

# Qila Quotes

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL  
TRIMBAK PUBLICATION



VOLUME  
**28**  
OCT 2016



A still from the Nukkad Natak



A still from the One Act Play

## Qila Quotes

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL  
TRIENNIAL PUBLICATION

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Volume 28 | October 2016

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



Independence Day celebrations in school



Principal Dr Saraswat serving lunch to Shramjeevis on Gandhi Jayanti

# PRINCIPAL'S DESK



*Dear Members of The Scindia School fraternity,*

*I extend a warm welcome to you and your family on the auspicious occasion of the Founder's Day of the School. Today as we have all gathered here, we can take pride, and justifiably so, in our rich legacy of 119 years. It is the day for all of us to reaffirm our faith in those core values which set us apart from any other school.*

This day is an occasion for all of us to look back and take stock of all that we have achieved in these 119 years. As I reflect on the school's eventful journey, I realise that while we have stayed true to our tradition, we have also embraced all the necessary changes. Education, in the current times, means much more than acquiring knowledge and we have been able to successfully adapt as per the need of the hour. Passion for learning, tradition, inclusiveness, service, social conscience and cultural rootedness are the underpinnings of a Scindian education.

Our academic programme includes both breadth and depth and is tailored to suit individual needs. Students work in an environment where they are stretched and challenged and their expectations are raised to achieve demanding targets. It gives me immense satisfaction when I see that we have been successful in teaching our children to learn and harmonize. We provide our boys innovative and enriching learning experiences whereby they are constantly motivated to come out of their comfort zone and attempt new challenges. In short, we teach them 'how to think' and not 'what to think'.

Another remarkable feature of ours is that we are a vibrant learning community that encourages a three-way partnership between students, parents and the school. I believe in an open door policy, hence I look forward to meeting each one of you not just during the officially designated Parent Teacher meeting but at any time in the course of this amazing journey that your child is undertaking with us. I would continue to seek your constant cooperation to strengthen our efforts which are aimed at the 'greater common good' of your wards. I would like to reiterate that your interest in your children's work and your presence in school are vital to foster a culture of excellence that we are aiming at. I urge you to volunteer your time and energy. Let's work together to achieve our desired goal!

I would also like to thank the SOBA for all the philanthropic work that has been carried out under its banner. It is very gratifying that the values that were instilled while you were in school continue to inspire you even now. On behalf of the entire school community I would also like to express my gratitude to all those Old Boys who keep coming back to their alma mater to share their experience, expertise and memories with us. We value your strong ties with the School and are confident that your successes will motivate many others.

Coming back to Founders, I would say that teamwork and collaborative effort is the hallmark of The Scindia School. The students and members of the faculty have worked tirelessly towards putting up a great show yet again. As you enjoy the cultural programme and the exhibitions you will get a peek into the diverse interests and abilities of the students. It will also enable you to understand the broad range of opportunities and pathways offered to our boys to cater to the diverse interests, needs and abilities of our students. Hope you enjoy every bit of it; as much as we did preparing for it.

I wish you and your families a very Happy Founders and a joyous Diwali.

**Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat**  
Principal, The Scindia School



Freshers light up the Scindian stage



The Qila Quotes Editorial Board

# EDITORIAL

*A very joyous 119th Founder's Day to all our readers*

*Founder's Day quite indisputably is that time of the year which leaves the largest number of indelible memories in the mind of each Scindian. It is a time when it seems, that every leaf, every stone and every relic on the Fort has come to life in anticipation of the excitement that is to unfold. Once again, we have all gathered to take pride in the achievements that the School and its students garnered in the course of the year. It is the time when we reaffirm our commitment to uphold the ethos of the school.*

At Scindia we believe that school is much more than a place where you learn concepts and acquire facts. It is a place where a foundation is built for becoming upstanding adults. Therefore while we raise the academic profile of our students we also strongly believe that character-building and all-round education is an essential adjunct of all academic attainment. We can proudly say that a strong value system is instilled in our boys through engagement in various spheres of school activities. Courage, diligence, integrity, fairness, trustworthiness, responsibility, respect and care are the pillars on which the edifice of our school stands tall and strong.

School life remained eventful as ever with our students participating in a host of Intra-school and Inter-school events. The boys were trained and encouraged to give their best but promoting a spirit of stress-free learning remained at the core of all our endeavours. The lost tradition of House Evenings was revived to provide greater opportunities to the boys to showcase their talents. The budding Scindians also gave a display of the immense promise that they hold through a smorgasbord of activities on the Freshers' Day.

Scholars' Banquet was organised to felicitate our academic high achievers. Independence Day and Gandhi Jayanti were celebrated in a spirit of patriotism and service respectively.

## Academics

Attaining academic excellence is challenging and rewarding in equal measure. It takes a combination of skills - organization, time management, prioritization, concentration and motivation to achieve this. We provided our students all necessary support to help them actualize their potential.

The morning prep has been revived so as to provide increased time for academic pursuits. Though initially a bit reluctant, students have now embraced this change wholeheartedly as they have begun to appreciate the merit and efficacy of studying in the early hours of the day.

To reinforce the importance of academic rigour, an academic eligibility criterion has been worked out for all outstation representation for co-curricular and sports activities. It is mandatory for students to secure the percentage decided upon by the school authorities if they wish to participate in Inter-school events. This has worked as a very effective inducement for the boys to be

mindful of their academic progress while engaging in co-curricular activities.

Educational visits were organised to complement classroom learning. Boys of different Classes visited the Jai Vilas Palace, Zoo, Vivekanand Needam, the Gurjari Mahal, tomb of Mohammad Ghaus, Sun Temple, Bird Sanctuary, Mitawali and Padawali. They also went for a few factory visits. Each of these visits brought more clarity to their History, Science and Economics lessons. While the purpose of these may have been educational, these outings also helped the boys connect better with their Batchmates and teachers.

The Scindia School is now an approved centre of ATS (The Admissions Testing Service) for our students and also outsiders. The ATS offers a range of tests and tailored assessment services to support selection and recruitment for educational institutions, professional organisations and governments around the world.

The Department of English has initiated a programme which will help the students to become sensitive to the sound patterns in the language, thereby making them conscious of the various aspects of spoken English that are generally missed in the classroom. The programme is being spearheaded by Dr Smita Trivedi. Students have been taught to count the number of syllables by the 'Chin Method' and the 'Clap method'. They were exposed to model pronunciation of 100 words and then were made to reproduce the same. Knowledge about organs of speech, putting the right stresses and the mechanism involved in production of sounds in English was also imparted.

Dean of Studies Mr Dharendra Sharma went on a ten day visit to different universities in Canada. The Universities he visited were U Guelph, Ryerson, Queens, Carlton, Calgary, Lakehead, U Alberta and Algonquin College. The visit was very fruitful as he got first-hand information of the courses offered by these universities, the infrastructure and facilities that they provide and the quality of pastoral care extended to the students. He also learnt about the various scholarships that are offered, with some of them being exclusively for Indian students. With a competitive fee structure, focus on research oriented learning and an infrastructure comparable to the Ivy League universities they hold the promise of being an attractive higher education destination for our students. Mr Sharma has come back with informative brochures



Mr Dhirendra Sharma at University of Ottawa



Fierly debating session

and presentations. Students can access these and directly communicate with their Director of Admissions. The School has all the necessary information now and the Career Cell is much better equipped to train our students to apply to these centres of higher learning.

#### Visitors

A much acclaimed authoress **Ms Ratna Vira** visited the school. In her address to the students she discussed her life, work and beliefs. She raised the issue of bullying in schools and in other spheres of life. Her book, 'It's not about you' dwells on the same theme. She urged the boys to stand up against the bully and never to remain silent.

Journalists from Patrika, a Hindi daily visited the school to attend a special assembly. An 'Ayat' was read from the Quran after which the entire school community took an oath to respect the Preamble of the constitution of India. The assembly highlighted the secular ideals of the school and the country.

Personnel from 'Momentum India' visited school. They are experts at creating global standards of safety through systematic and scalable training for the entire school community in various safety related subjects. Their sessions were aimed at creating awareness in safety, self-preservation and emergency response to mitigate risks and ensure a safer tomorrow within our country.

It was fascinating for Scindians to witness the practice matches of the Ranji Trophy players on the lush green Madhav Sports Field in the school campus. The players represented their respective state cricket associations and a few represented the railways. Dr Kinjal Suratwala, head of the Andhra Pradesh Cricket Association too was on the Fort. The Cricket enthusiasts interacted with Ranji players and received expert guidance on various aspects of the game.

#### Visits

A delegation of nine students along with **Dean of ICT Mr Kapoor** attended the Global Social Leadership Programme at Wellington College, Berkshire, U.K.

Four students (Aditya Banka, Satyam Malik, Shivam Mittal and Arbin Das) along with **Ms Puja Pant** attended the fourth edition of the Young Leaders' Conclave hosted by Modern School, Vasant Vihar- New Delhi. Through talks, field trips, panel discussions and thought provoking question-answer sessions the participants got to reflect on their ideas of leadership and redefine some of those.

#### Faculty News

**Mr Gopal Chaturvedi**, from the faculty of German, conducted a workshop for the entire faculty on, 'Presentation: Method and Medium'. The basic idea of the workshop was to introduce the staff to some interesting methods of presenting content to the students in the class. These would facilitate more student-centric learning and make the teaching-learning process more engaging. All the techniques discussed were very simple and can be universally applied in all subjects. The same can also be shared with children to help them bring variety to their presentations.

Our anti-bullying drive got a major thrust when **Mrs Niharika Kulshrestha** conducted a workshop on the same for Junior

Houses. The interactive workshop touched upon some very serious and sensitive issues with regard to the said theme. During the interactive session, strategies to avoid bullying were discussed.

**Ms Anita Pandey** from the Department of English was invited to attend the Annual Examiner Training Conference in Chennai. It was conducted by experts from the Trinity College, London.

#### Events

The School hosted the H.H. Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Inter-School Hindi Debate. Six schools participated in the contest. The debate was won by The Scindia School and Syna International School was adjudged as the runner-up. District Education Officer (DEO) of Gwalior Shri Vikas Joshi graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The School hosted the 43rd Platinum Jubilee Debate and Quiz. Seasoned orators from ten leading schools from different parts of the country participated in this event. The debate which was contested in three rounds was won by Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hissar. Vasant Valley School, New Delhi was the Runner up

Nationally acclaimed quizmaster, Ajay Poonia (Ex-Shivaji, 2006) conducted the Annual Platinum Jubilee Memorial Quiz hosted by School. Ten teams from across the country participated in it. The quiz was won by Vasant Valley School and Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya was the Runner up.

The School hosted the IPSC Drama Festival. Twelve leading schools from different parts of the country participated in it. The competition was held in three categories namely, One Act Play, Mime and Nukkad Natak. The three day jamboree was a brilliant display of talent, creativity and histrionic skills. The Scindia School was the winner of the festival and the Runner up was The Assam Valley School.

#### Obituary

The Scindia fraternity mourns the sad demise of Mr S.G. Chatterji, former History teacher and Housemaster of Jankoji House. We also mourn the loss of Mr M.H. Khan former Housemaster Ranoji House and Geography teacher. Mr M.H. Khan was an acclaimed Hockey player who shared his expertise with the boys under his care. May their souls rest in eternal salvation and may God grant strength to the families to bear the irreparable loss.

# STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Six students (Abhijeet Nagpal, Arindam Bhardwaj, Rishabh Goswami, Samyak Kandoi, Sukanya Shukla and Siddhant Agarwala) received their IAYP Gold Award at a ceremony held in New Delhi.



**Akshay Bhargava** of Class XI was the highest run scorer in the MPCA State Cricket Tournament. He scored six half centuries in eight innings and has been selected for the MPCA U-16 Cricket training camp. He will receive expert guidance from former Indian Cricket team player and the chief coach of Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association Cricket Academy **Mr. Amay Khurasia**.

13 boys participated in the Gwalior Division swimming competition. Seven boys (**Alankrit Awasthi, Aadarsh Gupta, Shreyash Dubey, Vedant Choudhary, Harshit Bhargava, Ganpati Puri** and **Nitya Mehra**) were selected for SGFI state swimming championship which was held at Mandor. **Shreyash Dubey** won a Bronze medal in 200m butterfly stroke. All the other boys qualified for the finals and made it into the Gwalior Water-Polo team.

15 students of our school participated in the M.P. State Inter School and M.P. State Open Shooting championship at the Daly College. **Rachit Agarwal** and **Aditi Joshi** won the Bronze and Silver medal respectively in the M.P. State Inter school Championship. In the M.P. State Open Championship **Rachit Agarwal** and **Toshit Goyal** won the silver medal and **Shashank Kumar** and **Aditi Joshi** won the Bronze medal

**Shubham Agarwal** of Class X participated in the 3rd Nanhi Chaan All India Essay Writing competition. The topic for the essay and discussion was - 'Refugees are our collective Concern'. It is a matter of great pride that he qualified for the Final Round out of 3000 entries and 150 schools. He won an iPad mini2 for his excellent contribution. He has also been invited for a week's Personality Development programme at the NIIT University in December with all the other finalists.

Akshay Bhargava in action

# OLD BOYS' NEWS

**Mr Gagan Khosla (Ex Je, 1974)** undertook a daring cycling expedition from Leh to Kanyakumari. He covered an incredible 4300 kms, crossing five mountain passes and thirteen states. Mr Khosla dedicated the expedition to spreading sports awareness, inspiring middle-aged people for a fitter and a more active life and last but not the least as a tribute to The Scindia School. He aims to collect funds which will be used for disseminating scholarships. We salute his dauntless spirit and altruistic zeal.

Our heartiest congratulations to **Mr Ajay Poonia (Ex – Sh, 2006)** for winning the title of 'Ironman' in Bintan, Indonesia. The challenge included a 1900 m swim, 90 km cycling and a 21.1 km run.

The entire Scindian fraternity is proud of **Jivitesh Mazumdar (Ex-Md, 2011)** for his role as the Trainee Assistant Director of the recently released movie 'Pink'.

**Dhruv Sharma (Ex-Ja, 2007)** who is based in Delhi has released his first original musical – Vande Mataram. He is a trained musician from the K M Music Conservatory, Chennai, which has Dr. A.R. Rahman as the Principal. He has given 40-50 live performances. Many congratulations on his first release. We are waiting for more!

46 Old Boys from the **Batch of 1994** visited the School in the month of August. They stayed on campus in Jayaji, Ranoji and Madhav Houses as well as the school's Guest House. In the course of the stay they had formal and informal interactions with the members of the faculty, an energetic football match with the present students and the much loved visit to the astachal. The students of Classes XI and XII had a very enriching and informative interaction about career options with them in small groups. In a special assembly organised for them the boys presented mementos to the administrative staff of their time. They also honoured the teachers of their time by presenting mementos as a token of their love and respect. They also made a donation to the school. The highlight of the visit was a musical performance by the talented Meet brothers.

**SOBA Kanpur** organized a get-together entitled, 'The Scindian Sojourn' at Khajuraho. The event was brilliantly conceived and executed wherein Old Boys from across the length and breadth of the country gathered for a carnival of sorts. They enjoyed music, dance, games, cycling, shopping and swimming.

Scindians from across the country gathered at Kolkata for the **Central SOBA Executive Meet**. The two-day event was attended by Central SOBA President and his team members and Mr G.S. Bakshi, Director-Alumni Relationship.

Four new chapters have opened under the SOBA fold; **SOBA Varanasi, SOBA Gujarat, SOBA Hyderabad** and **SOBA Europe**. The **Pune SOBA** has also been revived after a brief period of lull. We wish them meaningful commitment to social causes under the SOBA banner, more vibrant engagement with the School and of course several occasions for funfilled get togethers.

Different Chapters of SOBA organized **Blood Donation Camps** in memory of late HH Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia.



Mr Gagan Khosla (Ex Je, 1974)

# SICK OF TRYING TO BE HEALTHY !

*“If you don’t make an effort to be fit and lose weight,” pronounced my doctor in funereal tones as I stood on the weighing scales in his chamber, “I’ll be unable to help you get better.”*

*Try to be healthy! Lose weight! Easier said than done. I have spent half of my life trying to maintain a ‘reasonable’ weight (What is that anyway?); the effort is now weighing me down. \*@#%\*&#@! Why do all tasty things have to be unhealthy? My own weighing scales also turned against me. Obviously what melted in the mouth, didn’t melt around my waist.*

Google is GOD; so Google can be doc, too. I decided to google ‘How to be healthy and fit’. The search threw up 2,32,00,000 results (0.51 seconds)! Wow, if there are so many ways, it shouldn’t be difficult. I looked at the search results.

20 Ways to Stay Fit and Healthy This Thanksgiving.....

A Beginner’s Guide to Getting Fit and Healthy.....

5 Easy Ways to Stay Healthy and Fit .....

..... the list was endless; the choices mind-boggling.

The trouble now was to decide which website to zero in to. I took a deep breath and clicked on one. Some of the recommendations were:

- Drink 3-4 litres of water. (Couldn’t I substitute it for something more interesting?)
- Count your calories. (Oops, too many to count!)
- NO sugar. (Whoa there!)
- NO snacking.
- NO junk food.
- Eat raw foods.
- Don’t take second helpings.
- Use a smaller plate.

Phew! Might as well say, “Stop living!!!” As Shaw says, ‘There is no sincerer love than the love of food.’ And I am a self-confessed foodie. The tales of my sweet tooth are well known. To deny myself ‘good’ food is near blasphemy. Dieting was clearly not for me. Have you ever felt the same?

‘Well, let’s see’, I thought to myself, ‘If I can’t control the calories, at least I can burn them. So, WORKOUT, here I come!’ My determination knew no bounds.

25 Easy Ways.....

How to Get Fit: 13 Steps.....

Top 10 Best Exercises.....

Do These 5 Exercises Every Day.....

(Do you also wonder how people get these precise numbers?)

The contents here were even worse than dieting, if that were possible.

- |                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| • Cardiovascular workouts | • Squats    |
| • Jogging                 | • The Plank |
| • Push-ups                | • Lunges    |
| • Crunches                | • Tai Chi   |

I REALLY couldn’t see myself doing any of these. What was I to do?

Wikiphow (Mr KNOW-ALL of the internet) had loads of suggestions.

- Do vigorous exercises for at least an hour daily. (Huff, puff, huff, puff...)
- Walk to work; walk to lunch; walk home. (Easy-peasy; I work from home.)
- Don’t take the lift; use the stairs. (And I live on the 7th floor.)
- Involve other people in your exercise routine. (For anti-social me!)
- Do deep breathing. (That’s easy; I’ll give it a try.)
- Exercise outdoors. (The great outdoors- the mucky pavement outside my gated colony!)



Mrs Sujata Aslam

I was at the end of my tether, almost lost all hope of ever being ‘fit’. I had to find something simple and doable. So I decided to talk to a few fit friends and ask them about their strategies. The wisdom that I gathered from them was more down-to-earth and workable than any website could offer.

- Walk briskly for half an hour per day.
- Stand more, sit less.
- Eat slow, chew more.
- Drink 3-4 glasses of warm water daily in the morning.
- Eat some type of vegetable and fruit daily.
- Avoid processed food; eat home cooked food.
- Avoid eating after 8 p.m.
- Sleep enough.
- Do something special for someone, without looking for anything in return.
- Meet friends often.
- Laugh more.
- Read a lot and listen to music.
- Take up a hobby.

- Meditate every day, preferably early in the morning.

Of course, it is not easy to put all these suggestions into practice; I am still juggling them around. A lifetime of unhealthy living is hard to change. But the ease that they have brought to my life is immeasurable. I have also learnt not to sweat the small stuff; to respond and not to react. I find it more edifying to listen than to talk. I stay inspired but have learnt to be less ambitious. I have also recognised the fact that losing weight is important but of greater significance is the fact to feel good about oneself and to be of use to society.

Apart from all the brilliant guidelines, provided so wisely by others, I changed my doctor and happily presented my weighing scales to the kabbadiwala! I bought a new weighing machine whose settings I change at will. My weight is ideal now, thank God!

**Ms Sujata Aslam**

Former HOD English

# THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN UNKNOWN SCINDIAN – 1

***Dr Abhimanyu Acharya (Ex Jayaji, 1969) is as Scindian as one can possibly be. His courtship with the school began in 1965 when he joined as a student. He did so despite having won a full scholarship to Eton because his father, who had earlier been the Head of English at Doon School, felt that young Abhimanyu should be in touch with his roots in those impressionable years. He wanted his son to be schooled in an institution that was steeped in Indian culture and Philosophy. The Scindia School thus became the natural choice for this young student.***

***Later he went on to serve as a teacher in The Scindia School and is fondly remembered even now by the boys he mentored. And the relationship finally became complete when he sent his own son to study here.***

***Enjoy reading the extract from a book which is to be published by Penguin soon.***

Love for the old school, like affection for the youthful homestead, increases steadily with the length of time one has been away from it. As a student, I had felt a surge of allegiance, perhaps even fondness to the place only for about five minutes a term when I received a prize or trophy from the powers that were. Today it represents a feebly glowing period in my life when I was young, single, irresponsible and bouncing with ambition. Do not, I pray you, run away with the impression that Scindias combined the educational efficiency of Eton with the teaching of the fabled Mr Chips and the recreational facilities of a juvenile Soho. For most of my pre-Scindian days the place was an ill-defined and a definitely disagreeable destination that was as inevitable as the next day's rising sun. It was not until I found myself on the point of going there that I troubled to crystallise my thoughts about it.

Scindias was in fact, (and in truth, still is) an undistinguished borstal, which spread its ochre, insanitary looking walls across a grimy section of North India. It is not even one of the oldest schools in India, and as age is esteemed in India as the first of the virtues, this alone imbued the staff and the students with a faint sense of inferiority. Scindias did not possess the proud antiquity of La Martinere's or Sherwood College, which for over a century looked onto the crisp green of the Gangetic Plain or the majestic sweep of the Himalayas. Its origins were obscure, but there is a probably apocryphal tradition that it was founded to provide an education to those black sheep of crowned families that were denied admission at hoarier and therefore more respectable (!) institutions. Scindias had however been in existence sufficiently long for Gwaliorites

to accept it was one of the settled institutions of their city that seemed completely reliable like Shinde-ki-chavni or the Bara. When I joined, it catered only to the pale inhabitants of the up and coming elite that had failed, though not for want of trying, to secure admission elsewhere. For it was, simply, The School – a place one went into and either got educated willy-nilly or fell from the precipitous ramparts.

Unlike most students seeking admission, I was not granted the security of the reassuring presence of either of my parents when I first set eyes on the School. In fact I did not even have the privacy of being able to weep silently to myself. I was rudely pushed into the waiting hands of a dark and rather weirdly coiffed man who was escorting the Delhi 'A' party to the school. I was set upon by a group of boisterous hooligans who whooped with anticipatory delight when they discovered that I knew no Hindi or any other North Indian language. The first hour or two of the journey they whiled away by trying to understand what I was saying. I had just returned from Oxford where I had been studying for some years past and my Oxbridge was perhaps rather difficult for those accompanying orangutans to which easily adjust. These delightful companions, whose names I never did find out and don't particularly want to know anyway, managed to while away the remaining few hours of the journey by teaching me the intricacies of the Hindi tongue. By the time we reached Gwalior. I was persuaded to thank Mr. Mastagar – for it was he I later discovered – in my newly acquired expertise. I have no proper recollection as to what I said but my erstwhile companions appeared to be in hysterics and Mr.

Mastagar in tears. Anyway we made our way to a bus that would have won any Vintage Rally hands down. It was old, decrepit and I am not sure if indeed there wasn't a healthy crop of fungus growing out of its tattered seats. The driver, I felt ought to have been superannuated about 40 years ago. How that vehicle ever made it up the Fort, I don't really know, but the automobile genius of General Motors (the bus was a Fargo) and the skill of Panditji got us up. We swept into the junior school compound and nobody seemed to know whether or not I was to be off-loaded there. Since I was a smallish sort of runt, the powers that were decided I would be better cared for by the housemaster of the then Siddharth House. I was put into the custody of a strange man with hair terrifyingly bursting out of his ears, who after a few words decided he could not understand my quaint method of speech and called a prefect. This was an engaging youth called Uday Naik who tried to put me at ease by showing me where to "ease myself". To the uninitiated, this did not indicate any urgent use of the toilet as I thought, but the dormitory, where a rather unhappy looking, warped and rickety cot was surmounted by a lumpy, stained and definitely unhygienic mattress. Since my erstwhile companions had kept me awake all through the night and I was admittedly exhausted I flopped down on that strange piece of driftwood and dropped instantly to sleep. My final thought was that I would wake thankfully out of what was proving to be the worst nightmare I ever had.

I woke up, I discovered with dismay, into a worse nightmare. Looking down at me were the man with the hairy ears (and nose) and another individual with glasses and a mean gleam in his eye. The only familiar and half-way friendly face was Uday's who accusingly said, as if it were my fault, that I was not supposed to be in Junior school at all, but that here was the Housemaster of Jayaji House frothing at the mouth and frantic with worry at my non-arrival at his house. Mr. Agnihotri didn't look at all worried – he looked, to my terrified eyes like a slavering, blood-drinking demon out for my blood. I could clearly see the blood of some poor unfortunate dribbling down the side of his mouth. It may be recalled here that I had spent most of my early life abroad and hence did not know of the pleasure of pan eating at which I learnt later, Mr Agnihotri was a past master Cum Laude.

Pan and Mr Agnihotri were, I hear, synonymous. Where there was pan-Mr Agnihotri would never be far away, he had raised pan eating to the sublime level of a fine art. He could talk with his mouth clamped shut, could exercise with dudgeon gouts of pan in his capacious mouth. His exercise consisted mainly of belabouring those of us who committed heinous crimes such as being late for prep or not cutting our nails. His staple food, or so it seemed, consisted of the ingredients that produced this tenaciously red drool. His students, notably those in the first row entered his class bright-eyed and fresh faced and exited forty minutes later, with the facial symptoms of a most virulent attack of smallpox, chicken pox or perhaps herpes zoster.

So this man then, was the one to stand in loco parentis to me for the next few months before the winter vacation. With a delicate shudder I accompanied this horror-movie special effects triumph up the long road to the senior section. On the way he tried, without noticeable success, to put me at my ease. We walked past the Junior School compound, their fields, Suraj Kund (which was then fairly full as it hadn't sprung a leak) the rather dismal hutments

where I discovered teachers lived; Gangola Tal, which was visible then, a miniscule hut with a dyspeptic and teetering flag pole that was the Gurudwara, the Teli Temple, the Oval, the main field and the strangely red swimming pool in front of the School building. To my untutored mind I had visions of Mr Agnihotri adding to the fruity redness of the pool every time he brought up his cud. And so into Jayaji House, I was handed to a less than friendly person who had me installed in the Junior Dorm and promptly forgot all about me. Here I was, totally lost in a crowd of boys speaking an esoteric language without a clue of what to do and how to do it. A sardar boy swaggered up to me and said in his heavily accented patois that he was T.P. Singh, dorm-in-charge and I had better jump to it. Having no clear idea what he wanted me to jump to, I rose shakily to my feet and looked vaguely around. I learnt almost immediately the famous "Third-button-rule" where a junior (me) could not ever look up at a senior (T.P.Singh) further than his third shirt button. Then T.P. Singh whom I mentally docketed as the Misguided Misl, asked me to "settle" my cupboard. Since the cupboard appeared to be upright and therefore I thought, "Settled"; I pointed this interesting fact to T.P. He had a mild apoplectic attack and retired spluttering to bathe his head in cool water. Meanwhile, one rather quiet witness came up to me and introduced himself as Sanjay Dani, fresh out from Junior School and joining Class VII. Since I assumed that I too would be attending that class, I decided to cultivate this quiet, gentle boy. He informed me that the best way to appease the Misguided Misl would be to anticipate his every wish. For starters I could make life that much more easy for him by placing the water pot or "matka" in his cupboard for his hot headed convenience. Determined to make amends, I hastily did as suggested and struggled with the infernally heavy pot. Fortunately the cupboard wasn't locked so I managed to put the pot in there without spilling any water. I closed the door with some difficulty and returned to the painstaking job of arranging my cupboard with the help of my new found friend. This was speedily accomplished and a few minutes later I was treated to the first Jayajian (and I assume pan-Scindian) announcement. "Listen here please! There will be a cupboard inspection. Please stand up". A tall gangly boy with a quaint resemblance to an adenoidal baboon said this while swinging on the cross wires strung across the dorm. This person turned out to be Niddumaluri Srinivas Venkatesh Nagesh, House Perfect. Accompanied by T P Singh, the inspection started and when they reached me I could see holy glee in the Misguided Misl's eye. However, he was doomed to disappointment since Dani's efforts didn't leave much room for complaint, with an irritated tug he disarranged my toilet-shelf and went on to the next. I was pleased and smiled my thanks to Sanjay who was right across passage. Finally the inspection ended at T P's own cupboard. He threw it open with a flourish only to drench himself and Nagesh in the torrent of water from a pot that just happened to be inside to conveniently quench his thirst.

**Dr Abhimanyu Acharya**

Ex Jayaji, 1969

# CONFESSIONS OF AN **INTROVERT**

*I am a voracious reader and while growing up, books were the only friends I had. Unfortunately books can 'talk' but you cannot make a conversation with them. The result was, I grew up lacking in communication skills. I averaged five sentences a day and smiling gave me cheek muscle cramps. These qualities were detrimental to my chosen career of teaching. Not that I did not peruse journals and articles on teenage Psychology, but the expertise on 'How to talk so that the kids listen' can be tough sometimes. Nevertheless I have mastered the art of reasoning out with the kids and believe me nothing scares them more than my offer of a chair so as to to logically explain the disadvantages of their attempted misdemeanor in not less than hundred words .*

An advantage that the boarding school offers is that you are with the students 24x7 and you get to know them for better or for worse. Scrape that supposedly tough/cool exterior and you find impressionable kids trying to hide their vulnerability under the guise of fake bravado and 'devil may care' attitude. I am learning to let go and look at the world from their perspective and find humour in the kids' behavior.

There can sometimes be communication misunderstandings and paradoxes. If I were to put it differently this phenomenon could be bracketed under the category called 'transmission and distribution losses' that occur from the moment a word is uttered to when it is understood. Interestingly I discovered that more often than not the consequences of this miscommunication were very student friendly.

For example if you want to conduct an experiment in the Physics lab and you instruct the students to report to the lab these are the possibilities on how the message can be interpreted:

- Some boys did not understand the message and this overwhelmed them so much that they slept in the class to overcome the trauma.
- Some boys misunderstood the message and the poor chaps went to the Computer Lab instead.
- Some made a detour to the washroom, drinking water and lab in that order.
- Unfortunately a few were not in the class when the instructions were given.
- One or two had set up a race on who could copy the 'snail's pace' better on the way to the Physics Lab.

On the other hand miracle happens when your message beckons them to the Computer Lab:

- Everybody understands

- Everybody reaches before time
- There is 100% attendance in the class within two minutes.
- The 'snail's pace' boys put Usain Bolt to shame by the speed with which they rush to the lab.

If you experience smiling kids around you, more than usual trying to touch your feet or trying to seek your company and advise or appreciating you for random reasons, which you never realised existed in you, don't start feeling smug about your popularity. There are chances that:

- Exams are round the corner.
- Parent Teacher Meeting is scheduled next week.

Another unanswered mystery which baffles all teachers is when they begin to collect notebooks for correction. Why is it that only the children who had incomplete work have their notebooks stolen around the given date?

I am a Physics teacher and the subject can be pretty intimidating to a majority of the students. I lighten it up by my class activities and the Physics jokes that I crack. (I have a collection of Physics jokes on almost all the topics) So we try to find out if Fatehveer exerts more pressure standing on the teacher's table or lying on it. My joke on Pascal and Newton draws meaningful silences from an otherwise noisy class. I have to de-fragment the joke to elicit laughter from them. A few Class XI students try to sleep on my painstakingly prepared worksheets, forcing me to remark that at least Physics problems cannot be solved by 'sleeping on them'. The pun draws a collective sigh from the class. They have learnt to put up with my idiosyncrasies.

Teaching can be fun and a difficult task at the same time. The words teenager and patience are rarely uttered in one sentence. Adolescents are well-known for being irritable, impulsive, and craving instant gratification. It requires enormous patience to



An engaging Physics lesson

explain the same concept ten times with a smile on your face, to be non-judgmental when you just want to give a piece of your mind, to deliver your best in front of a non-appreciative audience at times. A whole lot of preparation goes in providing a variety of learning experiences to students of varied interests, holding the attention of irrepressible teenagers for 40 minutes and preempting their unpredictable behavior.

You master the art of communication when you preach without sounding like a preacher. I can make kids listen because I have learnt how to get their attention .

Mrs Niharika Kulshrethra

Faculty of Science

# GLOBAL SOCIAL LEADERSHIP

Leadership, an oft-quoted word, means different things to different people. In fact, interestingly so, at times its definition might also change with a change in situation. Most of us know that a leader is someone who creates an inspiring vision for the future, motivates people, coaches and builds a team and has the ability to bring about the much desired change. Confidence, transparency, integrity, passion, innovation, inspiration and many more such qualities are supposed to be the inalienable attributes of a leader.

However most of these opinions are formed on the basis of what we have heard or read. Therefore, it was a great opportunity when a team of nine students (Nirmit Vikamsey, Shubham Agarwal, Rhythm Agarwala, Saksham Goyal, Priyanshu Agarwal, Akash Phogat, Aryaman Vikamsey, Dhruv Periwal and Saksham Agarwal) along with the Dean of ICT Mr RK Kapoor, attended the Global Social Leadership (GSL) 2016 at Wellington College, Berkshire from 8th August - 20th August. This meet was supposed to give them a first-hand experience of leadership and help them evolve into better leaders.

A total of fifty-five participants from thirteen countries were a part of the GSL. Each of them had been thoughtfully selected because of their leadership potential and also perhaps because they were deemed worthy ambassadors of their schools for a platform like this. It was a matter of prestige for all of us to be representing our school and in the course of the 12 days that we spent there we learnt a lot about leadership. The best part is that most of our ideas took shape and evolved quite unobtrusively through involvement in games, activities and talks.

The ability to work harmoniously in a team is one of the most important qualities of a leader. Hence, at the very outset we were divided into teams and were assigned tasks which we had to tackle collectively. This was very beneficial as it helped us grow strong as a unit. Group participation also helped us realise each other's strengths and leverage it for the betterment of the team. The Oxford Challenge which entailed finding buildings and shops and the Rafting Challenge where we had to prepare a raft for an eventual race taught us the importance of time management.

Another important activity was the Johari Window which helped us arrive at a 360 degree view of ourselves through the concept of the 'Open self', 'blind self' and 'hidden self'. It was an important exercise aimed at self discovery. The 'Trust Fall' which entailed a free backward fall from a height in the hands of team members helped us understand the importance of building relationships of trust. It also instilled confidence in the team as through this fun activity we were made to realise that a cohesive team is always there to support its members if they ever fall. The skill to counter naysayers was drilled through the game of 'low ropes' where we had to continue with the task at hand despite the discouraging remarks of the partner. It helped us understand how a leader never quits and surges ahead proving all critics wrong.

In addition to these games and activities, we also had thought provoking discussions both within our group and also with our coaches and enlightened guest speakers. During these sessions we set our goals, defined our vision and deliberated on several styles of leadership and followership. We were encouraged to reflect on our actions and introspect on our learning of the day. We had immense freedom to do, discover and explore and if we ever made a few mistakes we were not made to feel small about ourselves. The entire atmosphere was filled with positive learning and mentoring. We were constantly encouraged to move out from our comfort zone to our stretch zone and then sometimes into a happy panic zone which is the realm of bliss in which we fight, struggle and eventually make our fears disappear. We also heard inspiring talks on marketing strategies, sustainable goals, and mindfulness among a few others. The TED talks and inspirational movies like 'Cola Life' exposed us to the noble work carried out by people from different walks of life.

The GSL inspire session was one where in ten minutes we had to give some inspirational talk to the audience. Dhruv and Shubham from the group spoke on the law of karma and an innovative idea to combat the problem of contaminated water. The talks were hugely applauded. The country presentations by different schools helped us get more insight into the life and culture of the different countries.

While we engaged in so many activities we also had several moments of fun. The trips to London and Oxford were very enjoyable. We also celebrated the Independence Day there by singing the national anthem and then later by dancing on several Bollywood numbers. The Yoga sessions with which we began our day kept us charged all through the day. The formal dinner and the disco night on the penultimate day was the perfect ending to an awesome experience.

An experience can be considered truly worthwhile when the learning and takeaway from there becomes the starting point of a new movement. Being part of the GSL had been a transformative experience for all of us. We were determined to not let it end there so we are building a GSL Society in school, the membership of which is open for grades VIII and IX. This society will work towards the creation of a healthy school environment; one which is completely non judgemental and free of taboos.

Our dream is to see every Scindian as a leader in his chosen field.

-The GSL Team



Evacuation drill at Wellington College, Berkshire



Trust Fall

# PROBLEMS OF A TEENAGE BRAIN

*The one word that comes to a person's mind on hearing of teenagers is 'problems'. Teenagers just know how to create problems. But has anyone ever bothered to think about the problems a teenager has to face? They are the most complex creatures on the planet; have been extensively put under a microscope and biological reasons have been given to prove it. This article is an insight into the convolutions of a teenage brain.*

The prime problem of a teenager is that s/he has to go to school every day. A teenager has to sit in a particular chair confined in the classroom. In this duration, a teenager is expected to behave in a prescribed manner, listen attentively (at least appear to!) to the teacher with hundred percent concentration (as if it was even possible) and remember what the teacher has said (it doesn't matter if it was days ago). In the period of seven hours, the teenager is to absorb all the information related to Physics, Chemistry, Maths, History and what have you!

The next major problem is that teenagers are expected to constantly tweak their behaviour as per the situation. In some circumstances, they are told to behave like adults and in some like children. Let's take an example: two adults are talking and a teenager is present there. If by chance, the teenager has the audacity to open his mouth then, he is admonished, "Be your age, you are still a child". If a teenager fails in some responsibility, then he has to hear, "Be responsible, you are an adult now". What are we to do??? There is always a great confusion in a teenager's poor, overburdened brain.

A teenager's day is never complete without a lecture from his parents. This lecture is a 'guiding force' from a well-intentioned parent. The timings and periodicity of these lectures are not fixed so the teenage brain is always trying to figure out the pattern. After a long research by a teenage mind, a hypothesis has been finally developed. If a teenager is spotted lazing around, a lecture on laziness and time management will be delivered. If a teenager is not studying, then a lecture will ensue on dedicated study hours. The parents will also suspect you of being in 'bad-company'. (How can company be BAD?) The teenager's aim is to do all the things mentioned above without being caught.

It doesn't matter if a teenager is loaded with work; a teenager HAS to be socially active. The key for being popular in the teenage world is by being the social queen bee. Teenagers have to face a lot of flak due to this issue. For being socially active, a teenager has to follow specific protocols on social media. A teenager must post only the best photographs. The caption should not be too cheesy. This exercise is to be done every third month in most of

the cases. A teenager should never update his/her status every minute, basically telling everyone what they are doing. This activity is considered absurd and is shunned in the teenage world. You can well imagine the dilemma of a teenager -a person who has to cope with so many rules and regulations!

This problem is more specific in girls. Looking slim and stylish is very important for a teenage girl. The benchmark for being thin is not on the basis of your waist size or how fit you are but on the basis of your dress size. If a teenage girl fits into size 'XS' of a Madame or AND dress, then she is considered acceptable. If it is size 'M', then your size is somewhat tolerable. And if you fit into the size 'L' then, you are on the edge of the social circle. The teenage girls who fit into 'XL' sizes are a total no-no!

Being thin is very critical in this era and if a teenager is out of shape then immediate work is required. Lazy teenagers have figured out a solution for themselves. 'Dieting' is the key word. Dieting seems easy where just one has to eat a balanced diet and exercise regularly but the definition has been modified to "Dieting is where you don't have to eat and no exercise is required". In such times, a teenager has to refrain from eating junk foods as the only diet a teenager prefers is junk food. And this task is almost impossible. So, only heaven can help those not in shape.

We have now understood and unveiled the problems of a teenage brain to some extent. The article makes no claims to fully reveal the secret life of a teenager. Nor do we really wish to. A teenage brain loves so many mysteries that it has itself become one. And we will only solve a part of it!

**Aadya Mishra, XI B**



# REMINISCENCES

## The most cherished Founder's Day memory

It was the year 1997 that I had the good fortune to make the trip to India from our home in the U.S.A. for the great Founder's Day Centennial. My wife accompanied me and I wanted to show her with pride where I was taught and trained to be an all round man.

Bharat Dar, my erstwhile junior in School was Principal then and he graciously mentioned my name in his speech as an alumnus coming to attend all the way from the U.S.A. We had the great pleasure of meeting several classmates and reminisce about our life together at Scindia. We met Hari Singh, Prahlad Singh and several others.

It was a rush of deep embedded memories when we took a tour of my House. The arrangement of the beds, the location of the study hall and even the chatter of the gathering parrots on the peepul tree every evening in front of the House was the same as it had been 38 years earlier when I studied there.

The delicious feasts that were held on the sports ground in front of the School were such as we had never tasted before. Every niche of the School was spruced up for the occasion but retained its original appearance and topography including the venerable bougainvillea tree that adorns the entrance to the main School building from the forties. May our Scindia School prosper and grow for many more centuries.

**Byravan Viswanathan**, Ex Mj-1956.

My best memory is when I played the role of one of the three witches in Macbeth. The only lighting was a fire inside the huge vessel, the flames from which lit up our faces. As we stirred the contents amidst the sound of thunder we cackled 'When shall we three meet again, In thunder lightning or in rain, When the hurly burly's done, When the battle 's lost and won, That will be ere the set of sun'.

**Nandalal Rane**, Ex Vivekanand -1967

This dates back to 1964...Babbu (that's what the students used to call him behind his back), Shri JL Dar was the Principal and we were going through the dress rehearsals for the Founder's Day. All of us had assembled at the OAT. Suddenly I found Dar Saab looking at me. Before I could realise anything he asked me to step forward. I was filled with dread and said to myself mare gaye!! I stood there with my heart in my mouth. But much to my delight I was told by him that I would welcome and garland the Chief Guest.

And guess, who was the Chief Guest!

His Highness King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal and the Guest of Honour was Her Highness Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia of Gwalior! If the school's photo archives has a photo of that moment I would love to have a copy.

**Shivanand Prasad**, Ex-Jayaji- 1968

Whenever someone talks about Founder's Day, it brings back the memories of some of the best days spent in Scindia. It's that time of the year when the entire school comes together to put up a great show. All teachers and students contribute wholeheartedly to make the day a resounding success. I remember how all of us would start cleaning our Houses zealously in the crazy competition to make them spotless. Taking part in the orchestra or listening to the practice of the Brass Band till the late hours of the night gave us all an indescribable high. The play practice at the OAT or the exhibitions in the Science block each vies for the spot of my favourite memory. How I wish I could have a chance to relive those days. My personal favourite memory of Founder's Day is of the year 2010 when I was in Class XI. I along with my Batchmate Kanak got the opportunity to make the announcements for the show. We were trained by Mrs Deepika Tandon. It was truly a wonderful experience.

**Ujjeval Agarwal**, Ex Ranoji-2012

Founder's Day reminds me of the joy and festivity that was instilled in the air because of the celebration. Each Founder's Day is etched forever in my memory, for it was the best day of the year for me. It was sheer pleasure to see the school full of people, and to taste the delicious food available on the occasion. I would sit and listen spellbound to the speeches. How I wished every day was like Founder's Day. I hope the school enjoys a grand celebration this year.

**Kanav Barman**, Ex Jayaji, 2013

I joined Scindia in Class VII. Ever since the time I attended my first Founder's Day I always wanted to be standing outside the SMOAT in a Jodhpuri, representing my school. So my favourite memory quite unquestionably is of my last Founders as a student. I remember standing outside the OAT, as the School Prefect of Ranoji House getting introduced to the Chief Guest Rahul Dravid. This is one of those treasured moments that I will always cherish.

**Gaurav Puri**, Ex Ranoji, 2013

It's indeed difficult to pick one memory as my favourite out of the many that I hold so close to my heart. But if I HAD to, it would be of the time when I was in Class IX. This was my first Founders in the senior section and Madhav House took the responsibility of decorating the House rather seriously. A certain classmate and I were adventurous enough to borrow a prop or two from the Headmaster's residence. But all that sneaking act aside, the thrill of those magical days, the weeks building up to the Old Boys' Day



Paragliding by the Akashganga team- Founder's Day 2008

were always the idols we wanted to be when we graduated. They epitomised the best of Scindianness and were torchbearers of the values that we stand for.

**Pranav Darshan**, Ex-Madhav-2014

My favourite Founder's Day memory is of the 111th Founder's Day. This was the year 2008 and my first Founder's Day in school. 111 was a significant milestone in the life of our school hence there was a lot of buzz around it. The celebrations went with the catchy slogan 'Scindia ek se badhkar ek se badhkar ek'. While each Founders captures the best of talent, tradition, regalia, grandeur and nostalgia that year the School took it to a completely different level. The paragliding by the Akashganga

team, the exhibition by the army, bike show by the riders of the Tornadoes bike team, fun rides on hot air balloon and a Dog Show; each of these went into making it an experience which is permanently etched in memory. And the icing on the cake was that I was selected to give the bouquet to the Chief Guest, Mr Sunil Mittal, Chairman, Bharti Enterprises.

**Manas Pant**, Ex Jayappa, 2015

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