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REVIEW-16



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EDITORIAL

Kabir Saund | XI B



Dear Readers,

We wish you a very happy 70th Independence Day!

It is quite a coincidence for me, for I inherit with this issue, one of the most long-standing legacies of excellence in The Scindia School – The Review. I am humbled to take over as the Editor-in-Chief of the Review for this academic year and hence the welcome note.

I hope we can continue or perhaps better the personality of the Review. We will try to be bold, inspirational and more personal in times to come. We shall try and chronicle every shade of life of all those who are part of the Scindian fraternity, be it the students, teachers, Old boys, former teachers, parents and if I have inadvertently missed out on any stakeholder in this list; they too are included in my thoughts.

On this 70th year of Independence we chose to remember via an illustration below, a few epic moments and people from the era gone by. Firstly, we chose to remember the Mahatma, for he showed the world the only way forward i.e. of non-violence. If we are to conserve life and sustain the human race, tolerance is the only way forward. By the way, we are lucky to see the Mahatma's imposing statue at Astachal every day and be reminded of the values that he gave to the world.



स्वतंत्रता दिवस की
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



आन देश की शान देश की,
देश की हम संतान है,
तीन रंगों से रंगा तिरंगा,
अपनी ये पहचान है।

Secondly, the then recently liberated India's Hockey Team outclassed the British Team with their superb ball control, accurate passing and quite frankly by an 'inspired performance' in 1948 Olympics and won Gold. This gave a new lease of life to a poverty stricken and diseased nation back then, bringing smiles on the faces of millions. Similarly, we also thought of the 1983 Cricket World Cup, which we won at the Mecca of cricket – Lords, which changed the way we played cricket and looked at ourselves as a country. We also chose to remember the legendary scientist, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, fondly known as the missile man who took on the mantle to take India into a different league of nations.

Thank you. **Jai Hind.**



Scindian Nostalgia - A report of the Reunion of the Batch of 1994

Pranav Wadhwa and Eeshan Sarada | X A

On 5th – 6th August, The Scindia School celebrated the home-coming of 46 Old Boys who graduated in 1994. Several came along with their families. They brought with them an overwhelming bonhomie and excitement in the atmosphere of the school. They stayed on campus in Jayaji, Ranoji and Madhav Houses as well as the school's Guest House.

On arrival in the school's academic block, they had tea with the Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat and the faculty. They were glad to see some of the teachers of their era with whom they had shared their lives back then. The teachers too enjoyed reminiscing the old times and the light conversations which ensued among them. One could hear the click of the cameras and sounds of laughter all around. Soon after this nostalgic get together they were taken for a round of the school escorted by the school ambassadors -Jai Chahar, Shubham Agarwal and Rohan Khanna. They saw the Academic block, Science block, Assembly Hall, Library, Art department, Science department and the Open Air Theatre. The Old Boys, who had come after two decades were pleasantly surprised by the aesthetic and functional infrastructural changes that have taken place of late.

This was followed by a meeting wherein the Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat and the Director of Alumni Relationship, Mr G.S. Bakshi interacted with the Old Boys for the purpose of getting acquainted with each other.

After lunch, it was time for some football fever and we witnessed an engaging football match between the Old Boys and the students. Some of the Old Boys displayed amazing skills and agility which gave us a glimpse of what they would have been like back then. The match was won by the students.

Later in the evening the Old Boys nurtured their souls at the spiritual water-hole, the Astachal. The entire community entered the Astachal at the sound of the bugle. A Sanskrit Sloka was recited by the DSSP Mahendra chhetri, saluting the Guru, which set a divine tone for the special Astachal. Snehil Tripathi then welcomed the Batch of 1994. As a representative of the Batch of 1994, Mr Prashant Tekriwal (Ex-Jp, 1994) who flew in from Chicago only to be a part of this reunion, gave a heart-warming speech and shared how education at Scindia gave each one of them a leading edge in every sense of the word. This was followed by a soulful Bhajan entitled hey din bandhu by Sonam Bhutia leading to a moment of the usual practise of meditative silence.

After the Astachal the Old Boys and the senior students moved to the assembly hall where the students voluntarily divided themselves into five groups according to the area of specialization of the Old Boys. The categories were: Options as a professional, Corporate Careers – Financial sector, Corporate Careers – ITES the fastest growing service

industry, Expanding and scaling up the family business and Alternate career options – defying the norm. This was a one-of-a-kind interaction and students found this interface with industry experts, extremely enlightening. This was followed by a special dinner at the Principal's residence and after a sumptuous meal, the Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat and his wife Mrs Kanan Saraswat presented a memento each to the visiting Old Boys.

The next morning, a special assembly was organized in the honour of the Old Boys. The assembly included the Principal's welcome, a special prayer and a Bhajan. Mr Manish Bansal (Ex-Ja, 1994) and Mr Anuj Kanodia (Ex-Md, 1994) took over the proceedings and along with the wives of a few of the Old Boys presented mementos to the administrative staff of their time. They honoured: Mr J.P. Swami, Mr U.N. Phadnis, Mrs Meera Sharma, Mrs Veena Varhade, Mrs Neelam Sengar, Mr S.D. Awasthi, Mr V.D. Sharma, Mr A.N. Jaiswal, Mr Anil Sharma, Mr B.N. Sharma, Mr Vasant Thombre and Mr Iqbal Khan for their dedicated services to the school.

After the morning assembly, the Old Boys got-together and discussed the details of their forthcoming silver jubilee celebrations scheduled for 2019. After this meeting, they visited the Houses, took a dip in the swimming pool and played a cricket match with the students.

The evening programme started with Mr Karm Khanna's (Ex-Ja, 1994, SSP) emotional address, which was followed by The Batch of 1994 honouring the teachers of their time. Mr G.S. Bakshi, Mr Dinesh Siriah, Mrs Ahilya Shinde, Dr B.S. Bhakuni, Mr M.K. Choudhary, Mr Dinesh Madhwal and Dr Maitreyee Bishnoi were invited on to the stage and were presented with mementos as a token of their love and respect. They also made a donation to the school and handed over a cheque to the Principal.

Finally, the celebrity singers, *Meet Brothers* came on to the stage and shared the story of their life. They expressed their gratitude for Mrs Ahilya Shinde who recognised their talent at a very young age. On their request she sang a song in her melodious voice. Then the Meet

brothers started their much awaited performance and sang the original, *Jodi Singh, Barnala Singh!* They invited Aniket Agarwal, an acclaimed singer in school to join them. After this performance, the students and the Batch of 1994 had a battle of sorts on slogans commonly used to hail The Scindia School. In the process, the entire audience learnt some striking phrases which were enjoyed

by everybody present. Lastly, Mriganka Ghosh, the SSP of the school gave a vote of thanks to the Old Boys which concluded this reunion.

The place, the purpose, and the position; almost everything has changed in their lives but the memories of this reunion have been immortalized forever in the hearts and minds of the Old Boys and in all of us. Long live Scindia. Long live the Batch of 1994!



Meet Brothers : A class act.



All together, once again.

The Cycling Cyclones

Abhijeet Nagpal | XII B

An extremely daring and never attempted before challenge was thrown open to the Scindians this year when the School decided to up its adventure trails and go for, what is undoubtedly, every bikers dream. This unique opportunity came in the form of the cycling expedition along the Manali -Leh Highway road popularly known as the 'Bikers Paradise'. Six students (Aayush Jain, Abhijeet Nagpal, Ayush Shukla, Mayank Girdhar, Shashwat Puri and Urdes Thakur) one ex-student, Ms Poorva Siriah (Ex Jyotiba-2005) and two members of the faculty Mr Dharendra Sharma and Mrs Raksha Siriah were the intrepid ones who opted to be a part of this expedition.

Though it was an experience which cannot possibly be captured in words I will still attempt to do the impossible and give you a peek into those incredible nine days.

We had the daunting task of covering 490kms in nine days. We reached our base camp in Manali on the 26th of June. There, we were introduced to our support staff and the professional team of bikers who were to accompany us. We were also to be followed by a Bolero camper and a Force traveller powered by very capable tenting and kitchen staff and drivers. We also saw our cycles and took them out for a 22 Kilometre test run. After all these preliminary checks we finally rested, extremely enthused for the thrilling adventure that we had to embark on from the next day.

The start of our journey was riddled with continuous rains which dampened our mood a little and forced us to start somewhat later than our allotted time. We started our journey with great gusto but as we commenced cycling along the rugged terrain, the difficulty of the task at hand gradually sank in. While on one hand, we knew what we had set out for was not easy, on the other hand we also knew that if we succeeded in it, we would create memories of a lifetime and also go down in Scindian history.

The first day was a mix of enthusiasm, a little doubt and loads of fatigue but we cycled along and in reasonably good time reached our camp. The rigours of the ride were instantly forgotten the moment we saw the scenic beauty all around. We explored the place for a while and then relaxed and recharged ourselves for the coming days. Later in the night we were informed of the daunting task that lay ahead of us the next day: The Rohtang Pass. It was the first pass that we had to cross and we were both nervous and excited because this was our first major test.

The next day we set out for the first milestone for the expedition, the **Rohtang Pass**, which stood at a height of 13,045 ft. After hours and hours of toiling, we finally reached there and were greeted with strong winds and low temperatures. We were extremely buoyant and enthusiastic to have made it to this pass and whatever doubts had plagued us in the beginning simply diffused. Along the way, we discovered a hidden skill of one of the cyclists, Mayank Girdhar. He was really adept at figuring out short cuts and using his endurance to trek up long hills to save kilometres of his route.



From Manali to Leh.

After a brief break for refreshments we set forth on our next challenge: our first downhill track. All of us started off in a row, with the expedition leader in the lead. We travelled at really high speeds and were told never to take our hands off the brakes. It was imperative to maintain our balance by standing up on the cycle and also keep our hands on the break so as to stop the cycle at the first sign of danger. We accomplished this too with great success and as we retired for the day we were already looking forward to greater excitement that awaited us.

Our second major challenge was the **Baralacha la (Pass)** at 16,042 ft. It was one of the hardest days of our journey as we had to endlessly climb alongside the pristine mountains to reach the pass. Along the way, we saw the beautiful and mesmerising Surajtaal. After reaching the pass we had a continuous descent till our next stop.

Our next endeavour was the **Nakila (Pass)** at 15,547 ft. which could be reached only after going through the dreaded Gata Loops. The Gata Loops are a series of 21 switchbacks stretching across a distance of 15 km. While manoeuvring our way through these we went straight from a height of 13200 ft. to an astonishing 15,547 ft. It was a gruelling day but the sense of accomplishment that one got after achieving this incredibly demanding task was indescribable.



Wandering, one gathers honey.



In the series of passes the next was **Lachulung la (Pass)** at 16,614 ft. The successful conquest of each of these passes gave us a tremendous feeling of exhilaration. They taught us that no matter how monumental the task, it can be accomplished if we are determined and give it our best.

Finally we encountered the proud **Tanglang la (Pass)**. The Tanglang la was the master of our route. It ruled the highway at a height of an astounding 17,582 ft. We started off on the major challenge with a slight flutter in our hearts. We knew this was the last difficult stretch of our expedition but in no way was it the least. It was one of the most difficult experiences of my life. Finally after hours and hours of toil and continuous cycling, we reached the top of our milestone.



Discovering themselves via adventure.

The last two days were relatively easy compared to the rest of the expedition. We covered a distance of 150 km in two days. We sped across well-built roads, amazing landscapes, army barracks, little hamlets and several check posts.

After completing the expanse of the 490 kms, we reached our destination, i.e. Leh and it is needless to say that every member of our expedition was extremely happy and excited on completing this legendary expedition on cycles. That night we had a celebratory dinner in Leh before finally settling down in our peaceful home stay.

The next day, all of us went to visit the beautiful Pangong Lake. We were amazed by the clarity of the water in the lake and the sense of ownership which the natives have towards the lake is admirable and worth emulating.

Finally we headed back towards Manali bringing an official close to our expedition.

During the expedition all of us learnt different things. I would like to believe all of us discovered a little unknown part of ourselves. Every day was a new challenge for us as we pedalled along without care. We travelled along long roads and went down passes at great speeds. We sped alongside huge rivers and climbed astonishing and proud mountains. I learnt that in the mountains, our only competition is with ourselves. We constantly defined and redefined our limits and set new benchmarks for ourselves on an almost daily basis. We found out that no matter how difficult or impossible the task, nothing is insurmountable if we try hard enough. All of us took back something from the expedition and it is something that will stay with us forever; no matter what we do or where we go.

Ladakh Service Project and Trekking Expedition - A memoir

Archit Bhardwaj and Sanidhya Agicha | XI D

The Scindia School initiated a new service project in Thiksey village in Ladakh and added spice to it by a three day trekking expedition in Ladakh Mountains. The entire venture was from 13th - 28th June 2016. This opportunity was fully capitalized by 22 students and 5 teachers from 8 schools across India. Mr Tony Hyde (Ex -Teacher -Aiglon College, Switzerland) was the guardian of the project; Mr Dharendra Sharma (Dean of studies) the mentor and the venture was led by Mr Vishesh Sahai (faculty of Economics and Staff Editor - Review)

We reached Leh from Delhi on the 13th of June. As we got out at the Kushok Bakula Rimpochhe Airport in Leh, the sudden change in temperature along with the discomfort caused by the lack of oxygen, caused some concern. A short drive took us to our hotel - The Ladakh Residency where we spent the rest of the day, as per the advice, relaxing in our rooms to acclimatize to the low levels of oxygen.

The next day we set out on a walking tour of Leh for sightseeing. We saw the amazing Shanti Stupa, a Buddhist white domed stupa on a hilltop built in 1991 by a Japanese Buddhist Bhikshu, Gyomo Nakamura. We then walked to the Namgyal Tsemo Gompa an old Buddhist monastery; a spiritually charged place founded in 1430 by King Tashi Namgyal of Ladakh. In the evening we went to the local market and bought beautiful hand-made Ladakhi goods at what we believed were throw-away prices. Later in the evening we had an interaction with the pastor of the Moravian Church Mr Elijah Spalbar Gergan who literally knew everything about Ladakh. He spoke to us at length on the social, religious, spiritual and geographical aspects of the region and we enjoyed every bit of it.

We drove to Thiksey on the 15th morning to start with the main objective of the

project - the construction of two rooms for the Boarding House of the Lamdon Model School. The hour long drive was imbued with different shades of Ladakh Mountains and one couldn't look away from the window. A very small and easy-to-miss welcome board at the Lamdon Model School welcomed us and so it took us a few moments to be convinced that we were finally there!

The accommodation was indeed way more pleasant than most of us had expected it to be. There was one dorm each for girls and boys and three rooms



At the construction site.



At the beautiful Pangong lake.

for all adults. The food was particularly well taken care of by the team from Snow Leopard Trails.

The delegates were asked to divide themselves in four groups with 5 members each with one rider that students from the same school must not be in one group.

This was done in an attempt to increase interaction between delegates. Each group elected their leader and was assigned a teacher. One group was on domestic duty every day, which was responsible for the cleanliness of the dormitories, helping kitchen staff, cleaning the dining area and also to visit the Lamdon school during teaching hours to teach the allocated classes. All the other groups were supposed to be at the worksite and this was done on a rotational basis.

We started working the same afternoon i.e. from the 15th and went on to construct two rooms for the Boarding House of the school in the next 9 days. We fetched unusually heavy bricks and passed them to the workers; fetched wooden beams from a not so near place and mixed mud with water for construction work for 6-7 hours a day. This continued unabated for the next 9 days i.e. till the 24th of June when we finally accomplished our objective which was to increase hostel capacity by two rooms and thereby provide opportunity for education to the Ladakhi children.

After the totally exhausting work each day, we used to look forward to a sumptuous dinner which was followed by an evening entertainment and reflection session. The reflection exercise helped the students keep track of their own mental, emotional and spiritual evolution through the project.

In between the construction work, we took a much deserved break and visited Pangong Lake on the 21st which is situated 206 km away from Thiksey village. It took us a 5-hour drive to reach the lake. Ladakh revealed its beauty in endless forms on the way. We saw ice-capped mountains, a frozen miniature lake and the Indus River which appeared, disappeared and reappeared on the way. When we finally reached the lake, it stretched endlessly and all you could

see was the mesmerizing still blue waters. After spending about an hour at the lake and having a delicious lunch, we started the return journey to Thiksey. This visit felt like a pilgrimage of sorts.

The last day of the construction work was 24th June, till midday. The Lamdon School had organized a cultural programme for us, which included various cultural dances and singing performances followed by a delicious lunch. The President of the Lamdon School Management gave a heartfelt vote of thanks which gave us an idea of our contribution in the lives of the Ladakhi people via the two dorms that we had built for them.

During the tough days spent at the construction site, what the delegates didn't realize was that they were getting physically ready for the trek as it turned out that this was no easy challenge. We started our trek from Zinchen on the 25th morning. The first night, after trekking for about 5 hours, we rested in a 'low-lying' area in Rumbak which by the way was at an elevation of 4200m with a rivulet running through the camp boundaries. The moonlit night, the shining stars and the surrounding weathered mountains added to the picturesque setting. The second day of the trek was the toughest as we walked up-hill till the Stok pass which is situated at a height of about 5000m. The view of the world from up-there was simply stunning and it gave us a different perspective to look at life. We took a short break at the summit and then trekked downhill and settled for the night in Latho. The trekking down the hill was somewhat easier though technical. Interestingly, the tents at Latho seemed more comfortable than the luxurious beds of a five star hotel after the 8-hour long trek. The next day everyone was up early and we continued our walk down the valley and reached Stok village by 11 am. We were driven to our hotel in Leh for a lovely lunch.

The last day – June 28th was a rather emotional day. Everyone was aching to go home and meet their friends and families after a long time. At the same time what everyone was slowly realizing was that they had formed a family here as well and there was a different ache of leaving them behind...



Special Education

Ms Sudha Sharma - SEN Faculty

Special Education, also known as Special Needs Education or aided education (with extra teaching aids) is the practice of educating students with special educational needs in an inclusive set up (where special needs students study or spend time with students who have no learning difficulty). Inclusion rejects the idea of special schools or classrooms which distinguish students with difficulty from students without difficulty. Ideally, this process involves individually planned and systematically monitored arrangement of teaching procedures, materials and accessible settings. These interventions (remediation) are designed to help learners with special needs to achieve a higher level of independence and success in school and the community.

Don't we undergo special coaching when having difficulty in mathematics / sciences / languages or for preparation of professional exams after school hours or seek extra help when our foundations are weak? Doesn't the same apply for games and sports? Don't we wear spectacles when advised? Exactly in the same way students with special needs are likely to benefit from additional educational services, such as different approaches of teaching-learning, use of technology and a resource room.

Children generally have the following learning difficulties / disabilities:

Dyslexia-Difficulty in learning to read, interpret words, letters and symbols. However, this doesn't affect their general intelligence.

Dysgraphia- This causes an inability to write coherently. This generally appears when children are first learning to write. They struggle with school work regardless of their intellectual abilities.

Dyscalculia is the difficulty in learning and comprehending arithmetic; hence they have difficulty in understanding and manipulating numbers.

In most developed countries, educators modify teaching methods (using different manuals and digital teaching techniques) and environment so that the maximum number of students study in general educational environment. Therefore Special Education refers to the research based educational and social service provided by the educational institutions to individuals with learning difficulties. In developed countries it is often regarded as a specialised service to those who need it. There are some common concerns that bother parents of these children which include getting appropriate care, accommodation and respect from the community. They are slightly over-protective and more concerned to give the best to their children than the others. They are also generally more flexible, compassionate, resilient and at times a bit stubborn than other parents.

It has been established beyond any doubt through research and records that integration can reduce social stigmas and improve academic achievement for many students. Although every SEN Child is unique, there are a number of successful people and celebrities who have or had learning disabilities. To name a few: **Tom Cruise, Albert Einstein, Elton John, David Beckham, Daniel Radcliffe, etc.**

So my dear SEN students! You never know, one day you may also be a celebrity. Just cheer up and keep going!!! Your determination and self-belief will take you a long way.

OLD BOYS' NEWS

A new chapter, namely, 'SOBA Europe' has been established and is now functional. The details of the office bearers are given below :

Mr Jai Atal (Ex - Md, 1977) - President
Mr Subhash Sharma (Ex-Je, 1986) - Vice President
Mr Abhilash Anand (Ex-Jp, 2008) - Secretary
Mr Vikram Mohan (Ex-Rn, 1994) - Joint Secretary
Mr Shubham Jain (Ex-Jp, 2007) - Treasurer
Mr Shailesh Shah (Ex-Sh, 1979) - Events Coordinator

The SOBA Pune held a get together on the 6th of August 2016 after a gap of 5 years. Mr Sudhir Garde and Mr Deepak Chandwadkar were instrumental in fructifying this meeting.



Nostalgic Old Boys of Pune Chapter.

The following Office Bearers of Pune Chapter were elected:

Mr Pradeep Arora (Ex-Vivekanand, 1965) - President
Mr Rajeev Kumar (Ex-Mj, 1990) - Vice President
Mr Yadu Sankalia (Ex-Ja, 1980) - Secretary
Mr Manoj Kothurkar (Ex-Ja, 1979) - Joint Secretary
Mr Ankit Maheshwari (Ex-DI, 1997) - Joint Secretary
Mr Ketan Varhade (Ex-DI, 2003) - Joint Secretary
Mr Ashoke Daga (Ex-Rn, 1960) - Mentor
Mr Abhay Firodia (Ex-Sh, 1961) - Mentor
Mr Sharad Thakar (Ex-Sh, 1950) - Mentor

OBITUARIES

Mrs Santosh Kapoor passed away on 2nd August, 2016 in Delhi. She was the wife of Mr GK Kapoor, a former teacher in The Scindia School.

Mr Santosh Kale (Ex-Chaitanya, 1965) passed away on 4th August, 2016 in Nagpur.

May they rest in eternal salvation. We express our sorrow and condolences to the bereaved family and friends.

FORT NEWS

The monsoon rains have never been as generous for the past several years as they have been during the month of July this year. We hope that the rain Gods continue to shower their bounty on us in August and September too. Since the water channels have been cleared by the hard work of students, we are confident that we have recharged our parched *taals* and there will be no dearth of water on the Fort. These efforts of conserving the rain water, recycling the water from the Boarding Houses and the Dining Hall and controlling the summer fire on the wasteland of the Fort will ensure a much greener Fort in times to come. Fort, at the moment is lush green and it is not uncommon to see a peacock dancing. Vultures and Kites too can be seen on the campus. The two entrances, *Urwai Ghati* and Gwalior gate are jam-packed in the evening with merry-makers who are arriving in large numbers to enjoy the weather and the beauty of the Fort. Although, Fort is not just a place you see. It is a place you feel!

The Ladies Club, which has as its members the lady staff and the wives of teaching and admin staff, had been inactive for the past two years. The Club has been an integral part of life at the Fort as it has always been an effective forum for socialization and has a history of enriching the lives in ways more than one. On popular demand a revival of the same was stimulated by organizing a General Body Meeting on the 26th of July. The meeting was chaired by the President – Mrs Kanan Saraswat and was attended by the Secretary – Mrs Hanita Kaushal, Treasurer – Mrs Sudha Sharma and 32 ladies. That evening, it seemed as if the ladies were welcomed by the divine, as the heavens had opened up with a heavy downpour. The meeting started with a welcome of the new members. This was followed by an introduction of each member. Mrs K. Saraswat, in her affectionate and democratic style, sought suggestions from the members present to make the Club more vibrant and meaningful. The proposal related to increasing the monthly subscription to raise the quality of the get-togethers was also floated. The proposal was passed unanimously. The evening was full of fun and bonhomie with amazing dance performances by Mrs Khushbu Benipal, Mrs Kavita Pillai and Mrs Priyanka Sharma. Our very own nightingales Mrs Ahilya Shinde and Mrs Shampa Banerji added a touch of melody by presenting a song each. Tea and light snacks were served to conclude the evening. If the grapevine is to be believed, we will soon have a get-together!!

Mr Gopal Chaturvedi, a German language teacher in The Scindia School, conducted a workshop for the entire faculty on, 'Presentation: Method and Medium' on 28th July, 2016. The basic idea of the workshop was to introduce to the staff some interesting methods of presenting content to the students in the class. The techniques discussed by Mr G Chaturvedi were simple and effective and could be used by any teacher for any subject. If used, they will make the classes more engaging and at times even entertaining.

Three students, namely, Faizan Karim, Drishan Dutt and Chidghan Prabhu participated in the Hindi debate 'AAJ TAK' held at Vasant Valley School, New Delhi on 4th - 5th August, 2016. 27 schools participated from across the country and only 6 could make it to the second round. Scindia School was one of them. Faizan Karim was adjudged as the best speaker in the 1st round.

An IAYP Award ceremony was held in New Delhi on the 14th of July, 2016. In a glittering ceremony, Abhijeet Nagpal, Arindam Bhardwaj, Rishabh Goswami, Samyak Kandoi, Suknya Shukla and Siddhant Agarwala received their Gold Award.

The Scindia School participated in an 'Olympic Inspiration Run' organized by L.N.I.P.E Gwalior under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Sunday, 31st July, 2016. The following students participated in the event: Adwait Sharma, Kartar Singh, Kushagra Kunwar, Satya Prakash Singh,

Himanshu Moojoriya, Vishwajeet Singh, Ayushman Dhiraj, Mahindra Chettri, Prateek Parihar, Devesh Baid and Ishaan Gangwani. They were escorted by Mr Siddhartha Rai and Mr Ishan Raina. The running route was from L.N.I.P.E campus to Phoolbag Chauraha and back.

A book fair was organized in school from 30th July -1st August, 2016. The eager and enthusiastic readers of The Scindia School thronged the venue of the book fair. Books of various genres, authors and publishers were available within the school campus. Mr Ankit Agarwal (Ex-Md, 1997), the owner of 'Bookvook' was the organizer of this fair.

A lost tradition of 'House Evening' which provided a forum to the boys of each Boarding House to showcase their talents on stage has been revived this year. The first 'House Evening' was organized on 7th August, 2016 by Ranoji House. Ranojians started the programme by evoking Goddess Saraswati. The main highlight of the evening was their Hindi play which was based on corruption. The acting of Krishnam Purwar as a dog was particularly hilarious. This was followed by an English play based on terrorism. The Principal in his closing speech appreciated the cultural evening and said that the performance by Ranojians has set a high benchmark for other Houses.

On 6th and 7th of August 2016, classes VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, and XI A went for an educational outing to various places in and around Gwalior. Classes VI and VII went to Jai Vilas Palace, Zoo and Vivekanand Needam. Class VIII saw the



Scindians at the Punj Lloyd factory.

Gurjari Mahal, tomb of Mohammad Ghaus, Sun Temple and the Bird Sanctuary. Class IX went to Mitawali and Padawali and class X and XI A visited the Godrej factory, Surya roshni and Punjloyd. They were escorted by their class teachers and some other members of the faculty as well.

Mr Matthias Posch from Austria and Mr Tobias Trutz from Germany visited the School on 7th - 8th August 2016. They gave a presentation on their respective countries and followed it with a quiz which was enjoyed by the students. The interaction ended with Mr Posch displaying a dance of Austrian origin entitled, 'Schuhplattler'. Students were quick to pick up the steps and soon they were all dancing together.

A delegation of seven boys, namely, Jagjeet Jain, Astitva Jindal, Mukund Agarwal, Prateek Goyal, Aryaman Vikamsey, Chaitanya Jawale and Rachit Raj participated in the Jindal Art Festival held at VDJS, Hisar. The boys were escorted by Mrs Kirti Ghosh. They participated in various events and returned enriched as they were exposed to outstanding artistic performances.

Conversation with authoress Ratna Vira

On 30th and 31st of July, Ms Ratna Vira, a much acclaimed authoress visited the school. She addressed the students in the Assembly Hall where she discussed her life, work and beliefs. In her address, she raised the issue of bullying in schools and also in other spheres of life as well e.g. in personal relationships. Her book, 'It's not about you' is on the same theme. She urged the boys to stand up against the bully and never to remain silent.

Later in the evening after dinner, the Editorial Boards of the Review and the Qila Quotes met her for an informal tête-à-tête in the school's Guest House. The Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat and his wife, Mrs Kanan Saraswat too joined the conversation. She spoke in great detail about her two bestseller books entitled, 'Daughter by Court Order' and 'It's Not About You'. The book 'Daughter by Court Order' is about a woman fighting against power, money, deceit, and treachery for her right to be recognised as a daughter and is soon to be made into a motion picture. She received a personal letter of appreciation by the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi for the same book.

She is an alumna of the St. Stephens College and the London School of Economics and earlier worked full time for big corporate houses before she took to writing. Her forte as an employee was



An evening with Ms Ratna Vira.

corporate communication, a specialised communication genre of which she is an expert. Her favourite author and her earliest influence in writing as a child was Enid Blyton. She is married and has two wonderful kids, a son Shaurya and a daughter Suhasini who are her inspiration and critics too. Her non-literary interests are photography, painting and travelling.

जल ही जीवन है ।

चैतन्य जे. जावले | 9सी

जल अपने आप में ही एक पहली है, जो मानव, पशु तथा वनस्पति वर्ग के लिए अवश्यक है । लोग कहते हैं अगर दूसरा विश्व-युद्ध हुआ तो वह जल के कारण ही होगा । पूरे ब्रह्मांड में पानी केवल पृथ्वी पर ही पाया जाता है । पृथ्वी पर भी जल का स्तर दिन-प्रतिदिन घटता ही जा रहा है । इसलिए लोग अब पानी को संरक्षित करने की ओर कदम उठा रहे हैं ।

प्राचीन काल से ही भारत में पानी को संरक्षित करने की प्रथा चली आ रही है । उस ज़माने में राजा-महाराजा अपने राज्यों में बावड़ी, कुँए और तालाबों का निर्माण करते थे, जिसका उपयोग सभी लोगों के द्वारा किया जाता था। उदाहरण के तौर पर हमारे किले पर धोबी ताल, खंबा ताल और रानी ताल स्थित है । धीरे-धीरे आधुनिक जीवन में घर-घर नलों से पानी पहुँचने लगा और लोगों का ध्यान इन पुराने कुँओं, बावड़ियों और तालाबों से हटने लगा । इसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि ये पुराने तालाब, कुँए और बावड़ियों में पानी भरना तो दूर ये कचरा डालने का स्थान बन गये । लोगों ने धीरे-धीरे अपने घरों में ही बोरेल खोद डाले जिससे भू-जल स्तर घटने लगा । यहाँ तक की लोगों ने नदी, नालों को भी दूषित करने से नहीं छोड़ा । जिससे पानी का स्तर दिन पर दिन घटता गया । इन्हीं कारणों से कई देश इस समस्या से जूझ रहे हैं, जिसमें से भारत भी एक है । भारत के अधिकांश हिस्सों में पूरे साल सूख ने कहर बरपाया जिसके कारण पूरे तीन महीने लोग सूखे से जूझते रहे । कोई कह रहा है कि ये प्रशासन की अव्यवस्था के कारण हुआ है तो कोई इसे जनता की लापरवाही कह रहा है । इसी समस्या के कारण सरकार द्वारा कई कार्यक्रम चलाए गए, जिसमें लोगों ने बढ़-चढ़ कर हिस्सा लिया और पानी को संरक्षित करने की पहल की ताकि वे किसानों और लोगों की सहायता कर सकें । इन लोगों की खुशी का ठिकाना तब नहीं रहा जब मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने आश्वासन दे

डाला कि इस वर्ष सामान्य से अधिक वर्षा होगी । इतना जानने के बाद भी केवल पानी बचाने की पहल चलाई गई जबकि इसके साथ ही पानी को वर्षा ऋतु में नियंत्रित करने पर भी पहल की जानी चाहिए थी। लिहाजा अब यह हाल हो गया है कि जो किसान पहले सूखे से अपनी जान दे रहे थे, वे अब अधिक पानी की वजह से जान दे रहे हैं । अब सरकार को लोगों को बचाने के लिए राहत कार्य चलाने पड़ रहे हैं । इसी बाढ़ के पानी को अगर नियंत्रित कर सूखे स्थान पर पहुँचा दिया गया होता और श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेई जी के नदियों को जोड़ने के सपने को पूरा किया होता तो देश में न तो कभी बाढ़ आती और न ही सूखा पड़ता । पानी जिंदा रहने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है । पानी जहाँ एक ओर लोगों की प्यास बुझाता है वहीं दूसरी ओर पानी ज्यादा होने पर लोगों को मरने पर मजबूर करता है । इसी का एक उदाहरण इस वर्ष बाढ़ के रूप में मध्यप्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, उत्तर प्रदेश के कई इलाकों और अन्य प्रदेशों के अधिकांश स्थलों पर देखने को मिला ।

इसी घटनाक्रम को दिमाग में रखते हुए हमें सबक लेना चाहिए कि जल हमारे लिए कितना महत्वपूर्ण है । यदि हमने जल के महत्व को नहीं समझा और इसको संरक्षित करने की ओर कदम नहीं उठाए तो आने वाली पीढ़ी के लिए यह एक समस्या बन जाएगी। बारिश का पानी हमारे लिए अमृत समान है । हमें जितना हो सके कोशिश करना चाहिए कि हमारा भू-जल स्तर बढ़ सके, बचे हुए पानी को हमें कुँओं और तालाबों में संरक्षित कर सकें । आओ हम सब मिल कर संकल्प करें कि हम वर्षा की हर बूँद को संरक्षित करेंगे, हरियाली बढ़ाएँगे तथा अपने देश को खुशहाल बनाएँगे । जल, जंगल और जानवर एक दूसरे के पूरक हैं, हमें इन तीनों का महत्व समझना होगा ।

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