

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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Vipul Swarup (438 K, 2000) [Digital]

COVER PHOTOS

Front Cover:
The Doon School
Back Cover:
Kaustubh Johri (548 H, 2001)

PUBLISHER

The Doon School Old Boys' Society,
New Delhi

PRINTER

Narendra Bhola, Sterling Preferred
www.prosterling.com

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ADVERTISING

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The Rose Bowl is published four times a year by The DSOBS Communications Department, for members, their families, and friends of The DSOBS. Opinions expressed are solely those of the authors, their subjects, the Editor-in-Chief, and do not necessarily represent the official positions of The DSOBS.

Thanksgiving

Pratik Basu 442 T, 1993

Editor-in-Chief

“Have you ever gone to a bar and found that your favourite bartender was replaced with a guy named Steve? Well, I’m Steve, what can I get you?”

And, with those immortal words, the immortal *Saturday Night Live* handed off its immortal Weekend Update desk from the immortal Norm Macdonald to Colin Quinn.

What I am trying to say, in my own tortured way, was that it’s never easy to follow in the footsteps of a legend. And, boy, is Govind a legend. Using Valentina’s excellent work before him, he took this publication to soaring new heights. I’ll do my very best to keep it from crashing down!

That was how my very first Editor-in-Chief’s Note began, and in the blink of an eye, here’s my final one. Time really does fly when you’re having fun.

It’s been a fun ride, a tumultuous one, a learning one, a richly rewarding one. And it would not have been possible without so many, many people. As Hill Clinton said, “It takes a village...” Not quite sure what it takes a village to do, but it certainly took a large one to help me get on my way.



Welham Boys' School

In the tradition of American Thanksgiving, I’d like to thank...

Govind Dhar (192 T, 1997) for giving me this incredible opportunity in the first place. It’s not too often that a Junior helps a Senior out, but this is one of those rare cases. I’m not sure what Govind saw in me to make him think I could do this, and what circumstances led him to hand the reins to me...magic, maybe? Whatever the reason, I’m so glad he did.

Tushaar Kuthiala (519 T, 2006), who bailed me out by agreeing to become the next Editor-in-Chief of *The Rose Bowl*. Given his journalistic background, and his *The Doon School Weekly* background, the publication will be in safe hands with him.

Mrs Young at Welham Boys’ School, where I was bewildered to find myself at age six-and-half in a completely different country than the one I had been living in. The Woodseats Matron was kind and realised that some boys needed more help than others.

Miss Kumar, my Class II teacher. Tough, but fair, and also fun when she wanted to be.

Mr and Mrs Benjamin, husband and wife English teachers. Patient, low-key, and very good.

Mrs Banerjee. The legend herself! Her explanations of algebra (simplified for my habitual daydreaming) still come in handy every day. Her annual Durga Puja dinner for the Bengali boys was a real treat.

Mrs Veena Kapur and **Mr Jog Kapur** for allowing us to watch the Sunday afternoon shows in their house. They were inundated with boys all week, and had to deal with us on Sunday, too!

Mr Rick, guitar teacher. Unsuccessful in his attempts to help me overcome my musical deficiencies, but successful in his attempts to help broaden our western pop musical horizons (The Beatles! Queen! Prince!).

Poor **Ms Roy and Mrs Talukdar**, our Bengali art teachers, who assumed that me being Bengali meant I had a natural inclination for the arts (I didn't). They were great teachers, though!

Mr OP Malhotra (OPM) who showed up one day to teach us Maths, and it was his name on the front of the textbook! Wow! (Then he also showed up in Doon to teach us homoeopathy. Wow!)

Thanks to **Mirchi's Dad (Suresh Mirchandani, 166 T, 1965)**, who took me for my very first Outing in Welham Boys' School (Outings were exceedingly rare for me during my time at Welham) along with **Mirchi (Karan Mirchandani, 554 T, 1994)**, **Rocky II (Aditya Singh, 556 K, 1988)**, and **Rocky III (Abhimanyu Singh, 259 J, 1991)**. This was exceedingly kind of him because he didn't know me at all, I just happened to be the son of a Tata House Senior far away from home so he thought he would extend me a kindness. I've never forgotten it.

A special thanks to **Ms Taurus**, the Toad Hall Dame. I don't know how she managed me at the height of my wild child phase, but somehow she did. Years later when I went back to visit, I saw that she still had my rudimentary LEGO models up on her shelves. Hopefully, that meant she had forgiven my craziness!

An extra special thanks to **Mr Surendra 'Charlie/Kaddu' Kandhari (122 T, 1951, KD/SKK)** and **Mrs Kandhari**. I may have been completely intimidated by Kaddu, but when he went from Headmaster to Local Guardian (How did that happen?! Magic?) after I joined Doon, suddenly, it wasn't as lonely without my parents around. The next six years were immeasurably better thanks to them.



Martyn House

Arjun 'Bhupi' Singh Mann (367 T, 1992) and **Gaganjyoti 'GJ' Singh Bindra (340 T, 1992)** at **The Doon School**. I was surprised to see them at Martyn House that first day Kaddu dropped me off (my parents couldn't make it); I had always assumed they were only tangentially aware of me in Toad Hall. But there they were, ready to help me settle in.

Mr Gulab Ramchandani (HM), talk about intimidating! He always seemed to keep an eye out for me, even after he left. I'm not exactly sure why he did that. But, his tacit validation was welcomed.

Mr Arun 'AK' Kapur (AKP), my first Tata B Housemaster. Talk about taking me under his wing! I looked forward to a long and storied association with him, only to have him leave suddenly. So, while the association didn't end up being long, it was certainly storied for me.

Mr Satinder 'Sattu' Kumar (SKM), our physically larger-than-life Tata B Housemaster. As big and slow-moving and baritone-y as he was on land, he was just as elegant and quick and light in the water. He let our Batch get away with a lot, and in return he received nothing but love from us (even when we pranked him by moving his Maruti 800 by lifting it up while he was sleeping). I bet everyone wishes they had a Housemaster like him.

Mr RP Devgan (RPD), may have been the Tata A Housemaster, but he was such a cool dude, with all his sports and that cool motorcycle – Life Goals!

Mr Hamish Forsyth (HFY), the young English Exchange Teacher, expanded our extremely young minds with Literature with a capital "L," and encouraged some of my early writing. We loved the guy so much that we actually went to wake him up to come teach us when he was happily sleeping through First School.

Mr Adam Mansell (AMS), another young English Exchange Teacher who expanded our young minds. I guess you can't spell "English Literature" without "English!"

Dr Simon Singh (SMS), the Man Who Saw Maths Infinity. We would gravitate towards him during bus trips just so he could blow our young minds with the



Masters, circa 1988

Bottom: DP Lahiri, RP Devgan, MC Joshi, HC Pant, Iftikar Hussain, NP Painiuli, BC Vaishnav, SK Vohra, HM Gulab Ramchandani, DN Verma, AN Dar, UC Pande, SJ David, CK Dikshit, Sukhdev Bhatia, SK Kaila

Middle: AZ Khan, Deepak Kapadia, Dr Arora, Anton Shiromani, Shashank Vira, M Farooqui, KPS Chopra, Winston Gomez, Mrs Sarkar, Anuradha Singh, PK Singh, DC Bhadkoti, Ominder Singh, VM Pokhriyal, CJ Miller, Devendra Singh, SS Giani, DS Vahali

Top: Deepak Sharma, NK Bhedotiya, BJ Rodrigues, Phillip Burrett, Capt (Hony) Swaran Singh, DM Sharma, Babul Das

hidden universe of Mathematics with a capital “M.” Apparently, he’s still doing this for the world at large – he was given a big, fat MBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for his efforts!

Mr Deepak Kapadia (DAK) blew my young mind with theorems and proofs and, to this day, I know what QED stands for thanks to him. Not “Quite Easily Done” but “quod erat demonstrandum” which I always signed off my mostly incorrect answers with a flourish.

Mr MC Joshi (MCJ) and **Dr Sudesh Biala (SCB)** were quite different in their teaching styles, but did their absolute best in teaching me to a decent result in ICSE Hindi – still shocking to me!

Mr DC Bhatkoti (DCB), our great Biology teacher who somehow made it through multiple classes of snickering teenagers when trying to teach us about the reproductive system.

Mr DN Verma (DNV), who wrote the book on Chemistry (literally...he wrote our text book), and then made us do the Practicals the right way (instead of reverse engineering the experiments to get the correct answers).

Mr Devendra Singh (DVS), the legendary/legendarily-strict Physics teacher, who rocked my brain when he introduced the concept of quantum mechanics to us.



From L-R: BS Bhalla, BC Vaishnav, AN Dar, Pramod Sharma, HC Pant

Mr HC Pant (HCP), who taught me the only things I still remember about Civics. A gentle man and a wonderful teacher, his tragic accidental passing while we were in School still stays with us after all these years.

Poor **Mr DS ‘Vaha’ Vahali (DSV)**, we gave the poor man hell, but he was a crackerjack of an Eco teacher. The fact that I understand even 10% of Robert Reich’s lectures is thanks to him.

Mr Winston Gomez (WRG), a subversive English teacher with his own dark sense of humour. I’ll always remember him scrawling the words “Legend” on a fellow Master’s cube in the MCR (Masters’ Common Room). When I asked him why, he simply replied, “Because all good legends are dead.”

Mr Maria Dhassan (MHV), who tried to keep an eye out for us during that epic trip down to the Lawrence School, Lovedale, for the Round Square International Service project. What a formative experience for us blossoming teenagers... so many (mis)adventures!



From L-R: Jayant Saran, Pratik Basu, Mrs Lulla, Rahul Sinha (398 T, 1993)

Mr Lulla (MLL) and **Mrs Lulla**, who allowed us to invade their home for *The World This Week* every, uh, week. It was a crucial window out of our cloistered world and made a massive impact on us kids.

Dr Arora, a local doctor who taught German (as a Third Language), and introduced us to American Blues music with a lecture-demonstration outside the Music School. The reason they called the slide (from a slide guitar) a “bottleneck” was because they actually used the neck of broken bottles back in the day. I can’t remember what I had for breakfast today... but I still remember that factoid thanks to him!

Mr Gursharan Singh (GSS), who brought a brand new attitude to the Music School, laying the foundation for the excellence to follow.

Mrs Sarkar, the wife of the Compounder, who taught Bengali (as a Third Language). Boy, did she find us infuriating, but the only reason I can read and write Bengali is thanks to her dedication. ধন্যবাদ (*Dhonnobad*)!

Capt (Hony) ‘Saddu’ Singh (SWS), our PT teacher, and all around tough-with-a-heart-of-gold physical drill

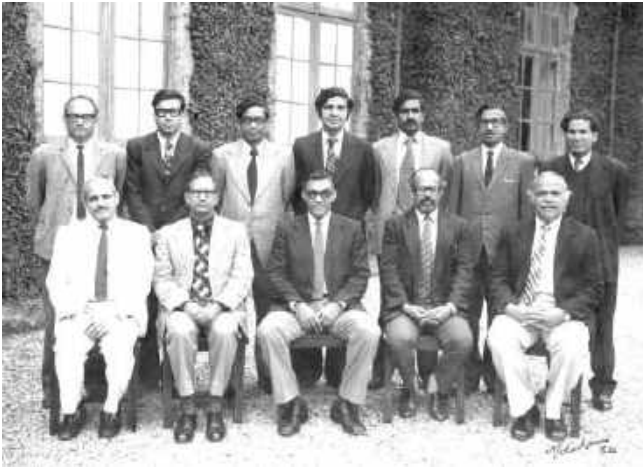
instructor. “Our motto: Sound Mind, Healthy Body. Your motto: Sound Sleep, Healthy Body.”

Mr SJ David (SJD), who managed to produce a bottle of alcohol (definitely not of the rubbing kind) to clean my festering wound during a Joint Midterms between Tata House and Jaipur House. **The Guide** who, along with **Anshu Dhar Jayal (407 T, 1993, ADJ)** and **Atul Sabharwal (457 T, 1993)**, got me down the mountain during our Lamkhaga Pass expedition. And the **Young NIM (Nehru Institute of Mountaineering) Doctor** who practically saved my life from altitude sickness in his makeshift hospital inside a tent. **The Government Guest House Caretaker** who saved us from the snowstorm during our Kedarnath Mid-Terms. **The Bengali Tourists** who supplied me with tea and biscuits during the many treks. **The Night Manager** who supplied us with the contraband beer during the final night of our Cycling Mid-Terms.

Mr Martand ‘Marty’ Singh (MAS) – talk about cool. Even when he and SSV scrambled to make arrangements on a trek to Dhanaulti, he had our undying admiration. He brought us back in one piece from an insane SC Form “private” river rafting trip.

Mr Shashank Vira (SSV), the young dynamo, who shook us up with plays, and computers, and the outside world waiting to come crashing in! I suspect very strongly that I was more impressed by him than he was with me, but I am thankful to him for opening our eyes up to the possibilities of the modern world when it was at an inflection point.

Mr Dev Lahiri (DPL), our eye-opening, and contemptuous, History teacher. He dared to upbraid us for our oblivious privilege (he was right, we could name the starting five from the Chicago Bulls, but not a single Union Cabinet Minister outside of the Prime Minister), and bring current events into the classroom to help explain the world around us. For all his contempt, though, he had a suitably wicked sense of humour. He once threw me out of class and told me to come back when I was sorry. So, I proceeded to sleep through the next class, and only came back for the class after that and told him: “Now, I’m sorry.” He let me back in without a fuss... imagine that!



Masters, circa 1982

Seated: BG Pitre, OP Malhotra, HM Gulab Ramchandani, SK Kandhari, Sheel Vohra

Standing: AN Dar, UC Pande, DN Verma, BC Vaishnav, RP Devgan, Omendra Singh, Dr HD Bhatt

Mr UC Pande (UCP), our longtime English teacher. Tough, sure, but man, could he drill the material into us. The only poetry I still remember is thanks to him. The infamous ICSE English exam had no chance to put up a fight thanks to his teaching heroics.

Mr Babul Das (BLD), our extraordinary Biology and Chemistry Master, part of the Young Turks who showed up during that time of transition in School. We weren't simply mugging our textbooks to ace our exams, the subjects truly came alive under him. The humanity he displayed will always stay with us. Well, that and the way he pronounced "aluminum" with a Shakespearean flourish.

Mr Janajit 'Janna' Ray (JJR), our dramatic English teacher. Tall, goateed, *kurta*-ed, *Shantiniketan*-ed, that booming voice, the theatrical way he went over the material, the philosophical digressions, the deep subject knowledge, the pleading for us to give in to our better angels, the Rabindra Sangeet(!) – he really was the platonic ideal of the Bengali Professor.



Sheel 'Bond' Vohra (SKV)

Mr Sheel 'Bond' Vohra (SKV). Well, what can I say about him that hasn't been said a million times before? For one, he knocked me into shape that fateful first B Form Maths class. For another, while I may have started off on the wrong foot with him, he ended up becoming a surprising supporter by the time I left. His belief in me (even if it was really more of a grudging tolerance) meant an awful lot, and still does.



Shomie Das (HM, SRD) Courtesy The Doon School Archives

Mr Shomie Das (HM, SRD). Well, what can I say about him that hasn't been said a million times before? To me, he seemed like the platonic ideal of a boarding school headmaster. He was a man ahead of time, but also out of his time (modern education, with its increasing singular focus on marks, name-brand secondary education, and material success, was quickly becoming a whole different world by the time he alighted at Doon). We were lucky to have him when we did.

Mr DAE Hunt (DAE), another of our English Exchange Teachers. He literally plucked me out of obscurity for the School production of *Julius Caesar*. The only reason I auditioned in the first place was because I thought it would help me with the ICSE Exam. Playing Mark Antony meant that Mr Hunt explained the play to me, including that speech, in such detail that I couldn't help but understand everything roiling underneath it all, instead of just mindlessly regurgitating the words onto the exam page. It was the high point (*literally*, I had to perform the speech near the top of the Rose Bowl) of my time in School, and my low point (*literally*, I missed the jump

in between setups during Dress Rehearsal and broke my nose; “Friends, Romans, countrymen,” came out sounding like the speaker had the worst cold imaginable!).



AN 'AD' Dar (AND)

An extra special massively hugely heartfelt sincere thank you to **Mr AN 'AD' Dar (AND)**, who, like Mr Hunt, plucked me out of obscurity that day on the Main Field, and set me on a completely different path than the one I would have been on, left to my own devices. Whatever opportunity School presented, I was encouraged to try to take advantage of. For those few years, I learned resilience, tenacity, dedication, reliability, and even if I struck out far more often than I did not, I was deliriously happy to be in the middle of it all. Thank you, Sir, always.

Mr Arjun Bartwal (501 K, 2000, ARB) and **Mrs Abia Qezilbash (ABQ)**, who have provided invaluable assistance from within Chandbagh throughout my entire tenure. *The Rose Bowl* owes them quite a bit of gratitude. The School is extremely lucky to have them.

The DSOBS, especially past Presidents **Tarun 'Big Pumpkin' Sawhney (234 K, 1991)** and **Sameer Dhingra (452 T, 1987)** who made the transition so easy. A massive thanks to the one, the only, **Ashutosh Goyal (392 K, 1986)**, always available to answer any query no matter how minute or esoteric. People like Ashutosh are the very best of what The DSOBS has to offer.

The Rose Bowl Assistant Editors (my Ass-Eds!): **Ashvin 'Chakki' Bhatia (636 T, 1995)**, **Abhishek Maity (180 O, 2003)**, **Parag Rastogi (458 H,**

2006), **Vivek Santayana (369 O, 2011)**, **Siddharth Sethia (176 T, 2003)**, and **Vipul Swarup (438 K, 2000)**. They may be scattered all over the globe, but they're always willing to jump in and help with every issue. Thanks so much guys – drinks on me next time we meet!

My trusty Dosco Research Expertz **Roopi Sallu (Roopak Saluja, 458 T, 1993)** and **Saran (Jayant Saran, 413 T, 1993)**. Look, we're all continuously awed by Saluja's near-perfect, ahem, *Total Recall*, but who knew Saran had this kind of brainpower, too? Always ready to provide facts and checking at the drop of a hat – they were an invaluable resource. Thank you, **Tata B – Best House, Ever!**



Tata B – Best House, Ever!

Standing: (L-R): Raghav 'Bubble' Nayar (443 T, 1993).

Jayant Saran, Atul Sabharwal, Amarindar 'Ammy' Singh Chopra (365 T, 1993), Vir 'Adu' Advani (412 T, 1993), Rahul Sinha

Sitting: Samrath 'Sam' Bedi (471 T, 1993), Premjit 'Choppy' Singh Chopra (440 T, 1993), Housemaster Satinder 'Sattu' Kumar, Pratik Basu, Roopak 'Roopi Sallu' Saluja

The Rose Bowl is what it is thanks to printer and designer **Narendra Bhola** and **Hasan Imam**. We took on the ambitious task of redesigning the publication, and I couldn't have done it without them. Google Docs, PDFs, emails, WhatsApp, late night Zoom calls across a 13 ½-hour time difference – the logistics might have been daunting but their enthusiasm and expertise were always up to the challenge. I'll miss working with them.

On a personal note, I have to thank **Ma (Aditi Basu)** and **Baba (Prabir Basu, 138 T, 1962)** for making

sure I went to Welham and Doon in the first place. It couldn't have been easy packing their young child off to another country at such a young age, but it was well worth it.

Jethu (Borun Basu, 161 T, 1958) for setting the *extremely* high expectations of what being a Dosco meant, right from the beginning.

Pipi and **Papi Didi** for coming to visit (at a time when family visits were all too rare) during that dramatic earthquake and for being a good sport through it all.

Mummum, Didu, and Dadu (Best Grandparents, *Ever!*) for making the effort to come visit me when my immediate family was so far away, and for being the critical emotional lifeline I didn't know I needed.

Finally, **TBH (The Better Half)**, my biggest supporter. The poor thing has had to suffer through so many all-nighters and then have to patiently deal with my resulting bleary-eyed self. Always around to pinch assist edit, give feedback, advice, moral support – maybe it should be *The Best Half*, LOL!

And, a final thank you to you, **Dear Reader**, the reason we exist in the first place. We seem to be entering a critical time, where not only Free Speech but Editorial Independence is under relentless attack. I am hopeful that *The Rose Bowl* will remain immune

to these pressures, because if it's not, I'm sure you will let us know about it. Benjamin Franklin told us that “Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom” – a sentiment echoed by the very core of our shared Doon experience.

Thank you for your patience, attention, and indulgence.

Until we meet again...



Until we meet again...

PS. Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Corrections? Articles? Photos? Bleary-eyed-avoidance advice? Please email me: BasuRoseBowl@gmail.com



We've Got Mail

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

One of the three who scaled Kamet was **Mr Romilly Lisle Holdsworth, aka Holdie**.

Kamet had been the highest mountain climbed till then in the Nanda Devi biosphere, in the then United Provinces (now Uttarakhand). He sat atop the summit, promptly lit and smoked a pipe, and then skied down to Base Camp.

Whereafter, on the expedition's return journey, they missed a turn and lost their way, and Holdie ended up discovering the Valley of Flowers. He had studied botany in Magdalen College, Oxford University, and having chanced upon the Valley he returned, encouraged by pioneering mountaineers Eric Shipton, Sir Francis Younghusband, and Frank Smythe. Sponsored by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Holdie camped at the site in a tent for eight months, and enumerated the gamut of alpine flowers.

Holdie, having fought in the trenches of Flanders, Belgium during World War I, assisted the Indian Army in setting up the

High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS) in Gulmarg, Kashmir. My uncle, my father's younger brother Col Jai Dalvi (8 Cav), assisted in the project.

Holdie went on to become Principal of Islamia College University Peshawar, Pakistan, and, in the inaugural season of the Ranji Trophy, was one of its first centurions.

I had the privilege of being in his Tutorial and being taught history by him. Romilly Lisle Holdsworth was born on February 25th 1899 in Mysore, Karnataka and died on June 20 1967 in Somerset, UK.

Sincerely,

Michael Dalvi (370 T, 1963)



Holdie on the summit of Kamet, 7,756m/25,446ft, June 21st 1931

Dear Editor,

People always say that memories are past, but some are so deeply etched in one's mind they are unforgettable.

And then, this one happened by chance.

I was Chairman of Junior Golf at The Indian Golf Union (IGU). At the beginning of each year, we'd plan out our domestic circuit and categorised events keeping in mind the international event calendar. We would then allocate a member to accompany the team. We had an invite to the Junior World Golf Championships at Torrey Pines Golf Course, San Diego, California, USA, an expensive trip. The Delhi Golf Club (DGC) Rep was chosen to go with two players only – junior and sub-junior. I was in Coorg, Karnataka tackling a ticklish issue. With less than eight days to go for the event, the DGC Rep called up to say that he could not go. A bit political, no doubt. And no one else could go! The VP from Calcutta called requesting that I should. I refused.

Then, at 2am I got a call from Lalli Thapar, our IGU President,

requesting me to go. He was traveling on an overseas trip. I was, thus, forced to agree. It was a horrendous five-and-a-half hour trip to Bangalore and then onto Mumbai. Luckily, my USA visa was intact. We were flying Economy on the long haul journey but the Air India Director of Operations, a friend, got us upgraded to Business Class until London, UK – lounges, VIP clearance et al!

But it was a nightmare...31 hours! New York to San Diego on a hop-skip-and-jump TWA Chapter 11 experience! Don't try it!

We got into San Diego at 1am. There was only one item on the carousel, a solitary golf set. But we drove straight to our hosts' residence in La Jolla, California too zonked to make a claim. We are hosted by Barry and Jan Sharpless. Great hosts. Zai Kipgen played on Torrey Pines South (Tiger Woods had won there as a Junior). The girls played on Torrey Pines North. Zai started well but faded by the end. Tradition demanded that the hosts looked after their guests and Jan took Zai all around shopping, sightseeing, etc. We would walk about La Jolla ourselves. Beautiful place!

And then, it was time to leave.

Jan suggested that we should take the Amtrak along the coast to Los Angeles, California. I had promised Zai a two-day sojourn in LA, staying at Manjit's cousins in Beverly Hills. The train journey was stupendous. The cousins were happy to receive us. All Zai wanted was to visit Venice Beach (those were the *Baywatch* days) and go past OJ Simpson's home.

We did both. Though, no Pamela Anderson in Venice!

We then left for JFK airport, New York, enroute to home. Air India received us at JFK and we were plonked into the First Class Lounge. Boring place. Two bureaucrats and two of us. Zai wanted out. Last minute shopping and a look around. I left, too.

Whilst going around, I found a café where I spotted Milkha Singh with his daughters. His wife had been operated on and he was leaving his daughters behind to look after their mother; he was returning to India on our flight. I sat with them until boarding time. And then, Air India struck. Our eminent Milkha was allotted the last row seat near the toilets in Economy. I offered him my seat but he wouldn't have it. I was totally upset and embarrassed.

We reached London – and took off soon after. After levelling off, Raj Singh Dungarpur appeared from First Class and stopped by. We played golf regularly at Bombay Presidency Golf Club with **Hanuwant Singh (18 K, 1965)** and Surya Patel. Sometimes, Raja Dhody would play, too. Raj and I stood by a bulkhead. He asked who else was traveling and I got Milkha to join us. The three of us stood there for hours, returning to our seats only for meals.

And then, it was over, an eventful trip forever etched into memory!

Regards,

Surjit S Dugal (282 T, 1964)

PS. Barry Sharpless would

become a Nobel Laureate a few years later. Then, he was awarded a second Nobel Prize, a living legend!

Some years later, Zai turned professional. Sadly, he died young.

Years later, I met Milkha in the Delhi Airport lounge, sipping beer at the bar. We hugged and chuglugged a couple of beers together. The Jet Airways reps came to take us to our boarding gates but not before we hurriedly downed a third beer! Then the flying Milkha and the flying Dugal flew to our gates! Amen!

Dear Editor,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that we lost my good friend, **Shekhar Das (323 K, 1964)** around the end of June in London, UK. I just found out from his family, and I believe his wife, Rosemary, is also not doing well.

From our class in Kashmir house, we have lost several close friends. **Pavan Sawhney (326 K, 1964)**, **Asghar 'Chottu' Ahmad (172 K, 1964)**, **Prem Prakash 'Johnnie' Sharma (122 K, 1964)**, **Abdul J 'AJ' Faridi (203 K, 1964)**, **Yogi Aggarwal (112 K, 1964)**, **Sarabjit 'Romi' Singh (298, K, 1964)**, **Dalraj 'Hadda' Singh (49 K, 1964)**, **Rati Puri (331 K, 1964)**... amongst others from our overall Batch. Their memories continue to live on in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Arjun Malhotra (325 K, 1964)

Dear Editor,

I trust you are doing well and congratulations on the job you are doing with *The Rose Bowl*.

Many thanks and regards,

Jagdeep Rangar
(256 K, 1971)

Dear Editor,

This is mostly true.

It was Bedroom 2, below Bedroom 8, in Jaipur A. Our House Dame, **Mrs Masani**, on a House Inspection, spotted a matchbox under the end of my mattress. After Lunch, she was waiting for me. Lifting the end of my mattress, she asked what I was doing with matches.

I said they were for *agarbattis*.

Whereupon, with a flourish, she lifted my mattress higher and pulled out a flattened packet of Charminar cigarettes.

With a straight face (and a twinkle in her eyes), she said, "Very strong *agarbattis*, *beta!*"

Knowing I could be expelled, she chose not to report me and urged me not to smoke. She was aware that quitting smoking could be difficult and (bless her kind heart) invited me to visit her for a chat and a snack instead of smoking, whenever I felt the urge. "I don't want you to get in trouble, *beta.*"

She was warm, kind, and approachable, the way a Dame should be.

Best,

Vivek 'Rumpy' Ramchandani
(179 J, 1972)

Dear Editor,

The catastrophic floods and landslides that have ravaged large parts of North India — particularly Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand — demand urgent, decisive, and informed intervention. Entire communities have been washed away, infrastructure lies in ruins, and fragile Himalayan ecosystems are collapsing under the combined weight of climate change and human mismanagement. Expressions of concern without a structured, science-based, and enforceable framework will not prevent the next tragedy — which we know is only a matter of time.

I write this as someone who has studied, documented, and engaged deeply with the history, geography, and ecology of the Himalayas and other fragile ecosystems of India. In the early 1980s, I had the good fortune of working with the Indian Army and helping run the first wildlife workshop that marked the beginning of ending hunting practices by members of the armed forces — something that until then had been considered a way of life. As a direct outcome of that initiative, I helped conceive the concept note that led to the then Army Chief, General K Sundarji, establishing the first Ecological Task Force to reclaim the Mussoorie Hills from the Limestone Mafia. A second task force was subsequently set up in

Fort William, Calcutta, West Bengal. Today, the Mussoorie foothills stand as a living testimony of what can be achieved when vision is matched with decisive institutional action.

This is not just academic. I live in Bandrol, Himachal Pradesh, nine kilometres upstream of Kullu — one of the worst affected areas in the recent disaster. From my bedroom window, I can see Raison, where the road to Manali has been washed away. I live with the consequences of ecological mismanagement every single day

We need to move beyond post-disaster firefighting, and instead lay down binding principles for development and disaster management in fragile Himalayan ecosystems.

Unless action is taken, the very survival of millions of citizens, along with the ecological integrity of the Himalayas, is at stake. I am confident that with judicial leadership, informed expertise, and coordinated action, we can prevent the mountains from turning into permanent graveyards.

Sincerely,

Shiv 'Fauji' Kunal Verma
(182 H, 1976)

Dear Editor,

The Doon School was established to not only impart a book-based education to its students, but to also create well groomed young men to go out into the world with confidence and leadership whilst

retaining a deep sense of social responsibility and purpose.

To this, I feel immense pride to belong to the Dosco fraternity as I am confident that most Doscos are. We all have gone through the same system with all its pushes and pulls, ups and downs, good and bad, each having the range of experiences which moulded our characters as our Founder, **Mr Satish Ranjan Das**, had envisaged.

Two recent instances that occurred in the Goa Chapter stand testament to the above. To me, this is the very essence of what being a Dosco is. Kudos to all those who stepped up to contribute in whichever manner they did.

In the first case, **Gaurav Dar (575 H, 1988)**, son of **Mr AN 'AD' Dar (AND)** and a Professor at BITS Pilani Goa Campus, met with a very serious motorcycle accident on November 19th 2024. He suffered injuries to his head and ribs, and suffered leg and knee fractures. There was non-stop activity right from the moment our Goa Representative **Arjun Khanna (633 O, 1995)** shared the news with us. He kept us informed continuously from 3pm to 11:30pm and helped arrange medical attention, specialist doctor consultations, an ambulance to transfer him from one facility to another, and comfort for the family. Gaurav had surgeries and other medical care, and until he was declared good enough to return home, the Goa Old Boys remained in touch with Gaurav, his wife, and AD. I'm happy to report that Gaurav is

back to his daily routine now.

In the other case, on Sunday, June 29th, an SOS was sounded in the Goa Group for a missing Dosco with muscular dystrophy around 10:50pm. His absence was announced by a classmate and a few others along with a request for anyone to volunteer a trip to his last known address since he had not been answering his phone for nearly two weeks. A much senior Dosco stepped up to the task and went the very next day to see if he could find our fellow Dosco. When he reported that his trip yielded no positive result, others stepped up and got the local police involved with a lot of help from **Abhinav Kumar (285 T, 1991)**, former Director General of Police (DGP) Uttarakhand. By Wednesday, July 2nd we were informed that the missing Dosco's whereabouts had been traced.

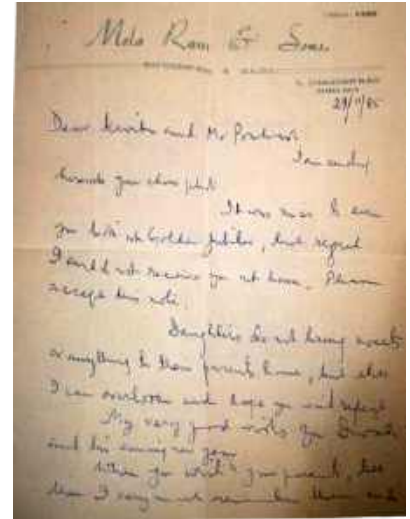
These examples fill my heart with pride of belonging to the Dosco Fraternity. There must be many similar examples in other Chapters. I hope these examples enthruse the fraternity to continue strengthening the bonds between us.

Sincerely,

Prithipal 'Pepe' Singh Dugal (588 T, 1980)

Dear Editor,

I found a precious letter in my personal mementos. It must have been shared by our dear **Melu (Mr Melaram)**. He was requested to tutor my eldest sister



Nandita Puri (607 T, 1979) when we joined School. He roped my elder sister **Chandrika Budhiraja (735 T, 1980)** and me in, too.

I sat with him six days a week for the next five years. When my kids were little, I took them and my mother, Mrs Primila Puri, specially to meet him and see School. This would have been around 27 years back.



On getting married, I sent him a box of *mithai* through my sister. I promptly received a cheque with an accompanying letter explaining that he couldn't accept gifts from daughters.

He is missed.

Sincerely,

Kavita Prakash (794 T, 1981)

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to you and the team on another brilliantly put together issue!

Regards,

CC Chengappa (287 K, 2017)

Dear Editor,

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

Godspeed,

Asheesh Kapur (407 H,1999)

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the beautiful space you gave us.

With love,

**Pallavi Narain
Daughter of Indresh Narain
(288 K, 1961)**



Courtesy Anant Gairola (479 J, 1993)

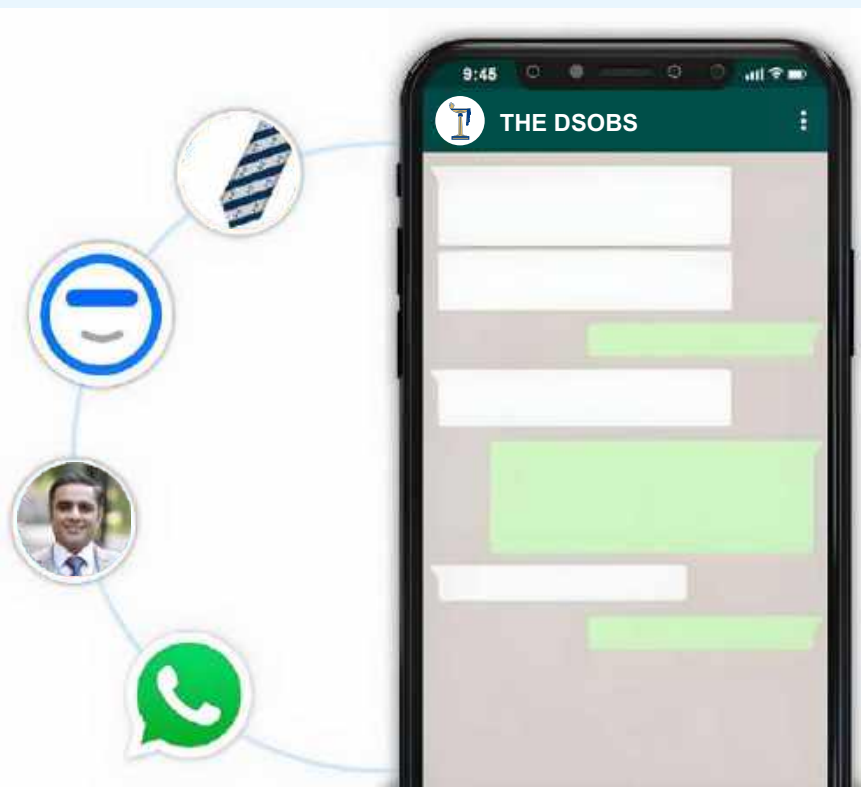


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to start using The DSOBS Chatbot

Save the above number as a contact

- Stay up-to-date with upcoming events hosted by The DSOBS
- The Dosco Card benefits catalogue is at your fingertips
- Conversational Assistant to order your favourite memorabilia (Coming Soon)



Old Boys' News



Air Marshal (Retd) Brijesh Dhar Jayal (101 T, 1951) was featured in *The Economic Times* in his role as one of the first supersonic jet fighter pilots in India's history. Brijesh is among the last surviving members of the pioneering cohort that introduced the Indian Air Force's (IAF) first supersonic fighter, the MiG-21, into service. Cut off from the outside world, the pilots braved subzero conditions, often 20°C below zero, during the rigorous training. Brijesh co-founded No 28 Squadron, the IAF's first MiG-21 unit, and would go on to have a long and distinguished career in the Indian Air Force.



Brijesh recently celebrated his 90th birthday on September 27th in Dehradun with loved ones and well wishers where his pioneering flights with the MiG-21 were commemorated.

The entire Doon community congratulates you on your birthday and is indebted to your honourable service.



Sir Anish Kapoor



Anish Kapoor's Butchered installed on Shell's offshore gas platform

Sir Anish Kapoor (385 T, 1970), the world-renowned and much-hailed artist, had his artwork, *Butchered*, installed on Shell's offshore gas platform by Greenpeace in the North Sea. This was the first artwork to be installed at an active offshore gas site. Anish, a passionate advocate for combating climate change, explained that "the carbon dioxide released by burning fossil fuels is invisible, but we are witnessing the devastation that its extraction wreaks on our world. I wanted to make something visual, physical, visceral to reflect the butchery they are inflicting on our planet." We are so proud of Anish and his brave fight!



Ashesh Kapur (407 H, 1999) and his wife Niharika Bajaj welcomed a healthy baby boy on September 24th in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. We wish the proud parents all the very best, as well as some rest when they can get it!



Amitav Ghosh (246 H, 1972), the multi-award-winning author, has been honoured with Korea's most prestigious international literary award, the 14th Pak Kyongni Prize, validating the global impact of his tremendous body of work. This recognition celebrates his lifetime contributions to literature, expanding the frontiers of postcolonial and ecological writings, and giving voice to oft-overlooked subjects. His works, translated into over thirty languages, have earned him numerous honours worldwide, including the Jnanpith Award (2019) and the Erasmus Prize (2024). Congratulations and all the best for continued success!



Kanti Bajpai (264 T, 1972, HM, KTB) joined Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana, as a Visiting Professor of International Relations. Kanti, a distinguished scholar of international relations, boasts extensive teaching and research experience. His academic journey includes teaching at prestigious institutions such as the National University of Singapore, Oxford University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the Maharajah Sayajirao University of Baroda. Throughout his illustrious career in education, he has authored numerous books, and contributed to *The Rose Bowl*, and has received numerous accolades. In addition to being an Old Boy, Kanti was a Master, then the Headmaster at Doon. We wish him all the best on his continuing journey!



Shantum Seth (270 J, 1973) was honoured with the Dhamma Ratna Award by the Doon Buddhist Committee. Lt Gen Gurmit Singh, Governor of Uttarakhand, conferred the award in recognition of Shantum's lifelong service towards reviving ancient Indian wisdom. The Dhamma Ratna Award spotlights unsung heroes who have made selfless and significant contributions in society for humans, animals, and Mother Nature. We are proud of Shantum's selfless service!



Avinash Singh Alag (160 H, 1984) was honoured with the Indian Education Award on March 28th, for Excellence in Community Engagement, through the work being done by Blossoms School and Gyanodaya founded by him in 1996 and 2001, respectively. The Award was presented by Roshun Povaiah, on behalf of *The Financial Express Digital*, at the Indian Education Summit 2025, organised by *The Indian Express*, at The Lalit, New Delhi. Congratulations!



Vivek Pandit (595 H, 1988) was chosen to be the inaugural guest for the prestigious India Business Briefing Q&A series from the *Financial Times*. Vivek, senior partner and co-leader of McKinsey's private equity and principal investment group, spoke in-depth about the growth prospects for India's economy, and handled the sensitive tariffs issue quite diplomatically. Well done!



Avinash Thadani (424 O, 1999) completed the remarkable feat of swimming solo across the English channel in 22 hours. It is considered one of the toughest open-water swimming challenges in the world. This follows Avinash's swim from Sri Lanka to India completed earlier this year. Congratulations!



Vishal Jhunjhunwala (63 H, 1989) participated in the 48th Maharashtra State Open Squash Tournament at The Bombay Gymkhana Club, Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was runner-up in the Men's Over 50 age category. The tournament was organised by **Sumeet Rewari (80 H, 1989)**, Vishal's classmate from both Cathedral School in Mumbai, Maharashtra and Doon – 45 years of friendship. **Nikhil Bhandare (634 J, 1995)** also participated in the Men's 45+ category and lost a very hard fought match in the quarterfinals. Congratulations to all!



Shreyansh Jha (662 T, 2029) recently won the Boys Under-15 title at the European Junior Open 2025 squash tournament. His extraordinary run included knocking out the top seed in the quarter-finals and then coming back to win the finals after dropping a tight first game. What an astonishing achievement! All the best for future success – the entire Dosco community is proud of you!



Dhruv 'Kent' Shrikent (631 J, 1988) released his latest song "Hindustan Meri Jaan." He had previously been nominated by the IIMA Music Awards for two major awards across different categories under his moniker Druv Kent. All the best for continued success!

A Royal Dosco Salute!



Sanjit 'Bunker' Roy (125 J, 1962), Padma Shri recipient, was personally lauded by HRH King Charles III for his decades-long work in uplifting the less fortunate, most famously with Barefoot College. An article highlighting the Golden Jubilee of the College was featured in the Winter 2022 issue of *The Rose Bowl*. We salute Bunker for his exemplary service to humanity – he continues to be a shining inspiration to Doscos the world over!

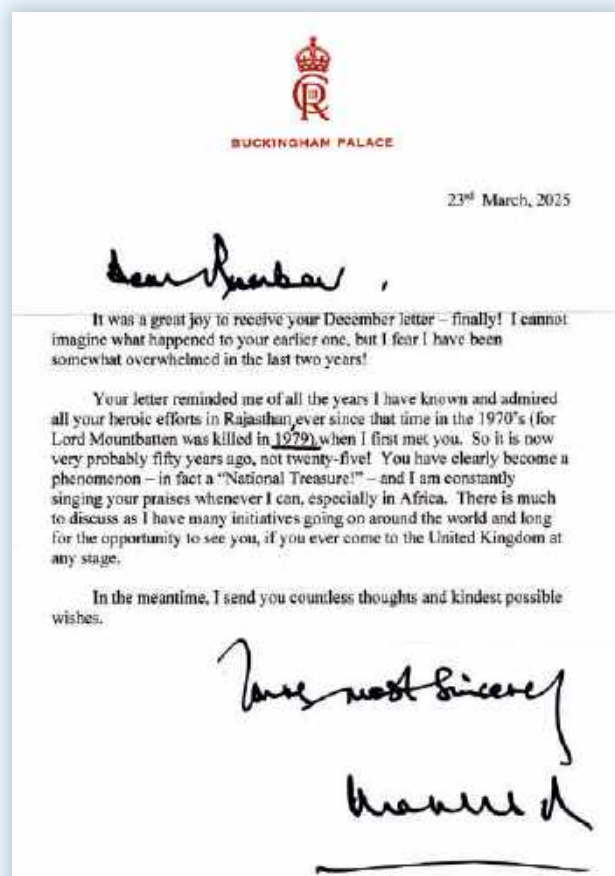


Bunker Roy with King Charles III, then the Prince of Wales, during the Prince's visit with the Princess of Wales to Barefoot College, Tilonia, Rajasthan, 1992

It was a great joy to receive your December letter – finally! I cannot imagine what happened to your earlier one, but I fear I have been somewhat overwhelmed in the last two years!

Your letter reminded me of all the years I have known and admired all your heroic efforts in Rajasthan, ever since that time in the 1970's (for Lord Mountbatten was killed in 1979, when I first met you. So it is now very probably fifty years ago, not twenty-five! You have clearly become a phenomenon – in fact a “National Treasure!” – and I am constantly singing your praises whenever I can, especially in Africa. There is much to discuss as I have many initiatives going on around the world and long for the opportunity to see you, if you ever come to the United Kingdom at any stage.

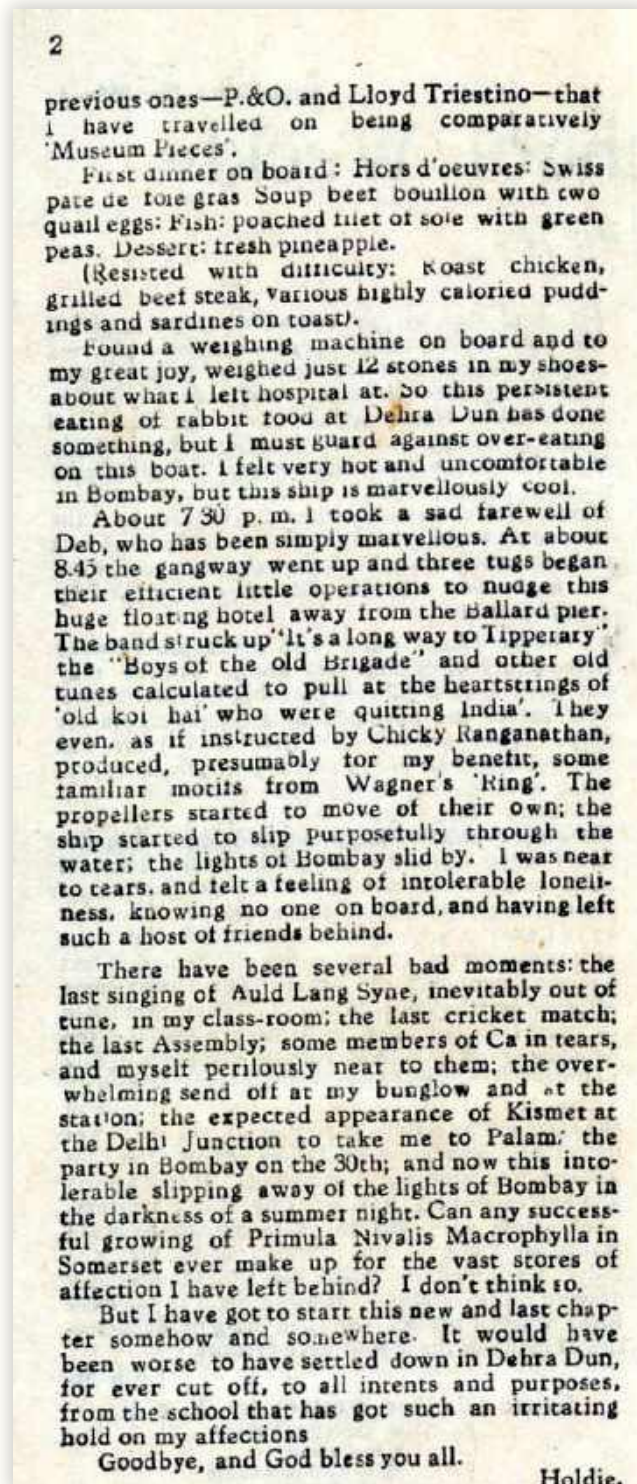
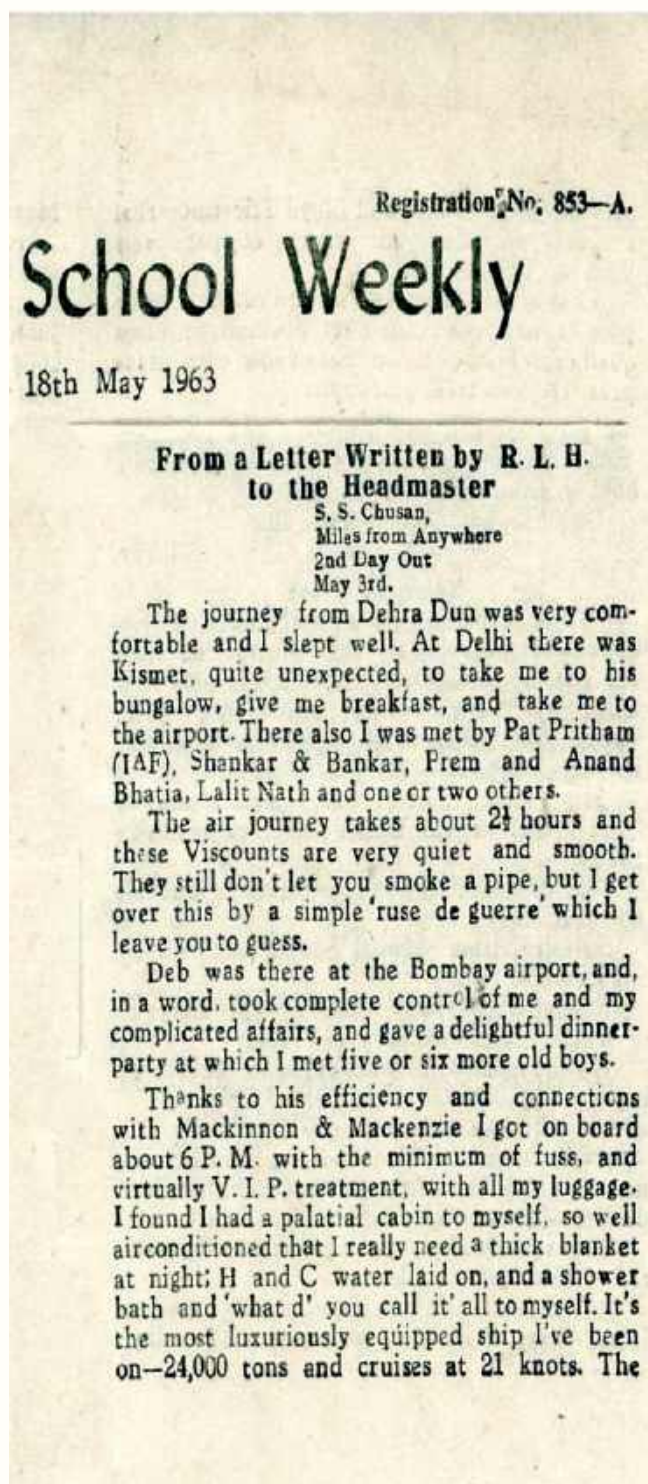
In the meantime, I send you countless thoughts and kindest possible wishes.



Goodbye Letter Written by RLH Holdsworth to the Headmaster

Source: *The Doon School Weekly* (May 18th 1963)

Courtesy Ashok Pandit 7 H, 1958



The Doon School Weekly

18th May 1963

From a Letter Written by R L H to the Headmaster

S. S. Chusan,
Miles from Anywhere
2nd Day Out
May 3rd.

The journey from Dehra Dun was very comfortable and I slept well. At Delhi there was Kismet, quite unexpected, to take me to his bungalow, give me breakfast, and take me to the airport. There also I was met by Pat Pritham (TAF), Shankar & Bankar, Prem and Anand Bhatia, Lalit Nath and one or two others.

The air journey takes about 2½ hours and these Viscounts are very quiet and smooth. They still don't let you smoke a pipe, but I get over this by a simple 'ruse de guerre' which I leave you to guess.

Deb was there at the Bombay airport, and, in a word, took complete control of me and my complicated affairs, and gave a delightful dinner-party at which I met five or six more old boys.

Thanks to his efficiency and connections with Mackinnon & Mackenzie I got on board about 6 P.M. with the minimum of fuss, and virtually V. I. P. treatment, with all my luggage. I found I had a palatial cabin to myself, so well airconditioned that I really need a thick blanket at night; H and C water laid on, and a shower bath and 'what do you call it' all to myself. It's the most luxuriously equipped ship I've been on – 24,000 tons and cruises at 21 knots. The previous ones – P.&O. and Lloyd Triestino – that I have travelled on being comparatively 'Museum Pieces'.

First dinner on board: Hors d'oeuvres: Swiss pate de foie gras Soup beef bouillon with two quail eggs: Fish: poached filet of sole with green peas. Dessert: fresh pineapple.

(Resisted with difficulty: Roast chicken, grilled beef steak, various highly caloric puddings and sardines on toast).

Found a weighing machine on board and to my

great joy, weighed just 12 stones in my shoes – about what I left hospital at. So this persistent eating of rabbit food at Dehra Dun has done something, but I must guard against over-eating on this boat. I felt very hot and uncomfortable in Bombay, but this ship is marvellously cool.

About 7:30 p.m. I took a sad farewell of Deb, who has been simply marvellous. At about 8:45 the gangway went up and three tugs began their efficient little operations to nudge this huge floating hotel away from the Ballard pier. The band struck up "It's a long way to Tipperary" the "Boys of the old Brigade" and other old tunes calculated to pull at the heartstrings of 'old koi hai' who were quitting India. They even, as if instructed by Chicky Ranganathan, produced, presumably for my benefit, some familiar motifs from Wagner's 'Ring'. The propellers started to move of their own; the ship started to slip purposefully through the water; the lights of Bombay slid by. I was near to tears, and felt a feeling of intolerable loneliness, knowing no one on board, and having left such a host of friends behind.

There have been several bad moments: the last singing of Auld Lang Syne, inevitably out of tune, in my class-room; the last cricket match; the last Assembly; some members of Ca in tears, and myself perilously near to them; the overwhelming send off at my bungalow and at the station; the expected appearance of Kismet at the Delhi Junction to take me to Palam; the party in Bombay on the 30th; and now this intolerable slipping away of the lights of Bombay in the darkness of a summer night. Can any successful growing of *Primula Nivalis Macrophylla* in Somerset ever make up for the vast stores of affection I have left behind? I don't think so.

But I have got to start this new and last chapter somehow and somewhere. It would have been worse to have settled down in Dehra Dun, for ever cut off, to all intents and purposes, from the school that has got such an irritating hold on my affections.

Goodbye, and God bless you all.

Holdie.

Autumn 2025 Round-Up

Ashutosh Goyal 392 K, 1986
Secretary, The DSOBS



Ashutosh Goyal

An Aristocracy of Service

“To give back” is at the core of every Dosco’s education: the spirit of being part of an *aristocracy of service* gets into the DNA of every boy in the six-odd years he spends at Chandbagh. Under **Dr Alok Ahuja (741 K, 1980)**, who currently leads the service initiatives for DSOBS, there is a renewed focus on all our charity initiatives. The good Doc keeps members of his Sub-Committee on their toes, and leads by example. He has strengthened the systems in place for identification and due diligence to requests for support from various organisations and institutions who approach The DSOBS for support. At the Secretariat, we are responsible for ensuring that every paisa donated is spent judiciously and for maximum impact. A core initiative of the society is to support our own by providing means-based scholarships to legacy boys studying at School.

John Martyn Memorial School



Donation being made to the John Martyn Memorial School from The DSOBS

The DSOBS has continued our support to the John Martyn Memorial School with a goal to make it self-reliant. The school provides top quality primary education to children from the most

disadvantaged backgrounds. Children are given a strong educational foundation at the school – good enough for some of them to “crack” the entrance exams to schools like The Doon School and Welham Girls’ School. The latter, on their part, grant admission to at least one child each, every year, on a 100%+ scholarship.

Vimukti Sanstha



The students at Vimukti Sanstha, hard at work



The students at Vimukti Sanstha, celebrating their achievements

The Society supported Vimukti Sanstha, an initiative to provide schooling for girls from disadvantaged backgrounds, based in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Headmaster and Legacy Parents

Each year, The DSOBS organises an interaction of the Headmaster with legacy parents whose boys are to sit the entrance exam to School. This year a record number of such boys were registered to appear in the exam. The parents use this opportunity in understanding how to prepare their wards, and the qualities the School looks for in the boys.

International Get-Togethers



Lunch hosted by Jaisingh Jadhav in Richmond, Canada

The USA (North-East) Region organised Socials with the alumni of Welham Girls' School in New York City. The excitement and enthusiasm of DoscOs to meet up with Welham Girls remains the same as it was when they were in School. The USA (East-DC Area) Region had their monthly meet-up at one their favourite watering holes in Washington DC on June 20th. **Jaisingh Jadhav (159 K, 1959)** hosted DoscOs from Canada (West) and USA (Pacific North-West) Regions to lunch in Richmond, BC, Canada. These Regions have become quite active, thanks to our Reps.



Annual UK Region Get-Together in London

The UK Region had their Annual Get-Together in London. It was well attended, with DoscOs across ages coming together for an afternoon to share old stories, jokes, and general bonhomie.



The Europe Region Inaugural Get-Together in Berlin, Germany

Due to the increased number of DoscOs in continental Europe, it has been separated out as a new Region of The DSOBS. The Europe Region had their first formal get-together on June 15th in Berlin, Germany. They have maintained the tempo by meeting up again on August 15th to coincide with Independence Day.



Singapore Region Get-Together

The Singapore Region DoscOs met up on August 30th. The Region has a reasonable number of DoscOs, and they can party hard! Thanks to **Himmat Singh (20 K, 1989)** and **Rahul Bhargava (510 H, 1994)** for hosting!

Mayo College Cricket Match

DoscOs of Karnataka Region met up at Bangalore, Karnataka, on the eve of the annual cricket match versus the alumni of Mayo College. They played hosts to fellow Dosco cricketers who had come from various cities to play the match. Their brief was to keep the boys sober for the next day. I am not sure if that works when DoscOs meet up, but...but...but, our "boys in blue" thrashed the daylights out of the Mayoites. This win made it the third in a row!

Inter-House Football Tournament



First Place: Jaipur House



Second Place: Kashmir House

Moving from cricket to football, the Inter-House Football Tournament was played on August 4th. In a spirited final, Jaipur House came up tops, beating the gentlemen in yellow, Kashmir House, 3-2. The Eagles came up from two goals down and got the winner in the second half. The encouraging bit was to see the event getting more and more popular with young DoscOs participating in good numbers.

Annual Kashmir Golf Weekend

From football to golf. The Annual Kashmir Golf Weekend took place over the August 22nd-24th weekend. This has become a great annual fixture. On the evening of August 22nd, President **Junaid Altaf (209 O, 2003)** and his brother **Owais Altaf (456 O, 2006)** hosted the contingent for dinner at a heritage bungalow, Hazaar Dastaan, in Srinagar, Kashmir. Next morning, the golfers teed off at the beautiful Royal Springs Golf Course. Lunch was at the iconic Amar Singh Club, while dinner was hosted by **Nalin Khanna (563 H, 1980)** and **Ishaan Khanna (463 H, 2012)** at Hotel Highland Park, Gulmarg, Kashmir. The overnight rain continued through the next

morning but that did not dampen the spirit of some members of the group. They zipped back to Srinagar in the morning to get another round of golf at Royal Springs. Some others stayed back in Gulmarg and played a round after lunch. This is a great weekend outing, and I recommend it to all DoscOs, even non-golfers. More about this weekend elsewhere in this issue.

DS-90

The School celebrates its 90th Founder's Day this year, gateway to the Centennial! The Founder's weekend will see several sporting engagements between the Old Boys and the School. Apart from the traditional RL Holdsworth Memorial Cricket Match and the annual SL Sharma Memorial Football Match, tennis, squash, basketball, swimming, and pickleball matches will be held over the weekend.

The DSOBS Executive Committee Elections

This year, eight of the 13 sitting elected members complete their term on the Executive Committee. The process of inviting nominations commenced in January 2025, as per Rules of the Society. 17 DoscOs, across many age groups, filed their nominations for the eight vacancies. The process of drawing the names via online draw took place well within the timeframe set by the Rules. In fact, the volunteers were in place before the deadline, thanks to support of Class Reps and others who pushed their batchmates to volunteer. All the candidates appeared before the cohort of voters over two days. After two days of intense interaction with the cohort, the Selection Committee cast their votes online. The decision of the Selection Committee was forwarded to the Executive Committee on August 22nd.

The Dosco Summit



The Dosco Summit 2025

The next big event is The Dosco Summit. This is the biggest event in The DSOBS calendar. The inaugural iteration has been curated as a half-day event with three sets of panel discussions, preceded by a keynote address and ending with a closing address. The event will be followed by fellowship and dinner. The Imperial Hotel, New Delhi, has been selected as the venue. The Dosco Summit will be the gateway event for DS-90, the 90th Founder’s Day celebrations.

Upcoming Events

Between the time this goes to press, and you get to read it, the following events would have taken place:

- The Rajasthan Region are scheduled to organise Socials with alumni of Welham Girls’ at Clarks Amer in Jaipur
- The Annual Canada (East) Region Get-Together is scheduled for September 12th Toronto, ON
- The Annual USA (North-East) Region Get-Together is scheduled for September 13th in New York City
- Team Dosco would have participated in a triangular cricket tourney with Mayo College and the Lawrence School, Sanawar, at Mohali, Punjab. A perfect warmup to the “Big One” – the Annual Alumni Cricket Bash – being hosted this year by Mayo as part of their 150th-year celebrations

Updating the Dosco Record

After almost a decade The DSOBS has started a

drive to update our member data. Since the last such exercise, in 2017-18, we have lost more than 300 of our fellow DoscOs, and around 700 new members have joined the Society. Many of you have responded saying your information is up to date. Please note that the current Form seeks some additional information from you. Please take out two minutes of your precious time for your Society and fill the online Form. The Secretariat is always there to assist you in case you have any queries.

We hope to see you in Chandbagh at Founder’s 2025 and to celebrate DS-90 with you!



Time for an update!

Login to
www.dsobs.net
 to access the Online Edition of
THE ROSE BOWL

Free Medical Camp By The DSOBS

A DoscoImpact Initiative

Shivendra 'Dicky' Singh 261 T, 1969



The Corbett Forest Department staff and the KVR Hospital staff



The Camp Inauguration led by Diwan Singh Bisht (MLA, Ramnagar), joined by Shivendra 'Dicky' Singh, Dr Saket Badola (Field Director, Jim Corbett National Park), Dr Kushal Agarwal (447 T, 2006), Raghuvendra 'Donny' Singh, Akash Puri (230 T, 1998, VP, The DSOBS), and other top officials from the Jim Corbett National Park

Corbett! I doubt there is any Dosco who has not heard this name. Being in natural surroundings, amongst wild flora and fauna, was part of School's pastoral curriculum, something that went on to "make" a Dosco what he is. Visits to such places instilled in us a sense of conservation and preservation of such precious habitat.

Today, Jim Corbett National Park has close to a thousand Forest Staff who take care of its 1,300sq km territory comprising forest guards, fire watchers, safari vehicle drivers, right up to the Field Director, the "boss" of the entire realm. The foot soldiers leave their beds every morning,



The DoscoImpact Ambulance
From L-R: Akash Puri, Manju Singh, Donny Singh, Dicky Singh, Dr Kushal Agarwal

knowing full well that this may just be the last time they get to sleep in it. A chance encounter with a hungry, angry, or even scared predator, a tusker gone rogue, a poisonous snake; or any of the several other wild animals that inhabit Corbett would be enough to “call it a day.” Ironically, all these people are engaged in saving these very creatures from a wilder species: their own! Working under such stressful conditions sometimes leads to psychological issues and other medical ailments.



Starting the Camp with and ENT check

Brothers **Shivendra ‘Dicky’ Singh** and **Raghuvendra ‘Donny’ Singh (878 T, 1982)**, regular visitors to Corbett, took it upon themselves to do something for the welfare of the Forest staff under the The DSOBS’ DoscoImpact initiative. After several rounds of discussions with the Field Director and his team, it was decided to hold a free medical camp for the Forest Department staff and their families between April 25th-26th 2025. Space was provided by the department in the campus of their headquarters in Ramnagar. **Dr Kushal Agarwal (447 T, 2006)** who runs the multi-speciality KVR Hospital in nearby Kashipur,

Uttarakhand, was asked if he could help with the medical camp. Help? The good ‘Doc’ grabbed the opportunity in the true spirit of giving. He and his team exceeded, by far, the expectations of all stakeholders!



Dr Kushal Agarwal busy in the paediatrician department

He meticulously designed the entire operation: how the registration counters would be staffed, designing patients’ medical report forms, setting up examination counters to reduce crowding, and removing bottlenecks. Proper records were created and will continue to be maintained for each visitor. Booths included those for vitals, ENT, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and Heart & ECG. A pharmacy counter gave medicines prescribed to all the patients free of cost. All the safari drivers and the forest department’s vehicle drivers were given a first aid kit for their vehicles. The first aid kits included medicines, bandages, and even doses of primary medication in case of a heart problem. Each kit had instruction cards mentioning the name of medicines to be given for specific



Free medicines being distributed by prescription



The Gynaecology department

symptoms, and dosages were also clearly spelled out. The camp started at 8am and continued till 6pm. In two days more than 700 people were tested and treated. Dr Kushal Agarwal went a step forward and offered backup treatment for all staff of the forest department at reduced Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) rates at his KVR Hospital. When we learnt that most of the staff did not have Ayushman Cards, he set up a counter to register them for such cards. The DoscoImpact and KVR Hospital Ambulance was on stand-by for emergencies.

Seeing the enthusiastic participation, it was decided to make this free medical camp an annual feature, with added specialities. The beneficiaries were extremely thankful for this initiative and said that something like this had never been done for them.

We would like to acknowledge several people for designing, planning, curating, and seamlessly executing this initiative. The Field Director, Deputy Field Director, Wildlife Warden and their teams for all their support, without which this could not have happened. Dr Kushal Agarwal and his team for their foresight, time, energy, and for providing their services throughout with a smile and with *seva bhav*. **Aditya Goel (113 H, 2020)** for sponsoring the first aid kits. Dicky and Donny

Singh, for their perseverance for this project, right from conceptualisation to successful implementation. Finally, the entire DSOBS Executive Committee for their unwavering support.



Presenting a DSOBS memento to Dr Saket Badola (Field Director, Jim Corbett National Park)

Shivendra "Dicky" Singh played a pivotal role in establishing The DSOBS Goa Chapter and subsequently aligning it with the Karnataka Chapter. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he identified regions in India that were in dire need of assistance. Through The DSOBS, he made substantial donations, including three ambulances in Karnataka and Goa, and 15 Oxygen Concentrators across the nation. Presently, he is spearheading an initiative to organise medical camps in the Jim Corbett National Park region.

The DSOBS Sports Weekend 2025

Raghuvendra 'Donny' Singh 878 T, 1982

Abhenav Khettry 159 J, 2003

An event years in the making, the first ever The DSOBS Sports Weekend was held at The Doon School, Dehradun between April 12th and 13th, with multiple memorable matches between present and past DoscOs, culminating in a celebration of sportsmanship and brotherhood.

SKV Memorial Cricket Match



The SKV weekend Man of the Match, Amitoj 'Johnny' Singh, unleashing a might six

The weekend kicked off with the prestigious SKV Memorial Cricket Match – a 25-over “White Ball” game between The DSOBS and The Doon School which turned out to be one of the closest, most enthralling, and nail-biting SKV matches in recent history.



Star bowler Vineet Kunzru belies his seniority in The DSOBS Team

The Old Boys got off to a flyer with the new ball, but the DoscOs held their own thanks to Pranay Gupta's determined knock of 49, setting up a

fighting target of 136. **Vineet Kunzru (706 T, 1982)** was the pick of the bowlers for the Old Boys, picking up 3 for 22. **Viksit 'Vik' Verma (482 H, 2019)**, **Gursanjan 'Guru' Singh (292 J, 2024)**, and **Pratyush Vaishnava (422 K, 2000)** also chipped in with wickets.

Having amassed many runs on the Main Field over the years, The DSOBS Team felt like the total was an easy chase, but they ran into the Dosco storm known as Aarit Agarwal who claimed two wickets in the first three balls of the innings.

Spinners Arnav and Sahej turned circles around the Old Boys, which left them reeling at 70 for 6 and in a spot of bother. Then came **Amitoj 'Johnny' Singh (285 H, 2004)**, the main man on the Main Field, deftly singling and doubling his way towards the target. Almost 20 years after graduating, Johnny embodied that “never say die” Dosco spirit, leading the Old Boys to an unbelievable victory by two wickets. He finished with an unbeaten 59 and was ably helped by Gursanjan 'Guru' Singh, who chipped in with 21 valuable runs. Johnny's innings was one of the best I have seen in a very long time. The DSOBS seems to have found themselves their finisher.



From L-R: Amitoj 'Johnny' Singh receiving the Player of the Match Award from his parents Gursharan Singh (219 H, 1968, GSS) Mrs Singh, Donny Singh, Deputy Headmaster Mr Kamal Ahuja (KLA), Akash Puri (230 T, 1998, VP, The DSOBS), Junaid Altaf (209 O, 2003, President, The DSOBS)

Pranay Gupta was adjudged Best Batsman and Aarit the Best Bowler while Johnny Singh bagged the Player of the Match award. All three were presented with a cricket bat to commemorate their performances.

Although it was a bitter loss for the DoscOs to take, they put on a fiery performance and braced themselves for the next day's "pink ball" bout.

Brief Scores

Doon: 136 all out in 25 overs; Pranay Gupta 49, Ekagra Kasana 31, Kaushal Golyan 14; Vineet Kunzru 3/22, Viksit Verma (482 H, 2019) 2/20, Gursanjan 1/18, Pratyush Vaishnav 1/22

DSOBS: 139 for 8 in 24 overs; Amitoj 59 not out, Gursanjan 21, Waseefullah 'Waseef' Sherwani (84 J, 2014) 18; Aarit Agarwal 3/22, Sahej Jain 2/22, Arnav 2/24, Vedant Mangal 1/12

Best Batsman: Pranay Gupta

Best Bowler: Aarit Agarwal

Player of the Match: Amitoj 'Johnny' Singh

Result: The DSOBS won by 2 wickets



The victorious DSOBS Team with the SKV trophy
 Standing: Pratyush Vaishnav, Vineet Kunzru, Shrivats Chandra (48 J, 2008), Donny Singh, Akash Puri, Junaid altaf, Ashutosh Goyal (392 K, 1986, Secretary, The DSOBS), Manu Vohra (289 J, 1991), Anuj Vohra (359 J, 1999), Amitoj 'Johnny' Singh
 Kneeling: Waseef Sherwani, Venkatesha Sharma (303 O, 2004), Shivendra Thapa (56 O, 1996), Ankur Joshi (281 H, 2004), Gursanjan 'Guru' Singh, Viksit Verma, Abhenav Khettry

KC Joshi Memorial Hockey Match

Within a matter of minutes, the Main Field transformed into a hockey field, with several players switching their batting pads and bats for shin pads and hockey sticks. This game is played in memory of **Mr KC Joshi**, and the *joshi* was high heading into this annual encounter.

While this was the DoscOs' first hockey match of

the season, their performance portrayed otherwise. They were off the blocks early, scoring two goals in the first quarter and never looked back. Defending for the entirety of the first half, the Old Boys refurbished themselves with a bit of zeal and played a cracker of a third quarter, almost scoring on a few occasions. The fourth quarter saw another goal for the DoscOs, wrapping up an assertive 3-0 victory with standout performances from the award winners:



The victorious School Hockey Team with the KC Joshi Trophy

Best Goal Keeper: Yashvir Tewatia

Best Defender: Zoravar Sandhu

Best Midfielder: Gursanjan Singh

Best Striker: Jayvir Singh Grewal

Player of the Match: Rahul Oram

Rahul Oram received a hockey stick from The DSOBS captain, **Kunal Sharma (473 J, 1993)** for his extraordinary performance. As the sun set on day one, it was time to grab a good night's rest before doing it all again the next day.

T20 Cricket Match

Day Two started with the T20 Cricket Match played with a pink ball. The match started off with a few boundaries for the DSOBS side, who were batting first.

Raghav Mallik (133 K, 1984) cracked a cool 30, but the rest of the batsmen were not able to contribute too many runs. Daksh Jindal bowled his heart out bagging 4 for 14. The rescue act was left to Amitoj 'Johnny' Singh again. Once again, he rose to the occasion, scoring his second half-century of the weekend with an unbeaten 52, setting a target of 127.

In the chase, the DoscOs did not falter as Pranay Gupta continued his fine form. His opening partner Rushil matched him run for run as they

ran away with the game, scoring 50 and 52 respectively, putting on a 105 run partnership and registering an emphatic 8 wicket victory, redeeming themselves for the weekend.



The victorious School Team with the T20 Cricket Match Trophy

Brief Scores

DSOBS: 126 for 7 in 20 overs; Amitoj Singh 52 not out, Raghav Mallik 30, Dhanvi Shukla (557 K, 2020) 12; Daksh Jindal 4/14, Arnav 2/18, Pranay Gupta 1/31

Doon: 127 for 2 in 15.4 overs; Rushil Agarwal 52, Pranay Gupta 50 retd, Shailender 10; Abhenav Khettry 1/21

Result: The Doon School won by 8 wickets

The V Hensman Memorial Basketball Match



The MVP, Khalid Alawnah (597 J, 2013), scoring against the School Team

After the cricket match, the first ever The DSOBS vs The Doon School Basketball match was played



The victorious DSOBS Team

in honour of **Mr V ‘Henny’ Hensman (HS/VHS)**. A wonderful trophy, the first of its kind, was displayed on the basketball court, which played host to the most exhilarating piece of action that we witnessed over this action-packed weekend.

The DSOBS went on to beat the School boys in a thriller, coming back from a deficit of 13-32, to win 74-66. This was definitely one for the ages!



The School Basketball Team

At all four prize distributions during the weekend, the Deputy Headmaster, **Mr Kamal Ahuja (KLA)**, and The DSOBS Head of Sports, Donny Singh, graced the occasion and thanked everyone for their involvement. They thanked The DSOBS for making the effort to come back to School and the School for hosting them. A heartfelt thank you was directed to Abhenav Khettry and his Vyana Sports team who put together this amazing two-day event, organising a live stream of all the matches, state of the art graphics, and top-quality jerseys.

As the weekend came to a close, Mr Ahuja wonderfully worded the sentence that summed up the 2025 DSOBS Sports Weekend: “In the end, it's all Doscos that won.”

Raghuvendra ‘Donny’ Singh has been the Class Representative for the Batch of 1982 and an active member of The DSOBS, serving on the Executive Committee multiple times. In recognition of his long-standing service and dedication, Donny was honoured as the very first recipient of The DSOBS Award of Recognition of Service in 2024. Beyond sports, Donny’s passion lies in nature and wildlife, with Jim Corbett National Park being a special retreat.

Abhenav Khettry is based in Calcutta, West Bengal, where he runs Vyana Wealth Management and Vyana Sports Management. He has been the Class Representative for his Batch and Region Representative for Calcutta, and is a special invitee to The DSOBS Executive Committee. He has been instrumental in professionalising sporting events for The DSOBS since 2022.

V Hensman Basketball Trophy 2025

The Old Boys Stage a Miraculous Comeback From the Brink of Defeat

Amitoj 'Johnny' Singh 285 H, 2004



The cheering squad in the background as the match begins

The showstopper at the end of the Old Boys Sports Weekend frenzy in April 2025 was the battle for the prestigious V Hensman Basketball Trophy, named after the first Master-in-Charge of the sport in School in the late 1960s, **Mr V 'Henny' Hensman (HS/VHS)**. Fun fact – he was quite the singer, too!



The Old Boys huddle up

The court crackled with energy as family and friends of the alumni cheered from one corner, while a battalion of Juniors chanted from the opposite side, setting the stage for a game that was as much about pride as points.

As the whistle blew, the difference in team cohesion became obvious as the School Basketball

Team ran circles around a disorganised Old Boys' team till some voices from the bench brought some much needed concord.

On the support staff bench, **Prithipal Singh 'Pepe' Dugal (588 T, 1980)**, along with **Raghuvendra 'Donny' Singh (878 T, 1982)**, and Amitoj 'Johnny' Singh, discussed the need for a single strategic voice to take managerial charge in a sport that sees rolling substitutions.

Almost as if in sync, the tallest among the Old Boys, **Nishchay Miterr (277 H, 2004)**, hands on knees and panting after just a few minutes on the court, indicated to Johnny that **Puneet Raj Singh Sadana (531 J, 2001)** should take charge.

Under the direction of former School Basketball Captain Sadana and the passionate **Manav Kochhar (183 O, 2009)**, the Old Boys reorganised their play. They married strategic wisdom and the latest intel to disrupt the rhythm of the youngsters.



Making a key foul shot

They put in the youngest and toughest Old Boys team possible to match the energy of the youngsters who had begun showing off prematurely. With reason, because at that stage in the second quarter, The School Basketball Captain,

Adhiraj Mann, the second-highest scorer of the match with 20 points, had taken the School to a healthy 32-13 lead.

Could the Old Boys stage a miraculous comeback?

A recalibration saw the Old Boys stop taking the riskier deep shots they had been missing. Instead, they started to feed the ball to their taller pivots, who began converting closer to the hoop. Smart, fundamental basketball.



Khalid making a high-percentage jumper

The star of the Old Boys' comeback, though, weren't the pivots. It was **Khalid Alawnah (597 J, 2013)** who tripled as scorer, rebounder, and counter-attacker, using his physicality relentlessly to drive through the defence of the young 'uns to pull off layup after layup, garnering both points and fouls.



Sanjum playing defence

The supporting cast included the "tall" warts **Miterr, Tanvir Singh Bal (439 H, 2018)**, and **Shivam 'Nags' Nagalia (133 O, 2009)** in the centre, and the ball controllers, **Pranav Kapoor**

(208 H, 2009), Waseefullah 'Waseef' Sherwani (84 J, 2014), Sanjum Dhaliwal (592 H, 2020), Sai Arjun (306 T, 2024), and Sumant Dang (593 J, 2007), who (mostly) stuck to strategy.



The School Team prepares for a fightback

By the end of the second quarter, unbelievably, the Old Boys were only six points behind at 27-33. Momentum seemed to favor the alumni, but the youngsters weren't done yet. With minutes to go before the final whistle, the Old Boys led only by 1 point at 61-60.



Fighting till the very end

The older lot kept their nerves thanks to the young legs of controllers Dhaliwal and Arjun to pull off a hard-earned 74-66 victory...proof that grit and strategy can overcome age and youth!

Khalid emerged as the top scorer with 22 points. But as is tradition in such encounters with alumni, the Player of the Match went to a current student,



The ball controllers trying to maintain the Old Boys' narrow lead



The Old Boys giving the School Basketball Team a much-deserved standing ovation

an S Former, Abhay Pratap Verma, for his brave act of taking on the stronger and taller Old Boys and getting injured in the process.

SC Formers Devansh Jitu, Sumerh Pasricha, and Aadhavan Suri showed resilience, but the promise of next year's battle against S Formers, Verma and Abhishek Shukla, appeared, in equal parts, alarming and exhilarating.

In the absence of the much-missed Chief Guest, **Dr Sumer Bahadur Singh (SBS)**, and Headmaster **Dr Jagpreet Singh (HM)**, due to unavoidable reasons, Deputy Headmaster **Kamal Ahuja's (KLA)** words rang true when he declared the School had won, irrespective of the result.

Amitoj 'Johnny' Singh is a journalist who spends most of his time trying to find time for alumni sporting events. He has reported for NDTV, Al Jazeera, Channel News Asia, CNN, Business Insider, and more, and is based wherever the story is.



The DSOBS winning squad

Standing: Sanchit Kapoor (372 O, 2005), Prithipal Singh 'Pepe' Dugal, Nitin 'Ninsa' Sardana (164 T, 2016), Mr Kamal Ahuja, Manav Kochhar, Raghuvendra 'Donny' Singh, Puneet Raj Singh Sadana, Sumant Dang, Tanvir Singh Bal, Shivam 'Nags' Nagalia (133 O, 2009), Sai Arjun

Kneeling: Waseefullah 'Waseef' Sherwani, Nishchay Miterr, Khalid Alawnah, Sanjum Dhaliwal, Pranav Kapoor

An Empire State of Mind

The DSOBS New York Socials with Welham Girls' School

Shubho Ghosh 472 0, 1993
The DSOBS Regional Representative – USA East Coast



After-School Socials



Old connections being celebrated



Enjoying the beautiful New York City summer's day

The Doon School-Welham Girls' School Socials Get-Together was held in New York City, USA, on June 8th.

Over 80 DoscOs and Welhamites attended the event, held at a restaurant in Manhattan – Pera Soho, a much-loved mediterranean retreat in the heart of the Soho area.



New connections being made



Some of the over 80 Doscocs and Welhamites who attended the event



Doscocs and Welhamites catching up

It was a wonderful NYC summer event where old connections were celebrated and new ones made.

Incidentally, the next DSOBS New York event is happening on Saturday, September 13th – The Annual DSOBS USA North-East Region Get-Together. We are hoping to see many more Doscocs there!

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



Courtesy Anant Gairola (479 J, 1993)

An Instant Bond

The DSOBS Europe Reunion 2025

Abhishek Maity 180 O, 2003

The first ever European (sans UK) DSOBS reunion took place on June 15th, a sunny Sunday afternoon at Orangerie – one of the many beer gardens in the hip Neukölln borough of Berlin, Germany.

Our DSOBS EU Representative **Abhimanyu Chandra (130 J, 2002)**, who resides in Hannover, Germany, and Berlin resident **Rishabh Saklani (379 T, 2005)** organised the outing with an open bar featuring the namesake drink, Orangerie, and an equally popular Limoncello, and assorted Mediterranean hors d'oeuvres. A healthy amount of all of the above went through our table over the course of the afternoon.

The event brought together Doscos and significant others scattered across the continent as well as visitors from India and the US who were serendipitously passing through Europe and made time to join. We were also joined by The DSOBS Vice President, **Akash Puri (230 T, 1998)**, shuttling to Berlin from the DSOBS gathering in London, UK, the night before.

We had fifteen folks joining us from Switzerland, the Netherlands, Spain, and Germany, spanning multiple generations of Doscos ranging from **Prem Sinha (14 H, 1956)** to the youngest attendee **Tushant Singh's (421 O, 2005)** and his wife **Trupti Gohel's** new born daughter **Tarkshi**.

Abhimanyu and Akash made some opening remarks celebrating the long overdue first EU DSOBS get-together, the Dosco spirit, the need for fraternity in trying times, and awe in the journeys some Old Boys made to join us in Berlin. Already, mini-reunions have spawned in other cities, including one in Frankfurt, Germany, on Independence Day, and a relatively active DSOBS Europe WhatsApp group.

In a networking world, it is refreshing how the shared Dosco experience creates an instant bond between folks, many of whom are strangers, in a completely genuine way, for which, I am always grateful. A big thank you to the organisers and all

who attended. I look forward to the next EU reunion in an exciting European city!



From L-R: Vishesh Kochher (297 T, 2010) (Agra, India/Berlin, Germany), Abhishek Maity (Berlin, Germany), Tushant Singh (421 O, 2005, Montreux, Switzerland), Trupti Gohel, Siddharth Paradkar (126 K, 1997, Rotterdam, Netherlands), Abhimanyu Chandra (Hannover, Germany), Rishabh Saklani (Berlin, Germany), Amay Malik (451 O, 2006, Düsseldorf, Germany), Akash Puri (India), Prem Sinha (Darmstadt, Germany), Moin Qureshi (467 K, 1975, India/USA)



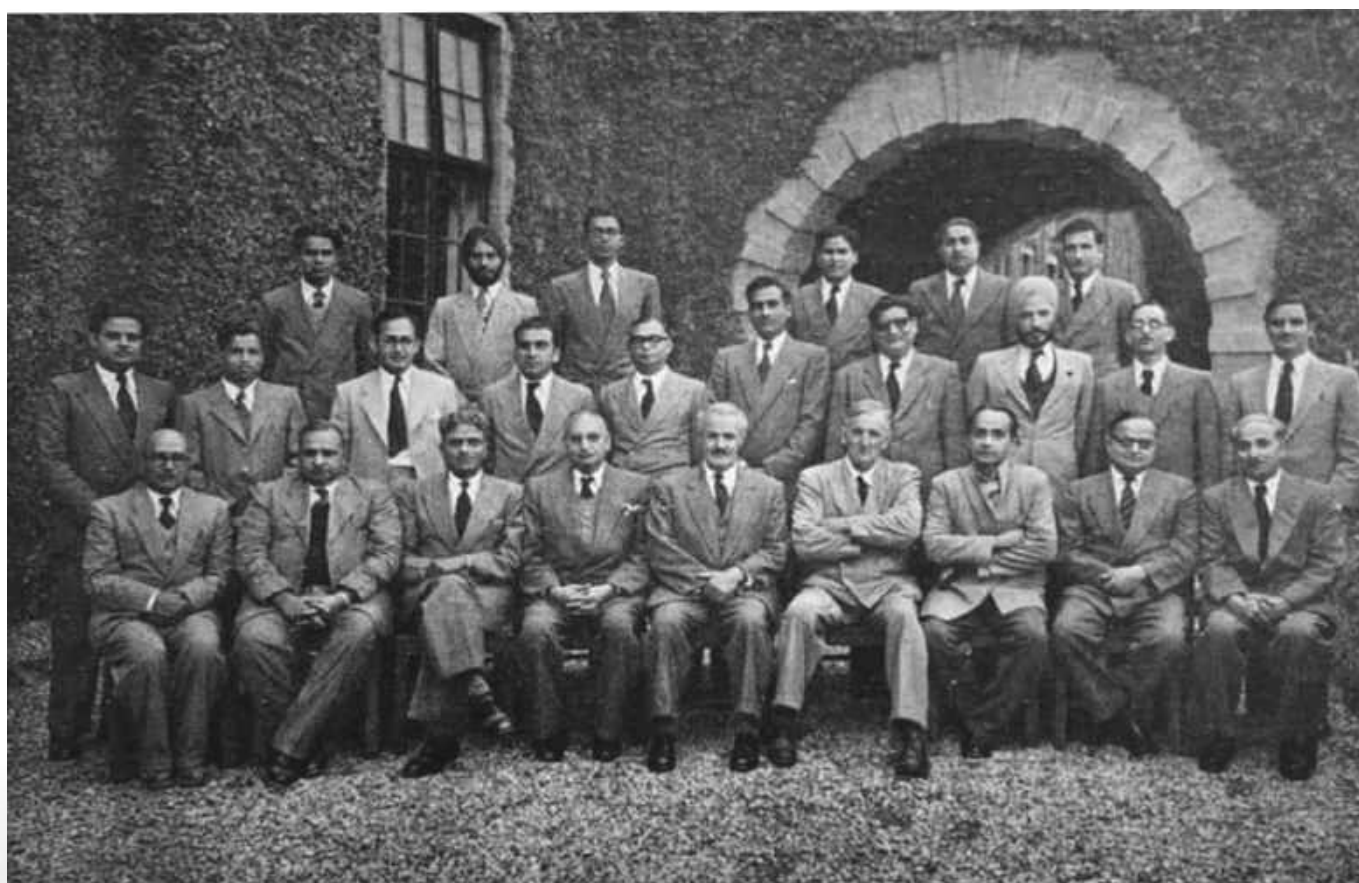
An instant bond in Europe

Abhishek Maity is the VP of Product at Fraym, where he leads the geospatial data team. After recent stops in Boston, USA, Washington DC, USA, and Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, he now lives in Berlin, Germany, with his wife, Susi and temperamental 4-year old, Felix.

The Mela-Room

Twenty Years After – Masters December 1955

EDITOR'S NOTE: This edition of the Mela-Room, where we dig through Mr Melaram's formidable photo archive, presents the Masters, 20 years after the School's founding.



The Doon School Masters (December 1955)

Back Row: WS Deshpande, Darshan Singh, V Hensman, HD Bhatt, BS Sharma, N Chuckerbutty

Middle Row: SD Singh, Shiv Lal Sharma, SP Sahi, RN Kunzru, KC Gupta, BP Chandola, Gurdial Singh, KC Garg, OP Malhotra

Sitting: SC Agarwal, Shanti Swarup, KNP Nair, VN Kapur, JAK Martyn, RL Holdsworth, Sudhir Khastgir, KC Joshi, SC Roy

Please let us know if we misidentified or missed anyone in the photograph.

The Opening of The Doon School

Source: *The Times of India* (October 29th 1935)

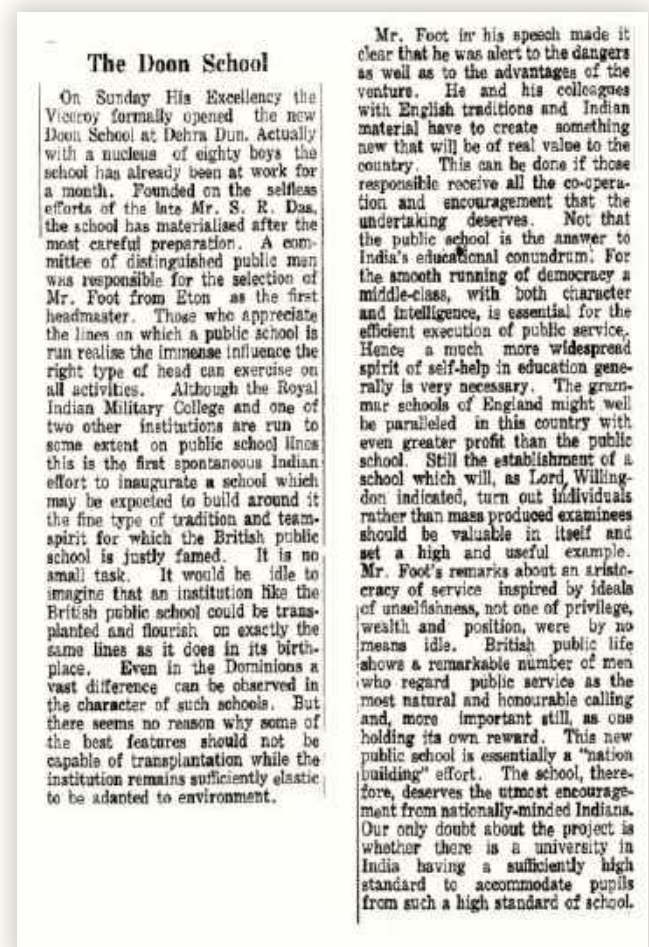
The Doon School

On Sunday His Excellency the Viceroy formally opened the new Doon School at Dehra Dun. Actually with a nucleus of eighty boys the school has already been at work for a month. Founded on the selfless efforts of the late Mr S R Das, the school has materialised after the most careful preparation. A committee of distinguished public men was responsible for the selection of Mr. Foot from Eton as the first headmaster. Those who appreciate the lines on which a public school is run realise the immense influence the right type of head can exercise on all activities. Although the Royal Indian Military College and one of two other institutions are run to some extent on public school lines this is the first spontaneous Indian effort to inaugurate a school which may be expected to build around it the fine type of tradition and team-spirit for which the British public school is justly famed. It is no small task. It would be idle to imagine that an institution like the British public school could be transplanted and flourish on exactly the same lines as it does in its birthplace. Even in the Dominions a vast difference can be observed in the character of such schools. But there seems no reason why some of the best features should not be capable of transplantation while the institution remains sufficiently elastic to be adapted to environment.

Mr Foot in his speech made it clear that he was alert to the dangers as well as to the advantages of the venture. He and his colleagues with English traditions and Indian material have to create something new that will be of real value to the country. This can be done if those responsible receive all the co-operation and encouragement that the undertaking deserves. Not that the public school is the answer to India's educational conundrum. For the smooth running of democracy a middle-class, with both character and intelligence, is essential for the efficient execution of public service, Hence a much more widespread spirit of self-help in education generally is very necessary. The grammar schools of England might well be paralleled in this country with even greater profit than the public school. Still the

establishment of a school which will, as Lord Willingdon indicated, turn out individuals rather than mass produced examinees should be valuable in itself and set a high and useful example. Mr Foot's remarks about an aristocracy of service inspired by ideals of unselfishness, not one of privilege, wealth and position, were by no means idle. British public life shows a remarkable number of men who regard public service as the most natural and honourable calling and, more important still, as one holding its own reward. This new public school is essentially a "nation building" effort. The school, therefore, deserves the utmost encouragement from nationally-minded Indians.

Our only doubt about the project is whether there is a university in India having a sufficiently high standard to accommodate pupils from such a high standard of school.



I am Amita Moudgill, daughter of **Mr VN Kapur**. Recently, I have revived my interest in art and am exploring shades of spirituality through oil paintings. I find it engaging and soothing to create something in bright and cheerful colours that has the potential to brighten up one's day.

My earliest foray into the world of painting began during my days at The Doon School, where the masterful guidance of our art instructor, **Mr Rathin Mitra**, ignited within me a passion for wielding brushes. Each session held a promise of joy, and it was a journey I eagerly anticipated.

Despite a temporary pause due to familial responsibilities, the foundational lessons learned during those school days remained etched in my mind. A stint teaching in a pre-primary school reignited my connection with crayons and brushes, reaffirming my love for creative pursuits.



Buddha

A Passion for Wielding Brushes

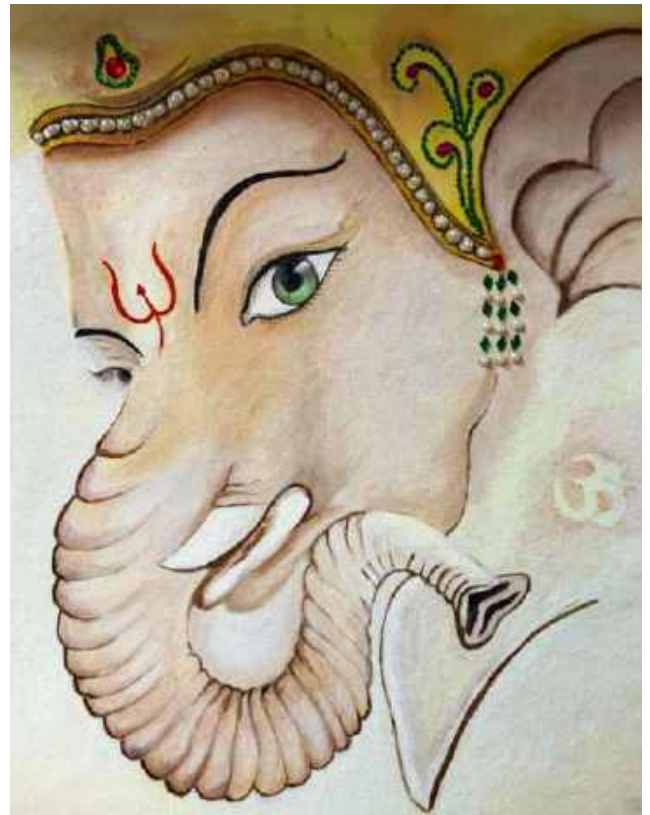
The Paintings of Amita Moudgill

Amita Moudgill 263 J, 1962



Amita Moudgill wielding her brush

Ganesh 1



The unforeseen confinement brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic became a catalyst for rediscovering the therapeutic qualities of painting. In the midst of housebound days, I found solace and purpose in the vibrant hues of watercolours and the rich textures of oil paints. Since then, my artistic journey has only gained momentum as I continue to explore the captivating world of visual art with unwavering enthusiasm and dedication.

Included here are some examples from my current series of paintings on expressions of spirituality – I hope the Old Boys (and Girls!) readers of *The Rose Bowl* derive just some of the pleasure I enjoyed whilst painting them...



Amita with Ganesh 1

Ganesh 2

Amita Moudgill is based in Gurgaon and has been actively associated with the field of education. She cherishes spending time with her grandchildren and continues to pursue her hobbies. A passionate painter, she also occasionally appears in advertisements and takes up cameo roles in Hindi films.



RL Holdsworth (1899-1976)

Highest point reached:
Summit of Mt. Kamet (7756 m)
in 1931. Also the first ascent of
Mt. Kamet.



Nandu Jayal (1927-1958)

Highest point reached:
Summit of Mt. Sakang (7360 m)
in 1954. Also the first ascent of
Mt. Sakang.



Jack Gibson (1908-1994)

Highest point reached:
Summit of Mt. Kamet (7756 m)
in 1946.



Some highlights from The Doon School mountaineering tradition *Courtesy The Doon School Archives*

For Many Hills to Climb

The Doon School Mountaineering Tradition (A Brief History)

Sudhir Sahi 116 T, 1963



John Martyn in a photograph taken by Mr Gurdial 'Guru' Singh (GU)



Edward Whymper

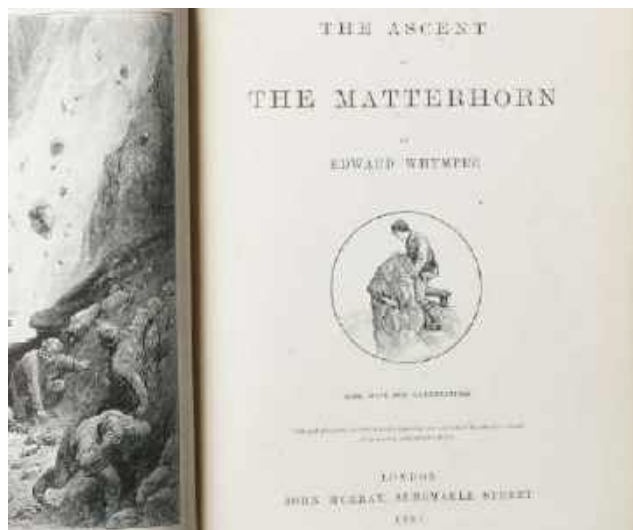
And fourth, even as The Doon School opened just over a decade after 1924, its Chandbagh *sabha* of mentors, pupils, support personnel, and external bonds fostered a legacy, indeed an institutional memory, of awareness, care and concern for the high mountains and their communities.

So, here it is: a brief gathering of some of the early trends, to a cross-section of those who shaped our understanding till visitor footprints that now leave virtual zero headroom for local right of way nor regenerative growth, along the entire span of the great arc that connects the Indus with the Brahmaputra.

Early Mountaineering Trends

Edward Whymper (1840-1911), made the first ascent of the Matterhorn in 1865; four companions were killed while descending.

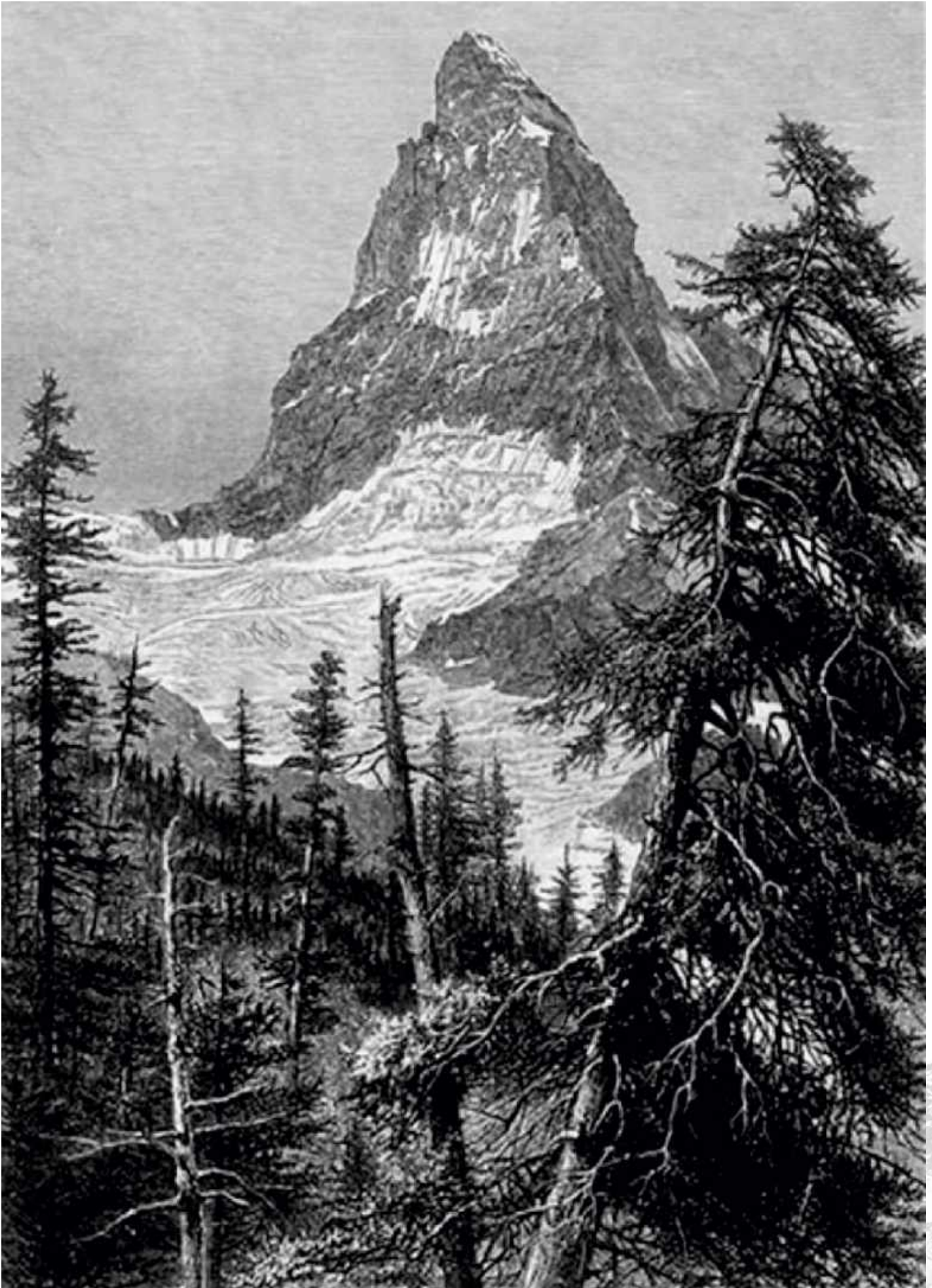
Whymper's 1871 book, *Scrambles Amongst the Alps*, carries his warning for fellow mountaineers: "Climb if you will, but remember that courage and strength are naught without prudence, and that a momentary negligence may destroy the happiness of a lifetime. Do nothing in haste; look well to each step, and from the beginning think what may be the end."



The Ascent of The Matterhorn by Edward Whymper



Scrambles Amongst the Alps in the Years 1860-69 by Edward Whymper



The Matterhorn, 4,478m, on the Switzerland-Italy watershed, first ascent in 1865

FEATURES



Chimborazo, 6,268m, highest mountain in the Ecuador Andes, first ascent in 1880



Aiguille Verte, 4,122m, in the Mont Blanc massif of the French Alps, first ascent in 1865



Eiger North Face, 3,970m, Bernese Alps, Switzerland, first ascent in 1938 (Heinrich Harrer et al)

In the Beginning: The Great Game and Nanda Devi

In 1907, Britain and Russia signed the Anglo-Russian Convention to close each others' rivalry in Central Asia, namely, the Great Game which thereby came to an end. Fearing a Franco-Russian drive against India, the Brits initially combatted the extension of Russian influence. Even Napoleon's defeat did not allay British fears about their continued possession of India.



Nanda Devi

Some Who Shaped Our Understanding



Pandit Rai Bahadur Kishan Singh

Pandit Rai Bahadur Kishan Singh

Explorer-cartographer

Greatest and last journey in 1878, traced the northern trade route from Lhasa to Xinjiang till Dunhuang and eastern Tibet to China. In one area, unable to count his own steps, measured the 230-mile distance counting his horse's steps. Retired 1885, died 1921.

Pandit Nain Singh Rawat

Explorer-cartographer

Awarded the Royal Geographical Society's Gold Medal (Patron's Medal) in 1876 for his remarkable journeys and surveys in Tibet and along the Upper Brahmaputra, he significantly contributed to our understanding of the map of Asia.

Pandit Kinthup

Pandit Kinthup of Sikkim explored Tibet, late 1800s.



Pandit Nain Singh Rawat



Pandit Kinthup

Heinrich Harrer

1912-2006

In Seven Years in Tibet, he wrote: “I feel homesick for Tibet. I still hear cries of wild geese and cranes beat their wings, flying over Lhasa in the clear, cold moonlight. My heartfelt wish is for my story to create understanding for a people whose will to live in peace and freedom has won little sympathy from an indifferent world.”

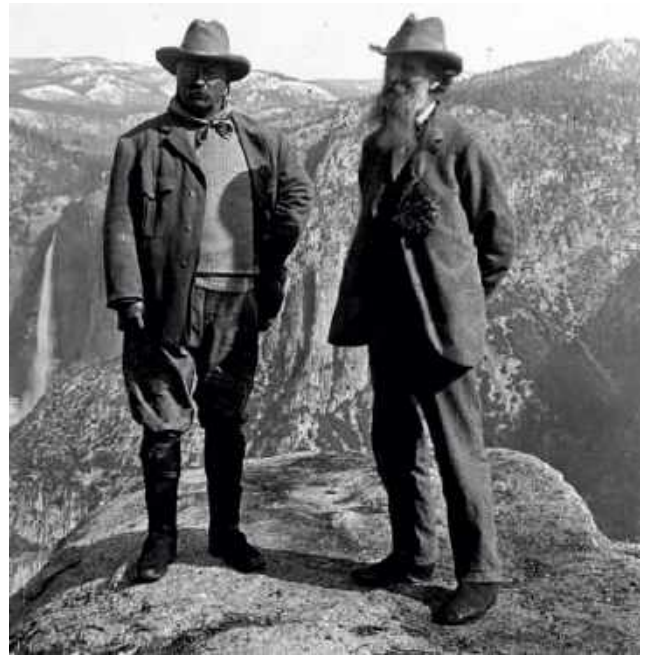


Heinrich Harrer

Radhanath Sikdar

Survey of India

Sikdar correctly measured Peak XV as the highest point on earth, then named it after the first Surveyor General, Sir George Everest, based thereon in Dehradun at Hathi Barkala, round the corner from the Chandbagh, later premises of The Doon School.



President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir



Radhanath Sikhar

John Muir

John Muir’s three-day sojourn with US President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 is significant in conservation history. Muir persuaded the President to return Yosemite Valley for federal protection as part of Yosemite National Park in California. Muir also founded the Sierra Club, saying: “Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.”

FEATURES

Eric Shipton, during his 1934 Nanda Devi expedition: "In the sanctuary of the Blessed Goddess we had found the lasting peace which is the reward of those who seek to know high mountain places."

The Doon emphasis on academia together with care of the outdoors helped spur the School's long association with mountaineering.



Eric Shipton and Bill Tilman with sherpas during their Nanda Devi Expedition, 1934

The Doon School: A Pioneer in Mountaineering



87 Years On: The historic crossing of Kalindi Khal, the Bhagirathi-Alaknanda watershed, 1937
Four Friends (L-R): Tenzing Norgay, John Martyn, Rinzing, Jack Gibson

The Doon emphasis on academia together with care of the outdoors helped spur the School's long association with mountaineering.

RL 'Holdie' Holdsworth



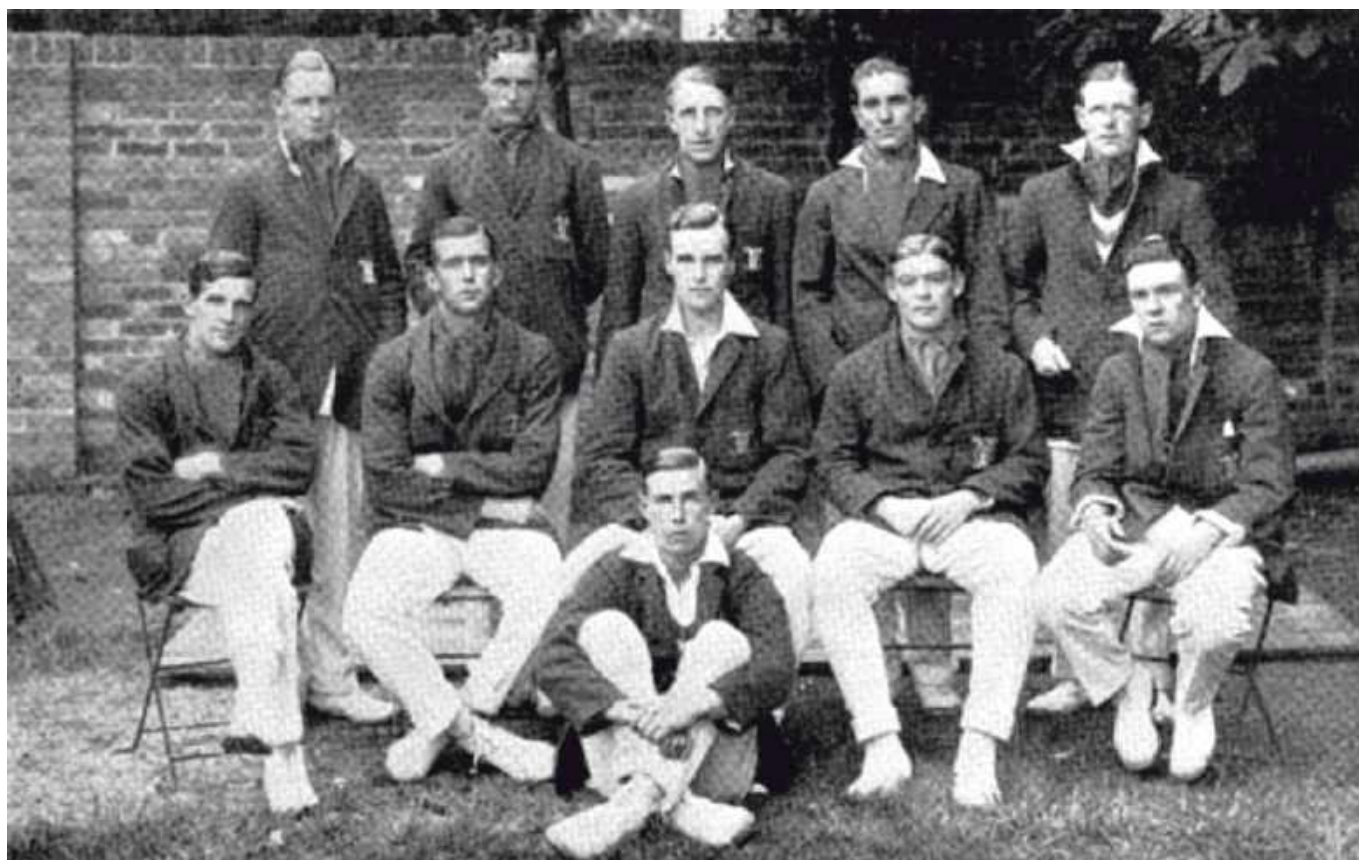
Mr RL 'Holdie' Holdsworth

Mentored at Repton School by Sir Victor Gollancz, later well-known publisher, and Headmaster William Temple, later Archbishop of Canterbury. Triple Blue at Oxford, Holdie in 1931 made the first ascent of Kamet (25,446 ft), the world's highest summit reached until Nanda Devi in 1936, smoked his pipe on the summit, carried skis to Meade's Col, and named the Valley of Flowers.

Holdie is also credited with an unbroken cross-country ski run across the Pir Panjal Pass on the Moghul route to Kashmir.



Abiding lesson: the local right of way



Holdie in the Oxford Cricket XI, 1922

DOUBLE-CENTURIES FOR OXFORD UNIVERSITY IN FIRST-CLASS MATCHES

		against		
313*	SS Agarwal	Cambridge U	Cambridge	2013
281	KJ Key	Middlesex	Chiswick Park	1887
264*	GJ Mordaunt	Sussex	Hove	1895
247	S Oberoi	Cambridge U	Cambridge	2005
238*	Nawab of Pataudi snr	Cambridge U	Lord's	1931
236*	JWM Dalrymple	Cambridge U	Cambridge	2003
236	ERT Holmes	Free Foresters	Oxford	1927
228	T Bowring	Gentlemen of England	Oxford	1908
221*	AA Baig	Free Foresters	Oxford	1959
216	WGLF Lowndes	Leveson Gower's XI	Eastbourne	1921
209	FC de Saram	Leveson Gower's XI	Reigate	1934
207	NS Mitchell-Innes	Leveson Gower's XI	Reigate	1936
207	DR Walsh	Warwickshire	Oxford	1969
204	AM Crawley	Northamptonshire	Wellingborough	1929
202	RL Holdsworth	Free Foresters	Oxford	1921
202	MA Naylor	Cambridge U	Oxford	2018
201*	MM Walford	MCC	Lord's	1938
201*	MJK Smith	Cambridge U	Lord's	1954
201	JE Raphael	Yorkshire	Oxford	1904

Holdie's double-century noted in the Oxford University Cricketers Records

The question remains: going by the age, fitness and skill levels of several British Everest expedition members, why were **Mr John Martyn** and **Mr Jack Gibson** never invited?

Holdie was invited to join the 1924 British Everest expedition but the invitation was withdrawn when team demigod George Mallory declined Holdie's request to carry skis. Years on, Holdie wryly remarked, but for Mallory's refusal, he would perhaps never have come to The Doon School!

Narendra 'Nandu' Dhar Jayal



Narendra 'Nandu' Dhar Jayal

Known to all as Nandu, **Major Narendra Dhar Jayal (101 T, 1942)**, was an officer of the Bengal Sappers in the Indian Army Corps of Engineers. Coming from a prominent Garhwali family, he was educated at The Doon School, soon acknowledged as being foremost in Himalayan pursuits.

Appointed first Principal of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), Darjeeling, West Bengal, Nandu donned the mantle of the most

accomplished mountaineer of his time. He helped train climbers at the Institute with the help of another famed climber, Tenzing Norgay.

Alas, Nandu lost his life early while leading the first Indian expedition to Cho Oyu in 1958.



The Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, West Bengal, 1954

From L-R: Nawang Topgay, Gyalzen Mikchen, Ang Tharkay, Principal Nandu Jayal, Tenzing Norgay, Da Namgyal, Ang Temba, Nawang Gombu

Gurdial 'Guru' Singh (GU)



Headstand by Guru on the summit of Trisul

Born in that fateful year 1924, Guru once mentioned the Holdie-Mallory ski episode to which Holdie attributed his remaining alive to ski again, even as Everest was shut down for nine years to atone for the 1924 British expedition's insensitive lama dances in central London.



From L-R: Nalni Dhar Jayal (100 T, 1943), Guru, Sudhir Sahi

Guru, quintessential purist, was embarrassed by praise of any kind, not the least for his 1951 Trisul summit headstand, the first Indian ascent of a major 7,000m Himalayan peak. In many ways, this also highlights Doon's pioneering role in the sport, Guru's visits stretching across the range from the Indus to the Brahmaputra. There were, of course, other goings on in the School's realm of Himalayan adventure, be it on land, air, or water, principally during the mid-term breaks and summer vacations. Among the earliest, in the Doon tradition recalled before, was the 1937 Kalindi Khal crossing on the Alaknanda-Bhagirathi watershed by four friends Tenzing Norgay (an honorary Dosco!), John Martyn, Sherpa Rinzing, and Jack Gibson.

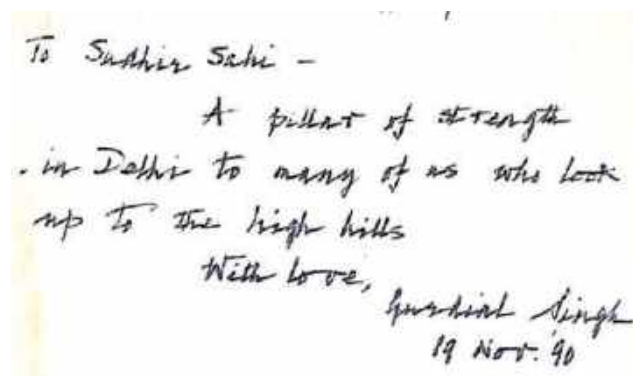
Mentored by Holdie, Guru being invited as Course Adviser, and Tenzing Norgay as Director of Field Training, Nandu became the first Principal of HMI, Darjeeling, building up a strong training faculty comparable with the world's best.

Nandu's tragic death on Cho Oyu in 1958, and John Dias passing four years later after Everest 1962, confined the sport in new trendlines. Nevertheless, Guru remained the quintessential purist, not for a moment hesitating at the South Col "death zone" on Everest to give up his oxygen cylinders to provide a younger man a crack at the summit.



Three Doon Leads, Indian Everest Expedition 1962: Suman Dubey (167 J, 1958), Guru, Mr Hari Dang (HD)

Fissures in the relationship with nature pained Guru. In his foreword to Holdie's Kamet and Valley of Flowers 1931 handwritten diaries (integrated into the Dosco online archives) Guru says: "The unveiling of this remarkable treasure going back ninety years is timely as the Himalaya cries out for protection against the ravages of climate change, inconsiderate development, and irreversible environment damage."



Note to Sudhir Sahi from Guru "To Sudhir Sahi – A pillar of strength in Delhi to many of us who look up the high hills. With love, Gurdial Singh (19 Nov '90)"

Sudhir Sahi is an international tourism and environment specialist based in Delhi, supporting rural livelihoods through projects with the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Indian government, amongst many others. Sudhir's special bond with the Himalayas extends to treks and expeditions, and originated from Midterms, the first Doon Jaonli expedition, the St Stephen's College Hiking Club, and long tenures with the Himalayan Club, Indian Mountaineering Foundation, Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, and the Union of International Alpine Associations.

Doon Mountaineering Expeditions 1936–1964

1936: Tibet – Martyn, Clough, Mr Shaikh Muinuddin

1937: Bandarpunch reconnoitered – Gibson, Martyn, Tenzing, Rinzing

1942: Arwa Glacier – Holdie, Martyn, Nandu Jayal, Ravi Mathai, Balram Singh (175 H, 1942)

1944: Tibet – Ranjit Lal, Ladli Prasad

1946: Banderpunch – Holdie, Gibson, John Monro, Nandu Jayal, B Chengappa Nanda (287 K, 1948), Tenzing

1950: Bandarpunch (20,720ft) – Gibson, Gurdial, Brig Jagjit Singh, AVSM and Bar, VSM, (91 J, 1949), Maj Gen Williams, Greenwood, Terming, King John, Kenjan

1951: Trisul (25,447ft) – Gurdial, Greenwood, Nalni Dhar Jayal, Surender ‘Bandy’ Lall (107 J, 1940)

1951: Nandu Jayal, member of French expedition

1952: Kamet – Gurdial, Nandu, Maj Gen Williams

1952: Neelkanth – PK Misra was a member of Tilley’s expedition

1953: Black Peak – Gibson, Narendra ‘Charlie’ Singh (151 K, 1953), Henry, Deb, Krishnaiya, Raman, Guzdar

1953: Abi Gamin (24,130 ft) – Nandu Jayal led a Sappers expedition, included Gurdial and Jagjit

1954: Nun (23,410ft) – Nalni Jayal was a member of the French expedition

1954: Tibet – Gurdial

1955: Abi Gamin (24,130ft) - Nandu Jayal, Gurdial

1955: Kamet – Gurdial, Nandu, and others

1955: Black Peak (20,956ft) – Gibson led a combined Doon and Mayo College expedition

1955: Lahaul Spiti – Nalni Jayal, member of RAF expedition; first ascents of Tarogiri, Srilata, Asha Giri, Shikar Beh, and an unnamed peak

1956: Mrigthuni (22,490ft) – Gurdial, Nalni, Mahinder Lall (120 J, 1943), Roopinder Lall (104 J, 1947), and Mr N Chuckerbutty who died of suspected pneumonia

1956: Saserkangri (25,170 ft) – Nandu Jayal led the expedition

1957: Nanda Devi – Nandu Jayal led the expedition

1958: Mrigthuni – Gurdial, Aamir Ali (214 K, 1939), Mahinder Lall, Rajendra Vikram Singh (56 H, 1943), Kalyan Singh (224 K, 1942)

1958: Cho Oyu (26,867ft) – Nandu, Jagit and others; Nandu died of pulmonary oedema

1960: Everest – Rajendra Vikram Singh was a member of the first Indian Everest expedition; Gurdial was asked to lead it but declined the offer

1960: Devistan – Gurdial, Dilsher ‘Lollipop’ Virk (140 K, 1959), Hari Dang

1960: Annapoorna II – Jagjit was a member of Colonel Roberts’s expedition

1961: Nanda Devi – Gurdial, Dang, Suman Dubey and others climbed Devistan I (21,910ft), Maiktoli (22,320ft), and Trisul (23,382ft)

1962: Everest – Gurdial, Dang, and Suman Dubey were members of India’s 2nd Everest expedition

1964: Lahaul – Dang was member of the India-France expedition

1964: Jaonli (21,760ft) – Dang, Dhar, Bhatt, Sudhir Sahi, Alok Chandola (344 H, 1963), Kalam Singh, Gautam Vohra (154 H, 1963), Sayajirao Gaekwar (302 H, 1965), Mehernosh Pochkhanawala (38 H, 1965), Adil Tyabji (291 H, 1960), Tejeshwar Singh (354 T, 1963), Ashok Chakravarti (163 T, 1963), Surinder (First ascent: Doon Expedition 1966)

Onward: A diversity of summits attained, among them Darshan Singh (90 T, 1962) and Sudhir Sahi on Black Peak to Ankur Bahl (193 J, 1976) and Sangeeta Bahl on Everest (a Dosco first!)



Holding the School

Harshvardhan 45 J, 1963



Harshvardhan (left) in the school play *Mr Gillie*, 1961



Together in Trying Times

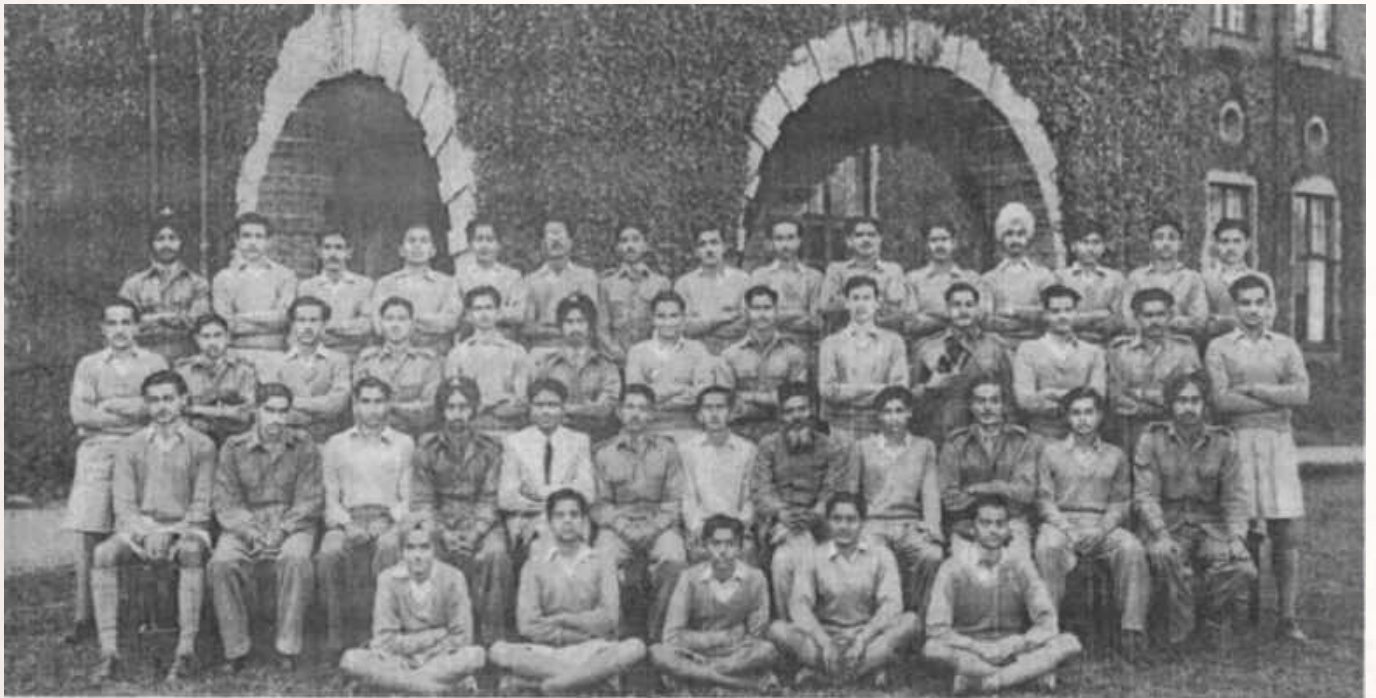
The Dehradun Riots of 1947



Harshvardhan (right) in the school play *Julius Caesar*, 1964

It was thought that the Doon Valley and Garhwal Hills would escape the hatred and violence that followed Partition in August 1947, but sectarianism knows no boundaries and Dehradun was engulfed in communal riots starting in September 1947. Current readers of *The Rose Bowl* may not be aware of how the events that took place outside the campus walls had a profound effect on School. The story of the fateful autumn of 1947 is told here through oral and written accounts.

Mr KNP Nair, a long-serving Doon School Master teaching Mathematics, was the Housemaster of the Holding House at the time. This House was a transitional accommodation for 20-25 new students before they were transferred to the regular dormitories. The Holding House is now supplanted by Foot and Martyn Houses. Mrs Nair was the dame. Their daughter, Ambika, was twelve years old and had recently enrolled in the Convent of Jesus and Mary in the city. She had been going to school for only two months when the town was wracked by horrific violence. This is Ambika's story:



The Doon School School Certificate December 1947 & HSC Courtesy *The Doon School Archives, Presented by Ashok B Gokhale (216 K, 1945)*

- Row 1: Gurbaksh Singh Salaria (55 J, 1947), Virendra Saksena (84 K, 1947), N Ramaswami (237 K, 1947), Bikram Singh (138 J, 1948), Ranjit Banerji (188 K, 1947)
- Row 2: SN Khanna (43 K, 1947), Unidentified, Akbar Ali Janmohamed (129 T, 1947), Unidentified, Mr KNP Nair, Unidentified, Hidayat Husain (72 H, 1945) (HSC), Unidentified, Ashok B Gokhale (216 K, 1945) (HSC), Unidentified, Kamesh Bhargava (148 T, 1945) (HSC), Unidentified
- Row 3: Manmohan Khanna (34 T, 1947), Unidentified, BN Misra (282 K, 1947), Unidentified, Y N Vinchurkar (211 J, 1947), Unidentified, B Chengappa Nanda (287 K, 1948), Unidentified, PK Kaula (90 T, 1947), Unidentified, Iqbal Vellani (109 T, 1947), Unidentified, Jagmohan Kapur (257 H, 1947)
- Row 4: Unidentified, Shakil Ahmed (41 H, 1947), Ramesh Dash (13 J, 1947), AN Singh Deo (62 J, 1947), John Verghese (150 J, 1947), Zabar Singh (118 H, 1947), Unidentified, Jotinder Pal Singh (93 T, 1948), Rajesh Bahadur (303 K, 1947), KR Bammi (280 K, 1947), Roopinder Lall (104 J, 1947), Tejinder Singh (44 H, 1947), Satish Bahl (205 K, 1947), Ashvini Kumar Desai (15 K, 1947), Bharat Mahey (283 J, 1947), Unidentified

All night, alternating cries of "Har Har Mahadev" and "Allah ho Akbar" would rise from opposite sides of the Bindal Nallah and all over the town. As I recall it, the cries were equally vehement. There were occasional gunshots too. Sometimes I could see things burning far away, across town.



The Doon School Tennis Team 1947, circa December 1947 *Courtesy The Doon School Archives, Presented by Ashok B Gokhale*

Row 1: Inder Swarup (21 H, 1950), Mr VN Kapur, KR Bammi

Row 2: Manmohan Khanna, Ashok B Gokhale, BK Dube (234 H, 1948), Digvijai Singh (232 J, 1947)

FEATURES

Father had a terrible time getting the doctor to attend on Mother when Unni was born in December 1947. He had to go and fetch her and drop her back as she would not travel unescorted despite the red cross on her car. There was darkness everywhere.

Somehow, Mr Foot and the masters and wives managed to create a semblance of normalcy and calm. I think getting into the routine of School helped a great deal. While I could hear the cries in Holding House, I do not know how distinct they were elsewhere on the campus. I do not recall any sense of fear.

The servants were very anxious, and the Masters were constantly visiting their quarters to reassure them. Many of the Muslim servants did leave. Many stayed and served at School till they retired from service.

The Gurkha regiments being just across the road from Tata House definitely provided a sense of security. It must have been a nerve-wracking time for the Headmaster and his staff but they did not show any signs of it.

The darzi I referred to in our conversation was working in Holding House that Friday, an elderly man in spotless white with a cap bordered with chikan work. My mother pleaded with him not to go down to the mosque at the Bindal Bridge. She brought out a brand-new bedcover for him to use as a janamaz and a vessel of water for his vazoo. But he would not have it. He said that had it been any other day he would have acceded to her request but not on jumma. Allah would protect him, he reassured her. He never came back. We were told that he was hacked to death at the bridge. Mother was quite inconsolable.

Another recounting of the events of that time is from **Brijesh Dhar Jayal (101 T, 1951)**, whose family lived in Dehradun.

As the crow flies our residence in New Road was not far from Paltan Bazaar, where

there was (and mercifully still is), a predominantly Muslim inhabited colony (called Imanullah Building) and, whilst we were forbidden to venture out of home by our parents, the human sound of disturbances taking place and of people wailing was unmistakable.

Once we joined School, all one can recollect is that many of our faithful Muslim staff were not to be seen and our own experience of serving meals and washing dishes. Training and spirit of dignity of labour that has certainly stood me in good stead.

None of the day schools in town reopened till things settled down. The Headmaster, **Mr AE Foot (HM)**, made a special request to the Board of Governors to admit Ambika to The Doon School since schools in town were closed and it was not safe to travel outside the school grounds. That is how **Ambika Menon (née Nair, 272 T, 1951)**, became the first female Dosco! Her younger brother, **Appan Nair (250-T, 1953)**, was already in school. Unni, referred to in Ambika's piece above, is the youngest sibling, **Vijayan Nair (290 H, 1963)**, my class-fellow.

There is a written account of the impact of the disturbances on School life in the agenda for a meeting of the Board of Governors on 25th November 1947 at 5:30pm at the residence of the Chairman, Dr John Matthai, 2 King Edward Rd (now Maulana Azad Rd), New Delhi. Dr Matthai was the Union Minister for Railways in the first Cabinet of independent India. Excerpts relevant to the situation in Dehradun and School in particular follow.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31-7-1947.
2. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THEM:-
3. REPORT BY THE HEADMASTER ON THE AFFAIRS OF THE SCHOOL:-
 - (1) MAIN EVENTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER 1947.
Sep. 5th - Headmaster returns to Dehradun. Information received that water supply cannot be made adequate until repairs in main are completed.

Decision to postpone opening of school from Sep. 8th to 29th. Information sent, with great difficulty, to terminal stations to cancel journeys.

Sep. 6th - Mr. Gibson sent to Delhi to meet any boys arriving there and arrange for their journey to Dehra Dun.

Sep. 8th - 20 boys arrive and with those in Dehra Dun add up to 35 and a skeleton programme is arranged for them.

Sep. 13th - Confirmation by letter that school will open on 29th and send letters to railways.

Sep. 14th - Disturbance begins in Dehra Dun - 72-hour curfew. Letters were caught by the disturbance and their delivery much delayed.

Sep. 18th - Jaipur House darzi murdered on his way back to the school from the city.

Sep. 22nd - Decision that disturbances were sufficiently over to allow boys to return on 29th as planned.

Sep. 24th - Heavy rain begins.

Sep. 25th - Railway and road blocked. Telegraph, telephone and post interrupted.

Oct. 4th - Railway to Hardwar and E. reopens.

Oct. 5th - Martyn sent to Lucknow to fetch boys.

Oct. 8th - Boys arrive from Patna.

Oct. 9th - Martyn returns with 20 boys from Lucknow.

Oct. 11th - Boys arrive from Calcutta.

Oct. 12th - Boys arrive from Simla.

Oct. 13th - Headmaster goes to Delhi.

Oct. 15th - Brings back boys from Delhi.

Oct. 20th - Circular sent to parents asking for views about change in Christmas holidays (SEE APPENDIX I).

Oct. 24th - Boys arrive from Bombay.

Oct. 31st - 27 out of 52 Moslem employees of the school were allowed a month's leave and arrangements were made for them to go safely to their homes in other parts of the U.P.

Nov. 8th - Boys arrive from Jodhpur.

Nov. 10th - Send circular to announce decision for holidays (SEE APPENDIX II).

Nov. 11th - Boys arrive from Jaipur. The number in the school on November 18th is 226.

(2) ...

- (8) EX GRATIA PAYMENT to the family of the Jaipur House Tailor, Abdul Hakim, for 10 years darzie in Jaipur House lived in the city. When the trouble began on the afternoon of 14th September and a 72-hour curfew was imposed, he was at work and could not return home. On the next morning, I fetched his wife, daughter and son back to the school and found them a quarter. When the curfew was lifted on 18th, he went down with his son to fetch the jewellery he had been collecting for the daughter's marriage. On the way back, when they were near the Bindal bridge 300 yards from school, a Sikh ran out and stabbed Abdul Hakim and ran back into the house on the corner. He was not quite dead, and the boy managed to carry him back to the compound and he died in the school hospital.

The servants, staff and boys held a meeting to express their sorrow at this tragedy and at this I undertook to ask the Board of Governors if they would contribute towards a fund for his dependents.

...

- (15) LEAVE TO SCHOOL EMPLOYEES:-
Owing to the conditions in Dehra Dun various employees of the school have asked for leave.

- (i) Dr. Bilgrami. - From the beginning of September, he was of very great assistance in helping me to keep up the morale of the servants and eliminate any communal separation. As the situation in Dehra Dun deteriorated, the strain on him increased.

FEATURES

The murder of Mr. Shafi Ahmad Kidwai in Mussoorie on 8th October was a special blow to him. Mr. Kidwai was a personal friend of long standing and at the time some of his relatives were staying with Dr. Bilgrami.

The removal of Muslim Cadets from I.M.A. and R.I.M. College on October 15th brought local morale to its lowest point, and after that he felt he could not settle down to work. He asked for 6 months leave. I arranged for him and his wife to go away on October 31st with servants, and he is now in Rampur. I said that I would ask the Board of Governors to Decide about his leave.

- (ii) Mr. Muinuddin. - He married in July and went to Kashmir for his honeymoon. On his return he was staying with his wife's people in Lahore but was unable to make the journey back when the term started. It has been very difficult to communicate with him, and for a time he was seriously ill. I have urged him to ask the High Commissioner for India to arrange for his return, and I have recently wired to say that I would accompany him back from Delhi to Dehra Dun on 26th November.
- (iii) Mr. Khalilullah Khan. - He was also very valuable during September and October as he is much respected by the servants. But as the position got worse his nerve also weakened, and he asked to have 1½ months leave and left with the servants on October 31st.
- (iv) Muslim employees who were living in the city were unable to come to work after September 14th. They all had large families of whom some members had jobs or relations in Pakistan and though they did not want to leave Dehra Dun, as they shared the general sense of insecurity they eventually left. I gave them in each case 1 month's leave with pay and told them that they need not resign unless after this interval it seemed to them necessary. The following have now resigned:-

- (1) Mumtaz Ahmad, bookbinder.
- (2) W.A. Zaidi, Central Store Clerk.
- (3) Mehboob Hasan, Chemistry Lab. Assistant.
- (4) Ghulam Rasul, Electrician.
- (5) M.A. Bhutta, Typist.

Wahid Yar Khan - Ground Superintendent was anxious to return after his relations have been settled elsewhere, but I have not heard from him since.

Mohd. Ashraf - Mechanic wrote on 10-10-11947 to say he wished to come back. I said he could be paid up to October 31st and have a further month's leave without pay. The following servants have also resigned:-

- (1) Zille Hasan, Head Peon.
 - (2) Nabi Husein, Head Chowkidar.
 - (3) Fatehullah, Khidmatgar, Tata House.
 - (4) Amir Husain, Tailor, Tata House.
- (v) When I returned from Delhi on October 16th, I found that the Muslim servants all wanted to go at once - many of them without any purpose or prospect of other employment. On Sunday October 19th I asked Mr. Tyagi, our local M.L.A. to meet them. He reassured them again about the policy of the Government and they agreed to stay till November 1st on condition that I fulfilled my earlier promise that I would enable them to go in safety if they wanted to.
- On October 19th there was an assault in the city in which 9 Muslims returning to their duty as Mahouts to the Mahant Sahi, were murdered in a bus in the Arhat Bazar. At the same time there were a few other stabbings including one on the Bindal Bridge. I publicized the attached notice (SEE APPENDIX III).
- In the end 27 out of 52 Muslim servants asked to go. As on the 17th of October the Muslim servants from the Club had been sent away by train from Dehra Dun and had been murdered between Hardwar and Jwalapur, I thought that in the interest of the school as well as of the servants we should avoid a repetition of this tragedy. They went by bus to Saharanpur with a Military guard and

from there went by train to their home, where they all arrived without incident. I charged them fare direct from Dehra Dun and paid the extra cost from school funds.

Since their departure we have had to engage 9 men, mainly darzies (3) and Masalchies (6), and the boys are now waiting at table and cleaning their own shoes. The extra expense to the school will be a maximum of Rs. 236/- (2 x these extra men's wages).

(vi) The barber who has worked for the school since 1935 had gone to leave his family at Sherkot at the beginning of September. He could not return safely and wrote to say that he was in great financial difficulty. I sent him 50/- and told him to come back when he could. As he is not our employee this payment is not the same as that to our own servants and I would like the formal sanction of the Board for audit purposes.

4. ...

8. ADMISSION OF BOYS OUTSIDE OUR NORMAL RULES

(a) The younger son and nephew of the Nawab of Rampur. - The Headmaster received letters from Pandit Pant, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, as well as from the Heir Apparent of Rampur, who is an old boy of the school, asking that these boys, who had been studying at the Aitchison College, could be admitted to the Doon School as Rampur had joined the Indian Union. The matter was referred to the Chairman, and the Headmaster was asked to admit them. They were formerly, on the waiting list for the Doon School.

(b)...

(c)...

9. ...

10. ...

11. ...

12. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNOR AND FOR THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.



The Doon School Hockey Team 1948 Courtesy The Doon School Archives

Row 1: Ashok B Gokhale, Satish Malhotra (293 J, 1948), JC Malhotra (290 J, 1946), Mr KC Joshi, Inder Swarup, Digvijai Singh

Row 2: MN Bhargava (198 J, 1948), BN Misra, Ram Nath (235 J, 1949), SN Khanna, Himmat Singh (102 H, 1952), MM Nath (194 J, 1948)

The appendices presented below illustrate the management and communication skills shown by Mr Foot as well as his empathy for the staff and desire to include parents in his decision. I did find one quirk in the way he addressed the parents – he addressed the letters to ,‘Sir’ and not ‘Parents’ although it could be the acceptable form of address for all letters at that time. The Headmaster was also optimistic regarding the general situation in the country. The main problem was that the railways were a death trap; trains were being stopped and passengers butchered by mobs seeking revenge. It appears that a sufficient number of parents responded promptly to the circular sent out by Mr Foot and the postal service was functioning adequately.

APPENDIX I

FROM THE HEADMASTER: THE DOON SCHOOL DEHRADUN 20th October, 1947

Dear Sir,

Owing to the difficulties of getting the boys back to school there has been serious interruption to their work, and it will take some time to catch up with the planned rate at which they should cover their courses. But with the exception of the boys due to take Intermediate in March, and to a less extent those who will do the School Certificate in December 1948, it should not be difficult to make up the time if we treat some topics in less detail.

However it will probably be thought desirable that we should extend the school term somewhat, and I am writing to ask your views as to what will be best. I will not come to a final decision until November 10th, when the state of the railway services and the conditions in the country will be more clearly known than they can be foreseen at present. As the replies to this circular are likely to present several different points of view, you will understand that the decision cannot be that which will be best for everyone.

- (a) Extend the present term till about January 15th and start the next one on February 15th. The boys could also come back a week earlier in September 1948. This would mean an increase in 3 weeks in the working time.
- (b) Carry on until about 7th April so as to finish the Intermediate Examination. The next term could then start on about July 15th.

- (c) Break up at the usual time, on December 21st and start each of the next two terms ten days early.

The following matters have to be taken into account:-

- (1) Parents who have felt anxious about their boys' welfare during these troubled times may be especially glad to see them home for a holiday if the railways are normal.
- (2) Parents who have found it so difficult to get their boys back to school may be happy to feel that they are leading a settled life and will want to put off journeys as long as possible.
- (3) Intermediate boys have to complete their practical examinations by the end of February.
- (4) Boys who complete the School Certificate Examination on 12th December would like a holiday before starting their post-certification work.

Will you kindly send your views on these points to me in an envelope marked 'Holidays', so as to reach me by November 5th?

Yours sincerely, A.E. Foot

APPENDIX II

FROM THE HEADMASTER: THE DOON SCHOOL DEHRADUN 10th November, 1947

My dear Sir,

After careful consideration of the replies to my letter of 20th October, and the interests of the school as a whole, I have decided on the following programme, which

is a combination of b and c in my circular. December 21st to January 1st. Boys whose parents wish them to do so will be allowed to go home or go and stay with friends. We will be able to arrange their departure either for Delhi or on the Lucknow-Howrah train, but it will be necessary for parents to arrange their return journey. Travel by road would probably present the least difficulty.

There will not be the usual Trials in the last week of the term, but classes will continue with their courses. There will be a break in the regular classes from December 21st to January 1st, and a suitable programme will be arranged. According to the conditions and the weather, expeditions, picnics and games will be arranged and on other days there will be periods in each day when boys will be able to work, with the assistance of the masters, on the portions of the syllabus that they missed owing to their late return. Boys from Bombay and Rajputana will have plenty of arrears to make up. Those who did not miss much will have an opportunity for guided private reading.

Boys from the South, who came back on 8th September will be the only ones who are likely to need a break, and if their parents can arrange for them to stay with friends within a reasonable distance they will be encouraged to do so, but if they cannot do this, parents can rest assured that we will see that their boys are happy here.

The terms in 1948 will be from January 1st to May 2nd, and August 21st to December 19th. This will provide the usual number of school days in 1948 and will not result in too long a period of monsoon weather here. As the terms will be of equal length, the fees for each term in 1948 will be the same.

In order not to interfere with the normal date at which payment is made, 900/- will be payable by January 15th and 900/- by August 1st. As the present term and the

next term are continuous, there will be no need to make up the accounts except for those boys who are leaving, but your cheque should include the amount required for pocket money - January to May. Yours sincerely, A.E. Foot

APPENDIX III

TO HOUSE CHOUDHRIES

As promised, I will give leave to some of the servants who ask for it, from the beginning, and will arrange for their journey up to the main line station to which they want to go.

I hope that servants will only ask for this leave if they have special anxiety about their families at home, as during this leave in general I do not intend to engage substitutes, so the work will have to be done mainly by other servants and boys.

This leave will be for a month with full pay. At the end of this month, they can either apply for a further two months' leave without pay or resign from service and get their Provident Fund.

If conditions are satisfactory for the return journey any time before the two months are up, they can rejoin and will receive pay for one month up to the day they rejoin, if they have not already had it.

If they do not return, they will not get paid beyond the first month of leave with full pay.

I do not expect people who have left the city to come back for some time, but there is not likely to be any difference in the safety inside the school estate, whether some men leave or not. But I expect travel conditions to improve steadily, though at present they are not satisfactory, and I will have to make special arrangements for safety on the journey.



The Doon School Cricket Team 1948 *Courtesy The Doon School Archives*

Row 1: Uday Mallik (258 J, 1948), Inder Swarup, Debi Prosad Tribedi (217 K, 1948), Mr RL 'Holdie' Holdsworth, Digvijai Singh, B Chengappa Nanda

Row 2: Ravi Badhwar Badhwar (230 H, 1949), Manish Bahl (200 K, 1949), S P Sathappan (185 H, 1948), Satish Malhotra

It will be advisable not to take too much saman on the journey and anything not taken should be left with Mr. Joshi for safe custody while they are away. If necessary, we will arrange to send it later when train services are normal again.

Servants should not think of this as a last chance of going away, and those who stay will be looked after by us as they have been hitherto. Unless they have some pressing family reason to take this leave now, I strongly advise them to postpone it; they will be able to take advantage of leave on the same terms later on.

I would like to know by October 27th who will apply for this leave.

Sd/- A.E. Foot,
HEADMASTER
The 23rd October, 1947.

The oral and written accounts of the tragedy that befell **Ahmad Hakim** can be reconciled with a possible timeline. The curfew in Dehradun that had

been instituted on 14th September was lifted on the 18th. The following day was a Friday and the *darzi* and family had been in quarters in the School compound for four days. Thus, it is likely that Ahmad Hakim decided to go to the mosque and visit his home to retrieve the jewelry mentioned in the headmaster's report on the 19th. He did not make it beyond the Bindal Bridge, barely five minutes into his journey from the safety of the campus. The school provided Hakim's family with a payment of Rs 200 (approximately Rs 50,000 today).

On the other matter, the Heir Apparent of Rampur was **Murtaza Ali Khan (204 K, 1941)**. His younger brother, **Zulfikar Ali Khan (19 K, 1949)**, and cousin, **Baqar Ali Khan (12-K, 1949)**, were admitted to the School.

Of the masters mentioned in the report, **Dr Syed Hamid Hasan Bilgrami** taught Urdu. He was at Doon from 1940-43 and then again in 1947-48. In between, he was at the world-renowned School of Oriental and African Studies in London. **Mr Shaikh Muinuddin** was among the very first masters hired by the school in 1935. He taught Urdu and was



The Doon School Football Team 1948 *Courtesy The Doon School Archives*

Row 1: Sanjoy Gupta (149 T, 1949), Debi Prosad Tribedi, Inder Swarup, Mr WL Harben, Satish Bahl, Satish Malhotra
 Row 2: Bharat Inder 'Dickie' Singh (210 T, 1950), Minocher 'Minoo' Marker (135 J, 1948), Akhey Singh (139 J, 1948), Kanak Rana (163 T, 1949), HP Mookerjee (240 H, 1948), Ramesh Dash

housemaster of Hyderabad House till he left in 1949. He was also in charge of Athletics and Physical training. **Khalilullah Khan** was also among the original staff, the woodwork instructor from 1936-1948.

It wasn't just the masters who provided solace and reassurance to the staff. **Mrs Nair**, Ambika's mother, and **Mrs Kapur**, mother of **Savita Bhushan (née Kapur, 283 J, 1954)**, went to the staff quarters behind the dormitories to sit down with the wives of staff who were in *pardah*.

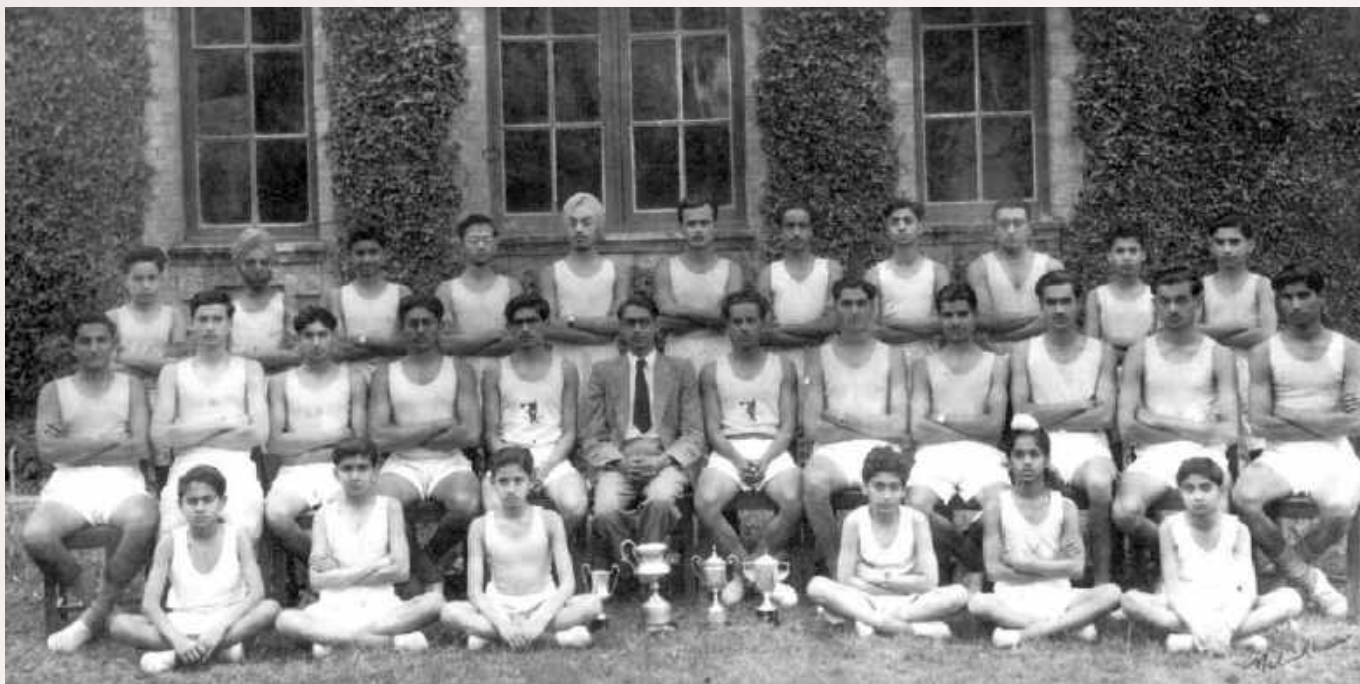
Several other notable figures are mentioned in the written account. Shafi Ahmad Kidwai was the Administrator, Mussoorie Municipality, the senior most civilian officer in that hill station. He was the brother of Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, later a Cabinet Minister in several Congress governments. Shafi Ahmad Kidwai's widow, Anis Kidwai, moved to Delhi after his murder and played a major role in resettling refugees. The MLA from Dehradun was Mahavir Tyagi, a leading Congressman, known for his efforts to promote harmony during the 1947 riots. Later on, he was elected to Parliament and served as a cabinet minister. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was the Union Education Minister and

Govind Ballabh Pant was the Chief Minister of the United Provinces. These stalwarts played decisive roles in freeing India from the bonds of colonialism and devoted their lives to peaceful coexistent among the communities of the newly formed and diverse country. May their memory not be sullied by the winds of hate that blow over the subcontinent today.

A slight digression is in order. I had mentioned earlier that Ambika was permitted to join the School and thus became the first female Dosco, but there was some deliberation prior to this action. Here I cite the explanation provided by Mr Foot to the Board at a subsequent meeting.

I have had a request from Mr. Nair that his daughter aged 12 be allowed to join school classes. If this were allowed, it would also apply to other daughters. The greatest number likely is 5 in the school at one time. The girls would only go to classes but would have meals at home.

I have consulted the masters, who with one dissentient, would welcome the presence of an occasional girl in their classes. I have



The Doon School Athletics Team 1947 *Courtesy The Doon School Archives*

Row 1: Unidentified, Satish Behl, Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified

Row 2: B Chengappa Nanda, PK Kaula (90 T, 1947), Ashok B Gokhale, Unidentified, Satish Bahl, Mr BK Sinha, BN Misra, Unidentified, Som Nath (284 J, 1945), Jayanta Gupta (121 H, 1946), SN Khanna, Unidentified

Row 3: Samudra Chowdhri (23 K, 1952), Baljeet Malhotra (307 T, 1950), Unidentified, Unidentified, Baljit 'Bally' Singh Shergill (9 J, 1948), Partho Nath Tagore (28 J, 1967), Pratap Adit Pande (265 H, 1948), Unidentified, Akhey Singh, Narendra Singh (151 K, 1953), Jehangir Noshir Bilimoria (48 K, 1950), Unidentified

also consulted the public opinion of the boys. I am strongly in favour of it myself. I would not suggest that this move be taken as a precedent for the admission of girls from the town as day-girls in the lower classes, though I would be inclined to favour their admission to Intermediate classes.

My reason for this distinction is that from 11 to 16 it is most important to have a careful development of character. We claim to be competent to do this in the case of boys; but make no claims to have the capacity to do it for girls, but in the case of masters' children it would be clearly understood that they must see to this in their home.

From the point of view of the school, the presence of a few girls of good character should ensure that the boys have a proper respect for the other sex and might have a good effect on their manners. For the parents, the advantages would be very great, both educational and economic.

Perhaps this is an opportune moment to recognise and honor the Masters and staff who held the school together in those trying times, playing their role *in loco parentis*. All have passed on and perhaps the School could memorialize them in a suitable manner, perhaps with a dedicated plaque.

LIST of STAFF

Headmaster

A.E. Foot, M.A. (Cantab)

Assistant Masters

J.A.K. Martyn, M.A. (Cantab)

*J.T.M. Gibson, M.A. (Cantab), F.R.G.S., Jammu & Kashmir House

*R.L. Holdsworth, M.A. (Oxon), Tata House

*V.N. Kapur. B.A. (Punjab), Diploma Hygiene and Physical Education (Glasgow), Diploma S.G. & A. (Sweden), Jaipur House

*S. Muinuddin, B.A. (Delhi), Diploma for Directorship of Physical Education (Madras), L.C.P. (London), Hyderabad House

Sudhir Khastgir, Diploma in Art (Shantiniketan)

T.N. Vyas, B.SC. Hons. (Lucknow), B.SC. Hons. (London)

S.C. Roy, B.SC. (Benares)
 S.C. Agarwal, M.SC. (Allahabad)
 Shanti Swarup, B.SC. (Hons.) (Lucknow), M.SC.
 (Lucknow)

†K.N.P. Nair, B.A.L.T. (Madras)
 H.H. Bilgrami, B.A. (Hons.) M.A. (Allahabad),
 D.Phil (Allahabad)
 Bidhu Dhar Jayal, M.A. (Allahabad)
 B.P. Chandola, M.A. (Calcutta)
 S.P. Sahi, M.A. (Punjab), T.D. (London)
 Din Dayal, M.A.B.T. (Punjab)
 K.B. Sinha M.A. (Agra), L.T. (Allahabad)
 Gurdayal Singh, M.A. (Punjab), M.A. (Aligarh)
 N.C. Mukerjee, M.SC. (Agra)
 B.K. Sinha, M.SC. (Patna)
 W.L. Harben, M.A. (Agra)

Music Master

V. Shirodkar (Diploma Shantiniketan)

Bursar and Secy. To the Headmaster

K.C. Joshi, B.SC. L.T. (Allahabad)

Hospital Sister

Mrs. N.G. Harrington

Assistant Sister

Miss S. Paul

Matrons

Miss S. Ghose (Kashmir House)

Mrs. M. Wittenbaker (Jaipur House)

Mrs. Ramji Dass (Hyderabad House)

Miss M. Philipsz (Tata House)

Engineer

P.C. Ahuja, B.SC. (Eng.)

Woodwork Instructor

Khalilullah Khan

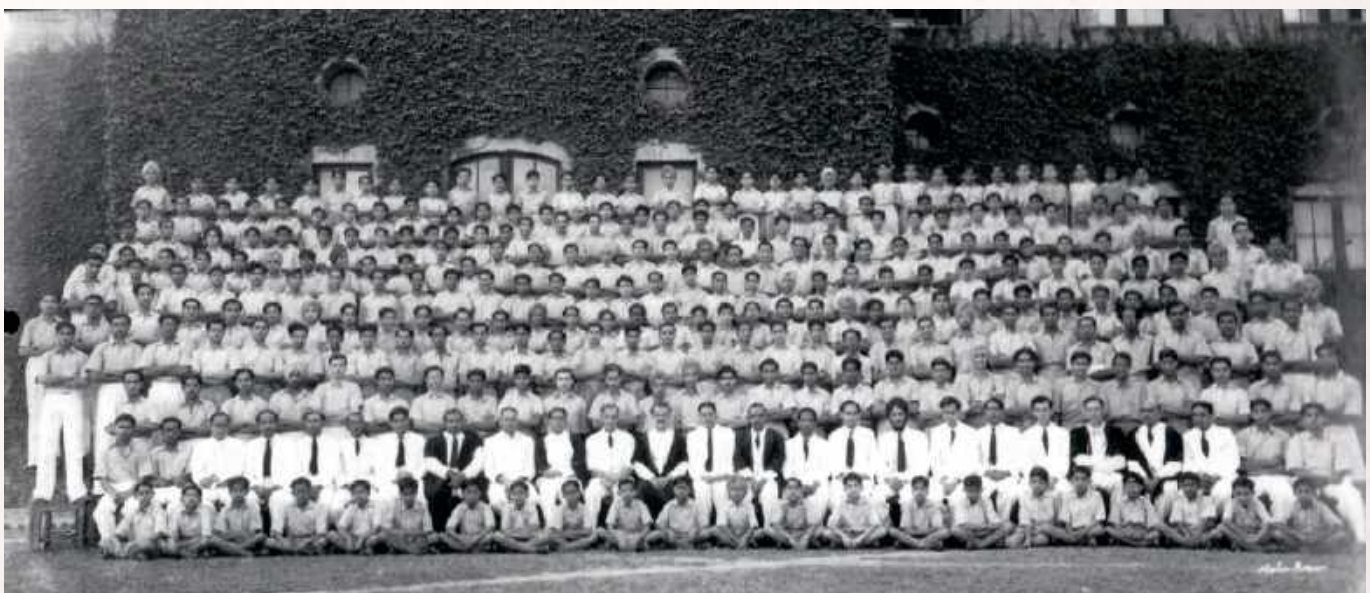
* Master in Charge of House

† Holding House

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Ambika Menon for invaluable assistance in this project. I also received input from Brijesh Jayal, **Ishaat Hussain (292 H, 1963)**, and **Ramji Narayanan (167 T, 1963)**. The source documents are in The National Archives of India, file PR_000006174405.

Harshvardhan is an Emeritus Professor of Atmospheric Science at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA. He is an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur, India, IISc Bangalore, India, and SUNY Stony Brook, USA. He was a research scientist at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, USA, prior to his tenure at Purdue. He lives with his wife, Suman, daughter of Uma Shankar Singh (10 T, 1945) in West Lafayette. They have two children and two grandchildren, all living in the USA.



The Doon School Cricket 1948 *Courtesy The Doon School Archives*

Masters Identified: Mr KC Joshi, Mr SC Roy, Mr KB Sinha, Mr BP Chandola, Mr Shanti Swarup, Mr VN Kapur, Mr TN Vyas, Mr RL 'Holdie' Holdsworth, Mr JAK Martyn, Mr Din Dayal, Mr Mr Shaikh Muinuddin, Mr Shirodkar, Mr SP Sahi, Mr Gurdial 'Guru' Singh (GU), Mr Mukerji, Mr BK Sinha, Mr WL Harben, Mr JTM 'Jack' Gibson, Mr SC Agarwal, Mr Ahuja



Sapling being planted by the Chief Guest
From L-R: Dr Jagpreet Singh (HM), Dr Karan Singh, Harpal Singh

THE 10TH NANHI CHHAAN NATIONAL SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

Harpal Singh 322 H, 1965

In an inspiring new initiative and perhaps for the first time ever, the tenth edition of the Nanhi Chhaan National Essay Contest was co-hosted by Welham Girls' School, Welham Boys' School, and The Doon School over a three-day period from 28th to 30th September 2023. **Dr Karan Singh (259 K, 1945)**, former Union Cabinet Minister and Rajya Sabha MP, was the Chief Guest. In his address to the gathering, he brought history to life by sharing his reminiscence of his school life and of the significant political events of the nation that he was a part of. The way he combined childlike innocence with intellectual depth was wonderfully disarming, and a lesson in oration for us all.



Dr Karan Singh at his desk in the Kashmir House Toy Room

Ever since the start of the Nanhi Chhaan National Essay Contest in 2013, the contest has received an overwhelming response from schools and students across the country. In 2023, approximately 50,000 students from all states wrote on the topic 'Diversity – The Essence of India'.



From L-R: Mrs Sangeeta Kain (Principal, Welham Boys' School), Mrs Vibha Kapoor (Principal, Welham Girls' School), Chitrangada Raje Singh, Harpal Singh (Chairman, Nanhi Chhaan Foundation)

As part of the celebrations at the final event, each school performed a skit on one of the Nanhi Chhaan objectives: protecting girls and empowering women, planting trees and protecting the environment, and promoting inter-faith harmony. One of the plays put on by the students was about Tansen. It was a profoundly moving performance that enthralled everyone with song, dance, and theatre in ways that many had never seen before. It was met by rapturous applause, as well as generous adulation by one parent and teacher who said that we can be proud of the students as "the country is in good hands."



Cultural performance by Welham Girls' School



The touching play performed by The Doon School about female foeticide

Some of the memorable moments of this year's essay contest event began with the program at Welham Girls on the environment where two eminent speakers, Perna Bindra and Pradip Krishen, exhorted students to preserve and protect the environment. The vibrancy amongst students was palpable as was for all others who were present. Welham Boys hosted the session on AI by Jaspreet Bindra who excited young minds of the power and potential of AI. The students participated enthusiastically, asking insightful

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questions. The School's setting for the two follow-up sessions with eminent judges for the competition, Chitrangada Raje Singh, Navtej Sarna, and Sudipto Mandal was an ideal one as playing host came naturally to Doon. The conversations with students and the finalists unquestionably provided enough food for thought for many years into the future.



First Prize, Ayaan Shah (Scindia School)
From L-R: Harpal Singh, Ayaan Shah, Dr Karan Singh,
Dr Jagpreet Singh

The first prize of the tenth Nanhi Chhaan National School Essay Contest was won by Ayaan Shah of Scindia School, Gwalior, and the second prize by Arijit Sandhu of The Doon School. The growth and reach that the contest has shown in just ten years reinforces their ambition to making this essay contest a platform for change, and next year the

Second Prize, Arijit Sandhu (The Doon School)
From L-R: Harpal Singh, Arijit Sandhu, Dr Karan Singh, Dr Jagpreet Singh



hope is to substantially improve participation.

The Nanhi Chhaan Foundation is an initiative started by myself. 'Nanhi' is how little girls are endearingly referred to and 'Chhaan' is shade or protection. The organisation is a nonprofit set up with the objective of addressing three important issues facing the country, namely the adverse gender ratio (and women's empowerment), preservation of trees (and environmental protection in general), and promoting interfaith harmony.

The Headmaster, **Dr Jagpreet Singh (HM)** said that "We at The Doon School, once again, thank Harpal Singh and the Nanhi Chhaan Foundation for their thoughtfulness and for giving us the opportunity to contribute to the common good. We look forward to our continuing association with the Nanhi Chhaan Foundation and to future endeavours that align with our shared values."

Harpal Singh has a diverse and wide-ranging experience of over 40 years in the corporate sector, including as Non-Executive Chairman of India's largest pharmaceutical company, Ranbaxy. He has been associated with school education for over 30 years and has served at the board level with some of India's most renowned schools, including The Doon School. In the last decade he has substantially engaged with the not-for-profit sector addressing social causes around disadvantaged children, public health, the girl child, and the environment.

Life Must Go On

Remembering Karandharee Lall

Pradeep Sen 30 J, 1969

K

arandharee Lall (211 K, 1967), a Kashmir House boy, along with his private party chose the bicycle for their mid-term excursion.

The year was 1965.

The route, probably the Raiwala-Doiwala road, the wide expanse of which suited cycling trips.

Karan was a loose-limbed, though portly, individual on the weightier side of the scale, and his impressive height belied his corpulent body.



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As they pedalled down the freeway, a heavy vehicle hurtled towards them at thundering speed.

The boys turned their bikes towards the curb to give the speeding vehicle space.

The front wheel of Karan's bike circled into the midst of a mound of loose sand that was piled up on the side. As the wheel made contact with the granular surface, it wobbled and then stopped moving. Karan's hands went into a rapid swirl of uncoordinated moves to steady the bike, and in a desperate attempt to find the centre of gravity lost balance and fell – his head towards the road – in the path of the speeding vehicle.

The vehicle bludgeoned across, smashing its way through, and disappeared with the high pitched

scream of the highway horn.

One can only wonder at the plight of his friends who watched in horror, without the benefit of mobile phones, in the middle of somewhere and nowhere.

One can only wonder at the words used by the School to inform Karan's parents – the balance between information and empathy.

One can only wonder at the first intensity experienced by his parents, a world away in Calcutta.

Rajdharee Lall (205 K, 1939), Karan's father arrived to take his son's mutilated body back home. Uncle Raaji was an old boy, and a senior executive with Andrew Yule and Company.



CJ Miller (HM, CJM)

On the morning of his departure he stood next to the Headmaster, **Mr CJ Miller (HM, CJM)** during Assembly. Never was the one minute silence more gravely observed; not a smirk, not even the hint of a smile to be wiped away, not a suppressed giggle.

After the HM spoke, Uncle Raaji addressed the School. In that address he delivered a message. He expressed hope that the School, despite what had transpired, would not put a ban on mid-term excursions, nor on cycling trips. They must continue. Even at that age when the profundity of ideas was not within our grasp, we got the message that life must go on no matter how many skies have fallen.

A year later when we chose the cycle for our Midterms (Kody watch trip), I remember

My Brother: Karandharee Lall

Arundharee 'Chhotu' Lall 223 K, 1970

I was touched to find out that my late elder brother was being written about in *The Rose Bowl*.

His full name was Karandharee Lall, son of Late Rajdharee Lall, brother of Arundharee Lall, nephew of **Shaildharee Lall (208 K, 1943)**, **Brajdharee 'Chippy' Lall (209 K, 1943)**, **Krishnadharee Lall (173 K, 1956)**, **Vishnudharee Lall (183 K, 1958)**, and elder cousin of **Devdharee Lall (185 K, 1990)** – all from Kashmir House.

Karandharee was born on August 24th 1951, and joined Doon in the Autumn Term of 1963, in D Form. His School Number was 211 K, and mine was 223 K. I finished in December 1970.

When he was 14 years old in B Form in 1965, he went on a private (senior boys) mid-term break to Haridwar and Rishikesh with **Ravi Kidwai (247 K, 1967)**, **Ranjan Baruah (199 K, 1967)**, and **Gautam Swarup (143 K, 1967)**. They began their Mid-Terms on Wednesday, October 27th 1965. On their way back to School on Saturday, October 30th 1965, he met with a fatal accident which cost him his blossoming young life. He would have completed his education in Doon in December 1967.

Mr Gurdial 'Guru' Singh (GU) asking if we were taking the cycle tour. On confirming in the affirmative, I recall the slight hesitation that illustrated his face. I suppose he wrestled with the thought of vetoing the idea, of reminding us of the tragic incident, of asking us to be careful. He did none of that, and after a brief period of hesitation nodded and walked away.

I believe that this was the right thing to do.

Despite his tough exterior he must have felt relieved when we returned safely after the break.

Karan's younger brother, **Arundharee 'Chhotu' Lall (223 K, 1970)** was in our batch (1969), but stayed back in A Form and joined the batch of 1970 for ISC. Chhotu still lives in Calcutta.

Karan was very interested in metal craft and my father donated a model of a large metal drill named the Karandharee Lall Memorial Trophy for Metal Craft, to be presented annually in the term ending in December.

So far as I know, he was the only Dosco to lose his life on a mid-term expedition. Unfortunately, due to a recent shift in my residence, I lost the huge collection of photographs we had of him.

He is missed by all those who loved him.

Pradeep Sen, having worked for a corporate multinational corporation, now conducts management workshops and a Talent Transformation programme for AI tech students to prepare them for the industry. He is a published writer whose work has been featured in international magazines. He lives in Hyderabad with his wife, grandson, and granddaughter. His daughter, who is a lawyer, lives in Bangalore, Karnataka.

Arundharee 'Chhotu' Lall is retired and lives in Calcutta, West Bengal.

Dosco, Know Thyself

Dispatches from the Dosco Network – Professions

EDITOR'S NOTE: The next in our continuing series digging into us Old Boys and finding out exactly who we are, or more precisely, what we do.

Rakesh Kaushik 603 T, 1979
Member, Executive Committee, The DSOBS



Rakesh Kaushik

Did *The Doon School Weekly* ignite someone's passion for journalism?

Did the aero-modelling classes create an early interest in aviation?

Did the time spent in Raffles evoke professional interest in social work?

Did literature studies and the library hours stimulate the author in us?

Let's read on and discover what the data from The DSOBS network analysis tells us...

Professions DoscOs Pursue

Our time in School happened during the early part of our lives and awaiting us beyond the gates of Chandbagh was the outside world. College, a professional institute that would override the early sparks in School and push us towards our final career choices. Indeed, in many cases it could be the family business to be managed which may also have shaped our decisions.

As a part of the ongoing DSOBS Network data analysis we focused our attention on the topic of what professions DoscOs have pursued over the years. We analyzed the data for about 2,000 DoscOs who have graduated from school since 1937 over a period of 85 years and who have updated their DoscOs records. The availability of data is somewhat limited to about 40% of the total alumni network. So, while limited in coverage, it does give us a fair indication of the professional choices DoscOs have made over many generations.

Grouping of Data for the 85 Batches Graduating from The School		
Cluster 8	1937 - 58	22 years
Cluster 7	1959 - 69	10 years
Cluster 6	1970 - 79	10 years
Cluster 5	1980 - 89	10 years
Cluster 4	1990 - 99	10 years
Cluster 3	2000 - 09	10 years
Cluster 2	2010 - 19	10 years
Cluster 1	2020 - 21	2 years

Cluster 1, comprises nearly 100% students (in their college phase) and so have been omitted in the findings being shared. There are also some students in Cluster 2, where several DoscOs have not updated their post college records. As result, they still show up as students as a caveat to these findings in that cluster.

Presentation of the Findings

The data has been presented as follows:

- a. An overview of the professions pursued by DoscOs “aggregated over the 85 years for all batches” from 1937 to 2021.
- b. A Cluster-by-Cluster time-bucket view of how these professional choices have evolved over time (ie, over each decade from 1937 to 2021).
- c. A comparison of professional choices of DoscOs in India and overseas.
- d. The professions have been grouped from Rank-1 to Rank-11 according to the number of DoscOs who have chosen them.
- e. For ease of comparison, we have chosen a percentage number associated with “each profession” instead of showing the absolute count (ie, the number of DoscOs pursuing a particular profession).
- f. The data is first shared in a simple tabular format and then explained alongside.
- g. A few professions that indicate changing trends have been highlighted in colour to help you assess at a glance how they have fared over time in terms of their rankings and percentage of DoscOs selecting them.

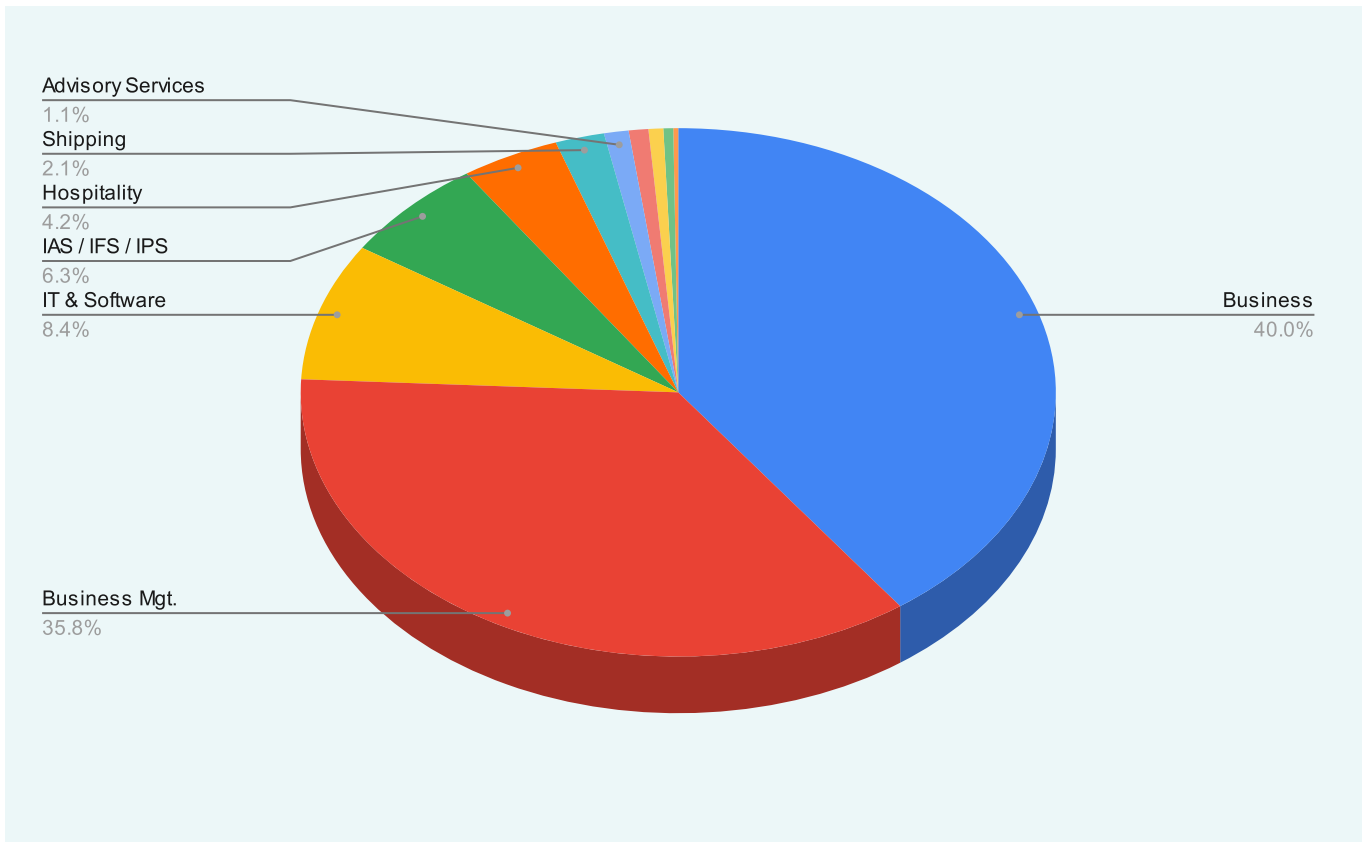
THE AGGREGATE VIEW

Batch Group Cluster	All Clusters
Batches	1937 - 2021
No of Batch Years	85
DSOBS Count (Mar 2022)	5,332
Info Available On	1,844
% Info Available	35%
No of Professions	47

Rank	Profession	%
1	Business	19%
2	Business Mgt.	17%
3	IT & Software	4%
4	IAS / IFS / IPS Defence Services Chartered A/cs. Banking Medicine Legal Education	3%
5	Hospitality Engineering Finance Investment Bknng	2%

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Rank	Profession	%	Rank	Profession	%
6	Shipping	1%	8	Media & Comms	0.40%
	Politics			Insurance	
	Farming & Agri			Designer	
	Architecture			Journalism	
	Exports		9	Economist	0.30%
	Aviation			Social Work	
	Advertising			Sports Mgt	
	Manufacturing		10	Scientist	0.20%
	Stocks Inv.			Aviation	
	Film & Theatre			Intl Policy	
	People Devpt			Photography	
	Real Estate			Author	
	Tea Industry			Golf Mgt	
	Music				
7	Advisory Services	0.50%	11	Administration	0.10%
	Environment			Recruitment	
	Tourism			Religion	



Observations from the Aggregate View

1. A total of 47 Professions have been chosen by DoscOs over the above period.
2. Business (25%), Business Management (17%), and IT & Software (a distant 4%) totaling to 46% make up the top three professional choices of DoscOs when aggregated over all the batches.
3. Making up the 4th Rank are IAS/IFS/IPS, Defense Services, Chartered Accountancy, Banking, Medicine, Legal, and Education all at 3% each.
4. Making up the 5th Rank are Hospitality, Engineering, Finance, and Investment Banking – all at 2% each.
5. The above 14 professions (in the Top 5 Ranks) make up 69% of the total.
6. From Rank 6 to 11 we see a fairly vast mix of 33 professions. Although each is small when combined they total up to a significant 31% of Dosco choices.
7. This is where we see a range of variety.
There are the ones of the earlier times like Shipping and Tea Industry; the more standard ones like Advertising, Aviation, Real Estate, Media & Comms, Insurance, Journalism, etc and the non-mainstream ones like Film & Theatre, Environment, Design, Sports Management, Music, Religion, etc.
8. The School has also contributed a small percentage to National / State Politics with a few going onto becoming Prime Ministers (one) and a few Cms.
9. Farming & Agriculture, Exports, Manufacturing, People Development, International Policy, and Scientists make up some of the others in Ranks 6 to 11.

The cluster-by-cluster time bucket dataset revealed to us how these professional choices evolved over the decades. I'll be happy to share the data with those interested.

Top 3 Professions

1st



Business

2nd



Business Management

3rd



IT & Software

Cluster-by-Cluster Trends Over Time

When we look over the clusters with a time bucket view, we can observe the following details:

Observations from the Aggregate View

1. Other than the First Cluster (1937 – 1958), Business and Business Management have made up the top two professional choices of Doscos over the years. They have accounted for circa 40% of the total.
2. In the earlier years (1937 – 1958), Defense Services came in at the 2nd spot. IAS / IFS / IPS came in at the 5th spot. Together these two government services accounted for nearly 20% of the total in the above period. From 1959 to 1979 they declined to 10% and from 1980 to 1989 to 5% dropping to circa 2% from 1990 onwards.
3. Other professions that typically made up the Top 5 ranks are Engineering, Chartered Accountancy, Medicine, IT & Software, Banking, Hospitality, Finance, Legal, and Education.
4. In the 6 to 11 Rank groups: Progressive emergence of Investment Banking, Stock Investment, Advertising, Architecture, and Real Estate.

Shipping and Tea Industry were the destination of about 5% of Doscos but these declined after 1979.

Farming/Agriculture and Politics have sustained at about 2% up to 1999 and then dropped.

From the 1970s we also see the emergence, although at a lower level, of liberal arts-based professions like Film & Theatre, Journalism, Design, Authors, Environment, Social Work, Sports/Golf Management, Photography, Music, and even Religion as a professional choice.

In the charts shown alongside a few trends are visually presented across select professions. (Note: The numbers for 2010 – 2019 Cluster are low as several Doscos are still showing up as students in it).

Defense Services & IAS / IFS / IPS

1937-1958



1959-1979



1980-1989

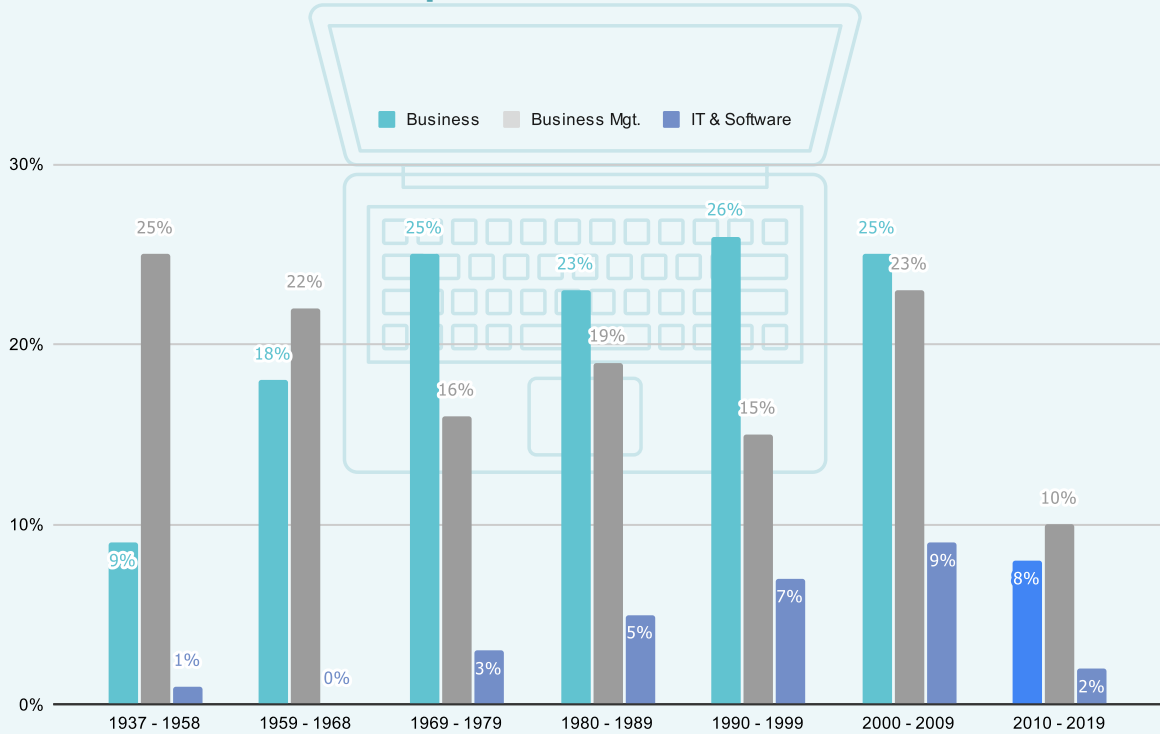


1990-1999

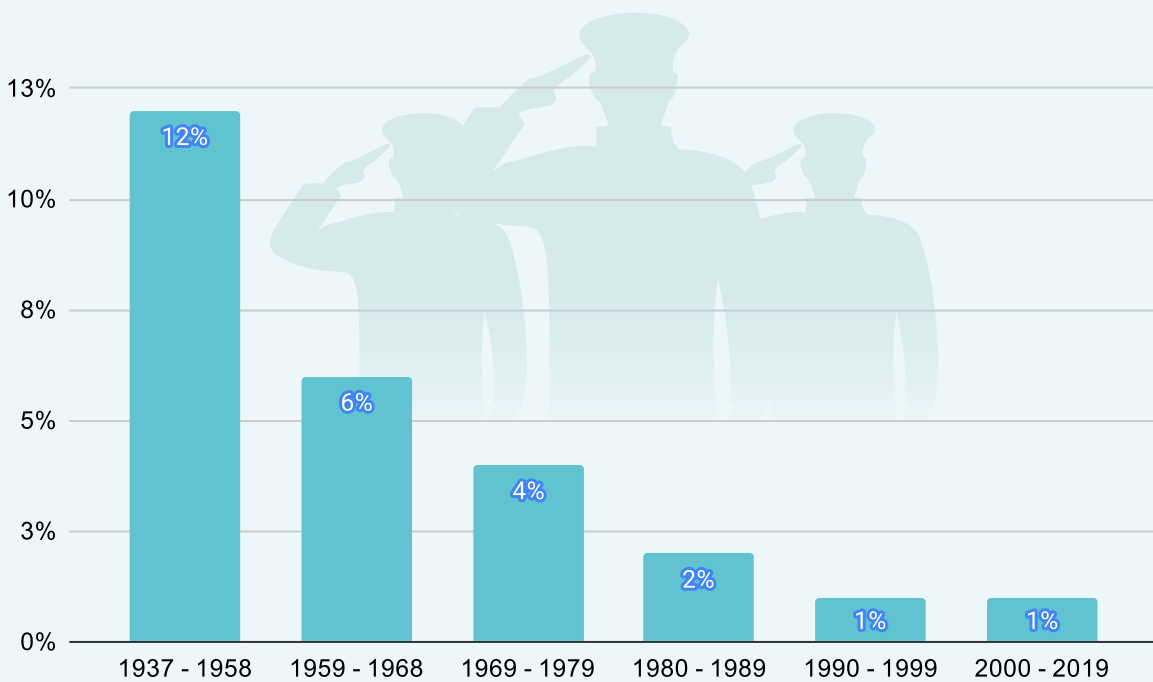


A FEW TRENDS

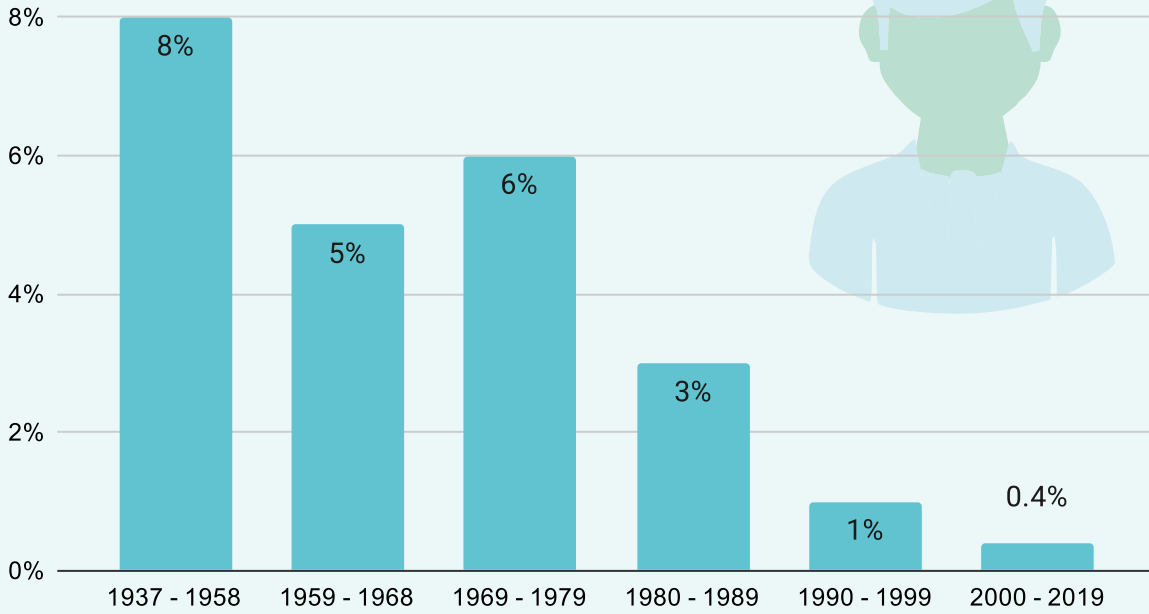
Top 3 Ranks Over Time



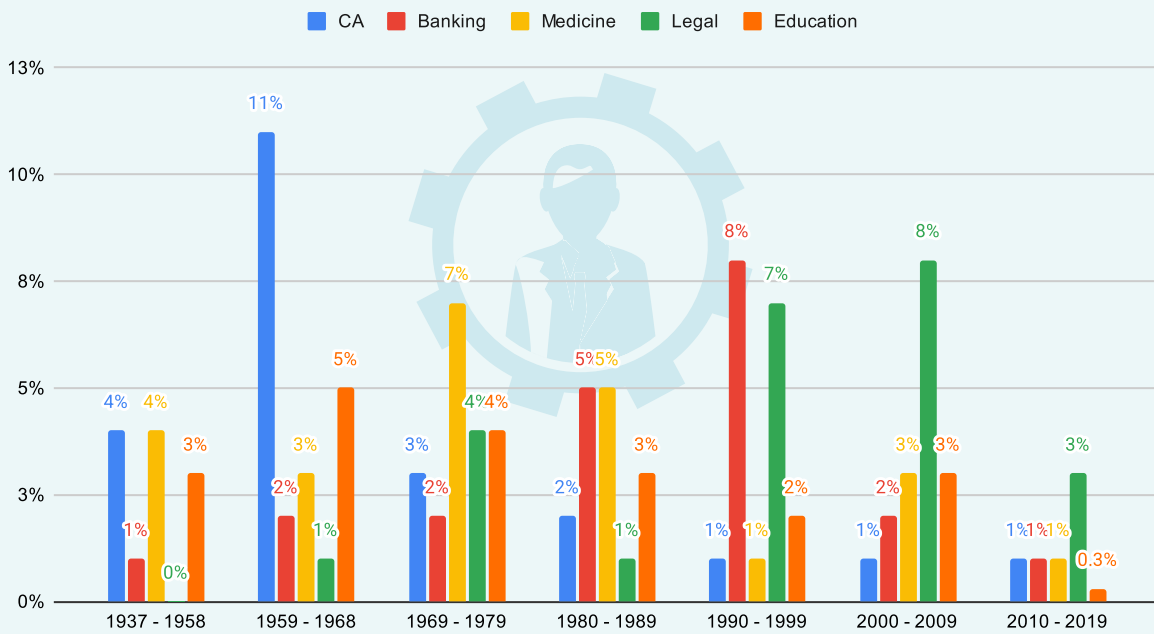
Defence Services



IAS/IFS / IPS

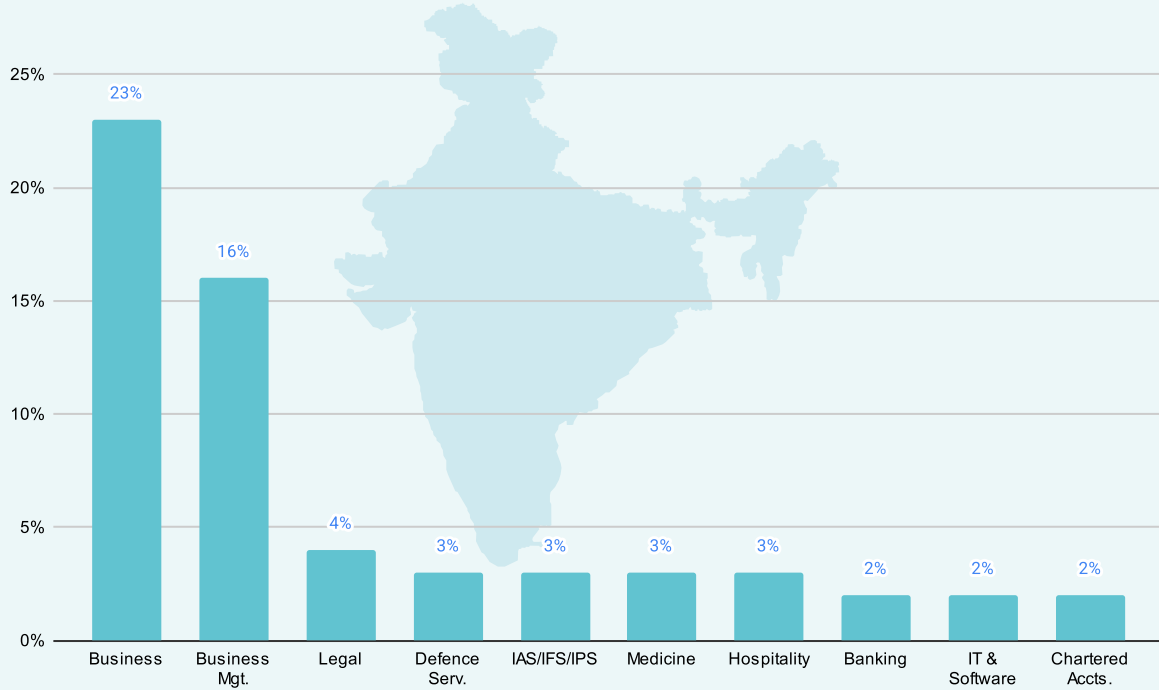


Others (From Top 4 Rank)

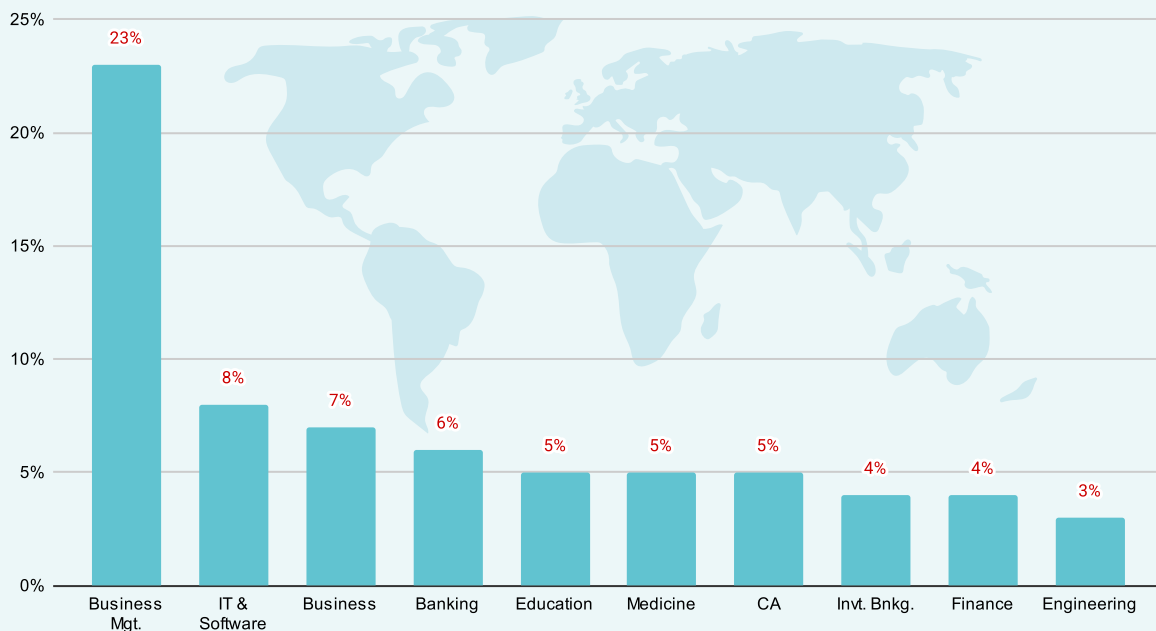


Top Ten Dosco Professions – India vs Overseas

Top 10 Professions in India (1937-2021)



Top Ten Professions Overseas (1937-2021)



India Top 5: Business, Business Mgt, Legal, Defense Services, IAS / IFS / IPS, Medicine

Overseas Top 5: Business Mgt, IT & Software, Business, Banking, Education, Medicine

Closing Thoughts

The 'Professions Doscors Pursue' study helps to understand for the first time, in a more data-based way, the full spectrum of professions Doscors have engaged in for nearly eight decades. This study can be improved if more Doscors update their database in The DSOBS website about their professions. A special request goes out to younger Doscors to update the data as they finish college and enter the professional world.

The DSOBS has not only mined this data but put it to use in a variety of ways:

- The Internship and Mentorship programs connect Doscors in school to DSOBS Members in the relevant fields of professional interest.
- New communities have been created on WhatsApp in areas like Finance, Hospitality, Healthcare etc and hundreds of Doscors from around the world have started connecting and engaging with each other in areas of common professional interest.

We hope the readers will find this informative and that these findings will set off useful conversations on and off the campus as Doscors are enabled, empowered, and motivated to make professional choices going forward in an ever-changing world and playing their role in contributing to society.

Source Data: DSOBS Excel Dated 24/03/2022

Privacy: All data was anonymised before analysis

Rakesh Kaushik has worked in corporate business management at Unilever and GlaxoSmithKline plc. After stints in Africa, the US, Switzerland, and the UK, he now lives in Dehradun with his wife Sonya.

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 Doscors, who wait to read it passionately.

If Doscors 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



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

THE DOSCO HIVE

TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE

Premjit 'Choppy' Singh Chopra 440 T, 1993



The Doon School Apiary

W

hat's this all about? It's about Doscos (past and present) coming together to tackle one of the greatest ecological disasters we face today: the disappearance of bees. And, as a natural reward, a lasting supply of pure honey for students and faculty to enjoy for years to come.

Bees have long symbolised harmony and abundance. They have been mentioned in every major religion, celebrated in ancient texts, and even emblazoned on royal insignia as emblems of wisdom, unity, and spiritual guidance. Today, these tiny creatures, declared the most important species on Earth, are vanishing at alarming rates in a crisis so severe it has a name: Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).





In true School spirit, Doscos are leading the way in showing how to reverse CCD by establishing the first-of-its-kind The Doon School Apiary deep inside an ancient forest. This pioneering project being championed by School combines awareness with action – helping bees flourish again, one bee box at a time. What started with just a handful of bee boxes has already multiplied and as the Dosco hive grows, it will add millions of pollinators keeping the forest thriving (90% of wild plants rely on bees), preserving its rich biodiversity, pollinating surrounding fields (80% of crops need bees), and sustaining a fragile ecosystem.



A bee box in honour of Pushpindar 'Pushy' Singh Chopra (74 T, 1959)

Located deep within a privately owned forest in Punjab, The Doon School Apiary is cared for by a family of Old Boys, who are using their forest to help revive endangered species of flora, protect its rich wildlife, and now create a haven for bees to thrive in. Far from School for safety reasons yet close enough for regular student visits, the apiary is managed by Treephala Earth, a conservation-driven company founded by Old Boys, Premjit

Singh Chopra and **Rohitinder 'Lolly' Singh (463 K, 1993).**

Like a hive, Doon thrives on brotherhood and collective effort. Bees don't compete; they collaborate and in that harmony, create abundance. This initiative reflects that spirit while nourishing generations of Doscos. To be a part of this hive, Old Boys can donate one or more bee boxes, each with their name proudly displayed on a plaque attached to the box. Every box donated adds a further 20,000-50,000 bees into the environment and more honey for students to enjoy. The sweetest gift to give School!

For further information on how to donate a box please email: thedoscohive@treephala.com.



A bee box donated by Jaswinder 'Bull' Singh Bull (344 J, 1986)

Premjit 'Choppy' Singh Chopra is co-founder of Treephala Earth, an initiative born from a love for nature and a commitment to conservation. When not in the forest, he's usually coming up with corny bee puns and dividing his time between Delhi, India, and London, UK, where he lives with his wife, Sahar, and daughters, Amber and Iman.

REWARDING AND ENTERTAINING

On Being a Doon Master

Anshu Dhar Jayal (ADJ) 407 T, 1993
Master, Mathematics, The Doon School

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our regular feature where we receive updates and insights from the School, to get a sense of what's happening within Chandbagh. For this edition, we hear from one of the newer Masters, who brings with him the fascinating perspective of having been an Old Boy before becoming a teacher at his alma mater.



Anshu Dhar Jayal (ADJ)

Where did you grow up? What are some of your early memories with your family?

My father was in the army so we grew up in multiple places, moving every two to three years. However, vacations were always in Dehradun and Mussourie as our grandparents were here.

Probably the one among my early memories that DoscOs would find most interesting is the experience of helping my father with gardening tasks. Like a true army officer his primary objective was not to finish the task quickly but to keep me

engaged. As they say, a good commander keeps his men busy. I believe this prepared me for all the House Squad work that I was later made to do in Tata House.



Mr RL 'Holdie' Holdsworth, Mr John Martyn, and various boys stopping for a break at our family farm in Dhakrani while returning from rafting in Asan

You're the son, grandnephew, nephew, and cousin of Old Boys – the legendary Dhar Jayal family. What are your memories of being part of this deep tradition of DoscOs prior to joining School?

Tradition was definitely something we were enveloped by, and I was fully in awe of the legends who came before me. In fact, such a situation can easily become overwhelming for a child. Luckily, my mother shielded me, patiently encouraged me, and ensured that I did not collapse under the weight of expectations.

My mother shielded me, patiently encouraged me, and ensured that I did not collapse under the weight of [family] expectations

How was your time at School?

My time at School was magical and I relished every moment of it, other than the times when I was trapped in running endless favours for certain Seniors who were infamous for never letting go once they'd found a Junior to latch on to.

Among the Masters there were too many great people to acknowledge here, so I'll have to restrict myself to the ones who taught me my favourite subjects.

The thing that struck me the most about **Mr Sheel Vohra (SKV)**, whose aka need not be mentioned, was that in spite of his legendary strictness, he actually wanted us to study less and play more!



In awe of the legends who came before me: my granduncle Major Narendra 'Nandu' Dhar Jayal (101 T, 1942)

His mantra was fantastically simple: if you just focus fully in class, quickly revise from your notes in Toye Time, and do the assigned homework, which was very reasonable in quantity, then you don't need to do anything extra and you have more time to do other fun things. Needless to say, he never assigned any holiday homework and soundly mocked those who wasted their vacations in boring tuitions. The only people he mocked more were those who couldn't play cricket to save their lives. For example, myself.



From my S Form, I'm in the second row, standing sixth from left, just behind the Dame and House Captain Abhimanyu 'Grunt' Singh (342 T, 1992), circa 1992

For **Mr Devendra Singh (DVS)**, aka Robocop, physics was not a subject but a religion, and he oversaw the running of the physics lab with the devotion of a priest managing a temple. The same was true for **Mr Philip Burrett (PBR)** and geography, as well as **Mr Babul Das (BLD)** and biology.

Their passion was reflected in the enormous efforts they took to make us understand concepts from different points of view, demonstrating ideas in class with innovative experiments and beautiful diagrams, and giving excellent examples from memory as well as from newspapers. Each one handled his classroom according to his own style. DVS was as strict as SKV, but with the same intention of giving us more free time outside the classroom and during vacations. PBR was very well balanced in his strictness, while BLD was one of the nicest people I have ever met. He was too lost in his world of interesting ideas to care about enforcing every little rule.



PBR and ADJ

What did you do once you graduated School? Did you have a clear idea of your career path based on your time at School?

Based on my overall experience at School, I did have a partial idea about what I should try next. I knew I wanted to explore something to do with

[Our Masters'] passion was reflected in the enormous efforts they took to make us understand concepts from different points of view

science and mathematics, but more hands-on and not just purely theoretical stuff. So, after School, I ended up studying mechanical engineering at the Army Institute of Technology, Pune.



With my father Bishwa Dhar Jayal (14 T, 1961)

Unfortunately, my academic experience at School ruined me for life as far as surviving in the Indian academic system is concerned. I loved the field of mechanical engineering but my four years in the bachelor's degree program were pure torture thanks to the university exam system, and the way

that classes were conducted to match the exam system. The exams were based almost purely on memorising such long equations that they wouldn't even fit on one line. There was very little scope for logical reasoning and intellectual engagement of the kind emphasised at Doon.

Meanwhile, the whole world knew that the age of affordable personal computers was well established, and the age of mobile phones with calculators and easy internet access was just starting at that time. The writing on the wall was clear: the ability to remember large quantities of information, as well as the ability to manually calculate fast from memorised formulas, were now redundant skills. The future belonged to those who could think creatively, and translate this into actual innovation on the ground.

The future belonged to those who could think creatively, and translate this into actual innovation on the ground... at The Doon School, this was well recognised

At The Doon School, this was well recognised thanks to the way most Masters took pride in teaching their subject with a passion, and thanks to the vision of **Mr Shomie Das (HM, SRD)**, the man who saw tomorrow, as per the appropriately titled book. However, outside Chandbagh, our university exam system only emphasised memorisation, and nothing else. The sheer pointlessness of it all was so demoralising that on more than one occasion I went to sleep during an exam and failed the subject. Probably the only thing that made sense to me in college was the classic novel, *Catch-22*.

The end result of all this was that by the third year of college I had only one option left, and that was to exit the Indian education system. I first aced the GRE exam. Then, among the top tier American universities I shortlisted those that would be willing to tolerate my college marksheets in addition to my

GRE score. Finally, I scanned their admissions brochures and faculty profiles, and as soon as I read the one for the University of Utah it was love at first sight. I did not search further.

What was life like in Utah? What was the experience of being so far away from your homeland and family like?

The University of Utah was like a western American version of Chandbagh. Even though I was on the opposite side of the world from home, I never once felt the distance. Instead, I felt intellectually alive to again be in a free academic environment.

I felt intellectually alive to again be in a free academic environment.

Salt Lake City was picture perfect, nestled in a long valley and surrounded by mountains full of beautiful hiking trails on both sides, just like Dehradun. I worked hard, played harder, met some great people and relished every moment of my time there. I filled every unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run to such an extent that every night I would crash out within thirty seconds of lying down on my bed. The only major difference from Doon was that there was no one around to raise my bed on four lockers while I was fast asleep. I even believe I did so much hiking during my years in Utah, that I should technically have been eligible for another Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DEAS) Gold Blazer.



Finally making it to Har Ki Dun, only 35 years late, with the J House A Form midterm party, April 2024



Hiking Lamkhaga Pass, some 35 years earlier

How would you describe your teaching career at IIT? What were some of the broader changes you witnessed during your time there?

Teaching at IIT Ropar was very exciting and rewarding for the first few years, and then a shift happened that took all the fun out of it. The students of mechanical engineering started behaving as though it was a dead field with no worthwhile future. They became convinced that for all engineers, IT was the only field worth being in, and no facts or logic could convince them otherwise. The classroom became a dead zone with zero questions asked, and no willingness to engage in any discussion. The very point of being an IITian is that you stand apart from the rest of the herd; you do not need to be trapped in the same herd mentality that everyone else is trapped in.

Unfortunately, the gruelling competition to get into IIT now ensures that almost every child who makes it though is a typical product of the tuitions and coaching industry. So, we get to see fantastically brilliant students who have completely shackled their imagination because they have been coached to avoid all risk as it negatively affects marks. This mindset not only destroys the roots of innovation, but also reinforces the herd mentality of every student blindly rushing towards IT because apparently that's the current hype.

What has your early experience at School as a Master been like?

My initial experience was a little bit scary at the time, and hilarious in retrospect. I think I was on track to become the first Master to get a Yellow Card for being late to class! I used to get up at 4am everyday to start my teaching preparations.

As expected, I would get so engrossed that I would lose track of time and snap back to reality only when I heard the first bell ringing from the Main Building. After that, it was a mad dash to reach the classroom.



In C Form

School has been as open minded as ever. So, my relationship with School has not changed too much, in the sense that it's still family. However, the perspective has, indeed, changed. Now, there's less of a carefree abandon and more of a sense of duty.

My relationship with School has not changed... it's still family

By the way, after lunch my lecture preparation would resume for another couple of hours, and I would often be seen trudging home around 4:30pm-5pm, while the boys were on the sports fields. Afterwards, I would again be seen trudging back to the Main Building to take some or the other extra class before dinner. I think I have slogged so hard in my first two years that even the S Formers must be worried that I'm scoping harder than them!

Luckily, things are under control now so I'm getting to be less of a workaholic and starting to have some fun, too.



Having some fun: hiking with the family

What have you been surprised by? Has anything stayed the same from your time at School?

I have been pleasantly surprised by how tech savvy the students are, and also by the extent of technology usage. When I was in School as a student, the person who used to ring the bell would then walk to all the classrooms with a clipboard, and the Masters would quickly enter the attendance details on the attached sheets. After I returned to School as a Master, I didn't take any attendance for the first two days; I kept waiting for the fellow with the clipboard to show up. Then some colleagues told me that attendance is now entered directly into the School's ERP system, and the parents also have login access to the system. Just imagine the poor students' plight. In the past, if you bunked first school your Housemaster would grill you at Breakfast, but now your parents may also be aware of your bunking in real time!

The one thing that has stayed the same is the boys' ability to think of new ways to dodge classes. In my very first week, as I was getting the D Form class in order at the start of fifth school, some boys told me very convincingly that Tuesday is RC day, and that they have been following this all year long with the Master who was teaching them before I joined. The RC by the way, is the Resource Centre, or computer and printer lab, which is housed in the corner of the Main Building that was previously occupied by the Library before it moved to its own building. I figured this RC day thing must be one of the many changes that I was out of touch with, just like marking attendance on the ERP system, so off we went. Once we had all settled into the RC, the staff member in charge of the facility, **Mr Nikhil Maurya**, very nicely and diplomatically told me that I had been taken for a ride. Of course, there was no such thing as RC day!

The one thing that has stayed the same is the boys' ability to think of new ways to dodge classes

Another incident that many Old Boys would identify with happened when I had to escort some boys to Welham Girls' School during *rakhi*. Towards the end of the meeting time, when it was announced that only ten minutes were left, one of the homesick D Form boys broke into tears. Sure enough, his sister started acting as though she didn't know him. So yes, although many things have changed, many others remain the same as before!

What are some of the changes different from your time in School that have made an impression on you?

One of the major changes that many are unaware of is the fact that the campus is now far less wild, and far better lit up at night. In our school days the campus resembled some horror movie set after 7pm. The hedges were taller than the average B Former, and there was roughly 30m-50m of complete darkness between the lit up portions underneath any two street lights. This change has ensured that many boys today are clueless about the various ghost stories that went around in the past.



Tata A SC Form, 1993

L to R:

Standing: Jatin Dev Bobb (411 T, 1993), House Captain Varun 'Lambu' Khanna (481 T, 1993), Arjun Lakhanpal (435 T, 1993), House Prefect Bhavdeep Sardana (400 T, 1993)

Sitting: Vijay Sitlani (409 T, 1993), Ritesh Bhavnani (437 T, 1993), Housemaster Mr RP Devgun (RPD), Anil Joshi (436 T, 1993), Anshu Dhar Jayal

Now that I'm a tutor associated with Martyn House, I go there for my weekly Toye Time duty. On one such day, the boys got after me during evening Toye to tell them some ghost stories about our campus. When I asked if they'd heard of *Mashaal Man* they stared back blankly, so I launched into that story. I guess I said too much because after a few minutes a boy needed to go to the Hospital for fever but everyone refused to go with him. I put my foot down and volunteered his buddy for the job but he flatly said no. What if they admitted the fellow? How would the escort walk back alone with *Mashaal Man* prowling around? In the end, two boys armed with hockey sticks and torches went to escort one boy to the Hospital for a simple thermometer reading. I believe the nurse on duty deserves a medal for surviving the shock.

You were a Dosco Son, what's it like being a Dosco Father?

It is indescribably good. I got to see my son doing a change-in-break punishment within three months of my joining the School. In PG Wodehouse terms, I was as happy as Lord Emsworth in the presence of the Empress of Blandings.

What are some of the things Old Boys and students may not know about being a Master at School?

I believe one of the things we all know in the back of our minds, but don't bother admitting or discussing, is something that one of my colleagues mentioned during a casual conversation some time back: teaching students of the 12-18 years age group is one of the most stressful jobs around. Very few can do it at all, forget about doing it well, as our Masters have been doing since 1935.

The primary reason why this job is so difficult is because there is no such thing as a teenager who is humble. Such a thing has not happened in the history of the world. This is the age when you become taller than your father. Not just taller, but also faster. He's slowing down with age, bulging out from the middle, balding, and starting to get wrinkles. Meanwhile, you are at your physical peak. All of this is bound to go to your head, and then you start thinking that it's time for you to be in charge. So, this is the age for taking *pangas* and challenging the adults for authority. In this contest, at home it is usually two parents versus one teenager, while in the classroom it is one Master versus twenty-five boys. That's some seriously intimidating maths!

There is no such thing as a teenager who is humble... such a thing has not happened in the history of the world

Of course, the mental peak and maturity come much later, around the age of 25 years, so that's usually when we seek out our former Masters and try to make it up to them for all the insanity we unleashed on them during our teenage years.



With my Tata A chums

What's your broader perspective on education?

Overall, my impression so far is that School is still as amazing as it used to be, the potential that the students have is still as fantastic as ever.

School is still as amazing as it used to be, the potential that the students have is still as fantastic as ever

The trends that were obvious in the 1980s to visionaries like Mr Shomie Das have accelerated tremendously, and are now obvious to all. Mugging information and formulae is no longer so important. Even people in the remotest of areas can use their mobile phones to instantly search for information or get problems solved by ChatGPT within seconds. Further, everything is changing so fast that the latest knowledge in any field can become outdated long before the majority of people become aware of it.

So, the skills that modern education must aim to impart need to be very fundamental and timeless. Such skills include critical thinking to question the status quo, innovative thinking to come up with new possibilities, and sound discipline, communication and social skills to take ideas to fruition in a typical work environment involving teams of people. The School does take this very seriously and is ahead of the curve, as always. As an example, we now have an active centre of excellence for critical thinking and creative writing.

The skills that modern education must aim to impart need to be fundamental and timeless

All of the above is nothing but the classic Doon School education model, in which good all-round character development is the prime focus, and it is expected that academic success in the long term will be taken care of automatically. Doscos are ideally poised to ride the wave to success, provided they can stick to the basics.

However, when short term obsession with marks in whichever exam is coming up next becomes the only goal then all long term character development fades into the background. In such an environment all thinking and innovation get tossed aside because students stop asking questions; they're afraid that if they start looking at problems from different perspectives it will confuse them and bring down their marks.

My own teaching style is designed around questioning and discussion. So far this has been a work in progress, but the results have been encouraging. It takes time to spur students to think critically as so many of them have been conditioned by outside forces to only focus on marks, and also because attention spans have become so low.

The spark that we see in the boys outside the classroom is terrific, and records continue to tumble regularly. I had the pleasure of seeing three records being broken when I was doing timekeeping duty during the last Inter-House Athletics competition. Even in music, debating, theatre, art, etc, the performances we see today are absolutely fantastic, practically professional grade. After seeing the talent on display in the Orchestra today I almost feel like hiding the fact that I played sitar during my school days. Our performances were quite ordinary compared to what goes on now.



Playing sitar (second sitar from right) in the School Orchestra during my day next to the School Music Captain Harsh Rohatgi (509 H, 1993) (third sitar from right)

I'm sure there were many words of advice thrown your way by your Masters when you were a student, what's come back to help you now that you yourself are a Master?

I can't remember the exact words he used but the

My family (wife, kids, and father)



essence of SKV's advice was to just do your best and not care about the rest. It makes life far less complicated than it would otherwise be.

The essence of SKV's advice was to just do your best and not care about the rest

Any advice to students who might one day decide to become a teacher themselves?

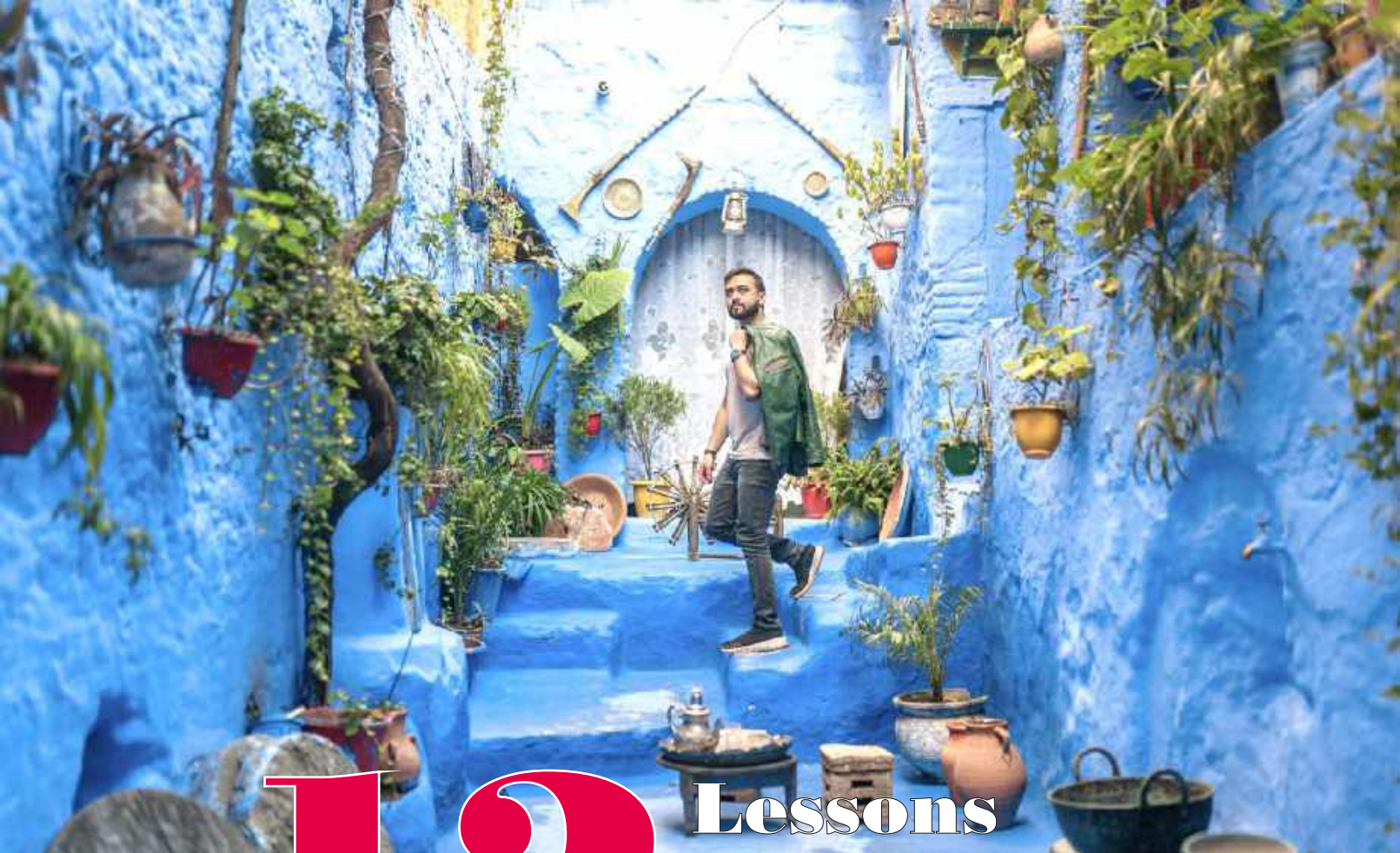
Go ahead and take the plunge!

It is not at all easy, but certainly very rewarding and also very entertaining.

Just a few weeks back I caught a boy writing a note instead of paying attention in my class. The note contained a detailed plan about making a lightning fast first strike in a Juniors II Football match to stun the opposing side, in the same style as some famous seven-second goal scored by Kylian Mbappé et al for Paris Saint-Germain Football Club (PSG). When I went to see the match in the afternoon, his own team was down by two goals in the first ten minutes.

Like I said, very rewarding... and very entertaining!

Anshu Dhar Jayal earned a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. After working as postdoctoral researcher at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA, and a faculty member at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar, Rupnagar, Punjab. He is now teaching Mathematics at The Doon School.



A grand adventure

12 Lessons Countries Months

Everything I Learnt From Travelling the World for a Year

Nivit Kochhar 541 K, 2013

On September 14th 2021, I caught a flight to set off on a grand adventure to explore the world.

Fast forward 365 days...

On September 13th 2022, I boarded my return flight home, having visited 12 countries.

Little did I know that this audacious journey would unfold into the most exhilarating, and arguably, the most incredible 12 months of my life.

Each country I visited on my journey taught me a unique invaluable lesson, and I would like to share these lessons with all fellow world travellers. Here are 12 lessons I learnt travelling to 12 countries in 12 months.

1. Portugal



Lisbon, Portugal, September 2021

“Make your start memorable, unleash yourself.”

Landing to a beautiful sunrise in Lisbon, I discovered the power of beginnings. A remarkable start can set the tone for your entire journey. So, let your inhibitions loose, embrace the unknown, and watch the world unfold before your eyes. Make sure you make it memorable!

2. France



The Arc de Triomphe wrapped in fabric in tribute to the late artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Paris, France, September 2021

“Life is short, celebrate it.”

Amidst the romantic ambiance of France, I learned to seize the fleeting moments of life. From savouring exquisite cuisine to dancing under the moonlight, celebrate every joyous occasion and infuse your travels with an everlasting joie de vivre with the ones closest to you. Every day is a gift and it can be taken away at any moment! Go out and have fun, try new things, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

3. Greece



Acropolis, Athens, Greece, December 2021

“Travelling off season can be quite the treat.”

While exploring the ancient wonders of Greece on a week-long December stopover, I stumbled upon a hidden secret – the magic of travelling off-season. Embrace the tranquillity, relish the uncrowded streets, and witness a quieter side of the world that only a few have experienced.

4. Turkey



Cappadocia, Turkey, December 2021

“There is beauty in chaos.”

Do not be afraid to explore the chaotic side of a city in all its vibrance. It is often where you will find the most interesting things. In the middle of energetic markets and lively streets, be open to the chaos and let it guide you toward the most remarkable experiences. Get lost in the backstreets, talk to the locals, and experience a place in all its messy glory.

5. Singapore



Gardens by the Bay, Singapore, April 2022

“Open up to the world, and the world will open up to you.”

Singapore originally was not a strong draw when I was planning my travels, but the opportunity presented itself, and I said yes. Singapore welcomed me with open arms and showed me a world one can only dream of. Open your heart to possibilities and witness how the world reciprocates by unfolding its wonders in unimaginable ways. Be open to new experiences and connections, and you'll make memories that will last a lifetime.

6. Thailand



Wat Rajamontean, Chiang Mai, Thailand, April 2022

“Travelling with a goal changes the way you experience your journey.”

There is a beauty in wandering aimlessly, which I truly love, but there is a fulfillment in travelling with intent. In Thailand, I set out on a journey with a clear goal, which led to meaningful encounters and deeper connections with the places I visited. Discover your own purpose and allow it to shape your travel adventure.

7. UAE



Al Seef, Dubai, UAE, May 2022

“You don’t always have to like the flavour of the month.”

Each person's perspective is unique, and while some may find a place to be everything they dreamed of, it may not resonate with you in the same way. Do not be disappointed if you do not see the value in a place that the world may love. It is important to manage your expectations when travelling. Instead of fixating on the grandeur or hype, surrender yourself to the flow of the journey.

8. Mexico



Playa del Carmen, Mexico, May 2022

“It’s okay to go slow and take your time.”

When travelling, it is important to slow down and take your time. Enjoy the journey, not just the destination. In Mexico’s fast-paced culture, I discovered the art of slowing down. Amidst bustling cities and breathtaking landscapes, I learned to savour every moment, to pause and appreciate the charm all around us. Take your time, and the world will reveal its hidden treasures. Don’t forget to stop and smell the flowers.

9. Panama



Cerro Ancón, Panama City, Panama, June 2022

“Don’t expect it, but the next corner might just have a surprise for you.”

Out of all the countries I visited, Panama caught me by surprise! I had zero expectations and plans when I arrived in Panama, and the country pleasantly unveiled itself to me as the most underrated destination. I realized that the most remarkable surprises await us when we least expect them. Panama reminded me to stay open and curious, for the world is full of delightful surprises.

10. Colombia



La Piedra del Peñol, Guatapé, Colombia, June 2022

“Live passionately.”

The lively culture of Colombia taught me to embrace every moment and to live with more intensity. Every once in a while, you should turn up that flame in your life. Your travels are yet another opportunity to live passionately and feel a little bit more.

11. United Kingdom



Inveraray, Scotland, United Kingdom, August 2022

“Travel to forge stronger bonds with those you love.”

Travelling doesn't have to be all about yourself, it could be about building a deeper connection with the people you care about. Go visit your best friend who lives faraway or travel with a loved one to a place they have been dying to go. Seeing the happiness you can bring to their life is an awesome feeling.

12. Ireland

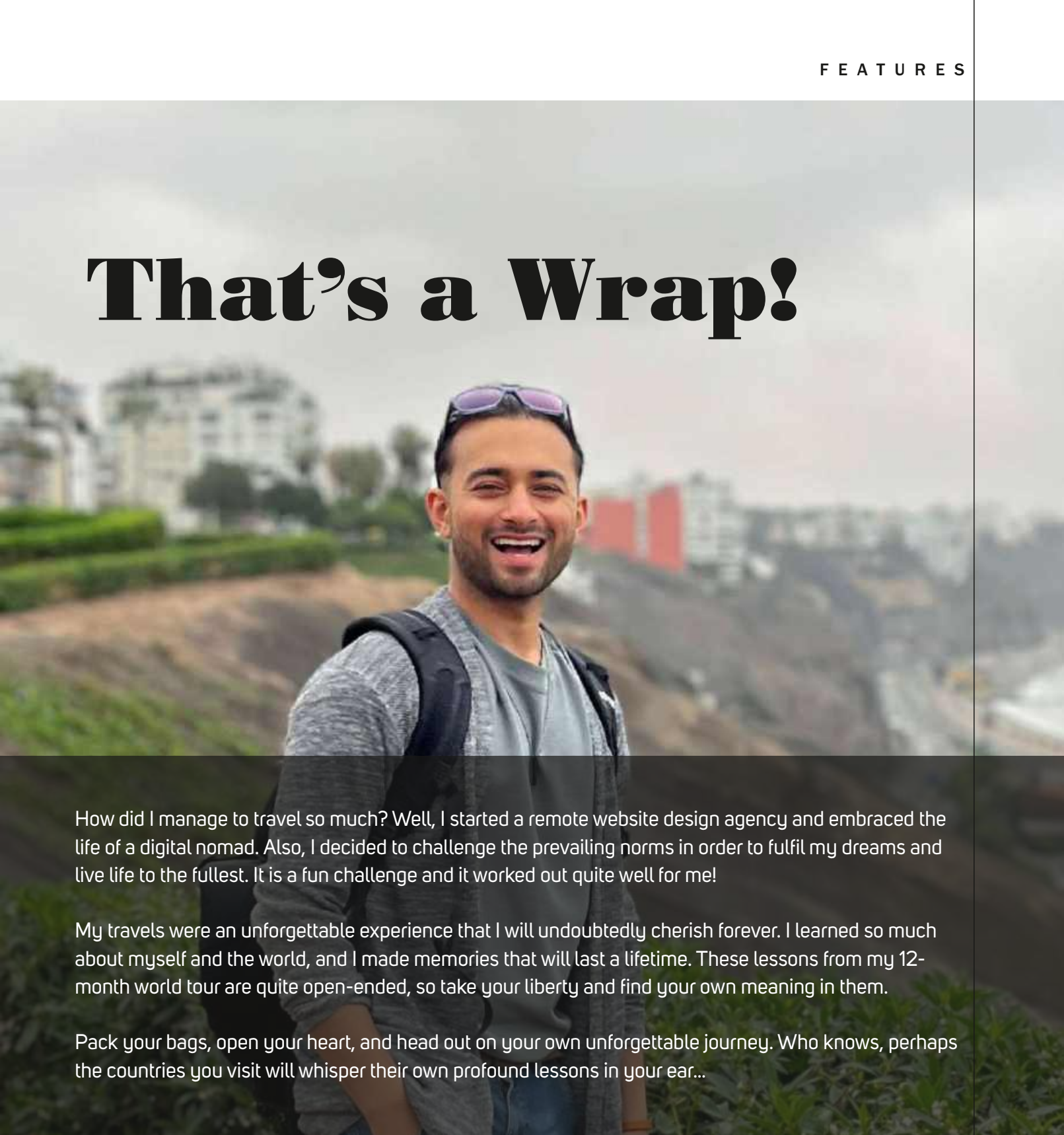


Temple Bar, Dublin, Ireland, September 2022

“Share a song, share a dance, share a laugh, live in the moment!”

In Ireland, I experienced the joy of living in the present. Sharing songs, dancing with newfound friends, and sharing heartfelt laughter reminded me to cherish every moment. It is the simplest of pleasures that shape our most treasured memories – and making memories is what travelling is all about!

That's a Wrap!



How did I manage to travel so much? Well, I started a remote website design agency and embraced the life of a digital nomad. Also, I decided to challenge the prevailing norms in order to fulfil my dreams and live life to the fullest. It is a fun challenge and it worked out quite well for me!

My travels were an unforgettable experience that I will undoubtedly cherish forever. I learned so much about myself and the world, and I made memories that will last a lifetime. These lessons from my 12-month world tour are quite open-ended, so take your liberty and find your own meaning in them.

Pack your bags, open your heart, and head out on your own unforgettable journey. Who knows, perhaps the countries you visit will whisper their own profound lessons in your ear...

The most incredible 12 months of my life

Nivit Kochhar is a tech entrepreneur and the founder of Supercharged, a digital design agency. The location-independent nature of his work has enabled him to travel to over 25 countries in the past three years. He documents these adventures in his travel blog. When not travelling, he divides his time between his home bases in Toronto, Canada and New Delhi, India. For more travel tales, he invites you to check out his travel blog at www.niv.travel

Dear 13-Year-Old Me

Dr Husain Abbas 675 T, 2015

EDITOR'S NOTE: The next instalment in our regular feature, hearing from the younger lot amidst our midst: the Young Old Boys.



Dr Husain Abbas

Dear 13-year-old me,

You are standing outside your house, the trunk finally unpacked, your school number freshly stitched onto your kurta, trying very hard to look like you belong. You have just been introduced to the mystery of form orders, the terror of PT masters, and the strange grandeur of standing still in silence every morning.

You think everyone else has it figured out, how to laugh effortlessly, sprint endlessly, and talk to seniors without stammering. You think you are the only one bluffing your way through this rite of passage called Chandbagh. Let me stop you right there: you are not. This phenomenon is called impostor syndrome, and it happens to the best of us.

This is a letter from a version of you who has grown older, collected a few medals, a few scars, and more than a few memories. And I am here to tell you: you are going to be okay.

Let's start with the fear – not the loud, dramatic

kind. The quiet, constant kind. The one that hums in your chest during House PT, in the silence before your name is called for Trials, or when a Prefect looks your way and says nothing, just yet. That fear, believe it or not, is your oldest teacher. You will learn to listen to it, then learn to outgrow it. But not yet. Not all at once.

Right now, you are figuring out how to make your bed properly. You think leadership means shouting louder, running faster, or knowing all the School rules by heart. In time, you will realise: true leadership is silent. It's in the way you stay back to help a Junior pack. Or the way you don't laugh when someone else stumbles during Parade. Or when you stand up for what you believe is right.

You won't remember much of your test marks – but you will remember the friends who helped you study late during Extra Toye. You will remember the first time you were cheered for stepping on the field. You will remember the quaint Sunday sunshine. You will remember that one Senior who spoke to you like you mattered.

Hold on to these.

You are a Dosco. You don't yet know what that means – beyond the School insignia and motto, but in time, you will. It's a fraternity stitched together by midnight confidences, broken bats, fierce loyalties, and inexplicable traditions. Someday, long after School, you will meet someone at work, during your travels, or any other serendipitous encounter, someone who has also tread on the same grass, bajri, and Chandbagh flagstones, and a single mention of "Dosco" will be enough. It will feel like home.

Also, not that you will believe this now, but you will come to miss things you now grumble about. PT parades. Dorm inspections. Even Roll Calls by the Headmaster. And most of all, the closeness. The kind that only comes from sharing everything, from water bottles, victories, and even late-night homesickness.

Learn to be grateful for the people around you and never take them for granted. Whether it is the bearer who finds your lost sock, the Dame who

lets you off for prep because she can see something's wrong, the form-mate who wordlessly saves you a spot in the line when you're running late.

You will soon start to believe that success means achievement, colours, badges, assemblies, applause. But later, when life gets more complicated, you will realise success is simpler, quieter. It's in character. In keeping your word. In staying kind when it's easier not to be.

You will also falter. That's inevitable. You will lose your way, feel small, get things wrong. But trust me, the same corridors that witnessed your lowest moments will also witness your becoming. And most importantly of all, you will learn to make amends, and make things right.

And one day, far from the trees and monsoon winds of Dehradun – you will hear "*Lab Pe Aati Hai*" somewhere unexpected. And your eyes will sting, your heart will lift, and you will know that no matter how far you have gone, this place never really left you.

So breathe, little man. You don't have to have it all figured out. Not now, not even later. Just be decent. Be curious. Be brave enough to ask questions, and humble enough to listen to the answers.

Now go. Tuck in your shirt. Write that letter home. And walk across the Main Field like you belong – because, even if you don't know it yet, you do.

With love and all the awkwardness of growing up,

You, from the other side of School, and still learning

Dr Husain Abbas is a cardiology trainee working in the King George's Medical University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. After Doon, he went on to pursue his MBBS from Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (HIMSR), New Delhi and MD, Internal Medicine from Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC), Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. An avid writer, his work has appeared in online platforms such as The Print and he has an upcoming book titled Lessons from a Tehzeeb reflecting on Indian Muslim Culture.

Knowledge Our Light

Munindra Misra 239 J, 1969



Mr SR Das

✧ The Doon Dream ✧

From Manchester halls, across the seas,
 A dream was born upon the breeze,
 Not wealth nor creed, nor bound by gate,
 But knowledge shining, strong and great.

Sri SR Das, with purpose true,
 A school he shaped, a vision grew –
 Not foreign shores, nor distant lands,
 But India's sons, with minds and hands.

Upon the foothills, vast and wide,
 Where wisdom walks with steady stride,
 He built a home where all may stand,
 A beacon bright, a guiding hand.

Not for the few, not wealth nor might,
 But service carved in justice's light.
 An aristocracy – not of birth,
 But one that proves a leader's worth.

Arthur Foot stood firm in grace,
 Service first – no fleeting place.
 For boys who learn, then rise to lead,
 With selfless hearts, with noble creed.

Seventy acres, mountain's call,
 Where knowledge lifts and guides them all.
 From every state, from every stream,
 They walk together – one great dream.

For Doon's bright halls shall always gleam,
 A legacy shaped from one man's dream.
 Knowledge our Light, a beacon bright,
 Guiding each soul to wisdom's height.



❧ Chandbagh's Light ❧

Upon the land where wisdom grows,
Where Himalayan breezes softly flow,
Stands Doon, in Chandbagh's embrace,
A haven built with time and grace.

Its halls resound with voices strong,
Each echo forms a noble song.
Not wealth nor throne, nor gilded claim,
But service carves their honoured name.

Through gardens lush and pathways wide,
The students march with steady stride.
Young minds ablaze with learning's fire,
Thought refined, each dream stretched higher.

To reason well, to speak their truth,
To shape the world in fearless youth,
With steady hands and vision bright,
They walk in knowledge's guiding light.

Not just in books, nor lessons told,
But in the bonds of hearts grown bold.
For Chandbagh's ground is more than stone –
It breathes, it lives, it stands alone.

And as they leave, with spirits pure,
They take its teachings firm and sure.
An aristocracy not of birth,
But one of service, strength, and worth.

Upon the foothills, in Chandabagh high,
Where wisdom gleams, where dreams can fly,
A beacon stands, both strong and bright,
The Doon School – Knowledge our Light.

Not wealth nor rank, nor power's call,
But service binds its sacred hall.
A noble mind, a guiding grace,
To lead with truth, to lift the race.

Here thoughts take shape, both bold and free,
A space for logic's artistry.
Where voices rise, yet steady stay,
With honour carved in all they say.

Not just in books, but heart and deed,
They learn to serve, to heal, to lead.
A body strong, a spirit wise,
Each lesson shaped to help them rise.

An aristocracy not of pride,
But one where selfless hearts reside –
A brotherhood that stands as one,
Beneath the sky, beneath the sun.

So walk this path, embrace its light,
Let duty shine, let hope ignite.
For knowledge fuels the noble flame,
And service crowns The Doon School's name.





✧ *An Aristocracy of Service* ✧

An Aristocracy of Service
 Not gilded halls nor wealth's decree,
 But duty born of humility.
 A creed upheld, a torch held high –
 To serve, to lift, to dignify.

From Chandbagh's roots to lands afar,
 Through wisdom's flame, they rise – a star.
 Not bound by privilege, nor by might,
 But forged in knowledge, just and bright.

They walk with purpose, hearts aligned,
 A legacy in truth designed.
 For service reigns where power fades,
 And light endures in selfless ways.

From valleys deep to mountain streams,
 They build upon their noble dreams –
 A school, a bond, a lasting grace,
 A future shaped in learning's embrace.

Arthur Foot's unselfish call,
 Still echoes strong through each grand hall.
 For wealth may wane and thrones may cease,
 But service stands – it shall not cease.



Mr Arthur E Foot

❧ Mr Arthur E Foot ❧

Upon the hills where wisdom grew,
A headmaster stood with vision true.
Not bound by land, nor fleeting fame,
But led by service, by honour's name.

From Eton's halls to Doon's embrace,
He shaped young minds with steady grace.
A pioneer bold, a mentor wise,
With dreams that soared beyond the skies.

Through lessons deep and values bright,
He lit the way, he gave them sight.
For knowledge pure, for hearts so free,
He built a school, a legacy.

Through Chandbagh's trees, his echoes rise,
In every thought, in every prize.
His creed endures, his torch still gleams,
A beacon lit by vision's dreams.

Though time may pass, his name remains,
In Doon's great halls, in learning's lanes.
For every scholar, every voice,
Still echoes Foot's enduring choice.



Mr JAK Martyn



Mr JAK Martyn's Legacy



From Harrow's halls to Doon's embrace,
He shaped young minds with steady grace.
A teacher first, a leader wise,
With knowledge bright and steadfast eyes.

For thirty years, his guiding hand,
Built Doon's great halls, its noble stand.
Not just in books, nor lessons told,
But in the hearts of leaders bold.

Through mountain peaks and valleys deep,
He climbed where few would dare to leap.
With Tenzing Norgay, side by side,
He scaled the heights with fearless stride.

Yet beyond the peaks, his love took flight,
In canvas brushed with colours bright.
A painter's soul, a master's hand,
He shaped the world with strokes so grand.

For service true, for wisdom's flame,
He bore two honours, carved in name –
Padma Shri, from India's heart,
And OBE, a royal part.

A legacy in halls remains,
A trust that bears his honoured name.
For Martyn's light shall ever be,
A beacon bright for all to see.



Jaipur Eagles

❧ Jaipur House = The Eagle's Flight ❧

Upon the hills where echoes rise,
 A house stands bold beneath the skies.
 With wings unfurled, with spirits bright,
 It soars beyond the mountain's height.

Through halls of The Doon School, voices ring,
 A brotherhood where hearts take wing.
 Not bound by walls, nor fleeting fame,
 But led by honour, by Jaipur's name.

From cricket fields to rivers wide,
 Through trials faced and dreams untied,
 The eagle flies, its vision true,
 In skies of gold, in morning's hue.

For artists bold and scholars keen,
 A home where talent stands serene.
 From brush to verse, from stage to song,
 Jaipur's light shall shine lifelong.

Through duty's call and wisdom's might,
 They carve their path in honor's light.
 A house where dreams in strength combine,
 Where courage speaks and stars align.

For every soul that walks its way,
 A legacy shall ever stay.
 Through time and tide, through dusk and dawn,
 Jaipur's flame at Doon lives on.



Mr Gurdial Singh

❧ Mr Gurdial Singh ❧

Upon the hills where wisdom grows,
A master stood, where knowledge flows.
Not bound by rank, nor fleeting fame,
But led by service, by honour's name.

In Jaipur's halls, his voice rang true,
A guide, a mentor, bold in view.
He shaped young minds with steady grace,
A beacon bright in learning's space.

Through mountain peaks and rivers wide,
He walked with courage, side by side.
A mountaineer, a seeker wise,
With dreams that soared beyond the skies.

His lessons carved in hearts remain,
A legacy that shall not wane.
For Jaipur's kin, through time shall say,
Guru's light still leads the way.



❧ The Spirit of Doscós ❧

We are the sons of Chandbagh bright,
Born in wisdom, bathed in light.
We laugh, we live, we lift the air,
Spreading joy, beyond compare.

Not bound by walls, nor drawn by creed,
We walk with service as our lead.
We embrace all, with open hand,
Guiding hearts across the land.

A path we carve, both bold and free,
A legacy of true unity.
For in our steps, the world may find,
A brotherhood of heart and mind.

Through valleys deep and mountains wide,
We walk as leaders, side by side.
For Doscós stand where courage calls,
And knowledge gleams within their halls.

In art, in sport, in thought profound,
In every dream where souls are bound.
We rise, we shine, we stand so tall,
A beacon bright – the light for all.

The bond we share shall never wane,
Through trials fierce, through joy and pain.
For Doscós walk where legends grow,
A timeless fire, a steadfast glow.

From dawn to dusk, through journeys long,
We carry forth our lasting song.
A call that echoes bold and free,
Forever bound in Doon's legacy.

Munindra Misra is known for his works on Hinduism in English rhyme. He has been awarded by Knol, a unit of Google, as its most viewed Author. He is married to Neerja and they are blessed with two sons Akshay and Anubhav. His website is HinduRhymes.wordpress.com

POETRY

Salvatior

Aditya Verma 415 J, 2018

Being and Nothing Courtesy Aditya Verma

*Shining bright like a woman's smile the World gaily was
Until Love's distance put Its shining on a sad pause;
The Forest of Being disbanded into the Void
Leaving behind Nothing, heavy on Heart's Hoping buoyed.*

*Sinking into itself, Body trembles afraid,
Freezing into Blue even as it seethes with Red.
Becoming becomes Being, Being cannot Become;
Only the Nothing is, parasitical on Home.*

*Trapped tragically in Nothing, Mind falls into Pain;
Shepherd of Being, Mind forgetf'ly becomes Its bane.
Mind minding Pain, Nothing on Being gorges carn'lly;
Being consumed, grinning Evil triumphs etern'lly.*

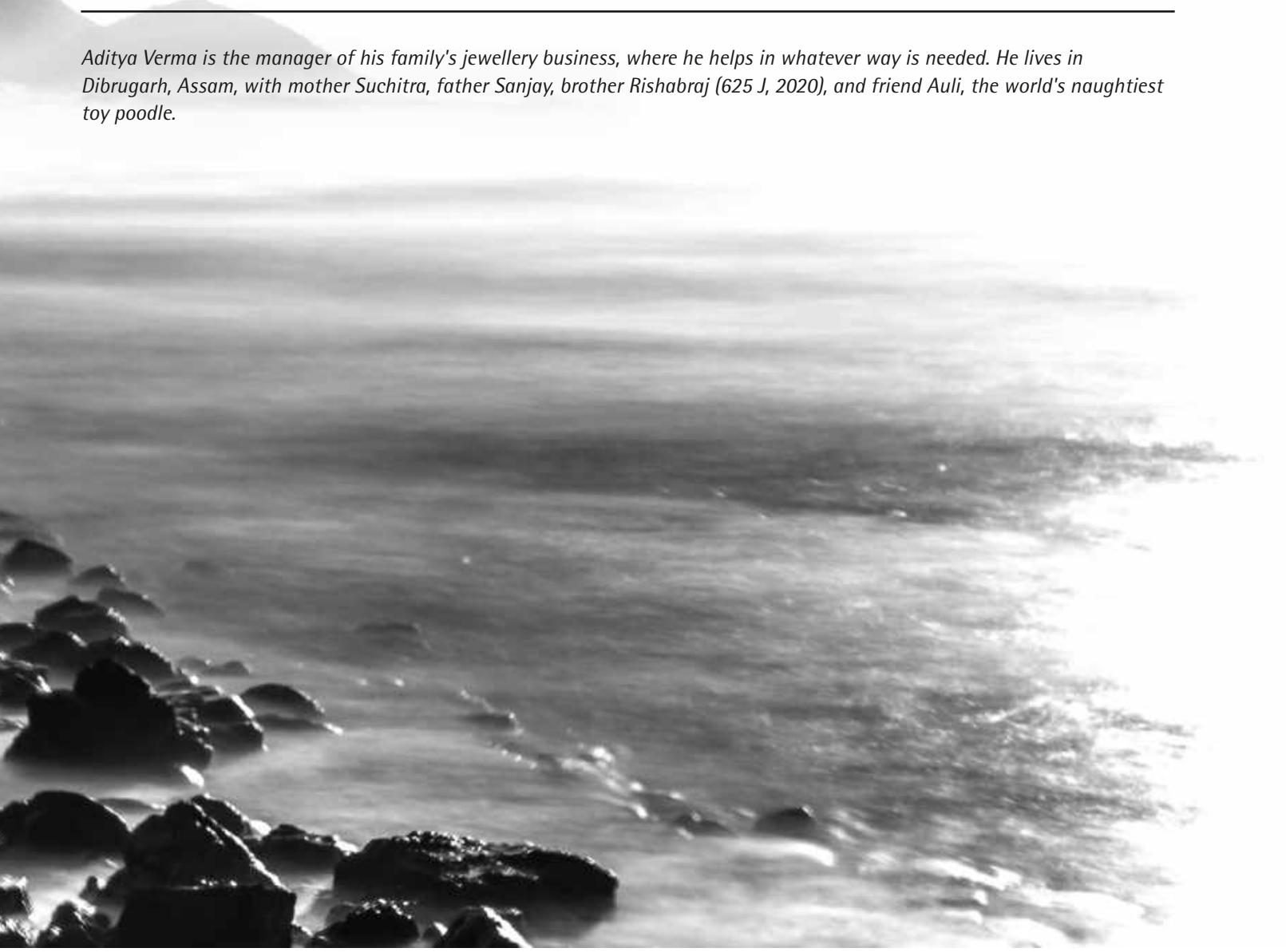
*Good beholds Its kingdom, fallen with frailty to Fate,
Seeing gashing wounds, It wonders whether it's too late.
Faith returns with Hope from Its long-stretched eerie exile,
Wounded, It warms Mind while there is still a weary while.*

*In warmth Mind warms searching for the Beautiful Idea,
Looking for a clue to what happened to Philia.
Grace alights gracefully on Mind's desperate Longing,
To restore the dead World to Its most fitting Being.*

*World restored, water flows and birds sing songs once again,
Rejoicing in Good's return to Its rightful Home when
Beauty breathes in Freedom Its own Being's Becoming,
Oh how sweet it is to witness the Heart's Owned Loving!*

Author's Note: The context of this poem is Heideggerian philosophy, and it is, as such, a metaphysical poem addressing themes of existence, dwelling, and authenticity.

Aditya Verma is the manager of his family's jewellery business, where he helps in whatever way is needed. He lives in Dibrugarh, Assam, with mother Suchitra, father Sanjay, brother Rishabraj (625 J, 2020), and friend Auli, the world's naughtiest toy poodle.



AE Foot's Address to the Joint meeting of the India and Burma Section and the East India Association 1947

Source: *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts* (April 25th 1947)



April 25, 1947

THE DOON SCHOOL

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THE DOON SCHOOL

By A. E. FOOT,

Headmaster, the Doon School, India

Joint meeting of the India and Burma Section and the East India Association

Thursday, January 16th, 1947

Sir HARRY HAIG, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., *in the Chair*

THE CHAIRMAN: We are to hear to-day a paper on the Doon School, written by the Headmaster, Mr. Foot. Unfortunately he is not able to be here to-day because he is at his post in India, but the paper will be read for him by Mr. Jamsheed Rahim, one of his old pupils who has recently come over here and is at present at Cambridge.

The Doon School represents a very important experiment in India. For many years a number of leading Indians had felt that the Indian educational system was to some degree lacking in those elements that go towards the formation of character and leadership, in fact precisely those qualities which the English public school system is designed to foster. Some Indians, men of position and wealth, met that situation by sending their sons to public schools in this country. But it was not really a success. The boys tended to lose their roots, and when they returned to India they seemed to be only half Indian. The ever present contrast between the two systems of life and culture made for unsettlement in their minds. If they swung to the English side they lost authority and influence with their own people, and if they swung to the Indian side they felt the more acutely, because of their past equal association with the English, the fact that in their own country they were not self-governing. So if the English public school system had anything to offer to the development of India it was clear that that contribution could only be made by establishing the system in India, and adapting it to Indian conditions, so that boys could be educated with the essential elements of that spirit which the English public school provides, but as Indians and in their own country.

Those ideas were felt very strongly and pressed very actively by Mr. S. R. Das, who was Law Member of the Governor-General's Council. By his activity and initiative he raised a considerable fund and a great deal of interest was roused throughout the country; but unfortunately, on his lamented death, the scheme languished for a time. It was rescued from shipwreck by Sir Joseph Bhore, and he was supported by another old colleague of mine, who I am happy to see here to-day, Sir Frank Noyce. Between them they got the scheme launched, I think in 1935, and they launched it in that paradise of Government of India institutions in my own Province, at Dehra Dun.

I was fortunate enough, soon after the school started, to visit it on the occasion of the first Anniversary of Founders' Day. I shall be very much interested to hear what progress has been made since then, for that was over 10 years ago.

I should like to say a word about Mr. Foot. As I was explaining, the idea of the School was to introduce the principles and underlying spirit of the English public school into an Indian institution. For that purpose Mr. Foot was by his training and experience well fitted. He had been educated at the oldest of the great public schools—a privilege which I also shared—and later on he became Assistant Master at Eton. Eton and Winchester are two names, than which none could be more typical of the English public school, and that is what Mr. Foot had behind him in his task. You will hear in the paper what the work is that he has been doing in these past years.

Mr. JAMSHEED RAHIM then read the following paper:

In 1928, Mr. Satish Ranjan Das, cousin of the nationalist leader C. R. Das, became Law Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. With the encouragement of the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, he used a considerable amount of his time and energy in arousing interest and enlisting support for the establishment and proper

registration of the Indian Public Schools Society. The object of this Society was to establish in India boarding schools of the same type as the English Public Schools, in which there should be no distinctions of caste, creed or social status, and Mr. S. R. Das aimed at raising 40 lakhs of rupees for the establishment of one school, that would be the forerunner of many others for both boys and girls. Mr. Das died in the same year, 1928. He had collected 10 lakhs in cash, and had promises of another 10 lakhs, and had formed the Indian Public Schools Society under the Companies Act. After his death the committee of management, with frequent changes in personnel, were not able to do very much, and early in 1934 some of the donors of the 10 lakhs began to suggest the return of their subscriptions. But fortunately Sir Joseph Bore, then Railway Member of Lord Willingdon's Council, undertook the Chairmanship of the Committee, and with Mr. M. S. A. Hydari (now Sir Akbar Hydari) as Secretary, decided that this must not occur and that a site must be found and a school started with the funds available, which with interest had by then amounted to 14½ lakhs.

They obtained from the Government of India on favourable terms the site at Chandbagh, Dehra Dun, which had been left vacant when the Forest Research Institute moved to new quarters, and put forward a definite scheme which was accepted by the Society in August, 1934. Lord Halifax, then President of the Board of Education, was asked to convene a selection committee to appoint a headmaster, and the writer of this paper, who was at the time an assistant master at Eton College, was selected. The headmaster arrived in India in February, 1935, and the school was opened in September, 1935.

For the first term there were seventy boys between the ages of eleven and fourteen. In the second term, starting in February, 1936, there were 110 new boys, ranging down to a minimum age of eight. In subsequent years the minimum age limit was raised gradually to eleven, so that the age range at the present time is eleven to eighteen. In 1937 a fourth house was added, and since that time there has been no major change in size, though the existing structure has been stretched so that there are now just under 300 boys. There are four boys' houses, named after the biggest initial donors: Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu and Kashmir, and Tata. Each house holds sixty-eight boys. Fifteen are accommodated in a holding house for boys in their first term, and there are about ten day-boys—all sons of genuine local residents. There has never been any lack of demand for places in the school and the waiting list is full up to 1953. There are over 100 names on the list for each term for the next five years, out of which not more than a quarter will be able to get in.

The fees in 1935 were 1,375 rupees a year. In 1938 they were raised, for new admissions, to 1,525 rupees. In 1941, owing to the overall rise in prices, a charge of 100 rupees was added for all. From September, 1946, the fees have been raised again, for new entrants, to 1,800 rupees (£138) a year. The fee is very inclusive, and with pocket money (limited to 8 rupees per month) clothes and travelling, a parent should not need to spend more than £170 a year.

About 60 per cent. of the parents are professional men or in Government service. About 20 per cent. are business men and the remaining 20 per cent. landowners or princes. The boys come from all over India.

There are no scholarships. Although in some cases states or individuals have

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financed the education of boys, so that there are always a few boys whose homes are comparatively humble, the school has no funds with which it could give scholarships. Boys are admitted simply on the priority of their application, provided always that they are up to the educational standard of the bottom class. As the teaching throughout is in English, it is necessary that a new boy should be able to follow simple English.

Boys take the Cambridge School Certificate examination usually when they are between 15½ and 16½. Except when the upper age limit interferes (a boy may not stay beyond the end of the school year in which he becomes 18) most boys stay on after the School Certificate, and work either for the U.P. Intermediate or the Cambridge Higher School Certificate. The Intermediate can be taken 15 months, and the Higher School Certificate two years, after the School Certificate. The majority of boys choose to do Science subjects, either Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics, or Physics, Chemistry and Biology. The Arts subjects are Economics, History and Civics. Most boys on leaving go to a university in India. About a dozen are in England now and the same number in U.S.A. Other boys go direct into one of the armed Services or into business. At the end of the war about 65 old boys had commissions in the Indian Army, Navy or Air Force.

In language we have never intended to base our instruction on the Classics in the way that Latin is still the centre pin of the English Public School. The great majority of boys take Urdu or Hindi, and they take them at the higher of the two standards arranged by the Cambridge Board. Until recently the Cambridge examination has had the reputation of admitting a credit in Indian language for work well below that of an Indian Matriculation. But now the syllabus and standard of Higher Urdu and Higher Hindi is fully equivalent to the Indian Matriculation. We do not allow boys to take the lower standard, except for a few for whom they are new languages and who are otherwise very backward. Boys can also learn, with arrangements made by the school, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi or Tamil, but this has to be done out of school hours and 10s. per month is charged. Any such boys must also do Urdu or Hindi until they have reached a reasonable standard, but they can give them up for a year before the School Certificate, for which they can offer the special language.

Actually, in the history of the school, we have had far more difficulty in improving the standard in Indian languages than in English. Many parents are extremely neglectful of their own mother tongue; they are urged to write to their sons in it and insist on replies in it but, I am afraid, without much effect; the majority find English much more convenient. Masters in their language periods are instructed to use no English at all, and they are also encouraged to talk to boys out of school in Urdu or Hindi. There are three language societies to encourage debating, story-writing and reviews of the work of Urdu or Hindi authors. Moreover, whereas in the early days it was thought necessary to urge on parents the need of making their sons somewhat familiar with English before they came to the school, now it is more urgent to impress on them the need of a good grounding in their mother tongue. It is also of interest to note that in most cases the boys who are most correct in their Urdu or Hindi are also most correct in their use of English. In fact, I feel it is perfectly possible for boys of the type who come to the Doon School to be absolutely

bilingual, and that proficiency in one language has no adverse effect on the second one, but rather the contrary.

The results in the Cambridge examinations have always been satisfactory; about 50 per cent. of the boys get 1st grade certificates and about 15 per cent. are unsuccessful at their first try. Only well-equipped boys are encouraged to take the Higher Certificate and they are usually successful.

We have a well-equipped workshop for carpentry and metal work with four old motor-cars and two wrecked air-frames, with their engines; there is an art school in charge of a well-known Indian artist, who also has a stone-carver and book-binder working under him: there is a music school in charge of an Indian music master of wide interests. Boys below the School Certificate class spend school periods in the workshop, art school and music school. The workshop and art school are open and available for work on Sundays and half-holidays, and boys who are keen do a considerable amount of work in their free time. At the end of each summer term we hold an exhibition; the term's production in workshop and art school is on view, and there is an exhibition of scientific experiments in the Physics, Chemistry and Biology laboratories. Other departments—Geography, History and Language—usually have an exhibition at the same time. The day finishes with the inter-house music competition, for which each house trains an orchestra, a senior and junior choir and a soloist. Nowadays about 150 boys altogether take part in the house music competition.

The games played at the school, and in which there are school matches and inter-house competitions, are hockey, Association football, cricket, athletics, lawn tennis, swimming, boxing, Indian wrestling and cross-country running. These are spaced out through the year, so that at any period there is one major game and one minor game in season. There is P.T. daily in the early morning. All the classes are taken by senior boys, who have a course of training in leadership somewhat analogous to that for Certificate A, Part I, in the O.T.C. in England, and all boys have to do this course so that those who are lacking in self-confidence get a chance to develop it. Senior boys also teach new boys to swim, and later on give the instruction for the Royal Life-Saving Society's Certificates. There is also coaching in boxing, wrestling and athletics in the P.T. period.

We have a system of badges on the lines of the English county-badge plan which was, unfortunately, still-born some years ago. We have formulated three standards, called bronze, silver and gold, in athletics, apparatus work and swimming and each boy has a card on which his record in the tests is kept. When he has passed the tests in all three activities he receives a bronze, silver or gold badge, and, of course, is likely to qualify gradually to the higher standards as he stays in the school. These badges encourage a boy to pay attention to his physical development, even if he happens not to be much good at ball games, and to get the satisfaction of definite accomplishment.

Although coaching from masters is available in all these physical outlets, the senior boys are mainly responsible for teaching the mass of boys. As boys train their teams for house competitions, there is ample scope for boys to get some experience in leadership.

There are a variety of school societies which, for the most part, meet in the

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evenings, fortnightly, and, where appropriate, have lectures from outside people or boys—Scientific Society, Literary Society, Historical and Economic Society, Senior and Junior Debating, Poorbi (Hindustani), Shama (a junior Poorbi), Bazm-i-Adab (more highbrow Urdu), an Art Society, Musical Society, Colloquium (for serious Mathematics), Chess Club, Film Society, Natural History Society, a Philatelic Club, and the Crickets (somewhat similar to the Essay Society at Eton). There is the *Doon School Weekly*, of which the editorial board is made up of a master and a boy from each house. This contains, as well as the school news and fixtures, any news of old boys that is available. All members of the Doon School Old Boys Society, which now numbers about 300, receive this paper and it forms a most useful link with them. It now spreads very far over the world. There is a tuck-shop of which a senior boy is manager and others have a roster of duties as servers; the profits are available for grants to school societies for capital expenditure. The tuck-shop has two dozen bicycles for hire.

All activities of the school, other than the curriculum, are really responsible to the Doon School Council. This body is elected annually—four boys from each house, of whom one must be a prefect and one a middle-school boy—four masters, who are selected by the masters in rotation—and the headmaster, who is *ex-officio* Chairman. The Council meets every three weeks. Each school society has one of the members of the Council to answer for it, so that any criticism of a society can easily be aired. There is a Finance Committee which audits the accounts of all societies which must be kept in a standard form. The Council is responsible for the Social Service activities of the school, which are mainly centred in the Dehat Sabha and the Chandbagh Education Society. The Dehat Sabha takes an interest in the affairs of the village Tonwala, about five miles from the school. In the last eight years it has sponsored various forms of development in the village. It has built a primary school, and arranged for the training of a man from the village as a teacher. It arranges for periodic medical inspection, and keeps a medical chest there. It holds annual village sports, on one day for inter-village competitions in wrestling, volley ball, kabaddi, running, etc., on another day for the children at the school, and this includes an inspection of the village houses. Boys from the school visit the village at week-ends, and sometimes during the week, in order to see to the needs of the school and enquire into absence or sickness. A master directs their activities, and also has done a great deal to develop a panchayat (council) in the village and to bring their needs to the attention of the local government agencies.

The Chandbagh Education Society was started nine years ago primarily to encourage literacy among the school servants. After a time, this literacy was largely achieved, and a monthly news-sheet has been produced, in Hindi and Urdu, for the servants. This contains local news—as the Doon School servants form a body, with their families, similar to a village—and news of the world, and reports of the servants' panchayat. This has representatives of different classes of servants and meets periodically with the headmaster as Chairman to deal with applications for loans from the Servants' Co-operative Saving Society, matters of discipline, and grievances of the servants. The servants have a Panchayat Ghar (village club-house) with a radio set, and from time to time they hold meetings at which boys help by talks and lectures with a film-slide lantern.

The main work has now developed into conducting a primary school for the children of servants. Boys help in the instruction in this, though the main responsibility is with a paid teacher. The Society arranges for a lady doctor to visit the quarters periodically.

The School Council is responsible for raising money for the expenses of the Dehat Sabha and Chandbagh Education Society. A collection is made from the boys' pocket-money. This is more or less equivalent to an income-tax. This is augmented by the proceeds of plays produced in our open-air theatre for the public. Recently, as our expenses were increasing, the Council introduced a sales tax, whereby 10 per cent. of the profits of the tuck-shop, Film Society, and anything else that made a profit, should go to the Council's revenue.

During the war the Council controlled a War Chest, which allocated funds collected from the school to purposes connected with the war, mainly in getting books, gramophone records and other amenities for Indian Soldiers' hospitals. The War Chest has now become a Relief Chest, and makes contributions to Famine Relief and similar funds. The main responsibility, however, has been for financing Doon School Relief Parties. In the past four years six such parties have gone at the beginning of the school holidays to spend a fortnight in places affected by disasters. Three parties went to Contai in the Midnapore district of Bengal, one to the Kosi flood area in North Bihar and two to the area south-east of Calcutta affected by salt water floods in the Ganges delta. The Relief Chest pays third-class fares for the party and a small amount that can supplement the standard diet of dal and rice with some sugar, jam and butter.

The Council also controls a compulsory labour quota scheme. Each boy above the age of 14 must do a period of public service weekly. A boy is appointed as Labour Secretary to keep the records, and a Labour Committee is responsible for recommending approval of different types of work to count for a quota. These form a considerable variety. The quota may be discharged in work for the Dehat Sabha or Servants' School, or in social service on behalf of outside bodies—such as taking St. Dunstan's patients for walks and assisting the local Rotary Club in their weekly wash-day at local municipal primary schools—or in work for the school, in the mosquito control squad, collecting lost property, making the school ink and phenyl in the Chemistry Laboratory, practice for the school orchestra, rehearsing for school plays, addressing the *Doon School Weekly* and, for the largest single number, manual work on the "Grow More Food" campaign. This scheme is a great convenience. If a job needs to be done, the Labour Committee can be asked to provide boys to do it. Admittedly, it detracts somewhat from the voluntary nature of public service. However, before the labour quota was started, it was found that a certain number of boys would always be ready to volunteer whenever volunteers were required, and would be soon overburdened; and a very much larger number are quite happy to do work when there is a little stimulus, and possibly get accustomed to the idea that public service is a normal activity of life. The small number of shirkers find that a society in which the majority do their share, they will get no support from public opinion. Their conflict is not with the headmaster, but with the School Council.

Religion and discipline can logically be placed in the same section, as they are

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both treated as a part of personal responsibility. There are boys of many different religious backgrounds in the school; out of 300 boys there are usually about 50 to 60 Moslems (who include Sunnis and Shias), 15 to 20 Sikhs and the same number of Parsees, half a dozen Christians, and the rest Hindus. There is no doctrinal religious teaching, but there is, daily, a School Assembly at which there is music from a gramophone, a prayer of a type that makes no assumptions about the after life but which centres round the development of the human personality and the recognition of its sacred nature, a period of silence, and a hymn, usually one of Tagore's or Iqbal's. From time to time the headmaster talks on some suitable topic. The prayers are mostly from Tagore or R. L. Stevenson; they are explained by the headmaster in his weekly period with the lower classes. Discipline is not based on any system of punishments, but we rely on the boy realising that the authorities of the school really care about the development of his character and his absorption of the ideals of the school and his acceptance of its standards of conduct. When a boy falls short of the standard either in matters of personal discipline such as punctuality, or in respect for the orderliness of the school, or in more serious things concerned with honesty in his work and his dealings with masters, he is likely to be seen by the headmaster. The headmaster will try and ensure that the boy realises where he has been wrong, and will usually give him a yellow card, which the boy has to get signed by his housemaster and tutorial master and return at a certain time to the School Office. After a week he has to get a discharge card from the office, get it signed again, and bring it to the headmaster who thus gets an opportunity to close the incident. During the period up to discharge, the boy is not allowed to go to the tuck-shop, or to go out of the school grounds. The restriction is not very serious and the yellow card is largely a symbol to indicate to the boy that he must do better. Moreover, as there is the same treatment of offences of varying gravity, the yellow card is in no way a payment like a fine or a hundred lines or a beating; the effect is subjective, and a boy who has a yellow card for something which is rather shabby will feel differently from the boy who has one for being late or forgetful. If a boy is idle at his work the Headmaster will give him a red card on which there is space for each period of the ensuing week and the boy has to get it signed by the master who has been taking him. At the end of the week he brings it to the headmaster, who will either give him another one or assume that he has been sufficiently reminded.

There are four school prefects in each house appointed by the headmaster, who sees them all together on Sundays at his house, so that there is an opportunity to discuss matters of importance that occur to him or to them. There are an additional four to six boys appointed by the housemaster in each house with jurisdiction over the affairs of the house. These and the prefects are allowed to go out to the town for shopping and an occasional cinema.

Recognition of merit does not take the form of competitive prizes. If a boy reaches a certain high standard in regularity of conduct, in industry at his work or in achievement in the terminal examinations, he will sign the School Honours Book. Every three signatures entitle him to a prize of a book. A boy may also be awarded school colours by the Council, on the recommendation of the Colours Sub-Committee, which consists of one prefect from each house and the headmaster.

They take into account anything which a boy has done which brings credit to the school. Eminence in the art school, workshop, school orchestra or plays, and in social service is weighed along with efficiency in games. There are usually about 25 to 30 school colour holders at the end of each term. In the main, school discipline is maintained by ensuring that as far as possible boys understand the reason for everything that takes place and that there should be considerable freedom of discussion.

In conclusion, there are three questions which are likely to occur to some or all of the audience. The first, perhaps the most mundane, "What about food?" The menu is a mixture of Indian and English food. There is no beef or pork and there is a vegetarian menu as an alternative to mutton and eggs. But the boys all feed together without any questions about who cooks or serves the food. The vegetarians make the choice on dietetic and not religious reasons. Boys who have not been accustomed to the taste or even the smell of meat, in due course usually try it and end up omnivorous. Other life-long meat-eaters sometimes feel that the vegetarian cook is more effective than the meat cook, and try a period of vegetarianism. There is a mess-committee of boys and masters in each house, and for the school, but in the last years this has been more concerned with the explanation of the need for economics and with suggestions of ways of making do with less sugar or flour without noticing it much.

The second question is "How do the boys compare with boys in an English school?" The answer to that is that those who know both don't really notice any difference. There is virtually nothing at the Doon School that would not be equally suitable for a school in any other country. Except that the background in art and music is in the oriental tradition, and boys wear Indian clothes from their own part of the country on formal occasions (they wear shorts and shirts for ordinary purposes) a visitor to the school would not find life very different from a public school in England. Some boys are bookworms; the majority prefer to play games or follow their hobbies. Some boys read the leading articles in the newspapers; the majority turn first to the sports news. Senior boys have the run of the headmaster's private books; some ask his advice about books on economics or education, but the majority take a P. G. Wodehouse. In reliability and a sense of responsibility the prefects can stand comparison with those of any English school. The boys value the school very greatly, and on an average a letter a day reaches the school from an old boy. They visit the school when they can, which often means a journey of six or seven hundred miles, and any of the staff can be sure of a welcome in almost any corner of India.

Now for the last question—the most difficult one: "How does the school fit into Indian life?" Firstly, in the political sphere, it has been very fortunate. There has been virtually no adverse press, and visitors range from the Viceroy to Jawahar Lal Nehru.* Secondly, in the educational sphere, although it is easier for the Doon School, with its income (which incidentally, is, to the extent of 95 per cent., derived from the fees, as there is no Government grant) to try new developments, it has considerable influence in two ways. Firstly, in raising the social and economic status

*This comment is rather out-of-date now that they are partners in the Central Government—A.E.F.

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of the schoolmaster. Secondly, in putting ideas into the heads of the numerous visitors, whether teachers or managers of schools, of ways of doing things which are more satisfactory and involve organisation and energy rather than expense. In the social sphere, naturally a large number of people say that the school is too expensive and can only be accessible to the upper income groups. The reply to that is that the main cause of the expense is in paying the staff properly, and not in luxurious living. If public or private munificence would spend money on schools in which the teachers were paid enough to live a self-respecting existence, the educational standards of India could be transformed. In the meantime if only 300 boys can be at a decent school, it is more important that they should be rich boys than poor boys, as the rich have so much power for good or evil. If Doon School boys, or at any rate if a good proportion of them, leave school with the idea of an obligation to discharge their duty to society rather than to attain all the power and wealth to which education can open the door, it has done something useful.

The Doon School is by no means unique. In the last years many schools, formerly exclusively for those of noble birth, have opened their doors to those of a wider social class. And other schools are developing better educational standards through including character training in their programme, and through paying their teachers better. The heads of these schools belong to the English Headmasters' Conference, and they meet in India annually at one of the schools to discuss common problems.

DISCUSSION

Sir FRANK NOYCE, K.C.S.I., C.B.E. : I am sure that there are many here who are far more competent than I am to deal with the educational aspects of the most interesting paper to which we have listened. But I should like, in passing, to refer to the very successful way in which the School seems to have dealt with thorny questions of language, race, creed and caste and to the impressive account Mr. Foot has given us of what may be called the out-of-school activities of the boys. We have been able to judge from that how successful the School has been in one of its great aims, the development of character and of individual aptitudes. I cannot help thinking that, in some respects, the picture which has been presented to us of this side of its activities is well worth the attention of some of our public schools in this country.

My main object in speaking this afternoon is to amplify to some extent the references made by Mr. Foot and our Chairman to those without whose energy and enthusiasm the School could not have been brought into existence. As Mr. Foot has told us, its first founder was Mr. S. R. Das. When he died, the scheme languished for five or six years in spite of the tremendous efforts Mrs. Das made to bring it to fruition. As some of us know, when a lady sets her heart on getting something done, she usually achieves her aim, and Mrs. Das was no exception to that rule. She enlisted the warm interest of Sir Joseph Blore and he was really the second founder of the School. When he became the Chairman of the Committee, in 1933 I think it was, the outlook was gloomy in the extreme. Funds amounted to only 14½ lakhs and some of the subscribers were so hopeless about the future that they were asking for their money back. Sir Joseph roped me into the Committee immediately after he became Chairman and I remember, shortly after I joined it, some of its members telling us that nothing could be done with so small a sum. It would only go part way towards erecting the buildings required and the very difficult question of site had still to be settled. Fortunately, both these questions, the question of cost and the question of site, were solved by the fact that the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun had been moved to another site and the old buildings were still vacant. We were able to get them from the Government of India on most

generous terms. Our success in doing so may not have been entirely unconnected with the fact that Sir Joseph Bhore had been Secretary of the Education, Health and Lands Department to which the buildings belonged and that I was then its Secretary. We were, therefore, able to do a little to help in that respect. I remember spending a very happy day with Sir Joseph going over the buildings when we cast over in our minds the particular use to which each could be put. As the Chairman has said—and, though I did not serve in the United Provinces, I entirely agree with him—we were fortunate in getting an ideal site and in getting almost ideal buildings which could be adapted and extended with comparatively little difficulty and expense. Those of you who do not know Dehra Dun have been able to see for yourselves from the slides we have been shown what some of them are like, especially the main building of the Forest Research Institute, which is an exceptionally pleasing example of modern official Indian architecture. I do not remember who was responsible for it. I rather think it was Mr. John Begg when he was Consulting Architect to the Government of India. It is a very attractive building. And so we got the School going and were lucky enough to secure Mr. Foot as its first Headmaster. When I left India in 1937, by which time I had succeeded Sir Joseph Bhore as Chairman of the Governing Body and had been present at that first anniversary to which the Chairman has referred, I could feel happy that the School had an assured future. There is, however, one respect in which I am disappointed. I am sorry to learn from the account we have just heard that the School is still dependent on fees to the extent of 95 per cent. of its income. I am not so much concerned that it has no Government grant, but Sir Joseph Bhore and I had hoped that it would soon attract the favourable attention of some of the wealthy landlords and commercial magnates, many of whom have devoted considerable sums of money to other educational purposes, and that they would be following the example of those after whom the four school houses are named. If they were not prepared to contribute to the endowment fund, one could wish that they had spent some of their resources on founding scholarships. Perhaps it will not be long before some of the old boys rectify the omission.

And that brings me to my last point, which is that there is rather an important omission in the paper. We have been told that there are now 300 old boys. I should have liked to hear what is happening to those old boys—what careers they have chosen and how they are faring in them. I am certain that many of them have played a worthy part in India's war effort. The School has, of course, been in existence so short a time that most of them cannot have got very far in their careers but I hope that, young as all of them still are, it will not be long before some of them are playing an important part in public life and are helping to shape the new India. I hope that the time will soon come when no Ministry will be considered complete without a representative of India's leading public school on its Front Bench, just as no Ministry in this country, even a Socialist one, can be regarded as complete without representatives of our leading public schools. When that day comes, as I am sure it will, and if Sir Joseph Bhore and I live to see it, we shall feel that our labours have not been in vain.

Lieut.-General Sir THOMAS HUTTON, K.C.I.E., C.B., M.C.: I was rather struck by the statement that there are over 100 names on the list for each term and that not more than a quarter can get in. I am wondering if anybody here has any knowledge as to whether there has been any effort made to create more Doon Schools. There are other fine institutions but I think we all realise that the training of leaders and administrators is going to be one of the great problems of the India of the future. Unless there is some organised training for the Provincial services, which will take the place of the I.C.S., where every effort has been made to get away from the communal point of view, I do not believe India will solve her communal problems for a very long period. If they can catch their administrators young and train all communities together in really high-grade schools and colleges, with a final selection at the end, I think India could build up in time a very fine administrative service. The mere recruitment of young men from Indian

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universities by examination will not, I believe, produce what is really required. They will not have that common point of view that is so necessary for the future of India.

I noticed from the paper that a large number of the boys from the Doon School go to Indian universities. We know that some of the universities leave a great deal to be desired in point of discipline, organisation and in some cases, teaching. Do the Doon School boys tend to raise the standard of the universities or do they find the universities demoralising?

SIR HENRY RICHARDSON: May I ask a question which follows on a part of what Sir Frank Noyce said regarding the future of the boys who have left the School? I ask about that because when I was in India, as head of my firm I received a visit from Mr. Foot and I thought he displayed a certain amount of anxiety about placing some of his boys. I have learnt from the lecture that the age is now 11 to 18 and that therefore probably most of the boys go to a university after they leave school. But at that time firms in Calcutta were being hard pressed by the University of Calcutta Appointments Board which had the support of firms belonging to the Chambers of Commerce. It was so successful that the University of Dacca started a similar scheme and then the Government of Bengal started another, so that firms were being assailed all round. When Mr. Foot came as the fourth one I felt very embarrassed about not being able to give him much hope. As a matter of fact, that was the first time I had heard details about this famous School. That may not be my fault and may not perhaps be the Schools' fault, but I do suggest that something might be done to make the School better known to industrial and mercantile offices in Calcutta. With the change of conditions in India those offices will need more and more the type of boy which I believe the Doon School will be able to turn out. Certainly the Calcutta University, if their scheme is still operating, will be able to do much and will probably recommend the Doon boys, but I think that their recommendation should have something else behind it. There is also a St. Paul's School which 'Metropolitan' Foss sometimes referred to as the "highest" school in India. It is, literally—it is in the Himalayas! However, it has a very good reputation and may be a serious competitor to the Doon School. I should certainly like to know what line, if any, the Doon School is following on this important question of the future of the boys. Are they all going into the public services or what is being done with regard to placing them elsewhere?

THE REV. R. BURGESS: Has any development taken place towards providing a similar school for girls and women?

MR. JAMSHED RAHIM: I should like to deal first with the question of the future of the boys. During the war there were about 65 who served in the Army, Navy or Air Force. The oldest boy would have left the School in 1938, which does not give very much time for him to have made a name for himself. So far the majority of boys are still studying and the Doon School lays stress upon the technical side of life. Most of the boys who have gone to England or the U.S.A. are studying science. Some boys have taken up architecture and when they go back to India they will take up jobs for which their qualifications fit them; some will go into business and some are the sons of business magnates who will probably be their own managers.

With regard to the point made about getting the School better known, I think as much is being done as possible and gradually I think St. Paul's School will find a certain amount of competition! So far as a school for girls is concerned we once had a popular debate as to whether there should be co-education in the School and the motion, curiously enough, was defeated. I hear rumours, however, that there is a plan to have a sister school about three miles away. I hope it comes off.

So far as the atmosphere in the Indian universities is concerned, that is a question in which I have been very interested myself, because I had two years in an Indian university after I left school. I would not say I was demoralised, but it made me feel that there was a great deal to be achieved yet in the Indian universities. The life is so much

less regular, whereas in the Doon School practically every minute is chalked out for you and there is very little time in which to idle. Quite often when a boy goes to an Indian university he finds time on his hands and no one to enforce his activities. Some boys do nothing about it although they may be quite talented. There are others who do try to get into the life of the university. I found that most Doon School boys, when they first go into a university, are up against a hostile group who consider that the Doon school boy is a snob. I do not blame this group because, considering Doon School boys have worked and played together for as long as seven years, they naturally tend to come together when they go to another institution. So the general impression is that the Doon School boy does not care for the Indian university. Personally I do not think that that is a correct conclusion. I admit that the boys do flock together, but I do not think it is snobbery at all, and some of the boys have done very well in the social life of the Indian universities. Another point is that the Doon School boy has been playing games since he was 11 and the members of the university who are good at games, but not quite so good (except in the Punjab), are inclined to resent the fact that they should be superseded by these Doon School boys!

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we have had a very interesting and pleasant afternoon, and Mr. Rahim has not only answered nearly all the practical questions put up but has made a very definite contribution of his own to the discussion. I think the fact that he has come here and spoken so clearly and so well to us is one of the factors which will enable us to go away with a high opinion of the Doon School.

I was myself greatly interested in Mr. Foot's paper. It was a practical and instructive paper, and Mr. Foot has made it very clear that he has completely avoided the possible danger of trying to transfer unessential British ideas to India and has accepted absolutely and worked out most carefully the problem of establishing the School on certain ideals of universal validity and as an Indian school in India. That is the only condition on which such a school could continue to exist in the new India now coming to birth. It seems to me that the difficulties and dangers that beset the schoolmaster in a country which has so many deep cleavages in its social organisation have been avoided with great skill and that the School is well on the way to fulfilling the ideal of a school which will turn out boys who will really be citizens of India and not representatives of particular communities or sects.

The question which remains in my mind is whether in this new India the Doon School will continue and flourish. We have to remember that it has taken its origin from British ideas and that at the present time, in spite of much goodwill in this country, the new India is being born in a spirit of very unnecessary (it seems to me) antagonism to British ideas. It may be that those who wish to stimulate the spirit of nationalism find it necessary to erect some antagonist and are putting up in this character the image of the British, but I believe that these ideas are likely to be transient. When the turmoil which is bound to accompany such changes dies down we may find that those ideas and principles and influences which the British have over many years contributed to the building up of India will still remain behind, and that the good we have done in India will not be interred with our bones. I trust that through the initiative of Indians the School will still continue and that its foundations may stand firm in a changing world.

I will conclude by asking you to thank Mr. Foot for giving us such an excellent paper, and Mr. Rahim for reading it with such admirable clarity.

SIR LANCELOT GRAHAM, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.: Before we leave I feel sure that we should all like to express our thanks to our Chairman for the way in which he has conducted our affairs this afternoon. Before I sit down having performed that duty I should like to say two things which I should have said if I had taken part in the discussion. The first of these is that I would have expected in any talk about education in India to hear some reference to the great work done in Kashmir by Canon Tindall Biscoe. The C.M.S. schools owe a very great debt to him and he set out to make men of what some people thought was unsatisfactory material. But Canon Biscoe succeeded. If a boy

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wants a job in Kashmir it is enough for him to say "I am a 'Biscoe boy' ". I hope that in the course of time it will be enough for any boy anywhere in India to say "I am a Doon School boy".

There has been some reference to the late Mr. S. R. Das. I think I have as much right as anyone here to ask you to pay a tribute of admiration to his memory, for when he was Law Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council and I had the honour of being Secretary of the Department over which he presided, he said to me, " I am not really particularly interested in being Law Member but I am really interested in starting a school on English public school lines. I expect you to do the rest of the work". I will not say that I did, but it is a fact that Mr. Das gave a great deal of time to working out the initial plans and collecting money for the Doon School. After him I should like to pay tribute to Mrs. Das who, in spite of the desperate blow of her husband's death, carried on the preliminary work. We have, of course, a full understanding of the difficulties under which she laboured and I should like to express my gratitude to Sir Joseph Bhore and Sir Frank Noyce for the work which they did. I remember Lord Willingdon coming from the opening ceremony of the school and telling me that he was impressed by the personality of Mr. Foot and thought he would make a good thing out of the school.

I think that we shall all go away from here feeling grateful to a number of people—those who have organised this meeting, Mr. Foot for providing us with an excellent paper, Mr. Jamsheed Rahim for reading the paper with such sympathy and understanding and to our Chairman for steering this meeting so successfully.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and the meeting then terminated.

Tributes



Maj Gen VV Bhide AVSM

Major General VV Bhide AVSM (23 K, 1937)

Major General VV Bhide — The Oldest Bombay Sapper, Dies at 102

Dipanita Nath

EDITOR'S NOTE: This has been reprinted from the September 19th edition of The Indian Express

Pune, September 19

As India went to war with Pakistan in 1971 – the Bangladesh War – Lt Gen JFR Jacob, who was planning and overseeing operations (and, later, negotiated the surrender of the Pakistan Army) specifically asked for **Brigadier Vijaykumar Vinayak Bhide** as Chief Engineer Eastern Command. East Pakistan had a difficult terrain, full of rivers, and the Indian Army needed an excellent military engineer who could get bridges across dozens of rivers so that the soldiers could advance. Brigadier Bhide was the officer for the job. He got done very quickly, all that had looked quite impossible at the outset, and the Army had had barely six months to procure essentials from various corners. Bhide's accomplishments in the war not only played a role in the country's victory in the war but also won him an Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) in 1972.

Major General VV Bhide AVSM was a fighter to the end, and at the age of 102, the oldest Bombay Sapper alive.

On September 19, he breathed his last in his sleep at

his bungalow in Bavdhan, Pune. Major General Bhide leaves behind three daughters and their families, and scores of officers who admired his gracious old-world Renaissance personality. His funeral was held at the Bombay Sappers crematorium.

Major General Bhide was the officer who could recite Kalidas, talk about Indian and Western classical music, and stay soft-spoken in tough situations. His aristocratic stature made him a favourite among his officers. Major General Bhide came from an illustrious family – his father had been an Indian Civil Services officer, and his grandfather was a distinguished lawyer who was knighted by the British.

“He was born in Nagpur but grew up in his grandfather's house in Amravati after losing his father at three months. He was sent to Doon School, the first batch in 1935. In 1942, he was commissioned into the Royal Bombay Sappers of the Indian Army or the King's Commission, as an Indian officer of the British Indian Army used to be called,” says Nirmala Bhide, daughter of Major General Bhide.

The General served in various places, including Burma, and saw the Battle of Asal Uttar in 1965 as part of the India-Pakistan war. He was an instructor at the College of Military Engineering in Pune and taught combat engineering in Mhow, which houses three premium training institutes of the Army, among others. To this day, it is Major General Bhide's books on the subject that soldiers read.

After he was posted as Brigadier Engineer Staff at the Army HQ in Delhi, he was appointed Chief Engineer, Eastern Command, and was called to participate in the Bangladesh war.

Other positions held by him included Chief Engineer, Southern Command in Pune, and Director General Border Roads in Delhi, from where he retired in 1975 after 34 years of service.

Post-Retirement Days

Major General Bhide also worked for a few years after retirement in the Middle East. But he opted to return and live in Pune with his wife, to whom he was devoted. However, he couldn't come to terms with her death in July 2022, just short of his 100th birthday. Major General Bhide had been falling ill lately, but retained the gusto that would be familiar to those who had met him. Even three days ago, he was on the veranda, playing ball with the staff from his wheelchair.

"He got some kind of viral infection in the lungs. Around 11pm, he decided that it was time to go to bed, so he

went to sleep and passed away. His fever had been rising and once he woke up reciting a Sanskrit shlok. At his request, I played the Ram Raksha Stotra on the speaker. He said, 'Play it again.' He used to know it by heart. That's how he passed on," says Nirmala Bhide.



Santosh Reddy (19 T, 1954)

A Happy Disposition

Sushil Dubey 30 T, 56



Santosh Reddy

I saw the notice of Santosh Reddy's passing on my return to Delhi.

Although I had lost touch with Santosh, I remember him as a great cricketer.

I last saw him bat for Cambridge University against Oxford University at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, UK, way back in 1962, or thereabouts.

He was a true gentleman with a happy disposition.

I would like to convey my condolences to his family.

Narinder Singh Bedi (108 K, 1955)

The Relentless Pursuit of Justice

Sonja Bedi



Narinder Singh Bedi (July 19th 1939 – January 20th 2025)

We celebrate the remarkable life of **Narinder Bedi**, a visionary leader and steadfast advocate for rural empowerment, who passed away on January 20th at the age of 86. His legacy of compassion, determination, and impactful service leaves an indelible mark on countless lives.

Born on July 19th 1939, in Calcutta, West Bengal, Narinder shared an unbreakable bond with his twin brother, **Mohanbir Singh Bedi (109 K, 1955)**, who passed away in 1964. Together, they excelled at The Doon School and later graduated from St Xavier's College, Calcutta. In 1960, both pursued further education at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA, where Narinder earned a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering.

Narinder began his career as a chemical engineer in California and, in 1964, he married Sonja Kuik, a partnership defined by shared values. In 1968, he became the president of SRAI (Society for Rural Advancement in India) in Los Angeles. Its members were interested in supporting worthwhile causes in India while living abroad. He felt he was enjoying a privileged life and wanted to return to India and work for the rural poor. He saw a picture on the front page of *Life* magazine in 1968 of Father Vincent Ferrer, the Jesuit priest from Spain who was asked to leave India. Narinder contacted Father Ferrer on behalf of SRAI and mentioned his desire to work in the rural area in India.



Narinder and Mohanbir in School

Father Ferrer then asked him to start his project in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh.

On February 13th 1970, Narinder landed in Anantapur with Sonja and their two sons, who were 2 and 3 ½ years old. He stayed with Father Ferrer for three months.

Pioneering Rural Empowerment

Narinder's mission took root in Anantapur, where he collaborated with the Rural Development Trust, led by Father Ferrer. His vision materialised in 1970 when he founded the Young India Project (YIP) (named after

Mahatma Gandhi's English Journal) in Penukonda, Andhra Pradesh in 1970. With local support, including that of Sub-Collector Smarajit Ray, YIP began its impactful work, focusing on marginalised farmers and laborers.

The early 1970s saw Narinder launch ambitious projects such as digging wells for small-scale farmers and establishing farmers' cooperatives in collaboration with MYRADA. By 1981, a land ownership survey revealed that much of the marginalised farmers' land was registered under influential names. This injustice galvanised YIP's shift toward a rights-based approach. Narinder's work, which organised farmers and laborers to demand their rightful ownership of land, led to the termination of YIP's partnership with MYRADA. However, By this time, YIP had formed Unions of Agricultural Laborers in six districts of Andhra Pradesh, and it earned the support of Oxfam Novib, a Dutch donor agency, which validated YIP's mission and continued funding its initiatives.



Narinder

One of Young India Project's initial impactful works was releasing 540 labour families from bondage in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu. Young India Project was responsible for rehabilitating these families by ensuring that each family received a small piece of land and a house.

Championing the Right to Work

Narinder's advocacy extended to the national stage in

1987, where his leadership proved instrumental. Alongside five NGOs, he met Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi (203 K, 1960)** to campaign for including the "right to work" in India's policy framework. This effort resulted in the Second Labour Commission's recommendation in 1988, which embedded this pivotal concept in its report.



Narinder Bedi meeting with workers at MGNREGA

Through the 1990s, Narinder's determination only grew stronger. In 1992, he spearheaded a petition with 140,000 signatures across six districts, urging the Rural Development Minister to legislate the right to work. His persistence bore fruit in 2005 with the enactment of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) under the Congress government. This time, the initiative was spearheaded by Rajiv Gandhi's widow, Sonia Gandhi.

Narinder viewed MGNREGA as a transformative step toward alleviating rural poverty. Yet, he remained vocal about its challenges, particularly funding shortages. His efforts underscored the importance of social activists and civil society's involvement in ensuring the policy's success, a cause he championed throughout his life.

A Legacy of Compassion and Advocacy



Narinder with his family

From 2017 onward, Narinder devoted his time to mentoring young social activists, ensuring that the principles of social justice and rural development remained in capable hands. His humility, vision, and resilience made him a guiding light for future generations.

Narinder's life was a testament to the transformative power of compassion, advocacy, and service. His work with YIP empowered countless rural communities, enabling them to fight for their rights and secure a better future. His instrumental role in advocating for the "right to work" paved the way for landmark policy

changes that continue to impact millions of lives.

A devoted husband to Sonja and a loving father to Rajiv, Sanjay, and Tara, Narinder cherished family as the foundation of his values. His unwavering dedication to rural empowerment and social justice leaves behind a legacy of hope and progress that will inspire future generations.

Narinder Bedi's light continues to shine brightly, reminding us of the enduring impact of vision, advocacy, and the relentless pursuit of justice.

Air Cmdre (Retd) Pritam 'Pat' Singh (229 J, 1955)

A True and Thorough Gentleman

Sushil 'Hak' Haksar 296 H, 1955



Air Cmdre (Retd) Pritam 'Pat' Singh

Though I was not too close to **Pritam 'Pat' Singh**, I was his great admirer. He was not only a very strong guy, but much more than that, he was really a very kind and gentle soul.

In my opinion, a true and thorough gentleman.

We once competed in an Inter-House Wrestling match. He was much, much stronger and could have flattened me with no effort. But, instead, he allowed me to carry on with great gentleness and kindness. This tenderhearted gesture allowed me to retain my self esteem.

The outpouring of grief from all at his sad demise has been unimaginable. My deep and humble condolences to his wife and family.

We have lost a very special soul. We will always remember him and miss him.



Latika Katt (260 H, 1965)

A Passionate and Fierce Artist

Valentina Trivedi 708 K, 1981



Latika Katt

Latika Katt passed away on January 25th in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Her father, **Mr BS Sharma**, taught Biology at Doon.

She was a renowned sculptor, much respected in the art world.



Latika with one of her colossal stone sculptures

A gold medalist from the first batch of Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Arts at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, she was the first Indian woman sculptor to be awarded a Gold Medal in sculpture from the Maharaja Sayajirao University (MSU), Baroda, Gujarat. She also received a research scholarship from the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, UK, in 1981.

Latika received many honours, including the National Award from the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi. Most epic was her Beijing Art Biennale Award for her bronze work Makar Sankranti at Dashashwamedh Ghat, Varanasi, executed in 2008 and awarded by the fourth Beijing International Art Biennale (BIAB) in 2010.



The Jawaharlal Nehru statue by Latika Katt

She was a passionate and fierce artist who created colossal stone sculptures. Her bronze sculptures were stirring studies of human faces that echoed the essence of emotive content within the materiality of the metal.

Greatly inspired by Auguste Rodin, Katt even studied corpses closely in pursuit of her art. Her artistic process involved understanding the “being” behind the face. Her sitters included some of the best-known artists of modern Indian art such as Ramkinkar Baij and NS Bendre, among others.

One of her works, a tall statue of Jawaharlal Nehru, stands on the steps of Jawahar Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi. Pandit Nehru is depicted releasing a dove signifying liberation and peace.

She leaves behind a monumental legacy in Indian art, and Doon has lost one of its brightest stars.



The bust of Mr SR Das, the School's founder, which stands outside the Main Building was made by Latika Katt

Sculptor Latika Katt Passes Away at 76

Shiny Varghese

EDITOR'S NOTE: This has been reprinted from the January 26 edition of The Times of India.



Latika Katt

While she intently studied corpses — their skin and bone structure — for her portraits in clay and bronze, sculptor Latika Katt also found immense joy in observing the teamwork of termites and bees. A winner of numerous national and international awards, Latika passed away on Saturday night in Jaipur. She was 76.

Known for her larger-than-life sculptures, mostly busts of political figures, and her ability to capture nature in its organic forms, Katt was one of India's most prolific sculptors who worked in multiple materials for over five

decades, using everything from terracotta and papier-mâché to stone and bronze.

“Latika and I grew up in Dehradun and our families have known each other for a long time. She was one of the few Indian artists who managed monumentality and scale through a diversity of mediums and approaches. An extremely versatile sculptor, she could deal with the representative and the conceptual in her work with equal ease and uniqueness. She created and lived her life on her own terms, which earns her the distinction of being acknowledged as a legendary sculptor of our times,” says Rajeev Lochan, former director, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.

While making public sculptures, Katt was intentional in her site visits, investigating wind directions and mapping perspectives, sometimes from 16 feet below ground. It’s evident in the 20-ft bronze sculpture of Jawaharlal Nehru at the Jawahar Bhawan in Delhi, where she depicted him releasing pigeons into the skies.

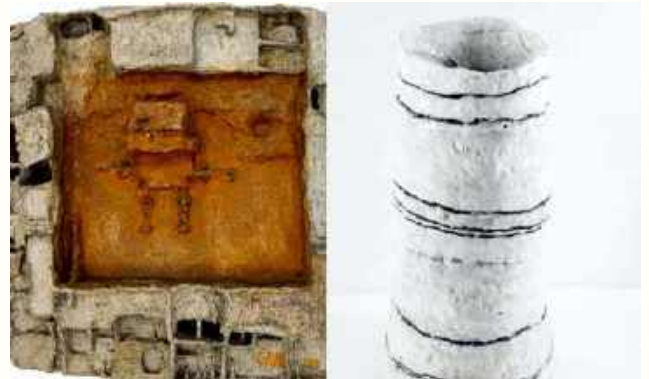
Being a sculptor was her calling. She felt it the moment the rough texture of a tree bark passed through her hands in her second year of fine arts at Banaras Hindu University (1966-71). Painting was too simple and didn’t require any engagement unlike clay and wood which one had to physically interact with. To poke, scrap, knead and chip the medium in hand meant the body became part of the act of making.

Her master’s from MS University, Baroda (1973-75) and a research scholarship from the Slade School of Art

(1981-82), London, gave her the needed impetus as a sculptor. Katt started teaching at the Department of Fine Arts, Jamia Millia Islamia, in 2000, and later headed their sculpture department from 2008 to 2010. She divided her time between Varanasi and Delhi.

“Banaras was her karmbhoomi, where she first studied art, met her teacher, mentor and husband Balbir Singh Katt, and where she returned to practice. Her studio is a case study for artists and sculptors. That her work is included in our forthcoming ‘Banaras: Imagined Landscape’ is, ironically, our homage to an artist whose major exhibition has been under planning at DAG for some time,” says Ashish Anand, CEO and Managing Director, DAG.

Her bronze sculpture “Makarsankranti Nahan at Dashaswamedh Ghat” (for which she won the Beijing Art Biennale Award in 2010) shows figures in the everydayness of life.



Latika Katt sculpture for Delhi Art Gallery (DAG)



Courtesy Anant Gairola (479 J, 1993)

In Memoriam



Maj Gen Vijaykumar V Bhide on the occasion of his 100th birthday



Maj Gen Bhide as part of the School Cricket XI, June 1938

With profound grief, we inform you of the passing of **Maj Gen (Retd) Vijaykumar V Bhide AVSM (23 K, 1937)** on September 19th. We celebrated Maj Gen Bhide's 100th birthday in an earlier issue of *The Rose Bowl* – he was the first Old Boy to reach the age of 100. Our deepest condolences to all members of the family, his loved ones, and the Dosco community at large.



With deep regret and profound grief, we inform you of the passing of **Santosh Reddy (19 T, 1954)** on September 8th. Our deepest condolences to all members of the family, friends, and loved ones.



With regret, we inform you of the passing of **Vikrant Suri (111 J, 1983)** on July 22nd. Our heartfelt condolences to all members of the family and loved ones.



With grief, we inform you of the passing of **Rishabh Mehrotra (448 K, 1987)**, brother of Ambarish Mehrotra (243 K, 1985), on July 26th. Our sincerest condolences to Ambarish and all members of the family.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Doon – The Early Days

Abia Qezilbash (ABQ)

Archives Supervisor, The Doon School

Here are some moments from the earliest days of The Doon School.



Morning PT, Tata House Field, 1937

Identified in the photograph: Senapati (PK Senapati, 106 K, 1938), Chhachhi (SS Chhachhi, 236 K, 1940), Ray, Senapati (Mihir Kumar Senapati FRCS, 219 K, 1941), Govind Singh (Govind Singh, 65 K, 1940), Iyer (Anant 'Baikin' Ram Iyer, 250 K, 1939), Lall (Rajdharee Lall, 205 K, 1939), Sahgal (Prem Sagar Sahgal, 29 H, 1940), Varma (Krishna Swarup Varma, 116 H, 1941)



Cross County, 1953



Hyderabad House and Kashmir House, 1937



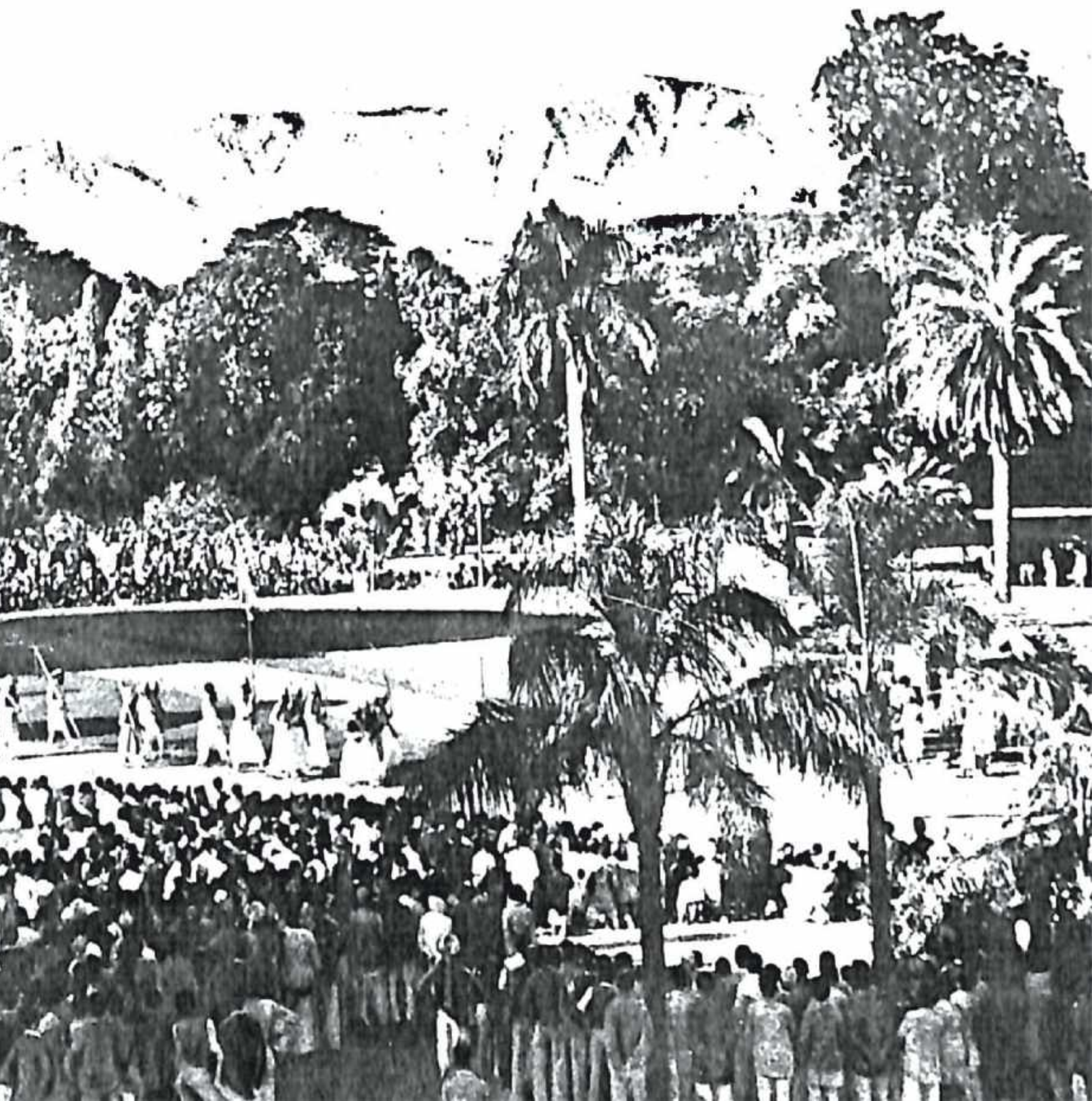
Hyderabad House, May 1937



Mid-Terms



Pageant of the Doon Valley, Founder's Day 1937



FROM THE ARCHIVES



Mid-Terms, 1937



Boys during Assembly, circa 1939



Mid-Terms



Boys in the Main Building corridor, 1939



Mid-Terms



The Main Building, late 1940s



The Main Building



2025

THE DOON SCHOOL



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Endowment	Amount (Rs in Lacs)
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50% Scholarship	200



ANNUITIES

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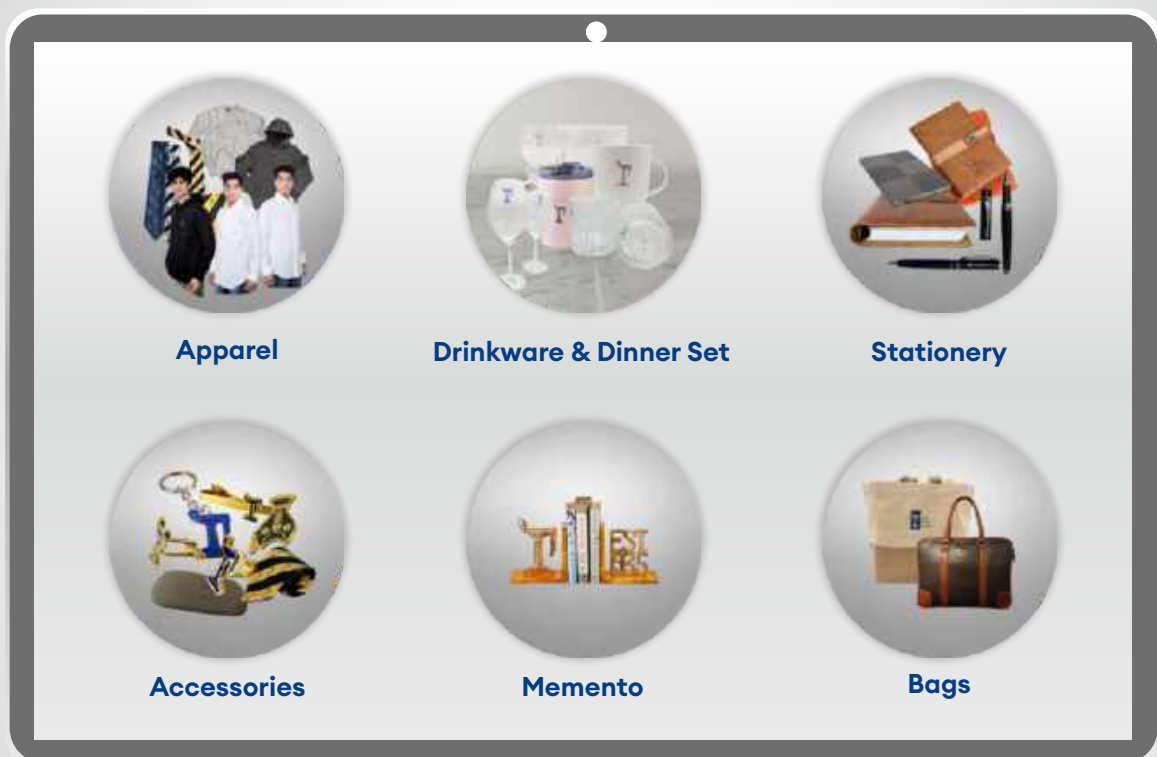
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Visit any outlet
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WHEN IN
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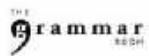
foxtrot



* 'Tereza Beach House' and 'The Outpost' are not present in Dehra Dun



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- Taj, Vivanta, SeleQtions & Taj Safaris - Discount on Best Available Rates and 4D Urban Getaways & Innergise rate plans

For all DOSCOs

- 25% Discount at Qmin (Home Delivery)

Visit: www.tajhotels.com/en-in/offers/doon-school-society-offer/



15% Discount on packages
10% Discount on Best Available Rates
20% Discount on F&B and SPA
Special Discounts for Functions & Get-togethers.
Call: 95550 88000 or Email: siddhartha.chakraborty@leisurehotels.in
Visit: www.leisurehotels.in



15% Discount on Best Available Rates
10% Discount on Food (Brig's Resto)
20% Discount on Beverages (Holdy's Pub), all recreational activities and Spa therapies
Book online, then call and give your DOSCO Card Number
Visit: www.mikesforestretreat.com

WHEN IN DOON



15% Discount on Best Available Rates
20% Discount on Spa Services
Book online by using dedicated Code DOON15 on their website.
Visit: www.hotelkanhashyam.com & www.tenduleafjungleresort.com



15% Discount on Best Available Rates
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Book online by using dedicated Code DOON15 on their website.
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LIFESTYLE



15% Discount only on F&B Services (excluding alcoholic beverages)

WELLNESS



10% Discount on Best Available Rates, Special Curated Dinner, One 'Ananda Touch' 30-min Spa Treatment

SPORTS & FUNCTIONAL HEALTH



15% Discount on Physio, Rehab, Corrective Exercise, Clinical and Sport Nutrition and 360 degree Physical Assessments
Visit their outlet with your DOSCO Card
Visit: www.sportingethos.com

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I WANT YOU!

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CALLING ALL DOSCOS!

We need you!

It's been over eight years 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 your involvement in areas you're passionate about.

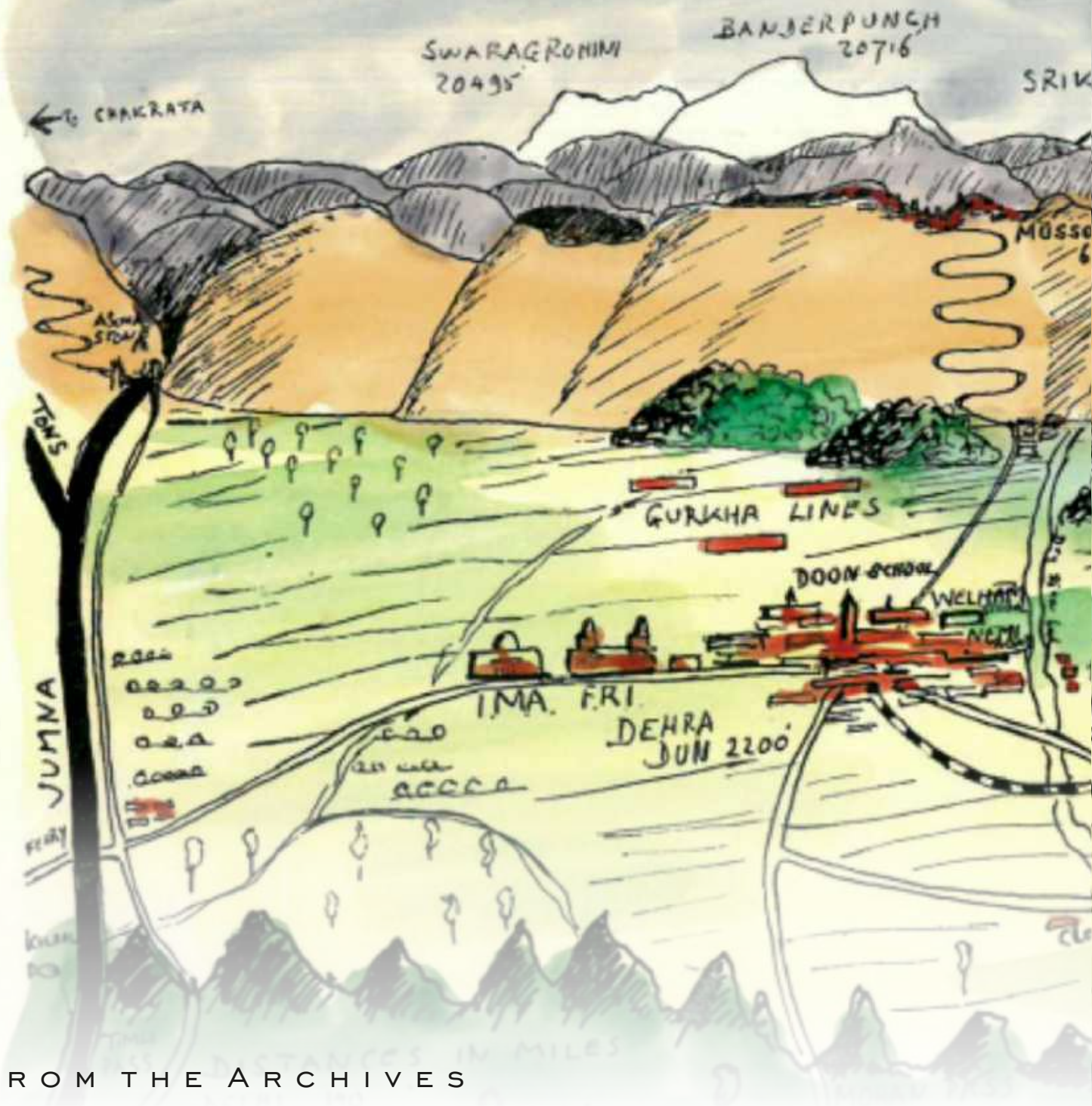
Scan the QR code or click the link below and do your bit for the Dosco community and help keep our records current!



<https://zfrmz.in/hGbn0MdaZRCxeauQUjg>

GREETINGS FROM

Greetings from the Doon by John Martyn *Courtesy The Doon School Archives*

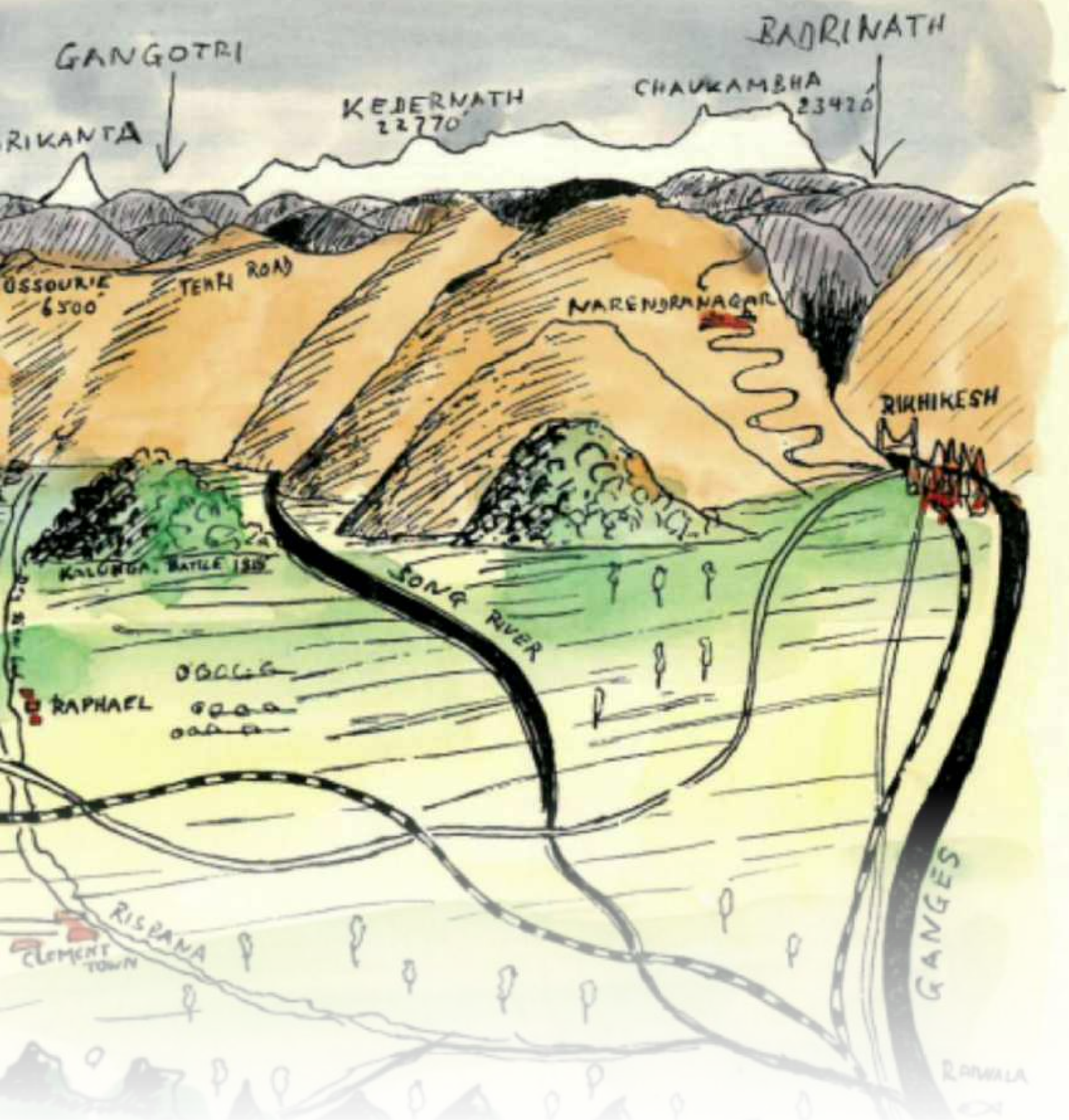


FROM THE ARCHIVES

Greetings from the Doon

Abia Qezilbash (ABQ)
Archives Supervisor, The Doon School

FROM THE DOON



Mr John Martyn (HM) sketched this map of the Doon Valley for a Christmas card in 1978.

The sketch was printed in *Martyn Sahib: The Story of John Martyn of the Doon School* by his wife Mrs Mady Martyn.

THE ROSE BOWL | Founder's 2025 | VOL. XLI No. 4

The Doon School Old Boys' Society

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