

Qila Quotes



**BOYS'
BOARDING
SCHOOL** by EducationWorld

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HH Maharaja JM Scindia addressing the audience



Chief Guest - Dr K Kasturirangan addressing the audience

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL

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Yuvraj Mahanaaryaman J Scindia

Government Nominee

Mr Harish Bhojwani

Mr Amar Jyoti Bindal

Invited Members

Mr Shashank Vira

Mrs Darshana Jaini (Parents' Representative)

Mr Ravi Saund (Expert - Infrastructure Development)

Ex officio Member, Secretary & Principal

Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat

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मेरे संगीत का सफ़रनामा

आराध्य शिव शुक्ला (कक्षा 9)

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



Principal's address during Founder's Day



Photograph by Manas Parashar, Class XII for Founder's Day exhibition

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

It is so good to know that all our children and your families are well, safe, and healthy. As we are now in the process of reopening, I am delighted to inform that almost the entire Class 10th, 11th and 12th are back on campus and the school is pulsating with life once again. We are grateful to parents for their faith in us; and for the support extended to us in the last 12 months. Teachers and students are making-up for all the lost time and I can see them engaged in academic pursuits in every nook and corner of the school. God willing, our students will produce good results despite all the hurdles.

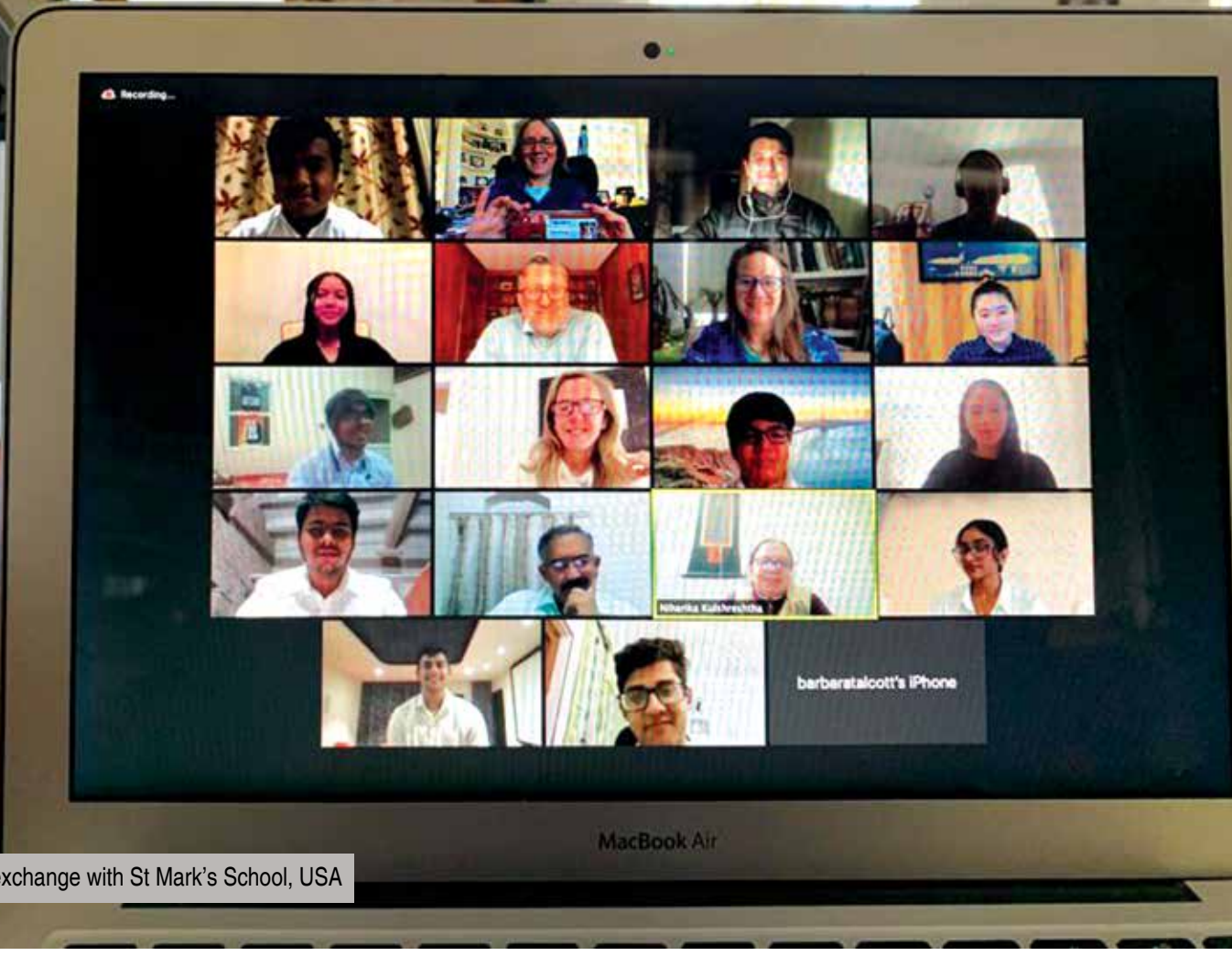
Initiated in 2007, the annual EducationWorld India School Rankings (EWISR) survey which rates and ranks the country's most reputed schools ranked us #1 school in all boys' boarding schools category! The annual perceptions-based EWISR rates schools under 14 diverse parameters of primary-secondary education. Out of 14 parameters, we have been rated no. 1 in: Academic reputation; Individual attention to students; Leadership and Management quality & Teacher development and welfare. The scores awarded by sample respondents (over 11,000 parents, educators, principals, teachers, and senior students) under each parameter, were added to rank schools in each sub-category. And this exercise was conducted by the Delhi-based, highly reputed market research and opinion polls company - Centre for Forecasting Pvt. Ltd (C fore, estb. 2000). We humbly acknowledge and take pride in the outcome of this independent audit which ranked us #1 for second year in a row. A big thank you to all the stakeholders for their guidance and support!



Moving on, as we prepare to bid adieu to yet another Batch of Class XII with the confidence that they will live up to the rich Scindian legacy, we wonder what we will start afresh; how will we reaffirm our strengths and promises for scaling greater heights; and most importantly, how will we sustain the momentum of excellence. All come to mind as we reopen the school amidst all the uncertainties and fears. The accolades that we earned particularly for the No.1 rank in the country amongst the boys' boarding schools brought tremendous cheer at a time when the ill-wind of the coronavirus global pandemic was causing havoc all over the world. All the while as we enjoyed the fireworks, our minds continued to tick with new goals and resolutions for the post pandemic world. A dedicated team of empowered teachers and resilient children give us the confidence that we will achieve all our targets in coming times...

Hope you enjoy this issue.

Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat
Principal, The Scindia School



First ever virtual exchange with St Mark's School, USA



Tree plantation drive on 14th Feb

EDITORIAL

Students of Class XII, XI, X and IX have returned to the Fort. The citadel has come alive and the school is pulsating with life once again. All students have completed their quarantine period and their physical classes have begun. We have implemented a stringent safety protocol to ensure complete protection of the entire community. With our unique setting, coupled with stringent safety protocols, we are confident that our bio-bubble will ensure COVID free campus in future too.

The Scindia School celebrates its 123rd Founder's Day online

The Scindia School celebrated its 123rd Founder's Day online on 21st October 2020. Well-known scientist and educationist **Mr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan** graced the occasion as the Chief Guest for this function. Various departments including Computers, Social Science, Science, Photography, Art, Commerce etc. showcased their talents and exhibits online from the safety of their homes. Principal, **Dr MD Saraswat** read out the annual report and shared the highlights of the year gone by. Commenting on the occasion, **Mr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan** said, "The Scindia School's holistic curriculum is similar to what the NEP prescribes". **H.H. Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia** expressed his gratitude for all the stakeholders especially the teachers for their commendable work during the pandemic.

Award and Honour

The Scindia School has been recognized as the #1 Boys' Boarding school in India in the annual EducationWorld India School Rankings (EWISR) 2020-21. In addition to the overall #1 ranking, we have also done exceptionally well in several parameters across different verticals of the school, namely, Teacher welfare and development; Academic reputation; Individual attention to students and Leadership & management quality.

Principal, **Dr MD Saraswat** was recognized as the 'Great People Manager' by Forbes India in their October 2020 list of Top 100 Great People Managers- GMP from across the country.

Academics

Syllabus for all subjects for Classes X and XII was completed before the targeted deadline and pre-board examination for classes X and XII started from 8th February 2021. Section division of Class X students based on remedial requirement, enrichment requirement and personal attention has also been done. Similarly, evening classes for Class XII have also started.

Celebrations

The 72nd Republic Day was celebrated on the Fort with careful social distancing. The school fraternity paid homage to the tricolour which was unfurled at the start of the programme followed by the National Anthem.

Martyrs' Day was observed on 30th January 2021. Floral tributes

were paid to the Father of the Nation- Mahatma Gandhi. The poem in English titled 'Freedom isn't free' was read by **Arsh Mishra** and **Satwik Goyal** read an excerpt on the childhood of Mahatma Gandhi. The soulful singing of 'Vaishnav Jani' and the instrumental of 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Rani' inspired the school community. The customary silence gave us the opportunity to delve in the depths of our consciousness.

Innovative Projects

Two science projects have been selected for the final round of online science project competition e- IDEX 2021 Singapore. Both these projects were the part of School's Sam Pitroda Award for Innovative Projects this year :-

1. Driver Drowsiness Detection system: Many accidents happen due to drowsiness. People such as truck drivers, shippers, transporters etc. must drive all night long and even during the daytime. This at times makes them prone to accidents because of drowsiness. In this project, students made a drowsiness detection machine that successfully works on a Windows computer with Python 3.8. (by **Memoy Mishra** and **Pranav Wadhwa**)

2. Zero – A Native Programming initiative: This team made a prototype programming language in Hindi (A language of India). This will help those people who do not speak English by using Artificial Intelligence. (**Prashast Pandey** and **Bhuvanesh Gonugunta**)

Extracurricular activities

The Harmony Week-2020 was celebrated in the school on 4 and 5 November 2020.

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

Bhabha Scientific Society organised a plethora of activities for our middle- graders on 10 November 2020.

The Department of Science had organized Annual Online Science Quiz-2020 on 25 and 26 of November 2020.

The final round of the Senior Group Inter -House Business Quiz was conducted on 26 November 2020. Jayappa House won the competition.

Solaris' 20-21, the Annual Management Fest of IIM Udaipur conducted Inquisition 2.0. Our school quiz team comprising **Chirag Rathi** and **Shishir Pandey** stood 2nd in the Quiz.

The junior debating society organized, "Agree to Disagree" 2020-21; this session's Inter House Junior English Debates, from 16 January 2020 to 20 January 2020.

The Scindia School hosted The Platinum Jubilee Debate from 9th – 10th October in which a total of 18 teams participated. The Scindia School made it to the Semi-Finals. The team consisted of **Aaryan Nagpal**, **Shivansh Bansal**, **Keshav Dudhani** and **Satyam Raj**. **Aaryan Nagpal** was adjudged as the Best Speaker in the second round.

The Scindia School hosted the HH Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia memorial Inter-School Hindi debate in which a total of 12 schools participated. The Scindia School won the competition. The winning team consisted of **Keshav Dudhani**, **Akshat Karwa** and **Satyam Raj**. **Akshat Karwa** of Class XII was adjudged as the best speaker.

Virtual Exchange

Yanglem Arjun Singh, **Keshav Dudhani**, **Ujjwal Mehrotra**, **Memoy Mishra**, **Sujal Jariha** and **Vedansh Balasaria** represented the school for the first ever virtual exchange programme held between The Scindia School, Gwalior and St. Mark's School, Southborough, MA, USA from 21 January to 31 January 2021. Student participants shared the ways in which teaching, and learning happens at their schools, understand each other's COVID experience and the ways in which the pandemic has affected their lives and their communities.

Webinars

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

8 boys of Class IX and X attended 'The Military History Seminar' on 24 and 25 November 2020.

Daksh Bajaj, **Lakshay Agarwal**, **Abhimanyu Mudgal** and **Archit Baranwal** attended a Virtual Artificial Intelligence workshop from 23rd November to 26th November 2020.

An awareness campaign on Cyber Bullying was conducted by **Ms Nirali Bhatia**, a renowned cyber psychologist on 30th November 2020.

A virtual Press Conference addressed by the Principal, **Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat** and Vice President, BOGs, **Mr RS Pawar** was held on 14 December 2020. This was to share the good news of our #1 ranking in all boys' boarding schools.

The second phase of Webinar Series of NEP 2020 for teachers of Bhopal Region was conducted by CBSE on 3rd February 2021 from 3-4 pm through live streaming. Faculty members attended the same.

Online sessions of CBSE scheduled for the month of December (28th December 2020 – 30th December 2020) and January (1st

January 2021 – 31st January 2021) were taken up by many teachers on the Fort.

Special Interaction with Madhav Awardees

To share the good news of our #1 position in the country among all boys' boarding schools, and to connect with prominent alumni, a zoom interaction with Madhav Awardees was organized on 14th January 2021. Twenty-five Madhav Awardees attended the meeting. School was represented by the President, Board of Governors, **HH Maharaja JM Scindia**; Vice President, Board of Governors, **Mr RS Pawar** and Principal, **Dr MD Saraswat**. Vice Principal, **Ms Smita Chaturvedi** moderated the interaction. After the zoom call a special email id was created so that everyone could share their thoughts collectively.

Highlights of the email interaction is as under:

a) It was proposed that an endowment fund should be created for scholarships; hiring, training, and retaining good teachers, and to ensure the availability of other resources e.g., infrastructure to help the school take the lead in coming decades. Aim is to collect 100 Cr in two years. Following this suggestion, **Mr Tarun Bakshi** has committed Rs 1 Cr and **Mr Anand Pawar** has committed Rs 10 lacs for the proposed endowment fund.

b) Certain attitudes and virtues which must remain a part of our education as suggested by various Madhav Awardees are as under:

(i) Attitudes to be developed in school:

Equality, appreciation of diversity, care for communities in which we live, generosity towards those in need, good health, respect and looking after our parents / elders in their old age.

(ii) Virtues / values to be taught in school:

Punctuality, Astachal (Meditative mind), Global outlook with Indian rootedness, all round holistic education, discipline and following good norms, dignity of labour, humane and socially conscious, vibrant co-curriculars and more.

Community Service

Social Service League organized a tree plantation drive on campus on 14th February 2021. The members of SOBA Gwalior and our staff members participated in it. Fruit trees and indigenous varieties of plants were selected for this drive.

OLD BOYS' NEWS

Mr Dayanand Mishra (Ex-Sarvapalli, 1979) has recently been promoted to IAS Cadre. He is presently serving as *Jt. Secretary (Food & Consumer)*, Govt. of Bihar, in Patna Secretariat. While in School, he won laurels in Hindi debates and elocutions. He was the Editor of the *School Review* and was the *School Prefect*. His passion for theatre led him to perform lead roles in several drama performances throughout his school life. He proceeded to do his *B.A and M.A. in History* from Delhi University, and later cleared the *Bihar Public Service Commission Examination* in 1989.

Mr Neelutpaul Barua (Ex-Jayaji, 1999) is posted as Vice President of ICICI Securities PD Ltd in Mumbai. While in School, he was a House Prefect, took part in debates/ elocutions and represented the School as part of the Tennis team in IPSC. After passing out from School, he did B.Com. (Hons.) from SBS College, Delhi, and then MBA from IBS, Hyderabad. He is also an avid wildlife photographer.

Mr Ashwani Kumar Upadhyay (Ex-Jyotiba, 1995) has co-authored a book titled "AI Revolution In HRM: The New Scorecard". The book was released on 2nd December 2020. The book is going to be of great help for the students, aspiring HR professionals and general management professionals. He is currently an Associate Professor with Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communications, Pune. While at School, he was a House Captain, and VC of the School Football Team. He proceeded to do MBA (Mktg) from DAVV, Indore followed by Ph.D. in Marketing from MNNIT, Prayagraj in 2010.

Dr Nalin Mehta (Ex-Ranoji, 1996) has recently been appointed as Dean, School of Modern Media, UPES, and Advisor, Global University Systems. He will be pursuing his passion for academics after stepping down as Executive Editor, Times of India-Online. While at School, he was the School Captain, Games Secretary, and Review Editor. He represented our School in athletics, squash, horse-riding, and won many trophies in Inter-School debates.

The ITM University, Gwalior proudly bestowed upon **Mr Ameen Sayani (Ex-Ja, 1948)** the Honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) degree in recognition of his sustained and path-breaking contributions to the advancement of Indian Radio broadcasting and Cinema in December 2020. He is one of the most celebrated and admired Radio Jockeys in India whose melodious voice familiarized us with the popular Hindi songs of yesteryears. Some of the significant radio shows produced and anchored by **Mr Ameen Sayani** were Binaca Geetmala, Filmi Mulaqaat, *Saridon Ke Saathi*, Bournvita Quiz Contest, *Shalimar Superlac Jodi*, *Sangeet Kay Sitaronki Mehfil* amongst many others.

Mr Ankan Banerjee (Ex-Ja, 1991); a 2001 batch IFS officer has been appointed as the Indian High Commissioner to Mozambique. Our heartiest congratulations to him.



Mr Dayanand Mishra (Ex-Ravindra, 1979)

ADVENTURE ON ICE

Antarctica is the southernmost continent of the globe. It is located entirely south of the Antarctic Circle in the Southern Hemisphere and is surrounded by the Southern Ocean. About 98% of Antarctica is covered by Ice sheet with an average thickness of 1.9 km. The dry numbing cold ranges from -14 C⁰ to a crippling low of - 90 C⁰. Winds play a crucial role. On an average only 1,000 to 5,000 people reside temporarily, throughout the year, at the various research stations scattered across the continent. Thus, Antarctica is isolated, miles apart from civilisation. It is inhabited mainly by penguins and researchers. So, what is the big deal? Plenty, says the writer who returns from her trip with a new perspective on the continent and its life.

An Antarctica expedition is the worst way to have the best time of your life --Apsley Chenny Garrard: This says it all. Oh! What a phenomenal realm of the earth! We were only with NATURE-unbelievably strong, silent, magnificent, and fascinating. Antarctica makes you realise how small you are in the larger scheme of cosmos. We set off from Santiago, Chile, by a chartered flight, with a group consisting of 85 co-passengers, from all over the world, for the Falkland Islands. There, we boarded, The Explorer, or the 'Little Red Ship' as it was fondly referred to, for what was going to be our floating home for the next 12 days.

The ocean is a wilderness reaching around the globe, wilder than the Bengal jungle and full of monsters. -HENRI DAVID THOREAU. Out of Falkland Islands, we headed south towards the Drake Passage, where at the convergence of the Pacific and the Atlantic, the planet's largest seas, battle was on for oceanic sovereignty. The waves went up to 30 ft high, riding the ship up and then down and up again, relentlessly for 48 hours with no respite. Most of us were sick and green in the face, had to swallow 'Sea Calm' tablets till ultimately, we sailed into the blessed, calm waters of the Antarctic Mainland.

Who would believe in penguins unless one had seen them? – CONOR O' BRIEN. Our first view of the most adorable penguins was in Saunders and Carcass Islands, where the stony beaches were scattered with penguins, wildfowl, and some upland geese. Penguins come in many shapes and sizes. The cutest of them all are the Chinstraps, so called because of a strap that appears to go under the chin. Penguin – watching is like therapy. Each one has its own personality. Each one seems to have an urgent appointment; they appear so busy!

The Magnificence of Behemoths of Ice Shelves, Icebergs and Sea Ice was conspicuous. The beautiful blocks of ice sculpted into the most amazing forms by wind and waves stand in the waters, majestic, huge, and silent. Occasionally, a piece breaks off and

creates a sound like dynamite reverberating in the silence. Trying to etch them in my memory, through the lens of the camera was truly exhilarating.

The Inconceivable aspect of Nature was crystal clear in an interesting trek near a recently active volcano in a place called Deception Island with the crater covered with snow, the geothermal springs, area of natural sulphur hot springs near the shore were all conundrums. Amazingly, there was no feeling of fear, almost a sense of euphoria at being one with nature, and a strange sense of peace. I wanted to submerge myself in it.

The Twelve Days in the Little Red ship was an experience I will remember for a long time. Credit for this goes to the Crew for their warmth, hospitality, and planning of events to keep us busy. The whole atmosphere was one of comradeship, and togetherness. The food was gourmet, unbelievable as it sounds, fussed over us like a mother penguin over her babies! Time really flew, with so much happening.

Happy is he who like Ulysses has made a great journey-JOACHIN DU BELLAY. Well, as all good things must come to an end, we headed back, veterans going through the Drake again, handling it much better. We reached Ushuaia, a pretty port town in the southernmost tip of Argentina at latitude of 53-degree S, back to civilisation. Part of me was left behind with the "little people"—the Penguins. I do hope at some point in my life, I will be able to go back again.

Ms Anu Bakshi

Chairperson - Shanti Devi Charitable Trust
W/O Mr Tarun Bakshi – Madhav Awardee



Ms Anu Bakshi in Antarctica



Penguin – watching is like therapy

THE ESSENCE OF A "GENIUS"

"Genius", a word so desirable! I have been wondering for quite some time now, as to what makes this particular word in the dictionary so magnetic, that most of us, if not all would want to be associated with it in some way or the other; especially in our professional lives. The word is regarded to be a compliment and is accepted with great pride. So I decided to dive a little deeper into the meaning of the word, so as to gain some more clarity and decide if I would want to be called a "Genius" and perhaps create a roadmap to claim the much sought after title.

Some common definitions of the word in dictionaries that the people of my age group would have grown up with were as follows:

extraordinary intellectual power especially as manifested in creative activity

a person endowed with extraordinary mental superiority

a person with a very high IQ

Having grown up with these notions, I thought it would be a good idea to perhaps look into the life and the work of some path-breakers, so as to understand the meaning of the word in its entirety. Albert Einstein, Nikola Tesla, Steve Jobs were a few names that crossed my mind almost instantaneously, since these personalities had done some fascinating work in their respective spheres.

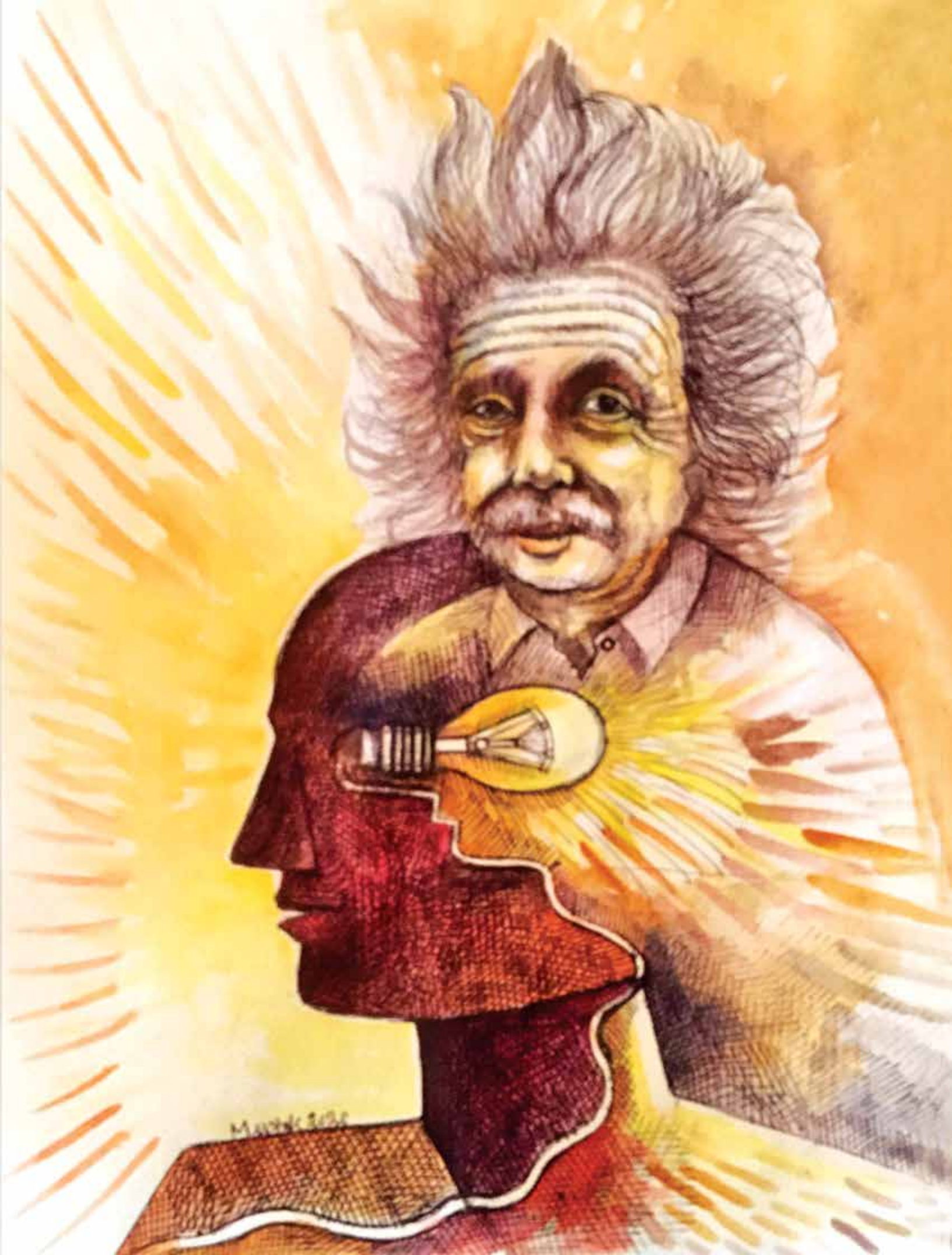
Thankfully, there is no dearth of information in the modern world, therefore reading about the people I had identified as "Genius" wasn't a real big task. On the contrary there is so much of data available that one tends to get swayed easily, which could pose a bit of a challenge at times. Nonetheless, the research was proving to be an interesting one. With the passage of time, as I was getting to know them better than I did before something incredible was surfacing and it motivated me to further extend my scope of work to a few more legendary personalities beyond the three I had initially started with. Therefore names like Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Charlie Chaplin got added to the list to ensure that the group was diverse in nature. Despite being poles apart in their specialisation, there was a common thread that tied them together; it was indeed a Eureka moment for me!

An aspect of their personality which was generally ignored, came to light. Which perhaps could be best understood with an example. There was a time when Blackberry was "the" phone to possess. The qwerty keypad phones of Blackberry were considered to be the epitome of user-friendly aspect in mobile phones; by the way some of their phones had as many as 52 keys. Then came a person who revolutionised the mobile phone market and established the most admired and respected name in the hugely competitive segment of electronic goods; Steve Jobs. Now comes the interesting part, when Steve Jobs was in the process of designing a new phone

which could compete with one of the tough competitors, Blackberry; he did not visualise a phone with a more elaborate keypad. Instead what he envisioned, was a phone which could be operated with a single button. Essentially, what he did was simplified the operation of a mobile phone, rather than complicating it further and that is what made him a "Genius". He exhibited the ability to simplify every gadget that Apple designed, and as we all know the rest is history. And so did the other celebrated personalities on my list. They made a conscious effort of simplifying the complicated in their respective fields and demonstrated "Simple living, high thinking" in their actions.

However, the dilemma is that WE are no longer enthralled by simplicity, and have taken fancy to complicated stuff; from gadgets to language. So much so that even our relationships have become complex. But remember my friends, the essence of a "Genius" lies in its simplicity. Perhaps we could think of adding that perspective to the meaning of the word so that it could be wholesome, as the current definition appears to be slightly lopsided in its approach.

Mr Ashish Arora
Housemaster - Jayaji House



INTERVIEW

Dr Prashant Prabhu (Ex-MD, 1967-68) was born in Bombay, India on 31 August 1952. Upon the completion of his undergraduate education in India from Bombay University he was admitted to the graduate program at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC in the United States, where he earned a Master of Science, Textile Chemistry in 1977 and a PhD in Fiber and Polymer Science in 1979.

Following his studies, he embarked on an extremely rewarding 35-year career with the Michelin Group, the first 23 of which were spent in R&D. This culminated with the responsibility as President, Michelin America Research and Development Corp. He worked in other assignments for another 12 years after this responsibility. While working with Michelin, he worked in various roles and lived across the world including France, Singapore, and Dubai before returning to Greenville SC.

In 2007, he was asked to assume the mission to set up manufacturing for Michelin in India which he conducted initially based in Singapore as the head of Michelin Asia-Pacific and later based in Dubai, UAE as the head of Michelin Africa-India-Middle East. Mr Prabhu retired from Michelin on 15 October 2014.

In retirement, Mr Prabhu is teaching a course in International Business for the MBA program at Clemson University, a course he developed based on his experiences in the business world. He is also serving as a Mentor to several start-up firms under the auspices of the Venture Mentoring Service developed by Greenville Next.

In Scindian circles he is better known as the one who conceptualized SOBiR as a formal 'giving back' forum for the Old Boys. We present before you a candid conversation which our staff editor Mr Vishesh Sahai had with him.

Your adopted country vis-à-vis your country of birth. Any thoughts?

Never the twain shall meet!

I have now spent twice as many years away from India as I did growing up in India. The two experiences remain incomparable.

Lasting relationships develop in full view of one's vulnerabilities. The friends one makes growing up are friends because of/ despite your vulnerabilities.

When you emigrate, it takes a while to find an environment in which you feel comfortable revealing your vulnerabilities. And that usually happens much later in your immigrant experience when you have nothing left to prove.

I have been able to straddle the two cultures, remaining grounded in Indian culture and its mindset even as I have adapted to cultures and mindsets encountered in the various countries where I have lived and worked.

Very early in my career with Michelin, when I was embarking on the process leading to US citizenship, I was advised (by the French head of Michelin Research in the US and who was speaking from experience having lived and worked in the US) that if I thought that becoming a US citizen would mean I had become American I would be mistaken. Moreover, he told me, if I behaved as if I were as "entitled" as an American I would meet resistance and disregard. However, if I always lived as if I were a "guest" in the US, no door would ever be closed to me and Americans would be more accepting. At the time, I did not understand the full import of his advice. But I took it to heart and practiced it wherever I have lived, and his advice turns out to be distilled wisdom.

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

Working towards a Ph.D. is a journey that ensures you develop resilience and perseverance and makes you practice adaptability



Mr Prashant Prabhu

repeatedly. These attributes serve you during your professional life and beyond.

And you realize your successful development of these skills has a foundation in your early experiences – Scindia in my case.

So, the first step in accepting a new challenge is to view it as an opportunity to learn something new. All you need to know (to overcome any apprehension or discomfort from a change in the status quo) is that you have demonstrated to yourself, the ability and willingness to learn. The remaining steps follow.

I believe that such an approach mitigates risk. What is the worst that can happen?

As Marcel Pagnol, a French novelist, says in “My Father’s Glory”, an autobiographical homage to his father, “It is not necessary to rely on hope to undertake nor to succeed to persevere.” (A loose translation from the French original!)

Having travelled so extensively, what are some of your most profound lessons - personally and professionally?

Regardless of where you are in the world, people have similar aspirations. And regardless of the situation, they want to make it better.

If you recognize and acknowledge that, you can have the basis for looking at any other person with the respect he or she deserves.

I was visiting an underground gold mine in Ghana. We were a few

kilometres deep into the earth. The only light is the battery powered head lamp on your helmet. I had separated from our group very briefly when I was approached by a Ghanaian miner who told me he was unhappy with his working conditions. It is dark. It is just the two of us. He is disgruntled. And I can do nothing for him in any tangible way. So, the only thing left to do is to listen to him talk and engage in a conversation that you hope will be meaningful to him - he should feel someone is listening to him. I have never been more thankful for daylight than that afternoon when we drove out of the mine!

Can you please tell us about the Michelin’s Global Incubator Programme that you had created in 2012 at the request of the CEO?

Michelin has always been a very innovative company (even if that would not be obvious if you only saw it as tire manufacturer). A series of tragic circumstances led to Michelin having a non-Michelin family member as the CEO. In his travels he discovered this innovativeness and sought a way to channel it. I was in the twilight of my career – my last mission, to set up a Michelin tire factory in India, was well on its way to realisation. So, he asked if I would be willing to help set up the Global Incubator Program. It was a “gift” because it was a neat way to conclude a career by giving back to the Company that had given me so much.

So, with a small team of equally reckless and iconoclastic individuals we set about harnessing the ideas that had been latent

in our employee population. We concentrated on three geographies – North America, Europe, and China. We solicited ideas for new business opportunities around five mobility related themes we had chosen. Those selected were invited to participate in a supervised and assisted “hackathon” during one week at the end of which we down selected ideas for presentation to the CEO and to receive seed funding for development. Some of these ideas are being commercialized.

What would you attribute your abiding love for Michelin to? What is so special about Michelin that you worked for it for 35 long years?

A career at Michelin, for most professionals, is one where you change jobs often without changing your employer. What a luxury! Michelin has practiced this manner of people development and management for over a century.

Michelin has positional needs but hires people who show versatility during the interview process. It hires the person and his/her profile and then finds a fit between that and the open positions. When other positions come open, the same process is used from among the existing employee base before looking outside. The result is a constant movement of people through different positions in one’s discipline, but also across geographies and even with changes in disciplines.

What is there not to like about an employer that keeps you on your toes with new challenges to match your skills and aspirations?

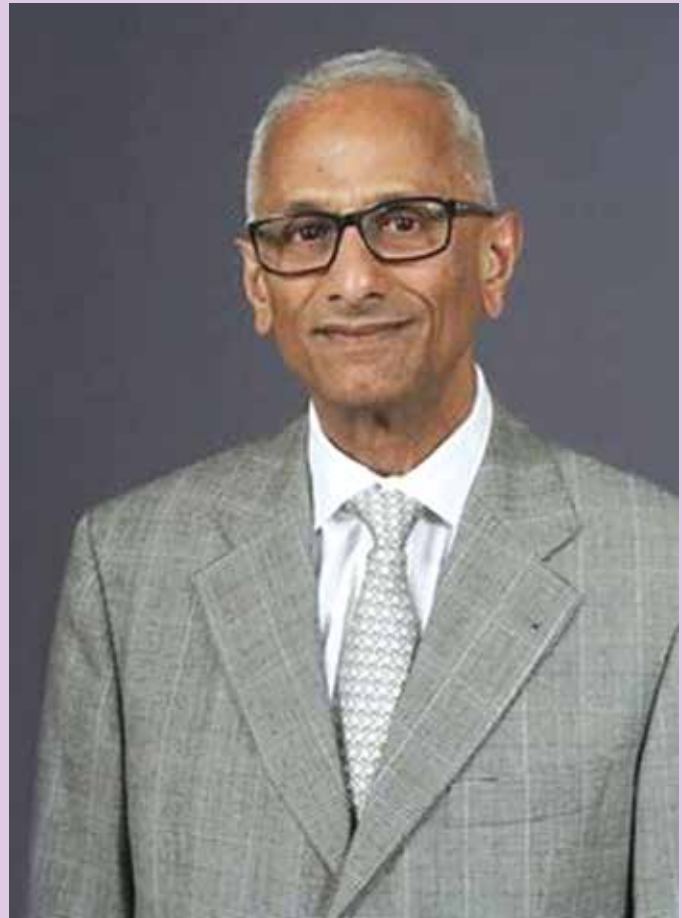
And what one ends up becoming attached to is the tire. That is a stretch for most people for an object that is so mundane. But consider, it has given metaphors to the English language (“kicking the tires”, “rubber meets the road”), it is the only engineered object that is a dynamic mechanical composite (the wing of an aircraft is often cited as an advanced engineering composite, but all it does is flex, a tire goes through cyclic deformation at every rotation under load and with heat build-up – sorry, but it is easy to get carried away!). In fact, tire technology as a subject has no curriculum in any college or university; it combines multiple disciplines to make a sophisticated engineered product that we can kick in frustration or to check its status and whose reality is revealed when the rubber meets the road!

What has been the highest point of your professional Journey?

Every assignment or responsibility, when it was the only thing I was doing, was the highest point. Every time I was asked to consider another assignment, I was reluctant to give up what I was doing then because there remained much to give – but probably not much more to learn.

If it is not too intrusive, then please share with us your bucket list, both personal and professional?

I am not much of a bucket list person. With the path my life has taken, I am just thankful for the variety of opportunities that came my way. And our Covid world has put paid to bucket lists for a while. What I did decide I would do in retirement is engage in cricket tourism – visit cricket playing countries coincident with an international series. Given their proximity, this is best executed with



visits to the West Indies especially since their domestic season is during the US winter. So, it makes for a welcome getaway and it is not too far to travel.

Any one memory of your school days which is still as vivid as if it happened yesterday.

It is funny that you should ask this question. I find that in retirement (and probably exaggerated with Covid confinement) I find myself reminiscing and rummaging in the memory shoe box.

I still remember my first day at School in January 1961 and my last in December 1967 with those in between making cameo appearances depending on what incident jogs a particular memory.

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

My father would often say, to family members who asked him why he sent me to Scindia, that matriculation from school was possible in any school but getting an education was a bigger ask. And that Scindia, to his mind, fit that bill better. I can vouch for his reasoning and attest to its wisdom. Not everyone gets to go to a school like Scindia. And during a particularly difficult day at school, if a student can keep in mind that first, “this too shall pass” and secondly, that the lessons will stand in good stead when you need them, then that is the education one receives that surpasses the curriculum.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Sujal Agarwalla of Class XI participated in the 9th Odisha State Shooting Championship in 10 Mts Rifle (NR) in the Junior Men Individual Category held at Utkal Karate School, Bhubaneswar from 1st – 5th Jan 2021 and qualified for the Pre-National Competition.

Arush Atul Prabhu of class IX received 'High Commendation' award in the Genesis Global School MUN held from 19th – 21st November.

Chirag Rathi of Class XII was honoured with a letter of appreciation, presented by the 'Ruth Cowell Foundation India' for improving the living conditions of abandoned and stray animals, and raising resources and funds for the welfare of animals contributing to the 'Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre' during the pandemic.

Yanglem Arjun Singh of Class XIth delivered a TEDxYouth talk on the topic 'Resilience is critical to minimize the impact of humanitarian crises', hosted by MAMS Raiwala. He has successfully completed international cycling BRM events hosted by Audax Club Parisien and Audax India Randonneurs of categories 50km, 100km, 200km, and 300km respectively and has been awarded the title of a "Randonneur". Under his co-leadership, The Scindia School and Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya successfully launched their first ever collaborated biannual e-magazine titled, Unmute.

Shishir Pandey and Chirag Rathi both of class XII represented the Scindia School Quiz Team which was adjudged as the second runner up in the Platinum Jubilee Memorial Inter-School Quiz Competition. They also represented the school's Quiz Team at Solaris, an event by IIM Udaipur. The Scindia School emerged as the runner up amongst numerous schools from across the country.

Prashant Agarwal, Saransh Agarwal and Pratik Garg of class XI represented the Scindia School in Infinity Maths Championship 2021 organized by Aditya Birla World Academy. Out of 189 teams from India, 50 teams including ours qualified for the finals.

Prashant Agarwal and Saransh Agarwal of class XI successfully completed the short-term volunteering programme of 9 weeks organized by CRY- an NGO working towards creating happier and healthier childhoods for the last 40 years and has impacted over 3 million children in India.

Ayushman Rai, Siddharth Gupta and Anubhav Sachan of Class X along with Aaryan Nagpal of Class XII hosted the second edition of our E-Conclave (MUN) - Unitum Conclave Hosting around 115+ Delegates from around the globe on 31st Oct and 1st Nov.

Students' Achievements announced on Founder's Day 2020

The Umang Mathur Memorial Trophy for the best in academics in Class XI for 2019-20 was given to Aditi Joshi of Jayaji House.

The Mahendra Mishra Memorial Trophy for the best sportsman in

Class XI for 2019-20 was given to Sher Bahadur Dhal of Jayappa House.

The Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia II medal for all round proficiency in class XI for 2019-20 was given to Chirag Rathi of Madhav House.

The Sam Pitroda award for 2020-21 for the best innovative project "The Driver Drowsiness Detection System" was given to Pranav Wadhwa & Memoy Mishra of Daulat House. The award was shared by Sujal Jariha & Saransh Agarwal of Shivaji House for their project "Do It Yourself Covid Protection Kit".

The R. B. Pawar Medal for scoring the highest percentage of marks in Mathematics in Class XII Board examination for 2019-20 was awarded to Aditya Parashar of Jayaji House.

The Governor's medal for scoring the highest percentage of marks in Class XII Board examination 2019-20 was awarded to Pratham Agarwala of Shivaji House.

The Field Marshal Cariappa Shield for the best sportsman for 2019-20 was awarded to Samarjith Nalvade of Madhav House.

The Maharaja Jeevaji Rao Scindia Medal for all round proficiency in Class XII for 2019-20 was awarded to Aditya Parashar of Jayaji House.

The Khurshid Lakdawala, Jr. House Efficiency Shield for 2019-20 was awarded to Kanerkhed House.

The Guru Hargovind Singh (Gurdwara) Trophy for the best house in academics for the year 2019-20 was awarded to Mahadji House.

The Nepal Trophy for the best House in games & sports for 2019-20 was awarded to Jayappa House.

The General Efficiency Shield for 2019-20 was awarded to Madhav House.

AAM BARFI, BAKARWADI & CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

The Pune of 1986 was a haven for me in many ways...different kinds of clients, some very satisfying work, and the wonderful eating places tucked away in different corners of the city. Those were the days one ensured that one was at home when the opening notes of the music of 'Mahabharat' started on Sunday morning.

I enjoyed Pune also because it gave me the opportunity to travel to Mumbai once a week for a client meeting. And what a marquee client it was....one of India's most reputed newspaper publishing groups! The person I would interact with was a scion of the family that owned the publishing group. I was a wee bit intimidated at the beginning of my interaction with him, but after producing some good work for them, we became 'friends'. Over a period, I got to know many of his likes and dislikes...both professional and personal. In fact, there was even an occasion, where I had to stay over in Mumbai, and he welcomed me home with open arms. We used to chat about great work that was happening; why some campaigns work while others do not; we would discuss the politics of the day...at the national stage, the state stage as indeed, at his workplace. Over a drink or two, I also discovered what food/ snack he liked or disliked. All these used to be stored in my mental hard disk, because those were the years that I rarely forgot anything.

One weekly meeting, however, turned out to be a disaster. The client had given an oral brief, and creatives had been produced based on that brief. When I presented the creatives to him, he just lost it! 'This is rubbish. My brief was something else. Why are you wasting my time? I will have to look for another firm at this rate. I stayed silent and requested him to give me three more days to come back and represent. He very reluctantly agreed. On the way back to Pune, I was thinking over his words, and generally looking back at the times we had spent together. I was a bit miffed as well because the work I had presented to him was as per his oral brief. What was also a little unnerving was the fact that apart from his rant, there was no new brief. Anyways, it was back to the drawing board. I conjured up a brief during the return journey home, wrote it down and shared it with the creative team the next morning. I also told them about the short lead time, and that I needed a new campaign in less than 2 days. They delivered, and after taking the layouts from them, I headed home. I do not know what it was that made me stop at a mithai shop called Chitale Bandhu, which was on my way home. For Pune-kars, and for many others from other cities, including Mumbai, this was THE place for *Aam barfi* and *Bakarwadi*. I bought a kilo of each and went home. Packed them into my overnighter for the travel to Mumbai for the revised creative presentation. On reaching his office,

I first handed over the two boxes with the mithai. He asked what they were. I said that the boxes contained Aam barfi and Bakarwadi. His face lit up. 'How did you know that I love these', he asked? I did not have the heart to tell him that he had raved about both these snacks when I had stayed with him that one time.

On to the new creatives. As you may guess, they were great, but I had no doubt about getting them approved. Which they were. Instantly. In fact, the previous campaign which had got him so riled up was re-presented and approved! The last thing I did that day after the presentation, I showed him a template for a written brief. He nodded and said that he would always follow the format. He stayed true to his word. Had I done anything 'unethical'? I do not think so. All I had done was try and understand him better and built up a relationship which has endured to this day. While the Aam barfi and Bakarwadi played a role, I believe that the deeper relationship I shared with him also helped immeasurably.

Postscript

1. Any client firm partnership must be a relationship based on trust in order to survive and thrive
2. Written briefs are a must. Insist on them if you must.
3. The Aam Barfi and Bakarwadi at Chitale Bandhu are still to die for

Mr Atul Takle
(Ex-Rn, 1973)



**IT'S ALL
ABOUT
RELATIONSHIPS**



Common room- The best place to build lasting friendships

MY HAPPY SCHOOL DAYS

I joined Scindia School on 15 Jan 1948, when I was about 10 years old. The language spoken by most boys was Hindi and a Bengali boy of that age would have had some difficulties, but since I was born in Bihar (Patna) and spent my childhood there, I did not have much difficulty. The only problem was that boys made fun of my Bihari accent, which I got over in a short time. I joined Jayaji House, which had a very good atmosphere.

I left Scindia School in April 1954. In that period of six years or so, what I learnt stood me in good stead for the rest of my life, particularly the sense of values. We had some excellent teachers and there was much to learn from each of them. The first person who comes to mind the principal **Mr K C Shukla**, who was a gentle, fatherly figure. He knew the name of every boy. The two teachers whom I remember best were **Mr Khanolkar** and **Mr Thakar**, who was also our housemaster. Both taught English and were responsible for my love for the language. **Mr Khanolkar** read out to us great short stories every fortnight or so. There is one story, which I still remember after all those years. It was titled "Liningen versus Ants". It is set in a plantation in South America. Ten years back I located the story on the Internet and got a printout. My wife, daughter and son were as thrilled as I had been when I first had it. **Mr Thakar** was straightforward and fair and we loved him. His son later joined the Air Force.

A couple of months after I joined school, we had the Annual Cross-Country race. I did well in it and became known. This was the first race I ever ran. In the Annual Athletic meet that followed, I ran the 400 m for the House. By the time I left school, I was running the 1500 m and by the time I left the Military Academy, I was running the 5000 m. It was Scindia School which imbibed in me a love for sports. I represented the school in cricket (wicket keeper) and football. In school, practice for cross country was very popular because it gave us an opportunity to fill our stomachs with 'ber', which grew wild.

I discovered that I had some talent in Art and learnt a lot from **Mr Niyogi**, our Art Master. One day I criticized Van Gogh in front of him and got a big scolding. I was too young to appreciate Van Gogh. I learnt water colour painting from **Mr Niyogi** and unfortunately, my best work was selected, among others, to be given to a foreign delegation. From water colour, I changed to pen and ink and then to ball pen, which I still do.

Another interest I developed was in Astronomy. **Mr J L Dar** who was then Housemaster of Jeevaji House and was also science teacher, particularly physics. He had a 2-inch telescope and he used to take

boys interested in star gazing to the roof and show us some of the planets. I remember with thrill, the sight of Saturn and its ring. We could identify many constellations with his guidance. This interest remained all my life. **Mr Dar's** eldest son Moti was probably the best artist that the school has produced. He rose to a Lt Gen and became the Vice Chief of Army Staff.

Another important person was **Mr Salvi**, who talked about spiritual subjects in the *Astacha*. He taught us to have regards for every religion. This was also taught to me by my parents.

Last but not the least was my interest in music, especially classical music. Gwalior Gharana was an important centre of classical music. Many important musicians used to visit the school for giving recitals. I remember **Ustad Alauddin Khan** of Maihar and **Ustad Hafiz Ali**, father of **Ustad Amjad Khan**

I don't think there is any school on Earth which can create in a student such a range of interests. Above all, the school taught us to have regard for human values. I am deeply indebted to my beloved Scindia School shaping my life on right lines. This prepared me for my life with Sri Sathya Sai Baba, whose stress was on selfless service to fellow men, as the best way of leading one's life.

Col. Samir Kumar Bose (Retd)

(Ex-Ja, 1954)



School Brass Band display



Woodwork hobby in progress

मेरे संगीत का सफ़रनामा

संगीत हमारे जीवन का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है। जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में संगीत की पैठ है। कहा भी गया है कि साहित्य संगीत और कला से विहीन मनुष्य बिना सींग और पूँछ का जानवर है। सृष्टि की शुरुआत भी संगीत से ही हुई थी। जिस प्रकार संगीत में लय होता है उसी प्रकार यह सृष्टि भी एक लय में बँधी हुई है। हम प्रकृति से संगीत सीखते हैं, हम कहते हैं हमारा स्वर कोयल की तरह हो और हम भँवरों के समान गुंजायमान हों। शायद जब से हम सभ्य हुए तब से यह संगीत निरंतर हमारे साथ चला आ रहा है। भारतीय संस्कृति में संगीत की प्रधानता है: पारंपरिक सौंदर्य-शास्त्र में, संगीत को अक्सर "आत्मा का भोजन" के रूप में जाना जाता है। फिल्मी संगीत हो या भजन, अंग्रेजी संगीत हो या अन्य कोई विदेशी संगीत, यह सभी हमारे मन को मोह लेते हैं। मुझे भी बचपन से ही संगीत का शौक रहा है। मुझे हमेशा से यह लगता रहा है कि मैं कुछ गाऊँ, बजाऊँ। इसके लिए मेरे परिवार के लोगों ने भी काफी मदद की, मेरा उत्साह बढ़ाया और आज मैं थोड़ा-बहुत, कुछ न कुछ, गा सकता हूँ और कई वाद्य-यंत्र बजा भी सकता हूँ।

भारत में संगीत बिखरा पड़ा है। अलग-अलग भाषाओं, जातियों, परंपराओं में अलग-अलग रीति-रिवाजों में। हमारे देश में संगीत की एक लंबी परंपरा रही है, परंतु जैसा कि मेरे गुरु जी ने बताया कि भारत में संगीत का इतिहास क्रमबद्ध रूप में कहीं भी लिखा हुआ नहीं है। वैदिक काल से ही सामवेद में संगीत का उल्लेख है मंत्रों को यहाँ गाया जाता था और यह पूरा वेद गुरु-शिष्य परंपरा के अंतर्गत आता है। गुरु अपने शिष्य को इन मंत्रों को गाकर सुनाते थे और फिर शिष्य जब गुरु बन जाते थे तब वह अपने छात्रों को इसे गाकर सुनाते थे और इस प्रकार यह लगातार अगली पीढ़ी तक पहुँचाई जाती थी यह क्रम तब तक चलता रहा जब तक की लिपि का आविष्कार नहीं हो गया। हमारी संस्कृति में भगवती सरस्वती को ज्ञान, संगीत और कला की देवी माना गया है जिनके एक हाथ में पुस्तक है और एक हाथ में वीणा है अर्थात् वहाँ भी संगीत को बहुत महत्व दिया गया है।

अधिकांश राजाओं ने अपने दरबारों में गायकों को आश्रय देकर संगीत को संरक्षित करने का प्रयास अवश्य किया। ग्वालियर घराने के बैजूबावरा, तानसेन तथा ब्रज क्षेत्र में रहने वाले उनके गुरु हरिदास संगीत के क्षेत्र में अपना विशेष स्थान रखते हैं। ग्वालियर किले पर होने वाले ध्वनि-प्रकाश प्रदर्शन में भी इनकी चर्चा की गई है।

भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत केवल भारत में ही नहीं बल्कि पाकिस्तान, बांग्लादेश, नेपाल, श्रीलंका इन सब देशों में भी फैला हुआ है। भारत में यह शास्त्रीय संगीत उत्तर भारतीय

शास्त्रीय संगीत और दक्षिण भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत के रूप में है। यहां उत्तर भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत को हिंदुस्तानी व दक्षिण भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत को कर्नाटकी शास्त्रीय संगीत के रूप में जाना जाता है। इसके अतिरिक्त भारत में अनेक भाषाओं के लोक संगीत और पॉप संगीत भी प्रसिद्ध हैं। भारत के जिस किसी भी स्थान पर आप चले जाएँ आपको वहाँ कुछ अलग ही संगीत सुनने को मिलेगा। संगीत की यह विविधता भारतीय संगीत की विशेषता है जिसे किसी भी अन्य देश में ढूँढना कठिन है। फिल्म संगीत या बॉलीवुड संगीत भारत के संगीत का सबसे प्रसिद्ध रूप है। सच कहा जाए तो यह पश्चिमी संगीत संस्कृति के साथ-साथ भारतीय पॉप संगीत और शास्त्रीय संगीत के सबसे प्रमुख अंगों में से एक है। इस प्रकार बॉलीवुड सिनेमा के संगीत में विभिन्न संगीत का मिला-जुला रूप देखा जा सकता है।

सिंधिया स्कूल में हम संगीत के साथ अपना दिन शुरू करते हैं, हमारी सुबह की सभा में हमारे पास हारमोनियम, तबले व कभी-कभी तो कई वाद्य यंत्रों के साथ प्रार्थना गाई जाती है और हमारे दिन का अंत भी "अस्ताचल" में संगीत से ही होता है। हमारे पास एक विषय के रूप में संगीत भी है। जो रुचि रखते हैं वह उस विषय को ले सकते हैं।

मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि मैंने सिंधिया स्कूल में प्रवेश लिया है ताकि मैं संगीत में कुछ कर सकूँ। हम जानते हैं कि सामान्यतः हमसे उम्मीद की जाती है कि हम अच्छे अंक प्राप्त करें, लेकिन सिंधिया स्कूल में अच्छे अंक प्राप्त करने के अतिरिक्त यह आपको

हर क्षेत्र में विकास प्रदान करता है। हमारे भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत शिक्षक राजा बनर्जी सर ने एक बार मुझे बताया कि वह चाहते हैं कि स्कूल के छात्र तानसेन संगीत-समारोह में जाएँ जो संगीत सम्राट के बाद भारत में दूसरी सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिस्पर्धा व मंच है। अतः आप अनुमान लगा सकते हैं कि हमारे विद्यालय की संगीत-शिक्षा का लक्ष्य क्या है।

संगीत मुझे हमेशा से आकर्षित करता था। मैं अपने पिछले विद्यालय में हमेशा संगीत के कार्यक्रम में भाग लेता था। मुझे संगीत में इतनी रुचि थी कि जब भी कोई संगीत का कार्यक्रम टी.वी. पर आता था तो मैं अपनी पढ़ाई-लिखाई छोड़कर वो संगीत का कार्यक्रम देखने बैठ जाता था। मुझे इसी बात पर कई बार अपने माता-पिता से डाँट पड़ी है, परंतु समय-समय पर मुझे उत्साहित भी किया गया है। संगीत तो गायन, वाद्य, और नृत्य का मेल है। मेरा सबसे प्रिय गायक अरिजित सिंह, प्रिय वादक सलीम मर्चेट और प्रिय नर्तक पीयूष भगत है।

जब मैं कक्षा 6 में आया तब तक संगीत के प्रति मेरी रुचि जग चुकी थी, उसी साल मैंने संगीत सीखना शुरू किया लेकिन कुछ मास बाद मेरा सीखना छूट गया, फिर मेरे गुरुजनों ने मुझे प्रेरित किया और विद्यालय में संगीत सीखने के साथ ही मैंने इंटरनेट के सहारे भी गाना सीखा, जब मैंने गाना सीख लिया तो मैंने वाद्ययंत्र सीखना शुरू किया। मैंने सबसे पहले की-बोर्ड सीखा, फिर कोंगो, बोंगो सीखा, केजोंग सीखा और जैसा कि मैंने आपको पहले भी बताया कि इन सबको सीखने में मैंने इंटरनेट की भी मदद ली। मैं मेरे सभी गुरुजनों को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि इनके बिना मैं शायद संगीत न सीख पाता। मेरे संगीत का सफ़र लगातार जारी है...

आराध्य शिव शुक्ला

कक्षा 9



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