

THE ROSE BOWL



Since 1985



DSOBS Vision

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

THE ROSE BOWL 
SINCE 1985

NEWSLETTER OF
THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

C O N T E N T S

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 www.dsobs.net

 BasuRoseBowl@gmail.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Pratik Basu (442 T, 1993)

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Ashvin Bhatia (636 T, 1995)
Abhishek Maity (180 O, 2003)
Parag Rastogi (458 H, 2006)
Vivek Santayana (369 O, 2011)
Siddharth Sethia (176 T, 2003)
Vipul Swarup (438 K, 2000) [Digital]

COVER PHOTOS

Front and Back Cover:
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Ashok Mahindra (287 K, 1958)

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those of the authors, their subjects, the
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represent the official positions
of The DSOBS.

Instant Nirvana: ADJ and the Masters Who Care

Pratik Basu (442 T, 1993)

Editor-in-Chief

“Instant nirvana.”

Those prophetic words were spoken by **PBR (Mr Philip Burrett)** to one **Anshu Dhar Jayal (407 T, 1993)**, one unsuspecting afternoon.

I can't remember the exact circumstances, maybe PBR had become the acting Housemaster of Tata A and was sitting at the head of our table? Did we mix A and B back then? Were we wasting time talking so we wouldn't have to actually eat the food? In any case, there we were, shooting the breeze with a man more accustomed to being out in one than having to deal with the food in the CDH. This man, PBR, was a, uh, man of action, more liable to knock you over with a practice punch than with any pearls of wisdom. So, we were all a little stunned when he looked over at Anshu and said:

“Instant nirvana.”

Anshu, The Nicest Guy Ever™, did what he always did when he became uncomfortable. He chuckled and smiled that beatific smile.



The Nicest Mid-Terms Mountaineer Ever™ with Not The Nicest Editor-in-Chief Ever

“Instant nirvana, Anshu,” PBR continued, “if you're not careful, you'll gain enlightenment right in front of

us and, whoosh!, you'll find yourself up *there*, looking down on the rest of us.”

Anshu was taken aback, but the smile never left his face. PBR had shocked us all. The Man of Action was, in fact, the Man of X-Ray Vision, able to see through to our very essence. Here we thought he was too busy cycling, boxing, running, trekking, generally outdoorsing to really care about us, but, to our surprise, he did care. And, he cared that Anshu cared.

Fast-forward years, *fine*, decades later, and I had one of the most transporting experiences in a cinema I've had in years, *fine*, decades: *The Holdovers*. It's the story of Mr Hunham, the irascible, curmudgeonly boarding school teacher who likes nothing better than lording over his clueless students (they really should know better) and who, at the end of the movie, reveals (collective gasp!) his heart of gold. Underneath that tough-talkin' exterior, he, too, did care.

That got me thinking. Who was our Mr Hunham? Maybe **AD (Mr Amar Nath Dar, AND)**? I still wake up sweating some nights from an anxiety dream of



He cares, no *really*

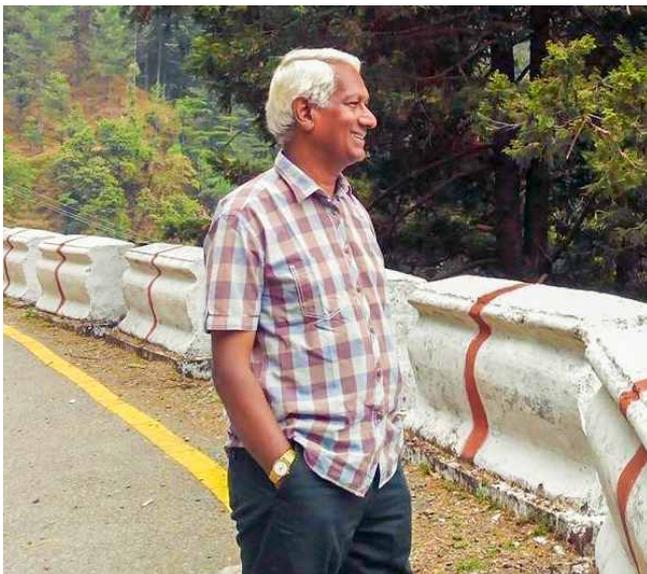
somehow letting him down. Maybe **Bond (Mr SK Vohra, SKV)**? This time the nightmares are of the existential nature, trying to get away from that giant

right hand. Somebody mentioned **Poky (Mr VM Pokhriyal, VMP)** – those dreams would most certainly be of a sensory nature. And then, suddenly, **DCB (Mr DC Bhatkoti)** popped into my head.

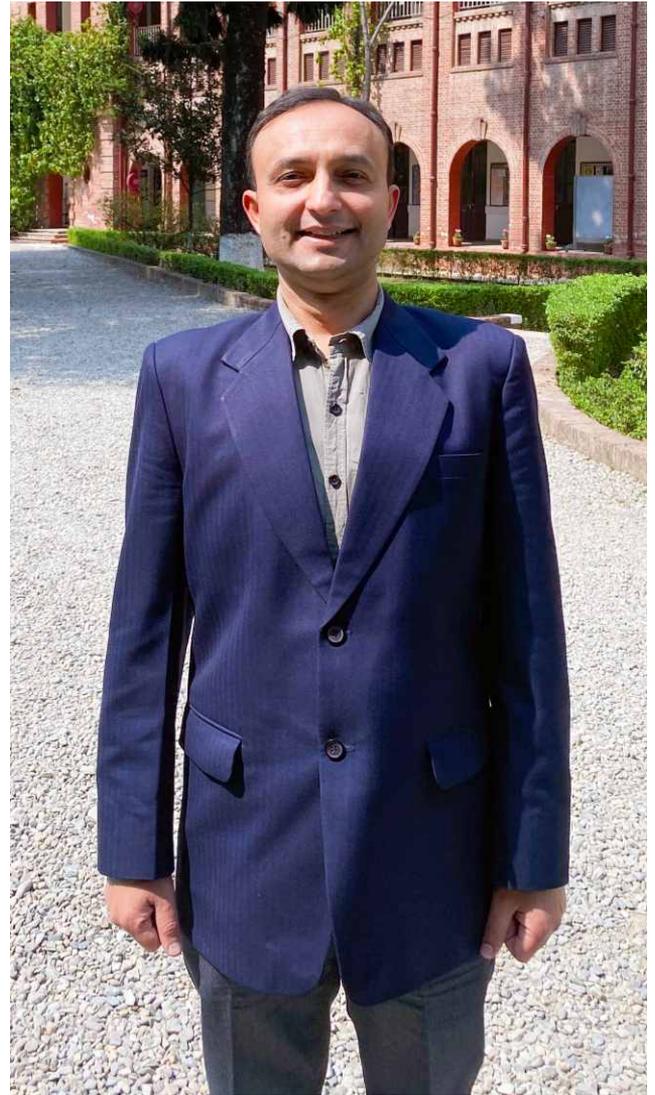
On DCB's passing, so many softhearted words were said about him. If you didn't know him, you'd think he was some kindly old teacher who toiled away in the corner of a school, gently passing on his wisdom to the generations that passed through his classroom.

But I did know him...and he was nothing of the sort!

No, DCB was a tough firecracker who did not suffer fools gladly, especially clueless students who (really) should know better. He stared us down when we giggled through the pistils and stamens of botany class, knocking the knowledge through to our giggly adolescent brains. And when it came time for the biology equivalent of said, um, pistils, and, uh, stamens, it was pandemonium, bedlam, and mayhem, even...but DCB steadied the rocking ship of 14-year-olds as only he could. Yelling, threatening, intimidating, sarcast-ing, he persevered where others would have given up. At some point, digressing with us in the hope of getting things back on track, he claimed humans couldn't move their ears like dogs could. Sitting in front, I proceeded to prove him wrong. The giggling increased, he just stared at me waiting for the smart aleck to finish, whereupon he pointed in my face and commanded: "Now bark like one!" Immediately, my paper-thin courage dried up, the giggles turned to snickers (this time at my expense), and the class got back on track.



Did not suffer fools gladly



The Nicest Doon Master Ever™

Like I said, he didn't suffer us fools gladly, especially since we (really) knew better.

When I got my test back, with the marks I hadn't wanted, he looked at me, jabbed his fingers at the grade, and told me to see him afterwards. After class (that paper-thin courage was paper-nonexistent at this point) I approached him with trepidation, fear, anxiety, and all the other emotions of the therapeutic rainbow. I may have even muttered a "Hail Mary" or two as I steeled myself for what was to come next.

And what came next was a complete, and utter, even, shock. Instead of the steely, tough-talkin' teacher, it was the other, soft spoken and kind DCB who walked me through my many mistakes, making sure the knowledge got through to my giggly adolescent brain.

He did care.

And now, they're gone. AD, PBR, Poky have hung up their badges to enjoy their golden years with their families. Bond, and now DCB, are up *there*, looking down on us.

But, before things could get too bleak, Anshu became ADJ. That's right, The Nicest Guy Ever™ went on to become, The Nicest College Student Ever™, The Nicest PhD Ever™, The Nicest IIT Professor Ever™, and then, in The Nicest Twist of Fate Ever, he has now become The Nicest Doon Master Ever™.

Like AD, Bond, PBR, Poky, and DCB before him, ADJ will mould generations of Doscoc, see right through to the essence of each of his students, and make sure that knowledge enters their giggly

adolescent brains. Okay, so maybe he won't be quite the irascible curmudgeon Mr Hunham was, but behind those chuckles, and that beatific smile, lies his true superpower. He cares. School is lucky to have him.

Well, let me rephrase that, School is lucky to have ADJ for *now*, because, as PBR said all those years, *fine*, decades ago, there's always the threat of...

Instant nirvana.

***PS. Questions? Comments? Suggestions?
Corrections? Articles? Photos?
Enlightenment advice?
Please email me:
BasuRoseBowl@gmail.com***

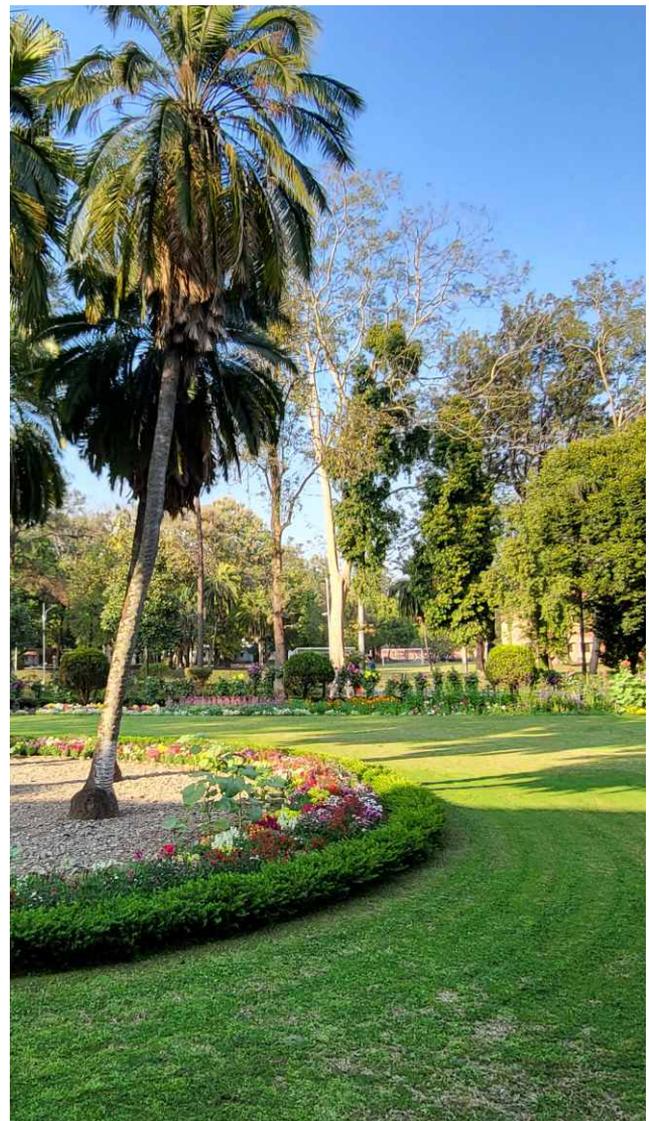
ERRATA

In our previous issue (Winter 2024), we mistakenly identified **Ashutosh Goyal (392 K, 1986)** as **Ashutosh Goyal (677 T, 2015)** in the article "Virtual (Workflow) Insanity: How *The Rose Bowl* Is Put Together" by **Pratik Basu (442 T, 1993)**. This was pointed out by **Abhishek Singhi (517 H, 2006)**.

The error is sincerely regretted.

In our previous issue (Winter 2024), in the article "*Dost: The Doscoc of 1973*" by **Sudhir Raina (3 J, 1973)**, **Shishir Priyadarshi (394 H, 1973)**, **Bharat Gupte (309 K, 1973)**, and **Mayank Kummar (87 H, 1973)**, we misidentified the photographs on page 32. The caption for the upper photograph should have read: "The Hyderabad House Boys" and the caption for the lower photograph should have read "The Tata House Boys." The error was pointed out by Mayank Kummar.

The error is sincerely regretted.



We've Got Mail

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a regular reader of *The Rose Bowl*, might I take this opportunity to congratulate you and your immediate predecessors on having vastly improved the magazine?

Best wishes,
Mani Shankar Aiyar
(55 T, 1957)

Dear Editor,

This is a memory from Republic Day 53 years ago, January 26th, 1971. Down Rajpath leading my contingent in vehicles, with sixteen ENTAC 58 Anti-Tank Guided Missiles on parade.

Sincerely,
Capt Alok Chandola
(344 H, 1963)



Dear Editor,

People have often wondered how **Mr Sheel Vohra (SKV)** came to be christened as Bond.

The responsibility, if I may say so, lies entirely with the class of 1966. It was one of his first classes that he taught, SC1 for SC. Our class of 1966 had the first two sections SC1 and SC2 doing sciences, while the third, SC3, did arts. The brilliant combination of the science and arts batch played out a different game after school hours. Some were surreptitiously mobile on motorcycles and scooters belonging to the junior Masters. Such was their cunning that the owners little realised the extraordinary use their vehicles were being put to. Unbeknownst, as well, to the rest of the administration. The methods and tricks to achieve this were virtually magical. Some held fort, while others made diplomatic missions to town and Welham Girls. **Mr Surendra 'Charlie' Kandhari (122 T, 1951)** and **Mr Baljit Malik (73 K, 1955)**, young bachelor Masters at that time, suspected something was

amiss through their own School experiences. Things were much too calm during the after hours considering that this senior class was definitely capable of some wrongdoing. They decided to investigate this matter, but could not put their finger on it. All this while the villains had a field day.

We knew that Mr Kandhari and Mr Malik were trying to figure out how we were using our well-honed nefarious skills but we were confident we would remain above discovery. For it was an art ably learnt from our English literature reading of *The Great Escape*. Then came the news to the fraternity that Mr Sheel Vohra had decided to join hands with his two colleagues to unravel the unknown, but questionable, state of play. During a review by the class honchos it was decided that greater care would be required since Mr Vohra was known to have an extraordinary ability to discover unknown, mysterious, and shady goings-on.

It was around this time that James Bond's first film, *Dr No*, had been released and the class was rather impressed by Bond's

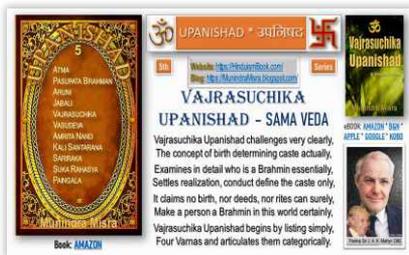
suave style of discovering the culprit. In similar style, Mr Vohra often reminded a truant student with that chilling warning: "I know, my 'fraund.'" In one of our review meetings it was **Sonny (Adesh Brar, 128 J, 1966)** who led the Jaipur House lobby that declared Mr Vohra as Bond.

Thus, my 'fraunds,' this is how Mr Vohra came to be known as Bond.

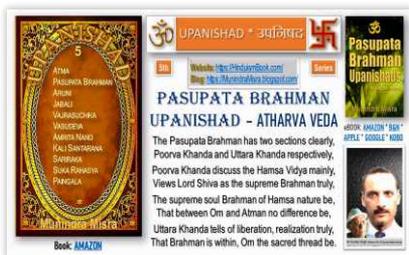
Sincerely,
Haripal Singh Gill
(328 H, 1966)

Dear Editor,

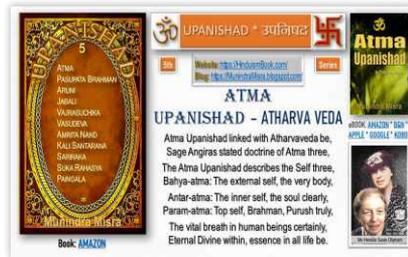
I have dedicated the following upanishads to our respected teachers:



Vajrasuchika Upanishad for our Headmaster, Padma Shri **Mr JAK Martyn**.



Pasupata Brahman Upanishad for Housemaster, Jaipur House, Padma Shri **Mr Gurdial 'Guru' Singh (GU)**.



Atma Upanishad for Miss Hersilia Susie Oliphant.

These Upanishads (from *Upanishad 5*) are a part of my Upanishad series.

Sincerely,
Munindra Misra
(239 J, 1969)

Dear Editor,

The Rose Bowl Winter 2024 issue was unusual, for lack of a better word. One question - is this an appropriate forum for family photographs of Old Boys even if it is the 25th or 30th year of their passing out of School? Group photos of Old Boys (with families) at Old Boy get-togethers makes perfect sense but personal photos do not, unless accompanied by news of some achievement or milestone. I think that those glossy family portraits are out of place within the pages of *The Rose Bowl*.

I do hope I have put across my point lucidly and without any malice whatsoever. I wish you all the best in your endeavour as Editor of *The Rose Bowl*.

Sincerely,
Rashmi Dugal
(w/o Manoranjan Singh Dugal,
401 K, 1974)

Dear Editor,

I recently spent time with **Rajiv Dave (296 J, 1949)**, and in the course of our wonderful conversation I noted some snippets, which I am reproducing for you.

Lord Mountbatten visited the School on February 13th, 1948, just a day before Mr AE Foot handed over charge to Mr John Martyn. Mr Foot left School on February 14th of that year.

Mr Foot visited the School as a guest for the Silver Jubilee celebrations during Founder's Day, 1960. The Old Boys of the time collected money and financed his trip.

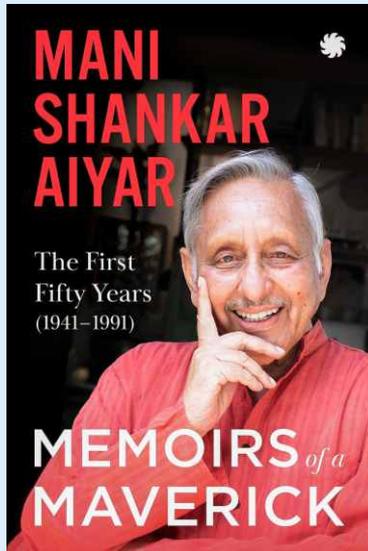
Ms Roselyn, a Dame, was under the weather, and someone came around asking about her health and offered to help. Now, Mr Foot had a dog named Rosamund. He thought that the person was asking about his dog's health. Mr Foot replied: "She's in heat, I don't know what help you can be with that!"

Rajiv has the highest regard for **Mohd Afzal Khan (17 J, 1944)**. He says that Afzal was the most accomplished and most capable School Captain ever at The Doon School.

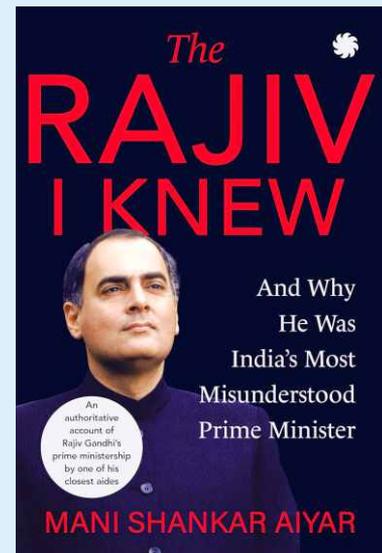
It's important we continue to collect and save these oral histories from our senior most Old Boys.

Sincerely,
Ashutosh Goyal
(392 K, 1986)
Alumni Secretary, The DSOBS

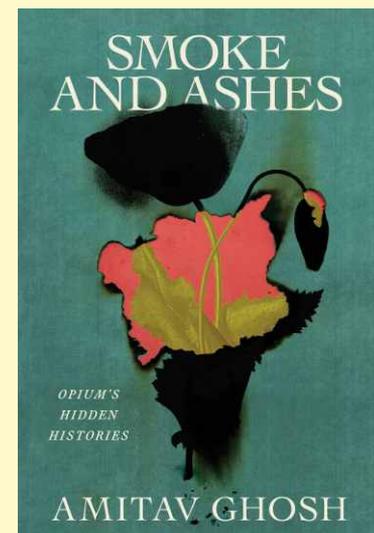
Old Boys' News



Mani Shankar Aiyar (55 T, 1957) had his two latest books published recently: *Memoirs of a Maverick: The First Fifty Years (1941-1991)* and the much talked-about companion volume *The Rajiv I Knew: And Why He Was India's Most Misunderstood Prime Minister*. Both books have garnered strong reviews, with the former being called “a captivating read, the likes of which are becoming thin on the ground in India” and the latter a “brilliantly argued and deeply researched book.” Mani, of course, has had a long and distinguished career as a public servant, and continues to be a prolific speaker, columnist, and novelist. We wish Mani continued success in his many endeavours!



Amitav Ghosh (246 H, 1972) recently won the Erasmus Prize 2024 for his contribution to combating the global crisis of climate change through his work. “He receives the prize for his passionate contribution to the theme ‘imagining the unthinkable,’ in which an unprecedented global crisis - climate change - takes shape through the written word,” the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation, based in the Netherlands, said in a press release. In addition to this prize, Amitav has received two lifetime achievement awards, five honorary doctorates and the Jnanpith Award, India’s highest literary honour. His most recent literary masterwork, *Smoke and Ashes: Opium's Hidden Histories*, was published in February. He has been, and continues to be, a shining light for the entire Dosco community.





Col AK Khanna (99 H, 1942), who joined School in 1935-36, recently celebrated his 99th birthday. His son, Arun Khanna (90 H, 1973), is currently a Member of the Board of Governors and Chairman of its Finance Committee. Congratulations to the Colonel on achieving such an incredible personal milestone. The entire fraternity wishes him well!



Rahul Akerkar (404 K, 1975), Creative & Culinary Director at Aditya Birla New Age Hospitality (ABNAH), was awarded the Friends of Mumbai Award by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, presented by The Sunday Guardian for his service to the city of Mumbai. Akerkar is a chef, restaurateur, and entrepreneur, renowned for European fine dining experiences. His landmark restaurant, Indigo, was considered ahead of its time and the flagbearer of experiential dining in India. With ABNAH, Rahul is setting up a chain of premium casual dining restaurants all over India based on Ode, his mixed European-Maharashtran concept currently serving delighted patrons in the Worli area of Mumbai. Congratulations and all the best!



Sanjai Banerji (387 H, 1976) was awarded Best Book in the Fiction Category by Ukiyoto Publishing in the recently held Kolkata Literary Carnival for his novel *Justice on the Hills*. The novel is a fictional work about

the formation of Gorkhaland with three Doscors, two Welhamites, and The Doon School itself featured prominently in it. The book is available on Amazon, Flipkart, and Google Play Books.

Remarkably, this was not Sanjai's most newsworthy effort. He became the oldest man from Madhya Pradesh to summit Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa. Adding to his heroic journey is that Sanjai is hearing-impaired and suffers from a severe form of Type 2 diabetes. As Sanjai himself said: "I want to become a beacon of hope and inspiration for people of my age and the youth. If I can do it, then why can't they?" Truly, an inspiration to us all!





Ravibir Singh Grewal (19 K, 1983) won a fourth term as President of The Chandigarh Golf Club. Ravibir has been a horticulture pioneer and runs an IT business in addition to his wide ranging responsibilities at the golf club. Congratulations!



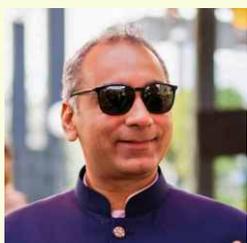
Pradipta Bhattacharyya (199 T, 1984) has been awarded the Acknowledgement of Respect by the Calcutta Heritage Collective (CHC) at a ceremony held in Kolkata's famous Marble Palace for his knowledge in heritage conservation, preservation, and its reuse to save Bengal's legendary historical buildings and homes from being razed by new development. He was lauded for his vast knowledge about Kolkata's history and its suburbs, and for his efforts in maintaining his family's 150-year-old heritage ancestral home Unique Lodge at Serampore, West Bengal. Well done Pradipta!



Lt Gen Vipul Shinghal (305 J, 1985), SM, assumed the appointment of Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (DOT) at the Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) in January. A proud moment for the entire Dosco fraternity, we salute the General and wish him all the best on his next adventure!



Dr Anshu Dhar Jayal (ADJ, 407 T, 1993) recently joined School as a Master. He will be teaching Maths to D, C, and B Forms, and Physics to D Form. He has also been assigned to Jaipur House as a Tutor for some of the B Form boys, including a few of the sons of his batchmates. School is extremely lucky to have someone of Anshu's calibre guiding future generations of Doscos. We will be featuring a column on ADJ in a forthcoming issue.



Saurabh Dudhoria (458 J, 2000) and his wife Arti are proud to announce the birth of their baby boy Ivaan on November 21st, 2023. Saurabh is very active as an alumni and has been the Regional Representative for the Kolkata chapter of The DSOBS for over a decade. Congratulations to the whole family!



Nikhil Bhandare (634 J, 1995) participated in the World Racketlon Championships in Rotterdam, Netherlands, representing India in the team event, while also playing in the individual 45+ event. Nikhil helped India finish sixth, losing in a cliffhanger to Hungary. In the 45+ individual event, Nikhil finished 11th after a tough match against the current world champion in the Round of 16.



Racketlon is a unique sport where you play your opponent in table tennis, badminton, squash, and then tennis (in that order), with each sport played to 21 points. The player who scores the most points

across all four sports wins the Racketlon match. Mental fortitude and focus play a huge role as every point counts. Sounds perfect for a future Inter-House competition!



Dr Aditya Bahadur (29 J, 2002) is currently the Chair of the Research Strategy Team and Principal Researcher at the International Institute for Environment and Development, UK. He has been appointed as the Director of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre beginning in May. Aditya has published widely on climate and development and has contributed to Working Group II of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's sixth assessment cycle. Aditya was also a member of the post-doctoral programme as a Fulbright Scholar at NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies at Columbia University's Earth Institute in New York, USA. His book *Resilience Reset: Creating Resilient Cities in the Global South* was published in 2022. All the best to Aditya as he continues the brave fight against *the* existential threat of our time.



Karan Singh (162 O, 2003) and **Tanuj Bhramar (53 K, 2008)** co-produced the film *Fairy Folk*, which was released in cinemas in March. The movie has garnered good reviews, including being called "poignant," "playful," and "unlike anything you would have seen before." Congratulations to the duo!



Capt Sumant Dang (593 J, 2007) and his wife Mahima were blessed with a baby girl, Seerat, on June 10th, 2023. His hope is for her to grow up to be a Dosco, just like him. Congratulations to the whole family!



Rituraj Sharma (571 H, 2007) tied the knot with Nandita at The Panache Hotel, Patna, Bihar on February 6th. The intimate wedding was attended by family, friends, and loved ones. Congratulations to the happy couple!



Saarthak Gupta (228 K, 2003) won a trio awards for his restaurant Purple Martini, Anjuna, Goa, at the most recent The Times Food and Nightlife Awards: Best Alfresco (Luxury Dining), Best Sundowner Bar, and Nightlife Venue of the year. Congratulations!

A Plea From The DSOBS

Moved? Moving?
Thinking About Moving?
New Address?

Please let us know!

WhatsApp: +91-98116-52456

Email: secretary@dsobs.net



Last year, The DSOBS mailed out 3,700 copies of the Founder's edition of *The Rose Bowl*. This was a special issue, commemorating the life of the legendary Mr Gurdial 'Guru' Singh (GU).

Of the 3,700 copies sent out, as many as 500 copies were returned undelivered.

A lot of blood and sweat goes into creating and sending this fine product out to our fellow Doscos, who wait to read it passionately. If Doscos do not update their postal address with us, all of this time, effort, and money go to waste.

Please confirm your mailing address with The DSOBS and let us know if any of your postal address details have changed.

We thank the entire Dosco community for its attention to this important matter.

Renewing a Basketball Tradition

The Doon School vs The DSOBS (The Doon School, Dehradun)

Prithipal 'Pepe' Singh Dugal 588 T, 1980



**The DSOBS
BasketBall Match**
The DSOBS v The Doon School

Friday, 3rd November 2023
5.00 pm

Venue **The Doon School**

RSVP	The DSOBS
P S Dugal	Ashutosh Goyal
588 T, 1980	Secretary
+91 98112 28880	+91 98116 52456
pepesdugal@gmail.com	secretary@dsobs.net

The match announcement

A historical perspective. Basketball started in School towards the late 1960s and **Sumer Bahadur Singh (SBS, 299 J, 1968)** was our

first ceremonial Captain; he told me that their Batch was nearing graduation when the sport was introduced in 1968. I believe **Mr V Hensman** was our first Master-in-Charge. During our time in School, which was through the 1970s, there was little sports interaction between the School Boys/ Teams and the Old Boys (OBs) except the odd cricket match with Roshanara Club, the British High Commission, and Pilibhit XI. Even these teams were not fully OBs. Some of us OBs, who were amongst the first to go overseas in volumes for higher studies to the US and UK, decided to seek approval to play other sports with School as OB teams. We met with luck through the approval by the then Headmaster **Gulab Ramchandani**. We, including me, got approval to play football, basketball, and squash in fall 1982 as bonafide OBs Teams against School, which was followed by hockey a few years later. We called ourselves the Doon Wanderers since we were from different University geographies and since we were not “authorised” by the DSOBS to be representing the OBs formally.

Thus, started a few years of regular (particularly as they were included in the sports calendar) but very short-lived OBs vs School basketball matches.

I personally managed this sport for the OBs and even managed to squeeze in early Sunday morning informal matches during Founder’s Day celebrations in some years. An unfortunate altercation between some of the OBs and **Jayant Hari Har Lal (JHH, 404 H, 1969)**, who ran the School basketball programme at that time, brought about a freeze in the regular schedule but he obliged me for the few Founder’s Day pickup games. That apart, I got busy with my own life and no one else stepped up to try and bring this sport back for furthering the engagement between OBs and School. Football and hockey are still continuing and I am very happy that some people have stepped up to engage with School through those sports.



From L-R: Old Boys (Standing) Umed Gill, Khaled Alawneh, Sumant Dang, Arjun Singh, Nitin Sardana, Fateh Akoi, Manav Kochhar, Prithipal 'Pepe' Singh Dugal, Sameer Dhingra (President, The DSOBS, 452 T, 1987), Adil Akoi, Suryansh Kainthola, Ashutosh Goyal (Secretary, The DSOBS, 392 K, 1986), and Shivam Nagalia (133 O, 2009)
 The Doon School Team (Kneeling) Sriyash Tantia, Karan Agarwal, Harsh Agarwal, Neil Bulchandani, Sai Arjun, Vivaan Malik, Arin Modi, Suryansh Sood, and Aadhavan Suri

I risk adding that I was asked to kickstart OBs basketball over a decade ago by the then DSOBS President, with the intention to include an annual match against School, but I could not get it going for whatever reasons (even though I kept thinking “I will this year for sure”). I finally took the opportunity during this past Founder’s and requested the Headmaster Dr Jagpreet Singh to bless the restart of this event and being a sportsman himself, he very kindly offered November 3rd, 2023, as a possible date for this.

Time was short and I had to first involve and go through the President of the DSOBS to ensure the event got an official stamp. He very readily agreed for me to put together an OBs Team representing the community. I knew a number of OBs of differing age bands that continue playing the sport and I was able to put together a team in a relatively short time. I am grateful to the OBs who responded but more so to those that made it. I leave it to the paucity of time that denied some the opportunity to make it to Doon. The OBs Team comprised the following:



Khalid taking a free throw

- Adil Akoi (539 O, 1994)**
- Arjun Singh (532 H, 2007)**
- Fateh Akoi (7 T, 1996)**
- Khaled Alawneh (597 J, 2013)**
- Manav Kochhar (183 O, 2009)**
- Nitin Sardana (164 T, 2016)**
- Shivam Natalia (133 O, 2009)**
- Sumant Dang (593 J, 2007)**
- Suryansh Kainthola (345 J, 2018)**
- Umed Gill (111 TB, 1997)**
- Prithipal 'Pepe' Singh Dugal (588 T, 1980)**



Karan Agarwal (School) grabbing a rebound

Ten players, including a good mix between younger and older OBs, which should typically have been enough. The OBs started with the three senior players, Adil and Fateh Akoi, and Umed Gill, all who came up from Delhi only to play this match, and got off to a strong start, building up a decent playing rapport with each other given that most had not played with each other ever. Six others, mostly from batches post Batch of 2000, were from Dehradun. Arjun Singh was a last minute joiner as he happened to be in Dehradun. Whereas both teams were fired up and showed very good energy and intent, the School proved too strong for the OBs and won by a score of 59-34; the OBs managed to remain within five points at halftime. The lack of depth in the OB squad meant aged legs took over in the second half and this helped the boys from School walk away with the game.



Arin Modi (School) about to score

Whereas it would be remiss of me to single out any particular performance(s) seeing as it is a team game, I will say that Adil was admirable as the Team Captain and Khalid led the strong OBs' on-court performance. Everyone gave it their best, and moreover, given that most of the OBs were playing together for the first time, it was a solid effort. I am certain that if School puts this event into the annual calendar going forward, the OBs will have ample time to organise and practice, and hold their own against the boys.



School scoring a basket with hapless OBs looking on

For School, the standout performances were from the captain Arin Modi (308 H), Aadhavan Suri (490 K), Neil Bulchandani (312 H), and Suryansh Sood (248 K4). Other Boys whose performances need mention are Harsh Agarwal (290 K), Karan Agarwal (267 O), Sai Arjun (306 T), Sriyash Tantia (442 T), and Vivaan Malik (281 J). I overheard at the post-match tea that most of the current team will have graduated next year and that it might be an easier game for the OBs next year. Time will tell.



Desperate to get that rebound

CONNECTIONS

One takeaway that I feel I must share is that the entire School team touched my feet whilst shaking hands with their OB counterpart players at the end of the match. This is not akin to Dosco tradition even though the act of touching the feet of elders is an age-old Indian tradition. This was not the norm in our time and neither was it the norm before or after, at least for many years after, as I learn. Where is this change coming from?

Finally, I hope this event provides impetus to get OBs basketball going again. I sincerely hope I can rope in a few younger OBs to help me along this journey and who would be willing to take it over in due course. So, this article is a call to arms seeking

volunteers to connect with me and together we can get informal OBs games and perhaps even Inter-House matches going, which together could build up to an annual game versus School. There is also a proposal doing the rounds to start an Alumni League in India, which would also be great to kickoff. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me on **(+91) 98112-28880**.



Suryansh Sood (School) about to get an easy rebound before scoring



Umed getting the better of Arin Modi (School) with this basket in the dying minutes



Arin Modi (School) attempting yet another free throw



Post-game handshakes

Dosco Fridays

Strengthening Connections in the UAE

Owais Altaf Syed 456 0, 2006
UAE Representative, The DSOBS



UAE Doscors, October 2022

Introduction

Since October 2022, the DSOBS UAE Chapter has been organising monthly Dosco Fridays in the United Arab Emirates. These gatherings serve as a platform for Doscors who are transiting through the UAE to connect, network, and reminisce about their shared experiences. As the UAE continues to grow in importance as a global hub, these events highlight the country's role in connecting the world and foster a sense of community among Doscors residing or passing through the region.

The Growing Importance of the UAE

The United Arab Emirates has emerged as a global powerhouse, playing a pivotal role in connecting people and businesses from around the world. The country's strategic location, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and forward-thinking policies have attracted international investments, businesses, and professionals.

The UAE serves as a vital transit hub, with its airports and seaports connecting travellers from all



UAE Dosco Spouses, November 2022

corners of the globe. Dubai, in particular, has become a major aviation hub, connecting continents and bridging cultures. The UAE's commitment to innovation, technology, and diversity has propelled it to the forefront of the global stage.

The Role of Dosco Fridays

Recognizing the UAE's significance in connecting the world, the DSOBS UAE Chapter initiated

Dosco Fridays to bring together DoscOs who are either residing or passing through the country. These monthly get-togethers celebrate the shared experiences, values, and traditions of DoscOs while fostering a sense of camaraderie among the alumni community.

Dosco Fridays provide a platform for DoscOs to reconnect with old friends, forge new friendships, and expand their professional networks. The events serve as a space for DoscOs to share stories,



UAE DoscOs and their significant others, December 2022



Doscos and their significant others, January 2023

experiences, and advice, creating a supportive environment for personal and professional growth.

The Importance of Community

Community plays a crucial role in the lives of individuals, especially when they are away from their familiar surroundings. Dosco Fridays offer a sense of belonging and nostalgia for Doscos who may be residing or just passing through the UAE,

providing them with an opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who share a common background.

These gatherings enable Doscos to tap into a network of professionals from diverse industries and backgrounds, opening doors to potential collaborations, mentorship opportunities, and career growth. Dosco Fridays often feature guest speakers who share their insights, expertise, and



The June 2023 gathering

CONNECTIONS

success stories, providing valuable learning experiences for attendees.

Looking to the Future

The monthly Dosco Fridays organised by the DSOBS UAE Chapter since October 2022 have become a cornerstone of the UAE's Dosco community. As the UAE continues to play an increasingly important role in connecting the

world, these gatherings provide a platform for Doscos to connect and strengthen their bonds.

As the Dosco Fridays gatherings continue to thrive, Doscos in the UAE can look forward to fostering lifelong connections, expanding their networks, and contributing to the vibrant community that connects the world through the United Arab Emirates.



UAE Doscos enjoying themselves at the October 2023 get-together



COST and Taddy

The Batch of 1963 Reunion with Navzar Tarpowwala

Harijiwan 'Harry' Singh Malik 23 T, 1963

Navzar 'Taddy' Tarpowwala, actually class of 1964, is now a prominent member of the Class of Sixty Three, or COST. When we got news that Taddy was coming to Delhi from Malaysia, we decided to have a COST reunion at the Vohra Manzil, Gautam Vohra's palatial residence in Vasant Vihar on August 15th, 2023.

There were about 15 Old Boys and spouses that turned up for this reunion. Herewith, a quick look at the cast of motley characters involved.



From L-R: Chandoo, Harry, Manjit, Gautam, and Taddy

Alok 'Chandoo' Chandola (344 H, 1963)

Chandoo is active with various projects such as growing fruits and vegetables using no chemical fertiliser. The fruits are picked when close to ripening and ripen fully in customers' homes. The produce is well packed and utterly delicious. Besides this, Chandoo has undertaken some gruelling road trips very much off the regular roading spots. Chandoo is working hard at everything and keeping himself fit as a fiddle in his 70s.

Sumanjit Chaudhry (7 J, 1963)

Sumanjit is still very active and a highly networked individual. He keeps himself well informed on all topics and is often busy with projects we classmates know very little of. But Sumanjit does, every once in a while, take a road trip to his comfortable home in the hills of Suryagaon. Then, there are sudden foreign trips when we see Sumanjit at various international airports. He seems to be actively involved with a jetset routine we know very little of.

Harijiwan 'Harry' Singh Malik (23 T, 1963)

I've been here in India since March 2022. I came to India to get title to a family property that my elder brother was residing in, and the procedures have kept me in India since then. It feels like I've been able to live in India again for an extended vacation. My friends have been very helpful and supportive - which can only happen in India! Luckily, the long, drawn-out process is in its final stages and I should be able to fly back to New York, USA, soon.



Harish and Sudhir taking a break



Harish and Ajay in deep discussion; Kotty in deep thought

Harish Chander Sood (159 K, 1963)

Harish posts great articles on WhatsApp. He also comments on our daily WhatsApp messages. He travels from Bareilly whenever the party is on at the Manzil.

Ajay Tankha (1 J, 1963)

Ajay and Usha have just sold their beautiful home in the vicinity of the Lodhi Gardens. From what we hear, they have been spotted in the Bagh-e-Bahisht, a discovery that even the Lord of the Manzil, Gautam Vohra had no inkling of! We are indeed fortunate that Ajay, with his expertise and passion for statistics, provides solid information on a host of subjects. Keep posting those great nuggets Ajay, we (for the most part) relish them!

Harish Tripathi (78 J, 1963)

Since last Founder's Day, Harish demolished his ancestral home to create an opulent residence over many floors. But the Gods robbed him of marvelling at this stupendous building, sadly. He has some health issues that keep his eyelids shut – a progression of dry eyes disease.

Gautam Vohra (154 H, 1963)

The Lord of the Vohra Manzil, Gautam, is generous. He hosts all the reunions for COST at his palatial home over four levels. A huge collection of books makes up his enviable library. One has to be in good health to be a frequent visitor at the Manzil. Gautam will ask you to bring the shrimp



Taddy in conversation with two spouses

salad. If you ask him where it is, he will say: "In the downstairs fridge," which is in the basement. Each level has two flights of stairs. The elevator connecting the floors has been switched off by Gautam. Gautam says we never get enough exercise, so he keeps fit by climbing up and down the stairs several times a day.

Navzar 'Taddy' Tarpowala (149 J, 1964)

Navzar 'Taddy' Tarpowala is actually a member of the class of 1964, but he was keen to be part of our group, the COST. Taddy is an avid contributor to COST and keeps us entertained with his colourful, humorous commentary on everything that happens from cricket to politics, and others. Taddy lived for many years in London, where he had a comfortable home. This home was always a place where any Dosco could just pop and be treated to a homely welcome, warm meals, and a cosy place to stay. Of course, many of our group have even had their parents enjoy the hospitality of Taddy's comfortable home.

Taddy was excited, expecting to be treated by the classmates with much love and gratitude. But Delhi with its gridlocked traffic and busy schedules makes even the best plans go awry. So, Taddy saw Delhi but none of the classmates were able to spend much time with him. He left Delhi to be with **Kobad Ghandy (349 H, 1963)**, **Nani Javeri (337 K, 1962)**, and possibly **Anil Kumar Agarwal (59 K, 1963)**, and **Ishaat Hussain (292 H, 1963)**. Taddy was keen to see Delhi and enjoy the welcome of his friends. Hopefully, Mumbai will treat him with much love, respect and

a great welcome that will warm his heart again. So, you guys in Mumbai give Taddy the love and affection he was not able to receive in Delhi.

Manjit Singh (374 K, 1963)

Manjit was a special invitee to the reunion of the Class of 1963. Manjit has been the perfect host, warm and welcoming to Taddy, who got the “cold shoulder” in hot and muggy Delhi. Manjit is living in an opulent home in Delhi’s Vasant Vihar. Manjit keeps himself fit and active with his daily rounds of golf.



Bull and Kanak

Haripal ‘Bull’ Singh Gill (329 H, 1963)

Bull was the other special invitee to COST. Bull is an entrepreneurial success. He inherited a business from his father, which he was quick to redesign, entering new business opportunities as they came up. He has proven to be a resilient businessperson. Bull still lives in his magnificent bungalow in the central business district of New Delhi, his sons and their families all living under one roof. A joint family in today’s world! Bull has the secret sauce to blend tradition with modern living.

Karanjit ‘Kotty’ Singh of Kapurthala (177 H, 1963)

Kotty and Minny are living in the exclusive Chattarpur farms area of suburban Delhi. Kotty is our batch’s likeable rascal! He manages to keep our group of friends entertained and jovial. Kotty truly has the gift of the gab.



Kotty with two significant others

Wing Commander Kanak Singh (350 T, 1963)

Kanak has laid to rest his wings and is now reigning in the royal court of Dumraon, Bihar, at his showboat residence. On the throne, he is accompanied by his lovely and charming wife Soo. We see this great couple in Delhi often enough, and have been lucky to savour some delicious Thai cuisine.



Soo and Priya

Priya Sen (The Welham Girl)

Priya is the perfect hostess at the many gatherings at the Vohra Manzil. Her pottery creations give a unique appeal to the Manzil. The dinners, which Gautam always hosts, are headlined by the salads, entrees, and delectable desserts that Priya cooks up. She is also the photographer for events at the Manzil, and those pictures that we all enjoy to recreate the reunions at leisure.

Fabulous Five Days of Non-Stop Fun

The Batch of 1972 Reunion

Ranjan 'Itcan' Bhalla 368 J, 1972



From L-R: (Seated) Kalpana (Gupta) Shyam (186 J, 1972) and Kamini (Sinha) Khanna (23 T, 1972)
 (Standing) Alok 'Zeke' Sinha (58 K, 1972), Vivek 'Eggy' Prakash (235 H, 1972), Pankaj 'Medi' Mediratta (357 T, 1972), Harsh Rai (192 K, 1972), Vivek 'Smiley' Prasad (365 J, 1972), Kapil Bhalla (214 H, 1972), Atul 'Kuthu' Kuthiala (263 H, 1972), Sunil Grover (141 T, 1972), Ranjan 'Itcan' Bhalla, Deepak 'Dan' Malani, Bimal Bhavnani (242 K, 1972), Anil 'Chutt Lal' Sood (35 H, 1972), Dhananjay 'Ducky' Jadhav (25 T, 1972), Brijendra 'Chutt Surd' Hora (328 H, 1972), Sanjay 'Aggru' Agarwal (143 H, 1972), and Rajiv Hora (111 K, 1972)

The Batch of 1972 had a reunion courtesy **Deepak 'Dan' Malani (14 J, 1972)**, who generously hosted us all from December 27th, 2003 to January 1st in Mumbai for his son Rahul's wedding with Krisna.

This is a group photo of us all attired in the special designer *bandis* presented by Dan for this occasion.

Several others, like Aditya 'Sexy' Srivastava (83 J, 1972) and Helen, Rajiv 'Sachu' Rai (64 T, 1972),

Sanjeev Behari (156 H, 1972) and Saloni, Iqbal 'Iki' Kumar (144 J, 1972), Dipankar 'Ponky' Sen (386 K, 1972), Pashupati Advani (220 J, 1972) and Sangita, Gagan Sharma (232 J, 1972), Sanjaya Rajadhyaksha (331 K, 1972), Pratap Dube (226 H, 1972) and Monica, also attended these celebrations but missed the group photograph.

Guests celebrated with a party every night with entertainers like Malaika Arora, Nora Fatehi, Kanikka Kapur, Rodney, and many more.



Spouses From L-R: Sunaina Agarwal, Rajani Sud, Renu Hora, Anjali Bhavnani, Archana Grover, Bina Hora, Rachna Prasad, Somita Prakash, Vineeta Bhalla, Anna Sinha, and Umadevi Jadhav

Dinner one evening at the Taj Mahal Hotel had a Bull Special counter, a quiz on The Doon School (emceed by Mandira Bedi), and a completely toneless rendition of “*Lab pe aati hai dua.*” The restaurant was being managed by an amused “young” Old Boy. Manan Pradhan (184 O, 2016). His description of the evening was a joy to read: “I was working at the Taj tonight and we had the pleasure of hosting a party where many Old Boys were in attendance. It was probably the liveliest

and most fun party we’ve had this season, both for guests and staff and that’s definitely due to the Old Boys’ energy! Guests were breaking out into ‘*Lab pe*’ in the ballroom and the Bulls counter was in constant high demand. Even from the other side of the counter, I could tell everyone was having a ball. It was such a pleasure serving the batch of 1972.”

A fabulous five days of non-stop fun for the batch (and, we hope, for Dan’s other guests)!



Members of the Batch of 1972 and their spouses



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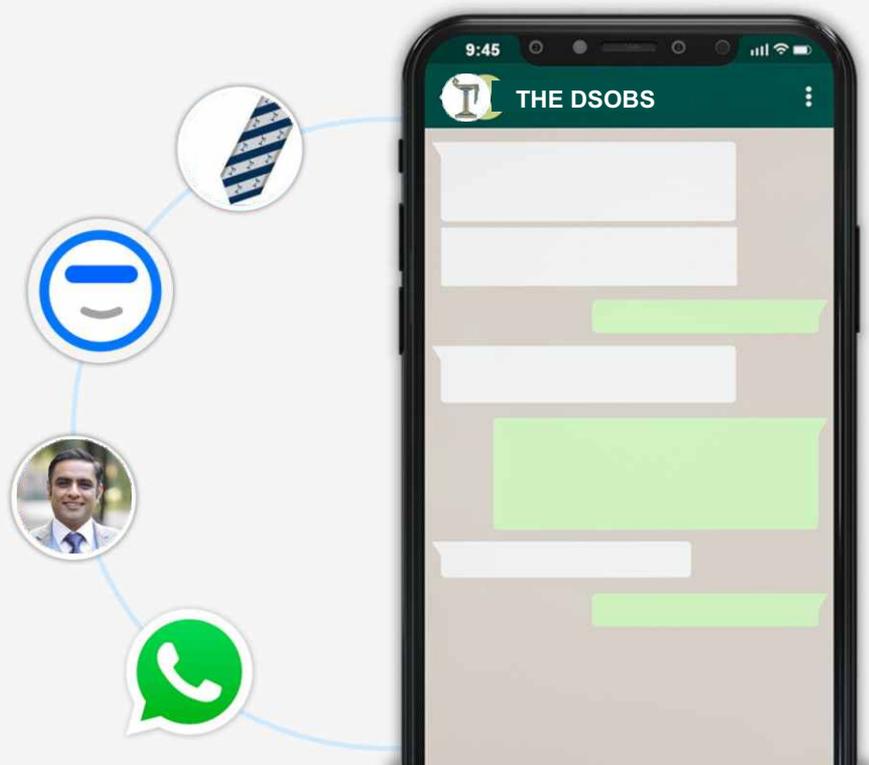


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Wild in Africa

Ashok Mahindra 287 K, 1958





AFRICAN LIONESS AND CUB

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

Londolozi Game Reserve, Sabi Sands Game Reserve,
South Africa (2023)

This photograph was taken towards the end of the afternoon safari – about an hour before sunset. This time of day is known to most photographers as Golden Hour, considered the best light for wildlife photography. This is one of my favourite photographs.





AFRICAN ELEPHANT

IUCN Red List: Endangered

Amboseli National Park, Kenya (2017)

Tim was one of the last remaining great tusked elephants in Kenya, with tusks large enough to brush the ground. The great tuskers are an irreplaceable symbol of Africa's unique natural heritage. Photographed against Mount Kilimanjaro in the background. Tim died in 2020, at the age of fifty.



AFRICAN WILD DOG

IUCN Red List: Endangered

Linyanti Wildlife Reserve, Botswana (2019)

This mother African wild dog has a litter of fourteen pups, all one month old. She, along with the other adults, had left the den and gone hunting. They soon returned and started regurgitating their kill to feed the pups – a central feature of the pack's social bond.







RETICULATED GIRAFFE

IUCN Red List: Endangered

Samburu National Reserve, Kenya (2016)

The reticulated giraffe has a striking reddish-brown coat divided by a complex network (reticulation) of thin white lines and are quite distinct from those of other giraffes found elsewhere in Africa. The reticulated giraffe is one of the Samburu Special Five.



CHEETAH

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

Olare Motorogi Conservancy, Maasai Mara, Kenya
(2018)

Selenkei with two of her four cubs, sitting on a mound.
She is said to be a skilled hunter and the best mother in
the Mara. Her cubs are rarely separated from their
mother except when she is hunting.





GREVY'S ZEBRA

IUCN Red List: Endangered
Samburu National Reserve,
Kenya (2016)

The grevy's zebra has distinct narrow black and white stripes in complex patterns, especially concentric lines on the rump. The stripes end around the belly, which is in patterned white. Samburu is home to the Samburu Special Five, which includes grevy's zebras.







LEOPARD

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya (2018)

It was eerie to find the leopard looking right into my eyes, from only a short distance away, perched on a stark bare tree. The eyes are the windows to the soul, especially for animals in the wild.





LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER

IUCN Red List: Least Concern

Tarangire National Park, Tanzania (2017)

The spectacularly coloured lilac-breasted roller is native to southern and eastern Africa. Its brilliant plumage includes a lilac throat, a chest with fine white streaks, and a turquoise belly. It has a pale green crown and nape. A black line runs through the eye.





SITATUNGA

IUCN Red List: Least Concern

Jao Concession, Okavango Delta, Botswana (2019)

The sitatunga, a shy water-dwelling antelope, is best photographed from a mokoro. The guide got into the shallow waters and pushed the mokoro from behind. A silent approach is critical, as, at the first sound of disturbance or noise, the sitatunga will bolt.

NORTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS

IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered

OI Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya (2017)

In 2017, there were only three northern white rhinoceroses left in the world—one male and two females—all located at the OI Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya. They were protected by armed guards round the clock. Sudan, the last surviving male, died in 2018.









AFRICAN LION

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

Serengeti National Park, Tanzania (2017)

The lion was injured in the right eye, probably in an ugly fight with another male lion or, perhaps, while bringing down a difficult prey. His face was partially covered with tsetse flies, which are common in Tanzania.

BAOBAB TREE

Tarangire National Park, Tanzania (2017)

The iconic, instantly recognisable baobab tree stands out due to it being stark and bare of leaves for most of the year. Its roots, bark, leaves, fruits, and seeds are used medicinally for an enormous range of ailments. Its leaves are eaten as a vegetable or used in soups; and from the pulp a drink tasting like lemonade is made. Many of the large trees in Tarangire are over a thousand years old.





Ashok Mahindra 287 K, 1958 retired as Co-chairman, Deloitte India and as Senior Partner, AF Ferguson & Co in 2008 after a career of nearly 40 years in the accounting profession. He now supports wildlife and nature conservation through the Hem Chand Mahindra Foundation (HCMF) and is also a wildlife photographer. He lives with his wife, Manju, in Delhi, Mumbai, and Goa.



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To register, please contact

Rakesh Kaushik
(603 T, 1979)
rakesh.kaushik83@gmail.com

Akash Puri
(230 T, 1998)
akashpuri@hotmail.com

The DSOBS Mentorship Program 2024

Mentees Opting for the 2024 Program



Arav Bhadra Khanal
Akhil Ahuja
Aradhya Jain
Arya Das
Aryavardhan Agarwal
Anant Jain
Aadi Jain
Aaryan Kayal
Divyaansh Surana
Daksh Garg
Jason Patel
Kabir Takhtar
Kritin Goel
Mridul Jain
Maanat Bhadani
Rohhan Soni
Rohan Jalan
Sriyash Tantia
Syeon Bajaj
Samarveer Bisen
Samyak Jain
Udathveer Singh Pasricha
Vedansh Vikram Madaan
Vedant Agrawal
Vatsal Goel
Vidit Aggarwal
Yashvardhan Verma
Yash Dongre
Yangleem Akash Singh

Dosco Mentors Volunteering for the Program

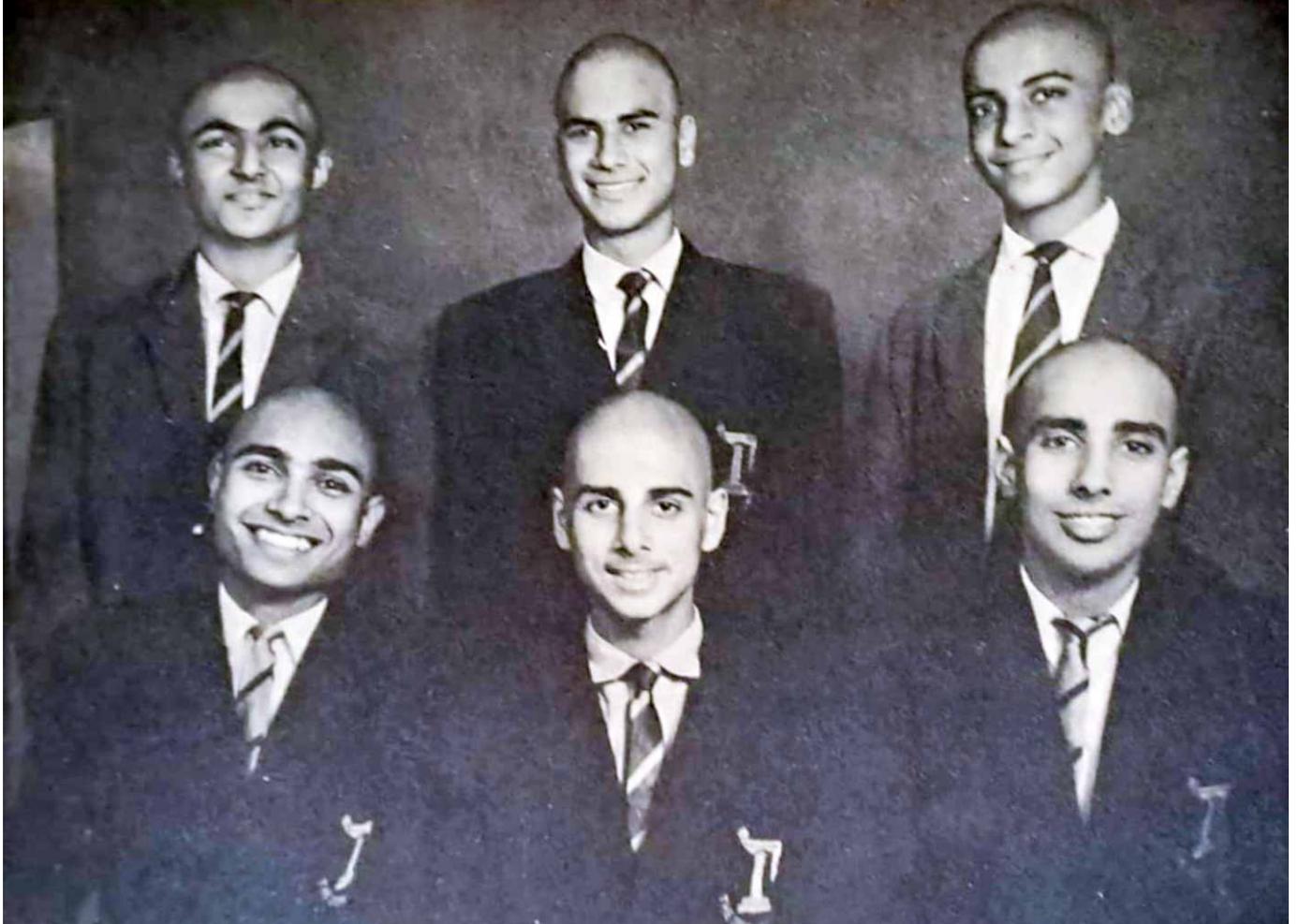
Avab Seth (189 J, 1959)
Romesh Modayil (202 J, 1970)
Vivek Prakash (235 J, 1972)
Harish Suri (384 H, 1973)
Rakesh Wahi (491 H, 1975)
Aseem Tewari (520 K, 1976)
Rakesh Mishra (753 K, 1979)
Sanjay Saxena (804 T, 1981)
Rajat Banerji (135 T, 1984)
Sanjiv Bathla (158 T, 1984)
Pankaj Chowdhary (174 T, 1984)
Avinash Alag (160 H, 1984)
Vikas Attri (150 H, 1984)
Dr Alok Ahuja (741 K, 1984)
Sharad Arora (314 J, 1985)
Mukul Bansal (447 T, 1987)
Shubhendu Kumar (17 J, 1989)
Sunjay Kapur (147 H, 1990)
Pran Mehra (110 J, 1990)
Abhishek Mishra (253 J, 1991)
Himmat Rana (464 J, 1993)
Gaurav Gupta (456 K, 1993)
Pranav Amin (494 T, 1994)
Utsav Baijal (620 H, 1995)
Karam Puri (655 K, 1995)
Akash Puri (230 T, 1998)
Avinash Thadani (424 O, 1999)
Ajit Dhillon (492 J, 2000)
Parvez Khambatta (490 H, 2000)
Abhoday Prashad (569 H, 2000)
Rohan Chand Thakur (563 O, 2001)
Abhishek Maity (180 O, 2003)
Abhenav Khetry (159 J, 2003)
Imran A Ansari (566 T, 2006)
Amritesh Rai (557 J, 2007)
Chetan Aggarwal (568 T, 2007)
Abhinav Tankha (580 K, 2008)
Ashish Mitter (15 K, 2008)
Pranay Kapoor (37 O, 2008)
Akash Binrajka (267 O, 2010)
Ankit Chowdhary (274 T, 2010)
Dr Aayush Jain (368 H, 2011)
Hemang Agarwal (385 J, 2011)
Varun Goel (388 J, 2011)
Tushar Gupta (481 K, 2012)
Sookrit Malik (564 H, 2013)
Nivit Kochar (541 K, 2013)
Aditya Bhattacharya (657 K, 2015)
Abhinav Kejriwal (679 J, 2015)
Nirvana Dogra (122 T, 2016)
Madhav Goel (136 O, 2016)
Karan Shetty (199 O, 2016)
Mukul Goel (278 O, 2017)
Chirag Hirawat (583 O, 2017)
Amol Singh (610 O, 2020)
Pranav Goel (591 O, 2020)
Aditya Saraff (635 J, 2022)
Soham Agarwal (689 J, 2022)
Jugjiv Singh (601 H, 1979)
Aryaman Kakkar (564 O, 2020)
Ahaan Agrawal (407 H, 2018)
Mihir Gupta (378 K, 2018)
Vikram Kejariwal (492 T, 2012)
Vinayak Bajoria (543 O, 2007)
Rajiv Bathla (140 T, 1990)
Pravin Thakur (279 T, 1991)
Udai Bothra (460 K, 2012)
Dr JJN Masani (6 J, 1964)
Pavan Vaish (372 K, 1986)
Mihir Karan (506 K, 2015)
Arjun Bedi (561 T, 1988)
Pramod Luthra (381 K, 1963)
Amulya Aggarwal (118 O, 2020)
Arun K Mohan (203 J, 1974)
Deepanshu Bhandari (500 O, 2006)
Samarth Makhija (166 T, 2016)
Rajit Majumder (24 J, 1989)
Madhav Dar (604 H, 1979)
Sudhanshu Kasewa (42 H, 2002)
John Mukhopadhyay (421 H, 1973)
Arjun Kapur (239 H, 2010).

**The DSOBS extends its sincere thanks to all volunteering Dosco Mentors
for supporting this program**

PROGRAM CONVENORS: Rakesh Kaushik (603 T, 1979) and Akash Puri (230 T, 1998)

From Mop Tops to No Tops!

Dr Sumer Bahadur Singh (SBS) 299 J, 1968



Front From L-R: Sumer Singh, Deepak 'Pongo' Atal, Prabjot 'Goaty' Singh Dhillon
Back From L-R: Subir Hari Singh, Shunil Rawlley, Angad Vohra

Haircuts have an interesting history in School. Like the rest of the world, Doon was in the thrall of Beatlemania in 1965, when Lord William Shawcross - a visiting teacher from England - put on a modern interpretation of Aristophanes's *The Frogs* in the Rose Bowl. The highlight of the play was the competition in the underworld, in the presence of Bacchus, between Elvis Presley, played by **Jagdev Indar 'Woody' Singh (56 T, 1959)**, and the Beatles, played by **Prannoy Roy (66 J, 1966)**, **Chit Bakhshi (24 J, 1966)**, **Sunil Sreenivasan (83 J, 1966)**, and **Adesh Brar (128 J, 1966)**.

Then, in February 1968, the Beatles stayed at the Ashram of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in nearby Rishikesh to participate in a transcendental

meditation training course. It was here that they renounced the use of drugs. I suppose they would have been a very good influence in that regard. It is also here that George Harrison learnt to play the sitar under the guidance of Ajit Singh of Pratap Music House. The result was the music in the album *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

Ajit was teaching music at Doon and at Welham Girls' School at this time and, under pressure from the girls at Welham, he would spend his time at Doon forging autographs of the Beatles. I wonder how many of those girls still treasure these forgeries!

We at Jaipur House, as always, have been known to express ourselves without fear or inhibition. So,

in 1968, in my capacity as House Captain, I appealed to our Housemaster, **Guru (Mr Gurdial Singh, GU)**, for permission to keep longer hair. Not as long as worn by the Beatles but certainly longer than the couple of inches favoured by Doon.

When it was clear no such permission would be forthcoming, some of us decided if we could not have longer hair, we would prefer to be bald. The line for shaved heads was a long one in Jaipur House, and Hyderabad House soon got in on the trend.

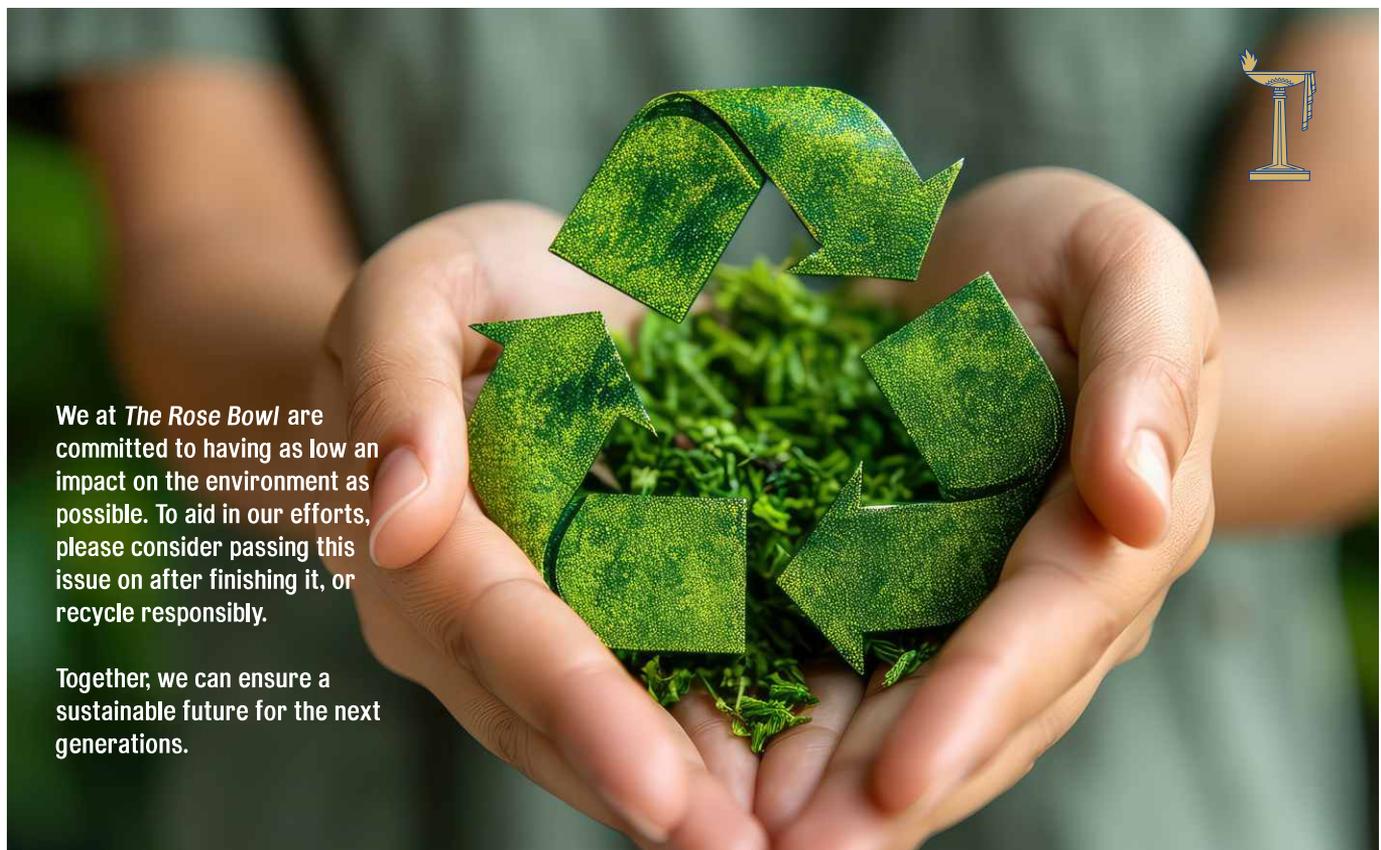
After the first wave of shaved heads, others became more maverick with their hairdos. **Goaty (Prabjot Singh Dhillon, 105 J, 1969)** had a mohawk and **Pongo (Deepak Atal, 130 J, 1968)** a Taras Bulba tuft. Soon, Mr SC Roy discovered what was happening. The barbers were told to stop haircuts altogether until further notice.

Meanwhile, it being a Sunday, **Subir Hari Singh (418 J, 1968)**, **Shunil Rawley (10 J, 1968)**, **Angad Vohra (293 J, 1968)**, Pongo, Goaty, and I went to Mela Ram's to have our photograph taken. On our way back we felt like heroes from a Western when we saw how people made way for us

on the road. We then stopped for a cold coffee at the Bindal where the proprietor informed us that we were attracting a lot of attention because the previous day the police had rounded up eve teasers and tonsured their heads! Perhaps it would be a good thing for us not to be mistaken for them.

Although technically there was no rule against shaved heads, the group of us exploiting this loophole was not without its eventual recrimination. The next morning at Assembly, **Miller (Mr CJ Miller, HM)** banned shaved heads on the grounds that we may catch a cold! And so, one of the most controversial haircuts, itself an act of rebellion, was soon outlawed by the powers that be.

Dr Sumer Singh (SBS) has been with children for the past fifty years as a school master. He continues to enjoy their company at his retirement home, House of Lalpur, where he has held the Leadership and Adventure Bootcamp for over 1,100 students from 20 schools, including The Doon School. He is assisted by his wife, Indu, and his son, Jasmer. Active with educational initiatives, he is currently President of the Boarding Schools' Association of India (BSAI) and Chairman of The Doon School Sub-Committee on Placements.



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Together, we can ensure a sustainable future for the next generations.

On Saturday, October 14th, 2023 a solar eclipse was visible over the United States. I live in Jackson, Mississippi, which lies outside the path of maximum coverage under which the eclipse could be seen. Nevertheless, a partial eclipse was still forecasted to be visible in Jackson. I doubted that we would even see this, because the skies here are often cloudy.

On the day of the eclipse, my wife and I were busy with housework, and we had forgotten about the eclipse. At noon, about midway through the eclipse, my wife remembered and we went outside. The day was sunny, with sparse clouds in the sky. Although we could not look directly at the sun, we could tell the eclipse was in progress; the shadow cast by the tree at the foot of our driveway looked peculiar. Instead of a dappled pattern of sunlight and shadow, the sunlight formed an array of irregular crescents: multiple overlapping images of the partially eclipsed sun.

We quickly brought out a couple of lawn chairs and a set of old eclipse viewing glasses. Many years ago, my wife Maureen, with a great deal of foresight, had collected several sets of eclipse viewing glasses discarded by students at a private school where she had worked. They resemble sunglasses but are far darker.

The eclipse progressed very slowly. I became restless and wondered if it was possible for me to photograph the eclipse. I brought out our camera and tried to take a photograph, only to find that the camera battery had no charge. After replacing the battery, I tried again and after a few attempts I achieved reasonable success. Taking a photograph was tricky because I had to hold one lens of the eclipse viewing glasses firmly in front of the camera while taking the photograph. Without it, all one saw was the bright glare of the sun. Another challenge was that the zoom had to be set to the maximum in order to obtain an image of a decent size. Mounting the camera on Maureen's tripod helped steady the camera and I captured several images before the second battery gave out.

I had one battery left and had to be prudent. I could turn off the camera between photographs, but the zoom and exposure settings reset each time. Even worse, if I waited too long between photographs, the camera turned itself off automatically. Another complication was that the earth slowly rotated the eclipse out of the camera's field of view between images, so the camera had to

be continually realigned. I continued capturing images of the eclipse until the charge on the last battery was exhausted. Fortunately, by this time the eclipse was nearly over.

A few days later, I took stock of the images I had captured. All told, I had eighteen photos of the eclipse that were usable. All the images consisted mostly of a dark background and a small partially eclipsed sun which varied in size and exposure. I cropped the images with Photoshop, and when I lined up the images in the order they were taken, it was apparent that the change in the location of the moon between consecutive images was barely noticeable. Clearly, I had to cull the collection. I labelled each photo with the time it was taken and selected nine images, separated by roughly the same intervals, between which a change in the lunar position was apparent.

Sequential images of eclipses that I had seen previously always had the images arranged in a linear fashion. The trouble with such an arrangement is that the result is very long and skinny, and therefore inconvenient to view. I decided to arrange them in an arc to connote the rotation of the skies.

I drew an eleven-pointed star and placed an image of the eclipse at each of the upper points. I adjusted the sizes of the sun in the images to match. Then, I fitted a circle with a marked centre to the arc of the moon shadow in the first image to determine the shadow's centre, and used that circle to find the centres of the other lunar shadows. The final result is the image before you.

The dark background is due to the eclipse viewing glasses through which the photographs had to be taken. The asterisks are the centres of the lunar shadows. The times are relative to the time that the first image of the eclipse was recorded.

Ranjan Batra retired in 2020 from his position as Associate Professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomical Sciences. While there, he taught gross anatomy and neuroscience, and did research on the neural mechanisms of hearing. He currently lives in Jackson, Mississippi, USA, with his wife Maureen McGuire and their younger daughter, Keely McBatra. He continues to recover from a bout with a meningoencephalopathic virus that he had a few years ago, works on his tennis game, and landscapes his yard.

Mixed Feelings

A Personal View of the RIMC-Doon School Connections

Col (Dr) Rajiv 'Smiley' Bhushan Batra (Retd) 585 J, 1980



From L-R: Capt Amarjeet Virk (RIMC), Capt Arun Anand (RIMC), Maj RS Pathania, Maj DS Pathania, Capt RB Batra, as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF), circa 1988

By far one of the first things a Rimcollian asks you when you introduce yourself as a Dosco donning olive green is “*Oye Dosco, tu fauj mein kaise phas gaya?*” Thereafter, the discussion usually veers to the pristine and serene campuses in a once sleepy little town (now a bustling capital) and the intense sporting rivalry between the two schools. Of the hard fought battles on the football ground or the athletic track (even if you were only part of the cheering squad) and the shared ethos of fighting to the finish.

During one of my night duties as an intern at the Military Hospital in Dehradun, a 14-year-old RIMC cadet was brought in, with a loss of consciousness after a hard punch in the boxing ring. I examined him and told his schoolmates in attendance that there was nothing to worry about - it was a concussion and he would wake up soon. Sure enough, after some time I saw him sitting up in bed and crying. I was told by his friends that he was crying because he lost the bout. I immediately hugged the hapless young man, assuring him that he would win many more bouts in the years to come.

Col Harpal Gill was the second in command of 19 Mahar when I joined the Battalion as RMO, and he

came back to command by the time I was leaving the Battalion. He was from RIMC. Soon after I joined my PG training at Army Hospital, Delhi Cantt, the appointment of the new Army Chief was announced. Gen Sharma (from RIMC, Armoured Corps) had been appointed and not Lt Gen BC Nanda (from The Doon School, 287 K, 1948, Mahar Regt). I promptly wrote a DO (demi-official letter) to Col Gill, “Sir, RIMC won, but the Regt lost.” I received his reply some days later, “Yes, Rajiv – I too received the news with mixed feelings. Mixed feelings which the Americans describe as ‘Watching your mother-in-law crashing down a hill in your brand new Cadillac.’”

Well, Brig Gill has passed away (May He Rest in Peace), Cadillacs are still being manufactured and are finding new markets (including China!), and I am putting these words down for posterity.

Rajiv 'Smiley' Batra served in the Army Medical Corps for 26 years. His last posting was as an Associate Professor of Pathology at the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune, India, his medical alma mater. After retirement, he and his wife Gini have been working in Mauritius. His daughter Nikita is a dentist in Australia and his son Nipun (445 J, 2012) is a software engineer in Singapore.

Whatever Else...

Shiven Thapa 56 0, 1996



Shiven Thapa

Since we graduated from School in 1996, the world around us has changed. From the confines of a walled fortress, a bunch of lanky, wide-eyed teenagers were thrown into the chaotic wilderness of society. In the beginning, it was all about finding the right university, right job, and most importantly, competing with the rest of the world. We didn't know what to say or do! We just wanted to get moving and explore life beyond the high walls.

Still, some of us couldn't help but feel nostalgic about the good old days. The days when the next generation of leaders, businessmen, politicians, bureaucrats, diplomats, activists, journalists, educators, writers, and artists get ready to start the day with a healthy dose of academic excellence in-sync with extra-curricular activities, sports for every season, and some bootcamp style punishments for the right reason.

It's hard to say whether our system of governance was democratic, socialist, communist, capitalist,

far left or far right. We didn't think much about those terms, we just wanted to get the job done without taking any sides. Nonetheless, it was some sort of a system, call it what you may. Was there any freedom of speech, some may ask? Little did we know then that "freedom of speech" is a principle that supports the freedom of an individual or a community to articulate their opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship, or legal sanction.

Back then, our sheer ignorance or adolescent bravado paved the way forward, not ideological jargon. Perhaps, this is something that the wider world could emulate and refrain from taking mere words too seriously. After all, words are a manmade invention and their meanings keep changing over time, as they are contextualised to suit social paradigms and sometimes manufacture consent. The main thing is to get the work done, talk the talk and walk the walk. That, in my opinion, is the Dosco way.

Shiven Thapa is a self-employed gonzo-style writer with past experience in publishing and advertising. He is married and lives in Kathmandu, Nepal.

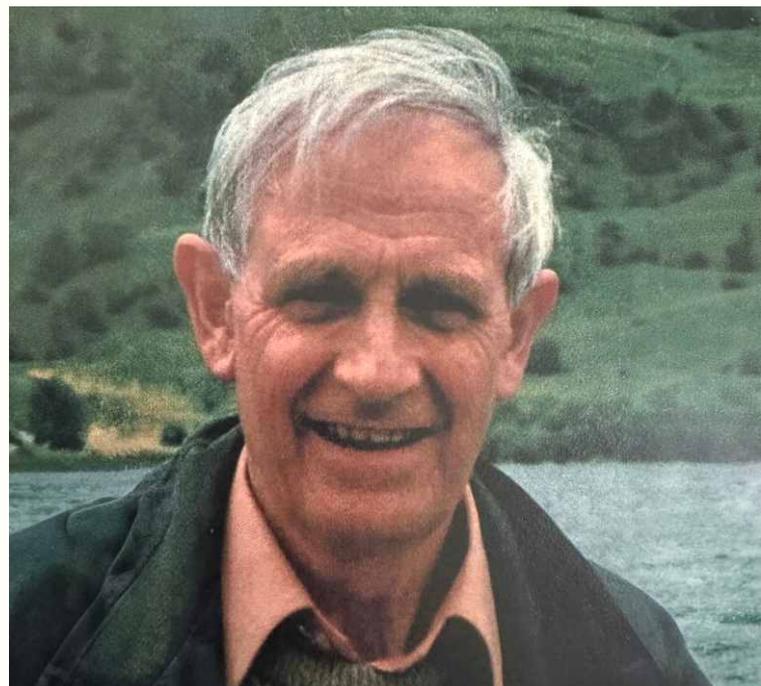
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Tributes



Dr Clive Sutton

Dr Clive Sutton (1936-2024)

An Admired and Loved Teacher

Saumya Mitra 197 T, 1966

Dr Clive Sutton was a much admired and loved teacher of sciences, mostly chemistry, at School between 1963-66.

He came to Doon on a British Council project concerned with new developments in teaching science. Mr Arthur Hughes and some others were also enticed by Headmaster Martyn to introduce the latest in teaching methods from British schools to Doon. Indeed, Dr Sutton's innovative approach in combining much experimentation in the chemistry lab together with a heuristic approach to discovery and knowledge was a breath of fresh air at a time when learning was largely by rote.

He had wide cultural interests and delighted in camping and scouting. Deeply curious about India and with a passion to learn, he and his family, wife Carole, and daughters Cathy and Meriel, made many lifelong Indian friends. Later came the adoption of an Indian son, Peter, and the birth of their final child, Rowan.

Clive and Carole played generous hosts and were guardians to me when I studied at Marlborough College in the UK.

The Doon community will be saddened by his passing.

A Lifelong Impact

Devajyoti Ghose 338 J, 1966

I was deeply saddened upon receiving the news of the passing of Dr Clive Sutton who visited Doon when I was a student (I am part of the Batch of 1966).

He taught us chemistry in either B or A Form – my

memory about the year is a bit hazy. But, his methods of teaching (perhaps the first time I encountered the scientific method) live with me to this day.

Rest in peace, sir. You will not be soon forgotten.

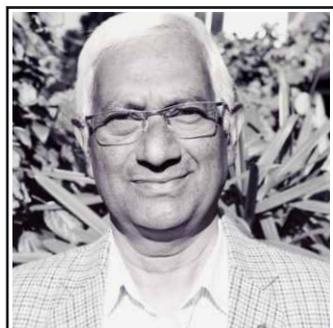
A Note from The DSOBS

Dr Clive Sutton was a visiting faculty member; he came to School under a teacher exchange program. Since he was not employed directly by the School, Dr Sutton was not officially an Affiliate Member of The DSOBS. Nonetheless, his passing is a loss to The DSOBS.

It is undeniable that Dr Sutton made a big impact with his teaching methods. It is amazing how a visiting faculty remained in regular touch with his students from Doon for almost 60 years. Such is the lasting effect great teachers have on us.



In Memoriam



With deep regret, we inform you of the passing of **Mr Dinesh Chandra Bhatkoti (DCB)** (Affiliate Member), father of Mehul Bhatkoti (589 T, 2007) on February 3rd.

DCB spent 32 years at School, joining as Assistant Master in 1982. He would go on to serve as Housemaster of Foot House (1993-1998) and Head of the Department of Science (2005-2008), finally retiring in 2014.

His impact on students and colleagues was far-reaching and his legacy lives on in the generations of Doscocs he nurtured.

Our heartfelt condolences to Mehul, the family, and all members of the fraternity.



Satish 'Tishi' Kumar Khanna (50 H, 1944), brother of Anand Khanna (99 H, 1942), father of Vinit Khanna (350 H, 1974), Dhruv Khanna (150 H, 1976), Nalin Khanna (563 H, 1980), and grandfather of Ishaan Khanna (463 H, 2012) and Vihan Khanna (450 H, 2012), passed on January 14th.

Amongst his many famed cricketing exploits, Tishi played Test Cricket for India and held the School's Juniors I record of 218 not-out.

Our heartfelt condolences to all members of the family.



With grief, we inform you of the passing of **Ratan Kumar Sanghi (67 H, 1946)** on January 30th.

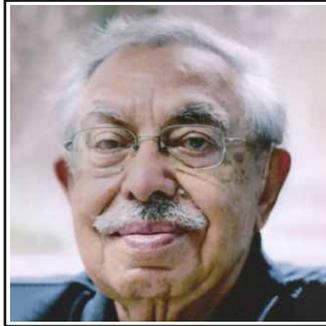
He is survived by Pushpa Sanghi, Nitin and Deepika Sanghi, Sanjana and Yashodhan Loyalka, Mala and Harsh Goenka, Anant and Radha Goenka, Vasundhara and Apoorva Patni, Deepa and Arjun Kejriwal, Kavita Kejriwal, and Ayush and Rashi Kejriwal.

Our sincerest condolences to all members of the family and his circle of friends.



With profound sorrow, we inform you of the passing of **Wg Cdr (Retd) Ravindra Lal Badhwar (230 H, 1949)**, brother of Tilak Badhwar (178 H, 1966), grandfather of Kanishk Jaiswal (447 H, 2000), father of Kiran Jaiswal (daughter) and Nandini Charles (daughter) on March 15th.

Our heartfelt condolences to all members of the family.



Sadly, we inform you of the passing of **Rohit Handa (22 J, 1953)**, President, The DSOBS (1986-88), father of Nakul Handa (22 J, 1989), on February 23rd.

In addition to his many years of service to the School (*The Doon School Weekly* lauded him as a “very active Head of the Architecture and Project Committee, with unparalleled attention to detail in capturing historical elements of design, costs, and painstakingly recreating and building a lot of the School infrastructure.”), he was renowned within the fraternity for writing the architecture book on School.

He is survived by Rani Handa (wife), Nakul Handa (son), Gayatri Khosla (daughter), Aditya Khosla (son-in-law), and his two grandchildren, Pranav Khosla and Amiya Khosla. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.



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