



volume 27

August 2016

# QILA QUOTES

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL  
TRIENNIAL PUBLICATION

18832



Discussion on school matters.



Mr Shiv Shankar Menon interacting with the boys

<b>THE FOUNDER</b> Maharaja Madhavrao Jayajirao Scindia	<b>04</b> Principal's Message
<b>President</b> H H Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia	<b>06</b> Editorial
<b>Vice President</b> Mr. Rajendra S Pawar	<b>09</b> Students' Achievements
<b>Members</b> H H Rajmata Madhviraje Scindia Mr. Vinay Modi Mr. Mahesh Gandhi Mr. Harpal Singh Mr. Arun Kapur Mrs. Gayatri Singh Dr. Vikram Mathur Mr. Jyoti Sagar Mr. Shiv Shankar Menon Mr. Amar Jyoti Bindal Mr. Harish Bhojwani Mr. Gopal Bhargava	<b>11</b> Old Boys' News
<b>Ex-officio Member Secretary</b> Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat	<b>12</b> Alumni Memories of Group Photographs at School: Mr Jayant Gaur (Ex Madhav, 1966)
<b>Bursar</b> Col. Sanjiv Kaushal (Retd.)	<b>14</b> Alumni An Experience Unparalleled: Poorva Siriah (Ex Jyotiba, 2005)
<b>Scindia Old Boys' Association</b>	<b>15</b> Faculty A Lifelong Passion: Mr Gopal Chaturvedi
<b>President</b> Mr. Gopal Bhargava	<b>17</b> Literary Comedy and laughter: A platform of Intolerance: Kabir Saund, XI B
<b>Vice President</b> Mr. Rahul Kulshreshtha Mr. Banjul Badil	<b>19</b> Literary The Education System: Time for Course Correction: Yohen Thounaojam, Class XI A
<b>Treasurer</b> Mr. Praveen Bhargava	<b>21</b> Reminiscences Which is the first place you love to visit when you come to school and why?
<b>Secretary</b> Mr. Sandeep Agarwal	
<b>Jt. Secretary</b> Mr. Subhash Sharma	

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 Saraswat with the members of the football set.

# PRINCIPAL'S DESK



*A new academic year has begun bringing with it new dreams, a desire to redefine our benchmarks and the determination to achieve all our goals. We are once again set on our journey to motivate the weak, address the average and challenge the gifted.*

After a summer break of two months it is sheer delight as I walk down the school corridors which are bustling once again with the chatter of eager minds, the shouts of excitement from our outstanding sportsmen, the melodious strains of music from our talented musicians and the brilliant oratory of our seasoned orators. It is tremendously enjoyable to see the excitement in the eyes of our students as they actively engage in enriching activities.

We miss the enthusiastic and energetic presence of the Batch of 2016 which passed out with flying colours. It is immensely gratifying that our boys have got admission in the colleges of their choice. I am thankful to my staff which worked tirelessly as a team to give them the necessary academic, spiritual and moral tools which has equipped our boys with the requisite skills to succeed in everything they undertake. Here I would like to say that though the Batch has walked out of these haloed portals carrying with it several cherished memories and friendships, the School will always remain the same loving, welcoming home with its doors always open for them.

'The Old order changeth yielding place to new' so it is my pleasant duty to extend a warm welcome to the boys who have joined us this year. Consider yourself privileged to have got the opportunity to be in a **'school with a difference.'** I assure you that we will not only value your uniqueness, creativity and brilliance but also make active efforts to nurture it further. You have become a part of an extended Scindia fraternity which will change your lives in unimaginable ways. I urge you to work hard in school, set goals for your life, and stay focused on those. Keep your eyes on your objectives and don't let anyone or anything deter you from achieving them. As Enzo would say, "Your car goes where your eyes go."

It is very heartening to see the increased involvement of Old Boys in the life of the School. The entire school community looks forward to the visits of the alumni for the love, passion and expertise that they bring in all matters related to their alma mater. However in institutions like ours, which take immense pride in a rich heritage, the most significant role that the alumni play is in establishing a reconnect with the past. They are seen to be the torchbearers of the Scindian legacy and are our most effective national and international ambassadors. This is quite an enviable position to be in but also one which vests them with a huge responsibility to abide by the highest standards of propriety and excellence in everything they do. My appeal to all Old Boys is to continue to engage meaningfully with the school community and strengthen the hands of the faculty in maintaining the sanctity of school's ethos which all of us are justifiably proud of.

Let us work together to create the Scindia of our dreams.

**Madhav Deo Saraswat**

Principal, The Scindia School



Mr Dinesh Siriah retires after a long and illustrious tenure of 35 years.



The Scindians with astronaut Wendy Lawrence.

# EDITORIAL

*The ever beautiful Fort becomes enticingly bewitching during the monsoon. The rains seem to have cast a magic spell on the Fort painting it in several hues of green. However the life and soul of the campus, which is the student body was missing due to their absence on account of the summer break. But with the beginning of the Diwali term the campus is once again abuzz with the happy sounds of children as they have returned rejuvenated and have begun to engage enthusiastically in academic, sporting and co curricular activities.*

Though the School remained closed for two months yet it would not be an overstatement if one said that life never stops at The Scindia School. So while a majority of us spent the time at home with family and friends, there were many from amongst us who pushed the limits of physical and mental endurance by engaging in various activities which involved leadership, adventure, service, exploration and fun. We won accolades, enhanced our skills and contributed our bit to the society. With such an eventful start we are all sure to have an exciting and fulfilling year ahead.

Just before we closed for the summer vacation the School hosted a much enjoyed and appreciated cultural evening which was an amalgamation of Western Music performance, Band display and the English Play ' Merchant of Venice'. The evening was attended by the students and Principals of a few schools from Gwalior, parents and Old Boys from Gwalior. The brilliant display of talent by the Scindians was lauded by all. The Annual Hindi Play, IAYP award ceremony and the Sports Banquet were other highlights of the school calendar.

The School gave an emotional farewell to **Mr Dinesh Siriah** who retired after a long and illustrious innings of 35 years. Like a true Public School master Mr Siriah shouldered various responsibilities during his tenure. He served as the erstwhile junior school Games in-charge, was the Housemaster of Kanerkhed House, in-charge of swimming for the senior section of the school and also ran the Photography hobby.

It is a matter of great pride that The Scindia School has been awarded Brand School by Economic Times at a ceremony held in New Delhi. The **Principal, Dr Saraswat** was a keynote speaker at the event. He expressed his views on 'Digitization of School Education'.

We, at The Scindia School, value and take immense pride in our unique location. An Interpretation center has been set up in the School campus which is akin to a small museum and showcases the heritage and history of the Fort through pictures. It is a humble beginning and we will build on it in due course of time.

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Scindia Education Society was held in the School. The meeting was chaired by the President of the Board of Governors – H.H. Maharaja Jyotiraditya M Scindia. All important matters pertaining to school life especially

academics and infrastructure were discussed in great detail. The members of the Board of Governors later took a round of the ongoing infrastructure projects and joined the members of the faculty and Prefects for lunch in the School Dining Hall.

**Mr Shiv Shankar Menon** and **Mr Harpal Singh** interacted with the HODs primarily to discuss about the ICT usage in the teaching learning process. **Mr Rajendra Pawar** had a meeting with the designated committee members to discuss the forthcoming Golden Jubilee Reunion of the Class of 1967.

## Initiatives

A series of changes have been introduced in the morning assembly. The secular character of the assembly has been strengthened through the introduction of verses from all religions along with their English translation. Once a week the choir will give a rendition of a devotional song which is in addition to our existing repertoire of assembly songs. The screening of motivational videos and talks by faculty and students will be used as effective tools to convey powerful messages and also to shape the character of our students. The flashing of the 'Word of the Day' for vocabulary enhancement and short music clips before the start of the assembly is already gaining popularity among the student body.

We constantly believe in reinventing ourselves hence this year the selection process for the Prefectorial Board was redefined. The services of Cogito consultancy to identify the leadership potential of the boys were enlisted. Direct voting by the student body was also introduced to give them a sense of ownership. We hope that the Prefectorial Body feels more empowered this year and will be more engaged in our effort to strengthen the ethos of the School.

## Event

The School hosted an 'I Can' conference which entailed the creation of a corporate-political simulation in educational institutions. The students played the roles of corporate titans, journalists, politicians, and bureaucrats among others. The fundamental objective was to instill life skills and soft skills into students and expose them to the ideas of business and social entrepreneurship. Four students received a cash prize of twelve thousand rupees each for their exceptional ideas on Corporate Social Responsibility and Intra-preneurship.



Volunteers of the Round Square Service Project.



Teachers at the Logophilia Workshop

### Faculty News

**Mr R.K. Kapoor**, Dean of ICT was appointed as an observer for JEE 2016 (Main) Computer based Test by the CBSE.

**Mr Gopal Chaturvedi** from the faculty of German language attended the International German Teacher's training program at Schwaäbisch hall. He has returned with a rich repertoire of innovative teaching techniques which have contributed immensely to faculty enrichment.

**Mr Anil Pathania** and **Dr Pawan Sharma** attended the Basic Mountaineering Course at the Nehu Institute of Mountaineering and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali respectively. We hope to have many more students infected by the Mountaineering bug under their guidance.

**Mr Manoj Mishra** and **Mrs Sudha Sharma** attended a workshop on 'Prevention of sexual harassment of women at workplace' organized by the Labour Law Institute, New Delhi. The workshop was full of discussions by experts regarding the details of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act its intricacies and pitfalls.

### Academics

We have constantly been reimagining our academic strategies to optimise learning outcomes. At the middle school level in particular we are making active efforts to incorporate elements of Interdisciplinary learning to promote holistic understanding of concepts and to encourage an appetite for the subject. At the senior level the thrust remains on in-depth knowledge hence enrichment and remedial classes are carried out on a regular basis for the students. The Batch of 2016 did us proud by their performance in the Boards. It is a matter of great pride that the School topper **Divyaditya Singh** has secured admission in the University of Westminster on 100% scholarship. **Akash Jaini** and **Sukanya Shukla** have also got admissions to the New York University and Bates College on 100% and 95% scholarship respectively.

Logophilia Education Pvt. Ltd. – India's first and only Etymology Education organisation - conducted a 5-day Etymology Education Workshop, called 'The College Vocabulary Programme', at the Scindia School, Gwalior for students of Classes IX-XI. Twenty teachers, from across various streams also attended the same. The 10-hour Vocabulary Workshop gave a powerful introduction to how English words are derived from Greek & Latin roots. The Programme delivered approximately 150 word roots from Latin and Greek, and also touched upon fundamental concepts of Wordsmithery (word-formation) in the English Language. The session was very enriching as the participants understood the irrationality of rote memorisation and learnt to decipher words using a functional understanding of Etymology and Linguistic Morphology.

'Cogito Consultancy' conducted workshops for the entire student community. Classes VI and VII took part in some spelling and 'know-the-word' activities which helped generate interest in the English language. Classes VIII-XI were informed about the different career options, new technological innovations and subjects associated with them. Class XII underwent an online personality test which facilitated better self-analysis and would be a great assistance in making informed choices.

A detailed and an exhaustive workshop on CCE and Quality in education was conducted by **Ms Rachna Swarup**. She gave a detailed overview of CCE, deliberated on its structure and explained how it matches the contemporary needs of education of the modern child. The faculty got more clarity on the effective conduct of Formative and Summative assessments. This was followed by a special workshop on flipped classroom, OneNote and Project Based Learning for the faculty by the NIIT team.

An ICT Usage - Observation Audit was conducted in school. The aim was to assess the usage of ICT by the different Departments and members of the faculty. The audit also entailed discussion with the students on the role played by ICT in the learning process. It was a very useful exercise as areas of improvement were identified through talks with all stakeholders.

### Sports

The School hosted the 14th H.H Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Cricket Tournament. Eight teams participated in our much awaited sporting extravaganza which was played in the knockout format. DPS – Mathura Road won the match trouncing the long standing champions, Modern School, Delhi. The event garnered much attention this year both for the high standards of cricketing excellence which were on display and also for the special media coverage by the School media team.

### Round Square

The Scindia School initiated the Regional (South Asia& Gulf) Round Square Service Project at Ladakh. 22 students from 8 schools and 6 adults participated in the project. The venture was led by **Mr Vishesh Sahai** from the faculty of Commerce. The volunteers worked laboriously for nine days and built two rooms for the Boarding House at Lamdon Model School in Thiksey village. They also went on a trek through the Ladakh mountains with two nights of stay in the tents. The group achieved the commendable feat of trekking through the Stok Pass which is at a height of 5000 Meters above the sea level. The visit to the breathtakingly beautiful Pangong lake was a memorable experience for all. The entire group returned with a great sense of fulfilment and with high words of praise for Scindian initiative and leadership.

### Visits

16 students along with **Mr Shailesh Agarwal** went on a ten day educational tour to US. The group travelled to New York where they saw the Statue of liberty, Empire state building, Madam Tussaud museum and went to Broadway for a workshop on dramatics. They also visited Orlando where they went to NASA, Sea world and Universal Studio. Their Boston visit included a guided tour of the city and visits to world renowned universities like MIT and Harvard. The visit was educative and culturally enriching. The boys came back with rich experiences and dreams to join these prestigious institutions.

Ten students attended a 15 day Adventure Course at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling. The boys engaged in activities like trekking, rock climbing, kayaking, rappelling, suspension traverse among others. They were introduced to various trekking equipment and taught basic skills for maneuvering through treacherous mountain terrain. The course helped the boys build on their physical and mental endurance.

# STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Three students participated in the European Crossbow Championship held in Portugal in the month of June. Divij Agarwal won the silver medal, Urdesh Thakur bagged the bronze medal and Drishaan Dutt secured the fourth position. Heartiest congratulations to them.

Daksh Gupta and Saksham Kalra received 100% scholarship by the Goethe Institut to attend the International German Youth Program at Sankt Pater-Ording. They attended classes and participated in various cultural activities along with participants from various parts of the world. They have returned with increased love for the language and several beautiful memories.

Eight students represented our school in the Under-16 Open Chess District Tournament. Sparsh Agarwal secured the third position.

Aditya Parashar of Class VIII scored highest marks in Hindi in the "National Level Benchmarking Asset Test". He received a certificate of appreciation and an achiever's award trophy for his achievement.

The Cricket team of Bishops College, South Africa visited the School and played an exciting match with the School team. Our boys gave a brilliant display of cricketing excellence. The swashbuckling shots by our very own master blasters, perfect teamwork and all round excellence shown on the field by our players facilitated the successful chase of a target of 245 runs in 35 overs.

Twelve students along with Mr Kamlesh Singh from the faculty of Psychology went for a service project to a village in Spiti. They helped in the construction of a green house. The group enjoyed homestays which gave them an insight into the social and cultural life of local residents. They also went trekking to different villages to get an insight into the culture of the people and explore the interiors of Spiti. Engagement in this project gave the boys a tremendous sense of accomplishment and also qualifies them for the IAYP Gold award.

Nine students along with three Old Boys and three teacher escorts went on a mountaineering Expedition to Yunam Peak which is at a height of approximately 20000 feet above sea level. The team prepared thoroughly through some basic acclimatisation and also by getting trained in activities like high rope walking, rock climbing, river crossing, rappelling and long treks for two days. The team enjoyed the rigours of the climb along with the spectacular view of the snow peaked mountains, fast flowing streams and the glacial pools. Pavan Jaini from Class XI and Akash Jaini (Ex Ja, 2016) along with Dr. Pawan Sharma made it to the summit.

A group of six students, one Old Girl and two members of the faculty completed a cycling expedition from Manali to Leh. They covered a distance of 490 kms and crossed 5 high altitude passes namely, Rohtang pass (13,044ft), Baralacha pass (16,042ft), Naki la pass (15,547ft), Lachung la pass (16,613ft), and Taglang la pass (17,582ft). This is a significant milestone in our adventure journey as it is the first time in the school's history that a team attempted

and successfully completed a cycling expedition in one of the most challenging mountain biking routes in the world.

Three students participated in the National Crossbow Championship held in Mumbai. Divij Agrawal secured the first position in the Under 17 category and bagged a Gold Medal.

Aniket Parihar secured the first position the Pistol Crossbow category and bagged a Gold Medal. Siddhant Agarwala secured the second position in the Pistol Crossbow category and bagged a Silver Medal.

The School shooting team participated in the IPSC Boys Championship 2016 held at Emerald Heights International School Indore and Girls Championship 2016 held at Daly College Indore. Our students performed spectacularly and bagged several medals in various categories. In the Under 17 Air Rifle event Devansh Tandon and Rachit Agarwal won the Gold and Silver medal respectively. Aditi Joshi won the Gold medal in the Under 14 Air Pistol event. Angad Sahni won the Bronze medal in the Under 14 Air Pistol event.

Devansh Tandon, Rachit Agarwal and Chaitanya Agarwal won the Gold Medal in the Under 17 Air Rifle Team Event. The Team also won the overall runner-up Trophy in the Under-17 category.

Angad Sahni, Yatharth Gupta and Fatehvir Singh won the Silver medal in the Under 14 Air Pistol Team event.

Four students namely Devansh Tandon, Rachit Agarwal, Aditi Joshi and Angad Sahni made us proud by qualifying for SGFI nationals.



Conquest of Yunam Peak



Enjoying a break amidst the scenic mountains.

# OLD BOYS' NEWS

*Dr Ranjit Chaudhary (Ex Madhav- 1994), a practicing urologist from Bhopal, has proudly registered his name in the Limca Book of Records for laproscopically removing an 11x15 cm adrenal tumour from a patient. We congratulate him for his medical expertise and this wonderful recognition.*

As part of the second SOBiR programme our boys received valuable sporting guidance in Cricket and Squash from two of our sports titans. **Mr Harvinder Singh Sodhi (Ex Ranoji- 1989)** who once played for India – A team and is currently the coach of M.P Ranji team spent time on the Fort sharing his expertise and experience with the boys. He worked particularly on developing basic cricketing skills, physical fitness and match - temperament of the players. An immediate result of his tutoring was a fantastic win against the visiting team from Bishops College – South Africa. **Mr Vijay Jaini (Ex Jeevaji- 1976)** who is an avid squash enthusiast and has several masters national titles under his belt conducted a squash workshop with the members of the Squash set. The aim of the workshop was to inculcate an interest in the students who are still experimenting with the game and to polish the techniques of the seasoned players. Racquet skills, game strategies and a spirit of winning yet accepting loss gracefully were touched upon.

**Mr Banjul Badil (Ex Jayaji- 1988)** and **Mr Mukesh Manik (Ex Ravindra- 1988)** visited school and interacted with the top management, Housemasters, several young teachers and senior students. They shared their experiences and stories on Entrepreneurship and also their intent to start 'Entrepreneurship Hobby' in school in the next term. This will encourage the students to think differently and will help them to generate creative business ideas.

A meeting of the **Central SOBA Executive Committee** was held in school. The regional heads & representatives from the twelve SOBA Chapters and some other members of the Scindia fraternity attended the meet along with the members of the Executive Committee. The Old Boys stayed on the campus and deliberated on several important matters concerning school life and alumni activities. The main points of discussion were the SOBA Mobile App, Alumni Card, SOBA website, alumni database, Able-the-Disabled Project, Alumni Cricket Bash 2016, SOBiR 2016, Car Rally, SOBA Scholarship and soft loans, Career Counseling, IT registration under Section 80G, engagement of alumni in showcasing the school at various centers, conduct of alumni during their stay / visit on campus, Annual SOBA Picnic, H.H. Jiwajirao Scindia Memorial Lecture, inclusion of new SOBA Chapters and other related matters concerning SOBA and the school.

Apart from engaging in meaningful discussions, the Old Boys also enjoyed leisurely nature walks, cycling, sporting activities, the light and sound show, reflection at the astachal and the sumptuous dinner at the Principal's residence.

**Sachin Sharma (Ex-Ja, 2000)** who is currently the Sr. Div. Operations Manager, South East Central Railway – Nagpur

Division, was awarded the 'National Award for Outstanding Service' at the 61st Railway Week National Awards 2016.

**Mohit Mandeliya (Ex Sh, 2012)** has joined IIM Shillong and will be pursuing Post Graduation Diploma in Management. He was the recipient of the SOBA scholarship for the past few years and is thankful to the fraternity for supporting his academic pursuits.

**Amitabh Malhotra (Ex- Md, 1986)** will now co-head NM Rothschild, the global investment bank in India. We wish him all the very best for his new role and responsibility.

The 10th **SOBA Annual Car Rally** christened as the 'GO GREEN DRIVE' was held on 29th - 30th April 2016. More than 70 ex-Scindians in 28 cars took part in it. The rally was flagged off by **Mr. Alok Sinha**, Commissioner - Meerut from Bravura Gold Resort, Meerut and the destination was Lansdowne in Uttarakhand. The participants had to cover a distance of about 259 kms and follow it up with tree Plantation in Lansdowne. Gas Authority of India (GAIL) was the lead sponsor of the event.

#### Results :

I Neeraj Gulati and Praween Gulati

II Ankur Mody, Ulhas Gupta and Dr. Rahul Agrawal

III Jaskaran Babbar and Sarvajeet Singh Boora

# MEMORIES OF GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS AT SCHOOL.

*Watching our old school group photographs recently, I got transported to olden times, remembering how the photographer would come on his rickety bicycle to our Houses in the late afternoons before annual exams, armed with a big pinhole box (12x18") camera, tied on the back carrier and a wooden stand strapped to the centre bar of his cycle. We were all supposed to wash up and get into ironed clothes for an inspection by the HP, nails included. !!*

It was quite a sight watching the photographer install his contraption on the stand and hide it under a black cloth, nearly touching the ground, creating a makeshift darkroom, rather a tent, shrouded in mystery.

He would then dig in to his bag for the negative film of A4 sheet size, secured within lead metal casing. He would then vanish inside the tent and fix the film to the back of the camera box, after removing it from the lead casing. This needed expertise. Now the film was facing the pinhole/lens, ready for the shoot.

To compose the frame the photographer would measure the distance of his camera from the chairs as no preview was possible.

Once all boys had taken positions on chairs and benches, he would stand by the side of the box, as a director, adjusting everyone within the frame. The standard joke he cracked year after year was of the bird he carried inside the camera which would escape in a flash as soon as he opened the cap. We all knew it was a 'poor joke', still looked at the cap expectantly; what if it just might !

Fixing the distance between the camera and the chairs was also a task as these were fixed lenses without zoom. After warning all of us to be still, the photographer would take the cap out bowing with a flowing swing of the hand like a magician acknowledging the applause. The length of the swing would depend on the time of exposure he had already planned keeping in mind the light conditions at that point of time. Lesser the light, longer the swing.

Once the act was over, he would secure the cap back and would again vanish under the cloth to take the film out without exposing it to light, and put it safely back inside the lead box.

To me all this precision work of handling highly light sensitive materials in broad daylight was sheer artistry. The results would take months.

I am sure the box cameras must have been replaced now by modern DSLRs, with zoom lenses and review options, far easier to operate and process. Technology has taken over art.

I am recalling this for the current generation who might never know the days of primitive box cameras and how old group photos, they see now in archives, were taken once upon a time.

**Mr Jayant Gaur (Ex Madhav, 1966)**



Getting ready for the formal photograph



The intrepid adventurers.



Poorva Siriah (Ex Jyotiba, 2005)

# AN EXPERIENCE UNPARALLELED

*Cycling from Manali to Leh had been on my to-do list since long and it was in June that this dream finally came true. My greatest inspiration for embarking on an expedition of this nature was my mother who had been wanting to do this since the last two years. Both of us were quite determined to cycle on the popular route this year even if we had to do it all by ourselves!*

As the planning proceeded, we became a group of 9 members (6 students of the present 12th Batch, two teachers from the faculty - Mr. Dharendra Sharma and Mrs. Raksha Siriah and, myself.

I knew that no amount of physical training would have been enough for the hardships that the terrain offered and so with little practice and following only half the diet-plan that was required, I was not exactly the best in form but was still super excited to attempt this expedition.

The journey started from Manali and over a period of nine days we covered a distance of 490 kms - a beautiful arduous altitude gain from 2,000m (6,500ft) to 5382m (17,582ft), crossing over five high passes - Rohtang pass, Baralacha, Naki la, Lachung la and the highest - Taglang la to reach Leh. The scenic route attracts many cyclists from across the world to test themselves and experience its unmatched beauty. Of course it is challenging, as it involves high altitude, freezing temperature, uncertain weather and long stretches of winding road. However all the difficulties seem to fade away as the changing landscape leaves not a single chance to mesmerise you. The dramatic blue sky dotted with fluffy clouds, huge rock formations, streams with crystal clear water, picturesque villages with smiling faces, and the snow capped peaks of the mighty Himalayas - all made our journey an unforgettable experience.

Each day and every moment was special. There were difficulties no doubt, cycling for an average of 55 kms each day, waking up to very cold mornings as early as 5:30 am, we had to motivate ourselves to sit on the saddle for the next 8 hrs to cycle on rugged roads and there were several occasions when I was tempted to give up. However, the thrill of overcoming those challenges motivated me to continue. The roads were a mix of tarmac and unmetalled road - sometimes there was no road, sometimes there was a road but very rough and sometimes the road was unbelievably good - smooth and straight, almost like a highway. The challenges included searing hot days, freezing nights and most importantly, high altitude.

The sense of achievement which we got on reaching the top of every pass and on reaching our camp at the end of each day was what kept us going and motivated us to prepare for the next day. For me the most difficult day was when we encountered the dreaded "gatta loops" - a series of 21 loops with a steep climb up the hill. It really was a test, ascending slowly up the mountain, I wondered if there was an end to it at all. To say that these switchbacks were relentless would be an understatement, they were a killer and just

when I thought that I had reached the end, I realised that there was much more. So all in all, it was a tough day and I realised that it is your will power and a passionate desire to do it which plays a very important role in such situations, when you either push yourself to do it or you give up, and I chose not to give up!

Another reason for our successful expedition was a wonderful and energetic support team who made sure that we were safe and comfortable. The cook made hot and sumptuous food to keep our energies high throughout the trip. Everyday he surprised us with a variety of dishes. Zimba's positivity surprised all of us!

On the ninth day, we finally made it to our last destination - the capital city of Leh which greeted us with hordes of tourists and traffic. Completing the expedition gave us a real sense of achievement, which each one of us will cherish forever. For me it was even more special due to the fact that I not only completed it but I did it along with the most special person, my mother. Although we were happy that we made it to Leh and completed the expedition successfully, there was a hollow feeling of leaving behind the serene environment, peaceful landscapes, the sound of the winds and the stunning wilderness that we had become attuned to.

The expedition is over and we are back in our usual life but the experience has left an indelible mark and a yearning to go back and spend time with nature again. I am not sure if I will ever be able to do it again as it was definitely not an easy one, but yes, it will always remain the most wonderful experience of my life.

**Poorva Siriah**

Ex Jyotiba, 2005

# A LIFELONG PASSION

***My tryst with German began twenty five years ago. In those days the only foreign language people were desirous of learning was English. Languages like German, French, Mandarin and so many others which are becoming increasingly popular now were considered too exotic at that time to even consider. I too wished to pursue English but had also got briefly exposed to German and had begun mulling over it as a second option. It was then that a chance meeting with Late Prof. S. N. Upadhaya (HOD German at BHU) changed the course of my life.***

Today when I look back to those days of indecisiveness, I have to say that Prof Upadhaya was someone who knew exactly how to strike the right cord. With great patience he enlightened me about the world of opportunities that would open by pursuing German. However the most interesting part of our conversation was his assertion, that while not many people get to visit England by learning English, as a Professor of German he had been fortunate enough to visit Germany several times. This argument proved to be the real clincher as it appealed to the ultimate middle class dream of mine which was the desire to go to 'vilayat' or abroad. Abiding by this rather unconventional choice, as it seemed back then, posed its own share of challenges as I had to encounter some bit of resistance from my friends and family. They were a bit unsure about my decision as they thought pursuing German did not guarantee a secure future. But as far as I was concerned the indoctrination was complete. I had made up my mind and there was no going back on it.

The first year I learnt German through the traditional method i.e. chalk and talk or lecture method. In my second year I went to Goethe Institut Pune from where I did a few more courses. It was here that I got exposed to new styles of teaching and learning. The use of audio-video technology, educational videos for generating interest in the language and the use of worksheets for greater drilling of concepts proved a great help in strengthening all aspects of the language. Quite naturally my confidence in the spoken and written form of the language got a massive boost. Today as a teacher I find myself using the same methodologies in my classes from which I had benefitted as a student. I try to find ever new ways to keep my students engaged and to constantly spark their imagination. If I am asked of my greatest success it would be the simplification of those grammar concepts which I had always found challenging as a student.

In the line of work I realised that teaching German posed several challenges as there were limited avenues for children to explore the language and express themselves in it. I wanted it to be not just another subject but a religion, a passion so that children internalise it in the truest sense and get motivated enough to pursue it later in life. I was determined to not allow them to get dissipated by short term goals like simply scoring good marks in examinations.

To achieve this objective I had to introduce several more areas of engagement. The first step in that direction was the establishment of the German Society 'Schiller Gesellschaft'. The Society was founded to bring novelty in the academic sphere through various interesting activities like wortbilder – Wettbewerb, Laufdiktat – Wettbewerb, Rätsel – Wettbewerb, Karikatur Wettbewerb, Creative Writing, Scindia Diese Woch – a weekly German Wall magazine and Zeitgeist – a bi-annual German magazine. As envisaged at the time of inception, the Society helped students discover the love for the language through creative, literary, competitive and non competitive activities.

The German bug had truly bitten the Scindia School boys and they proposed the setting up of the music society 'Deutsche Musik Gesellschaft'. The boys presented several entertaining musical evenings of popular German numbers both at Scindia and at other locations. Their performances received tremendous appreciation and the videos of the same on youtube have received very positive feedback.

Another of our success stories is the opportunity to host International Youth Camps where students and faculty from different countries attend classes and partake in activities together. This leads to the sharing of the best teaching strategies and promotes collaborative learning. We also worked along with our partner school 'Fontane Gymnasium' on two Projects namely 'Water –elixir of life' and 'Plants – Life Giving'. The students shared ideas and helped each other enhance their language skills. Visits to Germany were a much looked forward part of the project and exposed our boys to a new culture and lifestyle. They enjoyed homestays with host families and came back with several beautiful memories.

It is a matter of great pride that in the year 2012 we signed a MOU with which we strengthened our ties with the Goethe Institut and reaffirmed our faith in the PASCH project. (Schulen Partner der Zukunft). This association has given an added impetus to all our efforts at promoting subject excellence.

As I look back on my journey I often wonder at the changes that have taken over the educational landscape of the country. I am happy that people have started thinking beyond English. I am also amazed at the introduction of new teaching methodologies and the

willingness of people to accept these changes with open arms. With each of my successive visits to Germany I have come back enriched and my most recent learning is regarding the increasing use of technology. I have shared some of the technological tools with my colleagues and they are all enthused to use it in their classes.

**From small beginnings to the present popularity of German in school I must say that it has been possible because of both the students and the school management. I consider myself fortunate that the boys have shown such passion for German and am thankful to the school management for allowing me freedom to experiment with different teaching styles. I must also express my gratitude for the Goethe Institut, New Delhi which has extended all possible help from time to time to support our endeavours to excel in German. I am sure that German language will touch heights of glory In Scindia. My earnest desire is to see more and more students learn German and use it as a launchpad to study in Germany.**

**Mr Gopal Chaturvedi**

Faculty of Foreign Languages



Mr Chaturvedi making a presentation in Schwäbisch Hall.

# COMEDY AND LAUGHTER: A PLATFORM OF INTOLERANCE

*Happiness is an emotion we all are familiar with, in fact most of us actually revel in the feeling of being happy. While experiencing happiness, we forget all the impending difficulties and challenges life may have in store for us and blissfully choose to live in the moment. However it is also a well known fact that happiness is quite elusive and very few have been able to achieve it in its truest sense. One of the many ways of being happy is rather a humble, yet useful method, called laughter.*

We laugh when we respond to external stimuli and to express mirth. Each individual responds uniquely to a given set of situations. While some happy-go-lucky ones find it easy to laugh, there are others who are stiff and might find it impossible. Yet I'm sure all would agree that when one of our batchmates cracks a joke in the dorm, it is a joyous feeling to hear the chorus of laughter across the whole House. Not catching a cold in the winters is hard, but not to be infected with a bout of stomach-aching laughter during a good comedy show is even harder.

There is a lot of truth in the popular adage 'Laughter is the Best Medicine'. There may be occasions when we encounter an awkward or outright threatening situation, where our personal respect is at stake. During times like these it is a good laugh that helps in diffusing the tension and smoothening out disagreements. Ever been stuck on stage with nothing constructive to say and an unappreciative and demanding audience? Nothing like a funny joke to get everyone to loosen up. I personally find that sharing humorous anecdotes is an excellent ice-breaker with acquaintances during interaction.

But we need to be mindful of the pitfalls of unbridled humour as it can lead to bruised sensitivities. This happens when one person's joke becomes another person's insult as it crosses the threshold of propriety. Haven't we all heard that one joke that wasn't really funny? That one incident that couldn't really get people to laugh, and made the awkward situation even worse. The one time your friend made a joke on you, and you no longer really considered him your friend. What may have started off as a harmless joke may end up causing hurt as the fine line between fun and insult has been transgressed. Jokes are fun, and comedy is good, but negative humour is simply wounding. We all need to clearly define the limit for ourselves. While we love and value the freedom of expression yet we must remember that this freedom is not absolute. It doesn't give us the carte blanche to mock or hurt others. Many a time negative comedy leads to a lot of controversies which also reveals a very interesting pattern of human behaviour. On the one hand it shows that most of us want only our strengths to be in the public eye and would happily have our flaws safely hidden in a corner.

We are extremely intolerant of even harmless lighthearted banter around us. On the other hand we also realise how much easier it is to laugh at somebody else's weaknesses than for them to discover ours. The moment someone laughs at us or at any of our icons we are up in arms. Though we always have the option to mentally block such negative humour yet we choose to dwell on it and create an entire ecosystem of narrow mindedness around it.

There is no denying that laughing at someone else's expense is absolutely reprehensible. Insulting others isn't funny by any means. But at the same time it is important to be accepting of jokes and humour. One must also understand that every targeted joke is not an insult. In an increasingly intolerant society comedy too has become a casualty. The recent Tanmay Bhat controversy goes on to prove the same. We all have our choices, our idols and our beliefs. But we need to realize that sometimes it would be better for all of us to not just crack a joke but also to take one and laugh along with the others. We don't need to announce a call of arms every time someone makes a joke on a cricket superstar or singing legend. We don't need to burn an effigy every time someone posts a video about our heroes.

The real purpose of comedy has been best put in the words of W.C. Fields-

"Comedy is a serious business. A serious business with only one purpose -- to make people laugh."

While I end this article, I see the newspaper and read all about the conflicts occurring in the world and I hope that I should at least have something to laugh about. Let's not take that something from people. Let us all be happy together.

**Kabir Saund, XI B**



A still from the Annual English Play.



A still from the Annual Hindi Play.

# THE EDUCATION SYSTEM: TIME FOR COURSE CORRECTION

*We've all been told innumerable times how reading the newspaper and remaining abreast with the latest national and international affairs is of immense value to a student. Not only does it enhance one's general knowledge it can also be of great help in several subjects particularly Geography and Economics. But the ultimate irony is that when it comes to writing an exam, one is expected to quote facts and figures from the prescribed textbook which, more often than not, happens to be an edition with outdated data as no one has bothered to update it.*

As a student with high academic aspirations and as someone on the threshold of, what should be, an exciting educational journey I sometimes tend to get a bit cynical and disillusioned when I reflect on the current state of affairs. In no way do I mean to belittle the work of all those extremely erudite and accomplished educationists who painstakingly frame our curriculum but I just wish to put forth the views and experiences of many students of my age. I'm sure there would be diverse views on the way educational policies and curriculum should be framed and I would be most delighted to have the opinions of others.

I remember an episode from my Geography class that happened about three years back. My teacher was preparing us for a test by asking questions. When it was my turn I was asked what the sex ratio of India was. I replied that it was 940 females per 1000 males. This was according to the 2011 census of India. Much to my disappointment I was told that my answer was wrong because it didn't conform to the figure given in the book which had data as per the 2001 census. It was then that I realised that a lot of things that we are studying are factually incorrect or perhaps it would be more appropriate to say that they have lost relevance because they are totally out of sync with the times. This may seem to be a one-off example but the reality is that it is far more pervasive than one could imagine.

This is not to suggest that we should completely do away with old data. That has its own importance because it helps us understand how things stood historically. We are therefore better equipped to put things in perspective and arrive at a comparative analysis. However it is absolutely essential to update the information on a regular basis and to do so in an absolutely objective, unbiased manner without allowing it to be coloured by any communal, casteist or political considerations.

Another thing about the education system which I find absolutely disconcerting is the way examinations are perceived in our country. The marks scored after a three hour exam are supposed to have

a 'make or break' impact on the career and future life of students, hence people are ready to go to any extent to score well. How can one forget last year's disgraceful incident when Bihar earned national and international opprobrium with photographic evidence of mass cheating in the CBSE Board exams making it to the cover pages of all dailies? Quite obviously no concrete measures were taken to remedy the situation so this year we had yet another shocking event wherein one topper of the same exam from the same state, this year, stated in an interview that Political Science is a subject about cooking while another couldn't explain the relation that H<sub>2</sub>O has with water. Cases like these can be found aplenty and force us to hang our heads in shame.

These incidents reveal what a mockery we have made of our examination system. It is high time that we wake up to the fact that a three hour test can never be an accurate indicator of one's actual academic potential. The structure and organization of these exams and the method of evaluation both need to undergo a massive change.

All in all, the Indian education system needs major academic reimagining both in terms of framing of curriculum as well as the methods of assessment. However it is absolutely imperative that the government and the policymakers understand that before making any changes the opinions of all stakeholders, which includes the students, should be considered.

India is on the cusp of a major change. We aspire to be a developed country hence we must ensure that the youth is armed with the right knowledge, quality education and has undergone a proper evaluation of their skills. It is not enough to say 'Padhega India toh Badhega India'. A more appropriate slogan would be 'Sirf padhne se nahi balki dhang se padhne se hi badhega India' (India will progress not just by education but by proper and quality education.)

Yohen Thounaojam, Class XI A



An engaging class with Mr Manoj Mishra.



Students explore their netbooks.

# REMINISCENCES

***Which is the first place you love to visit when you come to school and why?***

***It is a tough call to decide which would be the first place that I'd like to visit. I started in Junior School and spent a year in the barracks where the Junior Houses still are. So Junior School has to be the first stop. Also because it is closest to the arrival by Urvai Ghati. If not, then the main school building followed closely thereafter by Astachal.***

**Prashant Prabhu**, Ex Madhav-1967

Astachal is the first place that I love to visit whenever I come to school. The value of daily quiet time that one imbibed by reflecting upon the happenings of the day gone by and planning for the future is indescribable. Many leaders, CEOs, and other successful people practice it. It's a great habit to cultivate and it's incredible how we learnt it so effortlessly in school.

**Pawan Gupta**, Ex Ranoji-1970

The Main Gate as that is the way out into the free world; legally or illegally.

**Bimal Mishra**, Ex Madhav-1971

For me the Astachal is the first place I dearly love to visit. Set closest to the ramparts of the Fort, with Gandhiji's statue and the setting sun as the back drop, the surroundings are magical and have to be seen to be believed. When one says a prayer or just sits in silence spending a few minutes of solitude and introspection, the entire day's stress simply escapes. It is a true tradition of our school and must continue as part of our legacy for the future generations of Scindians who will join our glorious school.

**Vikram Mathur**, Ex Jayaji-1974

Well, it depends. If I come to the school on a Tuesday, Friday or Sunday evening I will first visit the mess. Come on guys, could we ever have enough of Tuesdays' jalebies, Fridays' kheer/purees and Sundays' ice creams.....?

**Vinod Ladia**, Ex Madhav-1974

The Junior School and Houses are places that I would visit first. I started boarding school life at the tender age of seven, Class III to be precise, way back on a cold January morning of 1968. I was very young and do not quite remember tying my boot and pyjama laces correctly!! That was the starting point of my journey of growing up and doing things my way. Hence the teachers of Junior section and whatever they taught me will always remain closest to my heart. Everything that I am today I owe it to them.

**Saumitro Sen**, Ex Jayaji, 1976

Assembly hall - This is the place where we began our day. Prayers, school songs, important announcements and appointments and words of advice straight from the Principal's mouth; we received it

all from here on a daily basis. This became like the perfect venue for the beginning of a great day. It was like the Parliament of the school.

**Sanjay Kolte**, Ex Madhav-1983

There are 2 actually - Jankoji House and Madhav House. Jankoji House is what I would visit first because that is where my Scindia life began in 1980. Madhav House is where it came to a finale so that is the other favourite spot. The Astachal comes a close second for its peaceful memories and OAT comes next because that is where I did some creative plays on Founder's Days.

**Rajan Gosain**, Ex Madhav-1989

Unfortunately, I have not visited School much since I left but the first place has to be my House-Jayappa. I spent six great formative years there and there are several memories associated with every part of the House.

**Saurabh Agrawal**, Ex Jayappa-1989

I spent the most memorable days of my life in Scindia. Each visit down the memory lane brings a rush of soft feelings for all the beautiful moments spent at school. Jeevaji House where I spent my seven years is the place that I always visit foremost. A close second is of course the Astachal which was the most unique feature of our growing up days. I still remember how being there would have a soothing effect on all of us. It made us forget life's tensions and stress for those few surreal moments.

**Anshul Mathur**, Ex Jeevaji- 1994

It is the Art Department of the School as it is from here that I embarked on my never ending creative journey.

**Navin Chandra**, Ex Ranoji- 1998

My House dormitory and the Arts Department, where I spent more than half of the nine years of my school life. These are the places which strengthened my competencies and interpersonal relationships.

**Dr. Sukant Garg**, Ex Jyotiba-2004

That's a pretty difficult one. If I were to explain to someone that my school was within the perimeter of the Gwalior Fort, they'd not be able to get their head around unless they lived on the Fort. I would



Astachal, the most favourite place of all Old Boys

say it's the school building, although I cannot stop my head from turning everywhere to catch a glimpse of the Surajkund or the Teli ka Mandir or the Astachal. The School building is like a place where I could keep all things aside and just walk with a stride within its proud corridors. It is here that I could go to the library and get lost in the books.

**Abhishek Khetan**, Ex Daulat-2004

My respective Houses in Junior and Senior school as they remind me of all the instances that took place during my Scindian years.

**Prithvi Khanna**, Ex Madhav-2010

I love to visit the Astachal. This is the place where I received the mental training to introspect and spend a few moments with myself. This has gone a long way in giving me a sense of balance and purpose and has helped me to take judicious decisions in life. Watching the sunset from the Astachal is an

incredibly uplifting experience. It gives me a sense of hope and helps me to enjoy life in many different ways.

**Anubhav Sarkar**, Ex Madhav-2013

'Jayaji House'. It is here that I got the grooming which transformed me from a child to an adult.

**Jaskaran Singh Bakshi**, Ex Jayaji- 2014

The first place I would like to visit is the Astachal. I have many memories attached to it. Astachal taught me how to enjoy peace.

**Ayush Agarwal**, Ex-Jayaji, 2014

**Staff Editor English**

Ms Puja Pant

**Staff Editor Hindi**

Dr. B. S. Bhakuni

**Editor-in-Chief**

Pavan Jaini

**Chief Creative Editor**

Yohan Thounaojam

**Student Photographer**

Hinday Soni

**Senior Editors**

Kabir Saund

Aadya Mishra

**Art Editor**

Darsham Ningthoujam

**Photography**

Mr Kamlesh Singh

Mr Rohit Sood

**Designed by**

Mr Jitendra Jawale

**Cover Page Illustration**

Harsh Raj Gond ( Ex - RN '16 )

**Cover Page Design**

Mriganka Ghosh

**Special Thanks**

Mr R K Kapoor

**THE SCINDIA SCHOOL**

**The Fort Gwalior** 474008, MP, INDIA  
**Telephone** +91 - 751 - 2480750  
**Fax** +91 - 751 - 2480650  
**Email** office@scindia.edu  
**Website** www.scindia.edu  
**Old Boy's Site** www.scindiaoldboys.com

Printed by Galaxy Printers  
galaxyprinters22@gmail.com / +91 - 9826214644

