

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT GWALIOR

REVIEW-23



WEDNESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2023 | WPP : REGN.NO.GWL.DN.11

FORT NEWS

Weather Report

Under a cloak of an uncannily thick fog, a plethora of migratory birds (the ruddy shelduck and the ibis amongst others) refresh their dwellings upon the fort. The temperature rises and dips ever so slightly remaining on the cool side. Startling winds and playful gales chase Scindians during their journeys from various appointments. A cosy comfort fills the stoic buildings and breathtaking views can be seen in all directions.

Winter Study Camp 2022-23

The school organised the winter study camp for twenty days from 22nd December 2022 to 10th January 2023. It was held for the board classes i.e. 10th and 12th while the students of other classes went back to their homes, the school organised some leisurely activities such as the fete at Jaivillas palace on 23rd December and the New Year's Eve party held on 31st December, which was a great stressbuster for the students. This camp resulted in a quick revision of the syllabus of all the subjects. Not only did the winter study camp improve the concepts of the students but also motivated them to study dedicatedly. The winter study camp brought about improvement in the academic performances of most of the students.

The Visit from An ISRO Scientist

Shri Shyamal Kumar Kanungo, a renowned scientist of Indian Space Research Organisation, who is currently a distinguished professor at ISRO talked to the students about the history and emergence of ISRO. He then gave a brief description of rockets and talked about The Cupola, an observatory module of the International Space Station. He showed a video of scientists wishing Merry Christmas from space. He spoke about the universe and how only 4% of it has been discovered so far. He also mentioned, in the 1960s, when India's aerospace programme was just taking off, a beach just outside Thiruvananthapuram served as the lab for various experiments in aeronautics. Scientists, including Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, converted an out-of-use church (the church of Mary Magdalene) near the beach into their office. He spoke about Nike Apache the first rocket launched by India from the TERLS (Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station), Kerala in November 1963. Further he made a comparison on the old and new Indian satellites. He then informed us about significance of space research and its advantages. He explained the structure of rocket and its working. Altogether, the session was quite knowledgeable and interesting.

University Fair

On 14th December, the second university fair of this academic year was organised by the school to provide students exposure of various college and courses they can opt after their class XII. Students enjoyed the interaction with the representatives from each university from all around the globe. The display was indeed magnificent, and the number of courses available to explore was beyond belief. Questions of all varieties, such as future planning, internships, courses, subjects, etc were raised, it was indeed a fruitful session. The exuberant fair was visited by 38 universities from across the globe. Few of them were OP Jindal Global University, Shiv Nadar University, Anglo-Eastern Maritime Academy, FLAME University, GD Goenka University, Amity University, Xavier University, UPES (University of Petroleum & Energy Studies), American University of Antigua, SRM University, VIT University, University of Westminster, York University Canada and many more.

Makar Sankranti & Lohri

On 14th January 2023, students and faculty alike celebrated the joyous festival of Makar Sankranti that marks the transit of the Sun into the Makar Rashi, usually accompanied by a change in wind currents.



Kite flying at Madhav field

The sky was a riot of colours, kites of all shapes and sizes were strung in the cool blue. It was a frolicsome and highly enjoyable afternoon. The Madhav field was alive with festive spirit as students skilfully directed their kites. Hot tea and scrumptious snacks only improved the windy afternoon.

Junior House Quiz

The Inter-House Junior Group Science Quiz was held on 20th January 2023 in the assembly hall. Each team comprised of 5 participants from classes 6,7 and 8. The quiz was held in 12 rounds covering wide range of interesting topics and themes that kept the participants and audience engaged throughout the evening. Several students surprised themselves and the quiz master by giving some excellent answers to a few challenging questions thrown at them. Overall, it was a great learning experience and an evening well enjoyed by all. In the end, our Principal, Mr Ajay Singh announced the results of the quiz where Nimaji was adjudged winners and Kanerkhed was adjudged the runners up. The quiz primarily encouraged the students to expand their knowledge beyond school textbooks and keep them updated with the constantly changing world.

The Golden Jubilee Reunion

On 25th January, Old Boys of the batch of 1972-73 came back to their home, the campus, to celebrate their Golden Jubilee reunion (50 years). The Old Boys had also visited the school to participate in the Republic Day Parade on 26th January and to interact with the students and the faculty. The batch of 1982-83 also participated with full enthusiasm in this celebration and added charm to the occasion.

A special programme was organised to welcome the Old Boys. The Principal began the session by quoting the inspiring and deeply profound words from a book by an old boy Mr Rajeev Kathpalia. The Assembly hall roared with thunderous applause after hearing the wonderful description of the school's traditions.



School Song sung by the Golden Jubilee batch

Next the alumni spoke about life on the fort and their experiences in the school, most of them found it difficult at first! But the fort had worked its charm, for had they not returned fifty years later? In several accounts they mentioned that, the true value of Scindian education would only reveal itself after we step into the college. This was something we all thought about that day. To conclude this wonderful assembly the Old Boys sang the school song, and the assembly hall was tinged with nostalgia.

Shramjeevis : The Backbone of Scindia School

Shramjeevi is a traditional occasion that occurs annually and has been happening for decades in which we acknowledge the support staff; that is the backbone of our school by organizing several exuberant events for them. The amount of effort they put in, from waking us on time in the houses, cleaning the dormitories, guarding the school and preparing healthy hot meals for us is laudable! During the pandemic, when we were comfortably resting in our homes they were still working in the school. Their dedicated effort in working around-the-clock is truly commendable. Participants this year comprised of the mess staff, the security guards, and the housekeeping staff and their family



Slow cycling race

members who participated in all the athletic events. This year's Shramjeevi took place on the 22nd January and ended on 26th January, in which all the participants showed their inner potential on the fields with great enthusiasm.

Cricket and volleyball matches along with other athletics events such as long-jump, high-jump and shot-put were organised on 22nd January, in which everyone showed their true sportsmanship! On the 26th, interesting games took place, which included needle-thread race and 100 m race along with slow-cycling race(50m), fast cycling race(800m), baby show, kabaddi, and tug of war. Watching them enjoy and play was a moment of delight for all of us!

Basant Panchami: Arrival of Spring

On the 26th of January, along with the patriotic commemorations of Republic Day, Basant Panchami was also celebrated with marvellous performances of Indian classical music in the assembly hall. It was beautifully put together by



Saraswati vandana on Basant Panchmi

the music department led by Mr Raja Banerjee. The first performance was the Saraswati Vandana, which paid a tribute to the Goddess of knowledge and wisdom, in a form of dance. It was gracefully performed by Aarni Sharma, Aanya Pillai, and Ajita Singh. Next up was a classical vocal solo performed by Parikshita Singh, who in a euphonious tone, sang the *Raag Bageshri*. Her performance caused the entire hall to burst into applause. After Parikshita came Krrishn Leelotpal Divyaa, with her flute, ready to take away the audience's breath with her melodies. The next performance astonished the audience, as Lakshya Sharma not only played the tabla but also educated the audience about different taals and rhythmic patterns. The applause didn't stop even for a bit, the audience truly relished this performance. Then came the mischievous and talented pianist, Idhaant Mehrotra, who played peaceful yet amazing tunes on the keyboard. Last but not the least, was the performance of the instrumental orchestra, it was a beautiful blend of many instruments such as the clap box, keyboards, mandolin, tabla and guitar. The performances made everyone's day memorable.

Khelo India

Khelo India, which translates to 'Let's play India', was proposed by the government of India in 2017 to revive India's sporting culture by engaging with children at the grassroots level building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation. The scheme was launched in 2017 and introduced by Col. (Retd.) Rajya Vardhan Singh Rathore, the former sports minister of India. Under Khelo India, talented youth are provided with endowment by taking hold of their overall expenditure from reaching the district levels games till the national level, allowing enhancement of the sports domain of India.



Khelo India mascot at the school

On 23rd January, Khelo India mascot Asha the cheetah, who was named by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, visited The Scindia School where the students welcomed her with loads of enthusiasm. They then participated in a rally escorted by the school's equestrian team, to promote awareness of the 'Khelo India Youth Games.'

Obituary

Our community sadly lost a pillar on 28th December 2022, when Mr P.M. Khar passed away from natural causes. His contributions to the lives of many include his tenure as the house master of Madhav, and a beloved chemistry teacher. Mr Khar is survived by his two daughters, Kaumudi (Ex-Md, 1976), Nandini (Ex-Md, 1981), and a son Sanjay (Ex-Md, 1975). His legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone he interacted with as well as those he reached out but never met. Mr Khar was cremated at 11 am, Wednesday 28th December surrounded by loved ones.

May his soul Rest In Peace.



It is with deep sorrow that we inform that Ms Shailaja Takle mother of Mr Atul Takle (Ex-Rn, 1973) passed away peacefully on 7th January 2023 at her residence in Mumbai amidst her loved ones. She will be missed. Condolence to the bereaved family. May her soul Rest In Peace.

Mr Lalendra Singh

Mr A.N. Dar | (Ex-Rn, 1958 : Former Principal : Madhav Awardee)

Dr. Ingle called me up a while back to inform me that our colleague Lalendra Singh had passed away on account of cardiac arrest. What a loss! He had lost his wife, Tara, a few years back only, and now we have lost him. Really sad! Lalendra was closest to my bungalow in Scindia during my tenure there while he was the housemaster of Jeevaji House. Naturally, it was easy for Rohini and me to drop into their place and have a cup of tea with them off and on in the evenings. They were a happy and pleasant family. During our interaction, Tara was ever smiling in her quiet way and the room would echo with Lalendra's happy laughter. Thank God! We never discussed the school nor did they ever make any request to me for any personal need. He ran a happy house where the boys felt safe and comfortable. Being an Airwing NCC Officer, of course, he was himself a disciplined individual apart from being courteous. I was delighted to see Lalendra organise the IPSC Inter-school Basketball tournament in my very first year there with his typical mathematical precision. No kinds of complaints arose. Among my happiest memories of our association was when I had just come out of my bungalow and was in front of Jeevaji House as Lalendra came out on his scooter. I stopped him to request him to take me outside Urawi Gate, as I was informed that our bore-well had struck water. We came to the spot near Shabd Pratap Ashram to find water gushing out of a pipe. I washed my face and had a gulp of that cold water. We were all waiting for this water. It cheered me up just as would Lalendra's company. May God give peace to his soul and his children bear this personal loss. We are all with them.



OLD BOYS' NEWS

It gives us immense pleasure to announce that Sashikant Shukla (Ex-Vivekanand, 1984) has been promoted as DIG at Bhopal. Our heartiest congratulations.



Students visit Jai Villas Palace

On 12th January 2023. The Scindia School and the Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya were invited to interview five distinguished guests. In the sun-soaked lawns of Jai Villas palace student members of the various school publications were engaged in various intellectual conversations. Mentioned below are assorted nuggets of wisdom and wit curated by school journalists of two of them.

In Conversation with Mr Goswami (Historian)

Q. Seeing your connection with French history, could you tell us what would be the state of the world's biggest democracies if the French revolution never happened?

ANG: In the French revolution the great concepts of liberty equality and fraternity were the major outcomes of the revolution. Not only did the French define the fundamental principles of democracy but also these important ideals (liberty equality and fraternity).

Q. If the French revolution wouldn't have taken place all the world's largest democracies might not have existed or would be in a state of turmoil, as these ideals were the foundation upon which a healthy democracy had emerged.

ANG: The French revolution emphasised democracy's new pillar, the 4th pillar of democracy -the media. French philosophers like Baron de Montesquieu and Jean Jaques Roseau said, "a man is born free but everywhere in chains".

Q. How was the Varna system in India continued even though Lord Ram in Hindu mythology had breached it by eating the half-eaten fruits of Shabri who was a lower caste woman?



With Mr Arunansh Goswami at Jai Vilas Palace



ANG: Lord Ram did break the Varna system by this measure as Shabri was a tribal woman, the tribal community was not counted in the Varna system along with the 'vanaras' who were not monkeys but tribal people. He also took help from a tribal king namely 'Nishadraj', who helped him during his stay in the forest.

Lord Ram was 'Maryada Purushottam' which means he was best among the people who he lived around. And so, he did not make the stereotypical mentality that the lower caste people had no rights compared to the upper caste people who were provided with privileges since their birth. Lord Ram also killed these tribal people who were in the form of 'rakshasas' and 'asuras'. Lord Ram used to protect the rishis who performed various yagnas and were disturbed by these demons.

Q. Iliad and Ramayana are correlated as mentioned in your blogs. Could you elaborate on some similarities between the two epics?

ANG: In the Iliad, Paris abducts Helen, and Troy is attacked and burned. Similarly, In the Ramayana, Sita, the wife of Ram, is abducted, and Lanka is attacked and burned by Hanuman, the monkey commander of the 'vanara' army, who, as a child, attempted to grab the Sun when he mistook it for a fruit. One more reference is that Ram is accompanied by Laxman, whom he loves dearly, and, at one point, he gets severely injured in battle, almost dying because of his wounds, though he is rescued by Hanuman. Similarly, Achilles is followed by Patroclus, who is devoted to him. Patroclus is injured and killed by Hector, who stabs him in the stomach with a spear.

Q. How does a stereotype take the shape of actual belief? How were the Jews regarded as a non-pure race even though that claim had no logical ground? What would you comment?

ANG: Hitler being a powerful speaker, influenced the whole crowd to believe that Jews were a non-pure Aryan race. Hitler hated Jews by stating one of the reasons was false news that had spread during the First World War that the Jews had betrayed Germany and that is why Hitler was being extremely patriotic and therefore wanted to take revenge. However, another reason was that Hitler also wanted to have a lot of land where he would only establish the Aryans. The fact that Jews were hated because of economic prosperity. People were jealous of their economic strength another reason was that they were being used as a scapegoat. Another factor was related to their mythological connotations claiming that Jews were responsible for the martyrdom of Christ.

Q. Why was Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja considered such a timeless ruler during the age that he lived in? Also, could you elaborate on the connection between him and the Scindia Marathas?

ANG: The proto-nationalist aspiration of the Maratha King, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaja was beyond the age he was living in; India a civilisational state has to be one geo-political entity from Sindhu the Indus to Sindhu the Indian Ocean, so was the desideration of this visionary tiger of Sahyadri. Prince of Wales Edward VIII said on 19th November 1921, that "Shivaji not only founded an empire but created a nation". Chhatrapati Shivaji's idea of leaving Maharashtra for a Southern Campaign or Dakshin Digvijay vindicates the absence of aspiration of creating just a regional state, and promote parochial regional chauvinistic sentiments, what he planned was bigger, grander and sublime, he planned to overthrow the rule of the Mughal emperor of Delhi, destroy the power of European invaders and establish what he called 'Hindavi Swarajya' an inclusive India ruled by Indians. But when he left this mortal world, his empire though bigger than many other rulers, was far from being an empire dominating the entire Indian subcontinent, but his vision was carried forward by Scindias, who historically had an important role in establishing the Maratha supremacy, in the Indian subcontinent

In Conversation with Ms Suparna Bhalla (Architect)

Q. How do you try to reflect the pluralism of India in your work?

SUB: Well, that's a really complex question. I think in a world so full of biases we sometimes entirely forget about pluralism. There is this constant pressure of uniformity- an arbitrary notion that uniformity equals equality. To me, the only way to truly sensitise a society is by celebrating our differences. We need to make people realise that their differences are beautiful. We need to bring out differences, not suppress them.

Q. How do you want people to interact with monuments?

SUB: In our country especially, there is a belief that monuments are these things that need to be mummified. It's an antiquated British law that someone still influences both the decision-makers as well as the common public. But the truth is monuments, at least for an architect like myself, are living and breathing entities. They too need people, plants, and animals to fill them up, they're built for everyone. There was such a void in the field of museology post-independence, there were experts on handling and caring for ancient objects and structures, but the approach taken back then, was not to touch it or meddle with it at all. The consequences which we face even today. There's so much poetry in those buildings, but will we be able to hear it?

Q. What do you think is the prevalence of monuments?

SUB: Ahh, this is a simple question, but an important one. It has a lot to do with the senses. Humans are sensory, it's the animal in us, and we have the urge to touch, smell, to taste. We as a society have gotten so mechanised, we have forgotten the human touch. The eye deceives, sight has become magnified, and hearing enhanced but touch gets lost. Monuments provide us with this elusive sense of touch; we get to experience the past in another way.

Follow up question : So, keeping that in mind what is the approach to restoration? We are, quite literally, sitting in one of your projects! (Javillas Palace)

SUB: Restoration is a tricky process. Technology, keeping in mind its many benefits, can really destroy the character of the structure. Accessibility comes at a cost. We, as restorative architects, try to conceal technology so as to not take away from the experience. Our goal is only to maintain them for as long as possible, but this comes with the constant knowledge that one day they will crumble, and that is okay- for they have fulfilled their purpose.

Q. How did you discover that architecture is something you wanted to do?

SUB: I've always considered myself an accidental architect. I was all over the place before, a pilot, and an astrophysicist amongst other professions that were only similar in the aspect that they were unconventional, to put it mildly. I was walking with a few of my friends to their entrance exam when I weighed my options; sit in the hot sun for two hours or take a random paper just for the fun of it. I obviously picked the latter. My friends however were not so lucky, haha.

Regardless of this, I only have Mr Pradip Sachdeva to thank for my career, he made me love buildings. He took me in when I had no experience, fresh out of college; partially against my wanting- working for him was an amazing experience.



With Ms Suparna Bhalla

Reliving and Celebrating Childhood

Ms Seema Sharma | (Ex-Vivekanand , 1977)

After almost 45 years, got a chance to revisit the earlier frequented places on the Gwalior Fort which were regularly visited in the 70s when I was a small girl studying in The Scindia School. The day scholars' group (children of Scindia school staff), decided to meet on the Fort and visit our alma mater. Since the day this decision was taken, I was quite apprehensive because our age groups were different, graduating years were different, and the times we had lived on the fort were also different. The only common thing was that we all had spent our childhood in the lovely ambience of the Fort, of course at different times. Anyways the confidence was still there, that this difference would not matter because we had so many other things in common.

The graduates from the 1962 batch... to the graduates from the 1991 batch were all under the same roof for the 16th and 17th of December, staying in the SOBA House. Under the leadership of Mr Atul Takle, Director Alumni of Scindia School, and Mr Hemchand(1989 batch, Ravindra House). Hemchand, despite being a boarder himself, took the initiative of making a WhatsApp group of day scholars from varied batches and ages. He was instrumental in motivating and organising our day scholars' meet for which we are all indebted to him. Many others also wanted to join but due to certain circumstances, they could not make it. The best thing was that the local day scholars staying in Gwalior made it a point to be on the Fort from morning till night.

The initial meetings were so heart-warming and emotional that they are difficult to describe. For a second we forgot the difference in age and difference of batches. We kept talking about each other's parents who used to be great friends in their own times when we were small children.

Soon we were ushered into the Common Room of SOBA House by Mr Atul Takle, who wanted to make this meeting a little formal followed by a few announcements for the two days that we were going to be there. We started with our introduction, and I tell you, it was not easy, because going down memory lane and then speaking about ourselves and our connection with the Fort and The Scindia School could not have been done without being emotional. The moment my turn of speaking came, lots of things about our childhood had already been spoken about, like the staff barracks, which used to not have any partitions, where we as children used to keep running and playing in front of each other's houses without any complaints from the owners. The chidkav (watering of the ground) followed by the spreading of charpais from one end to the other during the summers for all of us to sleep in open in front of our houses and which looked like a big dormitory under the sky and how sleeping under the star-studded sky used to be such a beautiful experience. Our backyards were 'Ber' and 'Jungle Jalebi' trees which used to be everybody's favourites. Listening to all this made me feel as if all of us together had been threaded into a string of pearls. When my turn to speak came, I literally choked, unable to utter a single word, all these memories had flooded my mind, making me unable to speak.

After this, we had to proceed for lunch towards the School Building which was as usual quite interesting. Unaware of the timings to be followed, we were busy



Dayscholar's Reunion

posing and clicking photos as we neared the mess. At that moment we were not our age, but we were a bunch of small boys and girls who were stringless, free birds, without any restrictions and boundaries following their whims and fancies.

After lunch, we stood in front of the Open-Air Theatre and sat on the 'Wisdom Bench' (the bench in front of the OAT), which had so many memories attached to it. Then going towards the Jayaji House and seeing the modern amenities which had been added to the House really made us feel proud. In our times the students who stayed in their houses did not have so much comfort, but I believe this change was the demand of the hour. In the end, we all must keep pace with the changing times. On the way, we saw all the houses including Daulat and Jayappa which were newly constructed and then came to the iron gate leading to the Shivaji Parapat (of course the closed gate was not a good sight for us because our times we had no gates anywhere and at any place. Every nook and corner of the Fort was open for all of us anytime and at any moment of the day).

After the afternoon's stroll, we came back to the SOBA House, for 'Nihari' in which we had a hot cup of coffee/tea along with tasty kachoris which were made in the School Mess.

An interesting event that was coming over post-dinner was the 'Bon Fire' which was no less than a cherry on the cake. We all sat on the chairs spread in a circle around the fire singing, talking, and eating revari, gajak, chikki and cookies. Captain Vivekanad Roy played on his guitar while singing Kishore Kumar's songs. Shantanu Mukherjee (Bapi) sang numerous songs from various singers, which were all very pleasing and soothing to the ears. I too, sang a few Gazals. Nobody wanted to get up but finally, we had to call it a day because some of us had travelled the very same day and though we were physically exhausted we were mentally and emotionally charged.

The next day was quite eventful. We attended the Morning Assembly. Some of us attended it for the first time after passing out from school. So, it left us totally mesmerized. There was a slight difference between our time assembly and today's assembly. In our times we all used to have prayer books in our hands which we used to refer to while singing and pronouncing shlokas but today the songs and shlokas were on the screen in the front, for our reference. Mr Atma Ram Sharma (My father) used to start the Assembly by pronouncing the shlokas which were repeated by all of us. But today I saw two students reciting the shlokas. The Principal Mr Ajay Singh summed up the Assembly in a beautiful manner by narrating a thought-provoking incident through which values were inculcated then and there. But I felt the absence of piano very much, whose chords, I used to love. The Morning Assembly left us speechless and pleasantly surprised and happy.

After breakfast, we took a round of the school bloc and saw the woodwork department which had undergone various changes followed by our visit to the exquisite and modern science lab which was so well equipped. Meanwhile, we kept talking to each other telling each other how things had changed, of course for the better. We also bought souvenirs from the store like school caps, school badges, school mugs, school socks, school tracksuits so on and so forth.

Post lunch Mr Jitendra Jawle along with Hemchand obliged us by taking us to our favourite spot, the area close to the Fort Wall, which used to be the hanging out place for most of us during our leisure times. The Khamba Tal stood in the same magnificent manner as it used to be. The Tamarind, Ber and Jungle Jalebi trees stole our hearts. The Parapat near the Khamba Tal was a beautiful sight for all of us. We got ourselves clicked in different poses once again. The Sun was just right for all of us. Peeping down the parapet was an experience, especially the small houses, curved roads, and green trees.

It was time for all of us to assemble in FRC (Faculty Resource Centre) for a cup of tea with the Principal. This was the most enjoyable time as each one of us got busy sharing anecdotes related to our yester years. It seemed as if the Principal was the Supreme Power sitting on the throne and hearing out the cases, and all of us, though some of us were elder than him in age, at that time it seemed that we all were young boys and girls still in our school years and all eager to make ourselves heard. Each one of us had so much to share with him

and none of us wanted to wait for our turns also. In fact, in our heart of hearts, we were waiting for the other person to stop so that we could speak. There was a kind of a race going on as if wanting to express as much as we could and make the Principal understand why we were so proud of the times that we had spent in the School and on the Fort. The conversation revolved around especially the fulfilled childhood that we had on the Fort and how the life of boarders was very different from the life of day scholars. They had their house, games field, and school at their disposal, whereas apart from the whole School, Fort starting from the Mansingh Palace to the Shivaji Parapat was at our disposal. What fun we had roaming around from one place to another and the ways our fathers had worked hard in the school with lots of dedication and unlimited commitment and the pride of which was visible in each one of our eyes. Each one of us felt so proud to be the daughters and the sons of our parents, because of who the school is what it is today, that is the number 1 school in the country. This meeting could have gone on and on because we had so much to tell, and the Principal and the Vice Principal were very eager to hear about our pranks, freedom, and carefree life that we all enjoyed.

But alas this informal chit-chat had to come to an end because we all had to proceed towards the Astachal. This was the ultimate moment for all of us. The silence, the setting sun going down the horizon, the holy words being spoken by the students and the Pious Hymn being sung by one of the students, and finally the meditation for a few minutes left us totally enchanted. Even after getting up, we did not feel like talking for some time. We wanted to walk in silence. The discipline of the students being set by the overpowering seniors and prefects deserves to be appreciated. Astachal was a combination of being with one's own self, listening to the thought-provoking messages being shared along with being with nature, listening to the chirping of birds, swaying of trees, and also feeling the breeze on the cheeks and in the hair. Where can anyone get all this? Only on the Fort and in The Scindia School.

Evening dinner with the Principal and the staff was again a moment of joy and learning for all of us because we met so many teachers, most of them being fresh faces to us. Though my eyes were looking for staff members of my time (though I knew most of them were no more and those who were there had become quite old and frail, and the thought disturbed me). The beaming new staff members were eager to introduce themselves and know more about us. It was so heartening to find that they already knew about our parents, and it was so very lovely to interact with them and acquaint ourselves with them

I remember when I had come to know about Mr Bakshi's leaving the school, I was very apprehensive as I felt, 'whom will I call from the gate if I had to visit the school?' because he was the last known face to me on the campus. But today after meeting the friendly staff, the Principal, and the Vice Principal, I had no doubts in my mind about my homecoming in the times to come. I could feel that warmth, hospitality, and welcoming attitude in everyone's eyes, which filled my heart with lots of reassurance that I could come here anytime. The whole experience of them asking us and us telling them about ourselves was very heart warming. I came to know about so many new things that have become a part of the school curriculum along with the old things which were still being continued. Felt very proud of the fact that how Scindia School is an amazing amalgamation of new and old.

It has been a day since coming from the Fort, but it seems as if I'm still sleeping

in the SOBA House bed and getting up in the morning and seeing the sunrise behind the Sas Bahu Temple from my balcony. The sun's rays fall onto my face leaving me in a trance. Suddenly I woke up and touch my foot covered with one of my socks because I could feel a thorn attached to it. To my surprise I discover that this thorn is from the grass behind the Khamba Tal. A smile spreads all over my face. I bend forward to take it out then feel it in between my fingers, as if not wanting to part with it because it had come along with me from the Fort of Gwalior, the Scindia School, where I had grown up, learnt the nuances and the values of life which are still an integral part of me, myself and my personality.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Alumnus,

You are kindly reminded to nominate Old Boys of The Scindia School who have distinguished themselves in their professional fields and send your nominations to me by 31st March 2023. The proposer needs to submit:

1. Brief particulars of the nominee mentioning his / her achievements and contribution on the basis of which the nomination is being made.
2. Nominee's correct contact information.
3. Names and contact information of two referees who have no link with the school in any manner.

I shall appreciate your kind cooperation in this important endeavour to honour our distinguished alumni.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ajay Singh

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Printed by	: Galaxy Printers, Gwalior
URL	: www.scindia.edu
OLD BOYS' SITE	: www.scindia.edu/alumni
FEBRUARY 1, 2023	WPP : Regn.No.Gwl.Dn.11
Feedback	: chetanb@scindia.edu
Price	: Re. 1

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