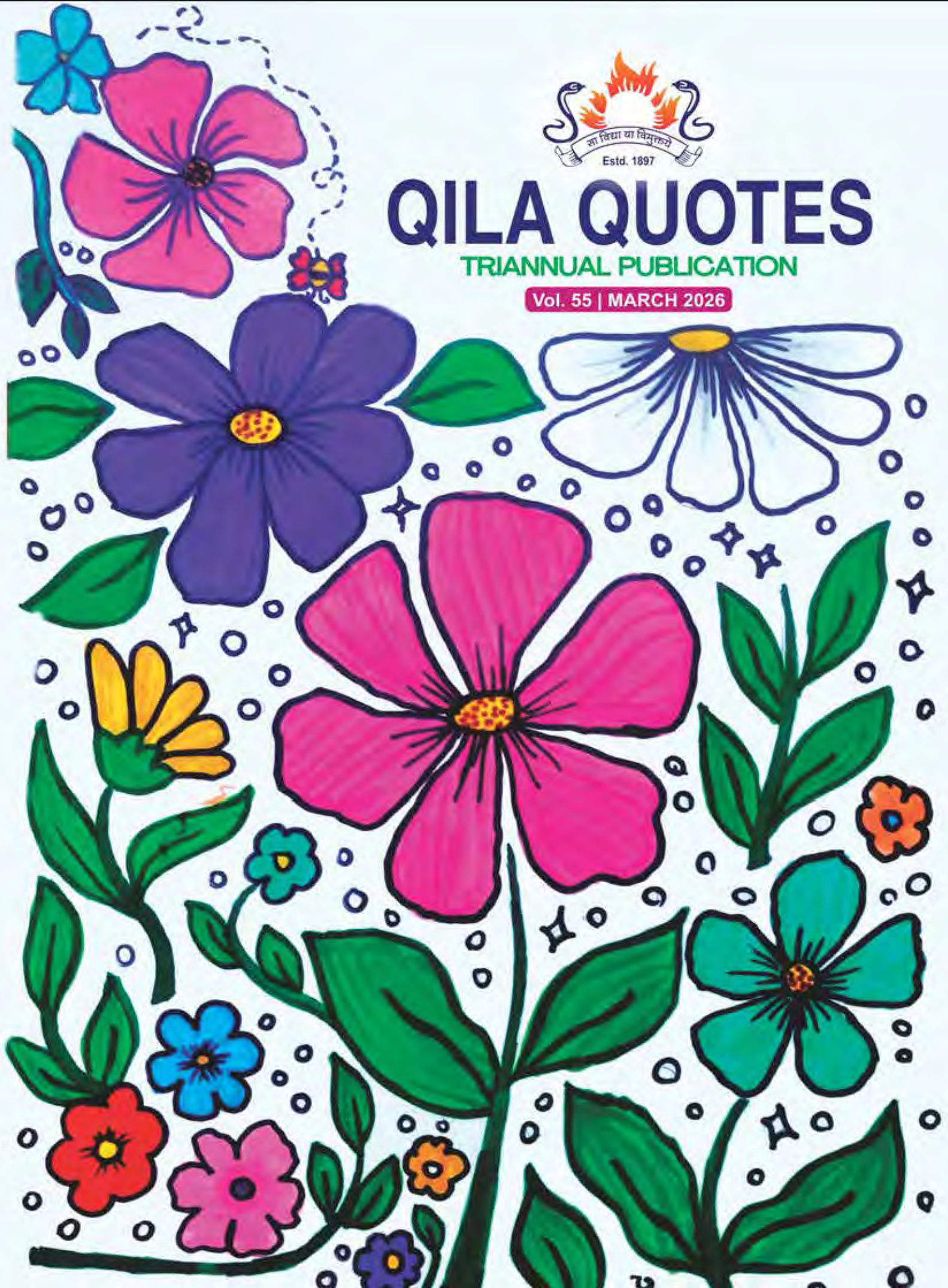




# QILA QUOTES

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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 niharikak@scindia.edu

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Readers

This season has also been one of affirmation. Being ranked #1 Vintage Legacy Boys' Boarding School in India and Madhya Pradesh by EducationWorld, and securing the #1 position nationally in Mental Health & Wellbeing Rankings 2025, reflects a balance we have long sought to nurture-heritage anchored in relevance, excellence strengthened by empathy.

Our 128<sup>th</sup> Founders' Day stood as a powerful reminder of continuity and conviction. Graced by distinguished guests like CDS and Foreign Secretary and marked by the conferring of prestigious awards-it celebrated not only achievement, but aspirations. The thematic tribute to the Armed Forces resonated deeply, reaffirming our enduring respect for service and sacrifice.

Beyond the ceremony, the campus remained vibrantly alive. From the Scindia Literary Festival and Book Fair fostering dialogue and imagination, to international exchange with Gymnasium Neustadt an der Waldnaab, to the Round Square Collaboration 2026 centred on ecological stewardship-each initiative widened horizons while deepening roots. The Large-Scale Intervention Program (LSIP), strengthened through *Vidya Vritt*, continued to shape a reflective, future-ready faculty culture-quietly but powerfully reinforcing the foundations of learning.

On the fields and tracks, Scindians ran, leapt, and rallied. Records fell at the 85<sup>th</sup> Inter-House Athletic Meet; medals were earned at the SGFI State Championship; eleven students qualified for the Khelo MP Youth Games. From cricketing triumphs in the Cooch Behar Trophy to academic distinctions in JEE Mains and national Olympiads, excellence revealed itself in many forms.

Equally heartening were moments of community service: *Sonsa* Day celebrations with our adopted village, disaster management workshops, awareness sessions by the Narcotics Control Bureau, and heritage initiatives that strengthened cultural pride. Our commitment to a sustainable environment found meaningful expression in the launch of *Sambhav*, our collaborative initiative with TERI under Mission LIFE, reaffirming the school's resolve to translate environmental awareness into sustained, collective action. These engagements remind us that education extends far beyond classrooms-it resides in responsibility.

As the season turns once more and the winter light yields to a warmer sun, we are reminded that growth often occurs in the quietest of months. What appears still on the surface is, in truth, a period of preparation.

To our alumni reading this across cities and continents, know that the Fort continues to echo with purposeful footsteps, carrying forward the legacy you built upon. Traditions endure, but they also evolve. And in every stride-academic, artistic, athletic, or ethical-the spirit of The Scindia School remains steadfast: resilient in winter, radiant in spring.

Ajay Singh

Principal, The Scindia School





Chief Guest General Anil Chauhan, CDS and Madhav Awardee Mr. Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary Inaugurating the FD Exhibition



Founder's Day Choreography

# EDITORIAL

*Winter, this year, seemed reluctant to take a final bow. Just when we folded away our sweaters and assumed it had left, it returned—like a teacher stepping out of the classroom only to reappear unexpectedly, ensuring that discipline had not slipped in its absence.*

*Nonetheless, the winter chill could not dampen the resolve of our board class students who remained on campus during the winter break for their intensive winter study camp. While others sought warmth and rest at home, they chose focus, perseverance, and quiet determination.*

*As they now stand in the throes of their Board examinations, we wish them clarity of mind, calmness of spirit, and the confidence that comes from sincere preparation.*

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## Achievements

The Scindia School has been honoured with the Excellence in Smart & Sustainable Campus Transformation Award by The Economic Times. The award was received on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 in Mumbai by our Principal and **Mr. Mahesh V. Gandhi**, Senior Member, Board of Governors.

The Scindia School was ranked #1 Vintage Legacy Boys' Boarding School in India & Madhya Pradesh (EducationWorld Rankings 2025–26).

The Scindia School was ranked #1 in India in the Mental Health & Wellbeing Rankings 2025, reflecting our focus on emotional wellbeing and holistic development.

45 boys from The Scindia School participated in the Republic Day Camp 2026. Our Brass Band proudly presented the band display and the Guard of Honour on multiple occasions and took part in the Prime Minister's Rally.

Principal **Mr. Ajay Singh**, Vice Principal **Ms. Smita Chaturvedi** and Dean of Co-curricular Activities, **Mr. Dharendra Sharma** were awarded Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary International - a testament to their commitment to shaping young minds with integrity, passion, and purpose.

Principal **Mr. Ajay Singh** led the school's presentation on the Fort Biosphere Project at Round Square South Asia and Gulf Forum organized from Nov 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Sunbeam School Varanasi, earning strong appreciation and interest for collaboration from participating schools.

English faculty member **Mr. Saptarshi Bhattacharyya** showcased remarkable determination by completing the CareOthon 8.0 Half Marathon in Kolkata and the Tata Steel World 25K, a prestigious World Athletics Gold Label race, within a week.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December **Mr. Yogesh Sharma**, HoD Music performed a Classical Tabla Solo at Raja Mansingh Tomar Music and Art University, Gwalior, during the prestigious *Tansen Samaroh*.

## 128<sup>th</sup> Founders' Day

128<sup>th</sup> Founders' Day was graced by **General Anil Chauhan**, along with alumnus and Foreign Secretary **Mr. Vikram Misri** and **HH Maharaja Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**. Student innovation exhibitions were inaugurated, followed by the School Song, Brass Band, and Orchestra at SMOAT. The Principal presented the Annual Report and awards. The Madhav Award was conferred on **Mr. Misri**, and a thematic tribute honoured the Armed Forces.

## Awards and Recognitions for 2024-25 on the Founder's Day

The Umang Mathur Memorial Trophy for Best Academic Performance in Class XI for 2024–25 was awarded to **Ayaan Agrawal** of Jayaji House.

The Mahendra Mishra Memorial Trophy for the best sportsman in Class XI for 2024-25 was awarded to **Shresth Agarwal** of Ranoji House.

The Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia II Medal for all-round proficiency in Class XI for 2024-25 was awarded to **Bhavesh Mittal** of Mahadji House.

The Sam Pitroda Award for the best innovative project "Atmospure" for 2025-26 was awarded to **Sahil Kilhore** of Jayappa House and **Paarth Agrawal** of Ranoji House.

The Good Citizen Award for Humaneness and Goodness among students for the year 2025-26 was awarded to **Samarth Garg** of Madhav House.

The R. B. Pawar Medal for scoring the highest percentage of marks in Mathematics in the Class XII Board Examination 2024-25 was awarded to **Uday Ahuja** of Daulat House.

The Governor's Medal for scoring the highest percentage of marks in the Class XII Board Examination 2024-25 was awarded to **Lakshya Arora** of Jayappa House.

The Field Marshal Cariappa Shield for the best sportsman for 2024-25 was awarded to **Vansh Mehra** of Ranoji House.



Raksha Mantri interacts with the School Brass Band during RDC 2026



Chief Guest Prof Vivek Sarkar Inspecting House Contingents on Republic Day

The Maharaja Jeevaji Rao Scindia Medal for all-round proficiency in Class XII for 2024-25 was awarded to **Aryavardhan Singh Somvanshi** of Jayappa House.

### Co-Curricular

Sambhav was launched at the school in collaboration with TERI under the Mission LIFE campaign to reduce single-use plastic waste in Gwalior. Supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the initiative promotes sustainable alternatives like cloth bags, encouraging students and citizens to adopt responsible practices and lead to collective environmental action.

The school hosted 2 teachers and 10 German Exchange Students from Gymnasium Neustadt an der Waldnaab who participated in academic sessions and cultural immersion. Excursions were organised for *Agra*, *Orchha* and *Khajuraho*. A friendly Football Match was played on 11<sup>th</sup> November as part of the exchange.

Scindia Literary Festival was held from 14<sup>th</sup> –16<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The three-day festival brought authors and storytellers to campus. The inauguration was graced by the Irish Ambassador, and sessions included interactive workshops, author talks, and storytelling.

Book Fair 2025 was organised in the library parallel to the Literary Festival to promote reading.

Children's Day Celebrations – 14<sup>th</sup> November had a special entertainment programme curated by teachers and presented in the assembly hall.

The *Nanhi Chhaan* Essay Competition saw 50,000 entries nationwide; 15 finalists met in *Guwahati* from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> November. After insightful rounds, **Chirag Jalan** of The Scindia School won the 2025 edition.

An awareness program was conducted on 14<sup>th</sup> November by the Narcotics Control Bureau, Bhopal Zonal Unit. Students gained valuable insights into the dangers of substance abuse, its long-term consequences, and the importance of making informed, healthy life choices.

The Scindia School commemorated *Sonsa* Day on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 marked by a myriad of engaging activities, awards, and competitions for the villagers of all age groups. The school community and the residents of the Sonsa village bonded over fun activities. Principal **Mr. Ajay Singh** gave the prizes to the winners.

The English and Hindi Dramatics Society hosted **Smt. Shantidevi Saxena** Inter-House Skit Competition on 11–12 December 2025, showcasing diverse, thought-provoking performances. Shivaji House won, with Madhav and Mahadji Houses following, celebrating creativity, collaboration and theatrical excellence.

The XXVI Scholars' Banquet on December 8 honoured 106 high-achieving students for academic excellence. Chief Guest **Dr Subodh Agarwal**, Scindian Alumnus & IAS, inspired scholars to trust themselves, value friendships, remain adaptable, and build lives grounded in integrity, effort and character.

The Scindia Intra School MUN 2025 held 2–3 December, engaged students in diplomacy and policy. Chief Guest **Aditya Shankar Prasad** our alumnus and SC Lawyer inspired delegates, whose

debates showcased research, collaboration and leadership, with excellence recognised at the ceremony.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December, students from Classes 6–9 and 11 explored urgent environmental challenges in an interactive workshop led by environmentalist **S. D. Singh**, examining water, soil and air degradation, everyday choices, and their responsibility as planetary caretakers globally.

The final assembly before winter vacation sparkled with Christmas cheer as Santa distributed sweets; the choir led carols, and spirited renditions united students and staff, creating a joyful, heartwarming send-off to the holidays for all.

The Young CEO Programme 2025, held from 5<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> December, immersed students in entrepreneurship and leadership through expert talks, workshops, marketing insights and presentations, concluding with idea pitches and a closing ceremony launching the next product phase.

The Reunion Golden Jubilee Batch of 1976 returned on Republic Day for remembrance, reflection, and celebrating lifelong bonds. They marched on Madhav Pavillion, and the batch of class 12<sup>th</sup> filled their SOBA forms at the **Aikyam**.

The school celebrated 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day with patriotic fervour, a spirited march past by students and the Batch of 1976, an inspiring address by Chief Guest **Prof. Vivek Sarkar**, followed by sapling plantation and readings at *Astachal*.

The school hosted *Triveni Sarangi Sangam* in the assembly hall on *Basant Panchami*, a soulful musical evening celebrating the sacred confluence of tradition, rhythm, and spirit.

Round Square Collaboration 2026, hosting six schools for a three-day programme focused on ecological conservation, rewilding, sustainability, expert interactions, and student-led hands-on environmental action initiatives nationwide was inaugurated in the assembly hall on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

SDERF, Gwalior conducted a disaster management workshop for students and teachers on 27<sup>th</sup> January, offering hands-on guidance on CPR along with important dos and don'ts.

For our students staying back for the Winter Study Camps, the season was celebrated with a joyful Christmas cake cutting and a special festive meal, reminding us that even away from home, the spirit of togetherness and celebration is always alive.

The school hosted the National Heritage Olympiad on 12<sup>th</sup> December, engaging students enthusiastically in a disciplined setting, promoting appreciation of India's cultural legacy, critical thinking and national pride through a well-coordinated, enriching academic initiative.

The Valedictory Assembly for the Class of 2026 on 9<sup>th</sup> February was an emotional farewell marked by prayer, reflection, and gratitude. The Principal urged integrity and courage, while students shared memories. A candle-lighting ceremony and soulful band performance concluded the evening on a poignant, celebratory note.

On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026, the school hosted an Inter-School Poster Making Competition under the banner of "*Sambhav* – Together for a Plastic-Free Tomorrow."



Visit of Former Irish PM



Cross Country

Over 100 students and teachers of The Scindia School led SAMBHAV rally on 8<sup>th</sup> February with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) against plastic, engaging citizens, distributing bags, and promoting Mission LiFE's vision that choices drive greener future.

### Sports

Cross-Country Run on 7<sup>th</sup> December brought the campus to life as Scindians hit the track with grit, focus, and a burst of house pride.

The 85<sup>th</sup> Inter-House Athletic Meet, held from 8-12 December 2025, was a stirring display of endurance, resilience, and mental grit among young athletes. **Lakshya Agarwal** and **Aditya Raj Pandey** excelled in high jump, clearing 1.70m and a record-breaking 1.73m, surpassing a long-standing Scindia record from 1966.

Inter-School Tennis Tournament (GCTA, Gwalior) was held from 6<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> November; Scindians delivered a stellar performance.

'A' Group Inter-House Cricket trophy was won by Ranoji House.

Junior Group Inter-House Hockey trophy was won by Dattaji House.

The Inter-House Junior Group Cricket Finals witnessed a thrilling contest as Jankoji House held their ground against Kanerkhed House to clinch victory by 6 runs.

On 10<sup>th</sup> November, The Scindia School Brass Band delivered a disciplined, harmonious display in the Madhav Field before senior officers and 450 NCC cadets, reflecting the school's tradition, excellence, and pride in every note.

The Scindia School supported the 4<sup>th</sup> T-20 Madhya Pradesh Deaf Premier League 2026, hosting teams and providing venue, dining, infrastructure, and match officials at Madhav Field for participating state teams from Gwalior, Jabalpur, Indore, and Bhopal.

Following the Khelo MP Selection Trials, 11 students have qualified for the Khelo MP Youth Games.

*Shramjeevi* sports and activities were organized for the support staff on 26<sup>th</sup> January at the oval field and the winners were awarded.

At the SGFI State Athletics Championship, the School's athletes delivered an impressive performance across categories. In the Under-17 division, **Abhigyan S. Rathor** secured a silver medal in the 400m Hurdles, **Ishaan Gupta** won Bronze in the 400m, and **Yuvraj Singh** earned Bronze as part of the 4×100m Relay team. In the Under-14 category, **Lakshya Agarwal** clinched Gold in the High Jump, setting a new State Record, while **Ekam Singh Dang** secured Silver in the 200m and, along with **Mudit Saraf**, won Bronze in the 4×100m Relay. Further adding to the achievement, **Lakshya Agarwal**, **Ekam Singh**, and **Abhigyan Singh Rathore** qualified for the National Championship.

February has been a vibrant month of camps and experiential learning for the students of The Scindia School. In the beginning of the month, while other classes were busy with their Exams, Class 6 embarked on a Bharat Scouts and Guides Camp at *Pachmarhi*, building resilience and teamwork amidst nature. Class 7 explored wildlife and conservation through visits to *Hemalkasa* and *Tadoba*. They spotted tigress *Jhulo Bai* and her cubs, explored village life, and visited *Lok Biradari Prakalp*, meeting the Amte family.

After their promotion exams, Class 8 participated in the Panch Adventure Camp, while another group attended a Sustainability

Camp at Jim Corbett, deepening their environmental awareness. Class 9 students devoted themselves to meaningful labour camps at Guna and Snehhalaya, Ahmednagar, engaging in service and community work. Mean while, Class 11 travelled to *Mukteshwar* for Experiential Learning Adventure Camp, while another spirited group cycled an impressive 584 kilometres over five days from Shivpuri to *Mukteshwar*—an inspiring testament to endurance and determination.

### Visits

**Dr. Andrew Flaus**, Lecturer in Biochemistry and Biotechnology at the University of Galway, Ireland visited the school and interacted with the students.

We were delighted to host students and faculty from St. Stephen's College. Principal, along with SSP and Activities School Prefect, walked them through the school's history, traditions, and distinct learning environment that blends heritage with modern education.

On 24 January 2026, students of *Snehhalaya School, Ahilyabai Nagar*, on a 5-day 'exposure' visit to the school, presented a vibrant cultural programme in the Assembly Hall.

The school hosted former Irish Prime Minister **Dr. Leo Varadkar** for its Distinguished Lecture Series, where he shared leadership insights, global perspectives, and life lessons, inspiring students towards empathy, resilience, and public service.

The school welcomed South Africa's Ambassador, **Prof. Anil Sooklal** and his wife. His visit fostered meaningful dialogue on education, global collaboration, and leadership.

### Faculty Development

Principal **Mr. Ajay Singh** gave a presentation to the teachers at the start of the new term about building a learning organisation, emphasising reflection, data-driven practice, collaboration, and continuous improvement to strengthen teaching, systems, and professional growth at the school.

From 23–25 February, the School hosted a three-day Admin Team workshop to strengthen collaboration and service excellence. On 28 February and 1 March, **Mr. Sounak Chakrabarty** led an uplifting mindfulness retreat for teachers. During this period, he also conducted the FDP Competency Development and Assessment Workshop, Academy and '*Vidya Vritt*' meetings, further advancing the eighteen-month LSIP framework and reinforcing a culture of reflective, future-ready professional growth.

**Mr. Sankha Chakraborty** and **Ms. Chitranshi Srivastava** attended *Sahodaya* Group pedagogical workshop on Social Studies and English, exploring innovative, learner-centred strategies to engage 21<sup>st</sup>-century students with strong digital, global, and critical-thinking skills.

**Ms. Sangeeta Jain** and **Dr. Ishani Roy Choudhary** conducted a workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> November for The Scindia School teachers on Pedagogy in the Classroom.

Two members of the Physics faculty participated in The College Board's Advanced Practices Conference at Manav Rachna University. **Mr. Sanjay Choudhary** and **Mr. Pulkit Sharma** explored global standards in AP Physics C teaching and assessment.

On 1<sup>st</sup> February, the school hosted a focused training session on Interactive Teaching using Senses Interactive Technology,

# OLD BOYS' NEWS

Congratulations **Swapnil Kumar** (Ex-Jeevaji, 1983) for being designated as "Senior Advocate" by the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad.

Maerve by Mbroasia founder **Madhavendra Deo Singh** (Ex-Mahadji, 2005) inaugurated Uttar Pradesh's first V5 fruit-wine retail outlet in Lucknow, marking a key milestone for regional winemaking. Known for his award-winning mulberry wine, he aims to empower farmers and youth by sourcing local fruits and promoting sustainable, innovative fruit-based wines.



A special milestone for Vedanga Nag with *Do Deewane Seher Mein*

**Vedanga Nag** (Ex-Madhav, 2021) has been a part of *Do Deewane Seher Mein*, starring Mrunal Thakur and Siddhant Chaturvedi. This marks the very first film of his career. His graduation film "Where the Stars Rest", which won Best Animated Short Film at the ENIMATION Festival in Slovenia, became a Semi-Finalist at the 14<sup>th</sup> Festival Tainha Dourada in Brazil, and received an Honourable Mention at Films That Move in Jamaica. The film has further secured selections at several international festivals.



**Harsh Raj Gond**

**Harsh Raj Gond** (Ex-Ranoji, 2016) was selected as a writer and filmmaker at the International Film Festival of India, Goa. The film his team created during the festival will stream on Shorts TV and Amazon Prime, and is set to be showcased at several international film festivals as well.



**Lakshya Sharma**

**Lakshya Sharma** (Ex-Jayappa, 2025) took his music beyond the school stage and onto an international one. From 16 to 18 November, he performed at the International Cultural Festival in Colombo, sharing the stage with artists from India, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Thailand, and Sri Lanka.



**Dhruv Periwal**

**Dhruv Periwal** (Ex-Mahadji, 2019) has earned admission to Harvard Business School's MBA programme. A former School Prefect and Governor's Medal recipient, he led The Review, Qila Quotes, and the Yearbook. Based in Singapore, he has over three years' experience at Strategy & (PwC), worked with Kenya's Hello Tractor, and founded The Speaks Group, a communications mentorship platform.



**Prof. Deepakraj Divan**

The Scindian fraternity proudly celebrates **Prof. Deepakraj "Deepak" Divan** (Ex-Jeevaji, 1968/69) on being honoured by the National Academy of Inventors. A global leader in power electronics and grid modernisation, his pioneering research, patents, and thought leadership have transformed modern energy systems.

**Sanjay Moolji** (ex-Mahadji, 1985) has been promoted to Chief Strategy Officer at Tricon Energy Ltd., a C-suite leadership role. He will lead Global Strategy and Business Development for Tricon Energy, one of the world's largest petrochemical trading and distribution companies. He is based in Houston, USA.

Congratulations to **Raghav Sharma** (Batch of 2025) on securing an impressive All India Rank 613 in the CLAT examination, earning his admission to a National Law University.



**President's Conclave**

President's Conclave 2026, spread over three days, brought Scindian alumni together in Kolkata for discussions, reflection, and reconnection.

**Mr. Rajan Verma** (Ex-Madhav, 1963) has instituted an award for the Best All-Rounder of Madhav House in memory of its former House Master, **Late Mr. P. M. Khar**.



**Annual SOBA Blood Donation Camp in Nagpur on 28 September 2025**

# STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS



Yashvardhan Singh Chouhan

Yashvardhan Singh Chouhan, leading Madhya Pradesh as captain in the opening matches and vice-captain thereafter, emerged as the undisputed star of the prestigious Cooch Behar Trophy tournament. His match-winning eight-wicket haul in the final earned him the Player of the Match, while a remarkable tally of 545 runs and 55 wickets across eight matches crowned him Player of the Tournament in the 2025–26 Elite title clash against Gujarat. Aryan Kushwaha also participated in the tournament.

Bhavya Jain of Class XII has secured an outstanding 97 percentile in the January attempt of JEE Mains.



Dhruv Mehul Vikamsey

Dhruv Mehul Vikamsey of Class VII has secured 13<sup>th</sup> Rank nationwide and emerged 1<sup>st</sup> in the School in the Logiqids Mental Aptitude Olympiad 2025–26.



Kavin Singh Receiving PM Khar Trophy from Mr Rajan Verma

The evening of 26 January 2026 marked a proud milestone for Madhav House as Kavin Singh (Class XII-C) was felicitated as the first-ever recipient of the newly instituted Best All-Rounder Award. Instituted in memory of former Madhav House Master, Late Mr. P. M. Khar, by Old Boy Mr. Rajan Verma (Ex-Madhav, 1963), the award recognises a student who exemplifies excellence across all spheres of school life. In its inaugural year, Kavin stood out for his outstanding all-round performance-excelling in academics, leadership, service, discipline, moral conduct, and sports. He was presented with the trophy, a token of appreciation, and a Certificate of Excellence.

# खामोशियों में गूँजती एक आवाज़....

घर से मरघट तक की बहुत दूरी है लेकिन वहाँ जाना भी तो ज़रूरी है..... जिंदगी की अनिश्चितता का मुझे एहसास भी था और आभास भी, पर 1 फरवरी 2026 की सायं 6 बजे के इस सत्य ने मेरे भीतर एक गहरी खामोशी भर दी और मन को शब्दहीन कर दिया। सुबह 11:30 बजे तक सब कुछ सामान्य और सुखद था 'संभव प्रोजेक्ट' के बीच योजनाएँ बनती रहीं, हँसी गूँजती रही, और गोपाल सर के हर संवाद में वही आत्मीयता झलकती रही। उसी दिन 12:00 बजे की साथ पी गई वह चाय अब स्मृति बन चुकी है। 'शाम को डिनर पर मिलते हैं' कहते समय कहाँ अहसास था कि यह मुलाकात अंतिम होगी, और यह साधारण-सा वाक्य जीवन भर की पीड़ा। कुछ व्यक्तियों को याद नहीं रखना पड़ता है वे स्वयं ही याद रह जाते हैं और गोपाल सर उन्हीं में से एक थे।

वे एक शिक्षक नहीं थे। बल्कि हम सबके लिए प्रेरणा के स्रोत थे। उनका सहज व्यवहार, उनकी मधुर मुस्कान और कर्म के प्रति उनकी निष्ठा हर किसी को प्रभावित करती थी। बात-बात पर उनका रूठ जाना और अगले ही पल सहज मुस्कान के साथ सामान्य हो जाना, उनकी खास पहचान थी। वे भीतर और बाहर से एक जैसे, निर्मल और निष्कपट थे। दिखावे और दोहरे चरित्र से उन्हें गहरी नफरत थी। उनकी सादगी और सत्यनिष्ठा ही उन्हें सबके दिलों के करीब लाती थी। स्कूल के प्रति उनका समर्पण वास्तव में अनोखा था। वे हर जिम्मेदारी को पूरे मन से निभाते थे, मानो वही उनके जीवन का मुख्य ध्येय हो। आज यह सोचकर आँखें नम हो जाती हैं कि जो व्यक्ति हर पल संस्था के लिए समर्पित रहा, वह स्वयं ही सदा के लिए विदा हो गया। आज भी विश्वास करना कठिन है कि हमने एक ऐसा इंसान खो दिया, जिसकी प्रेरणा, स्नेह और मधुर व्यवहार हमेशा हमारी स्मृतियों में जीवित रहेगा।

'फोर्ट बायोस्फेयर' हो, सौसा डे, श्रमजीवी दिवस या संभव प्रोजेक्ट, हर कार्य में उनका वही जोश, वही तन्मयता और वही सहज मुस्कान हमारे लिए ऊर्जा का स्रोत बनती थी। वे केवल काम ही नहीं करते थे। अपितु उसमें प्राण भर देते थे। उनके साथ बिताया हर क्षण एक सीख था, हर संवाद एक प्रेरणा, हर मुस्कान एक संबल, गोपाल 'सर' के जाने से विद्यालय और जयप्पा सदन ने केवल एक शिक्षक नहीं, बल्कि एक आत्मीय संरक्षक, एक सच्चा मार्गदर्शक और एक अनुभवी प्रेरणास्रोत को खो दिया है। यह क्षति मात्र एक रिक्त स्थान नहीं, बल्कि ऐसा गहरा सदमा है, जिसकी अनुभूति लंबे समय तक हम सबके दिलों में बनी रहेगी।



आज वे हमारी आँखों से भले ही ओझल हों, पर यादों में सदा जीवंत रहेंगे। उनकी निष्ठा, उनके संस्कार और उनकी स्फूर्ति हमें निरंतर प्रेरित करती रहेगी। गोपाल सर! आप हमारे बीच भले ही नहीं हैं, पर आपकी यादें, आपका स्नेह और आपकी प्रेरणा सदा हमारे दिलों में जीवित रहेगी।

जगदीश जोशी (अध्यापक, हिंदी विभाग)

# मैं...सिंधिया स्कूल

क्यूँ भई क्यूँ ?

ये क्या फालतू का विचार ले आई तुम...  
जानती भी हो तुम क्या कह रही हो ?  
एक सौ पच्चीस से भी ज्यादा वर्ष पुराना है यह स्कूल ...  
राजाओं महाराजाओं द्वारा बनाया गया ।  
तथा उनके बच्चों के लिए बनाया गया ।

तुम कौन ?

न तुम कोई रानी,  
और न ही कोई राजकुमारी,  
फिर भी तुम पढ़ ली,  
इस इतने बड़े स्कूल में ।

चलो यहाँ तक तो ठीक है ।  
तुम्हारे पिता यहाँ शिक्षक थे,  
तो तुम्हें लड़की होकर भी मौका मिल गया,  
इस श्रेष्ठ, लड़कों के स्कूल में,  
पढ़ने का ।

निश्चय करने वाले ने सोचा होगा...  
कहाँ जाएँगी ये शिक्षकों की कन्याएँ .. वो भी किले की घाटी  
उतर - उतरकर ?  
चलो उनको भी यहीं पढ़ने का दे देते हैं मौका...

फिर क्या था

पवार साहब के जमाने से  
खुल गए बंद दरवाजे सिंधिया स्कूल के ...  
शिक्षकों की बेटियों के लिए ।

पर ये क्या तुम तो आगे बढ़ती ही जा रही हो ।  
रुकने का नाम ही नहीं ले रही ।  
ठीक है... तुम्हें मौका मिला,  
तुम किले पर रही और  
ग्यारहवीं कक्षा पास कर ली ।  
बस अब तो पीछा छोड़ो इस स्कूल का...  
बहुत कुछ दे दिया इस  
राजा महाराजाओं के स्कूल ने तुम्हें ।  
और क्या चाहिए ?

तुम तो बस हो कि पीछा ही नहीं छोड़ रही ।

स्कूल ने तुम्हें जीवन के लिए तैयार कर दिया,  
अपना नाम तुम्हारे नाम के साथ जोड़ दिया,

Qila Quotes

एक पहचान दे दी,  
और तो और... कई सारी जान-पहचान भी दे दी ।

जहाँ जाती हो, इतरा-इतराकर कहती फिरती हो,  
'आई एम फ्रॉम सिंधिया स्कूल'  
और बस सब तुम्हें दूसरी ही  
नजरों से देखने लगते हैं,  
मानो तुम, तुम नहीं,  
बल्कि सही में, कहीं की  
महारानी हो ।

तुम समझती क्या हो अपने आपको ?  
ठीक है... तुम्हारे पिताजी यहाँ शिक्षक रहे,  
बहुत बेहतरीन शिक्षक रहे ।  
आज भी उनके इस दुनिया से जाने के बाद,  
उनके विद्यार्थी तो उन्हें याद करते ही हैं,  
परंतु उनकी यादें यहाँ की हर चीज में भी बसी हुई हैं ।  
वो भुलाए नहीं भुलाए जाएँगे ।  
क्योंकि उन्होंने अपना काम,  
अत्यन्त निष्ठा से और निश्चल भाव से किया ।

पर तुमने क्या किया ?  
सिवाय इसके कि तुम्हें  
उनकी सुपुत्री होने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ ।  
परन्तु आज तो तुमने हद ही कर दी ।  
कह रही हो..  
'मैं सिंधिया स्कूल हूँ' ।

अरे तुम हो ही क्या ?  
एक आम लड़की ही तो हो ।

कल को हर ऐरा-गैरा यहाँ आकर...  
किले की दीवारों से चिल्ला चिल्लाकर  
कुछ भी कहने लग जाएगा ।  
'मैं ये'....  
'मैं वो'....

समझ नहीं आ रहा तुम्हें क्या कहूँ ?  
बुद्धिहीन कहूँ ?  
या स्वार्थी कहूँ ?  
या फिर निपट अनाड़ी कहूँ ?  
या फिर कहूँ चतुर...  
लगती तो नहीं हो तुम  
इनमें से कुछ....  
चलो तुम ही बता दो...



देखें क्या तर्क है तुम्हारा ?  
तुम क्यों हो सिंधिया स्कूल ?

अब आए आप रस्ते पर ।  
पहले ही पूछ लेते...  
बेकार में ही इतना वक्त बर्बाद किया ।  
अपना भी... और मेरा भी ।

चलो.. पूछ ही रहे हो तो सुनो ।  
कभी देखा है नदिया को, दरिया में मिलते हुए ।  
और फिर दरिया.. को समुद्र में मिलते हुए ।  
और फिर समुद्र को उन सबको अपने में समाते हुए ।  
समुद्र तो कभी नहीं कहता दरिया से...  
कि तुम क्यों आ मिलीं मुझमें ?  
मैं तो अकेला ही ठीक था ।  
ना ही कहती है दरिया से...  
'जाओ मुझमें न समाओ' ।  
बल्कि विशाल हृदयी समुद्र कहता है नदिया से...  
'आओ मेरा अस्तित्व तुम से ही है,  
तुम नहीं तो मैं कुछ भी नहीं' ।

अब आया समझ में....  
क्यों हूँ मैं सिंधिया स्कूल...

और समझाऊँ क्या ?

तो सुनो...  
'मैं हूँ वो...  
इक बूँद दरिया की,  
जिससे नदी बनी ।  
और वो इक बूँद दरिया की...  
जिससे समुद्र बना' ।  
सिंधिया स्कूल क्या ?  
वो भी तो दरिया की  
और समुद्र की तरह..  
'सीमा' रूपी बूँद से है.. बना ।

तो हुई न 'मैं सिंधिया स्कूल' ।  
मैं सिंधिया स्कूल से..  
और हाँ ...  
सिंधिया स्कूल मुझसे...

तो मान गए न..

'मैं... सिंधिया स्कूल'

सुश्री सीमा शर्मा  
पूर्वछात्रा, विवेकानंद सदन-1977



# IN CONVERSATION WITH

## MR. RAJEEV KUMAR (EX-MAHADJI, 1988)

*The Editor of Qila Quotes in Conversation with Mr. Rajeev Kumar (ex-Mahadji, 1988), Founder Member of Snehalaya. Snehalaya was founded in 1989 to provide support for women, children and LGBT communities, who have been affected by HIV and AIDS, trafficking, sexual violence, and poverty.*



In Conversation with Mr. Rajeev Kumar

**Sahaj:** Sir, your journey has taken you from the classrooms of Scindia into the heart of social transformation. Was there any defining moment during or after school that nudged you towards a life of service?

**Mr. Rajeev Kumar:** I served as Secretary of the Social Service League at school, and that was where I was first introduced to the idea of organized social work. Secondly, I come from Bihar and have witnessed poverty very closely. That stayed with me and created a strong desire to work for marginalized communities. The third turning point was meeting Girish Kulkarni, the founder of Snehalaya. He spoke about girls born in brothels and red-light

areas being born into a predetermined fate. That thought deeply disturbed me. These three experiences shaped my journey toward social service.

**Sahaj:** Snehalaya has become a powerful symbol of compassion in action. What was the original idea behind its founding, and how has that mission evolved over the years?

**Mr. Rajeev Kumar:** The original mission was simple: to support children born in red-light areas so that they would not be pushed into the same profession as their mothers. However, once we began working on the ground, we realized that the issues were interconnected-like concentric circles. Many children were HIV-positive, most lacked access to education and healthcare, and families struggled with deep-rooted systemic challenges. So, we expanded our scope. What began as a small initiative has grown into 24 different projects today. Recently, we have also started initiatives focused on the environment and mental health-areas we had not envisioned initially. The mission evolved because the reality demanded it.

**Sahaj:** You work closely with government school teachers, motivating and empowering them from within the system. In your experience, what is the single most powerful change needed to transform public education in India?

**Mr. Rajeev Kumar:** Two major changes are needed. First, better use of technology for management, monitoring, and enabling teachers. Second-and most importantly-teacher motivation. There is currently little recognition or reward for excellence in government schools. Whether teachers perform exceptionally or minimally, the system often treats them the same. Without recognition and accountability, motivation suffers. Inspiring and empowering teachers is key to meaningful transformation.

**Sahaj:** Working with underprivileged communities brings both fulfilment and challenges. What has been the most difficult moment in your journey, and what keeps you going?

**Mr. Rajeev Kumar:** In the early years, fundraising was the biggest challenge. Today, the greater challenge is attracting and retaining

talented professionals. NGOs often cannot match corporate salaries, and that makes recruitment difficult.

What keeps us going is belief and fulfilment. We genuinely feel happy doing this work. It is not just about benefiting others—we grow personally through this journey. That inner satisfaction sustains us.

**Sahaj:** Looking back, what values or experiences from your Scindia years do you draw upon most in your work today?

**Mr. Rajeev Kumar:** Scindia taught us to conceptualize ideas from scratch. More importantly, it emphasized communication—articulating your vision clearly and repeatedly. Teamwork was another powerful lesson. Just as you cannot win a match without a strong team, social initiatives cannot succeed without collective effort. These values continue to guide my work.

**Sahaj:** In an age where success is often measured by material achievement, how do you define success? Has that definition changed over time?

**Mr. Rajeev Kumar:** For me, success means achieving excellence in the mission you choose. Your mission could be building an industry, teaching in a classroom, or running an organization like *Snehalaya*. Success lies in reaching an outstanding level in whatever you commit to. For **Sachin Tendulkar**, success meant excellence in cricket. For us, it means improving government schools. Success is essentially mission accomplished.

**Sahaj:** For young students who feel the urge to give back but

don't know where to begin, what small but meaningful steps would you suggest?

**Mr. Rajeev Kumar:** Giving is a habit. The earlier you start, the more you will give in life. At this stage, students have time and skills. They can mentor younger children, volunteer, or contribute their abilities. Later in life, they may have money but less time. At every stage, you have something to offer. You don't need to become a full-time social worker. You can give alongside your career. It is important to build the habit of regular giving. If you ever feel disturbed that you haven't done anything for others in a month—that's a good sign.

**As we often say:** If not now, then when? If not me, then who?

**Sahaj:** Finally, as an Old Boy who continues to serve society with purpose, what message would you like to leave for the Scindia fraternity?

**Mr. Rajeev Kumar:** What we are doing is not difficult. With a strong network of friends, much can be achieved. Friends are not only for celebrations—they can also come together for meaningful initiatives. As a group, start small acts of giving. Let your stories include not just entertainment, but also service. There are countless causes to support. Scindians are privileged—they need not worry about basic survival. With that privilege and the strength of the Scindian network, they can create real impact. Mentor someone. Share your skills. Give your time. Money will come later.

Giving was a value instilled in us at Scindia, and I hope that spirit continues to grow.



Mr. Rajeev Kumar (ex-Mahadji, 1988)

# WHERE LEGACY MEETS LEADERSHIP: EDUCATION@THE SCINDIA SCHOOL

*The stage of The Scindia School's Assembly Hall shimmered not just under the lights, but with ideas, as it hosted a soul-stirring TEDx Talk curated by SOBA (Scindia Old Boys Association). In a moment that sent a ripple of introspection across the room, our Senior School Prefect, Ayaan Agarwal, shared a quietly powerful truth: "Leadership doesn't mean overpowering people; rather, it means empowering people. True growth lies in perseverance and silent self-improvement, not in loud displays of authority." His words struck a chord, echoing off the hallowed walls like a call to a more conscious kind of leadership-one that listens before it leads.*



Mr Gagan Khosla

Then, from the same stage, strode **Mr. Gagan Khosla** a man who at 69 years old doesn't just defy age, he pedals past it. An alumnus of the Class of 1974, **Mr. Khosla** shared the story of his 2016 cycling expedition from Leh to Kanyakumari. From the highest mountain passes to the southernmost tip of the subcontinent, he biked across dreams and terrains alike. His five mantras for success were as sharp as they were simple: Desire. Acquire. Act. Endure. Hope (for a pinch of luck). And his message was crystal clear-"get comfortable with being uncomfortable."

What made the event unforgettable wasn't just the gap in their ages- 53 years - but the harmony of their values. Both voices, young and seasoned, championed a Scindian truth: that greatness is not born in noise, but in discipline, resilience, and introspection. This harmony isn't an exception. It's a tradition. From the *Kartavya Path* to corridors of global diplomacy, Scindians have consistently carried their alma mater's torch into the world.

Just look at the recent roll call of glory:

- **Mr. Vikram Misri**, our Foreign Secretary and the voice of the nation during the historic Operation Sindoor.
- **Mr. Pankaj Mishra**, ascending to the apex of India's financial governance as a CDBT member.
- **Mr. Ashok Gajapathi Raju**, now Governor of Goa, leading with a blend of stateliness and empathy.
- **Mr. Aishik Ghosh**, diving deep into the mysteries of the Higgs Boson, proving that particle physics can, in fact, have an old boy's charm.



Astachal - our sacred evening ritual

The values that underpin this legacy are not taught they are lived. Integrity, service, resilience, and innovation are not just posters on the wall; they are the air we breathe at The Scindia School. Take *Astachal* - our sacred evening ritual. While the world scrolls and swipes, our students sit in contemplative silence. It's a pause that powers purpose. In that quietude, they meet themselves - flaws, strengths, and all. That is leadership training in its absolute sense.

And because the world is no longer a globe but a village, we partner with institutions around the world for national and international exchanges. From cultural immersion to navigating uncertain futures, Scindians are trained to be comfortable anywhere - boardroom or bamboo forest.

The boarding houses - our homes within a home - aren't just dormitories. They are miniature democracies where adaptability, tolerance, and conflict resolution are learned not from textbooks but from toothbrush rotations and midnight debates. Here, peer leadership isn't appointed - it is earned, often through shared snacks and shared secrets.

And no leadership journey is complete without guidance. Our professional counsellors and pastoral care staff ensure that every boy finds both his voice and his balance. A decorated officer and Madhav awardee (2011) **Mr. Anand Rao Pawar** who retired as the DGP, MP in 2008 was the school prefect in his final school year. This is what he says about his experience- "Holding positions of authority as a House Prefect and School Prefect was a learning

experience. Initially, I felt the weight of the responsibility and, at times, exercised my authority a bit too firmly. However, I quickly realized that leadership is not about exerting power but about ensuring the well-being of others".

The Brass Band, meanwhile, continues to bring pride to our School as they march every year down *Kartavya Path* during the Republic Day celebrations - disciplined, dazzling, and determined, embodying the sound of tradition.

In the academic arena, Scindians are not just learning - they're inventing. The Sam Pitroda Award for the Best Innovative Project has inspired a new generation of thinkers and tinkerers whose creations are not just economical and sustainable, but deeply empathetic to the needs of society.

And then there's Fort Biosphere - our grand green experiment. It is less of a project and more of a movement. Part science lab, part sanctuary, it is turning students into eco-warriors equipped to take on climate change - not with panic, but with purpose.

At The Scindia School, we don't just prepare boys for exams. We prepare them for life - with humour in their stride, strength in their spine, and a moral compass set to true north. Ours is a tradition that respects the past, celebrates the present, and invests - boldly, beautifully - in the future.

Because here at Scindia, leadership is not a badge. It's a becoming.



Carrying the Legacy Forward

Qila Quotes

# DAUGHTERS OF THE FORT: A QUIET REVOLUTION

*In the grand narrative of an all-boys' boarding school, theirs is a presence seldom acknowledged, yet deeply felt. They were the daughters of the masters who taught upon the Fort - growing up in its corridors, playing in its courtyards, listening to its bells, and quietly absorbing its traditions.*

They wore house colours, marched in parades, they belonged. They studied alongside the boys, often matching them stride for stride in academic excellence. They stood behind curtains during rehearsals, added grace to cultural programmes, and lent warmth and balance to a world otherwise defined by masculine energy.

Their presence was gentle but transformative. In subtle ways, they shaped conversations, softened rough edges, and expanded perspectives. The Fort, in shaping them, was also shaped by them.

In celebrating the legacy of the school, it is only fitting that we acknowledge these quiet torchbearers - whose invisible threads helped weave the tapestry of what the Fort is today.

## Before the Gates Opened

This was a time just before girls were formally admitted to The Scindia School, when the fort was still a world imagined largely for boys, and yet, quietly, history was already shifting.

Our days began before sunrise in the seventh standard. Mother would wake early, pluck vegetables fresh from the garden, and by six o'clock pack simple tiffins of *roti* and *sabzi*. From our home atop the Gwalior Fort, we descended the Urwai Valley on foot to catch the school bus waiting below. The path wound through dense forest and stone, and a servant accompanied us, a stick in his hand to ward off panthers. We often heard them in the valley-soft, unsettling sounds-but fear never entered our hearts. Faith, routine, and childhood trust walked beside us.

The return journey was harder. After school, we climbed one to one-and-a-half miles uphill under the blazing sun, hunger gnawing at us. Often, we stopped midway, sitting in the shade of the valley to eat from our lunchboxes before resuming the climb. Once, we encountered a panther lying motionless in the bushes, a bullet wound in its leg-soft fur concealing a hard, lifeless stillness. The image has never left me.

Soon after Independence, a moment arrived that would quietly alter our lives. When the Education Minister visited the fort, he saw

us-girls with schoolbags, laughing yet weary-climbing the valley in the harsh afternoon heat. The headmaster paused the car and pointed us out. "You have seen the education of our boys," he said. "Now look at our girls." The Minister agreed that girls deserved the same opportunity. From that brief exchange emerged a decision that reshaped our futures.

Five girls, including my sister and me, were admitted into a school of five hundred boys. For our traditional *Marathi* family observing *pardah*, this was no small step. Questions poured in-about clothing, conduct, stage performances, games, and co-education. Society watched closely, waiting for missteps. Yet our parents responded with quiet courage. They gave us freedom tempered by values, trust balanced with responsibility. We learned to speak to boys as equals, without fear or excess, and to govern ourselves with dignity.

Life at the fort was pure and unembellished. There were no hotels, only food cooked by mother, milk and ghee from our own buffalo, forest fruits plucked from trees, scraped knees healed with dust, and endless corridors of the Man Singh Palace to run through. Education was generous and joyful-languages, sciences, and twenty-two hobby subjects that opened windows to the world. Music, painting, craft, and curiosity shaped our inner lives as much as textbooks did.

My father's discipline was exacting and formative. He taught me that brilliance without effort is hollow, that beauty can exist even in handwriting, and that hard work refines talent. As studies grew serious, my parents shielded education from social pressure, allowing learning to come first.

Looking back, those years were more than schooling. They were a quiet revolution-lived daily, climbed step by step through the Urwai Valley - preparing us not just for examinations, but for life itself.

Shared by **Dr Vijaya Lad Pawar** from the diary of her sister **Dr Pushpa Mulik Pawar**, the first girl student to be admitted to The Scindia School.

## Growing up on the Fort

Honestly, the uniqueness of the situation did not strike me until I was much older. It was simply a given that we were privileged to be allowed to study on the Fort. At times, it was embarrassing to be under the scrutiny of so many boys. We were subjected to silly comments and pairings with any boy we happened to speak to. As such, our parents also discouraged us from mingling with them. In fact, segregation was the norm. The most disappointing part was the non-availability of any sports for girls. We sometimes made up for it by playing badminton or tennikoit during games time.

The enjoyable aspects were the co-curricular activities, especially music and drama, for me. Our existence was highly protected, and the boys were equally wary of talking to us, lest they incur the teachers' wrath.

One incident that stands out is when my entire class was punished for some misdeed. My teacher tried to persuade me to go home, as girls were exempt from the punishment, but I chose to stay. Later, my teacher appreciated the strength of character I had displayed. Participating in inter-house competitions was almost taboo, as my father did not want to be accused of nepotism. However, we were almost always part of the school's entertainment programmes.

Our lives during vacations were immensely adventurous as we roamed around the entire Fort all day. We picnicked at *Telli Temple*, *Saas Bahu Temple*, *Assi Khamba*, and *Rani Taal*. Sometimes we carried our storybooks and read in the caves below the ghati or on the different levels of the *Saas Temple*. Playing hide and seek in these locations was tremendous fun. In winter, we went ber hunting - the incredible list can go on and on.

During our college days, it was a thrill to zip down the *Urvaighati* on our bicycles, though the climb back was obviously laborious. This free and fun-filled existence far outweighed the activities we missed on account of being in a boys' school. Being on the Fort felt almost like owning it, at least to our young minds. We imbibed a deep understanding and love for its flora, fauna, and history simply by spending our formative years at this resplendent historic location. The fraternity felt like one family. The friendships were lifelong. The shared experiences have etched bonds that are unforgettable - so much so that we tried our best to give our children a similar kind of education. Being a Scindian is as much a matter of pride for us as it is for any boarder.

**Kaumudi Khar Aga**  
(Ex-Madhav, 1976)

### Becoming a Scindian: Beyond Gender, Beyond Doubt

Being a girl at an all-boys' boarding school comes with a set of unique challenges and experiences. The mention of an all-boys' school leads to awe in a lot of circles. Each time, I have been questioned on what it was like to be a girl in such an environment. In my journey, I was unsure of whether I'd be able to compete with boys on every front. I'd question my performance harshly. But with time, I learnt how to manoeuvre the challenge and stopped



catering to the gender polarity that the society creates between men and women. The school's environment was also encouraging in that manner. The friendships are something that I cherish the most. I could be emotional and vulnerable in front of these friends. We were quite talkative and one could spot us standing in front of room no. 4 during *Nihari*, talking and laughing. We have been friends for years now, and whenever we meet, we love unboxing our memories and adventures from school. Besides my academic pursuits, I was always involved in co-curricular activities such as elocutions, debates and drama. My drama rehearsals were the highlight of each year. We used to practice after dinner in the OAT, and would have a lot of fun in reading scripts, running through scenes and chatting with our friends in the backstage, when we had no lines to run. I was lucky to be taught by some of the best teachers. They instilled a lot of confidence in me and led me to believe that I could do anything once I set my heart to it. I'd like to believe that I was primed to be a Scindian since my childhood, but my journey taught me how to embody it in spirit and soul.

**Aadya Mishra**  
(Ex-Madhav, Batch of 2018)

### Once a Scindian, Always a Scindian

Walking through the grand gates of The Scindia School, Gwalior, is an experience in itself-but walking in as one of the only girls in an all-boys institution is a story of its own kind. My journey began in Kanerkhed House, the junior school, where being the only girl meant standing out long before I even tried to. What could have been intimidating quickly transformed into an incredible chapter of growth, curiosity, and resilience.

As I moved to Daulat House, the challenges grew, but so did my determination. The spirit in the house was always electric-a blend of friendly rivalry and unwavering support.

Competing shoulder-to-shoulder with boys fostered a unique sense of motivation. It pushed me to bring my best self forward every single day, on the field, on the stage, and in the classroom.

Scindia gave me opportunities I had never imagined at that age-representing my house in inter-house events, and later, the honour of representing the school at IPSC. Those moments taught me confidence, leadership, and the thrill of teamwork. But beyond

achievements and accolades, the friendships I forged there remain my most treasured takeaway. Some bonds are so strong that years later, we're still in touch, still cheering each other on, still celebrating being Scindian.

Looking back, I realize that being one of the few girls in an all-boys school didn't define my journey-it enriched it. It taught me to stand tall, speak louder, dream bigger, and embrace challenges with a smile.

**Surbhi Shitole**  
(Ex-Daulat, 2008)

### Roots That Travel with Me



I was hesitant-almost reluctant-when I joined Scindia in 2014 as a Grade 6 student. Coming from an IB curriculum where learning was activity-led and exploratory, the transition to a CBSE all-boys' boarding school felt daunting. Being the only girl made the decision even more intimidating. Leaving behind familiarity and a strong support

system seemed like a heavy price to pay.

What made this leap possible was the absolute trust my parents placed in me. Their faith, along with the unwavering support of my teachers, became my anchor and gave me the courage to step into the unknown.

Little did I know then that Scindia would become a true game changer. Like everyone else, my journey had its share of challenges and moments of difference. But time and maturity taught me to respond with grace and patience. The constant encouragement from teachers and the camaraderie of my batchmates gave me both the reason to stay and the space to grow.

Over five transformative years, Scindia also connected me to a vast and inspiring alumni network, opening doors to opportunities I had never imagined. That exposure played a pivotal role in shaping my journey beyond school, eventually leading me abroad and culminating in my graduation from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering-a field I am deeply passionate about.

As I step into the next phase of life, my roots remain firmly within these fort walls. Scindia gave me lifelong friendships, invaluable mentors, and the confidence to embrace change and unfamiliar situations with resilience and grace.

**Aditi Joshi**  
(Ex- JA, 2021)

### Qila Quotes



# IN LOVING MEMORY

REST IN PEACE



**DR. VIKRAM MATHUR**

FORMER MEMBER - SCINDIA EDUCATION SOCIETY  
1ST JANUARY, 2011 - 4TH OCTOBER, 2024

**Dr. Vikram Mathur:**

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of **Dr. Vikram Mathur**, Former Member, Scindia Education Society on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2026.

An alumnus of the Class of 1974, **Dr. Mathur** remained deeply connected to his alma mater

through decades of dedicated service. A distinguished academic, he studied at the University of Westminster, London, qualified as an FCA (London), and was awarded a Doctorate of Letters from the University of Westminster, UK. His professional journey was marked by an illustrious career with Rolls Royce, where he served in diverse capacities across Business Development, Power Projects, Oil & Gas, Marine Projects, and Gas and Steam Turbines.

**Dr. Mathur** served as a Member of the Scindia Education Society from 1 January 2011 to 4 October 2024. During his long and passionate association with the School, he contributed significantly to staff development, student mentoring, scholarships, alumni engagement, and building national and international alliances. On the Society Board, he was an active member of the Admissions Committee, Awards & Alumni Relationships Committee, and Academic Excellence & Placement Committee. His wider contributions included serving as Governor of the International Students House, London, Ambassador of the University of Westminster, and Member of the Board of Governors at The British School, New Delhi.

His wisdom, global perspective, and generous spirit has left a lasting imprint on the School and he will be remembered not only for his distinguished professional achievements, but for his warm mentorship and unwavering commitment to The Scindia School.

**Mr. Gopal Chaturvedi:**

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of **Mr. Gopal Chaturvedi**, on the evening of 1 February 2026.

A devoted educator and a valued member of The Scindia School fraternity since July 2002, **Mr. Chaturvedi** served the institution with distinction-as Housemaster, Head of Department, and Coordinator

of several key initiatives. He was deeply passionate about the Fort Biosphere, actively led the Biosphere and Sambhav Projects, and was closely involved in community service initiatives.

The Scindia School extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones.

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of **Mr. Gopal Chaturvedi**, who left us on the evening of 1 February 2026. His demise is an irreparable loss to The Scindia School community and to all whose lives he touched through his work, warmth, and unwavering commitment to service.

Born on 16 April 1970, **Mr. Chaturvedi** joined The Scindia School in July 2002, beginning a journey that would span over two decades of dedicated service. He served as Housemaster of Jankoji House from April 2011, and went on to take charge as Housemaster of Jayappa House from April 2014, where he was deeply respected for his pastoral care, mentorship, and ability to nurture excellence.

In February 2023, **Mr. Chaturvedi** assumed the role of Head of Department – Third Languages (French, German, Sanskrit).

Beyond the classroom, he was a driving force behind several landmark initiatives. As Exchange Coordinator, Biosphere Project Coordinator, and Sambhav Project Coordinator, he played a pivotal role in fostering global perspectives, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. His passion for the Fort Biosphere reflected his deep respect for nature, sustainability, and the living heritage of the Gwalior Fort.

**Mr. Chaturvedi** was equally devoted to community service, believing strongly in education as a means to serve society with humility and purpose.

He will be remembered as a dedicated teacher, a caring housemaster, a committed colleague, and above all, a deeply humane individual. His legacy will continue to live on in the values he instilled, the projects he nurtured, and the countless lives he influenced.

REST IN PEACE



**MR. GOPAL CHATURVEDI**

HOUSEMASTER, JAYAPPA HOUSE  
1970-2026



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