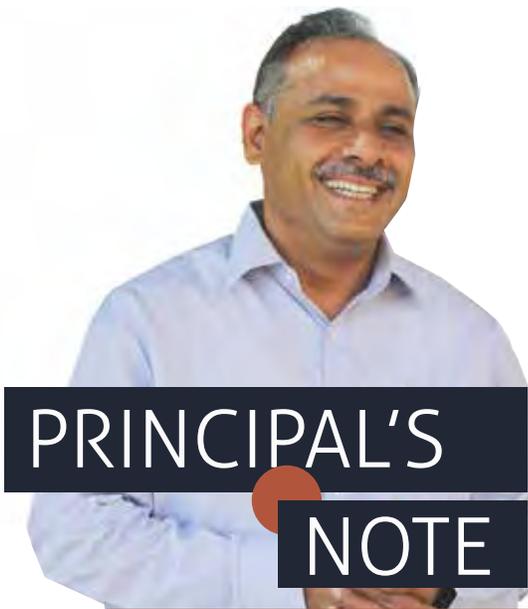




Founder's Day Special, 2015

The Review



PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dr M.D. Saraswat
Principal-The Scindia School

I am proud to begin my innings as the Principal of such an exciting and dynamic school, and to work in the unique and absolutely spectacular location of the Fort. This is a great place to work and even better for the Boys to study. I don't have a shadow of a doubt, 2015-16 will be an outstanding year for the school.

My vision is to Educate, Enlighten and Empower. We insist to motivate the weak, address the average and challenge the gifted. Success comes to those who work hard and stays with those who don't rest on the laurels of the past.

I am proud of the opportunities we provide to our students. We are fortunate to have a committed and supportive management, dedicated teachers, caring and cooperative parents, which blend harmoniously to create a child-centric school.

Each issue of the Review is a milestone that marks our growth, unfolds our imagination, and gives life to our thoughts and aspirations. It unleashes a wide spectrum of creative skills ranging from writing to editing and even in-house designing of the magazine.

I congratulate the entire Editorial Board for their hard work and dedication that has resulted in the publication of this issue. My best wishes to all.



The Editorial Board

EDITOR'S NOTE

Vishesh Sahai
Staff Editor - Review

Dear Readers,

Greetings to you. We are pleased to present to you the Founder's Day special issue of the Review. We have worked hard to give you, from the students, Old Boys and the teachers, a wide range of poetry, illustrations, photographs and some informative and inspirational articles about school. We

have also touched upon community problems, topical issues and newsworthy items. Our mission is to teach children **'how'** to think and write and not **'what'** to think and write. Enjoy every moment of your life as there aren't any rewinds; only the flash backs remain. **Happy Reading.**



SHADES OF SCINDIA

Abhijit Nagpal – Editor-in-Chief, Review

Photography by - Yuvraj Bhatia - X B



The Scindia School is an iconic place to live and study. On this photo page we present to you the 'shades' of Scindia. These 'shades' are not only the beauty of our campus but also the toil of the students and their colourful celebration of life. These 'shades' help students become members of an international community. These pictures capture few of the many 'shades' of Scindia. Our students are given all round exposure and live a culturally rooted life.

The environment grooms them into strong individuals who also learn to be sensitive members of a community. The life on the Fort is so engineered that they constantly learn to compete and cooperate with each other. The Scindia School is culturally very diverse. Students from all over India reside here and the school ensures that all of them feel engaged in the life on the Fort.



We celebrate many festivals in our school. These festivals ensure that all students learn about various cultures in India and inculcate in them the appreciation for a diversified culture which is required to be an international person. Our school offers a great variety of flora and fauna which is a boon, especially for those who enjoy nature. It also gives other students an opportunity to widen their horizons and evolve. All these 'shades' together make the Scindia School - **The Scindia School.**

Fort News

A view of the lush green Madhav field.

Every nook and corner of the Fort is looking beautiful with aesthetically manicured fields and gardens. The cleaning drive too has been in full swing since the last three weeks and everything looks tickety-boo. At the entrance of the *Urwaighati*, Bougainvillea is in full bloom, ready to welcome the Scindian fraternity on the Founder's Day. As we are approaching *Dussehra*, evenings are becoming pleasant with cool breeze sweeping across this ancient citadel. Architecturally speaking, the Shukla Memorial Open Air Theatre's new design is looking Top-Of-The-Line. And the School's Academic Block is looking bright with all the stones having been cleaned and polished. Unfortunately, the fishes at the Suraj Kund were dying due to lack of oxygen in the water. The School took it upon itself to save their lives by creating several artificial fountains to dissolve oxygen in the water. It turned out to be quite successful.

H.H. Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Inter-School Hindi Debate was held on 30th September 2015. 8 schools from across the country participated in it. The participants were: Mayo College Girls' School - Ajmer, Vasant Valley School - Delhi, Syna International School - Katni, Sanskar Valley - Bhopal, Welham Girls' school - Dehradun, Shalom Hills International School - Gurgaon, Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya - Gwalior, and the The Scindia School - Gwalior. The debate was won by The Scindia School but since the host school does not compete for the trophy, it was given to the runner-up team, Syna International School - Katni. The Chief Guest for this evening was the Superintendent of Police of Gwalior, Mr. Hari Narayan Chari Mishra.



Students of the Syna International School receiving the trophy

The final result is as follows:

First Round

Best Speaker Pool A: Deekshita Goyal of Welham Girls' school - Dehradun

Best Speaker Pool B: Rupesh Dwivedi of Syna International School, Katni

Final Round

Best Speakers

Rupesh Dwivedi of Syna International School, Katni

Shreya Tiwari of Syna International School, Katni

Mayank Kumar Jha of The Scindia School, Gwalior

On the 2nd of October *Gandhi Jayanti* was celebrated in the school. In the afternoon, *shramjeevis* had put up a *Bhajan Karyakram*. This was followed by a lunch specially organized by the members of the Social Service League for *shramjeevis*, guests from *Sonsa* and *Nathon ka pura* village. Principal, Dr Saraswat in his address shared the spiritual values and guidelines which were an integral part of the Mahatma.

A special *Astachal* was held in the evening. A couple of

passages were read out on the life, contribution and message of the great visionary. Mr Raja Banerjee's melodious rendition of 'Vaishnav jan to tene kahiye' and 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' was the perfect culmination of the evening.



Principal, Dr Saraswat along with his wife and Dr Bhakuni serving food to the support staff

The Middle Group Inter-House Hindi Elocution competition was held on 3rd October, 2015.

The results are as under:

House Position	House Name
VIII	Jeevaji
VII	Jayappa
VI	Jayaji
V	Ranoji
IV	Shivaji
III	Madhav
II	Daulat
I	Mahadji

Individual Position (Prose)

Position	Name
II	Varun Gupta
I	Sajal Gupta

Individual Position (Poetry)

Position	Name
II	Saksham Bansal
I	Chidhgan Prabhu

A delegation comprising Abhishek Mahour, Eshaan Agarwal, Lav Asrani, Nischay Agarwal, Vansh Chokhda from class VIII and Shubhamanyu Lahiri of Class VII participated in the Model United Nations (MUN) Conference held at the Pathways World School, Gurgaon from 1st – 4th October 2015. They were escorted by Miss Priyanka Agarwal. Approximately 350 delegates from 15 schools across the country participated in the event. Shubhamanyu Lahiri received the High Commendation Award. He was a member of the Ballistic Missile and Nuclear Proliferation Committee and represented Uruguay.



Scindian MUN delegation at the Pathways school

The Final Match of the Inter-House 'A' Group Hockey Tournament was played between Jeevaji and Jayappa on the 5th of October 2015. Jeevaji won the final against Jayappa by 4 goals to 2. All the four goals were scored by Pan-kaj Sharma of Jeevaji who was the star performer of the match. For Jayappa, Vijay faguna scored two goals. Result of the Inter-House 'A' Group Hockey Tournament is mentioned below.

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



Principal greeting the Hockey finalists and the match officials

Nanhi Chaan an NGO, recently organized a national level essay writing contest on 'Gender Equality is the only way forward'. Two thousand students from across the country participated and only 14 of them were shortlisted for the second round. Hrithik Malhotra of The Scindia School was among the 14 students. He was awarded a certificate and an i-pad mini.

Old Boys' News

The Scindia School students recently participated in the 3rd All India IPSC Skating competition held in various categories. The results are as under:

Keshav Agarwal - II in Under-14 Inline 1500 M Road Race and 1000 M Rink Race.

Kushagra Kaushik - II in Under-17 Quads 2000 M Road Race and III in 500 M Rink Race.

Harsh Raj Gond - III in Under-19 Quads 2000 M Road Race.

Shashwat Puri - III in Under-19 Inline 1000 M Rink Race, II in 500 M Rink Race and III in 300 M Rink Race.

The Scindia School participated in the MGD MUN hosted by the MGD Girls' school, Jaipur from 5th - 7th October 2015. The theme of the conference was "Illuminating with the light of unity". A total of 16 schools participated in the conference. All the delegates were divided into six committees. Pavan Jaini of our school was awarded the 'Best Delegate' of DISEC. The delegation was escorted by Ms Preeti Sharma. The other participants were Eklavya Sampat, Paras Agarwal, Smit Shah, Sanskaar Singhal, Manya Nagi and Shubham Agarwal.



The Scindian MUN delegation at MGD Jaipur

'Kamna Project' is a recent initiative of The Scindia School for empowering the girls of Nathon Ka Pura. The project is envisioned by the Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat. In the first phase 12 girls from the village were invited to the school campus for six days. They spent six hours daily in different departments to learn various skills which hopefully will make them self-sufficient in earning a livelihood for themselves. They learned techniques of tie and dye, art of making envelopes and paper bags, basics of metal work and pottery work using clay. All the items prepared by them will be sold during Founder's Day and the profits will go to them.



Ms Gayatri Singh(Member-BOG) teaching the 'Art of Pottery' to the girls of Nathon-ka-Pura

Sansrisht Bhatia (Ex MJ, 2015) has been making waves in the equestrian world in the cities of Jaipur and Delhi. He recently participated in the National Delhi Horse show - 2015 and won a Bronze medal in the All India Young Rider Puissance event. He also participated in the Chinkara Eventing Championship - 2015 in Jaipur and won a Bronze in both individual and team category.



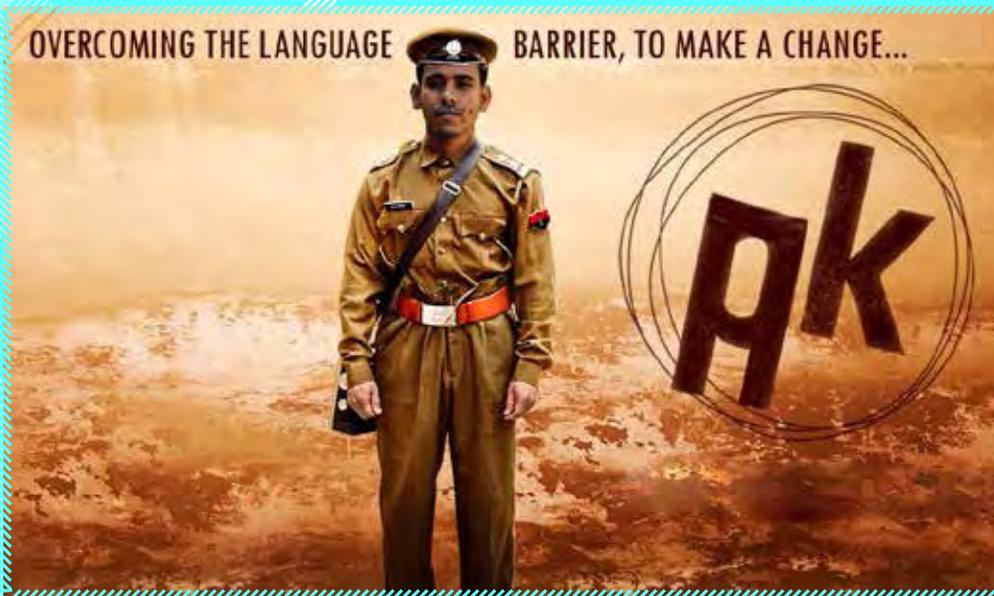
Sansrishta Bhatia in action

A Blood Donation camp was organized on the Fort by SOBA Gwalior on 4th October 2015. The venue was the SOBA House on the Fort. The camp saw an enthusiastic participation. These Blood Donation camps have been organized by various SOBA chapters across the country.



Principal, Bursar and the Old Boys at the Blood donation site

THE SCINDIAN BRAND FACTORY



WISH OF A SOLDIER

EVOLVE

Sanskar Singhal - X E

With a spark in my heart,
I left to fight for my Bharat.
leaving my family behind,
like the soldiers' fate and trait.

Till the last drop of my blood,
till the last breath of my life,
till my body drops dead,
I will keep fighting,
for my Mother, India.

O! My tricolour flag,
you are my dearest.
I have sworn,
to keep you flying high.

Listen! Enemy of my country,
will not let your soldier,
enter my territory,
till I stand on my boundary.

O! My loving family,
do not shed a tear,
even if I leave this world,
I will always be there,
in your dreams, my dear.

Shreshtha Agarwal - IX B

The job of the Sun is to wake up and rise,
while for some it is only to raise their voice.
But some use their minds as they are wise,
against the bad guys.

Some people have a habit to hit,
but maybe they are mentally not fit.
In the past there was no light,
but for Edison the world would not be so bright.

In this world everyone has to die,
some go with values and some with a lie.
Also remember - never cry,
as every drop will eventually dry.



FOR ADULTS ONLY

Yohen Thounaojam - X B

This piece is only for people who are 18 and above. If you're not one, please stop reading, for you might be taken to task by the school prefects. If you are an adult, never mind, this has no relation to being one. I know for people under 18, this is irresistible and now that you wouldn't stop reading, I shall move on.

Life is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma. Is there any key to this riddle? Life is sometimes too boring and you sincerely need a 'U' turn.

Life appears to me sometimes too funny, sometimes too busy and sometimes too sober. I brood and brood so much that ultimately I stop thinking. The great thinkers and philosophers about whom we read in History are none but just the ones who did not quit thinking.

I am sharing my scattered thoughts. Many a times I make resolutions but quit after a while for life is too distracting.

We are trapped by technology (but) for good (may be...)?

Killing ourselves is against the law but being killed by hunger and poverty isn't. We are judged for our knowledge, wisdom and hard work by the exam we give in just 3 hours. Newspapers and G.K books give us immense information about everything in the world. But nobody seems to realize that losers are as important as winners.

There will be no winner if there are no losers, and losers always learn more!

Nobody is prepared to believe that there are some people who are really not corrupt in the Government sector, and that there are lions which do not eat people when trained.

While life seems very normal and safe, it also is grievously unsafe for there are so many riots and crimes in the name of religion.

Geeta, Bible and Quran all preach peace and harmony. No religion promotes violence. Life otherwise is very interesting. There are millions of new things to do and learn every day. At the same time, life is sometimes too boring. I have never been able to find out a way to neutralize, if not change over, the boring times with the busy / interesting part of life.

Life, when taken too seriously, at times, appears very funny and meaningless. We study hard in school, only to study harder in college and study hard in college, only to work harder when we get a job. So, we tire ourselves only to get more tired later.

Life is strange for we don't know what happens to us and to our consciousness after death. We all want to live in a society where there is no violence, selfishness and which is full of peace and mutual respect. Let us together work for such a society and give a new meaning to life...



GLOBAL SOCIAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Kabir Saund - X D

On the 8th of August I travelled to London to attend a two weeks' long Leadership programme which was recommended by my school. It was a great opportunity to share experiences with and be a part of a network of people who have similar goals on a global scale and to learn how local issues can have a global impact. Main objective was to promote intercultural dialogue and community led social development. It brought together people with different beliefs and perspectives to learn and share with each other.

The very first day, on the Heathrow's Arrivals Terminal, I was greeted by an alumnus of the Global Social Leaders (GSL) programme, who escorted me to the magnificent campus of the Wellington College. Since I was one of the first participants to arrive, I could explore the campus alone and fathom the beauty and culture of the 156 year old college. Participants from all over the world ranging from USA, Russia, China, Jordan, Kenya, Australia, Pakistan, Dubai, Canada, UK, and of course India had gathered. Every day we had a briefing in a large room called the Great Hall, for the day's schedule. Since there were 60 of us, we were divided into 6 groups of 10 partic-

ipants and each group had a coach. I was in group 3 and my group constituted of 1 Irish, 2 Kenyans, 1 Russian, 1 Canadian, 2 Chinese, and 2 Indians including me. One of the best memories I have of my group is when we would all plunge into discussions, and the various accents could be heard mingling with each other. It was truly magical. It was a peer to peer relationship across cultural, geographic and political boundaries.

Week 1 was basically aimed to make us realise why the world needs social change and what are the qualities of a good leader. I can assure everyone that it wasn't as simple as it sounds. The world has many problems, and to realise each problem's importance and to put it on a scale of destruction can be a Herculean task. Over the 1st week we were strongly bonded with each other to such an extent that we were a family. The external contributing factor that resulted in this trust between us was an activity called the Trust Challenge. This activity aimed at developing courage to let people of the group take responsibility of each other. It was an exercise allowing teammates to catch you while you fall into their hands from a 10 feet high wall. I volunteered to fall and all I can

One of the participants had said that this program will be successful if none of us would want to go back. Tears were flowing from our eyes at the thought of parting from each other. It was successful.

say is that it was a moment worth experiencing. Swiftly the week moved on and before we could realise the second week was upon us. Week 2 aimed at bringing out the leader in us and inspiring us to make

a change. Over the week we had powerful leadership training with inspiring talks from various influential persons ranging from a worker at the Oxfam Charity, a global branding company, an alternative journalist, the owners of a company which

supplies medicine to Africa, to the Headmaster of Wellington. One particular activity called the Deki Challenge needs special mention. Deki is a company which provides micro-loans to the people struck by poverty in Africa. We were given a task to prepare a presentation on any one loan applicant and give reasons as to why he/she should get a loan. This was one activity which really got us close to a person living thousands of miles away that too without knowing him personally. It was a unique opportunity to make a real tangible change. As the week went on we had more discussions and debates along with other outdoor activities like the Holy Pipe, Rafting and Football. The second last day was a day which will be forever embedded in my memory, as it was the day of

the Formal Dinner. I talked with our Course Director, Nic about the Indian culture throughout the 2 hours of dinner. The last day arrived. We had exchange of ideas and experiences with likeminded peers of different cultures and backgrounds, had created friendships and connections over two weeks of time - to keep them for a life time.

One of the participants had said that this program will be successful if none of us would want to go back. Tears were flowing from our eyes at the thought of parting from each other. It was successful. Yes it was a very successful programme. We were brimming with self-confidence. We had acquired additional language skills. We had discovered new skills and talents within ourselves about which we never knew. It was a marvellous discovery of 'who am I'.



Kabir with friends from all over the world.

The Scindia School revisited in a Meditation Retreat in the USA.

Jitendra Muchhal, Ex – Jayaji 1986

I am sure the subject line would be intriguing. What connection does The Scindia School have with a Meditation Retreat and that too in the US?

Let me explain. I had the opportunity to attend a 10 Day Vipassana Meditation retreat recently near Dallas, Texas.

The meditation retreat is almost set up on the lines of a monastery / gurukul with basic needed modern facilities, and we were to focus / meditate for good 8-10 hours a day. The Scindia School and its 30 year old memories kept surfacing...



Mr J. Muchhal

1. The Morning Bell: To wake up all at 4 am (yes, 4 am) for the 10 days, there used to be one of the attendees who would go outside each of our dorms /rooms with the handy bell and dong. I could not help but remember Vrindavan / Babu (Jayaji House Attendants in the 1980s) each morning, as they would do this chore at 5.45 near our beds at Scindia.

2. The Main Bell: The beginning of meditation sessions and the meals were marked by the main bell - and its dong - and you were expected to be in the seat for meditation and not enter the dining room for meals before the bell. At times, we would be outside the dining room, just waiting for the bell's dong, reminding so much of the Scindia School Mess.

3. Astachal: And this by far is the highlight (Like the Astachal for any Scindian). We had some time after evening fruit just before the 6 pm meditation session. Since the day would be tiring, and I had somehow kept

a couple of white Kurta - Pajama sets with me, I would go to my dorm room around 5.30 pm, take a quick shower, and change into Kurta Pajama and then head near the Pagoda building at the end of the campus. It was on a slight elevation with trees and bushes after it, and the Sun would set in some time in that direction. Every day for 10 minutes, I would sit on a chair there and hum "Kaheen Door Jab Din Dhal Jaye" and Shri BN Chatterjeeji would be in my memory. (We had to practice speech silence for those 10 days)

They say old memories resurface during intense meditation retreats, but how poignantly....When we were allowed to speak on Day 10, at least two people came and told me, 'We named you the Well Dressed Man based on your white evening dress.'

4. Time Table: Just like the School, we had a set time table from 4 am till 9 pm, and everything moved around it, clockwise. The afternoon meditation post lunch (like the afternoon school) was most challenging,

and yes, some folks did “bunk” it. There was a number count before each main session - just like the “roll call”. And like the chores after Lunch in School, if we had to meet the teacher, it was after Lunch, so lesser time for the nap.

5. Dessert: Since meals were supposed to be Spartan, they kept small mint/chocolate wraps. I would pick up two and savor them for few minutes after lunch. After the School Mess’s Prized *GulabJamun*-do not remember treating a seemingly modest dessert “so respectfully”.

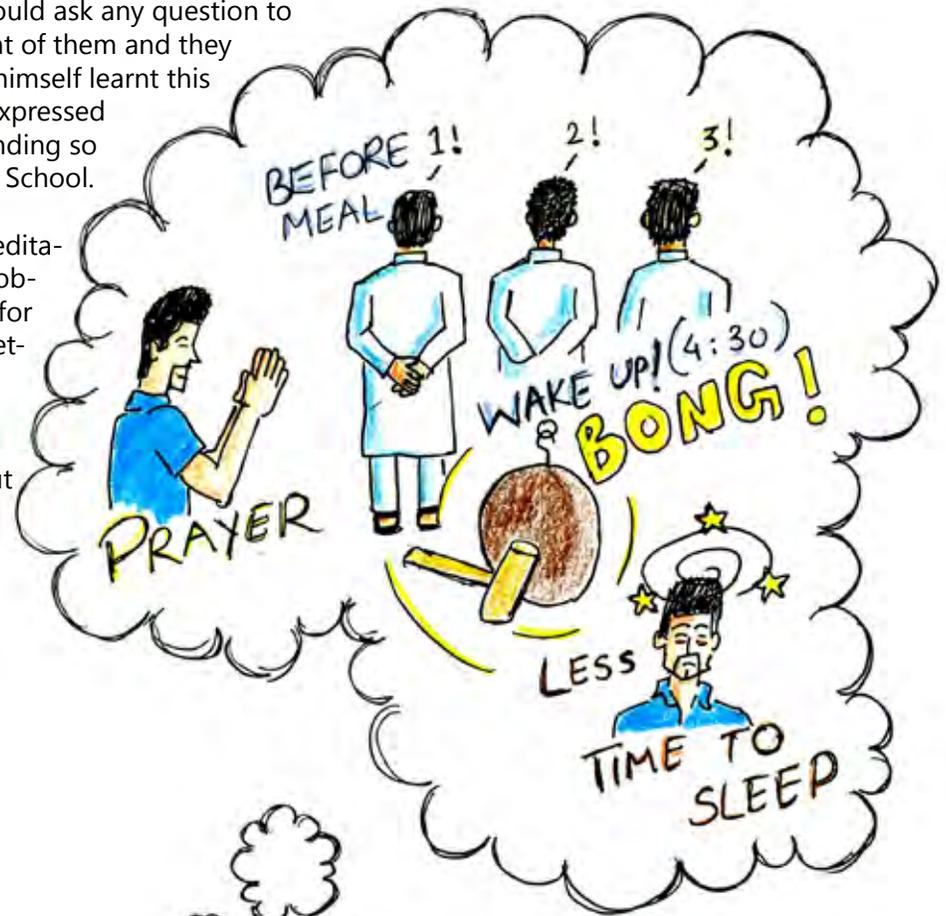
6. Happiness and Compassion; for all: A Vipassana “Sadhak” asks and prays for goodwill and happiness for all, much like the School.

7. *Tapo Bhumi* for Liberation: The Vipassana Meditation retreat is called “*Tapo Bhumi*” as that is what each person does there for his and her own eventual liberation/salvation. Just reminding of the “ Rishi Galav ki Tapasthali ” and “ *Saa Vidya – Yaa Vimuktaye* ”.

8. *Guru Shishya Parampara* : At the retreat, immense respect and reverence is accorded to the Main Guru Late **Shri SN Goenkaji - and then** the teachers - at each course. Nobody would leave any meditation program before the teacher leaving. When we would ask any question to the teacher, it would be sitting in front of them and they would be on a higher seat. Goenkaji himself learnt this from a Guru/ Teacher in Burma and expressed reverence for him at each step. Reminding so much of our traditions at The Scindia School.

Vipassana is a serious and intense meditation practice, ancient and pursued globally, and I too made my first attempt for the same. And like a Scindian, completed the rigorous 10 Day Programme. Thanks to THE SCINDIA SCHOOL for giving me the much needed moral company - from wake up till lights out - in its own unique way in the Memory Lane....

Sabka Mangal Ho!! May all be Happy.....
(Vipassana Meditation Greeting)



THE SC ETHOS

Scindia stands for Perfection, Dedication, Tradition, Simplicity, Affection and Camaraderie. A big family where excellence is achieved through hard toil not only in the classrooms but also on the sports fields; but most of all through interactions, trials and errors.

The great visionaries Late His Highness Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia and his father Late His Highness Maharaja Jiwajirao Scindia created a sound infrastructure. They cast such a magical spell, that from day one, as soon as the students and the aspiring teachers enter the premises, they are in its thrall.

The year I joined i.e. in 1993 the era of Miss Lakdawala persisted, (my own inspirational model) the lady with a Midas touch. Tall and gaunt, her gentle nature infused in students a sense of commitment to anything they did. Her personal interactions with the students and her soft-skills, created happy, kind hearted, loving students from the moment they entered the hallowed compound. It was a time when Scindia gave several luminaries to the nation who were intellectually pol-

ished yet humane, an amalgamation of modern and traditional traits.

The culture of the school was such that the teachers instilled in students a high value system and the general atmosphere was very enriching. There was a perfect accord between the teacher and the taught combined with a great amount of respect for the Guru. Freedom of speech and action has been the hallmark of the school and learning is a natural outcome of it. Although, in those days i.e. in the 90s we communicated a lot more with each other; in the classrooms, on the games fields, in the dining hall, and at the Astachal. My students had complete freedom to share anything and everything with me whether it was about their parents, grandparents, family, schoolmates, or any other person or matter. It was a bond of faith, love, care and trust. Once the bond got established and the heart was free of all unnecessary complications, the learning became very easy. The faith and trust encouraged them to imbibe all that their Guru had to offer, and that's where the molding, giving shape started.

INDIAN

Dr Maitreyee Bishnoi - Faculty of English

- A teacher's perspective

My long interactions with them ignited their creativity, love for nature, love for speech, and love to 'do', love to accept 'challenges' and love for activities. They oozed life, vibrating with energy, and had a desire to achieve excellence because they felt 'understood'. They knew their teacher understood them in all ways. I was able to create 'happy' 'individuals' who were 'willing' to do anything and everything a student was supposed or expected to do.

From my early days, being a literature student, my love for debates, elocutions, writing, and public speaking brought under my umbrella all those students who had an interest in all these. We would sit and practice late in the night over homemade items, discussing, re-hearsing till the perfection quotient was achieved. This led to a great sense of achievement and confidence in students. In fact they enjoyed simple food and often referred to my house as 'Bishnoi da Dhaba' where one could come and eat anytime. Nothing extraordinary, simple, easily cooked homemade items. But that cemented the bond further.

My intimate communications and personal interactions made the students realize the value of discipline and definition of good character. I always tried to inculcate a sense of family and duty consciousness in my students. When they came over to my residence, I, in subtle ways would try and touch upon the aspects of family, duty towards one's parents, importance of being well-dressed and respect for women etc.

These endeavors continued on my part where days turned into nights, life continued uninterrupted, and every year the 'golem' took shape and flew away into the vast expanse of the sky.

It has been a matter of great pride seeing my students do well in life and every year some of them come back to school to meet their teachers and it's a happy reunion. It gives great satisfaction to see them smiling, because that is the real mark sheet of distinction and success.

Hail Scindia / Hail the Scindian Ethos.

GENDER

EQUALITY

is the only way forward

Small inequalities lead to large inequalities. One of them in our country is gender inequality. It affects all of us in myriad ways. Man and woman both have been created by Nature, with different physical, mental as well as emotional set up. They have been allotted different roles to play in their life cycles, by Nature, further reinforced by Culture.

The woman is physically less strong. She is emotionally firm yet delicate with an immense capacity to love, care and empathise - the attributes required to be a mother or should I say to sustain human civilization. Every society adopts a system to govern itself; ours largely is a patriarchal society. Traditionally women would marry, become mothers and take care of their family and home. In the technologically savvy, capitalistic and mechanized 21st century, the world has changed. The gender roles prescribed by the culture are changing at an exponential rate, understandably creating chaos

and confusion in the minds of people. The women are out, doing various jobs. And unfortunately this is the genesis of a number of social, cultural, and emotional problems of 21st century. But how do we tackle this situation, surely we can't go back in the 20th century and we must learn to change with times.

"One can possess a different function and still be equal in essence and worth. Women are equal to men in essence and in being, there is no ontological distinction and yet they have a different function or role at home and in society at large. Such differences do not logically imply inequality or inferiority".

By simply giving jobs to women, can our society claim to have recovered equality amongst men and women? They see equality in these two genders only in their working together. But that is not true. The real equality will be there only when a lady can safely go out late

ER

TY

A woman is human.

She is not better, wiser, stronger,
more intelligent, more creative
or more responsible than a man.

Likewise, she is
never less,

A woman is human.

Rishabh Goswami - XI C

at night without worrying, just like a man. Equality will be there when a girl can travel in a bus, in a cab, on the road, all alone, at any time. Equality will be there if her parents do not sit at home keeping their fingers crossed till she comes back home safe and sound. Besides the security part, this gender bias is reflected in other aspects as well. At workplaces they work together for the same time, same amount, but they are paid differently. The fact that an average woman earns 77% of what an average man earns for the same work, is simply unacceptable.

It is high time for us to realise the strength & potential of our women. If women can contribute financially in their homes then it will reduce the pressure and burden on men in a household in an ever expensive world. The women can utilise their education fruitfully. They will get more exposure and their horizons will broaden. Increased violence against women is becoming an

issue and as we claim ourselves to be the oldest and arguably the most evolved civilization of the world, we should not allow this to happen. Hence many social campaigns, NGOs and stricter laws have been formed to tackle this evil, with some success.

Unfortunately there is a flip side to this too. The digital media is full of stories and news of abuse of these laws. They have become instruments of legal terrorism for some women, and we must address that too, lest the whole purpose of creating these laws will be defeated. Government is doing so much to empower/educate/employ our women.

Now it is the men's turn. By standing up for our women, let's show how men can be allies for women's empowerment. Only then the nation will move forward in the 21st century. Gender equality is a call of Time. We must raise both the ceiling and the floor.

बादल छँट गए

जितेन्द्र जावले

मैं भूत-प्रेत से बहुत डरता हूँ। मुझे बचपन से ही यह बताया गया कि पीपल, नीम, जामुन, तुलसी, इमली, बबूल जैसे कुछ पेड़ हैं जिनसे हमें हमेशा दूर रहना चाहिए क्योंकि इनमें से कुछ पर देवी-देवताओं का वास होता है तो कुछ पर भूत-प्रेतों का। इन पेड़ों के नीचे हमेशा स्वच्छता रखनी चाहिए, इन्हें काटना नहीं चाहिए आदि। मेरे मन में हमेशा यह बात खटकती रही कि ऐसा कैसे हो सकता है? किसी खास पेड़ पर ही ऐसा क्यों? ये बातें मन में होते हुए भी मैं पेड़ों के नीचे खेलता रहा, उन पर चढ़ता रहा पर मुझे कभी कुछ नहीं हुआ। फिर मन में विचार उठते कि यदि ये बातें सच हैं तो मुझे कुछ होता क्यों नहीं? क्यों नहीं मुझे कोई दिखता? या वह अपने होने का अहसास क्यों नहीं कराता? मुझे तो इन पर केवल फल, पक्षी, बंदर या गिरगिट नजर आते। कभी-कभी पक्षियों के घोंसलों की तलाश में साँप भी नजर आते और

ये सब मुझे अपनी ओर आकर्षित करते थे। इसी प्रकार मैं प्रकृति के नजदीक होता गया। बड़े होने पर मैंने पाया कि हमारे ही समाज की कुछ जातियाँ इन प्रतिबंधों से मुक्त हैं, उन्हें इन पेड़ों को काटने की छूट है। इसी के साथ ही मैंने देखा कि जब किसी को अपना घर बनवाना हो या सड़क चौड़ी करनी हो तो कोई समस्या नहीं है। आसानी से इन पेड़ों को काटा जा सकता है।

मेरे सवालियों का जवाब मुझे कुछ पुस्तकों के माध्यम से मिला। मुझे पता लगा कि धरती पर उगने वाले हर वनस्पति की अपनी खासियत है। हर वनस्पति किसी न किसी प्रकार से हमारे काम की है क्योंकि सभी में कोई न कोई रसायन हैं जो औषधीय गुणों के कारण हमारे लिए उपयोगी हैं। इनमें से कुछ पेड़-पौधों का उपयोग हम औषधीय रूप में बहुत अधिक करते हैं और इसीलिए हमें इनसे दूर रहने की सलाह भी दी जाती थी, जिससे उनकी शुद्धता बनी रहे। भले ही तरीका गलत था लेकिन कारगर तो था और शायद हमारे जैसे ऊधमी तथा कम समझ रखने वालों के लिए तो बहुत ही अच्छा।

आयुर्वेद में इन पेड़-पौधों के औषधीय गुणों के साथ-साथ इनको लगाने के दिन, दिशा तथा स्थान का भी वर्णन किया गया है। हमें जिन पौधों के साथ अधिक से अधिक समय बिताना है, उनको पूजा-पाठ से जोड़ा गया है और जिनसे हमें दूर रहना है उन्हें भूत-प्रेतों से। हमारा दीया या अगरबत्ती लगाने के बहाने उन पौधों के पास जाने का अर्थ है कि कम-से-कम उतना समय उनके साथ बिताएँ।

आज मैं देख रहा हूँ कि आयुर्वेद की दृष्टि से विशिष्ट वनस्पतियाँ दिनों-दिन घटती जा रही हैं। पीपल, नीम, तुलसी, बेल, आँवला, बरगद, अर्जुन, अमलताशा, गिलोय, घृतकुमारी जैसी वनस्पतियों में लगभग सभी प्रकार की बीमारियों का इलाज है। ये जंगल हमारे लिए बहुपयोगी खज़ाना है। हमें कोशिश करनी होगी कि जितने जंगल अभी बचे हैं वे आज के बढ़ते प्रदूषण से मुक्त रहें। कभी छोटा-सा एक प्रयोग करके देखिए, जब आपका मन बहुत खिन्न हो तब जंगल में निकल जाइए, अपना मोबाइल घर छोड़कर। एक-डेढ़ घंटे इस जंगल में भ्रमण कीजिए, हो सके तो किसी झील या ताल के किनारे बैठ जाइए। आपको कई प्रकार के पशु-पक्षी नजर आएँगे, उन्हें निहारिये। धीरे-धीरे प्रकृति आपको अपनी बाँहों में समा लेगी तथा आपका मन नई ताज़गी से भर जाएगा।

बारिश

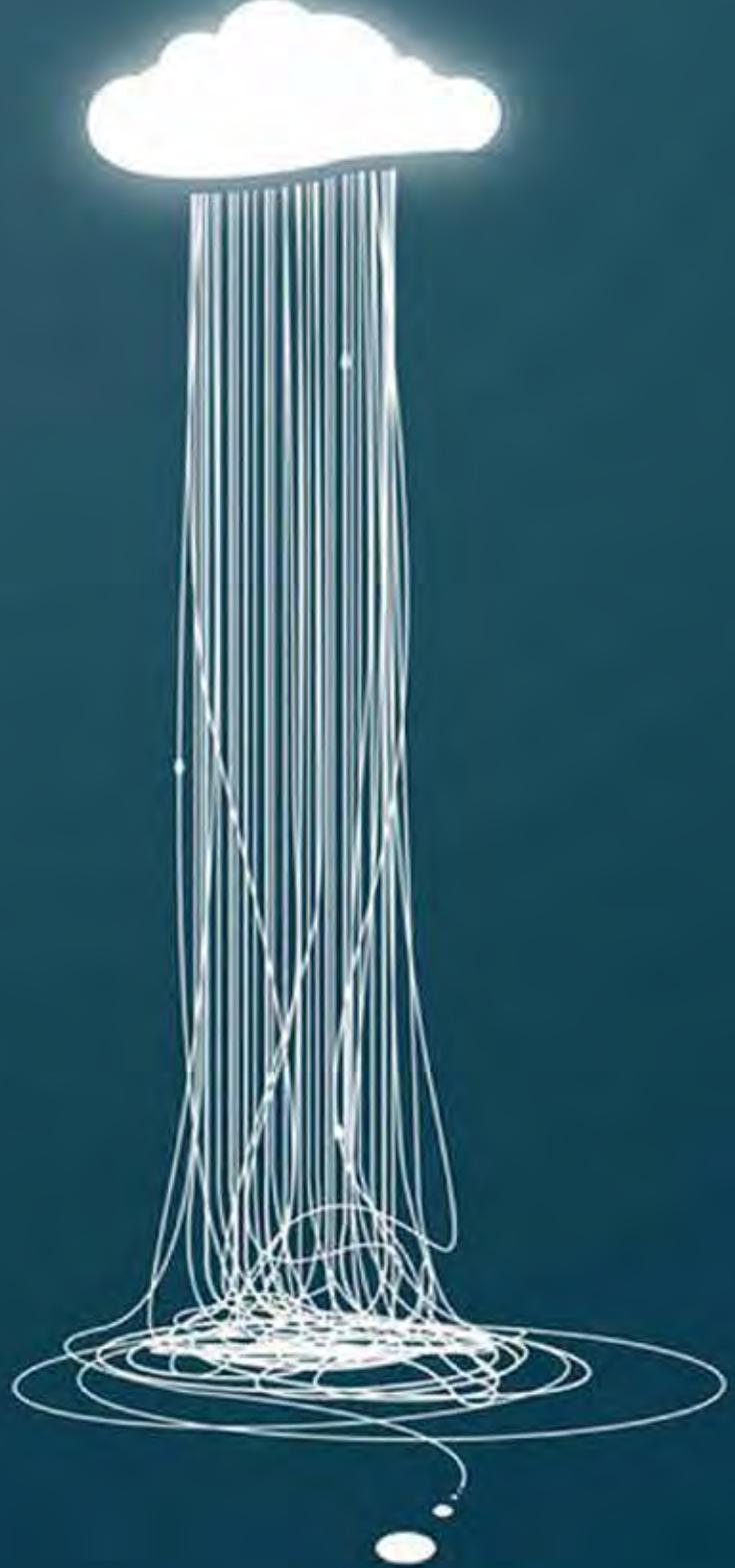
जय कृष्ण तिवारी

जब-जब बारिश होती है,
तब-तब प्रकृति खिल जाती है।
वृक्षों के दृश्य मनोहर होते हैं और
प्राकृतिक सौन्दर्य बढ़ जाता है।
जब-जब बारिश होती है।

जब-जब बारिश होती है,
सुख और शांति आती है।
दोस्तों से मिलवाती है,
पकौड़े हमको खिलाती है।
जब-जब बारिश होती है।

यह किसानों का सहारा,
मोरों का गाना और
मनुष्यों की तिजोरी बन जाती है।
जब-जब बारिश होती है।

जब यह न होती है,
तब-तब अकाल आते हैं।
और जब ये ज़्यादा आती है,
तब-तब बाढ़ आती है।

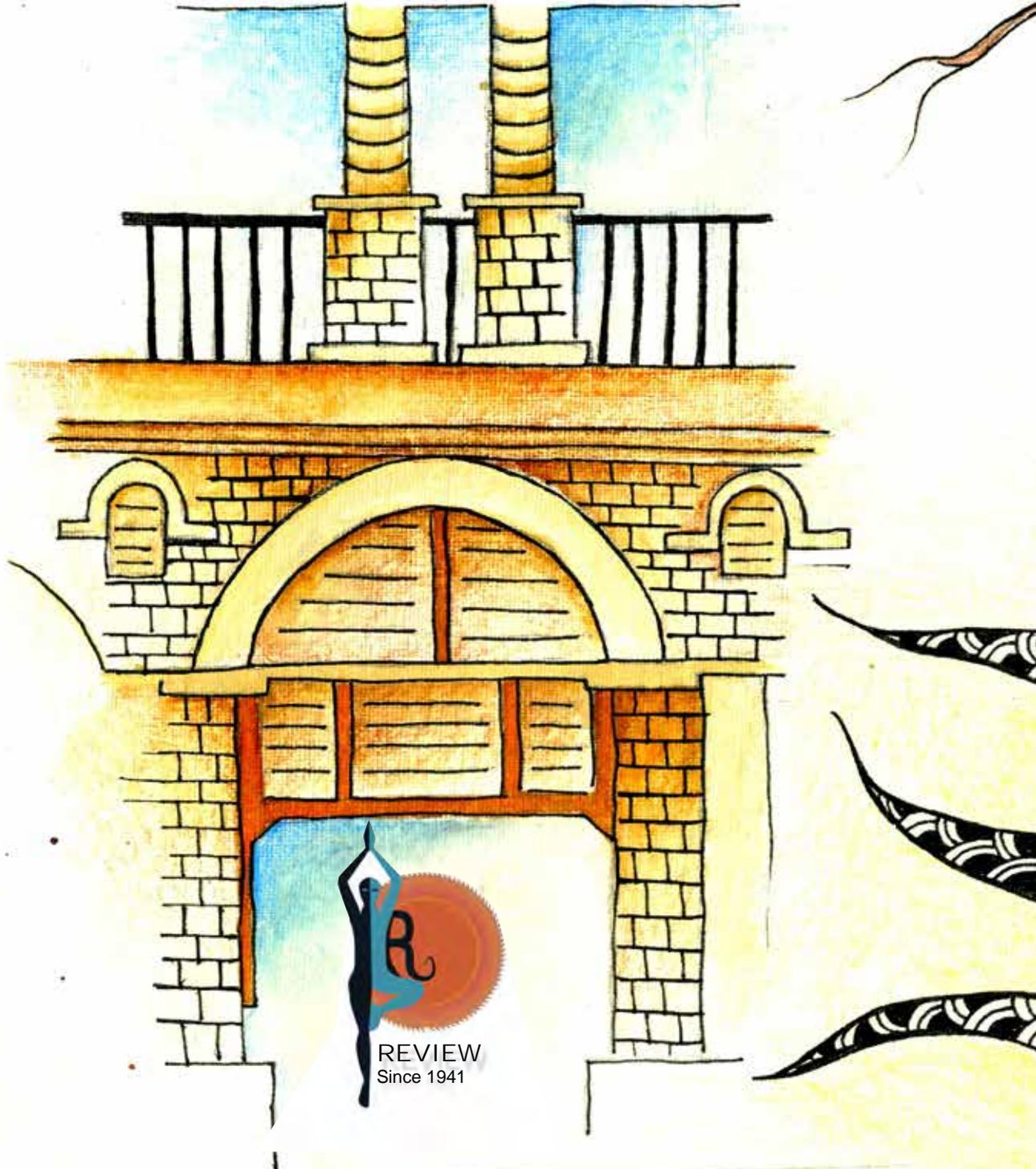


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