

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT GWALIOR

REVIEW-16



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FORT NEWS

After Deepawali, the mercury is on its way south and one can feel a nip in the air in the mornings and in the evenings. During Astachal, sun disappearing in the grey clouds makes for a picturesque setting. One can also see trees laden with *Ber*, *Amla* and *Bel* all around the campus and the beauty of the fort is enhanced by the ever flourishing *Amaltas* and *Shirish* in particular. Boys too have started wearing the winter uniform from 21st November.

Mr Kamlesh Singh (faculty in Psychology) attended a workshop entitled 'Mindfulness in education' hosted by the Welham Boys' School, Dehradun from 4th – 6th November. This workshop was organized by Ahimsa Trust, an NGO which focuses on promoting Mindfulness through Zen Meditation. The workshop focused on the theme that 'HAPPY TEACHERS' make a better nation. They suggested that meditation doesn't need a separate time or space, instead it can be integrated in daily life situations. Hence, if we inculcate mindful walking, breathing and eating, we can develop self-awareness which will enhance our sense of responsibility and attention.

Chinese delegates from the 'China Global Philanthropy Leaders Programme' (CGPI) were on campus on 12th November 2016. CGPI is dedicated to advancing philanthropy in China and throughout the world by improving the professional standards of philanthropic education, strengthening international dialogue and cooperation, and promoting innovative reforms in global philanthropy. The delegation comprised twenty eight members, most of whom were top CEOs / Entrepreneurs / Bankers / NGO founders etc based in different parts of China. The objective of their visit was to understand 'community service and philanthropic initiatives' in different organizations in India, Scindia being one of them. They were warmly welcomed by some fine tunes from the school's Brass Band just outside the academic block. A special Assembly was organized in their honour where school orchestra presented traditional folk music of North India. This was followed by a detailed presentation of all the service initiatives of our school. They lauded the school's efforts in combining modern education, technology, preservation of culture and community service. This was followed by an open-house wherein students asked pertinent questions related to the purpose of their visit with specific reference to the mission of CGPI. All the



Principal welcoming the Chinese Delegation.

questions were answered in great detail by Mr MA Weihua, Chairman, Hong Kong Wing Lung Bank who is also the Chairman of the Board of CGPI and Dr Wang Zhenyao, Dean of The Beijing Normal University China Philanthropy Research Institute who is also CGPI's first president. They also shared their ideas of promoting sustainable development through philanthropy and also talked about the commonalities between India and China. After the assembly, delegates went on a round of the school and got a first-hand experience of the recently developed eco-park and water harvesting initiatives. After a sumptuous lunch, the delegates went to The Scindia School's adopted village – Nathon- Ka- Pura where they were pleasantly surprised by the untiring efforts of the Scindians which has brought about a radical change in the lives of its inhabitants socially, economically and culturally.

Our school participated in a Computer Olympiad with the name of INFOTSAV' 16 organized by the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management (IITM), Gwalior from 11th -13th of November 2016. Students from various schools participated in this competition. It is a matter of great pride that Suryansh Goyal and Ishan Agarwal of Class XI secured 1st and 2nd positions respectively.

Eight teachers from The Scindia School, namely, Mr Dharendra Sharma, Mr R.K. Kapoor, Mr Gopal Chaturvedi, Mr Manjeet Beniwal, Mr Trimurthulu Achanta, Mr Ashok Shivaraman, Ms Anita Pandey and Ms Raksha Siriah went to Delhi to attend the Microsoft in Education - Global Training Partner Programme from 9th – 11th November held at Microsoft office in Gurgaon. This invitation-only



Teachers at the Microsoft Workshop.

three-day summit was offered to partners who are well-versed in training educators and to school leaders of primary and secondary schools. The three day session taught them how to successfully unpack the teacher training academies so that they can 'Train the trainer further'. The training session was conducted by NCEE team from Microsoft. The participants undertook five introduction courses in Windows 10 Anniversary Update, Introduction to OneNote, Office Mix, Sway and Microsoft Classroom. Mr R.K. Kapoor, Dean of ICT attended the MSIA / CCGA track and got training in Touch Develop which taught him how to successfully deploy MSIA / Creative Coding through Games and Apps (CCGA) and understand the benefits of Imagine Academy. The CCGA portion focused on concepts and curriculum to spark interest amongst students for a computer science programme.



A still from the English play.



Mr Ramesh Sharma receiving the Aqua Foundation award on behalf of the School.

The Jayaji House evening was held on Saturday 12th November. It started with an instrumental rendition of the famous Bollywood song 'Tum Hi Ho'; a musical which was put-together by Kushagra Kaushik. This was followed by an English Play entitled, 'The Refund' which humourously conveyed that teachers are smarter than the students. This was followed by a superb rap song by Suyash Khatiwara which not only left the audience spellbound but also converted the Eminem fans to Suyash Fans! Last item was a 'Hindi' play on communal harmony which depicted the social ills that exist in our society and gave a message that 'United we stand, divided we fall'. The play was much appreciated by the audience and the Principal too.

The Madhav House evening was held on Monday 14th November. The evening began with a *Bhajan* on Lord Krishna, followed by an orchestra performance. The English play entitled, 'It is just a test' gave a wonderful message to all the



A still from the Hindi play.

students who take examinations easily. After this performance, there was a series of musical performances. Manya Nagi and Aadya Mishra sang, 'Faded by Alan Walker'; Divyam Anandani and Shreyas sang, 'Castle of Glass by Linkin Park'; Suvrat Mahindroo played 'Kaun tujhe' on the keyboard and Kaldendla Bhutia strummed the strings of the Guitar which stirred the hearts of all present. This was followed by a Hindi Play entitled 'Sher se bada sher'. The play humorously depicted the cunning intelligence that the passengers of a second-class train compartment use in order to get seats. Overall, it was an entertaining evening!

Mr Gopal Chaturvedi attended the PASCH Teacher's workshop held at Vivanta Taj in Faridabad conducted by Goethe Institut from 19th - 20th Nov 2016. Teachers of German language from Nepal, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan participated in the conference. The workshop introduced the participants to latest publications in German language and modern teaching methodologies.

The Scindia School has been awarded the Aqua Foundation's Excellence Award 2016 in two categories, namely, 'work on traditional wisdom' and 'Resource

management'. Mr Ramesh Sharma received the award on behalf of the school in a ceremony held in New Delhi at the India Habitat Centre. The school has been recognized for its untiring efforts at conservation of rain water, recycling used water released from the Boarding Houses and the Dining Hall and controlling the summer fire on the wasteland of the Fort. This has helped enhance the green cover and in the collection of 174.74 lac liters of water in the taals. 16000 liters of water is recycled each day which is used for greening the campus through drip irrigation.

School has procured a 3D Printer and Scanner recently. Training for the same has been conducted for interested teachers and 30 students by the company - 3D Boulevard. ICT department will introduce a new hobby from next session for 'Cyber Scindia' students.

MeltingPot2020, an organization dedicated to encourage innovation and nurture young talent recently organized a nation-wide contest to promote the same ideals. 16 schools and colleges participated in the event which took place at Taj Vivanta Surajkund in Faridabad from 24th - 25th Nov 2016. The judgment criteria used was: Creativity, Innovativeness, Impact, Poster-Design and Presentation Skills, both written and oral. The Scindia School team comprising Pranav Wadhwa, Sameer Manger, Abhinav Gautam and Rohan Jain secured the 2nd position in 'school category' in the same contest. Mr Giriraj Kanyal who mentored them was also awarded the MeltingPot2020 Faculty Mentorship award. Our team created posters of projects undertaken by the school on the guidelines given by the organizer.

OLD BOYS' NEWS

Dr Sudhir S. Bloeria (Madhav Awardee, Ex - Mj, 1962) was on the Fort from 14th - 17th November. He interacted with the new teachers at length, spent his spare time reading in the library and walking around the fort soaking in nostalgia. He also graced SCIMUN as a Chief Guest, which was hosted by The Scindia School and gave an informative lecture on the formation and work of the UN during the opening ceremony.

A rare confluence of Old Boys from Mayo, Welham, Doon and of course Scindia were on the Fort on the 19th of November 2016. They spent a day on campus and in the evening played a friendly Hockey match with the school Hockey team. They gave their team a name - 'UFH' which stood for, 'United For Hockey'. They also attended a special Astachal.

During the fortnight gone by, on the 25th of November 2016, it was SOBA's birthday. It was established on 25th November 1959. We wish SOBA a very happy belated birthday. Long Live SOBA, Long Live Scindia!

OBITUARY

Mr Ajit Singh Kelor (Ex-Md, 1962) passed away in Mumbai on 13/11/2016. We pray for the eternal salvation of the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family and friends to bear this irreparable loss.

Experiences galore in Dogadda...

Toshan Agarwal VII B and Divyansh Bhandari VII C

At 1.30 am on 23rd October 2016, Jankojians and KDians started the journey for Dogadda, a small town in Uttarakhand. After a long and tiring travel of 15 hours we reached our campsite at 6pm. To our pleasant surprise, a distant view of the campsite was so inspiring that all our exhaustion went away in a flash. We were revived. To reach our campsite we had to go over a bamboo bridge over the river 'Kho' which was quite fascinating.

Apart from the scenic setting, the first thing we experienced was the temperature drop. It was quite cold and our camp in charge Mrs Kulshrestha gave the first instruction of the camp and lovingly said, "Put on your sweaters/jackets. I don't want to see anybody fall sick or catch cold".

After a talk about dos and don'ts from our camp instructor Mr Virendra, we all happily rushed to occupy our allotted tents. This was followed by some snacks of hot *pakor*s and steaming soup. We could not stop eating! The bonfire saw all of us singing all school songs and choir songs together nonstop. Our teachers Dr Geeta Shukla, Ms Gurpreet Gill, Mr Rohit Sood and Mrs Niharika Kulshrestha did not find a single morsel of food wasted on any plate. The mountain air had increased our appetite and the food was wonderful. All of us even managed to eat the green leafy vegetables on all the days. In the night we would hear barking deer's sound from our tent but the presence of the camp dog named 'Bullet' was a great reassurance. He was the size of a Bear!

The first day we did team building activities. The group was divided into two teams. Both the teams designed their flags and coined a slogan each for every team. One group called itself ROYAL LIONS while the others called themselves RISING SCINDIANS. As a part of team building, the two groups played tug of war, nuptial knot, blind sheep and caterpillar race, not to forget our new found interest in Kabaddi which we indulged in whenever we got a chance.

Next two days were adventure for us. We had flying fox activity followed by Cliff jumping in the freezing water of the river. All of us turned into daredevils in the two days. Our camp instructors also told us tricks to survive in jungle.



Teaming-up.

The fourth day we went to Lansdowne from where we trekked up around three and a half kilometers and back in town for lunch. We were dropped into the Cantt area shopping Centre. Most of us went berserk in spending our pocket money. Buying memorabilia caps, diyas, and hot Maggi.

Next morning we did 'Burma bridge' activity. After lunch it was time to pack. Most of us felt sad on leaving the camp. Some of us didn't want to leave and hugged the dog 'Bullet'. Then it was journey back to home for 'Diwali'. It was an experience 'not to be missed'.

Rendezvous with the Mountains

Hiren Chaudhary | VII A

A group of around 45 backpackers from Dattaji and Nimaji House went on a trip to Kanataal and Mussourie for the camps. The enthusiasts left for taking a peek into the sylvan woods on the 22nd of October by train. Our train reached the Delhi station on the morning of the 23rd and the touring party boarded the two Volvo coaches for their journey to Kanataal. We reached Kanataal by late evening and were met by really cold weather conditions. The chill in the air made us reach for our jackets and woollens while our bodies acclimatised to the drop in the temperature. The following morning saw us refreshed enough to welcome the morning that basked into the warmth of the golden sunlight. After a nourishing breakfast we went for a Nature Walk and then for Rock Climbing. The view of the snow clad peaks found its way into our hearts and the activity of Rock Climbing tested our mettle and simplified our equations with each other as we shouted sheer motivation to the student who scaled up the rocky terrain. Evening found us back into the camps for the evening nihari and the steaming hot food on our plates made us forget the day's toil.

On the 25th October many activities had been organised in the vicinity of the camping area. The students as well as the teacher escorts tried their hands at the activities like Valley Crossing, Burma Bridge, Parallel rope, Flying fox, Mowgli walk, Suspension bridge, Commando Net etc.

The morning of the 26th cast a happy glow onto our faces for it was our day for shopping. We boarded our buses and went off to enjoy the breath-taking view of the Kempty Falls. Every little object in the local bazaar attracted our attention. The colourful lanterns, woodwork articles and small souvenirs; we laid our hands on them to buy them for our near and dear ones. After an early lunch we bid goodbye to our beautiful camps in Kanataal and left for another camp area near Mussourie. The drive up the winding roads made some of us giddy but the view of the beautiful valley in which our camps were set, took all our pain away.

In the morning of the 27th October we took a bite into the experience of real trekking as we scaled the Vinot Hill and completed a trek of 5.5 kilometres and reached a height of 8,000 feet. The experience had a great meaning for us as we reflected on the hardships of the common village folk on the hills who had to live this struggle nearly every day.

On the 28th of October we visited the famous Mall Road of Mussourie and explored the place. By 5.30 in the evening we left for Dehradun and witnessed an array of decorated shops which suddenly seemed to sprout at Diwali time. We had dinner in Dehradun and boarded the buses again for New Delhi. Some of us had to depart for our homes from there itself which marked the prelude to the Diwali vacations. Some others had to alight at Agra and Mathura. The rest of the party came back to the Junior House campus on the Fort by 9.30 in the morning of the 29th of October.

The experience made us come out of our complacency and made us understand the benevolence as well as the vagaries of nature.



All together for a click.



Unforgettable caves, forest, hills and waterfalls

Hriday Soni | VIII B



Boys listening to the instructions.

After the fun, excitement and also the tiring schedule of Founder's Day was the time for the much looked forward to educational camps. 81 students of Class VIII along with five teachers left for the National Adventure Institute in Panchmari. The camp was to be conducted by the Bharat Scouts and Guides and its successful completion would prepare us to aspire for an IAYP award later.

The fun started during the journey itself with all of us enjoying the sumptuous *aloo parathas* which had been packed for dinner. We chatted, shared memories of special Founders moments and caught up with our sleep. We reached Pachmarhi after a twelve hour long train and bus journey. The fatigue of the journey faded immediately on seeing the scenic campsite which was situated close to a lake. Our tents were arranged in a semi circular fashion which gave a very neat and orderly look. They were numbered which, as we realised later, proved to be a great assistance for our roll call. While the fresh cold breeze filled us with energy we were somewhat scared of the hordes of playful monkeys which infested the area. Nevertheless the dauntless Scindian spirit prevailed and we were all set to enjoy the thrilling adventure that awaited us.

Our first concern was to safeguard our things from the monkeys as we could see them greedily eyeing our belongings. Soon we were provided a "Jaalihut" to store our things. We were allotted tents close to it. All through our stay we were to abide by a code of discipline. Each day began with a flag hoisting ceremony and singing of the anthem. We had to be punctual and had to clean our own used plates and glasses after each meal. Each night after dinner we had camp fire. This was the time when we got an opportunity to showcase our talent and put up short cultural performances. We staged plays, scripted and directed by us, and some solo and group dance performances. However the star performer amongst us, by popular choice, was Achanta Sir.

On the first day we went on a five km long trek to the Pandava cave. On reaching there we enjoyed fun rides on bikes and horses. The second day held greater excitement as we were taken to a place 2 kms away from our campsite where we enjoyed rock climbing, rappelling and valley crossing. We were given all the necessary instructions by a team of instructors. They gave us the necessary equipment, briefed us about the method and the

necessary precautions to be taken. The first timers were initially a bit scared but those of us who had done these activities earlier took to it immediately. Eventually all the students including the teachers enjoyed the thrilling activities. It was very interesting to know that Pachmarhi was the central part of undivided India. We trekked upto that point which was atop a hill and felt as if we were reliving history. The place also had a sunset point which offered an enchanting views of the town.

On the third day we went to the 'Bee Fall'. There are many interesting versions for the name of the fall. Some say the place is named so as the place has a large number of beehives while the other theory is that the water falls from a height of 250 feet and feels like the sting of a bee hence the name. The 14 km trek to the fall was quite tiring but it was truly worth the effort. Once we reached there we all had great fun bathing in the cold water. Post lunch we took part in some very difficult obstacle courses such as Russian wall, rope climbing, monkey rope, commando crawl etc. Each of these had us moving like spiders, snakes or monkeys and we enjoyed them all.

Then on the 4th day we first went for a short trek to 'Handi valley' which is called so because it is shaped like a 'handi' or earthen pitcher. After this in groups of four we went for boating on paddle boats. The same evening we trekked for 15kms to reach dhoopgarh . We had great fun clicking pictures and then enjoying the treat of Maggi. We got a spectacular view of the sunset from there.

On the last day we visited the jata Shankar mandir and were given an hour for shopping. We bought T shirts and other memorabilia. While returning back to the tents we were already discussing our Diwali holiday plans. The five days at Pachmarhi had been awesome with a perfect balance of adventure, fun, good food and what have you.

This was an unforgettable experience which we will cherish in the years to come. We learnt to conquer our fears and push our limits. It also brought us closer to our friends and helped us bond better with our teachers.



Obstacle course.

Camping at the foothills of Shivalik

Somesh Kumar | IX C

82 students along with 6 teachers left Gwalior station on 23th of October for an unheard of destination in the Uttarakhand. After reaching Delhi, we boarded our designated buses from the station and soon fell asleep. Suddenly in the morning our buses stopped and we found ourselves at our campsite in Shivpuri. The camp was surrounded by many hills which are part of the Shivalik range. We also had the holy and energetic river –Ganges flowing by the side of our camp which made our campsite quite picturesque. As soon as we arrived, we were greeted and welcomed by the instructors who briefed us about the rules and regulations of the camp. As soon as this arrival lecture got over, we dispersed and grabbed our desired tents. The tents were well-organized and were spacious enough. The main point which is to be noted is that the campsite had very good facilities despite the difficulty in maintaining them. As we were exhausted after a long journey, we fell unconscious in our beds. When we got up, we were divided in 4 groups and each group had to create its own flag, name and certain rules. This later helped us in team building. On the same day, after having our lunch we went for a swim in the freezing cold waters of the Ganges. We returned quite obviously drenched and feeling cold and looked like refugees from a flood prone region!

Every evening we had a bonfire and were encouraged by our teachers to show our unique talents which were: Singing, dancing and some shayari too!! During the talent display every day we drank some mouthwatering soup of different varieties which were served during bonfire and by the way, food during our entire stay was simply 'Delicious'. The highlights of the camp were:

1. We trekked in and around the local hills and enjoyed the flora and fauna of the place. We also found a waterfall where we bathed in the fast flowing cold water which was very exciting and clicked hundreds of photos.
2. We learnt a few rope courses e.g. zip line; valley crossing and tree zumarung which helped us conquer over our fears.
3. We also did rock climbing near the bank of the river and while some of us were busy doing the same, others played an interesting game of Kabaddi. And some decided to be artistic and used sand to make sand-castles.
4. Last but not the least, we did white water rafting. Before we began, we were briefed about the raft equipment and were told that safety in adventure sports was the key to survival. In all we rafted for three days for approximately three hours a day. During our rafting we negotiated several exciting rapids, namely - Roller Coaster, Golf Course, Three Blind Mice, Double-Trouble and a few more. On the last day we rafted for 30 kilometers and reached Rishikesh ending our educational camp. We learnt that team-work and trust is the key to a more fulfilling life.



A short break for lunch.



Trekking in the hills.



Body surfing in freezing waters.

Love's Labour Won...

Kushagra Patwari | X A

This year our annual Class X educational camp was organized in Bhind, a small town close to Gwalior. We reached Bhind on the 23rd of October and after settling our belongings in the dormitories of Chaturvedi College, went to the town to explore the market.

The next day after an early wakeup and a quick breakfast we boarded the bus to head towards our labour site which was 30 kilometers away from our place of stay. On the way, we enjoyed the beautifully decorated town of bhind and saw how the town was heading towards Diwali celebrations. After about an hour we reached the designated school in Mehagaon. The task at hand was to lay the foundation stones of the boundary wall and create a flat bed of cement for laying bricks. Although physically demanding, we did manage to complete the task assigned for the day with determination and a sense of joy. On return we enjoyed a long awaited bath for we were covered in dust and were unrecognizable. In the evening we practiced for the cultural programme which was to be organized on the last day. This was followed by an outing where we all enjoyed some street food and ate Bhind's famous flavoured Pani Puris.

The next day's task which was assigned to us was too tough and took a much longer time to finish. We finished the next phase of the boundary wall and laid the foundation of the adjacent wall. The transportation of bricks and cement was made easier by forming human chains. As it was a long day, evening saw tired faces of Scindians and as soon as the dinner was over we went into a deep slumber.

On 26th morning we visited Lord Rama's temple which offered us some delicious *prashad*. We then proceeded for our work site and through the day finished the task assigned to us. Our enthusiasm knew no bounds when we got to know that next day we will be able to complete the task at hand. After returning in the evening we went to Ater Fort which is one of the most visited tourist places in Bhind.

On the 27th we finished constructing the boundary wall and started our social interactions with the school kids and teachers of the same school. Some of us also started teaching the young ones and some became storytellers. It was a unique experience. We all returned to our temporary residence with a sense of pride and satisfaction and completed the final rehearsal of our cultural programme which was to be staged after a short while. When we did put up our cultural show, it brought out some amazing talent from different Houses. The Chief Guest and the other dignitaries paid us rich compliments for our performances. After the cultural programme we had a lavish meal in true Scindian style!



Mixing concrete.



Loads of inspiration.

On the last day i.e. the 28th we went inside the village and saw how people lived in semi-rural India with little resources. Via our interactions we learnt some traditional methods of farming and digging out water which was quite fascinating. The people were simple, kind and generous to us. We drank fresh cow milk which had a different taste and then headed towards a temple where a Bhandara had been organized. There we met Mr Mukesh Chaturvedi an Old Boy who praised us for our work and also for the way we used the facilities in Chaturvedi College. In the end I think the biggest take-away was that we learnt that a spirit of service and team work can help overwhelm even the most difficult tasks.



Time to eat.

Cycleological Victory - Gwalior to Indore (503 kms)

Ms Puja Pant



Flag off by the Principal.

On the 23rd of October 12 students (Snehil Tripathi, Harshit Bhargava, Avi Tyagi, Astitva Jindal, Pratham Gupta, Mayank Kumar, Arjun Mehan, Sachin Bhagat, Shivam Gupta, Sanidhya Agicha, Mandeep Singh Gurjar and Aditya Gupta) along with six teachers (Mrs Raksha Siriah, Mrs Puja Pant, Mr Anil Pathania, Mr Srijit Pillai, Ms Divya Verma and Ms Priyanka Agarwal) set out on a cycling expedition from Gwalior to Indore. The target was to cover 503kms in five days. It might seem 'not so difficult a task' but for the benefit of the uninitiated, I would like to break down the anatomy of our five day odyssey.

The expedition entailed covering approximately 100 kms in a day, navigating through dodgy roads, maneuvering through menacing sand blowing trucks, eating at roadside shacks, braving the blazing sun, managing cycle breakdowns and of course a few inevitable health alerts. To ease our ride, as per advice, we travelled with minimal encumbrances. All we had to support us in our endeavour over these five days was a spartan wardrobe, a humble tool kit, medicine kit coupled with loads of enthusiasm and bikes powered by positive thinking.

We had a ceremonial start from the school on the morning of 23rd of October, with Principal Dr Saraswat flagging off the expedition and Dean of Studies Mr Dharendra Sharma pepping us up with words of encouragement.

The five designated halts in the course of the expedition were Shivpuri, Guna, Biaora, Shajapur and finally Indore. Everything had been meticulously planned but as we hit the road we realized, there were surprises and reversals aplenty. It was then that one discovered that no matter how much advance planning one puts in, eventually it is quick thinking, presence of mind, adaptability, physical and mental robustness which are the best tools to handle the numerous unforeseen challenges that crop up.

The first day was 'baptism by fire' as we had to cover 112 kms, which was the maximum distance to be covered in a single day. It being the first day we were not yet in the groove; so cycling which had seemed fairly effortless during our practice sessions or in the early hours of the morning became absolutely impossible in the afternoon as the sun rose. Pedalling at a slow to moderate pace we finally reached Shivpuri at 9:30pm with torches fitted into our bikes. The first day left us totally exhausted, with a few aches and pains and all set to crash into our beds. The lesson that we learnt after the first day was to start early and to take fewer and shorter breaks in the days to come.

On the second day we had to reach Guna. Having been forewarned about the poor quality of roads we started early and moved fast as we wanted to cover as much as possible during daytime. However, to our surprise, the roads were better than

we had imagined. Moreover, by now our comfort with our cycles had increased and pedalling became a lot more enjoyable. We were more in tune with the environment and could enjoy the landforms and see, smell and feel the terrain changing.

On day three we had to reach Biaora. It was Mr Srijit Pillai's birthday and he ensured that we all got a generous dose of birthday bumps on the uneven roads. Infact by now we had all got accustomed to the rough roads and had devised our own ingenious ways to minimize their impact. The ride, despite all its rigours, had become enjoyable as we understood that it was not a race, it was not about speed or miles but just a journey- each moment of which was to be savoured and enjoyed. We had also started covering the miles much faster not because it became easier but because we got swifter.

Day four entailed covering 96kms from Biaora to Shajapur and on this day too we proceeded at a fairly good speed and reached the destination by 5pm.

27th of October was the last day of the expedition and we were all incredibly excited to reach Indore. 35 kms short of it, we were joined by Harshit's father and nine year old brother at Dewas and together we reached Indore at around 6pm. It was an ecstatic feeling as we touched ground zero. We then clicked several pictures to freeze the moment. We also received a rousing reception by Harshit's family and members of SOBA Indore. We were welcomed by the thunderous sound of dhols and were showered with petals. The day wined up with mouthwatering snacks and a chaat party at Harshit's place. This brought us to the end of the momentous journey with the next day dedicated to enjoyment and journey back to school.

The entire expedition had some very valuable lessons. It proved that when muscle and machine connect extraordinary things happen. It taught us that often when we are almost about to give up, it is not our legs but the head that gives up. So in order to keep going one has to get up every morning and remind oneself, 'I can do it'. We also learnt the importance of working as a team. There might have been minor inconveniences due to cycle breakdowns, slow speed of some or minor health issues but we stuck to each other for the success of the joint venture. Everytime we stopped at humble dhabhas which served us the most heavenly food with lots of warmth we learnt to appreciate the simple things of life.

Each of those awesome five days brought new challenges and the ride was full of ups and downs: dealing with tiredness, boredom and being exposed to the elements. However, the lower the lows the better the highs felt; culminating in a hugely satisfying experience. Finally we returned with loads of memories and left behind just tyre tracks which are our prints on the sands of time.



Just about to hit the road.



A fling with rapids, whirlpools and eddies ...

Eshan Agarwal | XI B

With great expectations 57 students along with 4 teachers left the Fort on the 23rd of October for Shivpuri. After a long but pleasant journey the students arrived at Shivpuri via Delhi by 7 am the next morning. We were welcomed into the camp and were given tea and snacks and were taken around the camp site. This was followed by tent allotments and breakfast. After resting for a while we started with team building activities. The 'flag hoisting' was one such activity where the students had to put up the flag in the given time. After this we were split into 3 groups of 19 people each, namely, The Alka Halkas, Team Jio and the Scindian Wolves. Each team then had to make a contract or a set of rules for themselves and a team flag. Before lunch some of us slept in cosy tents while some played volleyball. Evening was relaxed and we slept at 9 PM after a sumptuous dinner.

On day 2 we got up early in the morning and went for an hour's trek through a small hill. After the trek we had our breakfast and quickly packed our stuff for our next halt which was a beach camp from where our rafting expedition was supposed to begin the next day. In about 4 hours of bus drive we arrived at the beautiful campsite and were immediately split into 4 teams: Toilet team, Shelter team, cooking team and food and water team. After pitching the toilet tents and shelters, and cutting the vegetables, we had a bonfire under the starry sky, where we played "antakshari" and were briefed about the next day.

On Day 3 we started our rafting expedition. Before leaving the campsite we followed a policy of 'no trace' which basically meant that the river beach should be so clean that there is no evidence of human occupation left behind. Finally, we started our rafting course on the Alaknanda river. That day was our longest stretch of about 30 km. We halted at Devprayag where the holy rivers Bhagarathi and Alaknanda meet to form the Ganga. We had lunch at a temple constructed at the confluence of the two rivers and then continued rafting until we reached Beas ghat. After setting up the camp we again had a bonfire and played *antakshari*.



On top of a hill.

Day 4 was one of our most relaxed days; we played games with paddles and rafted for about 15 kms and bodysurfed in the freezing waters before stopping for lunch near a beautiful waterfall where we all enjoyed under the fall. We reached our campsite around 3 PM, set up the camp and took the day off with loads of jokes, conversations and millions of laughter.

The most exciting day was Day 5 which was also the last day. We hit the most dangerous rapid - 'The Wall'. Not everyone did the wall, but for those who did, it was once in a lifetime experience. We also enjoyed manoeuvring through a few more thrilling rapids which was very exciting. After completing our rafting course and taking our last few dips in the Ganga at Shivpuri, we headed for the basecamp by bus.



Going with the waves.

We left for Haridwar early morning the next day at around 3 am to board our train for Gwalior. From the endless volleyball matches between the students and the staff, never-ending photo shoots, bodysurfing in ice cold waters, bonfires and *antaksharis*, each experience will be cherished for life by each one of us. Apart from the thrill of adventure and the much needed rejuvenation after the feverish Founder's Day celebrations, there were lessons aplenty for all of us. One main takeaway from this expedition is that Team Work is the key to efficiency and productivity. If the members of a raft did not paddle together, the raft would go in all directions except where it should ideally go. Rafting expedition was therefore a hands-on experience in Team Work.

5th IPSC Service Project at Nathon-ka-Pura Village - A Report

The IPSC Service Project was organized from 24th - 29th October 2016. 44 students and 13 teachers from 5 schools participated in it. The participants were: Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School - Jaipur, Rajkumar College - Rajkot, Cambridge International School - Phagwara, The Daly College - Indore and of course, The Scindia School - Gwalior. The villagers were eagerly looking forward to welcoming the IPSC service Team. There was a marked improvement in terms of cleanliness since the first project and they showed keen interest in working along with the participating schools.

On 24th October all students were divided into three groups. Group 1 - Lokendra Group was asked to prepare a 10 minute skit on raising life expectancy in rural India; Group 2 - Gandhi Group had to prepare a skit on saving the Girl Child; Group 3 - Vinobha Group, which was asked to prepare a skit on 'ban drugs and alcohol'. The students gave creative expression to their ideas by performing these three skits in Nukkad Natak style on the final day.

The task at hand was to construct a 100 meter long and broad concrete water channel starting from a hand-pump to the extremities of the village so as to direct the soapy water spilled as an outcome of washing clothes and utensils which kept the contiguous area perpetually bedraggled. This water channel will also help direct the heavy flow of the rain water in monsoon from the centre of the village to its periphery. The participants and the teacher escorts joined hands and worked enthusiastically as they picked up bricks and passed the concrete mixture for the construction of the channel. The students not only made the channel but the plastering too was done by them in collaboration with the mason. The villagers too worked in close association for the construction of the channel. The delegates along with the boys and girls from the village painted the huts belonging to the villagers with great enthusiasm. The village folk were much pleased to have their huts beautifully decorated by all the enthusiastic children. This artistic work became even more auspicious as Diwali was round the corner and their houses got a festive new look. Spending long hours in the village and interacting with the villagers gave the delegates an insight into their life, problems, the challenges they face and the evils that plague them. On 26th October after lunch, the lady teachers briefed the women of the village about maintaining cleanliness in and around their homes. Some personal problems were also addressed and suitable solutions were given. On 27th the delegates received the IPSC certificates from the Dean of Student Welfare - Dr BS Bhakuni and some senior citizens of the village. Two girls, one from Sonsa and the other from Nathon-Ka-Pura received the Shri Vithal Govind Gadgil award in recognition of their academic and co-curricular achievements. The successful completion of the channel filled everyone with a feeling of satisfaction and pride, villagers included.

Before leaving, participants expressed a sense of accomplishment and said that they found this project to be a great learning experience. Seeing the life of people living in such abject poverty sensitized them towards their less fortunate brethren and instilled in them a feeling of responsibility towards the society. On 28th as part of Gwalior Darshan, the delegates saw Sun Temple, Jai Vilas Museum and the Mall and then returned to their respective destinations.



Team work in action.



Learning the alphabets.



Skit performance for the villagers.

The Scindia School Model United Nations Conference 2016-17

– A report

Aadya Mishra XI B and Chirag Rathi VIII C

The third edition of The Scindia School Model United Nations Conference was hosted by The Scindia School from 17th - 19th November 2016. 185 delegates from eleven schools participated in this three day Conference. The participating schools were:

1. Little Angels High School, Gwalior
2. Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Gwalior
3. Delhi Public School, Gwalior
4. Maharani Gayatri Devi School, Jaipur
5. Mayo School, Ajmer
6. Jaishree Periwal High School, Jaipur
7. Pathways World School, Gurgaon
8. Modern School, New Delhi
9. Daly College, Indore
10. Bhartiya Vidya Niketan, Gwalior
12. The Scindia School, Gwalior

Since its inception in 2014, SCIMUN has endeavoured to offer its delegates an unrivalled Model UN experience by running highly personalized, engaging and dynamic committees. This year we simulated six committees that spanned geographical areas and time periods like Second United Front (War against Japan post Manchuria invasion), JCC India Cabinet- 1971 War, JCC Pak Cabinet- 1971 War, UNHRC (Syrian Refugee Crisis in the European Union), SPECPOL (Reform of Peacekeeping Operations) and UNSC (Comprehensive Review of UNSC resolution 1540 on Weapons of Mass Destruction). International Press (IP) covered the proceedings of these committees, publishing a daily newsletter 'MUNDANE' for the three days of the conference.

The Chief Guest for the Opening Ceremony on 17th November 2016 was Dr Sudhir Bloeria, an eminent Old Boy of the school and a distinguished bureaucrat and author. He talked about the establishment of UN after the Second World War and also discussed the Bangladesh liberation war and how Japan became an ally. Abhijeet Nagpal, the Secretary General of the conference emphasised upon the fact that these MUN conferences help in enhancing one's knowledge and speaking skills. Principal Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat in his speech talked about two kinds of orators - those who are talented and others who are hard working. He also stated that talented boys do well but it is the hard working ones who stand out in a crowd. The Executive Board members of different committees in their address to the delegates laid out their expectations from the Committees and issues. The Executive Board members of the Committees were:

- United Nations Security Council:-
Chair- Sitara Srinivas, Vice Chair- Prithvi Gupta,
- United Nations Human Right Council:-
Chair- Akhil Puri, Vice Chair- Siddhant Awasthi,
Rapporteur- Sanskar Singhal
- Second United Front, China:-
Chair- Shantanu Kulshreshtha,
Vice Chair- Ambica Naithani, Rapporteur- Shivank Singh
- Joint Crisis Committee (Pakistani Cabinet):-
Chair- Abhay Lal, Vice Chair- Simran Gulati
- Joint Crisis Committee (Indian Cabinet):-
Chair- Sid Bedi, Vice Chair- Snehil Tripathi
- Special Political And Decolonization Committee:-
Chair- Aditya Sharma, Vice Chair- Aniket Basu
- International Press:-
Editor-In-Chief- Yohen Thounaojam

The first Committee sessions started with introduction of all the delegates as well as the Executive Board member brief discussion of the Rules and Procedures followed by discussion of various agendas in the committee venues. It was amazing to see how expertly the delegates could role play their

respective country/portfolio and how they were handling every situation. The press also worked hard to give the reports by the deadline. There was an ice-breaking session and chaat party in the evening for the delegates which was enjoyed by all.

The second day of the conference was more exciting as all the delegates were well prepared and knew how the committee should proceed in the right direction. The committees started by nine and continued with breaks till the evening. All the committees adjourned by 6:00 pm as after the tiresome committee sessions, there was a formal ball dance party for all the delegates which was followed by a grand dinner in the dining hall.

The last day of the conference was very productive. The committees had their working papers ready and draft resolutions had to be discussed and be voted upon. All the committees started discussing their draft resolutions for finding the ultimate solution for the problems at hand. The sessions took place till noon and after that we had Professor Dharam Singh, an expert in Guru Granth Sahib as the keynote speaker for the Closing Ceremony. He talked about the importance of religious harmony and how it can be maintained despite the differences that are present in our society. The Executive Board members of each committee recognized and awarded the extraordinary delegates with special mention, high commendation and the best delegate award. The Secretary General also gave the "Secretary General's Best Delegate" award. The Executive Board and the Secretariat were given mementos by the Chief Guest, Professor Dharam Singh and the Principal. The chairs of various committees expressed their appreciation for the debates and also congratulated the teacher in-charge, Mrs Niharika Kulshreshtha and SCIMUN organising committee for making this event a success. In the end, The Director General and the Senior School Prefect, Mriganka Ghosh proposed a vote of thanks and declared SCIMUN 2016 closed.

Jaishree Periwal High School won the Best Delegation award. The winners for other Committees were:

Committee	Award	Portfolio
UNHRC	Special Mention	Latvia and Kyrgyzstan
	High Commendation	Switzerland
	Best Delegate	China
UNSC	Special Mention	Venezuela and Angola
	High Commendation	Malaysia
	Best Delegate	France
SUF	Special Mention	Zhang Aiping and Fu
SPECPOL	Special Mention	Germany and Kuwait
	High Commendation	USA
	Best Delegate	UK
JCC-IND	Special Mention	Indira Gandhi, Yashvardhan Chavan and K. Hanumanthaiya
	High Commendation	Mahendra Mohan
	Best Delegate	Governor of Bengal
JCC-PAK	Special Mention	Nurul Amin and Joseph S. Farland
	High Commendation	Mohd. Akbar Khan
	Best Delegate	Abdul Ali Malik
IP	High Commendation	Ashi Rohira
	Best Delegate	Yana Yadav
SECGEN's	Best Delegate	China (UNHRC)



Communal Harmony Week – A report

Dhruv Periwal | X A

We, at The Scindia School, encourage a culture of tolerance, mutual respect and inclusiveness. In pursuance of this credo the school started observing the Communal Harmony week from the year 2011. From the 19th of November to the 25th of November the school observed the sixth edition of the same. A variety of platforms viz. cultural, literary and artistic were provided to enable our students express their understanding of the theme. The students were able to expand their understanding of community from being one simply based on religion to that of caste, race, gender, economic status and much more. On the first day Shubham Agarwal read an educative and thought provoking paper on the topic 'Refugee Crisis: Our Collective concern'. The week also had enlightening talks by speakers from different walks of life. Professor Dharam Singh, a renowned Sikh scholar spoke about Guru Granth Sahib: A Discourse of Inter-Faith Dialogue and Understanding. Prof Diwakar Vidyalkar ji, a noted Hindi scholar addressed the school on the topic *Satya Sanatan Vaidik Dharm ka Karm Sidhant* with reference to Vedas and Sri Bhagwat Geeta. Each of these talks threw light on the true essence of religion.



Prof. Dharam Singh addressing the gathering.



A still from Nukkad Natak.

On 23rd November a panel discussion was conducted on the topic 'Maintaining communal Harmony through Media, with Special Reference to Sections 153-A and 505 IPC'. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Ms Ruchi Modi who is the Assistant Professor of law at Amity University, Gwalior. The panellists from school were Mr Somrajan(faculty of history)and Abhijeet Nagpal and Yashvardhan Bansal from Class XII. The discussion was moderated by Mr Vishesh Sahai(faculty of Commerce). Various important issues like freedom of expression, media ethics and the need to be mindful of sensitivities were discussed. On 25th November the choir presented the melodious song (*andheray jahan mai hum ek shamma jalaa denge*) in the morning assembly. The song was composed by Mr Bhavin Oza(faculty of Commerce). The week ended with the staging of the *nukkad natak* at the Madhav Pavilion. The play, which was directed by Mr Bhavin Oza, delved on issues of inter-religious harmony, tolerance and appreciation of pluralism.

All through the week the students also expressed their views through slogans, essays, class discussions and simple drawings. Through these diverse activities the students were able to immerse themselves in the concept and it helped to sensitise them towards issues of harmony.

Inter House Hockey results

Houses	A Group	B Group	Overall
Jayaji	VII	VI	VIII
Ranoji	VIII	II	IV
Jayappa	III	V	III
Daulat	IV	VII	VII
Madhav	II	VIII	IV
Jeevaji	I	III	I
Mahadji	V	I	II
Shivaji	VI	IV	IV

Best Performer "A" Group :

Best Defenders : Suman Kumar Singh and Madhav Agarwal
Best Midfielders : Pankaj Sharma, Arbin Das and Snehil Tripathi
Best Goalkeeper : Sanidhya Agicha
Most Promising Players : Satyam Singh Gurjar and Zigmee Gurung
Best Player : Chopel Bhutia

Best Performer "B" Group :

Best Defenders : Yuvraj Singh Tomar
Best Midfielders : Sonam Bhutia, Avishkar Chettri and Vishal Singh
Best Goalkeepers : Kumar Aditya and Arya Laddha
Most Promising Players : Palzang Lepcha, Prabal Faguna and Agrim Kapoor
Best Forward : Kenchay Sherab Lepcha
Best Player : Uttam Rai

Inter House Athletics results

Senior Houses :

House	A Group	B Group	Overall
Jayaji	IV	V	VI
Ranoji	I	III	II
Jayappa	II	I	I
Daulat	III	VIII	V
Madhav	V	VII	VII
Jeevaji	VII	II	IV
Mahadji	VI	VI	VII
Shivaji	III	IV	III

Junior Houses:

House	A Group	B Group	Overall
Jankoji	I	III	III
Dattaji	IV	IV	IV
Nimaji	II	II	II
Kanerkhed	III	I	I

Sanjeeva Raje Individual Trophy - Anurag Yadav
Senior House "B" group Individual Trophy - Adwait Sharma
Vikram Bogra Individual Trophy - Shishir Pandey
Junior House "B" group Individual Trophy - Ishan Khurana

Tête-à-tête with Mr M.A. Weihua and Dr Wang Zhenyao



Review team on job.



Principal Dr Saraswat receiving a memento.

Mr MA Weihua, Chairman - Hong Kong Wing Lung Bank is the Chairman of the Board of CGPI (China Global Philanthropy Institute) and Dr Wang Zhenyao, Dean of The Beijing Normal University China Philanthropy Research Institute is CGPI's President. Review correspondents - Jai, Dhruv and Eeshan met-up with the two over lunch at the Principal's residence for a personal interview. We present before you the a tête-à-tête they had with the two.

Q1. It is said that charity begins at home. Could you please share some philanthropic activities done in China?

Chinese philanthropists are very active and they cover a wide range of philanthropic activities in China. Philanthropy in education in China is quite prevalent, coupled with preservation of culture and the environment.

Q2. Apart from social development, what other gains can accrue via philanthropy? Would you please like to share them?

There are several other benefits that accrue to the society via philanthropy. The businesses tend to do better over a period of time as philanthropy helps in empowering the community in all spheres of life. It also builds trust and faith in society. The government too is assisted in its welfare objective. Most importantly, it connects the society and fills the society with love.

Q3. Can you please share some innovative ideas in global Philanthropy?

There are quite a few innovative approaches out there. Nowadays, philanthropists and the intelligentsia are constantly trying to reinvent ways and means of making charity a sustained phenomenon so as to achieve the desired impact on society. And this can only be done by involving as many people as possible. Earlier it was believed that philanthropy was done only by wealthy people but now due to innovative ideas and processes every member of society can do their bit. For example, there are many online purchases which contribute a small part of the total purchase value for charity. This way,

millions of people can start to contribute to philanthropy.

Q4. How do we turn philanthropy from a mere financial transaction of money into something inspirational and world changing?

Our delegation has come to India to show that philanthropists can build understanding between the two nations. There are many aspects of socio-economic development which cannot be done by politicians and government alone but can be achieved by philanthropists. India and China may be different in their cultures and ideologies but philanthropy will connect us in meaningful ways. It makes us truly global and promotes spiritual thinking.

Q5. How much social change can philanthropy bring about in today's scenario?

I would say a lot. Many companies these days give a certain amount from their profit for social service. When I headed the China Merchants Bank, one of the top most corporates in the world, we adopted two villages, where our employees helped the poor in all their needs. We also persuaded our customers to play a role in it and it became a wonderful exercise and we made substantial contribution in the villagers' lives. As I said earlier, a lot of our business is done via online transaction. Even if 1 Yuan from every transaction goes to charity, millions of Yuan are collected and in the process philanthropy becomes a mass movement.



Chinese delegates on a visit to Nathon-ka-pura.

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