



The Rose Bowl

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

January, 2007

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THE WAY AHEAD

A message from the President – Gautam Chadha, 389-H '71

To all Old Boys' (and Girls) of The Doon School
Gentlemen / Ladies

Seasons' Greetings and a Very Happy New Year to you and yours.

On behalf of your Executive Committee, I am taking the liberty of sharing our views on "The Way Ahead" for the DSOBS. We seek to engage the alumni by sharing these views with all and towards this end I propose to seek space from the editor of the Rose Bowl in the forthcoming issue as also post the same on our website. It is our intent to attain broad-based involvement and collective participation in a transparent and open environment.

Allow me to start by seeking to remind ourselves of our "publics" as mentioned in Section 3 titled "Objects", within the DSOBS's Memorandum of Association. There are essentially 3 publics,

1. The Doon School,
2. Old Boys' of The Doon School, and,
3. Indian Society.

The DSOBS has been focused on these publics and our contributions ongoing – some on a pro-active basis and others on a re-active basis. Hence, while we render financial assistance via our bursary corpus to sons of OB's as needed, our contributions to school are through a range of activities instigated or supported by the DSOBS. On the other hand, our contribution to Indian Society has been largely re-active as manifested through efforts to provide relief in the aftermath of the Tsunami and the Kashmir earthquake or even in the aftermath of the Gujarat earthquake a few years ago. The society has been active and the level of activity increases every year. So what should our agenda be over the next 2 years?

At this stage we think it important to share details of the DSOBS' financial position. As on date, the DSOBS has the following funds and we have broadly created 4 account heads within which these monies are housed. These are,

- (a) **Funds held as a "Pass Through" to school – Rs.44.49 lacs.** These are further sub-divided into 16 ledger accounts as these monies are parked with us by various

classes or related to specific projects and are pending final disbursement to school.

- (b) **DSOBS Bursary Fund – Rs.39.19 lacs including a specific amount of Rs.8.48 lacs contributed by the Singapore OB's.** Thus the DSOBS has Rs.30.71 lacs as a capital corpus and our bursary disbursement to needy sons of OB's studying in school are from the interest earned from this corpus.
- (c) **Navodaya Fund – Rs.2.73 lacs.** This fund was set up in the immediate aftermath of the Tsunami and reflects leftover amounts after our relief efforts of both the Tsunami and the Kashmir earthquake.
- (d) **The DSOBS Administrative Fund – Rs.1.25 crores.** This includes the balance from contributions received to fund the purchase of our secretariat office premise which the donors kindly permitted we retain and use the interest earned to assist in the functioning of the secretariat. This fund serves as the base for the EC to conduct ongoing activities including publishing the Rose Bowl, maintaining the Website, developing Memorabilia items and initiating fund raising or other activity as needed.

You will appreciate that much of what we should and/or can do will be influenced by what resources we have at our disposal. In the immediate past, through the efforts of OB's and the DSOBS, we have contributed close to Rs.1.50 crores towards the extension of the "Rose Bowl" in school as also towards the re-building of the Art School. Our Bursary Fund renders financial assistance to 9 boys presently studying in school who are sons of old boys. Disbursement is done under guidance of the school authorities and clearly our contributions are only a part of what is needed for each boy! Similarly, the Navodaya Fund was set up with the left over amounts as contributed towards our efforts to provide rehabilitation and relief for victims of the Tsunami and the Kashmir earthquake and while this is a start we are challenged with whether to be pro-active or remain re-active. On the Administration end,

each issue of the Rose Bowl costs us Rs.1.25 to Rs. 1.50 lacs and the editor not only has to produce this valuable publication, but also has to arrange funding for each issue! **And to think that many of us paid just Rs.250.00 many years ago to become members of the DSOBS and continue to get this publication free of cost – today the DSOBS fee is Rs.5000.00 for each boy passing out of school!**

So going forward, what are the goals, and, to achieve these, activities planned. We have 13 EC members including the President and VP. We have 13 committees – coincidence! The list of committees is featured in our website. Leaders of a committee need not be EC members – any willing contributor will be welcome. Hence, the committee which will work towards producing the next **DOSCO Record and DOSCO Register** (to be ready by 2010 when school will celebrate it's Platinum Jubilee) is headed by **Nalin Khanna (563Hb-1980)** while the Website, www.dsobs.org has been merged with www.doononline.com and renamed as **www.dosco.org** (all domains will still operate and all will open on a common landing page) and **will be managed by the founder and editor of doononline.com, Shiv Singh (654Ja-1993).**

Some of the other identified initiatives will be;

- A. **The Bursary Fund** will be expanded to include assistance to younger ob's seeking to pursue post-graduation specialization. Needless to say the corpus will need to be enhanced substantially and a team of ob's is working on establishing parameters to determine eligibility.
- B. Funds will need to be raised continuously if we are to become a vibrant, robust and involved society. We seek to organise one major event, a **"Summit"**, within the term of each President, and surpluses, if any, from this event will be split in 3 parts for credit to the Bursary Fund, the Navodaya Fund, and, the society's Administrative Fund. This Summit will seek to engage a broad cross-section of OB's via topical discussions and debate and in amongst other things, can serve as a useful platform for us to take stock of the society's contributions and achievements vis-à-vis the objectives set out in our original mandate.
- C. Involvement of the younger OB in the DSOBS – with the Headmasters blessings, we will visit school annually and introduce the DSOBS to the batch of boys passing out that year. This is considered useful as younger OB's have limited knowledge and/or exposure to the DSOBS.
- D. **Identity Card** – there is a proposal to issue all OB's an "ID Card". This will be a customized piece of plastic akin in size to a credit card which will serve as an Identity Card – to be used when an OB seeks to visit school or attend a local OB get-together. Going forward, we will assess the viability of creating an affinity program around this card. The initial cost of the card for all OB's will be approximately Rs.1.00 lac and we seek a "partner" who will get suitable co-branding, to fund this so that it is a no-cost item to the OB.
- E. **DOSCO Record and Register** – already referred to above.
- F. **Website** – www.dosco.org – again referred to above.
- G. In addition to all of the above, the society needs to generate adequate funds as mentioned above – we propose to levy a **5% admin fee to all "pass through"**

funds which will be then equally split in 3 parts and credited in equal portions to the Bursary Fund, the Admin Fund, and, to the Navodaya Fund.

- H. As many original donors towards the society's office premise have commented, we should, in the future, seek a better office premises. We have therefore set up an "Establishment Committee" who will look into this in a more holistic manner and marry resources with reality and advice appropriately.
- I. **The Rose Bowl** (the DSOBS publication) – as stated above each issue costs us approximately Rs.1.25 to Rs. 1.50 lacs – this despite free paper contributed by Gautam Thapar (200Ha-1979). **We propose each old boy who passed out from school prior to the year 1998, contribute an amount of Rs.3600.00 – OB's living abroad will be requested to pay USD150.00 or equivalent in INR to cover extra postage costs. We assume this one-time payment should cover our costs for the next 8-10 years.**

Existing activity on the sports front will continue as will the effort to expand the lifetime free **co-branded DOSCO credit card with ICICI Bank** apart from existing relationships with Standard Chartered Bank and Citibank for the co-branded Diners card. We will continue to work together with school and the IPSS to assist the school in their needs, financial or otherwise. For the Navodaya Fund, we seek to initiate a debate and search within the community so that we can identify a suitable cause and lend our support on a pro-active basis as appropriate.

One last issue. At the DSOBS Annual General Meeting held over Founder's on 29 October 2006, it was felt that the existing "system" for election of the President, the VP and EC members, may need to be reviewed. We have hitherto, most successfully, pursued a path of consensual convention vis-à-vis election. However, given that the society has grown and is more active and involved, there may be a basis and/or need to review the existing system. Consequently, as mandated, I have set-up a committee to reflect on this issue and I am pleased to inform that Arun Bharat Ram (36K-1958) has agreed to chair this committee. Arun has been a past President of the society and was involved in the previous exercise which established the existing convention and will thus bring knowledge, understanding and appreciation in his leadership of the committee. The committee will present their recommendations to the Executive Committee who will in turn present their view to the next AGM scheduled to be held over Founder's in October 2007.

Needless to say, all of the above will seek the active support and involvement of all old boys' across geographies and ages. The Executive Committee will endeavor to play a key catalyst role. Together, we look forward to fruitful and engaging years ahead.

Best Wishes,

Gautam Chadha
President
The Doon School Old Boys' Society
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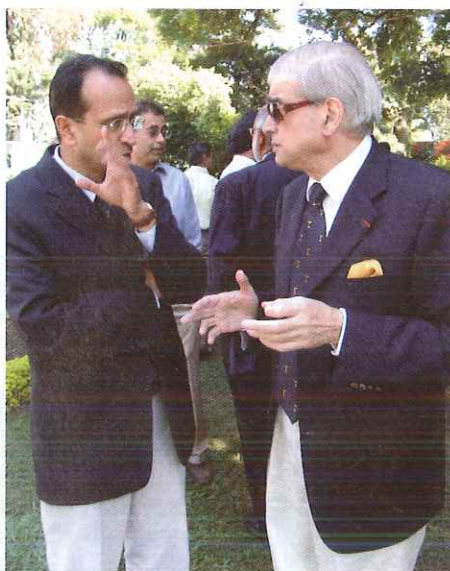
Dr. Kanti Bajpai's speech as delivered on (October 28) Founder's Day-2006

Ladies and Gentlemen, and students of The Doon School: welcome to our Founder's Day celebrations. Let me begin with a brief introduction of the Chief Guest. Mr. Piyush Pandey has been named the most influential man in Indian advertising four years in a row by The Economic Times, India's premier business paper. Under his leadership, Ogilvy & Mather India has won a dozen 'Lions'. In 2004, he became the first Asian to be the president of the Cannes jury. Before he joined the advertising world, Mr. Pandey was a professional cricket player (he played Ranji Trophy cricket) and a tea-taster. Twenty years ago, he gave up both professions to join Ogilvy & Mather, Mumbai. In 1994, he became the company's national creative director.

Over the years, Mr. Pandey has picked up over 500 Indian advertising awards. Under his leadership, O&M has been named India's most creative agency ten times in the last eleven years. O&M India is now ranked amongst the most creative offices in the entire O&M worldwide network.

Ad Club Mumbai voted Mr. Pandey's commercial for the adhesive brand Fevikwik as the commercial of the century and his work for Cadbury as the campaign of the century.

Mr. Pandey is currently Executive Chairman & National Creative Director, Ogilvy & Mather India. He graduated from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University.



Dr. Kanti Bajpai, 264-T '72, Headmaster with Mr. Dhruv Sawhney, 37-K '61, Chairman, Board of Governors, The Doon School

Founder's and is an Old Boy who has spent many years helping the school with Architecture and Projects and is currently the Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Ratanjit Singh will also join the Board after Founder's and is an Old Boy who, among other things has been an educationist, and runs his own school in Simla. Mr. Anoop Bishnoi is President of the Old Boys' Society and a Special Invitee to the Board. He helps coordinate between the Old Boys and the school on a range of issues. I would like to express my thanks to Anoop for all his help as President of the DSOBS. It is my great pleasure to welcome all visiting parents, Old Boys, and other friends of the School who lend such colour to the occasion.

May I extend a special welcome to those Old Boys who have come to celebrate their jubilees and get-togethers. These are the batches of 1946, 1956, 1971 and 1981. It is good to have you here.

I would like to recognize two distinguished alumni from Pakistan who are in our midst today: Mohammad Afzal Khan and Mokammad Zafar Khan of the batches of 1946 and 1947. Afzal lives in Islamabad and Zafar lives in London.

Finally, as always, may I welcome back into our midst former Headmasters Mr. Gulab Ramchandani and Mr. Shomie Das. I also want to welcome back all those former masters of the school who are with us today.

The Annual Report, in its entirety, will be on the school website. I will, therefore, turn to some of the highlights of the year. Let me begin with the Board examination results. We had an excellent year. The ISC batch averaged over 83%, and 25 boys scored over 90%. Salman Chowdhary topped the ISC batch with an average of 95.75%. Skand Goel topped the ICSE batch with an average of 95.04%. In the past five years, the average of both exams has gone below 80% only once. That is a fine run, and we hope it will continue.

A major development for the school has been authorization to offer the International Baccalaureate from April 2007. The boys of the present ICSE batch will, from next year, have the option of doing the ISC or the IB Diploma. We have prepared carefully for the IB, training 17 teachers, making timetables, schedules and lesson plans, and interacting with other IB teachers in different parts of the world. The teaching staff is raring to go. The IB is internationally acclaimed and will enhance the school's curriculum. It was first proposed for the school in the early 1980s; 26 years later, we finally are ready to go! You will appreciate that we at Doon do not make decisions in a hurry!

As important as academic excellence is excellence in sports and other co-curricular activities. It has been a busy and fulfilling year for the school in this regard.

In sports, we continue with our basketball prowess. After Mr. Jayant Lal's departure in December 2005, we feared that there might be a dip in performance. The reality is that while we certainly miss Jayant's passion and expertise, the team has gone on to do well. In our own Afzal Khan Tournament in April 2006, the school team



Chief Guest, Mr. Piyush Pande, inaugurates the Art Exhibition while Mr. Alok Tirtha Bhowmick, The Director of Arts at The Doon School, applauds.

May I also introduce the Board of Governors: Mr. Dhruv Sawhney is Chairman of the Board of Governors. Mr. Sunil Munjal has helped the school with its technological initiatives and safety and security. As he leaves the Board, may I thank him for his support and advice. Mr. Karan Thapar headed the Education Committee. As he also leaves the Board, may I thank Karan too for his support and advice. Dr. Krishnamoorthy Srinivas has helped the school with medical and counselling issues. Mr. Analjit Singh chairs the Fundraising Committee Mr. Vikram Lal is head of the Human Resources Committee of the Board. Mr. Mahesh Sahai helps the school with financial and tax matters. Mr. Rohit Handa will join the board after

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reached the finals and was eventually placed second. There is good talent coming up in the more junior ranks, and I am confident that with the new courts we will continue to produce fine teams.

The Chandbagh School from Pakistan came to visit us in November 2005, shortly after Founder's Day last year. Fifty or so boys from Chandbagh were here with three teachers. We had an exciting cricket match. Karam Vir Lamba, once again, as he did against Stowe School from England two years ago, bowled beautifully and nearly won us the match. As a measure of how well he played, I would note that the Chandbagh School has never lost a single match in Pakistan! In soccer and basketball, we beat our Pakistani friends fairly comfortably. The matches were played at a high level of skill and with great sportsmanship, and the visit was capped by a fine musical evening organized by boys.

In debating, as in basketball, we thought we were in a rebuilding year. I am very pleased to report that we had a very successful year. The highlight, of course, was our very own Chuckerbutty Debate. This was the 50th year of the Debate. Last year, we brought home the Cup after ten years. We were not sure what lay ahead of us this year. In the event, we reached the finals and in a wonderful, competitive showdown with the Modern High School, Dubai, we came second. Mr. John Mason, my predecessor, who did so much for modern extempore debating at Doon, agreed to be our Chief Guest on the occasion and conducted the debate in his own inimitable style! Our thanks to him and to Anju Mason for taking the time to come back to Chandbagh.

One trend in sports that I want to note here is the launching of junior school teams that compete in tournaments. Our junior cricket, hockey, soccer and basketball teams are a reality now and will grow in strength and skill in the years to come. We plan to hire more coaches for this and to therefore 'professionalize' our approach without, I hope, losing the joy of amateur sports, by which I mean playing a game for the love of it.

Art has always been a great strength at Doon. In conjunction with the Old Boys' Society, the school auctioned some of the paintings done by boys over the past 70 years. Their art, along with art donated by well-known artists, fetched a tidy sum for rebuilding the Art School.

While I am on the subject of art, I want to report on the very successful trip to Italy this summer. A dozen boys accompanied by Mr. Alope Bhowmick and Mr. Sanjiv Bathla saw everything it is possible to see in two weeks in Rome, Florence and Venice. We hope to organize trips of this kind in future as well. We are looking at the possibility of not only Italy and other European countries but also China and fellow Asian countries as destinations.

The list of House and individual awards this past year, as always, is immense. Let me just report two items. At the Inter-House level, The Doon School Cup was awarded for the second time. The Cup goes to the House that scores best on academics, sports and other co-curricular activities, and discipline. This year, once again, the Doon School Cup was won by Oberoi House, followed closely by Kashmir House.

At the individual level, our most coveted awards are the Scholar's Blazer and the Games Blazers. The following were awarded the Scholar's Blazer: Kushagra Kumar, Amritesh Rai, Akhil Kejriwal, Ashish Mitter, Chetan Aggarwal, and Pushparaj Deshpande. The Games Blazer went to the following: Syed Zain Ali, Nikhil Bector, Chirag Nangia, Arjun Anjaria, Zain Rehman, and Shilavadra Bhattacharjee.

The school continues to be involved in a variety of social and community service projects. We are involved with village schools where we have helped build low-cost facilities or improved existing structures. Our boys and masters have helped children who are less well off with their studies. We send boys regularly to work with the elderly and the physically and mentally challenged. Doon School boys have worked this past year with Dr. Anil Joshi of HESCO in village development, a tradition that goes back to Tunwala, a village we adopted back in 1937. Our boys and masters have gone on Round Square International projects in Ladakh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to build low-cost facilities, to help

with medical camps and to rebuild facilities devastated by the tsunami, respectively. Some of our boys went to Forfar in Scotland to help with a nature reserve, so you can see that our involvement is international as well.

Of course, we continue to do community work within the school. Our Audio-Visual squad organizes virtually every school function. Our Chair squad does the unglamorous work of putting out seating for all our events. Our publications perform a different kind of community service, namely, to keep us informed, to record the life of the school, and to entertain us. I would especially recognize the Doon School Weekly, the School List, and the Yearbook in this regard. Recently, we organized a group of junior boys to go round and count all the trees on the estate. I could go on. To my mind, social and community service is one of the greatest strengths of the school, and we can all be very proud of it. Our boys learn a lot from it: service, management, organization, cooperation and leadership.

Ladies and Gentlemen, students: that concludes my review of some of the highlights of the year.

I want to end with two important sets of thanks – the first to those who have made donations to the school; and then to the students and staff of The Doon School.

This year the school has attracted a number of generous donations. I would like to take this opportunity to express our very great thanks for these gifts. In particular I would like to recognize the following:

In the Old Boys' category, the Class of 1981 has collected well over a crore of rupees on the occasion of their 25th year reunion. The Doon School Old Boys' Society has also given the school Rs.1.50 crore for the Art School and Rose Bowl. The following have also given to the school, in some cases, in conjunction with their class: Alok Oberoi, Rs.46.5 lakhs, Anil Kumar, Rs.4.5 lakhs, Arjun Malhotra, Rs.91 lakhs including last year's donation, Arjun Sahai, Rs.1 lakh, Arun Sinha, Rs.50000, Daman Singh, Rs.43000, DOSCENT Trust, Rs.13.5 lakhs, Jaideep Khanna, Rs.23 lakhs bringing his total to Rs.46.5 lakhs, E.S. Krishnamoorthy and Neuro Sciences India Group, Rs.25000, Krishnamoorthy Srinivas, Rs.5000, Vir Seth, Rs.9000, Gautam Berry, Rs.10000, Harindra De Silva, Rs.50000, Homi Aibara, Rs.68000, Kamalbir Singh, Rs.7.2 lakhs, Amrit Lal Khanna, Rs.5000, Sandeep Sahai, Rs.2.3 lakhs, Nitin Sawhney, Rs.4.5 lakhs, Oberoi Group, Rs.80 lakhs including last year's donation, Pratyush Jaiswal, Rs.70000, Rahul Rana, Rs.4.5 lakhs, Ravi Sinha, Rs.9.3 lakhs, Ryuko Hira, Rs.1 lakh, Sanjay Mehrotra, Rs.5 lakhs, Umesh and Mahesh Sahai, Rs.5 lakhs and Vikram Philip, Rs.50000.

Amongst corporate donors, you will recall that I acknowledged the wonderful contribution of Hutch. This money has gone towards the refurbishment of the Central Dining Hall and you can see the difference already in the work that has been carried out thus far. Mr. Ashim Ghosh is Managing Director of Hutch and has been with us today. Mr. Ghosh, I thank you for your support to The Doon School.

May I record my profound thanks to the Fundraising Committee and in particular to Mr. Anajit Singh as Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. Sati Puri as the Dehra Dun representative. Anajit has donated over Rs.50 lakhs towards the fundraising campaign, and I wish very warmly to record my additional thanks to him.

Before I close, may also I take this opportunity to thank the entire Doon School community for their cooperation and good humour. The students, who are the life and soul of the school. My colleagues on the teaching staff, who are tireless and dedicated to the cause. The Heads of Departments, Housemasters and Deans, who are in the front-lines every day. The Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Philip Burrett, who does so much with great good humour and understanding, The Head of Human Resources and Head of Finance, who allow us to get on with schoolmastering. And finally, the administrative, technical and subordinate staffs, who serve the school with such diligence and affection. Ladies and gentlemen, boys, that concludes my remarks for the evening.

- On the 26th of January 2007 - our 58th Republic Day - amongst the various Padma awardees (the highest Civilian Awards in India) were **Amitav Ghosh, 246-H '72** and **Vikram Seth, 250-J '68** who were **both awarded Padmashris for Literature and Education**. Our heartiest congratulations to Padmashri Amitav Ghosh and Padmashri Vikram Seth. They have done the Doon School proud.
- We are also proud to inform the old boy community that **Sanjay Labroo, 552-T '80**, Managing Director of Ashai India Safety Glass Ltd. has been inducted on the **Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India**, a rare honour for an industrialist particularly at such a young age.
- We are proud to inform the Old Boy community that **Mr. Dynshaw Italia, 605-KB '88** was awarded the '**Financial Director of the year**' by Microsoft Dynamics in the Growing Business category at the prestigious Accountancy Age Awards which took place in November 2006. Our heartiest congratulations. Dynshaw is currently the Finance Director and Chief Operating Officer of Cobra Beer Limited.
- **Mr. Navendra Painuli, former Hindi teacher at School and Founder Headmaster of the Vikas Bharati School** was awarded the prestigious '**Bhartiya Shiksha Ratna**' by the Global Society for Health & Education. Mr. Painuli was conferred this award at a glittering ceremony held in New Delhi by former Governor, Dr. Bishma Narain Singh and former Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. G.V.G. Krishnamurthy. This award has been given to Mr. Painuli in the field of national and international education particularly for his pioneering work in the field of education amongst handicapped children. The Doon School Old Boy community extend their heartiest congratulations to Mr. Painuli.



Mr. Navendra Painuli, former Hindi teacher at School receives the prestigious Bhartiya Shiksha Ratna award from former Governor, Dr. Bishma Narain Singh and former Chief Election Commission, Mr. G.V.G. Krishnamurthy

- Another former Hindi Teacher, Housemaster and prolific writer – **Dr. H.D. Bhatt 'Shailesh'**'s collection of short stories titled '**Live is Life**' has been recently published and launched.. Mr. Ruskin Bond in his foreword writes:-
*"Dr. H.D. Bhatt 'Shailesh', a prolific writer of short stories, gives us a selection of his work entitled "Love is Life".
 Ranging from the romantic to the realistic, they evoke something of the milieu in which he has lived and worked as a teacher, writer and mountaineer. His stories are interesting, inspiring and entertaining, and written in a lucid and pleasant style. His rich and vivid description is the result of his deep observation*

and the poetical receptivity of his nature.

These stories should bring him many new readers, as well as pleasing his old fans."

Our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Bhatt on adding yet another feather to his already overcrowded cap of successes.

- **Mr. Mahinder Lall, 120-J '43** has been honoured with **Life Membership of the Chiropractic Association of Australia**, the premier body of Chiropractic in Australia. Our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Mahinder Lall. The citation received by him reads as follows.

'Dr Mahinder Lall was awarded the Life Member Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Chiropractic and the Association in a career spanning 35 years.

Dr Lall graduated from the Chiropractic College of Australasia in 1969. He later served as the College's Director of Education for 10 years and on the College Board for several more years.

He was heavily involved in the ACA and then the CAA, serving on the Executive for many years and was active in many representations to Government and other authorities. In doing so he was instrumental in guiding Chiropractic in Victoria to many victories. During this time he also served on the CAA National Council of Governors.

Dr Lall's interest in education is evidenced by the large number of young chiropractors he supported into Chiropractic College and then into practice. He taught at both the International College of Chiropractic (ICC) and its successor, the Phillip Institute of Technology and was actively involved in the formation of ICC.

Dr Lall has contributed many thousands of hours to the profession and actively promoted the highest principles and practice of Chiropractic. He is a fine example of life-long service to Chiropractic.'

- We are proud to inform the Doon School Old Boy community of the appointment of **M.Ct.P. Chidambaram, 135-HA '76** as the **Honorary Consul of Finland in Chennai**. Our heartiest congratulations.
- **Mr. Dhinendra (Dhinu) M. Sen, 106-J '67** has been appointed **Chief Executive Officer of Avera Pharmaceuticals** at Corus, Cubist and Pathogenesis. He will replace Jeffrey F. McKelvy, Founding President and CEO of Avera, who will transition to President and Chief Technical Officer.

Mr. Sen joins Avera from Corus Pharma, Inc., where he had been Chief Commercial Officer since 2004, and where his duties included oversight of manufacturing and inhalation technology, in addition to all commercial activities. During his 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, Dinu has played a key role in the launch or marketing of several of the most successful therapeutic products, including Epogen®, Neupogen® and TOBI®.

Prior to joining Corus Pharma, Dinu was President and Chief Operating Officer at Cubist Pharmaceuticals, where he was responsible for daily company operations. He also served as Senior Vice President of sales and marketing at PathoGenesis Corporation, and served in several senior marketing roles at Amgen, Inc. He has been instrumental in licensing products, raising capital from venture and corporate partners, and was a member of the executive teams that sold PathoGenesis to Chiron Corporation (now Novartis) and Corus Pharma to Gilead Sciences, Inc.

Dinu is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales. He has a Masters in Management (MBA)

from the J. L. Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

"Dinu brings an outstanding record of commercial accomplishment in the pharmaceutical industry, especially in his involvement in the successful commercialization of several major products," said Jeff McKelvy. "In addition, his depth of senior management experience will help enable Avera's growth as a speciality pharmaceutical company. We will work as a

team in identification, development and commercialization of drug candidates, in order to provide a good return to Avera's investors."

- Our heartfelt congratulations to **Sanjeev Kassal, 295-T '74** who won the **ITF (International Tennis Federation) World ranking Veterans Singles tournament** in the over 45 years category held in New Delhi in 2006. He is currently ranked 257 in the world by the ITF.

OLD BOYS NEWS

- This is to inform the old boy community of the changes in the contact details of **Manoj Kapur, 339-H '79** who continues to remain the **Regional Representative** of the **DSOBS** for the **UAE**. His new details are:-

Lloyds TSB International Private Banking
PO Box 121404
Dubai
United Arab Emirates
Tel (work) 9714-3620555
Fax (work) 9714-3620550
Tel (Res) 9714-3947807
E-mail (personal): manoj@eim.ae
E-mail (work): manoj.kapur@lloydsbank.ch

- **Nitin Khanna, 135-K '70** has been in Dubai since 1988 and is currently a Partner with the Middle East firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers. He is married to Arti, who is the sister of an ex-Dosco, Arjun Dua, 115-K(A), 1973. They have three children - two boys (Kunal and Anuj aged 20 and 16 respectively) and one daughter (Trisha, aged 13). Kunal is in his sophomore year at Stanford while the younger ones are at High School in Dubai. Nitin can be contacted at khanna.nitin@ae.pwc.com or at his office phone No.+9714-3043200 or his mobile phone No.+971-50-6539843"

- Apart from Nitin Khanna, three others from his batch (1970) have surfaced. They are **Manmohan Khosla, 304-J '70**, **Asutosh Misra, 416-J '70** and **Rajeev Verma, 406-K '70**.

Manmohan Khosla is in Cleveland, Ohio and is a practicing Pediatrician. His details are:-

31024, Pebble Beach Oval
Westlake
Ohio 44145
U.S.A.
Home Phone: 440-899-0896
Office Phone: 440-333-9840

Asutosh Misra continues to serve as a Surgeon with the Indian Army and is posted somewhere in the Eastern Sector. He can be reached by e-mail at amisrajhansi@yahoo.com. His postal and telephone details are:-

Col. Asutosh Misra
158 Base Hospital
C/o 99 APO
Cell: +91-94-340-53182

Rajeev Verma is into real estate development in the Dehra Dun region and can be contacted at the following address/ phone number:-

C/o Dr. Bagchi
63-A, Rajpur Road (lane next to Dominos)
Dehra Dun 248001.
Phone: +91-135-325510
Mobile: +91-94-120-57984

- **Mr. Ashim Kumar Mukherjee, 44-T '58** has shifted to Kolkata since beginning 2007 and now resides at 38, Jatin Das Road,

Kolkata-700029. His residence phone number is +91-33-24661796. His mobile phone number is +91-98-366-73232.

- **Arjun Jolly, 275-TB '91** continues as the **Regional Representative for the Netherlands** with four registered old boys (including him) in the region. They are:

Imran Ahmed, 455-HA '75
Sharad Datt, 272-T '91
Arjun Singh Bedi, 561-TA '88;
Arjun Jolly, 275-TB '91.

Arjun organized an informal gathering of old boys at his place at The Hague towards the end of November 2006 which was attended by Imran and Sharad. He plans activities going forward. If there are other old boys in the Netherlands or thereabout, please feel free to touch base with Arjun. His details are:

Mr. Arjun Raj Jolly
Sr. Advisor
Shell International BV
Carel Van Bylandtlaan 16
PX No.162
2501 An Den Hag
Netherlands
Phone: +31-70-377-3934
Mobile: +31-65-236-0960
E-mail: Arjun.Jolly@shell.com.

- **Ravi Sandhu, 73-H '68** is moving to San Antonio, Texas after a long stint at Washington DC. Our Washington correspondent, Rajiv Sarin, 44-H '74 sent in Ravi's e-mail to fellow Doscos saying:-

"Dear Dosco Friends:

I am happy and excited to announce that **the Sandhu family is moving to San Antonio, Texas** sometime this Summer. I have been offered an exceptional position to serve as the **Founding Director of a new Institute for Cyber-Security Research (ICSR) at the University of Texas at San Antonio**. This is a tremendously exciting opportunity for me and comes at a timely point in my professional career. All the same excitement is tempered with inevitable sadness about moving after 18 years in Fairfax and leaving one of the best areas of the country. The family has visited and has determined that San Antonio is a civilized enough place for a few more Punjabis to move in and become Texans. Devin (my 13 year old) especially loved their houses with 1st floor master suites for the parents and kids bedrooms and game room/media room upstairs. Easy to keep parents out of the way! Hope there will be so

Cheers!!

— Ravi"

Ravi Sandhu can be contacted at sandhu@gmu.edu.

MARRIAGES

* The DSOBS takes pleasure in announcing the coming together of its official website <http://www.dsobs.org> run by the Communications Sub-Committee under the able guidance of Hemant (Hemu) Sharma, 459-J(A), 1987 and doononline.com run entirely by and with the initiative and resources of Shiv Singh, 454-J(A), 1993. Therefore, all those who thought Hemu and Shiv were marrying each other may now breathe easy. It is the websites we were talking about. Hemu is much married with two kids. **This marriage brings into existence a completely new website domain – <http://www.dosco.org>. All old boys are requested to visit this site. Our heartfelt thanks to Hemu and Shiv for having run the respective websites so ably.** Hemu and Shiv now join the erstwhile Communications Sub-Committee in its new avatar – 'ICE' with 'I' standing for Information, 'C' for Communication and 'E' for Exchange. The information content is provided by the Rosebowl which K.K. Lahiri, 30-K '74 heads as Editor. The 'C' for communication is represented by the DSOBS database and e-mail run by Hemant (Hemu) Sharma and the 'E' for exchange represented by our new website domain [dosco.org](http://www.dosco.org) run by Shiv Singh. Our congratulations also to those who were able to bring the two websites together for greater synergy, efficiency and content.



Shiv Singh, 454-J(A) '93 - Founder & Editor of doononline.com. He will now manage the DSOBS Website www.dosco.org



Hemant (Hemu) Sharma, 459-J(A) '87 - who so ably ran the DSOBS website will now handle the DSOBS database & e-mail run

BIRTHS

* **Manik and Ravneet Singh Sadana, 215-J '91** were blessed with a **son, Eashman** on April 29, 2006. Our heartiest congratulations.

OBITUARIES

The Doon School Old Boys community mourns the passing of its following members

- **Mr. Kapil Chowdhry, 43-J '68** who passed away in September 2006. Kapil was a cousin of our former President, Nitan Kapoor, 151-J '66 and was two years his senior. Our heartfelt condolences to all friends and relatives of the late Kapil Chowdhry.
- **Mr. C.H. Shodhan, 133-J '38** passed away on August 28, 2006. Our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Shodhan and all family members of the late Mr. Shodhan.
- **Mr. Brij Krishan Manucha, 46-K '44** passed away on the 27th of November 2006. Readers will recall that it was Mr. B.K. Manucha who (on Ranjan Bhalla's prompting) took the initiative of starting the reminiscences published in the Rosebowl as 'Down Memory Lane' which later became 'Doon Memory Lane'. Our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Manucha's family members.
- **Mr. Ashok "Chicky" Ranganathan, 33-T '51** passed away in New Delhi on December 19, 2006 in New Delhi. A memorial service was held on December 30, 2006 in New Delhi. He will be deeply missed. Our heartfelt condolences to Chicky's family and friends.
- **Mr. Deelip Surve, 69-H '58** passed away on October 1, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Fawzia Surve (Ph No. : +91-22-26414839), his daughter, Maiaasa and his son, Imraan. Our condolences to Mrs. Surve, Maiaasa, Imraan and all other family members of Mr. Deelip Surve in this hour of grief. May his soul rest in eternal peace.
- **Mr. Aditya Lall, 538-H, 2001** prematurely passed away in a tragic road accident in New Delhi on Saturday the 30th of December 2006. Aditya was the son of late Dilip Lall, 281H '68. Aditya is survived by his mother, Seema and brother, Rohit Lall, 339-HA '99. Our heartfelt condolences to Seema, Rohit and all other surviving members of Aditya's family in this hour of grief. May Aditya's soul find eternal peace.
- **Commander Manohar (Mantu) Gokhale, 222-K (1944'-1949')** passed away on December 9, 2006 after a serious illness. Our heartfelt condolences to Mantu's Gokhale's surviving family members.
- **Mr. Vinod Jacob, 146-T '70** untimely passed away on June 26, 2006. Vinod was the Regional Representative of the DSOBS at Goa. Our condolences to his brother, Pramod and all surviving members of Vinod's family.
- **Pradhuma Shamsere Bahadur Rana, 179-H '53** also passed away. Our heartfelt condolences to his friends and surviving family members.
- **Mr. Lalit Mohan Thapar, 98-J '45** passed away on January 17, 2007 in New Delhi. Our heartfelt condolences to his friends and surviving family members.

With compliments from

*K.K. Lahiri, 30-K, 1974 and
Karan Lahiri, 306-K, 2004*

AN OBITUARY-

Mr. Lalit Mohan Thapar, 98-J, 1942¹-1947¹

On the 17th of January 2007, the Doon School lost yet another illustrious son. **Mr. Lalit Mohan Thapar, 98-J, 1942¹-1947¹**, (or LMT as he was fondly called) the patriarch of the Thapar Group of Companies and Chairman of Ballarpur Industries Limited passed away late on Wednesday, the 17th of January 2007 at the Escorts Hospital, New Delhi after a prolonged illness. His cremation took place at Nigambodh Ghat, New Delhi on Thursday the 18th of January 2007 at 2:30 PM. Lalit Mohan Thapar was the brother of Inder Mohan, Brij Mohan and Manmohan Thapar, 99-J, all sons of the legendary Coal Tycoon of Calcutta, Mr. Karam Chand Thapar. Though LMT chose to remain single, he groomed his nephews; particularly Gautam Thapar, 200-H '79, to look after the vast interests of the Thapar Group which not only included BILT (which is the largest paper manufacturing Company in the country and now headed by Gautam) but also Crompton and JCT. Not only the Doon School but the Indian industry lost one of its greatest names in the passing of LMT. Rich tributes were paid to him by the media. Scanned copies of some write ups – as appearing in the "ECONOMIC TIMES", New Delhi edition of Thursday the 18th of January 2007, a news item as appearing in THE "TIMES OF INDIA", New Delhi edition of January 18, 2007, An Obituary as appearing in "THE HINDUSTAN TIMES", New Delhi edition of Friday the 19th of January 2007 and his last interview on September 10, 2006 as published in the ECONOMIC TIMES, New Delhi edition of January 21, 2007 are reproduced below for the Dosco readership. The entire DSOBS community joins LMT's near and dear ones in praying that his soul finds eternal peace and rest.

22



Hindustan Times, New Delhi
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2007

Thapar was a multi-faceted tycoon

Arun Kumar
New Delhi, January 18

LALIT MOHAN Thapar, LMT to friends, died on Wednesday night following cardiac and renal failure after a prolonged illness. A doyen of Indian Industry he was instrumental in building one of India's biggest corporate houses — the Thapar group — which includes the Ballarpur Industries Ltd, (BILT), the largest paper manufacturing company in the country, as well as Crompton and JCT.

Thapar also took over *The Pioneer* newspaper in 1991 and ran it till 1998 when it was sold to the present management.

Son of Karam Chand Thapar, LMT remained a lifelong bachelor. Apart from his entrepreneurial skills, he was known for his generosity, love of life and passion for sport. After handing over the baton of BILT to his nephew Gautam Thapar over the past few years, he was back to pursuing his love for horses and music, particularly vocal classical music. Poker and bridge too were also his regular pastimes.

He was also a great fighter and effectively steered the change for BILT from operating in a controlled regime to com-

OBITUARY L M THAPAR



peting in the free market economy. He had the acumen to select the right peo-

ple for the right job, which were proven when he made Gautam his successor at the helm of BILT, who in turn guided the company to become globally competitive.

"LMT will be remembered for his generosity. He was a man with heart and great vision," said Hemant Luthra, President of Mahindra & Mahindra, who spent 18 years with BILT.

"I have had the privilege of working with two great family Mahindra and Thapars who believe in empowering employees, in trust and delegation of work," he added.

"When I lost my parents and wife, LMT stood with me like a rock and never allowed me to feel the vacuum," he recalled. It was LMT who urged Luthra to remarry after some years had passed. "When I found someone who was in the US," Luthra recalled, "I asked him whether, while I travel to Europe on official work, I could extend my journey to the US and bill it to the company since my salary was not enough to support the trip. He replied, 'As long as you give me a running commentary on the progress, I wouldn't mind'."

arunkumar@hindustantimes.com

LMT IS NO MORE. BUT MEMORIES REMAIN. SUNDAYET REPRODUCES AN INTERVIEW

WITH THE DOYEN, PERHAPS HIS LAST ONE, ON SEP 10, 2006

CARRY ON, LMT

Paper, paintings, carpets, cards, classical music, antiques and horses — L M Thapar has not lost his legendary taste for good life

L M THAPAR, the 76-year-young patriarch of the Thapar group, has had a rough year, with poor health quietly crawling up. Yet, when **SundayET** caught up with him over a drink one Wednesday evening at his bungalow in the Capital's Tony Amrita Sher-Gill Marg, it was quite apparent that he had not lost any of his legendary taste for the good life.

So what does LMT, as he is fondly called, do with so much time on his hands, we asked. "Today, perhaps, my greatest passion is paintings," he says sipping a glass of red wine. It shows. From the gallery to the lounge on the way to the living room — paintings abound. Nandalal Bose, Abanindranath Tagore, Bikas Bhattacharjee, Hemant Majumdar and many other artists.

"I am partial to the Bengal School because of my association with Bengal," he says quickly. The Thapar family, like lots of other prominent families, tasted their initial success in Bengal. At a time when most walls of corporate czars are adorned with Tyeb Mehtas and Hussains, how come he does not have

any of those. "I am not fascinated by them. A painting should convey something. When you put it on the wall, it should give you pleasure. In any case, I am not in the business of buying and selling paintings," he says.

LMT's favourite is Hemant Majumdar. Why? "Because it sells. I bought my first painting 40 years ago for around Rs 30,000, today it should be worth Rs 30 lakh." He has, however, no idea of how much they are worth. "I don't want to sell them, so I am not valuing them." Between Delhi and Dehradun, he has around 50 to 60 paintings. "However, I do not have any paintings at my house in Gular, near Rishikesh. It was the summer palace of the Maharaja of Tehri and is an antique in itself, which I bought for Rs 3 lakh about 25 years ago. In fact, Anandmayee Ma used to live there once," he says.

Then there is also this collection of Persian carpets, though he no longer buys carpets. "The best place to buy antique Persian carpets is India where Parsis and all the maharajas used to be their buyers," he says. LMT has

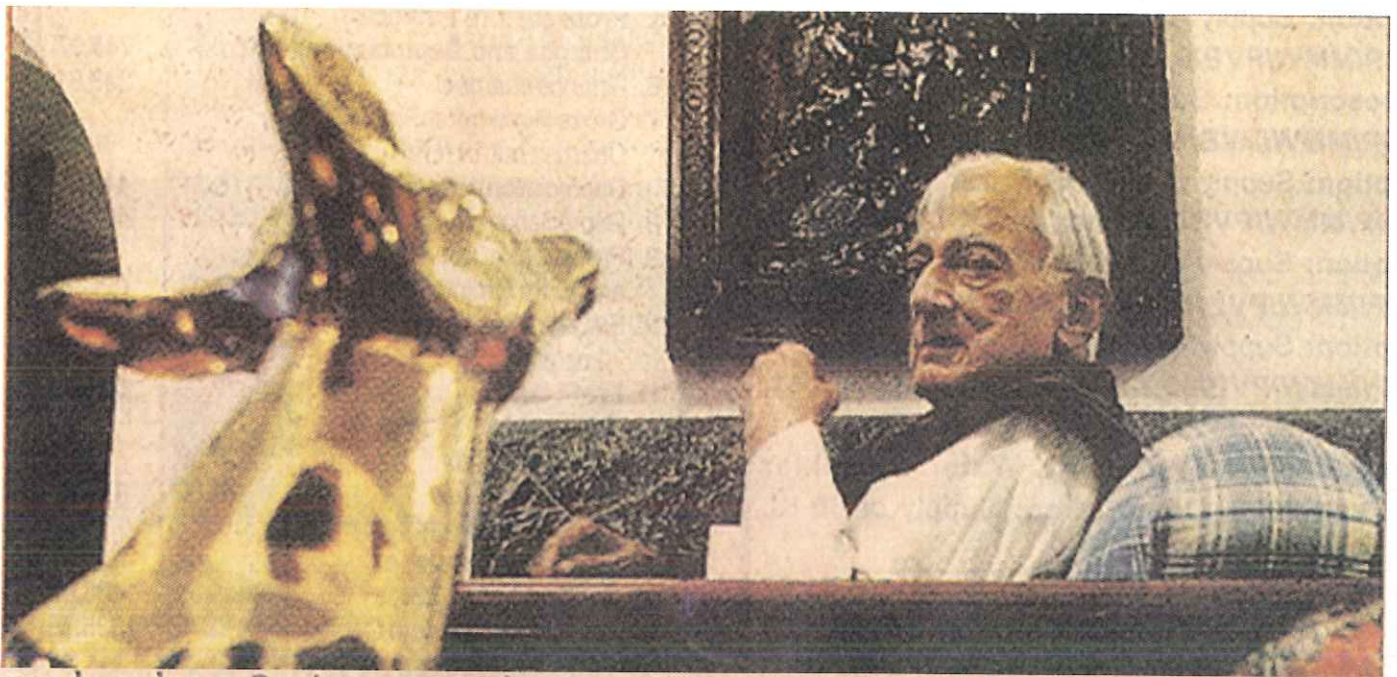


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Alaska...

...on a Cruise Ship.



nearly a dozen Persian rugs at the Amrita Sher-Gill house and another 8 in Dehradun. "Once you know they are made of natural dyes, they could be 100 to 120 years old. You can never tell. The newer ones are made of synthetic dyes."

Mr Thapar says he was also an avid antique collector once. That was before the Antiques Act came into force. He has now sold them all, well almost all. Mr Thapar says he took to collecting Tibetan antiques that were cheaper than the Chola bronzes. His oldest possession was a 12th century Tibetan Tankha. "All these will go to my nephew Gautam in future. I have put it down in my will that none of these paintings and carpets would be sold for 10 years after my death and I hope he makes a museum to house it after that."

LMT is also very fond of classical vocal music. Every singer of repute, Pt Jasraj, Bhimsen Joshi, Ashwini Bhide...all except Kishori Amonkar, has sung in his house. "I was too scared of inviting her because she can't stand restless movements while she's singing."

But the passion that really charges him up is his love for horses. LMT is part-owner of a stud farm in Sohna that is spread over 100 acres. He looks at the business side while Sultan Singh, a former zamindar, looks after the technical aspects. "One of my horses even won the Calcutta Derby," he says proudly. A huge cabinet in his living room is filled with trophies of various sizes that his horses have won. "I used to be passionate about horses

even in my younger days in Kolkata, but when we moved out in 1971, I sold them all off." He got back into horse breeding only three years ago. "I basically race in Delhi but my best horses go to Mumbai as well," he says proudly.

"These days I spend my time playing cards with the girls. They are like family," LMT says blowing out another puff of smoke from his cigar, with a mischievous grin. Just when you thought you were onto something, he guffaws. "You see, I have three sisters and they mostly join me. My eldest sister Raj, who is 82, lives with me and Prem, another sister joins us." Sometimes even the nephews or some friends drop by for a game.

What about his brothers? You actually never hear him talking about them. "Our interests have been different. Even when we were one and I was looking after the group business, we were all doing our own things. It would have been foolish to teach M M Thapar, textiles or I M Thapar, coal."

We get back to the game of cards. He rues that his bridge gang and subsequently the poker group have all broken up. "If I were to add up, I think on the whole I have won my card games." And what about his girls? he's been known to be a perfect ladies man, hasn't he, we ask. "There have been two or three ladies in my life with whom I have been closely associated with, but I am not going to reveal their names. Otherwise I have had a good time."

Carry on, LMT!

SHUBHAM MUKHERJEE

LM Thapar, paper king, dies at 76

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Ballarpur Industries Ltd (BILT) chairman emeritus Lalit Mohan Thapar died of cardiac arrest on Wednesday night. Thapar, 76, had been ailing for some time. He was admitted to Escorts Heart Institute on January 4. LMT, as Thapar was popularly known, reigned over the largest paper company in the country, which had set sights on diversifying its presence in other countries.

Born in 1930, Thapar went to Doon School and then graduated in engineering from the University of Southern California. He became chairman of the Ballarpur group in 1962.

A bachelor, Thapar was a member of the Bombay Club, which opposed opening up of the Indian economy in the initial years.

He commanded an empire, which was amongst the top corporate houses in India till the late 1990s.

BILT, part of the Thapar group founded by LMT's father Karam Chand Thapar, responded to liberalisation through diversification into a host of sectors ranging from

leather, nylon and newspaper publication to prawn culture. But facing pressure on finances, it had to hive off some businesses like edible oil and glass.

Then came the family settlement in 2000, according to which BILT and APR Ltd went to LMT, while MM Thapar gained control of JCT, JCT Electronics and Greaves. BILT Chemicals, Bharat Starch and Crompton Greaves went to BM Thapar and IM Thapar got KCT Coal Sales, Water Base and India City Properties.

But in recent years, BILT was once again diversifying, first entering the BPO business and then foraying into the agri-business through Global Green, which notched up a turnover of over Rs 100 crore in a short span.

Only a few months ago, after four decades at the helm, LMT handed over the reins of the business to his nephew Gautam Thapar, who is now chairman of BILT.

Known for having fought many battles with the government as well as in business, Thapar was fond of horses and was also a partner in a stud farm.



LM Thapar passes away

Our Bureau
NEW DELHI

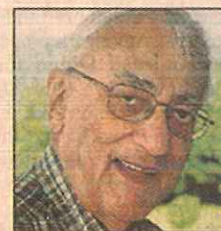
INDIA Inc lost one of its greatest names on Wednesday. Thapar group patriarch LM Thapar died at 10.15pm after a bout of illness. He was 76.

Thapar took charge of the group in 1960, when just 30. Counted among the founding members of the Bombay Club, he ran the family business for some 45 years before handing over the reins to the next generation.

Thapar did his schooling from the prestigious Doon School. He graduated in engineering from the University of Southern California.

Someone who enjoyed Monday mornings, LMT found poor health crawling up and spent most of his time with family. He had not lost his passion for good life when ET had caught up with him over a drink last year. LMT found post-reforms India exciting. But felt the key to success was adapting to the system and times.

Industry mourned the loss. "He was a great visionary and industry leader. His demise is a sad loss. Hopefully, his legacy will be carried forward," Fortis Healthcare MD Shivender Singh said.



LM Thapar

ERRATA

We regret the following errors in the article and photographs at pages 21 to 23 of the **October 2006 issue** captioned – "2006 – The year of the Bawa"

1. In the heading at page 21, Bawa Vikram Singh's house should be corrected to read "206-J" and not 206-JB.
2. Page 23 – top right hand column photograph – We are informed that Bharat Sahgal was not the solitary New Yorker. The other was Anil (Sabby) Sabharwal.
3. Page 23 - bottom left hand corner – The winner was **Jimpy** Kumar and not Jimmy Kumar. The errors are regretted.

> We also regret the error in our **Dubai Summit Special Edition – March 2006** in which **Mr. Masood Hasan** has been wrongly identified as the Headmaster of the Chandbagh School (e.g. page 33, left hand column, para 3, line 2; page 30, top left hand photograph, second from left, etc.). **Mr. Hasan is actually the Chairman of the Chandbagh Foundation.** The error is regretted.

Best Wishes From

**RAJAT (TOJO) BANERJI, 135-T, 1984,
SUMEETA, RIDAY AND TARINI**

DIAMOND JUBILEE – CLASS OF 1946

[By Lt. Col. Harish Bahl (Retd.) 204-K '46]

A ring from Sheel Sharma, Executive Secretary, DSOBS, came as a bolt from the blue. He informed me that the report of the Diamond Jubilee of the Class of 1946 was due. As our Class Representative, Gurbir Man Singh, had unfortunately expired, therefore, Sheel was organizing the same for us. Mohd. Zafar, 8-J had sent him an email asking him for details of the celebrations.

My mind rewound to a 1946 scenario. Zafar and I wished to join the army after winter vacations and were scheduled to be called for the interview and test at the Selection Center near Indian Military Academy. The President for selection was Col Ayub Khan, later Field Marshal and President of Pakistan.

I went to my home town, D I Khan, now in Pakistan along with other boys going to and beyond Lahore. After the vacations we came back to school and both (Mohd. Zafar and I) appeared before the Selection Board. Mr Foot, the Headmaster inspected us to see whether we had shaved and were well dressed for the interview. We appeared and were selected in the preliminary round. By that time the clouds of partition were thick in the sky. Instead of going to my home town during summer vacation I went to Patna where my father was posted at that time. The muslim boys went to Pakistan but we stayed on this side of the country. Thus we parted company physically but not in spirit. The bonds of school and friendship were much greater and still exist. Most of us were and are in communication with each other, and will remain so till death do us part.

I responded by telling Sheel that I shall be going for the Class of 1946 celebrations. He informed me that Zafar had also responded similarly. To the rest of the surviving class people he was sending invitations.

On 25th October '06, my wife, son and I drove to Dehradun from Delhi, high of spirit, in anticipation of meeting my classmates. I went to the reception center next morning to register my arrival. To my utter dismay I was told that I was the only person from my Class of 1946 to have come. With a heavy heart I went towards the Biology Block (old music school) where I saw a familiar face sitting and reading the Doon School Weekly. He was A.P.N. Singh, 146 J of my Class! He did not know that he had to register his arrival. So I told him to do so. There I was also told that Zafar had arrived but he too had not registered.

At the HM's office we were told that the Diamond Jubilee dinner of our Class had been clubbed with the Golden Jubilee Dinner of the Class of 1956 due to just three of our class being present and attending.

In the evening after the school play we went to dinner at the HM's residence. There I saw Zafar as green as ever coming in with Afzal, his elder brother and Tishy Khanna. We had a delightful reunion with the three of us reminiscing and sharing jokes about good old times. Mr. Gurdial Singh also joined us. 'Guru' had taught us Geography in our final year. An excellent master, the youngest I think at that time. He would dictate notes at breakneck speed, to quote 'in the Indo Gangetic plains the rivers brought alluvial soil bang..bang..bang..'. He used high sounding words, real Queen's English and stopped only after dictating a full page. He would look up and seeing our expressions would exclaim 'I do not see why you cannot understand all this'. To his credit, for the first time in the history of the school every one barring five in the class got distinctions in Geography, a record till date.

We had Desraj Urs, 252-K, an excellent athlete who was not so bright in studies. The night before the Geography examination Guru called him and coached him on all the questions likely to come in the question paper. Luckily, five of the ones revised on the previous night came in the paper. Mr Gurdial Singh went in the examination hall and read the answers written by him and smiled. Desraj's morale was up. He came out and told us that he had done very well. Hoping to get a pat, he approached Guru and



Diamond Jubilee Class of 1946
L to R: Zafar, A.P.N. Singh, Harish Bahl



Diamond Jubilee Class of 1946
L to R: Zafar, A.P.N. Singh, Harish Bahl, Afzaz

asked him how he had done? Guru's answer was 'you have failed'. Then we had Maheshwar Dayal, 181-H, the youngest member in our class. He had topped in the entire Commonwealth in the Senior Cambridge, a fact we did not know then.

Guru told us during the Diamond Jubilee that there were three surviving masters of our times, he himself, Aamir Ali and Bidu Dhar the old boys who had then taught us briefly.

Though we were only three of us during the diamond jubilee dinner but we remembered and talked about all our classmates. Zafar, who was a wizard of hockey at school looked quite young for his age. I asked him jokingly the secret of his youthful looks. He replied 'keep laughing' so you will be happy and young. How true.

Dr. Kanti Bajpai, the HM, looked after us very well with a lavish dinner and drinks. We all are so grateful to him. After the dinner we went on to join the other old boys and parents at dancing and making merry.

Next day we went to see the exhibitions which were interesting as always. It is now the computer age and boys are well versed in it. The music concert in the evening was a treat to the ears. One item had about 90 boys and girls participating in it. The school culture has changed a lot but the basic foundations are sound and the comradeship of each generation will remain. Not only that, the wives of old boys who meet also make everlasting bonds. This is the real culture and tradition of the Doon School which is second to none.

After the lunch on Sunday we said goodbyes with heavy hearts but with hopes of meeting again on the next Founder's day meet.

DSOBS' VERY OWN CREDIT CARD.

Our Bureau

Recently the Doon School Old Boys' Society launched an exclusive credit card in partnership with ICICI Bank Credit Cards.

This is a personalised credit card, and shall be embossed with the logo of the society, giving it a distinct identity.

Not only is this an excellent way for the Boys to carry their alma mater around with them, but it also serves a noble cause of providing funds to the society.



The DSOBS will be eligible to get 0.3% of the retail spends on the card from ICICI Bank. DOSCOS can also redeem their reward points, donating proceeds to provide assistance to the Old Boys and their immediate families.

This Gold credit card is free-for-life and has all the features that ICICI Bank Gold Credit Cards enjoy and comes with ICICI Bank's commitment to provide world-class customer service.

We reckon this new initiative will get a good chit from the Old Boys!

DOSCOS PLEASE NOTE:

All DOSCOS within India should have received a standard credit card form with this issue of the Rose Bowl. Fill in your Name, Telephone Number and Signature and mail it across at the address mentioned below.

DSOBS Secretariat, 1007, 10th Floor, Bhikaiji Cama Bhawan, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066.

A representative from ICICI Bank will follow up with you to get the remaining information.

For any queries call the dedicated Helpline Number: +99115-98641

Or e-mail amit.dh@icicibank.com to apply for the card and our Customer Relationship Executive shall get in touch with you immediately.



ICICI Bank
Credit Cards

Conditions apply. For detailed terms and conditions, visit www.icicibank.com

1956 GOLDEN JUBILEE (OCTOBER 27 – 29, 2006)

[By Sushil Dubey, 30-T, 1956]

Eventually only eight of us made it. They were Jagmohan (Jaggi) Batra (131-T), Ravish Kohli (238-H), Gunaseela Rajan (307-H), Ranjit Sikand (247-T), Ratanjit (Pottay) Singh (218-H), Ashok Shrinagesh (278-H), Narendra (Nathu) Badwar (157-T) and myself. I might add that Daljit S. Dhillon (210-J) and H.S. Lalji (93-J) also came, but could not stay for the climax.

A disappointing turnout, despite efforts which began at the beginning of the year. It is encouraging to surmise that most of our batch are still active and busy in their respective professions.

Alas, attendance was also affected by the high incidence of mortality amongst us. According to the list provided by the DSOBS, 13 out of 38 are no more. Those I remember include Zahid Ali Baig (85-H), Henry Khadimali (211-H), Ashok Khubchand (316-J), Rahul Chaman Lal (185-T), Pradeep Mehra (77-K), Krishnadharee Lal (173-K), Inderjit Nanjappa (16-J) and Vinod Suri (224-T). Their memories and those of the others were with us throughout this anniversary.

The free time on Friday the 27th gave us the opportunity to visit old friends and haunts. Brinda and I drove up to Landour, mercifully bypassing Mussoorie. On the way to "Sisters' Bazaar" we passed Woodstock, which I remember as an undeclared destination of our later mid-term expeditions. An enterprising tea-shop owner has installed a telescope on her roof, enabling us, to see the snows of the Greater Himalayas, before they melt into history. I don't remember the bun omelette from our time, but it was delicious.

Then to School to see an excellent School Play at the slightly gentrified Rose Bowl. What a performance from that boy, Khambatta, better than any from my time, despite the efforts of the Shakespeariana Company!

We were privileged to be invited to the Head Master's dinner that night and again to lunch the next day. While we rubbed shoulders with the Great and the Good of the Dosco fraternity, what pleased us most was meeting our old Masters, Messrs. Gurudial Singh, S.D. Singh and Bhatt. Could they, like the proverbial Mr. Chips, remember us individually? The answer was "Yes!"

On behalf of all of us, I thank Mr. Kanti Bajpai for his kindness.

The next day included a pilgrimage to my old House, which was celebrating its 70th anniversary. Nostalgia can sound silly at times, nevertheless it was sad to see the House Dining Room converted into a dormitory. This was the place where, more often than not, we retired to the sound of the Gong, and where the shelves glittered with silver. Still, times change, and I am sure that the C.D.H. is a success.

Fast forward to Sunday. Quick visits to the Pagal Gymkhana and the Old Boys' A.G.M. left us confused, so we settled for the cricket match. It is always enjoyable to watch a match on the main field, which, in our minds, will always be associated with the spirit of 'Holdy'. From the dear little pavilion, the background of the tall trees and gracious building of K. and H. Houses provides a pleasing setting. If I heard some boys on the



GOLDEN JUBILEE CLASS OF 1956

Back Row – L-R – Ashok Shrinagesh (278-H), Ranjit Sikand (247-T) and Gunaseela Rajan (307-H)

Middle Row – Sushil Dube (30-T)

Front Row – L-R – Narendra Badhwar (157-T), Ravish Kohli (238-H), Jagmohan Batra (131-T) and Ratanjit Singh (218-H)



Back Row – L-R – Ranjit Sikand, Gunaseela Rajan, Ratanjit Singh and Ashok Shrinagesh

Middle Row – Uma Rajan, Veena Sikand and Deepika Sawhney Nanjappa

Front Row – Jagmohan Batra, Narendra Badhwar, Brinda Dubey, Pronoti Singh, Aruna Shrinagesh and Sushil Dubey



boundary correctly, "Vampire" was bowing to the keeping of "Tedha". I wonder if there are any "Kaddus" or "Kainies" left!

Back to the highlight – our very own Dinner on Saturday. We were fortunate to have a resident classmate and friend, Ranjit Sikand. He and Veena are proud owners of St. Leonard, a converted 19th century church, and an oasis of peace and elegance in the ugly heart of Dehra Dun. Also as co-hostesses were some of our spouses, namely Uma Rajan, Pronoti Singh, Aruna Shrinagesh, Deepika Sawhney Nanjappa and Brinda Dubey. The real host and hostess were Ranjit and Veena who provided us a memorable evening, in the company of other resident DoscOs. Among them was Randhir (Kandi) Singh, who used to be in our class, but for some reason disappeared into the mountains before returning to School to captain every conceivable team.

The evening ended with a robust, if somewhat disjointed, rendering of "Auld Lang Syne".

The next day, as the train left in the fading light of the setting sun, the realization dawned that fifty years ago, a party of boys had departed in confident anticipation of the outside world, from this very platform.

Thank you School!

Back Row – Uma Rajan, Veena Sikand and Deepika Sawhney Nanjappa

Front Row – Brinda Dubey, Pronoti Singh and Aruna Shrinagesh

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REUNION – CLASS OF '60

[By Anil Virmani, 91-J '60]

"LET me guess – it can't be is that really you! God, I wouldn't have recognized you, yaar. Where the hell have you been!! Then a big "Jupphi".

These were the usual openers for the class meeting only for the second time (the first about 12 years ago). Some were meeting for the first time since leaving school 46 years ago!! Time had altered shape, size & foliage – but it was great seeing each other. The comradeship was still there and every one felt that we should meet atleast once a year.

The Delhiwalas were Anil Bery, Aroon Purie, Ammy Seth, Vivek Bharat Ram, Siddharth Sri Ram with Pippa, Vikram Narain with Neera, Dilsher Singh and Mahima, Vijay Soni with Tania, Dinesh Mohan and Peggy, Mohan Thadani & Nirmal, K.R. Palta & Monica, Ramesh Kanta with Pammu, Anil Virmani & Gutti, Binny & Happy, Avinash Grewal & Davinder.

D.P.N. Singh came from D. Dun, Rajbir & Rita from Amritsar, Ajai "Pongo" Atal & Nandini from Jaipur, Mrs. Ravi Puspinder (108-K) Singh from Chandigarh, Soumendu Bannerjee from the U.S.

Lalit & Renu Mehra ('59) & Mahendra "Month" Singh ('61) came as invitees.

Letters of regret from Prakash Pandya & Baljeet Sodhi, Sonia, Rajiv Gandhi's wife regretted since she was out of town.

Krishna Chaudhuri's (15-H) wife called from Kolkata to give the sad news that he had passed away 5 years ago. She regretted that she could not make it to the reunion.



Standing – L to R – Gutti, Mahima, Chiku, Tania, Viki, Vijay, Anil, Dilshere, Celina, Soumendu, Avi, DPN, Monty, Peggy, Pongo, Ammy, Aroon, Anil, Alka, Uday, Lalit, Rita, Viki, Rajbir, Kanta
Sitting – L to R – Neera, Ravi, Davinder, Nimal, Pippa, Monty, Renu

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L to R – “Pongo” Atal, DPN Singh, Viki, B. Ram, Anil Bery, Anil Virmani



L to R – Nandini Atal, Happy (Binny) Singh, Ammy Seth



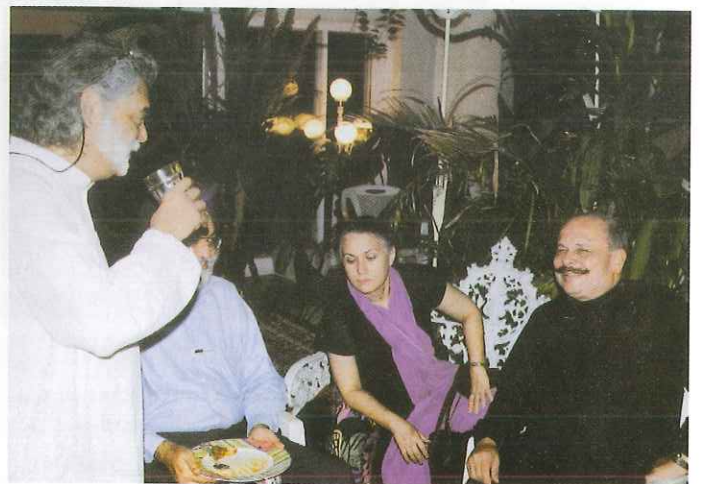
L to R – Monica Palta, Renu Mehra, Binny, U. Rajwade



Standing – L to R – Pommu, Happy, Binny, Mahima, Gutti, Chiku, Tania, Viki, Vijay, Anil, Dilshere, Soumendu, Avi, DPN, Peggy
Sitting – L to R – Nandini, Neera, Ravi, Davinder, Nimal, Pippa



Some OBs with wives

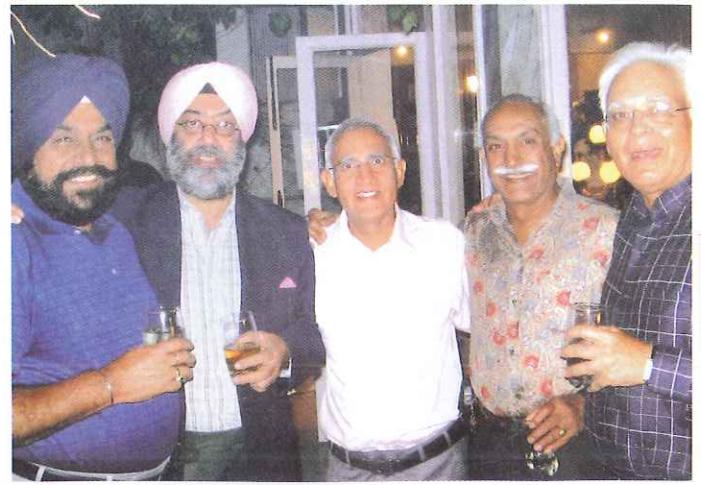


L to R – Dinesh Mohan, Rajbir, Peggy Mohan, V. Rajwade

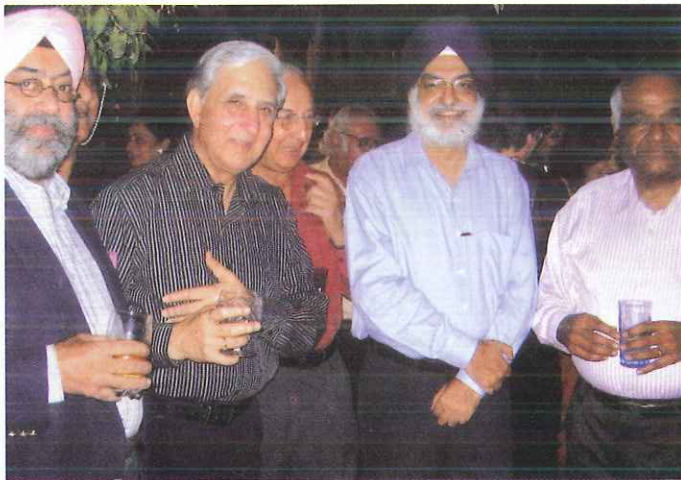
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L to R – “Chiku” Sri Ram, Avi Grewal, Ammy Seth, Binny, Viki Bharat Ram, Anil Virmani



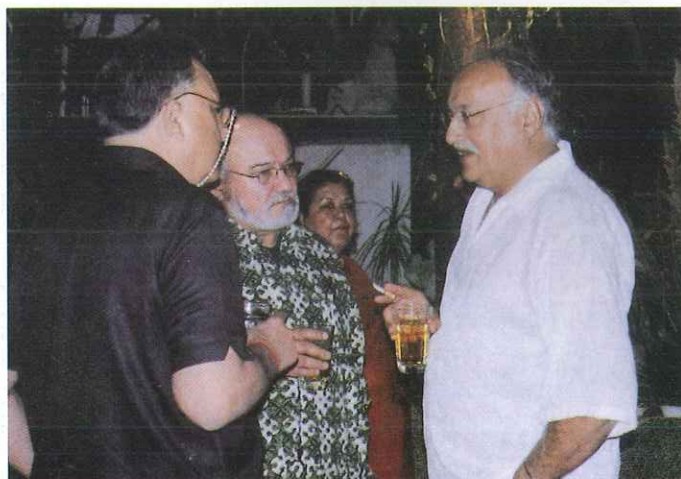
L to R – Avi Grewal, Dilshere, Anil Bery, Vijay Soni, Anil Virmani



L to R – Dilshere, Palta, “Pongo” Atal, Rajbir, Lalit Mehra



Wives & OBs
Sitting – L to R – Alka Rajwade, Mrs. Ravi Pushpinder Singh, Nandini, Atal
Standing – Dilshere, D. Mohan, Ajai ‘Pongo’ Atal, L. Mehra



L to R – Monty, Soumendu Bannerjee, Neera Narain, Binny



Gutti Virmani and her lavish Food Court

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OLD BOYS AFRICA CHAPTER!!

[By Anant Atal, 1-JB, 1996]

On a recent visit to Africa, I was actually able to track down two Doscos in Tanzania and Zambia... incidentally they were both my batch mates!

Had a mini old boys get together with Pallab Datta (ex 52-KB '96) in Chingola, Zambia and with Rushad Nanavatty (ex 42-OA '96) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Pallab is a practicing doctor in Zambia, and Rushad is working with PSI, a nonprofit social marketing organization in Dar es Salaam.

Have attached a couple of photographs!

Regards,

Anant Atal (1-JB '96)

Anant Atal

McKinsey & Company, Inc

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WEBSITE www.dosco.org
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L-R – Anant Atal, 1-JB '96 and Rushad Nanavatty, 42-OA '96



L-R – Pallab Dutta, 52-KB '96 and Anant Atal, 1-JB '96

Sanjeev Kassal, 295-T '74 and his gracious wife, Aneet who run '**FIRST SERVE**', hosted a Tennis Tournament for Doscos at the Delhi Gymkhana Club on March 11 & 12, 2006. The tournament was greatly enjoyed by all and may become an annual event going forward. '**FIRST SERVE**' Sports Pvt. Ltd. has been set up by Aneet and Sanjeev to undertake management of Tennis fixtures and events.



L-R – Ranjit Nanda, Bublloo Bhide, Vipin Malhotra, Gen. T.B. Nanda, Sanjeev Kassal, Indushekhar Singh
Kneeling – Yadu Bhide



L-R – Gen. T.B. Nanda, Sanjeev Kassal and Ranjit Nanda

SCHOOL VS. OLD BOYS, FOUNDER'S-2006, R.L. HOLDSWORTH MEMORIAL FIXTURE

[By Gursharan Singh, 219-H '68 and Nalin Khanna, 563-H '80]

The Old Boys fielded a strong combination with as many as six former school cricket captains - Arun Khanna, Nalin Khanna, Shashi Vaish, Pratyush Vaishnav, Amitoj Singh and Hemant Bishnoi - in their ranks. They would have been joined by two more captains - Donny Singh and Samarjit Gaekwad but for the Class of '81 dinner on Saturday night. Preparations for the Old Boys XI started with Shantanu (Class of '94) sending his selection request from the U.S a month prior to the event. The Old Boys Bench strength included 'Pepe' Dugal (Class of 80) who drove up from Delhi wearing his cricket clothes in the morning of the game but got pipped to the post by his cousin Jaspreet 'Hardout' Singh (Class of 1976). Sandeep Chandra (Class of 1979) was kind enough to accept the role of the 'official' photographer for the DSOBS XI. The match was played at 25 overs a side and the School Cricket captain Avyay Jhunjhunwala won the toss and chose to bat first.

The Old Boys seemed seriously handicapped in the fast bowling department but Amitoj stepped in and bowled a hostile and accurate spell from the Skinners' end beating the bat aplenty and generating fiery pace off the wicket. He was supported from the CDH end by Jatin Chhabra, at military medium, bowling a spate of wides, but still denying the rather watchful batsmen Ajmani and Samridh the freedom of strokeplay. Brilliant wicket keeping by Shashi Vaish made the Old Boys bowling look even better. The batsmen gradually opened out and played some good drives taking the score to 67 in the 11th over when Ajmani, who played a decent knock, was adjudged Lbw to the old fox- Indushekhar (Class of 1974). Kinshuk Kocchar joined Samridh who seemed a bit rusty, and accelerated the scoring rate-playing aggressively off both feet. With Pratyush tying up one end Nalin rotated the bowlers from the other end with Deep Singh and Hemant Bishnoi rolling their arms. The score moved to

75 when Samridh tried to lift Nalin over extra-cover and failed to clear Arun Khanna. Kinshuk was joined by Avyay but was beautifully caught by Uday Bawa and Jhunjhun too was soon caught and bowled by Pratyush who was too much to handle for the school batsmen. He also consumed Abhimanyu Raj, S. Sharma and Dilsher Khanna cheaply. Amidst the ruins Baheti, partnered by Shubhum managed to take the score to 124 when the overs ran out! The last over bowled by Deepak Kaul (Class of 1982) went for only 4 runs. Perhaps Deepak will get his next posting to the Caribbean Islands fairly soon.

Amitoj and Hemant, opened for the old Boys to the bowling of Gurshant and Abhimanyu. Hemant played only one great shot over backward of point before sky-ing Sharma for Samridh to complete formalities. Johnny weathered some hostility from Abhimanyu, and though obviously out of touch, played an exquisite straight drive, followed by a series of attacking strokes and brisk running between wickets in the company of Arun Khanna. Anirudh Kapoor came on from the Skinners end and Johnny lifted him through mid-wicket but perished when he repeated the shot to be taken quite brilliantly by Samridh at full stretch and at the second attempt. It was 69 for two as Nalin joined his cousin, who, after an uncertain start was now in full flow and took complete charge of the bowling. Rituraj was brought on from the CDH end but soon gave way to Baheti. Arun Khanna was as always clinically ruthless in his treatment of the loose ball of which the school bowlers dished out far too many. With only a small total to defend the task proved beyond their limited powers and with Nalin joining the fun the Old Boys reached the target in the 20th over to win by eight wickets. Anoop Bishnoi was left stranded in the Pavilion with his pads on.



Anoop Bishnoi - left stranded in the pavilion with his pads on.



The two teams.

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The winning DSOBS team.



L-R – Nalin Khanna, Anoop Bishnoi with the RLH Trophy, Arun Khanna and Indushekhar Singh.

The school lost to the Old Boys after a winning sequence lasting four years. The Old Boys led by Nalin Khanna were an unusually strong side and completely outplayed the school. For the first time the match was played at 25 overs a side and was completed before lunch.

BRIEF SCORES:

Doon School XI: 125 for 9 in 25 Overs
 DSOBS XI: 125 for 3 in 20 Overs

DSOBS XI won by 7 Wickets.

THE NEW DSOBS WEBSITE IS
www.dosco.org
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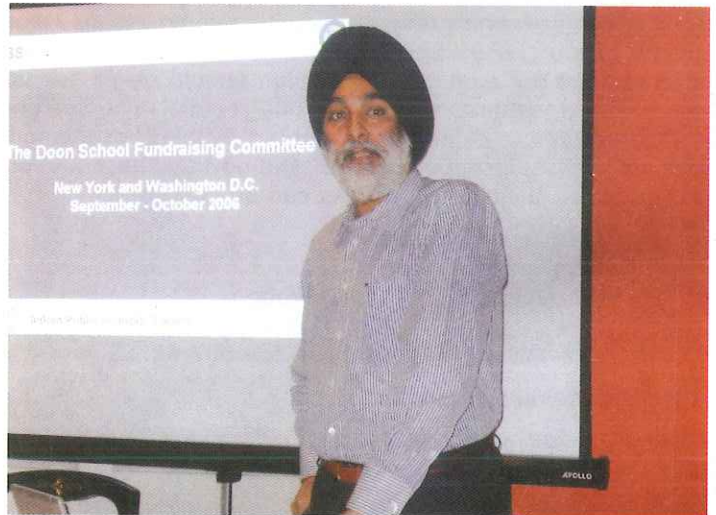
KANTI BAJPAI & CO. – WASHINGTON DC VISIT KNOWLEDGE OUR LIGHT

[by Nikhil Deogun, 462-JB, 1987]

Ex-DoscOs don't need much of a reason to get-together. Our last one in Washington was a few months earlier, to watch the World Cup finals. I'm still not sure what it had to do with Chandbagh, unless Zidane had ingested CDH chappatis prompting the head butting incident.

This was a more serious affair. It was almost like we were being called in by the Headmaster, and of course, we were. The guest of honor was Dr. Kanti Bajpai, Doon's erudite Headmaster, who talked to a large group of ex-DoscOs from the mid-Atlantic region and patiently answered questions while we slurped up our kulfi. And for those of us who still think Doon hasn't changed since we were there, **here's a summary of some changes that were newsworthy to many in the audience:**

- ★ The school has done away with divisions in the Houses – no Jaipur A and B, just one House. The reason, explained Dr. Bajpai, was because they wanted to get very qualified Housemasters and it was easier to manage. Each house has one house captain and there is now Assistant Housemaster, who is often groomed to become a Housemaster.



Bhai Anajit (Manu) Singh, 132-J '71, Chairman-Fundraising Committee, addresses the Washington gathering.

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- ★ **The School Captain is elected** by the students from a (short) roster of candidates selected by the Headmaster. **Unsuccessful candidates are automatically appointed House Captains.**
- ★ **All the masters' houses are being redone and built so that there isn't a stratification between young teachers and older ones and so that Housemasters don't cling to their jobs longer than necessary** simply because they don't want to give up their house and move into a smaller one. (Dr. Bajpai noted that by the time masters acquired enough seniority to upgrade into a bigger house on campus, their kids were already grown.)
- ★ **There are no plans for Doon to go co-ed** (prompting sighs from many parents of daughters).
- ★ **Each sport has a professional coach in addition to the master in charge.**
- ★ **Most of the support staff has been outsourced.**
- ★ **The Central Dining Hall is undergoing a massive renovation.**

Dr. Bajpai was accompanied by Karan Thapar, the distinguished television journalist, who warmed up the audience by delivering a stimulating — albeit somewhat depressing — talk on India's current state of affairs; Analjit Singh, Chairman of the Max Group and Head of the Fundraising Committee (and major donor); and Sati Puri, a senior committee member heavily involved in fundraising for the school.

The real purpose of the trip, of course, was to remind us that it's time to give back to the School as it tries to promote more diversity by offering scholarships to up to 50% of its students; renovates and modernizes existing facilities; and provides better housing for masters to attract top teachers. **There are significant projects underway: the renovation of the Dining Hall; renovation of Jaipur House** (which has such serious structural issues that the boys were all moved out); **a new cricket Pavilion** funded by the Khanna family; **new tennis courts** with seating and lighting. Several other projects are planned.

All this costs money. Many old boys in the U.S. have in the past griped about how they're not quite sure how to give money to the school. IPSS and school officials have taken notice. The 501-c-3 tax exempt organization should be all set up in the next few months. Meanwhile, one could also send a check to Indian School of Business marked "Friends of the Indian School of Business Foundation" stating that the donation is for the Doon School. All checks can be sent to:

Ms. Daniela Laube
 McKinsey & Co. Inc.
 55 East 52nd Street, 28th Floor
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 212-415-1479 (phone) or 646-307-6775.

This allows you to get a tax deduction.

DoscOs are also encouraged to visit www.pledgetopowerit.com and that can be used to pay by credit card.



Dr. Kanti Bajpai, 264-T '72, Headmaster, the Doon School also addresses the gathering



L-R – Sandeep Sahai, Dr. Kanti Bajpai, Rajiv Sarin, 44-H '74, Suman Babbar



L-R – Nikhil Deogun, 462-J(B) '87 and Vinit (Dodo) Khanna, 350-H '74 (Vijay Jagannathan can be seen in the background)

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THE FELLOW TRAVELLERS & FRIENDS

The Launch of The Book

Gautam Vohra, 154-H '63
Class Representative

True, The Fellow Travellers have several over-achievers. But not one of them would have thought that some day a book would be written on one of them, let alone their entire class, a book called the *Class of '63*. For the launch, several attended The Fellow Travellers bash for the first time: Harish Sood made it from Bareilly and Kanak Singh from Dumraon (Bihar). Not all belonged to the '63 batch. Woody came from Panipat since, like others who find an honorable mention in the book, he belonged to one of the batches senior or junior to the '63 class.

Woody ('64 batch) like Johnny Lal ('62 batch) and Surinder Singh ('64 batch perhaps justifiably raised the issue. Why a book on '63, why not '62 or '64 for that matter. I pointed them to the publisher, Atil Jindal, who fielded their question with "Well, the Class of '63 has produced national level politicians, corporate executives and activists, not to mention distinguished professionals in other fields."

It was pointed out to him by the worthies that their respective batches too had done as well. To which the publisher said, find a writer who could put across their story and he would publish it. It appears that in the not too distant a future, we are likely to have books on the classes of '62 and '64.

Not surprisingly, the photographs in the book taken in school evoked immediate response. People marveled at how tall Ashok seemed, how smart Basant Sharma and slim Deepak Summanwar were, and how Kamal Nath appeared virtually unchanged. Many of us looked nostalgically at the shot of Sayajirao, Irani, Avinash and Mehernosh Pochkhanawala in the river in Raiwala, with the hills appearing dimly in the distance. If ever there was a bunch of boys having fun, it was them, a moment frozen in time.

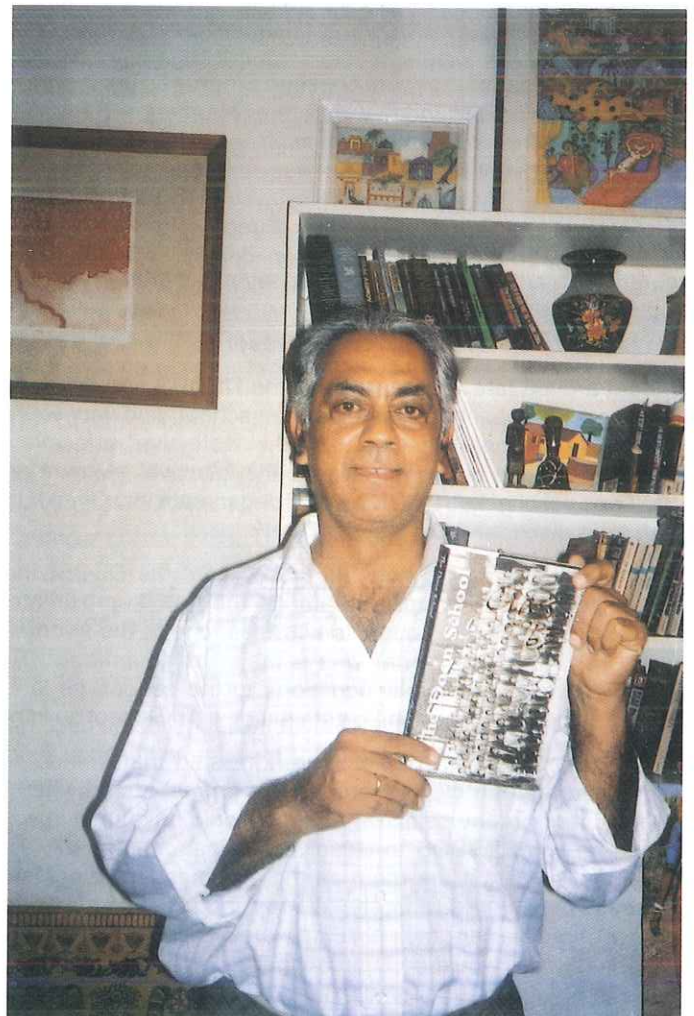
The trekking photographs too evoked nostalgia, many of us wishing that we were amidst the pines and firs, not right away, may be shortly after the get-together. In fact some even began to plan a visit to the hills in all earnest.

While Ramji and Sudhir were silently perusing the contents, Harpal Singh pointed to the pages where the rafting trip down the river from Dak Pathar Boom to Ponta Sahib that he had seen part of, had been recorded. "Hey, this does not give us the full picture. It has not mentioned that we had lost our way, our bikes, our shirts."

As was expected, after the amber liquid had been consumed in some quantities, tall tales were told, sometimes amid loud and repeated assertions. I think it was Anu Kohli, dressed in a blue shirt and shorts for the occasion, who related how he had won the cricket match on behalf of the house single handedly. Hyderabad was down 29 for nine wickets. He came in as the last man. Anu played a defensive game to begin with. But as soon as he got into his stride, he was sending the ball repeatedly to the boundary, so much so the out fielders chasing the ball began to complain. The long and short of it was that at 129, Anu lay down the bat – taking pity on the out fielders. In any case, we had crossed the Tata House score.



The heavy hitters : Woody, Vishu and Chandu



Gautam : here's the *Class of '63*

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There was heated debate when Chandu came across the photograph where Gautam appears to be breasting the tape with Ajit Narain a hair breath behind him. The conversation proceeded:

Chandu : "I was faster than you."

Gautam : "Nonsense, I was the fastest fellow going."

Chandu : "I was the athletics captain."

Gautam : "So what? I did the 100 metres in 10.5 minutes flat.?"

At this stage, Twinney (Amrendra Singh) chimed in with : "My brother's timing was less than yours!" Ravinder Goyal glanced at the photograph and clinched the argument with "That's Ghasti (Ashok Aggarwal) half way down the track. He was fast man. If he is so far behind, Gautam must have been Speedy Gonzalez himself."

Someone began to hum an old number and the conversation turned to other channels. But not before Yasdev Inder Singh, whose worthy opponents in the boxing ring were the legendary Khalid Baig and Indrajit Jhala, remarked that after the last bout between the two of them, Jhala refused to face him the following year. To which Murad countered firmly with the statement that Jhala would bow before no man. Murad is working on a book, no not on his class, but on a new version of the history of India. Yes, I know he has been at it for a while, but his is a scholarly tome, which demands much research.

In another corner of the room Darshan Singh was pondering on the "royals" in politics today with former Member of Parliament V.P. Singh. While Vishu ticked them off on his fingers, Darshan continued to maintain that there was only one royal family in Indian politics. He wanted to know whether Jats had only a "State" level identity (as in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan) or whether they could claim a pan-Indian identity. With the wealth of detail at his command, Vishu mentioned the Jat leaders in the Congress Party. Darshan was all ears. Does he want to don the mantle of a pan-Indian Jat leader?

Haripal arrived late. He was full of the DSOBS and IPSS, the latter body, he observed, managed the school, and very well at that. He bemoaned the fact that the "selective" principle in DSOBS elections was giving way to the 'elective' element and it this was not checked DSOBS would degenerate into Gymkhana Club type elections. Did we want that?

Most said that they did not. All these years the DSOBS had helped build a strong network among the now approximately 5,000 strong alumni, through its activities, one of the strongest that exist anywhere. That was a major achievement. The DSOBS also makes major donations to the school, its latest being the monies that will help set up a new Art School building.

Playing the devil's advocate, Amrendra said that democracy demanded that the elective process be promoted and whether we liked it or not the selective method would have to give way. Would he want DSBOS to dissolve, Haripal countered? The temperature rose in the room as the argument's decibel level climbed higher, Fortunately, Woody intervened, by asking Haripal about his son : their children were classmates and Sudhir remarked that it would be interesting to compare the school as it was in our time – to a large extent reflected in the book *Class*



In animated conversation, from left Murad Baig, Ravinder Goyal and Harish Sood.



Harpal reads out an excerpt on his rafting trip to the amusement of Ramji, Surinder Singh looks on. Woody is on his own trip.



At the table : Woody, Chandu, Kanak Singh and Priya Sen

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Anu in his yoga pose, while Harsh shares with Amarendra Singh his ordeals with the land mafia in Bareilly.



Old buddies : Haripal, Johnny, Sumanjit



Kanak Singh with Surinder Singh

of '63 – and that of their progeny.

Alok asked for Raman Kapoor, while flipping through the book. When told he had left Ramji commented on his uncharacteristic behaviour. It was most unlike him to enter quietly and slip away so obtrusively. Why was the carpet king so subdued?

Sumanjit, like Haripal, another late arrival, was full of vim and vigour. Harish Sood observed that exporting nurses to the U.S. must be an invigorating business. Sumanjit admitted that his latest job was stretching his abilities to the limit and he was enjoying every minute of it.

While turning the pages of *Class of '63*, he came across Tejeshwar's photograph at the get-together organized by Siddharth Chand and Harish observed that he had not met him since school. Tejeshwar has sold his shares in 'Sage' and is leaving the publishing house. I asked him what he intended to do. He had no plans for the present but he felt now was the time to enjoy life. While he does that, there is a big vacuum in the publishing world left by Tejeshwar's departure. Why not seize

the moment and establish a publishing concert? Perhaps one that brings out books that challenge mainstream ideas, on international relations and development and environment. Perhaps one that also promotes some creative writing. Anyone willing to join me in this venture?

The tricky bit is distribution. The distributors hive off a chunk of change from the publisher's earnings. Om Arora of the Variety Book Depot is taking 55 percent of the cost of each book (*Class of '63*) he distributes for Kaagaz International. But need this be the case? Each publisher cuts his own deal, and Tejeshwar was obviously good at this. 'Sage' grew and grew under him. His special contribution was in social studies – and he may give us a tip or two on this front.

Thanks to friends and book launches, I have too much to read. Harish Sood presented me with Paul Driessen's *Eco-Imperialism*, where he argues that environmentalists of the West are imposing a value-system that is inimical to the Third World poor. At his book launch, I met John Ralston Saul and I acquired *The Collapse of Globalism*. His case is that economists and managers are promoting the theory that globalization is here to stay, whereas in most areas it is collapsing (witness the rise of nationalism). At the launch of the book on Iraq by the Canadian ambassador to India, David Malone, the panelists highlighted the fate of this beleaguered country. *The International Struggle Over Iraq* discusses how this country has been at the centre of the world politics since 1980 when it went to war with Iran, thereafter it was involved in the invasion of Kuwait and since has been invaded by the USA in turn.

An open secret : publishers never pay for the book launch. They get a sponsor, often a five star hotel, an embassy, or just another sucker.

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