

REVIEW-22

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT GWALIOR



THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2022 | WPP : REGN.NO.GWL.DN.11

FORT NEWS

The onset of winters has been mild on the Fort. At various places on the Fort, *amla* and guavas have come upon the trees. The mornings and the evenings have a slight chill which is forthcoming and welcome considering the acute hot weather in summers.

Inter House Basketball B Group

On 4 November 2022 the Inter House Basketball B Group was organised in The Scindia School. The Houses were divided into two pools. Pool A (Madhav, Jayappa, Jayaji, Ranoji) and Pool B (Mahadji, Shivaji, Jeevaji, Daulat). All teams played three league matches. The league matches were played between 4 November 2022 to 6 November 2022.



Winning team

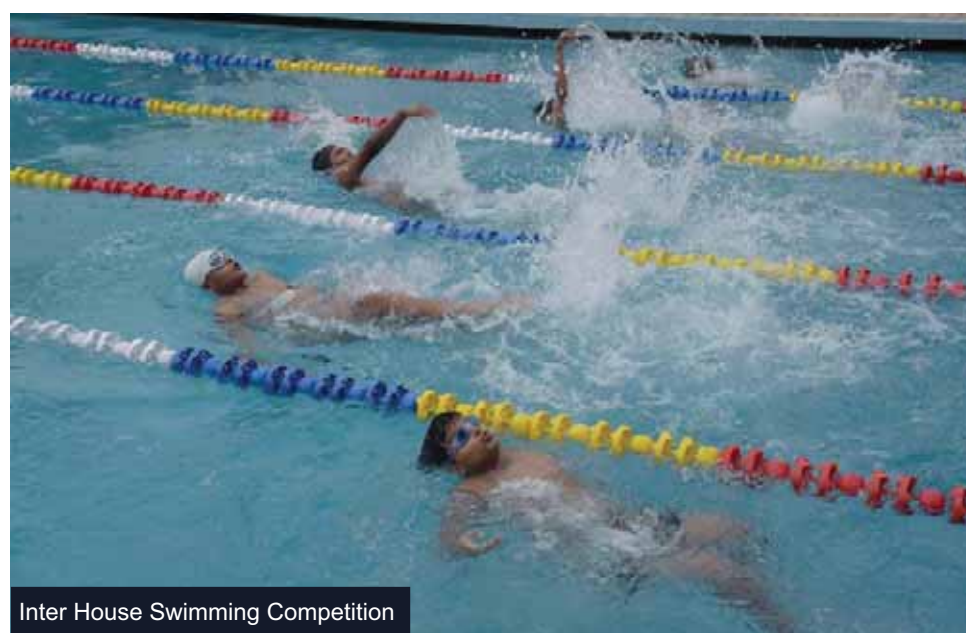
All the matches were very tough and played with a true sportsman spirit by the players. During league matches, a record-breaking match was played between Madhav and Jayappa in which Madhav won the match 64-0 against Jayappa. After league matches, two houses from each pool qualified for the semi-finals. The semi-finals were played on 7 November 2022. The first semi-final was played between Madhav and Jeevaji in which Madhav won the match, and the second semi-final was played between Mahadji and Jayaji in which Mahadji won the match.

The final match was played between Mahadji and Madhav on 8 November 2022. It was a thrilling match, in which Madhav was leading 7-1 after two quarters but eventually Mahadji prevailed by 13-11. Mahadji was declared the Winner of the Inter House Basketball B Group 2022-2023.

Inter House Swimming Championship

The Purshottam Inter House Swimming Competition was organized on 6 October 2022 at the Padmasarovar. The competition had various group and individual events like 50-meter butterfly / breaststroke / back stroke / freestyle and relay races. After the events, 'A' group individual championship was shared between Ritansh Varshney of Jayaji and Sanyam Agarwal of Shivaji. The Inter House Swimming Competition 2022-23 'A' group was won by Jayaji.

In B group individual championship was won by Diptanshu Pokhar of Jeevaji. The Inter House Swimming Competition 2022-23 B Group was won by Jayaji.



Inter House Swimming Competition

In the Junior Group, the winner of the individual championship was Anagh Naduvath of Jankoji. The overall winner in the Junior group was Dattaji.

The overall Senior House positions are as follows:

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

Inter School U17 Basketball Tournament at LAHS, Gwalior

The Little Angels High School, Gwalior, conducted the U17 Inter School Basketball Tournament, from 9 November to 11 November 2022 in which a total of twelve schools participated. The competition was conducted in two pools- pool-A and pool-B. The format of the competition was League cum knockout basis; two teams from each pool- A and B qualified for the Semi-Finals.

The Scindia School defeated St. Joseph School in the Semi-Final and qualified for the final match and secured the Second position; losing a hard fought finals to LAHS, Gwalior.

Amogh Bhargava received the individual award for the best scorer.



Runners up

State level Roller Skating Championship

ITM Global School, Gwalior, conducted the State level Roller Skating Championship from 7 to 12 November 2022 in which Atishay Mongia of class VIII secured the first position in 100m road race.

Inter House Cricket Tournament A Group 2022-23

The school conducted the Inter House Cricket Tournament A Group, from 5 November to 13 November 2022. The competition was conducted in two pools,



Anoop Korku in action

pool-A and pool-B. The format of the competition was League cum knockout basis. The following teams qualified for the Semi-Finals.

1. From pool-A - Shivaji and Daulat
2. From pool-B - Jayappa and Mahadji

After the Semi-Final matches, Daulat and Shivaji qualified for the Finals.

Players who showcased their outstanding skill are -

1. Best Batsman of the tournament - Anoop Korku, Daulat - 108* in 46 balls
2. Best Bowler of the tournament- Jeh Hilluwala, Shivaji - 7 wickets in 2 overs
3. Best Player of the tournament- Anoop Korku, Daulat

The result of Inter House 'A' Group Cricket Tournament 2022-23 is as follows:

Final position:

I Shivaji	II Daulat	III Jayappa	IV Mahadji
V Ranoji & Jayaji	VII Jeevaji & Madhav		

Inter House 'A' Group Cricket trophy for the year 2022-23 was won by Shivaji.

International Award for Young People - Trekking

The students of classes IX, X and XI went for trekking on 19 November and 20 November 2022. The trips were organised under IAYP. A team of seven teachers- Ms Raksha Siriah, Mr Chetan Bhatia, Mr Anil Pathania, Mr Anoop V., Ms Sangeetha P, Mr Dharmendra S Morya and Ms Ritu Guglani accompanied the students. On the first day, the students went around the Fort covering almost 4 kms. The students were informed about the existing flora and fauna around the fort. They were excited to see the Chaturbhuj Temple, which has the earliest known inscription of the circular symbol "0", to represent zero.



Day one of trekking

On Sunday the students went to experience the natural topography of Gwalior i.e. the plateau region. They covered a trek of 6 kms and enjoyed the sight of natural vegetation that grew on it. It was a memorable trip for the students.



Day two of trekking

Shrimati Shanti Devi Saxena Inter House Skit Competition

Shrimati Shanti Devi Saxena Inter House Skit Competition was organized on two days with four senior Houses performing on each day. The topics were allotted to the Houses through a draw of lots so that the students could get



Shrimati Shanti Devi Saxena Inter House Skit Competition

adequate time to prepare. On 19 November, Jayaji, Ranoji, Mahadji and Jeevaji performed their plays and on 22 November the play was showcased by Jayappa, Daulat, Madhav and Shivaji. The audience was glued to the seats and filled the Assembly hall with thunderous applause. The Principal, Mr Ajay Singh appreciated all the House performances and declared the event closed.

IPSC Service Project

Six boys, namely, Kushal Agarwal, Ekaksh Mohan, Krishna Gupta, Yash Jain, Shubham Agrawal, and Daksh Bajaj with the Teacher Escort, Mr Jitendra Jawal went to MGD Girls' School to participate in the IPSC Service Project hosted by the aforementioned school, from 2 November to 5 November 2022. Twelve schools from all over the country had participated in the project. The students visited an NGO called 'Back to School'. The visit to the NGO was an enriching experience that helped the participants understand that they are blessed with many privileges in life which are not accessible to others. The students spent time with the underprivileged students, teaching them different skills such as stone painting and bottle designing, as well as the importance of cleanliness in their everyday lives. They were also taught about the importance of each organ of the body, and as part of that process, the participants visited a Blind School named 'Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh.' A few participants also visited an old age home named 'The Aatmanirbhar Vridhaashram' where the participants enjoyed with the elders at the old age home and laughed as they sang, danced, and played various games together. On the final day, games such as cricket, Kho-Kho and football were played. Skill sharing activities were also conducted where they did various activities like table mat making, tie and dye, candle making, stone painting, etc. which were put up in an exhibition and



IPSC Service project at MGD

sold later to raise money for charity. The project raised an approximate sum of 84000 rupees for donation. It was a truly enriching experience for all the participants.

Musical Evening

The Scindia School hosted a musical festival on 13 October 2022, in which three extremely prominent musicians, each quite talented and immensely respected in the music world performed a few soothing and enchanting compositions on the tabla, the pakhawaj and, the keyboard. The highly accomplished musician- Mr Akshay Jadhav, set fire to the stage with his well-timed and rhythmic beats. He has also performed in movies such as 83 and Lal Singh Chadha. Mr Kunal Patil who played the ancient instrument pakhawaj, which is believed to be played by King Raavan as well, and which interestingly has kneaded flour (dough) stuck to the left side to create sounds that are a completely harmonious blend of the dough and the wood unlike the electric keyboard and tabla. Lastly, we had Mr Abhijeet Pohankar, the musician who has mastered the melody of Classical Indian Music on the electric and western instrument, the keyboard, and has been taught by the legendary musicians, Mr Shiv Kumar Sharma and Lata Mangeshkar ji. Mr Abhijeet Pohankar also happens to be the only musician in the world who plays classical Indian compositions and Raagas on a western and electric instrument such as the keyboard. The esteemed musicians first introduced the august gathering to the soothing Raag Yaman, also known as

the Evening Raag in which the pakhawaj played a shining role in creating the elegant music which had several beats of the keyboard and pakhawaj blending in perfect harmony. They then followed it up with 'Taal Rupak' in which the tabla played a mesmerising role in creating melodies that made the whole gathering clap to the beats and enjoy while glued to their seats, soaking up the waves of the beautiful music. The taal- Rupak had a unique beat cycle of seven beats where each of the beats are named- tee, thee, na, dheer, naa, dheer, tha. After feasting our ears on these slow, peaceful, and calming melodies, the talented musicians decided to impress upon us the more fast and exciting aspect of Indian Classical Music by introducing to us the fast-paced taal Teer. In the taal Teer, the revered musicians played at the fastest speed that they could humanly achieve, simultaneously playing a Jhaala, which refers to when music is played faster and faster till it goes into a climax, much like the crescendo in Western Music. Once this came to a close, the musicians decided to lighten up the mood by playing old Hindi songs, some which are extremely famous, and which were not simply music to dance to, like the recent Bollywood songs but those songs that have been composed and created by Raagas and have featured in famous movies as well, for example- Lag Ja Gale. The Music Festival organized by the school and presided over by these three legendary musicians truly kept the audience on the edge of their seats; each person enjoying immensely and clapping their hands or tapping their feet to the rhythm. It was truly a magical experience to listen to classical blends played on a western instrument.



Mr Abhijeet Pohankar

An Appreciation

(Published in the Scindia School Review, Number 226, 31 October, 1958, page 1)

My dear Shukla,

I wonder if room could be found for this in your "Fortnightly Review". We would like not only you, but your boys and all those interested in the Scindia School to know how very greatly we all, from Mayo College, enjoyed our visit to all of you. The excuse for coming was, of course, to play games and our account of these will be found in the next issue of "Mayoor". They were all good matches, keenly and cleanly contested, but another thing we felt strongly was the pleasure of playing before such a sporting crowd. However, though the games may have been the immediate reason, there is a much wider benefit to be drawn from such meetings and we all came away refreshed and inspired with new ideas. Our boys felt that they were at home not only because of similarities in the life lived in both schools, but more because of the friendliness of your boys. Misconceptions were corrected. Perhaps we had thought that, as half of your teaching is in Hindi, your English might be weak. We found that we were wrong. But most stimulating was to watch the smart way in which your boys move about; and we were all enthralled by the beauty of the school and its setting; inspired by the Astachal. This moved me very much and I was reminded of a favourite hymn my mother used to sing to me when I was a small boy. It starts:

"Now the day is over,
Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening
Steal across the sky.

Now the darkness gathers,
Stars begin to peep,
Birds and beasts and flowers
Soon will be asleep.
Jesu, give the weary
Calm and sweet repose;
With thy tenderest blessing
May mine eyelids close."

As you know, I have long wanted to come to the Scindia School, having been aware from masters and old boys I have met from it, and from the influence it had in the Doon School in the early days, that it was something special; and that I certainly found it.

We look forward to next year when you must revisit us, and it would be good if we could arrange for more schools to come too. If meetings can be as happy as ours with you was, I am sure they do a great deal of good to all who take part. Thank you all again very much.

Yours etc.,
J. M. Gibson,
Ajmer Principal, Mayo College, October 17, 1958

5th Scindia Literary Fest: 14 November 2022 to 16 November 2022

Ayaan Shah, Dhir Bharat Jhunjunwala, Nimit Agrawal | IX

The 5th Scindia Literary Fest commenced on 14 November 2021, coinciding with Children's Day. Four renowned *Kavis*, along with ten poets and writers came to the Fort and painted the air 'literary'. The Chief Guest of the Opening Ceremony was Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, an economist and a distinguished Civil Servant. The ceremony of the lighting of the lamp was carried out and guest and dignitaries along with the Principal, Mr Ajay Singh; Vice Principal, Ms Smita Chaturvedi; Dean of Co-curricular Activities, Mr Dharendra Sharma and the Senior School Prefect, Mayank Chaudhary, lighted the lamp, igniting



Lighting of the lamp by Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia

the spirit of the fest in these hallowed portals. To the chant of the Saraswati Vandana, the fraternity began their day, moving onto the respective sessions. The first session with which the 5th Scindia Literary Fest commenced was of Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia and the students sat spellbound all through the session, hanging onto every word of the speaker. The students were informed about his book: *Backstage: The Story Behind India's High Growth Years*. Mr Ahluwalia's calm voice rang through the Assembly Hall. While talking about his book 'Backstage' he recalled the milestones in Indian political history as fond memories. The Talk Show with Dr Ahluwalia was moderated by Mr Vishesh Sahai, Faculty in Economics. The speaker talked about how India suffered as a closed economy for a number of years and the impact of liberalisation and how impactful it was in shaping the India of today.

Meanwhile, Ms Roopal Kewalya took the students on a journey through the film industry at the skating rink. She is a screenwriter by profession. A film direction alumna from NID Ahmedabad, she also does storytelling performances for



Ms Roopal Kewalya interacting with the students

children. As a social-change maker she conducts fun workshops for children, adults, corporates and NGOs in gender sensitization, breaking stereotypes and creative thinking. The 'Little Rainmaker' is her first book. As we toured through the steps of the screenwriting process during the session, from loglines to beat sheets, neck deep in jargon, the students absorbed manifold. The various concepts learnt during the session will go a long way in motivating Scindians for screenplay writing.

Next, the Scindian fraternity welcomed Mr Smarak Swain to talk about his book- 'The Hawala Agent', an appropriation of a real-life case of money laundering and conspiracy. So skillfully has he woven a tapestry of suspense and suspicion as the readers follow his protagonist in the world of tax and



Book signing by Mr Smarak Swain

government, rendered in such rich imagery, dull is the last word for it. Other than his book, he also shared personal anecdotes with the students on writing, college life and working as a civil servant during COVID. With that, the audience left for the library with a lot of enthusiasm, which was only further fuelled by the arrival of new books for the book signing event. The students scoured the shelves trying to quench their newly ignited passion. The long wait had been worth it, as we walked back tired and satisfied, our noses buried in books.

As the evening air cooled, and misty clouds pulled over the vast expanse of the sky, we sat for the *Mahakavi Sammelan*. Four poets, renowned for their deep voice and resonant words, reached into a world beyond our grasp to deliver the sweetest morsels of the spoken word. *Kavi Vineet Chauhan*, *Kavi Raj*



Vidit Gupta with the *kavis*

Kaushik, *Kavi* Dinesh Raghuvanshi, and *Kavi* Dr Vishnu Saxena were the stars of the evening. The fraternity applauded the guests after every line, savouring the words of wisdom. Spinning stanzas upon stanzas, epitomes of their art, the poets filled the evening with, well- the expected warmth and glitter. The audience clapped till their hands became red at every cheer, once again we were privileged beyond comprehension to witness these poets perform together. The evening stretched into night, and the performance, like all good things, came to an end. As the students shuffled into the mess, peals of laughter ricocheted off the moon-bathed walls. The air, cheerful and pleasant, brimmed with the words of the students. Some had finally found their voice.

Ms Rituparna Ghosh a performing artist, and a TEDx speaker, Founder of Your Story Bag, a Storytelling, Training, Consulting & Coaching company had



Ms Rituparna Ghosh interacting with the students

a highly interactive session with the students. She directed students how to form stories and podcast it.

Mr Sharif Rangnekar, communication consultant, ex-journalist, musician, curator, organiser of the Rainbow Lit Fest and most relevantly an author; came to the 5th Scindia Literary Fest to speak about his book, *Straight to Normal; My Life as a Straight Man*. With over 25 years of experience in the fields of media, publishing, research and public relations, he uses talks, writing, event



Book signing by Mr Sharif Rangnekar

curation and music, to advocate change and garner support for the LGBTQ+ community. The various hats he wears and the roles he plays, led him to create the Rainbow Lit Fest – Queer & Inclusive, of which he is the Festival Director. He is also the curator of Embrace: Music Justice Arts and the frontman of the band – Friends of Linger. His book, *Straight to Normal – My Life As A Gay Man*, released early 2019, is amongst the few queer memoirs out of India and the first since the reading down of Section 377. The book has featured in best-selling lists and been recognised by not just sections of the media but by leaders from the fields of academics, politics, human rights, literature and films. Mr Sharif also conceptualised and edited *Realizing Brand India*, a book that mapped a changing perception of India on the global stage. The book was released late 2004 and featured over a dozen thought leaders from the world of economics,

media, information technology and advertising, amongst others.

Mr Gourav Mohanty, writing his debut novel, was invited to speak upon the genre of fantasy as a whole. Pirate princesses and naïve kings, pious assassins and ravenous priests, warrior women and vengeful boys converge where the ‘Son of Darkness’ is prophesied to rise even as Forgotten Gods prepare to play



Vice Principal, Ms Smita Chaturvedi presenting a token of gratitude to Mr Gourav Mohanty

their hand. “Game of Thrones meets Mahabharata in India’s first epic-grimdark fantasy series”- *Sons of Darkness* by Mr Gourav Mohanty. Its brilliantly imaginative talent makes his exciting debut with this epic grim- dark fantasy saga inspired by ancient Indian epic Mahabharata and filled with treachery, war and vengeance, in the tradition of Steven Erikson’s *Malazan Book of the Fallen Series* and George R.R. Martin’s *A Song of Ice and Fire Series*.

Dr Deepti Priya Mehrotra held the evening with a few simple stories, of women who shone brighter than stars facing adversaries against all odds. Her book, *Her Stories; Indian Women Down the Ages* is a love letter to the women of India, who are unrepresented and unheard. Some were celebrated, others vilified while some were casually neglected. Yet, the story of these women lived on ‘Her-Stories’ is a discussion of women from Indian history whose contributions have been all but forgotten. These were poets, performers, warriors, saints, philosophers, activists and more, yet we hardly remember their courage and contributions. The time has come to bring their history to the fore. Their stories describe desperate situations, ingenious strategies and



Dr Deepti Priya Mehrotra during her session

brilliant sparks of feminist consciousness. Rather than accounts of isolated ‘great women’, these stories place at the centre the ordinary woman, in all her splendid diversity, multifaceted struggle and achievement. The women profiled were encouraged and supported by others—their achievements represent the

aspirations of many in the past, and provide inspiration for us in the present. Cutting across several regions of India and presented in chronological order from second millennium BCE, to the mid-nineteenth century India, these are the stories of women who have been thinkers, doers, movers and shakers who have subverted hierarchies, brought peace out of chaos and survived despite routine devaluation. Philosopher Sulabha, philanthropist Vishakha, fearless Uppalavanna, wandering bard Auvaiyar, justice maker Leima Laisna, astronomer Khona, mountain queen Didda, radical poet Akkamahadevi, intrepid Sultan Razia, martial artiste Unniyarcha, poet-saint Janabai, Gond Rani Durgavati, historian Gulbadan, cultural ambassador Harkha, pepper queen Abbakka, fakira Jahanara, brave Onake Obavva, Dalit rebel Nangeli, dancer-diplomat Mahlaqa Bai Chanda, lion queen Jindan, Nawab Begum Qudsia, sharpshooter Uda, guerrillera Hazrat Begum and feminist writer Tarabai Shinde find their way into the book.

Mr Kevin Missal, one of India's most renowned authors was invited to the Fest and he gave us an insight into his work. At the age of 21, he wrote 'Kalki' which turned into a bestseller and earned him recognition in the world of literature. He has written four novels till now ranging from crime to mythology to horror. He had written his first book at the age of 14, which was released by the Chief Minister of Delhi. His second book was written at the age of 16 and was published by a British indie-press. He is a pioneer in writing the World's First



Mr Kevin Missal with the students

InstaRead and is a bestseller on Amazon under horror category. His famous book is Dharmayoddha Kalki: The Avatar of Vishnu.

Capt. Devendra Bhatnagar (Ex-Jayaji, 1974) an alumnus of The Scindia School has written two exquisite books of poetry- Poems from the Seas and Shores: Of Dreams and Mermaids and Of Dreams and Dreamers. Capt. Devendra Bhatnagar, aka Bhutto loves the written word. He also relishes early morning hours when the world sleeps and his dog CJ at his feet, for penning thoughts that flow from his mind to the virtual window of the WhatsApp groups of his friends and family. His second book of poems materialised, thanks to the profound encouragement of an increasing readership. Bhutto was a captain in the merchant navy, and sailed close to 27 years and has circumnavigated the world numerous times on freighters. To all who know him, Devendra is the 'rock', the dependable source of strength, the pillar. He prefers being called a wordsmith rather than a poet. He talked about the overwhelming presence of the Fort on his life and said that he had déjà vu while coming to Gwalior and felt



Mr Devendra Bhatnagar interacting with the students

that he had never left the Fort, he was always here. He marvels at the way that the students of the Fort combine sports and academic education. "Whatever one does, one should do it well", was his message to the students.

Born in Shimla in 1955, Ms Anita Krishan spent the initial twenty-two years of her life in the pristine Himalayan town, earning her master's degree in English literature from Himachal University, and moving on to a career of introducing delights of the language to her young learners. In her long tenure as an educator, she has enriched the lives of countless students with the mystery of the narrative, before moving on to a full-time career in writing. She worked as the senior columnist at The Indian Economist, extending her perspectives on various political and social issues. Ms Anita Krishan talked about her book Ghosts of the Silent Hill, published in January 2020. The book brings to life spine-chilling stories based on the experiences of the people who underwent some bizarre supernatural ordeals. Ms Krishan declared the 5th Scindia Literary Fest closed and thereby the festival which kept the student deeply engrossed came to a close.

The 5th Scindia Literary Fest was truly a festival promoting adolescent imagination and enriched the lives of the dwellers on the fort.



Ms Anita Krishan signing the books

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