



The Scindia School
TRIENNIAL PUBLICATION



Vol. 44

Qila
Quotes



Students arriving on the Fort



School in full swing - examination in quarantine

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Ex-officio Member, Secretary & Principal		
Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat		

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.

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION



HH Maharaja JM Scindia addressing the gathering on Founder's Day



Principal, Dr MD Saraswat addressing the gathering on Founder's Day

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

It is good to know that all our children and their families are safe and healthy. I am also delighted to inform that almost the entire school is back on campus, and it is pulsating with life once again. We are grateful to parents for their faith in us; and for the support extended to us as always. Teachers and students are making-up for all the lost time and I can see them engaged in academic pursuit in every nook and corner of the school. God willing, our students will produce good results despite all the limitations caused by Covid19.

As you already know, I'm moving on from The Scindia School and my last working day is 31st March 2022. By the time hard copy will reach you, I would probably have gone, and school would start afresh with a new leader and new vision. I wish the new Principal, best of luck!

Looking back, the offer to join Scindia in 2015 came as a huge opportunity for me; one which I accepted with a sense of gratitude and challenge. During my entire tenure, I received invaluable support and wholehearted contribution from all stakeholders in all areas of functioning of the school, needless to even mention the affection and the warmth which is so typical of our Scindian fraternity. Therefore, I am parting on a high note of satisfaction, a greater sense of gratitude, humility, and enrichment in every sense of the word.

All the awards, recognitions, and achievements which we may have earned during the last 7 years are a testimony to the 124 years of belief and perseverance in the highest

ideals of education which is reflected in your unflinching commitment to the school. Furthermore, if we continue to grow together, and look beyond any self-made boundaries, we will all go from strength to strength! I am fully convinced, in times to come, The Scindia School shall continue to leverage its unique strengths and potential to remain at the top. With several new initiatives in the offing, brand Scindia will continue to hold the same charm for posterity!

Just the way I received unwavering support from all of you, I am sure you'll extend the same to the new incumbent. A dedicated team of empowered teachers and resilient children give me the confidence that we will achieve all our targets in coming times...

I look forward to keeping in touch with you.

Long live The Scindia School!

Warmly

Madhav Deo Saraswat

EDITORIAL

With the state government permitting all schools to reopen, more than 90% of our students returned on campus from 18th–20th February. School spared no effort to prepare for the arrival and stay of the students, and meticulously executed all the COVID protocols and quarantine measures to ensure their safety. Currently we are in full swing with as much normalcy as possible, and with all activities firing in full cylinder. The teaching fraternity reported to the Fort on 7th January 2022. For the past two months, RTPCRs have been organized regularly for the entire community to ensure safety of the community.

Co-curricular activities

The Senior Group Inter House English Debate was held from 22nd - 24th January 2022. The motion of the final debate was – ‘This House would replace human judgment with computer algorithms in criminal sentencing decisions.’ Jeevaji House won the debate. **Vidit Gupta** was adjudged as the Best Speaker from the Proposition (Government) while **Gatik Bhonwal** was adjudged as the Best Speaker from the Opposition. The most promising speaker award went to **Keshav Dudhani**.

The first-ever Interhouse Model United Nations Conference was held online on 5th of February. It was a completely student-driven activity. Training sessions were organized 4 days prior to the conference for the students to understand the basic concepts of Model United Nations and the Rules of Procedures.

The Hindi quiz ‘*Kaun Banega Sirmaur*’ (KBS) was organized on 29th January and 1st February 2022. **Devraj Singh Chauhan** won the title by solving Ameer Khusro's paheli- *Munh par paani chhidka kyon? Sunaar khali baitha kyun?* Among all the four Houses, Nimaji House topped the table by scoring 66 marks out of 87.

Academics

Several of our students of class 12 have received conditional offers and scholarship from prominent universities overseas. Once the board exams are over, they will fly overseas for higher education. CBSE offline examination for term-2 will commence from 26th April as announced by the CBSE. Two meetings of the HODs took place on the virtual space to take stock of syllabus for PT-3 and term-2, and to discuss the mode and schedule of PT-3 exam. PT-3 examination has commenced from 21st February in offline mode.

Workshops

Ms Niharika Kulshrestha attended the first SESAME synchrotron workshop for teachers from 17 - 24 January 2022 on virtual platform. The goal of the workshop was to demonstrate how connections can be made between first-class research facilities and high school science curriculum for the benefit of students and teachers.

A group of 31 teachers comprising of Housemasters and Resident tutors attended a 10-day workshop on ‘Personal Mastery’ from 25th

Jan - 9th February. The session was conducted by **Mr Sarabjeet Walia**, founder of Entendido. The 10-session journey focused on self-exploration through several tools and conversations. The first half of the journey looked at the self, followed by one's ability to work with others. The highlights were: developing multiple perspectives; importance of a growth mindset, understanding our biases & assumptions and how they impact our decision making; importance of common institutional values and how they help us manage conflict; how intrinsic motivation works; vulnerability as a strength and last but not the least, building skills of giving and receiving feedback.

Internationalism

Students interacted with various international bodies including British council, Education USA, USIEF and College Board by means of virtual university fairs and expert sessions. Students utilized opportunities to collaborate with universities and participate in short programs by Columbia University, New York Institute of Finance, University of Florida, Queen Mary University, ISRO, BSE, Harvard YLC, Brown University, University of California Santa Cruz, University College Dublin, and the University of Queensland etc. Students not only aspired but also managed to receive offers from the top Universities.

Students also got the opportunities to collaborate and engage with students from all corners of the world. Approximately 100 students participated in numerous RS events, wherein, they interacted with students from the UK, France, South Africa, Germany, UAE, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh etc. They also had opportunities to discuss and hear experts on topics related to Crypto currency, STEM education, Feminism, Sustainability, Music, Social enterprise etc.

Visits

Dr N K Gupta, Ex Deputy Director & Project Director (Cryogenics), LPSC/ISRO visited the school and addressed the students of class IX and XI. **Mr I A Zaidi**, District Nodal Officer, School Education, Gwalior also visited the school with Mr Gupta.

Dr Varun Kapoor (IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Administration, MP Police) addressed the students of Classes IX and XI on Cyber Security and Cyber Laws on 6th December in the Assembly Hall.



Celebrations

Republic Day was celebrated on the Fort with careful social distancing. Selected members of the school fraternity came to the Madhav Pavilion and paid homage to the tricolor which was unfurled at the start of the programme by **Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat**. Celebration ended with the National Anthem.

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 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**, former world chess champion. After Chief Guest's Round of Exhibitions, school Brass Band greeted the viewers and audience. 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 Principal, **Dr M D Saraswat**. **H.H. Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia**, delivered the welcome address and annual awards were given away for achievements of students and Boarding Houses in various verticals of school life. **Dr Punit Boolchand** (Ex-JA, 1961) received this year's Madhav Award and in the end, Senior School Prefect, **Ujjwal Mehrotra** delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Welcome Aboard



Ms Aliya Khan, equipped with a B.Ed. and a master's degree in English, comes with an experience of 23 years of teaching English Core and Elective, CBSE syllabus to students at Senior Secondary schools. She has also delivered the IGCSE syllabus, being an accredited examiner for Cambridge University, England. Previously, she has worked in New Era High School, Panchgani, Maharashtra, as HOD, English. She has keen interest in Shakespearean plays,

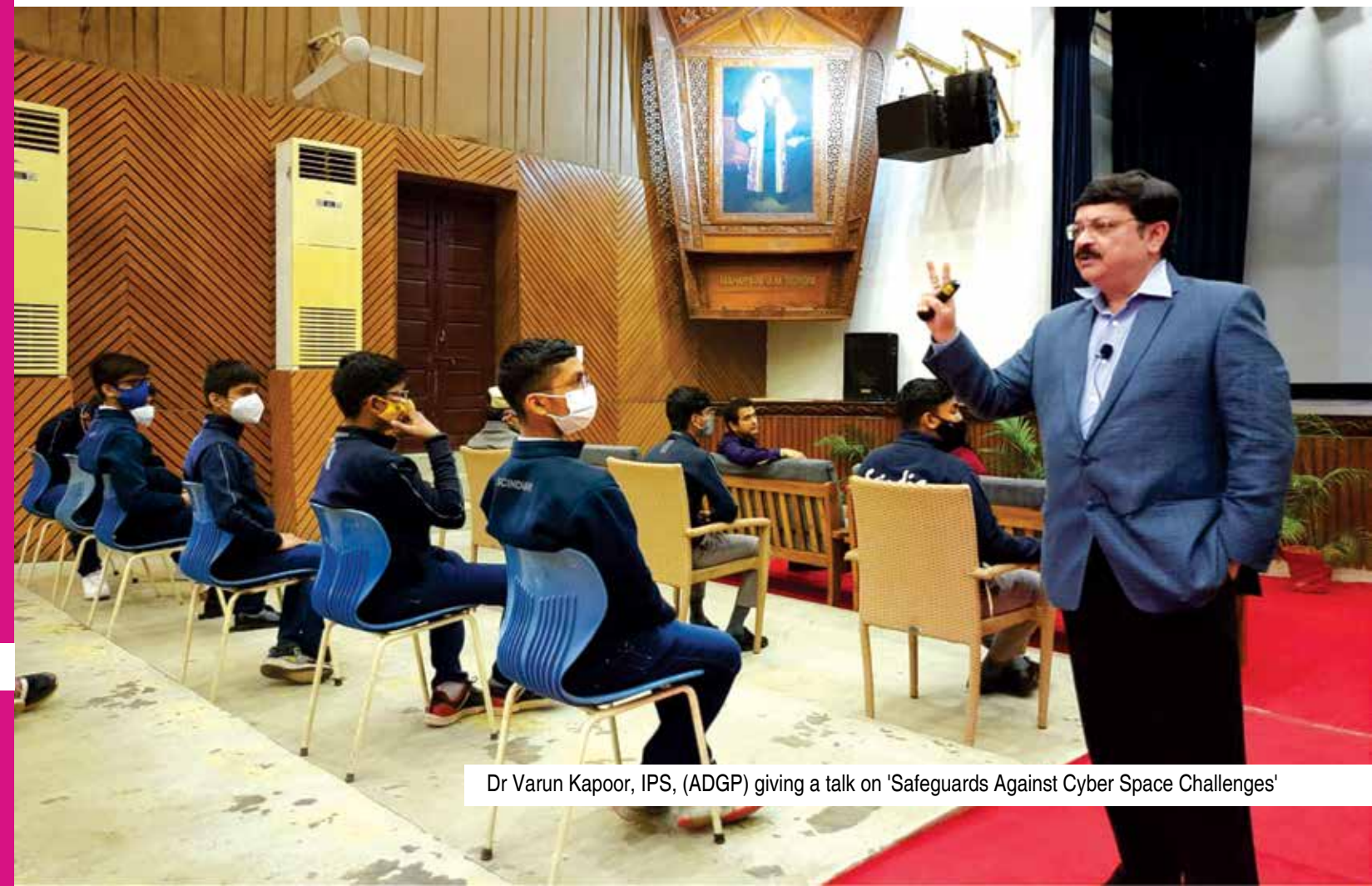
poetry, elocution, art, and cultural activities. Her purpose in life is to uncover the inherent but often latent potential in children and impart true education which builds character, burnishes personalities, and enables one to serve humankind without discrimination or prejudice in the pursuit of excellence.



Republic Day celebration



SOBA Kanpur presenting a memento to the Principal



Dr Varun Kapoor, IPS, (ADGP) giving a talk on 'Safeguards Against Cyber Space Challenges'

OLD BOYS' NEWS



Mr Nand K. Agarwal (Ex – JP, 2001) has recently published his book titled, 'Shots- Small Tales, Big Fun!', a fictional collection of eight short love stories. While in school, he was the founding editor of the school's annual Hindi magazine, 'Uplabdh'; recipient of the Atmaram Sharma Trophy for excellence in Hindi, and All-India topper in Class 10 in Social Sciences.



Mr Gian Singh (Ex –DL, 2005) has started a new brand -Miarcus, which specializes in making premium products for babies and mothers. They have recently signed Kareena Kapoor as their brand ambassador. While in Scindia, he was a school prefect, school Athletics Captain, and was part of the school Hockey team. He was also awarded the Governor's Medal for

highest marks in Class 12. We wish him all the best in his ambitious venture.



Dr Harsh Saxena (Ex – SH, 1988) has taken charge as President (Elect) of the MP-Chhattisgarh Association of Neuroscientists. While in School, he took a keen interest in music and painting, and was the Art Secretary. Thereafter, he did MBBS from Gwalior Medical College, and cleared DNB-Neurosurgery from The Ganga Ram Institute for Postgraduate Medical

Education & Research, Delhi. He then worked with Bhopal Memorial Hospital, Tata Memorial Hospital, and in Georgetown (Guyana), before starting his private practice in Jabalpur in 2004. Originally from Gwalior, he is a neurosurgeon having special interest in endoscopic / microsurgery of the skull base and spinal areas.

China expert and former Indian envoy to Beijing Mr Vikram Misri (Ex – MD, 1981) has recently been appointed as the Deputy National Security Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat. Mr Misri is a 1989 batch IFS officer. We wish him all the best in his new role.



Mr Yashwant Mahadik (Ex – SH, 1985) has been recently inducted as a member of the Executive Committee of the prestigious Employers' Federation of India. While in School, he took a keen interest in sports, cross-country, photography, and elocution. He thereafter did B. Com. from Mumbai University and MBA from The University of Sheffield in UK. Since 1989,

he has worked in FMCG, Technology, & Healthcare companies, and was based in Japan, USA, UK, Netherlands & India, with top notch MNCs that include Colgate-Palmolive, Astra Zeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Philips, Sun Pharma, and is currently President- Global Human Resources, and Business Transformation Head at Lupin.



Major Aditya Pawar (Ex – MD, 2003) has authored a book, 'From the Fort Walls-How It Began'. He describes himself as a surgeon by profession, a poet by heart, an Indian by citizenship, and a Bhartiya by soul. While at school, he played Chess and participated in Taekwondo, both at state-level. His interests included elocution, dramatics, and writing Hindi

poems. He was the school Biology topper in Class 12. He is the son of Dr D S Pawar, ex- Medical Officer of our School.

A two-member delegation of Kanpur SOBA visited the school on 22nd Jan 2022. They felicitated Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat for his outstanding contributions to The Scindia School during his tenure. He was presented with a handmade portrait by renowned artist Mrs Suman Agarwal.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Awards given during Founder's Day 2021

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

Shirish Mehra and Jeh Neville Hilluwala participated in Basantar Memorial Virtual Inter-School Declamation organized by the Lawrence School, Sanawar. The contest was held virtually on 10th November 2021. Out of 18 reputed schools of the country, school team secured third place.

Yanglem Arjun Singh has been selected for a mentorship programme under Meta (formerly Facebook) under a full-ride scholarship. He is part of 15 student cohort from across the world of – 'Creating a Social Impact - The Meta Way'. He conceptualized an idea called 'Green Zone by Meta' in the field of climate change which won the 'Moon Shot' award by Meta's Head of Program at its social impact group after grueling sessions of idea pitches.

School participated in 'Odyssey 2021', the Inter School Cultural Fest organized by Sanskriti, The Gurukul, Guwahati, Assam from 11-13 November 2021. Four students received the collaboration Certificates for Best Innovation and Presentation- Ayush Jain and Shaurya Chirania for 'One - Bio Care Competition' and Keshav Jhunjunwala and Sameep Mody for the 'Nirmaan' Competition.

Seven students participated in the Indian Classical Vocal Solo Swaranjali IPSC Music Fest 2021 organized by Rajkumar College Raipur from 11 - 13 November 2021. Following were the achievements: Jeh Neville Hilluwala - Eminently Notable Performance in Western Instrumental Solo; Vasant Bhat - Spotlight Award in Indian Classical Vocal Solo; Prithvee Rajswaroop Pathak - Spotlight Award in Light Semi Classical Vocal; Saransh Agarwal - Spotlight Award in Indian Percussion (Tabla) Solo; Krrish Lokwani - Excellence in Western Percussion (Drum) Solo; Krrish Leelotpal Divya and Nishant Saxena - Special Mention in Indian Semi-Classical Instrumental Jugalbandi.

Ansh Garg qualified for the Final of the 8th Nanhi Chhaan National School Essay Contest 2021. He participated in two rounds of Nanhi Chhaan Essay Writing Competition online from 26 - 27 October 2021. The Chief Guest for the occasion was HH Maharaja JM Scindia (Union Minister of Civil Aviation), and the judges were: Ms Sonia Singh – Journalist NDTV; Ms Meher Pudumjee – Chairperson Thermax; Mr Arun Wakhlu – Co-founder Pragati Leadership Institute and Mr RS Pawar - Chairman NIIT. Ansh was awarded with a smartwatch and an invitation to visit the NIIT Campus at Neemrana.

Seven students participated in the Maharani Gayatri Devi Model United Nations' Conference from 21- 23 October 2021. The following students won awards in various categories: Best Delegate - Ayushman Rai (China, UNOOSA); High Commendation - Parv Agarwal (UAE, Arab League); Verbal Mention - Siddharth Gupta (China, UNSC); Verbal Mention - Ahana Bhattacharya (India, FCC); and Verbal Mention - Tanish Agarwal (France, UNHRC).

Shaurya Prakash successfully completed 'Ruskin Bond Teaches Writing', a course from Unluclass. He also completed an online non-credit course authorized by University of London and offered through Coursera called 'Citizenship and the Rule of Law'.

Sameep Mody and Keshav Jhunjunwala have discovered 12 early asteroids under the International Asteroid Search Project 2021. Their findings are up on the International Astronomy Search Collaboration's (IASC) site. The students were trained by experts of Smart Circuits Innovation Pvt. Ltd. Mr Raghav Sharma, Space Expert, trained them and their report has been accepted by NASA.

Rotary Club of Delhi Garden City Skill Development Centre organized an online debate competition from 27-28 November 2021. Vidit Gupta, Parv Rajesh Agarwal and Ayushman Rai participated in the Debate. Vidit Gupta was awarded the Best Speaker for Round I and II.

MAINTAINING A BALANCE

Creating a balanced life means making time for the things you must do, as well as the things you want to do. You have the power to create harmony between your responsibilities and finding time daily to do things that bring you pleasure, personal fulfilment, and rejuvenation. Balance comes from within.

Everyone's body and mind respond in different ways; the most important thing is that you are getting the right balance. A Balance is the key to living your life in a successful way. We look for balancing everywhere - while riding a bicycle, you look for balance between pedals; while eating a delicacy, you look for balance in taste; even while in the stock market, you look out for balance rather than an unstable stocks. So, you see, it is everywhere in our life. Maintaining Balance is not an option in our lives but an integral part that we ought to follow to avoid things go otherwise.

When I was young just like many of the readers, I generally used to study a lot than my counterparts which was not the trend even back then in the 1970s..80s. There was a lot of interference by friends and sometimes by my parents. I wasn't bothered by it and used to believe that I was doing the right thing, but what I didn't realize was that I was missing on a lot more. This made me go out, and connect with more people, make more friends, half of whom I still meet up today and this benefited me in the long run, and it does till date. It taught me to balance my life between my own requirements personally and socially as well.

Afterwards, when I went to college, life there doesn't allow you to have a lot of leisure time. You either are studying or doing projects or sitting with friends. I recall how staying organized was a key part of my life back then, and how it helped me to stay focused. Then, as active individuals we used our curiosity to move around and spend time with friends, books, professors and even lab assistants to unlock what normal day lectures didn't teach us. It wasn't that we used to stick to one place or stick to one activity. You would find the same people, scoring excellently in tests, on Monday, playing cricket enthusiastically on previous Sunday. So, it's never that anything is snatching your time from you. It's just that you need to realize how much time do you really require to spend on something, and how much on another. Once, that is done, you would never miss out on anything.

A boarding life such as at Scindia, enhances balance between different aspects in your life, which enables all of you to concentrate on different areas of your life, be it physically in the sports field, socially, in the dorms or your classroom, and academically in the

academic block. This plays a crucial role in your overall development and hence, it demands you to divide your work as well. If you spend time in one area and disregard the other, it affects the whole part eventually and hence, you should always maintain a balance, in everything that you do. Anything in excess, isn't beneficial in the long run. During different chapters of life, we tend to prefer some activities, more than others. At some point of time, we might love playing, and at some other time, we may love watching movies; and we spend our whole day doing that, thinking that it'll make us happy. Growing up, we love to make a profit which is to an extent a good thing but as it goes in excess, you start losing things on the other hand. You start losing friends, you start losing interest in the things that you once wanted and even this profit making turns away from you, as nothing stays forever, until you manage to keep it. This applies in every aspect, whether it is a balanced diet, a balanced physique or even a balanced resume, that is what people look for everywhere, perfection on every edge, is what is expected from everyone out of here.

Lastly, remember that maintaining balance keeps you together as a person, balances your life to be in a comfortable and progressive state. The key to life is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities. Maintain a positive relation between everything and nothing will become a hurdle for you...

Mr Anil Rai
F/O Ayushman Rai
Class XI, Jeevaji House



Photo by Mr Anubhav Sarkar



Photo by Mr Anubhav Sarkar

BACK TO SCHOOL... OR BACK HOME...

15th July 1977

An olive-green color car entered the Urvai Ghati to go up the Gwalior Fort. A hand waved to stop the car. He picked up the receiver of the phone next to him and spoke to someone and waved at the driver that he could go. The winding uphill road to the fort was beautiful and was dotted with the most amazing carvings of lord Mahaveer on one side. My parents had come to drop me at my new home 'The Scindia School'. My parents settled me during the day in what was then the 'Siddharth House' now renamed 'Kanerkhed House'. We parted in the evening with teary eyes. My mom & dad were trying to control their tears, my younger one was too young to understand that we would meet only after 6 months, and our driver could not stop his tears. I behaved like a strong boy but cried the whole night, don't remember when I fell asleep.

The Journey thereafter...

Class IV (1978)

It was my math class. **Mr Lalendra Singh** was our math teacher. He asked us to recite tables one by one. I stood up at my turn and didn't speak a word. He asked me couple of times what the matter was, I told him in a low voice that I only know tables in Hindi. There were some murmurs and laughter in the class. He became angry and asked the boys to stop laughing. He then asked the rest of the boys, 'how many of you do not know tables in English' ? To my surprise, I was not the only one, there were several others which was a great relief. As we were from different parts of the country, many of us were more comfortable in our mother tongues; and there were quite a few Bengalis, Assamese etc. Mr Singh said, 'it is not important in which language you know the tables, but more importantly, how well you know and understand them'. Believe me, till date I do all my calculations in Hindi. Much later when we learned and spoke about diversity at our workplace and diverse cultures, I relied on my first lesson of diversity which was taught to me at school by my teacher.

Jan 1979

(Late) **Mrs Suman Gupta** was Housemistress of Siddharth House. A graceful lady with a permanent smile across her face. In those days letters were the only connect between the family and the boys. Parents would only call if there was an emergency, not like today, where parents are just a call away. How lucky boys are today, they can call their parents at the drop of a hat. Sometimes I envy them.

We had just returned from home after our winter vacations. After a couple of weeks, I realized that my letters were opened and read by someone before they were delivered to me. One afternoon Ma'am was standing outside her house. I walked over to her and complained that my letters were being opened whereas all other letters are sealed. She looked at me and then at the letter in my hand and said, 'I open your letters'. She gauged my next question - 'But

why ma'am'; before I could speak, she put her hand on my shoulder and in a motherly voice asked me - 'tell me if I am your guardian and your mother in school, can't I open your letters' ? I did not speak but nodded in agreement. She had said everything. Believe me, she kept her promise till she was alive! She has played a very important role in my life as Guru and as a mentor. She will always be my GOD.

Class VII (1981)

This was the junior most class of the senior school. **Pandit Atma Ram Sharma** was taking our Hindi class. Someone called him from outside the class and handed over a chit to him. He read the name and then handed over that chit to me. It read...

Dearest Suvir,

Wish you a happy birthday.

I have taken permission from your Housemaster. Join us for dinner today. The House Attendant will come to pick you up after Astachal. Aunty

In the first instance I could not connect, but soon recognized the handwriting. In the evening when we sat down for dinner, Sir (Dr Gupta) said "Suvir today madam has made everything you like". Only a mother knows what her child likes, that is what she was to me.

The slip was from Mrs Gupta, (I wish I could locate that slip today). The connect between the guru and the student was unimaginable.

to be continued...

Suvir Vij
(Ex - Ranoji, 1988)
Manager - Administration
The Scindia School



In Conversation with Mr Rajeev Dubey

(Member, Board of Governors, The Scindia School)

Rajeev Dubey is the Chairman of Mahindra Insurance Brokers, Mahindra Steel Service Centre, and Mahindra First Choice Wheels. He retired in 2020 as the Group President (HR & Corporate Services) & CEO (After-Market Sector), Member of the Group Executive Board, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. He joined Mahindra in 2004, after a career spanning 29 years in the Tata Group, which he joined in 1975 as a member of the TAS. He spent 21 years with Tata Steel, and the next 7 years as CEO first of Tata Metaliks and then of Rallis India.

He studied Economics at St. Stephens College, Delhi University and at the Delhi School of Economics, and did his MBA at the Yale School of Management, USA.

He is a Member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Geneva, the International Organization of Employers (IOE) Geneva and the National Executive Council of FICCI.

On a personal note, Mr Dubey was intensely involved in theatre, having acted in TV / Radio plays and semi-professional theatre in Delhi and Kolkata. He was Secretary of the Dramatic Society, St. Stephen's College, and a founder-member of Theatre Action Group (TAG), one of the erstwhile leading theatre companies in Delhi. He is deeply interested in human potential development, and in socio-cultural & economic evolution of societies. He practices yoga and reiki regularly, and his interests include past-life experiences and firewalking!! He is an avid lover of books & nature, especially the mountains. Recently, Mr Rajeev Dubey has joined the Board of The Scindia School.

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

What is that you admire most about Mahindra & Mahindra?

I admire that it is led by its Purpose to drive positive change in the lives of its stakeholders and communities, to enable them to Rise. This Purpose translates into the everyday behaviour of employees and the way they conduct their business.

Secondly, Mahindra empowers and respects people, starting with its employees but extending it to all its stakeholders.

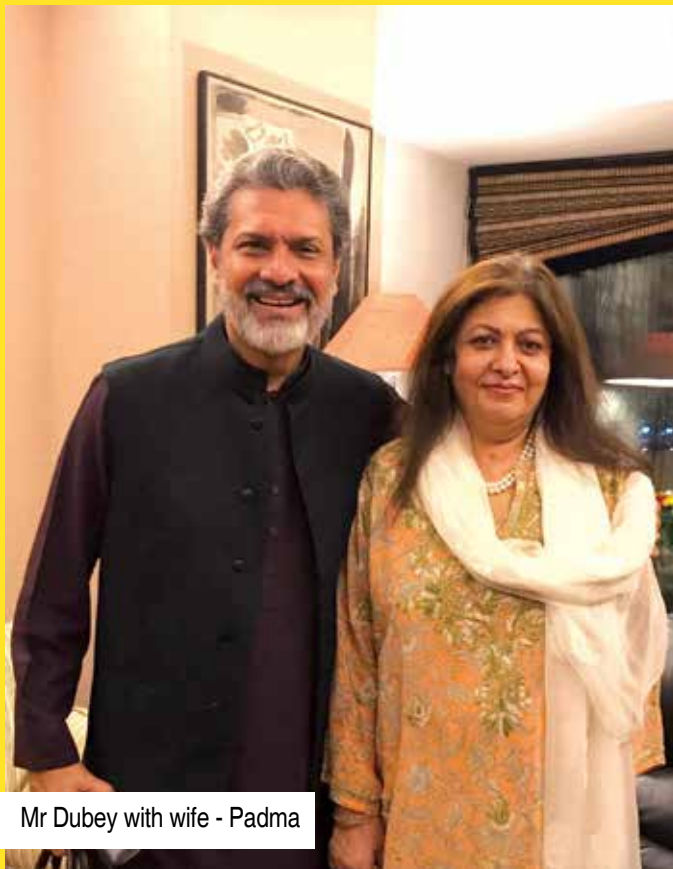
Finally, we work very hard to create a culture that enables people to be the best that they can be, in pursuit of the Purpose.

The pursuit of Purpose and its translation into business strategy and culture has been an amazing journey for me since I joined Mahindra in 2004, a journey in which every day and every minute was exciting and full of creativity and passion.

What are the three words that describe you?

The three words are: compassionate, committed, and courageous. I would also like to add - credibility, which is all about trust. I say what I think, and I do what I say, and sometimes you indeed must pay a price for it!





Mr Dubey with wife - Padma

whole thing happened left me angry and bitter. Mercifully, this anger was directed towards one person who, at that time, I thought was being very unfair to me. I was convinced he was misusing his authority, and I felt totally victimized. I was mired in self-pity, despondency, and inaction. I overcame those feelings of being victimized and wronged with the help of a few people, including my late father, who told me that holding someone else responsible for what was happening in my life was not the right thing to do. I needed to realize that I was the creator of what happens in my life, and not the effect of what others were doing to me. The minute I internalized this thought, there was a complete transformation in my view of the situation that I was in. I realized that since I had the power to create this mess, I also had the power to get out of it. This perspective gave me the courage, resilience, and confidence, without making any compromises to my fundamental values, to connect with my inner strength and purpose and use that power to convert this huge challenge into an opportunity. From this "dark" episode sprang one of the greatest journeys in my life – I joined Mahindra, where I got the opportunity, empowerment, freedom, and purpose to connect with my potential and to help create a powerful business and culture.

Having travelled extensively, what are your most profound lessons, personally and professionally?

Firstly, there is beauty, adventure, and joy everywhere in the world, provided you look for it. This includes the unlikeliest of places, provided we are open and aware that life has many manifestations.

Secondly, people fundamentally are the same everywhere. If you are nice and respectful to them, 99 times out of 100, they will reciprocate. Languages and cultural norms differ but people everywhere look for kindness, compassion, love, and joy. If you reach out to them, in most cases they will reciprocate.

In your daily life, what brings you happiness? And could you throw light on some of your hobbies and interests?

The answer to the first part is very clear: To bring positive change and joy to those with whom I interact, no matter how brief the interaction may be - it could just be a smile but if that smile is reciprocated, joy is multiplied. This is the purpose of my life and the source of greatest happiness.

Yoga is a very big part of my life, and is a source of constant joy, peace, and strength for me. I am very fond of reading. In my quest for seeking a connection between the individual and cosmic consciousness, I have forayed into firewalking, past-life experiences, Reiki etc.

I was, and continue to be, fond of theatre and it was an important part of my growing up. In my childhood I acted in many TV and radio plays, with my first TV play being telecast on Doordarshan in 1962 ! I did a lot of theatre in school and was the Secretary of the Dramatic Society of St. Stephens College where a bunch of us founded TAG (Theatre Action Group) in 1973 along with Bary John. I played the lead role in their first ever production, which was Charles Marowitz's "A Macbeth" which had many actors

who later went on to make a name for themselves in the world of theatre/ entertainment. People like Siddharth Basu, the famous quizmaster, Lillette Dubey (stage director and actress), Rajiv Mehrotra (documentary and short film maker) and my late younger brother Ravi. In its heyday TAG was a leading theatre group in Delhi.

The last full length play I did was in Calcutta in 2000 when I was the MD of Tata Metaliks. It was called "1857: The Uprising" and I played the lead role which was that of a Dervesh in a graveyard, who narrates and holds together the entire play.

What do you look forward to as a Member of The Board of Governors of The Scindia School?

My first love was academics, but destiny took me to the Corporate world. Now that I have retired, I want to be connected with academics. Although I am not in a teaching role in Scindia, I look forward to contributing to this venerable institution that aspires to create Tomorrow's Leaders who have the character and competence to "succeed" in tomorrow's world while being connected to the Indian ethos/values. I do bring with me a vast and diverse experience that the school could make use of.

Can you tell us something about your love for the mountains?

Mountains evoke feelings of being uplifted, feelings of power, mystery, magic, calmness, and beauty. They just do something to me and transport me to a different world. I remember that when I was in the 10th/11th standard in school we used to get essays to write and inevitably all my essays used to have a lot of references and inspiration from the mountains and nature. I have always been fascinated by those fluffy white clouds in the blue skies, the smell of pine needles on mountain slopes, the smoke from the wood fire rising on a misty morning.... However, I must confess that I haven't been to the mountains as much as I'd like to, but there is still life ahead.

What according to you is the socio-cultural or the economic evolution of the society?

The starting point was my deep sorrow at seeing poverty every day. My quest was - can I do something on a large scale such that people do not go to bed hungry, have clothes to wear, access to good medical facilities and all children go to school and get education ? So, it had to do with lifting masses of people from abject poverty and making all these basics available to the downtrodden sections of Indian society. That would require me to understand how societies and culture evolve and the economics of it, which go hand in hand. So when I talk of the socio-cultural evolution of the society, it is in this context.

Any message for our readers?

I would say to the young people at Scindia that your potential is infinite, the biggest constraint to unleashing that potential is the limitations that our minds create. If we can find some way to unleash our potential in pursuit of a purpose which not only seeks to better our life as an individual, but also the lives of the less fortunate, we will lead a meaningful and purposeful life.

Giving to others is important and is not only a source of great joy and satisfaction but also a source of great power which can enable you to achieve your purpose.

Finally, no matter what you do in life, do not ever stray from the path of *satya, prem* and *seva*.



Mr Dubey with daughter - Nandita

A NEW JOURNEY **BEGINS...**

*For always roaming with a hungry heart
Much have I seen and known
I am a part of all that I have met.
Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'
Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades
Forever and forever when I move
To follow knowledge like a sinking star,
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought...*

These lines from Lord Alfred Tennyson's Ulysses, which I had recited on my farewell from my erstwhile school, echoed in my mind as I embarked on a twenty-hour long drive, back to my home state on a chilly winter night not so long ago. As I travelled, my thoughts were poignant but none of them were conflicting, even though I was leaving a familiar place where I had spent thirteen significant years of my life; where I had learned, unlearned, relearned; made life-long friends, earned respect, appreciation and developed a fondness for rivers, mountains, and coffee shops. But the decision to go back home was made with conviction.

I was about to begin a new chapter of my life in The Scindia School! I had been hearing about it all my life from my mother who was born in Gwalior and had spent her childhood years there. Two of my maternal uncles were old boys of the school and had always been full of stories of the inimitable seat of learning, the crème de la crème of the world.

On approaching the school, through the Urwai gate, a deep-rooted but inexplicable instinct told me that I was home! Being an aficionado of history and culture, this was a place after my heart with the grandeur of the fort and the sprawling grounds, each nook and cranny alive with a legacy of its own.

I was welcomed with a beautiful bouquet which bespoke of the warmth accorded to a new arrival. When taken to my high-ceilinged accommodation, I loved it instantly as it reminded me of my two hundred year old ancestral home in Sagar, my fore fathers' bequest. That night I slept very peacefully and felt immediately settled in the environment where everything was king-sized, pun unintended. In the next few days, I met people who were erudite, dedicated to their calling, and who at the same time were affable and humorous. Everyone made me feel welcomed. Though when it came to meeting students, I had to satisfy myself by being introduced to them online, no thanks to the stubborn and persisting pandemic which had already delayed my arrival by two years! Now that I'm here, there's a profound feeling in my heart to be taken into the fold which I'm sure will not take time considering how supportive I've found the Scindia fraternity.

For more than two decades that I've been an educator, my journey has been about the teaching of English Core and Elective CBSE

syllabus to the students of Classes XI and XII. I've been involved in public speaking, organising, and anchoring of events, editing of plays, yearbooks, and a multitude of other enriching activities in which one inevitably finds oneself involved during the process of teaching and learning.

I've nurtured a predilection for English language and literature ever since I can remember. It had all begun in my childhood when my mother had introduced me to Barbara Cartland novels, the love for which she had inherited from my maternal grandmother. It was because of my impressionable mind immersed in those novels which had an idealistic story line, that I grew up to believe in impeccable ideals about life and developed a fascination for the characters portrayed in them, especially the concept of the virtuous heroine and the dashing but cynical and rakish hero belonging to the British aristocracy. Despite some of the utopian notions that I might have unwittingly acquired, the reading of Barbara Cartland enhanced my English language skills and the affaire de coeur with the language continues till date.

These days I'm reading authors such as Dan Brown, Paulo Coelho, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Jeffrey Archer to name a few, especially because they appeal to students as well, and some non-fiction too, such as Steven Covey and Dale Carnegie, the latter's books have a biblical significance for me! Though I have always striven to promote reading habits among my students, I have experienced that the sophistication and panache associated with the English language is wearing off in general which I attribute to a lack of interest in reading and an indifference to the language itself. Perhaps, the onus lies most of all on us, the educators, to invigorate this very essential skill, for extensive reading is the key to speaking and writing well.

Hoping that as my new journey begins, each milestone is covered with joy, with the satisfaction of having done one's daily work with love and conviction and being part of a team dedicated, in the words of Lord Alfred Tennyson at the end of Ulysses, "...to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield".

Ms Aliya Khan
Faculty in English



Photo by Mr Anubhav Sarkar

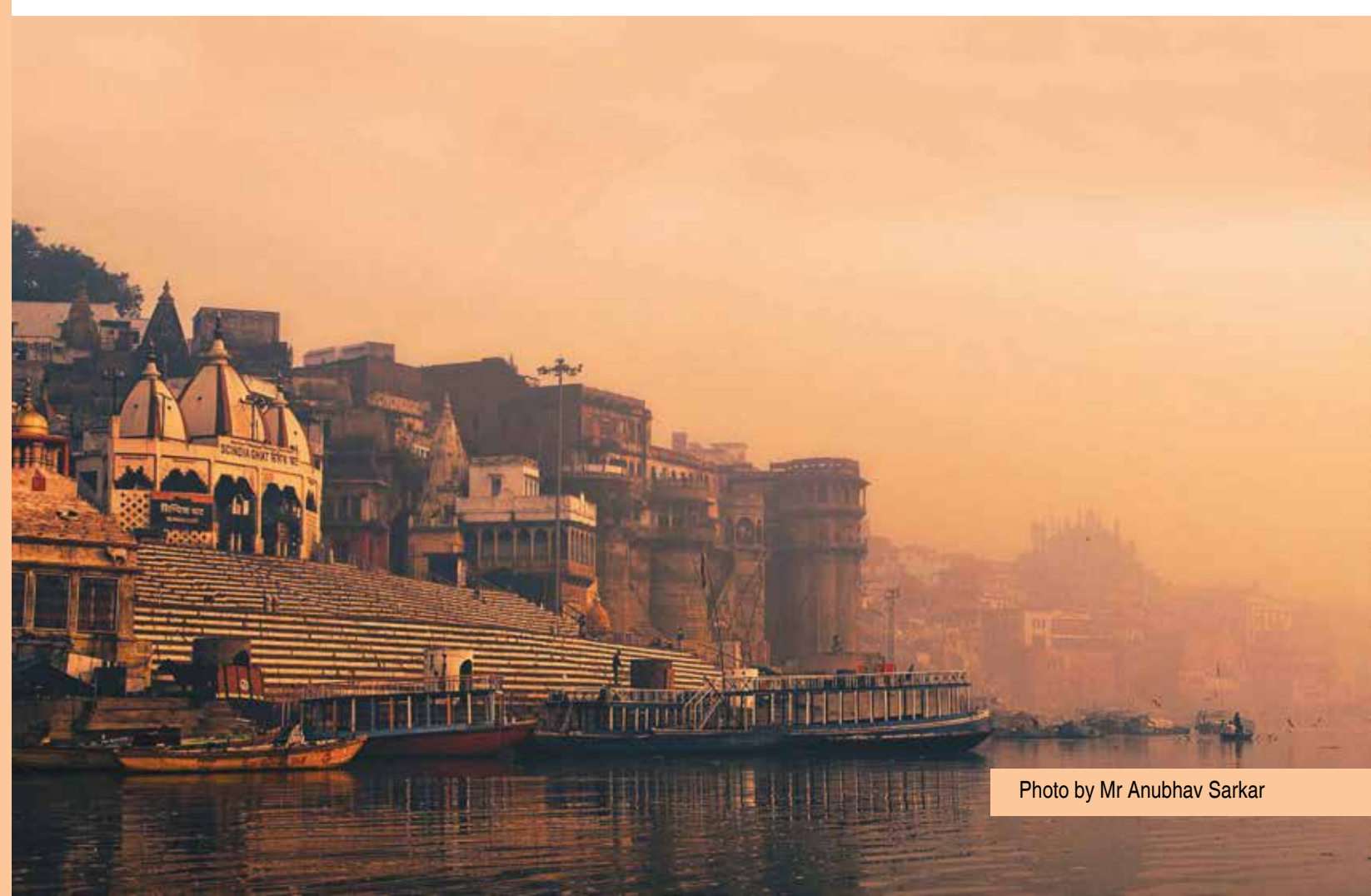


Photo by Mr Anubhav Sarkar

SAY- 'FREEZE' !

The winter breaks were about to end, and it was not possible that our family wouldn't go on a trip, especially an adventurous one!

I live in a family which loves adventure and leaves no opportunity to visit mountains or forests if time allows. One fine day, we were enjoying dinner along with the news anchor in the T.V. talking about the weather forecast for the next week in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand. That's how our next plan was materialized - mountain trip to Munsyari.

It had been a long time since our family had gone on a trip without being accompanied by any other group. The news anchor's snowfall forecast for the next 2 days in Munsyari made me do my most adventurous and hurriedly planned trip till now.

Munsyari is a hill station in the Pithoragarh District in the hill state of Uttarakhand, India. It lies at the base of the great Himalayan Mountain range, at an elevation of about 2,200 m (7,200 ft). Munsyari is one of the offbeat places in Uttarakhand and is not really for everyone. There are no shopping malls, no fancy restaurants, no large markets and no five-star hotels. Even getting there is not easy. Munsyari is surrounded by mighty snow-capped peaks and dense forest and offers natural beauty at its best.

It was Friday after dinner, we packed some winter clothes, and the next morning we left for the 4-day adventurous family trip to Munsyari. We started around 7 am on Saturday from Prayagraj and reached Lohaghat at 7 pm in the evening. We stopped on way for meals and refueling. Being passionate about driving, I drove for around 250 km or 4 hours at a stretch for the first day which was a new achievement for me. We travelled for around 600 km by road for the first day and spent the night in a small town known as Lohaghat in the Champawat district of Uttarakhand.

Another interesting thing which I did on the way being a great fan of Bollywood, was recreating the scene of the movie 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' and participating in a debate mid-way with my laptop on the bonnet of the car and eventually bagging the best speaker for that round!

It was very cold that night and the temperature dropped to around 3 degrees Celsius. The next day we all got ready, packed ourselves with warm layers of woolen clothes and started at 9 a.m. in the morning for our destination, Munsyari. For the first hour of the journey, I drove the car after which my dad took over as the way got difficult and tricky. It was my first experience driving through the mountains. By evening we reached Munsyari and while checking in to the KMVN guesthouse we were welcomed by a snowfall.

After a tiring journey throughout the day, the next day when we got up, we could see heavy snowfall from our hotel window. The ground was covered entirely with snow, and it was a mesmerizing scene. After collecting some snow and clicking some photographs, we got ready for the Khaliya Top trek which was an 8 km trek one side through dense snow. This trek reminded me of the various adventure activities and the expeditions that we have here at Scindia during the summer breaks.

From the starting point of the trek, we walked for around 3 hours and covered 5 km. By now, we had reached an area where the snow was till our knees, so we decided to return. It took us another 1.5 hours to return to the base where for lunch we ate delicious Maggi sitting in an igloo, while it was snowing all around. It was great scenery and I had never seen so much snow ever before.

After completing the trek, as soon as we reached our hotel, everyone found a place next to the heater and into the blanket. It was freezing cold, and the temperature was -1 degrees.

Another thing that I liked a lot was the friendly dog that accompanied us throughout the trek. The dog was very helpful and very loyal. It made way for us through the dense snow and kept waiting for us while we were coming down slowly over the snow-covered track.

This trip to Munsyari fulfilled the zeal for adventure in me. I was supposed to go on an expedition trip by the school but because of Covid, it was cancelled. I think this adventure trip was good enough to compensate for that.

Sumedh Potdar
Class XI



Capturing memories



Whiteout!

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