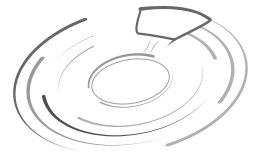


THE ROSE BOWL



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

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Parag Rastogi (458 H, 2006)
Vivek Santayana (369 O, 2011)
Siddharth Sethia (176 T, 2003)
Vipul Swarup (438 K, 2000) [Digital]

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represent the official positions
of The DSOBS.

The Buck Stops Here (for now)

Tushaar Kuthiala (519 T, 2006)

Editor-in-Chief

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants."

- Sir Isaac Newton



Tushaar Kuthiala 519 T, 2006

As I was putting pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard, if you want to be literal about it), thinking about a new chapter for *The Rose Bowl*, with jumbled metaphors, analogies, and all manner of literary devices tumbling around in my brain, one thought rose to the surface above all: I have some big shoes to fill.

One of the unique facets of being a Dosco involves being mentored by seniors, whether on the sports field, for House activities and traditions, or while learning the ins and outs of our STAs and SUPWs. During the course of my invaluable interactions with seniors who worked on *The Rose Bowl* before me, I

learned that this tradition is flourishing well beyond the confines of Chandbagh.

Pratik Basu (442 T, 1993), who has poured his heart, soul, and, frankly, an alarming amount of energy into running the magazine for the past four years, seamlessly and graciously managed the transition and showed great patience as he fielded my endless barrage of queries and WhatsApp messages. He also left behind a smoothly functioning team and a setup that works almost automatically.

I'd also like to thank **Govind Dhar (192 T, 1997)**, Pratik's predecessor, for sharing both his sage advice and treasure trove of archival material. I found myself utilising many of the well-thought-out tools and systems he set up during his time as Editor, which has made the job a whole lot easier. We were also both banned by Facebook while trying to transfer *The Rose Bowl's* account, but that is a story for another time.

I'm also very grateful to the Assistant Editors and the current Ed Board for putting up with me as I learned the ropes and took up the reins, and for indulging me as I reminisced about our days working on *The Weekly*. If this first issue stands up at all, it is because they were holding the ladder.

Hats off as well to all the Doscos who contribute to every issue and (so far) have saved me the trouble of hunting for source material to fill our pages. As a 'wise' teacher at school once said to me while discussing a particular project, "I'm impressed you've worked everything out. Not just because it shows initiative and independence, but because it makes my job much easier." I never fully agreed with that statement until now.

Moving forward, I hope to introduce new features (and bring back some old ones) in *The Rose Bowl* to make it more interactive, inclusive, and engaging. We've

already gotten off to a good start with the introduction of an Opinion Poll soliciting opinions and suggestions from the Dosco community, with more than 500 responses to our first question.

We've also chronicled the events of DS-90 in this issue, commemorating the 90th anniversary of The Doon School's founding. I'm also happy to note that enthusiasm for trekking is alive and well among the alumni, despite (and maybe because of?) Midterms being discontinued from the school curriculum. Other articles in this issue include a host of batch reunions and a special report on the first-ever Dosco Summit. While working on this issue, what excited me most

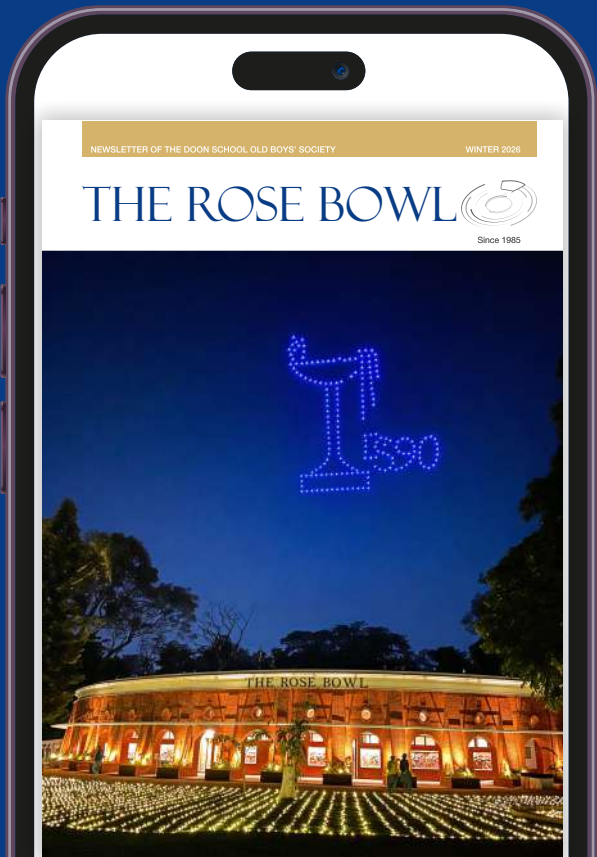
were the endless possibilities and potential that *The Rose Bowl* offers to help bring the Dosco community together and connect across continents, generations, and platforms, especially in the era of social media, reels and real-time updates.

I'm looking forward to your contributions, stories, photos, ideas, or even small moments you'd like to share. Let's help *The Rose Bowl* evolve into an open, living record of Dosco life and legacy, a comprehensive tapestry of our community. Because it is what we need and deserve. Because it is something that will unite us. And because, and I cannot stress this enough, it will make my job a whole lot easier!

ERRATA

In the feature "Doon Mountaineering Expeditions 1936–1964" carried in the Founder's 2025 edition, we omitted the name of **Deepak Summanwar (160 K, 1962)**, who was part of the 1964 Jaonli expedition. The omission is sincerely regretted.

In the Old Boys' News section of the Founder's 2025 edition, the initials for **Dr Kanti Prasad Bajpai (264 T, 1972, HM, KPB)** were mistakenly printed as 'KTB'. The error is sincerely regretted.



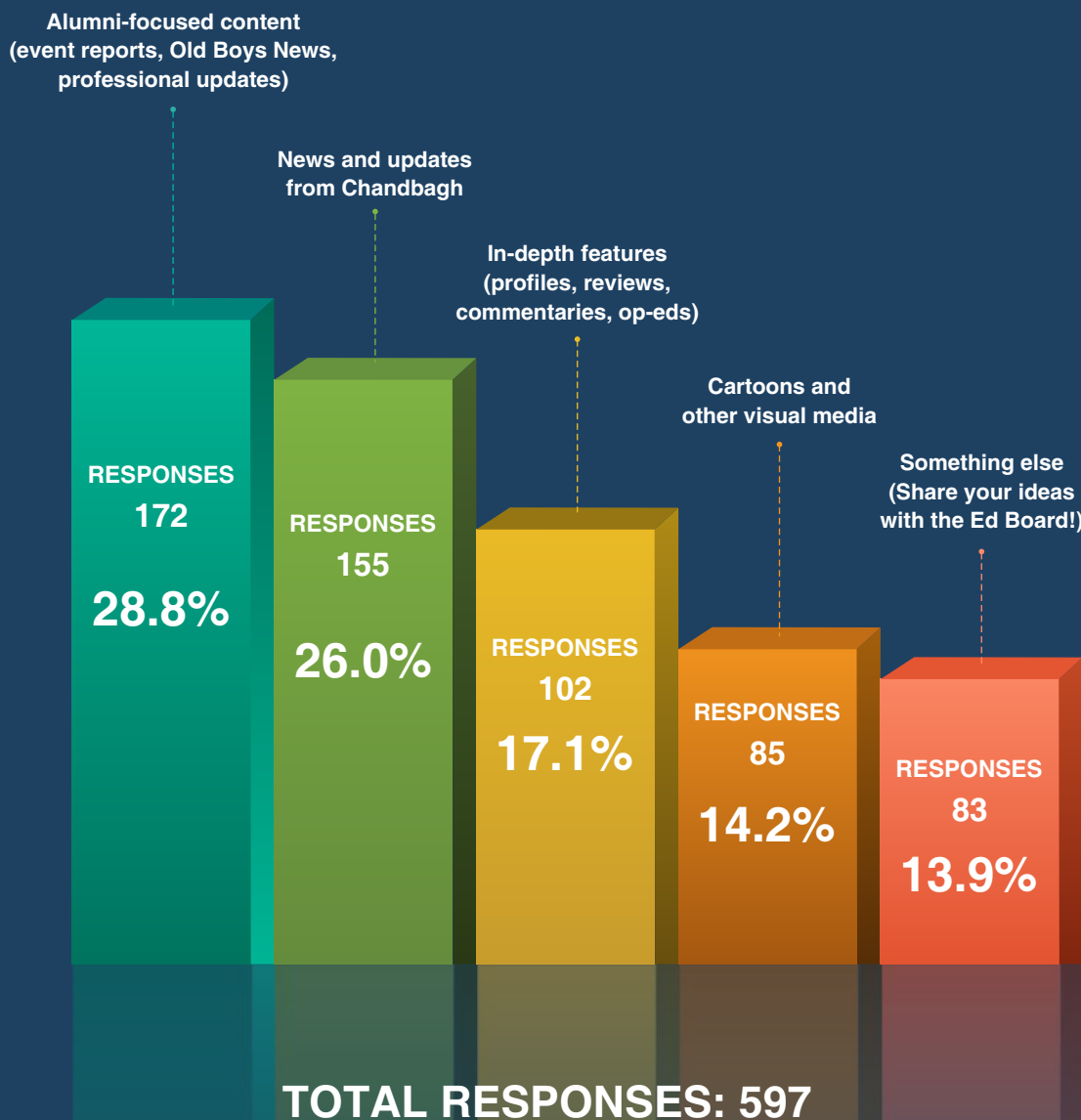
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THE ROSE BOWL

The Rose Bowl Poll

The Rose Bowl Editorial Board is rolling out a regular opinion poll feature to connect with and hear from the alumni community. We'd love to get different perspectives on a variety of issues and to have DoscOs share their opinions, comments, and ideas with us.

Question: What type of content would you like to see more of in the Rose Bowl?



We've Got Mail

Letters to the Editor

Tributes to the Founder's issue and outgoing Editor-in-Chief Pratik Basu (442 T, 1993)

Dear Editor,

It is a pleasure to read *The Rose Bowl* every few months. I take great pleasure in knowing how, as a community, all of us find time and ways to share our thoughts and experiences or remember incidents, masters, or fellow Old Boys.

I chuckled on reading the Summer Issue of *The Rose Bowl* when I came across the obituary by **Mr Shiv Kunal "Fauji" Verma (182 H, 1976)** for **Mr Ajai Banerji (397 H, 1972)**. I was delighted to find that Mr Verma still remembered the tight *jhaap* he got from Mr Banerji (accompanied by a blue flash and tears!) for it reminded me of a similar slap I received, probably about two and a half decades later, from the same man in Chandbagh for reading Hardy Boys in his computer class when he was a teacher. Maa kasam I saw stars! I have never experienced anything quite like Mr Banerji's slap to date.

As a junior to this fellow Dosco,

who was subsequently teaching in School, I was in awe of him. He had won Mastermind India and really did seem to know everything—the Google of our times. My father was in awe of him after each and every Founders' PTM for a very different reason: not a year went by where he didn't wonder why this gentleman who had been to Doon, IIT, IIM, and then Stanford was still teaching in Chandbagh.

Incidentally, Mr Verma also mentioned Mr Sanjai Banerji as a fellow batchmate. I have never met Mr Sanjai Banerji. However, reading (and editing) his submission to *The Rose Bowl* about his hike to Mt Kilimanjaro actually inspired me to undertake and complete a similar expedition. I should have known that the climb would be no mean feat given the fact that Mr Sanjai Banerji held the Senior Cross Country record for all the years till Justin Burrett, who was a contemporary of mine in School, broke his record. I had seen just how good (and dedicated) Justin was.

Thank you, Mr Verma, for refreshing some of these

memories!

Sincerely,

Siddharth Sethia
(176 T, 2003)

Dear Editor,

The Rose Bowl is producing excellent content under your editorship. My compliments to you and your team.

Sincerely,

Asheesh Kapur
(407 H, 1999)

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on a wonderful issue. It was an amazing read. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to share my thoughts. Much appreciated. Sincerely,

Dr Husain Abbas
(675 T, 2015)
Junior Resident,
Department of Medicine
JNMC, Aligarh

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for **Narinder Bedi's (108 K, 1955)** obituary. My family and I appreciate that a glimpse of Narinder's life was shared with The Doon School community. I think that The Doon School, by preparing young minds for responsibility and leadership to make this a better world, have undoubtedly achieved this philosophy with Narinder.

With kind regards,

Sonja Bedi

**Responses to
The Rose Bowl Poll**

Dear Editor,

While we all agree that our

Masters pretty much shaped us, there is another group of people that supported us, guided us, and helped us in our journey through School—the subordinate staff, the lab assistants, the *bhaiyajis*. It would be fitting to include news of these silent but important individuals—where they are now, if anyone is in need of help—with perhaps a token or memento from The DSOBS for years of services provided.

Regards,

**Rishiraj Singh Ahuja
(27 HB, 1989)**

Dear Editor,

In my humble opinion, we may consider including the following articles:

1. Creative writing by students
2. Mid-term experiences
3. Review of events in School—School plays, musical performances by the School choir, etc.
4. Ex-Doscos' achievements—especially release of their book(s), reviews, etc.
5. Milestones
6. Teachers and their lasting legacy
7. Sports—achievements of Doscos
8. Memoirs of Doscos.

Thanks and regards,

**Shiv Dayal Srivastava
(454 K, 1974)**



We at *The Rose Bowl* are committed to having as low an impact on the environment as possible. To aid in our efforts, please consider passing this issue on after finishing it, or recycle responsibly.

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





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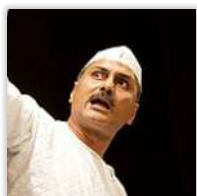


Old Boys' News



R.C. Bhargava (154 T, 1948) was conferred “The ICSI Lifetime Achievement Award for Translating Excellence in Corporate Governance into Reality” by The Institute of Company Secretaries of India on

December 19th. The 91-year-old, who topped the 1956 IAS batch, has been associated with Maruti Suzuki India Limited since 1981 and continues as non-executive Chairman. A remarkable honour!



Mahmood-Ur-Rahman Farooqui (146 K, 1990) produced *The Great Shamsuddin Family*, a Hindi-language comedy drama film written and directed by Anusha Rizvi. The ensemble cast includes Kritika

Kamra, Shreya Dhanwanthary, Sheeba Chaddha, and Farida Jalal. The film premiered on JioHotstar on December 12th. Congratulations, Mahmood!



Lieutenant General Vipul Shinghal (305 J, 1985) assumed the role of Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Information System & Training) on December 1st, continuing a distinguished career in

the higher defence management of the country. Congratulations!



The late **Lt Col (Retd) A.K. Khanna (99 H, 1942)** was honoured by The Bengal Sappers, who established a museum in his memory at Likabali, near Dibrugarh, Assam. The museum

was inaugurated by his wife, Ms Meena Khanna, with his son, **Arun Khanna (90 H, 1973)**—a Member of the Board of Governors—and his wife, Ms Suman Khanna, in attendance.



Prashant Gupta (241 K, 1991) acquired a minority stake in Italian football club Cagliari Calcio on December 12th. A highly successful entrepreneur and Chartered Financial Analyst with

over 25 years of investment experience, Prashant is co-founder of Lancium, Inc., a technology infrastructure company enabling gigawatt-scale datacenter loads. He joins the club's Board of Directors alongside fellow investor Maurizio Fiori. Way to go, Prashant!



Dr Pratibha Narang (343 J, 1963), the eldest daughter of Mr O.P. Malhotra (OPM), received a Lifetime Achievement Award in Microbiology in October 2025. Congratulations!



Amardeep Singh Ranghar (311 K, 1985) was on November 20th featured in an episode titled *Reclaiming Heritage* of the documentary series *Unfolding Identity*. Produced by the Boho

Foundation, the episode highlighted his personal quest to understand his roots and his cultural identity. Inspiring work, Amardeep!



Dr Aijaz Ilmi (688 T, 1981) was featured in the Pacific OneHealth podcast on November 29th. Dr Ilmi discussed why preventive healthcare is the

smartest investment for one's future, addressing why Indians delay checkups and how micro hospitals are making preventive care more accessible.



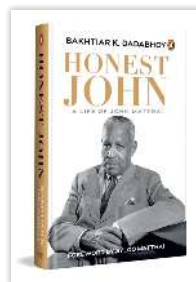
Dhruv 'Druv Kent' Shrikent (631 J, 1988) flew into India from Singapore for two back-to-back gigs in October 2025, culminating in an exclusive performance at The Quorum in Mumbai. His nearly two-hour set featured original compositions like "Back Home", "Hope" and "A Little Bit Of God", alongside his acclaimed patriotic anthem "Hindustan Meri Jaan"—ranked among India's top 10 patriotic songs. Congratulations, Druv!



Sanjai Banerji (387 H, 1976) launched India's first-ever Historical Manga Comic at the Hyderabad Comic Con on November 1st, 2025. His pioneering work blends India's rich cultural heritage with the dynamic style of Japanese manga through Tagdu Manga—an inspiring creation that combines creativity, history, and imagination. A first of its kind! Congratulations Sanjai!



Apurva Agarwal (477 O, 1993), Founding Partner of Universal Legal, was featured by Republic World as one of the "12 Entrepreneurs Redefining India's Business Landscape" on November 18th. Congratulations, Apurva!



Vivek Matthai's (476 H, 1975) grandfather, John Matthai, independent India's first railways and transport minister and India's second finance minister, was the subject of Bakhtiar K. Dadabhoy's biography *Honest John*. Dr Matthai was a friend of Mr S.R. Das and helped secure funding for The Doon School that led to the establishment of Tata House. The book introduces John Matthai to a new generation as one of India's pioneers in public service.



Sohrab Hura's (455 T, 2000) photographic exhibition *A Winter Summer* was unveiled at The Alipore Museum from November 6th–December 6th. Organised with Experimenter Gallery, this marks the India debut of Hura's seminal series *Snow* and *The Song of Sparrows in a Hundred Days of Summer*, capturing the stark contrasts between Kashmir's harsh winters and Barwani's scorching summers while exploring their socio-political landscapes.



Anish Kapoor's (385 T, 1970) pigment sculptures from the 1970s and 1980s are on display at the Jewish Museum in Brooklyn, New York, until February 1st. Titled *Anish Kapoor: Early Works*, this marks the first U.S. museum presentation dedicated to the artist's early oeuvre.



Amit Kumar Gupta (290 T, 2010) continues making waves in the independent music scene with his latest release "Dhoom Dhadaka", now trending across Spotify, Instagram, and YouTube Music. His earlier works include "Moko Kahan Tu Dhoondhe" and "Saanware". Well done, Amit!



Akash Binrajka (267 O, 2010) presented a special award to Indian cricketer Dhruv Jurel during the India-South Africa Cricket Test series in November 2025. Great shot, Akash!



Parag Hatibarua (202 J, 1984) was a distinguished speaker at the National Conference on Safe Tea Production: Policy, Compliance & Sustainable Practices, on November 28th at Tamarind Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

From the Secretary's Desk

Winter 2026 Round-Up

Ashutosh Goyal 392 K, 1986
Secretary, The DSOBS



Ashutosh Goyal



The 86th AGM of the Society in full swing

Since my last update, a lot has happened at The DSOBS. The Dosco Summit 2025 went off very well; the 90th Founder's Day (DS-90) at School was celebrated with much fanfare; the 86th AGM of the Society was held during the weekend as well; more than half of the elected members to the Executive Committee retired and have been replaced by new faces, and...*a lot of water has flowed down the Bindal!*

The DSOBS' Rajasthan regional chapter organised a joint 'Socials' event with Welhamites in Jaipur on September 12th. The event served as a platform to promote pickleball and drew enthusiastic participation from Doscos and Welhamites alike. Our regional representatives curated the event hosted at Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur: **Mr Apurv Kumar (638 J, 1979)** and **Mr Ashutosh Goyal (677 T, 2015)**, ably supported by pickle and padel ball enthusiast **Mr Anant Jangwal (7 J, 2008)**.



The DSOBS' Rajasthan regional chapter organised a joint 'Socials' event with Welhamites.

The very same day, another get-together took place halfway across the globe. The Canada (East) region held its annual get-together at *BLU Ristorante* in Toronto. Despite short notice, the venue was

overflowing with DoscOs, many of whom are attending college in Canada. **Mr Akash Puri (230 T, 1998)**, vice president, DSOBS, attended the event.



Members of The DSOBS' Canada (East) regional chapter during the annual get-together

After enjoying several years of the gracious hospitality of **Mr Amit Sawhney (252 T, 1973)**, the USA (North-East) Region decided to try something different for their annual get-together. On September 13th, a Saturday evening, a section of *Pera Soho* in New York was cordoned off exclusively for DoscOs. This was possible courtesy of **Mr Gautam Nangia (120 J, 1997)**, who is involved with the outlet. As in Toronto the previous evening, the exclusively cordoned-off area was teeming with DoscOs; some came with their partners. Now imagine this: in the middle of the merrymaking, an announcement is made that all DoscOs have access to a 'free bar' for one hour! **Mr Jiten Chhabra (470 K, 2000)** walked in and made the gracious offer. The sit-down dinner with a curated menu was also highly appreciated. It was especially great to see the turnout and to meet up with DoscOs across generations. A big shout-out to our Reps – Mr Amit Sawhney, **Mr Shubho Ghosh (472 O, 1993)**, and of course, **Mr Gautam Nangia (120 J, 1997)** for putting up a 'fab' show!



The DSOBS' USA (North-East) Region's chapter held its annual dinner for 2025 on September 13th in New York. Around 80 doscOs attended the event in Manhattan

The DSOBS sent a team of doctors led by **Dr Kushal Agarwal (447 T, 2006)** to Punjab for treating people affected by the devastating floods that ravaged much of the state, leaving behind a spate of trauma, infections, and disease. Dr Kushal's team worked in the villages of Kutali and Dera Baba Nanak, treating patients and providing free medicines. We also worked with an NGO with a close Dosco connection, run by the Punjab Institute of Medical Sciences, to supply essential flood-relief materials to affected people in Punjab.



Treating people affected by the devastating floods in Punjab

DoscOs in the UK continued with 'London Fridays,' their meetups on the last Friday of each month. In September, they met at the *Three Falcons Gastro Pub*, then on November 28th, they had their annual Christmas Party in London at *Bond's*, Mayfair. These monthly meetups are a great platform for creating strong bonds and building a strong Dosco community.



DoscOs in the UK celebrating Christmas in London

Team DSOBS participated in a triangular cricket tournament in Chandigarh. The other participating teams were from Sanawar and Mayo. This engagement was a precursor to the Alumni Cricket

Bash, which will be hosted by Mayo College at Ajmer this year as part of their sesquicentennial year celebrations. We wish Team DSOBS all the best and pray that they will return with the trophy.



The DSOBS cricket team which participated in a triangular cricket tournament in Chandigarh, playing against teams from Lawrence School, Sanawar and Mayo Boys'

The DSOBS organised The Dosco Summit 2025. Curating the event was a ground-breaking experience for us. We had never organised an event of this kind and this size, in terms of the diversity of the people involved, the number of agencies we had to deal with, etc. Almost a year's planning, meetings upon meetings, exchanges of ideas, last-minute huddles, selecting the panellists and moderators, guest speakers, identifying the right volunteers, making Plan Bs to deal with last-minute regrets, and last, but not the least, contending with 'Murphy's Law,' went into the event and resulted in such a fabulous show that even we were left in absolute awe! I must thank the Dosco community, with members from across generations attending the event.



Scenes from The Dosco Summit 2025

All three panel discussions, the opening address by the Guest of Honour, and the Chief Guest's Address, were in front of a packed house. The

venue was bursting at the seams with an enthusiastic audience. The entire collected participation fee was donated to support the rebuilding efforts of people devastated by floods in the village of Dharali, Uttarkashi (Uttarakhand). The Society collaborated with Kufloon Charitable Trust, an organisation in the region which is run by a Dosco's family.

The Dosco Summit 2025 also served as a curtain-raiser for the School's 90th Founder's Day (DS-90) celebrations. A detailed article on this event is in this issue.

The Founder's Day celebrations this year were extended by one day, given that this was a landmark 90th year in the School's journey (DS-90). The exhibitions and the Inter House Athletics finals began a day early, on Thursday, October 16th, in place of Friday, October 17th. Additionally, a number of Doscos from the Class of 1955, celebrating 70 years since graduating from the School, were present. **Kamaljit Chaudhri (48 J, 1955)** was the Chief Guest for the Athletics Meet. Races were held between some from the batch, staff, and parents as well. It events were enjoyed by all. To celebrate DS-90, a 'Sports Gala' was held on Friday, during which the School teams for cricket, football, basketball, swimming, and padel took on the larger-than-usual old boys' contingent. The RL Holdsworth Cricket Match, the SL Sharma Football Match, the basketball match, and the swimming and padel engagements were all held on the same day.



Kamaljit Chaudhri (48 J, 1955; left) was the Chief Guest for the Athletics Meet

The Executive Committee held an interaction session with the parents of B, A, and S Form boys in the library. The parents were apprised of the initiatives that The DSOBS undertakes for boys in

School, and they were very appreciative of our charitable endeavours. The Headmaster hosted the Classes of 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015, celebrating their respective landmark years, to lunch at his cottage. In the evening, the Classes of 1985, 1980, 1975, 1970, 1965, 1960, and 1955 were hosted by the Headmaster for dinner.

The 86th AGM of the Society was held at the library on Saturday, October 18th. The library was packed and overflowing with members. The AGM attendees were unanimous in their appreciation of the charity initiatives undertaken by the Society during the year and of its successful organisation of The Dosco Summit 2025. The Class of 1975, celebrating their Golden Jubilee, presented a cheque of Rs. 1,00,01,975 (One crore, one thousand, nine hundred and seventy-five rupees) to The DSOBS as a donation towards our Post-School Scholarship initiative. Three presidents of The DSOBS have been members of this batch, a record they share with the Class of 1959. The current Chairman of the Board of Governors, a former president of the Society, is also a member of the Class of 1975.



The Class of 1975, celebrating their Golden Jubilee, presented a cheque worth Rs. 1,00,01,975 as a donation towards The DSOBS' Post-School Scholarship initiative

On behalf of the current president, vice president and the entire executive committee, I would like to place on record the Society's sincere 'thanks' to the Class of 1975 for their donation, which will help The DSOBS support the college education for fellow members.

A special mention must be made of those who drove this fund collection drive within the batch – **Mr Rahul Kohli (81 J, 1975)**, **Mr Moin Qureshi (467 K, 1975)**, **Mr Gautam Thadani (488 J, 1975)** and Class Rep **Mr Ajay Swarup (245 J,**

1975), amongst others. The first two are also past presidents of The DSOBS.

The DSOBS sponsored a special drone show, held just after the Founder's Day programme. The show was appreciated by all, the boys, parents, old boys and guests. The DS-90 Book, also sponsored by the Society, was launched earlier in the day. Boxes of biscuits were distributed to everyone on campus. The biscuits were baked in the School kitchen, with The DSOBS covering their costs. All these collaborative activities just go on to show that the bonds between The Society and the School are only growing stronger.



The special drone show organised by The DSOBS

After the Diwali break, it was business as usual at the Secretariat. With more than half of the elected members of the Executive Committee being new faces, the allocation of responsibilities, or 'portfolios', was completed. Going forward, you will see a lot more activity, with fresh blood and several youngsters coming on board. You will also notice some changes in your 'fave' magazine, The Rose Bowl, with a change in guard here as well. **Tushaar Kuthiala (519 T, 2006)** has stepped into the shoes of **Pratik Basu (442 T, 1993)**. Changes for the better are always welcome. Pratik did a wonderful job, and Tushaar, I am certain, will raise the bar further.

Doscors in Singapore organised an 'Inter House' Padel Tournament on November 6th.

The Ludhiana 'gang' in the Punjab region met up at *Elgin* in Ludhiana on November 15th. Fresh blood has been infused into the regional chapter, and we are looking forward to seeing much more activity from them in the coming months.

Doscors in the Middle East-Asia region continue to remain active with their 'Dubai Fridays.' They met at *Spike Bar* on October 31st and November 28th.

The DS90 Sports Gala

Raghuvendra 'Donny' Singh 878 T, 1982

Abhenav Khettry 159 J, 2003



The DSOBS and School football teams at the DS-90 Founder's Day Sports Gala

The first memory most Doscors carry from their school days is, undoubtedly, a moment of sport - such is the gravitas that games and competition hold at Chandbagh.

As the three-day DS-90 celebrations unfolded, it felt only fitting that the Main Field and the School's sporting arenas took center stage for Doscors - old and current - as the first-ever Founder's Day Sports Gala prepared to kick off.

Day 2 saw the Old Boys return to familiar territory, challenging the school teams in cricket, football, basketball, swimming, and even padel, each contest played in the true Dosco spirit of friendship, rivalry, and respect.



The DSOBS team batting during the 48th RL Holdsworth Memorial Cricket Match at the DS-90 Founder's Day Sports Gala

In keeping with tradition, the 48th RL Holdsworth (RLH) Memorial Cricket Match kicked things off. The Old Boys, dusting off their kits and padding up at the Main Field, posted 158 in 20 overs. The DoscOs, despite a spirited chase, fell 28 runs short. **Viksit Verma's (482 H, 2019)** fluent 70 and **Pratyush Vaishnava's (422 K, 2000)** crafty 3 wickets ensured the RLH Trophy returned to the Old Boys after a year.

As has been done countless times over nine decades, the Main Field then shifted seamlessly from a cricket cauldron into a football fortress for the SL Sharma Memorial Match. The Old Boys arrived with experience and tactical *nous*, while the DoscOs showcased sheer resilience, stamina, and pace.

An hour-long battle saw both sides cancel each other out across every blade of the field. Only a penalty shootout could separate them, with the Old Boys holding their nerve to edge out a 4–2 win and lift the SL Sharma Trophy — albeit by the narrowest of margins.



Battling for the ball during the SL Sharma Memorial Football Match

While cricket and football thrilled the crowds at the Main Field, the basketball courts buzzed with energy as the Old Boys renewed their friendly but fierce rivalry with the School Team. Skill, intensity, and physicality were on full display, and this time the DoscOs prevailed 72–66, securing a measure of revenge after the DSOBS Sports Weekend in April.

Diving from the courts straight into the pool, DoscOs from all five houses lined up alongside DSOBS members for the inaugural Inter-House vs DSOBS Swimming Relay. In the 4 x 50m race, the DoscOs sliced through the water with authority - Kashmir House clinching first place with a time of 2:11:28, while the Old Boys finished fifth.

Sport at The Doon School has long been part of its iconic legacy, but DS-90 marked the writing of a new chapter: the first-ever padel match in



The Old Boys and School basketball teams in action during the Sports Gala face-off

Chandbagh. The fast-growing racket sport has already been embraced by current DoscOs and has kept the sporting flame burning brightly for the Old Boys.



Old Boys and DoscOs kicked off a Padel contest at the DS-90 Sports Gala

In this historic debut, the Old Boys secured a clean sweep over the School Team.

As the sun set on another memorable Founder's weekend, and we bid adieu to DS90 and Chandbagh for a little while, one thing is certain - the DSOBS will be back soon, bat in hand, ball at feet and heart on the Main Field!

From Fellowship to Leadership: The Dosco Summit 2025

Chetan Aggarwal 568 T, 2007



Jyotiraditya M. Scindia (632 J, 1988), Union Minister of Communications and of Development of the North Eastern Region, delivering the Chief Guest's address at the summit

The Doon School Old Boys' Society (DSOBS) made history this October by hosting the inaugural DOSCO Summit 2025, the first time a boarding school alumni body has convened a full-day forum of this nature. It was a fitting starting act to the DS-90 Founder's celebrations.

Moving beyond the routine 'sports-and-social-centric' approach that characterises bodies such as the DSOBS, the Summit sought to engage the broader alumni network in a serious and thoughtful dialogue around leadership, education, and public purpose. The Summit has been conceived as a platform for thought, reflection, and dialogue, bringing together distinguished alumni and national leaders to deliberate on questions

defining leadership, education, and societal responsibility.

What made the day remarkable was not only the lineup, but the intent: to bring the School's founding ideal - an aristocracy of service - to life in contemporary India, and shape conversations beyond the walls of Chandbagh. The response was emphatic. More Old Boys attended the sessions rather than the drinks or the dinner, underscoring their appetite for meaningful conversation.

The day began with Amitabh Kant, retired IAS officer and former G20 Sherpa of India and CEO of NITI Aayog, setting the tone in his opening address. Mr Kant spoke about the transformative



The first panel, 'Leadership Across Generations', brought together Tarun Sawhney (234 K, 1991), Raghav Maliah (267 J, 1991), Gaurav Bhushan (32 H, 1989), and Rahul Malhotra (15 H, 1983), and was moderated by Vivek Pandit (595 H, 1988)

power of India's digital public infrastructure. About how platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker have enabled inclusion at scale. He emphasised that ethical and adaptive leadership must guide this technological revolution, with data-driven governance serving as the backbone for progress. According to Mr Kant, the challenge for India is not just growth but rather equitable growth – ensuring that even the most backward districts can leapfrog through technology. His remarks set the stage for the Summit's larger question – how to transcend personal success and engage with more profound questions of public purpose.

The first panel, 'Leadership Across Generations', brought together **Tarun Sawhney (234 K, 1991)**, **Raghav Maliah (267 J, 1991)**, **Gaurav Bhushan (32 H, 1989)**, and **Rahul Malhotra (15 H, 1983)**, and was moderated by **Vivek Pandit (595 H, 1988)**. Their conversation revolved around the idea of stewardship – how leaders can reconcile short-term volatility with long-term value creation. Integrity, they agreed, is the constant across eras whereas adaptability is the differentiator. They explored succession within

families and firms, warning against complacency and advocating for institutionalised dissent and data-driven decisions. The message was clear – leadership today is about widening opportunity while staying accountable to communities and customers.

The second panel, 'Changing Phases and Values of Education,' featured Vasvi Bharat Ram, Arun Kapur, **Nishad Das (950 H, 1982)**, **Harpal Singh (322 H, 1965)**, and was moderated by **Uday Pratap Singh (533 J, 2007)**. This discussion returned to first principles – that education is not merely about grades but about character. Empathy, curiosity, and civic responsibility were identified as non-negotiables in a world obsessed with metrics. Technology, the panelists cautioned, must remain an enabler and not a substitute for real relationships and learning. Faculty development emerged as a strategic priority for all of them and, in turn, led them to urge alumni networks to support bursaries and teacher training to democratise excellence across the board without diluting rigour. The debate highlighted the advantages of systems that reward reflection and collaborative problem-solving.



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The third panel, 'Dosco Impact on Society and the Aristocracy of Service,' brought together **Amitav Virmani (260 J 1991)**, **Ashvin Dayal (497 J, 1987)**, **Lt. Gen. Vipul Shinghal (305 J, 1985)**, **Rajit Punhani (321 J, 1985)**, and was moderated by **Abhinav Kumar (285 T, 1991)**. Here, the conversation shifted from individual success to systemic change. The panellists argued that privilege must translate into public good

through transparent, outcome-driven partnerships between alumni, the state, and civil society. The military perspective underscored preparedness and integrity, while the development lens emphasised scaling evidence-based models rather than one-off projects. The leitmotif was clear: Doscos must mentor, fund, and govern initiatives that deliver measurable impact in education, nutrition, and resilience.



The third panel, 'Dosco Impact on Society and the Aristocracy of Service,' brought together Amitav Virmani (260 J 1991), Ashvin Dayal (497 J, 1987), Lt. Gen. Vipul Shinghal (305 J, 1985), Rajit Punhani (321 J, 1985), and was moderated by Abhinav Kumar (285 T, 1991)

The Summit closed with an address from **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia (632 J, 1988)**, Union Minister of Communications and of Development of the North Eastern Region, who brought both his characteristic gravitas and enthusiasm to the Summit. Scindia spoke of Doon's enduring imprint, of the spirit of fraternity, friendship, and habit of mind that shaped him. He reminded the audience that change is constant and that the softest pillow remains a clear conscience. His call was for alumni to marry enterprise to public purpose, convene across generations, and build outcomes that outlast careers. According to him, the Summit was not an end but a practical template for how institutions like Doon can serve communities and contribute to the broader nation-building process.

That spirit of service found its most tangible expression in the announcement that Rs 7 lakh raised through the Summit would be donated to the Kuflon Charitable Trust to support relief efforts for survivors of the Uttarakhand disaster. This is part of the DOSCOimpACT initiative, which encompasses all the society's social responsibility activities. It was the perfect coda to an inaugural Summit defined by the fervent desire of those

involved to carry on the values and traditions that have shaped generations of DoscOs and to find new ways to turn that intent into a real-world impact that can endure for years to come.

The initiative is undoubtedly a grand success. It is hoped that it will be institutionalised as an annual feature. Credit goes to the most recent Executive Committee led by president **Junaid Altaf (209 O, 2003)** and vice president **Akash Puri (230 T, 1998)**.

Dozens of DoscOs have supported them, each playing a significant role in the event across logistics, fundraising, content curating, outreach, and other organisational activities. Special thanks are also due to the Old Boys who supported the Summit through sponsorships and donations.

The Summit has reaffirmed principles of integrity, service, and leadership that have shaped The Doon School's legacy. It has set a precedent for future editions, carrying forward a tradition of dialogue and responsibility. The spirit of community that defined this initiative will help ensure it becomes a permanent part of the DSOBS calendar.

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Doscors from the Batch of 2000 celebrating their Silver Jubilee at Founder's 2025

Echoes of Chandbagh

How Doon's 90th Year Awakened the Boy Still Within Each of Us

Arush Sogani 600 H, 2000

"There are places we outgrow, and there are places that grow with us. For Doscors, Chandbagh has always been the latter."

Returning this year for the 90th Founder's Day celebrations, many of us felt a familiar stirring — not simply nostalgia, but recognition. Recognition of the boys we once were, the values we once absorbed, and the quiet, steadfast shaping of character that only Doon could give.

For those of us celebrating our Silver Jubilee, the emotions ran even deeper. We arrived as men with families, careers, failures, victories, and burdens — yet the moment we crossed the gates, we felt unmistakably like the boys who once ran across those fields. This wasn't just a milestone year. It was a mirror — showing us who we used to be, and who we have become.

A Return That Felt Like Time Folding Backward — and Forward

Walking into school again felt like stepping into a memory made real. The sunlight on the Main Field. The laughter spilling out between exhibitions. The unmistakable hum of Founder's Day energy. And yet, this time we saw ourselves differently. As Silver Jubilarians, we could see exactly how life had weathered us, softened us, and strengthened us. We spoke differently. We listened differently. We understood differently. But the boy inside us — the one who once stood nervously on his first day — reappeared instantly.

Sports: Where Time Collapsed, and Lessons Reappeared

One of the highlights of this 90th year was the Old Boys vs School fixtures — not just one match, but

a series of competitions in football, basketball, padel, swimming, cricket, and other informal pursuits.

Watching and playing in these contests was more than recreation – it was a revelation. The lessons sport taught us as boys are still relevant today: resilience, humility, teamwork, grace in defeat, and generosity in victory.

The School team played with the fire we once carried. The Old Boys played with the perspective we later earned. And for everyone watching, this clash of generations was one of the emotional peaks of Founder's — a reminder that spirit does not age, it only evolves.

Meeting Old Masters: The Sharpest Tug at the Heart

Among the most touching moments of the celebrations was meeting the masters who once shaped us — the very people who saw potential in us even when we didn't. Some had grown gentler with age. Some looked remarkably the same. Some remembered our infamous moments with disarming clarity. And in speaking with them, we realised something we were too young to see then: they were not just teachers, but architects of the

men we became.

Their questions were simple — “How are you?” “Where are you now?” — yet they carried the warmth of familiarity, the pride of seeing boys become men, and the comfort of knowing that their work was not in vain.

For many of us, these interactions brought the sharpest wave of emotion. Because in their eyes, we were still the students they had once guided, scolded, encouraged, and believed in. To meet them again — this time as adults, equals, and grateful products of their dedication — was a privilege.

Exhibitions and Academics: The Spark That Never Dimmed

The student exhibitions were a powerful reminder of Doon's holistic heart. The creativity, intellectual ambition, and boldness on display echoed the same spirit that filled our classrooms. It reaffirmed something we always knew: Doon never taught us what to think — it taught us how to think.

Standing before those displays, we could almost see our younger selves hunched over projects, discovering passion without knowing it.



Standing before the exhibition displays, we could almost see our younger selves hunched over projects



The bonds between batchmates remain unbroken

Speeches and Drama: Rose Bowl Nostalgia and the Phone Booth Beneath It

The Rose Bowl has always had a special gravitas. The speeches — from the Headmaster, the Chief Guest Mr. Aroon Purie ('60), and the School Captain — stirred memories not just of assemblies and events, but of the old phone booth that once stood below. Many of us lined up there as boys, clutching coins, waiting anxiously to call home. It is strange how a place where we once spoke to our parents in shaky voices now hosts reflections on leadership, service, and legacy. Standing there again, it felt as though our past selves and present selves were occupying the same space.

Brotherhood: Stronger After 25 Years

Our 25th-year reunion added its own powerful layer of emotion. We saw batchmates who had changed, matured, softened, hardened — each carrying stories life had written on them. But the bond? That remained untouched. Doon friendship is like gravity — invisible, constant, and all-encompassing.

DOSCO Summit 2025: Legacy in Action

The DOSCO Summit 2025 showed that Doon's influence doesn't end at the gates. It grows, extends, and shapes the world through its alumni. Leadership, purpose, service — these were not abstract ideals. They are lived realities, rooted in the lessons we learnt as boys.

Leaving Once Again — But Changed Once More

As Founder's came to a close, and we walked out through the gates, the familiar ache returned — the same one we felt as boys. Only this time, it was filled with gratitude.

The 90th Founder's Day and our Silver Jubilee reminded us that, though we may have travelled far and become many things, a part of us — the best part, perhaps — was born here.

Drawn by the Invisible Thread of Shared History

Aditya Kumar (428 T, 2000)



The 25th reunion was a pilgrimage to a time and place that shaped the Batch of 2000

Prologue

Homeward Bound

Some journeys begin not with a ticket or a suitcase, but with a memory—a scent of old classrooms, the echo of laughter in shaded corridors, the weight of a blazer that still fits, if only in the mind. For the Class of 2000, the journey to the 25th reunion was not just a return to The Doon School's main building, but a pilgrimage to a time and place that shaped them, a rekindling of

friendships forged in the crucible of youth. As the October sun dipped behind the Mussoorie hills, Chandbagh seemed to hum with anticipation. Batchmates arrived from every corner of the world, some after decades away, others after years of silence, all drawn by the invisible thread of shared history. The city was the same, yet everything had changed. Or perhaps, nothing had.

The First Night

Laughter, Welhamites, and Old Mischief

The festivities began not with a formal address, but with laughter and the clink of glasses at **Amit Verma's (486 H, 2000)** residence. The air was

thick with stories, some exaggerated with the years, others whispered with the reverence reserved for legends. The dinner, intended to be

an intimate gathering, quickly became the scene of a delightful invasion as the Welhamites crashed the party – a reminder that some traditions never fade. Bottles were uncorked, old jokes resurrected, and the years melted away. On that warm Dehradun evening, the batchmates were not

CEOs, lawyers, investment bankers, doctors, or entrepreneurs – they were schoolboys again, conspirators in a grand adventure. The laughter was louder, the hugs tighter, and the sense of homecoming unmistakable.

Day Two

The Spirit of Chandbagh

Dawn broke over Chandbagh with a familiar chill, the kind that once signaled morning PT or a dash to assembly. But this time, the agenda was different; a day packed with sports, debates, and the simple joy of being back where it all began. The Headmaster's lunch was more than a meal – it was a tribute. Batchmates, clad in custom T-shirts, gathered to present two new rolling trophies as tangible symbols of their continued bond with the school. The sense of pride was palpable, but participation truly set the tone for the day. Swimming, football, cricket, debating, padel; every event saw the batch step up, their sleeves rolled up and competitive spirit undimmed.

There was a peculiar joy in playing against the current schoolboys, a reminder that while the bodies may have aged, the heart for sport (and a little friendly trash talk) remained as young as ever. The debates, in particular, were a highlight; the quality on display left no doubt that the Class of 2000 still had plenty to say – and they said it well.

The Heartbeat: Riverstone Cottage and the Video That Brought Us Home

But if there was a single moment that defined the reunion, it was the night at Riverstone Cottage. As dusk gave way to starlight, the batch gathered for an evening that would become the emotional core of the celebration. There, under the open sky, a

carefully crafted, emotional video put together by Uday Jhala began to play.

What unfolded was more than a montage; it was a living tapestry. Old photographs flickered on the screen: grinning faces in muddy uniforms, arms slung around shoulders, the chaos of dorm rooms, the quiet pride of Founder's Day parades. There was humor, inside jokes, and pranks that still drew groans (and denials). There was loss – friends remembered and names spoken with a catch in the throat. There was love, in all its messy, enduring forms. As the final frames faded, few had dry eyes. The laughter had an edge of tears, and the hugs lingered a little longer. For a moment, time folded in on itself, and every batchmate was both the boy he had been and the man he had become.

Night Owls and Old Habits

The party at Riverstone did not end with the video. In true Doon fashion, it stretched into the early hours—music, stories, and the kind of conversations that only happen when the world is asleep. Anirudh Tankha, Abhimanyu Kumar, Udayan Das Roy, Aditya Kumar and a handful of usual suspects were the last to leave, the night giving way to dawn as they relived old glories and plotted new ones. For some, memory grew hazy; for others, the details were etched in laughter.

Day Three

Pagal Gymkhana and Revisiting Old Haunts

The morning after Riverstone dawned softer, the city washed in the golden light of nostalgia. The Pagal Gymkhana was in full swing, the school alive with the buzz of Founder's Day. For many, this was the moment to wander through corridors lined with memories, classrooms that echoed with the voices of

their younger selves, and fields that had seen a thousand games and rivalries.

There was something sacred about these solitary walks. Batchmates found themselves pausing at old desks, tracing initials carved decades ago, or standing

quietly in the shade of familiar trees. Some found their way to the Rose Bowl, others to the art room, still others to the nooks where secrets had been shared and lifelong bonds had been forged. The school, in all its timelessness, seemed to welcome them back, not as visitors, but as sons returning home.

The Grand Gathering at Basque and the Spirit of Oneness

If the previous nights had been intimate, the dinner at Basque was a celebration not just for the Class of 2000, but for the entire Doon family. Over 650 guests filled the venue: Old Boys from every batch, teachers past and present, friends, and families. It was a sea of white shirts and sleeveless jackets, but more than that, it was a gathering of hearts. What stood out most was the oneness; the sense that, for all their differences and the years that had passed, these men still belonged to each other and to the school that had shaped them.

There were toasts to absent friends, to the teachers who had been mentors and guides, and to the future that lay ahead. The video was screened again, and once more, it brought laughter and tears in equal measure.

Behind the Scenes: The Organisers and the Gift of Giving

It would be impossible to tell the story of this reunion without acknowledging the tireless work of the organising team from the Class of 2000. For two years, Arush Sogani (600 H), **Suket Singhal (434 K)**, **Zubin Masani (439 J)**, **Aditya Kumar (428 T)**, **Arjun Bartwal (501 K)**, **Shantanu Lalwani (436 T)**, **Mani Shanker Singh (452 T)**, **Saurabh Dudhoria (458 J)**, **Chetan (Mehan 618 J)**, **Uday Singh Jhala (454 J)**, and **Udayan Das Roy (505 H)** poured their hearts and souls into making this event a reality.

They spearheaded fundraising for the school, coordinated sponsorships, and ensured that every detail reflected the spirit of the batch. The two rolling trophies, the scholarship fund, and the grand dinner were all testaments to their commitment and love for their alma mater.

Their work was not just about celebration, but about giving back and ensuring that the legacy of the Class of 2000 would continue to inspire and support generations to come.

Reconnection, Healing, and New Promises

As the festivities wound down, a new feeling of healing and reconnection settled over the batch. For some, it was the first time in 25 years seeing old friends; for others, it was the first real conversation after decades of silence. The barriers of time and distance melted away, replaced by a renewed sense of belonging. There were conversations about the past, but more importantly, there were promises for the future. The message was clear: let's not wait another 25 years. The reunion was not just a celebration of what had been, but a commitment to what could be.

The Journey Continues

On the final morning, as the last bags were packed and goodbyes were said, there was a sense that something important had happened. The Batch of 2000 had come home—not just to a place, but to each other. They left with full hearts, new memories, and a promise to carry the spirit of Doon forward. In the years to come, the details of the weekend may blur—the names, the jokes, the exact sequence of events. But what will remain is the feeling: the warmth of old friendships rekindled, the pride of shared history, and the certainty that, no matter where life takes them, we will always have a home in Chandbagh.

Author's Note: This article is dedicated to the Batch of 2000, to the friends we have lost, and to the enduring spirit of The Doon School. May we continue to gather, to remember, and to celebrate the ties that bind us, today and always.



(From left) Naaji Shah (602 K, 2000), Suket Singhal (434 K, 2000), and Arush Sogani (600 H, 2000) making a pit stop at Cheetal Grand



Members of the Batch of 1990 at DS-90

35 Years On, Witnessing a Special Bond

Sunanda Chak, wife of Vinay Chak 170 T, 1990

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was originally featured as a post on LinkedIn by the author.

If you ever want to understand true loyalty, attend The Doon School Founder's Reunion! My husband is a Dosco and I witnessed something truly special. I feel I found a nugget that every marketer and loyalty strategist should take note of.

In 2025, The Doon School celebrated '90 years of Brotherhood', and the reunion drew alumni from every corner of the world. Vinay and his batch were celebrating 35 years since they passed out of Doon. And what was truly extraordinary — more than 70 percent of the batch turned up, many with their spouses, flying in from different countries and time zones.

What struck me most was that these weren't ordinary attendees — they were leaders, entrepreneurs, change-makers, the who's who in their fields. Yet, they all made time to be there. No excuses. No airs. Just warmth, laughter, and a deep sense of belonging. The bonhomie was palpable. The pride was quiet but unmistakable. People who hadn't met in decades picked up conversations as if they had never stopped. It didn't feel like an event — it felt like a family coming home.

As someone who designs loyalty programs for some of the world's biggest consumer brands, I



Vinay and Sunanda Chak revisit Tata House

found this profoundly humbling. Because no marketing budget, no CRM strategy, no reward tier can ever create what I witnessed last weekend.

This is not loyalty built on incentives — it's loyalty built on identity, shared experience, and emotion. It's not manufactured — it's lived. At its heart, loyalty is not transactional. It's tribal. It's about belonging.

Here's to the incredible Dosco community — a living example of what true, organic loyalty looks like. An inspiration for every marketer to try and emulate.

Paradise Revisited

The DSOBS Kashmir Golf Weekend

Nalin Khanna 563 H, 1980



Tee-off at Royal Springs, Srinagar
From L-R: Rajiv Vaidya, Girish Mehra, Nalin Khanna, Arjun Kapur, and Rajiv Nandan (269 K, 1971)

I approached this year's Kashmir Golf Weekend, August 22nd to 24th, with a degree of uncertainty. But as the days drew near, enthusiasm took over, and soon people were hopping onto flights bound for Srinagar.

The weekend started with a delightful evening at Hazaar Dastaan. The surroundings seemed lifted from a Bollywood film, with rooms opening out to the swimming pool and lawns of the complex. And with live Kashmiri music filling the air, it truly felt like stepping onto the set of *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*.

Golf the next morning teed off bang on time at Royal Springs Golf Course — except for the late 'chokers' being the youngsters: **Anubhav Agarwal (247 J, 2015)**, **Palash Kanwar (630 H, 2015)**, **Anant Mann (668 J, 2015)**, and **Udayan Sinha (673 H, 2015)**. Clearly, the dinner setting had tempted them into a longer evening than the rest. Despite the heavy rains in Kashmir prior to our arrival the course played reasonably well. Our Dosco Kashmiri pro, **Rajiv 'Bobby' Nanda (216 H, 1991)**, had briefed us well with all putts sloping to the Dal Lake. **Arjun Kapur (678 H, 1981)** found the course tight and was merrily picking up the odd apple with guidance from his caddie. Full credit to the partnership of **Girish Mehra (569 H, 1980)** and **Rajiv Vaidya (724 T, 1980)** who held the local duo



From R-L: Ashish Pant, Rohit Hari, Deepak Thakran, and Rahul Gupta

of **Naaji Shah (602 K, 2000)** and **Owais Altaf (456 O, 2006)** at bay. I suspect that Naaji and Owais were playing the perfect host and being generous in the strokes they gave their seniors.

Undoubtedly, the most enthusiastic group consisted of **Rohit Hari (583 K, 1988)**, **Ashish Pant (39 K, 1988)**, **Deepak Thakran (123 T, 1990)**, and **Rahul 'Chessy' Gupta (570 K, 1988)**. Their scorecard indicated that some of them had visited every site on the golf course, and they clearly relished the 18 holes. The youngsters showed their true skill with Anubhav shooting the best round of the day with a 6 over par (gross) and Anant playing a round of 11 over.



Lunch at Amar Singh Club

Lunch was flawlessly arranged at the historic Amar Singh Club. The local fare included *kanthi kabab* and *seekh kabab* cooked to perfection. Special prizes were given to Rajiv Vaidya and Rahul Gupta. Delightful gifts from Hands of Gold went to the ladies who adorned the Royal Springs, including Sonia Khanna, Chandni Gupta, and our own **Rachna Singh** from The DSOBS Office.



Dinner at Highlands Park hosted by Nalin Khanna

The crowd for Gulmarg left after the feast and a few of us made the detour to the sacred Baba Reshi Shrine. Dinner was at Highlands Park, where everyone gathered around the famous pit. It brought back memories of the 1970s and 1980s, when Doscors of yesteryear — including the Late **Gautam Khanna (37 K, 1939)**, Tishi Khanna, **Ashok Singh Malik (230 H, 1954)**, **Ashok Khanna (29 K, 1967)**, **Analjit Singh (132 J, 1971)**, **Sanjeev Mehra (359 J, 1975)**, **Dhruv Khanna (150 H, 1976)**, and many others — would hang out there. We were glad to carry the legacy forward, for it is this enduring spirit that makes The Doon School unique.

Heavy rain right through the night and morning made a few return back to Srinagar on Sunday. The Gulmarg diehards were treated to lunch and *kahva* at the Altaf home. The brave ones ventured

onto the Gulmarg Golf Course in the afternoon where the duo of Arjun Kapur and Girish Mehra finished all square against Rajiv Vaidya and yours truly in the ten holes that we played. No one cribbed as the ball flew an extra ten yards in the rarified environment. Sonia kept alive the tradition of Dosco mothers and wives playing golf in Gulmarg, once upheld by the Late Sita Rawley, Lili Khanna, Indu Chaudhri, Renu Puri, and others.



Tee-off at Gulmarg Golf Course
From L-R: Rajiv Vaidya, Girish Mehra, Nalin Khanna, and Arjun Kapur

It was a delight to be in Kashmir with Doscors, enjoying the countryside, the golf, and the mountains. The serenity was unmistakable, and as one participant summed it up: “Let’s keep it a secret and keep the crowds away!”

Nalin Khanna was the School Cricket Captain from the Batch of 1980 and has been a frequent visitor to Kashmir since the 1970s. Nalin was one of the early investors to set up a facility at the Dehradun IT Park, and runs an IT Services business there. He is currently the Vice President of the Dehradun IT Park Association.



The Kashmir Golf Weekend Group at Hazaar Dastaan, Srinagar

Debauched Just Turned Senior Citizens

The Batch of 1983 Turns 60

Kulbhushan 'Smiley' Batra 60 J, 1983



Batch of 1983 wearing Graphic Tees brought by Stumbo.

Standing (L-R): Po, Stumbo, Paddu, Ambuj, Hemant, Martand, Ranjit Malik, Ravibir, Wadala, Chole, Lale, Fifi, Babbar, Kaushik, Shanks, Kichlu, Mohie, Cow, Bhatta, Frisky, Gurreet, Smiley and Gooch.

Sitting (L-R): Viraj, Dai, BD, Fawhney, Naithani, Mayank, Mo and Maliah

The Batch of 1983 of The Doon School turned 60 this year. To commemorate the occasion, we decided to get together. Approximately a third of us made it for this momentous event.

Dates: August 6th-10th 2025

Venue: Goa

Routine in Goa: Breakfast, Booze, Lunch, Sleep, Booze, Dinner, Booze, Sleep...

The rest, they say, is history.

This is my attempt to give you snapshots of the

fantastic, joyous moments we had during this period. I have covered each attendee in the process.

Gurreet Singh (79 T, 1983), the man with a 'mun' (man bun), and his spouse walked in straight out of an FTV show.

Sanjay 'Wadala' Chawla's (61 K, 1983) bizarre sourcing and sizing of cloth for the T-shirts, which failed to fit anyone.

Rahul ‘Cow’ Cowasji’s (121 T, 1983) ability to drive the car as if he were on a runaway. FYI, he is an Air India pilot. Now, catch me taking a flight when he is in the air!

Hairy, out-of-shape bodies found in the pool, except for svelte **Basant Sharma (66 K, 1983)**.

Sarvjeet ‘Friksy’ Bindra’s (28 T, 1983) trip to the church when he refused to see the Taj Mahal when we had gone to Agra the year before. He had probably promised his wife to get her to the church on time...

Martand Singh’s (116 K, 1983) historical solo trips on his scooter, sending us the photos of the rules and regulations. Now we know where not to go.

Sanjeev ‘Gooch’ Sahni (109 J, 1983) shifting to the far end of the room on the floor because of **Rajeev Babbar’s (105 K, 1983)** snoring capabilities. They are our stalwarts from nearby Saharanpur.



Dinner hosted by Gurreet and his wife at their residence in Goa

Wadala’s singing talent and nightly concerts have now led to his wife wearing noise-cancelling headphones as he continues the practice at home as well.

Cow finishing the entire bottle of Tequila and **Rajat ‘Bhatta’ Bhattacharya (44 T, 1983)** driving him home with the hotel proprietor’s family heirloom glasses. Cow claimed the next morning that he doesn’t normally drink, which we found very hard to believe.

Arun ‘Mo’ Mahtani (58 T, 1983) was in the backseat of Cow’s Audi and freaking out with Bhatta driving after a couple of Negronis, and his navigator happened to be Cow.

The bus hired for our travel was hijacked by **Sanjoy ‘Po’ Roy (25 T, 1983)**, threatening the driver with his soiling capacity used as a weapon. **Ravibir ‘Poiret’ Singh (19 K, 1983)** quizzed the driver and solved the mystery of the culprit Johnny Po and his bus ride. This whodunit was being solved while he was also whispering sweet nothings into his wife’s ears. That is some multitasking after half a bottle down!

Mohieranjan ‘Mohie’ Patel (18 K, 1983) was our wonderful host in Goa. He is already planning a counterattack on Po for the January 2027 get-together, likely to be held in Kolkata. The choice of weapon is yet to be decided; he is hoping that Po hires a bus so he can take it back to Goa with him!

Shankar ‘Shanks’ Viswanathan (26 H, 1983) and partner claimed to be exploring the city of Goa on all days. I can’t wait for their article in the next *Architectural Digest*.

Hemant Agrawal (64 H, 1983) went and fetched “Bagvati” (either Gucci or Prada) for his better half. **Sunil ‘Chole’ Chawla (20 K, 1983)**, in his diabetic state, also fetched ice cream for his beloved. Chivalry is not dead, folks!

Sumant ‘Stumbo’ Dewan (47 H, 1983), as usual, excelled in his T-shirt manufacturing with a lovely message. He got his School Cap moment at the cake-cutting ceremony... until everybody stopped listening to him.

Sanjay Maliah (21 J, 1983) told a lovely story of **MIA Randeep Mann’s (48 J, 1983)** only Good Chit

in School, in addition to his usual potty stories. Our Pundits from Hyderabad House, **Rohit 'Paddu' Badhwar (11 H, 1983)** and **Viraj 'Birju Maharaj' Ranjan Chopra (14 H, 1983)**, gave us ample *gyaan* on spiritualism and the global geopolitical situation, respectively.



Cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate members of the Batch of 1983 turning senior citizens. (L-R) Mayank, Hemant, Wadala, Fawhney, Stumbo, Ravibir, Babbar, Ambuj, Gooch, Smily and Gurreet

Arun 'Fawhney' Sawhney (67 J, 1983) and **Manraj 'Fifi' Sadana (36 T, 1983)** got into some "f-illy" arguments (both prefer 'f' to the letter 's'). Fifi put his wife on the bus and travelled with the Chawlas in a taxi. They fought all night and his

better half didn't appear for breakfast. Fifi paid a hefty shopping bill that day!

Sanjay 'Lale' Agarwal (86 T, 1983) is now speaking great English as he has picked up the new DPS franchise for Dehradun.

Basant Raj 'Dai' Sharma (66 K, 1983) recently had cataract surgery, so he took our photograph with a double lens. One in his eye and the other in the camera!

Mayank Bhargava (27 T, 1983) quietly dropped in with his wife and disappeared. A little bit out of his gregarious character. I am waiting for his lovely photos to arrive.

Vivek "Nathu" Nathani (K House, 1983) dropped in for a night like he was undercover.

Vibhas Kichlu (24 T, 1983), as usual, was uncommunicative (wink, wink) and not himself. He twice asked me where we were and I had to repeat the occasion as well as the location. He also didn't sing this time and didn't live up to his reputation as School Music Captain.

Bipul 'BD' Bahadur Singh (3 K, 1984) did exactly what was instructed by Wadala: *seema mein raho*. Incidentally, his wife's name is Seema.



Batch of 1983 enjoying their lunch at the beach with their better halves

Charges against **Ambuj Kumar (95 T, 1983)** were dropped as the co-accused in the family heirloom heist when the culprit (Cow) was found at 4 am. He finally got some shuteye.

Kaushik Deva (102 J, 1983) eventually stopped dancing after breaking three glasses in one evening.

Hats off to **Ranjit Malik's (5 H, 1983)** son for being our mascot; the poor kid is still questioning his father as to what kind of school he went to.

Kulbhushan 'Smiley' Batra was, as usual, busy drinking and cracking his stupid PJs while his shopaholic wife delightfully depleted their common resources.

As we trudged back home in an alcoholic stupor and our bellies filled with Goan curries, I would sincerely like to thank the organisers Mohie, Ambuj, and Ravibir, and anybody I might have forgotten. I also thank the sponsors of the dinners

– Mo, Frisky, Bhatta, Fawhney, Chole, Lale, and Gurreet. Thanks for the lovely T-shirts, Stumbo. A special mention to my friend Wadala and his supplier, Lakhanpal, for making an effort to fit us all in unbelievable sizes. It's a gentle reminder for us to keep our weight in check. And, a very special thanks to the spouses who attended this adventure and who observed us from a distance with tolerant disdain.

I love spending time with you guys! I can't wait for our next drunken voyage!

Last, but certainly, not the least, on behalf of the Batch of 1983, we pay our solemn tribute, respect, and homage to the batchmates who are no longer with us: **Kamal Kant Singh (45 K, 1983)**, **Sumantra Deb (23 J, 1983)**, **Shantanu Jha (40 J, 1983)**, and **Vikrant Suri (111 J, 1983)**.

We may have lost you, but the bond we shared will never be lost.

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).

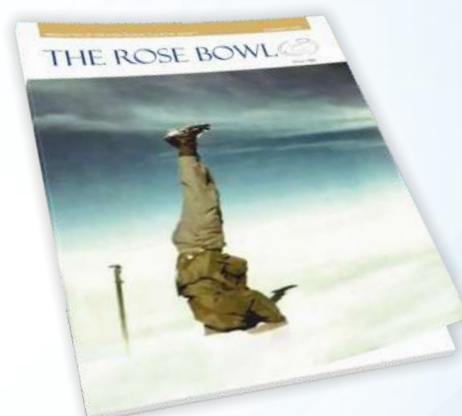
Of the 3,700 copies sent out, as many as 500 copies were returned undelivered.

A lot of blood and sweat goes into creating and sending this fine product out to our fellow Doscobes, who wait to read it passionately.

If Doscobes do not update their postal address with us, all of this time, effort, and money go to waste.

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

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



Please let us know!

WhatsApp: +91-98116-52456

Email: secretary@dsobs.net



CALLING ALL DOSCOS!

We are looking for you!

It's been over nearly a decade since The DSOBS Secretariat last updated The Dosco Record. In that time, many of you have changed jobs, moved cities (or countries!), and over 700 new Doscos have joined our fraternity.

We're now launching a fresh update of The DSOBS records and invite your participation to complete this important exercise. It's simpler than ever and takes just a few minutes. Your privacy is assured — all information shared will remain confidential and accessible only to The DSOBS Secretariat.

Keeping your details current allows us to stay connected, share alumni news and events, send you The Rose Bowl, and invite you to get involved in areas you're passionate about.

Scan the QR code or click the link below and do your bit for the Dosco community and help keep our records current!

Form Link: <https://zfrmz.in/hGbzn0MdaZRCxeauQUjg>



<https://zfrmz.in/hGbzn0MdaZRCxeauQUjg>

DSOBS Mentorship Programme 2026

Announcing The DSOBS Mentorship Programme 2026

Give the gift of your experience by being a Mentor to future generations of Doscos



PROGRAM DETAILS

Program Duration: April – September 2026

Mentoring Format: Sessions conducted over Google Meet at 7:30 PM IST

Location Flexibility: Be a Mentor from anywhere in the world

How to Apply

Email your LinkedIn profile/Resume, Batch year, School roll no. and House by **February 15th, 2026**.

CONTACT COORDINATORS

Himmat Rana himmatrana74@gmail.com
Batch 464 J, 1993

Chetan Aggarwal chetanaggarwal.power@gmail.com
Batch 568 T, 2007

Note: Mentors already in pool need not apply again.



Pradeep Ratnam, Karnikeya Budhwar, Ashish Mishra, and Arjun 'Bhupi' Singh Mann gearing up for their trek

Losing Your Mind and Finding Your Soul

The Tata House Batch of 1992 Midterms 32 Years in the Making

Pradeep 'Rat' Ratnam 334 T, 1992

Karnikeya 'Karne' Budhwar 335 T, 1992

Ashish 'Pandit' Mishra 338 T, 1992

Arjun 'Bhupi' Singh Mann 367 T, 1992

"If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere." — Frank A Clark

The prospect of trekking our way into our 50s was hatched during a chance encounter in a landscape in India, as far from the Himalayas in both distance and character as one could imagine. One fateful day in January 2024, in Mahabalipuram, two of us, **Karne** and **Rat**, literally ran headlong into each other while on holiday with our families. As we reminisced about our years in Doon (to the bemusement of our wives and embarrassed children), we came up with a rather mad proposal: a Tata House trek with some of our batchmates to

re-create midterms! Surely, we had lost our minds! Following the holiday, Karne pursued the scheme we hatched in our moment of insanity. He reached out to **Bhupi** about assembling a team. Bhupi, an outdoorsman with an undiminished penchant for adventure, road travel, and the Himalayas, did not need any further prodding. He contacted Himalayan Outback, an adventure company with a passion for curating personalised trekking and fishing adventures.



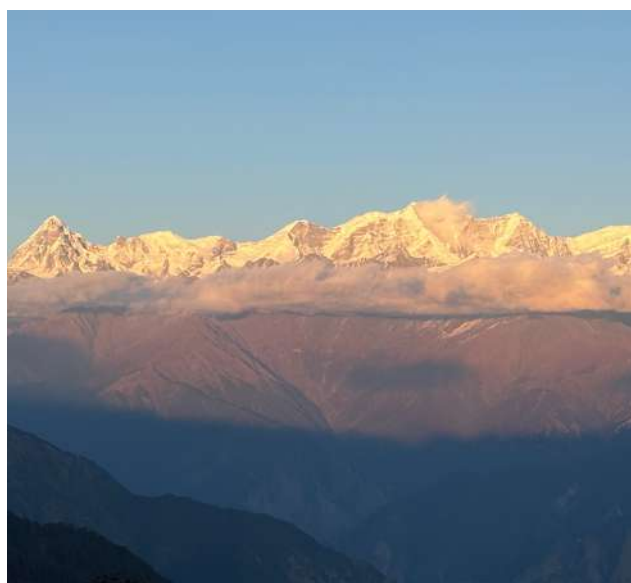
After a few days of canvassing various Dosco WhatsApp groups, the Avengers had assembled: Karne, **Pandit**, Rat, and, of course, our logistical backbone, Bhupi. Aware of our diminishing physical prowess after 32 years of leaving School, Bhupi wisely ruled out the more “hard out” suggestions (including one terrifying proposal to recreate a Duke’s Gold trek) in favour of a supposedly gentler climb: Dayara Bugyal in Uttarakhand, known for its stunning high-altitude vistas, serene meadows, and lush forests.

Our adventure began in Bhupi’s residence in Dalanwala, a familiar haunt for many of us from our school years. We were warmly welcomed by Bhupi’s family, Uncle Jagraj (**Jagraj Singh Mann, 4 T, 1961**), Aunty Aminder, and Amrita. A central figure was the Manns’ in-residence high priest Blackie Singh, a lumbering but affectionate Labrador. After a delightful dinner, we slept in our own rooms in warm beds. No dorm or room share on Night 1, we were reminded, so you might as well enjoy the last of it, as we were restless in anticipation of the road ahead.

Our phone alarms blared at 4:30 am on the morning of November 22nd, 2024, reviving memories of waking up in School. Bhupi pounded each of our doors, calling out, “Guys, *chhots* at 5, up...*up!*” Truly, the midterm had begun! We gathered, savouring hot tea and the prospect of a timely start. Karne kept our spirits up with his

incomparable banter and familiar discharge of vernacular expletives, defying his banker’s sheen. Bhupi, fired up and efficient, oversaw loading our luggage (including munchies from Amrita) and, before we knew it, we hit the road. Leading the charge was Pritam Singh, our sherpa, coordinator, and team leader from Himalayan Outback, in his SUV with our trekking gear.

With Bhupi on the wheel, we started from Dehradun for Uttarkashi, driving through the scenic Himalayan foothills, with gradual elevation, along hamlets, meandering rivers, and the unfolding magnificence of the post-monsoonal Doon Valley.



A scenic panorama of the Himalayas

We reached Uttarkashi in about six hours. The road zigzagged through picturesque valleys and tiny villages before reaching Barsu, our base camp. The village was about 7,100 feet above sea level and 170 kilometres from Dehradun. Our modest lodgings were surrounded by the majestic Gangotri range and its accompanying peaks — Srikanth, Jaonli, and Draupadi Ka Danda II. The view was simply magical, in sharp contrast to our urbane lives in Bangalore, Delhi, and Mumbai. We met the rest of the team from Himalayan Outback: Pritam Singh was joined by Gajendra Singh (fondly called Gajju Ji), Arvind Singh, Virender Kumar (Bittu Ji for us), Subodh Singh, Ritik Singh, and Amit Kumar.

After a quick tea break, we went on an acclimatisation trek, as Bittu ji and Pritam ji led us along gentle trails, showing us a variety of Himalayan birds amid stunning greenery and a dazzling sunset.

Day 1



The first climb, uphill the entire time, was arduous. Despite our sherpas' constant encouragement, we struggled against the gradient

After a good night's rest and a delectable English breakfast, we commenced our trek in earnest. The first climb, uphill the entire time, was arduous. Despite our sherpas' constant encouragement, we struggled against the gradient, accustomed as we were to our treadmills. With each step and gasp came the painful awareness that we were perhaps less fit than we had realised. We took breaks, deep breaths of recovery, and celebrated our progress with intermittent flourishes and drama at

an imaginary finish line. While Bhupi, Pandit, and Rat soldiered on valiantly, Karne annoyed us with his age-defying fitness as he scampered up the slopes without breaking a sweat. He later revealed that he kept up with trekking after School.

Barnala Camp, at 9,500 feet above sea level, was in a lush and peaceful glade, with grazing mountain mules and the rhythmic tinkling of their bells ("Very *DDLJ*, but better," as Rat noted with humour). After some rest and some hasty calls back home, we began to set up camp. We noted the infrastructural upgrade and contrast to our Spartan treks from School. Himalayan Outback provided us with state-of-the-art tents, air mattresses, imported sleeping bags intended for Siberian temperatures, a generous dining tent with a dining table, hot water bottles, a lavish washbasin with mirror and towel rack, and a couple of western-style chemical toilets that spared our fraying knees and hamstrings from a desi squat, much to the trekkers' relief. This certainly was a luxurious upgrade from our midterm treks in School.

Day 2

We were woken at the crack of dawn to *chai* and a visual treat: silhouetted snow-capped peaks gradually turning from grey to resplendent white against the golden backdrop of the rising sun. The meadows were icy, but we managed a stroll around a nearby lake and a temple before resuming our trek from Barnala Camp to Dayara Bugyal. Some hours into our climb, we encountered an unexpected lone shepherd's teashop serving delightful mountain tea, a welcome luxury after the morning climb. Refreshed, our sherpas (with a twinkle in their eyes) presented us with a choice between resuming our climb via an arduous ridge that promised scintillating views (if we braved a sharp ascent) or sticking to a trodden path of meadows and a gentler climb. Our mountaineers rasped and grimaced at our options (Ratnam perhaps let out a moan), but we decided to rise to the challenge. We climbed the ridge and earned ourselves a mesmerising view of the valley below. After lunch, we headed towards Devkund Top at 12,000 feet above sea level. Looking back at how far we had come, the views of the valley below grew increasingly staggering. Karne, our mountain goat, showed off by scaling Bakriya Top while the rest of us chose to wait where we were.



Using the PeakFinder app to identify the mountains in the skyline

The final stretch led to Dayara Bugyal. At 11,500 feet, this was paradise, and we were awestruck by the desolate, high-altitude meadows, stretching for miles, and by the surrounding giant peaks. We reached the camp by late afternoon, in an idyllic, serene flat alcove in the high Himalayas, with a view of the setting sun and the mountains. We used the PeakFinder app to identify the mountains in the skyline, and we felt that it would really impress our old teachers, like **Mr Phillip Burrett (PBR)** and **Mr Sudesh Biala (SCB)**.

Day 3

We emerged to a frosty morning, sheets of ice on our tents, and whitened grass – a precursor to imminent snowfall. It was bitterly cold with a biting wind blowing across the meadows.

After breakfast, we embarked on the most challenging course of the trek – Surya Top, the very crest of Dayara Bugyal. As we walked, the grasslands led to rocky trails, and we traversed patches of fresh snow. After what felt like an eternity of climbing, we reached Surya Top at 12,800 feet, with panoramic vistas of Bandarpunch, the Gangotri Range, and Swargarohini. A nondescript shrine and fluttering flag marked the top. Undoubtedly, Surya Top was the high point of our trek.

We descended, relieved and exhausted. Some of us were mildly nauseated, possibly due to a lack of oxygen and our relatively rapid ascent. The route down to Sayari Camp was steep and took three hours. Our bodies may have started to crumble with the strain of the last few days, but we lumbered (hobbled?) down to lower altitudes and a return to canopied forests, buzzing with birds and numerous gurgling streams. The last stretch to Sayari Camp was rocky, but arriving at the campsite in the quiet of the forest, it all seemed worth it. In our first brush with loud civilisation in three days, a group of (seemingly young) trekkers

had set up camp nearby, their boisterous exchanges reverberating across the mountains and somewhat reminiscent of our larger midterm groups at Doon.

Day 4



Relaxing by an evening bonfire

This day started with a happy coincidence in the wilderness. Pandit ran into an old friend of his from Scindia School, Jagdeep Joshi, who was also climbing Surya Top. The day's trek started at Sayari Camp and ended at Fithchkeya Camp. This was a much easier leg, consisting of a steady, pleasant descent through thick trees with occasional clearings or meadows. Approaching the camp, we caught another glimpse of Bandarpunch and the Gangotri Range. Fithchkeya Camp at 9,700 feet offered a forest clearing, a picturesque stream, and a couple of hours of golden sunlight to soak before an evening bonfire to savour. As we sat together sipping our well-deserved whisky, our porters alerted us to leopard sightings in the vicinity, herding their tinkling mules into safe clusters in our vicinity, as fire would keep Bagheera away.

Day 5

The last day of the trek was a bittersweet experience. The trek from Fithchkeya Camp to Barsu was a gentle descent through thick forests and small villages. The day was comfortable in contrast and a peaceful conclusion to our Himalayan adventure.

In Barsu, we met the Himalayan Outback team and their families before driving back to Dehradun, filled with memories and reflections and deep thankfulness for rekindling our bond with the mountains and, importantly, with each other.

As rightly summed up in a quote from my youth: "And into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul."

Sanjai Banerji's Historical Manga Brings Indian Heritage to the Global Stage

From *The Rose Bowl* Editors



Sanjai Banerji (left) at the Hyderabad Comic-Con

Author and avid mountaineer **Mr Sanjai Banerji (387 H, 1976)** unveiled *Tagdu and the Wrath of the Serpents*, India's first historical *manga*, at the 2025 Hyderabad Comic Con. A pioneering work that blends India's rich cultural heritage with the dynamic style of Japanese *manga*.

"The experience was mind-blowing," Banerji shared, "competing with the best *manga* comics Japan had to offer, the Ukiyoto Publishing stall sold nearly 80 personalised copies during the three-day event!"

Tagdu and the Wrath of the Serpents was created in the true manga format, read right to left, with

black-and-white panels and stylised characters. Banerji's innovative creation shares India's rich ancient heritage through a new storytelling medium. His work is set during Emperor Ashoka's reign in the 3rd century BC. The story follows Tagdu, a humble young stone carver from ancient Vidisha, as he rises to defend his people from Nagani, a serpent queen driven by vengeance and immortal fury, and her sinister servant Sage Jaratkaru. A richly drawn cast of characters, including Princess Prajnavati, King of Sanchi, Shyena the talking eagle, the warrior Senapati with his magic sword, and the Buddhist priest Acharya Sumedha, and a unique Indian-flavoured philosophical narrative make Tagdu stand apart

The *manga* genre is a global phenomenon, with the unique Japanese art form famous for its expressive black-and-white illustrations and characters, and its back-to-front reading order. The word *manga* literally means “fancy pictures,” and the tradition traces its roots back to 12th-century Japanese scrolls. It underwent an artistic renaissance post-World War II when creators like Osamu Tezuka, often called the “God of Manga”, revolutionised storytelling through seminal works like *Astro Boy* and *Kimba the White Lion*. Over the decades, *manga* has evolved into genres spanning action, fantasy, romance, history, and philosophy, and has even spread to similar forms in Korea (*manhwa*) and China (*manhua*). Today, you are probably more familiar with the many anime that popular *manga* have spawned, such as *Naruto*, *Dragon Ball*, and *One Piece*.



from its Japanese counterparts. It draws deeply on India's history, spirituality, and moral ethos, pioneering the genre of Indian historical manga.

From Mountains to Mangaka: a Dosco's Journey

Sanjay Banerji, now 65, is still in some ways a restless, wide-eyed schoolboy. He says his interests in later years, long-distance running, writing, and mountaineering, all stem from his formative years at Chandbagh. He also left behind a senior cross-country record set in 1975 that stood unbroken for 28 years. And he doesn't seem to have slowed down in the decades since.

Four years ago, at 61, Banerji became the oldest person to complete India's Basic Mountaineering Course at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports in Manali. And just last year, he defied four significant medical conditions and summited Mount Kilimanjaro's Uhuru Peak, the highest point on the African continent.

His creative output has been equally prolific. Following his success with three fitness books, *Crossing the Finish Line*, *The Mountaineering Handbook*, and *Nobody Dies Tonight*, published

during and after the pandemic, he turned to fiction with his novel *Justice on the Hills*, published by Ukiyoto, which fictionalises the dramatic formation of Gorkhaland. Between November 2023 and November 2025, Banerji authored short stories in 23 anthologies, exploring genres such as humour, romance, mystery, adventure, philosophy, mythology, war, and espionage. Two of these stories, *Tagdu and the Curse of Nagani* and *Tagdu and the Rise of the Serpent Sage*, were published in *Hanashi* and *Hanashi Returns*, Ukiyoto's collections of *manga*-style stories. They caught the eye of Arjun Chowdhary, Director of Ukiyoto Publishing, who helped adapt them into a *manga*.

The inspiration for *Tagdu* emerged from observing Parental Advisory disclaimers recommending that modern *manga* are considered unsuitable for young children. Having grown up reading an eclectic collection of comics and classics, especially in his early childhood, Banerji decided to create a manga to teach children about India's geography, culture, and rich heritage.

Incorporating the traditional *manga* aesthetic while framing a uniquely Indian cultural milieu proved challenging. Banerji decided that the Indian characters did not fully suit traditional *manga*



Tagdu and the Wrath of the Serpents draws deeply on India's history, spirituality, and moral ethos, pioneering the genre of Indian historical manga

styles and developed a drawing style that better matched his vision. Technical matters demanded equal attention. The back-to-front reading format, standard for *manga*, required careful implementation. The final result was a polished, authentic work that honoured both the visual conventions of *manga* and the narrative richness of Indian storytelling.

"Through Tagdu's story, I wanted to bring India's voice to the global *manga* stage," said Banerji.

The Dosco community has also responded warmly to Banerji's latest work. Fellow alumni from Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Gurgaon, and Lonavala placed orders for signed copies within just one week of the Comic Con launch. **Sudhir Raina (3 J, 1973)** notified the online Dosco alumni



Having grown up reading an eclectic collection of comics and classics, especially in his early childhood, Sanjai Banerji decided to create a manga to teach children about India's geography, culture, and rich heritage

network about *Tagdu*, and **Jehangir Chinoy (527 J, 2007)** enthusiastically introduced the comic to the Hyderabad Dosco community in the wake of the comic con.

Looking ahead, Banerji's creative journey shows no signs of slowing. He is actively working on a sequel to *Tagdu* designed for small children, young adults, and, in the author's own words, "anyone with a child residing within them."

The comic is now available on Amazon and Ukiyoto Publishing portals, making it accessible to readers across India and beyond. Signed copies of 'Tagdu and the Wrath of the Serpents' are available for delivery across India. Reach out to the author for further details on WhatsApp or through The DSOBS Secretariat.



Courtesy Pratik Basu (442 T, 1993)

Fiction

Sparkling Water

Kowkab Naim 518 K, 2006



Kowkab Naim

I tried to open my eyes but all I could see was a haze, like trying to see through a thick fog in cold Delhi winter nights. Delhi, I thought to myself, I know the city, but I don't remember who I am...or where I am.

My hands felt weak, I could not feel my legs and only faint whispering echoes I heard. Delhi in the cold winter nights, the quaint streets of Connaught Place and the late night food runs to Old Delhi. I know this city, but who am I? A cold touch on my hand made my fingers move in a reflex and my thoughts wisped away, plunged back into the thick white haze, though this time I could see some silhouettes and heard an endless percussion of whispers. "Kowkab" pierced a voice through the whispers, I knew that was my name. Strange thing a person's name is. You are called by all manner of names in your life, your loved ones have a name for you, your friends have another name for you and names given by people who despise you. Yet your true name shares a link with your soul, for it is how you address yourself. That's how I knew it was my name because of how my mind reacted to

it, like how a parched throat feels to fresh cool water.

I concentrated through the white blanket that clouded my vision and could see a few people standing around me, one who sat next to me repeated my name again. I noticed white lights flooding the room but the veil was growing thinner and some details that were absent before started to take shape. Am I dead? is this heaven? I thought to myself, no sooner had I had this thought I dismissed it because of the window I saw. Now I don't refute that the afterlife is devoid of windows but its what lay outside the said window that I saw that all my deductions of being in afterlife died. Traffic sprawled across till where my newly discovered eyes could see. If there is traffic in the afterlife, then indeed the creator has some answering for.

"Kowkab" I brought my focus to the lady in the white coat who now stood close to my bed. She was clearly a nurse and this was definitely a hospital, a hospital in Delhi nonetheless. I know this city, but how did I end up here? There were still some gaps in my memories, most of my memory was a gap but I was not worried as something told me that it will come back to me. I asked the nurse about how I ended up in a hospital and she told me that I was in an accident and that I had passed out for 3 days. "What sort of an accident?" I asked, "I dont remember." "It was a freak accident" she explained, "You were at the Jumbo Jumbo Restaurant, and someone had ordered their signature Jumbo Jumbo Thali, the one that is brought out by 4 people on their shoulders on one huge platter. One of the waiters lost his balance and the Jumbo Jumbo Thali fell on your head. The Restaurant was most kind to bring you here in no time. They have also given you a voucher for 6 Jumbo Jumbo Thali's that is free of charge that you can avail within the next 6 months." A mix of emotions ran through my head, or maybe crawled through my head, leading this crawl was anguish with despair as its close second. I asked for something to drink, and I was quickly handed a bottle of water, after I took a sip,

it turned out to be sparkling water. Oddly, I smacked my lips a few times to be sure if the beverage was indeed sparkling water and sure enough it was. I asked the nurse if it was sparkling water and everyone including the background characters who I had not conversed with till now started to laugh.

My perplexity must have been visible as they stopped tittering and started to look at each other. I took another sip and my audience, as if on the edge of a seat while watching a thriller glued their eyes on my response. I smacked my lips a second time to and rolled my tongue while trying to study the label of the bottle to give way to its true nature. "Sparkling Bottled Water for a Sparkling You" was boldly printed on the front. I asked my audience if I could have some still water and a mighty gasp in unison is all I heard. I could've asked them for their first born and would not have expected this reaction on asking for normal water. This request was by a patient who had been hit on the head by the Jumbo Jumbo Thali, who slept for 3 days straight and somehow came back from the nether world and only wanted still water to drink. One man who was closest to the door quickly exited the room, and now it was only a matter of minutes till I could taste some still water for the gentleman left in such haste. I did not think still water was so controversial until he showed up with a senior doctor who looked more like a wizard. Receded hairline, white beard and a pointy nose. He asked me what the problem was, I glanced around the room expecting someone to present my case but there was only silence. I told the doctor that there is no problem, my muscles feel weak, my mind is fuzzy and my memories are – when he interjected sharply, "Mister, what is the problem with the water?" "The Water?" I replied, "no problem, I just prefer still water to sparkling." There was visible discomfort amongst their faces and the wizard doctor asked me furiously – "Where are you from? Are you from Neo Delhi?" he went ahead and started to scold the staff for being more careful with patients next time. I told him I did not know what Neo Delhi was, but Delhi I knew. I know that city. There was some relief on their faces and the doctor told the staff to keep me confined to the room at all times until further notice. He was making his way out of my room when I asked – "Excuse me doctor?" The doctor stopped in his tracks and looked back and replied "Yes?" I went ahead and questioned "Can I get some still water please?" The doctor thundered his way to me and

grabbed me by my collars (which till now I didn't know I had) and bellowed "THIS IS DELHI! WE DONT HAVE THAT TRASH HERE! IF YOU WANT THAT GO TO NEO DELHI! PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE THE REASON OUR CULTURE HAS BEEN DESTROYED!" he stormed out which seemed to be kindness on his part. I lay on my bed, looked at the bottle of Sparkling Bottled Water for a Sparkling You and wondered that I must have got hit on my head very hard.

A few hours passed and a cleaner visited my room, I could hear her open the door to my room which seemed to have been locked with a key from outside. She looked at me how I imagine a cleaner at the zoo must be looking at the encaged animals when its their shift to clean the enclosure. She avoided the bed area and quickly mopped the entry foyer of the room and while maintaining maximum distance pushed the mop inwards in the room. No effort was made to actually mop the room and she exited almost immediately. The nurse came back in and asked me if I remembered anything else. Some memory was coming back to me but it was like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle and in no particular order. I remembered Karim's restaurant in Old Delhi, a car with some blurred faces, a rooftop with some bad singing but these were difficult to explain. I told her that bits and pieces are coming back to me but nothing important. She assured me that with time I will be able to remember everything and that I should take comfort in that. I kept the bottle of sparkling water on the table and after some moments of silence I said – "You know nurse, its not that I hate sparkling water, I just prefer still water. I dont know what happened earlier." The nurse looked at the bottle for a while and said – "You dont remember the great divide, your memory is still filling in the blanks. Give it time, it will come to you." The great divide sounded like a track from one of the Linkin Park albums. Linkin Park, I remembered the music band and a faint whisper of a song which was maybe being played in the car with those 3-4 blurred faces. I asked the nurse what the great divide was and she looked at me and then looked outside the window, she got up and stood next to the window, peering outside. She finally spoke after taking a few minutes to collect her thoughts or maybe herself – "The great divide happened a few years ago when those who liked sparkling water wanted that all restaurants serve sparkling water along side still water. This made the people who preferred still water very mad. Very soon

there were protests by both sides against the other. The still water supporters said that those who drink sparkling water are actually demons disguised as humans while those who liked sparkling water said that it is the still water drinkers who are in reality savages from the past who never evolved to be modern and thus are archaic in thought, customs and generally in life. Protests turned into riots and each group believed themselves to be in the right and this justified their fratricide.

Restaurants that served still water were targeted by those who had a taste for sparkling water and the restaurants that served sparkling water were burnt down by those who liked still water. The few who tried to serve both sparkling water and still water were burnt down by both factions. There came a time when there was no restaurant left only ashes and embers. Until the city was divided into Delhi and Neo Delhi. Restaurants in Delhi only serve sparkling water, for only the drinkers of sparkling water may reside here and Neo Delhi only for the still water savages.

The sound of frantic knocking interrupted the nurse and I could hear some commotion outside my door. The nurse opened the door and a face came charging in. It was a peculiar face, a face that

looked like it could have had an IQ of 147 why I thought of that I had no clue. He explained to the Nurse that I was his family in some garden villa apartments in the Sparkling Water community of Sainik Farms. Having no clue of what it was he spoke of I nodded as he presented to the nurse my ID card. The nurse looked at it and after a thorough check agreed and told me that I could prepare for discharge but that I would have to come for a regular checkup. The face of this person who came to bail me seemed to be like one of the 3-4 faces from the fragments of memories that I was getting back.

I sat with him in the car as he muttered something under his breath and looked outside the window as we drove by the streets of Delhi. I know this city, but something was different. The trees were the same but the air moved unusually, the roads were the same but the cars moved differently, the sky was the same but the people moved differently. Linkin Park played through the stereo of the car, we laughed.

Kowkab Naim is a critically acclaimed writer as per his cat, who shows a lot of interest in his storytelling. He lives in Noida with his wife and parents.

Join *The Rose Bowl* Crew!

We're always looking for alumni interested in helping out in various capacities with crafting The Rose Bowl. Please get in touch if any of the roles appeal to you, or if you'd like to contribute in some other way.

Assistant Editors

Writers and storytellers craft op-eds, school memories, and feature pieces, edit stories from Old Boys, conduct interviews with distinguished alumni, and proofread sections of the newsletter.

Sub-Editors

Coordinate with DSOBS regional and batch reps, source alumni updates, curate stories from social media and the web, edit articles, assist with story sourcing, and chase leads and stories.

Cartoonist/Illustrator

Create original artwork: cartoons, cover designs, and story illustrations (*Important: Must be ready to draw Dosco penguins!-Ed*).

Photo Editor/Contributor

Source and curate photographs from alumni worldwide, collaborate with the School archives, and help manage the DSOBS photo repository.

Social Media Editor

Curate engaging content from Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp, highlight OB milestones, and share updates from the DSOBS community. Manage The Rose Bowl's social media accounts and strategy.

Please reach out to the Editorial Board if you're interested.

WhatsApp: +91 9569706604

Email: editorrosebowl@gmail.com

Tributes



Rajiv Lal 264 H, 1969

Remembering My Friend Rajiv 'Dinky' 'Lalle' 'Kya Karein' Lal (264 H, 1969)

R Vijit Singh (187 H, 1969)

*"Those were the days, my friend
We thought they'd never end
We'd sing and dance forever and a day (in H house
Common Room!)
We'd live the life we choose,
We'd fight and never lose
For we were young and sure
to have our way...."*
(Mary Hopkins/Those Were the Days /1968)

He was known by many names, but to me, he was my friend and brother from another mother. We were inseparable from 1964, and because of our similar height (he was a smidge taller than me then), it led to a shared identity: 'The unidentical twins!'

He always claimed (and was proud of) his Pathan ancestry, and I would pull his leg about him being the shortest Pathan I knew. Meeting many years after school, the joke was on me, as he towered head and shoulders over me in height. He had become the Pathan he always knew he was.

Mr Mela Ram found us loitering on a winter afternoon in 1965, coming up from the Main Building toward the old Art School and Photo Darkroom. The photograph he

took of us, when Rajiv was 11 and I was 12, immortalised our friendship. It always brings back many memories of a bond forged in laughter and countless shared experiences as we grew up, roommates in Chandbagh in the same (Hyderabad) House. This was important as our pre-occupation with (and access to) food and tuck was a shared obsession!

We used to haunt the school library on Sunday afternoons to read the Illustrated Weekly and delve into Sears catalogues, for their latest photographs of jeans, specifically Wranglers and Levi's! We read voraciously in those years, introducing authors to each other. He was reading Paul Gallico and I Somerset Maugham, and both of us read all of Ernest Hemingway's offerings. On the lighter side, PG Wodehouse and Billy Bunter were always good for a laugh.

Scavenging for guavas required a particular skill. The science of assessing with the naked eye if each fruit targeted was GRE (guava ready to eat), and then executing the art of knocking them down from trees with carefully-aimed stones, as not to break windows or to land on a passing Master (a guaranteed yellow card offence and an invitation to the HM's office)! As a team



(L-R): Vijit (12 years) and Dinky (11 years) 1965 / Melaram

we excelled, and most importantly, never got caught!

Dinky was an eternal glass-half-full optimist, which informed his attitude towards people and situations. Cases in point involved:

An 'eccentric' Master in whose class we feared for life and limb, as projectiles in the form of chalk, blackboard duster and protractors rained down on all those present. Since we were generally unscathed, Dinky treated this as a survival adventure experience that kept us alert! A lunatic prefect who led a team of co-conspirators to strip the beds of all juniors and subject us to a punishment that included crawling on elbows and knees (50 feet on bajri in the H-house quad), in an extreme stress position (holding both ears with our fingers). This infamous leopard crawl (as it later came to be known) ended in disaster, as there was broken glass in our path of travel. Several of us ended up in the hospital with bleeding elbows and blisters. The prefect was 'de-badged,' and those who acted with him were punished. As Dinky wryly noted, one down...who will be next?!

We both had younger sisters and, looking back, it was unusual that (in our pre-teens) we even talked about them in school. His care and concern about Deepa's welfare came through in letters to and from his parents, which he shared with me. As the older sibling, he always felt responsible.

Beneath the happy-go-lucky, sunny, 'kya karein' exterior, Dinky was a generous, compassionate human who would give the shirt off his back to help another. Not many people know this, but my home then (on a front-line fighter aircraft base in Punjab) was destroyed by a bomb in the Indo-Pak war while we were in school.

When (11-year-old) Dinky heard this, he got in touch with his parents to ask if my family could come and stay with them. He always cared about his friends and never forgot them or left them behind in their hardship.

On his 69th Birthday in 2023, I requested his family to read to him my reminiscences I had sent to cheer him up (excerpted below from **Invictus 2023**, May 14):

*When in school with a sincere drool
Pushed aside those friends who were fake
Always first to generously sample my double chocolate birthday cake!*

*Sparring with each other
My beloved brother from another Mother...
You opined: you were taller, younger, smarter, better looking... another contrarian hard to find!
Before it goes to your head
Three out of four ain't bad, it should be said.
Lovely reliving halcyon days of yore
Besides, we (you & I) have so much, much more in store.*

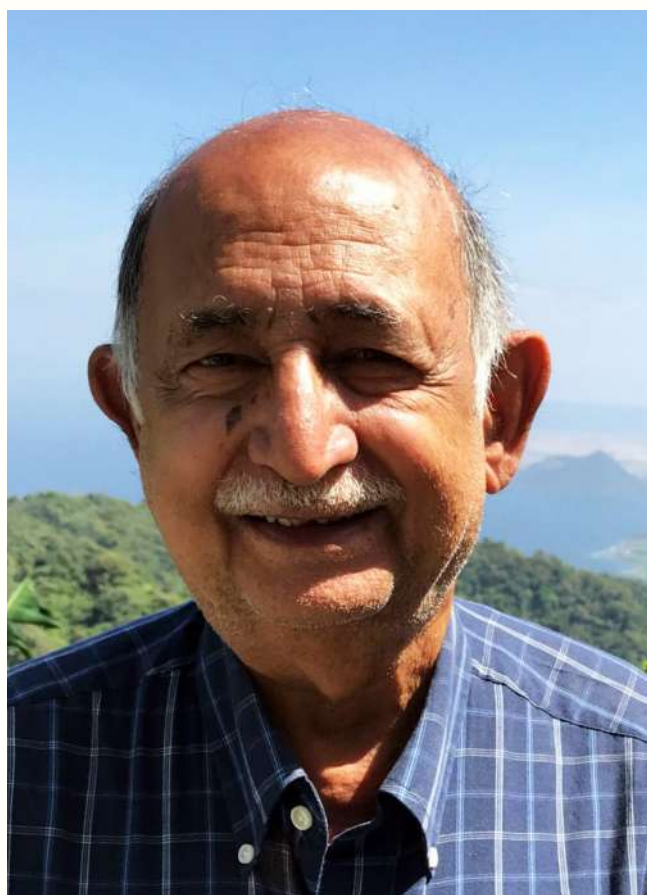
*As we got older
Your courage has made me bolder
With making choices in the time we have to spend.
I am privileged my brother to call you
Without equivocation, my best school friend
Of life to live & challenges even now to reach.
Remember for us it is always one for all and all for
Once more into the breach...Invictus.*

God bless, Godspeed.

Madhusudan Misra (150 J, 1958)

Remembering his tenure at The Doon School

Cherry Misra



Madhusudan Misra 150 J, 1958

Within days of his passing, I felt compelled to write because The Doon School was such an important part of Madhu's life, character, and personality. His memories of activities there and the friendships he made were precious to him.

I myself have a deep and lasting interest in education, so it seems natural to write about a school that had such an impact on its students. Early on, I was not a great friend of boarding schools, but that changed as Madhu and I attended reunions and Founder's Days. I noticed the great fondness the Old Boys showed for

the school — the happy memories, stories of eccentric teachers, and friendships that endure to this day. I heard accounts of individual boys who excelled in all areas of school life, not just studies.

I contrasted this with my memory of visiting another boarding school, where management focused on nice bedrooms but seemed to show no particular interest in any particular student. The boys were simply "the boys" to them — a commodity. No individual child seemed appreciated. Children have a deep awareness of attitudes toward them, and such attitudes cannot foster happiness, confidence, or the desire to learn. Madhu considered himself a devout Hindu, so I hope he experiences reincarnation as another little boy attending The Doon School. Thank you, Doon, for the respect, care, and encouragement you give to your students; for the wide range of activities you provide; and for the able, sincere teachers you chose — not just for Madhu, but for all who walked your corridors, paths, and desks. May a thousand new Doons flourish like the banyan trees beside village ponds.

I will remember him as a man without ego Sushil Dubey (30 T, 1956)

Madhu was a gentleman of the old school. I first encountered him on the hockey field during an inter-house match. Many years later, both our children attended "Shishu Van," the highly sought-after kindergarten that Cherry had started, and our families became close friends.

Madhu and Cherry's daughters are highly successful professionals — one a neonatologist in the San Francisco Bay Area, the other a clinical psychologist in Delhi. I remember Madhu constantly travelling to remote areas, staying in insalubrious places as he set up one factory after another. This eventually took a toll on his health.

Most of all, I will remember him as a man without ego. My condolences to Cherry, Sonia, and Gayatri.

A Journalism Pioneer

Subrata N Chakravarty 341 J, 1962

Kabir Seth 199 J, 1962



Subrata N Chakravarty 341 J, 1962

It was with profound regret that I learned about the sad demise of my classmate **Subrata N Chakravarty** in New York, USA, on February 1st, just a few days before his 78th birthday (which would have been February 21st).

After School, Subrata went to the United States and graduated from Yale University in 1969 and the Harvard Business School in 1971. He joined Forbes Magazine and became an Associate Managing Editor. He was an honoured mentor for many people and helped found the South Asian Journalist Association of New York in 2007, which grew to include journalists from all over the USA.

Subrata returned to India for a few years to care for his mother after his father, Birendra Narayan Chakraborty, died while serving as Governor of Haryana (from September 15th 1967 until his death in office on March 26th 1976, aged 71). While in India, Subrata worked at Goodyear for those few years.

After his stint with Goodyear in India, he returned to the USA where he worked as a freelance journalist.

He is survived by his wife, Bess, and his two daughters, Joya and Anjali.

He was a dear friend.

A Cheerful Disposition and Sense of Humour

Daman 'Tutu' Raj Singh 315 T, 1963

Nitan Kapoor 151 J, 1966

The very sad news of **Daman Raj Singh** passing away in February this year was a shock to his family and friends. Even though he was suffering from health issues, Daman remained cheerful till the very end. He is survived by his wife Lynda, his two children Neel and Tara, and his brothers **Jasraj Singh (315 T, 1970)** and **Anraj Singh (307 T, 1974)**.

Tutu, as he was fondly referred to, was three years my senior at School so our friendship was nurtured much later during my years in London, UK. Apart from the three-year gap and that he was from Tata House and me from Jaipur House, we shared a close friendship. We both qualified as accountants from The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW),



Daman 'Tutu' Raj Singh 315 T, 1963

London, which explains our overlapping years in the UK. At that point of time, I was staying at the International Student House (ISH) and Tutu was employed as the Chief Accountant at the White House Hotel which was a stone's throw away. I often took my wife Abha to White House for a treat of Welsh rarebit – Tutu kindly accorded us a friends and family discount which was most welcome in those early years.

I was running an import and distribution business of contemporary rugs in the UK. This took me often to Birmingham where all the trade fairs were held. Tutu was also based in Birmingham so we met often. Both Lynda and Tutu would visit my stand and we would go out for a meal after the show ended. One particular restaurant we visited many times was Jimmy Spices, a fun venue owned by a very interesting Indian sardarji. The unique selling proposition (USP) of this restaurant was that it served multiple cuisines including Indian, Chinese, Thai, Japanese, Persian, and Lebanese – all under one roof!

It was common for trainee accountants to try their luck at the casino and Tutu and I were no exceptions. Back in the day, the Playboy Club on Park Lane was the

preferred choice of casinos. The gaming laws in those days were not that stringent, so Playboy Club would roll out the red carpet to us young aspiring gamblers! Apart from a complimentary ride in one of their fully-fitted limousines, they offered us a free lunch and dinner as well. It is another story that eventually Playboy Club lost its gaming licence as they were soliciting the young and ambitious. It is a closely guarded secret that Tutu held a record of spending three days and two nights continuously at the Playboy Club... what stamina! Incidentally, we all lost – the house never loses.

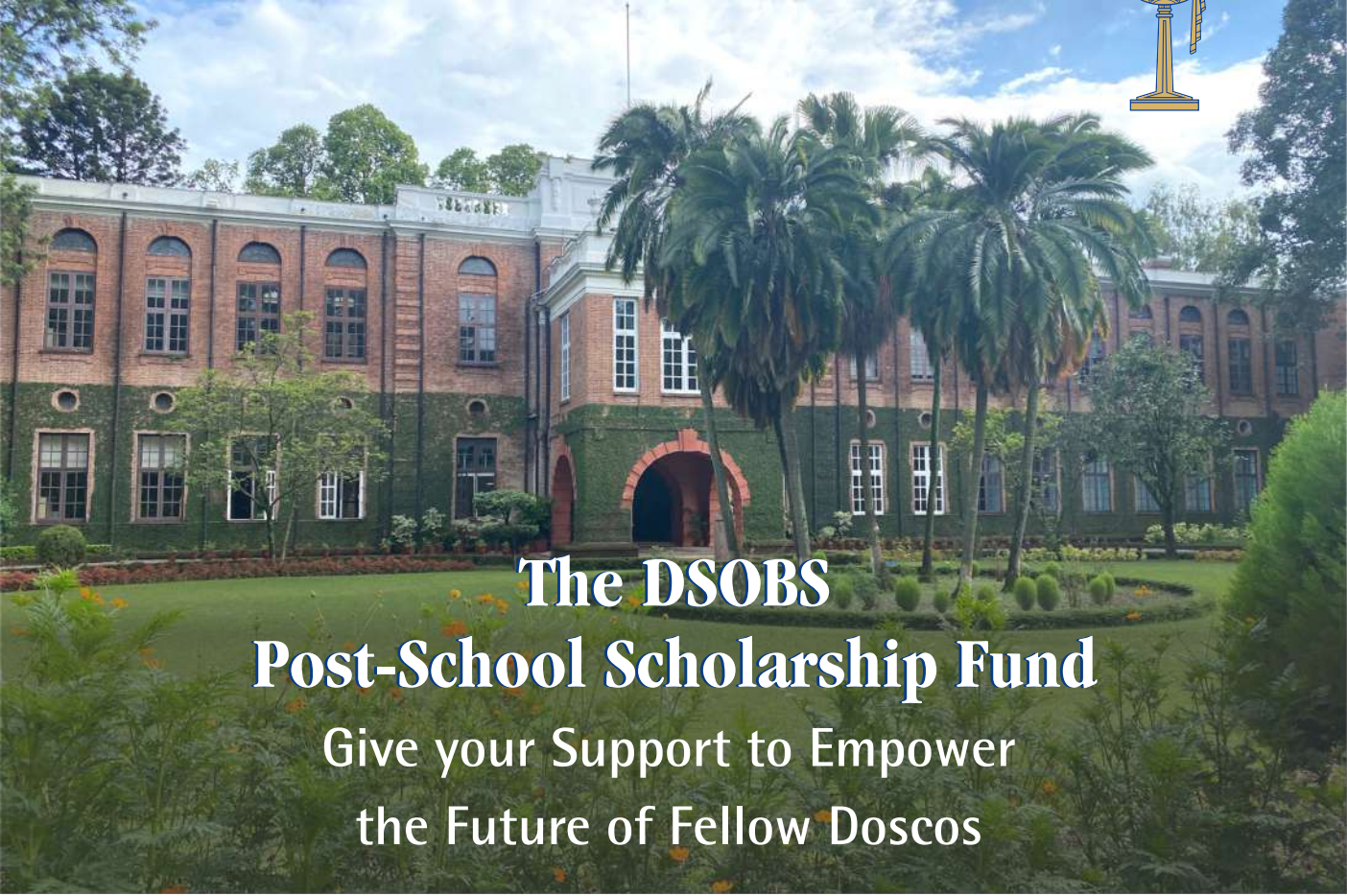


From L-R: Pramod Luthra, Daman 'Tutu' Raj Singh, Vijay Thapar, Nitán Kapoor, and Deepak Dhawan, 2024

After a long gap of some 15 years, I caught up again with Tutu on my multiple trips to the UK in the millennium. We would meet every summer at a Dosco get-together or in Birmingham. When a few of us happened to be in London we would request Tutu to make the trip and join us for lunch, mainly at Royal China on Baker Street. The last time I met Tutu was in the summer of 2024. We enjoyed a Chinese lunch together with Vijay Thapar (295 J, 1964), Deepak Dhawan (377 T, 1963), and Pramod Luthra (381 K, 1963). Essentially, it was a Batch of 1963 get-together to which I was invited.

Tutu's career graph was exceptional. After his stint as chief accountant at the White House Hotel, he was appointed as Development Accounting Manager at Rank Hotels, and then Head, Computer Services. Later, he was Divisional Director of Management Services at Kenning Motor Group. He was a well respected financial personality in the UK hospitality segment.

My trips to the UK will never be the same as one void will remain – Tutu's smiling face. His cheerful disposition and sense of humour will be greatly missed. RIP, my dear friend!



The DSOBS Post-School Scholarship Fund

Give your Support to Empower the Future of Fellow DoscOs

The Doon School Old Boys' Society is committed to supporting our fellow DoscOs who studied at The Doon School.

After Chandbagh, DoscOs pass out from School aspiring to gain admission to the best colleges and universities. The ever-increasing costs of attending college is a huge challenge.

This is where The DSOBS steps in and provides financial support to enable our students to attend college. The DSOBS Post-School Scholarship Fund has been established to help these bright and deserving students pursue their college education in India.

A dedicated fund, **The DSOBS Scholar's Program**, has been created to provide financial support to see these DoscOs through their college education. We need the support of the fraternity in the form of donations towards the corpus of this dedicated fund.

Why Your Donation Matters

Ensure Continuity: Help fellow DoscOs continue their academic journey without financial burdens.

Promote Excellence: Your support will empower fellow DoscOs to achieve their dreams and go on to make significant contributions to society.

How You Can Help

Donate: Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference.

Spread the Word: Share our mission with friends, family, and colleagues who might be willing to support this noble cause.

To support your fellow DoscOs, we request you to donate generously to **The DSOBS Scholar's Programme**.

Get Involved: Join us in raising funds for a good cause.

All donations qualify for income tax benefits U/s 80(G).

Please support this important cause. We, as DoscOs, must step up to help our own.

For more information please contact The DSOBS Secretariat at secretary@dsobs.net

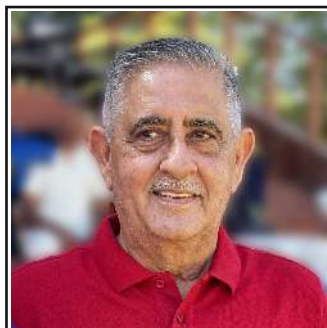
In Memoriam



With deep regret, we inform you of the passing of **Arunachalam Vellayan (87 T, 1968)** on November 17th. A proud Dosco whose life was marked by dedication and service, he leaves behind a legacy of warmth and integrity. Our heartfelt condolences to all members of the family and the Dosco fraternity.



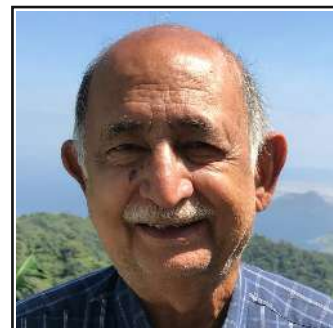
With profound grief, we inform you of the passing of **Chandra Vijay Singh (299 T, 1964)** on September 27th. His contributions to the community exemplified the values of The Doon School. Our sincere condolences to his family and loved ones.



With regret, we inform you of the passing of **Nitin Gumbhir (378 K, 1970)** on October 14th. His life epitomised the true Dosco spirit and values. Our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew him.

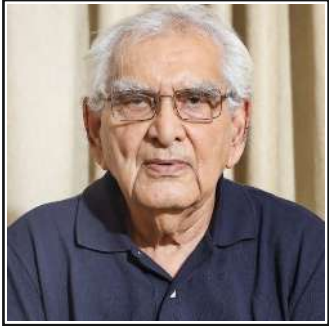


With profound sorrow, we record the passing of **Rajiv Lal (264 H, 1969)** on October 7th. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.



With heavy hearts, we inform you of the passing of **Madhusudan Misra (150 J, 1958)** on October 11th. He will be remembered with affection and respect for his loyalty and grace throughout his life. Our condolences to his family and loved ones.

With heartfelt sorrow, we record the passing of Smt Sneha Lata Goyal, beloved mother of **Alok Goyal (160 K, 1976)** and **Ashutosh Goyal (392 K, 1986, Secretary, The DSOBS)**. Our deepest condolences to Alok, Ashutosh, and their families.



With deep grief, we inform you of the passing of **Satish Bahl (205 K, 1947)** on October 22nd. Our condolences to his family and his loved ones.



With deep sadness, we inform you of the passing of **Suniti Bhushan Dutta (167 H, 1997)** on November 14th. He will be dearly missed. Our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.



With deep regret, we inform you of the passing of **Zoravar JB Nongrum (493 K, 2006)** on October 14th. Our sincerest condolences to his family.

Notice under Rule 5 of The DSOBS Rules
Inviting Applications/Nominations for the Chair
of Vice-President of The Doon School Old Boys' Society

1st January 2026

Dear Members,

Let me begin by wishing you and your families a very happy 2026. I look forward to seeing you all in large numbers in Dehra Dun during the School's Founders, in October 2026.

You are aware that I will complete my term as President of your Society on conclusion of this year's Annual General Meeting, which will be held over the Founders Weekend.

As per the Rules of the Society, the current Vice-President, Mr. Akash Puri, will assume the Chair of President of your Society after the Founders weekend. Consequently, **there will be a vacancy for the Chair of Vice-President. This Notice is to seek nominations from those interested in serving the Society in that position.** As prescribed by the Rules, the process for election/selection of the Vice-President is to be initiated by January 31st of the year in which the vacancy is to arise. Notice of the vacancy is to be posted on the Society's website, sent by e-mail, or other means of communication, and published in the appropriate issue of *The Rose Bowl*. Hence this Notice.

The procedure [(Rule 5.2(b)] postulates, **Those individuals from amongst The DSOBS who wish to offer their candidature for the Chair of Vice-President, shall confidentially send their applications to the President of The DSOBS through any member of The DSOBS as a Proposer and two other members of The DSOBS (from different age bands) as Seconders. The Proposer and Seconders shall be from each of the three age**

bands prescribed for this purpose, namely, 40 years & below, 40-60 years, and above 60 years. While forwarding the application of a prospective candidate, the Proposer and Seconders shall briefly state as to why they feel that the candidate they recommend should be the Vice-President of the Society. No other recommendation in favour of a prospective candidate, apart from the one sent by/through the Proposer and two Seconders referred to above, shall either be considered or given any weightage. The Proposer and Seconders of one candidate cannot nominate or recommend the name of any other candidate that year.

Rule 5.2(c)

The applications shall be accompanied by the following which should also reflect the key elements stipulated in Rule 5.2(d), namely:

- (i) *A brief Curriculum Vitae*, also stating their School Number, House and Batch.
- (ii) The candidate's contributions to The Doon School and The Doon School Old Boys' Society in the past.
- (iii) The candidate's strengths and the areas in which he expects to contribute to The Doon School and The Doon School Old Boys' Society, in particular, and to the society at large, in general.
- (iv) The candidate's Vision for the Society for four years and beyond.

Rule 5.2(d)

The following key elements are required in a candidate who offers himself for the Chair of Vice-President, namely:

- (i) He should have commitment to the Objectives of the Society.
- (ii) He should be able to devote time to its functions.
- (iii) He should have a good standing in Society.
- (iv) He should have reached a certain level of achievement in his profession.
- (v) Having served on the Executive Committee of the Society would be desirable, though not mandatory, and
- (vi) He should be able to travel outside New Delhi to meet old boys and carryout the work of the Society in a suitable manner.

Provided that, inability to travel outside New Delhi [in the context of Rule 5(2)(d)(vi) above] shall not be considered a reason to debar an interested individual, so long as between the President and Vice-President, at least one of them is able to represent the Society outside New Delhi, as needed.

The Vice-President will serve a two-year term and will subsequently assume the Chair of President for two years.

All applications in conformity with Rules 5.2(b) & (d) above shall be submitted on or before 5.00 pm on 30th June 2026. No application received after 5 pm on 30th June 2026, shall be entertained or considered.

Once nominations for the post of Vice-President are received, I shall constitute a Selection Committee to examine the applications and deliberate thereupon with the objective of arriving at a consensus to recommend one name to the Executive Committee for placing before the House for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

In this process the Executive Committee, the Selection Committee constituted by me, and I shall follow the procedure postulated by Rules 5.2(g) to (o).

Accordingly, I hereby invite nominations from The DS OBS fraternity for the Chair of Vice-President.

Nominations should be sent in confidence by the candidates addressed to the President (me), to be received by or before 5 pm on 30th June 2026. Such applications can be delivered (receipt to be obtained) or mailed to:

The President
The Doon School Old Boys' Society
A1/41 Panchsheel Enclave
New Delhi - 110 017

Kindly super-scribe '**Nomination for Vice-President**' on the envelope.

Alternately, you may send the nominations via e-mail together with all attachments directly to the President (me) at **president@dsobs.net**

Yours sincerely,

S. Junaid Altaf
(209 O, 2003)
President - The Doon School Old Boys' Society
(2024-2026)

Intimation of Process for Selecting Candidates to Represent the House in the Selection Committee for Election/Selection of the Vice-President as per Rules 5.2 (H)-(J)

1st January 2026

Dear Members,

I have, by a separate Notice issued today, invited applications from candidates willing to serve as the Vice-President of The Doon School Old Boys' Society. The Vice-President's tenure is for two years and thereafter the incumbent automatically takes up the post of President of the Society, for a two-year term. My term as the President of your Society shall end after the Founders 2026 weekend and consequently, Vice-President Mr. Akash Puri will take over as President of the Society, thereby creating a vacancy in the Chair of Vice-President.

The existing Rules and procedures to conduct the process of election/selection are given below.

Rule 5 (2)

(h) This Selection Committee shall comprise of the President and the Vice-President of The DSOBS. In addition, the Executive Committee will nominate one of its members to represent it on this Selection Committee. The Chairman of the Board of Governors of I.P.S.S. shall be requested to nominate one Old Boy Governor to be a member of this Selection Committee. The President will also request the Collegium to nominate three past Presidents/Chairpersons to join this Selection Committee as members. Of the three nominees of the Collegium, two shall be in the age group of below 70 years while the third will be in the age group of 70 years and above. Apart from these seven members of this Selection Committee, seven other members will be chosen from amongst the five age bands of The DSOBS members, whose updated contact numbers and email IDs are

available with the Secretariat, namely, one volunteer from the age band of **up to 30 years**, one volunteer from the age band of **30 to 40 years**, two volunteers from the age band of **40 to 50 years**, two volunteers from the age band of **50 to 60 years** and one volunteer from the age band of **above 60 years**.

Since the total number of members on this Committee is an even number i.e., 14, in case of a tie in voting, the Vice-President of The DSOBS shall have the casting vote.

- (i) The seven volunteers to serve on this Selection Committee, from the aforesaid five age bands of The DSOBS members, shall be selected as follows:
 - (i) The DSOBS database shall be utilized for the purpose of selecting such volunteers, with each member being tagged with their batch year and date, month, and year of birth.
 - (ii) This database shall be exported into Excel, or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better software, and used to create the aforesaid five age bands based on the date, month, and year of birth of a member.
 - (iii) The President and/or the Vice-President of The DSOBS will use the Excel RANDBETWEEN function, or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better software, to randomly select 100 potential volunteers for every one volunteer required to serve on

the Committee. For instance, since one volunteer is required from the age band of up to 30 years, the names of 100 potential volunteers from this age band shall be selected at random using the Excel RANDBETWEEN function or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better software. On the other hand, since two volunteers are required for the age band of 40-50 years, 200 potential volunteers from this age band shall be selected at random using the RANDBETWEEN function or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better software. The Secretariat shall contact such 100 potential volunteers and form a final list of the first 15 to accept via email.

- (iv) Once fifteen potential volunteers from the age band of upto 30 years, fifteen potential volunteers from the age band of 30 to 40 years, thirty potential volunteers from the age band of 40 to 50 years, thirty potential volunteers from the age band of 50 to 60 years and fifteen potential volunteers from the age band of above 60 years have been selected at random, the President and/or Vice-President and/or the Secretariat shall write to each of the said potential volunteers enquiring as to whether they would be willing to serve on the Selection Committee.
- (v) Once all potential volunteers are in place then one volunteer will be selected using the RANDBETWEEN function, or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better software, in an age group where one volunteer is required, and two volunteers shall be selected using the RANDBETWEEN function, or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better software, where two volunteers are required, to constitute the other seven members of the Committee.

- (vi) However, both rounds of the said selection process as postulated by sub-rules (iv) and (v) shall be conducted within one month of each other with the first round being held on or before 11th July and the second round by or before 11th August in the presence of Executive Committee Members and other members of The DSOBS who wish to attend the selection process. For this purpose, a notice will go out to all members of The DSOBS, one week in advance, intimating the times, dates and venues when the first and second rounds of selection would take place.

- (j) Any member whose relative, whether by blood or marriage, is a potential Vice-Presidential candidate shall automatically stand disqualified from being a member of the Selection Committee. Similarly, any person who has been a Proposer or a Seconder of any candidate shall also stand disqualified from being a member of the Selection Committee. Any person apart from the President and Vice-President of The DSOBS who has earlier been a member of the Selection Committee shall also stand disqualified from being a member of the Selection Committee for four years. The Selection Committee members shall also stand precluded from applying for the post of Vice-President or Executive Committee Member for a period of four years.

I eagerly look forward to your interest and active participation, should your name be shortlisted for becoming a part of the Selection Committee to elect/select the next Vice-President of your Society.

Yours sincerely,

S. Junaid Altaf
(209 O, 2003)
President - The Doon School Old Boys' Society
(2024-2026)

Notice under Rule 7 of The DSOBS Rules

Inviting Applications from Prospective Members for the Executive Committee of The Doon School Old Boys' Society

1st January 2026

Dear Members,

This year, **THREE vacancies** will arise in **The DSOBS Executive Committee** which are to be filled at the Annual General Meeting, expected to be held in October 2026.

Detail of Vacancies:

Sl. No.	Age Band	Vacancy
1.	Above 60 yrs.	ONE (1)
2.	30-40 yrs.	TWO (2)

Please note: 30-40 years means, the applicant must have completed 30 years on the date of the forthcoming AGM or earlier and not completed 40 years on the date of the forth coming AGM.

As per Rules 7.2 (a) & (b) of the Society, the process of election/selection of Executive Committee Member(s) is to be initiated by the President by or before 31st January of the year in which the vacancy(ies) is/are to arise and Notice of such vacancy(ies) is to be posted on the Society's website, sent out by e-mail, or other means of communication and also published in the appropriate issue of *The Rose Bowl*. Hence this Notice.

The current procedure as per rule 7.2(c) postulates that **all those individuals from amongst The DSOBS who wish to offer their candidature for becoming a member of the Executive Committee shall confidentially send their applications to the President of The DSOBS through any member of The DSOBS as a Proposer and two other members of The DSOBS as Seconders. The Proposer and the Seconders must be from the same age band (but**

not the same batch) as the candidate. The five age bands are: below 30 years, 30-40 years, 40-50 years, 50-60 years, and above 60 years. No other recommendation in favour of a prospective candidate, apart from the one sent by/through the Proposer and Seconders referred to above, shall be either considered or given any weightage. The Proposer or Seconders cannot nominate or recommend the name of any other candidate that year.

Rule 7.2(d) - The Proposer and Seconders, along with their recommendations, should also briefly state as to why the candidate they are recommending should be a member of the Executive Committee.

Rule 7.2(e) - The applications should be accompanied by the following:

- (i) *A brief Curriculum Vitae*, also stating their School Number, House and Batch.
- (ii) The candidate's contributions to The Doon School and The Doon School Old Boys' Society in the past.
- (iii) The candidate's strengths and the areas in which he expects to contribute to The Doon School Old Boys' Society in particular, and the society at large, in general.

Age eligibility for nomination will be the age of the nominee as on the date of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, which is expected to be held in October 2026.

The term of an Executive Committee Member is two years, with the option to extend it by another two years, totalling four years, should he like to continue.

Rule 7.2(f) - All applications in conformity with the above and the provisions of Rules 7.2(c) - (e) **shall be submitted by or before 5 pm on 30th June 2026.**

Once all applications are received, I shall constitute a Selection Committee to examine the applications and deliberate thereupon with the objective of arriving at a consensus and recommend the name(s) of one or more candidates, as vacancies permit, for the Executive Committee to place before the House for approval at the Annual General Meeting. In this process, the Executive Committee, the Selection Committee constituted by me, and I shall follow the procedure postulated by Rules 7.2(g) - (m).

I accordingly invite applications from The DSOBS fraternity for Membership to the Executive Committee in the age groups of:
The detail of the vacancies are:

Sl. No.	Age Band	Vacancy
1.	Above 60 yrs.	ONE (1)
2.	30-40 yrs.	TWO (2)

Such applications can be delivered (receipt to be obtained) or mailed to:

The President
The Doon School Old Boys' Society
A1/41 Panchsheel Enclave
New Delhi - 110 017

Kindly super-scribe “**Application for Executive Committee**” on the envelope.

Alternately, you may send the nominations via e-mail, together with all attachments directly to the President (me) at **president@dsobs.net**

Yours sincerely,

S. Junaaid Altaf
(209 O, 2003)
President - The Doon School Old Boys' Society
(2024-2026)

Intimation of Process for Selecting Candidates to Represent the House in the Selection Committee for Election/Selection of Members to the Executive Committee as per Rules 7.2 (g)-(m) & 7.3

1st January 2026

Dear Members,

I have, by a separate Notice issued today, invited applications for membership to the Executive Committee of The Doon School Old Boys' Society, in the following age groups, in respect of which vacancies will arise from and after the next Annual General Meeting of the Society, expected to be held in October 2026.

Detail of vacancies:

Sl. No.	Age Band	Vacancy
1.	Above 60 yrs.	ONE (1)
2.	30-40 yrs.	TWO (2)

The existing Rules and procedures to conduct the process of election/selection are given below.

Rule 7.2(g) - On receiving all applications by 30th June, of the concerned year, the President shall constitute a Selection Committee to examine the applications and deliberate thereupon with the objective of arriving at a consensus and recommend the name(s) of one or more candidates, as vacancies permit, for the Executive Committee to place before the House for approval at the Annual General Meeting. During this process of election, the Selection Committee may also request the candidate(s) to meet with the Selection Committee informally to enable it to understand his/their vision and suitability for the post.

Rule 7.2(h) - The President shall constitute the Selection Committee by 15th August of the year in which the vacancy or vacancies arise.

Rule 7.2(i) - The Selection Committee shall

comprise of the President and Vice-President of The DSOBS and two members of the Executive Committee as decided by the Executive Committee. The serving President will also request the Collegium to nominate two members to the Selection Committee. Apart from these six members of the Selection Committee, six other members will be chosen from the five age bands referred to in Rule 7.2(c). One (1) volunteer will be chosen from the age band of below 30 years, one (1) from the age band of 30 to 40 years, two (2) from the age band of 40 to 50 years, one (1) from the age band of 50 to 60 years and one (1) from the age band of above 60 years. Since the total number of the Selection Committee is an even number i.e., twelve (12), in case of a tie in voting, the Vice-President of The DSOBS shall have the deciding vote.

Rule 7.2 (j) - The six volunteers to serve on the Selection Committee, from the previously mentioned five age bands of The DSOBS members, shall be selected as follows.

- (I) The DSOBS database shall be utilised for the purpose of selecting such volunteers with each member being tagged with their batch year, and date, month, and year of birth. This database will be kept updated at the The DSOBS Secretariat.
- (ii) This database shall be exported into Excel, or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better

software, and used to create the afore said five age bands based on the date month and year of birth of a member.

- (iii) The President and/or the Vice-President of The DSOBS will use the Excel RANDBETWEEN, or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better software, to randomly select 100 potential volunteers for every one volunteer required to serve on the Selection Committee. For instance, since one volunteer is required from the age band of below 30 years, the names of 100 potential volunteers from this age band shall be selected at random using the Excel RANDBETWEEN function, or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better software. On the other hand, since two volunteers are required for the age band of 40-50 years, 200 potential volunteers from this age band, shall be selected at random using the RANDBETWEEN function, or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better software.
- (iv) Once 100 potential volunteers from the age band of up to 30 years, 100 potential volunteers from the age band of 30-40 years, 200 potential volunteers from the age band of 40-50 years, 100 potential volunteers from the age band of 50-60 years, and 100 potential volunteers from the age band of above 60 years have been selected at random, the Secretariat shall write to each of the said potential volunteers enquiring as to whether they would be willing to serve on the Selection Committee and form a final list of the first 15 to accept via email.
- (v) Once all potential volunteers are in place, then one volunteer will be selected using the RANDBETWEEN function, or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better software, in an age group where one volunteer is required and two volunteers shall be selected using the RANDBETWEEN function, or similar, equivalent, appropriate, or better

software, where two volunteers are required to constitute the six members of the Selection Committee.

- (vi) However, both rounds of the said selection process as postulated by Rules 7.2(j) (iv) and (v) shall be conducted within one month of each other with the first round being held on or before 11th July and the second round by or before 11th August in the presence of the Executive Committee Members and other members of The DSOBS who wish to attend the selection process. For this purpose, a notice will go out to all members, one week in advance, intimating the times dates and venues when the first and second rounds of selection will take place.
- (k) Any member who is a relative, whether by blood or marriage, to a potential Executive Committee candidate, shall automatically stand disqualified from being a member of the Selection Committee. Similarly, any person who has been a Proposer or a Secunder of any candidate shall also stand disqualified from being a member of the Selection Committee. Any person, apart from the President and Vice-President of The DSOBS, who has earlier been a member of the Selection Committee shall also stand disqualified from being a member of the Selection Committee for four years. Additionally, the said six Selection Committee members shall be ineligible to apply for membership to the Executive Committee or for the chair of Vice-President for the next two years.

I eagerly look forward to your interest and active participation, should your name be shortlisted for becoming a part of the Selection Committee to select members to the Executive Committee.

Yours sincerely,

S. Junaid Altaf
(209 O, 2003)
President - The Doon School Old Boys' Society
(2024-2026)

Timetable for Complying with the Process of Election/Selection of Vice-President and Constitution of Selection Committee under Rule 5 of The DSOBS Rules

S.No.	Description	Deadline	Rule
1.	Process for election of Vice-President to be initiated by issuing Notice of vacancy, to be posted on the Society's website, sent by email or other means of communication, and published in <i>The Rose Bowl</i>	31st January	5(2)(a)
2.	Submission of Applications from prospective Vice-President candidates, in conformity with Rules 5.2(b) - (d)	5.00 pm on 30th June	5(2)(e)
3.	Notice inviting members to witness first round of random selection of prospective volunteers representing the House	4th July	5.2(i)(vi)
4.	First round of selection of volunteers representing the House	11th July	5.2(i)(vi)
5.	Notice inviting members to witness final round of selection of prospective volunteers representing the House	4th August	5.2(i)(vi)
6.	Final round of selection of volunteers representing the House	11th August	5.2(i)(vi)
7.	Constitution of Selection Committee	15th August	5.2(g)
8.	Selection Committee to recommend one name for Chair of Vice President, to the Executive Committee	15th September	5.2(p)
9.	Meeting of Executive Committee to be convened to consider recommendation of Selection Committee	29th September (but in no event later than 5th October)	5.2(q)

**Timetable for Complying with the Process of Election/Selection
of Members to the Executive Committee
as per Rule 7 of The DSOBS Rules**

S.No.	Description	Deadline	Rule
1.	Process for election of Executive Committee Members to be initiated by issuing Notice of vacancy, to be posted on the Society's website, sent by email or other means of communication, and published in <i>The Rose Bowl</i>	31st January	7.2(a)-(b)
2.	Applications from prospective candidates to be part of the Executive Committee, in conformity with Rule 7.2(c)-(e)	5.00 pm on 30th June	7.2(f)
3.	Notice inviting members to witness first round of selection of volunteers representing the House	4th July	7.2(j)(vi)
4.	First round of selection of volunteers representing the House	11th July	7.2(j)(vi)
5.	Notice inviting members to witness final round of selection of volunteers representing the House	4th August	7.2(j)(vi)
6.	Final round of selection of volunteers representing the House	11th August	7.2(j)(vi)
7.	Constitution of Selection Committee	15th August	7.2(h)
8.	Selection Committee to recommend name(s) for post(s) of Executive Committee Member(s) to the Executive Committee	15th September	7.2(p)
9.	Meeting of Executive Committee to be convened to consider recommendation of Selection Committee	29th September (but in no event later than 5th October)	7.2(q)



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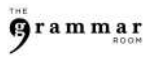


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