

THE ROSE BOWL



Since 1985



The 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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Sister School

Pratik Basu (442 T, 1993)

Editor-in-Chief

Middle aged nostalgia has got me thinking about my past experiences, including those with my “sister” school: Welham Girls’ School.

I was sent off to Welham Boys’ School so long ago I can’t even remember if there had been girls in my classes prior to that. I do remember my roommates at Woodseats that first year – **Dhiraj ‘Dave’ Wahi**, **Dharmendra ‘Dara’ Singh**, and **Niraj ‘Kakati’ Kakati** (who was all the way from, *gasp*, Assam). I remember Prakash and Chetan, the proverbial Good Boy and Naughty Boy from our matron **Ms Young’s** evening stories which were aimed at drilling life values into 5-7 year-old boys (“Be like Chetan, not like Prakash”...poor Prakash, wonder if he ever got his life together?). But, no girls.



Welham Boys’ School, no girls

Things changed rather dramatically a few years later. **Ma (Aditi Basu, Gokhale Memorial Girls’ School, [batch redacted])** and **Baba (Prabir Basu, 162 T, 1962)** must have been happy with my progress because my sister **Chhoto (Pratiti Basu, Flycatcher, 1994)** showed up at WGS.

Apparently, with being a not-great older brother came great responsibilities. I found this out the hard way when **Ms Torres**, my matron at Toad Hall, would send a Junior to hunt me down while I was out and about getting into no good on Sunday afternoons. I would be dragged back protesting the whole way,



Me and my sister, pre-WGS

cleaned up (even more protestations), clothed in clean togs (so much protest!), and marched over to the WGS gate whereupon my attending Junior would hand me a box of sweets (“Mrs Torres knows this would be empty before it ever got to your sister, that’s why I’m handing it to you now.”) and disappear. I would solemnly march across the road to the WGS Junior School and see Chhoto, who was actually quite grateful for the visits and not-quite-full box of sweets (I managed to sneak some away on the short walk over!).

The tradition continued when I got to The Doon School. The Tata House Matron, **Ms Dolly Dubey**, would make sure I was presentable on the bus over to WGS for *raksha bandhan*. As the WBS Junior knew all too well, the *mithai* box would be emptied out five minutes into the ride. Once again, my House Matron anticipated my failings, and the bus driver would hand me backup *mithai* to give to my long-suffering sister.

After we got older the chances to interact with WGS expanded. I found myself briefly in a “mixed” play and we rehearsed on their turf. This time, the protestations gave way to exultation because of the stories of the amazing food they got over there. If I remember correctly, we sat with our castmates up on a raised platform at the head of their dining hall, almost like we were already on a stage. I would demand extra lemon tarts (so good!) and when the poor WGS girl serving us would protest, I would calmly inform her that it was okay after all, my sister was in-charge of the

food. (I found out years later that because I got an extra tart, some poor kid went without hers – my heart aches for that poor girl who had to go to bed hungry because of my avarice. But considering how good the dessert was, you'll probably agree with me that it was worth it [insert smiley face emoji here].)

We became SC Formers, and thus came Socials. For me, talking to and maybe even, *gasp*, dancing with girls was an intimidating proposition. Once in enemy territory (an indoor hall at WGS with music and, yes, dancing) I discovered the food table and boxes and boxes of lemon tarts. While my batchmates crossed the Rubicon to interact with the WGS girls, I busied myself with the lemon tarts, stuffing my face as fast as I could. Plucking up what little courage I had at that time, I snuck a full box of them back to Doon, which could be considered a heroic, death-defying act given **Ms Dayita Dutta's** friendly conversation while the tarts hid below my blazer, inches under her nose.



Socials

From L-R: Jatin Bobb (411 T, 1993), Pratik Basu, Welham Girl 1, Welham Girl 2, Welham Girl 3, Viraj Jit Singh (461 K, 1993)

As an SC Former, I was allowed to leave Chandbagh on my own. Given how strict Baba was with “extra tuck money” (not allowed!), my resources were limited and this constrained my ability to visit Chhoto at WGS. I would drown my guilt in a (shared) half-bowl of Butter Chicken at President's (the stuff that dreams are made of...especially since I'm now back to being an Egg-Veg with Fish).

Chhoto, however, was no pushover (maybe those giant, garish '*Mera Bhaiya*' rakhees I was forced to wear for weeks “otherwise, Ma and Baba will feel sad” should have been a giveaway? But, I was never too quick on the uptake).

During an outing with **Mr SK 'Charlie' Kandhari**

(122 T, 1951, KD/SKK) (my WBS Headmaster who had kindly agreed to become my Local Guardian at Doon), I borrowed a bicycle from his house and rode over to WGS to finally see Chhoto. She and her friends were unusually effusive and complimentary. I was feeling pretty good when a terrifying realisation stopped my heart cold (*literally*? Probably... I can still sense-memory the terror!)

The bicycle had completely disappeared.

The situation was explained very simply to me. While Chhoto and her friends distracted and surrounded me, their cohorts had spirited the bicycle away. If I wanted it back I would have to go get boxes of Chinese food and smuggle them into WGS for the whole lot of them. But how?, I protested. We have our ways, I was told, simply.

Off I went on foot, dreams of shared half-bowls of Butter Chicken receding into the distance as my monetary resources were gobbled up by the boxes of Chinese food. Struggling with the bags I lurched over to the designated spot by the side of WGS. Given that I wasn't very tall and their giant concrete walls topped with barbed wire definitely were, I had no idea what was in store. Like magic, a section of the barbed wire gave way, a rickety bamboo ladder was installed, a human daisy chain emerged, and the Chinese food boxes were carefully passed over the wall. This must have been quite the sight for passersby; the human engineering involved was quite spectacular.

Exhausted, I stumbled back over into WGS, through the official front gate this time. Chhoto's friends had disappeared, my bicycle had reappeared, and I was grudgingly thanked for my efforts. But, what about the rest of the visit?, I protested. The reply was simple: I'm hungry, I'm going, I'll see you next week (“otherwise, Ma and Baba will feel sad”). The food, my sister, and her friends had all vanished, but at least I had Mr Kandhari's bicycle back. It was then that I truly discovered that Chhoto was never a pushover.

All the air had been let out of the tyres.

I think back to that long, sweaty walk, dragging the poor bicycle with me, those giant walls, the barbed wire, the Chinese food, the sweets, the *mithai*, the *rakhees*, the lemon tarts, and I realise they were all

little markers along the path into the adult world, where, try as we might to resist, we would be forced to interact like human beings with the other half of the population. What were the lessons learned: I should've been a more attentive brother? I should pay more attention to my surroundings (how did they make the bicycle disappear, *literally*?!)? Girls were not some strange, feared, alien species, who were, at the bare minimum, never to be underestimated?

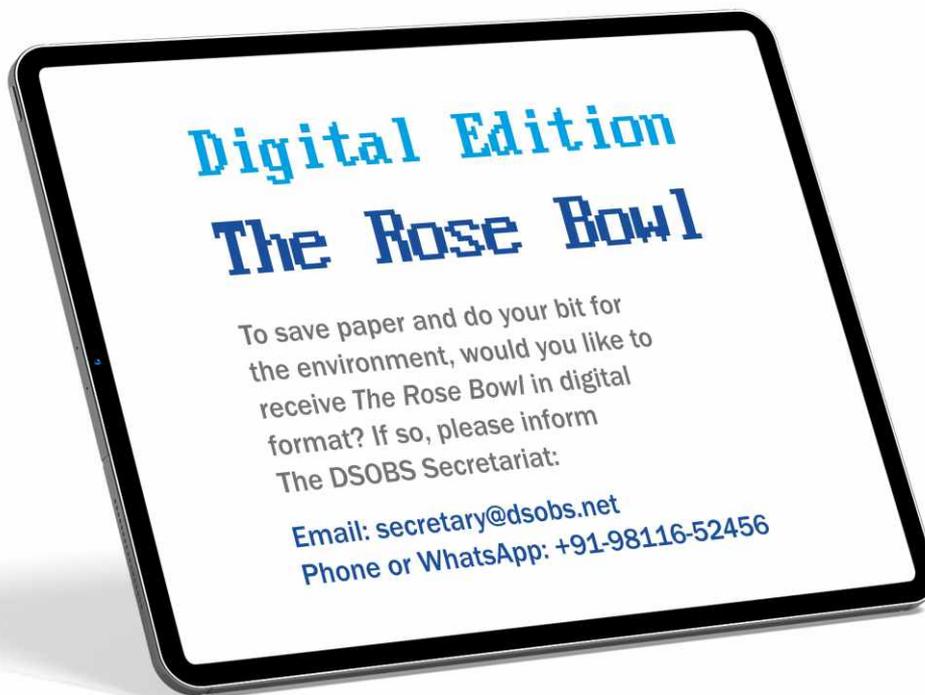
As soon as I put down this lemon tart, I'll let you know.

PS. Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Corrections? Articles? Photos? (Older) Brotherly advice? Please email me: BasuRoseBowl@gmail.com

ERRATA

In the 2025 Winter issue we made an error in the In Memoriam notice for Lt Col (Retd) Anand Kanwar 'Nandi' Khanna (99 H, 1942). We wrote that "Arun joined School in February 1936, a mere few months after it had opened its doors." We should have noted that it was Nandi who joined School in February 1936. The oversight was brought to our attention by his younger son Varun Khanna (417 H, 1974). The error is sincerely regretted.

In the 2025 Winter issue we made an error in the In Memoriam notice for Bawa Harkirat Singh (419 H, 1993). He sadly passed on December 7th 2024, and not on December 8th 2024 as published. The oversight was brought to our attention by his brother Bawa Mohit Singh (172 H, 1997). The error is sincerely regretted.



We've Got Mail

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was taken aback when I read on my WhatsApp message from **Bharat Mehra (196 H, 1984)** about the passing away of **Mr RD Singh (RD)**, my predecessor as the Housemaster of Hyderabad A.

I was lucky to succeed him as Master-in-Charge of Football, the Chairman of the Games Committee, the Master-in-Charge of DEAS, and the Housemaster of HA. I always admired, respected, and trusted RD as my senior colleague.

He was a stylish cricketer who also batted with grace and bowled with accuracy. This style was not missing from his football game, either. He had an uncanny sense of accuracy.

On being congratulated by **Mr Surendra 'Charlie' Kandhari (122 T, 1951, KD/SKK)** on succeeding RD as the Housemaster, I told him: "Honestly, I am nervous taking over from RD. I do not have his style and family comforts."

Charlie retorted, "A parent will

only come to you only to know of the wellbeing of their son! Why are you bothered?"

This assurance from Charlie made much sense to me.

I was not an angler like RD nor a *shikari*, but was lucky to go along with him on the Jaonli Expedition (summit at 21,750 feet). RD was carrying his rifle and brought down a bear coming down the slope. I brought out my knife and rushed to the bear only to hear RD shouting at me, "Stop there, AD! Do you want to be mauled by the bear?"

It made sense to me and I stopped.

On our return, RD never made any fun of me for my stupidity. He was always a man of grace and dignity in every way in his life.

I can never forget the kindness of Asha, his wife, when she took my mother-in-law, my wife, and me to Robber's Cave. On another occasion, she took us to the Flower Show in the field across the road from St Thomas College. She very kindly offered both my

kids ice-cream; their very first taste of an ice-cream.

More than once, I visited him at his residence and was greeted warmly by his respected mother who would treat me to some *masalti* – such a homely gesture.

I was privileged also to take care of both his sons, **Sahdev Singh (905 H, 1982)** and **Saumyadev Singh (266 H, 1985)**, in HA. Neither RD nor Asha ever came to me with any complaint. Sahdev grew up into a scholar and Saumyadev as our star football player.

I did remain in contact with the family when they settled down in Jaipur.

I would have loved to have RD as my Headmaster in Doon. He was such a balanced individual. My Headmaster had made me Master-in-Charge of Cross Country which drove me to quiet tears. So, I went to RD and reported my complaint to him. With his customary patience and courtesy and dignity, he said, "Please do not worry. I will look after the run tomorrow."

I wish there were more RD Singhs in our schools and more of them as our headmasters.

Sincerely,

AN 'AD' Dar (AND)

Dear Editor,

I extend my sincerest compliments to you, for an

exceptionally well brought out publication. Notably, it is getting better with each new edition.

Truly, well done. And, keep it up!

Warmest regards,

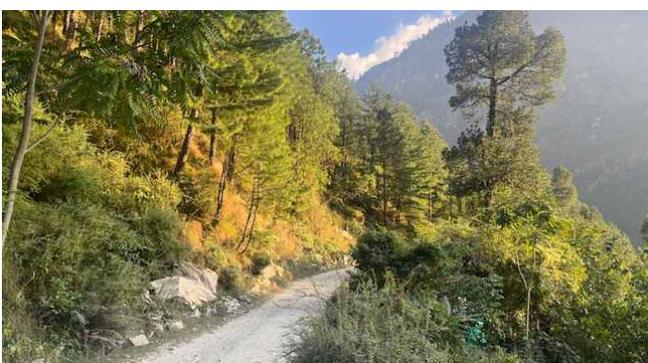
Avinash S Alag (160 H, 1984)

Dear Editor,

I am sharing some pictures of the Gone Fishing Cottages, located in the Tirthan Valley, Himachal Pradesh. The Cottages are run by **Upendra Singh Kamra (461 J, 1987)** and his wife Dimple.

Best wishes,

Gopal K Jaidka (441 K, 1987)



Old Boys' News



Rakesh (right) receiving the Excellence in Pan-African Media Award

Dr Rakesh Wahi (491 H, 1975) received the Excellence in Pan-African Media Award during the Africa Prosperity Dialogue 2025 recently held in Accra, Ghana. Rakesh was praised for his transformative role in media and education. As co-founder and chairman of the ABN Group, he was noted for delivering high-quality business news and insights that shaped economic discussions across Africa. As co-founder and chairman of the Transnational Education Group, he has ensured accessible world-class education for students in Africa and the Middle East. Congratulations to Rakesh on his remarkable career!



Gaurav Sondhi (387 K, 1986) has begun the manufacture of semi-automatic rifles in India with his company GEAM Guns. This endeavour is one of the first of its kind domestically, producing firearms of the highest international standards. Gaurav is a world-renowned Trap and Double Trap shooter; his many accomplishments includes being a Medalist in the 2003 World Cup and the 2003 Asian Clay Championship.



Siddhartha Lal (235 K, 1991) has been appointed the Executive Chairman of Eicher Motors. Siddhartha has been credited for the amazing transformation of Royal Enfield from a struggling motorcycle division into a global powerhouse. This is considered one of the most remarkable turnarounds in the history of the Indian automotive industry. Royal Enfield is currently one of the most prominent automotive brands globally thanks to his incredible efforts, which included personally taking the motorcycle to forbidding terrain all over India. Keep riding, Siddhartha!



Shubho Ghosh (472 O, 1993) was appointed to the Public Markets Advisory Committee (PMAC) of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). The FASB, an independent organisation, sets financial accounting and reporting standards for public and private companies in America. The US Securities and Exchange Commission has recognised the FASB as the designated accounting standard setter. Shubho is a Managing Director at Opti Capital, a New York City-based hedge fund. Congratulations to Shubho, and all the best for the future!



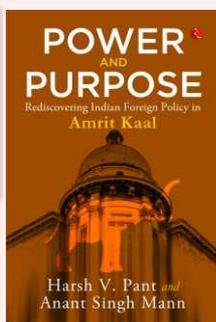
Dilsher Khanna (110 T, 2008) was appointed a member of the Women's Premier League (WPL) Committee, which was called a significant development for the promotion and growth of women's cricket. He has played a key role in shaping cricket at the grassroots level for both men and women in his storied association with the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA). He was part of the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup winning team as Team Manager for India. Well done!



Sohrab Hura (455 T, 2000) had his first US Survey displayed at MoMA PS1, part of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, USA. The installation, *Sohrab Hura: Mother*, displayed work from his photography, film, and paintings. The museum drew attention to his "shifting existential concerns around the ethics of image-making as a documentary act." Well done and all the best for continued success!



Ayush Agarwal (131 J, 2009) was recently invited to speak at Notion Press's BookTalk. Ayush has already had five books released by the publisher, which is impressive given his young age. In addition to being an author, Ayush is the founder of Luminous Page Publications and an accomplished *shayar*. All the best for what promises to be a long career!

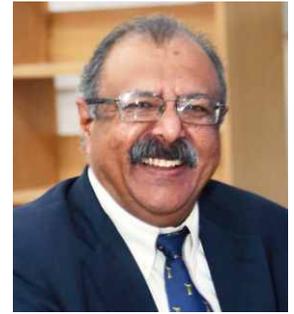


Anant Singh Mann (668 J, 2015) co-authored the book *Power and Purpose: Rediscovering Indian Foreign Policy in Amrit Kaal*. The book goes over the key moments in India's foreign policy and delivers thoughtful and objective analyses of the overall foreign policy landscape. The book was called "sophisticated" and heralded for "command[ing] attention because of the scholarship involved and the clarity of writing." Congratulations to Anant, another shining example of our younger Old Boys. We look forward to following his successes!

From the Secretary's Desk

Spring 2025 Round-Up

Ashutosh Goyal 392 K, 1986
Secretary, The DSOBS



Ashutosh Goyal

Picking up the thread from the Winter 2025 edition... which I signed off mentioning that The DSOBS' events calendar was choc-a-bloc full for the next few months. The next few paragraphs will tell you how.

The Annual Jim Corbett National Park Trip



The famed Jim Corbett National Park

The Wildlife & Outdoors Sub-Committee made their annual pilgrimage to Jim Corbett National Park over the Republic Day weekend. The troupe size for this outing is limited given the logistics involved in booking accommodation and organising safaris into the park. The slots fill up within no time from the announcement of the programme. Those who miss out only get to hear dramatic tales of sightings of the not-so-elusive-anymore "Stripes" along with other diverse fauna and flora.



Limited troupe size, but unlimited fun!

Doscos in Goa

Doscos in Goa met up to celebrate Republic Day (Goa does not go dry on the day!).

The Inaugural Inter-House Badminton Tournament



Tata House winning the Inaugural Inter-House Badminton Tournament

The inaugural Inter-House Badminton Tournament was held at the Siri Fort Sports Complex, New Delhi on February 2nd. Tata House lifted the glistening new trophy, relegating the spirited gentlemen in yellow to second place. The first edition saw enthusiastic participation, and I am sure subsequent versions of the tournament will see even much larger footfalls. Kudos to **Vedant Chandra (241 J, 2010)**. He floated the idea of a badminton engagement and saw it through most successfully.

2025 India Art Fair

The following weekend saw some DoscOs visit the annual India Art Fair in New Delhi. The DSOBS gets a limited number of VIP Passes for the four-day event, which includes a curated walk-through of the exhibits. We look forward to featuring cultural events such as this in The DSOBS calendar.

The UAE Region Annual Get-Together

The UAE Region of The DSOBS organised their annual get-together in Dubai on February 8th. As usual, the event saw great response from DoscOs across generations. I must thank **Raghav Agrawal (215 J, 1983)** for gifting hampers of Dabur products to everyone. Raghav has recently relocated to Dubai from London, UK, and he looks after Dabur's business in the Middle East market. The Number of DoscOs in the Middle East is growing steadily and this Region is amongst the most active within The DSOBS. The "boys" meet up typically on the last Friday of every month in Dubai. A big shout-out to **Owais**

Altaf (456 O, 2006) for keeping the gang engaged.

Patna Party

Fresh blood was infused in the Bihar & Jharkhand Region recently, and it sprung to life! Veteran **Dr John Mukhopadhyay (421 H, 1973)** hung up his Dosco lamp after holding the fort for much more than a decade, handing over to his junior, **Dr Rahul Sinha (398 T, 1993)**. When Rahul was struggling to find an appropriate venue for the get-together, his good old friend **Harsh Rohatgi (509 H, 1993)** volunteered to host the evening at his 120-year-old family home. **Akhil Kochhar (461 H, 2000)**, who owns the Chanakya Hotel Patna, organised the food. Things were sorted very quickly! Since a Dosco event was taking place in the area after a reasonably long gap, Old Boys came in from as far as Nepal to attend. It was decided that the next event will be held in Ranchi, Jharkhand, within the next six months. Way to go!

London Fridays

DoscOs in the United Kingdom, another very active Region of The DSOBS, continued with their monthly meetups: London Fridays. This time, the event was held at The Three Tuns, in the Marylebone region of London on February 28th. For all those in the UK, those jet-setting across the globe, and those who head to Europe and other cooler climes to shy away from the hot summers of India, the Annual UK Region Get-Together will be held in London on Saturday, June 14th. Please mark your calendars – we look forward to seeing all of you in London.



DoscOs in Patna enjoying the Rohatgi family's historic home



Members of The DSOBS EC welcoming the newest (and, therefore, youngest) Old Boys

Executive Committee Meeting and 2025 DSOBS Induction Ceremony

On March 4th, the 231st Meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Board Room at School. It was followed by a sumptuous lunch at the Central Dining Hall (CDH). DoscOs from batches of the previous millennium need to visit School during Term time and have a meal in the CDH. It's literally a seven-star affair! The School has restarted the bakery, and all breads, biscuits, and confectionery are made in-house. Tight controls are maintained on the ingredients and a nutritionist ensures that the boys get their daily dose of essential nutrients.

After lunch, the Induction ceremony of the Batch of 2025 was held at the Arts and Media Centre. Team DSOBS handed the Old Boys Ties to 85 of their youngest newly-minted members. **Divyaansh Surana (425 O, 2025)** was elected as the Batch Rep of the Batch of 2025. Congrats Divyaansh – and welcome aboard!

The DSOBS Mentorship Program

The Induction Ceremony was followed by the launch

of The DSOBS Mentorship Program 2025. More than 30 SC Form boys have enrolled in the programme; they are to be mentored by senior DoscOs from diverse professional backgrounds. A huge debt of gratitude must be paid to **Rakesh Kaushik (603 T, 1979)**, Member of the Executive Committee, who has spearheaded this initiative from the very beginning. His tireless efforts have made the program a much sought-after and successful initiative of The DSOBS. Well done Rakesh, we cannot thank you enough!

Arthur Foot Academy Visit

Some members of the Executive Committee visited Arthur Foot Academy, a charity school located just outside the Doon Valley, to analyse how The DSOBS can support the school under our Aristocracy of Service initiative. You will read more about Arthur Foot Academy, and our efforts to help support the worthy institution, in subsequent issues of *The Rose Bowl*.

The 2025 Shomie Das Friendship Cup

The Shomie Das Friendship Cup, an annual cricket tournament, was held in Bombay (sorry, Mumbai!)



Welcome to the newest class of The DSOBS Mentorship Program!

in the first weekend of March. More details to follow in a proceeding issue of this magazine.

The 2025 Inter-House Golf Tournament



Teeing off!



Hyderabad House winning the trophy

The Inter-House Golf Tournament was held on March 12th, this time at the Delhi Golf Club. This was a landmark year, with the tournament celebrating its silver jubilee. A round of applause to all those who have been organising this tournament over the years, ensuring participation and continuity. It has become *the* marquee event of The DSOBS event calendar and is a highlight for the golfers in our community, many of whom come from all different parts of the country to compete. This year close to 100 golfers participated, resulting in a vigorous competition, and a great time for everyone involved.

Delhi Region Get-Together

A day later, on March 13th, the Delhi Region organised a Get-Together, again at the Delhi Golf Club. WTTM, a band from Singapore, renowned for their rendition of Pink Floyd songs, performed at the function. The event was very well attended, despite it being on the eve of Holi, with around 350 people enjoying the festivities. Prizes for the Inter-House Golf Tournament were awarded during the course of the evening. Thank you to all those involved in making the evening happen, it was a huge success from The DSOBS's point of view.

The 2025 Inter-House Cricket Tournament



Nail-biting action during the Tournament

By the next weekend Delhi had started getting rather dry and warm, but that did not deter our cricketers from coming together to play at the Inter-House Cricket Tournament on March 22nd-23rd, at the Central Secretariat Sports Ground. All the games were keenly contested, and the entire tournament went off very well. **Abhenav Khettry (159 J, 2003)** must be acknowledged for providing t-shirts and caps to players from all the Houses. He also sponsored the individual prizes and part of the

playing kit. His passion for the game, and The DSOBS, continues to be remarkable.

The 2025 Inter-House Hockey Tournament

The very next weekend, the Inter-House Hockey Tournament was held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi. **Kunal Sharma (493 J, 1993)** has been almost single-handedly organising The DSOBS Hockey events for many years. Another Dosco who is very passionate about Hockey, and about the Society in general, Kunal is a role model for other Old Boys to follow. Thank you, Kunal.

This is certainly not the end. Events and activities continue with the same fervour into the next quarter. No time to stand and stare! I'll see you soon...

Ashutosh Goyal is an established veteran of the ITeS industry with more than 30 years' experience in computer hardware and surveillance. At just 48 he handed over his entire business to his employees to pursue his passion. He joined The DSOBS Secretariat in 2016 and has been Secretary of the Society since 2019. You may reach him at secretary@dsobs.net



Two role models: Mr Anshu Dhar Jayal (407 T, 1993, ADJ) and Kunal Sharma



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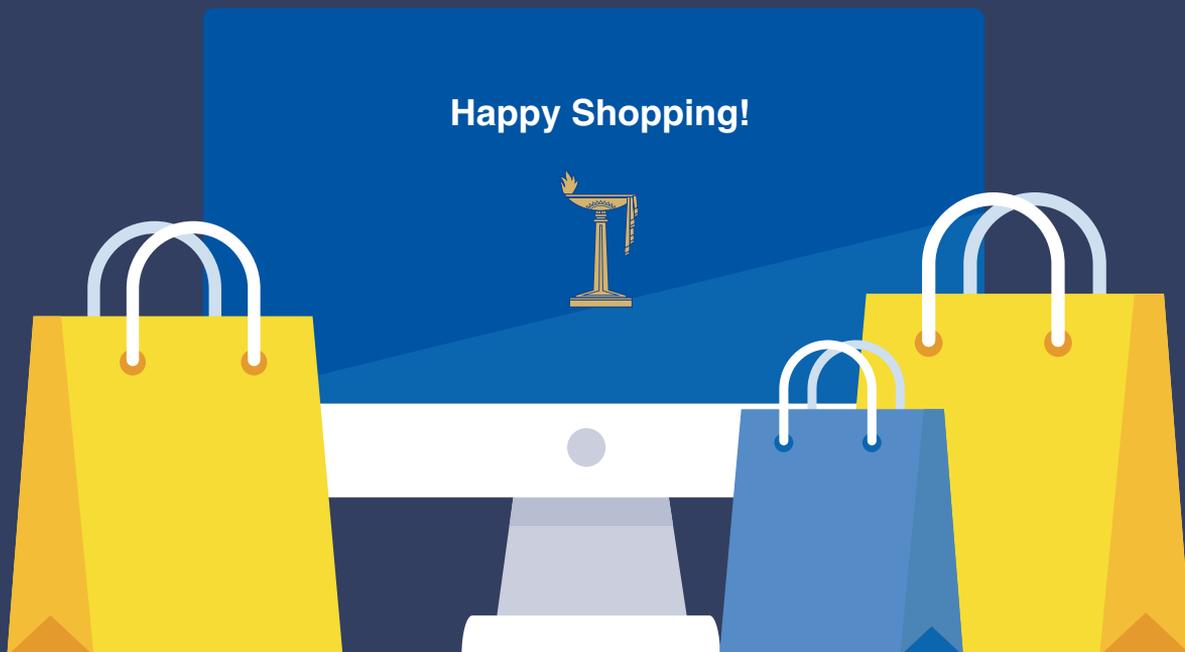
Visit the new (and improved) Online Memorabilia Store store instead from the comfort of your own couch!

It may not be as picturesque as the one in School, but the online store offers a treasure trove for Doscobos the world over.

The store proudly showcases an extensive collection of merchandise, clothing and accessories, and an array of carefully curated memorabilia.

Your online shopping will not be complete without a visit to the new (and did we mention improved?) Online DSOBS Store!

doscobilia.com



For questions please contact The DSOBS Store at:
+91-95999-17164 or doscobilia@gmail.com

Alumni Cricket Bash 2024

Mullanpur International Cricket Stadium Mohali, Punjab

Raghuvendra 'Donny' Singh 878 T, 1982
Convenor, The DSOBS Sub-Committee – Cricket

Abhenav Khettry 159 J, 2003



The Official Team Photograph at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium

Standing (L-R): Anuman Goel, Vedant Chandra, Apurva Maheshwari (86 K, 2007), Fatehbir Dhillon, Harnaresh Singh (231 H, 2010), Ashwin Agrawal, Dinesh Reddy, Shaurya Sharma, and Gursanjan Singh

Sitting (L-R): Vivan Rai, Shrivats Chandra, Raghav Mallik, Raghuvendra 'Donny' Singh, Vineet Kunzru, Ashutosh Goyal (392 K, 1986, Secretary, The DSOBS), and Abhenav Khettry (2003)

The ninth edition of the annual Alumni Cricket Bash (ACB) was held in Chandigarh from November 22nd-24th 2024. Apart from Doscob, there were four other Alumni teams from Mayo College, the Lawrence School, Sanawar, Scindia School, and Daly College. The event was hosted by the Old Sanawarian Society (OSS) and the Lawrence School, Sanawar.

ACB as a tournament has grown from strength to strength over the years and has become the flagship sporting event in the calendar of all five alumni organisations. The Sanawarians were recent entrants and took on the responsibility to host the event this year. The tournament started with a beautiful opening ceremony hosted by the



The Doscob at the formal ACB Dinner hosted by the Headmaster of Sanawar and its Board of Governors in Chandigarh

Standing (L-R): Gursanjan Singh, Anuman Goel, Vivan Rai, Apurva Maheshwari, Vedant Chandra, Bawa Mohit Singh (172 H, 1997, Member, EC, The DSOBS), Abhenav Khettry, Ashwin Agrawal, Udaivir 'JG' Jaijee (354 H, 2018), Sabir Singh (213 K, 2016, Regional Rep, Chandigarh, The DSOBS), Avneesh Singh Sangwan (104 T, 2002, Member, EC, The DSOBS), and Harnaresh Singh (231 H, 2010)

Sitting (L-R): Raghav Mallik, Vineet Kunzru, Ravibir Grewal (19 K, 1983, President, The Chandigarh Golf Club), Donny Singh, Syed Junaid Altaf (209 O, 2003, President, The DSOBS), Akash Puri (230 T, 1998, VP, The DSOBS), Anil Malhotra (505 H, 1975), and Shrivats Chandra (Captain, The DSOBS Cricket Team)

Lawrence School, Sanawar on their campus. It gave all the participants an opportunity to visit the beautiful school and interact with young Sanawarians.

The headmaster of Sanawar, Mr Himmat Singh Dhillon (a former master at Doon and Housemaster of Oberoi House), welcomed us and gave a beautiful tour of the school. The ceremony was beautifully planned and executed on their main sports field.

The tournament this year was hosted at the newly constructed Mullanpur International Cricket Stadium of the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA). **Dilsher Khanna (110 T, 2008)** is the current Honorary Secretary of the PCA and he very graciously made the amazing facilities available for use by the participants.

Sharry 29, Yugraj 19; Vineet Kunzru 2/16, Apurva Maheshwari 2/22, Vivan Rai 2/34, Anuman Goel 1/26 & Vedant Chandra 1/29
Team MVP: Ashwin Agrawal
Result: Match tied – Mayo won in the Super Over

MATCH 1
The Doon School vs Mayo College

MATCH 2
The Doon School vs Scindia School



Team Dosco openers Raghav Mallik and Shaurya Sharma walk out to bat at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium at Mullanpur



The Team MVP Ceremony versus Scindia
 From L-R: Syed Junaid Altaf, Shaurya Sharma (Team MVP), Donny Singh, and Akash Puri

The first match played by Doon was against Mayo College. The DSOBS team led by **Shrivats Chandra (48 J, 2008)** won the toss and decided to field first. Mayo were bowled out for 151 runs in their allotted 20 overs. Rahul Jain (40 off 34) and Sharry Singh (29 off 21) were the top scorers for Mayo. **Vineet Kunzru (706 T, 1982)** (4-1-16-2), **Apurva Maheswari (86 K, 2007)** (4-0-22-2), and **Vivan Rai (61 H, 2008)** (4-0-34-2) were the pick of the bowlers. While chasing, The DSOBS tied the match with 151/6 in 20 overs. **Ashwin Agrawal (326 T, 2017)** retired on 52 off 41 balls. **Fatehbir Dhillon (22 K, 2022)** (45* off 25 balls) played an excellent innings rescuing the team from 86/4. Fatehbir scored a fantastic 20 runs off the last over to tie the match. Unfortunately, Mayo won in the Super Over.

Our second match was against the Scindia at the majestic PCA Mullanpur Stadium. Due to the paucity of time, the match was reduced to a 15-overs-a-side game. Scindia won the toss and elected to bat first. They scored 188/6 in their allotted overs. Akshay Bhargav top scored with 55*. Vineet Kunzru was our best bowler with 3-0-23-2. In return, we started strongly and put on a 55-run opening partnership in just 4.5 overs. Ashwin Agrawal was the first to be dismissed with 33 off 18 balls. **Shaurya 'Sherry' Sharma (278 H, 2022)** (53* off 24) was the top scorer with no other batsmen making any big scores. We notched up just 136/7 in 15 overs, losing the match by 52 runs. This defeat, dented our NRR and our chances to reach the Finals.

Brief Scores

Doon: 151 all out in 20 Overs; Ashwin Agrawal 52*, Fatehbir Dhillon 45*, Dinesh Reddy 21; Druv Goel 2/30, Yugraj 1/11, Abhimanyu 1/23, Joshi 1/28, Sharry 1/30
Mayo: 151 all out in 20 Overs; Rahul Jain 40,

Brief Scores

Doon: 136 for 7 in 15 Overs, Shaurya Sharma 53*, Ashwin Agrawal 33, Fatehbir 14; Mohan 3/22, Kartik 2/26, Akshay 1/27
Scindia: 188 for 6 in 15 Overs, Akshay 55*, Mayank 39, Aman 27; Vineet Kunzru 2/23, Vedant 1/18, Vivan 1/25, Fatehbir 1/28, Anuman /36

Team MVP: Shaurya Sharma
Result: Scindia won by 52 runs

Team MVP: Gursanjan Singh
Result: Sanwar won by 1 wicket

MATCH 3
The Doon School vs Lawrence School, Sanawar

MATCH 4
The Doon School vs Daly College



Raghav Mallik and Shaurya Sharma walking out to open the innings



The Team MVP Ceremony versus Sanawar
 From L-R: Donny Singh, Vineet Kunzru, and Gursanjan Singh (Team MVP)

Our third match was against our hosts, the Sanawarians, on November 23rd. We won the toss and decided to bat first. Our openers were dismissed early and we were soon 10/2. **Apurva Maheswari (86 K, 2007)** was the top scorer with 27 with important contributions from Ashwin Agrawal (26 off 24), **Gursanjan ‘Guru’ Singh (292 J, 2024)** (23 off 13), and **Dinesh Reddy (413 J, 2011)** (19 off 13) helping us reach 137 in 20 overs.



Vineet Kunzru, the senior-most member of the side, bowling another economical spell against the Dalians

Sanawar eventually won the match in the last over with a brilliant and composed 51* by Sangram Singh who rallied the middle and lower order around him. Kunal Sharma scored 27 off 14 balls. **Raghav Mallik (133 K, 1984)** fielded brilliantly and took four catches, which was truly the highlight of the innings for us. The young Gursanjan Singh took 3/19 with **Abhenav Khettry (159 J, 2003)** (2/29) and Vivan Rai (2/33) the other notable bowlers. It was a tense match with a tight equation and all the players held their nerves to take the low scoring match into the last over.

Our last match, and our only win of the tournament, came against the Dalians. We won our third toss and elected to bat first. We put on 154/7 in our 20 overs. **Anuman Goel (492 O, 2019)** (50* off 31) and Fatehbir Dhillon (45 off 36) played exceptionally to help us reach this total. In reply, the Dalians were bowled out for 135 in 19 overs. Shreyam Agarwal scored 41 off 28 balls to topscore for them. Our bowling attack was brilliantly led by **Vedant Chandra (241 J, 2010)** (3.5-0-28-3) and Vineet Kunzru (4-0-27-2), and supported by Gursanjan Singh (4-0-23-2), Vivan Rai (1/28), Apurva Maheswari (1/11), and Anuman Goel (1/3). Ashwin Agrawal took three excellent catches in the deep. It was a brilliant team effort.

Brief Scores

Doon: 137 all out in 20 Overs, Apurva Maheshwari 27, Ashwin 26, Gursanjan 23, Dinesh Reddy 19; Angad 2/22, Sangram Singh 2/27, Apoorva Lakhia 2/27

Sanawar: 140 for 9 in 19.1 Overs; Sangram 51*, Kunal 27, Manpreet 21; Gursanjan 3/19, Khettry 2/29, Vivan 2/33, Vineet 1/24



Shrivats Chandra about to clear the boundary against the Dalians

Brief Scores

Doon: 154 for 7 in 20 Overs; Anuman Goel 50*, Fatehbir 45, Dinesh Reddy 18; Tejvir Juneja 2/19, Chugh 1/21, Nitiraj 1/29

Daly: 135 all out in 19 Overs; Shreyam 41, Puneet 21, Chugh 16; Vedant 3/28, Gursanjan 2/23, Vineet 2/27, Anuman 1/3, Apurva 1/11, Vivan 1/28

Man of the Match: Anuman Goel

Team Man of the Tournament: Ashwin Agrawal

Result: Doon won by 19 runs



Donny congratulating the Team Man of the Tournament Ashwin Agrawal

Testimonials from First-Time Participants

Apurva Maheswari

Had an awesome experience at the ACB — first time playing there and it honestly felt unreal being out on that stadium representing the DSOBS!

Anuman Goel

Making my debut in the ACB for the DSOBS cricket team was an unforgettable experience. The thrill of playing competitive cricket once again, surrounded by the unwavering Dosco spirit, was truly surreal. I will treasure this opportunity forever and eagerly look forward to many more such moments in the future!

Fatehbir Dhillon

It was an exhilarating experience representing Doon at the ACB, playing such enjoyable, yet highly competitive, cricket.

Gursanjan Singh

More than competing, it was about the experience, which I absolutely enjoyed. Despite being the youngest on the team and not knowing most of the people, we still had a sense of shared values and bonds. This is what makes Doon special and playing for the DSOBS fun.



Anuman Goel (Right) receiving his Man of the Match medal

All in all, it was an excellent outing for The DSOBS Cricket Team, even though we won only one out of the four matches. Two matches were really close with one being tied against the eventual champions Mayo. We had eight first-time members in the squad with exceptional performances by Fatehbir Dhillon, Apurva Maheswari, Gursanjan Singh, and Ashwin Agrawal.

We look forward to the next edition to be hosted by Mayo College in Ajmer, Rajasthan, coinciding with their 150-year celebrations in December 2025.



Team Dosco with local Doscos at the alumni dinner hosted by the Sanawarians at the Chandigarh Golf Club

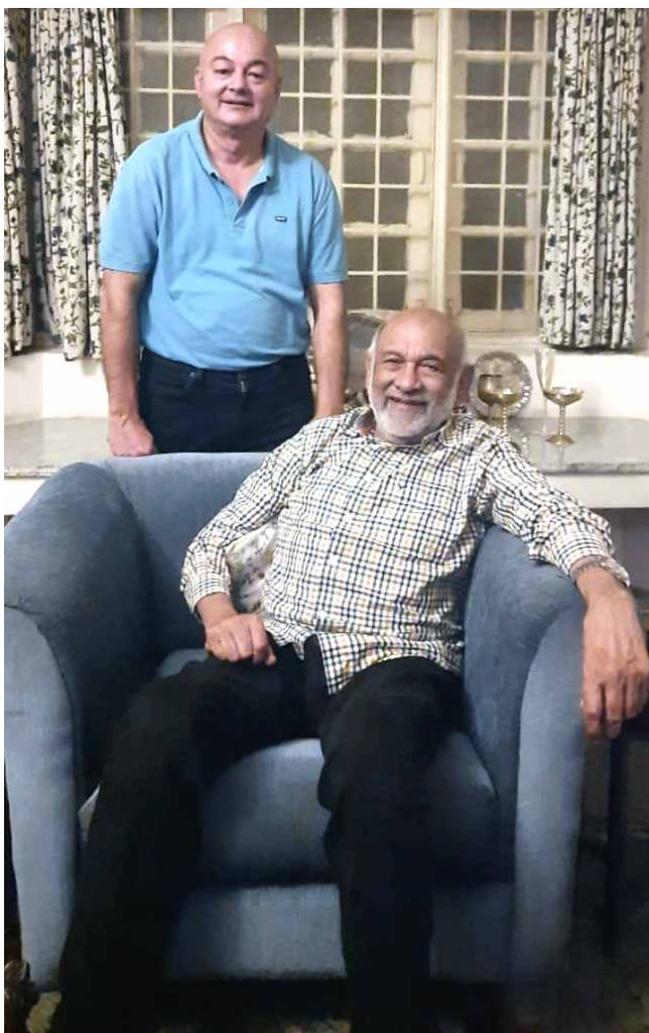
Dear Sir...

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the next in a series about the (Head)Masters who shaped our futures.

Shomie Das

His Impact Transcends Time

Piyush Malaviya (PMV)



PMV and SRD

It must have been April of 1974. Sanawar had just completed its first Mark Reading (Report Card) and gone out for 'midterms' or 'camps' as it is

called there. A few of us pre-teens were playing by the roadside a little distance away from our rest house. A young, bearded man alighted from a red Willy jeep and started a conversation with us. His question to me was about how I had done in my mark reading. I had been a below average student and sheepishly replied "Not good, sir." His response was "Oh! I shouldn't have asked that question." Instantly, it struck a chord – here is someone who understands me! The man had great tact, and a knack for immediately establishing a personal bond with anyone he met. Little did I know that this was **Mr Shomie Das (165 H, 1951, SRD, HM)**, our new headmaster, or 'Heady' as he was called there, one who would so deeply impact our lives and innumerable others across India and the globe.

Shomie Das was an educational titan in his own right. After a Doon School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge education and a decade-long teaching career at Gordonstoun, he came back to India at the age of 34 to embark on an epic journey in the world of education. One that saw him head three of the top boarding schools of India – Mayo College, Lawrence School, Sanawar, and The Doon School — a feat unlikely to be replicated. Imbued with Kurt Hahn's holistic educational philosophy and the Nuffield experiment, he led these institutions like a man on a mission, brimming with fresh ideas and energy. He was determined to shake them off their antiquated traditions and make them ready for the future. Mayoites were jolted out of their feudalistic ways and comforts to make them more rounded,

complete men. The *hukums* had to start serving food and collecting plates after meals, train travel in third class became mandatory, fewer *farmaishes*, compulsory social service, project work, and other such things must not have gone down easily! In return, they were given more independence and responsibility for themselves, though the only tangible change they welcomed was that they were required to change uniforms fewer times during the day.

In Sanawar, which was his most challenging and, by his own admission, the most satisfying stint, the story was no different. With its glorious military history, Sanawar was steeped in an air of regimentation and Victorian values. He had a CDH constructed and broke an over-a-century-old tradition by introducing mixed dining for girls and boys, making Sanawar a truly coeducational school. A Sixth Form (Grade 12) house was made, an actual banking system – the Bank of Patiala – was brought in, and the Camps and tutorial systems were overhauled and reinvigorated. But again, for us, the most welcome and humane step he took was to allow trousers in winters! Besides that, teacher-student exchanges were vigorously promoted. The student intake was diversified in terms of geographical area and socioeconomic strata. He even managed to convince quite a few Dosco fathers to put their sons in Sanawar!

In Doon, he recruited women on the faculty, a radical and progressive move for an all-boys school in the early 1990s. In 1991, when buildings were being retrofitted after the Uttarkashi earthquake, he had the Main Building wired up for computers – a time when computers were a rare sight! The list could go on, but the sum of his voluminous work was not only better academic standards and results, but the fact that he had put these institutions well on the path to the 21st century.

These changes were met with fierce resistance and criticism from the alumni, teachers, and members of the board – who usually again happened to be alumni very protective of their “traditions.” But Shomie was not one to kowtow to authority or blindly follow directives from those in power. Fiercely independent in thought and action, his leadership was defined by conviction rather than convenience, even if it meant going against

the tide. What helped him to deal with adversities was the human touch in him and his wife Pheroza. Together they would reach out to students, teachers, and friends as members of an extended family. Their home was always open to all and was, in fact, a hub of social gatherings where everyone eagerly looked forward to Mrs Das's delicious menus. They would also make it a point to go out of their way to visit each family or individual to learn about their interests and personal struggles, and offer guidance and support in whatever way possible.

Much like the mighty Mughal emperor Akbar, large-hearted, secular, and eclectic, Shomie exercised authority with wisdom, inclusivity, and deep personal connections. Like Akbar's court, his schools attracted the brightest minds and talents while his circle included educators, policymakers, captains of industry, politicians, and changemakers. His unparalleled network would put PR agencies to shame and wielded immense influence across India and overseas. He used it generously across institutional boundaries to help all those who needed any kind of help – personal or professional. He helped find jobs for teachers and their wards, mentored students long after they graduated, and ensured that deserving individuals received the right opportunities. I, for instance, was advised to take up teaching while I was in university and preparing for the UPSC. Later, he sought me out, recruited me, and helped me settle down – though not without a few rockets!

There are countless Mayoites, Sanawarians, and DoscOs who are beholden to Shomie and his vision for their success and achievements. He leaves behind a legacy of compassion, innovation, and resilience. A personality to be emulated – his impact transcends time!

Mr Piyush Malaviya, known as PMV to DoscOs, studied at the Lawrence School, Sanawar from 1971 to 1981. A Games Prefect and keen sportsman, cricket, boxing, and gymnastics were his favourites. He joined The Doon School in 1989 to teach Political Science (earlier called Modern Governments) and History and has since been a part of the Doon landscape. He is taunted by his Sanawarian friends for being a Dosco while his Dosco friends do the vice versa. He has, however, straddled the Sanawar-Doon legacy with elan for thirty five years – a rare feat by itself.

American Sun

The North American Solar Eclipse 2024

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dispatches from the total solar eclipse observed over North America (Mexico, USA, and Canada) on April 8th 2024. What made this solar eclipse so special was that it travelled over major population centers creating a sense of (inter)national community and unity. A welcome respite from the political turbulence that followed...

New Hampshire

Preetinder Singh Virk 242 K, 1956



Solar eclipse over New Hampshire

This picture is from the nearly total solar eclipse that passed right over our house in New Hampshire last year.

Parameters are:

$t^* = 0.0$ min (time past maximum totality)

$FT = 0.997$ (fractional totality, according to NASA based on our geo-coordinates)

$a = 249$ deg (lighted segment radial axis heading)

Perusal of this picture on a computer screen in a darkened room at night will further show:

An outline of the whole sun, with faintly visible, roughly circular, corona (hot gases) around it.

Two "Bailey's Beads," faint orange dots at 210 and 190 deg, a bit below the lighted segment, due to light escaping the sun through the mountains and valleys on the surface of the moon.

Dallas, Texas

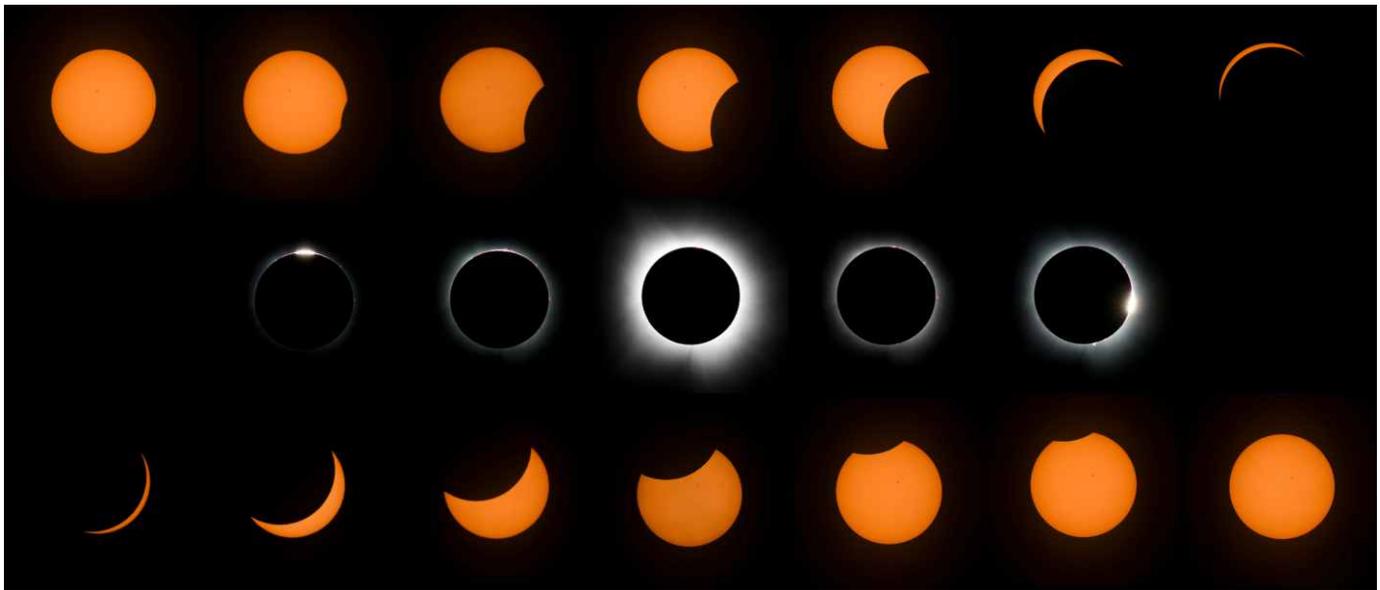
Rakesh Gupta 383 J, 1975

This is a composite of a series of photographs taken by me on April 8th 2024 in Dallas, Texas.

The location was my brother's front yard; he is also a Dosco: **Rohit Gupta (857 J, 1982)**.

Camera: Canon R7
 Lens: Canon RF 200-800

Tripod: Neewer 66 with Neewer gimbal
 Filter: Thousand Oaks Optical (95mm) only used during the partial phases
 EXIF: ISO 800, Focal Length 600mm, Aperture varied between F8-F11, Shutter Speed varied between 1/125–1/4000
 Images processed in DXO Photolab. Composite was done in Adobe Photoshop.



Solar eclipse over Dallas, TX



Rakesh with his son Arjun Gupta



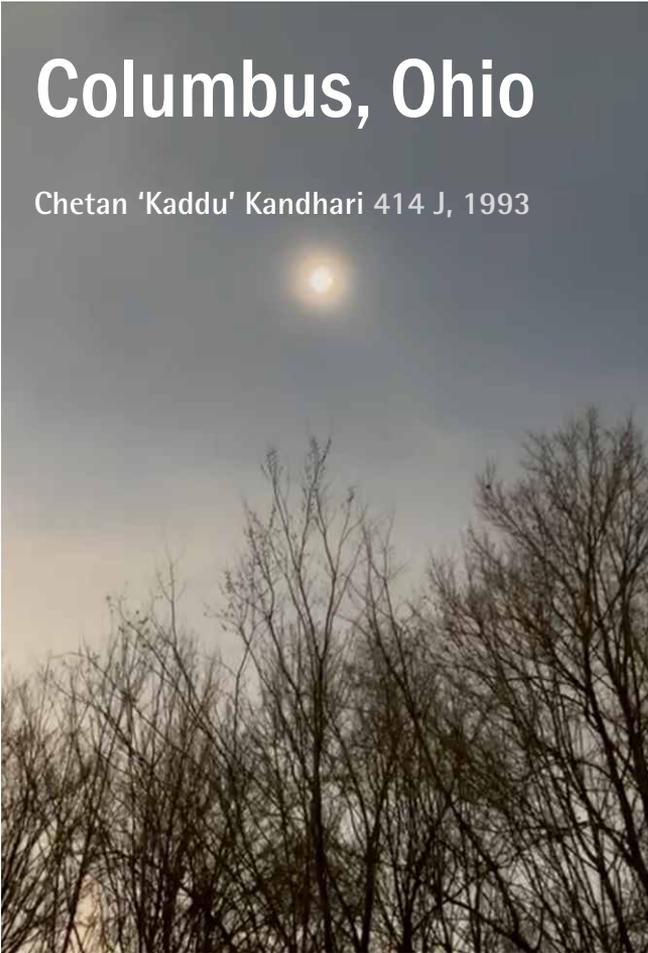
Rohit Gupta peering through a telescope



The Gupta families enjoying the eclipse experience
 From L-R: Arjun, Dhira Gupta, Dhira's sister, A family friend, Chitra Gadgil, Sister-in-law, Brother-in-law, Kirtana Sripathi (daughter-in-law)

Columbus, Ohio

Chetan 'Kaddu' Kandhari 414 J, 1993





These stills were captured from a cell phone video taken during the eclipse.

My family, friends, and I observed the eclipse from Central Ohio. The kids went crazy seeing the



power of nature in all its glory. Hearing the birds chirp and see nature shut down like the night in the middle of the day for a whole minute was certainly a sight never witnessed before!



Fairfield County, Connecticut

Shubho Ghosh 472 0, 1993

This photograph was taken around 3:30pm from my front yard In Connecticut. It was pretty amazing to experience this dramatic phenomenon in person!



Solar eclipse over Fairfield County, CT

Preetinder Virk is a Chemical Engineer. He studied at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, W Bengal, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, then spent his life teaching the subject at MIT, becoming Emeritus (retired) in 2018. He lives with his wife Usha, oscillating between Randolph, in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, USA, and Wellesley, in the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts, USA. They have two children, Kanad Singh and Devki Kaur, both lawyers, both living with their families in Maryland, USA.

Rakesh Gupta retired as Managing Director from Deloitte Consulting after a career of 21 years. Previously, he worked for a private company in Los Angeles and PricewaterhouseCoopers (Consulting) in New Delhi. He currently lives in Dallas, Texas, USA, with his wife Chitra. They have two children Anjali and Arjun. Anjali lives in New York, Arjun and his wife Kirtana live in Boston.

Chetan Kandhari is the Chief Innovation and Digital Officer at Nationwide Insurance. He studied Computer Science at Muskingum University, USA, and earned his MBA at The Ohio State University, USA. He lives with his wife, Sonali, and twins, Sahil and Samira, in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

Shubho Ghosh is a Managing Director at a hedge fund, Opti Capital, in New York City, and lives in nearby Connecticut with his wife, Sumedha, and his kids, Krish and Kiyaan. He is the East Coast USA Rep for The DSOBS and a member of the IPSS.

A Dosco Abroad

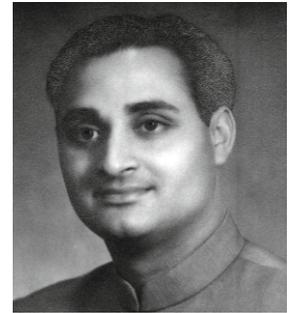
Dr Karan Singh

A Public Life of Service

SK Vohra

Private Secretary, Dr Karan Singh

EDITOR'S NOTE: The next installment in our regular feature where we get to know Doscos who have gone "abroad" – both in the literal and metaphorical sense. Inspirational figures who have taken the road less travelled and whose stories may help you carve out your own path.



A young Dr Karan Singh

Dr Karan Singh (259 K, 1945) has completed 75 years in public life. He was appointed Regent of Jammu and Kashmir by his father when he was just 18 years of age. This is indeed a unique achievement!

Born heir apparent (Yuvaraj) to Maharaja Hari Singh and Maharani Tara Devi of Jammu and Kashmir in Cannes, France, he had a brilliant educational career in The Doon School, Jammu and Kashmir University, and Delhi University, where he created a university record in MA, Political Science, and went on to do his PhD on the political thought of Sri Aurobindo. Dr Karan Singh was catapulted into political life at an early age of 18 when, in 1949, he was appointed Regent by his father on the intervention of the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Thereafter, he was head of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir for the next 18 years as Regent, as elected Sadr-e-Riyasat, and, lastly, as Governor. His was a unique instance of the last representative of the old order becoming, by the will of the people, the first representative of the new. During these years he fulfilled his delicate and onerous duties with commendable success.

In 1967, Dr Karan Singh was inducted as a member of the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. At 36, he was the youngest person ever to become a Central Cabinet Minister in India. He was elected soon



Dr Singh (garlanded) with his parents, Maharaja Hari Singh and Maharani Tara Devi, circa 1949

thereafter to the Lok Sabha from the Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency in Jammu and Kashmir on behalf of the Indian National Congress by an overwhelming majority, and was re-elected from there in 1971, 1977, and 1980. He was a four-time member of the Rajya Sabha (the Upper House of Parliament) from Delhi and the Chairman of its Ethics Committee.

Dr Karan Singh first held the portfolio of Tourism and Civil Aviation for six years, where he created a marked impact by his vision and dynamism. In 1973, he moved to the Ministry of Health and Family Planning. In 1979, he assumed the portfolio of Education and Culture.



Dr Singh (right) with PM Jawaharlal Nehru (left)



Dr Singh with his wife Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi Devi



Dr Singh (right) with PM Indira Gandhi (centre)

During these tenures as Cabinet Minister, Dr Karan Singh neither drew any salary nor lived in government accommodation.

Dr Karan Singh was the only former ruler of a princely state to voluntarily surrender his privy purse. He put the entire sum into the Hari-Tara Charitable Trust, named after his parents, in the service of the people of India. He and his wife Maharani Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi Devi

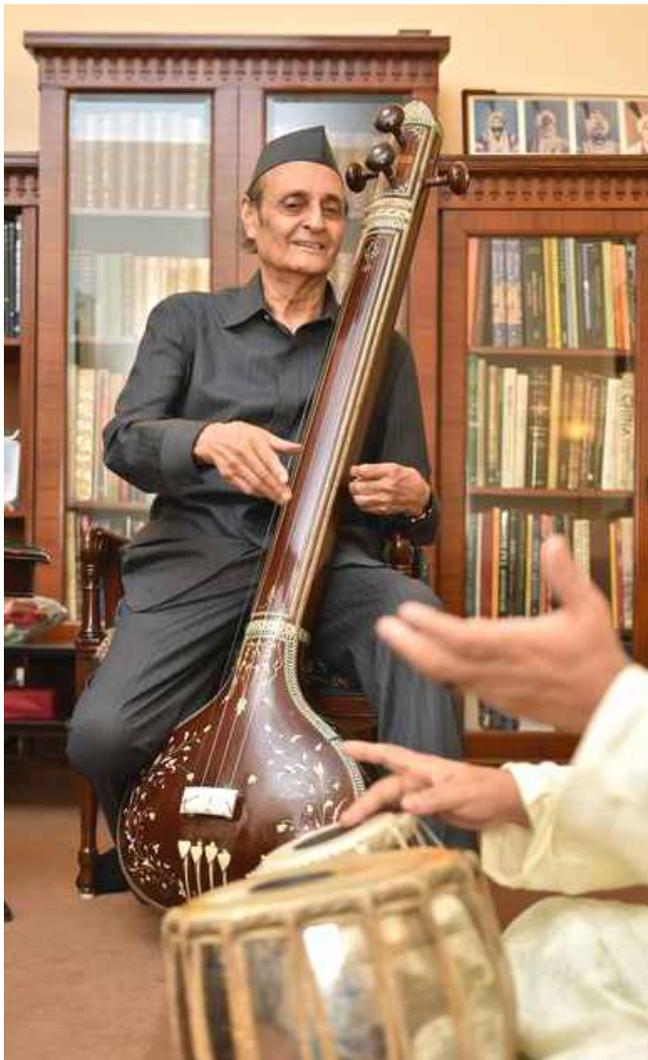
converted his Amar Mahal Palace in Jammu into a museum and library containing a priceless collection of Pahari miniature paintings and modern Indian art, as well as his personal library of over twenty thousand volumes. Dr Karan Singh also looks after several other trusts in Jammu and Kashmir including the Dharmarth Trust which administers over a hundred Hindu shrines and temples.



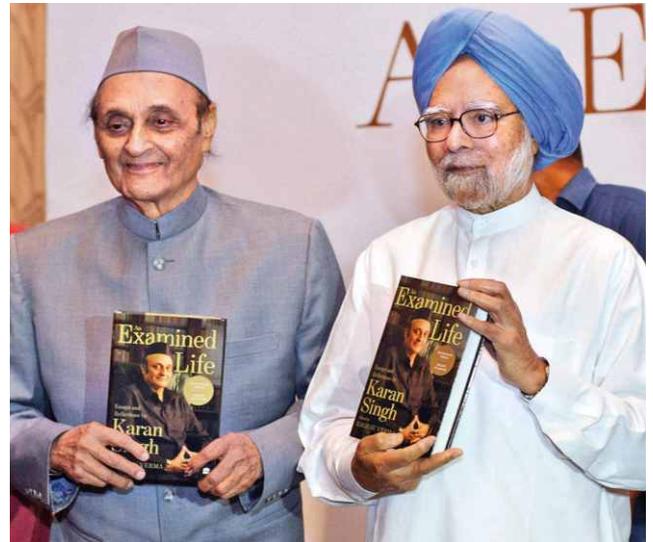
Dr Singh (centre) with his mother Maharani Tara Devi (left), wife Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi Devi (right), and his three children in Srinagar

For many years, Dr Karan Singh was Chancellor of the Jammu and Kashmir University, the Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the Banaras Hindu University, President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Chairman of the Central Sanskrit Board, President of the Authors Guild of India, the Commonwealth Society of India, the Delhi Music Society, the India International Centre, member of the UNESCO International Commission on Education for the Twenty-first Century, and Co-Chair of the Indo-French Forum jointly set up by the Government of India and France. He was Chairman of the Auroville Foundation as well as the Central Cabinet Minister of The Temple of Understanding, a major global Interfaith association, and Vice Chairman of the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund. His tenure as Ambassador of India to the United States of America, though brief, received extensive coverage in both countries and won many friends for India.

Dr Karan Singh is associated with many other cultural and academic institutions. He has received several honorary degrees and other awards, including doctorates from the Banaras Hindu University, the Aligarh Muslim University, the Soka University, Tokyo, and the Shenzhen University, China. He is a member of the prestigious Club of Rome, and the Club of Budapest as well as a Trustee of Green Cross International. He is a lifelong conservationist, having been Chairman of the Indian Board of Wildlife (now the National Board for Wildlife) for many years and head of the spectacularly successful Project Tiger. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award, by the President of India in 2005. He is an Honorary Major General in the Indian Army.



Dr Singh indulging his love of music



Dr Singh at the launch of his book *An Examined Life* with former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh



Photographs of Dr Singh and his family

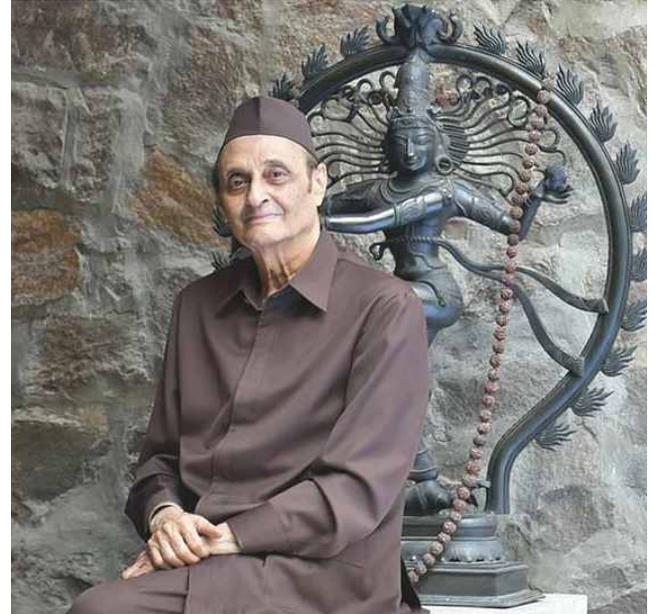
FEATURES

Dr Karan Singh is an author of distinction, having written a number of books on political science, philosophical essays, travelogues, and poems in English. His fascinating autobiography, an important collection of his writings entitled *The Eternal Religion: Glimpses of Hinduism*, has been widely acclaimed.

Dr Karan Singh was married to the Princess Yasho Rajya Lakshmi Devi, granddaughter of the last Rana Prime Minister of Nepal, Maharaja Mohun Shumsher. She was an eminent social worker. As President of the Delhi Society for the Welfare of Special Children, she built up an excellent centre at Okhla, New Delhi, which provides daycare, vocational training and other facilities to the mentally challenged.

Dr Karan Singh has three children, a daughter Jyotsna, and two sons, Vikramaditya and Ajatshatru, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Even at age 93, it is his service to his country and family, combined with his

restless quest for deeper knowledge and understanding, which continue to guide his ceaseless pursuit of making the world a better place.



Dr Singh

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THE ROSE BOWL

The Golden Jubilee Reunion of the Batch of 1974

Kishore Lahiri, 30 K, 1974

*By the time we got to D Dun
We were one hundred strong
And everywhere was a song and celebration
We are Doscos
We are golden
And we've got to get ourselves back
To the Moon Garden (Chandbagh)*

(Mutilated from Woodstock with apologies to Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young)

The partying began long before we reached Dehradun and ended long after, in Khimsar, Rajasthan. It started with small lunches and dinners on the pretext of deciding on memorabilia and finalising menus. They extended to small get-togethers on the arrival of batchmates from other cities and overseas. However, the serious partying kickstarted on October 15th 2024, by **Raj** and **Indushekhar Singh (450 T, 1974)** with a golf get-together in Greater Noida, followed by what the hosts called sundowners at their lovely home, which was actually a feast fit for the gods.

By now, the overseas folks had started trickling in. We had our Batch topper, **Varun Bery (452 T, 1974)** and Gayatri join us from Hong Kong as well as **Sanjiv Sharma (74 K, 1974)** from the USA, Jyoti and **Vinoo Caprihan (336 J, 1974)** from Australia, and Yasmeen and **Akbar Hussain (73 H, 1974)** from Dubai. Some of our batchmates from other cities with their better halves like the Sens and Medirattas from Kolkata and Raipur also joined in. In fact, the Sens were staying with the hosts. Finally, there were the usual suspects from Delhi, Noida, and Gurugram. It was a super day for the golfers and a wonderful evening for the rest of us. Many thanks, Raj and Indushakhar, particularly to your daughter, Rohini, for your love, care and hospitality.



From L-R: Sanjiv 'Swappy' Swarup (298 H, 1974), Randhir Brar (280 T, 1974), Akbar Hussain, Vinoo Caprihan, Sudhanshu Bhushan (299 T, 1974), Ashwath Khanna (369 H, 1974)



From L-R: Sanjiv Sharma, Varun Bery, Randhir Brar, Akbar Hussain

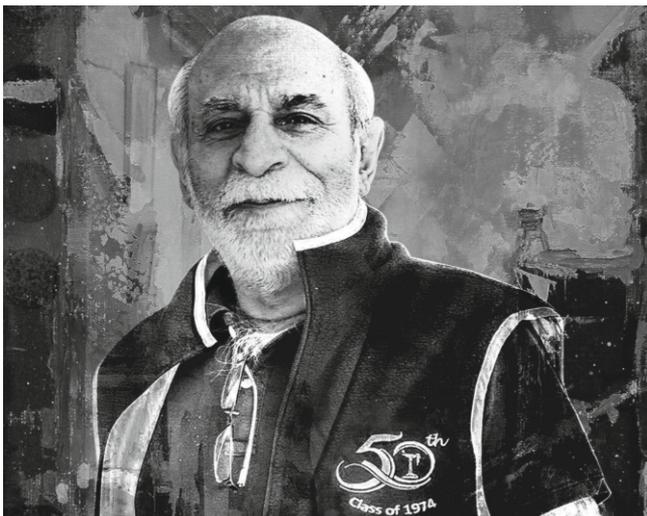


Standing (From L-R): Soumitra Sen (313 T, 1974), Vinoo Caprihan, Randhir Brar, Narendra Dudhoria (310 T, 1974), Varun Bery, Indushekhar Singh, Ashwath Khanna, Mahesh Mansukhani

Sitting (From L-R): Akbar Hussain, Sanjiv 'Swappy' Swarup, Sudhanshu Bhushan, Sanjiv Sharma, Kishore Lahiri

This was followed by another amazing dinner on October 16th hosted by Shibani and **Arjun 'Khosi' Khosla (239 H, 1974)** at their beautiful Golf Links residence. The gigantic balloons, the glasses with our 50th logo, the overflowing ambrosia, and delectable food from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, made for a fairytale evening. Many thanks Shibani and Khosi – and to your daughter, Avanica, for yet another wonderful evening. Your attention to detail, affection, and warmth knows no bounds.

The highlight was the presentation of one of the three Batch gifts to our Batch Representative, **Mahesh 'Fevicol' Mansukhani (175 T, 1974)**, for his 50 years of selfless service in keeping the flock together. This was a mixed media portrait in acrylic on canvas of Mahesh, by none other than our best artist **Vijit 'Picasso' Pillai (250 J, 1974)**. Mahesh has really been the glue which has kept this Batch bonded together. Hence, the middle name, Fevicol. We hope he will continue doing this fantastic work for another half century.



The portrait of Mahesh 'Fevicol' Mansukhani, Batch Representative, 1974



The Gentlemen

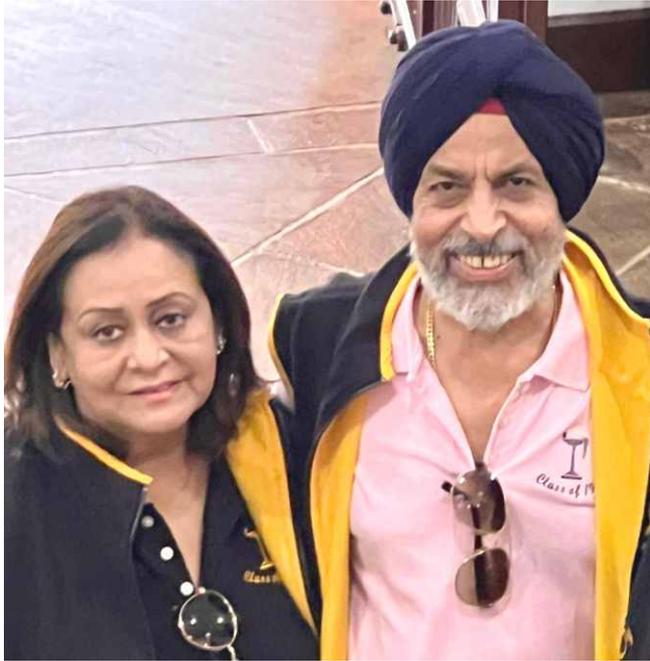


The Ladies

Then, it was off to Dehradun on October 17th where we were 100-strong. We had 56 batchmates, 42 better halves and 2 daughters – Avantika Gogoi and Saira Nanda. It was most touching to see the better halves and a daughter of three (of our eleven) batchmates who are no longer with us. It was wonderful to have Meeta Sodhi, Rita Dhawan, and Kavita, and Avantika Gogoi with us. They are an integral part of the 1974 family and they demonstrated this by being with us on our 50th.

The turn out was amazing. As I said before – we hit a century! The solitary lady of our Batch – **Davinder 'Katu' Kaur Sahi (398 T, 1974)** had come down from Mumbai with her husband, Harpal, who by now is as much a 1974 family member as Katu. People had come in from all over India. Many came from overseas, some with better halves. The NRI gang comprised Marilyn and **Varun Khanna (417 H, 1974)**, Mala and **Anil 'AK' Kumar (453 K, 1974)**, **Rajesh 'Horny' Gupta (39 K, 1974)** from the West Coast of the USA; **Jawahar 'Raju' Bammi (286 K, 1974)**, **Vivek 'Juni' Chopra (316 T, 1974)**, Sanjiv Sharma, Archisha and **Ashok Mehan (469 H, 1974)**, and **Ranjiv 'Choppy' Chopra (57 T, 1974)** from the East

Coast of the USA; Jyoti and Vinoo Caprihan from Australia, Shirin and **Pankaj Jaywant (436 T, 1974)** from New Zealand, Raquel and **Karan Bir 'KB' Singh (61 J, 1974)**, and Yasmeen and **Akbar Hussain** from Dubai, Gayatri and **Varun Bery** from Hong Kong, and Chiya Sasaki and **Arun Bagai (201 J, 1974)** from Japan. It was wonderful to meet up with everyone – with some, after years or even decades.



The solitary lady of our Batch – Davinder 'Katu' Kaur Sahi with her husband, Harpal Sahi

The Dehradun events were kick started by a wonderful lunch hosted by Mamta and **Manoj Goel (481 H, 1974)** at Lou Lou on October 18th. The venue, a Swiss chalet-like cottage with wonderful views of the surrounding hills, was amazing. The pan-Asian food was incredible. Thank you, Mamta and Manoj for a truly memorable afternoon.



Post-lunch group photograph

In the evening was the Headmaster's Dinner at his residence, for the Golden (50th), Diamond (60th), and other Jubilee Batches. We could not believe that the excellent food was catered by the CDH. The Headmaster and his wife (**Dr Jagpreet Singh** and Sonia) looked after all their guests with tremendous warmth and affection. Thank you Dr Singh and Sonia for a truly memorable evening.



At the HM's Dinner with the hosts
From L-R: Mr Arjun Bartwal (501 K, 2000, ARB), Nayanjot 'Neenu' Lahiri, Kishore Lahiri, Sonia Singh, Mahesh Mansukhani, and the Headmaster and host Dr Jagpreet Singh



At the HM's Dinner
Standing (From L-R): Sudhanshu Bhushan, Ashok Bansal (113 T, 1974), Sanjiv Marya (415 T, 1974), Inderpreet 'Dan/Cracky' Singh Dhanoa (414 H, 1974), Marilyn Khanna, Varun Bery, Varun Khanna, Akbar Hussain, Anraj Singh (307 T, 1974)
Sitting (From L-R): Kishore Lahiri, Randhir Brar, Yasmeen Hussain, Ritu 'Dimple' Singh, Rishiraj Singh, and Meena Brar

FEATURES



At the HM's Dinner
From L-R: Indushekhar Singh, Aneet Kassal, Marilyn Khanna, Varun Khanna, Amar 'Gamcha' Bhagat (199 H, 1974), Sanjeev 'Bittu' Kassal (295 T, 1974), Soumitra 'Soumi' Sen (313 T, 1974), and Inderpreet 'Dan/Cracky' Dhanoa



Before the unveiling
The Artist (Vijit 'Picasso' Pillai), The Batch Representative (Mahesh Mansukhani), and the Headmaster (Dr. Jagpreet Singh)



The better halves at the HM's Dinner



The gift
A mixed media, acrylic on canvas painting of the Main Building by Vijit 'Picasso' Pillai, gifted to School on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Batch of 1974.



The Batchmates at the HM's Dinner



In the (dreaded) HM's Office after the unveiling
From L-R: Indushekhar Singh, Sanjeev 'Bittu' Kassal, Sanjiv Sharma, Bahram Vakil (372 J, 1974), Mahesh Mansukhani, Rishiraj Singh, Ranjit Nanda, Sanjiv 'Swappy' Swarup, Rajesh 'Horny' Gupta, Sanjay Lalwani (105 T, 1974), Soumitra 'Soumi' Sen

The Ladies in Pink – the better halves at the CDH





The Men in Black at the CDH



The front of the Commemorative Cover



The plaque at the CDH



Commemorative Cover Release

From L-R: Ashok Mehan, Ranjiv 'Choppy' Chopra, Anil Ummat (308 K, 1974), Deputy Postmaster General Uttarakhand, Mahesh Mansukhani, Dr Jagpreet Singh, Sanjay Lalwani, Kishore Lahiri, and Inderpreet 'Dan/Cracky' Dhanoa

The next day, October 19th, was equally hectic. The morning saw the Headmaster unveiling a painting of the Main Building gifted to the School by the Batch of 1974. It finds a place of pride in the lobby outside the Headmaster's Office which was the most dreaded area for many while we were at School. This is where the boys waited in fear before being called in to the Headmaster's Office for being handed out YCs and other punishments.

The Deputy Postmaster General, Uttarakhand, and the Headmaster also released a Commemorative Cover issued by the Postal Department for our Batch's Golden Jubilee. This was truly an incredible feat pulled off by Ranjiv 'Choppy' Chopra, through his close friends in the Indian Postal Service.

From the Main Building, we went to the Central Dining Hall (CDH) where a plaque commemorating our gift of solar panels for the school's Central Dining Hall (CDH) was unveiled by the Headmaster and the Chairman, Board of Governors, **Anoop Bishnoi (112 J, 1975)**.

The events of the morning also included group photographs at the Main Building and CDH with the boys in their black and gold 50 years t-shirts and the girls in their pink t-shirts. Hats off to Deepti Sahai Goel of Doscobilia and **Ranjit Nanda (377 T, 1974)** for organising the wonderful t-shirts, jackets, and caps, and to our batch representative, Mahesh, for coordinating everything.

With the afternoon to themselves, batchmates and better halves chose to wander around the campus. Chandbagh was at its glorious best. Most visited their respective houses, particularly to see the Honours Boards and boast about their glory days. While at their houses, group photographs were taken. Then, many sauntered over to Skinners to catch a bite at the many Pagal Gymkhana stalls. Kashmir House held back its group photograph till Khimsar since **Surendra Khemka (446 K, 1974)** and his wife, Indu, could not make it to Dehradun but joined the batch at Khimsar.

FEATURES



The Hyderabad House Boys
 From L-R: Varun Khanna, Ashwath Khanna, Arjun 'Khosi' Khosla, Amar 'Gamcha' Bhagat, Vidhu Nevatia (292 H, 1974), Sanjiv 'Swappy' Swarup, Inderpreet 'Dan/Cracky' Dhanoa, and Ashok Mehan



The Tata House Girls
 Standing (From L-R): Mohini Marya, Sangeeta Chaudhry, Ramona Sen, Shirin Jaywant, Kirti Bansal, Gayatri Bery, Meena Brar, Priya Singh, Indu Nanda
 Sitting (From L-R): Rasika Reddy, Ritu 'Dimple' Singh, Aneet Kassar, Renuka Mediratta, and Aarti Singh



The Tata House Boys
 Back Row (From L-R): Ravi Reddy (402 T, 1974), Narendra Dudhoria, Mahesh Mansukhani, Ashok Bansal
 Middle Row (From L-R): Rajiv Mediratta (318 T, 1974), Vivek 'Juni' Chopra, Varun Bery, Soumitra 'Soumi' Sen, Randhir Brar, Harish Chaudhry (440 T, 1974)
 Front Row (From L-R): Ranjiv 'Choppy' Chopra, Sanjiv Marya, Indushekhar Singh, Anraj Singh, Sanjeev 'Bittu' Kassar, Rishiraj Singh, and Pankaj Jaywant



The Jaipur House Boys and Girls
 Standing (From L-R): Vijit 'Picasso' Pillai, Aarti Vakil, Arjun Sengupta (93 J, 1974), Vijay 'Pechu' Dutt (211 J, 1974), Arun Mohan (203 J, 1974), Vinoo Caprihan, Kavita Gogoi, Lalita Srinivasan, Seema Bhargava, Bahram Vakil
 Kneeling (From L-R): Shobha Mohan, Hashim Tyabji (282 J, 1974), Urmi Sengupta, Alok 'Granny' Bhargava (196 J, 1974), Jyoti Caprihan, Ankita Gogoi, and Gopal Srinivasan



The Kashmir House Boys and Girls at Khimsar
 Standing (From L-R): Anil 'AK' Kumar, Manohar Chawla, Manoranjan Singh Dugal (401 K, 1974), Prabhat 'Despy' Mishra, Anil Ummat, Surendra Khemka, Rajesh 'Horny' Gupta, Kishore Lahiri, and Sanjiv Sharma
 Sitting (From L-R): Mala 'AK' Kumar, Bhavna Chawla, Rashmi Dugal, Preiti Ummat, Indu Khemka, and Nayanjot 'Neenu' Lahiri

Sanjeev 'Bittu' Kassar had coordinated with **Darshan Singh (90 T, 1962)**, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Welham Boys' School to facilitate a visit to Welham. Post-lunch, a large contingent of Welhamites in our batch took a trip down memory lane to Welham where many had spent their formative years prior to joining Doon.

Curtains came down on the Dehradun leg that evening with a rooftop dinner at Farzi Cafe. It was a lovely moonlit night with a silver sheen cast over the surrounding Malsi Hills. A fantastic band organised by Cracky aka Dan Dhanoa added to the atmosphere. Dan also gifted the Batch with framed sketches of all the houses.

During the evening, the Batch raised a toast to all those who could not be with us, either because of illnesses, family weddings, or other reasons. In particular, we remembered those who were called by the Almighty well before their time. They would not have wanted us to mourn their loss but would have wanted us to celebrate their lives and our friendships with them. And so we did. We have lost the following eleven Batchmates in the half century since leaving Doon who we remember fondly, even till today.

- Vikram 'Moose' Primlani (278 H, 1974)**
- Gurpreet 'Bullsurd' Singh (165 T, 1974)**
- Shrivindhu 'Bugsy' Mehta (65 J, 1974)**
- Mukesh 'Dhobi' Dhawan (29 H, 1974)**
- Rana Uppal (341 T, 1974)**
- Amar 'Dhalli' Pratap Singh (379 J, 1974)**
- Roop 'Gogs' Gogoi (34 J, 1974)**
- Charanjit 'Popsurd' Singh Sodhi (289 H, 1974)**
- Ashok Verma (212 H, 1974)**
- Anil 'Lalle' Gupta (441 H, 1974)**
- Vikram Aditya 'Bobby' Sharma (187 J, 1974)**

Here is the toast we raised to absent friends:

*We fondly remember those not here today,
And those unwell or far away,
And those who never lived to see,
Our 50th – Golden Jubilee
And every friend we have lost or passed away,
We remember as if it was yesterday,
It's absent friends we miss the most,
To all, let's drink a loving toast.*

As the evening proceeded, **Maharaja Gajendra 'Gajju' Singh (89 J, 1974)** and Maharani Sahiba



A toast to absent friends



Gajju exhorts the batch to come to Khimsar
From L-R: Randhir Brar, Inderpreet 'Dan/Cracky' Dhanoa, Mahesh Mansukhani, Gajendra 'Gajju' Singh, and Narendra Dudhoria

Priti arrived and reiterated their invitation to Khimsar leading Hashim and Amar 'Gamcha' Bhagat to change their minds and join us there.

The evening also saw the Batch gift Mahesh with a silver salver with thanks from the batchmates and better halves for "50 years of invaluable and selfless service in keeping the flock together." Croma gift coupons were also given to him to purchase a music karaoke system to enable him to pursue his passion for music and singing. Coincidentally, it was Mahesh's birthday which was celebrated with cake-cutting and fanfare. He was lucky to have gotten away without birthday bumps. In all, it was a wonderful evening but, as I said before, not the end of our celebrations.

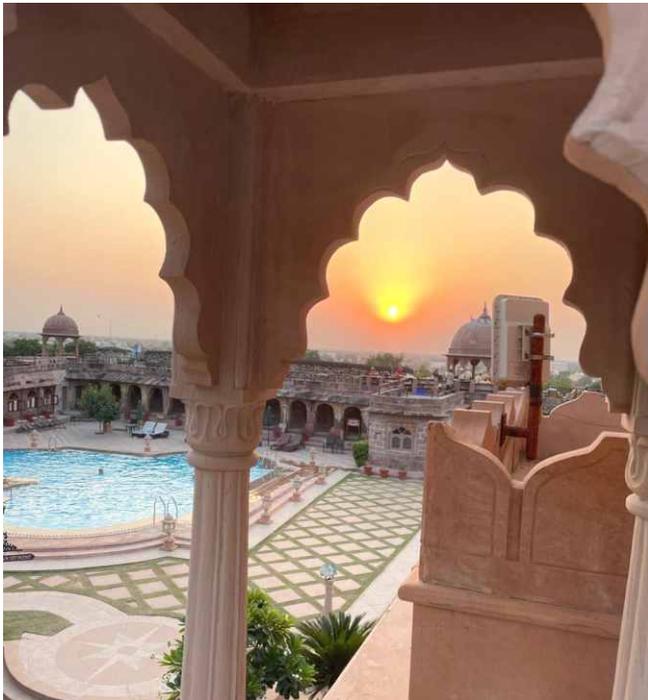
The following day, October 20th, saw many head back to their respective hometowns but a contingent of 61, comprising 35 batchmates and 26 better halves headed for Khimsar via Delhi and Jodhpur to partake of Gajju's and Priti's hospitality for the next three days. And what an

F E A T U R E S

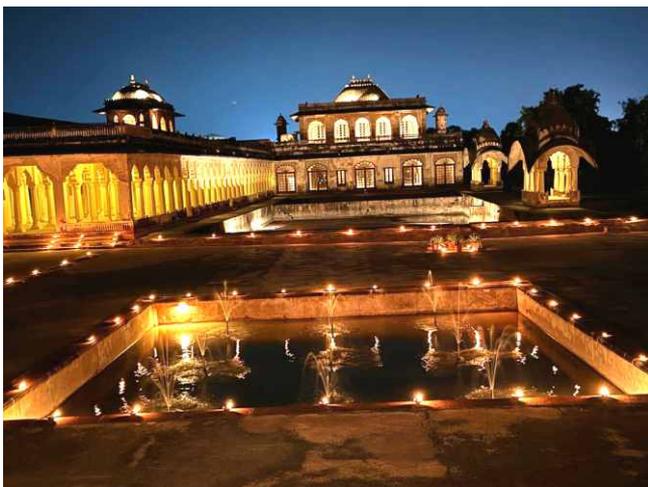
amazing three days they were. We were all housed in lovely rooms at Gajju’s Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, Fort & Dunes, Khimsar, and each meal was curated to perfection.



Meeta Sodhi, Kavita Gogoi, and Rita Dhawan gift Batch Representative Mahesh Mansukhani with a silver salver from the Batch

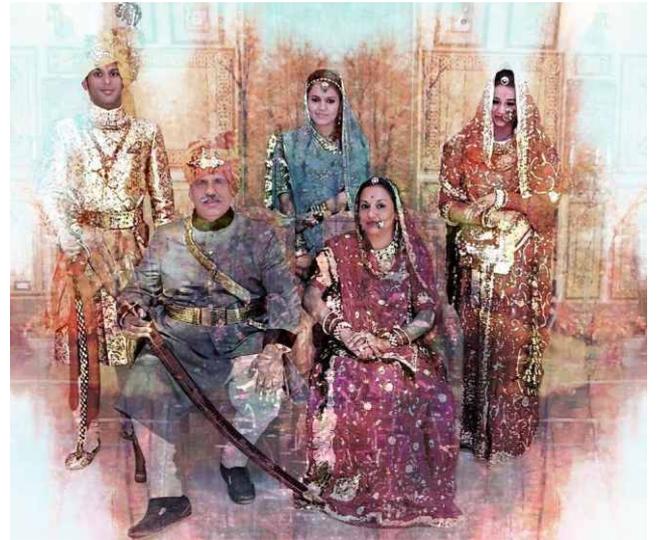


The pool and ramparts at dawn, Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, Fort & Dunes



The fort ramparts at night

After a sumptuous tea on arrival, the dinner that evening was on the fort ramparts. The cuisine was Rajasthani. A duo from Mizoram, Grace and Pui, sang all our favourite numbers from half a century ago. The Batch gifted Gajju and Priti with another painting by Picasso Pillai – a mixed media family portrait in acrylic on canvas of Gajju, Priti, Dhananjai, Urvashi, and Mrigesha.



Standing (From L-R): Dhananjai, Urvashi, and Mrigesha
Sitting (From L-R): Gajendra ‘Gajju’ Singh and Priti

The Rajasthani cuisine on the fort ramparts on the night of October 21st was followed by a Chinese lunch on the afternoon October 22nd, High Tea at sunset on the Dunes, a Marwari dinner on at the Dunes (where a large number of batchmates and better halves stayed that night), followed by Golden Night celebrations on 23 October 23rd at Gajju’s and Priti’s beautiful home on the hotel premises. Gajju’s grandchildren gifted the batchmates with lovely mementos – wooden plaques with our Lamp of Knowledge and our Batch’s 50 years in the centre – with the logo of each of our four Houses on each corner of the plaque. Thanks, once again, Priti and Gajju for your incredible generosity and wonderful hospitality.

As curtains came down on a wonderful ten days spent together, 50 years after leaving Doon, we knew that these childhood bonds formed in our tender years are unbreakable and will continue to bind us till the end of our lives. So, ladies and gentlemen, till we meet again, cheers to the Batch of 1974.



Gajju's memento



Gajju holds court on Golden Night

Standing (From L-R): Gajendra 'Gajju' Singh, Arun Mohan, Amar 'Gamcha' Bhagat, Indushekhar Singh, Soumitra 'Soumi' Sen, Mahesh Mansukhani, Sanjiv Sharma, and Ashok Bansal

Sitting (From L-R): Marilyn Khanna, Priti Singh, Akbar Hussain, Varun Khanna, and Manoranjan Singh Dugal



Sunset at the Dunes

From L-R: Hashim Tyabji, Vijay 'Pechu' Dutt, Indushekhar Singh, Akbar Hussain, Sanjiv 'Swappy' Sharma, Arun Mohan, Prabhat 'Despy' Misra (334 K, 1974), Sudhanshu Bhushan, Surendra Khemka, Bahram Vakil, Sanjeev 'Bittu' Kassal, and Vinoo Caprihan



The better halves on Golden Night

From L-R: Ramona Sen, Archisha Mehan, Ritu 'Dimple' Singh, Shibani Khosla, Bhavna Chawla



The Dunes at night



Dinner on the ramparts

Five Years... and Memories for 50 Years

Mahesh I Mansukhani 175 T, 1974
Batch Representative, Batch of 1974



Mahesh cuts his birthday cakes

From L-R: Hashim Tyabji, Dan Dhanoa, Mahesh Mansukhani, Rajesh 'Horny' Gupta, and Amar 'Gamcha' Bhagat

5 years of being in The Doon School and 50 years of connectivity — where can one get this sort of emotional quotient? This is the foundation of a good education. This was demonstrated by a 100-strong force of 1974 guys and gals showing up for their Golden Jubilee celebrations. This included wives of our batchmates and the wives of our friends who are no more.

Allow me to add that the basis of an all-round education is not only in the classrooms or on the sports fields, but must include the development of character. The Doon School is an aristocracy of service and this can only happen in an institution that builds character.



Mahesh displays Dan's gift to the Batch

“The proof of the pudding is in the eating.” The Doon School has received many gifts and numerous donations from various batches of old boys in the last 89 years. Vijit 'Picasso' Pillai's artwork of the Main Building and Ranjiv 'Choppy' Chopra organising a Commemorative Cover issued by the Postal Department for our Batch's Golden Jubilee, were gifts given to the School by the Batch. The Batch of 1974 also gave School monies for the solar panels for the CDH and monies towards the CJ Miller Bursary Fund, which, too, was initiated by the Batch of 1974. The pertinent point to mention here is that no one knew what others had contributed or donated in monetary terms towards the gifts. This, to my mind, also represents an “aristocracy of service” and the decision to have the gift amounts redacted was a decision of the Batch of 1974 – which, in my personal view, was very classy.

As mentioned by my very dear and close friend Kishore Lahiri in his write-up, the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Batch of 1974 had folks coming from Japan, Hong Kong, Dubai, the USA, and from Down Under (New Zealand and Australia). He has also covered the fun and frolic during our Founder's.

The icing on the cake was Gajju and his wife Priti hosting the Batch of 1974 at their beautiful Fort in Khimsar for three days after Founder's. Gajju made wonderful mementos and gifted the same to the Batch of 1974. Kishore has captured the wonderful stay at Khimsar in his article and various photographs.

Cracky/Dan Dhanoa was gracious to gift the Batch a collage of the Houses of The Doon School as a remembrance to all the fun times we had in School.

The Boys and their 'Girls' came for this Golden Jubilee of the Batch of 1974 to their “never getting old” School for a good cry and for an even better laugh.

The moments were 5 years with memories of 50 years.

On a very personal note, I would like to thank the Batch of 1974 for their many tokens of appreciation given to me – it was a pleasure to connect with so many of you during the run up to Founder's.

Kishore Lahiri is a lawyer by profession, practicing in the Supreme Court of India, Delhi High Court, and other High Courts, Tribunals, and fora for the last 43 years, specialising in interstate river water disputes and arbitrations. He lives in Noida, UP, with his wife, Prof Nayanjot 'Neenu' Lahiri, his son, Karan Lahiri (306 K, 2004), his daughter-in-law, Vrinda Bhandari, and his two grandchildren, Tarini and Arjun.

Mahesh Mansukhani has been the Batch Representative of the Batch of 1974 for 50 years. Mahesh was the Joint Secretary of the Indian Biomass Power Association, an organisation working at the forefront of promoting the use of clean and renewable biomass power in India. Currently, Mahesh holds the mantle of Promoter Director at EmmDee BioGas Private Limited, a Delhi-based company dedicated to establishing plants for biogas and compressed biogas generation.

Tributes



Ranjan Roy

Ranjan Roy (199 T, 1949) (1932-2024)

A Tribute to a Legendary Father

Sanjoy Roy 25 T, 1983

“You were the wind that let me soar,
My anchor, guide, and so much more.
Now skies feel still, yet your love remains,
A boundless strength through life's terrains.”

We bid farewell to Ranjan Roy (199 T, 1949), a man whose life was a testament to devotion, dignity, and unyielding strength — a father, husband, and friend who touched the lives of all who had the honour to know him. Born of a lineage rich in intellect and character, with a German grandmother, Hermine, and a father, Dr SK Roy, who was both a celebrated geologist and visionary industrialist, my father embodied the values and ideals passed down to him. Yet, his greatness was uniquely his own.

Educated at The Doon School, where he was Tata House Captain, a gymnast, boxer, lifesaver, and athlete, and St Xavier's College, he carried a lifelong pursuit of knowledge that fueled his love for reading, engineering, and exploring the mechanics of the world around him. He was a man of precision, often found tinkering with cars and motors or in the exhilarating quiet of target practice, where he honed his skill as an avid shooter. His love for vintage cars, guns, and all things mechanical was more than a hobby; it was an extension of his curiosity and craftsmanship.

But his truest passion was his family, to whom he devoted his life with boundless love and unwavering dedication. My father was a tireless worker, driven by a simple yet powerful goal: to keep his wife, Hira, and his three children happy, secure, and uplifted. He encouraged us to chase our dreams, never imposing limits on what we could achieve. He gave me the wind beneath my wings, the freedom to soar higher than I could have ever imagined. His guidance was gentle but resolute, and his love a constant source of courage.

He carried us all, even through his own heartbreak, when he lost his beloved daughter, Nayana, in 2022. Her passing left a wound in him that never truly healed, but he bore it with grace, finding strength in the family he loved so dearly and in the memories of his cherished little girl.

To those who knew him, he was more than a man; he was a rock, a mentor, a protector. His kindness was as legendary as his strength, always reaching out to help those in need, sometimes silently, often profoundly. In this, he was nearly god-like, offering his support without asking anything in return, knowing that his purpose was to lift others, to be a beacon in their lives as he was in ours. He leaves a void not only in our family but among friends and extended family across India and Germany,

who will remember his wisdom, warmth, and unwavering generosity.

As we say goodbye to this extraordinary man, we are left with his legacy of love, courage, and endless generosity. Though the wind beneath my wings has quieted, his spirit will forever guide me. In every challenge, in every

triumph, I will carry his love forward, honoring the life he lived and the profound love he gave so selflessly.

In grief:

Wife – Purabi ‘Hira’ Roy

Daughter – Keya Sen

Son – Sanjoy Roy

Sudhir Prakash (283 K, 1965)

Remembering an Intellectual at Heart

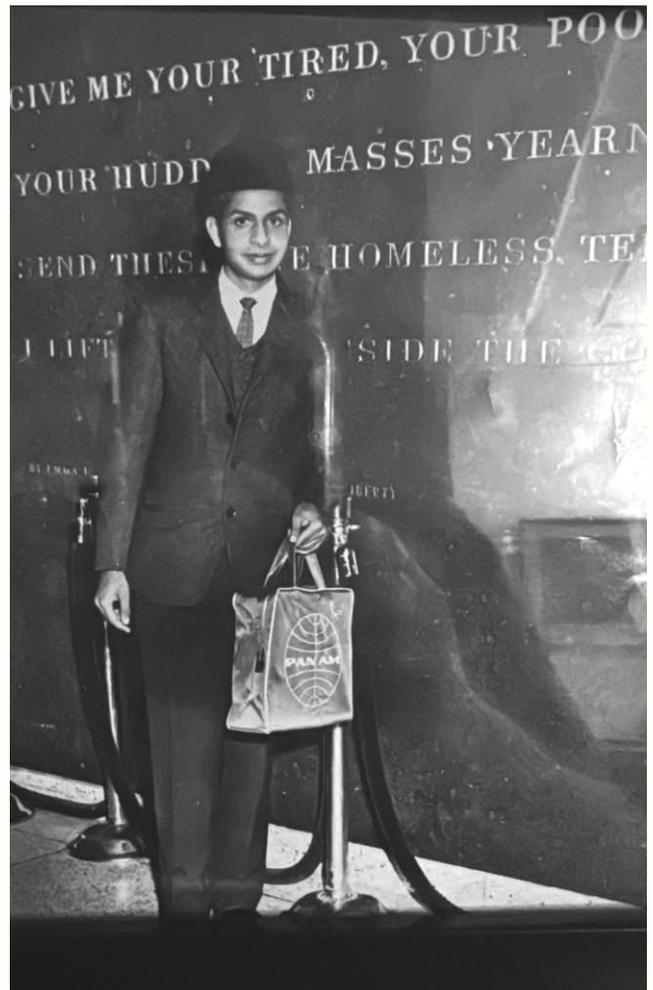
Vijay Jagannathan 75 K 1965



Sudhir Prakash

Sudhir and I joined School on a cold foggy morning in February 1961. I was eleven years old, nervously adjusting to life in a boarding school while he sauntered in confident, having spent a few years in Woodstock School, Mussoorie before joining the other new boys in Kashmir House. He was a year older than the rest of us, a lot more knowledgeable, and considered a polymath. We gave him the nickname of Woody, partly because of his previous school, partly in honour of Woody Woodpecker.

Later, when we both joined St Stephen's College for undergraduate studies, a perceptive classmate re-christened him 'Soupy,' which was perhaps a more appropriate nickname capturing his tousled hair and an absentminded persona inhabiting a messy room!



Sudhir at the 1966 New York Herald Tribune World Youth Forum New York, USA

This note appropriately features two photos. One is of Sudhir in 1966, confidently striding out as the first Dosco to represent India at the World Youth Forum, sponsored by the New York Herald Tribune in the United States. The other photograph is from his later life as a successful CEO of Glenburn Khongea Tea Estates, a famous boutique hotel, and a variety of other businesses in Eastern India.

His life was dedicated to growing his family business, although he remained, at heart, an intellectual. He would often wistfully say that if he had the career choices most of his peers were faced with, he would have become an academic. However, he did

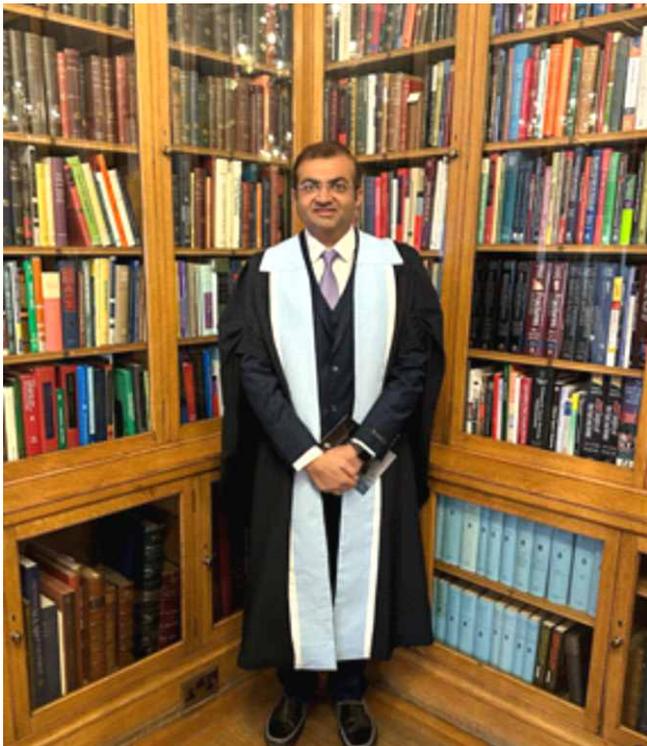
substantively contribute through his many years of leadership in the Tea Research Association (TRA Tocklai). He was particularly active in its Scientific Advisory Committee that promoted sustainable development of one of India's leading exports.

My batch's heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Poonam Prakash, and a next generation of high achievers: sons Anshuman Prakash (239 KA 1991) and Nikhil Prakash (439 KA 1994), grandson and current School Captain Arjun Prakash (439 K, 2025), and granddaughter Anushka Prakash (former Head Girl, Welham Girls' School).

Jigish Ruparelia 118 J, 2008 (1990-2024)

A Life of Excellence and Inspiration

Dr Arvind Ruparelia



Dr Jigish Ruparelia

Dr Jigish Ruparelia, an accomplished neurosurgeon, was a man of extraordinary talents and achievements. A proud alumnus of The Doon School, he excelled in academics, sports, debating, theatre, and arts, laying the foundation for a multifaceted career. He later prepared for his medical journey at ALLEN Career

Institute, earning over 40 medals and ranking second in the National Science Olympiad. He went on to secure All India Rank 1 in the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) entrance exam in 2008.

During his MBBS at the prestigious Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry, he won two gold medals and was the best outgoing all-rounder, while also contributing to the Literary and Debating Society as editor of *MONTAGE*, the JIPMER Annual Magazine. His brilliance carried through to his postgraduate studies, completing his MS in General Surgery and MCh in Neurosurgery at the All India Institute Of Medical Science (AIIMS), Jodhpur, followed by a fellowship in Skull Base and Vascular Neurosurgery at AIIMS, New Delhi.

A true testament to his fortitude and owing to his insatiable passion for neuroscience, Jigish passed his MRCS (Edinburgh) and DrNB examinations and was awarded Best Paper at a conference held by the Neurological Society of India in 2022, very shortly after being diagnosed with malignancy and undergoing surgery.

Jigish's career was marked by numerous accolades, including the prestigious International Visiting Surgeons' Fellowship Award from the American Academy of Neurosurgery (AANS) in 2022, making him only the fifth Indian ever to receive the honour. Despite a diagnosis of malignancy, he continued to excel, presenting award-

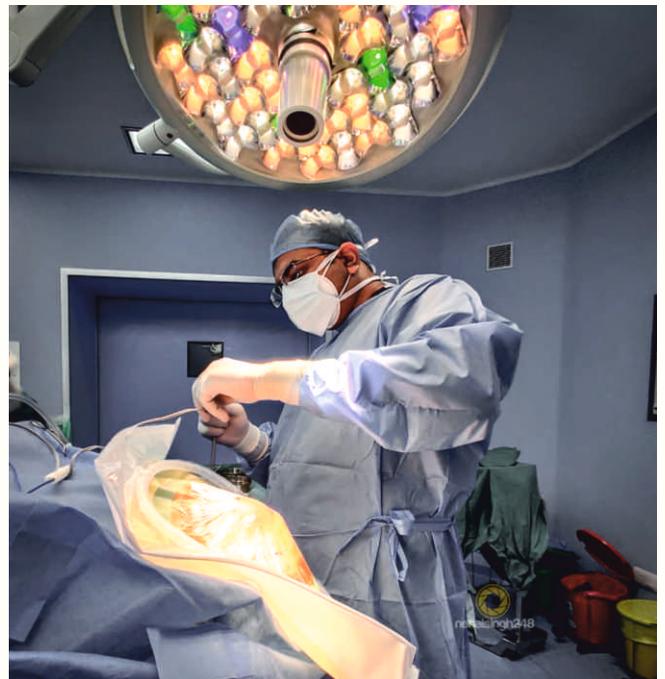


The Batch of 2008 celebrating their 15 Year Jubilee Founder's Day 2023

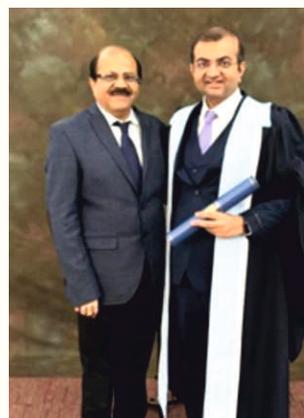
winning papers, publishing extensively, and participating in global conferences in Spain, South Africa, and Cambridge, UK.

A formidable neuroscientist, Jigish would inspire people not only in their academic pursuits, but also in maximising their potential and filling their lives with vitality and *joie de vivre*. He was a person who was soaked in his passions. A travel buff, a brilliant photographer, a food connoisseur and a coffee intellectual, Jigish always found unique ways to enrich himself with new experiences. He would act like a tourist even in cities he studied in – from going on walking tours conducted by notable authors and historians, to making his own itinerary for sightseeing during weekends by reading novels about Delhi and Jodhpur's rich history. The sightseeing was often accompanied by a hearty brunch at the city's top-rated spot. He left no stone unturned when it came to enjoying the fruits of his labour and living life to the fullest.

Jigish remained in touch with all his friends regularly. He was a Jaipur House Old Boy, a proud Dosco, and shared fond anecdotes from his time at School with family and his mates for years. Jigish cherished every opportunity to return to Doon for Founder's Day, including the 88th Founder's Day in 2023, which also marked the 15 Year Jubilee of the Batch of 2008. Many Of Jigish's friends and batchmates from The Doon School, who admire him deeply and still speak of him with great affection, stayed in regular contact over the years. Many even visited him multiple times throughout his treatment, including during his final days, offering him unwavering strength and support. The bond among Doscos undoubtedly extends far beyond the walls of The Doon School, lasting long after students have graduated.



A formidable neuroscientist



Dr Arvind Ruparelia (left) with his son Jigish Ruparelia (right)

LEGACIES

Jigish's life journey and story has been an enchanting and captivating one – one that teaches us insurmountable grit, resilience, passion, abundance and how a doctor can be much more than a doctor.

He was so plentiful and effervescent and, despite his short earthly life span, his impact on healthcare and society at large will leave an indelible mark on every relative, friend, patient, and colleague forevermore.

Jigish was, and will remain, the lighthouse of our lives. A backbone to his father, Dr Arvind Ruparelia (who is a Neurosurgeon practising in Jamnagar); the apple of his mother's eye, Mrs Krutmala Ruparelia; and an elder

brother and best friend to his younger sister, Dr Hitarthi Ruparelia.

Jigish is, quite literally, our everything.



Jigish, his sister, Hitarthi, and parents, Arvind and Krutmala

A Life of Service Beyond Self

Anant Kumar 8 J, 2008

Kaustubh Verma 27 J, 2008



Skand Goel (50 J, 2008), Tanuj Bhramar (53 K, 2008), Nakul Mehan (32 J, 2008), Usman Ghani Khan (49 J, 2008), and Jigish in Foot House

Dr Jigish Arvind Ruparelia was one of the brightest young neurosurgeons of India. He passed away in the early hours of September 17th 2024, at Jamnagar, Gujarat, surrounded by family after a prolonged battle with last-stage cancer.

Doon has lost one its brightest, the Batch of 2008 has lost a brother, the medical fraternity has lost a colleague, and the nation has lost a great servant to its people.

His zeal for life and for the medical profession is evident in the fact that he was conducting brain surgeries up until the last month of his life. He performed over 600 brain surgeries during his short, but illustrious, career.

His qualifications speak volumes about the sheer quantum of studying, training, and research he had already pursued and achieved: MBBS (JIPMER), MS (GenSurg – JIPMER), DNB(GenSurg), MRCS(Ed), MCh (NeuroSurg – AIIMS), DrNB (NeuroSurg).



The Boys of '08, C Form, circa 2004

For the boys of '08 he was a 24x7 doctor on call. We remember calling him with fevers, rashes, broken limbs, even for our wives' gynaecological problems. He was often our first port of call even before our own families in crisis situations. We would disturb him all hours of the day and, yet, he picked up, never letting our calls go unanswered.

He was initially diagnosed in 2021-22 with first-stage cancer which he fought and overcame. Thereafter, he eventually suffered a relapse and despite the best possible treatment (which included proton therapy at Apollo Hospital, Chennai), the malignancy could not stay in remission for long. Interestingly, even after he had realised that the disease had no cure, in typical Gujarati style he continued to indulge in relishing life to the fullest. Eating desserts, travelling to meet different friends and classmates, celebrating birthdays, all in the middle of his painful cancer treatment.



Vidit Narain (57 T, 2008) and Jigish Ruparelia in a School Play

Each of us shared an independent, unique relationship with him – he was a friend of all and for all. We feel particularly empty because we have lost someone who has only given to us, and yet not allowed us an opportunity to give back to him.

While the doctors had given him four months, he pulled through for over a year. In fact, while battling cancer, he traveled to Jaipur to celebrate his birthday with some of us in September 2023. After that, he travelled to Dehradun in October 2023 to celebrate the 15th year of



Celebrating Jigish's birthday in Jaipur
From L-R: Anant Jangwal (7 J, 2008), Kaustubh Verma,
Usman Ghani Khan, Jigish Ruparelia, Ankur Lohani
Kumar, and Anant Kumar

our Batch's graduation from Doon and got to meet many of us there.

We feel so empty because we have lost someone who has only given, yet not given us the opportunity to return back.

Losing hope in God is all but natural – it could only be deemed unfair for a person of his compassion, grit, and selfless service to be taken away from us so soon. Along with the Ruparelia Family, we mourn the loss of our dearest friend while celebrating his life of service beyond self.

“It's been a long day without you my friend, and I'll tell you all about it when I see you again.”

Raising a toast to Jigish, a wonderful human being and a dear friend.

ॐ शान्तिः

An Ode to a Dear Friend, Colleague and, Above All, an Excellent Human Being

Dr Rohan Mehra 65 K, 2008

It is often said that the medical profession is a noble profession and our friend Jigish Ruparelia was a true ambassador of the same. An accomplished neurosurgeon who was forever willing to advise anyone who would approach him for any query related to the medical profession. Being a doctor in our system is a

great achievement on its own and having acquired the skills to be a neurosurgeon is the cherry on top. To put this into perspective: 1 in over 1 million – that is the achievement of Jigish Ruparelia.



From L-R: Jagabir Ningthoujam (26 J, 2008), Kaustubh Verma, Eshaan Puri (23 J, 2008), and Jigish in Jaipur House

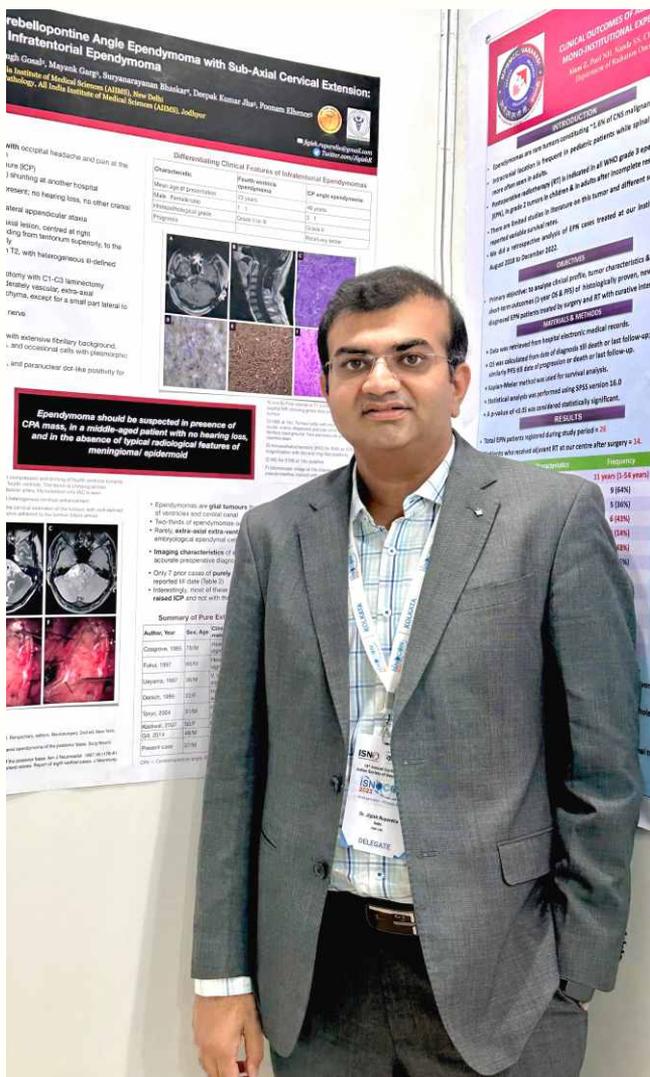
He had a sense of selfless service and the will to give Back to society without any expectations. I remember having candid conversations with him regarding our Profession and talking at length about how we can make a difference and overhaul the discrepancies in the

system. He had grand plans of his own, but always wanted to serve the poor and the weaker sections of society with the skill he had acquired.

A doctor is forever a student and Jigish was no different, sharpening his skills with the very latest that technology had to offer. He would attend all the conferences and continue his medical education as part of his will to be the best and to serve in the best way possible. Having conducted over 600 brain surgeries he made a difference to lakhs of lives, directly or indirectly. It is sometimes very difficult to figure out why and how people who are so kind and warmhearted leave us so early, but nature has its own plans.



From L-R: Jigish Ruparelia, Kaustubh Verma, Anant Kumar, Anant Jangwal, Usman Ghani Khan, and Ankur Lohani Kumar



Sharpening his skills

On a personal note, I remember being unable to go for his wedding due to a last minute cancellation. However, even on his wedding day, amongst all the rituals that would have engulfed him, he messaged me asking about my travel plans and how he could facilitate any comfort for me. That is what defined Jigish – high IQ, high intellect, and very aware of his duty.

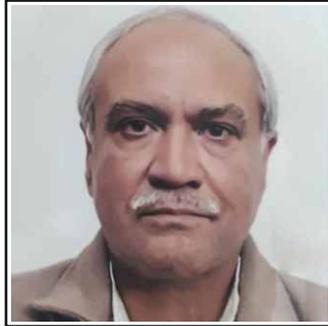
I am glad I could speak to him on his birthday; he was still in high spirits and very positive. In fact, he had told me that he would be going to Cambridge, UK, for a meeting later in the year and wanted to know where all he could go and which colleges were worth visiting and learning from. Such was Jigish’s positive outlook despite having suffered so much.

I salute our friend for making a difference in society. As a mark of the little we can do to continue his sense of giving back to society, I propose that I am willing to provide my skill set and perform free charitable eye surgeries for the poor and the needy. I would be honoured to gift them sight labelled under Jigish’s name.

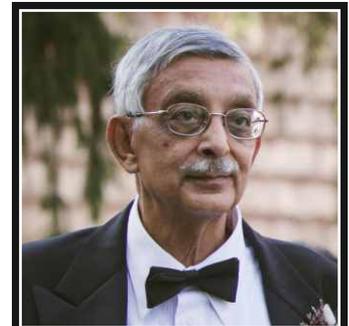
In Memoriam



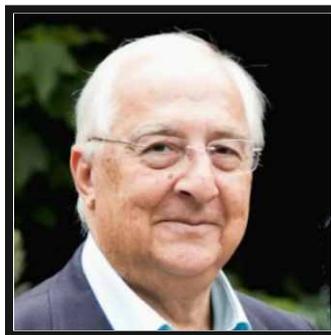
With regret, we inform you of the passing of **Surendra Singh 'Ren' Madan (176 K, 1943)** on February 27th. Our heartfelt condolences to all members of the family and the Dosco fraternity at large.



With grief, we inform you of the passing of **Shyama Prosad Mookerjee (172 H, 1957)** on February 26th. Our heartfelt condolences to all members of the family and his loved ones.



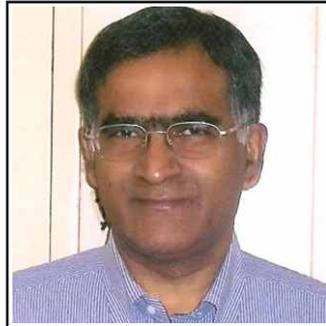
With grief, we inform you of the passing of **Subrata N Chakravarty (341 J, 1962)** on February 1st. Our heartfelt condolences to all members of the family and his loved ones.



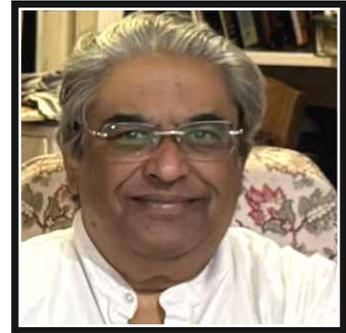
With deep regret and profound grief, we inform you of the passing of **Ajai Atal (137 J, 1960)**, father of Amar Atal (137 J, 1990) and Anant Atal (1 J, 1996), on February 7th. Our sincerest condolences to Amar, Anant, and all members of the family



It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of **Daman Raj Singh (315 T, 1963)**, eldest brother of Jasraj Singh (315 T, 1970) and Anraj Singh (307 T, 1974), on February 17th. Daman leaves behind his wife, Lynda, his son, Neel, his daughter Tara, son-in-law, Damien, and grandson Conrad Singh. Our heartfelt condolences to Jasraj, Anraj, and all members of the family.



With deep regret, we inform you of the passing of **Ajai Banerji (397 H, 1972)**, brother of Sanjai Banerji (387 H, 1976) and Udai Banerji (72 H, 1983), and father of Ranjai Banerji (282 H, 2004), on February 15th. Ajai had the distinction of having taught at School for several years. Our heartfelt condolences to Sanjai, Udai, Ranjai, and all members of the family.



It is with profound grief that we inform you of the passing of **Probodh Palit (437 J, 1974)** on January 30th. Probodh leaves behind his wife, Kavita, his son, Prithvish, and other family members. Our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

A Plea From The DSOBS

**Moved? Moving?
Thinking About Moving? New Address?**

Please let us know!

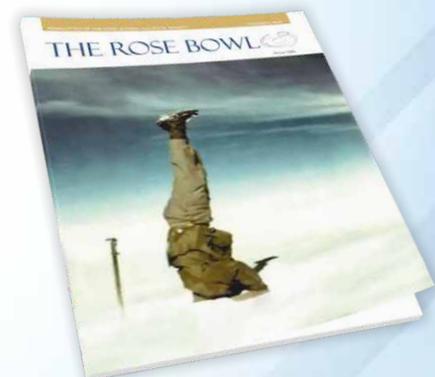
In 2023, The DSOBS mailed out 3,700 copies of the Founder's edition of *The Rose Bowl*. This was a special issue, commemorating the life of the legendary Mr Gurdial 'Guru' Singh (GU).

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 Doscoc, who wait to read it passionately. If Doscoc 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 Doscoc community for its attention to this important matter.



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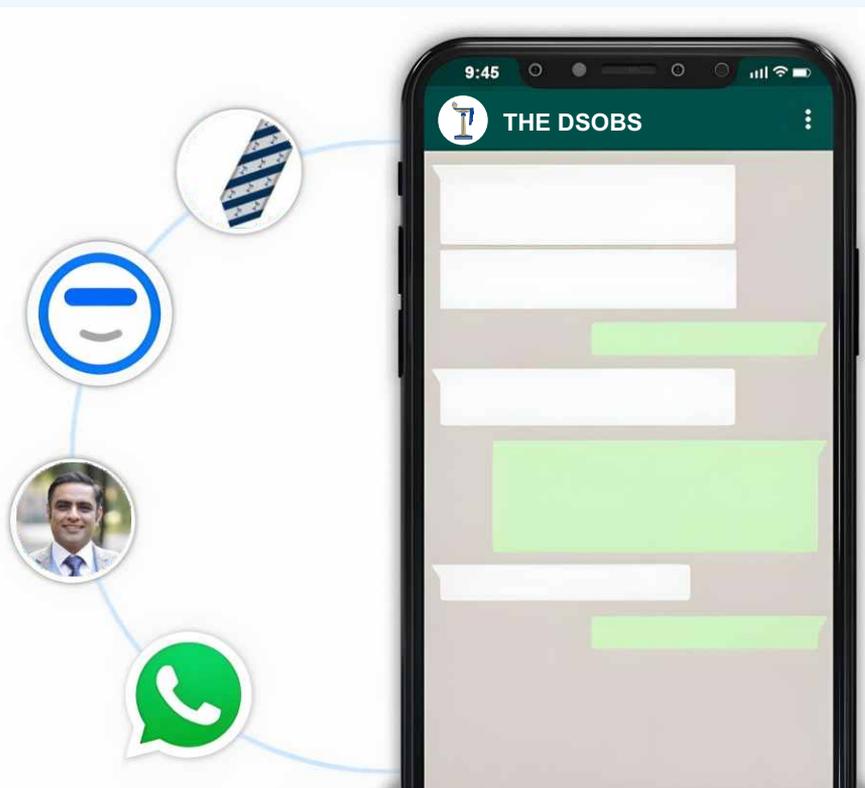


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