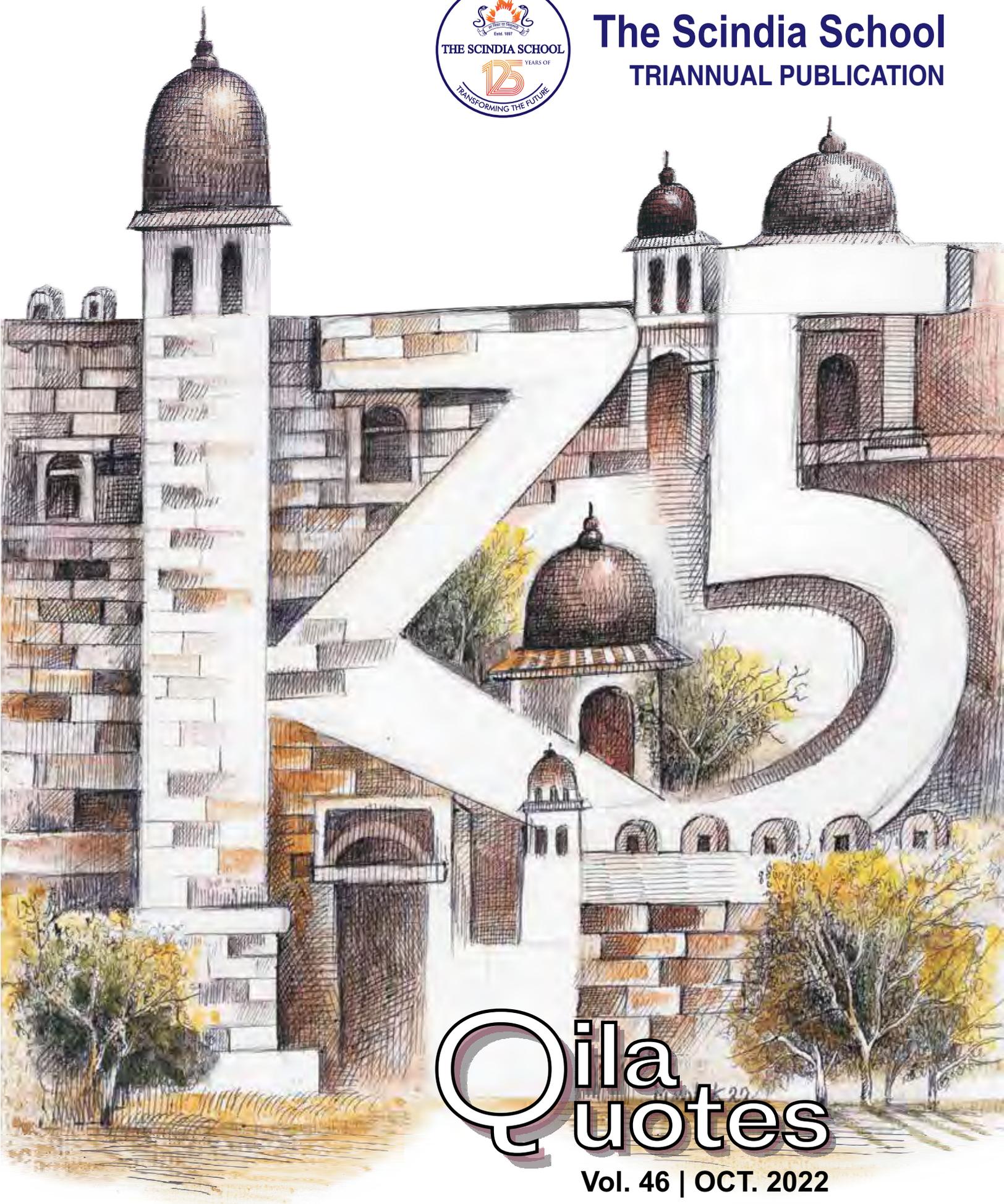




# The Scindia School

## TRIENNIAL PUBLICATION



# Qila Quotes

Vol. 46 | OCT. 2022



Principal, Mr Ajay Singh during Ganesh Visarjan



Principal, Mr Ajay Singh welcoming the guests from Goethe Institut

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### Ex-officio Member, Secretary & Principal

Mr Ajay Singh

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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 apology and contact the editor at visheshs@scindia.edu.



Scindians in the UK for RS Conference

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

As you know, this October we are celebrating 125 years of dedication and commitment to 'Transformative Education' which has been the hallmark of education that has been nurtured at The Scindia School for the past 125 years. All the stakeholders - Alumni, students, parents, faculty, other staff, colleagues, friends and our guiding lights, our Board of Governors are excited to celebrate this major milestone, and everyone's invited to join these gala celebrations!



Born as the Sardars' School in 1897, it was founded by HH Maharaja Madhavrao Jayajirao Scindia for the sons of the chieftains of Gwalior State, with a medieval mindset back then, to instill progressive ideas of leadership. Mr FG Pearce, the first British Principal, an alumnus of the Oxford University was deeply influenced by Indian philosophy. He was responsible for giving School a uniquely Indian ethos and for laying the foundations of a culture that is better known as 'Scindian' to this day. In 1933 he shrugged off the idea of admitting only Royals and transformed it into a Modern Public School, open to

all, irrespective of class, caste, or creed with the intent to nurture tomorrow's leaders! As a result of this vision and philosophy, generations of young people have gone through what we call 'A journey of self-discovery' and have found a unique identity for themselves in different parts of the world.

I feel immensely privileged to be the 10<sup>th</sup> Principal in this school's remarkable history. Excellent schools never stop striving for 'incremental improvement'. As we go past 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have added and will continue to add innumerable landmarks in the school's history in coming times. While we will continue to nurture the timeless Scindian ethos and our unique practices like the Astachal, we are equally conscious of what our planet will need in the future. That's why our students and teachers have embarked on futuristic projects like the Ecological Park Project, Water conservation project and more. We want every Scindian to not just live in a better world but also to leave the world a better place!

Our 125<sup>th</sup> year of anniversary celebrations coincide with 75<sup>th</sup> year of independence of India. We have celebrated the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** with a tribute to people instrumental in bringing India thus far in its journey of development. We have decided to do the same. We will celebrate this milestone not only this October but for the next 12 months till October 2023.

**Long Live The Scindia School!**

Ajay Singh  
Principal



Ajay Poonia (Ex-Sh, 2006); CEO-Evolving Edutainment hosting the Plat Quiz



Principal, Mr Ajay Singh serving food to Shramjeevis



Board members with Mr Ajay Singh during the Nanhi Chhaan event

# EDITORIAL

**The Scindia School has been recognized for its outstanding contribution towards community service and was presented with an award at the annual Duke of Edinburgh- International Award for Young People Gold Award ceremony held at the India International Center, New Delhi on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

## Workshops and Seminars

Art of Living programme was conducted by Dr Sangeeta Jha and Ms Ruchira Dhal from 8 - 10 July 2022. Workshop provided practical tools for physical, mental, and emotional well-being. It included yoga, pranayama, sutras, and meditative techniques including the renowned- *Sudarshan Kriya*, which is known to improve the quality of sleep, management of emotions and decrease stress levels.

On 13 September 2022 a total of 45 students participated in a two hours thirty minutes' Dance workshop. The teachers from the Meet Brothers Music Academy captivated the young dancers at school. Workshop included games like 'freeze dance', 'follow the leader' and 'a ton of dance'. Students were also taught Hip-Hop and contemporary forms of dance along with usage of props.

## New Initiatives

Mindfulness practice has been started during morning assembly on 4 days of the week with the aim to improve lives of children by making a genuine, positive difference to their mental health and well being. Eventually, this will also help them to flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. The practice is internally led by Mr Vishesh Sahai.

Two sessions of the recently introduced 'Scindian Talk house' have been conducted so far in the Assembly Hall. The second session was conducted on 1 September 2022 after dinner. The session focused on practicality, purpose and perception of religions and their practices and discussed if religion is a myth or not. The idea of the 'Scindian Talk house' is to provide an open space where the entire community can engage in meaningful discussions without being judged in any way at all.

The Scindia School and MBMA (Meet Brothers Music Academy) have signed an MoU where in MBMA will assist, guide, and teach – Western Vocals, Hindustani Vocals, Guitar, Percussion, Beat boxing, RAP, Music production, Audio Engineering and DJ basics to our students.

## Career Counselling, University fair and International Admissions

On 21 July 2022, Mr Parikshit Dhanda, Chief Strategy Officer, Mindler, interacted with the students of class IX to XII. Mr Dhanda introduced them to the various career opportunities available in the various fields of education. He informed them about the various tests and courses that Indian Colleges and Universities provide

and how to choose a back-up career or college.

Representatives of sixteen renowned universities from India and abroad visited the campus on 6 August 2022. University of Manchester, UK; University of Newcastle, UK; Queen Mary University of London, UK; Aston University, UK; Kent University, UK; Flame University; Manipal University; UPES (University of Petroleum & Energy Studies), Dehradun; Krea University; Shiv Nadar University; Thapar University (School of Liberal Education and Science); Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies; Indian School of Hospitality; Swiss Hotel management School; NIIT University; and JK Lakshmi Pat University visited the school. Students of Classes IX to XII interacted with the representatives of these universities.

22 students from the batch of 2021-22 have gone abroad for further studies. All these students have gone to internationally acclaimed universities in the UK, USA, Canada, and Singapore.

## Celebrations

10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 marked the celebration of the Nanhi Chhaan event in the school. 17 finalists selected out of 30000 participants arrived from across the country for this extravaganza. Ms Sumaya Beri of VVS, Delhi won the competition and Ms Kshemaahna Nagi from Vidyashilp Academy, Bangalore was declared the runner-up.

The festival of Dusshera was celebrated on the Fort. Students dressed as *Lord Ram*, *Laxman* and *Raavan* along with many other characters and enchanted all of us with their acting skills through the *Ramleela*. The effigy of Raavan was set on fire and the chants echoed through the air.

The event of *Ganesh Sthapna* was observed on 31 August 2022. Amid the sacred chanting of prayers and the melody of the *bhajans* sung by the school choir, the idol of *Lord Ganesh* was worshipped with due reverence. The next day the idol was taken to *Suraj Kund* with hearts full of gratitude to mark the *visarjan*.

Independence Day was celebrated with fervour and gaiety at the Fort. It was yet again an exhibition of the unmatched spirit of Scindians and their indomitable spirit. Mr Rajesh Dandotiya, Additional Superintendent of Police, Gwalior, was the Chief Guest.

Teachers' Day was celebrated with great fervour on the Fort on 5 September 2022. For the past two years, this celebration had

been relegated to the online mode for the pandemic necessitated it. So this year saw heightened enthusiasm on both sides - the teacher and the taught. Dance, music and lovely presentations by the students kept the teachers deeply engrossed and sent them into splits of laughter quite frequently. It was a true expression of the profound relationship between the teacher and the taught in the environs of a boarding school life.

#### Visits

The Additional Director General of NCC, Major General A K Mahajan visited the Fort along with some other dignitaries and witnessed a show of The Scindia School's Brass Band. The Band performed at the Madhav Field and was profusely appreciated by the guests. There after, the guests interacted with the faculty members in the staffroom and exchanged light-hearted conversations.

Mr Pradip Krishen, Ms Devyani Khare and Mr Fazal Rashid visited the campus from 26 – 28 August 2022. They interacted with staff and students on various issues which are directly and / or indirectly connected with the Ecology Park Project. Enriching sessions were held on the definition of jungle, aspects of natural vegetation, deserts, grass lands of the world, Dhok forests of Gwalior, Aanan trees, riverain landscapes, gorges, ravines etc.

The Scindia School along with the Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth organized a Dhrupad musical performance on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Mr Pandit Prashant Mallick and Mr Pandit Nishant Mallick with Mr Gaurav Shankar Upadhyay on the 'pakhavaj' mesmerized the audience.

#### Internationalism

A delegation from the Goethe Institute - Max Mueller Bhawan, New Delhi visited The Scindia School on 19 and 20 September 2022. The three members who visited us were Ms Veronika Taranzinskaja, Ms Tanvi Duggal, and Ms Vibhuti Sukhramani. The main purpose of their visit was to interact with the students of different classes who have opted for German as a foreign language in our school.

The Round Square International Conference 2022 was held from September 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> in the UK. The conference was attended by more than 1000 delegates from 40 countries. The theme of the conference was: Take Less – Be More. Scindian delegation spent time at the Oxford University and in London. Utkarsh Gupta, Reshav Sarawgi, Aditya Agrawal, Shrey Shukla, Vedant Khare and Vinayak Mittal were accompanied by Ms Smita Chaturvedi and Ms Divya Verma for the event.

#### Events

The 21<sup>st</sup> Maharaja Madhavrao Memorial Inter School Hindi Debate, 49<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee Inter School English Debate and Inter School Quiz was hosted by The Scindia School from 28 September - 1 October 2022. Ten teams of renowned schools from all over the country participated in it. Participants were: Vasant Valley School, Delhi; Emerald Heights International School, Indore; Punjab Public School, Nabha; Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer; Sunbeam School, Bhagwanpur; Mayo College Boys' School, Ajmer; Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar; Pinegrove School, Subathu and The Scindia School, Fort Gwalior. Vasant Valley School won the Hindi debate, and The Scindia School was the Runner Up. Vasant Valley

School won the platinum jubilee English debate and Emerald Heights were declared the Runner Up. The Platinum Jubilee Quiz was conducted by the Quizmaster, Mr Ajay Poonia (Ex- Sh, 2006). The Scindia School won the Quiz and Sunbeam School were declared the Runner Up. As per tradition, the trophy was handed over to Runner Up.

Science Fest 2022-23 was held in the school from 8 to 10 September 2022. Seven prestigious schools of the country participated in the fest, namely- Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer; Genesis Global School, Noida; Mody School, Laxmangarh; Daly College, Indore; Vivek High School, Chandigarh; Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Gwalior and The Scindia School, Gwalior. Dr Manmohan Parida, Director, DRDE, Gwalior, was the Chief Guest of the opening ceremony. Events such as Design thinking, Quiz, Rocketeers, Car Racing and Science Play were immensely enjoyed by the teams. Ms Nishi Mishra, Principal, Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, was the Chief Guest for the same. The Scindia School was declared the winner of the Science Fest. Staying true to the tradition of passing on the trophy to the Runner-up, the trophy was handed over to Daly College, Indore.

The school hosted a Virtual Round Square Event. The theme of the event was 'Power of Word'. 16 schools from two countries participated in it. This student led activity witnessed discussion and exchange of ideas on the topic, where in all the delegates participated enthusiastically.

#### Prefectorial Board of 2022-23

On 9 August 2022, Investiture Ceremony for the Prefectorial Board of 2022-23, was held in the Assembly Hall. Following students were sworn in as School Prefects- Arjun Bhat and Keshav Kapoor, Ranoji; Satyam Raj and Bhavya Dhamija, Mahadji; Ayushmaan Rai, Jeevaji; Sumedh Potdar and Utkarsh Gupta, Madhav; Jeh Neville Hilluwala and Sanyam Agarwal, Shivaji; Tushar Saini, Daulat; Shirish Mehra and Gourav Mehra, Jayappa. Parikshita Singh, Jayaji, was sworn in as the School Prefect, Girls' Representative. Vidit Gupta, Jeevaji, and Anubhav Sachan, Jayaji, became the Deputy Senior School Prefects. Mayank Choudhary was sworn in as the Senior School Prefect.



Soulful music from Jeh's guitar

# OLD BOYS' NEWS

*Class of 1980 marched on the Madhav Field on Independence Day. All the lovely spouses also joined the Old Boys and marched to the tunes of the school brass band. Their contingent was led by Mr Biren Sitwala as plaque bearer and Mr Madhukar Suri as flag-bearers. As part of their reunion, the batchmates organized a musical dinner in the city, which was attended by Principal, Mr Ajay Singh, and VP, Ms Smita Chaturvedi. Scindians who attended the reunion included : Mr Ajay Gupta, Gwalior; Mr Ajay Sood, Bhopal; Mr Anupam Lamba, Gwalior; Mr Arvind Sharma, Aligarh; Mr Biren Sitwala, Surat; Mr Chyavan Bhargava, Prayagraj; Mr Dhaval Sheth, Bhavnagar; Mr Madhukar Suri, Gwalior; Mr Manish Sethi, Rewa; Mr Manoj Khanna, Lucknow; Mr Mukesh Agarwal, Indore; Mr Pradeep Agarwal, Nagpur; Mr Ravindra Gandhi, Nagpur; Mr Sanjay Arora, Nagpur; Mr Sanjoy Mathur, Delhi; Mr Sandeep Agrawal, Nagpur; Mr Sandeep Bansal, Agra; Mr Sandeep Gupta, Gwalior and Mr Vivek Rishi, Gurugram. Most of them were accompanied by their spouses.*

Dr Sanjai Majupuria, (Ex-Je, 1969), son of Shri GC Majupuria who served in The Scindia School as a History and Hindi teacher for about 40 years, has authored a book titled "Gwalior ka Rajnetik Itihas (Prarambh se varsh 1948 tak)". This book mainly focuses on ancient Gwalior's history before independence. Through this book, he has attempted to put together millions of threads of Gwalior State's achievements. For order of this book, you may send an email to sanjaimajupuria@gmail.com mentioning full postal address along with mobile number and number of copies required. Alternatively, you may send the above details to WhatsApp number 9425108885.

10 Old Boys from the batch of 1972, namely Vivek Sett, Rajeev Bajoria, Dhananjay Saheba, Vipul Agarwal, Abhay Singh, Sushil Bhuwarka, Anil Dhariwal, Ravindra Agarwal, Anoop Saxena and Krishna Kumar Kabra spent two days on the fort from 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 reliving old memories. Apart from the usual things, they rode horses in the morning along the parapets of the fort; attended a gala dinner, and enjoyed a chat with the Principal in the Common Room of SOBA House. Another interesting aspect of their stay was that this was the batch which booked SOBA House for the first time!



Batch of 1980 at the Principal's residence

# THE LAND OF ETERNAL CONTENT

*“So, hope you will be coming for the Founder’s Day this year?” I would ask every student who was leaving school as he graduated. And while he was set to walk out of the portals with moist eyes and truckloads of memory the one answer I unfailingly got was “Ma’am not till I have achieved something in life”.*

The response never took me by surprise as every Scindian knows how Founders is not just a day of celebration and enjoyment. It is a day when we are reminded of the history that we stand on, and the future that we stand for. A day when each one of us can proudly say that, in our own little way, we too have been the custodians of a rich legacy. A day to show to the school and all the mentors, that we have been worthy of the time and effort invested in us.

A weighty but most pleasant responsibility indeed.

It is extremely fascinating how, as if through a process of thought osmosis, there is an organic convergence of the beliefs and core values of students and teachers at Scindia. Hence today every time an Old Boy asks me if I would be visiting school for Founders I say to myself what I had heard the students say so many times, “Not till I have achieved something in life”. I say this with absolute humility and a deep sense of obligation because in the close to 11 years that I spent there, I was trusted, challenged and mentored to take up many demanding assignments. Those growth opportunities, as I realized later, were actually an incubator for the significant roles that I took up post Scindia. The institution’s alchemy had transformed me, unbeknownst to me, as it does so many others. No doubt the majestic feel of having lived and worked on a historic Fort has given me immense bragging rights but it has also vested me the responsibility of working towards the high standards of Brand Scindia.

The abundant life that I enjoyed at the Fort has ensured that even while I have moved from one workplace to another, I have continued to be the most diehard Non-Resident Scindian, regardless of where I may be. There is not a single day when I have not missed the resonance of the Om chanting of the morning assembly. I miss the laughter of the classes where the ever sporting boys would crack savage jokes at each other yet the bonhomie would not be dented. I miss the uniquely hilarious Scindian experience when a day before exam the boys would approach teachers not for clearing doubts but for asking the syllabus. I remember fondly the ease with which boys, who would beg for power naps between classes, would transform into tireless workhorses when the need arose. The other cherished memories are of the fierce House spirit, the rambunctious spirit on display in the fields, the contest for the *Rajkumari* as if it were not a trophy but an actual princess, the mentorship from seniors to juniors and so much more. Not to miss the Scindian Lingo which remains sui generis, with a raft of words whose essence cannot be captured by any other word.

The memories of my long walks down the Urwaighati, meetings with the Editorial Board for planning the next edition of the Review or Qila Quotes and the banter at the Staffroom are the priciest possessions of my memory vault. It might seem a tad too sentimental but somewhere deep inside, I still wake up to the sound of the chirping of birds, the frisking of squirrels and the shade of the massive peepal tree that was outside my house. The most heavenly sunset for me will always be the one witnessed from the circular orb of the *Astachal*.

And can any experience match the grandeur of the Founder’s Day celebration? As I write this, I can imagine the late-night practice sessions in the OAT where, believe it or not, even the claps were rehearsed following the ‘he has done so’ announcement by the comperes. I can vicariously feel the thrill around the preparations for the exhibitions, the suspense around the various House trophies, the orchestra, the play and many more such experiences.

There are memories, learnings and mistakes aplenty. Most that I would relive and a few that I wish I could permanently erase. Nevertheless each of them has imparted me valuable life lessons.

I’d like to conclude with the beautiful lines that the great classicist A.E. Housman wrote about old age and nostalgia. For me the emotional punch in these captures the longing that I have for the emotional and physical spaces that I once occupied.

**Into my heart an air that kills  
From yon far country blows:  
What are those blue remembered hills,  
What spires, what farms are those?**

**That is the land of lost content,  
I see it shining plain,  
The happy highways where I went  
And cannot come again.**

Just hoping that one day I will have the time and occasion to visit the happy highways once again.

Scindia is the Land of eternal content for me and I intend to visit it soon. It beckons me for reasons more than one.

Wishing everyone a glorious 125<sup>th</sup> Founder’s Day!!

**Ms Puja Pant**

Vice Principal, Ecole Globale International Girls’ School  
(Founder Editor - QQ; Former Editor - Review; Former HOD- English Department, The Scindia School )



Endless meetings with ed-board



With colleagues & students during editors' conference

Tête-à-tête with

# Dr Vikram Mathur

(Ex-Ja, 1974)

*An educationist at heart, Dr Vikram Mathur has been involved in business development of firms engaged in Power Generation, Oil & Natural Gas, Water & Irrigation and Marine Equipment Sectors. During his illustrious career, he has served many organizations including Rolls Royce PLC (Industrial Power Group), UK; Weir Engineering Services, UK; Allen Steam Turbines, UK; Clyde Pumps Ltd., UK; Thornycroft Maritime Associates PTY, Australia and Allen Diesels Ltd., U.K.*

*Born on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1956 in Delhi, he finished his schooling from The Scindia School in the year 1974 and then went on to earn an FCA from London. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Westminster, London, UK.*

*He has served on the boards of The British School, New Delhi (2007-10); International Students House, London, UK (2010-21); and is currently a member of the Board of Governors of The Scindia School. While it is difficult to quantify his immense contribution, it is due to Dr Mathur's initiative that several students at The Scindia School have been able to study in the UK on scholarships during the last two decades! We present before you a candid conversation, which our staff editor Mr Vishesh Sahai had with him.*

You have been an achiever in the line that you chose to pursue. That must have meant constantly disrupting your status quo. What are some of the biggest risks that you took; and what did you learn from them?

Everyone has a different perspective on tolerance for risk. The reward and loss that each person receives from the risk is different. Each person may see different facts and not always the whole picture. No single perspective is more important or right than the other. Everyone has a legitimate and different view of risk and hence different risk appetite. As a decision maker you must ensure that you have all the different views and put them together correctly to make the best-informed choice you can.

In my case with the constant mergers and acquisitions of the parent company I worked with, I remained loyal to the core business thereby all disruption played to my advantage!

Please share with us some of life's lessons that you've learnt from your travels across the seas.

Travel is life changing. It's beautiful, sometimes mind-boggling, it's

also an eye opener, it's raw, and at times even nerve-wracking. Travel tests your judgment, patience, and tolerance levels incessantly.

I was fortunate to travel for study, then work and on annual holidays. It made me more open minded; It taught me not to take people for granted and religion & politics are personal subjects so it's best to stay away. I also learned to explore and be amazed with the nature and beauty that surrounds us everywhere.

Please share something about your family life?

Living in a close knit family and being the eldest brings about a certain amount of seriousness and responsibility. The effort was to stay focused, provide for and be happy in every circumstance, doing so has been a fun journey for me. One had to grow up too early and imbibe all the requisite skills to see that the family flourishes with a healthy balance in our daily living.

Wife Shobha is an entrepreneur running our home along with her Lucknowi Chikankari Business, Daughter Tarini is married and settled in Rotterdam Holland, son Vedant is in his final year at a University in London, UK.



Dr Vikram Mathur with Queen Elizabeth II of England



Dr Vikram Mathur with Princess Anne

**What's your take on cross-cultural sensitivity & communication required to fit oneself in a globalized world?**

Being culturally sensitive is important because we must respect and appreciate the culture of the people we associate with. This helps in improving our understanding of our new surroundings and to adapt to the changes faster. However, it is also important not to forget our own culture.

Having lived at The Scindia School alongside friends who came from diverse backgrounds, I imbibed the virtue of tolerance and appreciation. It is one of the greatest strengths of our school which must be highlighted. The spirit of caring and sharing came about because of our living together in harmony. Children of today need to be tutored on the importance of this aspect as the world is getting polarised and fragmented with colour, religion, and radical ideology.

**Would you share with us your abiding love and why is it so?**

Coming from a **Kayastha Mathur** family from Delhi, the family passion has always been Food / Hindustani cuisine. Lot of importance was given to cooking good food, and the house hold was always geared to cater to impromptu arrivals! Specialization in cooking meats and vegetables has been a part of the Mathur DNA. I just love good food!

**If it is not too intrusive, then please share with us your bucket list, both personal and professional?**

Someday soon I hope to achieve the following:

Travel to Africa for a wildlife safari

Learn to play an Instrument

Get over my fear of heights

Any one memory of your school days which is still as vivid as if it happened yesterday.

A vivid memory is of IX-E Economics class. Our class teacher **Mr Sharif Ahmed** was walking in a bit late. I spotted him through

the gap in the door and I started singing "Ah Ah AAja Ah Ah AAja Ah Ah AAja". The teacher put down his books on the table, came towards me, and punished me with a few blows on my back then went back to the table to start the lecture. He then came back again and gave me a few more slaps and told me how insolent I was. As this was happening, my classmates protested and tried to save me from this thrashing.

I was sent out of the class and sent to my House as punishment. I skipped my other classes, skipped lunch and when my Housemaster saw me and asked why I looked dull, my firm reply was that I was not feeling well.

I missed every activity that day. Late in the evening as I prepared to go to bed, Shivaji House attendant arrived and sought permission from my Housemaster to take me to Shivaji House.

I sat on the back seat of his bicycle, on arrival, I met **Mrs Sharif Ahmed**. She said *Aaj Aapney Sir ka bahut dil dukhaya hai, Unhone subah se kuch nahin khaya hai. Aap haath dho karmez per baithe, Sir aap ke saath khana chahte hain.*

With tears in both our eyes the teacher who beat me up for my insolent behaviour was feeding me my first warm meal of the day. I had learnt my lesson but felt extremely blessed that the Gurus who taught us were extremely sensitive, nurturing and sticklers for disciplined behaviour. I am ever grateful to all my teachers for their gift of learning at our revered school.

**What message would you like to convey to the boys in the school?**

My advice to the present boys would be to study and work hard, stay safe and enjoy your boarding life. Participate in all activities, make bonds with your classmates and batchmates and soak in the true boarding school experience. Follow your heart and your aspirations and become responsible citizens of this wonderful world of ours. Long Live the Scindia School!



Dr Vikram Mathur with family

# STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

**14 students participated in the Silver Jubilee Commemorative Young Thinkers' Conclave 2022 organized by Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer from 23 - 26 August 2022. Nearly 200 students from several prestigious schools of the country participated in the same. The Scindia School team participated in the events - Website Designing, Multimedia, Multi-format English Debates, English Dramatics, English Creative Writing, Hindi Debates, Hindi Creative Writing and Presentation and General Quiz. Mayank Choudhary, Anubhav Sachan and Shirish Mehra secured the award for 'Best Joint Research Delegation' in the Multi Format English Debates. Satyam Raj won the 'Best Speaker Award' in the Semi-final round of the Hindi Debates. Aditya Singh was adjudged the 'Most Promising Speaker' in the final round of the Hindi Debates. Siddharth Gupta and Pulak Bagaria bagged the Winner's trophy for 'Website designing'. They designed a wonderful website for the literary fest.**

**Keshav Jhunjhunwala & Sameep Mody** participated in the "International Asteroid Search Campaign 2021" organized by International Astronomical Search Collaboration, USA; A Citizen Scientist program by NASA and Smartcircuits Innovation Pvt. Ltd. Two of them discovered two provisional asteroids which have been verified by IASC. School received the result on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 from IASC / NASA after one year of evaluation by them. Following are the object / Asteroid name found by the team: p11nqiy & p11nqjz. Many congratulations!

**Arnav Joshi, Tanish Agarwal and Arjun S Bhat** participated in the Crosswords Debate organized by Glendale Academy International, Hyderabad. 23 schools participated in the competition. The team reached the Semifinals and secured the 'Overall Third' position.

**Shaurya Prakash** completed a course titled 'Introduction to Key Constitutional Concepts and Supreme Court Cases' an online non-credit course authorized by University of Pennsylvania and offered through Coursera.

A team of 30 students from The Scindia School participated in the Vox Populi Debating Phenomenon National Chapter organized by Rockwoods High School, Udaipur from 3 - 4 September 2022. The awards are as follows: **Atharv Tiwari**- Most Promising Speaker, Rising Intelligensia; **Arnav Joshi** – Most Promising Speaker, Eureka Debate; **Arjun S Bhatt** – Best Speaker, Eureka Debate; **Aaradhy Shiv Shukla** – Best Speaker, Opinion Shastra Debate; **Vanshvardhan Pandey** – Best Journalist; **Rohan Asrani** – Most Promising Video Journalist and **Jeh Neville Hilluwala** – Best Speaker, Ideology Matters.

The Scindia School participated in the NEGOTIUM AGON 2022, an annual inter-school Business Fest held at Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie on 30 July 2022. About 34 schools from all over the country participated in this event. The school was represented by **Reshav Sarawgi, Aditya Agarwal, Ojas Agarwal, Aarman Makhija and Ashuthosh Khemka**. The event included a business quiz, logo designing and tagline making, trade fair vine video, auction round and trade fair. The Scindia School was declared the 'Overall Champion' of the event and bagged the trophy.

A total of 25 students participated in various events at the 'Mussoorie International School' from 28 – 30 September 2022. Our school bagged the first position in both Music and Stand-up comedy and was adjudged second in Mime. Overall, we bagged second position.



# उत्सवों से जीवंत विद्यालय

हमारा विद्यालय एक परिवार है और जिस प्रकार परिवार में अनेक उत्सव मनाए जाते हैं, सब साथ मिलकर हँसी खुशी से सारे त्यौहार मनाते हैं उसी प्रकार हम अपने विद्यालय में भी कुछ पारंपरिक त्यौहार जैसे कि होली, दिवाली, गणेश-चतुर्थी, जन्माष्टमी, सरस्वती-पूजा के अतिरिक्त कुछ राष्ट्रीय त्यौहार जैसे गणतंत्र-दिवस, स्वतंत्रता-दिवस, गाँधी-जयंती आदि मनाते हैं। इसके अलावा हमारे विद्यालय-परिवार के अनेक उत्सव शिक्षा-सत्र के प्रारंभ से लेकर अंत तक मनाए जाते हैं। विद्यालय परिवार के अन्य उत्सवों में संस्थापना-दिवस, साहित्य-महोत्सव, विज्ञान-महोत्सव, प्रश्नोत्तरी कार्यक्रम, हिंदी और अंग्रेजी वाद-विवाद महोत्सव, प्रत्येक सदन का सांध्य महोत्सव, सूचना-प्रौद्योगिकी महोत्सव, संगीत-महोत्सव, कला-महोत्सव, नाट्य महोत्सव, संरक्षक-दिवस महोत्सव, पूर्वछात्र-महोत्सव, साँसा-दिवस आदि अनेक महोत्सव से दोनों ही सत्र पटे पड़े रहते हैं।

जैसा कि मैंने पहले कहा कि वर्ष भर हमारे विद्यालय में खुशियों का माहौल रहता है, जिसमें हम अलग-अलग उत्सव मनाते हैं साल की शुरुआत और उत्सवों की शुरुआत होती है देश के पारंपरिक उत्सव जन्माष्टमी से, जिसमें पूरा विद्यालय श्री कृष्ण की लीलाओं और उनके नटखटपन को याद करता है। बच्चे भजन प्रस्तुत करते हैं, कहानियाँ सुनाते हैं और श्री कृष्ण की जीवन से प्रेरणा पाते हैं। इसके बाद श्री गणेश जी का आगमन होने लगता है जिसमें विद्यालय के कला-विभाग में छात्रों और अध्यापकों के द्वारा गणेश जी की मूर्ति बनाई जाती है। गणेश जी की स्थापना एक महान उत्सव की शुरुआत कर देती है। छोटे बच्चों से लेकर हमारे अध्यापकों और प्रधानाचार्य सभी के मन में खुशी का माहौल बन जाता है। बच्चे आरती गाते हैं गणेश जी की वंदना करते हैं और गणेश जी को प्रसाद भोग लगाने के बाद यह प्रसाद सभी में बाँटा जाता है। फिर दूसरे ही दिन गणेश जी के विसर्जन का समय आ जाता है जिसमें पूरा विद्यालय ढोल की थाप पर नाचता है, गुलाल उड़ाए जाते हैं और बड़े रंगारंग तरीके से गणेश जी का विसर्जन सूरजकुंड में होता है। इसके बाद दशहरा आ जाता है जिसमें कला-विभाग के द्वारा बनाए गए रावण को जलाकर हम अपने अंदर से सारी बुराइयों और कमियों को बाहर निकालकर नष्ट कर देते हैं और खुशियों से भरे हुए जीवन की नई शुरुआत करते हैं। थोड़े ही दिनों में दिवाली आ जाती है जिसमें पूरा विद्यालय 'इकोफ्रेंडली दिवाली' मनाता है। सभी सदनों में मोमबतियाँ और दीये जलाए जाते हैं और सभी अंधकार से प्रकाश की ओर बढ़ते हैं।

दूसरे सत्र में, जिसे हम होली-सत्र कहते हैं, होली का त्यौहार धूमधाम से मनाया जाता है। एक दिन पहले संध्या-काल में होलिका-दहन मनाते हैं जिसमें छात्र और अध्यापकगण होली के गीत गाते हैं और सभी बुराइयों को जलाकर नष्ट कर देते हैं।

अभी तक हमने पारंपरिक उत्सव मनाने की बात की। इसके अतिरिक्त हम राष्ट्रीय उत्सव भी बड़े धूमधाम से मनाते हैं, विशेषकर स्वतंत्रता-दिवस और गणतंत्र-दिवस के अवसर पर ध्वजारोहण के

साथ रंगारंग परेड का कार्यक्रम होता है। हमारे विद्यालय का 'ब्रास-बैंड' जो कि अनेक बार राजपथ पर अपने कौशल दिखा चुका है उसकी छटा विद्यालय में देखने को मिलती है। सारा विद्यालय तिरंगे में रंगा दिखता है। इस अवसर पर विभिन्न सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम भी आयोजित किए जाते हैं तथा पौधारोपण भी होता है। गाँधी-जयंती पर भी हमारे विद्यालय में विशेष आयोजन किए जाते हैं और चारों तरफ उत्सव का माहौल रहता है क्योंकि विद्यालय द्वारा गोद लिए गए गाँव 'साँसा' व 'नाथों का पुरा' से अनेक विद्यार्थी, ग्रामीण व अध्यापकगण यहाँ विद्यालय आकर संगीत-प्रस्तुति देते हैं। विद्यालय के समाज सेवा संघ द्वारा सभी के लिए भोजन की व्यवस्था होती है जिसकी सारी देखरेख बच्चों के द्वारा की जाती है।

उत्सव मनाने का सिलसिला वर्षभर सतत चलता रहता है। हमारे विद्यालय की स्थापना सन् 1897 में हुई थी। इसे याद करते हुए हमारे विद्यालय में प्रतिवर्ष संस्थापना-दिवस मनाया जाता है। इस उत्सव में सम्मिलित होने के लिए देश-विदेश से पूर्वछात्र, बच्चों के माता-पिता, पूर्व अध्यापकगण और विद्यालय से जुड़े समस्त लोग दूर-दूर से आते हैं। विद्यालय-परिवार वर्ष भर इस उत्सव की प्रतीक्षा करता है। यह कार्यक्रम तीन दिनों तक चलता है। इसी दौरान संरक्षक-दिवस तथा पूर्वछात्र-दिवस भी मनाया जाता है। इस उत्सव के दौरान विभिन्न प्रकार के भोजन-सामग्री के अतिरिक्त मनोरंजन के विभिन्न साधन भी उपलब्ध रहते हैं।

हर वर्ष विद्यालय में साहित्य-महोत्सव भी आयोजित किया जाता है। पूरे विद्यालय को सजाया जाता है जिसमें भारत के अलग-अलग स्थानों से कवि और साहित्यकार अपना योगदान देते हैं। इस दौरान विद्यालय में पुस्तक-मेले का आयोजन किया जाता है और बच्चे अपनी मनपसंद किताबें खरीदते हैं। विभिन्न प्रकार के पुस्तकों से उनका परिचय होता है। इसमें विद्यार्थियों का लेखक से सीधा संवाद होता है, जिसमें वे अपनी शंकाओं का समाधान करते हैं।

इसी प्रकार प्रतिवर्ष विज्ञान-महोत्सव का आयोजन होता है जिसमें हम विभिन्न वैज्ञानिकों और उनके योगदान को याद करते हैं। भारत के अलग-अलग विद्यालयों से छात्र-छात्राएँ विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं में भाग लेने के लिए इस महोत्सव में सम्मिलित होते हैं और अपनी खुशियाँ आपस में बाँटते हैं। इस दौरान विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताएँ होती हैं और समस्त विद्यालय-परिसर में एक उत्सव का माहौल छाया रहता है।

विद्यालय के प्रत्येक सदन द्वारा सदन-संध्या का आयोजन किया जाता है जिसमें प्रत्येक सदन अपनी-अपनी प्रतिभा को दिखाते हैं। इसमें एकल-संगीत, नाटक, नृत्य, वृंद-गान, वाद्य-वृंद जैसे अनेक कार्यक्रमों की प्रस्तुति होती है और बच्चे अपनी अलग-अलग प्रतिभा का परिचय देते हैं। प्रत्येक सदन के लिए इसका अभ्यास और आयोजन किसी उत्सव से कम नहीं होता है।

सुरों की साधना अपने-आपमें किसी उत्सव से कम नहीं। विद्यालय में समय-समय पर संगीत-उत्सव का आयोजन होता रहता है चाहे वह 'स्पिक-मैके' के रूप में हो या अंतरसदनीय संगीत-प्रतियोगिता के रूप में। बच्चे और बड़े सभी अपनी-अपनी प्रस्तुति के द्वारा इस संगीत-महोत्सव को जीवंत करते हैं।

यह दुनिया एक रंगमंच है और हम सब उस रंगमंच पर अपने-अपने हिस्से का नाटक कर यहां से प्रस्थान कर जाते हैं। प्रत्येक वर्ष विद्यालय में नाट्य महोत्सव का आयोजन किया जाता है। जैसे तो 'फ्रेशर्स डे' का हिंदी अंग्रेजी नाटक हो या फिर अंतरसदनीय नाट्य प्रतियोगिता, इन सभी में सभी प्रतिभागी बड़-चढ़कर हिस्सा लेते हैं परंतु वार्षिक नाटक में सभी का उत्साह ही अलग होता है।

मंजिल पर पहुँचने से कहीं अधिक महत्वपूर्ण होता है मंजिल तक का सफ़र और नाटक के इसी सफ़र में छात्रों को बहुत कुछ सीखने को मिलता है। इस वर्ष के वार्षिक नाट्य समारोह में आयोजित हिंदी-नाटक 'चरनदास चोर' में चरनदास की मुख्य भूमिका निभाते हुए मैंने भी बहुत कुछ सीखा।

हमारा विद्यालय भारत में वह पहला विद्यालय है जिसके बच्चों ने कंप्यूटर विषय लेकर बोर्ड की पहली परीक्षा दी थी। सूचना-प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में हो रहे विकास और उसकी आवश्यकता को ध्यान में रखते हुए विद्यालय में सूचना-प्रौद्योगिकी महोत्सव बड़े धूमधाम से मनाया जाता है जिसमें विभिन्न विद्यालयों के प्रतिभागी हिस्सा लेते हैं।

छात्रों में वक्तृत्व क्षमता के विकास के लिए हमारे यहाँ अंतरविद्यालयीय वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता, प्रश्नोत्तरी-प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया जाता है जिसमें विभिन्न विद्यालयों से प्रतिभागी आकर अपने विचार व्यक्त करते हैं। विभिन्न विद्यालयों से आए हुए प्रतियोगियों का विद्यालय के अन्य छात्रों से 'विचार-विमर्श' विचारों का आदान-प्रदान और आपसी सहयोग किसी उत्सव से कम नहीं लगता है।

इसीलिए हमारा विद्यालय एक खुशहाल विद्यालय है, एक जीवंत विद्यालय है जहाँ हर पल एक स्वर्णिम इतिहास बनता चला जाता है और उत्सवों की यही कड़ी हमारी धरोहर है, हमारी पहचान है।

रिदम अरोड़ा  
कक्षा 12



# THE SACRED CITY OF THE INCAS

## MACHU PICCHU

*If one is intrepid enough, then the world becomes this priceless thing; it reveals in its most unexpected corners its rarest prize: that it is worthy of being called our home. I left for Peru for two weeks to discover its binaries, to walk around its mountains, but most importantly, to look in its corners. Because life is a panorama, not a telescope, we must look out from the highest places, not just ahead on narrow paths.*

### The Inca Trail

At 3 am I heard the loose rap against my tent's tarp door alongside what had become the typical call for mate de coca by young, red-eyed porters with a thermos. I had known it was coming, the early start, and so my things were packed; but nothing really prepares you for the deep darkness - the Milky Way seeable darkness - achieved at an altitude on the Inca Trail. I exited into the darkness, the headlamps of the porters illuminating first my face, then their thermos, then a metal mug of the Peruvian panacea for altitude sickness. I burned my tongue with it, looked out at the Milky Way, and then at Machu Picchu Mountain, around which was the terminus. The lost city. The enigmatic Incan fortress or burial ground or summer vacation home of the king or whatever: the Machu Picchu citadel. I put on my boots.

Despite that night's certainty of the sublime yet indescribable experience, it's my job here, now, to do the very thing I found impossible then: describe it.

The Inca Trail is a rite of passage. It is a religious experience, stretching from the aptly named Sacred Valley not too far from the city of Cusco all the way to Machu Picchu. It is only around 30 miles and can be traversed in a couple days; but what it lacks in distance it makes up for in ecosystems, vistas, and ruins that are in no way ruinous. There's an easier way to get to Machu Picchu. One can take a train and then a bus to the front gate. And listen, this is okay. I understand that physically, hiking thirty miles at close to 14,000 feet is impossible for some folks. But, if you have the stamina and the wherewithal, the hike is a spiritual pilgrimage!

The trek begins at Km 82 and follows the Rio Vilcanota for quite a while before heading up into the mountains. On the second day of the hike, we scaled to the Dead Woman's Pass. At just around 14,000 feet above sea level, the pass is accessed by a steep climb where hikers are forced to break every few steps because of the dearth of oxygen. It was a challenging ascent, doubtlessly, but I was buoyed by the flow of other humans in similar struggle and for the promise of incomprehensible vistas upon arrival. Getting there, a kind porter handed me a cup of mate de coca - a stimulant tea made from leaves of the coca plant and said to help with altitude sickness;

this is dubious - which I took gladly. I sat, laughed, and looked out over what may well be one of the finest sceneries. It became obvious why the Inca chose this land: they were as paralyzed and rapt with it as I was, as we all were. As anyone would have to be, seeing it.

The vistas were incomparable; the Andes - at some places rock, some places tree - lavish, some places snowcapped. All indicative of the mighty wonder that is plate tectonics. Being human, of course, we are drawn to them. Mountains. We're drawn to them and we go.

The trail was everything and nothing I expected.

The Inca sites along the way describe a culture of artistry and industry only impeded by Western colonial trespass, but what was most astounding is their reverence for nature and community. The Incas were very connected with spirituality, the Earth, astronomy, and brotherhood.

On the last day, after our 3 o'clock start, after the mate de coca, after a short final hike, we arrived at the first vantage of Machu Picchu, to watch the sun gently rise and illuminate our path there. Sun Gate sunrise. When the world was fully awake.

The truth is, Machu Picchu is an amazing place, but I think there is too much focus on the structures of the city. For the Inca, the structures were just where people lived, where food was stored, etc.

The real treat was not looking in but looking out. In doing that, I got a sense as to why the Inca built their magnificent city there. I'm certain that if one of the original architects could be there today, he/she would tell us to stop looking at the structures and start looking out at all the wonder around the walls: the valley, the mountains, the river. The Inca built Machu Picchu using the same rubric by which we value houses today: location; location; and location.

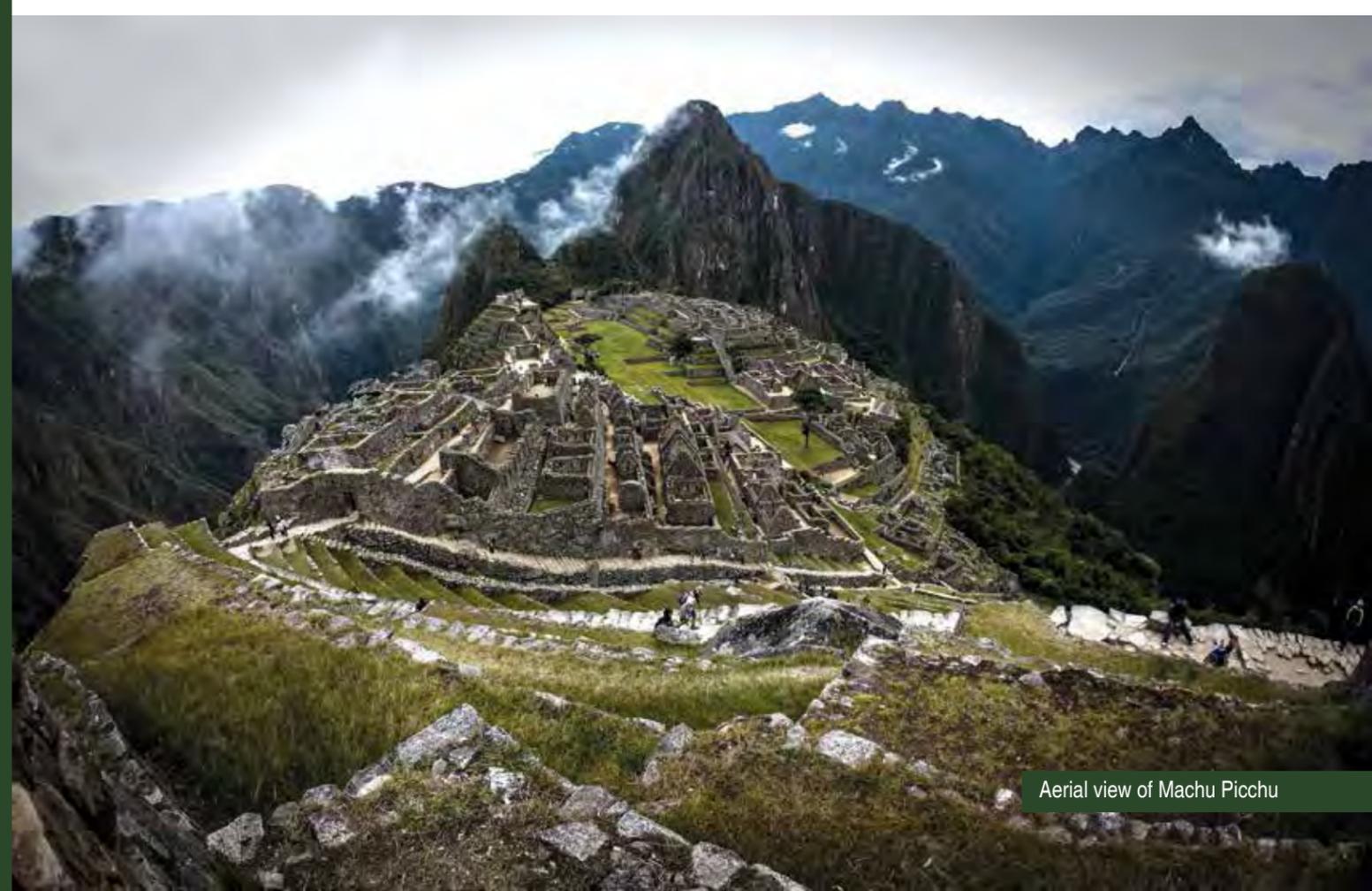
Machu Picchu is just a symbol. Beautiful in the extreme for sure, but just a terminus. We've been warned often enough to know that favoring destinations over routes is a fool-hardy endeavor.

The trail, all of it, was sacred!

Mr Mitul Dikshit  
Ex - Madhav, 1993



Streets of Machu Picchu



Aerial view of Machu Picchu

# A COVIDIAN PROSE

*It will not be an exaggeration to say that the Covid pandemic has created a new era in the history of mankind. Era is a period of time masked by....oops sorry, I got carried away by the mask, my perpetual companion these days.*

What I meant was, era is a period of time marked by a distinctive character. Right now we are in a transient stage with a pre-Covid era behind and a post-Covid era in front. Some would like to qualify these times as 'Normal' (behind) and 'New Normal' (ahead). This line of thinking puts us presently in the ephemeral state. May be it is time for us to add one more to the list of calendars, Gregorian, Julian and now, Covidian calendar. Don't we very often refer to an incident, ah, that was before the pandemic?

So how different will be the post-Covid era? There are naysayers who would have us believe that Corona virus is here to stay. They may not be far from truth. But they don't tell us the whole story either

Even if we accept the statement that Corona virus and Covid are here to stay, we have to take into account the facts that; treatment protocols for Covid would be established and Covid vaccines would have got developed (the vaccines currently in use are under-tested and are used only as an emergency shield rather than a permanent solution), both of which are now in advanced stages of realization. The point I am trying to make is that the new normal may not be radically different from the previous one.

But of course, there would be profound changes in the way we think and most of it would be beneficial for the planet.

Let us admit to the fact that the Corona virus has brought with it some salutary effects. This statement is all the more true for the sub-continent. We, especially Indians, have learnt that:

**Hygienic habits should be embraced** - Open defecation and urination will have to stop completely. Also, in case of pets and livestock, there must be cleaner ways of disposing off their urine and excreta. We, Indians, worship many animals but do not take adequate care for cleaner and safer ways of coexistence with several of our four-legged companions which render our neighbourhoods extremely dirty.

You can't spit in public places as if it is your birth right to do so- I have this major aversion to seeing hems of women's dresses ('chunni' or 'pallu', if we talk desi) touching the road or ground. That is because I can vividly imagine the boorish Indian Male spitting on these very same surfaces, not too long back. There are various kinds of spitting too - the ultra-long, blood-red stream from the betel chewer, the short, crisp and brownish offering from the pan-masala aficionado and the rhythmic all round discharge of the compulsive spitter. Some make beastly sounds while trying to extricate phlegm from the innards of their chest cavities. Some use their index and middle finger to accord spit the desired orientation.

Your sneeze needn't be heard in the entire neighbourhood - I will admit to this, when you have the opportunity, it is pleasurable to have a good sneeze, say, in the confines of your bedroom, alone.

**Wearing masks show your concern for others** - I have heard that the Japanese always wear masks if they have common cold as a mark of concern for others. In India if you saw somebody wearing a mask in the pre-pandemic era, you would jump to the conclusion that he/she may have undergone a major surgery and was susceptible to infections.

**Eating home** - food saves a lot of money in hospital bills. The other day I read a news item which said that the sales of allopathic medicines had touched an all-time low in India during the peak of the pandemic. It is not that the immunity levels of Indians have peaked to an all-time high during the pandemic. The deductive logic is that we were possibly living a better and healthier life at home during, and in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic.

**Spending time with family is high quality entertainment** - I am sure everybody would have experienced this first-hand. To be honest with you, I can't remember the last time we, our younger son and us parents, spent so much time together talking to each other. I remembered my childhood days when a movie a fortnight was the only external source of entertainment apart from the ubiquitous radio. **Aakash Vani**, Radio Ceylon and **Amin Sayani** completed the entertainment horizon (for the uninitiated and the younger readers, **Amin Sayani** was a popular Radio Jockey of 60s and 70s long before the term RJ was coined). But then there were chess, carroms, badminton and a host of indigenous games (who can forget goli-danda or kabaddi?) that would keep us occupied and, we didn't know it then, healthy.

Even if you stay away from your workplace, the earth doesn't come crashing down. This is the biggest take away from this Covid era and the lockdowns. I used to think, I am sure many others will agree with me, that my company (factory, office, shop - whatever the case may be) will be in all sorts of trouble if I am away from work. I will carry my mobile to bed 'hoping' to be apprised of an emergency situation so that I can pass on some pearls of wisdom irrespective of the time of the day (or night). But now I know the truth - nobody is indispensable.

Let us hope then that the post pandemic era would prove to be a better one in terms of understanding the nature, living with it (as opposed to living off it) and giving something back to Mother Earth.

**Mr N Biju** - Director, Pavillions and Interiors (I) Pvt. Ltd.  
Father of **Avinash Biju** (Ex - Madhav, 2010)



Photo by Kapil Bagrodia (Ex-DL, 2002) - Kenya Safari



Photo by Kapil Bagrodia (Ex-DL, 2002) - Kenya Safari

# WHAT NOT YOU ARE, **WOMEN?**

You are beautiful  
You are smart  
You are kind  
You are unique  
You are worthy of love and affection  
You are never too much, and you are always enough  
You are precious  
You are a diamond  
A rose, a pearl  
The most stunning  
Of all God's creation  
You are worth more than ever imagined  
Worth more than the numbers on the scale  
The hair products you use  
The shoes you wear  
More than the price tags on your clothes  
Or the percentage on the top of your math test  
Or even the number of followers you have on twitter  
Your worth surpasses all earthly things  
Because in the eyes of God  
You are loveable  
Worth dying for  
Regardless of where you are  
Whether you are a model in a magazine  
Model pottery with grandma  
Whether you are on the  
'Hot list' or the 'not list'  
You are the head cheer leader  
A high school dropout  
Whether you are miss popular

Whether you love yourself  
You stand to admire yourself in the mirror  
You never had anyone you could call a friend  
Or if everything in your life is falling apart  
Whether you are a winner  
Or face the world's biggest failure  
Regardless of what you think you are  
You deserve someone who would give up his life for you  
You are so powerful, strong and capable  
Read about the women in history  
Esther, Ruth, Martha, Mary!!  
These women changed the world forever  
And inside each and every woman  
There is, that same Power  
That same strength  
You have the potentiality to change the World  
Our duty is to find that woman  
And set her free  
Any voice in your mind  
That tries to tell you differently  
Definitely from some enemy's voice  
The next time you hear that person  
This is what you say -  
"Nun-huh not me Satan, I am the daughter of God  
Cherished, loved and adored by the Creator of all things"  
And say, "Yes I am awesome"  
Please don't you forget it...

**Jeh Neville Hilluwala**  
Class - XII



A legacy unparalleled



At the closing ceremony of Nanhi Chhaan event

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