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QILA QUOTES

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL
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Chief Guest, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of External Affairs - Dr Shashi Tharoor inaugurating the exhibition



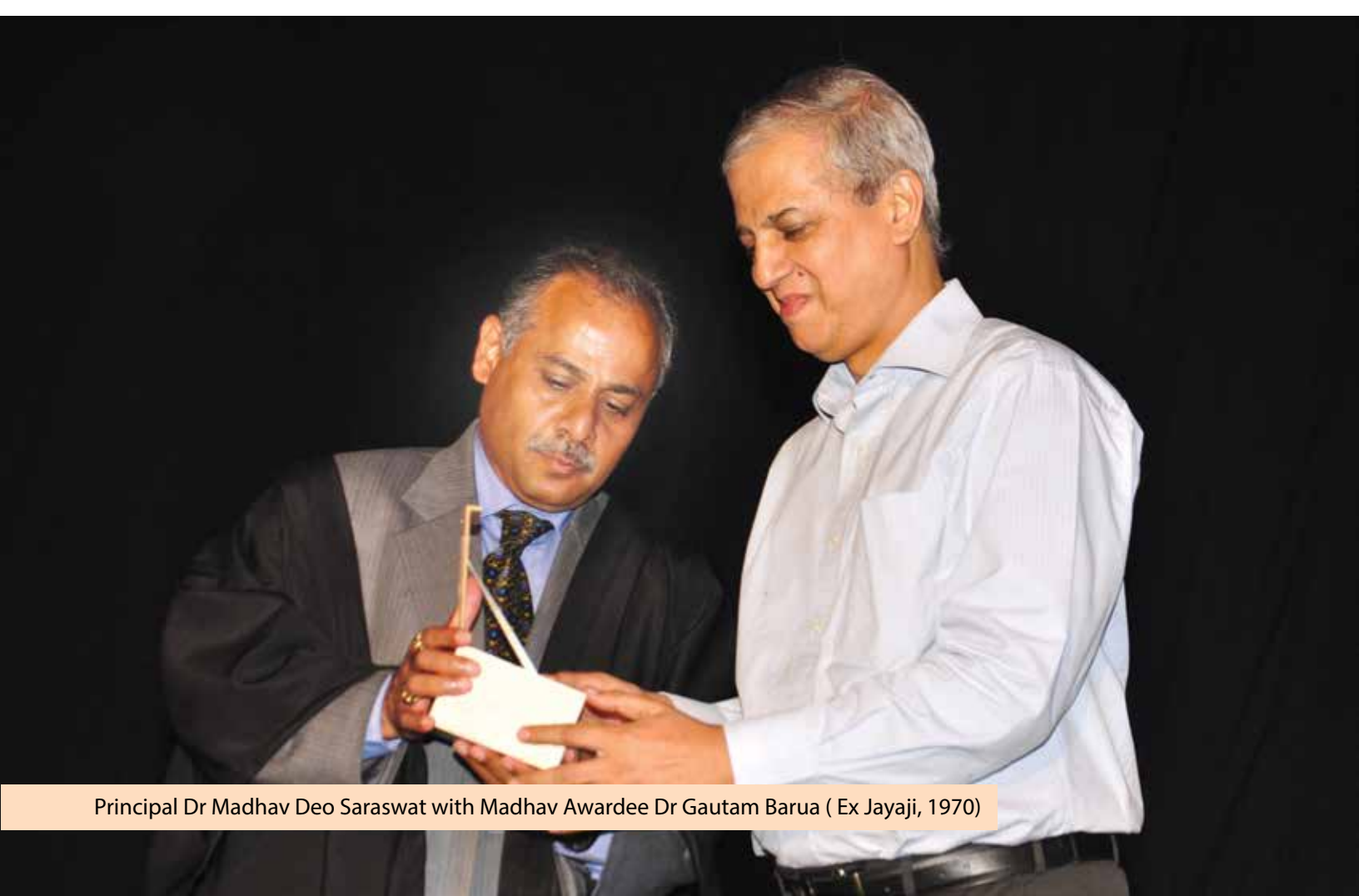
The launch of the SOBA flag

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this edition of the Qila Quotes. If an error has occurred, please accept our apologies and contact the editor at pujap@scindia.edu.



Principal Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat



Principal Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat with Madhav Awardee Dr Gautam Barua (Ex Jayaji, 1970)

PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Life remained eventful as ever in The Scindia School over the past four months. Having successfully celebrated the 118th Founder's Day and the enjoyable and educative camps thereafter, the School shifted gears and got completely immersed in the academic mode.

The students of The Scindia School are blessed to receive education in a learning environment which is calm, peaceful and stunningly beautiful. Our endeavour at all times is to maintain the most rigorous instructional standards to optimize student performance and this received an added thrust as the students of different classes geared up for the Board and Promotion examinations. While the teaching community provided all enrichment and remediation that was necessary, the pastoral care team provided the nurturing environment to maintain the momentum. We are confident that our students will do us proud by an outstanding result. We have high hopes from the Batch of 2016 which is all set to fly out of the nest in a few days from now. On behalf of the entire school community I wish them luck for all their future endeavours.

The School offered a smorgasbord of rich experiences to the students by hosting various Inter-School events. Our students got enriched through active participation in cultural, academic, sporting and service related projects.

We do realise that happy, satisfied and motivated teachers are essential for classroom effectiveness. Our faculty is constantly encouraged to make determined efforts to recalibrate the educational strategies on a regular basis to keep pace with the times. We provided every possible institutional support towards enhancement of pedagogical skills and knowledge of subject matter by sending the teachers for workshops, seminars and in-house training programs.

Our close bonds with our alumni got a major boost as different Batches visited school in large numbers at different times.

We are nearing the end of this academic year. While all that has been achieved till now has been very gratifying; I would like to conclude by reassuring everyone that we will only grow stronger and better and will allow no dilution in our efforts to achieve excellence.

Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat
Principal, The Scindia School



The School Band at the Rajpath



The delegates at the International German Youth Camp

EDITORIAL

The School is drawing towards the end of the academic term. It has been a fulfilling year wherein we engaged in a vast array of impressive and high quality activities. We continued to strive towards the all-round development of our students. Academic excellence, sans any undue stress was our goal and it is heartening to see that the atmosphere of joyful learning has become widespread and contagious. Enjoyment, camaraderie and school spirit continue to be an integral feature of our sports programmes and co-curricular offerings.

The School celebrated the 118th Founder's Day with traditional pomp and regalia. The Chief Guest was an Indian politician, former diplomat and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of External Affairs - Dr Shashi Tharoor. The outstanding talent of our boys was demonstrated through the much enjoyed cultural programme and also through the various exhibits which were displayed in the exhibition. Like every year, the Old Boys swarmed the Fort in large numbers reliving several beautiful memories of their school days.

School life remained eventful with celebrations like Republic Day, the Annual House Report Ceremony and various Inter-House activities. Love for adventure is an integral part of the Scindian way of life and the boys of Junior Houses cut their teeth on the formidable Fort walls through activities like jumaring, rock climbing, rappelling and trekking.

It is a matter of great pride that for the 12th year in succession the School Band marched on the Rajpath on Republic Day. The boys also gave a Guard of Honour to a few dignitaries and marched in the Prime Minister's Rally. The NCC Band Coordinator's Cup for coordinating all the four bands at the NCC camp was given to **Mr Ramesh Sharma**.

Social Responsibility

Awareness towards society and social causes was instilled through the observance of the Communal Harmony week. Students expressed their views on various forms of fanaticism through participation in literary, artistic and cultural activities. Group discussions within the class and panel discussion with Oxford University alumnus Mr Yash Gandhi helped to sensitise the students towards issues of religious, linguistic and communal intolerance.

We also strengthened our association with the NGO Nanhi Kali by enhancing the sponsorship for the girl child.

Inter School Events

The School hosted the **International German Youth Camp** where we welcomed delegates from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Iran. The camp provided a wholesome learning environment through different classes entitled MINT, Comic and

schülerzeitung. The teaching of Mathematics and Physics in German, creation of a comic titled 'Around the world in 80 days', conducting interviews and group discussions, making a robot and sightseeing were some of the highlights of the camp. The students found the experience very enriching and rewarding.

Ten schools participated in the 4th **IPSC Service Project** at the Nathon-ka-Pura Village. This year the construction of an approximately 35 meters of concrete path outside the village and 50 meters of brick and cement path inside the village was completed. The floors of the two classrooms were plastered and due care was given to aesthetics as teachers and students adorned the walls of the hutments with paintings and slogans. Awareness about personal hygiene, cleanliness and the prevalent social evils was spread through talks and thought provoking skits. We are encouraged by the success of each year's project and the School is determined to further strengthen its efforts by imparting vocational training to the villagers.

Thirteen schools participated in the second edition of **The Scindia School Model United Nations Conference (SCIMUN)**. The three day conference was marked by cerebral discussions, friendly banter and intense media activity. The delegates who represented different countries and parties had done their homework well which was evident by their speeches, their answers to penetrating questions and the passion with which they debated on resolutions and amendments. The crisis management by the committees was also very commendable. Equally laudable was the work of the International Press whose reporters and photojournalists worked tirelessly to keep us updated with all the proceedings.

The Scindia School hosted the third '**Swarnotsav**' in the loving memory of Swarn Sadana (Ex DI, 2012) a music prodigy whom we lost in an unfortunate accident in 2010. The music and dance competition was a brilliant display of talent by the participants from different schools of the city. The competition was won by The Scindia School and Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan was the runner up.

Sports

Sixteen teams from across the country participated in the **All India IPSC U-14 Cricket Tournament** hosted by The Scindia School. The Tournament saw the best of cricketing talent from different



Making a point

schools clash with each other in the true spirit of sportsmanship and fair play. Swashbuckling batsmen, gifted bowlers and outstanding fielders kept the excitement alive till the last match. The Tournament was won by Modern School, New Delhi.

Academics

The period November to February saw a perceptibly enhanced thrust on academics. The students were encouraged to set high benchmarks for themselves and the School provided all instructional support to help students reach there. The Winter Study Camp was revived after a hiatus of a few years. It was an intensive academic package with rigorous study slots, supervised prep and regular assessment. Both the students and the faculty found it very enriching as many doubts were clarified and concepts were drilled with great effectiveness.

Dr (Mrs) M. Bishnoi and Mrs Puja Pant attended a workshop on 'Challenging areas in English – Core XII'. The workshop was conducted under the aegis of CBSE and teachers from different parts of the country clarified doubts and shared good teaching strategies. Our teachers returned enriched with the latest updates and shared it with the other members of the faculty and students.

Dr Abhinaba Ghosh, who is working with the Laboratory of Molecular Microbiology at the University of Cambridge - United Kingdom, visited the school and interacted with the students of grades IX-XI. He shared his insights on the scholarship and application process in the universities abroad. He also discussed about his research work and explained about the deadly bacterial strains which are used as biological weapons for warfare and for creating terror in the society.

Educational trips were planned on a regular basis to complement classroom learning. Students enjoyed Bird watching at Tighra and also a visit to the crocodile park situated on the banks of Chambal River.

Faculty News

Mr Dharendra Sharma – Dean of Studies, attended a conference on, 'A communicative approach to school improvement – The Principal's perspective' in Kuala Lumpur. He attended a lecture on 'Governance, leadership and management' and participated in workshops on - 'Management by objectives – popular, successful – flawed', 'Cooperative Instructional Development: Professional Learning Communities' and 'Quality standards for PLCs'. The phrase, Professional Learning Community was introduced as a synonym for a Teacher, implying that a teacher should be a learner first.

Mr Gopal Chaturvedi conducted a workshop on –'Digital stories and the copyright law' for the members of the faculty. The teachers found the session very informative and received valuable insight on the recent developments in cyber laws.

Career Cell

The Vice-Chancellor of OP Jindal Global University – Dr C. Raj Kumar visited the School along with his team of Deans. They gave a presentation on the university and followed it up with an interactive session. The boys satisfied their queries regarding the various career options and courses available at the University. The Vice-Chancellor announced the launch of five scholarships exclusively for the students of The Scindia School.

Dr Swarup Sinha, Principal and Mr Vivek Khanna, Project Manager of ITC Hospitality Management Institute visited the campus. They interacted with the students of Classes XI and XII and apprised the boys about the four and a half year under-graduate degree course 'Welcome legionnaire Programme' conducted by the ITC. The students were given details of the selection process and told about the joys of working in the Hospitality industry.



Skit on social awareness issues

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Mriganka Ghosh's film on the theme 'Act Today Change Tomorrow' was adjudged the best out of all the entries at the Roy McComish Art Work. The competition was a part of the Round Square International Conference at United World College, Singapore.

The School Shooting team, comprising 12 students, participated in the IPSC Shooting Championship - 2015 held at the Daly College - Indore. The Scindian shooters bagged 5 medals in various categories. **Aditi Joshi** and **Shashank Kumar** secured the Gold medal in the .177 Air Pistol U-14 Girls and Boys category respectively. **Shashank Kumar**, **Fatehveer Singh** and **Rudraksh Rishi** secured the Bronze medal in the .177 Air Pistol U-14 Boys Team category. **Aditi Joshi** and **Shashank Kumar** have been selected for the SGFI National Games 2015-16.

Mohit Asrani of Class IX participated in the 20th International UCMAS Abacus & Mental Arithmetic Competition 2015 and secured the 3rd position.

11 students participated in the Jr. National Equestrian Championship held at National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla. **Manas Yadav** won a Gold medal, **Ayush Singh** won a Silver medal and a Bronze medal and **Abhinav Gautam** won one Bronze medal in the prestigious championship organized by the NDA and National Equestrian Association.

Nanhi Chaan an NGO, recently organized a national level essay writing contest on the topic 'Gender Equality is the only

way forward'. Two thousand students from across the country participated in it. **Hrithik Malhotra** of The Scindia School was among the 14 students who were shortlisted for the second round. He was awarded a certificate and an i-pad.

Mriganka Ghosh and **Yohen Thounaojam** were selected as Student Ambassadors of Microsoft from The Scindia School after several rounds of Skype sessions. They attended the Annual Student Ambassadors meet at the Microsoft Office in Gurgaon. The duo got the opportunity to drive projects, collaborate with students from around the world and initiate activities to transform learning experiences for themselves and their peers. They learnt about coding, computer science, new tools and opportunities in the gaming sector. They now have to prepare a proposal for a project which will be assessed by Microsoft. If approved, the project will last for 3 - 4 months and other students with similar aptitude in school will also be a part of the same.

Three students **Shivam Gupta**, **Snehil Tripathi** and **Varun Awasthi** participated in the 'SOBA Agra Cup' organised by SOBA at the Agra Golf Course. They performed exceptionally well at the Tournament.

OLD BOYS' NEWS

On the occasion of the 118th Founder's Day of the School the Madhav Award was conferred on Dr Gautam Barua (Ex Jayaji, 1970) in recognition of his scholarship and leadership. The SOBA award was won by Mr KM Agarwal (Ex Chaitanya, 1972) and the SOBA cup was awarded to the Kanpur Chapter. The day was also marked by the launch of the SOBA flag, the mobile apps directory and the alumni card.

Yuvraj Gupta (Ex Jayaji, 2011) has authored a book titled 'Kibana Essentials' which is aimed at beginners who wish to learn about Kibana & its functionality. Kibana is a data visualization tool and is part of ELK Stack. The book has been published by Packt Pub, a world leader in publishing technical books.

Gaurav Jain, (Ex- Mahadji, 1989) Founder and Managing Director of ColdEX, one of India's largest cold chain fleet operators, has received funding from major private equity funds for investments of Rs 250 crores. Many congratulations to him.

In pursuance of our social responsibility ventures the 'Able the Disabled' project was launched under the aegis of **SOBA CARE**. Different Chapters of SOBA have been actively involved in this. Wheelchairs and stretchers have been donated to the railway stations, airport and Old age home by the Nagpur, Agra, Pune, Indore and Kanpur chapters of SOBA.

Arjun Saraswat (Ex Ranoji, 2010) ran the Airtel Marathon on the 29th of November 2015. He completed the 21.1 km race in 1 hour 24 minutes and 30 seconds (1:24:30). He finished 42nd out of 13000 finishers. Congratulations to him!

Schools like ours thrive on the synergy and close bond that exists between the Old Boys and the institution. We were delighted to welcome different Batches of Old Boys and reconnect with them. Members of the **Batch of 1992** and **1983** visited the Fort over the past few months. The School also celebrated the Golden Jubilee Reunion of the **Batch of 1966**. Each of these visits was marked by nostalgia and bonhomie as the alumni went around their Houses, attended the Astachal, played friendly matches with the current students and interacted with faculty and students. They were very happy to see the recently spruced-up infrastructure of the school and enjoyed the warm welcome extended by the entire school community.

The **Mumbai SOBA** hosted a team of 21 students, three faculty members and Director Alumni Relationship - Mr G.S. Bakshi who represented the school in the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon on 17th January, 2016. Nine students were a part of the 6 km 'Dream Run' and twelve band boys played tunes to encourage the enthusiastic runners. Their performance was much appreciated and received widespread coverage in the local media. The team was also treated to an extravaganza of music, food and interesting video clippings about the School, in the evening at the famous D' Bell lounge. The alumni, who attended the event in large numbers, got an opportunity to meet the Principal and share many ideas which could help in the growth of the school.

A meeting of the **Central SOBA Executive Committee** was held at Mumbai. Several matters relating to SOBA activities e.g. Mobile App, Privilege Card, Scholarships, Able-the-Disabled Programme, Alumni Cricket Bash, School/Alumni website and Excursions were discussed. Future programmes at Agra, Kolkata, Kanpur and other chapters were also discussed.

Manmeet Singh (Ex Jayaji, 1994) and **Harmeet Singh** (Ex Jayaji, 1995) won the award for the Best Music in the film 'Roy' at the 61st Filmfare Awards. The duo created history by taking a clean sweep in several awards e.g. the Screen Awards, Big Star Entertainment Awards, Star Guild Awards and the Stardust Awards.

The **Annual SOBA Golf event** was organised at Agra. It was attended by a large number of Scindians from all across the country. The Scindian golfers showed their skill at the Agra Golf Course in the august presence of the Commissioner of Agra, Mr Pradeep Bhatnagar, a keen golfer himself. The organising team had also arranged an enjoyable evening of live music and scrumptious snacks. They presented a beautifully framed memento of the school song to all present.

Results:

Winner: Mr Amit Agarwal
Runner Up: Mr. Mohnish Jain
Second Runners Up: Mr Mayank Arora
Best Gross: Mr Ravi Singh
Closest to the Pin: Mr Girish Chandorkar
Straight Drive: Mr. Neeraj Sirohi
Maximum Birdies: Mr Ravi Singh
Maximum Pars: Mr Ajay Agarwal



Dean of ICT Mr RK Kapoor with the student ambassadors of Microsoft



The winning strokes



A place for fun and frolic

THE OLD POOL

No one knew, for how long the swimming pool had been empty. At least none of the boys knew.

A sign on the wall stated 'Swimming Pool'. Behind the wall, all that was visible was the upper half of a stone tower with an open stone staircase, spiraling up to a diving platform sans the diving board. The rear wall of the pool complex had a small entrance gate with a large padlock chained across it. The pool was 'out of bounds'.

Portions of the pool could be glimpsed from the first floor of the school building and Jayaji House. Built from the same stones as the barracks housing the school, the bone dry pool, without a trace of ceramic tiling, resembled an ancient Roman bath. Several theories were propounded, as to why the pool was non-functional.

Students of Biology said it was a health issue, as without a filtration plant, the pool would breed germs and mosquitoes and spread disease. Those with a mathematical bent of mind were convinced that the rate of leakage being greater than the rate at which water could be pumped in, filling the pool was impossible; hence the closure. There were local boys who knowledgeably announced that the Collector of Gwalior had banned pools due to water scarcity. Some felt there was a safety issue as the sports masters did not know how to swim. Others proclaimed that swimming had been banned ever since the tragic drowning of Murad Ali.

Whatever may have been the reason, it was agreed by all, that the swimming pool was destined to be empty.

And then the impossible happened!

As the first lot of boys returned from their summer holidays and were busy unpacking their steel trunks, reports trickled in that the swimming pool appeared to be full of water! This news was soon confirmed by a notice that was pinned up, announcing that swimming classes were to start shortly. Waves of excitement and anticipation swept through the school! How long would each swimming class last? Surely at least two periods would be consumed for every swimming class. Such speculation was soon put to rest. It was announced that swimming periods would be held during P.T. periods and there would be no change in the time-table for the remaining classes.

The day soon arrived for the first swimming period. Along with books, boys carried to school their towels and swimming trunks / extra underwear. At the pool the boys were greeted by a hairy chested PT Pawar sir, attired in wet black boxer shorts. Malhotra sir was there too, fully dressed in his impeccable whites.

The boys were asked to state 'swimmer' or 'non-swimmer' while answering roll call. The 'swimmers' were made to swim the width of the pool at the shallow end. Pawar sir was in the pool to ensure there were no mishaps. Those who struggled to complete the width were asked to remain at the shallow end. Malhotra sir, with attendance register in hand, entered 'NS' against the names of all non-swimmers.

The non-swimmers were shepherded to the shallow end by Pawar

Sir. The swimmers were allowed the freedom of the pool. However, the diving tower was out of bounds for the first few swimming periods. The swimming time was declared over, when the last of the 'swimmers' / 'non-swimmers' had barely been sorted out. Pawar Sir and Malhotra Sir began shouting and blowing their whistles at all the swimmers who lingered on in the pool. Being in water, had resulted in hearing difficulties for many and some had to be dragged out by their ears.

Once out of the pool, showers and dressing-up were carried out at a leisurely pace. It was followed by the slow march back to school. By the time the boys returned to their class-rooms, the swimming pool period had spilled over by fifteen minutes into the period that followed. This became a regular feature, much to the annoyance of the class teachers.

The swimming periods soon reached a sophisticated stage where swimming competitions began. Owing to paucity of time, the maximum number (about fifteen) of swimmers would be lined up at the deep end. Most would take off before Pawar Sir blew his whistle, which was a smart tactic as there were no recalls. Though the shallow end was the ultimate destination yet there being no lanes marked, swimmers veered off in various directions. The style of swimming was said to be 'free-style' which was interpreted as a 'free-for-all' style. It was perfectly acceptable to grab those in front, whack those at the side, and kick those who were trying to catch up from behind. Some, who thought they had won, would disappointedly realize that they had reached the wrong wall. No records were maintained for these races.

As for the high level diving board, it was used for jumping, rather than diving. Creating the biggest splash was the aim and landing in the Nirvana style was most effective. Anyone managing to splash a few drops on Malhotra sir's spotless whites was the unofficial diving champion of the day.

The fun lasted for about two months. Pools built by the British army in 1858 had no filtration plants. The water gradually turned murky and picked up a faint odour of urine. The 'frightened' non-swimmers were blamed for the smell. Once again the Old Pool was closed down. A few months later we graduated out of school. How long the pool remained closed, we don't know. Many years later, we learnt that the Old Pool had been replaced with a spanking new pool, complete with blue tiles and a water treatment plant. The most heartening news was that the pool, more often than not, is full of water!

Nandlal Rane (Ex-Vivekanand, 1967)



MEMORABLE INCIDENTS AT SCINDIA (1949-1956)

I recounted personalities at Scindia in one of my earlier articles for the Qila Quotes. As far as the memorable incidents go, my memory is not so sharp but I do remember some outstanding happenings. I cannot relate the year and month when these occurrences took place but the pictures associated with them are very graphic in my mind.

First is the case of the leopard. As we know, the Fort used to be surrounded by wild country and a dense jungle. This was more prominent in the south-eastern part of the great hill on which the Fort sits. This area is also close to the entrance of the School through the Urvai Gate. It so happened, that one summer, we became aware of the disappearance of some stray dogs that had made a home near our House. This was because they had access to food scraps there. At night these scavengers found shelter around anywhere, where they felt safe, usually around the several monuments and unused areas towards the Old Junior School. Since that area is closer to Urvai Ghati, a prowling hungry leopard killed one stray dog and ate it. Later the leopard found it so easy to get a dog that it made it a habit. Someone found a half-eaten dog carcass and it became evident that a 'tendua' was around. Word went out fast to have shikaris come and dispose it off. All of us were instructed not to sleep outside the dormitories under the open summer night. Most of us were scared, and very few were brave enough to go for walks after sunset. A number of Old Boys volunteered to do the shooting and I think the task went to Padam Singh and his companions from Pahargarh. A night of vigil among the trees provided the opportunity to bag the stealthy beast. It all happened far away from the main school area but we were in for a great and exciting surprise next day when the panther's carcass was brought in front of Mahadji House and strung up from a branch of a nearby peepal tree. We never got enough of looking at this beautiful animal. It looked surprisingly small but had impressive teeth.

My friends and I used to love to roam about the environs of the great Man Mandir. What an awesome place that was. We were small and the towering walls and domes were just so fantastic to look at and marvel. Once, we gained entry into the palace and found a dungeon within. It was almost pitch dark except for a shaft of light coming in through the cracks in the wall. In the center was a deep ditch and there were some rings embedded in the walls of the chamber. We were told that this is where Aurangzeb had imprisoned his brother Murad and then had him killed. We could almost feel the presence of the tortured ghost of Murad Baksh. We fell silent then took off in a hurry. We realised that Man Mandir is large and little boys can get lost quite easily. We did not appreciate then, that we were living right in the midst of one of the most important landmarks in India's history going back centuries. That feeling is a matter of pride for me now.

When I became the School Prefect, I had the unique privilege

as did others of that rank, to leave school by permission and go to town. How perfectly wonderful that was. On winter mornings the weather was cool and the warm sun was up and we used to walk down Gwalior Ghati and end up somewhere near the tomb of Mohammed Ghaus and Tansen and there was a theatre there that showed Hollywood movies. I was a fan of the American so called action packed films and it was a rare pleasure for me to see something with the dashing Errol Flynn there. I also remember, sometimes being disappointed by ending up seeing thoroughly boring movies because we never knew which movie was running and what it was about. One such was a movie called 'State Fair'. It was some sort of a musical comedy about what happens in the U.S.A. at state fairs. It made no sense to us, and the songs were no match for our desi films and the voices of Lata and Rafi. Ever since I have come to the U.S., my wife and I have been to a few of these fairs just to have our little children enjoy pony rides and shoot toy guns at targets. I still have very fond memories of those outings in Gwalior.

Finally another incident that I recall with fondness is one that I remember only partially. It involved a very senior student. One who did not even know I existed but whom we, all juniors, thought of as someone unique and different. The gentleman I'm talking about is Sri Lokendra Singh- the one who joined Vinoba Bhave and went with him on his gram daan travels. Lokendra Singh was a strong and silent kind of person. What he did or at least had the reputation of having done once was as follows. He had decided to break the School's rules and run off to town. He and a companion achieved this adventure and were returning to school via the Urvai Ghati late in the evening. In those days there used to be no bright lights up that road. Back in the forties and fifties it was definitely lonely and dangerous to be walking there alone. While making their way up they were surprised by the voices of two of the masters coming down that ghati. Lokendra Singh's companion panicked and ran into some bushes to hide but Lokendra either did not get to hide or more likely he wanted to test his daring and the alertness of the masters. We were told later that he simply disguised himself as an old beggar by rumpling his copious hair, throwing sand on it, shrouding his shoulders in the shawl that he had and then bending his back and coughing, he coolly walked up under the eyes of the masters. May be he uttered the benign greeting 'Jai Ramji Ki' as he passed by, to be more convincing. He was never found out and I don't know if he ever repeated his adventure. I wonder how Sri Lokendra Singh would have reacted on reading my article. May be he would have denied it outright as fabrication or chuckled at his prank or perhaps he might have wondered how I came to know of it.

Byravan Viswanathan (Ex-Mahadji- 1956)
M.D., F.A.C.P
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Adventure remains one of the most memorable experiences for all Scindians.



Paresh Sahai with a colleague



The vibrant school atmosphere which helps create an all round personality.

I AM PRIVILEGED

I was holding back my tears as I climbed on the pillion seat of the scooter, waving to my eldest son Paresh as he walked off nonchalantly towards Sarvapalli House, Junior School, in 1979. I held my husband tightly to stop myself from running after my darling son. My husband was riding me back to our home down the Fort after leaving our 10 year old son at The Scindia School. I was unable to see the road through my tears. After unlocking the house I almost threw myself on the first chair of the front room and sobbed uncontrollably.

I often wondered to myself, "Had I thrown my son out of the nest at a very tender age?" It was dreadful-the silence and emptiness of his bedroom. Now he will not be able to enjoy the bedtime stories and cuddles with his Mummy. I had handed over my ten year old son over to people we barely knew. Saying goodbye to him after every school break for the next five years never got any easier, and the scene was repeated every time I went up to meet him /to drop him off for another term. My husband, being a Fauji, tried always to put up a brave face, but I knew he too was, always, upset.

I had no idea how I would cope without him. His absence meant a sense of complete loss to me. My hands felt empty. My role as a mother was over prematurely. No words can fully express the emotional deprivation the separation can have on parents. I asked myself over and over again, "Why did I leave him like this?" My husband always consoled me and said, "Because of service conditions - Two years' field and three years' peace postings at different places will disturb him too much. His education needs stability."

After nine years I had my second son. By now, my husband was senior enough to handle the stability issue to a great extent. I too was not prepared to part with my second son as well. I strongly argued that a loving home and caring parents cannot be recreated anywhere else and that they have a much better impact in the long run, on the overall happiness and sensible life choices of the child, than any other institution.

My elder son Paresh is successfully working in the private corporate sector, outside India, at a senior management level. The art of strategic management-which includes environmental consciousness, creative thinking, setting objectives, establishing strategies to achieve objectives, assigning responsibilities, implementing the strategies, measuring success and evaluating results-the foundation of all this was laid in the School. The unique combination of Eastern and Western value system was initiated in his mind in The Scindia School where he imbibed a global perspective with an Indian ethos. He still continues with his reading habit, with the knowledge of current affairs, love for sports and fitness, proficiency in debate/elocution, the questioning mind, the leadership skills, buddyship, impeccable etiquettes, and global friendships. All this and more, he owes to the school and

the wonderful teachers. We often remember, with great fondness, Mrs Lakdawala who was a true replacement of all mothers in the school.

My younger son Vishesh has been teaching in The Scindia School for the last 15 years. He disliked the suitcase lifestyle since his childhood. He joined his mother's profession and is the 4th generation teacher from his maternal side. I have been a teacher for more than 42 years in the Govt. Dept of Higher Education. My mother was a Principal in the prestigious Padmavidyalaya and my grandmother had taught Mahadevi Verma in Allahabad. So teaching flows in his blood. As a mother I feel that he has all the essential qualities of a good teacher-the background knowledge, professional skills and personal qualities. He is patient, kind, flexible, tolerant, open minded, honest, active and smart with effective communication skills. He understands that a child is not only a tiny bundle of joy that can cry, smile and laugh but also a true miracle of life. He therefore feels a commitment to mould him according to his potential. "When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece" Ruskin says. The School has provided a vibrant mentoring in academics, co-curricular, extracurricular activities, procedures and protocols.

Sometimes when the two brothers quibble the younger one gains an upper hand, by saying "You only studied in The Scindia School but I teach and mentor hundreds like you."

When I see my two sons together, one the product and other the pedagogue of the same institution; there is a beautiful realisation -I am a privileged mother.

Prof (Dr) Mrs Kirti Saxena
(Mother of Paresh Sahai - Ex- Je, 1985 and Vishesh Sahai - faculty in Economics)

HOW YOU SEE ME

Angels may not necessarily be nice. Sounds unbelievable, doesn't it?

How often does it happen that we ascribe angelic qualities to a person on the basis of just one or two of his good traits, quite erroneously, considering these to be absolute indicators of his character? This in human terms is called 'The Halo effect'; a term coined by psychologist Edward Thorndike.

The halo metaphor is used for the phenomenon because one characteristic outshines other characteristics and affects our perception when considering additional traits. To be precise this effect means that a good trait of a person often makes us treat even the neutral or ambiguous traits of his personality positively. It may in fact even blind us towards the other negative aspects of his personality and make people think of that respective person more favourably than he actually deserves.

Imagine if you had a magic charm that would make every person think of you as a wonderful guy who can be trusted with everything and someone who would do no wrong. Truly speaking I don't know a single soul on this planet who wouldn't jump at the offer or not use it for personal gains, myself included. The halo effect promises exactly such advantages. How simple and smooth life would be if after having created a single good impression one could milk its benefits endlessly. This is probably why people deem the first impression so important. If you have been smart enough to display the right part of your personality to people once then you can easily be in their good books forever. It helps cover your weaknesses and achieve an invincible form on the outside. If and when you do show your true self there is a high chance that any negatives and potential problems will be overlooked. (I never realized before this how much I use it myself).

However there is a flip side to this. You could become a victim of the 'Halo Effect' when your judgments and decisions about others become riddled with errors as you may have been influenced by a wide variety of biases. You might be too inclined to view people favourably even when you ought to have been more cautious. For example imagine you apply for a job. The boss seems very nice and kind but when promotion time comes -BOOM. He plays a foul card and you realise how naive you have been to not have expected this to happen. The same has caused a good number of my friends problems with girls since they fail to judge the true character of the person and then I had to say "I told you so". In the classroom, teachers are subject to the halo effect rating error when evaluating their students. Many a times, much to their chagrin, they realise that they let off a certain set of students off the hook despite their being at the core of most of the problems.

A study by Landy and Sigall showed how the halo effect works on people in terms of academic competence and intelligence. They asked a few male college students to judge a bunch of articles which included a fair share of good and bad pieces. The results

had an interesting story to tell. The good articles with a cute writer got an average of 7 out of ten while good articles with average looking authors got only 5. And this gap increased even further for the bad articles. (I totally regret writing this part.)

Similar effects were shown by another group of people for political and public figures. Two photographs of U.S. presidents were used and the vote was in favour of the good looking guy. (Voters were girls, of course). So it's time for us to consider if Narendra Modi is really as good as most people think or is it just a part of what he really lets us see? The same goes for Obama and many others.

Just before I conclude I'd share how Bollywood and Hollywood have used the 'Halo Effect' to their benefit. Most of our modern day protagonists depend largely on beauty and physical appearance compared to their on screen skills. So we have quite a few mediocre actors with stunning looks ruling the roost. However I'd like to believe that people will eventually mentally programme themselves to view things objectively and with time the truth will be visible to all. (Long live Charlie Chaplin.)

Prabhav Pachauri, XII A

HOW YOU DON'T NOT ALL DEVILS ARE NECESSARILY DEVILS.

The 'Halo Effect' makes angels out of ordinary mortals. Another phenomenon known as the 'Horns Effect' does just the opposite. It refers to the tendency to judge someone on the basis of an unfavourable impression/characteristic and then using that to undermine all of his other good and positive characteristics hence forming a bad impression. In layman's terms, if an observer dislikes a certain aspect of someone/ something, he will have a negative predisposition towards everything about that person or thing.

The Guardian wrote of the devil/horns effect in relation to Mr. Hugo Chavez: "Some leaders can become so demonized that it's impossible to assess their achievements and failures in a balanced way." In this case the Horns Effect can be seen in full form. Mr. Chavez on the basis of a few of his shortcomings was subjected to being demonized in a way from which he could never recover.

Edward Thorndike, a psychologist, coined it as being something which is absolutely unfair for an individual. Under the Horns Effect we come to believe that if someone cannot do job A, he will also not be able to do jobs B, C and D. We tend to make negative assumptions about people based on this overall impression even if we don't know them very well. An application of this phenomenon is seen in our responses towards American and Japanese car companies. We view Americans as people who might swindle the masses whereas we view Japanese as honest people who will make durable and better cars. This misperception persists despite the fact that American car manufacturers use identical components from the same suppliers and assemble their cars using identical manufacturing processes. The consequence is that Japanese-brand cars resell for much higher prices than American-brand cars.

In our day to day life we see various instances of the Horn-Halo effect. We see people we like (at times influenced by the Halo effect) and think that they can't do any wrong. We feel that they are perfect angels but in some cases it is quite possible for them to have a tilt towards the devilish side. In fact we become so accepting of them that even when they make a mistake we condone it in an 'Everyone makes mistakes' way. I have seen teachers misjudge and be soft on some of my innocent looking classmates numerous times though the reality is that they often happen to be the ringleaders of all mischief. A well-behaved, bespectacled, intent looking student in the class is assumed to be a great Scholar but the truth may be very different.

The Horn category is just the opposite. This is where you will find the people who fall into your allergy zone. These are the people you just don't like, and if you had the choice you would completely

avoid them. If they do something positive, you will easily forget it (happens with me). Rather you would be most reluctant to believe that the person can do something positive. Such a mentality of our society has reduced the capabilities of humans considerably as we tend to be too harsh on some people. We believe that just because of one instance or one characteristic that person is not worth anything. Our judgment becomes so narrow that our expectations and hopes from the person get severely diminished.

I can say that I am a fairly good swimmer but don't 'look' like one and therefore am not considered one. On the other hand someone who can play a swimmers' role in a play but not in real life looks a better swimmer to an outsider. (Another example of Horns, Halo psychology). A similar issue was touched in Brad Pitt's movie, 'Money Ball'. In the movie Brad Pitt was given the task to create a new team. His 'experienced scouts' gave him players who looked good and fit but there was another set of players considered absolutely discarded. Finally Brad decided to try the 'not so good looking' players and his team broke the all-time record of the highest number of victories in Major League Baseball (True Story).

The main idea behind writing about the Horn and Halo Effect is to educate people about the perils of arriving at a hasty judgment on the basis of the first impression. It is important to understand that we are only cheating ourselves by doing so. A person is the sum of his various qualities and shortcomings and therefore it would be highly erroneous to judge him on the basis of any one trait. One must check the box between angel and demon only after a more holistic view of the person and not just on first impression.

Abhijeet Nagpal, XII B



Minds at work.



Creativity being explored.

HANDWRITING R.I.P.

One day while sitting in the dormitory of Madhav House, my batch mates and I were talking about those crazy little things that we, as very small children, often did. As nostalgia was in the air, we talked about a lot of embarrassing, exciting and emotional incidents that happened with us in those carefree and beautiful days of innocence.

Then somebody reminded us of those good old 'Improve Your Writing'-titled calligraphy books our parents used to terrorise us with. We reminisced with joy how we had to sit, day in and day out, writing or rather copying the 'ideal' style of writing from the sample set of sentences these provided us with. Filling up those sheets with a few lines of text and a larger deal with random doodles was all that we did those days. It's funny how much time and energy we invested to ensure that our handwriting became ornate. (I remember us being starred for our handwriting in pre-school)

Apart from its artistic charm there were many other benefits that handwriting offered. Learning cursive was so much more than letters on a page and the various symbols helped us channelise our thoughts. Many a times handwriting served as a personality passport and the graphologists amongst us tried to unravel a person's characteristics through it. It also had tremendous sentimental value because its intimate and personal style of communication showed that you cared. How common was it to treasure handwritten letters and cards with great affection. Mothers would also preserve their children's schoolwork, diaries etc. But all these are now things of the distant past.

We have come a long way from those times. With the advent of the digital age handwriting has taken a backseat in favour of keyboarding and word processing skills. Even though we see a lot of text around us the reality is that most of it is in typed form. The technological progress made by us has blunted our appetite for aesthetics and calligraphy. Handwriting thus has become one major casualty. Today the understanding of its importance and appreciation for its exquisiteness has vanished. It would not be an overstatement to say that handwriting has become a dying art and its tales would be narrated by us to our grandchildren once we grow old.

The important question that pops up in my head is that who is to be blamed for all this?

With several innovations sweeping over our lives in unimaginable ways technology has started playing an increasingly important role in our lives. People find it much easier to switch on their laptops and print a document with a fancy font rather than picking up a pen or brush and putting those same words on a paper. Granted that a substantial number of people will harp on the merits of typing by advocating that it saves both time and effort, but the clichéd yet sad truth is that it completely kills originality. It also gives no credit to the original artist and therefore can be rather unrewarding.

Perhaps handwriting will see a revival as these days calligraphers have switched to websites that offer them good amount of money. This not only brings them monetary benefits but also gives a boost to their self esteem to see their craft gain popularity. Apple Co-Founder Steve Jobs had once said that if he had not taken a calligraphy course at college, he would not have thought of putting multiple prefaces on the Mac. However it's a slow and long drawn process as the number of such websites is very limited and the number of such artists very few. As of now handwriting has got submerged in the deluge of printed text.

The story of this art depicts the life of an old lady who is about to depart. The loss is extremely painful but one has to accept the inevitable truth that her time has come. Today all we can do is to imagine how beautiful she must have been in her golden days. At the same time while she is with us, taking her last few breaths in this world, we must show her due respect.

It is time that we learn to treasure and preserve such beautiful arts. They are the pillars of our academic world's beauty and the only remains of our ancestors and their works. In case we fail to do so let us just say Rest In Peace.

Snehil Tripathi, XI A

AN INCIDENT IN SCINDIA WHICH HAD A HUGE IMPACT ON YOU

The announcement that I have been promoted to the position of School Prefect by Sri K.C. Shukla had a huge impact on me.

Byravan Viswanathan, Ex Mahadji, 1956.

The entire 7 year experience is what really had the most lasting impact on me.

Prashant Prabhu, Ex Madhav, 1967

During the ninth standard labour camp at Umri village, I noticed that the villagers, despite their meagre possessions, were as happy or unhappy as anyone else. The thought puzzled me and I wondered how that could be possible. Later in life I understood, what I had observed then, that happiness is a state of mind.

Pawan Gupta, Ex Ranoji, 1970

On one occasion the entire school walked out of the dining hall at Lunch time to protest against the quality and variety of food offered. Our Principal, Mr S P Sahi, called us and reprimanded us. He was adamant that this step taken by us was confrontationalist and therefore would serve no real purpose. He also explained to us that the displeasure could have been conveyed to the authorities through other methods and that a process of meaningful dialogue is always more effective in arriving at solutions.

The irony of the entire incident was that we had to eat the same food for dinner as he did not subscribe to any wastage. A lesson was learnt by us all for life.

Vikram Mathur, Ex Jayaji, 1974

The school at some stage had a Middle School/ Houses. We, the students of Classes VII and VIII, were a part of it before we moved on to the Senior School/Houses in Class IX. So I moved from Vivekanand House to Jayaji House in the Middle School. However soon after this relocation, the school authorities decided to revert to the old system of including the North Block Houses as the Senior Houses. This led to some of our class and housemates getting transferred back to Vivekanand House. There was complete anguish, resentment and commotion amongst all of us since we faced a 'partition' for no fault of ours. A list of the boys, who had to be relocated to Vivekanand House, was prepared. Luckily I was not in that list but many of my close friends were. They did not remain the same friends ever again as we parted ways to support the two House (Nation) theory. So for the next few years in school

whenever Jayaji played Vivekanand in the league matches, debates or elocution the animosity was so intense that it was almost like two partitioned nations fighting / playing against each other. I wondered later why we could not handle this in a more sensitive manner. The lesson learned through this experience has always helped me rise above pettiness and handle matters with great maturity.

Saumitro Sen, Ex Jayaji, 1976

I ran down the Fort on the second day of my admission to school, only to be held by the guard at Urwai gate. He called the school bus saying it would drop me to the railway station. The bus, however, brought me back to Jankoji House. There, instead of being scolded and punished I was treated very gently and with a lot of affection by our House Mistress Mrs Malhotra. Thereafter, it was 'no homesickness' for the next 7 years in The Scindia school.

Dr. Sanjay Kolte, Ex Madhav, 1983

Once when I was in Class IX or X, I broke one of the House rules. The House Captain called for a special roll-call late at night. While I was being punished, our Housemaster Mr R K Tewari passed by and inquired what was going on. On hearing about my mistake from the House Captain he said, "I don't believe what you are saying. A person like Saurabh can never do this". His trust in me had a huge impact on me. Till this day, before taking any action, I always ask myself, "Will this make my well wishers feel proud of me or will they be disappointed by my act?"

Saurabh Agrawal, Ex Jayappa, 1989

There are several memorable incidents and after 25 years it seems difficult to single out one. However if I really had to pick one, the memories of my debating experiences are what I cherish with great fondness. Until Class VIII I had represented Jankoji and Madhav House in elocutions with Akhilesh Raina. From Class IX onwards the two of us moved into debates and our House won each year. From 1985 to 1989, we also formed the School Debating Team and won the Platinum Jubilee Debate twice i.e. in the years 1987 and 1988. It was great to be called the 'Giant Debaters' after that. The confidence that I gained through this exposure helped me to pursue public speaking.

Rajan Gosain, Ex Madhav, 1989

Winning the Squash Tournament in the 8th standard had a long

lasting impact on me. It was the day I surprised myself by showing a 'Never Say Die Attitude' and perseverance. Qualities like these have helped me develop a winning streak. I learnt the attitude of never giving up against any odds at Scindia.

Anshul Mathur, Ex Jeevaji, 1994

The entire winter-study camp in the year 2004, when we were gearing up for the Class X Boards impacted me in a huge way. I developed a better understanding of my teachers, my peers and human beings in general. This was all due to living together in such closeness and the free communication that happened. All issues pertaining to Inter-House rivalry, groupism, bullying and similar emotions became absolutely insignificant. I became best buddies with people that I used to be scared of. I could see that under the pressure of academics and facing the winters on the fort, we were all the same kind of people, although each of us was unique in his own way. We had the same fears and the same reasons to cheer. I guess that period humbled me as a person. It made me understand that most of the conflicts in the world today are because there is no dialogue in the first place.

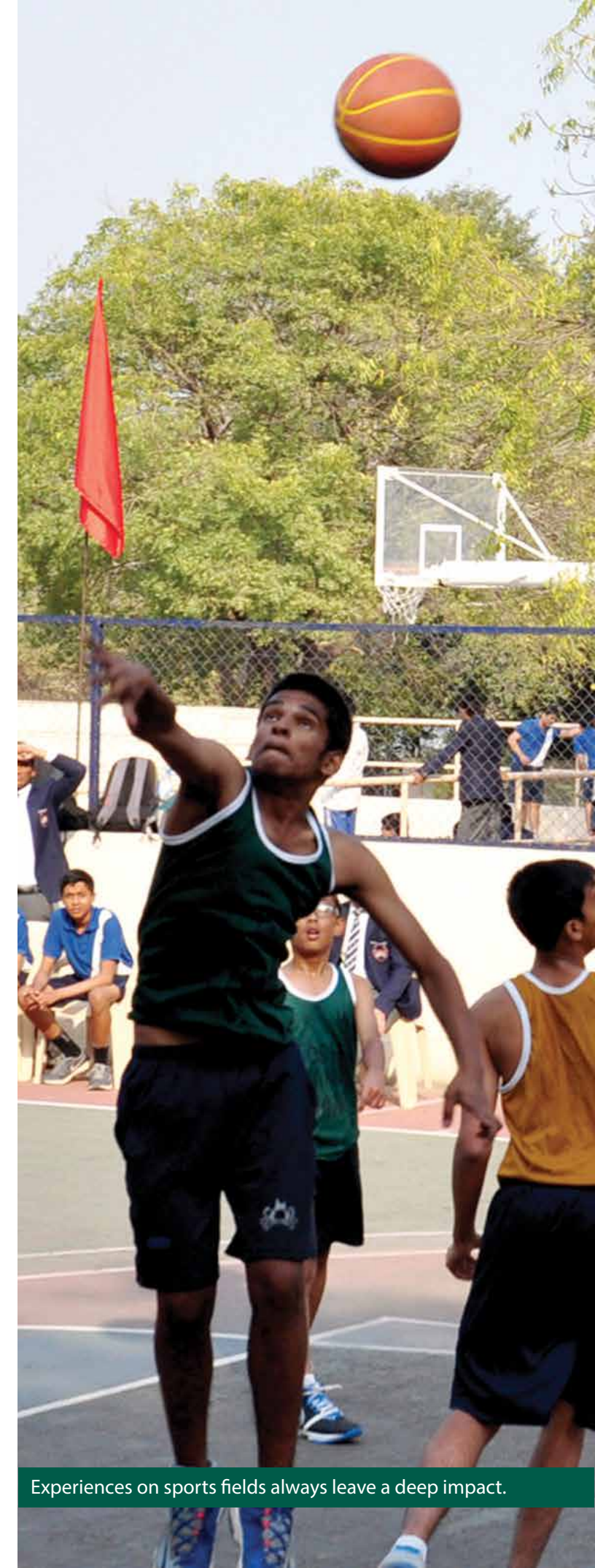
Abhishek Khetan, Ex Daulat, 2004

I was very weak in Physics and there was a time when I continued failing in it despite working very hard. I was unable to concentrate and do well in other subjects as most of my time was consumed in struggling with Physics. On the one hand, at times, I was keen to drop Physics and take up some other subject, and on the other hand I was very confused and didn't know what to do. It was then that the Principal, Mr Samik Ghosh and Dr IP Dubey explained to me about following one's own dreams and believing in one's own self. I dropped Physics and took up painting and that turned out to be a turning point. Soon I began to enjoy all those subjects which had always interested me. With time I developed a strange love for these subjects and I felt I became more confident and happy. I was very happy that I took advice from I P Dubey Sir and Principal Sir as they helped me identify my strengths and also gave me a new perspective to enjoy life. Today, all I do is follow my instincts and believe in myself thanks to my favourite teachers.

Anubhav Sarkar, Ex Madhav, 2013

I would say the experience and the realisation that one was studying in one of the best institutions of India, The Scindia School.

Jaskaran Singh Bakshi, Ex Jayaji, 2014



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