

THE Rose Bowl

OCTOBER 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY



FOUNDER'S 2018 SPECIAL

Sheel Vohra Memorial Cricket | Amazon Hopping | Journey to the South Pole
Sylvan Scenes of Elysium-III | Paragraphs of Doon | T is for Tiger



An Aristocracy of Service

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THE ROSE BOWL: SINCE 1985



The Ilyushin carrying Ankur Bahl and his South Pole headed group lands at Union Glacier

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DSOBS Vision Statement

'To foster fraternity amongst Old Boys, support School and serve society'.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Dosco

Welcome to another nostalgia-packed edition of the Rose Bowl.

As part of the exercise of gathering stories for the Founder's edition, I tend to save the best for this last issue of the year. In terms of contributors, it is incredible to note that most entries come from '40s, '50s, '60s, 2000s and 2010s batches. Conspicuous in their absence are the last three decades of Doon's 20th century (70s-90s). Here's hoping that will change in the months to come. Our oldest contributor in this issue is 90 years of age, so hats off to Saroj Mehera for racking his brains for us yet again. The other gem of a feature comes from the son of a Dosco - Rajendra Raju whose father V Narayan Raju (222 K, 1943) maintained an impressive archive of materials and photographs from his days at Doon. Rajendra wrote to me about how he was able to salvage, store and reprint some old film negatives of his father's from his School days in the 1940s. But he also narrated the tragedy of losing a heap of Doon artefacts to a flood in Chennai. It was a sharp reminder that our Chandbagh mementoes are finite.

In a bid to snatch at your memories, I've started a feature entitled 'Paragraphs of Doon'. I'm inviting you to send in your School memories a paragraph at a time. One paragraph can capture a feeling, the weather, sounds or memories from your School days, that have the potential to be lost forever. And it takes less time than your average WhatsApp chat. I'm looking forward to your stories. Shoot me something if you're reading this, or send me a pic or two from your School days. I'm at theroseboweditor@gmail.com.

If you have old almanacs, diaries, prayer books, photos or certificates from School, send me a scan. All your stories are archived for future generations here at the Rose Bowl, and as for your photographs, I send them promptly to Abia Qezilbash, who maintains the Doon School archive on campus. Let's salvage our memories Dosco before we lose them all to the great flood of time.

Enjoy the issue.

Govind
192 T, 1997
Editor-in-Chief

Montra Bikes for School

Dear Mr Vellayan and Bull Sir,

On behalf of all the boys in School, we are overwhelmed by Arun Murugappan (272 T, 1985) yours and the DSOBS' support in helping the School receive 14 new Montra cycles.

As you can see - the boys could not wait, and followed the assembly process quickly so as to get a ride on the new bikes. We will be conducting a workshop which will teach students basic cycle maintenance, servicing and how to deal with minor repairs while on the road.



As you may be aware, cycling is now an integral part of our curriculum, with nearly 20 students each year undertaking an expedition from Manali to Leh. Your generosity will go a long way in enabling boys to train and cycle over weekends.

Once again I thank you gents, the DSOBS and the super efficient team at Montra.

Yours gratefully,

Arjun Bartwal
Director, Development & Alumni Relations,
DSOBS

Letters to the Editor

Dear Govind

Thank you for the April 2018 issue of the Rose Bowl. The first thing I did after the preliminary leafing through was to ascertain when you were at School. I reached for the Dosco Record 1935-87 and your name was not in it. So, I surmised that you had not been born when I was at Chandbagh (1943-47), straight out of Welham Preparatory School (1941-42). The marvellous articles and photographs by Sahil Vohra and Rohit Handa took my breath away. And, needless to say, brought back a flood of memories.

I have always felt that those years at School were the foundation on which my life has been built. I am 86 now, but still very much a Dosco. Of course, what I owe to Olly of WPS, only I know. She was an institution by herself!

The Nizam of Hyderabad would not allow me to go back to North India after partition! Those were incredible days, full of turmoil and the venerable gentleman did not want to take any risks with my life. My father died when I was seven and the Nizam became my legal guardian. His jagirs were taken over by the state, and the Court of Wards became responsible for my upbringing and education. It was a department overseen by the Revenue Minister. I had to go to the Nizam's residence at the beginning of the holidays and show him my term reports. He could never understand why I always did so poorly in Maths, throughout my Welham and Doon years. When Barkat Ali Khan, now referred to as the Nizam, was at School, he was in Hyderabad house, but just for a year. He is younger than me. I am very much a Kashmiri, on the other side

of the quad, and immensely proud of the fact. Barkat's best friend was Jothi, Mr Shirodkar's son. Mr Shirodkar was our music master, and a truly wonderful man.

The first thing to keep in mind is that I am now 86 years of age. My memory is no longer what it used to be. But what encourages me no end is that I still suddenly recall incidents that occurred decades ago!

When the days at WPS and the DS come to mind, I am truly amazed at the clarity of my vision! But I am becoming unsure with names. Isn't that odd? I feel immensely lighthearted when I recall my stint at School – the atmosphere, the people one got to know, the friends I made: masters, dames, staff, boys. I am beholden to the Nizam for making this possible. It is because of him that I still remain close to Dehradun, home for so many years.

You see what is happening – one thing after another. I had better stop.

Very sincerely,

Aminuddin Khan
22 K, 1947

Dear Govind,

Jamsheed Marker (126 J) was one of three School Captains in my first term at Doon, Spring 1940, the others being Ram Sathe (32 K) and Shamsher Singh Puri (8 T). On a business visit to Manila in 1966, I was pleasantly surprised when I was greeted by Marker who saw my name as

a delegate from India, he being in the Pakistan delegation. A friendship developed and we would exchange mails, albeit intermittently, up to the time of his death. He gave me a signed copy of one of his books.

He was a very talented man, with wide interests. His encounter with a fellow Parsee and family friend, General Sam Manekshaw at the Bolshoi Ballet in 1971 mystified the Soviets at a time when India and Pakistan were daggers drawn. Aamir Ali (214 K, 1939) told the Rose Bowl how the two greeted one another in Gujarati.

Regards,

Saroj K Mehera
122 K, 1944

Dear Govind

Reading and digesting the Rose Bowl over the years, I see a trend towards re-in forcing the genetic link between school education and leadership. So much is written, spoken and published about 'leadership', but where are the leaders? Especially in politics and governance. The lessons I imbibed at Welham & Doon in the 1940s were:

- Defeat is a better teacher than victory
- Your opponent is your best friend

- The tacit is more precious than the explicit
- Humility, when natural, gives you space
- Simplicity, curiosity and an innocent sense of wonder, perform miracles
- Brevity is the best expression, as it delivers clarity
- The roots of a large tree are more important than the spread of its branches
- Friendship is often tested, severely, and strengthened, thereby
- We can do with little
- What you have, can be taken from you
- What you have given is always yours
- We can be flexible, but for values
- Confidence to command, emanates from knowledge, not rank or status
- Selection goes further than election

The teacher-student relationship and engagements are perhaps as vital as the content taught. After school, this dialogue carries forward and shapes all our personal and work-related relationships. So very often, in the middle of an activity, we suddenly recall the advice of our teachers! Why is this?

I remain ever-grateful to Welham and the Doon School, even though my tenure at Tata House was cut short by polio which caused my parents to bring me back to Bombay into a day school. UGH!

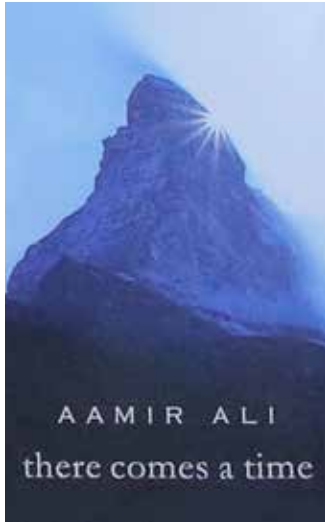
Nawshir D Khurody
38 T, 1953

ERRATA

In the August 2018 issue, we credited the ever-resourceful Saroj Mehera (122 K, 1944) for writing the article 'Remembering an Legendary Jamsheed Marker' in the obituaries section, which Mr Mehera had simply forwarded to this office. Mr Mehera wrote

to me promptly to say "he had absolutely nothing to do with the piece" and that we should "print his refutation" forthwith. So there it is. The article originally appeared in the Pakistan Observer by no distinguishable author. The error is regretted.

OLD BOYS' NEWS



Aamir Ali (214 K, 1939) has published a biography at the age of 92 entitled *There Comes a Time* (Natraj Press). The Old Boy was paid a visit by Dilsher Virk (140K, 1959) who says of Aamir, "Aamir Ali came to the Doon school at the age of 14 in 1938. He later

was engaged as a master by AE Foot. When we arrived at a nursing home in Geneva, we found him in his wheelchair and somewhat subdued. However he soon perked up (he is now 92 years old) and invited us to a drink in the courtyard. I wheeled him out, and there we had a very pleasant chat about old times. He was very insistent that I send him a review of the book, and this I gladly did. He displayed excellent humour and was most entertaining with his stories of old times. He was much like his old friend and colleague Gurdial Singh who is also a mountaineering friend and



Aamir Ali with Dilsher Singh Virk in Geneva

very close contemporary." Should Descos wish to stop by and visit with Mr Ali, his address is Apartment E2-27, La Gracieuse, 14 ch. Des Vignes, 1207 Lonay, Switzerland. Aamir's book was also given a launch at a Dehradun get-together of Old Boys in August. Congrats Aamirji.

Vinit Haksar (309 J, 1952) has authored a book entitled *Gandhi and Liberalism: Satyagraha and the Conquest of Violence* that has been published by Routledge New York and London. Vinit does research in social and political philosophy, legal philosophy, applied philosophy and ethics at Edinburgh University. Congrats on the release Vinit!



Vinit Haksar with his wife

Gautam Vohra (154 H, 1963) has authored a new book entitled *Among the Adivasis - DRAG's Intervention* published by Har-Anand Publications. The book was launched at the India International Centre on 13th October to mark the 30th anniversary of DRAG. Congratulations Gautam!

Ramachandra Guha (7 H, 1973) recently launched his latest work entitled *Gandhi - The Years that Changed the World* published by Penguin Books.

The book is a rich account of the life and work of Gandhi during a critical period of Indian history. It is a must read for scholars, students and book lovers alike! Congratulations Ramachandra!



Pratham Mittal (211 O, 2009) has been in the news of late for his Neta app which allows voters to rate their elected representatives at the state and central level much the same way goods

and services are rated on social media daily, in a bid to keep India's politicians on their toes. The app runs in tandem with Mittal's company, Outgrow which claims to be the world's largest polling site. Congratulations Pratham!

Jatin Dev Bobb (411 T, 1993) has launched a nifty new craft beer brand in India as co-founder of Aegir Brewers & Distillers. Mad King beers are Belgian style brews that are available in whit and lager variants, retailing widely in New Delhi. For distribution in other cities or corporate and club tie-ins, please contact Jatin at jatin@aegirbrewers.com. Chin chin Jatin!



Arjun 'Tyson' Chopra (552 O, 1994) has joined Procam International as Deputy Head of Operations. Procam are the promoters of two gold label marathons on the global running calendar which are the Tata Mumbai Marathon and the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon. Procam also organizes the Tata Steel 25K and the TCS 10K runs in Bangalore. Congrats Tyson.

Govind Dhar (192 T, 1997) conceptualised and edited a brand new arts, culture and archive publication in Sri Lanka entitled *The Ceylon Chronicle* in July. Govind continues to work as an



editorial consultant and editor-in-chief at Doon Investments in Colombo. The coffee table journal features award-winning writers, journalists, illustrators and photographers from around the world including Old Boys Umed

Singh Gill (111 T, 1997) and Devesh Sahai (51 T, 2002). Contact him at govinddhar@gmail.com.

Amrish Kumar (647 O, 1995) and **Vivek Vikram Singh (166 O, 1997)** were recognised by the *Economic Times* newspaper in the fifth edition of their '40 under Forty' which they define as the definitive listing of India Inc.'s top business leaders stating that the list honours only the brightest corporate leaders, entrepreneurs and owner-professionals of the country. Congratulations gents. Phantom candy cigarettes for all!

Dhruv Dhawan (95 K, 2002) recently had reason to celebrate a silver medal from the Asian Games, with his student, Tanvi Khanna, daughter of Arjun Khanna (874 T, 1982) taking home the accolade in squash! Congrats to Dhruv and proud dad Ranji Dhawan (95 K, 1969). We look forward to many more champions from Dhruv's squash academy - Squash Xtreme in New Delhi.



Dhruv with his protegee' - Asian Games medalist Tanvi Khanna

Saarthak Gupta (228 KA, 2003) and **Praman Narain (141 T, 2009)** have started a short-term rental management business for holiday homes in Goa. They welcome any Dosco real estate owners in the coastal city to get in touch. Check out their website at keyholders.in.

Udayan Singh, (283 H, 2004) won the 41st UP State Skeet Shooting Championship with a score of 45 out of 50. The competition was held in Aligarh from 12-17 September. There were 35 participants in total out of which 3 were international shooters and 18 were national shooters. Congratulations Udayan. Bulls eye!

The DOSCO Record 1936-2021 Released



The DOSCO Record 1936-2021 was released by the President Jaswinder Singh Bull and the Incoming President Rahul Kohli at the 2018 IPSS - AGM. Hopefully, Doscos will receive their copies by November end.

BIRTHS

Varun Gupta (123 H, 2002) and wife, Tanvi, were blessed with a baby boy, Reyan on 1st September. A hearty congratulations to them both!

OBITUARIES

Sheilah Philip, wife of Rana Modayil Philip (291 J, 1953) and sister-in-law of Late Dr George Modayil (291 J, 1948) and Late Mani Modayil (199 J, 1939), passed away on 29th August in Bangalore. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families.

Grab your Trees of Chandbagh Calendar today!

The School prints desktop calendars every year and for 2018-19, the theme is 'Trees of Chandbagh'. Doscos can procure these calendars from School. They're running out fast so please place your orders quickly.

As you sign up for the calendar you will come across a few questions about the Chhota Hazri fund, internships and mentoring young Doscos programme. You may also claim your "@doonschool.net" email address at the same time.

To sign up for your calendar, please fill this simple form.

<https://goo.gl/forms/mxS1pou7eKPd2Spz1>

OBITUARY

Dev Priya Lahiri

A Life Well Lived

Karim Ahmad

14 H, 1989

As adults, we sometimes have reason to explain ourselves to our wives, children and friends. How did you become the person you are (for better or worse)? Many of my explanations find their way back to one extraordinary human being – Dev Priya Lahiri (aka DPL, aka the Bong, aka “where’s my drink yaar?”). Many will no doubt write about his formidable achievements as an educator and a leader of some of the most celebrated institutions in India. He was all that and more to me.

Most of my impressions of him have little to do with the classroom or his teaching prowess. Who are we fooling? Mrs Lahiri was the source of all his notes and classroom plans anyway! What stuck with me were images of him doing laps of the main field in training for an Agra-Delhi run, training Bagheera, his dog, not to use the long jump pit as his personal toilet, expressing his “amazement” at the raucous singing from the H-house showers. The man taught through who he was, how he conducted himself and in so doing, set a high bar for us. Mr Lahiri’s insistence on living a meaningful life, the ethic and aesthetic of a long-distance runner, the complete abhorrence of fakery, were lessons that worked their way into the makeup of my expectations of life, laying down the bedrock on which I built my adult identity.

It is my privilege to have been on part of this journey with Mr Lahiri – from teacher to housemaster to friend and mentor. I will miss him deeply as I am sure many will. I will miss the phone calls with equests for imported dog-training gadgets, the



Words of wisdom - boys take down important notes

evenings over Scotch and “mind boggling” stories, the flying visits en-route to yet another gathering of students. But I refuse to mourn him. I prefer to celebrate him for the crazy, irrepressible, soulful person he was and for what he left behind. So, this evening, I shall raise a glass of Scotland’s finest to the man who taught me what it means to be a man. Be well sir and give them hell wherever you are!

A Cup of Tea

Amin Ahmad

303 H, 1985

The early 1980s. Daydreaming as usual in class, high up in the Main Building, I look out and see a young couple. I have not seen them before. They walk tentatively, gazing at the palm trees, the red-brick buildings, as though attempting to make a decision. The man has a runner’s build and wears

a turtleneck under his tweed jacket. The woman is fresh-faced and pretty in a sari. Are they parents? They seem too young. They walk on and disappear.

That memory stays with me. I'm not sure why. The freshness of the morning, the implicit communication between man and woman. Now that I'm so much older, I understand the body language. They were asking each other: Will this work for us? As a young couple, they were trying to imagine themselves in a new life.

The news spreads around School. The man is Dev Lahiri, a Rhodes Scholar, recently returned from the UK with his young wife. He will be teaching English. I am drawn to him, as I am drawn to all the oddballs who drift through School, teaching for a year, then vanishing back into reality. Doon School in the early 80s is not reality: it is a small, shabby backwater, caught in an ethos formulated at Independence; some of our teachers still have mutton-chop sideburns and Oxbridge accents.

Mr Lahiri is not from this stuffy old world, but from the outside, the world of literature, ambition, he has seen things and experienced things, he is full of stories. For the first time, he teaches 'Elective English' for ISC, and three fools opt for it: Robin Roy, Manish Mehera and I. We are dreamers, non-conformists. These are tough times: admission to St Stephens is no longer automatic for DoscOs. We have to get the marks now, so what use is English?

Who wants to read Steinbeck and Kipling?

We do. The highlight of my week is Mr Lahiri's class. Well, not a class, exactly: a roving session: sometimes on a bench by the tennis court, in morning sunlight; sometimes on the steps of the Rose Bowl. We meet on the veranda of Mr Lahiri's small bungalow, and Mrs Lahiri makes us eggs.

We are not just students in a class, we are being infected with a disease: a passion for literature,

yes, but also a sense that there is a big, exciting world out there, and that there is another way to live within it. You don't have to sell your soul to a big company, he seems to say. You don't have to quash your dreams of writing and reading. He teaches us about the creative world. He says, "This looks like a book, right, but it's not a book. It's soap. It's a product. Come on guys, you have to be able to tell the difference."

Mr Lahiri tells us stories about Oxford, about working as a game warden in Scotland. He shows us his tweed jacket, tells us, "Look at this, it's so well made, you can run a knife blade through the weave, and it won't tear." When one of us pulls out a Swiss Army knife and offers to poke it through the fabric, Mr Lahiri declines the test. He says, "You guys are crazy." He laughs his huge laugh.



Meeting the PM Rajiv Gandhi at the Golden Jubilee (1985)

His class keeps me going. He inspires me to apply to a college in America. He tells me, "You're a good writer, don't waste it." He is the first adult to see me clearly, to fill me with confidence. I go to America, but I don't have the courage to follow Mr Lahiri's advice, to be a writer. Finally, in my late 30s, I gather up my courage and write a couple of novels.

By then, Mr Lahiri is in the USA, teaching in Utah. He is not a young unknown anymore, but an esteemed

educator and a beloved headmaster. I talk to him on the phone, and it is as though decades have fallen away. "Damn good, yaar," he says to me, "Finally, Amin, you're writing." There is so much pleasure in his voice that I feel my chest swell, the way it would when I was a teenager, and he'd give me back an essay with the good sentences circled.

I am writing these sentences with tears in my eyes, because Mr Lahiri is gone.

His heart, which was always troubled, even though he was a runner, had quit on him. My first impulse was of an incredible loss. Then the writer in me stepped in. Why, damn it, why was I so upset that this man was gone, when I had talked to him just once in the last three decades?

But his voice had never really deserted me. I had internalized those sunny mornings in the cold, crisp air of Dehradun. I had carried with me the belief that one could lead an authentic life. I carried with me the image of a young man and his wife about to embark on a journey of their life, lived fully and without compromise. Mr Lahiri had shaped my own life as a writer and a teacher, even my choice of whom to marry: for Mr and Mrs Lahiri were very much in love, very much a team.

The Buddhists say that after death we live on: in the consequences of our earthly actions, trails of cause and effect that start with a gesture, a word. And so I take comfort that Mr Lahiri's karma is still unfurling out in the world, still active, passed on unknowingly from those who cherished him to those who never met him.

At the end of my time with Mr Lahiri, we went to the auditorium to take our final Elective English exams. There were just three of us, seated apart in a sea of empty desks. I was feeling particularly rebellious, so I wore the crushed kurta-pyjamas that I had slept in. Mr Lahiri was up on the stage, as invigilator. He saw my outfit, but made no comment, just raised

an amused eyebrow. We started the exam, and, as was the custom, the school bearer served Mr Lahiri a cup of tea. He whispered to the bearer, and then, lo and behold, we three students were all served cups of tea. I sipped hot tea as I wrote my exam, but I never thanked Mr Lahiri: he sat, bored and benevolent, up on the stage, his feet up on the desk, reading a novel.

I raise my cup of tea to him now, after 33 years. Thank you, sir, for more than you can imagine.

OBITUARY

Mother to Many

Mary Talukdar

School Nurse (1964-71)

Anil Talukdar
384 K, 1970



Mrs Mary Talukdar
(1924-2018)

Most Doscos remember their mothers when they join School. A hospital is generally not a place where anyone has happy memories, and the sooner one gets discharged, the better it is thought to be. On the demise of Mary Talukdar, nurse at the Doon School infirmary, I

would like to write a bit about her story, thus paying a small tribute to her memory.

Born in 1924, Mary Pinto's first few years were spent in grief. Her mother, Julianna Pinto passed away when she was just five; her father, a land-surveyor in Madras married again, to a lady by the name of Bridgette. As step-mothers go in

mistreating their step-children, Bridgette was no exception. As soon as she could, Mary did her nurse's training and joined the Military Nursing Service (MNS). She was commissioned as a second lieutenant and was posted to the Military Hospital, Lucknow. During the Second World War, in 1945, Mary was deputed to take care of the wounded in the surgical ward at Dehradun's military hospital where she spent a short time. From Lucknow, Mary was promoted to lieutenant and sent to the military hospital in Meerut. During the time she spent at Meerut, she met 2nd lieutenant Bhagya Kanta Talukdar, who was admitted in the officer's ward due to a brief illness. It wasn't long before they were married and the rest as they say is history. In 1963, Mary was invited to join the Doon School by none other than headmaster JAK Martyn, who wrote her a letter to that effect. Since I was in boarding school at St George's College, Mussoorie, and my father was posted on an Indian border, Mary decided to join School so in 1964, she did. She worked at Doon till 1971. After she passed away on 10th July in Dehradun, some of my batchmates from the class of 1970 sent in messages of remembrance which I quote below.

Ashish Chandola

344 H, 1970

I remember Sister Talukdar so well and am saddened to hear of her passing. She was a very fine person. I was marched off to the hospital once for a dose of castor oil and created enough fuss to be allowed to stand right by the sink to rinse my mouth immediately after. Needless to say this was a ploy to spit out the horrible liquid in a few deft moves involving much moving around, quick action and water. I managed to achieve what I had set out to do and kept away from raiding guava trees just in case I was marched off again to see Sister Talukdar who would surely have caught me if I had tried to fool her a second time!

Muthukumar Sunderam

40 K, 1970

The whole class must have been looked after by Sister Talukdar at some time. I do remember being in hospi a number of times including with chicken pox.

Ajay Pasricha

245 J, 1970

None of us could ever forget the love and care with which the good Sister Talukdar looked after us whenever any of us landed up in the hospital. She did have a wonderful innings of 93 and I'd imagine credit should go to you for having so lovingly looked after her. May her noble soul rest in eternal peace.

Rajan Lai

228 H, 1970

Sister Talukdar was a beautiful human being and I have vivid memories of the love and care that she showered on us when we checked into the infirmary whenever we were sick. I also have warm memories of your dad, as we both shared a room at the army hospital in Dehradun which happened to be during the second Indo-Pak conflict.

Gopal Raj Kapoor

102 J, 1970

Sad to hear about your mother, but at 93 I'm sure she had a long and happy life. Staying at the hospital was always a low point of one's School life - a time when one misses one's own mother. Sister Talukdar was always there for us - kind and caring. To my mind she was the best thing that happened to the hospital. I'm sure we will all remember her, now with a tinge of sadness.

OBITUARY

Remembering Sugato Chaudhuri

This Was a Man

Arijit Banerji

196 K, 1952



Sugato Chaudhuri
(107 J, 1947)

Sugato, who passed away recently in Kolkata, was an institution and it was my good fortune to have known him. His younger brother Arijit (206 J, 1954) was junior to me in school and our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Navnita, his children and the family. Sugato was

a personality you could never forget. Born in Kolkata into a family of wealth, power, and privilege, he was the first example I knew of a Dosco who lived up to Arthur Foot's ambition of raising Doscos who would later become part of an aristocracy of service.

I was fortunate to have known him from his childhood – he was in School with my elder brother Ranjit Banerji (188 K, 1947). Thereafter, we worked in the same company Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), and lived our retired lives together in Dehradun. He was compassionate, generous, erudite, helpful, and there are so many more adjectives that come to mind as I think of him. Adventure was an integral part of his lifestyle, and those who have old copies of Chand Bagh would be delighted to read the accounts of his journey across America, when he and his old friend, Minoo Marker (135 J, 1948) – a scion of the Marker Cup family, now living in Pakistan – went bumming around America after finishing their studies at Cambridge. His writing style was unbeatable.

At ICI, he was very well-loved and respected. Much before CSR became an integral part of corporate life, he pushed ICI, which was always socially active, to institutionalise social service. He was always in the forefront of this effort, pioneering many schemes for numerous needy villages near ICI offices and factories.

He retired to live in a remote area on the periphery of the Rajaji Tiger Reserve near Haridwar. He started a farm, and as was his wont, he became deeply involved in helping the villagers and looking after wildlife in nearby areas. Birds, leopards, elephants, deer and snakes, were his world and he worked closely with the forest department to ensure that man-animal conflict was contained. We worked closely for the Friends of the Doon Society on Gujjar rehabilitation and in the upliftment of needy villagers on the boundary of the Rajaji Tiger Reserve.

He was always ready to help, and despite having a broken leg from a riding accident in his youth, he would cycle 20 kms into these villages regularly.

He was generous to a fault and would help needy villagers on many occasions. His only condition was that his name should never be mentioned, so he was known as our anonymous donor. He told me he would break my legs if his name was ever mentioned!

Farewell Sugato. It was our privilege to have known you. As a poet said, "This was a man."

An Evening To Remember

Surinder Singh (215 T, 1964)

The beginning of August can be very warm in Delhi, coupled with indifferent temperatures. This evening is sultry and the date is Saturday, 4th August. We are to descend on the home of Arjun and Kiran for the 1964 Batch dinner.

Living practically around the corner, Deepa and I are at our destination in no time. We are hit by a gust of sudden cold breeze; the air conditioners are on overdrive. A very warm, welcoming Kiran beckons us with a broad smile. "Get your photo taken," says Kiran pointing to Arjun's study which has been transformed into a studio. I take a quick peep and see that there are others in queue. "Later," I say to myself.

Guys from our batch are bursting in attendance along with their better halves, more like companions now. After all, we are in and around our 70s! To complete our hellos and 'Hi yaars' will take the entire evening. Arjun has taken a lot of time off to collect us from all over.

Kapilesh, with a beaming Sudha, is here along with Dr Subhash Garg who has come especially for the dinner. The good doc is a big shot in the medical arena in Kanpur. Joyshil, after a prolonged innings as Head of Finance with Emirates Bank Dubai has come with his wife Bindu from Bangalore. Seeing Joyshil after 50 years, there appears not much



Sitting: Subhash Garg, Anil Bajaj, Amrendra Nath Singh, Manjit Singh, Sunil Sahni, Vinoo Hoon (standing next to them
Standing middle row: Surinder Singh, Madhukar Bajaj, Deepak Summanwar, Tunu Manjit Singh (leaning forward), Vijay Thairani,
Sarabjit Singh (behind Tunu), Raman Mehta (glass in hand), Pravin Agarwal, Suman Bery (leaning forward), Yogi Aggarwal (with
white goatee), Vinoo Mathur, Kapilesh Manglik (with Dosco T-shirt). Standing last row: Joyshil Mitter, Mukul Sanwal, Yashdev Inder
Singh (Woody), Anil Agarwal (Chintu), Rommel Varma/Adarsh Puri (without turban), Rati Puri, Arjun Malhotra, R N Khanna



Just like old times!

change in him, and I am comforted with him telling me that some property has come their way and they will soon be shifting to Delhi.

As I go outside, I cannot help but notice the spread of cheese from the US. Fresh Burrata is placed with slightly caramelised balsamic. There are inviting monogrammed cupcakes with individual school, batch logos and not to be missed '70s', a gentle reminder to behave our age. Kiran has taken great pains. There are balloons in the perfect school blue, discreetly placed, saying 'Class of '64'. Wow. And I haven't even reached the bar yet.

As Batch Rep I am privy to the list of attendees. I check mentally if all committed are indeed assembled. We greet Adarsh Puri and his smiling Anita. Wonderful to see Adarsh nourishing his whisky, on the mend after a long health issue. As I go out to the special seating area in white to get Deepa a glass of wine I am met by a gusto of mates. Arjun has invited some seniors, as well as juniors.

One cannot help but notice the graceful presence of Nandi Khanna, batch of 1942 and Inter 1944, with Meena, as our guests of honour. Their elder son Arun with wife Suman is directing staff to pass the snacks. Nandi is an encyclopaedia, and Arun should find the time to help pen Nandi's memories in the hope of capturing his escapades in his formative years.

The elders from the 1962 Batch, en route to the bar, includes Nirmal Gaur with his Bharti. Johnny Lal is with Rashmi. The 1963 Batch is represented by Gobi Chopra and his lovely Tara, supporting a leg cast acquired recently on account of overstepping in London. The glass of wine done for Deepa, she is now safely in the company of her 'spice' pals, and I am free to do my 'Hi yaar, long time no see yaar's.

Our Batch is well represented. Anil and Meera Bajaj as colony neighbours walked across as did Madhukar and Anjali. General Summanwar came in from Pune, Kitu Khanna from Jalandhar. Sarabjit and his delightful Gunita arrived from Chandigarh. Thud showed up from the US via Calcutta. Vinoo Hoon came with his daughter from Madras. Rommel Verma had come in alone to be joined later by his Sadhna who in striking red had arrived straight from the airport, consoling herself that our batch get togethers are fun enough not to be missed. The only other one Sadhna attended was in our home, some six weeks back.

The lone rangers included Sunil Sahni, Manjit Singh (Golf), Bhai Tunu Manjit minus a jet setting Mahip. Chunti too had come from Dehradun sans Indu. Yogi Aggarwal came from Bombay having just published a book, Plunder of the Commons. He was later seen handing out signed copies of his book. Oh... what fun! Woody had left Poonam behind in Gurgaon to pray for him. Poonam has, it seems, gone into a



Five wise men

deep understanding of meditation and spiritualism whereas here is Woody by a well stocked bar looking to get his Scotch 'n soda. A definite case of separate definitions to 'spiritual upliftment'.



One for posterity - with Col AK 'Nandi' Khanna & wife Meena

I asked Vinoo Mathur, erstwhile Member of the Railway Board, if he will work on the toy train trip from Kalka to Simla. I am encouraged that this may be doable. We will invite two batches up and two down meaning 1962 to 1966 to examine feasibility with the respective batch representatives for a journey around the latter part of 2019.

I meet Mukul Sanwal who is with his Poonam and am really happy to see them. Now here is a lucky Mukul who travels to give lectures in China whilst most of us are getting lectures from our wives.

Rati Puri has come with Preeti and for a change we see Raman Mehta not globetrotting selling his herbal medicines and he tells me Alchem is the largest producer in the world. His mentor-wife Nidhi develops some of the plants and has just got in from their Kullu Estate. Nidhi it seems has green fingers, she also grows flowers which end up being exported. Kiran is delighted to get a huge bunch of white lilies. Later of course Raman would set up shop to diagnose ailments and write out prescriptions...not sparing his mates from health advice. Alas, Pravin

and Leena make a late entry but at least they are here. More often than not Pravin is tied up in the Australian masters.

Amrendra & Nalini are present with the young 'Twinny' still reminiscing on his 70th bash. Suman & Maitreyi Berry are here and Suman and I talk about the merits of Fever Tree tonic in Gin. We also discuss Portugal for our Batch travels in March 2019. I was given a 'Guru' dosage in Geography on the weather conditions during March. Nevertheless as of now we are 26 adventuring to Lisbon and Porto from 22-31 March with some eight of us still sitting on the fence.



Yogi Aggarwal signs a copy of his book

Let me say a few words about our hosts. Kiran and Arjun have raised the benchmark in hospitality to a new level, which most of us can only aspire to. They are blessed and are assisted by their charming daughter Poorva. Shivin and his Signora Elle looked after us caringly. The food, a gastronomic feast, was a delight. Mostly, eyes are bigger than bellies and here, it was more than evident. Let the photos speak. In etiquette, the hosts are flawless. They wait till the last couple finish their meals before the host and family partake in the inviting spread.

What a night! Thank you from the batch Kiran and Arjun for such a memorable evening, to be cherished forever.

SL Sharma Cup at Dehradun Gathering

Sameer Dhingra
(452 T, 1987)

The annual soccer match between the Old Boys team and the School XI for the SL Sharma Memorial Trophy was held at School. The Old Boys team comprised many young DoscOs and they convincingly beat the school team 4-1 to lift the trophy.

This match was significant as it was the 100th birth anniversary of Mr SL Sharma. All three of his sons, Kailash Pati (273 K, 1958), Suresh (245 K, 1963) and Sushil (345 K, 1964) were present.

The captain of the Old Boys team, Karam Rai Mehra, had collected a young formidable group of Old Boys to ensure that in this historic year the Old Boys won the match and the trophy. The weather Gods were kind enough to keep the rain away and allow an exciting game of Football to proceed.



The School football team digs into the snacks

The game was played with a lot of gusto and some of the moves made by the old boys drew a lot of appreciation from the appreciative spectators. Aditya Vir Roy with his skill and speed won the hearts of everyone. Vahin Khosla with his deft footwork dazzled the school boys. The boys were



Enjoying the great weather outside the venue and catching up on some needed "AIR"



Book launch: VP, President, HM and Ashish Chandola

not far behind and displayed a very courageous fight back. In the end the Old Boys prevailed over the school team and won. The score line of 4 – 2 shows that the Old Boys won but does not convey the spirited response by the school boys, particularly the goalkeeper.

It was good to note that on this historic football match, Rahul Sharma (14 K, 1996) the grandson of Late SL Sharma was playing for the victorious team. Before the trophy was presented to the Old Boys, mementos, in memory of Late SL Sharma, courtesy his three sons, were presented to both teams, and also to some of the distinguished spectators, who had taken time off to come and witness the match. The trophy was handed over to the winning team by Kailash Pati Sharma, eldest son of Late SL Sharma, Jaswinder Singh Bull, President Old Boys Society and Mr Matthew Raggett, Headmaster.'



Dehra Dun DSOBS Reps Sameer Dhingra and Harish Suri



The 'Old Boys' - Karanjit, Alok Chandola, SS, Ashish Chandola

A well-deserved win needed a well-deserved evening. The DSOBS Dehradun Chapter organised a get-together over dinner at Hotel Madhuban. Close to 140 people attended the event which was organised on just 4 days' notice by DSOBS regional representatives of Dehradun, Harish Suri (348 H, 1973), Manav Kochhar (183 O, 2009) and Sameer Dhingra (452 T, 1987). It was great to see participation from across batches, from the Class of 1951 to the Class of 2018. The school football team was also present along with the headmaster Matthew Raggett and other deans.



The evening in full swing

The Sheel Vohra Memorial DSOBS Inter House Cricket 2018

Donny Singh (878 T, 1982)

The 17th edition of the Inter House Cricket tournament was held in March this year. Arun 'Ghodi' Khanna (90 H, 1973) - School Cricket Captain in his days, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He is still extremely fit and competitive, and played for H House as well.



Passang a of play

Semi Final 1: Jaipur vs Hyderabad

The defending champions Jaipur took on a spirited Hyderabad side in the first semi-final. Put in to bat first, Jaipur could only put up a par score of 147 for 6 in their allotted 20 overs. Good knocks by Waseefullah Sherwani (84 J, 2014) and Shivtanj Singh (457 J, 2006) helped them reach the total. Eeshat Tiwari (545 H, 2013) and Uddhav Prasad (344 H, 2011) were the star bowlers.

Hyderabad chased the score down with ease, winning by 3 wickets. Amitoj 'Johnny' Singh (285 H, 2004) scored an unbeaten 50 and was ably supported by Arun Khanna, Pranav Sahai (239 H, 1998) and Uddhav. Sam Agarwal and Dhruv Agarwal (596 J, 2013) were the pick of the bowlers for Jaipur.

Jaipur: 147 for 6 (Waseef 48, Shivtanj 31, Abhimanyu 18, Abhishek Misra 13 Eeshat 2/25, Uddhav 2/26, Amitoj 1/26 and Vivan Rai 1/29)

Hyderabad: 150 for 7 in 18.3 overs (Amitoj 50*, Arun 20*, Pranav 19, Uddhav 15 - Sam 2/16, Dhruv 2/23, Shrivats 1/23 & Abhimanyu 1/30)

Hyderabad won by 4 wickets
Man of the Match - Eeshat Tiwari



The respective captains with Pepe & President Bull

Semi Final 2: Tata vs Oberoi

Last year's runners up Tata took on Oberoi in the second semi final. Opting to bat first, Tata rattled up a massive 195 for 6 in their 20 overs. Some excellent batting by Hemant Bishnoi (479 T, 2006) 50 not out, Rajdeep Deo Bhanj (355 T, 2011), Aryaman Sengar (14 T, 2008) and Rohan Gupta (527 T, 2013) helped them reach that total. Yuv Khosla (578 O, 2013) and Franko starred with the ball for Oberoi. Oberoi had a difficult task in trying to chase down the mammoth target. Hard as they tried, they were unable to do so and fell short by 27 runs. An



Champions Tata House

aggressive knock by Vahin Khosla (360 O, 2011) 59 not out won him the Man of the Match award.

A special mention must be made of Asheet Lamba (528 T, 1987), who claimed his second five-wicket haul, which included a hat trick for the second straight year. He obviously is maturing like a fine 30-year old malt whisky.

Tata: 195 for 6

(Hemant 50*, Rajdeep 36, Aryaman 32, Rohan 28 - Yuv 2/26, Ravi Shankar Singh 1/6, Dhruv Mahajan 1/26 & Dharendra Singh 1/32)

Oberoi: 168 for 9

(Vahin 59*, Bodhijit Ray 25, Yash Johri 21 - Asheet 5/29, Rohan 2/25 & Gautam Agarwal 1/33)

Tata won by 27 runs

Man of the Match - Vahin Khosla

FINAL: Tata vs Hyderabad

The final pitted the 'old' rivals Tata and Hyderabad against each other. Opting to bat first, Tata were in deep trouble at 73 for 5 after 10 overs. A game-changing partnership between captain Sandeep Arora (21 T, 1991) and the Man of the Match Tanveer Singh (55 T, 2008) who scored 40 in 21 balls retrieved the situation and enabled them to reach 152 for 9. Hemant Bishnoi played a good knock as well. The wickets were shared by Vivan Rai, Ankur Joshi (281 H, 2004), Johnny and Uddhav.

Hyderabad were in with a great chance to claim the trophy after a long gap of 10 years. Once again Asheet Lamba's brilliant spell of fast bowling broke the back of the Hyderabad batting. Johnny's wicket in the first over was just too much to handle for the rest of the team. In spite of a good knock by Uddhav, the Tata House bowlers kept chipping away at the wickets at regular intervals.

In the end Tata won the match comfortably by 27 runs making them the champions for a record eighth time. Tanveer Singh was awarded the Man of the Final and Asheet Lamba was declared the Man of the Tournament for his 8 wickets. A special word of appreciation for Syed Junaid Altaf (209 O, 2003) for sponsoring all the awards.

TATA: 152 all out (Tanveer 40, Sandeep 35, Hemant 31 - Vivan 2/23, Ankur 2/38, Amitoj Singh, Uddhav 1/27)

HYDERABAD: 125 all out (Uddhav 30 - Asheet 3/22, Gautam 3/23, Raghav Nayar (443 T, 1993) 2/2 & Dilsher Khanna (110 T, 2008) 2/23)

Tata won by 27 runs

Man of the Final - Tanveer Singh

Man of the Tournament - Asheet Lamba



At the prize giving ceremony: Ghori, Bull, Rahul & Donny

Sheel Vohra Memorial Cricket **DSOBS v Doon School**

Donny Singh
(878 T, 1982)

The much awaited 4th edition of the Sheel Vohra Memorial Cricket match was played vs the Doon School XI at the picturesque ACA ground in Dehradun on 21st April.

The DSOBS fielded a reasonably strong team with a good mix of youth and experience. The Old Boys were put in to bat and the School team bowling was difficult to put away in the power play overs. The ploy of bowling pace from one end and spin from the other worked well in restricting the score rate and the Old Boys could only muster 49 for 4 by the 10th over. A spirited partnership of 95 runs in 79 balls between Rajdeep Deo Bhanj (355 T, 2011)



Rajdeep Deo Bhanj receives his MOM prize and certificate



The winning Dosco team that retained the trophy



The School team in red shirts & the Doscos in black shirts at the Abhimanyu Cricket Academy, Dehra Dun

and Rohan Gupta (527 T, 2013) gave our total some respectability as they finished with 158 for 6 in their allotted 25 overs. There were useful knocks from Hemant Bishnoi (479 T, 2006) and Sikandar Suri (288 O, 2017) as well. Viksit Verma, the School team captain, was the star with ball with excellent figures of 4 for 17.

The Old Boys had to be on top of their game to defend their total. The opening batsmen Shaurya and Arnav, started well, putting on 35 runs in the first 5 overs. Viksit at number three was the mainstay of the School team batting. Unfortunately, he lacked support at the other end. The Old Boy spinners Pratyush Vaishnava (422 K, 2000), Raghav Mallik and Vivan Rai (61 H, 2008) kept a tight leash on the scoring rate and kept chipping away at the wickets. The highlight of the innings was the brilliant run out of Viksit by the senior Raghav Mallik, with a brilliant pick up and direct hit throw from backward point. The wickets were shared by all the Old Boys bowlers. In the end the Old Boys team won by 15 runs.

It was a good-spirited and well contested game, in which the score card doesn't do justice to its competitiveness.

S C O R E C A R D

Old Boys: 158 for 6 wkts in 25 overs (Rajdeep Deo Bhanj 67, Rohan Gupta 34, Hemant Bishnoi 23, Sikandar Suri 21 - Viksit Verma 4/17)

The Doon School: 133 all out in 23.4 overs (Viksit Verma 28, Shaurya 20, Manan 20, Kabir Kochar 20 - Raghav Mallik 3/23, Pratyush Vaishnava 2/13, Vivan Rai 1/14, Asheet Lanba 1/28 & Rohan Gupta 1/39)

Old Boys won by 25 Runs



Mr Vohra's sister and brother present winning DSOBS captain Donny Singh with the trophy

The Quest for my Good School

Sandeep Dutt
(627 K, 1979)

In 1979, when I took the first ever flight of my life to attend the International Gold Award Holder's Summit, from New Delhi to Darwin in Australia, little did I realise that after four decades the editor of the Rose Bowl would call me and find my story good to share!

We all remember the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, now called the International Award for Young People (IAYP) from our school days. It has been quite a journey for me from my time at school where the Gold Award of the Program really made me find myself, to three decades of volunteering, and finally to becoming the first Dosco to become the National Director of the award. Many may not know, that the Award was introduced at school in the 1960s when Mr Gurdial Singh and Mr Hari Dang were busy with For Hills To Climb (2001). It took nearly 50 years of existence to have a Dosco head the Award, setup the India office and give IAYP the shape and colour we see today.

The Award Philosophy has played a great role in my life, and thus the idea of taking the same to rural and faraway schools. How do the 4S's - Service, Skill, Sport and Study - shape our lives? What is the influence of The Doon School in our lives? Take a closer look at your school years and see how from service we evolve to skill.. If you delve even further, you will find that the 4S's are placed in the dictionary in the very same order. Moving from your small family space on to school,

it all starts with learning to give and share, your space, your food, your things - and this really is the first form of service. Yes, you acquire skills, play sport for good health and get the full experience at school, to achieve what we call the goal of 'study'. After three decades of volunteering with schools, the search for My Good School, took me to the Bali village of Rajasthan in 2012 and this is where we have worked ever since. The Fabindia School is indeed a shining example of aristocracy of service. This school's mission is to provide access to high quality education for boys and girls at the rural level using English as the medium of instruction. The school views primary education as a major stepping stone towards social mobility, equality and employment opportunities. Since its inception, the school has been committed to encouraging education for girls. From being the first English medium school to admitting girls to being recognised as one of the five Changemaker Schools in India in 2018 by CSE. The 25 year celebrations of The Fabindia School in 2017 were indeed a celebration of My Good School.

"The boys should leave Doon as members of an aristocracy, but it must be an aristocracy of service inspired by ideas of unselfishness, not one of privilege, wealth or position."

Arthur Foot (1935)



The My Good School designation shows the value a school places on professional learning and student achievement. The school works for the personal and social development of an individual, by subscribing to our philosophy of quality in education, offering an environment where experiential learning is made possible through activities beyond just study. This brings to life learning that would otherwise be theoretical and uncoordinated.

The term education encompasses a whole gamut of experiential learning. To my mind, there are three important functions, among others, of the educational process in the classroom apart from mere learning:

- To develop problem-solving abilities
- To develop creative abilities
- To develop curiosity and an inquisitive spirit

One of the key questions here is what emphasis does a school place on marks versus this sort of tutelage.

Education is Many Splendoured

Often the opportunities for learning outside the classroom are greater, through sports and games and other activities like adventure sports, dramatics and community service. All play an important role in developing character and

citizenship. A good school will provide a balance of opportunities in its curriculum to allow a student to develop his or her special interests and talent.

We espouse values of anti-racism - young people bring the world together and do not like being differentiated by colour, caste or creed. Communities must be built in a holistic setting of sport and intellectual curiosity.

For me in particular, the quest for My Good School continues and the journey so far has brought a great sense of fulfillment. All credit for this must go to Doon and the great masters who have not only reshaped our lives but have even set the benchmark for the quality of education in India. A country is as developed as its Education Sector is. We in India should make 'affordable quality education' our development mantra and this alone will help us develop as a great nation. No matter what path we take on the road to economic development, the speed breaker will always be the quality of education!

From family business to social impact startups and corporate social responsibility (CSR), Sandeep has been passionately working with the youth of India to build great institutions. An entrepreneur, bookseller, author, educator and a mountaineer, Sandeep is also the owner of The English Book Depot which continues to print the Doon School Weekly. He now divides his time between Dehradun and the Bali Village in Rajasthan. Contact him on sd@ebd.in and learn more about My Good School on www.SchoolEducation.com.

The Library at Arthur Foot Academy

In the month of July, the DSOBS supported a bunch of boys from the School in setting up a library at a school for underprivileged children in RK Puram, New Delhi. This was the first project in which The DSOBS worked with boys who are still in School.

The second library project was set up at the Arthur Foot Academy. This is a school, again for underprivileged children, in village Bandarchoor, a little distance away from Dehradun, just beyond the Doon Valley. The Doon School oversees the running of this school with Doscocs directly involved in this as part of their SUPW. That is how the name of this school has come about, Arthur Foot Academy, in memory of our first headmaster.

The School helped build an airy room with lots of natural light. The interiors have been done up in bright blue and yellow colours to attract young children. The idea being to create a happy and cheerful place in which children would want to spend their time. Around 600 books have been provided by The Angelique Foundation, an NGO which is involved in setting up such projects all around the country. The books were selected after an initial survey assessed factors that would be most conducive to learning. This information led to a curated book list based on the skill sets and interest of young children of the village. The books selected for the library comprise recreational and story books. The books have colourful pictures



Young students enjoy the quiet sanctity of the library



The team including current Doscos that completed the project

and the stories wind around social messages, awareness about nature and environment conservation, and general learning.

Six boys from the School worked on this project under the guidance of Mrs Amrit Burrett. Jaiveer Misra (650 J), Yash Dewan (580 J), Rajveer Machre (651 J), Vihaan Gupta (124 J), Paras Agrawal

(164 J) and Aditya Sarraf (635 J). They laid out the book-racks and furniture, put up wall stickers and posters all around to add colour to the room, and also catalogued all the books. They have also conceived a plan to have the children at Arthur Foot Academy create a tree with their hand-prints on one of the walls, to instill a sense of ownership among them. Going forward, these boys shall continue to visit the Academy on a regular basis and monitor the progress of the library. On their part, Angelique Foundation shall review and replenish books in the library every three years.

Since then, we have heard that attendance of children at the school has increased since the library came up. We are told that they attend school regularly and eagerly look forward to library time. The DSOBS has pledged to continue this 'Aristocracy of Service' initiative and take it to more schools across the country.

Get your Doon Email Address

Dear Doscos,

You would be delighted to know that you can claim your Doon School email addresses which we hope will bring the fraternity together and make it much easier to reach out to one other.

To make it easy we would be using the following format <Firstname/Nickname>.<Graduation Year>@doonschool.net.

So I could opt for either of the two email addresses Jaswinder.1986@doonschool.net or Bull.1986@doonschool.net

We are aware that there will be instances of two Doscos with the same first name in a batch - god bless the good old nicknames we had.

To help decide on instances where one happens to have the same name and/or nickname as another Dosco, we are following a first come, first served rule. The alumni relations office will also assist you with the best solution for this.

To claim your email address, please send your requests to Arjun Bartwal, director of alumni relations at dar@doonschool.com. His office will create the email address from School, and send you a temporary password which you can change the first time you login.

Thanks

**Jaswinder Singh Bull
President, DSOBS**



Journey to the Bottom of the World

South Pole Ahoy!

Ankur Bahl
(193 J, 1976)

"The Seven Summits" – began to gain attention as a climbing objective in the late 1980s after the publication of a book by the same name by Dick Bass, Frank Wells and Rick Ridgeway.

A few years into the quest for my self-set challenge of attempting the seven summits, I began thinking about what to do if I were to achieve my goal of reaching the summit of the highest peak of each continent. The explorer's or adventurer's

grand slam is what several climbers had started setting their sights on whilst seeking their annual adrenaline fix. This goal involves cross-country skiing the last degree of latitude leading up to the North and South Poles, in addition to successfully scaling the seven summits. I also decided to pursue this challenge despite not having had any prior experience.

And so, after completing the Bass list of the seven summits, I eventually decided to take a shot at the

south pole in January this year which is usually the warmest month in Antarctica. I had dedicated this expedition to our School and had pledged to raise funds for a bursary for a boy from an armed forces background.

Why the 7 summits?

It's a question I still haven't been able to answer yet. Perhaps it is the prospect of following in the footsteps of our very own Tenzing all the way to the summit of Mt Everest or being able to tread on the icy surface of the Pole where Roald Amundsen planted the Norwegian flag, seeking adventure and feeling the tangible experiences of such hallowed explorers. Perhaps it is what all Doscos yearn for, once they leave the gates of Chandbagh...to find for ourselves where we truly belong.

I signed up with an American firm known to be the best in business of guiding in the polar regions and was pleasantly surprised to find that I had already climbed with two of our team of ten. The first was Jeff with whom I climbed Everest in 2016 and then Maria with whom I had trekked in the Khumbu Valley in 2013. Jeff has the distinction of being the first single amputee from America to summit Everest and a great tent mate in the death zone.

What are the Seven Summits?

Asia: Mount Everest 29,035 ft (8850 m)

South America: Aconcagua 22,829 ft (6962 m)

**North America: Denali AKA Mount McKinley
20,320 ft (6194 m)**

Africa: Kilimanjaro 19,340 ft (5895 m)

Europe: Mount Elbrus 18,510 ft (5642 m)

Antarctica: Mount Vinson 16,067 ft (4897 m)

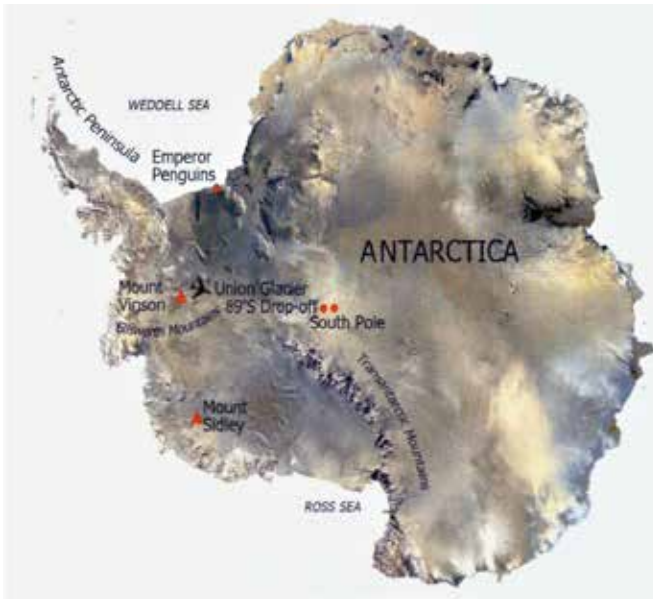
**Australasia/Oceania: Puncak Jaya (Carstensz
Pyramid) 16,023 ft (4884 m)**

Chilly in Chile

We all gathered in Punta Arenas on the 31st of December 17. Punta Arenas is a city near the tip of Chile's southernmost Patagonia region. Located on the Strait of Magellan, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, it's often used as base for excursions to the surrounding wilderness and Antarctica. We saw in the new year on the shores of the Strait of Magellan and flew out to Union Glacier in Antarctica in the early hours of 2nd January. The ever-so-powerful Georgian Ilyushin 76 plane is a treat to fly, with its military interiors resembling a World War II bomber, complete with rivets and stenciled instructions in bad English. The flight attendant is usually a severe KGB agent look-alike straight out of a Cold War movie from the '70s.

Five hours later, as we got off on the natural blue ice runway in Union Glacier located at about 80 degrees S, 82.5 degrees W, the beauty of the vista which unfolded before my eyes left me in awe of the pristine and ethereal surroundings. Located deep in the continent, Union Glacier is completely devoid of any wildlife, the absence of which makes you feel as if you have indeed set foot on another planet. After climbing Vinson in 2013, this was my second trip, no less enchanting and I felt truly blessed. The Heritage range of peaks in the Ellsworth mountains, rise out of an ice-cream looking sea, stretching far into the horizon till the eyes can see no farther. If there is a place worth seeing before being called upstairs, it is Antarctica!

The Union Glacier camp and airport is a bustling hub of activity located several miles away from the main runway. It houses the working staff, pilots, a shorter runway and smaller ski planes serving the interiors, and acts as a nodal point for most of the adventure or research projects each season. Groups climbing Vinson and Sidley, ski expeditions, research scientists on their way to various destinations including the South Pole - all transit through and spend a couple of days acclimatizing



and getting used to the 24hrs sunshine and the "warm" temperatures ranging between minus 10 and minus 20 degrees Celsius here. We spent a day practicing and learning how to move on skis, whilst pulling a sled with our personal gear, group supplies and equipment. To train for this 10-day expedition, along with my usual regimen of cardio and strength exercises, I had worked out on a Nordic ski machine which simulates cross country skiing and develops specific muscle groups which are used for this particular excursion. It paid rich dividends. As always, the guides briefed us on various aspects of the rigours that lay ahead. We made a final gear check and I found much to my chagrin that my working gloves had worn out at the edges and were going to last a day at the most. Visions of impending frostbite set me off looking for an alternative and I was lucky to get a suitable substitute from Fred who had been one of our guides on Everest and was working during the season at the base looking after snowcats and other mechanical equipment. Several climbing guides work on contracts in Antarctica during the winter of the northern hemisphere and with such a small community going on such expeditions, it is not unusual to come across fellow climbers, guides and old friends.

Only 60 miles

On 3rd January we flew south from Union glacier in two teams of six including a guide in each group, on separate 12-seater planes fitted with skis. Five hours and a refuelling stop later, (where we met the Ice Maidens, an all-women British team of 6 army officers who were skiing across the length of Antarctica) we were cast off at 89 degrees south and 36 degrees west. The other team was left several miles west of us. We felt absolutely marooned in a sea of ice as we watched the plane take off into the horizon and disappear towards the safety of Union glacier. But I stopped feeling lonely after a fleeting thought of the despair Scott and his team must have felt, over a century ago on their way back from the south pole, heavily laden with the burden of having lost the race to the south pole to Amundsen and facing imminent death as their supplies and strength got depleted because a planned meeting with dog sleds from their base camp did not take place. They would eventually perish in spite of having reached the South Pole. And we just had to make the 60 nautical mile or 111 km journey to the South pole, with the help of a compass and gps. The task didn't seem so difficult until we actually started the trip.



Disembarking from the Ilyushin at Union Glacier

The first day was a trial run. With the 30 kg sled harnessed to our backs and our colourful parkas, their hoods fitted with coyote fur ruff to minimize the effects of the wind, we set off on our first stint southwards. It was already late in the afternoon and we had planned to ski only a couple of miles that day to test our abilities. The plan was to set up camp early as this was going to be our first trek on the ice. The temperature was already down to minus 20 degrees Celsius and we had to keep moving fast to remain warm. It took a while getting used to the skis and for the better part of a mile, I felt like an ugly duckling, flopping about on the first day of her life. It wasn't long before we got into the rhythm of sliding across the ice sheet interrupted only occasionally by small undulations on the surface that caused us to wobble. We stopped an hour later, having covered about two miles to set up our tents. We and were about to start cooking when Tamas, the Hungarian member of our team announced that according to his gps device we had started at 89.01 degrees south which meant that if we continued to the Pole, our claim of having skied the last degree could be deemed technically incorrect. Tamas was greeted with a muttering of the choicest profanities in several languages including English, Hindi, Portuguese and Mandarin, but I realized that he was not wrong and we all eventually agreed that we had to go back to 89 degrees south and start all over again. So we ended up skiing an extra four nautical miles and clambered into our tent three hours later, cursing the pilot this time for having dropped us off a few metres farther south than he should have.

Icy Perils

I always maintain that one of the toughest parts of high altitude and polar trips is the process of relieving ourselves in the cold. Jeff and I voted to use the vestibule of the tent for this normally arduous task and Mei, the third occupant of our tent had no option but to agree. Privacy in the



Ski practice at Union Glacier

confines of an expedition tent is hard to come by and is overridden by comfort and protection from the cold.

After a warm night in my custom made -50 degrees sleeping bag, we reluctantly got up, cooked a breakfast of oats, dehydrated eggs and bread and melted ice to fill up our water bottles to keep ourselves hydrated for the long day which lay ahead. We then set off for our first real crosscountry foray on ice which meant at least 8-9 hours of nearly non-stop skiing. The thermometer showed -22 degrees that morning. It was already bitter with cold even with just a light breeze, and rolling up our gear, packing our sleds and putting the tent away meant using our 5-fingered working gloves and not our mittens. Even a few seconds of exposure whilst changing from gloves to mittens was sufficient to numb the fingers and warrant worry. It always took a while to get the circulation going once again. Any time spent outside our tent meant we needed to remain covered from head-to-toe and had to have a systematic set of layers which could be removed as the body got warmer whilst skiing or had to be put on whilst taking a break. It was imperative to have our face fully covered due to the extreme cold which meant having a mask on all the time but this also resulted in our goggles getting fogged up and their glasses

then getting frozen up with a thin layer of ice due to the moisture from our breath leaving only a few millimeters of cracks of visibility here and there. I had to cock my head at various angles to maintain a clear line of sight without which it was impossible to maintain a single file as we skied following the person up ahead. I thought that sliding one ski in front of the other with nothing but a frozen landscape around was going to be boring but this was far from the truth. Whilst skiing, there was always something going wrong. Every now and then a boot would slip off the ski, requiring us to step aside and let the others pass by as one was securing the boot back on. Jeff even suffered a few incidents where his prosthetic leg came off in the middle of a ski run! Even a 60-second halt meant the convoy of skiers left one far behind and it required a superhuman effort to catch up. And of course, it was a nightmare for those who had to "go" in the middle of the day because a frozen behind was hardly what you wanted to contend with. Yet again, some muscle or a tendon or a ligament would suddenly cause complaint from the constant, repetitive strain it was being subjected to. An old ankle injury of mine flared up every now and then. Blisters were unavoidable and were another source of constant irritation, and required regular care even on the move.

During the course of the day we halted every 90 minutes for a 10 minute break to hydrate, take a picture or two, fuel up on high-energy bars, chocolates or jerky, adjust our gear, check if everyone was doing fine, and move on. On that second day, the first of several long, physically challenging ones, we cleared 8.5 nautical miles within about 8 hours. That set the tone for the rest of the trip which lay ahead. It was hard physical labour and much more demanding than we expected. We stopped at about 5pm and set up camp in winds of about 15-20 knots and temperatures down to minus 40 degrees Celsius due to the windchill factor. The warm meal we



Relaxing in the tent

had in the comfort of our tents was a welcome treat. A couple of hours of reading, listening to music, friendly banter and an exchange of stories with hot drinks, soon saw us call it a day. The Antarctic summer meant 24 hours of sunshine and sometimes it was difficult to sleep unless you had a set of shades on.

On the third day we recorded nearly minus 30 degrees in the morning and soon after the the first hour my hands started freezing despite the layers of mittens I wore. I was sure that this was the onset of frostbite. I stopped and added another set of chemical hand warmers in between my gloves. But there was no respite from the cold and during the first break when we exchanged notes we found that most us had cold and stiff fingers, probably because of the extreme cold and the wind which was beginning to build up. I put on an extra set of layers and dug out a lifesaving pair of mountain hardware - absolute zero mittens - that I had used on Everest and carried with me as a standby set. Nearly an hour of frantically moving my arms about even as we skied, passed by, before I began to get some feeling back in my digits. I breathed a sigh of relief. Annie the guide, with Tamas and Maria in the other tent, would make her customary daily dispatch to her office via a satellite phone giving a report on our progress. That evening, she radioed in stating "Ankur's hands were cold". This

set off alarm bells back home. My wife and the rest of the family all knew what "cold hands" meant! Meanwhile, Mei had developed frostnip in most of her fingers which was a precursor to frostbite. She would eventually regain sensation in all her fingers albeit several days later!

By the fourth day, I realized that the biggest challenge on this expedition was managing the cold, being able to move efficiently on ice without feeling too hot or too cold and to not succumb to the monotony of placing one step in front of the other for several hours, day after day. As we set off, every day began to feel like the movie Groundhog Day. For the first time in my pursuit of adventure, I felt that I didn't belong on this trip because this was not a climb, and at times felt like a mindless trek across a sea of ice. However I pulled myself together and decided to make an effort to enjoy the pristine beauty of the polar icecap. I thanked my stars for having been given the opportunity to come this far. By the fifth morning we had covered nearly 70 percent of the the distance to the pole and started getting used to the daily schedule. I was the expert at making morning and evening tea and coffee, and melting ice for water. Mei loved her chips and cheese, and Jeff was good at attacking the non-veg stuff so we all found our roles in helping out in the kitchen. The



The Group at the South Pole

landscape was a vast expanse of ice and wavelets of snow known as Sastrugi which made it look just like the open sea in the middle of a vast ocean such as the Pacific. The other team of six had been dropped off at 89 degrees south but a longitude well further west and we couldn't see them but knew they were progressing well.

The Antarctic plateau gets thicker towards the poles due to the ice sheet on top of its land mass that has built up over thousands of years. As the days wore on, we kept gaining altitude gradually and it got progressively colder. The Sastrugi kept getting bigger and it became increasingly difficult to ski and pull our sleds over these undulations. On the eve of arriving at the South Pole we all had a couple of shots of schnapps, exchanging trip notes. Annie delivered a phenomenal presentation on the Heroic age of Antarctic exploration including the voyages made by Ernest Shackleton on the good ships Quest and Endurance.

A few hours into the morning of the eighth day, the 11th January, as we laboured our way across the Ice and Sastrugi we noticed various masts and structures of the American Research Station at the South pole beginning to show up on the horizon. As we inched closer, their heights increased ever so slowly. Later in the afternoon, we noticed a train of skiers a few miles west of us. It was the second team from our group. They'd been dropped off several degrees of longitude away from us at 89 degrees south. No sooner had we sighted each other than was it a race to the pole. They beat us to the bamboo pole with the glass sphere at the ceremonial south pole by a few minutes! I first unfurled our very own tricolour, sang the national anthem and then proudly displayed the Doon School flag at the south pole. It was a moment of joy and immense satisfaction.

Several pictures, hurrahs and selfies later, we visited the American Research Facility - a small city by itself

and a home to scientists and research scholars from across the globe. It was manned throughout the year including during the severe Antarctica winter. It resembled a space station. That night we celebrated long into the night with the other team, in the comfort of the heated mess tent at the temporary station provided by ALE, the logistics provider which has the concession for running the camps at Union glacier and the South Pole.

The next morning we were flown back to the South Pole and made our way back to Punta Arenas on the Ilyushin a couple of days later.

It had been a tough expedition which involved cross-country skiing for 60 nautical miles over an eight-day period. We all lost between 3-5 kilos in a very short span of time. I had never felt so cold for such an extended period of time but I am glad that I took the decision to take a shot at it.

The North pole, with its polar bears, beckons and I can't wait to clip my skis back on before global warming causes the polar ice cap to vanish altogether. Again I contend, if there is a place worth seeing before you pop your clogs, it is Antarctica - just an Ilyushin away!

Greening Gurgaon

Yash Johri
(561 O, 2013)

Tushaar Sharma
(293 J, 2017)

Yash Johri (561 O, 2013) and Tushaar Sharma (293 J, 2017) recently embarked on an afforestation initiative in Gurgaon, bringing together the Doon School Old Boys' Society and *i Am Gurgaon*, an NGO. They raised funds via an online crowdfunding drive and were able to plant 500 trees. The online campaign garnered 58 donations, 381 shares of support on Facebook and 724 shares on Whatsapp, serving the two-fold mission of not only raising funds but also creating awareness amongst members of the community. These saplings were planted on 18th July at the Wazirabad Bundh in Sector 43 Gurgaon as part of the Bundh Rejuvenation Project. The BRP has transformed a 3.5 km stretch of unusable land into a green track with a de-clogged 'nallah' that is a free-flowing water channel running along it now.

An Aristocracy of Service
An initiative by Yash Johri (561-O, 2013)

Let's plant some trees.

Thank You DoscOs for a fantastic response.

Now join us in the planting drive on July 18, 2018.

Thank you for your contribution to the Doon School Old Boys' Society's campaign to help afforestation in the NCR. With the monsoons upon us, our planting activities will commence at 10:00 am on Wednesday, July 18.

With your help we have raised money sufficient to plant 550 trees, congratulations! We have received 57 donations, 381 shares of support on Facebook and 724 shares on WhatsApp, thank you for participating in this campaign.

We would be grateful if you could join us for the plantation drive at the location, near Excelsior American School, Sector 43.

iamgurgaon
Work Together, Make a Difference

RSVP: Tushaar Sharma (+91 9910990293)
Yash Johri (+91 9910095932)

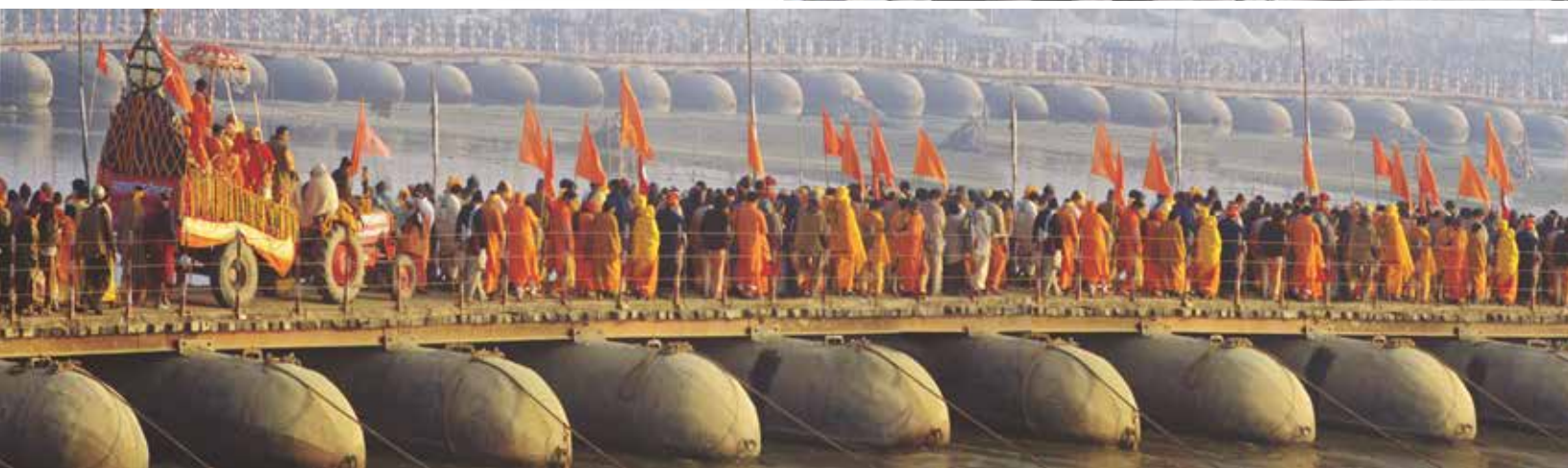
The plantation drive saw participation from a number of DoscOs as well as members of the DSOBS, local community members and children from surrounding schools.



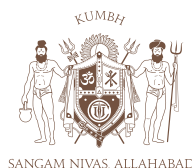
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THE ULTIMATE 
TRAVELLING CAMP

Drawn to Nature

Arjun Kamdar
(701 0, 2015)



The natural world has always held a deep fascination for me.

To better understand the incredible fauna around us, I picked up a camera. It helped me document what I saw

and to serve as a reference. I found photography to be a powerful tool in communicating the near untouched and unexplored forests of Arunachal, the elusive behaviour of leopards amongst treetops, the cartoon-looking noses of the lizards of Lanka.

I find that photographs are not as open to interpretation as words. Photography transcends language and boundaries.

School provided me with ample opportunity to hone these skills, with Founder's Day exhibitions and midterms. And Chandbagh was a lovely

experimental playground. While searching for interesting reptiles and amphibians to click at night, SSW (Dr Srinivas Swamy) and I routinely came across the ubiquitous civets and jackals, several insects, snakes and most interestingly, a species of frog called *Chiromantis dudhwaensis*. Discovered in 1992, almost nothing is known about the breeding behaviour of this frog, and here it was proliferating in the Oberoi House pond!



Never trust a small red mushroom - it could be poisonous

Some of these micro fauna have extremely limited habitats. I hope these images will play an important role in documenting and conserving this and other wildlife.

Camera and lenses used: Nikon D7100, 70-300mm, 24-85mm, 90mm macro.

Arjun is presently undertaking a master's degree in Science, in Wildlife Biology and Conservation at the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore. To reach out to him and learn more contact him at arjunkamdar1@gmail.com.



A Sri Lankan lizard blends into thick forest foliage



A trinket snake on the Oberoi House lawn



A crab traps an earthworm for its next meal



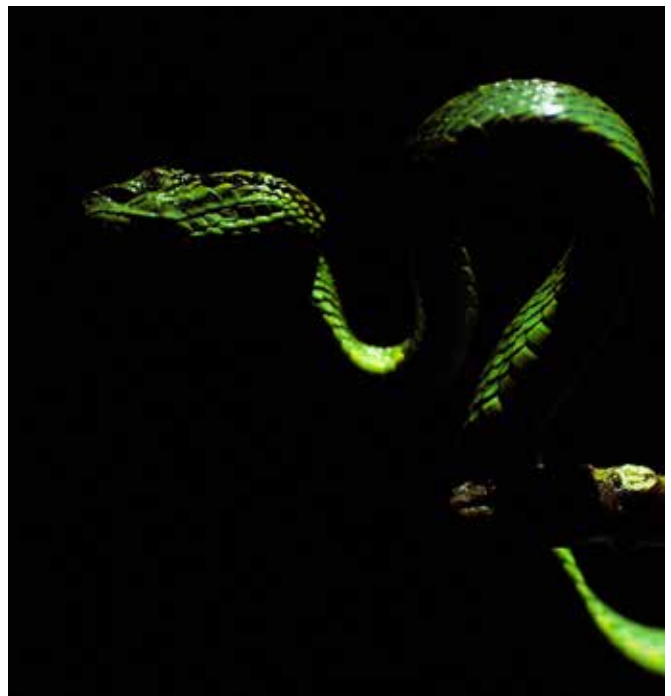
Some lizards in Lanka possess these appendages on their nose, the function of which is not entirely known yet



The eggs of bush frogs in the Western Ghats skip the tadpole stage altogether and fully formed young develop within the eggs



A tiger stares into my eyes after chasing away a leopard from his kill in a tree



The silhouette of a Malabar pit viper in the leech-infested forests of Goa

Way Down the Amazon River - II

Gautam Vohra
(154 H, 1963)

August 2

I got lost in the labyrinthine corridors of the Tropical hotel. They went on and on, extending over half the city. Or so it appeared. And they were dark. How could anyone find their way in this place? After endless wandering, we did eventually find room 4214.

Getting to the dining room took some doing though.

When we finally emerged outside, the world was one of hope and possibility. For there was Rio Negro, as wide as the ocean – in some places it is 15-20 km wide – and the sun shone brightly. We visited the tropical zoo set amidst an Amazon forest-like environment. This was the only place I was certain I would come across the great jaguar.



Assembling on the beach for boarding the Amazon Clipper

He greeted me with calm disdain. And when I tried to relate to him, he yawned. So I went to meet the capybara, the largest rodent in the world, and by no means a beauty. Priya found the couple cute but they made no effort to entertain us unlike the white-bellied spider monkey. And much unlike the brown capuchin, which hung on one

leg from the roof of her cage and did all sorts of antics to attract one's attention. So did the bear-eared squirrel monkey; reminding me that since Borneo where we came across the proboscis and Madagascar monkeys and the lemur, we were never very far away from our ancestors.

We also met up with some striking avian species in the zoo: the festive parrot, blue and yellow macaw and scarlet macaw, as resplendent as our peacock.



Our boat the Amazon Clipper

In the afternoon, our hosts from the Amazon Clipper came to fetch us at the Tropical. They said others in the hotel were also booked for the trip: as many as 21 of us gathered before boarding the ship with some 30 rooms for passengers. After the welcome drink, we attended the lecture explaining the rules of life on a boat heading into the interiors of the richest forest in the world, whose flora, if not fauna would entice us. At six, we assembled at the bar. As we floated down the Rio Negro and its lush vegetation, with a drink in hand, I felt that I was finally there. Another drink later, and I felt more 'there'.

But we had to be sturdy, not just steady. For after a dinner of fish and beef and port – our staple diet during four days on the Clipper – we went out to discover the wildlife in the night. But not before the dessert of the house, passion fruit ice-cream with fresh pineapple slices.



From the clipper into the canoes

Amidst the tangle of branches and bushes, we came across a nightjar, who despite the humming of our boat, sat unperturbed behind a thick bush and let us have a good look at him. The night jar is a relation of the owl family. We met for the first time – and not the last – a tree frog and later a duck. After an hour and something, back to our comfortable cabins for a good night's sleep.

August 3

We had spent a night on the Amazon Clipper. At 5.30 a.m. there was a thump on the door of our room. Our boats were leaving to explore the forests at 6 am and this was our wake-up call. A privilege we were treated to all of our four days on the ship. Two separate groups were formed to go in two small boats, one with a guide who spoke English and Spanish (Ramon) and the other, German and English (Wolf). As the boat entered the forest, we were engulfed in half-light as the trees towered over us and we brushed aside the secondary growth.

I marvelled once again at how straight and tall the trees rose from the depths of the water to reach

for the sky above. The secondary vegetation was not that virulent as it was in the Iguassu area. In an area that is so congested with trees, animal life is sparse and hence the focus is on flora. First we learned to discern the difference between termite and ant nests, and sponges. Ants lived inside the bark or wood of trees. Termite nests were rounded in shape and ant nests were long. You had to know how to tap them out of their homes. Their bites could make adults yelp with pain. But as an Indian chief, native leader, you dared not exhibit the pain. For then you were out of the counting.

On occasion you saw the termite homes high up on the tall trees. Sponges are living organisms that grow at the water level, just dipping into the water. When the water recedes, they dry up and die.



Trees growing in the water; their roots do not rot

We were reminded that the Amazon has 6000 species of trees, while Europe has about 50 or so. Let me share the names of the few that I can recollect.

- Cayman tree: for its bark resembles a Cayman's hide (smaller than our crocodile). Cayman wood is used for building houses.
- Rubber tree: Brazil provided the world with the rubber tree. In 1876, acting for the British government, a local British planter smuggled the seeds to Britain from where it was taken to Malaysia. The competition from Malaysia killed the Brazilian rubber industry. It took to coffee

and sugar in other parts of Brazil.

- Vik tree: from which Vicks Vaporub is extracted. And cream for the chest. It is known as the walking palm. It has unusual stilt roots which it is said 'move' a couple of inches as new roots grow. However, this characteristic is debated.
- Acaricuara: Slender, tall and used in shipbuilding. It has a curious perforated bark and is also used for making dyes.
- Bren tree: smells like incense. Indian tribes use it for various functions. Burns easily and its smoke repels insects.
- Mata Mata: provides glue. The Indians use the bark to make rope. The guide made a rope headband for the Austrian lady.
- Rosewood which gives off a rose fragrance. Rosewood oil is a big industry.
- Amapatri: Big boy relative of the rubber tree. Provides milk extract which contains magnesium. This is one of the top ten medicinal plants of the Amazon. This medicinal plant makes you happy! It is used to relieve anxiety and is a good alternative to clinically-produced psychotropic medications.



Fruit of the kapok or cotton tree

- Kapok: The largest tree in the Amazon. Apparently there are 25 varieties of the kapok tree, the best known being the giant kapok.

It has a red oval-shaped fruit hanging like a decoration on a Christmas tree. It was made famous in the film Avatar. It is a sacred tree for the natives; a knowledge tree that connects our world with the next. I am told the roads of Delhi are lined with it. It is the cotton tree: in summer the pods burst and the cotton floats to the ground which people collect to make pillows.

- Then a whole range of vines and orchids. Orchids are parasites and vines, like the Philodendron, are epiphytes with roots hanging down from the top of trees which enable them to secure humidity. Vines that store water and vines that may store wine, but not yet found.
- Fishing plants. Releases yellow coloured toxin that when dipped into water paralyses the fish and the Indians catch the fish.
- Fake coffee plant: bitter taste like quinine and is used against malaria.

August 4

We ventured each day into the Amazon rainforest before and after dawn, and at night.

Each night we were left with a sense of wonder at the richness of the forest. Let me mention the animal and bird life.

Of the big boys in the water, there is the dolphin and the cayman. Also the anaconda. The dolphin emerged on more than one occasion near our boats. The grey dolphin and the pink dolphin, the former having migrated from India's waters. Monkeys : spider monkey, hollow monkey (the male weighs 10-12 kg) and the most peculiar of all, the squirrel monkey, a tiny creature with intense eyes darting up and down branches.

Priya and I had seen a range of monkeys in Borneo and Madagascar, including the Proboscis, the hanging nosed-one and the shy lemur with huge sorrowful eyes. But the squirrel monkey is something else.



Ant nest high above the water

No, we did not see the Jaguar, except the one in the Tropical's zoo. Nor his most common prey, the deer.

Apart from termites and the larger Bullet ants, we came across spiders, so small that the eye missed them until our companion drew specific attention to them. The large one, the tarantula, we came to know well as our guide dug him out and played with him. He hissed his anger, so we let him be. How Ramon, our guide, identified the Sloth, related to the anteater, high up on a tree, remains a mystery. He blends in with the bark and does not move: with 47 heart beats a minute, it is the slowest animal going and a vegetarian. We encountered lizards, toads and frogs - huge ones and tiny ones.

One morning we went piranha fishing. We had a fish wire with a hook and pieces of meat as bait. The Brit got one right away. His daughter caught two. I got a few nibbles. But nothing more. Our guide got half a dozen including a big black one. Soup for dinner was assured.

We saw the largest variety of birds. From a distance they all appeared black or brown. But as our boat neared, we saw green wings, yellow breasts, pink beaks, red eye shadow...the colours boggled the mind. Toucans, the green ibis, white-ringed swallow, the screaming pelican, whose

claim to fame was that it was conscious of intruders in the forests. So immediately it would set up a cry, thus revealing the escaped slaves running away from their farm owners. Cayman parrots, a very raucous bird, the yellow-headed caracara which belongs to the falcon family, the scarlet macaw, the festive amazon parrot, the hoatzin a brown-orange bird with blue around the eyes. It is a most special bird with two stomachs like the cow, and spectacularly, it has claws on its wings. It has no family and can be found only in the Amazon. The black collar hawk, small yellow finches darting in and out of the bush in the middle of the river. The male is yellow all over; the female has a patch of brown. Of the other small birds, we saw the hummingbird, honeysuckle and canaries. The savannah hawk, tiger heron, white-ringed kingfisher, mother of the moon or poton (urutau) - active in the night, but not related to the owl.



Piranha fishing

August 5

The boat headed for the Lago Ecological Park where we were going to see the Victoria Regia, the giant water lily. As it turned out, this was not the

season when the lily blossomed; so this bit of the programme was a bit of a hoax. We did see the area where the giant flower came into its own and the tourists, including me, took shots of the huge round luscious leaves that floated on the water. The plant has spiky roots so that fish are not able to devour them. Ramon asked Priya how much she weighed. 45 kg she said. So he told her she could stand on the leaf without plunging into the water, as the leaf could support that weight. Of course she had no intention of doing any such thing. If nothing else she would have been devoured by the piranhas (that we had fished for just the other day. By the way, we were never given the piranha soup that was offered after our considerable catch!) We came across the butterfly bloom around every turn of the boat, flashing its droopy sad smile from amidst the luxuriant Amazon foliage. Because of its shape its Latin name is literally, clitoria. As we sped down the river, Ramon reminded us that the giant white lily opens only at night, and over three nights changes colour from white to



Children selling crafts

pink to scarlet, and has on an average ten petals per flower. Then it dies.

It was time to visit the people of the Amazon on a visit to an Indian village. Brazil is perhaps doing more than any other country in Latin America. What is more, it has done much more than the US has done for its indigenous population, its affirmative action projects notwithstanding. Brazil has provided a range of facilities to the Indians: houses, schools, playing fields – all in the heart of the Amazon forest.

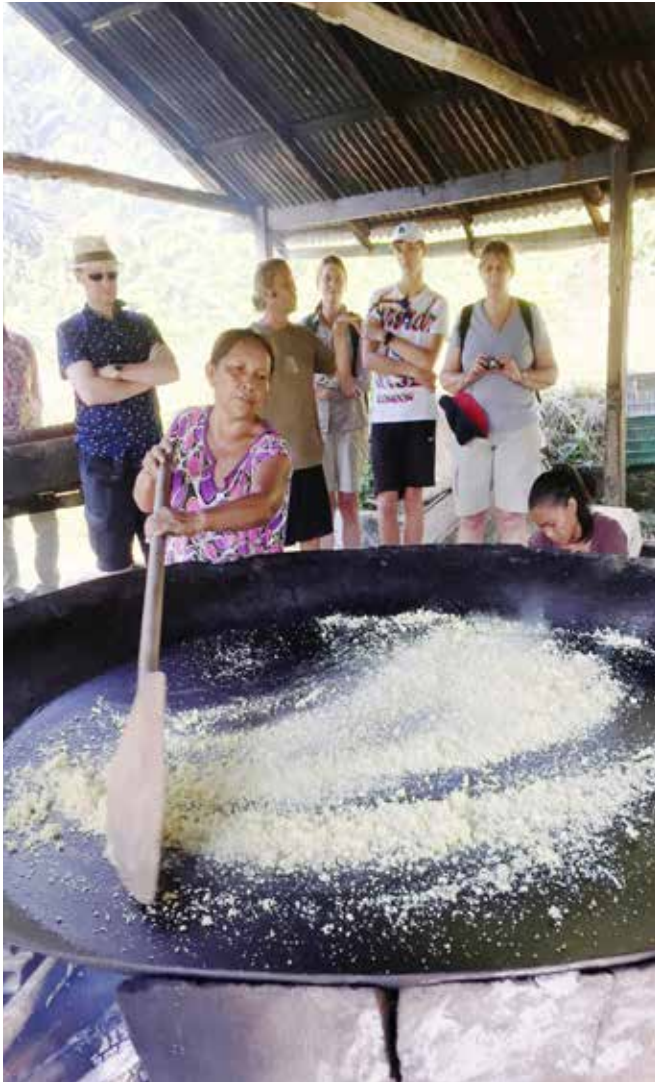
Ramon introduced us to three important palm varieties, one of which was growing in the village, the assai, whose fruit is edible. He next showed us another fruit which looked like the lychee, which is used for dyeing. He smeared the juice on Priya's face and then on mine. We had now become 'Red Indians'.

The other tree which abounds in Brazil is the jackfruit. Brazilians do not cook it but eat it like a fruit when it is ripe. It stinks, we were told, but tastes very good.

The enormous area cleared for the village – for 60 families, population of 300 - had large individual houses and fruit trees including mango, papaya, Assai palm (their berries are sour) and avocado trees.



Village children preparing to welcome us with a song



Preparing manioc flour on a massive tawa

The school had several facilities (as did the village) such as cable and satellite TV, electricity, and air conditioning. The school children, 46 of them, were taught their history and culture. The school teacher was paid extra for a hardship posting.

On the way to the village, under an asbestos roof shed, women were mashing chunks of manioc, and roasting it on a massive iron skillet. Traditions were being kept alive.

On our return, off-shore from Manaus, we were given a view of the Rio Negro meeting with the Amazon River. The black waters could be clearly seen merging with the yellow. The Amazon, which is born in Colombia stretches from the

Pacific, goes through the Amazon basin and then discharges its waters into the Atlantic.

The Amazon is the largest state in Brazil, and in area is five and a half times the size of Germany. The Indian population though is about a million, a small proportion of the 206 million living in Brazil. The theory is that the Indians migrated to Latin America from Polynesia and North America. There are about 305 tribes in Brazil, that speak 180 languages. 50 of these tribes are said to have never had any contact with a white man. But now they have become part of the mainstream: those living in the state of Mato Grosso (meaning thick bushes or forests in this case) participated in the Olympics.

Some other facts about the Amazon:

- There are 4,800 mammals of which 430 are found in the Amazon and 200 in Europe
- Of the 10,000 fish species, 3000 in the Amazon and about 200 in Europe
- Of the 300,000 plant species there are 50,000 in the Amazon and 40,000 in Europe

These statistics that were doled out to us during the lecture series each afternoon after our brief voyages from the Clipper into the heart of the Amazon forest. Large chunks of the forest float on water, or are part of the river system.

It was time to bid farewell to our fellow travellers.

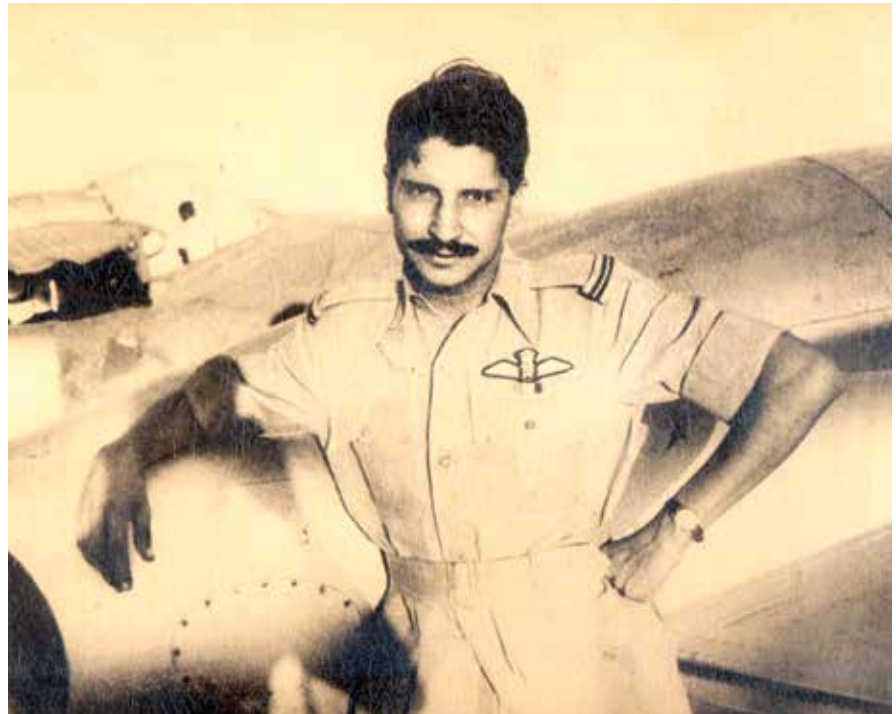
Claudio, the Argentinian settled in California, and his sister, Helena living in Buenos Aires, always curious, always full of insights; the lively Austrian couple with their son, reaching out to one and all, and the Frenchman who had worked in India – based in Chennai – and full of Indian jokes, rather jokes on Indians and their foibles. When Wolf pointed out to the kingfisher, he turned to me and said, "I thought it was an airline!"

'T' is for Tiger

Mohit Jayal
(527 T, 1987)

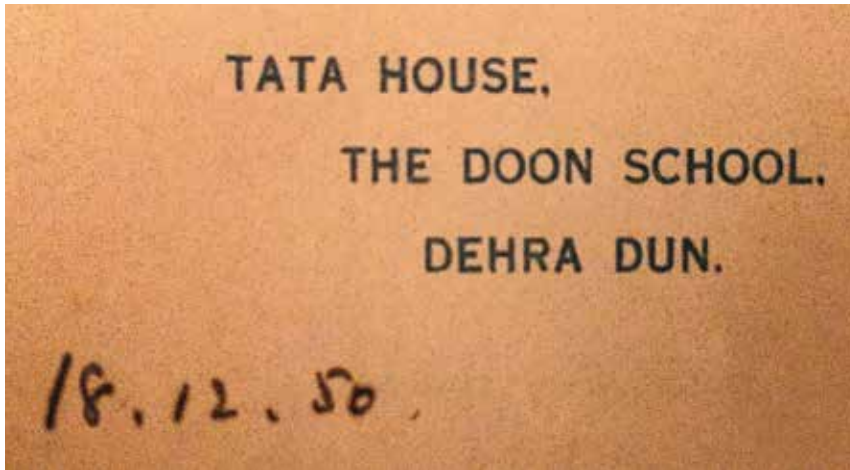
A small but significant number of Doscos served in the military. Quite a few of them were fighter pilots in the Indian Air Force (and Indian Naval squadrons too, but that's the subject of another story!) Interestingly, out of the five Dosco fighter pilots that had the honour of serving in the storied No 1 Squadron 'Tigers', four were from Tata house (the fifth, Air Marshal TS 'Timki' Brar (85 J, 1941), was from Jaipur house). Having passed out of school within a few years of each other, the four T-house Tigers worked together as mentors, commanders and close friends in the IAF. Tragically, two of them died in service while setting the highest standards of leadership and heroic self-sacrifice, but they live on as legends. This photo album features squadron photos

that have been generously shared by the families of these T-house Tigers. In these fading images of young Dosco fighter pilots, you can still see the fire in their eyes: a fire that reminds us not just of their gallant spirit, but also of the spirit in which our beloved school was founded. A huge thank you to Mrs Indumati RV Singh, Himmat Sher Singh Kalsia, Sameer L Katre and Air Marshal Brijesh Dhar Jayal for sharing these invaluable photographs and memories.



Flight Lieutenant Karan Sher Singh Kalsia (116 T, 1948) epitomised the School and squadron spirit. In 1961, his fellow T-house Tigers RV 'Kismet' Singh (103 T, 1949) and Brijesh Dhar Jayal (101 T, 1951) were at the Pilot Attacker Instructor School in Jamnagar when Kalsia's Hunter Squadron visited for gunnery training. Tragically, Karan met with a fatal air accident for which he was posthumously awarded the Kirti Chakra by the President of India. The official citation reads: "On 19th January, 1961, Flt Lt Kalsia was on a training flight in a Hunter aircraft. Just after getting airborne, at a height of approximately 200 ft., he called up his leader and informed him that his engine had flamed out. At this time his aircraft was heading towards a populated area of Jamnagar and had he ejected and abandoned the aircraft, without any doubt it would have crashed, causing extensive damage to life and property. Realising this, Flt Lt Kalsia deliberately turned his aircraft away from the populated area and in doing so lost the valuable height at which he could have ejected safely. He then attempted a forced landing during which he was killed instantaneously. By his gallant act and supreme sacrifice, Flt Lt Kalsia has created a noble tradition for the Indian Air Force to emulate."

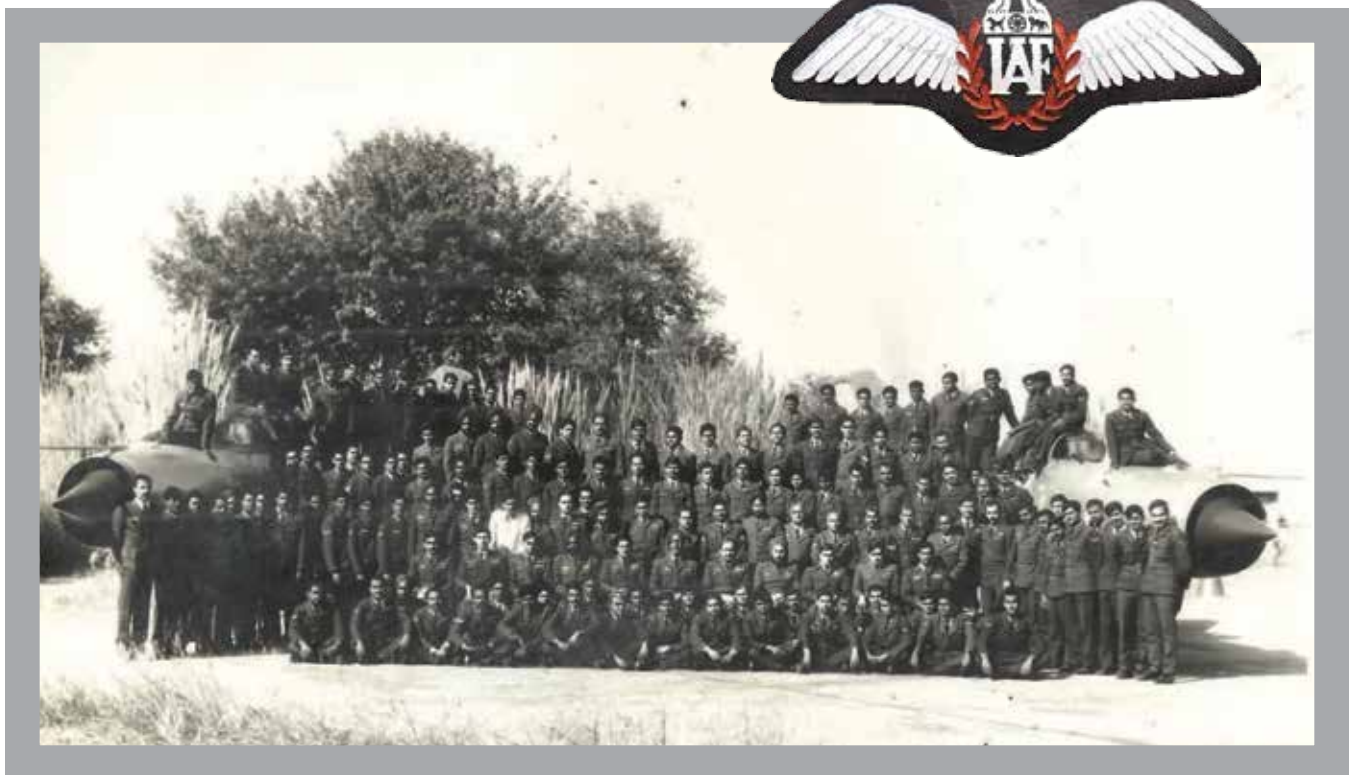




TIGERS

Above: Holdy's letterhead, taken from a housemaster's letter, 1950. The four Tigers passed out of School within a decade of each other, with three of them overlapping at School – which explains why they remained a tightly knit group in the Air Force. T-House Tigers: Air Chief Marshal, Lakshman Madhav Katre, Flight Lieutenant Karan Sher Singh Kalsia, Group Captain Ran Vijay 'Kismet' Singh, Air Marshal Brijesh Dhar Jayal.

Left and below right: Squadron patch and unit crest that, along with the coveted IAF wings, were worn with pride on pilots' flying overalls. The iconography and customs of squadron life – team leaders, badges, group photos, formal mess dinners, trophies, etc – must have seemed very familiar to all Doscocs in uniform.



Above: No 1 Squadron 'Tigers' and their MiG 21 interceptors in Adampur, 1974. BD Jayal was commanding the squadron at the time. This team of Tigers included the soon-to-be-famous Wing Commander Rakesh 'Ricky' Sharma, India's first astronaut. Throughout their distinguished operational history, the Tigers have accumulated an impressive tally of honours. These include Presidential Colours in 1968; numerous gallantry awards won by individual squadron members; and several mentions-in-despatches for combat operations, including seven for the Kargil conflict in May 1999.



Above: 'Kismet' Ran Vijay Singh (kneeling, centre) with fellow members of No 8 Squadron, 'The Eighth Pursuit' and their Dassault Ouragan aka 'Toofani'. For those lucky enough to count him as a friend, 'Kismet' was a beloved figure: a dedicated farmer, an enthusiastic shikari, a fearless (and therefore occasionally unscientific) school team boxer, and an exceptionally gifted flier – in short, the quintessential fighter pilot.



Above: No 1 Squadron operated some of the most famous fighter aircraft in military aviation history, including the De Havilland Vampire and the Supermarine Spitfire. Seen here are a Vampire FB.52 and Spitfire Mk. VIIIe of the IAF Vintage Flight at Palam on Air Force Day, October 1989.

Above: 'Kismet' (to the right of the group) and squadron mates with a Mk. XVIII Spitfire. This version of the legendary British fighter was operated by No 1 Squadron from 1951-53. A few years prior to when this photograph was taken, LM Katre was flying a No 1 Squadron Spitfire Mk. VIII and attempted a 'dead stick' landing south of Nagpur after an engine failure. He undershot the field, overturning the aircraft and sustaining serious injuries (source: bharat-rakshak.com)



A young LM Katre and fellow squadron members walk out to the flight line



In the cockpit of a Harrier jump jet



Discussing the sortie



LM Katre and BD Jayal at Air Force Station Ambala, 1983. Katre was AOC-in-C of Western Air Command at the time, and Jayal was Station Commander.

Air Chief Marshal Lakshman Madhav Katre PVSM, AVSM and Bar. Edited from an article by BD Jayal on LM Katre that appeared in an earlier issue of The Rose Bowl, "I first saw Lakshman Madhav Katre as a D-former when he was invited by Holdy, House Master Tata House to join the boys for dinner and share some thoughts with them. As impressionable youngsters, we were excited to see amongst us a young Dosco Flight Lieutenant and a fighter pilot to boot. Air Chief Marshal LM Katre (T), 'Baba' Katre to his friends, was commissioned in the IAF in 1946. He spent his first two years as a young Pilot Officer in No 1 Squadron in what

was then the Royal Indian Air Force. A few years later, his senior and another distinguished Dosco, Air Marshal TS 'Timki' Brar took over command of No 1 Sqn and ushered in the jet age with Vampire fighters. On 4th September 1984, Baba Katre took over as the Chief of Air Staff, the first Dosco to have done so. Sadly, on 1st July 1985, barely ten months into his hectic tenure, he suffered a cardiac arrest and expired. The IAF lost an iconic leader and the nation lost an officer and airman who left his mark for the better."



Above: A cheeky postcard from KSS Kalsia and his squadron mate Indru Shahani to BD Jayal, describing the ready availability of alcohol in Orange, where they were undergoing conversion training on Dassault Mystères.



J-house Tiger: as CO of No 1 Sqn, Squadron Leader Trilochan 'Timki' Brar (85 J, 1941) led the Tigers into the jet age, and eventually retired as an Air Marshal and Vice Chief of Air Staff. Throughout his Air Force career, 'Timki' Brar displayed a diverse range of skills: he was commended for his diplomacy during his tenure as Air Attaché in France; and as 'Air 1' at Western Air Command HQ before the 1971 war, he meticulously formulated operational plans that ensured a high degree of preparedness when the conflict began. For this distinguished performance, he was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in January 1972. It's no exaggeration to say that the Dosco Tigers were like one big family - Timki Brar was married to Karan Sher Singh Kalsia's (116 T, 1948) sister!



The Tigers were equipped with the elegant Dassault Mystère IVA between 1957-66. This example is a Mystère belonging to No 8 Squadron. 'The Eighth Pursoot' at Kalaikunda airbase in 1960.

French connection. The IAF in general – and the Tigers specifically – have had a long tradition of operating French fighter aircraft from the Dassault stable, a legacy that endures to this day with the hotly debated acquisition of the Dassault Rafale.



Due to the personal intervention of Air Chief Marshal LM Katre, the Tigers were designated as one of only two units to be equipped with the Mirage 2000 in 1985 (source: bharat-rakshak.com).

No 1 Squadron's Mirages went on to play a key role in the Kargil conflict. This aircraft (KF135) is a No. 1 Sqn. Mirage, photographed sometime around the squadron diamond jubilee in Gwalior, 1993. BD Jayal and TS 'Timki' Brar (both Doscos, ex-COs and Commodore Commandants of the squadron) were present, with Jayal taking part in the Mirage formation flypast.



Despite recent controversies regarding its obsolescence and attrition rate, the iconic MiG-21 is considered a classic fighter aircraft: it was basic, fast and lethal in its time. The Tigers operated the MiG-21 from 1966 until 1985, at which point the squadron re-equipped with the relatively space-age Mirage 2000 at Air Chief Marshal LM Katre's behest. Note the Tiger artwork on the nose. (photo: bharat-rakshak.com).



Pandit Nehru reviews KSS Kalsia (second from right) and other cadets at the Air Force Academy. Coincidentally, Kalsia and Jayal were both awarded the Sword of Honour and President's Award for Best Overall Cadet in their respective cadet courses – perhaps something to do with T-house competitive spirit.



Above: BD Jayal getting a pre-flight briefing on the Tornado from Jeremy Lee, Chief Test Pilot of the UK's Tornado program. In addition to serving with fighter units such as the Tigers, Jayal graduated from the Empire Test Pilots School in the UK and spent a large part of his flying career as an Experimental Test Pilot. He logged thousands of test flying hours on a variety of aircraft, with a special focus on jet fighters (including the first production test flight of MiG-21 No C1128, shown top left of page).

Between them, the T-house Tigers – like every other Dosco who served in the military – demonstrated the highest degree of professionalism and unflinching commitment to their mission. When tested, they remained true to the ethos of the institutions that had trained them: be it House, School, Squadron or Service. *True as Steel*

Sylvan Scenes of Elysium - III

Rohit Handa
(22 J, 1953)

This is the third part of an account of the nearly 25 years I have spent looking after the Architecture and Projects Committee (APC) of the Doon School from the Golden Jubilee in 1985 and the Platinum Jubilee in 2010.

The first part of this memoir dealt with the period 1985 to 1994 when Luvraj Kumar was chairman of the board of governors. On his sudden and unexpected death, Mumtaz Ahmed took over as chairman and the laboratories were completed, within the budget and on time. After these the Music School was taken up while John Mason was HM and RC (Kedo) Bhargava was chairman at the end of Mumtaz's term.

Losing Chestnuts

RC (Kedo) Bhargava was succeeded by Dhruv Sawhney in 2002. He requested me to serve on the Projects Implementation Committee shortly thereafter. Air Marshal Brijesh Jayal (Retd.) was its convenor. At the time three projects had been approved. The addition of two holding houses, Foot and Martyn, for new boys and additional masters' housing. The former were to replace two heritage buildings. Foot House would replace Gladys Villa, the bungalow in which the first headmaster lived, and Martyn was to come up on the space to be created by demolishing Chestnuts. While the former suffered damage in the 1991 earthquake and there was some justification for demolishing it, the second was a period building that deserved preservation at all cost. It had a kind of outlandish idiosyncrasy that can be created only by an inventive mind that defied conventional, bookish norms. I recall a BBC team that visited the school singled it out as something that created an impact while the other structures were

studious replicas of European themes. However, the decision had been taken at the instance of a report from the bane of our efforts, Roorkee University, that used a standard formula that if the cost of repair exceeded 50 per cent of the cost of replacement the building be brought down. It was an engineer's view that did not care for artistic merit. Roorkee University was never concerned about aesthetics. To turn an Oscar Wildean witticism they knew the cost of everything but the worth of nothing. The Projects Committee was very thinly composed. It had no access to conservation architecture and therefore could not get a second opinion. I am not sure whether any photographs were taken and kept in the archives, if there was one at the time.

The estate staff quarters in the Chestnuts grounds extended from the bungalow till the gate at Young Road. We marked this out as the area for eight additional masters' houses. Rather than build in a haphazard manner, we received the board's approval to have the quarters vacated and demolished. Just as Brig. Bramhanand Singh (Retd.) had done in the case of the K&H lines, Sameer Katre did a commendable job of getting repossession of this area. Sadly, he resigned from the school at about this time and we had to look for another person to give us administrative support for our projects.

Financial Reform

Before we transit into the next phase of this narrative, I will digress to the financial reforms suggested by me for creating a fund to maintain our older assets. I had intervened when the accounts of the IPSS were taken up on the issue of a requirement for re-valuing our assets and charging additional depreciation on fully or nearly fully depreciated, many of them

heritage, buildings so that these could be maintained at current cost.

The Main Building may be taken as an illustrative example. It was built at a cost of INR 50,000 in 1913. Its replacement value in 2003, ninety years later would have been about INR 30 crores. In our books it would have depreciated to zero several times over. But even minor repairs would amount to lakhs. The earthquake of 1991 was an eye-opener. We lost the old photo lab, saw cracks in the east face of the Main Building, a partial wall collapse in Hyderabad House, severe damage to Gladys Villa and the virtual ruin of the house across the road, No. 1 The Mall. The school had made no provision for such an event.

I therefore suggested that our assets be re-valued and additional depreciation charged. The funds were to be set aside as a separate reserve. The board seemed lukewarm to the idea till the school's income showed, I write from memory, about a 25 per cent surplus over expenditure. Dhruv Sawhney attended the Finance Committee meeting that was to consider the balance sheet for the year 2004. At this he accepted my contention that given the current value of old assets, we should make a provision and accordingly the fixed assets were re-valued by a



The Fagus-Werk Factory in Alfeld, Germany, was designed by Gropius and Adolf Meyer in 1911 and is considered one of the earliest examples of modern architecture. The ten-building complex is noted for its glass-and-steel curtain walls and support-free corner windows and was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011

chartered engineer and the income and expenditure statement recast. This gave us additional funds that were very useful. I was also glad to note that our asset replacement fund and additional depreciation generated a sum that often equalled what we got from donations. Besides it was not erratic.



Ludwig Mies van der Roë: Crown Hall Illinois Institute of Technology



Le Corbusier: Villa Savoye 1928-31

Since we had been given the task of preserving the Main Building, the question of costs arose.

Brijesh Jayal's term as convener of the Project Implementation Committee came over shortly after Dhruv's election as chairman of the board. I was then asked to head the development activity - with a change in the name and responsibilities of the charge as chairman of the Architecture and Projects Committee. The two holding houses were completed in June 2004. My first task was to form a team that could give our work gravitas. I was quite worried that

unless we found people with depth of knowledge and a wide view our results would not be of the highest quality. Here I was singularly fortunate. My anxiety was taken care of firstly when I, quite serendipitously, found sitting next to me, on a flight to Delhi from Udaipur, Sunil Batta, who had worked on the estate in 1985-87 as Romi Khosla's engineering partner. He had supervised the re-cladding of the school hall to transform it into a library, of Oberoi House and the MPH. Thus the HM, Kanti Bajpai, Sunil Batta and I formed the kernel of the APC. Later we asked Gaurav Dewan (149 T, 1989) a young architect to join us.

We were also fortunate to get for a short but brilliant moment (of which more later) the participation of Anisha Shekhar Mukherjee, the activist conservation architect whose paper on the reclamation of the Red Fort in Delhi had won her acclaim.

Towards a New Idiom

The expectation from the APC clearly was that architecture in the school move on from variations on the Renaissance themes of the Main Building to the new 'modern' world. That we should take a fresh look at the relationship between edifices and space. I felt that the time had come to create landmark buildings that used a new idiom. Did we need strong geometric forms, masonry facades combined with historicism? Or did we need to cross to a new shore in which contemporary designs were used without reference to the past? Even if we moved in this direction an underlying harmony, a kind of reference to context was expected. My interpretation of the mood was that we were required to move far yet within an extended confine. If the shapes and materials changed, the feel should be as one movement in a symphony draws from a previous one and comes full circle to former harmonies before it ends.

There was no dearth of outstanding examples to follow from the dictionary of modern architecture as can be seen from a few illustrations given above but on the whole we needed to be original rather than faithful slaves of the European tradition.

We even considered some Indian designs but marble, red stone and Indo-Saracenic architecture "which drew elements from native Indo-Islamic and Indian architecture, and combined it with the Gothic revival and Neo-Classical styles favoured in Victorian Britain."

The grandest amalgam of this meeting of two civilisations is Lutyens' dome of Rashtrapati Bhavan (Vice regal Lodge) that was inspired by the Sanchi stupa. Baker's domes of the Secretariat, on the other hand, tend towards the Rococo style and are not as wholesome.

Just how unnerving the juxtaposition of two ill-matched contrasting materials can be is apparent from the addition of a building in pinkish sandstone and PWD design in our propinquities estate of the RIMC in the cantonment. We too have added sandstone in the art building but in a most restrained and dignified way, one that enhances the attractiveness of the site rather than causing acute, disorienting discomfort.

Thus though the options available to us were enclosed within our heritage yet we added elements that were contemporary and even futuristic. We have to remember that we did not have a free hand as Mies van der Rohe did while designing the Illinois Institute of Technology for a completely vacant site. While Crown Hall will remain a marvel of proportion, we should pride ourselves on the Art and Media Centre, the Main Field houses and pavilion and the CDH. 'In the final rendition '... the architects have ...'used the concept of universal space'. In the case of the art school the exhibition halls were presented as a huge column-free space with exposure to the openness beyond.

This was as we desired. The open expanses of the grounds elicited the perception that we endorse the relationship between them and the avenues and paths planted with different species of trees

and shrubs that residents traversed to reach their destinations at all times. Clearly the relationship between nature and the interiors required a link that made us appreciate the grace of our landscape (and its fauna) that had been developed over a century since the FRI's acquisition of the estate in 1910. One of my most vivid memories was one of two Black drongos chasing each other in a dog fight over the Main Field with one ultimately turning tail and seeking refuge in the trees of the CDH (we didn't have one in my time) area. Man, materials, flora and fauna had all to be respected and provided for in any arrangements for their future.

This mission was clearly on my mind as we got down to our second task of drawing up the Third Master Plan. This job was entrusted to Neeraj Manchanda & Associates. As will happen when consultants profess competence when they take on a job that is beyond their capacity, they were unable to cope and had to be substantially assisted by me to complete the document. Their staff (familiar with CAD and PowerPoint presentations!) did not have sufficient depth in the English language to express their ideas on paper. I had them acknowledge this in the introductory passages, not to bolster my ego but more as a caution to future APCs of the soft ground they could encounter.

Before we got down to the requirements for the period 2008-2102, the CDH afforded us the opportunity to experiment. Keeping the requirement of aesthetics in mind, we stuck to brick as the basic material but as described below did much with it. We added glass in good measure bringing a new expansion feeling to the grounds and created patterns for the brickwork. Much followed this departure and all our architects seemed to have sensed the winds of change. Subsequently, we were amply rewarded by the cantilevered pavilion, the new masters' houses and the art school. Anyone going around the estate can appreciate the transition.

The Master Plan 2008-2012

The Master Plan dealt with macro-level jobs to be done for infrastructure, ie water, energy, the ratio of built up area to open spaces, the placement of housing and academic facilities, etc. We were aware that the estate needed to preserve its rugged appearance rather than be given a manicured touch. We were particular, for example, to emphasise the need to maintain the khud as a wilderness rather than be treated as an urban builder's dream landfill to add buildable area. Besides, being a drain for torrential monsoon rain any blockage could lead to serious flooding of our estate.

The school responded to our request for requirements with a long list of works to be completed in the span of time from 2008 and 2012. As with earlier plans, this was necessary so that we could get the right perspective for the work ahead. Any ad hoc or haphazard growth could easily cause irreparable damage to the grounds. The list of works was long. The lack of human resources to oversee the execution of the plan was even longer. There was a school engineer but the HM felt he was only competent to check utility bills. A new more qualified and younger civil engineer was required on the school's staff. But the pace of work needed an immediate solution. To begin with we had no option but to look for a project management consultant.

After examining some applications, Sunil Batta selected the firm of Rajesh Rishi and Associates to supervise the work. The projects in hand were the Masters' House and Jaipur House. The task of finding an acceptable technical support as the school's engineer fell to Vikram Lal (ex K) and he very carefully selected Col. Devesh Chaturvedi (Retd.) who was an experienced army engineer (and also a squash player). The choice was fortuitous. He turned out to be enthusiastic and hardworking but he was appointed only after the retrofitting of Jaipur House and Sikandar Hall had started, Ram Sharma's houses and pavilion were well underway as was the CDH.

A word here about the division of responsibilities between the APC and the school. The former was responsible for selecting architects, developing designs with them and approving the concept drawings. All contracts were awarded and works were carried out by the headmaster and his team headed by the school's engineer. The arrangement worked well.

Instead of giving a separate list of projects, for the sake of brevity, I am going to identify them by giving heads followed by an explanatory write up. The Central Dining Hall's (CDH)'s renovation, expansion and improvement was a baffling piece of work. This came before the Master Plan but, as mentioned above, presaged change. Located in perhaps the most prominent site on the estate,



Old CDH southern elevation



Old CDH northern elevation



San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Some type it as post-modernist. It has strong brickwork patterns and the walls were probably pre-fabricated in a factory.



Detail of brickwork SFMOMA

overlooking the Main Field from a height, it represented no style or school of architecture or sensitivity to its surroundings. It was a depressing grey mass, a colour most unsuited to the leafy estate that just sat there. It evoked no emotion other than that it was a sad waste of an opportunity.

The interiors were also drab. There was no cross ventilation, the inner area being enclosed by walls to afford no connection with the landscape. There was no view of the expanse of the Main Field to its south or of the aqueduct and majestic Nurkil trees along it. In addition to dining it also had a Masters' Common Room on the first floor with dining facilities for supper. Overall precisely what the architect sought to deliver was hard to decode. Nobody took responsibility for the design.



New CDH 2007- Roopak Kothari. Southern Elevation (note the white salts leached by the bricks above the sun shade, a hazard Murad Choudhary had warned against in 1995.) The columns relate to those of the Doric Order in the Hyderabad House Master's Bungalow (Fig.) but whether this is intentional or a coincidence is not known.

Botta's designs also inspired us to introduce a new element when we started on doing the drawings for retrofitting the CDH.



Brickwork of new CDH

Though risky, the CDH was an opportunity to deal with a long-standing gripe that has already been mentioned above. It gave us the opportunity to drive a wedge between the old period that leaned heavily on 15th–17th century European architecture and the point to which the so-called modern period in India had progressed.

Those who are sensitive to change will note that starting with the CDH, we trod a new path to new styles that are perhaps uniquely our own. Thus we spanned a period of four centuries from the middle of the 20th century to the first decade of the 21st.

Yet I have to say that when a pillar was erected to hold up the roof and the walls were taken away, our hearts were in our mouths. But the support endured and the engineers have to be congratulated for their skill. The project involved an expansion of its capacity, the addition of a veranda and a change in its appearance.

At the time I used to go to San Francisco for the summer and I visited the Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA). Its elevations were arresting. Further investigation led me to its architect Mario Botta, arguably the leading master of brickwork in the world today. Three volumes of his work in the India Habitat Centre Library revealed the options available to us. Next we came to our architect, Roopak Kothari. He

was initially in favour of a plain finish, as he had used for Foot and Martyn Houses, but we got him around to using Bottaesque variations. Ultimately four designs were plastered on the wall. Kanti Bajpai, a representative from the Kothari offices in Dehradun, our school engineer, Devesh Chaturvedi, and I evaluated them and decided on the present pattern. Old Boys who came for Founders' Day that year found the transformation beyond belief. Not only the elevations but the interiors had also brightened up. Special attention was paid to the Masters' Common Room on the first floor. We also achieved our objective of opening up the internal spaces to absorb the spatial expanse of the Main Field to the south and the space between it and the MPH to the east. We did not have the budget to relocate the stores from the workshop area or redesign the kitchen. Gladly this was done at a later period. We also examined the feasibility using kitchen leftovers for a bio-gas plant

to cater to some of our small needs. I don't recall whether this was done.

Masters' Housing

A very close look was taken at the number of bungalows that the estate could accommodate. Since the norm was fixed at about 195 sq mts of covered area and 600 sq mts of private garden, the number of double-storeyed houses that could be fitted in was 54. This number included the use of over 5000 sq mts of land recovered from the Jaipur House estate staff quarters. The headmaster agreed to this number, accepting the fact that five or six masters did and always would live outside the school. We even explored the possibility of buying some land close to the school and putting up housing on it. A plot was offered right opposite Jaipur House. It had an irregular shape. A survey showed that the land was just sufficient for three



Main Field Houses south-east overlooking Skinner's till Chakrata Road Boundary.

bungalows unsuitably positioned with elevations that wouldn't be favourable vis-à-vis the north-south axis. Besides, the price asked for was unreasonably high. The negotiation fell through.

The two areas to be worked on immediately were the replacement of houses on the south side of the Main Field from Kashmir House to the Jaipur House gate. If I recall well, Vikram Lal, who was on the board of governors, and looked after the personnel portfolio, the HM, Kanti Bajpai, and I inspected the existing houses at the Jaipur House gate and were struck by the unhealthy atmosphere inside: being damp, dark and decrepit, they were depressing. The fact was that they were estate staff quarters that had been added to. Even the houses along the Main Field, though acceptable from the outside, had damp, cracked walls besides being ill lit. We wondered how masters accepted such living conditions and, for that matter, whether the board was aware of its responsibility towards them. A former bursar attributed his wife's asthma to the atmosphere in his house at the main gate. To my mind this was very probably true. It was a very depressing and unhealthy interior indeed.

A decision was taken to demolish the entire line which included the pavilion that had been constructed in the south-east corner of the Main Field. The Bursar's House was also marked for replacement by the School's Office Building.

The APC accepted my recommendation that the pavilion be moved from the corner of the Main Field to its centre. As with all proposals that suggested something new, opinion was reserved. But after some thought the rationale behind it was accepted. The location of a second set of houses was decided on at Sikandar Villa behind the swimming pool.

Ram Sharma and Roopak Kothari were selected as architects respectively. In accordance with the

board's acceptance of the APC's recommendation, all new buildings be built to GRIHA green standards.

Both locations had tremendous strengths.

On the Main Field the houses, as I discussed with the architect, could overlook both playing fields, the Main Field to the north and Skinner's to the south. Thus the view from them extended over virtually three quarters of the school. The architect did not miss this opportunity and not only are Ram Sharma's houses well planned internally but from their terraces on the north and the east side one can watch games being played on both grounds. The view brings to the fore the great, almost spiritually uplifting, strength of our estate as a place to live in. I wonder whether any other educational institution can offer such landscapes. The houses conformed to GRIHA 'green' specs and were meant to have a range of temperature between 18°C and 28°C or 10°C above the minimum or below the maximum ambient temperature.

Some lacunas remain: the houses were to have solar panel for pre-heating water as a show piece of our contribution to the conservation of energy and the 'green' movement. We did not have a school engineer to oversee the work and our project manager was not meticulous in following drawings. The provision was not made. There were other lapses but I point to just one as an example of the laxity that typifies supervision in this country.

Hathikhana Houses: Roopak Kothari 2008

It was a handsome, solid building with unusually placed steps to the flat roof as will be seen from the photograph. It can't have been categorised as colonial or Renaissance. It was, like Chestnuts, in a class of its own. It is unfortunate that we had to demolish it to create an area for five houses. One of the masters living in it even enquired why the trusty old edifice was being demolished, urging us to find another solution.



Sikandar Villa. This was a companion construction to Sikandar Hall.

We renamed the area Hathikhana. On second thoughts, we should have retained the historic name, numbering the houses 1-5 Sikandar Villa. It was a far more challenging site than the Main Field. It was bounded by our fence marking our boundary at the drop in level to Saeed Mohalla in the south.

This habitation had, as have all urban spaces, swelled to considerable density. Many had added a second storey to their dwellings. These were already causing a disturbance to Oberoi House. (This was a caution both Ram Sharma and I gave to the then HM when he was almost inconvincible that some other location be considered for a fifth house in 1995.) To the north, there was the wood of the khud. Our very considerable leaf fall was burnt in it causing those who occupied these houses breathing problems, eye inflammation and other difficulties. We were able to overcome this hazard by starting our vermi-culture facility. We were keen to preserve the khud as a small natural wilderness. Nikhil Devaser, the distinguished naturalist, even spotted some rare birds in it. In my days in school, when a tea plantation bounded it, hog deer would sometimes stray into it. However the architect thought it was fit to build on and exploited the setting well, i.e. the houses provided a view of the Shivaliks to the south and the thicket of trees and shrubs to the north. As with the other constructions, these also conformed to GRIHA standards and were certified as such by TERI after completion.

There is an interesting story attached to the fear of the stability of this construction. As they are along the edge of the khud, a caution was circulated that they may be in danger of listing. The engineering solution was a retaining wall that would have cost around Rs 1 crore. The other option was a fence net as are commonly used on hilly roads. But our horticulturists suggested that we plant khus-khus, its root system being well known to bind soil. And so it happens that we live with this solution today, with much saving in our pockets.

There was (I gather a block of flats has been built since) a pretty little space between the houses and the Saeed-Mohalla fence. It was planted as a garden. This gave it a lovely ambience. I discussed Roberto Burle Marx's work in Brazil with Roshni. She accepted the challenge and planted two colours of coleus.



South garden post 2010. An interesting wave-pattern of beds for seasonal flowers.



Hathikhana Houses southern elevation - Roopak Kothari 2008

As a first attempt it sufficed as an example of what can be achieved with contrasting plants. If she had stayed, I have no doubt that we would have had an outstanding exhibit to show to Dehradun and the wider world. But, hopefully, all is not lost. I have been sent photographs of interesting zig-zag flower beds planted by her successor, Hemant Verma. My feeling is that if inspired and sympathetically led, he could achieve the task we started with in 2009.

Pavilion and Main Field Houses 2008

Skinner's Houses

The last set of houses started in 2009 were the four designed by Anil Jain who had worked on projects along with Romi Khosla in 1985. They stood on the edge of the boundary between Chandbagh (originally the Gladville Estate) and Skinner's. After weighing options



Old Pavilion in the corner of the Main Field. Note its relationship with the cricket pitch.



Main Field House south side. Overlooks the field till the aqueduct.

carefully they came up with a plan that incorporated the features of Sikandar Hall. Consequently it was to have a grey plinth and white superstructure and its solar panels were to be hidden from view in the roof. For some unknown reason my successor interfered with this concept and had the architect, despite protests, replace the grey stone with brick adding monotony to the row.



The Lily Khanna Cricket Pavilion and Main Field Masters' Houses - Ram Sharma. The cricket pavilion was shifted to the centre so that it overlooked the wicket over the bowler's arm. It is a delight to watch a game being played from it and one's appreciation of a match is complete, even for critics.



Lily Khanna Cricket Pavilion 2008- with 26. *Militia ovalifolia* in the back garden. The above illustration shows the conceptual composition.



Militia ovalifolia. The tree was photographed in Delhi and pasted here. Eventually, say by 2022, this species will form the backdrop to the building.



Cricket Pavilion Sides Elevation. Note the detail of brick courses.

Jaipur House/Sikandar Hall March 2008
-Neeraj Manchanda and Associates

The greatest challenge came from two large projects: the virtual rebuilding of Jaipur House, the repair of Sikandar Hall and the Art and Media Centre. In the former case what looked like a simple crack in the floor of a bedroom on the eastern side turned out to be a manifestation of the rotten steel frame of the entire floor of the building that was added to the Skinner's estate in 1935-36. The person who deserves special mention in the success of the restoration is Anoop Bishnoi (112 J, 1975) and past president of the DSOBS, who chaired the fund raising effort and persuaded, cajoled, and pressured J-House Old Boys to contribute almost INR 3.5 crores for its renewal. I would like to record that Kanti made the suggestion for the internal layout that had rooms for occupancies of eight, four and two. My contribution was to have automatic flushing systems in the bathrooms! I deemed this not as the kind of luxury taboo for the Spartan life of our boys but as one of those gifts of modernity that should be welcomed in this age of technology.



Section of garden from the swimming pool till Jaipur House – Roshni Kandhari Spring 2010

The suggestions caused some surprise in the APC but my argument was that we were not rebuilding the old as it had existed 47 years but renewing for the future. Though this was my old house and people wryly note that it is a model of good design, conducive to both the academic and the lifestyle needs of boys,

because of my attachment to it- the fact is that the plans that the APC drew for the refurbishment of Tata House were even more ambitious as we had gained experience from J House.

Whether T-House Old Boys would have raised the required funds is a conjecture that remains to be tested!

One also has to admire Kanti Bajpai for his administrative ability and forbearance over the years of demolition and reconstruction that it took to take down and rebuild structures. He first had to cope with placing new boys into the main houses as Foot and Martyn Houses went up. No sooner was there a sigh of relief than the Jaipur House imbroglio came upon us. It meant shifting all the boys to the two new holding houses. This lasted for two years.

Sikandar Hall is a story in itself. We did not know that it was built in kachcha brick till such time as we peeled the plaster on the walls to examine their state! That such a large bungalow could have lasted for such a long time, that included the shock of the earthquake of 1991, was a tribute to the craft of the workmen who constructed it. The architect also did not really seem to know how it was to be repaired and re-roofed, the latter being the primary job required. As the roof started to be taken off almost the entire building collapsed, except for the porch and part of the veranda. On hindsight we should have given this job to a conservation architect. And indeed had we known about the kachcha walls, we would have done so. As required, Neeraj Manchanda had made scale drawings of the building so that what exists today is a true copy of the original plan except that the interventions made to divide it into two residences in Gulab Ramchandani's time have not been adhered to. Today the accommodation given to the housemaster and his assistant are a more rational division of space.

And needless to say we now have a pukka brick structure!

PARAGRAPHS OF DOON

In this new section of The Rose Bowl, we ask Old Boys to write in with their lasting memories of School in just one paragraph. A single paragraph has the potential to capture a mood, a feeling, a colour or a lasting phrase of School memories that could be lost forever to the annals of time. One paragraph takes no time at all, but is irrevocable once committed to our pages. Share a memory of your time at Doon.

Join the collective memory project at therosebowleditor@gmail.com.

The Glorious '40s

SK Mehera
(122 K, 1944)

At the sterling age of 90, Mr Mehera has come out to bat for the Rose Bowl on more occasions than a number of past editors at this post can count. We would like to officially salute him for his diligence, perseverance and patience with colouring our pages regularly and selflessly. Shukriya Sarojji.

October 2018

I joined Doon in early 1940 along with Siegfried Roy, Rajen Wats, Jagjit Singh Dulat, Vivek Nehru, Mir Aziz, Purandar Rao, Kidwai, Humayun. The Headmaster was a tall stern Englishman, Arthur Edward Foot. Housemasters were John Arthur King Martyn (Hyderabad), John Travers Mends Gibson (Kashmir), Christopher Howell Thomas (Jaipur) and Romilly Lisle Holdsworth (Tata). Additionally, there was Holding House, a thatched cottage, across the road from School, under the charge of William Lyndon Clough, where some new boys were housed except for meals which they had in their allocated main Houses. Martyn, Gibson and Holdsworth (Holdy) were known Himalayan mountaineers. In 1931, Holdy was credited with discovering the Valley Of Flowers while on the Kamet expedition led by Frank Smythe. At Doon, he inspired the cousins, Nalni Dhar Jayal (100 T, 1943) and Narendra Dhar (Nandu) Jayal 102 T, 1942 to go climbing in Tehri

Garhwal. Nandu became Principal of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Darjeeling. Sadly, while leading an expedition to Cho Oyu, he died of high-altitude pneumonia.

Holdy taught English and was a stickler for correct grammar. You did not 'reach' a place, you 'arrived' at a place. 'Reach', he said, could also be a mispronunciation of 'retch'. A fine cricketer, at university and county, he inspired excellence in many of his pupils. The cricketers were AK Khanna, his younger brother, SK (Tishi) Khanna, Dev Mukerji, Azam Ariff, Hari Singh and Afzal. Later, one read in the Doon School Weekly and the Rose Bowl, of Michael Dalvi being called the most talented by Holdy.

A talented teacher was Oxford don, Chetan Anand, who taught Hindi, English and history. In 1943, he produced a radio-play, entitled Stalingrad, in the then Assembly hall. He left soon after and went into the film industry with his motion picture Neecha Nagar. The tale of Doon in the 1940s would be incomplete without recording the production of some great stage plays. Gibson produced The Merchant Of Venice with actors dressed in Indian costumes in 1941 and Galsworthy's Strife in 1946. Chary (V Siddhartha Chary), a newly-recruited English Master, Oxonian, gave an outstanding performance as Malvolio ("Some are born great, some achieve greatness, some have greatness thrust upon them.") in his production of Twelfth Night. He also staged Macbeth and, let it be said,

he dominated the School's stage-dramatic life. On the Hindi theatre front, recitals were given by Prithviraj Kapoor and his sons who visited School in 1943/44, while Urdu students heard recitations by Ehsan Danish in 1944/45.

Martyn taught history - English history from 1066, the year of the Norman invasion led by William (the Conqueror) I, until the present day, was part of the School Certificate syllabus and Martyn explained it well.

Gibson taught geography and map-reading. In 1942, he joined the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve and while in Bombay, he photographed the enormous dockyard explosion. Maths and Hindi teacher, TN Vyas became housemaster. Some years later, Gibson and Vyas alternated as principals of Mayo College, Ajmer. Gibson's pride and joy was the large plaster of Paris relief map of India he had made before he joined School. His 'badli', Farhatullah, decided to paint the map. On his return, Gibson exploded, his expletives about "Farta-tullah" are unprintable.

Gibson never learnt proper Hindustani, rendering all springs as 'basant'. "Mera basant toot gaya" when his car broke down. Eggs were "Murgee ka baba log". His efforts at negotiating an exchange of potatoes for flour are part of his legend. Gibson's, "Hum aloo, tum atta" to a terrified village maiden, who feared even interacting with him! One mid-term trip, he took us rafting on the rapids of the Jumna (Yamuna), below the Chakrata bridge, all the while puffing his pipe, with his fishing rod trawling. I was his house captain in the second term of 1946, when I did my HSC. We established a rapport of sorts, which continued intermittently until his death in 1994. He had retired from Mayo, but settled down in Ajmer, where he would receive visits from some of his old pupils, including Aftab and Jamshed Rahim from Pakistan. He was certainly my favourite schoolmaster.

Another person I cannot forget was the dame (matron) of Kashmir house. Her name was Elsie Baker - a large Australian lady, whose sister, Mrs Franklin, was the nurse-in-charge of the school hospital. Boiled spinach, which I liked, was an item on Miss Baker's menu for junior boys, in the house dining room. I was a party to exchanges for potatoes, which took place when she was not looking. She retired in 1946.

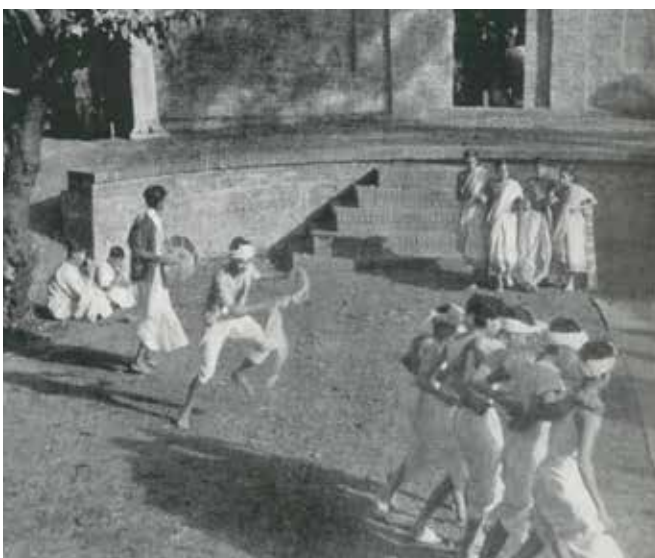
On Saturday nights, prefects and monitors, house-wise in turn, entertained each other in the common rooms, to meals of better quality than the normal fare, washed down with Vimto, a fizzy drink that preceded Coke. Musicians I can remember were Aftab Ahmed Khan (5 K, 1941) (Sitar), Adi Sethna (191 K, 1941) (Sitar), Rajesh Bahadur (303 K, 1947) (Tabla), Phiroze ("Piloo") Mody (255 H, 1943) (Piano), PK Tagore (8 J, 1948) (Piano), Bawa Avtar Singh (197 K, 1942) (Vocal). Piloo Mody also possessed a gramophone and jazz records which the Hyderabad and Kashmir House courtyard could listen to.

Who can forget Muinuddin Sahib, who taught botany and was the athletics coach? He also organised the Dehra Dun "Olympics" in the town, for all boarding schools in the area. After the prize-giving by Mrs Sylvia Foot for an inter-house athletics competition, Muin Sahib called "Three cheers for Mrs Hip Foot Foot Hooray" (by now, a fable!) At Partition, he emigrated to Pakistan and got a teaching job there. He attended Doon's 50th anniversary in 1985 and was invited to ring the school bell. Old Boy and then-prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi's presence brought Time magazine coverage, which also featured an epic tale of the 1947 Pathan tribal invasion of Kashmir. Bahr-i-Karm, (262 K, 1945), of the Swat ruling family, and on leave from the Pakistan army was a leader of the tribals, who captured Izzat Rai Dewan, (108 H, 1943) at Baramula. Recognising him, Bahri grabbed him, saying, "He is my prisoner!" and,

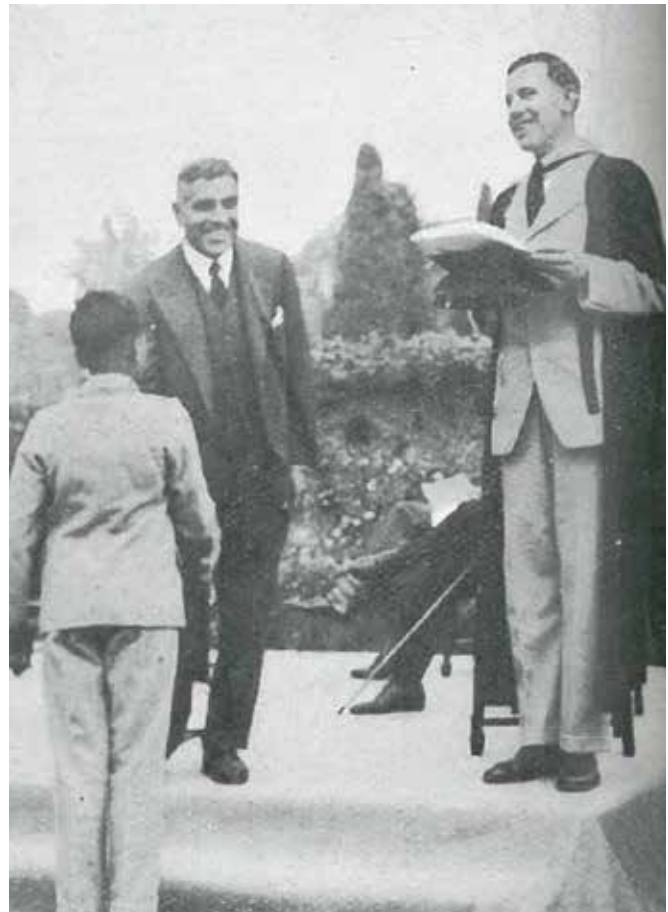
in the confusion that followed, showed Izzat an escape route. Bahri and Izzat confirmed the tale during their presence at the anniversary. Bahri and Brajdharee 'Timick' Lall (209 K, 1943), were champion swimmers at school, and at the IMA which they both joined in 1946.

I remember the Pageant of The Doon organised by Foot in 1941, and Foot's expedition, accompanied by Mohd Afzal Khan (17 J, 1944) for relief work in the cyclone-ravaged Midnapore district of Bengal in 1943. I remember him watching morning PT and ensuring that marching discipline was maintained. He actually installed a loudspeaker outside his house, facing the Main Field and played marching music. His favourite was American composer, Abe Holzmans's, Blaze Away march. I remember the singing at assembly of Jana Gana Mana, described by its composer, Rabindranath Tagore, as a hymn, and the singing of Iqbal's Saare Jehan Se Acchha. Foot would read a prayer, of non-religious content, among them, compositions by Tagore from Gitanjali, translated where necessary, such as "...strike, strike, my Lord, at the root of penury in my heart..."

I remember very clearly, the episode of Bhanwar Ranjit Singh (194 K, 1942), brought to recall by Ashok Gokhale (216 K, 1945) over email. During



Santhal Dance (Bihar)



The Hon'ble Kanwar Sir Jagdish Prasad giving away prizes

the August 1942 Quit India Movement, Bhanwar Ranjit Singh 194K -1942, wanted to commemorate the movement, and persuaded boys to wear red arm-bands and congregate on the Main Field. This took place after a slow start and was peaceful. A somewhat rattled Foot eventually persuaded boys to disperse. But he expelled Bhanwar and sent him home. Bearing in mind that Doon School boys of that time came from upper middle-class homes of civil servants, emerging businessmen, members of legal, medical and other professions, besides land-holding communities, lack of political thinking was not surprising. It was perhaps one of the rare instances of a Doon School boy's contribution to the freedom struggle! Bhanwar may have been sent home but was later allowed to sit for the SC in 1942. He visited the School with his batchmates some years later and I took a photograph with George Verghese's camera at the open air theatre we called The Rose Bowl.

I cannot thank my teachers enough. From memory, here's a list.

AE Foot: Civics & Discipline

JAK Martyn: History

John Gibson: Geography

RL Holdsworth: English

Chetan Anand: History, English & Hindi

VN Kapur

Housemaster, Jaipur 1941 and Gymnastics Coach, till retirement, Hindi and PT

TN Vyas

Housemaster, Kashmir 1942 to 1945 during Gibson's war service also Maths and Hindi Master

CPS Menon: Maths Master

KNP Nair: Maths Master

SC Agarwal: Chemistry Master

Shanti Swarup: Physics Master

Sudhir Khastagir: Art Master

V Shirodkar: Music Master

YR Puri: Biology Master

S Muinuddin: Botany Master and Athletics Coach

Khalilullah Khan: Carpentry Master

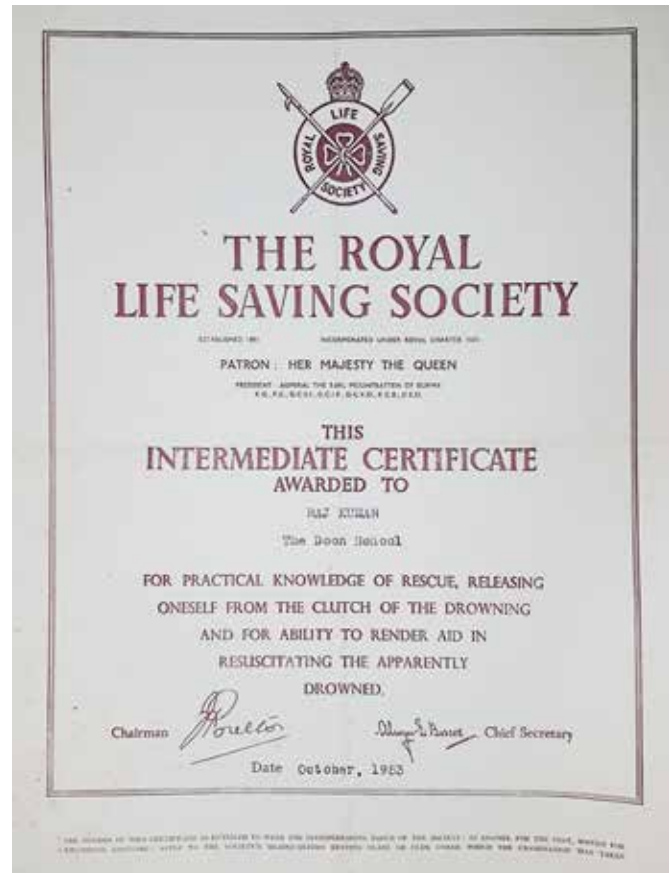
Gulab Singh: Sculpture and Bookbinding Master

RL Moore: Physics Master

Ram Lal Mehta: English Master

SC Roy: Hindi and Bengali

HH Bilgrami: Urdu



Are you Missing from an Honour Board?

The Doon School is renovating its hallowed honour boards. The columns of appointees, captains and award winners in the Main Building and Houses are being targeted. If you find that your name is not mentioned or incorrectly spelled on a board, or if you find a particular board is missing altogether, please reach out to Arjun Bartwal, director of alumni relations at Doon on dar@doonschool.com. Particularly, we are struggling with past winners of the General Proficiency Cup (Sr), Sardar Mohammad Tennis Cup and Jaipur House pictures. Do write in.

Remembering my Dosco Dad

Late Cdr V Narayan Raju (222 K, 1943)

Rajendra Raju

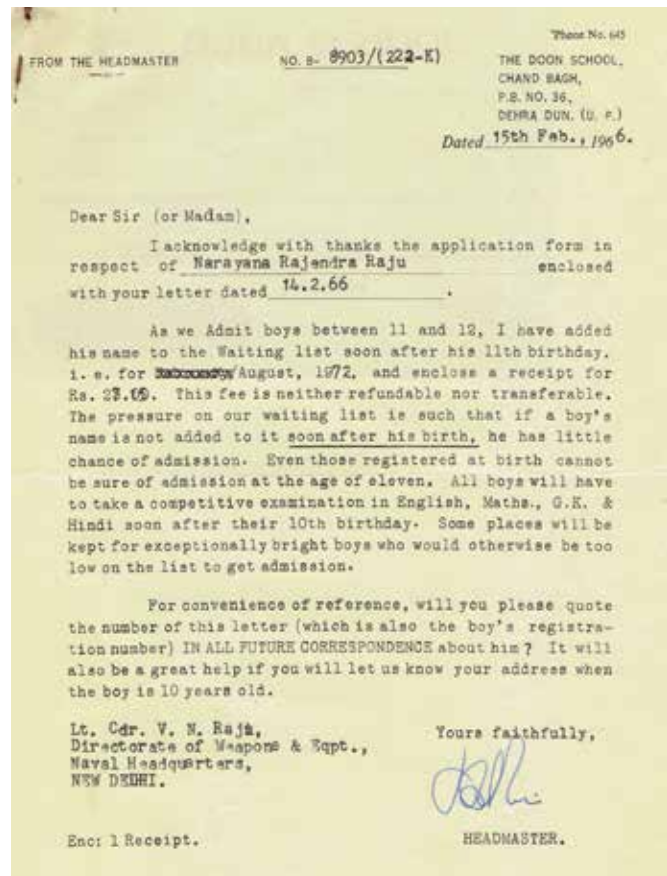
Dear Govind,

I completed work on this article after collecting reminiscences and clarifications from my mother about the old days of the Doon School. In addition, I have attached correspondence between three headmasters and my father, regarding my admission to the Doon School. I joined the Lawrence School Lovedale in the 5th standard as my father could not wait for me to be admitted in the 6th to the Doon School. This was due to his frequent naval postings and the requirement for me to change schools in different cities, each time. You will also find the prospectus of 1966 interesting with staff list, fees and games details.



There were many photos of the campus of those days which were in my father's albums. I recall a few of the swimming pool and diving boards, others of him with classmates on roller-skates in their uniforms, but unfortunately when I'd moved to Mumbai, the photo albums

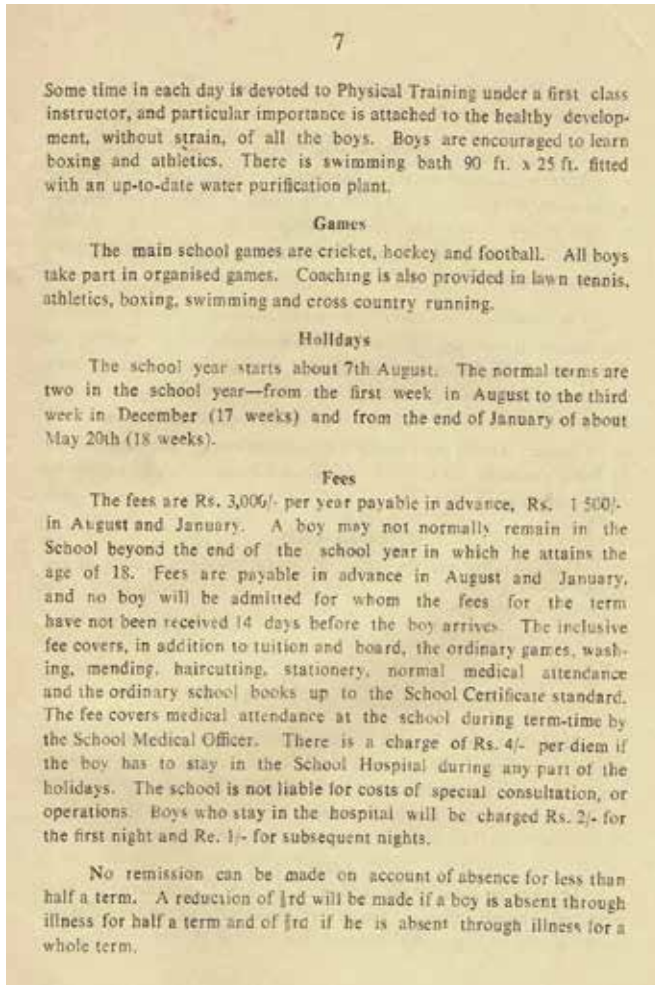
were left in our garage in Chennai. There was some very heavy rainfall in 2005 and water flooded the area. The garage was affected and when I visited years later, all the albums were beyond recovery. Luckily there were negatives of most of the photographs - which I got developed into fresh prints. Those images have been shared with you here. The



old school negatives however were not to be found. Perhaps they may turn up later on.

Since this was one of the initial batches of the Doon school, a term's preparatory schooling was required at Welham Boys' School. This was followed by admission into the Doon School in 1937. In those days, some boys from smaller towns near Madras would assemble at the residence of my grandfather,

Rao Bahadur PV Raju's house, (Omar Bagh, Nungambakkam Madras) and then be entrusted to a



teacher from the Doon School. They would then all be put onto the train (it was a long journey that took days on steam locomotives).

V Narayan Raju studied and passed out of the Doon School, Dehradun (Chandbagh campus) in 1943. The school had facilities for athletics, field sports, boxing, swimming, tennis, and mid-term mountaineering expeditions which were led by Mr Holdsworth and Mr Gibson among others. From the old photographs of those days, it would appear that roller skating and swimming were also popular among the students. There was a Lifesaving Gold medal awarded by the Royal Life Saving Society in October 1942 to my father (the medal sits below his Indian Navy medals).

My father then completed his PUC (1st Class) from Loyola College, BE (1st Class) from College

of Engineering Guindy, Madras during which period he represented his college in tennis, swimming and boxing. He was awarded a university blue in boxing and swimming, after which he joined the Indian Navy and was posted to the UK for the Commonwealth Naval Electrical Engineering course. In 1959, just weeks before leaving for the UK, Lt V Narayan Raju married Damara Chellamamba Indira Devi (daughter of Zamindar of Urandur Late Sri DV Narayanaswamy, and granddaughter of the Raja of Panagal – Raja Sir P Rama Rayaningar KCIE, Star of India). She is also the sister of Dr MVR Appa Rao (aka Rama Varma 218 K, 1949).

In England in 1959-60, my father met his former Doon School teacher AE Foot. In the UK, Mr Foot was a founder-headmaster of Ottershaw School who invited the young couple to dinner. There was much laughter when Mr Foot was surprised not to have been asked for some pocket money. In those days, foreign exchange was limited and Indian students were usually short of funds. Of course, my father was then a serving officer of the Indian Navy, earning a salary.

In 1960, after the results of the Commonwealth Naval Electrical Engineering Course were declared, my father stood first and the happiest person was a course mate at the Commonwealth who was also a Dosco (then serving with the Pakistan Navy) who lifted Lt V Narayan Raju high in celebration with pride that a fellow South Asian and Dosco had topped the course. When the time came to return home there was an air of sadness about the two Doscos as they knew that their next meeting would probably be in Naval battles on opposing sides in the Indian Ocean. They were not far off the mark as events moved India and Pakistan into two full-scale wars in 1965 and 1971 involving the navies in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal theatres of the Indian Ocean.

Between 1961 and 1964 my father operated as director of the Weapons and Equipment Directorate



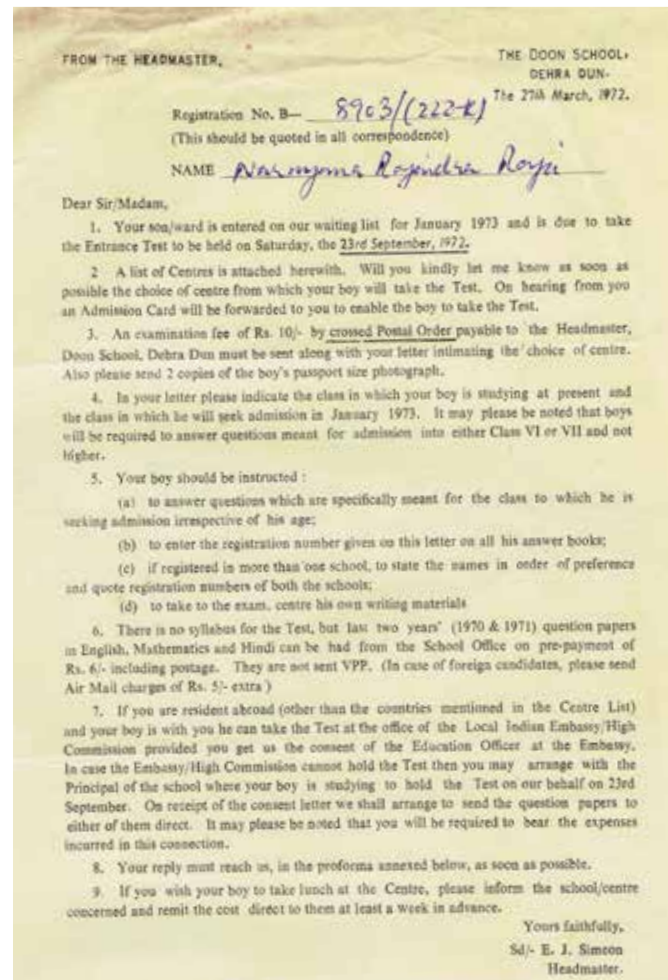
the development of the Indian Navy's blue water capabilities and in the war, which followed.

During the 1971 war my father was made head of the Base Maintenance Unit of INS Circars at Visakhapatnam that provided crucial wartime engineering maintenance support for ships of the Eastern Naval Command fleet that played a decisive role in the liberation of Bangladesh and the surrender of East Pakistan.

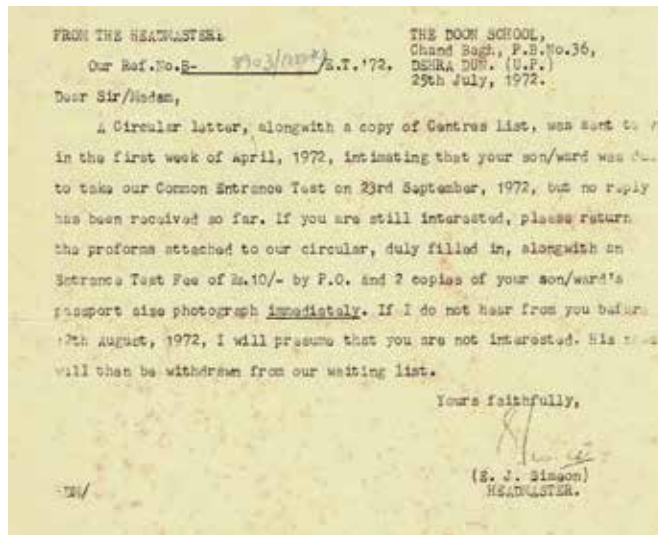
Later, circa 1972, my father was posted to INS Adyar in Fort St George Madras. At a dance performance arranged by another Dosco – Shri C Ramakrishna (66 K, 1945) whose niece Alarmel Valli was performing Bharatnatyam, my father found himself seated in the same row as Mr Gibson. Reportedly, a long look between master and pupil took place, as they sat some distance from each other, in

at Naval HQ in New Delhi. In 1965, he was posted to the INS Valsura Naval Base at Jamnagar where he was responsible for setting up the anti-aircraft defences for the base to defend against the air raids in which the base was targeted and bombed by Pakistani Air Force Sabre jet aircrafts. In Jamnagar during peacetime there were several continuous get-togethers with a Dosco Brahma Katju (199 T, 1942), a director at Digvijay Mills, and their families continued the friendship into the next generation.

In 1966 while posted to Western Naval Command Mumbai, my father set-up India's first Electronics Testing and Maintenance facility for advanced electronic weapon systems, radar and gyro at INS Angre in Bombay. From 1966-68 he was posted to Moscow and Vladivostok in the USSR and returned as the Fleet Electrical Officer on the first fleet of Petya Class Destroyers, which played a key role in

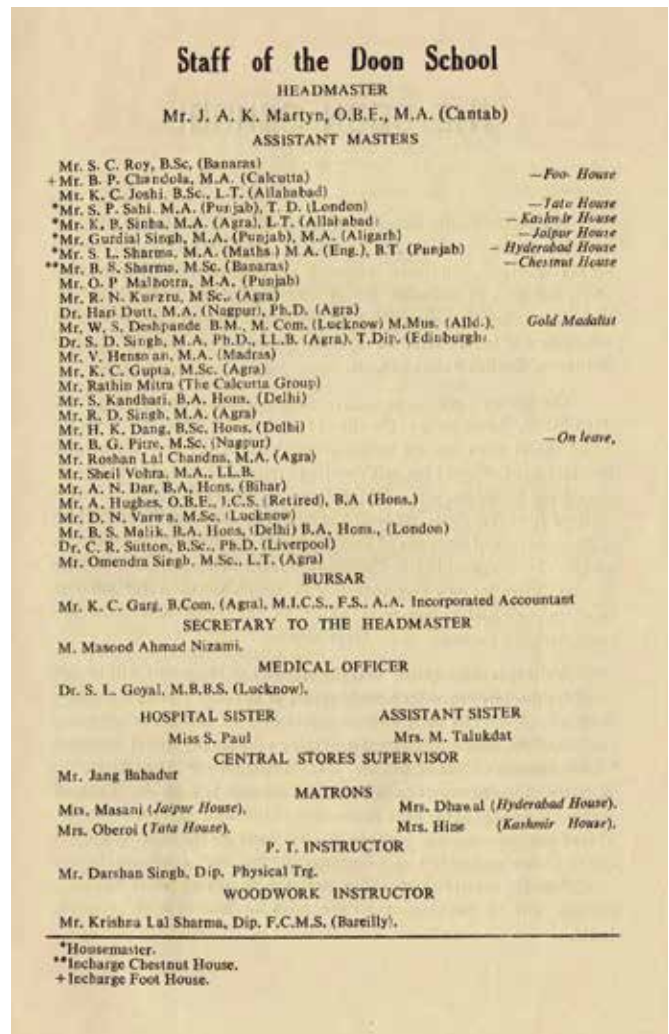


the same row. A sudden spark of recognition led to a bear hug when Mr Gibson is supposed to have immediately said "Ah! Raju – 222 K". Mr Gibson could boast a sharp memory and recognized his old pupil after nearly 30 years.



An alumnus of Defense Institute Mussoorie, Admiralty Compass Observatory, Slough UK and HMS Collingwood UK, my father was awarded the Sangram Medal, Paschim Star and Poorvi Star during the India-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, respectively. He was also in service in the 1962 India-China war. Cdr V Narayan Raju's last Naval posting was at Madras as the first OIC-PIEN a tri-service initiative to indigenize weapons systems under Ministry of Defence production. During his tenure, he was also the Directorate General of Inspection when the complex at Meenambakkam was constructed. He passed away while in service in September 1974 at the young age of 46 when preparations were underway for the inauguration of the facility by prime minister Indira Gandhi. It is perhaps a great coincidence that his father Late Rao Bahadur PV Raju had been the superintending engineer for construction of the Meenambakkam Madras Airport in 1942. The two mega projects by father and son ie Madras Airport and the DGI Complex are situated diagonally from each other, separated by national highway NH-45. These were both their final projects in decidedly illustrious careers. The quality of these projects is

self-evident, in that those early projects to develop the national infrastructure are in full use, even today. A few photographs of my grandfather, uncles and my father's brother-in-law are attached – most of these were taken during or a few years after he had passed out from Doon, and was in the initial phase of his naval career.



All those who were fortunate to know him for his integrity, patriotism and contribution to developing indigenous defense capabilities fondly remember my father. He was a connoisseur of classical music and built up a collection during his postings and travels in Europe. He was well-read, and developed a library of the classics. He has remained a lifelong inspiration to me.

All the Young Dudes

Ashutosh Goyal

(392 K, 1986)

Soon after I assumed office at The DSOBS, I suggested to President Jaswinder Singh Bull that we should consider publishing the next edition of The Dosco Record. The suggestion found favour with him and the work of getting in touch with all the members of the fraternity started in earnest. I decided that I would personally update all the latest coordinates received from DoscOs myself. This, I thought, would be a good way of familiarising myself with a large section of the fraternity.

In the course of this activity, I happened to exchange a few emails with Col (Retd) Mohd Zafar Khan (8 J, 1946), of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, who is now based in London. Col Zafar Khan was School Captain in 1946, much like his brother, Mr Mohd. Afzal Khan (17 J, 1944), who was School Captain in 1944. This may, perhaps, be the only instance in the history of School that both siblings went on to become School Captains.

I touched base with Col Zafar Khan in June, when I visited London to attend the DSOBS get-together. I was promptly invited to lunch at his residence.



Vijai Kapur with the Khan brothers in London

I was anticipating a quiet outing where, I thought, I would get sufficient time on a one-to-one basis with him, where I would request him to share stories and anecdotes of his time at Chandbagh. After all, Col Khan was just a little shy of 90 years. I rang the bell, prepared to wait a little till the door would be opened. As the door opened, I heard peals of laughter coming from inside. I thought to myself, how fortunate my host was, his family seemed to all live with him and that too in a foreign land. I was graciously ushered to the lower ground floor of the house.

As I entered the room, I was greeted by a beaming Col Khan. Along with him there were, his older brother, Mr Mohd Afzal Khan, Mr JC Malhotra (290 J, 1946), President Vijai Kapur (289 J, 1948) and a couple of others, who were not DoscOs. Oh, so this is where the laughter was coming from! Someone must have cracked a joke, I thought to myself. Pleasantries done, I was promptly handed a glass of my 'poison' by the Jeeves in attendance.

I thought I'll be subjected to a volley of machine gun fire of questions about School and the DSOBS, but our revered and oldest living (may God give him a long and cheerful life) president Kapur must have updated them about all this already. Instead, I was pretty much a mute spectator to this group of very 'young' and enthusiastic 'boys' sharing jokes, spilling the beans about their antics in School, recalling one anecdote after another, pulling each-others' legs, just like they would have been doing some 70-75 years earlier, when they were in School! I tried to pitch in once or twice. It couldn't have been much more than a

monosyllable each time, just to remind them that I was also in the room!

But, I just do not know how fast the two hours, or so, flitted by. I was totally awed by their spirit, their sense of humour and their camaraderie. Not for a moment did I feel out of place. The afternoon would have lasted much longer, but these youthful gents had to call it a day as they had to get back and pack their bags. They were driving off early the next morning to the lake districts, and they were going to be driving on their own, all the way.

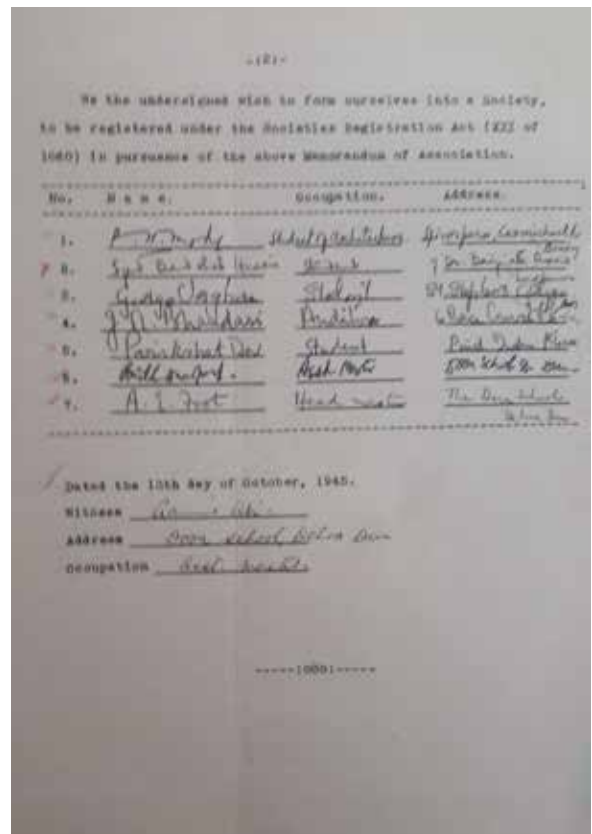
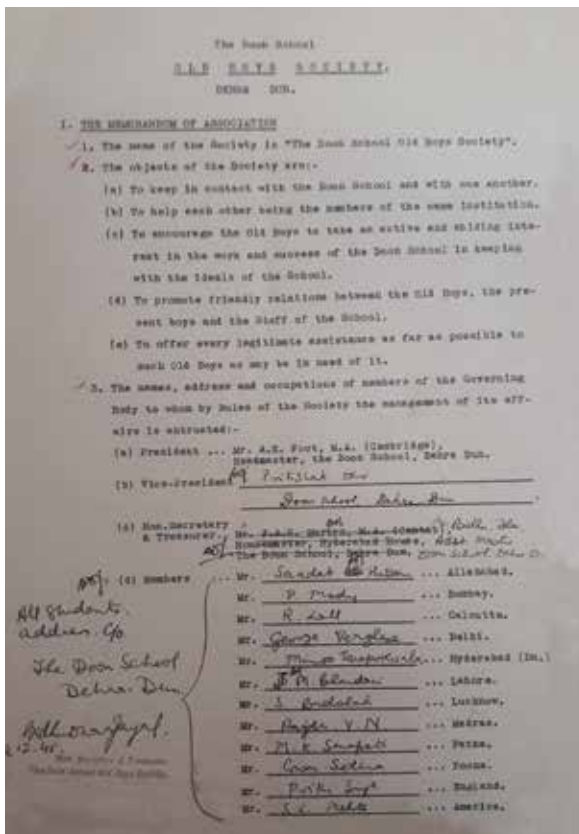
After a hearty lunch, I trudged back, with guffaws of laughter of my host and his friends

reverberating in my ear and fully intoxicated, not with the ales that I guzzled, but by the spirit and youthfulness of these spritely Doscocs. I thought to myself, there was so much to learn from such Doscocs. They were really enjoying life to the hilt, without a care in this world for the aches and pains and niggles that most others, much younger than them, crib about all the time. Did I notice a spring in my step? Don't they say, you are the company you keep?

May God give all of them long, healthy and cheerful lives. Col Khan I will come back to London again to partake of your most gracious hospitality and for a one-to-one *guftgu* with you. Until then, *Khuda Hafiz*.

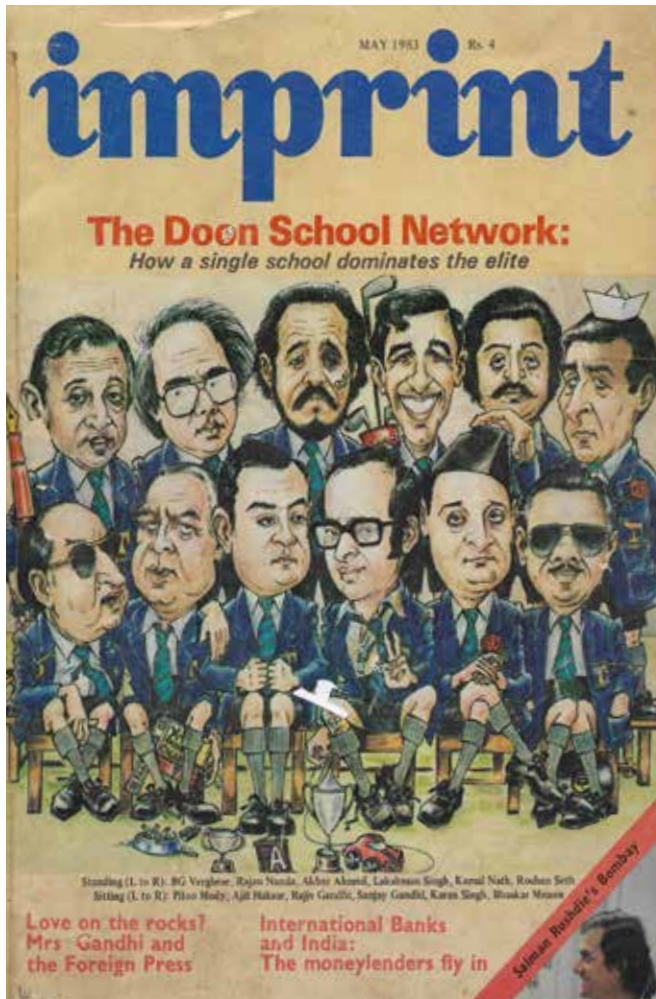
DOWN MEMORY LANE

These photographs show the documents that formally led to the institution of the Doon School Old Boys' Society. Dated October 15th, 1945, the signatories feature well-known Doon Old Boys and the School's legendary first headmaster AE Foot, who is widely credited as having started the Society. Thanks to Sameer Dhingra (452 T, 1987) for snapping the pics and circulating them.



Imprint Magazine Cover

featuring Doon Alumni, May 1983



This cover of the famed *Imprint* magazine which began life in India in the 1960s, features caricatures of some of Doon's most prominent Old Boys with the somewhat bombastic sub-headline 'How a single school dominates the elite.' Sent in to us by President of the DSOBS, Jaswinder Singh from his archive, the cover is a snapshot of the sort of cachet the Doon School had become synonymous with in the 1980s.

Interestingly, and as a side note, Imprint magazine which featured some of the most renowned journalism on liberal-democratic ideals in India, was revealed to be a CIA-funded project as part of the great propagandist drive of the US to combat Soviet ideals in India during the Cold War. The magazine is said to have been part of an effort by the US to combat lavishly illustrated Russian folk tale story books which were said to be flooding the Indian market. If you'd like to read more about the subject, check out 'How the CIA Tricked the World's Best Writers' by Joel Whitney (2015) or 'A Hack's Progress' by Phil Knightley (1997). - Ed.

HM's Dinner in Mumbai

The HM's Dinner hosted by Chairman, DSOBS Sunil Munjal and IPSS Board Members will be held at the St Regis hotel in Mumbai on 15th November at 8.00pm.

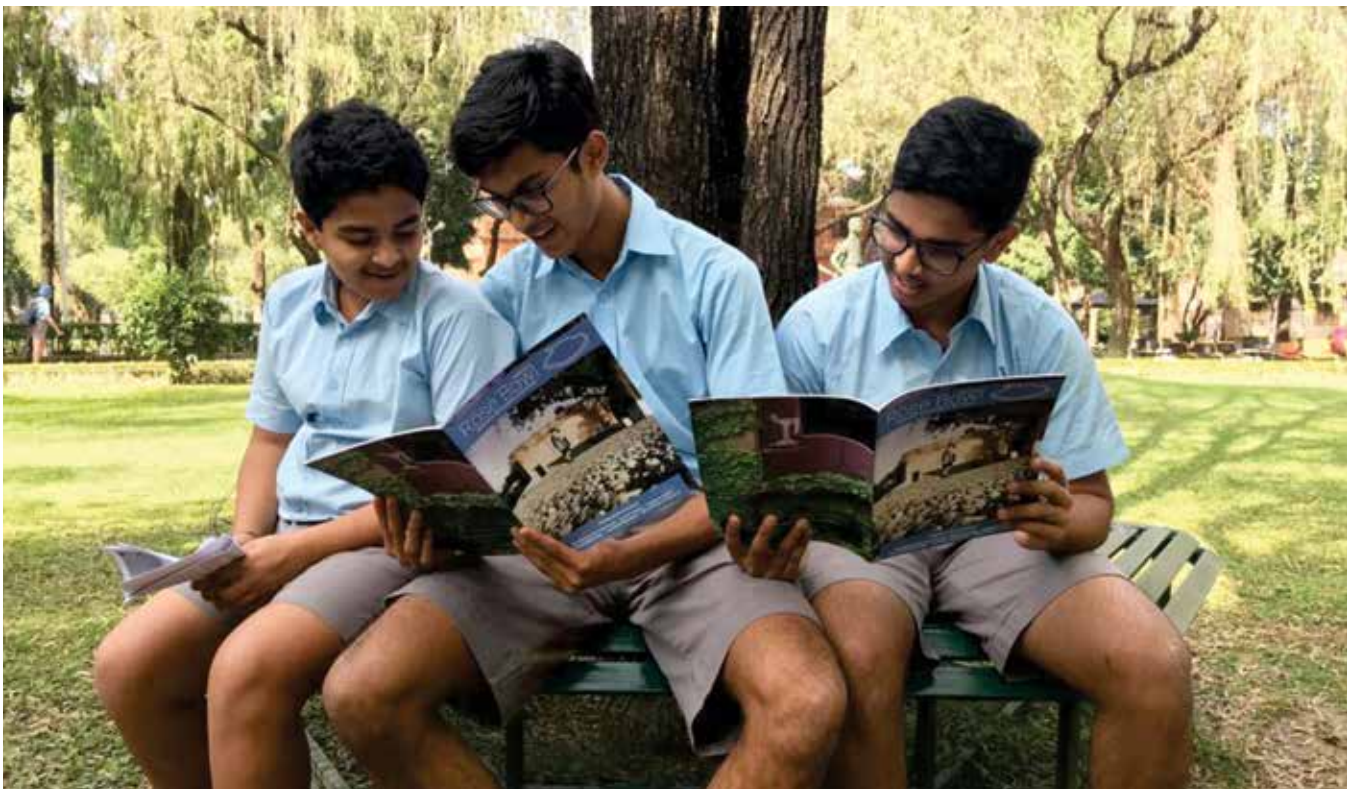
Newly elected president and vice president of the DSOBS, Rahul Kohli and Tarun Sawhney are to be in attendance as well. This is a great opportunity for the Dosco community to meet. Spouses and partners are welcome.

If you would like to attend this free event, please email Mumbai Dosco reps
Abhishek Mattoo (abhishekmattoo@yahoo.com)
or Apurva Agarwal (apurvaagarwal@hotmail.com).

Food for thought! The Rose Bowl gets circulated to current A, S & SC Formers



We've got a new audience. Not one boy at the table is eating!



'That's what you're going to look like in 20 years!'

On the Snow Leopard's Trail

Varun Narain Mathur
(528 OB, 1994)



The magnificent Snow Leopard

I have been traveling for wildlife for almost 35 years now and my travel has taken me all over India, Africa, parts of Europe and Australia. Photography though is a relatively new passion – something I have been working on for the last decade. I made wildlife travel a profession about five years ago and have been organizing wilderness experiences for photographers, artists, sculptors and of course wildlife enthusiasts from around the world.

To my mind, the fun element of wildlife is the search - tracking wildlife and traversing through different landscapes. The world visits India to see the tiger but we have so much more. Did you know that India has the highest diversity of wildcats in the world? With 15 wildcat species we have more

diversity than the entire continent of Africa, which has 10 wildcats. Some of the wildcats that no one associates India with are Eurasian Lynx, Pallas Cat and the Snow Leopard.

Although I have many stories on adventure in the wild, my most recent adventure was in March when I traveled to Ladakh with some clients to Hemis National Park. A yak slipped on ice and broke her leg. She managed to hobble back to Rumbak village but succumbed to her injuries there. It was not long before a snow leopard found her. We were on our way to Ulley (a different region we visit to look for the snow leopard) but got a phone call about a snow leopard sitting on the kill. After a short drive and a 3-hour trek we made it to Rumbak. We found the snow leopard with



Scouring the bleak landscape for its next meal

the kill and got great shots from up-close. But the background to the shots was that of fencing around the farm it had found the yak in, which in my mind didn't make for great photography. I wanted a shot with nothing but wilderness all around. But with us arriving and all the camera shutters going off, the snow leopard slinked away, disappearing into the surrounding mountains. This year was exceptionally warm and there was almost no snow around except for a frozen river. We tried tracking this elusive cat but all we found was her trail in a gully that she walked to sneak into the village. Her path through the gully was such that you could see her only when she would emerge on to the frozen river, which she had to cross in order to reach the village. The next day I decided to stake out the river in the hope of capturing photographs of her. Since she had arrived



Guarding its meal

the previous day at about 1430 in the afternoon I got into position by 1330. Others thought it was foolish to wait on a frozen river and didn't accompany me. I instructed them to tell me when she approached as I would not be able to see her till she was right in front of me, and didn't want to miss the shot. Probably because she was disturbed the day before she took a long nap and only made her move past 1730 and that too cautiously. I had by then started to lose hope and was focusing more on the last rays of the sun as they lit up the mountains behind me. I decided to quickly snap away a few pics when I saw people waving out to me. As I turned around, the leopard was right in



Scaring away the birds


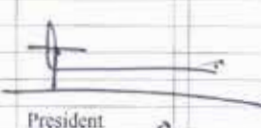

front of my study of her path before a crossing. She stretched and then crossed over to the village where a meal lay in wait. She was oblivious to my presence and I got many candid shots. Although the moment was a little less than a minute, it was surreal – just as I had imagined it. Very few times in nature do things go as planned. I did end up standing for five and a half hours on a frozen river in -10 degrees, but it was worth it. The experience was nothing short of déjà vu as I had run the scenario in my head exactly the way it played out. To me this was being in complete sync with nature.

For more of Varun's stunning photography, look for 'vnmathur' on flickr.com. For more information on the adventure travel or photography that Varun undertakes, contact him on varun528@gmail.com.



BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2018

THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY					
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 01.04.2017 TO 31.03.2018					
01.04.2016 TO 31.03.2017	EXPENDITURE	01.04.2017 TO 31.03.2018	01.04.2016 TO 31.03.2017	INCOME	01.04.2017 TO 31.03.2018
43,740.00	AGME/EGM Exps	83,441.00	72,245.00	Consortium Gifts - Memorabilia	102,479.69
5,286.50	Bank Charges	6,704.47	5,773,255.22	Interest from Bank	5,511,311.13
283,903.38	Depr. on Fixed Assets	266,200.00	70,000.00	IPSS Grant	70,000.00
14,803,529.00	Donations	6,549,250.00	2,000,000.00	Membership Subscription	7,280,000.00
1,418,818.00	Establishment Salary Expenses	1,826,420.00	756,000.00	Rent	840,000.00
330,000.00	Langar Seva - Delhi Langar Seva	538,000.00	530,350.00	Donation for Langar Seva	482,000.00
990,000.00	Office Rent - Premises/equipmen	1,013,000.00	265,764.00	Rose Bowl NL Contribution	200,000.00
365,334.00	Office Maintenance	494,871.00	4,897.61	Donation - General	714,208.50
22,844.00	Postage	9,131.00			
-	Professional fee	300,000.00			
1,372,303.00	Rose Bowl Newsletter Expenses	1,770,612.00			
12,860.00	Printing & Stationery	32,862.00			
35,810.00	Telephone Expenses	35,930.00			
48,000.00	Travelling Expenses	48,000.00			
115,607.00	Website Maintenance	246,440.00			
		13,220,861.47			
	Excess of Income over Expenditur carried to General Fund	1,979,137.85	10,575,543.05	Excess of Expenditure over Income carried to General Fund	-
19,848,034.88	TOTAL	15,199,999.32	19,848,034.88	TOTAL	15,199,999.32

In terms of our separate report of even date
For N. Kochhar & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No. 010429N

 Executive Secretary
 President
 (Binit Jaisawal)
Partner
M. No. 509660

New Delhi
Sept 24, 2018

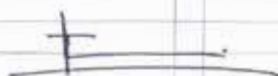



BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2018

THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2018			
AS ON 31.03.2017	LIABILITIES	AS ON 31.03.2018	
	GENERAL FUND		
35,527,308.01	Opening Balance	35,527,308.01	
	Add : Excess of income over expenditure	1,979,137.85	37,506,445.86
	CORPUS FUND		
	General -Recd during the year	2,172,811.93	2,172,811.93
	Bursary - DSOBS		
25,369,674.75	Op. Balance	25,369,674.75	
	Add : Donations received during the year-	110,000.00	25,479,674.75
526,332.73	Calamity-Relief Fund	526,332.73	
	Add : Donations received during the year-	100,000.00	626,332.73
2,673,690.50	Gurudakshina Fund		2,673,690.50
10,355,996.49	Rose Bowl Newsletter corpus		10,355,996.49
	Bombay (Mumbai) Region		
342,666.43	Closing Balance		342,666.43
	Chennai Region		
171,489.50	Closing Balance		171,489.50
140,000.00	Security Deposit Vyahrti Consultancy P Ltd (for Rent)		140,000.00
	Tax Deducted at Source		
2,938,597.73	Closing Balance		2,938,597.73
78,045,756.14	TOTAL		82,407,705.92

In terms of our separate report of even date
For N. Kochhar & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No. 010429N


Executive Secretary







President


(Binod Jaiswal)
Partner
M. No. 509660



New Delhi
24-Sep-18

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2018

THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2018			
AS ON 31.03.2017	ASSETS	AS ON 31.03.2018	
	FIXED ASSETS		
2,128,598.24	Flat 1007 Bhikaiji C.Place, N.Delhi	1,915,738.24	
279,446.50	Furniture & Fixtures	251,501.50	
63,487.58	Computer and Fax	38,092.58	2,205,332.32
	INVESTMENTS		
	A. GENERAL FUND		
26,400,000.00	FDR with HDFC/SYN. BANK	31,600,000.00	31,600,000.00
	B. CORPUS FD - SYND BK/HDFC/CBI		
25,400,000.00	BURSARY	25,400,000.00	
46,146.00	CHENNAI REGION	46,146.00	
2,600,000.00	GURUDAKSHINA FUND	2,600,000.00	
10,400,000.00	ROSE BOWL NL FUND	10,200,000.00	
1,137,071.19	MISC Funds	600,000.00	38,846,146.00
	ADVANCES		
110,107.31	DOON SCHOOL CURRENT A/C	230,000.00	
132,000.00	SECURITY DEPOSIT - RENT	132,000.00	
33,000.00	SECURITY DEPOSIT - FIXTURES	33,000.00	
8,300.00	KAGA SERVICES	15,679.00	
850,000.00	LTAX DEMAND DEPOSITED- A/YRS - 2013-14/2014 -15	3,108,000.00	
2,938,597.73	TAX DEDUCTED AT SOURCE	2,885,066.20	6,403,745.20
	CASH & BANK BALANCES		
4,511,894.30	Syndicate Bank - S/B A/c- Delhi -1	2,759,424.35	
456,685.77	Syndicate Bank - S/B A/c- Delhi -2	82,379.53	
103,146.59	HDFC Bank C-A/c - Delhi	97,811.59	
260,005.93	HDFC Bank S/B A/c - Bombay	269,619.93	
47,275.08	Union Bk of India S/B A/c - Chennai	49,105.08	
89,024.92	Central Bank of India C-A/c-Chennai	92,278.92	
50,969.00	Cash in hand	1,863.00	3,352,482.40
78,045,756.14	TOTAL		82,407,705.92
		In terms of our separate report of even date	
		For N. Kochhar & Co.	
		Chartered Accountants	
		Firm Regn. No. 010429N	
			
Executive Secretary	President	(Binod Jaisawal)	
		Partner	
		M. No. 509660	
New Delhi			
Sept 24, 2018			

Agenda for the 79th Annual General Meeting of The Doon School Old Boys' Society to be held at The Doon School, Dehra Dun On Saturday 13th October, 2018 commencing at 2.00 p.m.

1. To pass a condolence resolution in the memory of the following departed members.

Sl. No.	PREFIX	NAME	SURNAME	ST_NO	BATCH
1	AMBASSADOR	JAMSHEED K A	MARKER	126-J	1938
2	MR	MINOO HOSANG	CHENOY	160-J	1942
3	DR	COWAS M	MODY	202-H	1942
4	MR	JAYKANT	PATTANI	169-H	1943
5	MR	AZAM G H	ARIFF	141-H	1944
6	MR	MIHIR KUMAR	DAS	233-K	1945
7	MR	SUGATO	CHAUDHURI	107-J	1947
8	DR	KRISHNAMOORTHY	SRINIVAS	186-T	1949
9	DR	BISWAJIT	CHAUDHURI	061-T	1950
10	MR	RAVINDRA NATH	MADAN	003-J	1950
11	MR	SUKHBIR SINGH	GREWAL	278-K	1950
12	MR	JAWAHAR LAL	AGARWAL	018-H	1951
13	MR	MADHAV	CADAMBI	260-T	1952
14	MR	JASPAL S	GILL	028-K	1952
15	MR	SHAMSUNDER	AGGARWAL	053-K	1954
16	MR	R KAMALENDRA	SINGH	094-J	1954
17	MR	INDER LAL	SETHI	200-T	1955
18	KANWAR	RATANJIT	SINGH	218-H	1956
19	MR	DHRUVNITI PD	SINGH	309-H	1958
20	MR	RAM PRASAD	BHARGAVA	023-H	1958
21	MR	RANVIR	CHOPRA	190-J	1958
22	MR	RAJAN	NANDA	012-H	1960
23	MR	NALIN	NIRULA	156-K	1966
24	MR	PRADEEP	CHOUDHRY	082-J	1966
25	MR	AMITABH	DEVENDRA	121-K	1969
26	MR	KEKOO S	NICHOLSON	067-KB	1970
27	MR	SHANTANU	JHA	040-JB	1983
28	MR	RAHIL	ARORA	628-H	2015
29	MR	SUKHDEV	BHATIA		ASSOCIATE MEMBER
30	MR	DEV PRIYA	LAHIRI		ASSOCIATE MEMBER

2. Power Point Presentation by the President

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting held on 14 Oct 2017 at The Doon School Dehra Dun

4. Discussion of matters arising out of the Minutes
5. Confirmation of the Minutes of the EGM held on March 10, 2018 at IIC, New Delhi
6. Any matter arising from the minutes of the EGM
7. Approval of Accounts as on 31st March 2018
8. A report on the DSOBS Ten year plan
9. To explore the possibility of working with CSR compliant organizations and also the possibility of becoming compliant for CSR funding
10. Discussion & Proposal to sell the Bhikaiji Bhavan flat & buy a new property in lieu
11. Becoming GST compliant
12. Appointment of Auditors
13. Election / Re-election of Office bearers
14. Any other business with the permission of the Chair

Sushil Kumar Sharma
Executive Secretary



Minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting of the Doon School Old Boys Society being held in Doon School, Dehra Dun on Saturday October 14, 2017 at 2:30 pm in the Kilachand Library

1 To pass a condolence resolution in the memory of the Old Boys who have passed away since last Founders day.

Sl. No.	PREFIX	NAME	SURNAME	ST_NO	BATCH
1	MR	DULEEP C	MATTHAI	075-H	1940
2	MAJ	KHUSH AHMAD-UL	MULK	114-T	1941
3	MR	RAJ KUMAR	ATAL	130-J	1942
4	MR	PRAKASH CHANDER	CHADHA	217-K	1942
5	MR	GULAB	RAMCHANDANI	225-T	1942
6	KR	BIJAI	SINGH	234-H	1942
7	MR	RAGHUPATI	SAHAY	075-H	1946
8	LT COL	SHARDA N	KHANNA	043-K	1947
9	MR	BHARAT	MAHEY	283-J	1947
10	COL	SURAJIT	CHAUDHRI	042-J	1950
11	MR	ARVIND	CHARANJIVA	030-J	1951
12	MR	ADHAR S	MIRCHANDANI	276-J	1952
13	MR	RAGHU SHER	SINGH	110-T	1953
14	MR	DALJIT	SINGH (TONY)	078-H	1954
15	MR	SHIV NARAYAN	GOYAL	301-H	1955
16	MR	BALJIT S	MALIK	073-K	1955
17	MR	VIRESHWAR DAYAL	SETH	061-K	1957
18	MR	PREETINDER S	DHILLON	324-H	1958
19	MR	MARTAND	SINGH	222-K	1962
20	MR	AMITAVA	BOSE	080-K	1963
21	MR	ANIL	GOIL	379-H	1963
22	MR	VISHVJIT P	SINGH	361-T	1963
23	MR	HANUWANT	SINGH	018-K	1965
24	MR	KANWALJIT	SINGH	314-T	1965
25	MR	NARESH	BAREJA	005-J	1968
26	MR	NANDAN	SAWHNEY	177-J	1969
27	MR	RAGHVENDRA	MANGLIK	302-HA	1971
28	MR	ARUN	BERY	032-TB	1973
29	MR	RAVINDER	SINHA	086-J	1973
30	MR	SANJEEV R	PURI	208-KB	1975
31	MR	SANDEEP	GUPTA	078-TB	1983
32	MR	SEIKHOLEN	KHONGSAI	101-TB	1995
33	MR	SAKET	KASHYAP	322-OB	2004
34	AMBASSADOR	V SIDDHARTHA	CHARRY	Associate Member	
35	MR	DAVID SUNEEL	JOHN	Associate Member	

2. A presentation of the DSOBS activities of the year

The Presentation was made by Mr Ashutosh Goyal, Jt Secretary

The President first invited Mr Yash Gandhi , a member of the Executive Committee and batch of 2007, who said that they had recently started the Aristocracy of Service with the Purka Youth Development Society, run by Dr. Swamy. They were very impressed with all that this group was doing and on this occasion wished to show their appreciation. Akash read out the letter of appreciation, on behalf of the class of 2007.

“ On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of passing out from school the batch of 2007 wishes to make a humble contribution to Purka Youth Development Society. Their donation will help further the joys of education, improve infrastructure of the school and help improve education. The path of 2007 is deeply inspired by the values of service inculcated in us by the school and we dedicate this contribution to the cause of India where children from all sectors of society receive top quality education. On this occasion we convey our best wishes to all students associated with Purka Youth Development Society. May they successfully pursue their dreams and aspirations and make their school proud.”

Mr Ram Guha, Chief Guest of this year’s Founders Day celebrations and an old boy, said that the spirit of giving service across all sectors is very important. I hope the initiative shown by the class of 2007 is followed by all classes.

In his thank you speech Dr. Swamy felt very humbled by this gesture and recognition. The annual budget of the care centre, for children of

age 3 to 18 years is about 4 ½ crores and cater to about 550 children. Apart from education the children are given food, clothing, and medical care. For students who get into college, interest free loans are available. Students are picked from the poorest backward regions. Was very happy that the Doon school is cultivating an agile mind and a great heart.

The President welcomed all the members present to the 78th Annual general meeting of the DSOBS being held in the school Kilachand Library. He informed the members that this year he is going to do away with the practice of the President giving a speech and giving details of the achievements of the society in the past one year. Instead a power point presentation will be made showing the various activities that the society has done this year. Mr Sheel Sharma read out the names of all Old Boys who had passed away since last AGM. While the names were being read the photographs of the departed Old Boys was being shown on the screen. At the end all assembled stood in silence for a minute in memory of the departed Old Boys, This year there were two associate members also who had passed away. A homage was paid to the former Headmaster Mr Gulab Ramchandani when a video of him reading out the prayer “ Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high....”

The president welcomed Mr Ramchandra Guha, 007 – H James Bond, and as he was in a hurry to go and take a class he was requested to quickly say a few words. Mr Guha said that he will later talk on what school meant to him and what the school should mean to the country in future. He wanted to spend some time with the boys, to relive some of the humour and some of the memories rather than some boring speeches.

The President wanted to congratulate the batches that celebrated their 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 50th,

55th and 60th Jubilees. Then in lieu of the President's speech a power point presentation highlighting the activities of the DSOBS in the year was shown..

1 The first 30 slides showed the photographs of the Deceased Old Boys.

2 The Secretariat underwent some renovation.

Raj Kumar Seth was visiting after a long time and wanted the DSOBS to start a club. The President said that earlier effort had been made but nothing concrete had emerged. The Secretariat was fully furnished and Old Boys were welcome to use the Premises for their get together. Old boys could use the place for a short stay , shower and change and even have their small get together.

3 The inaugural meeting of the Alumni heads was held at the Secretariat when about 30 people came representing their schools. The President complimented Donny for organizing this get together. They were all amazed to see the school. It was proposed that an Alumni League be constituted and together organize a Alumni Conclave.

4 For the first time the school assembly was conducted by the DSOBS President. This is proposed to be an annual event. The Headmaster had invited the President to take the Assemble and to talk about the Aristocracy of Service. The President felt that the boys lacked basic courtesies like wishing visitors.

5 On May 24, 2017 The Chandbagh Accord was signed between DSOBS and School by Gautam Thapar, Jaswinder Singh and Matthew Raggett. This was basically laying down working guidelines for school and DSOBS. It was to establish a union between school and Old boys and to foster a spirit of comradeship between the President and the Chairman of the Board of school.

6 For the first time an Interaction between the

Headmaster and prospective Old boy parents was held in the secretariat where the Headmaster appraised the parents of the Entrance Test details and gave a chance for the parents to clear any doubts.

7 The DSOBS supported the school for the DSMUN by organizing flags for the occasion

8 The Doscobilia Memorabilia store was opened inside the school. This was the first time that any school had opened such a store.

9 The DSOBS along with the graduating class of 2017 donated money for a smart class in school. By doing this it was the endeavor to set up a legacy wherein the graduating classes gave something to the school

10 The President informed the members that the DSOBS had prevailed upon the school to bring back the harlequin shirts for games.

11 The Secretariat was presently busy in bringing out in 2018 the new Dosco record which will be from 1936 to 2019. From now on The Rose Bowl will be sent to each A, S and SC Form boy. The reason being that you require to be in school for three years and technically you qualify to become a member of the DSOBS. Also since they start paying membership fee from A form onwards it is good that they start receiving The Rose Bowl from A form only. Both Sotheby's and Cox & Kings are willing to partner us in bringing out the Dosco Record. The total cost will be around 20 to 30 lakhs. The major part of this cost will go towards dispatching a copy to each Dosco free of cost. Rahul and Vibhas Prasad have put up a link on the website to enable the Doscobos to fill up their details online. Arjun wished that the DSOBS gave each member a unique email ID to help them keep track of all the Doscobos.

At this stage The President wished to thank

Gautam Thapar for all the work he has done for the society especially in supplying paper for the printing of the Rose Bowl. In return he was honoured with a Set of Red Card, Blue Card and Yellow Card. A bound set of all the Rosebowls was also presented to him. He was also instrumental in the signing of the Accord and helped with the memorabilia Store. He also welcomed the new Chairman of the school Board, Mr Sunil Kant Munjal, a former President of the DSOBS. He also wished to thank Mr. Gautam Thapar, Mr Matthew Raggett, Indresh Narain, Kishore Lahiri, Vikram Lal, Mahesh Sahai for all the work they had done for the Society. The President informed the members that Mr Mahesh Sahai had expressed a desire to step down from the post of Auditor. If there was anyone willing to take up this post he could give his name. Nikhel Kochhar volunteered to take up this position. Mr Indresh Narain proposed that Mr Nikhel Kochhar be appointed as the Auditor, seconded by Donny Raghuvendra Singh. Accordingly Mr Nikhel Kochhar was duly appointed as Auditor for the year 2017-18.

12 Supported by Dunamis Sportainment and Abhishek Misra the Alumni Conclave is being planned. This was being planned by Donny(Convenor) and supported by Abhishek Misra, Dushyant Singh and Yash Gandhi. Donny said that Some of the top schools had come together and the idea of a conclave was mooted. Yash Gandhi said that a pre-conclave souvenir was being prepared that will give an introduction to the schools that will be part of the conclave. We intend to explore activities not only in sport but also in co curricular activities also. The prime Minister and also Mr Amitabh Bachhan will be sending a message for the souvenir and we are hoping that he will attend the conclave. Dushyant was hoping that this will involve the skill development of the boys in co-curricular activities.

13 The DSOBS is following the Aristocracy of

Service very seriously and is doing the following:

(a) A Nepal Relief work was Initiated By Varun Chaudhary and Nauhar Rana to help those affected by the Earthquake in Nepal measuring 8.1 on the Richter Scale. Over 90% of the contribution came from Non Doscocs showing the credibility of our Society. They were sure that their donation would go to the right people. Ration, clothing were sent in large amounts. Later money was raised and with that money Varun Chaudhry was able to build 2 schools for about 100 kids and 7 homes. These are all already occupied and Varun would like that some members come to Nepal and formally hand over these houses to the occupants.

(b) We are associating with the Delhi Langar Sewa Service every week. A video of the sewa done by the DLSS was shown. Mr Darshan Singh, former President of DSOBS was the first to volunteer Langar Sewa and paid the Rs 25000 required for the food for a day. Amit Sawhney has shifted to a lower class while flying and the money saved from this is sent to the Langar Sewa.

(c) We pledged support to John Martyn Memorial School. As you may know Mr Martyn was President of the DSOBS for over 25 years. Prior to that he was the secretary of the DSOBS. The DSOBS has pledged 10% of the membership Fee hike to the John Martyn School each year. We have been donating spot material to the school and recently a cricket kit was presented to the school.

(d) Mr Gurmeet Singh along with the school organizes each year The Terry Fox run- a marathon of hope in support of those suffering from Cancer. This helps in Cancer Research. Last year 3000 kids ran this race. This has been going on for the last ten years.

(e) The President went to school and interacted with the boys and explained what " Aristocracy of

Service “ means, what duties and responsibilities it entails to Doscocs and to their community and the society at large. Boys of other houses have visited their houses and interacted with the boys.

Saket Goliyan, who left a few years ago fell from the 2nd floor and is now paralyzed waist below. As part of our ‘Aristocracy of Service I request anyone who visits Jaipur and has the time to go and see this boy. It will please the boy a lot.

(f) Arjun Sahay is spearheading the Braveheart Cheetah. This is basically a token of appreciation and support for the Armed Forces.

(g) “ I have a Dream” an initiative of Arun Bharatram that is helping with the research in cervical cancer

(h) Saving the girl child- an initiative of Harpal Singh. He is nurturing saplings by using water from the Golden temple and giving them to the farmers. Nanhe Soch, Bade Vichar is a venture which conducts an essay contest for a large number of children.

(i) Sowing goodwill - an initiative of Indrave Mann. He is mentoring farmers to new farming techniques.

(j) Abha Sawhney wife of Amit Sawhney ,is a member of the Advisory Board, Partition Museum, Amritsar

(k) A Cry for our Rivers – an initiative of Vikram Lal

(l) Kongsai Seikolin died while fighting for a just cause.

14 A round-up of the Sporting activities

(a) The RLH Cricket was held on October 21, 2016

(b) Inter House squash was held on October 8 and K House was the winner

(c) Calcutta Golf was held on December 2, 2016

(d) The Annual Doon – Mayo Gibson Golf was held on December 11 and Mayo won.

(e) The Annual Cricket bash was held in Scindia School on December 16-18. Doon won.

(f) Annual Pataudi combined XI vs Oxbridge XI was held in Bombay on January 5, 2017

(g) The Chandigarh Alumni Golf Invitational was held at the Chandigarh Golf Course on February 24, 2017

(h) The Inter House Cricket was held at the Central Secretariat Cricket Grounds on March 18, 2017. Jaipur House was the winner.

(i) Shomie Das Friendship cup between Mayo and Sanawar, was supported by Cox and Kings

(j) Inter House Hockey was played at the Dhyan Chand Stadium on Astro turf. Jaipur House was the winner.

(k) United for Hockey tournament was played at the Maj Dhyan Chand Hockey stadium

(l) DSOBS played tennis vs school on April 22 and won

(m) SKV Cricket Cup vs school was also played on April 22. DSOBS won

(n) A combined Alumni XI played against the school on April 23

(o) DSOBS played the school in the KC Joshi Memorial Hockey Cup on May 19. School won

(p) United for Hockey played against school on May 19. School won

(q) Old Boys in Bangalore played their annual cricket match vs Mayo on June 18 and won

(r) The Inter House Football was played on July 29,30. Hyderabad House were the winners

(s) DSOBS played School on August 26 for the S L Sharma Memorial Cup and lost. In the re-match DSOBS won

(t) Inter House squash was held on October 8 and K House won again.

At this point Dilsher Virk felt that no work as Aristocracy of Service can be complete without mentioning the tremendous work done by Sanjit (Bunker) Roy .

The President liked to thank the Headmaster for his generous hospitality and for re introducing Tennis as an annual fixture. He also liked to thank Donny for Cricket, Kunal Sharma for Hockey, Karam Rai Mehra for Football, Abhishek Misra for Golf and Shivraj Palta for organizing the Arjun Bakshi squash.

Sunil Kant Munjal, wished to thank the DSOBS for the stunning work done they had done, especially in bringing the Accord out. He went on to say that he will try and bring the demographics in school back to those in the yester years. Also effort will be there to attract students not only from different states but from different economic background. It will be the endeavor of the Board to raise the Corpus of the Bursary fund so that 50 %- 60 % of boys could get a substantial bursary. Another thought is to see whether could accommodate physically challenged students in the school.

The President informed the members that from now on since A, S and SC form boys start paying their membership donation, they too are entitled to get a Bursary.

15 Memorabilia Sub Committee

Dosco memorabilia was curated by Tarun Tahiliani. The Doscobilia Store was opened in school and this has been very beneficial. Boys were seen dragging their parents to buy something and on the first day itself a sale of over a lakh was made.

16 Events and get togethers

Few slides showed various events and get togethers that were held at various places. Many International events were also held like in London, Toronto and New York.

17 Activities held at The DSOBS Secretariat

For the first time the Welham Girls held their AGM in the Secretariat. A condolence meeting for Gulab Ramchandani was held in the secretariat and a large number of Doscobos attended and also signed the condolence book which was later presented to his son Vivek Ramchandani

18 Books presented to The DSOBS Secretariat

- (a) From Plassey to Pakistan by Humayun Mirza
- (b) My story by Michael Clark

A big round of applause was given to Mr AP Narayanan, for his yeoman service to the society for 25 years. The President stated that he will be honoured at a later stage but requested him to come and say a few words.

Mr AP Narayanan's thank you speech
I must first begin by thanking all of you present here and the entire Old Boy Community for your help, support and affection through the years that I have served you and the Society. It has been a pleasure serving this Society and the returns I have reaped in terms of affection has been overwhelming and made every minute worthwhile.

Thank you all
A P Narayanan

And that was the end of the power point presentation

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting held on Sunday October 23, 2016 at 10:30 am at the Doon School, Dehra Dun

The minutes of the 77th AGM had been circulated. The President requested the members that if they were in order they could be passed. Pushpinder Singh Chopra 74-T 1959 proposed that the minutes of the 77th AGM be passed, seconded by Satinder Puri 49-K 1952. The Minutes were duly passed.

4. Any matter arising from the Minutes

No matter arose from the Minutes

5. The Chandbagh Accord

Mr Sunil Kant Munjal proposed that the Chandbagh Accord be passed, seconded by Arjun Sahay. The Chandbagh Accord, which included the subscription Increase and also the DSOBS support to John Martyn memorial School was duly passed.

Regarding the travel of the officials of the Secretariat it was left to the discretion of the President

6. Discuss the proposed amendment to the rules regarding selection of Vice President and EC Members

Following amendments were passed at the AGM held on 14.10.2017

1. Rule 5 - 2(b)

The proposer and the seconders shall be from each of three age bands prescribed for this purpose, namely, 40 years and below, 40 to 50 years and above 50 years.

2. Rule 5 - 2(e)

All applications in conformity with Rule 5(2)(b), (c) and (d) above shall be submitted on or before the 30th of June.

3. Rule 5 - 2(g)

The President shall constitute this Committee by the 15th of August.

4. Rule 5 - 2(h)

This Committee shall comprise of the President and the Vice President of the DSOBS. In addition, the Executive Committee will nominate one of its members to represent it on this Committee. The Chairman of the Board of Governors shall be requested to nominate one Old Boy Governor to be a member of this Committee. The President will also request 'the Collegium of Presidents' to nominate three past Presidents to join this Committee as members. Of the three nominees of the Collegium of Presidents, two shall be in the age group of below 70 years while the third will be in the age group of 70 years and above. Apart from these seven members of this Committee, five members will be chosen from the three age bands of the DSOBS referred to in Rule 5(2)(b) above who volunteer to work for this Committee. Two (2) volunteers shall be selected from the age band of below 40 years; two (2) from the age band of 40 to 50 years and one (1) from the age band of above 50 years.

5. Rule 5 - 2(j)

Any vacancy caused by lack of volunteers from a particular age band shall be filled in by a nominee to be decided upon by the serving President in consultation with the Collegium of Presidents.

6. Rule 5 - 2(k)

This Committee will on its constitution begin the process of examination of the details of the prospective candidates and deliberate on their suitability. During such deliberations, this Committee will be at liberty to ask any candidate

or candidates for further information and/or data for further consideration as also request the candidate(s) to meet with the Committee informally to enable the Committee to understand the candidate(s) vision and suitability for the post.

7. Rule 5 - 2(m)

After such deliberations, the Committee shall by 15th of September recommend one name to the Executive Committee for being placed before the House at the Annual General Meeting.

8. Rule 5 - 2(n)

The name recommended by this Committee to the Executive Committee shall be considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee to be convened within two weeks of 15th of September and in any event by or before the 5th of October of the given year.

9. Rule 6 – 1

(1) The management of the affairs of the Society, its investments and the power of development, payment and disbursement of its funds and properties shall vest in the Executive Committee, which will consist of the President, the Vice President and not less than ten or more than twenty other members. All members (except the President's nominees) will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee will comprise of the following representatives:

- (i) Age group 60 years and above will be represented by two members
- (ii) Age group of 50 to 60 years will be represented by three members,
- (iii) Age group 40-50 years will be represented by four members,
- (iv) Age group 30-40 years will be represented by five members,
- (v) Age group 20-30 years will be represented by two members; and
- (vi) In addition, each incoming President will have the option to nominate two persons as Executive

Committee Members who shall not be required to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

10. Rule 6 – 2 (c)

Those individuals from amongst the DSOBS who wish to offer their candidature for being a member of the Executive Committee shall confidentially send their applications to the President of the DSOBS through any member of the DSOBS as a proposer and two other members of the DSOBS as seconders. The proposer and the seconders must be from the same age band (but not the same batch) as the candidate. The five age bands are below 30 years, 30 to 40 years, 40 to 50 years, 50 to 60 years and above 60 years. No other recommendation in favour of a prospective candidate apart from the one sent by/through the proposer and seconders referred to above shall be either considered or given any weightage. The proposer or seconders cannot nominate or recommend the name of any other candidate that year.

11. Rule 6 – 2 (f)

All applications shall be received by 30th June of the concerned year

12. Rule 6 – 2(g)

On receiving all such applications by 30th June of the concerned year, the President shall constitute a Committee to examine the applications and deliberate thereupon with the objective of arriving at a consensus and recommend the name(s) of one or more candidates as vacancies permit for the Executive Committee to place before the house for approval at the Annual General Meeting. During this process of selection, the Committee may also request the candidate(s) to meet with this Committee informally to enable it to understand the candidate(s) vision and suitability for the post.

13. Rule 6 – 2(h)

The President shall constitute this Committee by 15th August of the year in which the vacancy or vacancies arise.

14. Rule 6 – (i)

This Committee shall comprise of the President and the Vice President of the DSOBS and two members of the Executive Committee as decided by the Executive Committee. The said two Executive Committee members shall be ineligible to apply for the post of Vice President for a period of four years thereafter. The Collegium of Presidents will also be requested by the serving President to nominate a member to this Committee. Apart from these five members of this Committee, six others will be chosen from the five age bands referred to in Rule 6(2)(c) above. One (1) volunteer will be chosen from the age band of below 30 years, one (1) from the age band of 30 to 40 years, two (2) from the age band of 40 to 50 years, one (1) from the age band of 50 to 60 years and one (1) from the age band of above 60 years. Requests for such volunteers will be posted on the Society’s website, sent by e-mail or other means of communication as also published in the appropriate issue of the Rosebowl by the last date of February of the year in which the vacancies arise

15. Rule 6 – 2(k)

At an Executive Committee to be held by 15th August of the concerned year, the President will, in the presence of the Executive Committee members, draw six names from the box containing the names of volunteers. All members of the DSOBS will also be free to attend such meeting. The first name(s) drawn from the age bands of below 30 years, 30 to 40 years, 50 to 60 years and above 60 years shall be selected for the Committee. Similarly, the first two names drawn from the age group of 40 to 50 years shall be selected for this Committee. Any vacancy caused by lack of volunteers from a particular age band shall be filled in by a nominee to be appointed by the serving President in consultation with the Executive Committee. If this Committee is one of even numbers e.g. ten (10) or eight (8) etc., the President of the DSOBS shall have the casting vote

in case of a deadlock. Any person whose relative, whether by blood or marriage, is a potential Executive Committee candidate shall automatically stand disqualified from being a member of such Committee. Similarly, any person who has been a proposer or a seconder of any candidate shall also stand disqualified from being a member of such Committee. Any person, apart from the President and Vice President of the DSOBS, who has earlier been a member of this Committee shall also stands disqualified from being a member of such Committee for four years. Additionally, the said six Committee members shall be ineligible to apply for membership to the Executive Committee or for the post of Vice President for the next two years.

Gautam Vohra proposed that the amendments 1 to 15 be approved , seconded by Samir Kukreja and the amendments 1 to 15 were duly approved.

7. Discuss the recommendations made by the Executive Committee for increase in the number of EC Members

It was approved that an increase in the number of members in the Executive Committee of the DSOBS be increased by 5 elected members and the President Nominees be increased from Two to Four. The five new members will be as follows.

Age Group 30 – 40 years	2
Age Group 40 – 50 years	1
Age Group 50 – 60 years	1
Age Group above 60 years	1

So in all there will be 21 members of the Executive Committee, which include the President and the Vice President.

8. Approval of Accounts as on 31st March 2017

The Accounts had been circulated earlier and the President requested the members that if they were in order they could be passed. Gautam Thadani

488-JB 1975 proposed that the accounts may be passed, seconded by Samir Kukreja 179-HB 1984

9. Election / Re-election of Office bearers

(i) Election of office bearers

This year there are 5 vacancies in the Executive Committee after this AGM which are as follows

Category A: In the age group of 50 – 60 (TWO)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------|
| 1 Narinder S Vasisht | 370-T 1973 |
| 2 Anil Malhotra | 505-H 1975 |

Category B: In the age group 40 – 49 (ONE)

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| 1 Dushyant Singh | 246-K 1991 |
|------------------|------------|

Category C: In the age group 30 – 39 (TWO)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 1 Jatin Dev Bobb | 411-T 1993 |
| 2 Maninder Singh Sahni | 293-J 1991 |

The President had commenced the process of election of new Executive Committee Members prior to January 31, 2017 as prescribed by Rule 6(2)(a) & (b). The President had notified these vacancies in January this year and had also invited volunteers to constitute a Committee to select new EC Members against these vacancies.

As per Rule 6(2)(a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k) & (l) the following applications had been received against the following vacancies, namely:

Category A: Age group 50 – 60 (TWO)

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Ankur Bahl | 193-J 1976 |
| 2. Prithipal Dugal | 588-T 1980 |
| 3. Arjun Sahay | 76-H 1973 |
| 4. Gautam Thadani | 488-J 1975 |

Category B: Age group 40 – 49 (ONE)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 1. Aditya Singh | 556-K 1988 |
| 2. Sanjeev Ratna Singh | 521-K 1994 |
| 3. Raghav Nayar | 443-T 1993 |
| 4. Sameer Dhingra | 452-T 1987 |
| 5. Ravi Singhee | 265-T 1991 |

Category C: Age group 30 – 39 (TWO)

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 1. Varun Chaudhary | 319-J 2004 |
| 2. Vipul Swarup | 438-K 2000 |
| 3. Akash Deep Puri | 230-T 1998 |
| 4. Vibhas Prasad | 184-H 1997 |
| 5. Junaid Altaf | 209-O 2003 |
| 6. Mannan Bansal | 234-K 2004 |
| 7. Vikramjit Singh Shastri | 168-O 2003 |

After these applications had been received, the President had constituted the Selection Committee as prescribed by Rule 6(2)(g), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l)

Thereafter, the Committee met on September 8, 2017 from 2: 30 pm and unanimously decided that the following names be recommended to the Executive Committee for consideration and for being placed for approval before the House at the AGM of the DSOBS to be held on October 23, 2016 to fill in the under-mentioned vacancies which would arise in the Executive Committee on and from the said date in the following age groups, namely:

Category A: Age group 50 – 59 (TWO)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. Prithipal Singh Dugal | 588-T 1980 |
| 2. Gautam Thadani | 488-J 1975 |

Category B: Age group 40 – 49 (ONE)

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. Sameer Dhingra | 452-T 1987 |
|-------------------|------------|

Category C: Age group 30 – 39 (TWO)

1. Varun Chaudhary 319-J 2004
2. Vibhas Prasad 184-H 1997

Accordingly, the aforesaid recommended names were placed before the 184th Executive Committee Meeting of the DSOBS held on Friday 6, 2017. The Executive Committee met and formally approved the suggestions made by the Selection Committee.

I, on behalf of my Executive Committee therefore, place for approval before the House the following names to fill in the under-mentioned vacancies which would arise in the Executive Committee on and from today in the following age group:

Category A: Age group 60 and above (TWO)

- 1 Prithipal Dugal 588-T 1980
- 2 Gautam Thadani 488-J 1975

Proposed By_Alok Ahuja 741-K 1980 and Seconded by Samir Kukreja 179-H 1984 both Prithipal Singh Dugal and Gautam Thadani were duly elected as members of the Executive Committee in the age group of above 60 years

Category B: Age group 40 – 49 (ONE)

- 1 Sameer Dhingra 452-T 1987

Proposed By Abhinav Kumar 285-T 1991 and Seconded by Manuj Ailawadi 332-H 1967. Mr Sameer Dhingra was duly elected to the Executive Committee in the age group 40 – 49 years

Category C: Age group 30 – 39 (TWO)

3. Varun Chaudhary 319-J 2004
4. Vibhas Prasad 184-H 1997

Proposed By Donny Singh 878-T 1982 and Seconded by Abhinav Kumar 285 – T 1991 both

Varun Chaudhary and Vibhas Prasad were duly elected as members of the Executive Committee in the age group 30 – 39 years.

As per the new rules FIVE new members have to be elected to the Executive Committee, in the age group

30 – 40	2
40 – 50	1
50 – 60	1
Above 60	1

We have the following names as standby made by the selection Committee

30 – 40	Vipul Swarup	438 – K	2000
30 – 40	Akash Puri	230 – T	1998
40 – 50	Aditya Singh	556 – K	1988
50 – 60	Ankur Bahl	193 – J	1976
Above 60	Arjun Sahay	76 – H	1973

The House had earlier approved that they could to inducted to the Executive Committee. Accordingly: Proposed by Donny Singh 878-T 1982 and Seconded by Prithipal Singh Dugal 588-T 1980 both Vipul Swarup 438-K 2000 and Akash Puri 230-T 1998 were duly elected to the Executive Committee in the age group 30 – 40 years

Proposed by Gautam Thadani 488-J 1975 and seconded by Sandeep Dutt 627-K 1979 Aditya Singh 556-K 1988 was duly elected to the Executive Committee in the age group 40 – 50 years.

Proposed by Indresh Narain 288-K 1961 and seconded by Pushpinder Chopra 74-T 1959 Ankur Bahl 193-J 1976 was duly elected to the Executive Committee in the age group 50 – 60 years.

Proposed by Samir Kukreja 179-HB 1984 and seconded by Donny Singh 878-T 1982 Arjun Sahay 76-H 1973 was duly elected to

the Executive Committee in the age group 60 years and above.

10. Appointment of Auditor

Mr Mahesh Sahai 145-J 1953 had requested that he may be allowed to step down. He had served as the auditor for the DSOBS, in an Honorary capacity. The house appreciated his long time selfless service to the DSOBS over these years and acceded to his request. Mr Nikhel Kochhar 41-K 1973 volunteered to step in as the auditor.

Mr Sunil Kant Munjal 180-KB 1973 proposed that Mr Nikhel Kochhar may be appointed the new Auditor, seconded by Arjun Sahay 76-HB 1973. Mr Nikhil Kochar was duly approved as the new Auditor for the DSOBS.

11 Any other matter with the permission of the chair

Varun Khanna 417 – H 1974 to be appointed as the new Regional Rep of Africa in place of Vishwas Garg 554 – HA 1988 who has returned from Africa and now settled in Mumbai. The President announced that it was Deepak Malik 159-K 1973 who was being appointed as the Regional Rep of Africa and not Varun Khanna.

Rohanjit Chaudhary 74-J 2007 was appointed the Regional Rep of Chicago.

Sunil Gupta proposed, seconded by Donny Singh. The two were approved as Reg Reps.

Sushil Kumar Sharma
Executive Secretary

Agenda for the Special General Body Meeting of The Doon School Old Boys' Society, to be held in the Multi-purpose Hall of Kamladevi Complex, India International Centre, 40 Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi, on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at 4.45 pm

1. Interaction of the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the School & the Headmaster with the fraternity

2. Audio Visual presentation of the activities of The DSOBS since the last AGM

3. Celebration of 80 Years of The Doon School Old Boys' Society

4. Presenting the new Logo & Motto of the Society

5. Appointment of a Treasurer for the Society.

6. To discuss the proposals made by the Governance & SoPs Sub-Committee of The

DSOBS for the day to day functioning of the Secretariat, which have been duly passed by the Executive Committee in its 186th Meeting, held on January 29, 2018

7. To discuss the amendment / modification of some of the existing Rules of the Society as proposed by the Sub-Committee comprising of some members from the Collegium of Presidents, which have been duly passed by the Executive Committee in its 186th Meeting, held on January 29, 2018

Sushil Kumar Sharma
Executive Secretary

Minutes of the Special General Body Meeting of The Doon School Old Boys' Society, held in the Multi-purpose Hall of Kamladevi Complex, India International Centre, 40 Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi, on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at 4.45 pm

President Jaswinder Singh Bull (344 JA, 1986) welcomed all members present.

Executive Secretary Sushil Kumar Sharma (345 K, 1964) confirmed that the Quorum to hold the Meeting was complete.

He said that it is good to have some distinguished Old Boys alongwith the Headmaster of the School, Mr Matthew Raggett present today.

He mentioned that this Special General Body Meeting has been convened to enable greater participation of the fraternity from all across and to clear any doubts and misgivings that any member of the fraternity may have.

He said that in keeping with the changing times, we need to make changes in the way the Secretariat of the Society functions. He said that the Society has taken professional help and guidance in creating a set of rules for its day to day functioning, referred to as the Secretariat's Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs). Once the House approves of these, they will be implemented and you will observe that things are being managed in a more efficient manner.

Since the Society's income from the membership subscription of boys graduating from School is set to increase three-five fold, it is very important that a treasurer is appointed to manage these funds, the cash flows and also exercise tight control to ensure judicious use of the funds of Society.

Another reason for having this meeting is that we have been hearing of criticism by a section

of the fraternity for some time, that all decisions related to the Society are taken at the A.G.M., held in Dehra Dun during the Founder's weekend, when only some old boy parents, some local Dehra Dun old boys and some old boys who are celebrating their batch jubilees are present. We hope to have this Special General Meeting once every two years so that members who do not attend the A.G.M. of the Society in Dehra Dun are also given a chance to air their views.

1. Under the aegis of The DSOBS, the annual interaction of the Chairman & the Headmaster with prospective parents of boys sitting for the School's entrance exam this year, took place at this venue itself, earlier this afternoon. Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the School addressed the gathering. The Headmaster addressed the parents telling them what the School expects from the aspirants in terms of their written tests and, for those who are short-listed. In the group discussion & interaction. He also made a presentation showcasing some of the activities of the School.

2. We will now give you an update on the activities of your Society since the 77th A.G.M., held in Dehra Dun, on October 23, 2016, via an audio-visual presentation.

Some of the landmark events of the Society that have taken place since the 77th AGM, held in October 2016 –

- a. Renovation of the Secretariat
- b. Condolence meeting for Gulab Ramchandani (225 T, 1942), former Headmaster, was held in the Secretariat

- c. A meeting of heads of alumni associations of over a dozen premier public schools in the country was hosted by The DSOBS. 'The Alumni League' was created, with plans to jointly organize get-togethers and undertake several activities & initiatives together. The presidents of all the member alumni associations were invited to the 'Sundowner' and again the Sports Dinner. The President of the Old Sanawarians Association has also invited the President to take part in all major activities of their Society.
- d. For the first time the President of The DSOBS conducted a Special Assembly in School
- e. The historic 'The Chandbagh Accord' was signed between The DSOBS and the School. A special mention for Chairman Mr. Gautam Thapar and Mr. Rishabh C. Sharma (553 JA, 1994), Director Alumni Relations at the School, for all the effort that went into creating this historic document. This document defines, amongst other things, the working relationship between The DSOBS and the School.
- f. A meeting of the Chairman & the Headmaster with prospective parents was initiated by The DSOBS. It was held at the Secretariat last year. This year the exercise was repeated just before this Special General Meeting. This interaction is held to apprise the parents, of the boys sitting for the entrance examination to the School, of the admission process and to clear any doubts that they may have regarding the examination. It was suggested that, henceforth, this exercise should be preceded by sufficient advance notice and publicity amongst the fraternity.
- g. DOSCOBILIA – the memorabilia store was inaugurated in School. It is the first store of its kind in any school in the country. It has proved to be a huge success and has already generated sales of approx. Rs. 20-25 lakhs. Memorabilia can also be ordered online and the online process is being further structured to make it more user friendly. Mr. Samrath Bedi (471 TB, 1993) has launched an exclusive fragrance for the fraternity under his Forest Essentials brand. It's called Chandbagh Monsoon. Mr. Tarun Tahiliani (734 TA, 1980), acclaimed designer, has been closely involved in curating the new range of memorabilia for Doscobilia. It was felt that Doscobilia should be open to sell memorabilia to all visitors to Chandbagh.
- h. This year (2017) the AGM was shifted to a Saturday and was attended by around 200 Old Boys, a record for recent times. The AGM was followed by high tea.
- i. The DSOBS has supported several Smart Class Rooms in the School.
- j. Respecting the sentiments of the fraternity, the old, blue & grey, games shirt (Harlequin) has again become part of the uniform, though in a modern dry-fit avatar. Similarly, the popular 'walk-ins' to ovations, at dinner time, have re-started.
- k. A change of guard has taken place in the Board of Governors of the School. Mr Gautam Thapar completed his 5 year tenure and President Sunil Kant Munjal has taken over as the new Chairman of the Board.
- l. The President thanked the Collegium of Presidents for all their help, support and guidance.
- m. The DSOBS Secretariat is busy updating the contact details and related data of the entire fraternity for publishing the Fifth edition of The Dosco Record (1936-2021). This new edition should reach your doorsteps in the next few months. M/s Cox and Kings have collaborated with the Society in this endeavor.
- n. Under our '**An Aristocracy of Service**' initiative, we have joined hands with Delhi Langar Seva Society (DLSS), which provides a free meal, outside the metro station at AIIMS, to all those poor people who come from distant places for medical treatment and have to wait for days before they are attended to. These people have

no place to stay and find difficulty in getting affordable food around the hospital. The people are served dal, rotis, halwa, a packet of biscuits and fresh water. It costs around Rs. 25,000.00 to feed around 1200-1400 people at one time. For the past year The DSOBS was supporting this initiative once a week and we fed around 70,000 poor people. This year we are supporting the langar twice a week. We expect to feed around 1,50,000 people in 2018.

- o. The relief work done by DSOBS in Nepal was tremendous. From the donation sent by us to Nepal several houses and schools have been built from the contribution of your Society. Over and above this several trucks of relief material was also sent. As a measure of the Societies integrity and benchmark set, a number of non doscos also routed their relief work through us.
- p. Santosh Sharma, grandson of Mr C. R. Irani presented around 2,000 books to the School, from Mr. Irani's personal library.
- q. Anish Kapoor won an award of 1 million pounds which he donated to support the people who have suffered on account of the crisis in Syria.
- r. Mr Gurmeet Singh is organizing each year the Terry Fox Run in school to raise awareness of Cancer. It is great to see so many Doscocs and students from other schools taking part in this early morning run. This year nearly 2500 took part in the run.
- s. Mr Indrave Singh Mann is 'sowing goodwill' by introducing farmers to new ideas in agriculture
- t. Arjun Sahay launched the 'Braveheart Cheetah' Fund for supporting our war heroes.
- u. President Arun Bharat Ram is, through his CAPED, spearheading the cause of spreading awareness about & prevention of cervical cancer in women.
- v. Seikholen Khongsai succumbed to injuries inflicted upon him while trying to save a girl from being molested by a bunch of miscreants.
- w. Junaid Altaf is looking after Project Diya, which

focuses on providing geriatric care. His venture is being assisted by the Tata Trust.

- x. President Harpal Singh is involved with Nanhi Chhaan, a project for the girl child.
- y. Avinash Alag's Gyanodaya is educating children in the slums of Meerut.
- z. Gautam Vohra has been doing tremendous work in DRAG. Their work is not to get into the charity mode but to increase awareness of the poor people, especially tribals. The government has initiated special programs for them but being unaware of these schemes, they are not able to this they fail to cash in on their rights. The focus of DRAG is to make the community stronger so that they could avail of their rights.

The President urged all Old Boys to share their initiatives with the fraternity. They may inspire Doscocs to contribute in cash & kind and also start similar initiatives in their own eco-systems. Most importantly, when The DSOBS makes a mention of your initiatives, it really inspires young Doscocs, even those who are still in School.

Ankur Bahl has done the fraternity proud by scaling Mount Everest last year and following it up with reaching the South Pole in January this year. He proudly planted The DSOBS flag in both the locations.

Sporting Activities

(a) Cricket – Raghuvendra (Donny) Singh has been organizing various cricket matches and captaining The DSOBS XI.

1. The DSOBS hosted the Alumni Cricket Bash in School, in December. This is an annual quadrangular tournament played between the alumni of between Doon, Mayo, Daly and Scindia
2. The Tiger Pataudi Memorial Cricket match between a Combined XI versus the visiting Oxbridge XI was also held some months back.
3. The Sheel Vohra Cup played at the Abhimanyu

Cricket Academy between School and the Old Boys. This is a day night cricket match.

4. The DSOBS was invited to field a team at Pilibhit this year, to upgrade the annual School versus Pilibhit fixture into a tournament.
5. The DSOBS team played in the annual Shomie Das Friendship Cup in Bombay. This comprises teams from the alumni of Doon, Mayo, Sanawar and a Bollywood XI.
6. The Bangalore Region Old Boys played their annual fixture versus the Mayo alumni.
7. Inter House Cricket 2018 was played at the Central Secretariat grounds.

(b) Hockey

1. Kunal Sharma organises a hockey game every Sunday at the National Stadium.
2. This year the 10th Inter House Hockey was played on astro turf at the National Stadium, under floodlights.
3. Kunal has formed a United For Hockey team, comprising alumni of Doon, Mayo, Sanawar and Welham Boys.
4. The DSOBS team played for the K.C. Joshi Cup versus the School
5. The United For Hockey XI also played the School

(c) Football – Karam Rai Mehra is looking after The DSOBS football.

1. Inter House was played at the Plaza farms
2. The DSOBS team played the School for the S.L. Sharma Cup and lost
3. In a repeat match, a month later, The DSOBS beat the School in a rain-soaked game.

(d) Golf was organised by Gurmeet Singh and Abhishek Misra.

1. Inter House Golf was played at the Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida
2. Soon thereafter, the annual Gibson Golf versus the Mayo alumni was played at the same venue.

(e) Squash – Shiv Raj Palta heads The DSOBS Squash

1. Inter House Squash was played for the last two years at the Delhi Gymkhana courts, just a weekend before Founders. Kashmir House has been dominating the game for the past several years

3. The President informed the members that the Society was established in the year 1939. So this year the Society enters into its eightieth year. He congratulated all the members for the glorious 80 years of the Society.

4. The DSOBS has, on popular demand by a large cross-section of the fraternity, decided to adopt the lamp logo designed by Padmashri Late Sudhir Khastgir, the first art teacher at School, as its official logo. This was to ensure that all other versions, of the lamp logo, in circulation are eliminated forever. Incidentally, this design was being used by the School as well, until it changed some years back.

President Sumanjit Chaudhry (7 J, 1963) observed that the Logo was different from the School's logo and, for uniformity, The DSOBS should adopt the current design of the lamp logo that the School has adopted.

The Chairman of the Board of Governors, President Sunil Kant Munjal, stated that it is not uncommon for an institution and its alumni body to have varying logos. The outline of both The DSOBS & the School logos are very similar and only Doscocs will be able to note the subtle differences, if at all.

Mr. Samir Kuckreja (179 HB, 1984) felt that there should be a registered template. He was of the opinion that the Society should stick by the Khastagir version.

Following this the President requested for the opinion of the House. The House unanimously

preferred that the Society & the School, both, should continue with the traditional Lamp Logo, as designed by Padmashri Late Sudhir Khastagir.

It was decided that the lamp logo designed by Padmashri Late Sudhir Khastgir be formally adopted as The DSOBS Logo and all other versions of the lamp which have been doing the rounds, from time to time, in various media, be eliminated. The coloured version of the lamp logo would be in blue and gold only.

Mr. Vikram Lal (198 K, 1957) suggested that the fate of the current logo design being used by the School be left to the decision of the Chairman of the Board, the Headmaster, the President of The DSOBS and the School. This was unanimously accepted by the House.

The DSOBS has frozen its Motto - '**An Aristocracy of Service**'. This is inspired by the speech given by our first Headmaster, Mr. Arthur E. Foot during the inauguration of the School, in 1935, and it is still relevant even in the 21st century. An extract from the speech has been engraved in stone and framed on a wall in the foyer of the Main Building of the School.

Vice President Rahul Kohli (81 JA, 1975) felt that such a wide demographic crystallizes the idea of The Doon School Old Boys, and makes it incumbent for the Executive Committee to stand by it, as that is what we are all about as a Society.

Mr. Gautam Vohra (154 H, 1963) & Mr. Wajahat Habibullah (266 H, 1961) wanted to know why the term 'An Aristocracy of Service' was adopted. They were again informed that the phrase has been extracted from the speech of the Headmaster, Mr. Arthur E. Foot, at the time of inauguration of the School, in 1935.

The President also apprised the House that the founder Headmaster, Mr. Arthur E. Foot, is also the

founder President of The Doon School Old Boys' Society. He chaired the first ever Meeting of the Society way back in 1939.

Accordingly '**An Aristocracy of Service**' was adopted as the motto of the Society.

In continuation, the House also gave its formal approval to adopt the Vision Statement of the Society – "**To Foster Fraternity Amongst Old Boys, Support School and Serve Society**"

President Arun Bharat Ram (36 K, 1958) proposed that the logo, motto & the vision statement be approved & adopted. Mr. Haripal S. Gill (328 H, 1966) seconded the proposal. The Logo, Motto & Vision Statement were accordingly passed and adopted.

5. Appointment of an Honorary Treasurer

The President announced that since from now on the Society's income from the membership subscription of boys graduating from School is set to increase, it is very important that a treasurer is appointed to manage these funds, the cash flows and also exercise tight control to ensure judicious use of the funds of Society. He further said that the Honorary Treasurer should preferably be from within the fraternity, so that he understands the sensibilities of the fraternity.

President Lalit Nirula (142 K, 1959) concurred with the President and proposed that an Honorary Treasurer be appointed by the Society. Mr. Manuj Ailawadi (332 H, 1967) seconded the proposal. The appointment of an Honorary Treasurer for the Society was duly passed.

President Lalit Nirula further proposed that, apart from the appointment of a Treasurer, who would oversee and advise the Society on its routine financial expenses, commitments and investments, the Society must now think of

working towards making a long term financial plan, over a five or ten year period, just like the School has been doing for the last several years. He suggested that a professional financial consulting agency should be brought on board for helping out in this process.

President Vijai Kapur (289 J-1948) seconded President Lalit Nirula's proposal. The House also unanimously concurred with the two Presidents and was of the view that this exercise should be started as soon as possible.

The President then requested the House to suggest names of people who have the basic credentials to take on this responsibility.

Mr. Vivek Sehgal (402 JB, 1986) suggested the name of Mr. Sanjiv Sapra (534 TA, 1979) for this post. Mr. Indresh Narain (288 K, 1961) seconded the proposal.

Mr. Sanjiv Sapra was present in the House. The President requested him to stand and present himself to the House. He then asked him if he was willing to take on the responsibility of Honorary Treasurer of the Society. Mr. Sanjiv Sapra accepted to take on the responsibility of Honorary Treasurer of The DSOBS. His name was duly approved and the President congratulated him for being appointed the Honorary Treasurer of the Society, with immediate effect.

6. To discuss the proposals made by the Governance & SOPs Sub-Committee of The DSOBS for the day to day functioning of the Secretariat, which have been duly passed by the Executive Committee in its 186th Meeting, held on January 29, 2018

Scope of work

1. Service Rules and the related forms/ standardised formats including contract letters

2. Guidelines-Roles and Responsibilities of employees/ Office Bearers
3. Score Card to help track key activities

Service Rules

1. Appointment Letter
2. Personal file and Documents
3. Probation and Notice period
4. Hours of work
5. Public holiday
6. Attendance and Absenteeism
7. Leaves
8. Separation
9. Leave Travel Allowance
10. Travel
11. Medical Insurance
12. Grievance Handling
13. Office Conduct
14. Misconduct
15. Related Forms and Formats made, including contract letters
16. Retirement age for office bearers

Guidelines-Roles and Responsibilities of Employees/ Office Bearers

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND JOINT SECRETARY

- a. Convening and organizing meetings for General Body and Executive Committee of the Society
- b. Fund raising and promotion of activities suggested by members of the society
- c. Communication- Quarterly newsletter, mass mails, social media, website
- d. Memorabilia-Collection of fixed percentage of sales
- e. Represent the Society in Legal Proceedings
- f. Maintain updated DOSCOS record/register
- g. SPOC for Old boys and Present Boys
- h. Execute and implement decisions and resolutions of Executive committee and General Body
- i. Maintain records of sub committees and follow

- up with them on timely meetings and deadlines for which the decisions are taken.
- j. Follow up on activities/events by members/ sub committees of the Society.
 - k. Help in finding avenues of employment/ internships to the students in India
 - l. Dealing with the agency for maintaining and upgrading the website
 - m. Memorabilia-Monthly reconciliation of stock and collection
 - n. circulate the MOM of AGM/Executive Committee meeting/ Sub Committee meeting within 2 days of the meeting
 - o. Support the office bearers and all committees/ sub committees
 - p. School Visit – maintain the record of applications for the visits and communicating the process.
 - q. Any other duties that may be assigned from time to time

Guidelines-Roles and Responsibilities of Employees/ Office Bearers

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

- a. Responsible for the books of accounts of the Society.
- b. Investments, payment and disbursements of funds as directed by the Executive Committee
- c. Disbursement of Salaries
- d. SPOC for any tax related query
- e. Coordination with the banks, if required
- f. To get the books of accounts audited annually by a Chartered Accountant or by a firm of Chartered Accountants, duly appointed by the General Body and by internal auditor. The financial year of the Society will be April 1 to March 31.
- g. Submit the Internal audit report to the Treasurer and the External audit report to the Executive Committee through the President of the Society.
- h. To maintain the following records of

employees:

- 1. Salary register
- 2. Attendance
- 3. Leaves
- 4. Travel Record
- i. Any other duties that may be assigned from time to time

Roles & Responsibilities: Treasurer

Recommended

- 1. To chair the Treasury & Audit Committee, which will comprise of members of the Society.
- 2. To oversee the work of this Committee regarding finance, risk and compliance processes of the Society.
- 3. To review all risk management policies and assessment of risk along with implementation of the actions planned to manage risk.
- 4. To be a Member of the Bursary Committee which shall comprise of members of the Executive Committee. The head of the Bursary/ Scholarship Committee of the Doon School will be a member on this committee.
- 5. To oversee the work of this Committee in framing policies regarding the bursary corpus, grant/disbursement of bursaries/scholarships and advise the said Committee in its year to year implementation.
- 6. To guide the Executive Committee in matters relating to investments of monies of the Society, dealing with banks and other institutions, maintenance of proper accounts of the Society, etc.
- 7. To guide the Society in respect of the requirements relating to funds and finances as per the rules from time to time.
- 8. To recommend appointments and/or removal of statutory and/or internal auditor and fix their remuneration
- 9. To periodically review the structure and quantum of compensation to be paid to the office bearers and staff of the Society and

advise the Executive Committee in this regard

10. Any other duties that may be assigned from time to time

SCORE CARD

Internal Score Card developed that covers:

1. Internal Processes related to Accounts and Administration

Accounts Related

1. Bank Reconciliation
2. Suspense account update
3. Memorabilia Inventory and collection
4. Newsletter numbers and cost
5. Subscription received
6. Interest on Fixed Deposit
7. Renewal of Fixed Deposit
8. Monthly Trial Balance from Tally system

Human Resource

1. Leaves Taken (Number and type of Leaves)
2. Domestic Travel Expense
3. Foreign Travel Expense
4. Salaries Disbursed
5. Reimbursement expenses incorporated in CTC
6. Reimbursement expenses apart from CTC

Administration

1. Electricity Expense
2. Stationary Expense
3. Office expenses (courier, pantry etc)
4. Fixed Asset (Number/Change)
5. Movable Asset (Number/Change)
6. Sundry Expenses

2. Strategic/Financial Perspective

- a. Contributions Received
- b. Activities /Events status (planned/ being done)
- c. Expenses on activities
- d. Data on Employment and internship generation

3. Communication

- a. Changes/Up gradation in website
- b. Social Media update
- c. Newsletter update

The President asked the House if they had any objections to or any other suggestions with regard to the above proposal of the Governance & SoPs Sub-Committee. The House unanimously found the above SoPs to be very detailed and comprehensive. They complimented the architects of the SoPs. There was no other suggestion for or objection to the above proposal of the Governance & SoPs Sub-Committee.

The President proceeded to request the House to pass the above document.

Mr. Amit Sawhney (252 T, 1973) proposed the recommendations of the Governance & SoPs Sub-Committee be passed in toto. Mr. Sorabh Jain (330 J, 1985) seconded the proposal.

The recommendations of the Governance & SoPs Sub-Committee were recorded as passed by the House. The President thanked the House for the same.

7. To discuss the amendment / modification of some of the existing Rules of the Society as proposed by the Sub-Committee comprising of some members from the Collegium of Presidents, which have been duly passed by the Executive Committee in its 186th Meeting, held on January 29, 2018

i) Memorandum of Association

3 – Objects

The following has been added:

The objects or objectives, motto and vision of The Doon School Old Boys' Society are derived from the words of Mr. A.E. Foot – School's first Headmaster and the Society's first President, who

said that, “....**the boys should leave The Doon School as members of an aristocracy, but it must be an aristocracy of service inspired by the ideals of unselfishness, not one of privilege, wealth or position.**” Hence, the motto of The Doon School Old Boys’ Society – “**An Aristocracy of Service**” and its vision – “**To Foster Fraternity Amongst Old Boys, Support School and Serve Society.**”

The logo of the Society shall be the lamp designed by Late Padmashri Sudhir Khastgir (first Art teacher at the School) in blue and gold colors. The Society will continue to use this logo even if the School changes or modifies the design and/or style of the lamp, from time to time.

ii) 3 (b)

To assist each other in furthering the aims and objects (objectives) of the institution:

iii) 3 (e)

To endeavor to live up to the motto of The Doon School - ‘Knowledge is Light’ and to the Society’s own motto – “An Aristocracy of Service.”

iv) 4 (a)

To hold and manage all funds and gifts of land, property or endowments for the realization of the objects (objectives) of the Society.

v) Rule 2

Any Old Boy of The Doon School.....passed the Cambridge School Certificate Examination / Indian School Certificate Examination (ISC) / International Baccalaureate (IB) / any other school leaving examination and/or had completed three (3) full years at The Doon School....

vi) Rule 2 (a)

Ex-officio Members: The Headmaster of The Doon School, the School Captain and the Director Alumni Affairs/Relations, shall while in office/holding the post, be ex-officio members of the Society.

vii) Rule 5(1)

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and/or Joint Secretary and/or Assistant Secretary and/or a Treasurer. The Secretary and/or Joint Secretary and/or Assistant Secretary and/or Treasurer need not be a member or members of the Society. The election/selection/appointment of all officers shall be ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

viii) Rule 5(2)(h)

This Committee shall.....member of this Committee. The President will also request the Collegium of Presidents to nominate the Immediate Past President and three other past Presidents to join this Committee as members. Apart from the Immediate Past President, of the three other nominees of the Collegium of Presidents....70 years and above. Apart from these eight members of this Committee.....

ix) Rule 5(2)(i)

The names of such volunteers.....to serve on this Committee shall be in writing and sent in electronic form, via email to the President’s official email id (which is currently president@dsobs.net but may subsequently change) and copied to the Secretary’s official email id (which is secretary@dsobs.net but may subsequently change). Any application sent to any other address, apart from the President’s and/or the Secretary’s official email address, shall be treated as an invalid application. Only, in case, the applicant does not have an email id, then the application shall be sent in writing to the President at the Secretariat address and not to the residential or any other address of the President. In such cases, the applicant must also declare in his application that he does not have a valid email id. If sent by Registered Post, Courier, hand-delivery, or other means (apart from electronic form), the application shall be duly signed by the applicant. All applications sent by email from the applicant’s own email address.....

x) Rule 5(3)

The Vice President will.....for the second successive year. The term of the President and the Vice President will end on the conclusion of the Founder's weekend of the year in which their two years term of office end, and not at the conclusion of the AGM of The DSOBS held during that Founder's weekend.

xi) Rule 5

- a. All Presidents who have served the Society ('past Presidents') shall continue to act as mentors of the Society both individually and collectively.
- b. The past or former Presidents shall collectively be referred to as the 'Collegium of Presidents'
- c. The serving President shall, during his term, also be part of the Collegium of Presidents and will be invited to attend all meetings of the Collegium.
- d. The Collegium of Presidents should also endeavour to invite the serving Chairperson and past Chairpersons of the Board of Governors to such meetings of the Collegium of Presidents.
- e. All members of the Collegium of Presidents shall during their life time continue to be invitees to all Executive Committee meetings of the Society.
- f. The Society and the Secretariat shall make all facilities available to the Collegium including the facility of holding meetings at the Secretariat, assistance in communicating with the fraternity, secretarial assistance, providing them from time to time with all relevant information and documents which may be required by them to arrive at informed decisions in guiding the Society, particularly for the purposes prescribed by these Rules.

xii) Rule 7(2)(i)

This Committee shall...period of four years thereafter. The Collegium of Presidents shall also

be requested by the serving President to nominate the Immediate Past President and two other members to this Committee. Apart from these seven members of this Committee....

xiii) Rule 7(2)(j)

The names of such volunteers shall be received by 30th of June and placed in a sealed box. All applications by volunteers to serve on this committee shall be in writing and sent in electronic form, via email to the President's official email id (which is currently President@dsobs.net but may subsequently change) and copied to the Secretary's official email id (which is currently Secretary@dsobs.net but may subsequently change). Any application sent to any other address apart from the President's and/or Secretary's official email address shall be treated as an invalid application. Only, in case, the applicant does not have an email id then the application shall be sent in writing to the President at the Secretariat address and not to the residential address of the President. In such cases, the applicant must also declare in this application that he does not have a valid email id. If sent by Registered Post, Courier, hand-delivery or other means (apart from electronic form), the application should be duly signed by the applicant. All such applications sent by email must be from the applicant's own email address. All applications whether in print or electronic form shall clearly state the name of the applicant, his School number, House, year of passing, telephone numbers, both, mobile & landline, postal address and e-mail address. On receipt of such applications but before being placed in a sealed box, the President/Vice President/Secretariat of the DSOBS shall scrutinize as to whether the applications were received by the due date, and whether the applicant has himself bonafide volunteered to serve on the committee and that the application has been received by the due date, shall place....

xiv) Rule 8(e) - Added

To appoint a Secretary and/or Joint Secretary and/or Assistant Secretary and/or Treasurer.

xv) Rule 8(f) – earlier 8(e)

To invest.....President, Vice President and Secretary/Joint Secretary/Assistant Secretary/Treasurer to jointly operate such accounts under the joint signatures of either the President & Vice President or President & Secretary or Vice President & Secretary i.e. the joint signatures of ny two of these three office bearers.

xvi) Rule 10(c)

Secretary/Joint Secretary/Assistant Secretary

xvii) Rule 10(d) - New

TREASURER

(i) To chair the Treasury & Audit Committee, which Committee will comprise of members of the Society

(ii) To oversee the work of this Committee regarding finance, risk and compliance processes of the Society.

(iii) To review all risk management policies and assessment of risk along with implementation of the actions planned to manage risk.

(iv) To chair the Bursary Committee, which shall comprise of members of the Executive Committee.

(v) To oversee the work of this Committee in framing policies regarding the bursary corpus, grant/disbursement of bursaries/scholarships and advise the said Committee in its year to year implementation.

(vi) To guide the Executive Committee insofar as Rule 8(f) & (g) are concerned relating to investments of monies of the Society, dealing

with banks and other institutions, maintenance of proper accounts of the Society, etc.

(vii) To guide the Society in respect of the requirements of Rule 15 relating to funds and finances.

(viii) To recommend appointments and/or removal of statutory and/or internal auditor and fix their remuneration.

(ix) To periodically review the structure and quantum of compensation to be paid to the office bearers and staff of the Society and advise the Executive Committee in this regard.

The President asked the House if they had any objections to or any other suggestions with regard to the above proposed additions / amendments. There was no other suggestion for or objection to the above proposed additions / amendments to the Memorandum & Rules of the Society.

There were no suggestions for or objections to the proposal from the House. The President requested that a Member may then propose that these be passed.

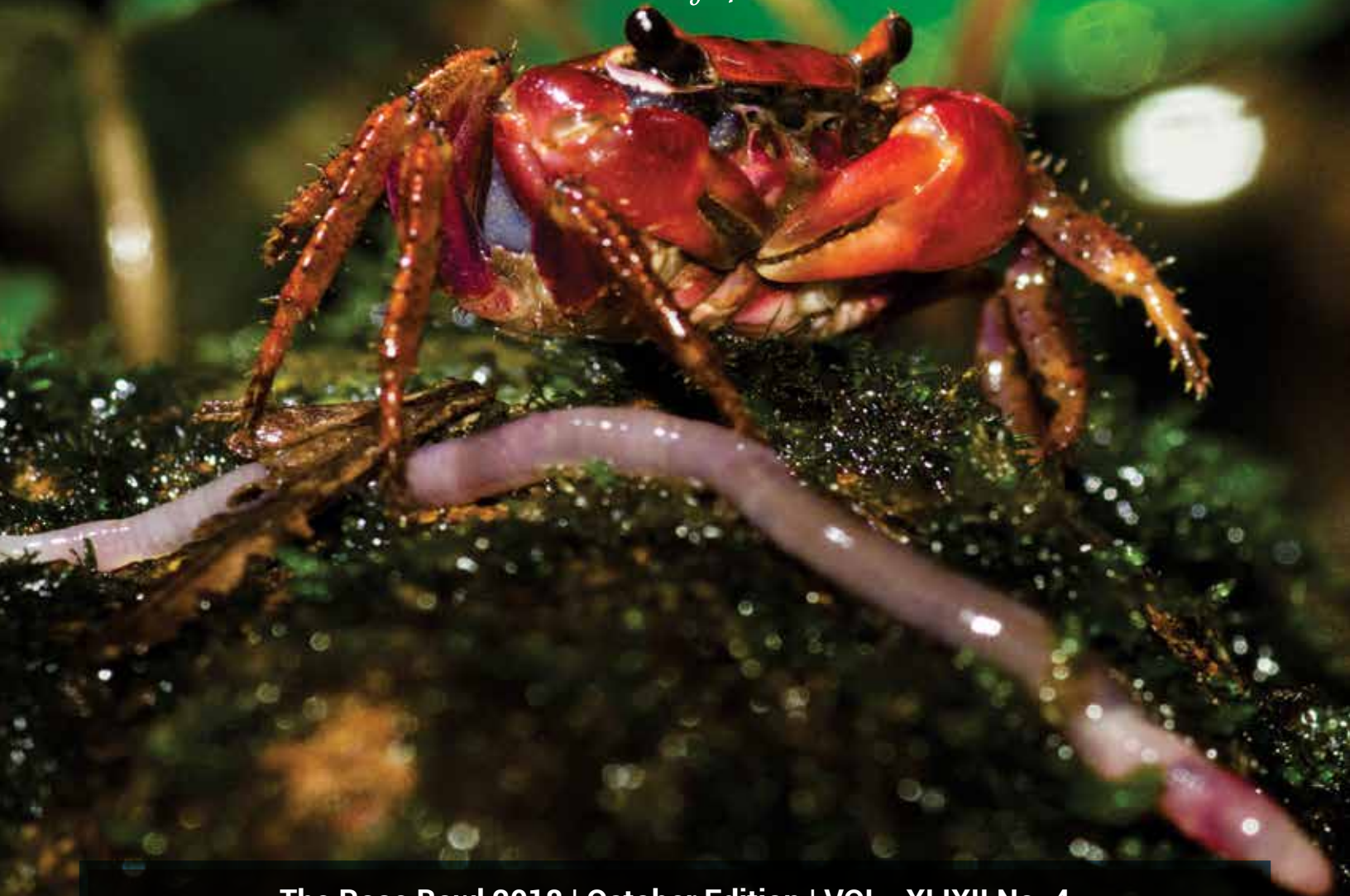
Mr. Samir Kuckreja (179 HB, 1984) then proposed that all amendments be passed. Mr. Haripal S. Gill (328 H, 1966) seconded the proposal. The House approved all the above changes and authorized the President to amend the Rules. They advised that the President seek the good offices of President Kishore Lahiri, legal luminary, before incorporating the above amendments.

With the business for the day completed, the President thanked all the Members present in the House and declared the Meeting adjourned.

Sushil Kumar Sharma
Executive Secretary



An Aristocracy of Service



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