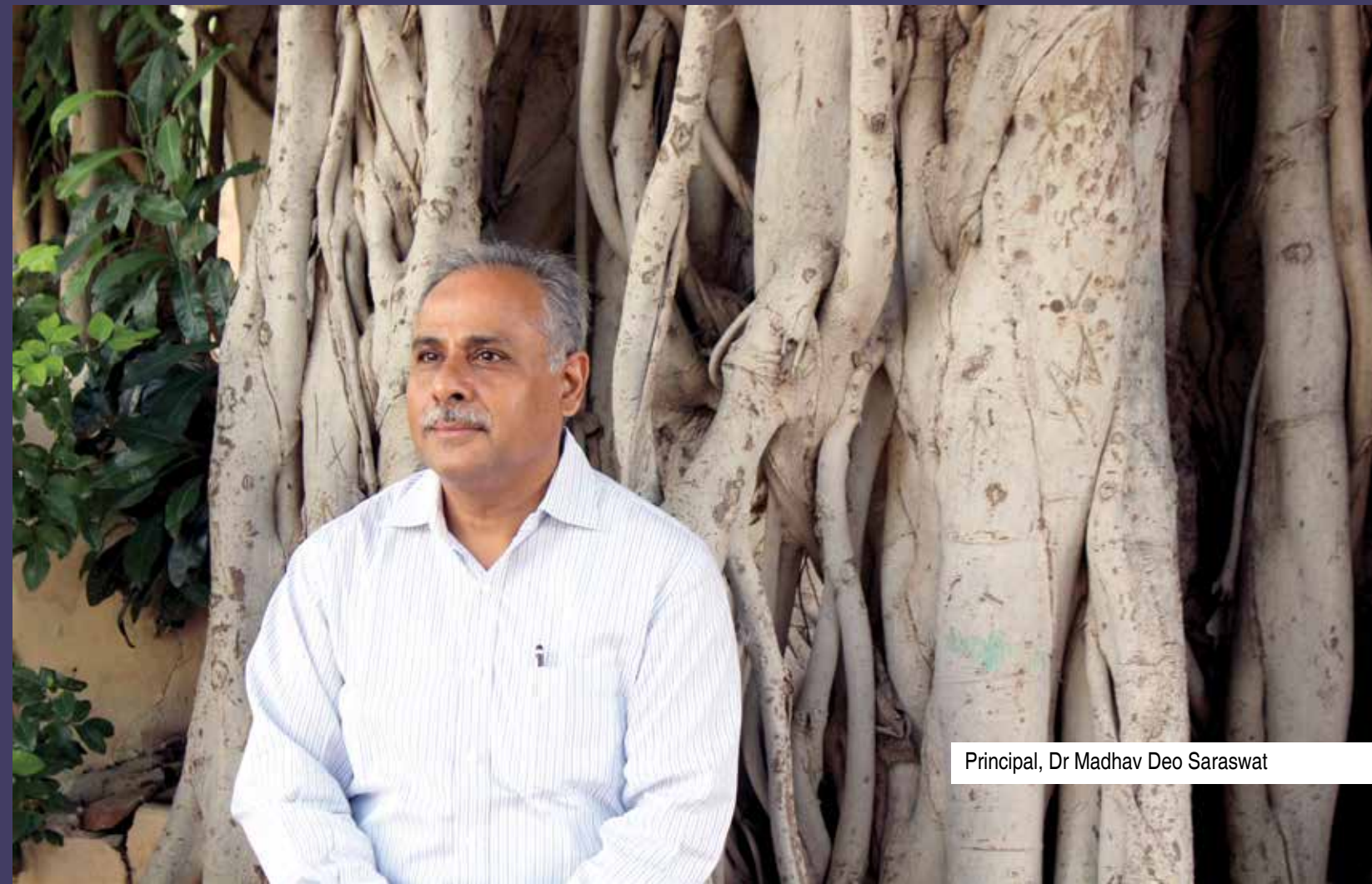
The School has also aggressively initiated exchange programs that expose the students to a variety of cultures and ideas. Educational excursions and community service, again a tradition unique to the Scindia School are exciting diversions. Through these engagements, boys evolve intrinsically and therefore cultivate a sense of self-discipline with each passing year in school. Of late, Adventure has taken a dimension perhaps unheard of in most schools. Students discover themselves via trekking in Nepal and Ladakh Himalayas, cycling in Bhutan, mountaineering in Uttarakhand etc. In fact, as recent as 2019, students and teachers cycled past the Chang-la pass and the Khardung-la pass, both right on top in the list of the world's highest passes!!

With an outstanding understanding of the objectives, functions and scope of 'quality education', Scindia has grown into a first-class residential public school keenly sought after by prospective parents. At a time when there is a heated debate on the course of public-school education in the country, Scindia School is a little oasis, sheltered and insulated not only from covid19 but from the conspicuous consumption that marks the elite schools of the cities: no mobiles, no monetary allowances and no way to spend.

The school's vision and its objectives have altered according to the imperatives of time, but the aim has remained constant: to produce leaders of great caliber. The school's prominent alumni include Ameen Sayani - legendary radio artist; **Lt. Gen.**

Samer Pal Singh Dhillon - former Deputy Chief of Army staff; **Shiv Shankar Menon** - Diplomat and former National Security Adviser of India; **Rajendra Pawar**, Chairman of NIIT; **Air Vice Marshal Shouvik Roy**; **Anurag Kashyap** - Filmmaker; **Bharat Patel** - former Managing Director of P&G; **Lord Aamir Ali Bhatia** - UK based businessman; **Mr Vikram Misri** - India's Ambassador to People's Republic of China and **Justice Sanjay Mishra** - Lokayukta, UP to name just a few. The Scindian is groomed bit by bit to take on life's hard knocks. Not surprisingly, the 11-year olds who enter these hallowed precincts as shy boys leave as confident men. The discipline and character building equip them with fortitude to take the competitive road ahead and emerge as leaders. Competition, camaraderie and companionship all coexist in the House system. The obvious result is that our Old boys as mentioned above, are holding key positions of influence, and have contributed immensely towards the development of our society. Their achievements are an affirmation of how we have striven to achieve over the past years. The School is an outstanding springboard not only for students but also for training and mentoring the best teachers. School is undeniably more discerning in allocating one of the best starts in life that money (or brains, or ambition) can give to any boy...

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