

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT GWALIOR

REVIEW-21



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FORT NEWS

The Scindia School celebrates its 124th Founder's Day

The mercury has started dipping and there is a chill in the air in the morning and evening. There is dryness in the weather and the green cover of the Fort is also diminishing. The flowers which had bloomed all over the Fort are diminishing announcing the arrival of the winter season.

The school celebrated its 124th Founder's Day online with great gusto and vigour. The celebration began in the morning with the unfurling of the School Flag to the sound of the bugle. The Sanskrit Prayer "सा विद्या या विमुक्तये" set the tone of the day. Thereafter, the Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat read the English prayer which entreated God, the almighty, "to lead us out of trials and tribulations into a quiet land". The Principal welcomed the school fraternity to the Founder's Day Assembly. He called the day as a 'day of gratitude' to our Founder, Late H H Maharaja Madhav Rao Scindia who envisioned the school to let the future leaders embark upon the road to holistic education. He reiterated on the need to 'lead by example' and emphasized on the need to acknowledge that the mantle of being the top most legacy school of the country comes with its share of responsibilities. **Ujjwal Mehrotra** and **Shaurya Prakash** received the certificate of 'Completion of the Course' and 'Best Display of Finance Communication' by the 'New York Institute of Finance



Unfurling the School Flag

G 2020 Scholarship'. The release of publications of the school- Qila Quotes, Founder's Day Special Review, Uplabdh, Visor and the Ecology Park Booklet, followed next. The morning celebration came to a close with the School Song.

The main celebration began in the evening with selected audience being allowed to watch the Virtual Founder's Day Programme in the Shukla Memorial Open Air Theatre. The Chief Guest of the day was Padma Vibhushan Shri Viswanathan Anand. The Chief Guest inaugurated the Exhibitions on the virtual platform at 5.30 pm. After the Chief Guest's Round of Exhibitions, the School Brass Band greeted the viewers and audience. The School Song and the floral homage to the Founder by the Principal, made us bow our heads in gratitude. The School Orchestra with its mellifluous tunes in 'Raag Khamaj' was admired by all. The Annual Report of the year 2020-21 was read out by the Principal. H.H. Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia, President, Board of Governors, delivered the Welcome Address. The Annual Awards were announced for achievements of students and Boarding Houses in various verticals of school life. The Chief Guest addressed the gathering. The Citation for the Madhav



Staff Editors

Awardee was read by H.H. Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia. The Madhav Awardee, Dr Punit Boolchand addressed the gathering. The Senior School Prefect, Ujjwal Mehrotra delivered the Vote of Thanks. The evening came to a close with the National Anthem.



Awards giving



View of the School building



FOUNDER'S DAY SPEECHES - 21st OCTOBER 2021

Principal's Report

Honourable Chief Guest, Padma Vibhushan Shri Vishwanathan Anand; the 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 124th Founder's Day of our school.

It is my utmost honour to welcome our Chief Guest, Padma Vibhushan Shri Vishwanathan Anand. Thank you Sir for gracing us with your presence!

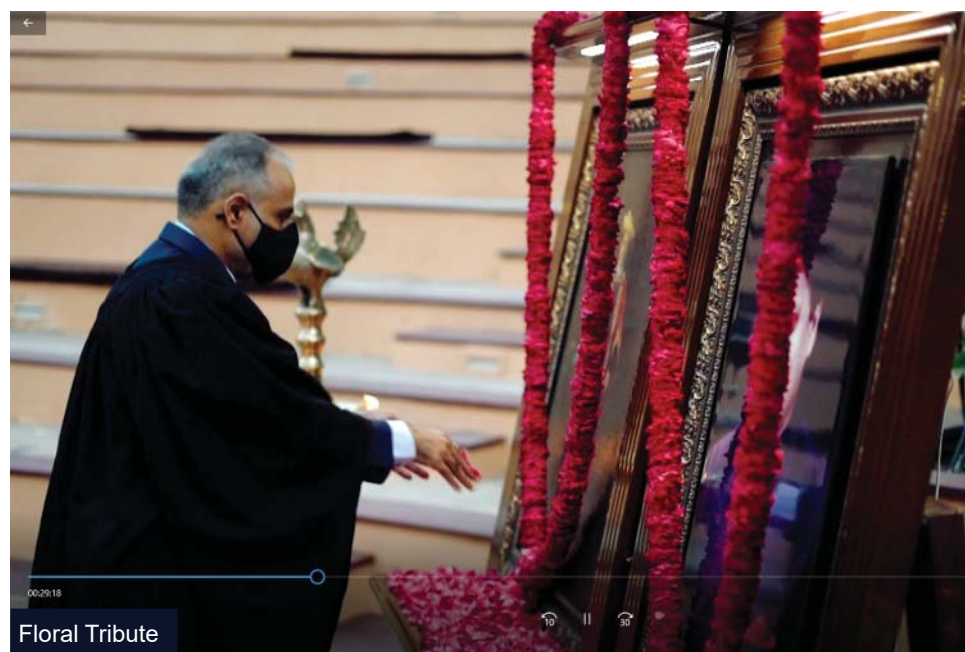
Consistency is the trait of a performer notwithstanding the circumstances. For us the pandemic became the lens through which we were able to assess our own strengths. It is necessary to say that the structural foundation to support online learning and engagement that was built over the decades needed only the adding of the digital layer to help the transition to remote learning. We found the best possible ways to make the learners' homes a conducive place for learning. Teachers became learners and upgraded themselves in every possible way. Parents were oriented through numerous virtual sessions and the student community was trained in every way to meet the challenge. It is this dynamism that manifested itself in the way we recalibrated our steps and brought the whole experience of a Boarding school online. We also focused on the mental and social well-being of our students and aimed at better communication as well as the conversation with them. The pandemic made us realize that it is so very important to intensify the mutual interaction between the teacher and the taught. Hence, a team of counselors is serving as a resource and as a communication channel for students and parents.

We have quite often heard the African proverb that it takes a village to raise a child which became the norm in the new normal setting. We saw a far more enhanced partnership between the school and the parents. In a boarding school, teachers have always played the role of the proxy parents, however during the time of the pandemic, parents stepped into the shoes of the teachers and became a strong support system for the school. If it was not for them, I am sure we would not have been able to do as much as we could. Therefore, ladies and gentlemen this year's report is special in a way as it is a reflection of what we could achieve together. With the kudos to all the stakeholders this is where we stand today. We have been adjudged India's no 1 in the All Boys' Boarding School category for two years in a row. The School Average of Class XII stood at 92.73% with 48 students scoring marks 95% and above in a total of 83 students. The school average of class X stood at 86% with 33 students scoring 90% marks and above in a total of 84 students. I also wish to share with you that the Board's Certificate of Merit was awarded to 26 students from the batch of 2020 of Class X and XII.

Placements and admissions after schooling are much better with our boys making it to the top notch universities of the world. 26 students from the batch of 2021 have received offers from top universities in Wales, England, Ireland, Canada, USA, and Australia like- Angad Sahni, Aeronautical Engineering, University of Manchester; Ayush Gupta, Mechanical Engineering, University of Manchester; Satwik Goyal, Applied Sciences, University of British Columbia; Vishnudeep Tyagi, Computer Science, University of California, San Diego, to name a few. We are also looking forward to our German Cultural Exchange with Neustadt.

Several of our students participated in summer school / Internships offered by institutes like New York Institute of Finance; Columbia Business School – Global Entrepreneurship Program; Harvard Leadership Program; Global Social Leaders' Program, London; Python tutorials by the University of California, Santa Cruz; UPenn Summer school, Wharton Global Youth High School Program, Felsted School Summer program, UK and Virginia Tech University, Uncamp Activities.

Some of the notable accomplishments in the co-curricular arena are as follows: The school won the prestigious 'Kamala Jeevan Hindi Antarvidyalayiy Vaad-



Vivaad Pratiyogita' organized by The Doon School, Dehradun. The school also won the prestigious His Highness Maharaja Madhav Rao Scindia Memorial Inter School Hindi Debate and to add to the Debating Tally, we also won the 48th Platinum Jubilee Memorial Inter School English Debate.

Ujjwal Mehrotra was awarded 'Young Finance Scholar Scholarship' by New York Institute of Finance. Ujjwal has also received scholarship from MP Government for excellence in squash. Well done Ujjwal!

Yanglem Arjun was a panelist on a meeting hosted by the United Nations, **Keshav Dudhani** was a panelist in a webinar titled 'Ways of learning, hosted by Pallavan Learning Systems, **Abhey Khanna** won the first prize in SCI-ART competition, **Krishnam Singhania** successfully completed a Junior MBA in Business Analytics and Strategy. In line with the philanthropic vision of the school, **Veer Raj** started his own talk show called 'The Talk show with Veer', and also won the Indian Achievers' Award 2021. We secured the 2nd Position in a competition organised by MSU Shah Alam Malaysia, and were recognized as 'The Best School Nurturing Creativity and Innovation' award by Intelligence plus - Innoventure 2020-21. **Aaradhya Shiv Shukla** received the Best Speaker award in the first round of Sushri Linel Inter School Hindi Debate conducted by Welham Girls' School, Dehradun. **Raghav Mahajan, Prithvee Rajswarup Pathak, Arnav Joshi** and **Khush Todi** came 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Creative HeART 2021, an online art competition. **Vidit Gupta** received the Best Speaker award in the Prelims and Semi-final Round of the All India Oliphant Memorial Inter school Debate organised by the Welham Boys' School, Dehradun. **Sumedh Potdar** and **Mayank Choudhary** won the Best Speaker award for the Quarter Finals and Finals, respectively.

Our Chess team, distinguished itself in the Chess competition organized by Unison World School, Dehradun. Altogether 163 students from 35 schools of the country participated in the online Chess Tournament. **Aarush Atul Prabhu, Shantanu Yadav** and **Prashant Agarwal** were in the top five players in their age group and two players were in the top ten in the entire Tournament.

Vedansh Balasaria, Shaurya Prakash, Memoy Mishra and **Pranav Wadhwa** won awards in Technacks organized by Maharani Gayatri Devi School, Jaipur. **Satyam Raj** and **Siddharth Gupta** have secured the 2nd position in Quizathon conducted by Learning Links Foundation.

In addition, during the last few months students were busy in more than ten Round Square International activities which were conducted online. The School engaged with many universities from UK, USA, Canada, Hongkong, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia through virtual fairs, smart classes, student interaction sessions on SOPs etc. which enriched our students as well as faculty. We also engaged with international bodies like, College Board, USIEF,

Embassy of New Zealand, Embassy of Spain, British Council and Australia Trade Commission to further expand the possibilities of international exposure for our students and teachers.

Ladies and gentlemen, looking at what all they have been doing, there is every reason to be proud of our boys as they did not allow the restrictions to impact their overall level of engagement. At the faculty and the school level to be able to gauge ourselves against our own records, annual target setting at each level like student, teacher, department, is being done regularly. Internal audits of targets and internal sharing of best practices is a regular feature. Investment in teacher development has been prioritized. The average time spent on in-service training and new learnings is around 70 hours per annum by every teacher. Special emphasis on spoken English and personality development is yielding good results. Behaviour and discipline have hugely improved due to cultural engineering in school for the better and improved pastoral care.

Due to the farsightedness of the Board, sustainability and ecology has found solid feet. It is an active part of the curriculum with intense student engagement. Water harvesting project has taken a new dimension altogether. The water capacity in our taals has gone up by 40 %. We aspire to be completely self sufficient in terms of our water requirement. All thanks to Mr Rajendra Singh Pawar, Mr Ravi Saund and Mr Rajiv Kathpalia. The same team is working on the Solar Energy Project too. Mr Harpal Singh, our senior Board Member has facilitated a noble and futuristic project of developing our entire campus not only as an ecology park but creating a living laboratory for students and teachers at school which will also serve as reference to all other educational institutes. I am happy to say that the school team has taken up this project with utmost sincerity. Within a couple of years we will be able to see the results of this unique initiative and hard work of the team. We are fortunate to have Mr Pradip Krishen as an advisor for this project.

Infrastructure is being enhanced and updated while keeping the regalia of the old world architecture intact. We have undertaken an ambitious plan of enhancing the existing infrastructure as well as new additions like new faculty housing, academic blocks, the multi-sporting complex etc. You will be happy to know that the refurbishing of the Ranoji House is complete.

Notwithstanding where we are today the school leaders and the custodians of the school have already started putting thoughts together and synchronizing their efforts to evolve as the school of future. This aspiring initiative is being led by our Board Member, Yuvraj Mahanaryaman J Scindia.

Mr Shiv Kumar Sharma, Faculty in Maths; Mr Laven Govender, RMO; and Bursar, Lt Col Rajiv Saxena were inducted into the family this year making it more vibrant. We welcome them and wish them a fruitful stint at the Fort. After a long inning of 43 years, Mr Gurdeep Singh Bakshi hung his boots as

Director, Alumni Relations in the month of June this year. His contribution to the community is immeasurable and his presence is dearly missed on the Fort. However Mr Atul Takle, Ex- Ranoji, 1973, has taken over the mantle now and has assumed his duties since 1st October 2021.

Ladies and gentlemen, this brings me to the end of the account of the highlights of the school's progress for the session 2020-21. It was a tough yet a gratifying year in many ways. The pandemic played the role of a catalyst and brought about changes in the educational landscape of the country which were long due. I hope the learnings stay with us and that we continue nourishing the mind body and soul of generations of Scindians.

"Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktye", indeed knowledge is that, which liberates! 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 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 and my personal gratitude to my colleagues, Mr Raj Kumar Kapoor, Mr Dharendra Sharma, Lt Col Rajiv Saxena, and Vice Principal, Ms Smita Chaturvedi for their constant support. And of course to all the parents and Old Boys for your continued support, trust and affection!

Thank you. God bless us all! *Shubh Ratri!*



Awards and Recognitions 2020-21

Awards	Awardees	Awards	Awardees
1. Umang Mathur Memorial Trophy (for the best Class XI Scholar)	Memoy Mishra (Daulat House)	7. Field Marshal Cariappa Shield (for the Best Sportsman)	Kartikeya Kulshrestha (Jayaji House)
2. Mahendra Mishra Memorial Trophy (for the best Class XI Sportsman)	Ujjwal Mehrotra (Madhav House)	8. Maharaja Jeevajirao Scindia Medal (for All Round Proficiency in Class XII)	Aditi Joshi (Jayaji House)
3. Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia II Medal (for All Round Proficiency)	Ujjwal Mehrotra (Madhav House)	9. The Khurshid Lakdawala, Jr. House Efficiency Shield	Kanerkhed House
4. Sam Pitroda Award (2021-22) (for the Best Innovative Project- 'Zero-a customisable Programming Language')	Prashast Pandey (Daulat House) Amrit Singh (Daulat House)	10. Guru Hargovind Singh (Gurdwara) Trophy (for the Best House in Academics)	Jayaji House
5. The R. B. Pawar Medal (for scoring the highest percentage of marks in Mathematics in Class XII)	Aditi Joshi (Jayaji House)	11. Nepal Trophy (for the Best House in Games)	Daulat House
6. Governor's Medal (for scoring Highest Percentage in Class XII)	Aditi Joshi (Jayaji House)	12. The Scindia School, Inter House General Efficiency Shield	Mahadji House
		13. Madhav Award	Dr Punit Boolchand (Ex-Jayaji, 1961)



Welcome Speech by H H Maharaja J M Scindia

Our Chief Guest this evening, World Grandmaster, Anand Vishwanathan ji; Members of the Board of Governors; Parents, alumni; Principal, Dr Madhav Saraswat, faculty members and my young students, greetings to everyone! I welcome all of you to the 124th Founder's Day of The Scindia School but before I begin, with what I would like to share with all of you today, I would like to take a leaf out of the early years of a man's journey who went on to change the world with what he created. This, is the story of his college years when he accidentally stumbled upon something, following his curiosity and intuition and that turned out to be priceless later on. This man studied in a college that was fairly expensive for his time. After six months of studying, he decided to drop out because he didn't find the classes interesting enough for his appetite. One day, while figuring out his next step, he stumbled upon posters in his college that were beautifully hand calligraphed and that caught his fancy. So, he decided to take a calligraphy class. This man was Steve Jobs. Yes, Steve Jobs was an expert calligrapher. Now you would wonder how calligraphy had any practical application in a science student's life. So, here is what happened ten years later. He used all that he had learnt in Calligraphy, to design it all into the Mac which was the first computer with beautiful typography. Now the fact is that if he had never dropped in on that single course in college, the Mac would never have had the multiple typefaces or proportionally spaced fonts. So, the fact is you don't have to always go with the flow. You can create your own flow. As humans we tend to easily compartmentalize things into what works and what doesn't and then end up following a 'cookie cutter' approach towards building our careers. By taking a risk you may not get the desired output but you will definitely break through new doors and come out stronger from the time you started. And who knows it may even lead you to a place of joy, a place that you love being for the rest of your lives. To my students, if you have a good mind there's no reason for you not to stretch it to discover other frontiers. Let your dreams be as unthinkable and unimaginable as they can be. Set your eyes on a seemingly unattainable goal, take a chance and go for it.

With this I also wish to share some observations with you that I have gathered throughout my experience in the education sector in general. My first observation is about the need for students to understand the purpose of self-discovery. Now this sounds like something that only concerns adults, but I believe that the process must begin from school itself. I have learnt that the majority of students across the Board carry a myopic vision of self-growth, and the purpose of education in enabling that self-growth. Our priorities as a student rightly lie in passing exams with flying colours, winning awards in extra and cocurricular activities and being entrusted with important student positions. But undeniably, this is all extremely important given that you all will step into a highly competitive future where exhibiting excellence will not be a matter of choice but of survival. And while all that may sound daunting just now, here's what I want today to take home with you. Winning is not everything but what is important- the process of competing is getting to know yourself. We have often heard people that say your biggest competitor is your own self. I want you all to take a step back and think how is that I compete with myself unless I do not have a clear idea of my own potential, my own capacities and certainly my own limitations. So you have got to continually ask yourselves that in your different stages of your school life what is it that I really like; what is it that I do not like, where do I want to be in the future. This process of enquiry, I believe will begin your journey of self-discovery.

My next observation is something that took me a while to understand and implement for myself as well. Now at The Scindia School the focus is to instill in all of you, excellence, not just with regard to academics but also sports, arts, performing arts, and so on. But here's what I would like students to also imbibe- aim high but not in all directions. Start setting your mind towards that one thing that you would truly want to invest in the future because right after you complete your schooling you will be tasked by making important choices about the direction of your lives, focusing on fewer things that will only help you make those important decisions. For instance, if you want to make a hole in a wall, you strike at it once, and then you got to continuously hammer at the same point where you struck first to create that hole. Conversely, if you take a different aim each time you hammer what will happen? You will end up making no impact. Again this is not to say that you shouldn't strive to become



an all-rounder but my intention is to offer a different perspective, a different approach and I want you to adopt the one that is good for you, not for your parents, not for your friends, not for your teachers. The best approach is the one that is best for you. But whatever you do, do it with grit, with integrity, with discipline. These are the three most important ingredients that will help you drive over the greatest challenges in life. Let me repeat- grit, integrity and discipline.

It is a testimony to the foresight of the Founder of The Scindia School, Maharaja Madhav Rao Scindia, the first, that these high values and the high benchmark of excellence and pertinence in the education we impart has been steering us since 1897. H H Maharaja Madhav Rao Scindia, the first's vision, was not to just educate the faculties of the students in school but to nurture above all good human beings steered by a sound value system and an inquisitive spirit- human beings who carry themselves with pride but with their feet rooted in the ground. It is in this spirit, that I am delighted to introduce to you a great role model for all of us who was kind enough to take the time and share his story and guiding philosophy with all of us today.

Today, we have with us a man or should I say a legend who truly embodies the values I have been speaking of today and is the man who brought Chess to India which was a hitherto uncharted territory in Indian sports. The living proof of "mind over matter", Mr Viswanathan Anand. As far as I remember since the very beginning of his chess career he was known for his speed and the style of his, would always put his opposition under pressure. There's a lot that one can learn from his momentous journey. Mr Vishwanathan started playing chess when he was all of six years old and became the youngest international grandmaster at the age of fourteen. The rest as we know is history. A Padmashree at the age of eighteen, the age of a lot of you sitting here today; a Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee at twenty two; and a Padma Vibhushan at thirty eight; the lighting kid, a name that he was given by his followers, completely changed the way the world looked at India and the field of Chess. So, one might wonder that a prodigy like him must know the game in and out. What more is in it for him to learn, it is only a game after all, but you will be surprised to learn that until recently he would practice upto ten hours on certain occasions. Here's the thing. The more you practice, the more you discover something new and if I may use the chess parlance, you don't relax until the score sheet is signed. Learning and unlearning are lifelong processes. So, even when things are going well try to look at them with fresh eyes. There's always some scope to better ourselves.

Students, what we tend to hold onto is a pedestal- people's achievements but not the sacrifice that goes behind them, not the failures that make them who they are. For Mr Vishwanathan Anand- challenges, self doubt and emotional crisis were part and parcel of the game. For instance in 2019 he missed the chance to qualify for the grand chess tour finals by just one and a half points. Now I am sure that the loss must have been disheartening for a five times

world champion where he had clocked bigger victories in the past. But despite the failure, what kept him going was his love for the game. I had heard him once say in an interview and let me quote "Most chess games are not decided by your best moves, they are decided by your state of mind. The good or bad moves follow that." When he played the 2021, Grand Chess Tour, he turned the clock back in style and outplayed several younger, stronger rivals to finish Runner Up. So no doubt some challenges and failures may be hard to overcome but at the end of the day it is your attitude that decides who wins- you or your failure. So don't worry too much about losing. Instead what you mustn't lose is your focus on your goal. Now my last observation is more like an appeal to you. As you strive to attain success in your respective domains, you must

uplift those who do not have the same privileges as you. When you help others succeed, your eventual pay off will be far greater than your investment. Mr Vishwanathan Anand today is not just an inspiration for people but he is also a mentor to many budding chess players, training them to become future chess champions. The idea is that wherever you go and whatever you do, you must always do your bit to touch other's lives. The best and the most successful innovations are those that provide a solution to a common problem. If you are an innovator try to build something that helps make a difference to people's lives. That said I hope that as you navigate your way in an uncertain world, let the Scindian values of integrity, honesty, patience and compassion be your guiding light. Hold on to them tightly. Do well but also do good.

Address by the Chief Guest - Mr Vishwanathan Anand

Hello everyone, Mr Jyotiraditya Scindia, the President of the Board of Governors; the Principal, the Old Boys, teachers, students and parents of The Scindia School, Dr Punit Boolchand, Madhav Award recipient, friends, it gives me great pleasure to be with you today. I would like to talk about my experience of the chess career, what values I carried with me, how I used them as an anchor to go forward. So, when you start out as a chess player there are some early lessons that you learn. More or less the first thing you learn, they tell you, you can never take a move back. That's supposed to impress you with the importance of thinking before your making a move, accepting that once you have made a move, you have to be ready to face the consequences and therefore you have to anticipate all the consequences before you do that. It is recommended to always analyse the game with your opponent which was a much more important value in the time, you know, when pre-internet time, when all tournaments happened over the chess board. It was considered proper behavior to analyse the game with your opponent. It is only the other player who is given so much time to think about that game and it is a kind of courtesy and a learning experience to be able to exchange impressions with this player. You are expected to lose gracefully, to win gracefully as well. So, these were the initial things. You then learn certain rules, how to move the pieces, writing a notation and so on. Believe me at the age of six some of this seems redundant but over a lifetime you realise that these rules and customs are there for a very important reason.

The more important learnings are the lessons you learn for yourself, for instance, when I started to play, very quickly you would play one game then the second another day and then third one another day and you begin to have up and down results especially at the very beginning. But you learn that discipline, both before a tournament and during a tournament, is very important, so you soon figure out that if you are thinking of the game, getting ready for it, trying to make sure that you are in best shape, best emotional state and you respect your opponent no matter how weak you should always assume that it is possible for you to lose, if you play below a certain level. And no matter how strong, you respect yourself, you think this is a great player and I am going to play the moves with the respect he deserves but I will have my chances. So, it works in both directions. You have to show respect to everyone but you also have to be confident when playing people stronger than you and this has important psychological components, which we sometimes describe in a sporting context as overconfidence and timidity, both have to be avoided. But more strictly I know that if I can spend one or two hours thinking of the game, preparing my strategies, rehearsing them then I am much better prepared even to face the unexpected. When I play the game and something new happens at least I have a starting point. The moves that I knew are going to happen, the strategies that I thought we are going to follow and you can extrapolate them with the unexpected.

Then you learn how to present yourself to the outside world. Respectful clothing, a generally serious attitude, being silent in the tournament, if you need to speak to someone always in a low voice, you need to talk to the arbitrator or someone. Step away, do it, do not disturb the others, all these lessons. You learn that good habits matter so if you are sleeping well before a game, if you pay attention to your diet, your fitness these all do impact your game. In the end, the state you are in is very important for how to play. And after a while this discipline becomes quite important to the point where you



become even very superstitious about it. If I follow a routine and things are going well then I am very loathe to break that routine. I will insist on working an hour everyday even if it is not particularly anything to work about. I may have all my work done before the tournament. But you stick to your routines, it helps to navigate the day, so that at the given time of the day you know at what time of the day what you should be doing and the free time you have can be dangerous if you don't know how to spend it. Because if your mind starts wandering what can go wrong, you may start to even over worry. Your mind starts to wander away from the game, your focus is shifting a little bit. But this kind of routine and discipline are excellent habits to cultivate in the beginning. They took me through my junior career, to my Grandmaster title, to my first world junior championship and that's how I became a strong chess player. It is also the emotional state of being able to peak before a game. You go to the tournament hall, you see the other participants, you see the chess board, you see the clock and your body is hardwired to immediately concentrate and you realise that your thoughts are becoming clearer. When your opponent makes a move, suddenly you see more possibilities than when you were at home and all these things are a way that you have trained yourself to peak both in your concentration and in your nervous state during the tournament. Of course as life goes on you will have to learn to be flexible to adapt these, so these values shouldn't be as millstones and anchor when necessary and to be adapted as you need. So, I will give you a couple of examples. I mentioned that when tournaments go well I like to stick to my routine very strongly. But what you do when a tournament goes badly or a game goes badly and it happens, you realise that you are not invincible, things can go suddenly very wrong. It is good to have this humility. A loss is also a good chance to revisit all your assumptions. I may have a lot of assumptions on the chess board, I play this very well, I do this very well and a loss is often a chance to question these things. To take a second look and see if there is something that I could have done better, is there something somebody else does better that I can learn from that, this is something that you can always do of course. But I find that I am most receptive to this kind of learning when I have lost a game. So that allows you to see losses



in the different light. Certainly, I am disappointed by losses so I am describing a process rather than a settled matter. But I know that when I lose a game that probably if I work hard and I correct myself, success will be around the corner. But, it also impacts your discipline. Sometimes when I have lost the game, sometimes I may not stick to my routine, I may go to sleep a little later, I may just go for a walk, I have to clear my head and this is a kind of calibration, you want to know when you have dialled it may be a bit too high and you want to loosen up a little bit. But once again loosen up for what? It helps to have something to base yourself as a starting point and that's where this approach is useful. Then you have to learn how to deal with the outside world. Soon almost in any walk of life, after playing chess, you will meet people who behave badly. Some will just break the rules but some will stay on this border line. It is not breaking a rule but certainly breaking the spirit with that rule. And you have to decide how you are going to deal with that. You realize pretty soon that chess isn't just about making good moves. Chess is played in the head. And if not in sync with your mind, invariably mistakes will come. Your mind is something like slightly independent of you and there is a conflict between asking you to play on your behalf and trusting to be on your side almost. So it is important to figure out how you are going to deal with such situations. Again I learnt a lot of this through experience, through trial and error. But there was a fundamental thing. I can say without false modesty that I am generally well behaved, it is just the way I am. I don't like to kick up at first. Infact I play my best chess when there's nothing to worry about and I can focus entirely on the game. So how do you then deal with people who behave badly. I have found that what works for me is blocking them out. Recalling the times when I have played people who didn't behave well and realizing afterwards with it when I won the game it didn't matter to me. So you remind yourself, you channel your energies and say, if I win this game it doesn't matter what they do so let me double my efforts here and infact people I dislike, I am able to resist much better. The prospect of having to resign to them doubles my strength and I will increase my resistance and I will keep on playing, I will keep defending, keep fighting, at least for the satisfaction of making things harder for them. So like this you need to approach different situations with essence of what you're comfortable with. And the most important thing in life is to be as comfortable as possible. But for this you have to understand yourself very well. My games told me that I am comfortable when I am not having discussions in the press, arguments in the press with the other players, that I am able to focus on the game. And eventually as I got better and I started playing better events or strive for higher titles, I strove to create this atmosphere. But it goes deeper than that. It comes down to how you treat yourself. One of the things I found that, because I dislike confrontation sometimes the federation might overlook you when trying to pacify another player. And I found that in my junior years I tended to ignore this, it bothered me but I didn't address it and so I would go ahead and play the event and then often I would self destruct. It is because deep down I resented not having my viewpoint heard. But eventually I realized once again like a dial that has gone too far, the striving for peace cannot be taken too far. There are always going to be uncomfortable situations, how am I going to make my viewpoint heard firmly without getting to a point where I myself became uncomfortable with how I was dealing with it. So there were multiple instances- my first World Championship match where I took the lead on my opponent, Kasparov. May be he was very warmed, he started leaving the room after every move and he would slam the door behind him. In the second World Championship match that I played, I played against Karpov but he managed to arrange things very nicely for himself, seeded himself to the finals where I had to qualify. I didn't mind it I had to qualify because I was not sure that I was going to be the one to play against him but once I realized that I had successfully qualified to play against him, I realized that the system had been really unfair to me. And I self destruct in the end because I certainly resented it. So I didn't realize I had to stand up. It is a bit out of my comfort zone but I had to stand up and say how am I going to face the situation. A couple of opportunities came along. Within a couple of months of the second championship match I was playing a tournament in Linares in Spain, one of the great chess tournaments of that time and I was given an offer to qualify to play a match against Kasparov. I considered it briefly, it wasn't wrong in any way but I felt that everything was happening too fast. I had just finished some exhausting events. We were barely in February and in early May I was expected to be ready for this qualification match. On top of that I would still have one more commitment in March so I was barely getting one month both to train and be ready. So despite the fact that another World Championship shot was

very attractive to me I asked myself will I be comfortable if I took this decision or if I grab it with both hands will I secretly be happy with myself; will it compromise my performance and for the first time, it turned on a very attractive event because I decided that I had proven myself already into world championship matches, even though I hadn't become a world champion. But his was the time to say that I am not comfortable with this and I am not going to play. So I declined that man and I went on to play my best year in chess not in the cycle but in tournaments. I won five tournaments that year. We actually have a Chess Oscar like the Oscars for acting and I won the Chess Oscar for this year as well. And this has often happened when I had a decision like this it is almost as if your mind rewards you for taking into account your considerations. Again there's a sense of having a dialogue with yourself; values are like that. Life doesn't present situations black and white. You don't get this kind of a moral scenario where if you press this dice, if you don't press it once, you press the button, you get much more mixed situations and you really need to know what you're comfortable with. Treat others with respect but at the same time treat yourself with respect, don't put yourself at the back of the queue. This was the lesson I had learnt.

Then in two years, once again there was an offer to play Kasparov. Once again I had problems with the organization who were trying to get this match off the ground and this time I turned it down again. I then went onto play the second world title at that point. Here everything was fantastic. I had my association when NIIT had started and well, one of the Old Boys, of course you can confirm this, the world championship was happening in Delhi, that felt very special and I knew everything about his world championship as positive. I played it. There were scary moments, not many but there were scary moments and I finally won this world title. There were some things that were beyond my control. For example at that point I had only two world titles at that time. There was a split in the chess world, I won't digress on it but it suffices to say when you have two world titles it is a little bit confusing for everyone. So in the next year due to the circumstances beyond my control, I found that despite being world champion, I was not fully acknowledged as such. Then I had a few difficult months playing chess and right after that I fell, I lost my world title, I fell in the rating list, I was only number three but still quite a distance between me and number two. We had always been very close. And I went to a tournament in Prague where there was a big conference on how to unify the two world chess titles. I was fully a part of this because I had lost mine but as one of the top players in the world for the last decade you are expected to be invited anyway. And they were conscious of this; they understood that it would give more credibility to the reunification process if I was brought back in. But conferences, negotiations have lot of moving paths. You can say this is what I deserve, this is what should happen but a lot of moving paths, lots of people pushing their own interests, things don't always go the way you think they should go. Then you have two choices, one- you plunge headlong into the negotiations. Do you stand and fight and keep saying, you argue your case. I have mentioned this is a perfectly respectable approach. Other chess players would have done that, I am not criticizing it but deep down I know that is not how I like to do things. I would like my case to speak for itself, my game to speak for itself. So I was uncomfortable with the idea of going to the conference, the negotiating table and fighting my case. Then I realized after a last few months of bad results what I wanted most badly was to play good chess tournament. So I took the chance to mentally write off this unification process. You can always join the later stages that happen but it would be nice to have just one game. What matters to me most of all is the chess. I play a good game, then I play another good game, I feel so happy. The last few months have been miserable because I haven't been able to do that. So let me focus on that. And this is quite profound because whenever you have this attitude, I found it is quite often rewarded. So I turned down the slot they had kept for me in Prague and I did not go for the meeting. But I won the tournament in Prague, which is not related to the world championship cycle but was nonetheless one of the most important events in chess at that time. And after that I had months of outstanding results because I felt free. You see that the World Championship Title is off your back, suddenly a lot of the unpleasant conversations which you are having with yourself are gone and I was focusing on chess and this worked very well. However in this time I also missed the fact that at this time there was no world championship title to play and so in 2007 an opportunity appeared. There was going to be a world championship in Mexico. It was going to be the reunified title. So after a long time I got to address, resolve past demon

if you like. And were the conditions ideal? No. You could correct this or that but I felt deep down that it wasn't unfair to me. The unfairness was corrected against me and that allowed me to feel better about it. So it isn't a question of what something is; it is about how it affects you. If it feels unfair you must know that you are able to play better under the circumstances before you accept it. If you feel that you would resent yourself and you will be at war with yourself, it is better to let go. That's the moral I am hinting at. Here I did not feel it was directed against me, it was a messy process, reunification had been complicated and I accepted the thing and after five years, I wanted to play a world title again. I was getting to the age of thirty six, and I felt that it was important to give it a shot before age caught up. So I accepted it with full gusto. I wasn't negotiating for better or anything like that, I just wanted to play. The love of the game, one more shot at this world title. I will give it my best shot and I will face whatever comes. That attitude has often correlated with my best results. I won in Mexico, my first unified world title and then I retained my title in 2008, in 2010, in 2012 before losing it in 2013, the six years' reign if you like. That was one of the best periods in my life in terms of results because I was getting the titles winning. It also helped me to calibrate the responses to new opportunities that would come. When you have sudden bursts of a lot of

distracting, let's say commercial opportunities, you get a chance to enjoy some celebrity but I managed to straddle a line, not perfectly, but to take the fame and opportunities. It is silly to turn down these things in life because you don't know how often they will repeat themselves. And I learnt the importance of stretching my comfort zone a little bit to experience those things but always drawing a line. The moment I was to go back to chess then I have the time frame to be able to go back, work hard and give it my best shot. So always keeping chess as the priority because deep down I know that is what I get work satisfaction from. A good chess game feels to me like something I did. Fame and other things feel like something that is happening to me. And in the long term, once you have met your immediate needs, the need for validation, the need for financial ability and so on you realize that it is that internal validation that something that you have striven and you have achieved that matters the most. A lot of these learnings have come from many years of reflection, from painful experiences and I have no doubt that most of you will have very challenging lives, that's how life is but you have one very nice thing in The Scindia School that can give you a little edge. You have a wonderful place for contemplation, a glorious view of the setting sun and the Astachal and I hope you make full use of this resource. I wish you all the very best in your future. Thank You!

Citation of the Madhav Awardee - Dr Punit Boolchand (Ex-Jayaji, 1954-1961)

The Scindia School aspires to nurture scholars with a quest for self-exploration and societal development, imbued with courage, conviction, and confidence. Dr Punit Boolchand's life is an impressive timeline of these attributes spread across all his endeavors. He currently holds the coveted title of Distinguished University Research Professor of STEMM at the University of Cincinnati since 2017. STEMM title emerged from an annual competition held at UC across the faculty in the disciplines of Sciences, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine. It is the highest research recognition the University bestows on a faculty member.

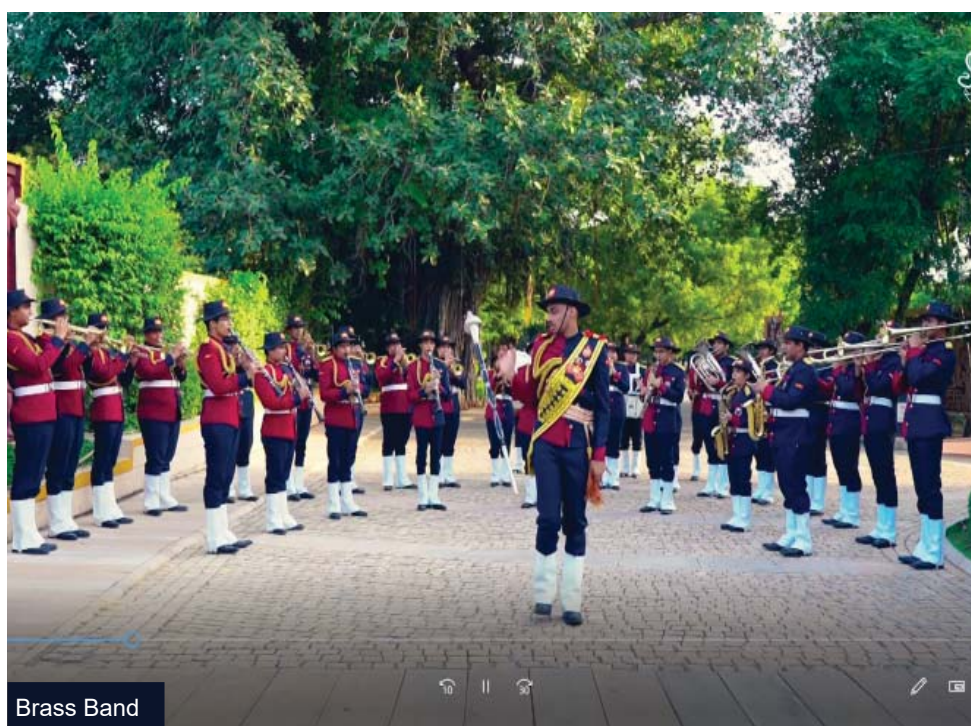
Dr Boolchand joined the school in 1954 in Jayaji House and spent 07 years on campus. While in school, he was the House Prefect, and in 1961, was awarded the President's Medal for the best boy in Academics by Dr S Radhakrishnan on Founder's Day.

He completed his M.S. (Physics) from Punjab University, Chandigarh in 1965 and then left for the US for further studies. He received his Ph.D. in Physics from Case-Western Reserve University in 1969. He joined the University of Cincinnati (UC) the same year as a full-time faculty member in the Department of Physics. Over the past 52 years at UC, he has distinguished himself with a remarkable professional career in Condensed Matter Physics, with expertise in Materials Science, and has generated an impressive body of original research work widely published and recognized.

He pioneered work on Topological Phases of Network Glasses in identifying their molecular structure origin. He is recognized for the discovery of a new phase of disordered condensed matter, titled, 'The Intermediate Phase' which is widely documented in the archival literature as the 'Boolchand Intermediate Phase'. This led to the prestigious Stanford Ovshinsky Award to Dr Boolchand in 2003. The theory has revolutionized glass science and technology, leading to the development of 'Gorilla Glass', which is used extensively in the audiovisual instrument industry such as flat screen televisions and smart mobile phones, to name a few. He was also nominated for the Oliver Buckley Prize, considered the American equivalent of the Physics Nobel Prize. Nevertheless, he has received several other awards of the same stature.

We are honored and privileged to have him amongst us this evening as a stellar example of the ideals of scholarship, exquisite precision, and experimental innovation. Needless to mention, Mr J L Dar would have been very proud of the achievements of a boy whom he taught physics 60 years ago at The Scindia School!

The Scindia School feels honored to confer the prestigious Madhav Award on Dr Punit Boolchand for the year 2021 for his unflinching commitment, outstanding achievements, and enormous contribution in the field of research.



Address by Dr Punit Boolchand - Madhav Awardee 2021

Namaskar! His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia, Principal Dr Saraswat, members of the teaching faculty of The Scindia School and my good friends, all the students. Thank you, Dr Saraswat for giving me the opportunity to address the school on this Founder's Day. A couple of words about myself; I graduated from The Scindia School in 1961, six decades ago, but I have fond memories of the school, the Gwalior fort, Maan Singh palace, the Astachal, the statue of Gandhiji, the Suraj Kund, where we used to put the Ganpati Bappa Maurya. Having lived there for seven years, starting 1954 through 61. Those were the formative years of my life and I cannot say enough about the teachers, who nurtured me in the school and when I think of them, I remember the name of every teacher. They also served as a role model as I began teaching at UC in 1969, it did not take me long to realize that the driving force has always been to put students first. You want to help launch their careers so that they can be a constructive member of the community at large.

So, I obtained my Ph. D in Physics from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio about two hundred miles North of Cincinnati. I spent the last 52 years of my life, here at the University of Cincinnati as a faculty member in the Department of Physics, in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Cincinnati is a great place to live and work. Let me share with you a couple of slides of Cincinnati. So here, you're looking at the Ohio river, that separates Ohio which is on the left and Kentucky on the South Covington. And you have this beautiful suspension bridge, built during the civil war, 1856-1866, got delayed because of the war. And over here in the back you can see the world headquarters of Procter & Gamble and on the hill, about three miles away, is the beautiful campus of the University of Cincinnati.

Neil Armstrong went to the moon in '69 and he joined University of Cincinnati as a professor in the Aerospace Engineering in 1971. We have over here, George Rieveschl, who discovered the antihistamine, Benadryl. And then over here you have Dr Albert Sabin who discovered the oral Polio vaccine. And the gentlemen here, is Dr Herman Schneider, he was the Dean of the College of Engineering, who began the co-op program in 1906. It is still being used in the US and it provides for students to "learn while they earn." Here's a picture of some of my recent students. This was December of 2019 when Ralph Chbeir graduated with a Ph.D. Ralph is working in a very important company in Taiwan on semiconductors, the world's best. This is Badriah Almutairi, she's a professor of Physics in a university now, in Saudi Arabia, Riyadh. Aaron Wilton, Soumendu Chakravarty, he graduated as a Ph.D. He has gone to work for Intel in Albuquerque.

So, I want to share with you, in a few more slides, some of the things we have done. And glass is one of the oldest and one of the newest materials. Oldest, it was thought to have been made, in nature, by seaweed reacting with sand, salt with SiO₂ and lime calcium oxide. Those are the three ingredients of window glass. Romans had perfected window glass by hit and trial. Galileo Galilei used the window glass to make a telescope to discover the moons of Jupiter. And then eventually the telescope was used to study planetary motion which set into motion mechanics, Newton and the law of gravitation formalized all the understanding of the motion of planets. Bacteria was discovered with microscopes.

It's also the newest material. Three technologies that came from glass have turned life upside down; optical fibers and the world wide web. Everyone carries glass in his or her pocket. The cell phone, the gorilla glass, the hard glass surface that's in cellphone. In general, flat panel displays, TVs, jumbotrons, all are engineered glasses. And they are engineered about something that we had something to do with. You can store movies on the DVD, the digital video disc, and store the encyclopedia, touch screen displays have come into being and these are some of the newer products in glass. The new glass age is dawning, see in 1998 at UC we discovered the existence of a new phase of disordered matter; it's called the Intermediate Phase. It represents a rigid but stress-free phase, also called Self organized. This phase has profound consequences on application of glasses because aging is qualitatively suppressed. And you can learn more about it if you google these three words, you'll get access to a lot of papers.



People nowadays are looking for how glass composition and atomic scale structure controls macroscopic properties which are moving towards the Glass genome in analogy to the Human genome. And remarkably, the UN has declared the year 2022 as the International Year of Glass.

And to summarize in one slide, you see these self-organized networks, at the base of the window glass is that self-organized network. It's very stable, and window glass has nurtured human civilization for the past, since Christ. In electrical engineering, you have metal oxide semiconductors and these FETs in which gate dielectric, is an important segment and that's a glass and is a self-organized glass. In biological sciences, protein folding, protein are biological networks, disordered networks, these are inorganic networks, they fold and unfold in much the same way as the glasses go through glass transition. And mother nature has optimized this folding and unfolding so that you and I are living for years together. I leave this one aside except to simply say that the satisfiability problems in computer science have phased diagonal phase similar to the ones that we have encountered in glasses. And so, and the last one of course is gorilla glass which made for corning an enormous amount of money.

And so, without further ado, I want to thank you and *namaskar* and God bless you all!



Vote of Thanks by Senior School Prefect - Ujjwal Mehrotra

Good evening; Honourable Chief Guest for the evening, Padma Vibhushan Shri Vishwanathan Anand; President, Board of Governors, His Highness Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia and esteemed Members of the Board; Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat, eminent guests, parents, teachers, Old Boys, and fellow Scindians!

On behalf of the Scindian fraternity I am honoured to stand before you to propose this year's Vote of Thanks. I fall short of words to express my gratitude towards Padma Vibhushan Shri Viswanathan Anand, for being here today. Sir, your presence has been such an encouragement to us Scindians, motivating us to keep learning new things and overcoming challenges to achieve excellence.

We extend our deepest thanks to this year's Madhav Awardee Dr Puneet Boolchand. Sir, your diligent work and professional achievements are the true embodiment of the Scindian ethos.

We are grateful to the President and members of our Board of Governors for leading from the helm and steering us towards greater heights.

Our thanks are due to all the faculty members for their unremitting attention to each and every learner, making online transactions fruitful and engaging. This would not have been possible without the support of our parent community and we humbly submit our gratitude to them. Our heartfelt thanks are due to our Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat; Vice Principal, Ms Smita Chaturvedi and our Deans, Mr R K Kapoor and Mr Dharendra Sharma for bringing out the best in us by tirelessly guiding us from one step to the other and being our pillars of strength.

I would be remiss, if I failed to thank the student community of The Scindia School, for it is they who bring joy to life at the Fort.

The Scindia School is a world in itself, where a child enters as an individual but leaves as a part of a 124-year-old legacy that is spread across the world.



Senior School Prefect

This school is more than just an educational institution, it is our home, it is what grounds us and inspires us to spread our wings and take flight, it moulds young minds into become confident global citizens. There is no other place like Scindia.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone for being a part of this delightful celebration.

Good Night! Long Live Scindia! Thank you.

Glimpses of the Founder's Day



Morning Assembly



Deputy Senior School Prefect



Food and Hospitality



English Play

Sanjay Khanna (Ex-Shivaji, Class of '84)

Mr Amar Nath Dar, Class of '58

Sanjay uvacha!

The name Sanjay had a deep meaning for me very early in my life on the Fort itself, and even later during my tenure as the Head of Scindia just prior to the Centenary. My Dadi and my mother would tell me stories from the Mahabharata where they would say, "Sanjay said!"

Yes, Sanjay was telling Dhritrashtra about the status of the War again and again like a TV serial.

And as I came to head my alma mater in 1994, a war was raging in my mind all the time: How to celebrate the Centenary in that small OAT that had a seating capacity of 800 only. When it was first built, the capacity was only 250 and I was just born then. The capacity had to be raised to 3000.

Plans for the Centenary had been launched in early 1995. I proposed that the main function be held on the Teli Temple field where a stage could be built while the Founder's Day would be held in the OAT as always.

How to raise the capacity of OAT? And then Sanjay Khanna spoke to me, "Please do not worry, Sir. I will make the steps of the OAT from white marble."

Naturally, I said, "Oh, my God! White marble! Isn't the Taj Mahal made of white marble? Thank you Sanjay."

I invited Vishal Saran, another Old Boy whose father and grandfather, too, had been on the staff, and now he was our advisor on the infrastructure. He had to plan this expansion with white marble. He came to the conclusion that the cost would be prohibitive. Sanjay and Vishal decided to make the steps from red Kota stone and the seating was to be raised to 3000. Finally, it came to 3200.

Sanjay was neither my schoolmate nor my student but his ardour for his alma mater had to be seen to be believed. And add to it his modesty, large heartedness and commitment. For me and my wife it was a joy to stay with him in his modest apartment in Delhi that was never lacking in comfort, kind courtesies and homeliness. At times, even Nirmal Tiwari stayed with us. On one occasion, when he was being interviewed for the chair of the school, Sanjay said, "Surely, Sir had to be selected as he was my guest!"

Sanjay did not stop here. The Fort was somewhat lacking in greenery. However, Ramesh Sharma of Baidyanath from Jhansi became my Bhagirathi. He helped me to find water for the School from outside the Fort. After all, the Gurdwara had reached water by drilling 400ft for a source of water. Yes, we struck water after exploring for water at three places.

Now the problem arose: How to water for these new plants along the road. So far, we only had those old peepal and imli trees interspersed with neem and neem chameli trees.



During the Shoot of Neev

Again Sanjay Khanna said, "Why bother? I will present a tractor and a tanker to the school."

Between R. S. Garg and T. S. Ingle, they quickly arranged a trolley for the tanker from the city. Now, these new trees planted by R. S. Garg could be watered regularly. That is how Sanjay had helped us even to begin 'greening' the campus. Never did Sanjay ask me for any favour even when he was hosting our stay with him and after all that he had done for the School.

Lo and behold! Our Old boys are talking only of 'Neev' that was produced by Sanjay. They forget Sanjay's contribution to the success of the Centenary play scripted by Mehfooz Aslam and staged in the Teli Temple ground with the President of India as the Chief Guest. 'Sa Vidya ya Vimuktaye', the production, had an audio-visual prepared by Sanjay, that added to the power of the script and acting. The director of it all has not forgotten Sanjay's help and generous support by Rahul and Sujata Kulshreshtha.

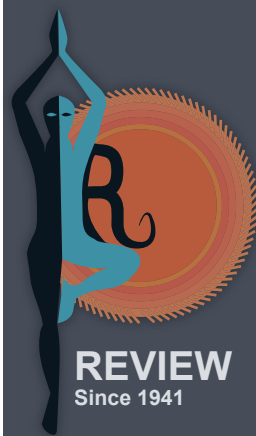
I have read some messages from Sanjay's friends and contemporaries on my mobile and they are all talking about his warmth, simplicity and honesty. They are also referring to him as a true mentor and motivator in more ways than one, and being humane and kind.

He deserved it all and even more but not his premature death!
May God rest his soul in peace in heaven!



During the Shoot of Neev

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