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THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT GWALIOR

REVIEW-15



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EDITORIAL

Pavan Jaini | X E



*Salvete readers!

Welcome to the latest issue of the Review. The Fort has been suffused with visitors, events and activities in the period just gone by. Everybody in the school seems to be talking about how well the Platinum Debate & Quiz went or how well the students marched on their 'heels' during the Independence Day Parade. Whether it is the sultry weather or the extremely demanding routine, nothing seems to dampen the spirit of the students, although early morning rain is always appreciated (we all know why!!)...

The school welcomed many Old Boys from the Batch of 2000, several of them with their families who returned to the fort to celebrate the Crystal Jubilee Reunion of their batch. They were seen all over the school reuniting with their batch-mates, teachers and favourite (or not so favourite) places. It was not uncommon to see an Old Boy surrounded by a group of students intently listening to the crazy stories that they had to share and those stories almost always started with "back in our days..." or "in our time..." and seemed to end with "now look how many facilities you people have".

The SOBIR initiative was also launched and inaugurated with great gusto. This initiative aims to bring Old Boys from different parts of the world back to the fort to share their wisdom and knowledge not only with the students but with the staff as well. The SOBIR initiative provides an opportunity to Old Boys to share and 'give back' to the school in a more structured and formal way.

The Independence Day Parade was another exciting event that took place; all Houses performed very well and marched sprightly with discipline. Though the March Past is long over, one can still see students fiercely debating over the controversial results. For now, the students can breathe a sigh of relief, until Republic Day...

The 42nd Platinum Jubilee Memorial Inter-school Debate was a great success and we witnessed good quality debating, not to mention the young judges who made this event even more successful. To continue on the fizz of the Platinum Debate & Quiz, the 4th Edition of the Editors' Conference is just round the

corner and the students and teachers are running around the entire campus and catering to every single detail with meticulous care. The entire school is eagerly awaiting this year's Editors' Conference as it has grown by leaps and bounds from its inception and has proven to better itself every year.

On a more serious note, there has been a marked increase in terrorist activities in the recent past and the situation seems to be worsening. Ever since the beheadings of innocent captives conducted by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), few terrorist organizations from across the world have pledged themselves to the ISIS e.g. the Boko Haram. The ISIS is a Sunni, extremist, jihadist rebel group which is wreaking havoc in Iraq and Syria, and it has now been reported that they have gained more than half of Iraq and Syria's territory. Terrorism has become a full-fledged industry; ISIS is actually luring adult recruits by tempting them with lucrative offers such as healthcare and the protection of their children and families if they come and join the ISIS. More the number of children they bring better will be the wages paid. Let us go across the ocean; there has been a bombing by an unidentified person in a shrine in Bangkok's main shopping district. The authorities have suspected that this 'person' is a part of a vast nexus of terrorist cells in Thailand. This bombing is said to have been the worst attack, the country has ever seen with over a hundred people injured and around 20 confirmed dead. And on our home turf, the Gurdaspur terrorist attack was the recent in a spate of these attacks.

The human mind has taken such gigantic scientific leaps in the last 100 years but it seems we are yet to look inside ourselves. Only a spiritually evolved society can truly be a civilized society. I once read, "Where religion ends, spirituality begins". I leave it for the readers to interpret my last line. Letters to the Editor are welcome.

*Is a Latin word for Greetings



SOBiR LAUNCH - A REPORT

Mr Vishesh Sahai

SOBiR (Scindia Old Boys in Residence) was inaugurated on the 13th of August 2015 with much fanfare. The Assembly Hall was fully-packed with all students and faculty waiting eagerly for the Opening Ceremony to commence at quarter past eleven in the morning. The wait wasn't long, and as soon as the guests arrived, Divyaditya Singh, the School Prefect, who was anchoring the event, requested the Guests of Honour to light a lamp. After divine invocation, he invited the Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat to begin the ceremony. Principal in his welcome address, paid rich tributes to Dr Abhimanyu Acharya and Dr Dnyanraj Manik Prabhu who had arrived on the Fort as prime participants of SOBiR. Other dignitaries who were welcomed by the Principal were, Mr Gopal Bhargava, President-Central SOBA, Dr Vikram Mathur, Immediate Past President-Central SOBA, Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha, Vice President-Central SOBA and Mr Sandeep Agarwal, Secretary-Central SOBA.

After the Principal's address, Dr Vikram Mathur who has been associated with SOBiR from its nascent stages introduced the concept to the entire community. He also read a note from Dr Prashant Prabhu (Ex MD, 1967), the one who conceptualized SOBiR. Dr Prashant Prabhu had sent this note especially for SOBiR's inaugural ceremony.

The note said, "As I look ahead to the setting sun on my professional career, in anticipation of retirement from active employment, I was motivated by a desire to find a way to give back to the institutions that, I felt, had been instrumental in anything I had been able to do in my life. I wanted to find a way to "give back" that would acknowledge, in a small way, what I had received. I was not surprised to find Scindia at the top of that list and I am sure Scindians anywhere would agree with me, each of us, for our own, personal reasons."

This was followed by Mr Gopal Bhargava's introduction of Dr Dnyanraj Manik Prabhu, (Ex MD, 1975). Highlights from Mr G. Bhargava's introduction of Dr Dnyanraj Prabhu are given hereunder:

"Dr D.R. Prabhu is a spiritual leader and currently is the Peethadhipati of Shri Manik Prabhu Samsthan, which is a premier socio-religious institution in South



SOBiR participants, Principal and the Old Boys enjoying light conversations.



SOBiR participants lighting the lamp of knowledge.

India. He is also a prolific writer in Hindi, Marathi and Urdu. He has composed over five hundred compositions in Hindi and Urdu, portraying the various shades of human emotions. He has also written on a spectrum of subjects such as philosophy, religion and current affairs. Recognizing his contribution in the field of literature and philosophy, the Gulbarga University honoured him by awarding an Honorary Doctorate degree."

This was followed by a speech of Dr Dnyanraj Prabhu who spoke candidly in Hindi and bejeweled it with 'Shlokas' in chaste Sanskrit.

After this, it was time for Mr Sandeep Agarwal who introduced Dr Abhimanyu Acharya, (Ex JA, 1969) to the august house. Highlights from Mr S. Agarwal's introduction of Dr Abhimanyu Acharya are presented below.

"Dr A. Acharya is an alumnus of the St. Stephen's College and the JNU, New Delhi. He earned his Doctorate from University of Cheshire, UK, in Human Resource Management. In his illustrious long career, he has been in leadership and consultative roles with several organizations of great prominence and reputation e.g. the Jamnalal Bajaj Seva Trust, ITC Education Trust, WWF-India, Indian School of Business-Hyderabad, The Administrative Staff College of India-Hyderabad and Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. He was also the Editor of The Hindu, Opportunities. He is currently the Lead Associate of AA Associates based in Hyderabad. He is also the Educational Adviser to H.E. Sheikh Faisal Bin Khalid Mohammad Al Qasimi of Sharjah, UAE and is the Founding Dean of the Royal University College, Sharjah."

This was followed by an interesting talk by the eloquent speaker, Dr A. Acharya. He went down the memory lane, to his days in school, not as a student but as a teacher, in humorous ways that entertained the listeners.

This was followed by two musicals; first a welcome song in English and then a melodious song in Bengali originally composed by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore which used to be a Scindia School prayer in the seventies. With this, it was the end of the Opening Ceremony.

For the next two days, the SOBiR participants left no stone unturned to pour their ocean of knowledge and experience, to the students and the staff alike.



Old Boys at the Astachal.

Brief summary of Dr Acharya's contributions and interactions:

Interaction with Debating Society:

He interacted with the boys of the English Debating Society. He spoke about the importance of voice modulation and mannerisms during the debate and provided useful tips for effectively speaking a debate along with examples.

Interaction with Project Based Learning Team:

In a session, especially on Project Based learning (PBL), he shared his insights on PBL and how it could be integrated with the school curriculum. He remarked that one interesting way to look at the boys' daily routine is that boys spend approximately 40 % of their time in school and the rest 60% in their Houses and on the sports fields. He suggested the use of this 60% quantum of time to initiate some projects after school hours, in a way that it complements the curriculum or reinforces certain concepts that they learn during school hours. A repository of suggestions has been developed and will soon be brought out.



Dr A. Acharya talking to young scindians.

Interaction with class X students:

Dr A. Acharya addressed the Class X students and explained some parts of the classic poem, 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He read it out aloud with proper stress and intonation and explained the first part briefly. Dr Acharya specifically emphasized the use of narrative techniques such as personification, archaic words and repetition to create a sense of danger. He also focused on the supernatural element, strong human emotions, and the idea of sin and restoration which permeate throughout the poem. It was an interactive session wherein he asked short questions and a few students answered promptly. Dr Acharya specifically stressed upon the geographical location of the poem and instructed the boys to gather more information on their own by surfing the net.

Interaction with English Faculty

He suggested that sections must be split up on the basis of levels of attainment of language. Speaking English should be made compulsory and for defaulters a penalty-system in the form of demerits to a House could be introduced. The first task should be to encourage them to speak and then subsequently work at the accuracy of language. He suggested that corrections of incorrect usage should be made by the teacher unobtrusively so that the child does not lose confidence.

Role Play with Class VI

Dr Acharya had a free & frank conversation with the children. They all shared their hobbies and interests with him. In groups of four, students were given a situation to mime. Later four other students were asked to fill in the acting with dialogues. Peer feedback was taken and the actors kept repeating the same performance, improving each time by incorporating the suggestions given by their peers. Dr Acharya showed the road-map of a good play, which included proper planning, good storyline, assigning roles, coordination, time management etc. The students loved the session and almost every child participated in it very actively.

English lesson with Class XI

The poem, 'Father to Son' was taught by Dr Acharya. He explained them the breakdown of communication between father and son, in the poem. It ignited an interesting discussion on generation gap. The rhyme scheme and the essence of the poem was understood en-masse by active involvement of the class.

English lesson with Class XII

Dr Acharya taught a poem, 'An elementary school classroom in a slum' by Stephen Spender. The uniqueness of this class was that he did not teach in the traditional sense, instead he used the thinking skills of the boys via a highly interactive mode as a tool for learning. The boys brought out the nuances on their own and Dr Acharya only played the role of a facilitator.

Interaction with Editorial Boards of various publications of the school

He had an hour long session with the Editorial Boards of various publications, where he poured all his journalistic ideas. His insights were simply amazing. He told the boys to always keep the existing readers and potential readers in mind before even thinking about publications. He suggested that potential readers could be divided into age-groups and gender to get a better sense of what to write and what not to write in the publications. This way, one might get new ideas on how to increase the readership of the publications. He particularly discussed the Review and Qila Quotes in detail. He talked about the photographs and their placement in the Newsletter which is of prime importance. He suggested the Review Editorial Board to encourage the readers to write 'Letter to the Editor' which will make the Review more interactive. He also said that controversies must be printed as they tend to increase readership.



SOBiR participants sharing a light moment with the Review editor Mr V. Sahai.



Brief summary of Dr Dnyanraj Prabhu's contributions and interactions:

The first session

In the first session, Dr Dnyanraj Manik Prabhu talked about the language and culture. He described these two words from the context of the school song and he said that without knowing the culture, one cannot learn the proper language. He also told the students the inherent reason of the 'English' wishing Good Morning, is the infrequent occurrence of sun in the sky in Europe resulting into a generally grey sky. Unlike Europe, in India we say 'Namaste' because we believe that everyone is the reflection of God. While describing culture, he said that what we wear, speak, eat and think is culture.

Session with Class VIII

In a session with class 8th, Dr. Manik Prabhu described the word '*Punya tirth hey*', the words from the school song. He also talked about the '*Paap*' and '*Punya*'. He said that the meaning of these two words changes according to the situation and he gave them some very simple examples. Class 8th students asked several questions based on this topic. They were very excited and related the topic with their own actions in their minds.

Interaction with Hindi Faculty

In a discussion with the teachers of the Hindi faculty, Dr Manik Prabhu remembered his time when his Gurus used to give students all their free time and used to teach the chapters like a story, an art becoming rarer day by day. He remembered the way his teachers taught them how to think. They encouraged boys to write. He also said that they were not teaching the whole class but were teaching a group of individuals. They were not subject teachers but were living examples of those subjects themselves.

In conversation with Prefects

While talking to the prefects, he said that during his time things were different. He said that today's leadership requires them to lead by example. He mentioned that discipline should be from within. He gave the metaphor of an egg and explained that if the egg breaks from outside then one life is destroyed and if it breaks from inside then, one life is born.

Session with Class VI & VII Students

In the session with class 6 and 7 students, Dr Manik Prabhu told them a few stories about Akbar and Birbal which were related to the importance of language, tone and choice of words. He also told the children about *dhyān* and its benefits. He then asked a few students to recite a few poems. This was then followed by Dr Manik Prabhu teaching them the art of recitation which was simply mesmerizing. He told the children about *Gyan* through examples taken from our everyday lives.

In conversation with students of Sanskrit

While talking to the students of Sanskrit he said that we were the first ones to be civilized, hence the language was named as '*Sanskrit*'. Perhaps that is why we call '*Sanskrit*' a '*Devvaani*'. He threw light on '*Guru Shishya Parampara*' and described the Sanskrit words '*Bhratri*', '*Pashu*' and '*Bharat*'. He said that the moon doesn't have its own light and it shines from the light that is reflected from the sun and similarly we shine with the light of wisdom that we receive from our gurus.

Interaction with the faculty

While interacting with the faculty, Dr. Manik Prabhu spoke on '*Shrimad Bhagvad Geeta*' and '*Vedant Darshan*'. He told the teachers that '*Geeta*' is a dialogue between a teacher and a student. He described the word GOD and drew an analogy between 'consciousness' and 'God' and finally concluded that God is nothing but consciousness. He threw light on the practical aspect of Geeta and said that Geeta is non-religious and is truly secular in nature.

The Valedictory Session

A Thanksgiving Ceremony was organized at the Astachal for the learned SOBiR participants. This was attended by all students, Class of 2000 which had arrived for a reunion, SOBA office bearers, faculty and a few members of the Board of Governors. The ceremony was anchored by Mr Vishesh Sahai who succinctly summarized the unquantifiable contributions of the two SOBiR participants. Both, Dr Acharya and Dr Prabhu gave short speeches and in the end Principal, Dr M.D.Saraswat presented them with mementoes as a token of school's gratitude.



Dr D.M. Prabhu giving a talk to the staff.

The successful execution of the concept was carried out by the stewardship of Central SOBA office bearers along with the Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat who was ably assisted by the Bursar-Col. S. Kaushal, Director of Alumni Relationship- Mr G.S. Bakshi, Dean of Studies-Mr Dharendra Sharma, SOBiR coordinator-Mr Shailesh Agarwal, HoD Hindi-Mr Manoj Mishra and HoD English- Ms Puja Pant.

School's Viewpoint

It was an initiation of a new phase of evolution, with a futuristic vision. The positive changes which have long been envisioned have finally taken concrete shape. It ended with an optimistic note that this new structure would deliver the much needed impetus required to make SOBA and The Scindia School engage in a more meaningful, effective way, benefitting all stakeholders.

42nd Platinum Debate and Quiz - A Report

Pawan Jaini (X E) and Yohen Thounaojam (X B)

The 42nd Platinum Jubilee Inter-School Memorial English Debate and Quiz were hosted by The Scindia School from the 20th - 23rd of August. The participants were: Vasant Valley School, New Delhi; Maharani Gayatri Devi School, Jaipur; Genesis Global School, Noida; Mother's International School, New Delhi; Welham Girls School, Dehradun; Army School, Dehradun; Mayo College Boys, Ajmer; Step by Step Jaishree Periwal High School, Jaipur; Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Gwalior and The Scindia School, Gwalior.

The Platinum English Debate constituted of a Ranking Round, Qualifying Round, the Semi Final and The Final Round. The general level of debate in each round was good and teams appeared well read and prepared. Each debater gave interesting and convincing arguments and it must have been a tough job for the judges to decide the winners. The judges were: Mr Shamik Chakravarty, a former teacher of The Scindia School, who is now pursuing a doctorate from IIT Delhi; Mr Aayush Tandon (Ex RN, 2011), Ms Sulekha Agarwal and Ms Akshata Milind Limaye, all three, final year students of Law at GLC Mumbai. The young judges brought with them several new perspectives of debating which they shared with all the participants.

The topic for the Final was, 'Girls have it better than the boys'. The debate was a heated one and several interesting perspectives were given. Eventually, MGD Girl's School, Jaipur won the debate.

Lt. General Syed Ata Hasnain, PVSM, UYSUM, AVSM, SM, VSM and BAR, a second generation Army Officer, was the Chief Guest of the Final Round of the Platinum Jubilee Inter School English Debate. He is an alumnus of Sherwood College, Nainital and St Stephen's College, New Delhi.

Earlier in the day, he had an hour long interactive session in the auditorium with students and teachers alike. During this session several interesting topics were raised, discussed and debated. Lt. General S.A. Hasnain spoke on various aspects of leadership and also established a historical connect between the Boarding schools and the Army. He said that 'Passion in the heart and Fire in the Belly' is all that matters to achieve something and it is only through



Gen Hasnain giving away a trophy to a VVS Delhi student.

affection and comradeship that one can lead a productive team.

The 'Inquizitive' society which is run by Mr Kamlesh Singh and Mr Ashok Shivaraman organized the Platinum Quiz which had two on-stage Semi-Finals followed by a Final. The Quizmaster was Mr Ajay Poonia (Ex SH, 2006) who was at his exuberant best. The quiz had several rounds based on different themes which challenged the quizzers in interesting ways. Shantanu Kulshreshta and Hritvik Arjun Mehrotra of The Scindia School represented the school in quiz and reached the final round. Mayo College, which was a few points behind the VVS team, answered the last question on the buzzer to take a lead and win the quiz.

Result of the Platinum Jubilee English Debate:

- I Maharani Gayatri Devi Girl's school, Jaipur
- II Vasant Valley School, Delhi

Result for the Platinum Quiz:

- I Mayo College, Ajmer
- II Vasant Valley School, Delhi



Shantanu and Hritvik in action during the Platinum Quiz.



Dr M.D. Saraswat giving away the Quiz trophy to Mayo College, Ajmer.



FORT NEWS

After heavy showers and a few pleasant days last week, humid weather is back again. Overall the Fort is green and Suraj kund is looking attractive with its pink Lotuses and parakeets galore.

A team of 3 prefects, namely, Arindam Bharadwaj, Shantanu Kulshreshtha and Sukanya Shukla represented the school at the Young Leaders' Conclave held at Modern School- Vasant Vihar from 8th – 12th August. They were escorted by Ms. Puja Pant. The conclave focused on imparting leadership skills via engaging discussions and talks delivered by eminent speakers like Rahul Shivashankar, the Editor-in-Chief of NewsX and Gautam Gambhir, the much acclaimed cricketer. Around 18 prestigious schools from various parts of the country participated in this conclave. The visit was richly rewarding.

13th August 2015, marked the celebration of Freshers' Evening. The much awaited programme brought forward talented newcomers and served as an apt platform for students who have recently joined the Scindian family. A *Bhajan* by Parth Saraogi welcomed the audience and gave a musical start to the evening followed by several talented musicians and instrumentalists. Two English plays on Grammar and a Hindi drama entitled *jaunk* were a treat to watch. Eshaan and Irish compered the programme and in the end, a *Dhol* player - Kahna of class VI enthralled the audience with his *Dhol* beats.

On 14 August, 2015 a very enjoyable poetry evening (*Kavi Sammelan*) was organized by the Department of Hindi in the Honour of Dr Dnyanraj M. Prabhu. Several young scindians recited their own poems and surprised the audience by their literary creations and superb recitation. Participants were: Sunil Kumar, Chaitanya Jawale, Tejas Agarwal, Ishaan Ganguani, Aakash Phokat, Himanshu Moojoriya, Yash Agarwal, Sanskar Raj Verma, Aryan Dubey, Abhishek Mouhour and Saideep Kukreja. Dr B.S. Bhakuni and Mr M. Manoj Mishra also recited their own poems. Finally, the Chief Guest for the evening and visiting SOBiR participant, Dr D. Prabhu recited a few poems, sang a ghazal and a song which lit up the entire evening and made it a memorable one.

Seven boys, namely, Sidhant Awasthy, Satvik Bansal, Aadi Nagpal, Priyansh Jain, Aakash gupta, Aadhiswar Arora and Aayush Agarawal along with Mrs Priyanka Sharma went to Rajmata Krishna Kumari Girls' Public School, Jodhpur to attend the Regional Round Square Conference held from the 13th – 15th August. 21 schools from all over India participated in the conference. The theme of the conference was: "NIHIL DE NOBIS, SINE NOBIS", NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US. It was a very enriching experience for all participants.

Independence Day was celebrated in school on 15th August with great splendour, joy and respect for Mother India. Dr Abhimanyu Acharya, (Ex JA, 1969) was the Chief Guest for the occasion and took the salute from the



Dr A. Acharya addressing the gathering at the Independence Day.

marching contingents of all the Houses. The Class of 2000, which was on the Fort to celebrate its reunion, also participated in the March-Past.

Result for the March Past, held on Saturday, 15th August :

I	Jayaji	75 Points
II	Madhav	74.5 Points
III	Jayappa, Daulat, Shivaji	69.5 Points
VI	Ranoji, Mahadji	68 Points
VIII	Jeevaji	67 Points

The School Shooting team participated in the 18th M.P State Open and 14th M.P State Inter-School Shooting championship held at the Daly college Indore from Friday, 14th to Monday 17th August. Out of 31 Shooters who participated in MP state inter school championship 29 qualified for All India Inter-School Shooting Championship and 16 qualified for G.V. Mavlankar Shooting Championship (Pre-Nationals).

The Scindian Shooters bagged 7 medals in various categories:

M. P. State Inter School Shooting Championship

Air Pistol ISSF youth men category –Toshit Goyal –Gold medal.

Air Pistol NR sub junior men category-Shashank Kumar-Silver medal.

Air Rifle ISSF youth men category-Rachit Agarwal –Bronze medal.

Air Pistol NR sub junior women category-Aditi Joshi-Bronze medal.

M.P. State Open Championship

Air Pistol ISSF youth men category-Toshit Goyal-Silver medal.

Air Rifle ISSF youth men category-Rachit Agarwal–Bronze medal.

Air Pistol NR youth men category-Shashank Kumar- Bronze medal.

The team was escorted by the two coaches Mr Sachin Kumar and Mr Megender Tomar along with the Shooting In-charge Ms Preeti Sharma.



The Scindia School participated in 19th Annual Session of the Cathedral Model United Nation session organized By the Cathedral and John Connon School, Mumbai from 21st – 23rd August. A delegation of six students, namely, Arjun Mehrotra, Arkapravo Sengupta, Harsimar Singh, Nipun Poddar, Suryansh Goyal, Tanmay Shandilya were escorted by Ms Sudha Sharma for this event. The conference was held at The Trident Hotel. Boys had a fantastic exposure and came back with many new perspectives.

Escorted by Mr Sidhartha Mazumdar, ten students participated in the 22nd Jindal Art Festival held at Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar. Several students performed exceptionally well. They are:

1. Sangay Tenzing Sherpa and Pankaj Sharma secured 1st position in Wood Carving.
2. Sunil Kumar secured 3rd position in Clay Modelling.
3. Priyanshu Agarwal secured 3rd position in T-Shirt Designing.
4. Harsh Raj Gond secured 3rd position in Painting Composition and also received a Consolation Prize for Pen and Ink Drawing. Other participants were:

Divyaditya Singh, Nipun Poddar, Astitva Jindal, Manu Gupta and Pulkit Kumar.

On the 24th of August, Ms Anju Singh, Regional Advisor (South-Asia) recruitment, admissions, and marketing services for University of Westminster, London visited the school. She conducted a workshop in the Assembly Hall for class 11 and 12. Students were informed about scholarships, admission procedures and courses on offer in the said university.

Mr Tony Hyde, a Round Square veteran and currently the Honorary Member of Round Square was on the Fort from the 24th – 26th of August. With his stewardship, the ‘service’ pillar of Round Square reached dizzying heights in the South-Asia & Gulf Region and he was instrumental in setting up the Round Square International Service Project held in Ladakh. He gave presentations on the *Tchadar Trek* and the *Zaskar Valley* to the boys and also addressed the staff. His love for Ladakh has followed him to Switzerland and he has named his residence as ‘Ladakh’.

Seven delegates from The Royal Government of Bhutan accompanied by Ms Usha Pathania of ‘Universal Learn Today’ visited the Fort, (27th – 31st August) as part of an initiative of their government which seeks to establish ‘Central Schools’ across several districts of Bhutan. These delegates, who are serving



Principals from Bhutan with colleagues from Scindia.

principals, immersed themselves in school to understand the fabric on which excellent residential schools are built and run. They met several teachers from various verticals of the school and asked intricate questions to understand the nuances of work in a boarding set up.

BE A KITE

Shreshtha Agrawal | IX B

A kite cuts through the sky, has its own flight.

They want to fly, but are scared of heights,
 They want no duties but only rights.
 Want to fly,
 But do not try,
 All the time crib and only say,
 Want to run but stop in mid-way.

To be a winner, you have to fight,
 Inside, outside, small, equal or big in height,
 Try and try,
 Till you sweat and cry,
 Work hard morning, night and noon,
 That’s only way to reach your goals soon.

Love to fly high, in the sky, like a kite?



A MOMENT OF REVELATION

Smit Shah | XII B

A few days ago, as I sat under the celestial sky to pray at the Astachal, far away at the horizon, (No, not so far!) I saw many birds fluttering & soaring towards the sky. Peering at the miracle like sight, all that I felt was blissful joy and inexplicable contentment.

Some time back, I went through an article and was rather struck by the lines, “happiness is a mysterious thing to be found between too little and too much. But it is also as elusive as a butterfly, and we must never pursue it. If we stay very still, it may come and settle on our hand; but only briefly. We must savour those moments, for they will not come in our way very often.”

Was it simply the effect of a splendiferous scene, or my reflection on the depth of meaning of the lines quoted above; I do not know- but I am spontaneously pondering on a completely different platform since then.

Life with all its agonies, hardships and complications is ‘simple’ if only we believe so. Isn’t it? Nature doesn’t run after happiness but receives and scatters tranquillity and contentment, in boundless measures.

Generally speaking, we are too much in love with material possessions, and we don’t wish to be deprived of it till our last breath. We do not want to lose anything or anyone, in fact we keep chasing them twenty four seven.

But it is the presentiment of death that makes life so unique and unpredictable. I can hear the echo of my thoughts in the following lines from the poem written by Hodgson:

Time, you old gypsy man,
 Will you not stay? ,
 Put up your caravan
 Just for one day?

Dear friends, time is fleeting and everything would be left behind. One experiences true ‘Miracles’ just like I saw the one mentioned above at Astachal. They may be as insignificant as finding a long lost thing but they have the power to change the course of one’s life in subtle ways.

These miracles don’t happen by our watch or when we expect them to happen. They happen when we are ‘aware’ and are in observation mode. Life will go on, it will run on its due course and you cannot stop or control it. All that is there in your power is to stay there with it in ‘stillness’. And if you manage to do so, there is no better way to enjoy this beautiful life

LIVE. LOVE. LAUGH. EAT



OLD BOYS' NEWS

Yashwant Mahadik Ex-JA, 1974 will soon be joining the Sun Pharma as its HR head. He will be leading a work force of 30000 people. We wish him all the very best for his new endeavour.

CRYSTAL JUBILEE REUNION OF THE CLASS OF 2000

29 Old Boys of the Class of 2000, several of them with their families, assembled on the Fort on the 15th of August for their Crystal Jubilee Reunion. They participated in the March-Past, attended the cultural programme at Astachal and enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast at the Principal's residence. Post-breakfast, the Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat presented them with a memento each. Later,



Old Boys being welcomed at the Jayaji House.

they visited their Houses and met some of the old teachers too. Several Old Boys addressed the students in the common room and told them about the high values and ethos of their time and why it should never be diluted. At 1.30 PM they joined the community for a special lunch in the Dining Hall, which they highly appreciated. This was followed by an interaction with the Principal in the Auditorium where a heart-to-heart conversation ensued. The Old Boys shared some of the best-practices of their time and were generally curious about the happenings on the Fort. Their queries were answered by the Principal in consultation with Mr G.S. Bakshi and a few other staff members



Dr MD Saraswat and Mr GS Bakshi greeting the Old Boys' football team.

who were present for the same. This was followed by a festival football match with the students at the Siddhartha Field. The Old Boys enjoyed themselves thoroughly and we hope they keep returning home again and again. They were much impressed by new looks, improved infrastructure and mouth-watering food of the school.

On the 14th of August, the Class of 2000 had organized a get together at the Usha Kiran Palace Hotel, Gwalior, where they had invited the teachers of their time, senior management team and SOBA office bearers. Several members of the fraternity were felicitated and overall it was a wonderful evening, full of warmth and camaraderie.



Principal interacting with the Batch of 2000.



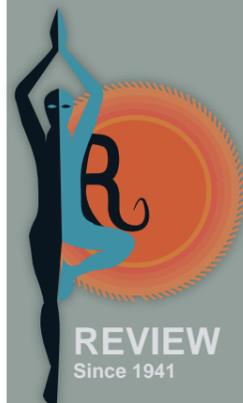
Batch of 2000 in front of the Madhav House.

Obituary

Shri Rohit Dass (Ex JA, 1982) passed away in Gurgaon on 23/08/2015 due to a massive cardiac arrest. We pray to God for everlasting peace to the kind soul. His son can be reached at 09958544377.

The Scindian fraternity mourns the sad demise of Dr Bhartendu Madeka (Ex SH, 1975), who passed away on 25/08/2015. We offer our condolences to the bereaved family and friends.

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