



#1 Boys' Boarding school in India, Annual Education World India School Rankings (EWISR) 2020-21.



Review-20

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT, GWALIOR

123RD FOUNDER'S DAY GOES VIRTUAL.....

The Scindia School celebrated its 123rd Founder's Day online on 21st October 2020. The celebration started with the unfurling of the School Flag in the Morning Assembly at 9.15 am. The School Flag was unfurled by Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha (Ex-Rn, 1981).

Well-known scientist and educationist Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest for this function.

Several students and various departments including Computers, Social Science, Science, Photography, Art, Commerce etc. showcased their talents and exhibits online from the safety of their homes.

The rendition of the school song by hundreds of students who were virtually brought together, was a splendid feat. Floral tributes were paid to the Founder of the School.

The Orchestra Presentation mesmerised the audience with soulful music set against the backdrop of this 8th Century Fort.

Principal, Dr MD Saraswat read out the annual report and shared the highlights of the year gone by.

President - Board of Governors, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia addressed the gathering and said, "The pandemic is an opportunity to shed our old ways and adopt new habits, understand the potential and limitations of technology and utilise it to reinvent everything that we have built until now. The new education policy introduced this year will be imperative to lay the ground for pragmatic and paradigm changes which will integrate our education system with global patterns."





Commenting on the occasion, on the National Education Policy, Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan said, "The Scindia School's holistic curriculum is similar to what the NEP prescribes. In the middle and secondary stages of schooling one must adopt a holistic but integrated approach to the learning process. In this process we adopt a multi-disciplinary approach that includes areas like art, craft, sports etc. This will help in creating well rounded individuals, capable of playing their rightful roles both in their profession or vocation and also in dealing with social issues and interacting with communities".

The much coveted, Madhav Award for the year 2020 was conferred on the Founder of the Rekhta Foundation, Mr Sanjiv Saraf who graduated from the school in 1975. The award was given to him for his entrepreneurial spirit, community service and promotion of Urdu.

HH Jyotiraditya Scindia expressed his gratitude for all the stakeholders especially the teachers for their commendable work during the pandemic.

In his speech, Dr Kasturirangan advised the students of The Scindia School to imbibe a never-give-up attitude in life.

The Choreography Society of the school- Chorean Souls put up a fantastic dance show "Hold Your Dreams".

The Senior School Prefect, Angad Sahni was the compere for the evening and delivered the 'Vote of Thanks' in the end.



FOUNDER'S DAY SPEECHES- 21 OCTOBER 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Honourable Chief Guest, Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan; President, Board of Governors, H.H. Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia; Members of the Board of Governors, Madhav Awardees, distinguished guests, parents, Old Boys, my colleagues, dear students and viewers. More than twelve decades of history have passed through this very institution and today, it is the 123rd Founder's Day of our school.

It is my utmost honour to welcome our Chief Guest, Padma Vibhushan Dr K. Kasturirangan, an exemplary scientist and visionary, who headed the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from 1994 to 2003. Presently appointed as the Chancellor of Central University of Rajasthan and NIIT University, Sir also served as the Chairperson of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 drafting panel. Thank you, Sir for gracing us with your presence.

This is an evening of particular significance as for the first time ever, The Scindia School celebrates its Founder's Day, virtually. More than anything else, this pandemic has taught us the importance of connecting as dearly as possible to those who matter. And at this very moment, I am delighted to be here, on this intangible paradise, with each one of you.

For more than a century, our school has been looked upon with reverence, simply because over the years, this institution has reinvented itself and I say this with absolute humility. As an institution, we have always believed in 'continuous improvement'. Owing to which, this year, we created history: with a total of 69 students in class XII and the aggregate result shooting up to 92% with 41 students scoring 95% and above; and 22 students scoring 100% marks in their respective subjects.

With a total of 90 students in class X and the average percentage of 88%, with 44 students scoring 90% and above. Well done my boys and Teachers. We are so proud of you.

Amid the unexpected turn of events during this pandemic, we became conscious of what lay ahead. Instead of looking outward with helplessness, we took a pause, and looked inward with hope. Followers became leaders and leaders became followers. Learners took up the role of teachers and teachers filled in the shoes of learners. And together, we promised to keep the flame alive.

Fortunately, we had resource investment of several decades, courtesy foresightedness of our Board, we had the push from support systems within the school and outside. And, all we required was strengthening our belief system vis-à-vis faith, accountability, and inter-dependence. At a time when many across the globe felt abandoned, we felt assured. Be it relocating children safely to homes, laying the foundation of mitigating COVID, or training ourselves with the essential technical skills and prowess, we did it all. And my contentment is for the fact that we did it, together!

Our virtual teacher training workshops, sessions on innovative use of ICT, on online assessment, on mental health and community wellbeing redefined our consciousness in coming to terms with the reality and moving forward with confidence.

Sessions like "Pedagogy and Motivation" led by Mr Arun Kapur; Sharing 'One Best Practice of Residential Schools' by premier schools of the country, 'Fireside chat: How Scindia School is overcoming the challenges posed by Covid19' with Principal, Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat and Padma Bhushan awardee, Mr. Rajendra Singh Pawar were events that cemented our willpower.

It is immensely satisfying to see that our students are making progress, even in the virtual world. Aditya Singh (class 9) has enrolled for the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). Aarush Atul Prabhu participated in Harvard University's week-long programme called 'Youth Lead the Change' and is now partnering with an NGO, "Karo Sambhav". Vedansh Balasaria was awarded a 100% scholarship by the school to attend a finance programme called 'Young Finance Scholar' (YFS) hosted by the New York Institute of Finance (NYIF).

At this juncture, I exercise my privilege to share with you that the school has signed an MOU with New York Institute of Finance; whereby NYIF will annually allocate two full scholarships of 100% tuition fee waiver for the G 2020: Young Finance Scholar Programs. We have also signed an MOU with the University of Arizona.

When social distancing manifested itself as a norm, we remained steadfast to continue our endeavours of reaching out to each other for health and happiness. We have taken our ASTACHAL online, our age-old ritual of spiritual introspection of The Scindia School, for 2 days per week along with online guided meditation sometimes. Talking of active learning and physical nurturing, the Sports Department of the school has been running Yoga and Fitness Classes since the 18th of May.

The 25th Annual Sports Banquet 2019-20 was graced by noted educationist, Mr Rajinder Pal Devgan as the Chief Guest. In the Kishangarh Hockey Shield 2019 -20, Sher Bahadur Dahal was adjudged the Best Player from The Scindia School. The Overall Trophy was secured by Daly College, Indore. In the Inter-House Cross Country Race-2019, Dhan Bahadur Karki of Jayappa House broke a 40-year old record of Mukesh Agarwal of Jayappa House. What an impeccable feat! Congratulations Dhan Bahadur.

Our school hosted the CBSE Sahodaya Inter School U-19 Cricket Tournament in November 2019 and emerged as the Winning Team with Vihaan Gupta being adjudged as the Man of the Match.

Speaking of some select notable endeavours, The Scindia School Model United Nations Conference 2019 was hosted by the school from 8th November to 10th November 2019. Welham Boys' School won the event. In the 46th All India Platinum Jubilee Memorial Inter School English Debates, we are among the first schools in the entire country to invite participating students as judges, based on an incredible debating model designed by our boys and teachers of the English department. We won the 19th H H Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Hindi Debate this year.

In the Brass Band contingent honouring ceremony, Band Major, Yash Jain and Aryan Samil were honoured with the rank of Senior Under Officer by NCC. Yash Jain also received the commendation card from the Chief of the Army Staff. Well Done Yash!

In the 'Ultimate Mathematics with BITS held at Bits Pilani, Chirag Rathi, Akshat Karwa and Shivansh Bansal were declared winners in the "Bulb Your Ideas" category. In the National Level Innoventure (Intelligence plus) 2020, held at Pune, The Scindia School won the Best Enterprising School award.

James Foley from St Philips College Australia, was on a cultural exchange to the school. Ms Suzanne Stampa from Harald School, Norway, visited the school on a teacher exchange programme.

On 26th January we organized Shramjeevi Diwas. On this day, we planted 160 saplings, installed drip irrigation and began organic farming.

Students visited the Prayass Bilingual School for (specially abled) on a weekly basis, Sharda Bal Gram (an Orphanage) and undertook activities in our adopted village SONSA on regular basis.

Attitude and intent are two important virtues to create wonders. Our students and teachers have showcased both and worked doubly hard. In these unprecedented times of the pandemic, the students are taking up the spirit of social service in their own cities becoming the flag bearers of the Scindian ethos. Shivansh Bansal ran a social service programme supported by the Mayor of his city. Chirag Rathi, Shivang Kumar, and Vishnudeep Tyagi worked on rescuing abandoned and stray animals.

This year the community witnessed the inauguration of the SOBA House. Mr Vinay Modi along with Mr RS Pawar inaugurated the new block.

Several Old Boys have come forward to contribute to their alma mater in their own ways. Mr Vijay Bhargava, Ex Ranoji – 1957; Mr Mahesh Gandhi, Ex-Ranoji – 1959; Mr Harish Gandhi, Ex-Jeevaji, 1970; Mr Prashant Prabhu, Ex Madhav 1967; and several other Old Boys contributed towards the SOBA House and for building the corpus for the Scholarship fund. Mr Gyan Singh, Ex Daulat 2008 has donated the material for 'Rocketry Lab' to the school. Few of the working models are already on display in the Founder's Day Exhibition.

Talking of Workshops and Training, Mr Akhil Bansal, Deputy CEO of KMPG, interacted with the students on 30th November, 2019.

Ms Smita Chaturvedi and Mr Ashish Arora received Post Graduation Certificate in Educational Leadership & Management from University of Nottingham.

Mr Raj Kumar Kapoor did a course on 'Learning to teach online' from the University of Wales, Australia.

Mr Pawan Gupta (Ex-Rn, 1970), a US based communications expert was on campus under the Scindia Old Boys in Residence Programme (SOBiR). He conducted a workshop for all the teachers and senior students.

Old Boys from the Batch of 1969-70 visited the school on 25th and 26th January 2020 to celebrate their Golden Jubilee Reunion. The Republic Day Celebrations were graced by an eminent Old Boy, Mr Vishnu Agarwal (Ex-Rn, 1961) as the Chief Guest and Mr Yashwant Mahadik (Ex- Sh, 1985) graced the Independence Day celebrations as the Chief Guest.

Mr Rajendra S Pawar, Vice President, Board of Governors, was felicitated with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at Dataquest ICT Awards, 2019 on 18th August 2020.

Old Boys organized the second and third edition of the much-awaited FG Pearce Symposium in Delhi. On its 60th Anniversary, SOBA instituted-The 'U C Bharadwaj INQUIZITIVE Trophy' for the senior school and the 'Khurshid Lakdawala INQUIZITIVE Trophy' for the junior school Quiz Competition.

This year, we welcomed, Ms Ankur Jaiswal, Mr Ashish Mishra, Mr Akhil Lakshmanan, Mr Santosh Udenia and Mr Suvir Vij to our family. We also bid farewell to Mr Ramesh Sharma who retired from school after 23 years of dedicated service. We wish him the best for the next part of the journey.

In the end, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the President and members of the Board of Governors for their support and guidance. Their vision and foresightedness strengthen me at every step.

My heartfelt appreciation for my colleagues from the academic, administrative and services wings for their tireless efforts for the welfare of the students. My personal gratitude to Mr Raj Kumar Kapoor, Mr Dharendra Sharma and Ms Smita Chaturvedi for their constant support.

I am also grateful to the government and civil administration, police, army, air force authorities and media for their constant support. And of course, to all the parents and Old Boys for your continued support, trust and affection.

A few things in life are timeless; perseverance, dedication and integrity are classic examples of those. At Scindia, generations after generations have soaked themselves with these virtues and have, therefore, remained relevant in the ever-changing world. What could be a better culmination of a remarkable evening celebrating a legacy of excellence, than taking a solemn pledge of keeping these values alive within us, so that they can be passed on to our prodigies for many more decades to come. After-all, standing true to the Scindian ethos is what our innate sub-conscious motivation has been all about.

“Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktye”, indeed knowledge is that, which liberates!

Thank you.

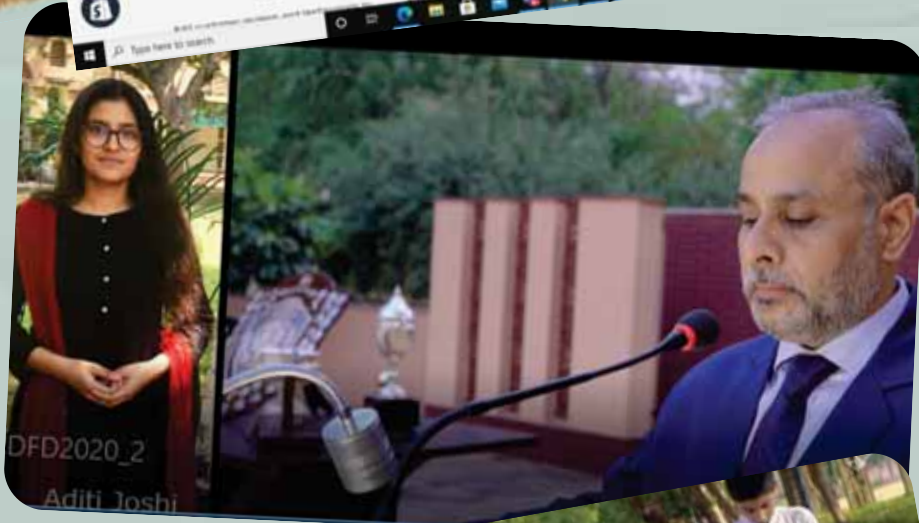
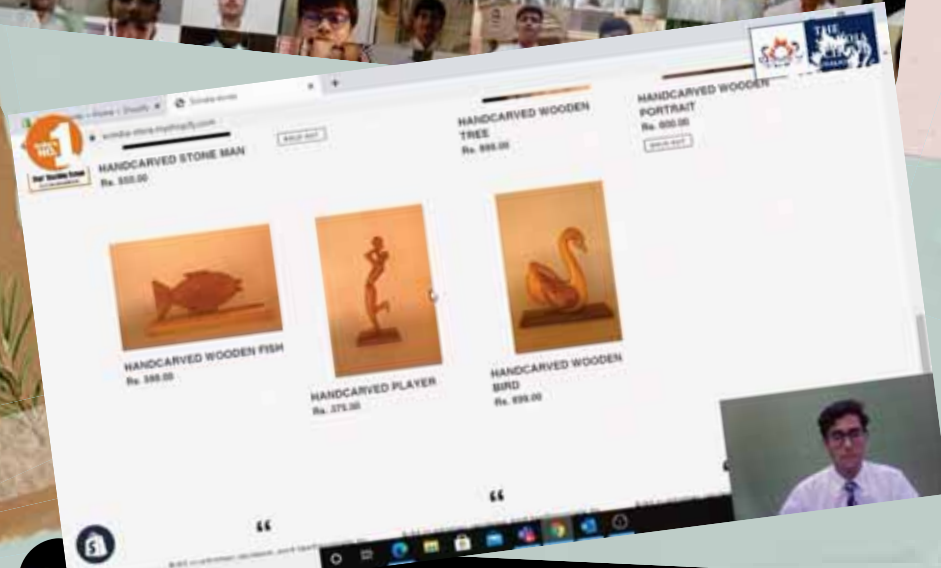


GLIMPSES OF THE FOUNDER'S DAY



GLIMPSES OF THE FOUNDER'S DAY

Celebration galore!

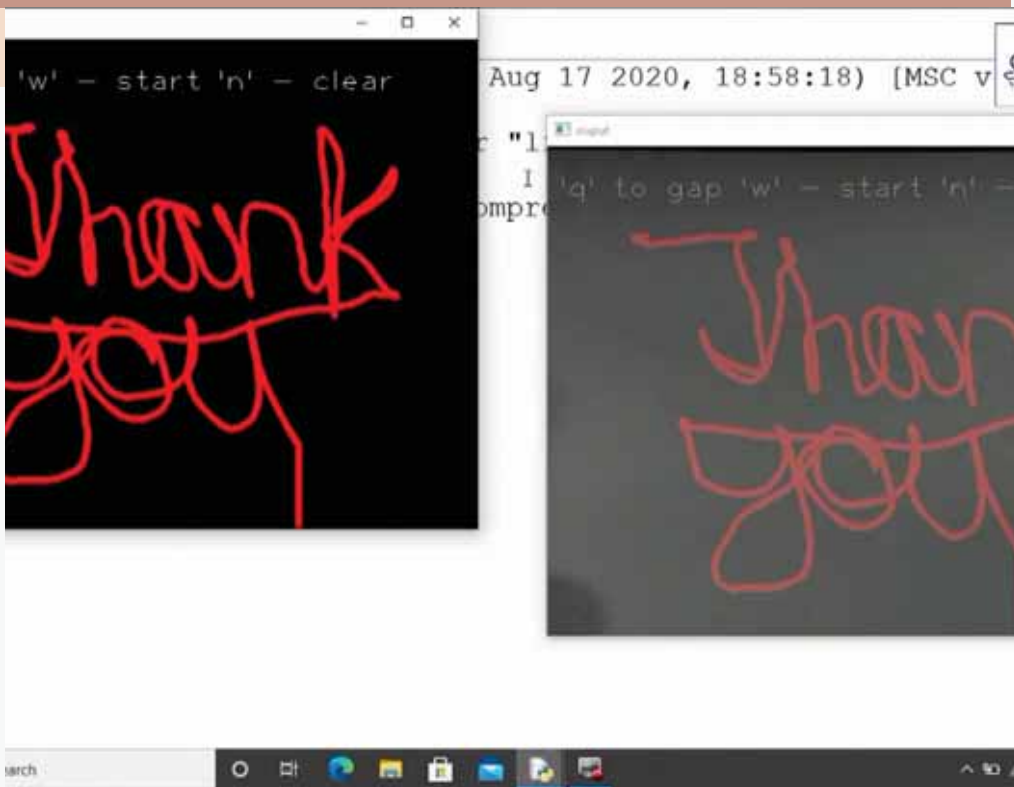


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Aditi Joshi



Celebration galore!



HH MAHARAJA J M SCINDIA



WELCOME SPEECH

And the beaches bore a new wildlife
That scuttled off into the seas
Some people started dancing, some were
singing, some were baking
We had grown so used to bad news
But some good news
Was in the making
And so when we found the cure
And were allowed to go outside
We all preferred the world we found
To the one we had left behind
Old habits became extinct
And they made their way for the new
And every simple act of kindness
Was now given its due."

When you hit rock bottom, remember, when you are still struggling, rock bottom can also be a great foundation on which to build in room.

Our Chief Guest this evening, renowned scientist, an architect of India's forward thinking Educational Policy, Doctor Kasturirangan, Members of the Board of Governors, Principal Madhav Saraswat, faculty, students, parents, alumni, and Members of the Scindia School fraternity, welcome to the Scindia School Founder's Day.

Before I begin with what I wish to say today I would like to read out to you an extract from the poem 'The Great Realization' by Tomos Roberts. This one was actually recommended by a youngster who told me that it went viral during the pandemic. I recite it here to disseminate its simple yet powerful message of hope amidst a global pandemic that has brought tragedy but also its fair share of silver linings.

"But while we were all hidden
Amidst the fear in all the while
The people dusted off their instincts
They remembered how to smile
They started clapping to say thank you
And calling up their mums
And while the car keys gathered dust
They would look forward to their runs
And with the skies less full of voyagers
The earth began to breathe

This pandemic is a turning point for the world at large; an opportunity to shed our old skin and don new habits, adopt better ways of doing things. It has cut wide open for the world to witness the wounds of deep-rooted inequities that remain pervasive, the frailties of the systems we have built over hundreds of years. The climate crisis, erratic weather phenomena, pollution of air, land and the ocean. These issues have all yielded a harsh truth- that mankind has reduced the earth to a ticking bomb.

It is extraordinary then, that the lockdown period has led to nature regenerating. It goes to show, that any progress or development which comes at the cost of the environment can never truly be termed as progress.

And so, we don't want to be a nation with more smart phones, we want to be a nation of more smart people. People who can think differently, who can understand the unprecedented potential of technology, as well as its limitations, and utilize it to re-

invent everything that we have built until now- healthcare, education, housing, social mobility structures, statistical parameters of progress, so on and so forth. That said, I believe technology is the pen and paper of our time and for many it is the lens through which we experience much of the world. An indispensable part of our daily lives, it was about time then, that it became the new medium of education; a change that had been contemplated for a long time but not really set in motion besides, a smattering of edutech initiatives that had just started to stir things a little. Schools go online but as Lenin put it and I quote "Sometimes nothing happens for decades, and some decades happen in days." That's precisely what we saw unfold when the pandemic dealt a blow to our teaching and learning systems earlier this year. But if there's one thing I have learnt in my experience with setbacks, is that they aren't setbacks. Often, they set you upon a new path, a fresh opportunity to achieve the conventionally unthinkable.

Often in life things that we regard as an impediment, turn out to be an excuse for change. Just like other educational institutions we were faced with a tall challenge before us. Our students had to be sent back home, our teachers had to tailor academic content for a new format, our principal had to be nimble about fulfilling all the new gaps in the new system. I am told that our teaching staff were given a short window of just one week to prepare lesson plans with corresponding learning objectives. And this is only one part of the challenge. The other was lesson delivery. I'm sure that most of you would agree with me that between the pressure to retain students' attention and attendance, and to match up to the quality of classroom teaching, online teaching is anything but merely switching on a web camera, but we could not afford to be hamstrung by these obstacles. I am extremely proud that our school has taken the situation in its stride. And not just that, we've also been riding on this new wave of digital learning or rather what I see as the new avatar of Scindia School, an inevitable paradigm shift where we instill a new culture of learning, one that cultivates the imagination for a world of constant change, one that grows synchronously with technology rather than resisting it.

This may sound like we have got a long way to go but there are some good things happening already. And I have a hunch that we are about to see a torrent of changes in the education system starting from the very fundamentals. Let us face it- the Indian education system from start to finish has been a race to the end goal- exams. Its primary focus has never really been on learning outcomes. On the flip side, now is as good a time as any to shift the goal post from marks to learning. Schools could reinvent their own exams, do more continuous assessment through the year. 2020 could also be the year we realize that the value of a 90 percent score in Board Exams is a relic of the pre-Covid era. I am reminded of Bruce Lee's words and I quote "Learning is definitely not mere imitation or the ability to accumulate and conform to fixed knowledge. Learning is a constant process of discovery and never a concluding one." This process however cannot come through, without the collective efforts of those who run schools and those who govern them. And this is why the new education policy introduced this year will be imperative to lay the ground for pragmatic changes and paradigm changes that will integrate our education system with global patterns. Albert Einstein once cleverly remarked and I quote "Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school." Education should not be just a means to get into a top tier college or a high paying job. A good education should equip you to critically think, analyse, and solve. And in this process, you learn how to learn.

It is a testimony to the foresight of the Founder of The Scindia School that this high benchmark of excellence and pertinence in the education we impart has been steering us since 1897. H H Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia, his vision, was not just to educate and develop faculties of students in school but to nurture above all good human beings, steered by a sound value system and an inquisitive spirit.

It is therefore our duty to introduce you to the greatest role models who want to share their stories, ideas and guidance with you. And therefore it is only fitting that we have with us today a man or should I say, a visionary who truly embodies the values we have been speaking of today and this is the mind behind the new education policy for a new India, Dr K Kasturirangan, our Chief Guest.

Speaking of the national education policy, one key term that stands out and underlines the entire policy, whether it is school or higher education is the word 'holistic' the idea that the focus needs to be on the all-round development of the students and the multi-disciplinary education. Dr Kasturirangan who strongly believes in the need for diversity in education has been pivotal in bringing about the shift in focus away from students' grades alone. Dr Kasturirangan believes that education cannot be contained in water tight compartments instead the various aspects and stages in a child's education must be interconnected so as to form a coherent whole. Dr Kasturirangan, also popularly referred to as the satellite man of India is one of the most recognised scientists in the world and a prominent educationist who has played a crucial role in shaping educational policies in India. It is under his leadership, the Indian space programme took shape as one of the foremost in the world with a successful operationalisation of India's satellite launch vehicles, launching of a vast range of satellites and laying the foundation of India's moon mission. So, my students you may wonder how our trigonometry or algebraic formulae ever going to help you in what we as adults like to patronisingly call 'the real world'. Well, Dr Rangan will tell you, trigonometry is what they use in satellite systems.

Dr Rangan is known to be highly committed to his work and meticulous in everything he does, planning and preparing well in advance even for his daily meetings. Even after years of professional experience, success and worldwide recognition, Dr Kasturirangan remains humble, simple and deeply connected to his roots, be it Kerala, his birth place where he spent his formative years or the family members, particularly his grand parents who had raised him after his mother's untimely demise. When he was still very young, or his defining experiences in thirty five long years at ISRO, Dr Rangan has not once forgotten the lessons, influences and institutions that have shaped him. A small fact that exemplifies his greatness is that as a Member of Parliament, many years after he had left the school where he studied until the age of eight years, Dr Rangan granted an amount worth Rs 1crore, from the MP Fund to the school to build a separate plot for the faculty, as an expression of his gratitude for shaping his initial stage of life and making him the man that he is.

Expand vision, think big, is one take away from Dr Rangan's journey and that you must have a first class mind; you have got to stretch the mind to be able to do that. He believes that the human mind can always thrive if one takes good care of it. If not, it will atrophy. This is why he has always taken up more work, more

opportunities, more challenges relentlessly climbing the ladder of knowledge, of comprehension, of ability, of light, immersed in the rut of life. I have seen many youngsters lose sight of the big picture in the race to fulfil basic needs. Your purpose is just not to fulfil basic needs, you have got to set your eyes on the last rung of the Maslow pyramid of needs. At the lowest rung are these basic needs of housing, clothing, food. Eventually you climb up the pyramid, to reach the last rung of self actualisation needs which simply means the desire to become the best that one can be. This is when big bold dreams take birth. Students, let your dreams be as unthinkable and unimaginable as they can be.

As a child, Dr Rangan would sometimes sleep outdoors and look up with wonder, fascinated by the mysteries that the skies held. The simple experience perhaps romanticised in his eyes, stuck with him and kindled his imagination in a way that led him to become the most renowned space scientist in the country. I am reminded of a popular dialogue from a film that sums up what I want to say and I quote, "You don't get what you deserve, you get what you take." But as we strive to attain success in our respective domains our upward journey must also entail upliftment of others around us.

Undoubtedly, when you focus on helping others succeed, your eventual payoff will be far greater than your investment. For me, it has been almost two decades now in public service and in retrospect I have continued to believe that true joy is found not in being served, but in choosing to serve. It is found not in thinking what is in it for me but in thinking how I can use my abilities to empower others and we need people who think in this way now more than ever.

Dr Rangan like his idol, Dr Vikram Sarabhai belongs to this clutch of people. Despite the highly specialized technical nature of his field, Dr Rangan was always interested in the real time applications of space technologies for social and economic development. The question that took up his mind was what we can do to make sure that the effects, the impact of India's space programme reaches its citizens at the grass root level. It was the result of his perpetual dogged search for this answer that under his leadership ISRO developed and launched various satellite vehicles for myriad purposes such as mapping of natural resources, sending back images of the earth and its oceans for weather forecasting and even to enable greater, much quicker communication between individuals at large distances.

Coming back to where we stand today, in no other time in history has any event brought people together so close to one another as this pandemic. People from every corner of the globe have united to fight this common invisible enemy. They have shared experiences of hardships and survival. This has made the world more united and empathetic.

Global efforts to secure a vaccine have seen all the world leaders, international organisations and philanthropists working in conjunction and unity and pitching in their resources. People are showcasing extraordinary resilience and patience as we wait for a vaccine. But in doing that we have also learnt to be more mindful of the present and build a future wherein we do not take nature and its resources for granted.

That said as you navigate your way in an uncertain world let the time tested values of integrity, honesty, patience and compassion be your guiding light. Hold on to them tightly, do well but also do good.

Thank you.



ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF GUEST-DR K KASTURIRANGAN



I am very delighted to participate in the 123rd Founder's Day celebration of The Scindia School. I do recognize owing to the present circumstances, you are unable to celebrate the same in your normal scale and grandeur. I would like to thank Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat, Principal, The Scindia School for extending this invitation to me. In this context, I was also privileged to receive a communication from His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia, President, Scindia Education Society. I have been fortunate to know many distinguished members from the royal house of Scindias including Late His Highness Maharaja Madhav Rao Scindia; Her Highness, Srimati Vasundhara Raje Scindia; Her Highness Srimati Yashodhara Raje Scindia and last but not the least His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia. I vividly recalled my association with Her Highness Srimati Vasundhara Raje Scindia some years back when she asked me to chair a committee to examine the educational system of Rajasthan and come out with specific policy recommendations. The recent times, I appreciate the endorsement which I received recently on the National Education Policy 2020 from Her Highness Srimati Yashodhara Raje Scindia in the capacity as one of the key members of the Madhya Pradesh

government. The strategy that The Scindia School has adopted, one which is based on the strong belief that real education is about providing the correct references and appropriate stimulants for the inherent goodness to express itself on its own is not very different from what we have proposed in the new National Education Policy 2020, at the school level. This policy envisages ensuring that the early childhood care and education is developmentally appropriate and as I mentioned middle and secondary stages of schooling, you adopt a holistic but integrative approach to the learning process. In this context, we do away with the existing practice of separation between curricular, extra-curricular and co-curricular, science and arts, vocational and professional, and ensure a truly multidisciplinary approach, including areas like arts, crafts, sports etc. This in turn will create well-rounded individuals, capable of playing their own rightful roles both in their profession or occasion and also in dealing with social issues, interacting with communities etc.

My early years of childhood, the 1940s were spent in the town of Ernakulam Kerala, where I was born. The most fascinating aspect of being in this town in those years was my unforgettable experience- those gazing at the night skies with all its wonders, unfolding through the panorama of twinkling objects in the otherwise dark background. One could see the beautiful Milky Way galaxy to which our solar system belongs, straggling across the night sky, like a necklace. These fascinating spectacles left an indelible impression in my mind, which I carried forward to my later years. These inquisitive experiences transform themselves in the later years into an everlasting quest for understanding the nature of the universe, its origin and evolution. My deeply committed teachers in school earlier in Ernakulam and later

in Mumbai inspired me further to kindle my imagination and curiosity through fascinating examples in science. After completing my school and college education my interest became even more intense to understand the meaning of how, why, and what about the universe and the meaning of the human existence in the overall scheme of the cosmos. I should record with gratitude, the guidance and advice that I received from many of my teachers, mentors, friends and well-wishers in this critical phase of my life.

An important turning point in my life occurred when I got an opportunity to come in contact with Dr Vikram Sarabhai, India's space pioneer. I was looking for a research opportunity particularly to work on the area of astronomy and astrophysics. Dr Sarabhai besides being an affluent and thriving businessman had his interest deeply rooted in science and scientific methods right from his early childhood. He founded the physical research laboratory at Ahmedabad for carrying out fundamental research in astronomy and atmospheric sciences. Further, I may also mention that around that time I came in contact with Dr Vikram Sarabhai. I recognized he had just initiated through his vision India Space program for which the physical research laboratory served as a cradle. I vividly recall my own admission into the research career through a grueling interview which Dr Sarabhai personally conducted and where he explored not only my subject knowledge in physics, mathematics and astronomy, but also my inclination, resolve to pursue challenges and above all my willingness to forego personal comforts in the face of demanding tasks. A lot of hard work, very less money. It is here that I learned the methods of scientific research, which in turn shaped my capabilities of training the mind for inquisitive thinking and critical analysis.

A good research worker is also expected to acquire a broad knowledge base encompassing several subjects and themes and also the ability to explore the connections between the multiple objects and subjects with no obvious linkages on the surface. As a part of my PhD problem, Dr Sarabhai asked me to build an instrument which was primarily a nuclear radiation detection system to detect X-rays coming from outer space. Since X-rays cannot reach the ground because of the blanketing effects of the Earth's atmosphere, the instrument had to be flown on a balloon to high altitudes. The instrument itself involved detectors, digital electronics, analog electronics and communication systems, like transmitters. Those were the days when the nature of electronics technology were transitioning from valves to transistors. Dr Sarabhai wanted me to work with the latest technologies and learn the total process of building an instrument on an end to end basis which in addition can withstand extremely low temperatures that they endure altitudes. This payload flown in balloon resulted in me making the first few measurements of the X radiation coming from outer space, which carried with it the tell-tale signs of the cosmic Big Bang, the origin of the universe itself. He also told me that I should not work only on theoretical sciences, but also should get my hands down experience through my involvement in experimentation. Dr Sarabhai's decision to address this kind of work to be a graduate student had several intentions- building an instrument involving multiple technologies, data interpretation and making sense of it in terms of the science behind it, to contribute to the enrichment of the knowledge in this very important emerging field of X-ray astronomy, besides preparing the students for future responsibilities involving multiple dimensions of knowledge. Dr Sarabhai was again instrumental in persuading me at the end of my PhD to work on India's fledgling space programme. He assured it will offer challenges and excitements of a new kind. He went on to emphasize there is nothing like working in your own country when such unique opportunities present themselves. The deep conviction in his voice and the persuasive powers of his arguments left me with no alternative than to work in my own country. In retrospect, I don't regret following his prophetic advice.

Having joined India Space Programme, one of the early rules that I played was in the context of my involvement in building India's first space satellite-Aryabhata. In this work I was associated with Professor Satish Dhawan and Professor U R Rao, two of my illustrious predecessors. The challenge of building India's first satellite was that we had to learn everything about the design and development from a scratch. We have to build the necessary capabilities including infrastructure and realized it in an incredibly short time of about three years we did it. It is an excellent example of total dedication, team work and bringing to bear high degree of professionalism, something we should become. It should become a part of our culture and realizing many similar challenges in our country. The original mission of India's space endeavors and envisaged by its

founder Dr Vikram Sarabhai was primarily focused to bring the benefits of this vantage point of space to improve the quality of life of each and every one of its citizens. Among the many applications of space, the more important ones included communication connectivity, broadcasting television services, including for healthcare and education, disaster management, space based meteorological observation, which is of a critical nature for India's agricultural activity and remote sensing of natural resources for efficient and optimal management of these scarce resources. We had by and large achieved this goal with notable success and we continued to expand and consolidate this activity.

The question that many of the younger generation like you or asking at this stage is, what is next for India in space. I always felt that scientific discoveries that have a unique way of kindling the imagination of young and evolving minds. In the case of space it becomes all the more exciting because we deal with studies of solar system and its objects, investigations of suns, stars, and galaxies and such intriguing and incredible objects, like neutron stars and black holes, which are the manifestation of matter and extreme densities, temperatures and gravity. Today these areas are receiving increasing attention in the context of the space programmes of different countries. I may even mention that this year's Nobel Prize in Physics; those are now just a few days ago when two-three scientists whose work encompassed understanding the physics of the formation of black holes and the discovery of the presence of a supermassive black hole four million times more massive than our sun. India's own first step in this direction is a very unique and powerful astronomical observatory designated as Astrosat currently working in space and which is discovering several astrophysical phenomena, involving birth and evolution of stars and galaxies, nature of the structure of these objects and clusters of galaxies and so on. The future promises even more exciting missions with the scientific community of India are currently planning. On the other side the major programme related to studies of moon and the planets have also made a beginning with Chandrayaan I and II and also Mangalyaan to Mars. Planetary exploration a very interesting objective to understand the science behind the origin and evolution of our own solar system, unique scientific characteristics of individual planets and their moves, the possibility of finding life elsewhere in our solar system besides of course the general survey of various favorable occasions where humans can set up habitation in future. Thus there are both exploratory and exploitative objectives for the planetary programme.

Having already taken the first steps in the coming years, India will play a significant role in the planetary studies both at the national level as well as through international collaboration. Infact, the 21st century could be an era of planetary exploration where humans will attempt to transport themselves to other locations in our solar system. This is a journey which is exciting, arduous and most demanding of all the exploratory steps that the humankind has taken over thousands of years. However, the spirit of human exploration has been seen as one of continuous expansion and the exploration of solar system and beyond by the humankind will not be an exception to the earlier history of the human exploratory spirit.

It is here that the present initiatives of India will make it an important partner of the humankind's objectives of expanding into the far reaches of the solar system. I find that your alma mater, there are three core values- the pursuit of excellence, a global outlook and a profound respect for our Indian ethos, or they are central to achieving great dreams of our nation and finally of the human kind.

What you learn here will certainly influence the level of your confidence in undertaking brave and courageous stance in the future notwithstanding the high level of rigour that such demands place on you, My dear and friends, as you complete your formal education from here and elsewhere later, you will certainly find that the secure environment that you are accustomed to while studying, suddenly could transform into a life full of challenges. In the very heart of these challenges, there are hidden opportunities. Further in the progress of your life, you will certainly come across hurdles, handicaps and even failures. I can only advise that for everything you do, have a strong conviction, have the persistence to follow through your conviction and have the courage to face failures. I still remember the events in ISRO related to the failures of the first two augmented satellite launch vehicles. This is an intermediate vehicle called a ASLV. Even though a sense of despondency overtook us initially, we did not allow this setback to override our resolve to succeed. I should say the critical analysis and the in-depth assessment of the problems we made and the technology and quality issues that we addressed clearly paved the way for the success of the present generation of our satellite launch vehicle- the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV, and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV. Our courage of conviction made us work with redoubled vigour to succeed which we did.

I've often felt that life can teach you more from a failure than through success. So don't be afraid of failures, have the courage to face it, and make a grand success of learning from it. I would like to contribute by assuring you my dear young friends that you are entering a very exciting and challenging era of our existence as human species on the planet. Each one of you will find a task, which is tailor-made for your inclination and liking. The opportunities are many, choices are plenty and I am sure the different opportunities will compete with each other to seek your attention. Don't allow this unique moment to slip out of your hand. Thank you.



PAINTINGS ON 'HARMONY'DURING THE HARMONY WEEK 2020



CITATION OF THE MADHAV AWARDEE- DR SANJIV SARAF (EX-SH, 1975)

It gives us immense pride to welcome Mr Sanjiv Saraf, a noted entrepreneur, investor and mentor. He is an alumnus from The Scindia School and a graduate from IIT, Kharagpur. After completing his graduation in 1980 he went on to run his family business in Orissa for four years after which, he ventured out on his own to establish Polyplex Corporation Limited. The company besides being one of the world's largest producers of PET films is also one that is built on the foundation of strong Indian values and ethos. As for his entrepreneurial pursuits Sanjiv is Chairperson of not one but two companies, namely, Polyplex Corporation and SSIPL Retail Limited. He currently also serves in a variety of directorial positions, into the exact 18 companies. And that's not all. He endeavours to consistently apply his entrepreneurial acumen in multiple fields to bring innovation for social good. For instance he has forayed into renewable energy where he has launched several hydroelectric power projects in the states of Punjab, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

A humanist at heart, Sanjiv remains committed and takes personal interest in his company's community building initiatives, including its 1200 student non profit school. He does not see net worth as a measure of ones success. Rather his vision and purpose encompass elevating cultural, social and educational spheres as powerful forces to bring about social change. Sanjiv is a multi- faceted personality who has a mixed bag of achievements in a variety of fields. He started learning the Urdu script at the age of 53 and soon realized that with little digital presence, the aura of Urdu language was depleting. He took on the mantle of preserving the Urdu *Zubaan* along with its unique socio-cultural and literary ambience by making the language accessible to the world at large. His brainchild, the Rekhta Foundation, established in 2012, created an all-new ecosystem for the Urdu language, as if introducing a new continent into literature. The Rekhta Foundation has digitized more than 50,000 e-books and has taken the language to various geographies including through cultural events like Jashn-e-Rekhta, and Rang-e-Rekhta which have furthered the horizons of the ambitious initiative.

He is a recipient of several awards and honours including the distinguished 'Doctor of Letters degree' by Maulana Azad National Urdu University and the National Sir Syed Excellence Award 2018 from the Aligarh Muslim University for his contribution to the cause of preserving and promoting Urdu. On behalf of The Scindia School it gives me great pleasure to confer on Mr Sanjiv Saraf, the Madhav Award as an Old Boy of Eminence for the year 2020 for his outstanding work through the Rekhta Foundation, his entrepreneurial ingenuity and his magnificent contribution in community building.

Please join me in welcoming Mr Sanjiv Saraf.

ADDRESS BY THE MADHAV AWARDEE



My dear Scindian fraternity, Namaskar! It is indeed a great honour for me to be conferred the Madhav Award for 2020. I am humbled to join the company of many illustrious award winners since 1984 and I will strive to meet the standards of excellence and service set by them. I thank the Board of Governors for bestowing the award. The school's impact in the development of my intellectual and my emotional capacities has been profound and lifelong. Not so much the upbringing at home or the period spent in college at IIT as the six plus years spent on the fort. This has been the true nurturing ground for my formative years and I feel blessed to have had such wonderful teachers and friends; some of whom I am still in close contact with all over the world. The exposure I got at Scindia is unparalleled. The academics were good, but in the overall context just a part of the whole. Compulsory participation in different sports activities enabled one to understand the nuances of each sport which stands in good stead to this day and enhances one's appreciation as a spectator also. The value system, sharing, the egalitarian society, the Indian culture, and ethos that was embedded in activities like the Astachal, were unique features to Scindia School. The teachers and Housemasters were not just that. It was a gurukul like atmosphere where these were foster parents. We learnt not just regular subjects but each of them also brought a wealth of experience in his or her own field. Sahi Saheb inculcated the love of English literature. Sharif Saheb coached cricket, Khar Saheb coached hockey and Urdu poetry in chemistry classes. In on and on these were the life lessons which can never be forgotten. A very large part of what I am today is because of Scindia School. And I feel that all those who have the privilege of studying and living here should be grateful for this opportunity and make full use of the time that they spent here. I wish you all the very best. Keep well and keep safe.

61ST OLD BOYS' DAY

The 61st Old Boys' Day Celebration was held virtually on 24th October 2020. The Class of 1995 and 2010 celebrated their Silver Jubilee year and ten years, respectively, of passing out of school. Mr Harish Bhojwani (Ex- Md, 1995) was the representative of the batch. The Vice President, Mr Banjul Badil (Ex- Ja, 1988) requested the President to take the proceedings further. President Central SOBA-Mr Rahul Kushrestha (Ex-Rn,1981) delivered the welcome address. The Secretary Mr Anurag Dikshit (Ex- Sh, 1988) read the report of the year. The SOBA Award 2020 was conferred upon Mr Niraj Lal (Ex- Ja, 1969). The SOBA Cup was awarded to SOBA Delhi. The relaunch of Astachal by SOBA Delhi and Kolkata was the highlight of the evening. This evening was dedicated to Late Mr Ritesh Chandra (Ex-Rn, 1995). The Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat graced the occasion and congratulated the gathering. The proceedings were handed over to the Class of 1995 for their programme which included live performances and lots of nostalgia. Mr Harish Bhojwani, moderator for the Class of 1995, delivered the Vote of Thanks.



VOTE OF THANKS BY THE SENIOR SCHOOL PREFECT- ANGAD SAHNI



Honourable Chief Guest for the evening, Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, President Board of Governors, His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia, Members of the Board of Governors, Principal Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat, eminent guests, Old Boys, parents, teachers and fellow Scindians; a very good evening to all of you. It is my proud privilege to propose a Vote of Thanks on this momentous occasion, in the presence of such an accomplished personality, Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan.

Talent and passion are a magical combination to possess and our Chief Guest for the day is a personification of these virtues. I thank you once again Sir for sparing your valuable time to be with us. I take this opportunity to thank this year's recipient of the Madhav award. Sir, you are a true inspiration for the young Scindians, for you have been living the Scindian ethos day in and day out. I also take this opportunity to thank the Honorable President and other members of the Board of Governors for their guidance and support throughout this journey of education in the most holistic ways possible. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Old Boys, as they play a significant role in ensuring that we imbibe the Scindian values most naturally, by being the torch bearers of the Scindian character. My thanks are due to all the teachers who have always guided and motivated us to prosper not just academically, but even morally, spiritually and emotionally. Thanks are due to the entire parent community for gracing the occasion, as their presence cements our confidence. I thank the administrative and technical staff as they were the force working relentlessly behind the scenes.

Now, I would like to thank the ones who are almost my own extension. I thank my batch for the unconditional support I received from them, whether it was celebrating success, or going through a rough patch of life. We have created memories for a lifetime.

For such a huge event, the wheels start rolling weeks ago. I congratulate the entire team of teachers, students, support staff who have strived round-the-clock over the past few weeks to make this Founder's as successful as ever.

Ladies and Gentlemen, when I joined the Scindia School, I was a kid who wished to be better. After spending six years in this institution I understood, that better is not something you wish, it is something you become. Charles Darwin said and I quote "The world is not inherited by the strongest, it is inherited by those most able to change". It is because of the great Scindian spirit that irrespective of the circumstances we are celebrating the Founder's Day.

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

Thank you & Good night
Long live Scindia!

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS 2019-20

Awards

1. Umang Mathur Memorial Trophy
(for the best Class XI Scholar)
2. Mahendra Mishra Memorial Trophy
(for the best Class XI Sportsman)
3. Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia II Medal
(for All Round Proficiency)
4. Sam Pitroda Award (2020-21)
(for the Best Innovative Projects-
"The Driver Drowsiness Detection System"
and
"Do It Yourself Covid Protection Kit")
5. The R. B. Pawar Medal
(for scoring the highest percentage
of marks in Mathematics in Class XII)
6. Governor's Medal
(for scoring Highest Percentage in Class XII)
7. Field Marshal Cariappa Shield
(for the Best Sportsman)
8. Maharaja Jeevajirao Scindia Medal
(for All Round Proficiency in Class XII)
9. The Khurshid Lakdawala,
Jr. House Efficiency Shield
10. Guru Hargovind Singh (Gurdwara) Trophy
(for the Best House in Academics)
11. Nepal Trophy
(for the Best House in Games)
12. The Scindia School,
Inter House General Efficiency Shield
13. Madhav Award

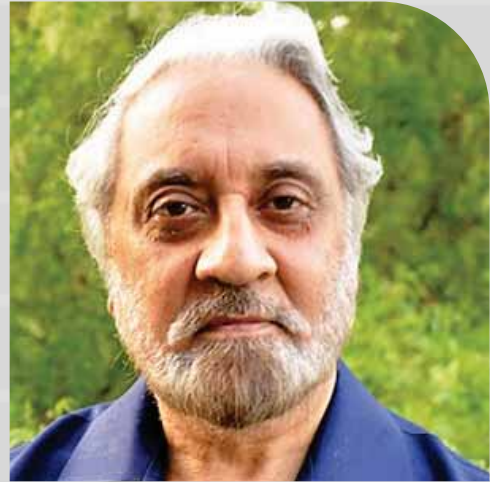
Awardees

- Aditi Joshi
(Jayaji House)
- Sher Bahadur Dhal
(Jayappa House)
- Chirag Rathi
(Madhav House)
- Pranav Wadhwa
Memoy Mishra
(Daulat House)
- Sujal Jariha
Saransh Agarwal
(Shivaji House)
- Aditya Parashar
(Jayaji House)
- Pratham Agarwala
(Shivaji House)
- Samarjith Nalvade
(Madhav House)
- Aditya Parashar
(Jayaji House)
- Kanerkhed House
- Mahadji House
- Jayappa House
- Madhav House
- Dr/Mr Sanjiv Saraf
(Ex-Shivaji, 1975)

APPRECIATION OF THE VIRTUAL FOUNDER'S DAY

Mr Harpal Singh
Member, Board of Governors

Dear Dr Saraswat,
May I congratulate you all for a well-coordinated Founder's day event. I visited each of the activity displays and must congratulate that they were well organised and drew attention to important issues. We should build on this success as we address the future. Congratulations once again and regards,



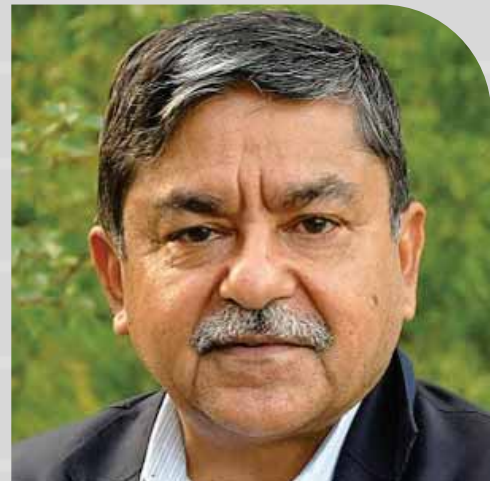
Mr Arun Kapur
Member, Board of Governors

Dear Dr Saraswat,
Very well conducted.... Congratulations to you and your team of students, teachers and administrators.



Mr Jyoti Sagar
Member, Board of Governors

Dear Dr Saraswat,
Well done.



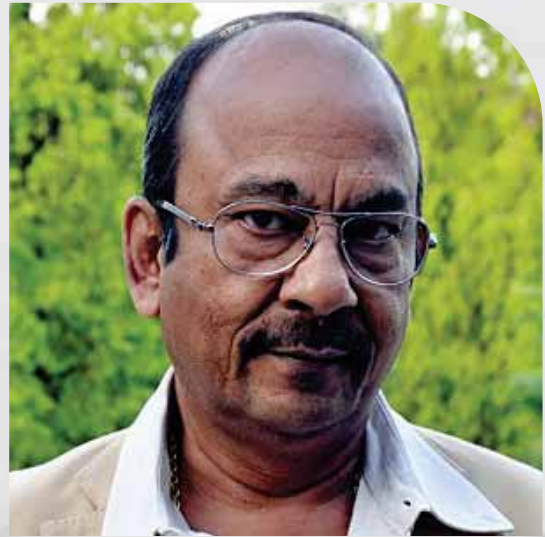
Mr Harish Bhojwani
Member, Board of Governors

Dear Dr Saraswat,
It was indeed delightful to witness the Founder's day. Infact, Virtual Celebrations proved that Scindians can scale up the heights in any conditions. Many Congratulations!!!



Mr Amar Jyoti Bindal
Member, Board of Governors

Dear Dr Saraswat,
Congratulations for the very nice presentation of Founder's Day. It was as good as being in person. Special mention to the team for compiling it beautifully.



Mr Ravi Saund,
Member, Board of Governors

Sir,
Kudos to your team for assisting and creating such an excellent platform for The Founder's Day. The event was well organized and was a grand success, despite the corona pandemic situation. Congrats to you and your team on this splendid successful event!



Ms Sujata Aslam
Former Faculty, English

Sir,
Many thanks for the kind invitation. Indeed, happy to be remembered. I attended the programme and was really astonished and delighted. I could never imagine that an entire event like this could go online! Many congratulations to you, your dedicated staff and the creative students. The teamwork exhibited is par excellence. Please convey my felicitations to all concerned.



Dr Aditya Kumar Sharma
Principal, Syna International School &
Former Faculty, Physics

Dear Sir,
A wonderful programme. Speeches were good and congratulations to Madhav house for winning the Efficiency shield.



Mr L M Sharma
Former Faculty, Geography

Dear Sir,
Congratulations, a very good Founder's Day. The speech of the principal was excellent with peacocks and other night birds from the woods adding melodious music to the speech. Lovely program. Thanks for adding me to the Founder's Day. Mr Kapoor and his team worked hard on the IT front.



Dr Ankur S Birkett
Bursar, Punjab Public School, Nabha

Dear Sir,
It was indeed a wonderful programme.



Ms Anita Pandey
Former Faculty, English

Sir,
Heartiest Congratulations for a fabulous Founder's Day. It was a pleasure to watch the flawless virtual program. I was instantly transported to the school premises and I went down the memory lane during the course of the program. Wishing The Scindia School all the best!





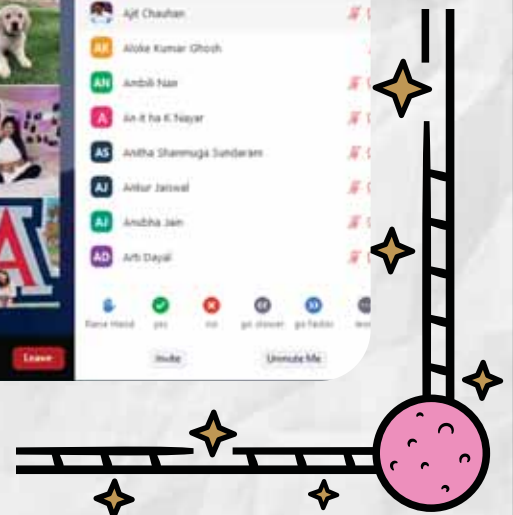
FORT NEWS

The Harmony Week-2020 was celebrated in the school on 4th and 5th November 2020. On 4th October, students participated in creating paintings based on the theme- 'Scenes of harmony on the Gwalior Fort.' The paintings were arranged and displayed in the panel discussion held on the next day. On 5th November, a panel discussion was organised, and the panel consisted of three boys, and two teachers- Mr Somarajan K S and Mr Ashish Mishra with the guest speaker- Commander Kumar Gaurav. Gatik Bhonwal, Shivansh Bansal, and Shantanu Yadav participated in the discussion. Ms Priya Bhagat, faculty of Humanities, moderated the discussion. The event concluded with a short video presentation on the flora and fauna at the fort.

Jayant Gupta and Manjot Singh Sethi contested for the Sixteenth Vasant Valley Interschool Mathematics Quiz on 24th November 2020.

Celebrated every 10th of November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the important role of science in society and underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. In order to commemorate the World Science Day, Bhabha Scientific Society organised a plethora of activities for our middle-graders on 10th November 2020. This started with the kids doing STEM Experiments in their homes and sending the videos to us. The rationale was to discover science in everyday life- inside the kitchen, in the garden etc. and the enthusiasm of the kids has inundated us with a large number of videos. The students had fun while exploring science concepts through Science Bingo and Science Quiz.

Faculty members attended a webinar on 'Behavioral Challenges in Children' conducted on 7th November 2020 by Dr Rebecca Hartzell, Asst. Prof of Practice, Disability and Psychoeducational Studies, University of Arizona.





FORT NEWS

The result of the Junior Group Inter House Hindi Elocution is as follows:
House Positions: I- Jankoji II- Nimaji III-Dattaji IV- Kanerkhed
Best Speaker (Prose): I-Kavish Patwari, Siddhanth Singh II- Navansh Manekar
Best Speaker (Poetry): I- Naman Dua II- Atharv Tiwari, Arnav Joshi

The results of the Senior Group Inter House English Debates are as follows:

First Round: Oxford Format

Best Speakers: Pool A, For- Shivansh Bansal, Against- Keshav Dudhani
Pool B, For-Summedh Potdar, Against- Vidit Gupta

Second Round: Cambridge Format

Best Speaker:

(Debate I) : Atherva Karwa (DI, Proposition), Arya Adhikari (Mj, Opposition)

(Debate II) : Shivansh Bansal (Jp, Proposition), Akshat Karwa (Md, Opposition)

(Debate III) : Vidit Gupta (Je, Proposition), Aaryan Nagpal (Ja, Proposition)

Third and Final Round: British Parliamentary Format

Best Speakers:

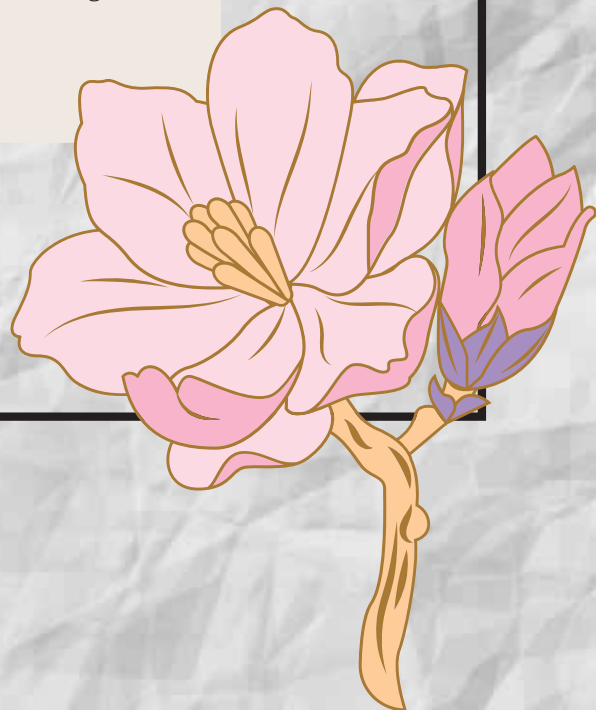
1. Akshat Karwa (Government)
2. Shivansh Bansal (Opposition)

Overall House Positions:

I - Madhav II- Jayaji III- Jayappa IV- Jeevaji V- Mahadji VI- Daulat VII- Shivaji VIII- Ranoji

Obituary

We are extremely sad to inform you of the sad demise of Mr Vivek Sharma (Ex- Md, 1993). He had a massive heart attack and passed away in the morning of 28 November 2020 in Mumbai. May his kind soul rest in everlasting peace.





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