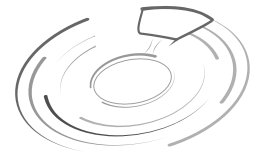


THE ROSE BOWL



Since 1985



The DSOBS Vision

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

THE ROSE BOWL 
SINCE 1985

NEWSLETTER OF
THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

C O N T E N T S

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COVER PHOTOS

Front Cover:
Shiv Kunal 'Fauji' Verma (182 H, 1976)
Back Cover:
Pratik Basu (442 T, 1993)

PUBLISHER

The Doon School Old Boys' Society,
New Delhi

PRINTER

Narendra Bhola, Sterling Preferred
www.prosterling.com

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CREDITS

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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
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Desi Cricketing in the USA

Pratik Basu 442 T, 1993

Editor-in-Chief

Anyone remember the good old days?

The one where some chap was watching cricket back home in India, while we excitedly huddled around the free computers in the library in Upstate New York, USA, reading his ball-by-ball commentary on something called IRC (Internet Relay Chat, per Wikipedia – I had to look it up, that's how *long* ago it was!)? The collective shouts when India hit sixes against Australia, the deflating groan when India got out trying to hit one too many sixes against Australia?

Or the one where our India-Pakistan satellite feed had to be finally cut short because things got too out of hand, only to end with a bunch of Indo-Paks sitting arm-in-arm on the curb commiserating about the results? Cricket diplomacy? Sure, why not.



The Oakland Coliseum, previously a baseball stadium

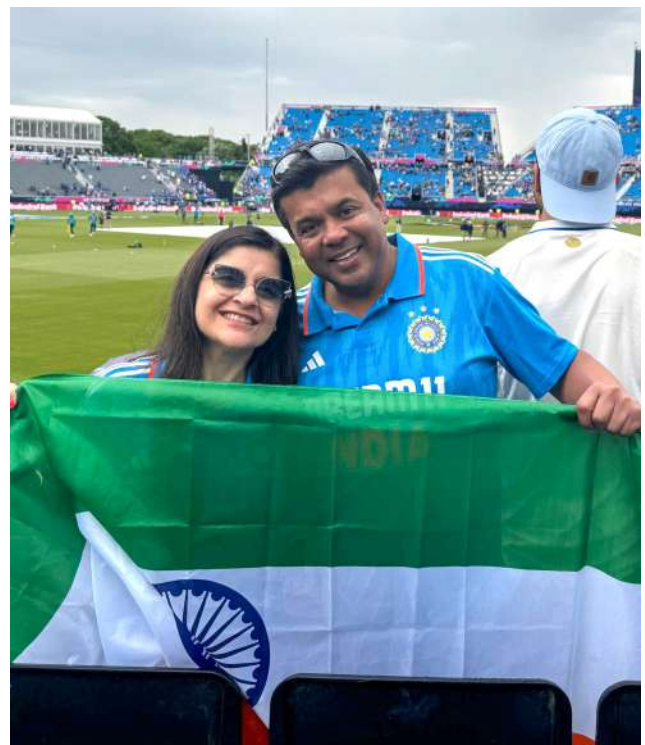
Fast forward years, fine, decades later, and there we were at the Oakland Coliseum, Oakland, California, USA, surrounded by cricket fans as far as our cricket



Nisheeth Ranjan getting ready for Major League Cricket at the Oakland Coliseum, previously a baseball stadium

eyes could see to watch, wait for it, cricket, in the one of the most iconic baseball stadiums in the world.

The scene was set when myself, The Better Half (TBH), and my pal **Nisheeth Ranjan (476 J, 1993)** came up on massive crowds thronging around the Hayward BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit – bear with



Mr and Mrs Boston Man of Mystery at the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup India-Pakistan match

me, there will be acronyms) Station on our way to watch Major League Cricket (MLC). Incredible, I thought, cricket really has become a global sport! I was not disappointed, however, to learn that these hordes of people were there for something called the No Kings rally. To paraphrase the totemic Liverpool Football Club (LFC, YNWA, etc) coach Jurgen Klopp, sports is the most important of the least important things. I guess exercising your fundamental constitutional First Amendment rights takes precedence over watching grown-up boys smacking leather balls with bits of willow, so I was willing to allow it... just this once.

The cricket seeds had been sown over the years leading up to the massive 2024 Men's T20 World Cup held in the USA and West Indies, which included the titanic India-Pakistan match in, you guessed it, (not quite Upstate) New York. According to our Boston Man of Mystery **Rohit Goenka (399 H, 1993)**, that event was one for the ages. American cricket takeover? Sure, why not.



A stammering non-schoolboy and Nisheeth

Maybe this day's events in Oakland didn't quite match up to the theatrics of that unthinkable summer day a year ago, but don't tell the fans soaking up the festive atmosphere.



Anil Kumble with a non-stammering schoolboy



Dwayne Bravo not quite giving an update on MS Dhoni



Ricky Ponting putting his players through their paces

There were stars galore: Anil Kumble (I stood rooted to the spot like the schoolboy I had been all those years, fine, decades ago when I tried to ask Bishan Singh Bedi for an autograph at the Main Field, and his wife sportingly translated my stammerings.)! Ricky Ponting (getting more cheers as a coach than his players while putting said players quite forcefully through their paces, no paycheck gig for him)! Shane Watson (coaching from the dugout, I presume)! Dwayne Bravo (coaching the Los Angeles Knight Riders [LAKR], after starting off with the West Indies [WI], then the Mumbai Indians [MI], to now coaching the Chennai

Super Kings [CSK], while a Texas Super Kings [TSK] fan asked him about our famous Indian MS Dhoni, cricket diplomacy? sure, why not)! And those were just the coaches!



"Homegrown" talent galore: Sunil Narine

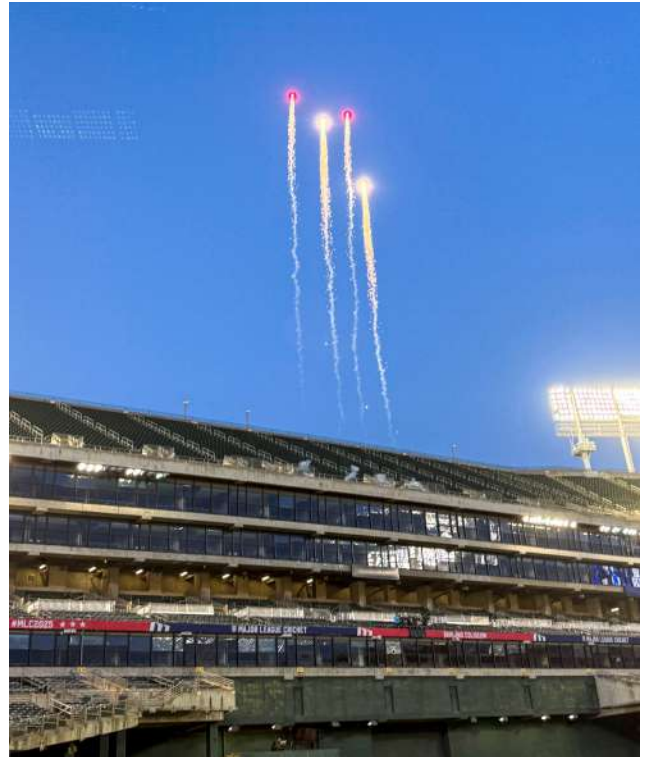


T20 World Cup American hero: Saurabh Netravalkar

There were "homegrown" talent galore: Sunil Narine and Andre Russell (LAKR)! Saurabh Netravalkar (the T20 World Cup American hero) – from IT dreams to cricketing glory!



Sixes galore: David Warner



Sixes galore: Fireworks!

There were sixes galore: Finn Allen (New Zealand, NZL)! Jake Fraser-McGurk (Australia, AUS)! Unmukt Chand (United States of America, USA)! Matthew Tump (USA)! Kyle Mayers (West Indies, WI)! David Warner (AUS)! Heinrich Klaasen (South Africa, RSA)! Rachin Ravindra (NZL)! Glenn Maxwell (AUS)! Andries Gous (USA)!



Wickets galore

There were wickets galore: Shadley van Schalkwyk (USA)! Xavier Bartlett (AUS)! Ian Holland (USA)! Haris Rauf (Pakistan, PAK, celebrating a 90mph+ thunderbolt of a wicket-taking ball as if he was playing in the World Cup, like I said, no paycheck gigs here!)



Food trucks galore: Hint of Desi

There were American players and fans galore. This included the American businessman who picked up the sport while jetlagged in his *desi* hotel room looking for things to watch on TV! The food trucks were decidedly *desi* (Dosa Dash! Hint of Desi!)! Speaking of fans, I had to break the kid's heart, the one who was getting annoyed with my cheering (Why are you cheering for another team in "San Francisco?") Because, kid, I'm from Calcutta *and* Los Angeles. How's that possible? I dunno, ask your dad, he's the IT guru...!)



Fans galore

As we trudged out, exhausted by all the excitement, there was a distinct feeling of camaraderie in the air, as if we were at the beginning of something. Yeah, perhaps it was a little melancholy to see the Oakland Coliseum (the erstwhile home of the Oakland Raiders, who became the Los Angeles Raiders, who became the Oakland Raiders [again], who are now the Las Vegas Raiders, and the Oakland A's, who are currently the

"Sacramento" A's, who will eventually become the Las Vegas A's) and the Oakland Arena (the erstwhile home of the Golden State Warriors, who are currently the "San Francisco" Warriors) a shell of their former selves. But, the Arena has become a go-to stop on the Tejano music circuit and cricket was making the Coliseum come alive again. Cricket diplomacy? Sure, why not.



Kay the Knight, the LAKR mascot, not exhausted by all the excitement

From IT dreams to *desi* culinary passion



Cricket diplomacy? Sure, why not.

Nisheeth had the great idea of ending our day at Keeku da Dhaba, a buzzed-about *desi* restaurant that

had begun its life as a, wait for it, *desi* food truck. The cricket-mad chef had come to the USA with IT dreams in his eyes but had zigged-and-zagged into following his true passion. He also happened to be Nisheeth's friend's brother from New Delhi (India might be a massive country, but it sure is a small world!). Cricket diplomacy? Sure, why not.

Anyone remember the good old days?

Or maybe, just maybe, everything old has its time and place. Instead of focusing on some rose-coloured version of a nostalgic past (sigh, me in a nutshell...), we should turn our attention to the new coming up to take its place. Not better, perhaps, but different. As the new *Jurassic Park* movie reminded us (*Another JP movie?! What is old is new again, indeed.*): Life, uh, finds a way.

PS. Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Corrections? Articles? Photos? Cricketing/food truck advice? Please email me: BasuRoseBowl@gmail.com

ERRATA

In the 2025 Spring issue we made an error in the 'In Memoriam' notice. We neglected to mention the passing of Rathindravir Singh (143 T, 1960). The error is deeply regretted. We offer our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.



Rathindravir Singh
(143 T, 1960)

In the 2025 Spring issue we made an error in the 'In Memoriam' notice for Shyama Prosad Mookerjee (172 H, 1957). We inadvertently posted an incorrect photograph. The correct photograph is published below. The error is deeply regretted.



Shyama Prosad Mookerjee
(172 H, 1957)

We've Got Mail

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Mr V 'Henny' Hensman (HS/VHS) had this quirky habit of throwing small pieces of chalk with incredible accuracy at talkative students who were creating chaos in class.

One day, he discovered that if you tossed the chalk into the rotating fan blades at a specific point in their trajectory, then you could also aim at the other, more recalcitrant, students with accuracy.

We schoolboys took a leaf out of his book and started practising this art – chucking small pieces of chalk into the rotating fan and aiming at others. We became pretty good at it.

One day, in a fit of overenthusiasm, one of our classmates tossed a blackboard duster into the rotating fan. There was a resounding crash, the duster smashed into the opposite wall so hard that it chipped the plaster, the fan blade (which was made of plywood in those days) broke into half, and one of the pieces flew like a javelin out of window and embedded itself in the sunken garden lawn a full 10 meters away!

Fortunately, no one was hurt. But we got red carded and the game came to an end.

This is just trivia, but I thought you might be interested in the sorts of things we were allowed to get away with in those days.

Anonymous

Dear Editor,

The piece on Welham Girls' School in *The Rose Bowl* was amusing and remarkably consistent with my view of the school.

My mother (Class of 63) and sister (Class of 90) are both Welhamites. It's an exceptional school given how small their campus is. Their results are consistently high and somehow they manage to give their girls a particular brand of confidence and sensibility. They manage to exude class in their own inimitable unassuming manner and that is a quality much to be admired.

Yours,

Uday Walia
Father of Kabir Aiyar Walia
(329 T, 2029)

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on another excellent issue of *The Rose Bowl*.

Best,

H Harshvardhan (45 J, 1963)

Dear Editor,

I agree wholeheartedly that there should be a new, separate, The Doon School for girls only. This is definitely an idea whose time has come.

As they say: "Why should boys have all the fun?" I am sure the School alumni, who are a very influential bunch, can make this happen.

Sincerely,

Rashmi Dugal
Wife of Manoranjan Singh
Dugal (401 K, 1974)



Dear Editor,

I was recently with members of the Adi tribe from Tuting, Arunachal Pradesh, paying homage to the fallen soldiers of 2 Madras Regiment in the No Man's Land between India and China at Gelling, Arunachal Pradesh. These brave souls were buried there by the Chinese in 1962.

Sincerely,

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



Dear Editor,

Please note the headgear of the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan. This was the inspiration for the Hyderabad House logo.

Sincerely,

Sunil 'Melly' Gupta
(562 H, 1980)



**HYDERABAD
HOUSE**
THE DOON SCHOOL

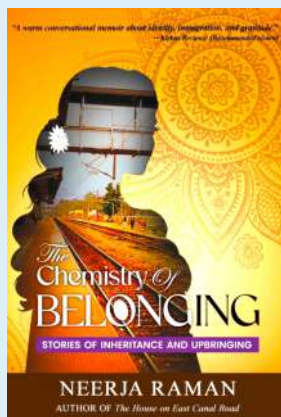
Dear Editor,

Thank you for including such a beautiful and tearjerking memoriam of Jigish. Knowing he is alive in his friend's memories brings great comfort to us.

Sincerely,

Dr Arvind Ruparelia
Father of Dr Jigish Ruparelia
(118 J, 2008)

Old Boys' News



Neerja Raman (99 J, 1964) released her latest book, the memoir *The Chemistry of Belonging: Stories of Inheritance and Upbringing*, which has since become an Amazon Bestseller. Exploring identity, family, and cultural heritage, this book delves into how our past shapes our present and decisions, reflecting on our sense of belonging in an ever-changing world. Kirkus Reviews, the preeminent book review publication, called it “a warm, conversational memoir about identity, immigration, and gratitude.” Congratulations to Neerja and all the best for her continued success!



From L-R: Kapil Bhalla (214 H, 1972), Ranjan Bhalla (368 J, 1972), Ambassador Didier Vanderhasselt of the Kingdom of Belgium, Alok 'Zeke' Narain Sinha, Arun Sinha (332 K, 1973), Aditya 'Zeeky' Narain Sinha (230 K, 2004), and Pranay Bahl (340 H, 2004)

Alok 'Zeke' Narain Sinha (58 K, 1972) has been appointed as an Advisor in Economic Diplomacy in New Delhi by Belgium. Economic diplomacy holds prime importance for Belgium, and they have selected Alok for his substantial contributions to the Belgian network in India over the years. The Embassy has consistently sought his counsel, and they are honoured that he will continue to share his expertise with them. Congratulations!



Dr Chekitan Singh Dev (15 K, 1975) was reappointed the Singapore Tourism Distinguished Professor in Asian Hospitality Management by the Cornell University Board of Trustees in Ithaca, USA. Chekitan is a Professor with indefinite tenure at the University's Peter and Stephanie Nolan School of Hotel Administration, SC Johnson College of Business. He was named a Top Ten Author (ranked fifth) by the Cornell Center for Hospitality Research earlier this year. The Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International has selected him as one of the “Top 25 Most Extraordinary Minds in Hospitality, Travel and Tourism Sales and Marketing.” Congratulations to Chekitan on his extraordinary success and all the best for the future!



Ishan Palit (478 J, 1987) has been appointed Interim Chief Executive Officer (Chairman of the Board of Management) of TUV SUD AG. The company noted Ishan's three decades of experience at TUV SUD, having joined in 1994 to establish their operations in India. Previously, he served as CEO of the Asia Pacific region in Singapore, led the global Product Service Division, and, as Chief Operating Officer and Board member, shaped global strategy and operations. Congratulations!



Vikram Singh (597H, 1980) has earned his PhD after completing his research in Vedic Studies from the Shree Maharshi College of Vedic Astrology, Udaipur, Rajasthan. His area of specialisation was "Influence of Jupiter on the Human Being," for which he was awarded a gold medal and conferred with the title of Doctor of Philosophy (*Vidya Vachaspati*). Congratulations!



Viren Popli (433 K, 1986), President and CEO of Mahindra Ag North America, recently celebrated Mahindra's historic 30-year presence in the American market. He showcased the tractors manufactured in Texas and Michigan, USA, and highlighted the strong appeal of the brand among military veterans. Viren, a champion of diversity and corporate citizenship, continues this commitment in his current role at Mahindra. Prior to his tenure at Mahindra, Viren held positions at Star TV and Ranbaxy Laboratories, where he was the Country Manager. All the best for continued success!



Mudit Tyagi (606 H, 1988) was the 2025 UWC-USA Giulio Regeni Alumni Impact Award recipient. He was awarded for his stewardship of Akshara, an initiative based in India that empowers rural youth. Mudit was praised for addressing profound inequalities by equipping students with both academic and practical skills, improving teacher training, supporting girls' education, and encouraging career paths beyond subsistence labour. During his speech at the UWC-USA graduation ceremony, Mudit encouraged the recent grads to take bold steps and explore unexpected learning opportunities. All of us can learn from Mudit's inspiring words and actions:

Small, well-intentioned actions ripple into positive impact.
You don't have to be rich or highly accomplished to have impact.
If you keep an open mind, learning can come from places you don't expect.
It takes a network of people to amplify impact.
Music will happen to you... if you decide to dance.



Gaurav Bhushan (32 H, 1989) has been appointed as the Chairman of the Accor and InterGlobe Hospitality joint venture in India. In addition to this role, Gaurav continues to serve as the Co-CEO of Ennismore and the CEO of Accor's lifestyle and leisure brands worldwide. Under Gaurav's leadership, Accor aims to significantly expand its presence of hotels in India. Well done!



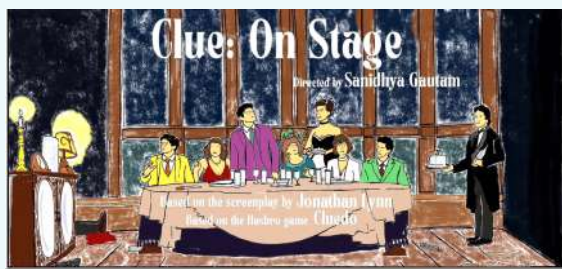
Avinash Thadani (424 O, 1999) has completed a swim from Sri Lanka to India. This incredible feat was commemorated by the proud display of his Dosco t-shirt. Avinash has previously completed the IRONMAN Copenhagen, Denmark. He has also cycled 5,700kms across the USA, completed 20 half-marathons in 20 consecutive weekends, and at one point had an incredible 1,300-day consecutive triathlon activity streak. Truly an inspiration for Doscos the world over! Well done Avinash!



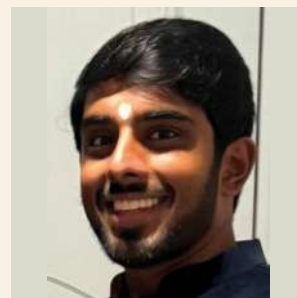
Raghav Maliah (267 J, 1991) was named Global Chairman of Investment Banking by Goldman Sachs, Hong Kong, China. This is in addition to his current responsibilities as Co-Head of Mergers & Acquisitions in Asia Pacific, and head of the Technology, Media, and Telecommunications Group in Asia Pacific Ex-Japan. Raghav started at the all-powerful firm way back in 2000 as a mere associate. Congratulations!



Dibakar Das Roy (39 H, 2002) directed the film *Dilli Dark (Dark Delhi)*, a bilingual independent drama. The film played at the prestigious Film at Lincoln Center, New York, USA, as part of the New York African Film Festival. The film takes the viewer "on a journey into Indian society's tricky relationship with race, color, and identity." The film has been commended for being a "fresh yet bothersome portrait of life in India... [and] hold[s] a satirical mirror to the global relations that trouble numerous immigrant populations." Dibakar is an inspiration to all the Doscos in the cinematic arts, a notoriously difficult industry. All the best for continued success!



Sanidhya Gautam (112 O, 2020), freshly graduated, has already had his theatrical directorial debut. The play, *Clue: On Stage*, based on the beloved board game Cluedo, was staged recently at LTG Auditorium, New Delhi. Congratulations to young Sanidhya and all the best for what promises to be a long, exciting career ahead!



Karthik Vellayan Subbiah (645 K, 2022) recently gave a talk titled “The Unconventional MBA – When Legacy Met Mindfulness” at the Rotary Club of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. At the tender age of 22, Karthik embarked on an extraordinary journey into the corporate world, commencing with a six-month spiritual retreat. His talk focused on how inner peace can become a powerful business advantage. Well done to one of our younger Old Boys already giving motivational talks!

A Dosco at Cannes!



Shivendra Singh Dungarpur on the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival, with Wes Anderson and Sharmila Tagore, amongst others

Shivendra Singh Dungarpur (500 H, 1987), a renowned film restoration expert, meticulously restored the lost 1970 Satyajit Ray masterpiece, *Aranyer Din Ratri* (*Days and Nights in the Forest*). Presented at the prestigious 78th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, the restored print served as a poignant reminder of Ray’s enduring legacy in world cinema. The painstaking restoration process, undertaken by Dungarpur and his Film Heritage Foundation, brought the film back to life,



Shivendra greeting Darius Khondji

ensuring its continued relevance and appreciation for generations to come.

The screening was hosted by Shivendra, the Academy Award-winning writer-director (and self-proclaimed Ray devotee) Wes Anderson, and the legendary actress Sharmila Tagore, who starred in this and many of Ray’s other classic films. The event was attended by numerous cinematic luminaries, including multiple Academy Award-winning filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu and the great cinematographer Darius Khondji.



Darius Khondji and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu enjoying the screening

In remarks leading up to the Festival, Anderson openly acknowledged that his acclaimed film *Asteroid City* featured an entire segment inspired by Ray's *Aranyer Din Ratri* (*Days and Nights in the Forest*). Sandip Ray, the director's son and a celebrated director in his own right, expressed his admiration for Shivendra's meticulous approach throughout the restoration process. This marks the fourth consecutive year that Shivendra has presented a restored Indian masterpiece at what is widely regarded as the world's most prestigious film festival.



Wes Anderson speaking at the ceremony, to his right are Shivendra and Sharmila Tagore, amongst others

In addition to his Cannes presentation, Shivendra also made headlines for receiving the prestigious Vittorio Boarini Award for film preservation at the Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival in Bologna, Italy. Presented by Cineteca di Bologna, the award was a testament to his contributions to the preservation of cinema. This award recognised his exceptional dedication to preserving and restoring films and his



Shivendra accepting the Vittorio Boarini Award

pivotal role in establishing a movement to safeguard film heritage across India and the subcontinent.

In his acceptance speech, Shivendra expressed gratitude to Cineteca di Bologna for inspiring him to found the Film Heritage Foundation. He continued, "I first attended the Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival conducted by Cineteca di Bologna in 2010 and it changed my life. I saw the best of world cinema beautifully restored, and entered a whole new world where people were dedicated to saving films for posterity and bringing them back to life again. I



"I went as a filmmaker and cinephile and emerged... a film archivist."

went as a filmmaker and cinephile and emerged wearing another hat of a film archivist."

We extend our enthusiastic appreciation to Shivendra for all his contributions and ongoing efforts to preserve the rich history of Indian cinema and ensure its enduring legacy for future generations. Well done Shiv, thanks for making Doscos proud the world over!



The DSOBS Store is now Online!

Cannot visit the physical Memorabilia Store nestled within the picturesque campus of The Doon School?

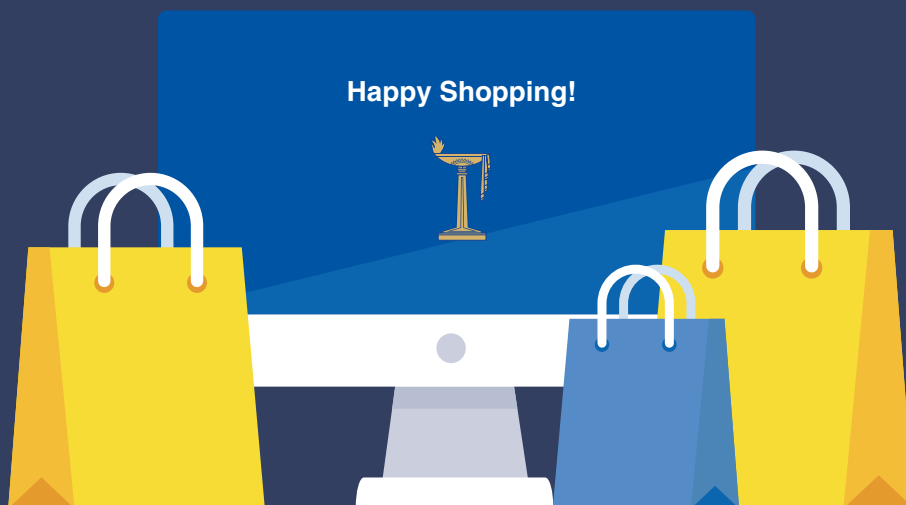
Visit the new (and improved) Online Memorabilia Store instead from the comfort of your own couch!

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

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

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

doscobilia.com



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

Spring 2025 Round-Up

Ashutosh Goyal 392 K, 1986
Secretary, The DSOBS



Ashutosh Goyal



The bus donated by The DSOBS to the Arthur Foot Academy

DoscoImpact

A bus to transport children to and from school from nearby villages was donated by The DSOBS to the Arthur Foot Academy, Lalwala Mazbata, Uttarakhand. This was an Aristocracy of Service initiative under our DoscoImpact banner.



The Free Medical Camp at the Jim Corbett National Park

Under this DoscoImpact charity initiative, Team Dosco, led by brothers **Shivendra 'Dicky' Singh (261 T, 1969)** and **Raghuvendra 'Donny' Singh (878 T, 1982)** organised a two-day Free Medical Camp for the Forest Department Staff of Jim Corbett National Park and their families. This

included the naturalists and the registered Safari Gypsy drivers and their families as well. The Camp was held on April 25th-26th at the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve Campus in Ramnagar, Uttarakhand.

All DoscOs are familiar with Corbett, and almost all would have visited the Park during their time in School or thereafter. **Dr Kushal Agarwal (447 T, 2006)**, who runs the multi-speciality KVR Hospital in nearby Kashipur, conducted the Camp. Dr Kushal engaged the most fabulous team of doctors from his hospital; they undertook multiple checkups – general health, eyes, heart, gynaecology, etc. Free medicines were given to patients. More than 700 people participated at the Medical Camp. A first aid kit was donated for each Forest Department vehicle and every Safari Gypsy. **Aditya Goel (113 H, 2020)** donated the boxes for the first aid kits. Given the success of this event, and the need for more such endeavours, it was decided that the Free Medical Camp will be organised again next year.



Van being donated to the Deenabandhu Trust

The Society, again as part of its DoscoImpact charity initiative, donated a multi-purpose student transport vehicle to the Deenabandhu Trust, Chamarajanagar, Mysore, Karnataka. This organisation provides free education and rehabilitation to orphaned, abandoned, destitute, and estranged children. **Dr Suhel Hasan (224 K, 1976)** drove this worthy initiative.



Project Baala, Mangar Bani, Haryana

Project Baala Collaboration

In another charity initiative, The DSOBS collaborated with Project Baala, which works in the space of women's menstrual hygiene, specifically in rural areas. **Yash Johri (561 O, 2013)** drove this initiative. Several members of the Executive Committee, along with volunteers of Project Baala, visited village Mangar Bani, Haryana, to engage with the women there. Women of all ages congregated to listen to the advice of the volunteers, who spoke to them about menstrual hygiene and reasoned with them to overlook some of the social and traditional taboos and adopt the use of sanitary pads. The DSOBS donated a large quantity of sanitary pads to Project Baala for distribution amongst the women present, and for women in other villages facing similar issues.

DoscoTalks 2025



DoscoTalks with Analjit Singh and Uday Pratap Singh

In April, spring gave way to summer in North India. The month kickstarted with the first episode of DoscoTalks 2025. It featured **Analjit Singh (132 J, 1971)** in conversation with **Uday Pratap**

Singh (533 J, 2007). Analjit preferred a more casual fireside chat in place of a formal interview. He graciously offered to host the evening at his residence in Delhi. The very frank and casual chat kept the audience glued, the highlights of which can be viewed on our YouTube channel. More episodes of DoscoTalks are being planned throughout the year.

Sports Weekend 2025



Kunal Sharma (473 J, 1993) leading Team DSOBS in the KC Joshi Trophy match

For close to two decades, the Old Boys have been going up to Dehradun in mid-April, to play cricket with the School Team. This year, and moving forward, we have coined the term Sports Weekend for the second weekend, with additional sporting engagements.

This year, the Old Boys' Teams played against the School Cricket Team for the SK Vohra Trophy; Hockey Team for the KC Joshi Trophy; played another cricket match against a combined team of School boys and staff; and, finally, the Basketball Team for the newly instituted V Hensman Trophy. It was an exciting two days of rigorous sporting activity in Chandbagh... with a breather in between at one of our favourite "watering holes" in D Dun, Bungalow. The Wasu brothers (**Aayush Wasu, 450 K, 2006**, and **Anshul Wasu, 177 K, 2003**) are dependable for their gracious hospitality! The outcome of the matches, even-stevens: Team DSOBS won back the SK Vohra Trophy and brought home the V Hensman Trophy. The School boys won the KC Joshi Trophy and the second cricket match.



Team DS OBS with the SK Vohra Trophy



Team DS OBS with the V Hensman Trophy

Ludhiana Get-Together

The DoscOs of Ludhiana (Punjab) are an enthusiastic lot, and they meet up once every month. This time, they congregated at Raasta Ludhiana, a new resto-bar opened by DoscOs, the Grewals of Chandigarh. I hope The DS OBS Regional Rep for Punjab will take a cue and plan a get-together of the Punjab Region.

San Diego, USA Get-Together

The USA (West Coast) Region organised Socials with Welham Girls alumni at the Shore Rider bar, La Jolla, CA, on April 19th. Everyone enjoyed the company in perfect California weather (is there ever any other kind?).

Mumbai Get-Together

The Bombay Region DoscOs met up at HyLo, in the Fort area of Mumbai, on April 25th.

UAE Get-Together



The UAE Region getting together in Dubai, UAE

The same evening the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Region held their Dubai Fridays, at Spike Bar. Both events were well attended.

Chennai Get-Together

The Madras Region has turned very active, courtesy some seniors and the Regional Reps. They meet up every month, and each time they seem to have a blast (source: the Region's WhatsApp Group!). They curated a multicourse sitdown dinner at Moubray's Room, River Room Annexe, Madras Club, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on May 23rd. According to "sources" (again, the same source!) planning for the dinner (feast, actually) was fine-tuned keeping even the tiniest details in mind. Kudos to the organisers.

A lot more is lined up in the coming weeks and months: the Headmaster's Interaction with legacy parents whose sons are to sit for the School's entrance exam; Socials with Welham Girls alumni in New York; get-togethers in London, UK, and Berlin, Germany; the Annual Doon vs Mayo cricket match in Bangalore; elections for eight of the 13 seats on the Executive Committee. Keep tuned to emails from the Secretariat, posts on Batch and Regional WhatsApp Groups, DoscoBot (The DS OBS ChatBot), and our other social media handles to get information of, and updates on all that's happening in the Dosco universe.

Go Dosco!

DoscOs in Delhi: A Golfing Spirit

Ashutosh Goyal 392 K, 1986
Secretary, The DSOBS



From L-R: Udayan Sinha (673 H, 2015), Mihir Khan (606 K, 2015), Rakshit Sinha (642 J, 2015), Anubhav Agarwal (247 J, 2015), and Vinayak Chaudhry (648 O, 2015)

EXT DELHI GOLF CLUB – MARCH 13th 2025, NIGHT

With the winter chill ebbing in the capital, and evenings becoming pleasant, it is a good time to round up DoscOs in the NCR for an evening of laughter, light banter, and camaraderie. Inter House Golf was slated for March 12th, at the Delhi Golf Club. To coincide with this marquee event of The DSOBS calendar, the evening after golf was fixed for the get-together. Venue? What better than the lawns of the Delhi Golf Club! Date and venue sorted, we get into a huddle

to create a team for curating the evening. No dearth of Dosco volunteers. The team falls into place in very quick time!

CUT TO:

A live band belting everyone's favourite Pink Floyd numbers, amongst other timeless songs. The band is none other than Welcome To The Machine (WTTM) from Singapore. People take to the floor. Others tap their feet. Everyone's in the mood to party. Many thanks to our Vice President, **Akash Puri (230 T, 1998)**, for persuading WTTM to perform for us.



WTM performing for the crowd

As the band takes a breather, it is time for presenting the awards for the 25th Inter-House Golf Tournament, which was played at the Delhi Golf Club just a day earlier. The Guest of Honour, **Jag Mohan Kapur** (257, H,

1947), hands the prizes to the winners. Hyderabad House walks away with the winner's trophy; Kashmir House lifts the runners-up silver platter.



From L-R: Akash Puri (230 T, 1998), Sameer Dhingra (452 T, 1987), Arjun Malhotra (325 K, 1964), Arun 'Ghodi' Khanna (90 H, 1973), Sunil Kant Munjal (180 K, 1973), Junaid Altaf (209 O, 2003)



Our generous sponsor, Toyota

WTTM are back on stage, playing one classic after another. As the evening draws on, the band starts to tire. Cries of "encore!" from the crowd works like a dose of vitamins. But the band must eventually stop playing. Attendance recorded - close to 400!

The evening would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors - Toyota (courtesy **Chander Shekhar Nagar, 360 K 1999**, of 36 Toyota); India Sotheby's International Realty (courtesy Akash Puri); and Diageo India.



Our generous sponsor, India Sotheby's International Realty



Our generous sponsor, Diageo India

A big shout-out to **Sanjoy 'Po' Roy (25 T, 1983)**; **Avneesh Sangwan (104 T, 2002)**; **Bharat Halwasiya (580 T, 1994)**; The DSOBS Delhi Region Reps - **Paveet Kothari (202 H, 1990)** and **Aditya Sinha (230 K, 2004)**; **Nalin Khanna (563 H, 1980)**, **Jai Bhatia (348 H, 1999)** and **Nalin Sayal (173 J, 2003)**.

Like every other event, the Delhi Region Get-together is also a fundraiser, and the surplus generated from the event is credited to the Post-School Scholarship Fund.

Until the next such event in Delhi, stay well and stay safe!

FADE OUT

Inter-House Golf

The Silver Jubilee Edition

Nalin Khanna 563 H, 1980



From L-R: Vikram Singh Gill (453 O, 2012), Dhruv Sawhney (464 J, 2012), Prahlad Singh (488 K, 2012), and Shivaan Seth (37 J, 2014)

The DSOBS was proud to host the Silver Jubilee edition of the Inter-House Golf Tournament at the Delhi Golf Club, New Delhi, on March 12th. Folks came in from out of town, like **Nitin Gumbhir (378 K, 1970)** from Bangalore, Karnataka, and also included seniors like **Jagvinder Singh 'Binny' (234 H, 1960)**, **Anil Virmani (91 J, 1960)**, and **Shiv Inder Singh (324 H, 1965)**.

Batch of 1976 set the ball rolling with **Arvind Nigam (503 J, 1976)** and **Jaiwant Bery (49 T, 1976)** leading the way with their divergent skill sets on the course. Credit to the others in the group including **Janardhan 'Jurdy' Kapur (170 H, 1976)** who ensured that the four spot prizes were won evenly by all. **Raghav 'Bubble' Nayar (443 T, 1993)** kept his reputation of being a seasoned golfer at the DGC by leading the Tata House points charge – helped admittedly by the Double Peoria System. In golf, the Double Peoria System is especially useful when playing with a group of players with wildly different skill levels.

But talent and skill shone through in the leading gross score by **Amitav Virmani (260 J, 1991)** and followed by the now 'retired ex-pro' – **Deepinder Kullar (344 H, 1999)**. No doubt these two golfers are in a separate league, although **Pranav Sahai (239 H, 1998)**, **Tarun Talwar (382 J, 1999)**, and **Nikhil Mehra (410 H,**



From L-R: Dhruv Rathore (248 H, 1985), Deepinder Kullar, Nalin Khanna, and Jasmer 'Jesse' Singh (386 K, 1986)

1993) were not too far behind. But the 'artful dodgers' led by **Navneet Singh (185 H, 1966)**, **Anil Handa (622 T, 1979)**, and ex-DSOBS President **Tarun 'Pumpkin' Sawhney (234 K, 1991)** were in the vicinity of the Top 10 golfers. Credit to these three stalwarts for whom golf remains an enduring passion. Keeping **Anil Handa (622 T, 1979)** company in the Batch of 1979 group was **Sunil 'Tweety' Gupta (606 J, 1979)**, **Sanjeev Prasad (104 K, 1979)**, and the ever-stressed **Yudhishtira Kapur (644 J, 1979)**.



A word from our generous sponsors...



From L-R: Nalin Khanna, Ajay 'Jai' Bhatia, Pranav Sahai, Guest of Honour Jag Mohan Kapur (257 H, 1947), Haripal 'Bull' Singh Gill (328 H, 1966), Junaid Altaf

It was the mix of relative youth and experience that saw Hyderabad House lift the Trophy by beating Kashmir House by one point. A Double Peoria Handicap Adjustment System was in place with a Stableford Scoring System. The top five scores of each house were counted towards the trophy. For Hyderabad, it was the scores of **Arjun 'Poky' Gupta (279 H, 1985)** (47 pts), **Navneet 'Bunny' Singh (185 H, 1966)** (45 pts), Deepinder Khullar, Pranav Sahai, and **Aditya 'Addy' Mohan Nigam (327 H, 1966)** (all 44 pts) that were counted. **Ajay 'Jai' Bhatia (261 H, 1973)** also came in with a total of 44 points but very generously opted out of the counting process as he played a key role in putting the event together. For Kashmir House it was the group of

Santosh 'Santy' Kumar (173 K, 1990) (47 pts), Tarun Sawhney (45 pts), Nitin Gumbhir (44 pts), **Abhinav Sahaya (140 K, 2003)** (44 pts), and **Sanjeev Prasad (104 K, 1979)** (43 pts) which saw them take the runners-up spot.

The event was extremely well supported by the players and ever-generous Doscors. 93 Doscors actually teed off with both The DSOBS President **Junaid Altaf (209 O, 2003)** and The DSOBS Vice-President **Akash Puri (230 T, 1998)** present in their roving golf carts.

The whole occasion was a perfect way to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of this seminal event on our calendar. Here's to the next 25 years!

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Cricket, Camaraderie, and Calcutta

A Weekend to Remember

Abhenav Khettry 159 J, 2003

In the winter-kissed heart of the City of Joy, we ushered in the New Year with a bit of nostalgia. On January 11th and 12th, 2025 the inaugural The Doon School Old Boys' Society Calcutta Cricket Weekend unfolded — a spirited celebration of sport and brotherhood, brought to life by the DSOBS Calcutta representatives: **Saurabh Dudhoria (458 J, 2000)** and **Abhenav Khettry**.

Kolkata, with its colonial charm and cricketing pedigree, was a fitting host. What truly set this tournament apart wasn't the genteel backdrop or the elegant cover drives, it was the format itself. Like a well-spun googly, the Weekend threw tradition to the wind: three matches, across three superb venues, using three different types of balls and formats. Each game carried a distinct rhythm, like the movements of a symphony composed of leather and willow.



Sitting (L-R): Vivan Rai (61 H, 2008), Abhenav Khettry, Raghav Mallik (133 K, 1984), Vineet Kunzru, Shrivats Chandra (48 J, 2008), Apurva Maheswari
Standing (L-R): Anuman Goel (492 O, 2019), Fatehbir Singh Dhillon (22 K, 2021), Kanav Agarwal (461 O, 2019), Veer Babaycon (403 K, 2025), Akash 'Bijju' Binrajka, Arjun Prakash (439 K, 2025), Rishavraj Das, Yash Killa, Dinesh Reddy (413 J, 2011), Devansh Khaitan, Dhanvi Shukla (557 K, 2020), Shaurya Sharma (278 H, 2022)

The curtain-raiser, a pink-ball T20 face-off, unfolded on the lush turf of the iconic Calcutta Cricket and Football Club (CCFC), where history lingers in the air. As hosts, CCFC's C Team took on the DoscOs. The pink ball seamed and swung, much like the players' laughter and light sledging; with boys who once shared classrooms now trading banter between the overs. Age was no match for ambition, and retired knees ran like it was finals day at the Inter-House tournament as the DSOBS, led by opener **Shaurya Sharma's (278 H, 2022)** superlative 66-ball 112, consigned the home team to a 75-run defeat. That the victors defended their total of 200 for 3 with aplomb was also in part down to the five wickets shared between Abhenav Khettry (3 for 16) and **Akash Binjrajka (267 O, 2010)** (2 for 11).

"The DSOBS Calcutta Cricket Weekend was the perfect blend of enjoying the game we love and reconnecting with other old boys," reminisces **Akash 'Bijju' Binjrajka (267 O, 2010)**. "After two losses in two years, defeating CCFC was just the icing on the cake."

Then came an unexpected turn later in the day, as the sun dipped below the Hooghly: a 10-over, indoor clash played with a tennis ball at Club Arena. Far from the breeze and banter of outdoor cricket, the DSOBS President's XI vs Vice-President's XI fixture was a high-octane cauldron of chaos and charm. Walls replaced boundaries. Reactions ruled over reflexes. The pink-ball gave way to something more intimate — raw street-style cricket polished by old-school pride.

Led by the veteran **Raghuvendra 'Donny' Singh (878 T, 1982)**, the DSOBS President XI proved too good for opposition captain Khettry and his side. A swashbuckling batting performance from top-scorer **Rishavraj Das (664 O, 2015)** (46 of 16), **Yash Killa (289 O, 2017)** (25 of 6) and **Dhanvi Shukla (557 K, 2020)** (26 of 8) ensured The President's XI romped to 137 for 9 in 10 overs. In response, only **Devansh Khaitan (423 H, 2011)** from The DSOBS Vice-President's XI managed to scrape past 30, with **Apurva Maheshwari's (86 K, 2007)** incredible hat-trick off his first three balls in his opening spell sealing the 56-run victory for Donny's team.

The second and final day began in the leafy greens of Merlin Rise, where the red-ball, 25-over

Weekend-closing affair offered yet another nod to the modern game. Batchmates Donny Singh and **Vineet Kunzru (706 T, 1982)** locked horns as opposing captains. Shirts were tucked in (briefly), sunglasses came on, and tactics got sharper. The boundaries came quicker, the run-chases bolder. Generations bridged gaps with one-liners, high-fives, and a few questionable appeals.

Skipper Kunzru's wily four-for set the tone of the match — and, eventually, his side's two-wicket win in a humdinger of a finish, despite the all-round heroics of Rishavraj Das. Chasing a formidable target of 247 set by Donny's XI, Vineet Kunzru's XI relied on frequent partnerships to wrap up the game with seven balls to spare.

But beyond the scorecards, what the Calcutta Cricket Weekend truly delivered was legacy in motion. Or, as **Apurva Maheshwari (86 K, 2007)** puts it: "Old Boys, still making new innings on the field." From teenagers, fresh out of school, to silver-haired stalwarts like Singh and Kunzru still hungry for a hook shot or the cheeky run, the tournament wasn't just a game, it was a time capsule. A weekend where ties were knotted not just at the neck, but across time.

"Firstly, kudos to the Calcutta chapter," says Kunzru. "This was my first time in Calcutta for a Cricketing Weekend, and what a delightfully organised (and packed) weekend it was. I loved the interaction with DoscOs ranging across 1974 through to 2025 batches, both on-field and during an equally well organized Welham-Doon Socials! Until a year ago, we were struggling to get the right combination for The DSOBS Cricket Team and now, suddenly, we are spoilt for choice with the newly discovered talent pool. My thanks to Donny and Abhenav Khettry for pulling this together with a new perspective. In time, I can only see this gathering momentum."

For the DSOBS, the first-ever Calcutta Cricket Weekend wasn't just cricket. It was Calcutta in crisp whites and coloured kits, friendships forged during their Doon days bowled over arm, and the beautiful game of cricket served with a multi-format twist.

The umpires may have called it stumps, but the memories? Still Not Out!

The DSOBS Induction Ceremony For the Batch of 2025

Divyaansh Surana 425 O, 2025
Batch Representative, Batch of 2025



Divyaansh Surana, our newest Batch Representative

As we all sat in the familiar Art and Media Centre together for one last time as a Batch, The DSOBS Induction Ceremony marked a poignant moment of transition for each one of us, bidding farewell to the comforting rhythms of school life and embracing the title of an Old Boy. The ceremony not only gave us flashbacks of our very first day at Doon in 2019, but it was also a celebration of our journey and a nod to the legacy we were about to inherit.

We felt a deep sense of gratitude for the lessons learned, friendships forged, and memories etched within the enchanting 72 acres of land we dwelled in. As the last Batch to have experienced Doon in its pre-pandemic norms, we've witnessed the School's strength and adaptability in the face of unprecedented challenges. The transitions in



Welcome to our youngest Old Boys!

Chandbagh, though tumultuous, have shaped us for the better, teaching us to be resilient, flexible, and tough.

Stepping into one of the world's largest fraternities of Old Boys, I am reminded of the weight of responsibility and the privilege of being part of a community that has shaped leaders, thinkers, and changemakers. Embracing the title of 'Old Boy' rather than 'Ex-Dosco' feels natural, as we believe that a Dosco remains a Dosco forever – the spirit, values, and camaraderie that define us transcend the confines of school life.

As a member of the 90th batch to have walked out

of the hallowed gates of Chandbagh, I can say with confidence that each one of us is eager to contribute extensively to this great fraternity, staying true to the ideals and traditions of our alma mater. I've been heartened to see my fellow batchmates staying connected in the past three months, whether through meetups in Kolkata, W Bengal, Surat, Gujarat, or Chandigarh, Punjab, or the much-awaited post-Boards Goa trip.

This gives me hope that the bonds forged in Chandbagh will endure, and with the support of The DSOBS, we'll remain a closely-knit community, supporting and inspiring each other for years to come!



FEATURES





Courtesy Pratik Basu (442 T, 1993)

The Antilles: A Visit to Paradise

Anil Talukdar 384 K, 1970



Anil Talukdar
Shot with a camera phone
Location: Dehradun, India; circa 2024

The Antilles are a group of islands located in the Caribbean Sea and comprising all of the West Indies except The Bahamas. They are divided into two major groups: the Greater Antilles, including Cuba, Hispaniola (Haiti and Dominican Republic), Jamaica, and Puerto Rico; and the Lesser Antilles, comprising all the rest of the islands. I was bound for the furthest of the islands, just seven miles from the Venezuelan coastline, Trinidad and Tobago.

The best connection I found was on British Airways from New Delhi to London Heathrow (flying time: 9 hrs 40 min), UK, changing airports to London Gatwick (45 minutes on the M23 by taxi, costing £82), and then a connecting on a British Airways flight to Port of Spain (Piarco International Airport), Trinidad (flying time: 9 hrs 10 min).

In Trinidad, Indian citizens enjoy a free visa on arrival, valid for three months, but the British High Commission charges £64 for a visitor-in-transit

visa that allows a person to access border control and enter the city of London. The visitor-in-transit visa is valid for two days at a stretch (transit) and allows a person multiple entries (for six months).

The Island is lusciously green, enjoys an almost constant 30° C temperature with intermittent rains that come and go at intervals. Among the many scenic sights, monuments and buildings, the birds that inhabit the Island were those that I had never seen; I managed to capture some of them on my Nikon.

RUDDY GROUND DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*)



The Ruddy Ground Dove
Shot with a Nikon B600 DSLR, 35mm-300mm tele-zoom lens,
at ISO 560, f/5.6, 1/60, 80.6mm
Location: Cascade Gardens, Trinidad; August 2024

Length: 16cm; **Weight:** 47gm approx
Presence: Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Paraguay, Northern Argentina, and Trinidad and Tobago
Habitat: Scrub and open countryside
Characteristics: Small short-tailed pigeons, flying fast and direct with an occasional sharp flick of its wings.

GREATER KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)



The Greater Kiskadee
Shot with a Nikon B600 DSLR, 35mm-300 mm tele-zoom lens
at ISO 400, f/5.6, 1/160, 116.5mm
Location: Cascade Gardens, Trinidad; August 2024

Length: 25cm to 28cm; **Weight:** 53gm to 71gm (it is the largest of the tyrant flycatchers)

Presence: Central America, Texas, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, all the way to southern Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago

Habitat: Open grasslands to urban area gardens

Characteristics: Has a black head with a white crown and a concealed yellow crown stripe. With a short thick bill, black in color. Noisy and conspicuous bird.

SPECTACLED THRUSH OR YELLOW-EYED THRUSH (*Tardus nudigenis*)



The Spectacled Thrush
Shot with a Nikon B600 DSLR 35mm-300mm tele-zoom lens
at ISO 320, f/5.6, 1/250 125.4 mm
Location: Nelson Mandela Park, Trinidad; August 2024

Length: 24cm; **Weight:** 60gm

Presence: Lesser Antilles, Columbia, Venezuela, and Northern Brazil

Habitat: Forests and woodlands, and cultivation

Characteristics: A plain olive-brown bird on top and a paler brown below. Throat is brown-streaked off-white and the lower belly is white-ish. The bird has a prominent yellow eye-ring.

WHITE-LINED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus rufus*)



The White-lined Tanager
Shot with a Nikon B600 DSLR 35mm-300mm tele-zoom lens
at ISO 560, f/5.6, 1/60, 161.2mm
Location: Cascade Gardens, Trinidad; August 2024

Length: 18.5cm; **Weight:** 33gm

Presence: Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, Brazil to Northern Argentina

Habitat: Semi-open areas and gardens

Characteristics: The contrast is definite in the male which is glossy black, while females are entirely rufous in plumage but somewhat paler below. It has a long tail and a pointed bill.

RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)



The Rusty-Margined Flycatcher
Shot with a Nikon B600 DSLR 35mm-300mm tele-zoom lens
at ISO 400, f/5.6, 1/80, 64.5mm
Location: The Savanna, Trinidad; August 2024

Length: 18cm; **Weight:** 25gm

Presence: Trinidad and Tobago, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela; also eastern Panama

Habitat: Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests and heavily degraded former forest

Characteristics: Medium-sized, kiskadee-like flycatchers that are bright yellow below, with bold black-and-white head pattern. Especially obvious rufous in the wings.

My sojourn lasting a month and a day ended with a short trip to the neighbouring island of Tobago. Comprising an area of 300 square kilometres, Tobago is the smaller of the two Caribbean islands located 35 kilometres (22 miles) northeast of the larger island of Trinidad, which collectively make up the nation of Trinidad and Tobago. It's known for its wide, sandy beaches and bio-diverse tropical rainforest. Framed by mountains, the village-like port capital, Scarborough, is anchored by its central food market.

The short flight lasting all of 20 minutes was operated by Caribbean Airlines and goes back and forth all day long. So, even if you have not booked a seat online, you could reach the airport and get

CARIB GRACKLE (*Quiscalus lugubris*)



The Carib Grackle
Shot with a Nikon B600 DSLR 35mm-300mm tele-zoom lens
at ISO 125, f/5.6, 1/250, 125.4mm
Location: Englishman's Beach Bay, Tobago; August 2024

Length: 25cm; **Weight:** 74gm to 140gm

Presence: The Lesser Antilles, and in the North of South America, east of the Andes, from Colombia, Venezuela, the Guianas and North-Eastern Brazil, and also in Trinidad; this species had been introduced in Tobago in 1905

Habitat: Open areas, cultivated areas with trees, sometimes along the edges of gallery forests

Characteristics: Adult male shows entirely black plumage, its tail is graduated and wedge-shaped. Eyes are bright yellowish-white.

in line for ad hoc seating on the next available flight. The flight cost TT\$71 for a return trip.

Another popular way to travel between the islands is by ferry that gets you from the Trinidad seaport to the Scarborough port in three hours approximately, costing TT\$75 for adult economy and TT\$150 for premium. An advantage is you can load your car onto the ferry (TT\$146 one way) and drive off on the other side; although disadvantage is if the sea is rough, one can get very seasick! We hired a car for the duration of our Tobago stay, a Suzuki Grand Vitara.

Indian nationals or a foreigner to the islands can drive a rented car with the same valid license of their home country for a maximum of 90 days from

the date of arrival. Currency conversion was US\$1 = TT\$6.77 at the time I visited.

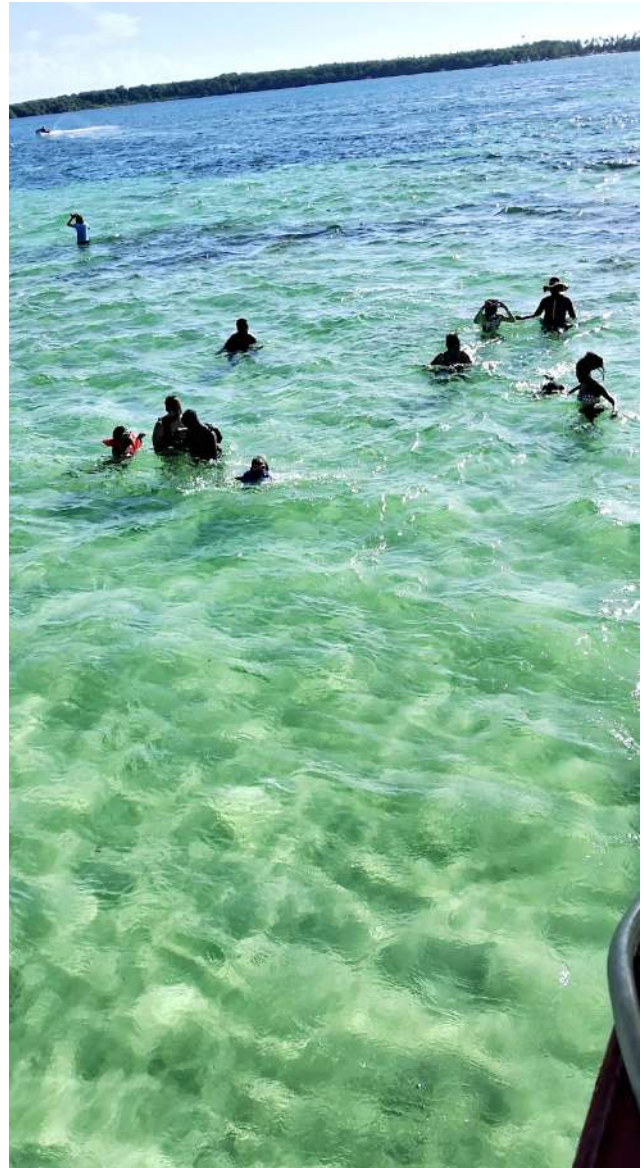
Tobago is a haven for tourists and one can find reasonable B&B accommodation everywhere. Or one can rent a small flat consisting of one or two bedrooms, bath and kitchen. Cost of such a flat (two bedrooms, hall, kitchen) is between TT\$600 to TT\$1000 per night depending on the location and quality. Our accommodation was at Buccoo, near the beach.

The highlight of the Tobago stay was the day excursion on a glass-bottomed boat that took us to the coral gardens and to the very unique Nylon Pool in the middle of the ocean.

Buccoo Coral Reef, is located off the southwestern coast of Tobago. It consists of five reef flats surrounding Bon Accord Lagoon. These coral reefs help protect Tobago's land from eroding and avoiding landslides.

The dominant corals in the Buccoo Reef Complex are the Montastrea species, the thin finger (*Porites divaricata*) corals and the fire corals (*Millepora species*).

It is interesting to note that corals have outlived dinosaurs! Since they grow very slowly, at an average rate of just 2cm per year, some of the corals we see today have taken as long as 50 million years to form. This is why scientists are so concerned when corals die – once they're gone, their populations won't be restored within a human



The secret to long-lasting love
Location: Nylon Pool, Tobago; August 2024



View of the coral garden from the glass-bottomed boat Shot on a Nikon B600 DSLR at ISO 125, f/3.3, 1/60
Location: Buccoo Reef, Tobago; August 2024

lifetime. The glass-bottomed boat took us over the coral reefs and one got to see the various coral species and some tropical fish. It is a popular ecotourism attraction where tourists can snorkel and see the coral reefs and schools of fish without diving equipment.

The boat then took us to another unique location in the middle of the ocean, a natural “swimming pool” would you believe? On the outer reaches of Buccoo Reef sits a natural phenomenon that some have called the Fountain of Youth. Nylon Pool is one of the most intriguing Tobago points of interest and a must-see!

Nylon Pool got its name when Britain’s Princess Margaret visited the area on her honeymoon in 1962. She likened the pool to the transparency of nylon. Locals claim these turquoise waters carry rejuvenating powers to those who swim in them. Locals also claim young couples who kiss in the Nylon Pool will have long-lasting love, making it one of the more romantic things to do in Tobago. Regardless of the validity of the claims of its supernatural powers, the Nylon Pool does offer a

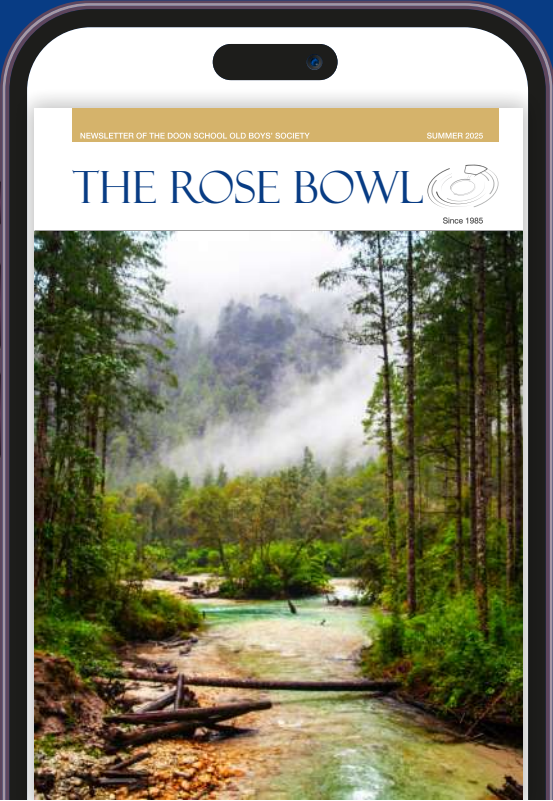
great place to relax and rejuvenate. The sand on the meter-deep seabed is coral sand and it is definitely a refreshing outing. The boat docked at the pool for 30 minutes while we all jumped into the waist-deep water.

And so the sojourn to paradise ended with a last-day visit to one of the most picturesque beaches I have ever seen, at Pigeon Point in Tobago.

If one likes beaches and swimming, water sports and sand, Trinidad and Tobago certainly beckons.

Should anybody wish to get more information about the islands they may consider visiting, I can be contacted by email at anilt384@yahoo.com

Anil Talukdar, a hospitality professional with stops in the Arabian Gulf and East Africa, is now settled in Dehradun working for the Kukreja Institute of Hotel Management as Director. His son, Simon Talukdar (302 K, 2004), is married and works in Trinidad and Tobago, while his daughter, Lara, is married and works in Zurich, Switzerland.



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THE ROSE BOWL

Of Towel Stands and ‘Quadis’

How DoscOs Redefined Football

CC Chengappa 287 K, 2017

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



From L-R: Rahul Das (260 K, 2017), Rudra Srivastava (264 K, 2017), CC Chengappa, and Ashish Pande (284 K, 2017).

Having graduated eight years ago, I find a lot of DoscOs still reminiscing about ‘that game’ and ‘that goal’ which was so often the basis of heated debates in school. But those miniscule points of debate were fueling points for a lifelong passion that continues to be played out in heated evenings on turf pitches in Delhi.

Recently, I was a WhatsApp witness to the Inter-House Old Boys Football Tournament in Delhi which saw the participation of scores of Old Boys. Although I did not participate, the flood of information on social media about the tournament took me back to the days of playing Qaudi Football or Quadrangle Football in school.

Quadi Football is a sport which has managed to transcend House boundaries. An observation during my time in School was that certain Houses and players often developed some special chemistry through habits developed while playing Quadrangle Football. The best example of this during my time in school was Jaipur House, which

constantly churned out some of the best footballers every year. Having played consistently every year against them until SC Form, I noticed that nearly all the Jaipur House Football Teams had developed a distinct playing style centered around one touch football and quick short passes. Though this may be a personal opinion and observation, I feel that along with individual talent and brilliance, some part of their daily Quadi Football activity transformed efficiently into official games on the Main Field and Skinners.

Leaving aside opinions on different football styles, a typical Quadi Football game went about in the following manner (any essential details to the routine are sincerely regretted):

A typical game, usually when there were no sports scheduled for the evening, would involve a few boys taking the initiative of organising a game with their best attempts to distract the whole House. If it was Test Week or Trials, the attempts were welcomed with great gusto. Around 4:30pm, a few

select phrases could be heard around the house quadrangle with “Oi, get that towel stand” and “Come down bro, stop being such a rutt” being the frontrunners. After long-drawn haggling over selection, teams of five to eight players would be formed consisting mostly of A, S, and SC Formers, with a few courageous C and B Formers.

As the game progressed, some nonchalant boys would venture out onto the first floor balcony or sit on the steps on the ground floor to watch the game. During exam season, some would get their books out to “revise” while watching; typically a futile effort.

The only person in the house at the edge of her seat during the game would be the Dame, who was the first line of defense for the potential victims: the plants and windows on the ground floor. Shattered room windows and broken pots were common, but it was one of those moments when even the biggest ‘rutt’ would leave their room to see who got blasted by the Dame for an “uncord” shot. Games were always intense and accompanied by jubilant celebrations of goals, which were hard, owing to the narrow size of the posts and the often wider size of the keeper.

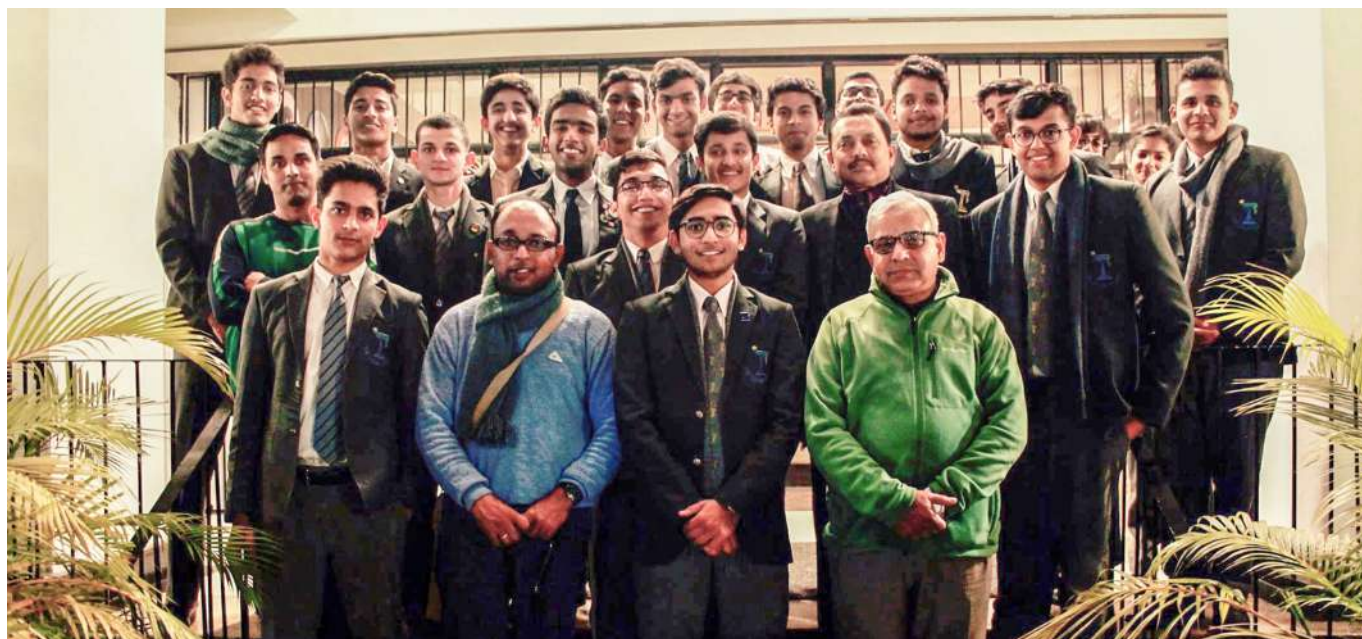
As Toye Time neared, or when senses finally prevailed about the next day’s exam, someone would shout “Golden Goal”, which was the cue for even the heaviest guy on the team to get his act together and secure the bragging rights for the evening. The Golden Goal would be a heavily

contested bout, with the timing and manner in which the final goal was scored often being the subject of debate right up till Toye Time.

When the lights finally came on in the House and the Linen Room was winding down for the day, it was the signal to not just collect our respective undergarments, but also that another day lay before avid footballers in Chandbagh. Some boys would stay back in the Quad and cool down while going through the day’s events while an unfortunate Junior who happened to be passing by the quadrangle would be tasked with putting the towel stands back in their respective places. The stands were sometimes left overnight much to the chagrin of the Dame and the room residents who had no place to hang their towels after showering. It was a routine unlike any other, and came to hold an endearing place in the lives of Doscors across several batches.

Somewhere along the way, many of us unknowingly played in the quadrangle for the final time. There is no photographic evidence to record the goals scored and matches played, but the lifelong passion ingrained will make Doscors keep themselves together by the way of kicking a ball.

CC Chengappa is an Advocate currently working at the Office of the Advocate General, Karnataka. He spends his time between coffee estates in Coorg, Karnataka and courts in Bangalore, Karnataka, where he currently resides.



Kashmir House Batch of 2017

LETTER FROM CHANDBAGH

Baisakhi 2025

Celebrating the Trees and Birds of Chandbagh

Kai Kubo 544 T, 2026

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 an intrepid SC Former investigating the wondrous flora and fauna of the campus.



Kai Kubo

On April 13th, The NEST Society of The Doon School, in collaboration with The Sausage Tree Nature Walks and The Doon Nature Walks, organised an enriching and immersive Tree Walk 2025 within lush, green Chandbagh. A group of 87 naturalists and environmentalists — consisting of interested Dehradun citizens and students of Ecole Globale International Girls' School, Unison World School, Him Jyoti School, and The Doon School — gathered at The Doon School campus for a three-hour-long nature walk to expand their knowledge of trees, birds, and bees. With the spirit of true nemophilists and a burning curiosity to know more, the group commenced their journey.



The spirit of true nemophilists

Kavita Prakash (794 T, 1981), founder of The Sausage Tree Nature Walks, introduced the group to the majestic trees on campus like a Rubber tree, Duabanga, Romantic Bush, and the Lemon-Scented Gum (whose leaves, when crushed, give off a lemony fragrance). As an alumna of The Doon School, Kavita Prakash was familiar with the flora and let the members of the walk delve into the plant growth on campus themselves, elaborating on species like Cliff Date Palm, Burma Ironwood, Araranut, Bunya Pine, the welcoming bamboo groves at the Campus Gate, and the Silver Oak, known for the silvery underside of its leaves. She emphasised the ecological and cultural relevance of each tree, allowing participants to immerse themselves in an experience of discovery. The group even saw a great display of an Oriental Pied Hornbill feeding its mate Badhal fruits in a cavity in the same tree's trunk. Kavita Prakash's presence and expertise brought a distinctive depth to the experience, making it not merely a walk through campus, but a journey through the living, breathing legacy of our environment. During the walk, the Deputy Headmaster of The Doon School, Mr Kamal Ahuja, reminded the group that The Doon School used to be the Imperial Forest Research Institute (IFRI), adding a layer of depth into the arboreal history of the campus. With a calm clarity and infectious passion, Ms Prakash drew the students into the finer details of the nature that we so often overlook.



Buddha's Coconut (*Pterygota alata*) near Guru Lawns. According to *Trees of Delhi: A Field Guide* by Pradip Krishen, it is home to the Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*) which went extinct in Delhi and nearly the whole country (95% loss), but were brought back from the brink by the persevering efforts of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) scientists Dr Vibhu Prakash and his wife, Dr Nikita Prakash, over three long decades.

The trees shared by Ms Prakash included a thoughtfully curated and diverse range of species, each with a unique story:

Giant Bamboo – Clumps on either side of the main

gate; the second-largest bamboo in the world.

Silky Oak – Brush-like flower clusters serving as nectar sources for birds and other species.

Indian Rubber Tree – Known for the aerial roots used in Meghalaya's Living Root Bridges

Lemon-scented Gum – Once Eucalyptus, now classified under *Corymbia*; its citronellal-rich oil acts as a natural mosquito repellent.

Duabanga (Bondorphulla) – A favourite of monkeys; noted for its large flanges at the trunk base.

Gab Tree – A romantic favourite among participants; from the Ebony family with vibrant red new leaves in spring.

Cliff Date Palm – Grows dramatically out of cliff faces with cascading fronds.



Saptarni (*Alstonia scholaris*), included in Landmark Trees of India

Bunya Pine – Evergreen conifer native to Queensland, Australia, reaching up to 50 meters.
Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow – A fragrant shrub with flowers that change color over three days.

Assam Horse Chestnut – Noted for its stunning blossoms.

Burma Ironwood – Recognisable by its unique leaves, boomerang-shaped fruit, and strong heartwood.

Chalta (Elephant Apple) – Widely used in cooking; elephants help disperse its seeds.

Araranut Tree – A Vulnerable IUCN species; admired for its dramatic red-turning foliage.

Buddha's Coconut – Once a nesting site for the now critically endangered Indian Vultures.

Saptaparni – A Landmark Tree of India; its wood was once used for making slates.



Weeping Fig (*Ficus benjamina*) in front of the Physics & IT Block. In botanical nomenclature, *Ficus* represents the genus, while *benjamina* denotes the species. The species name is always written in lowercase letters.

Sanjay Sondhi and Anchal Sondhi, avid nature lovers, conservationists and advocates for wildlife, collaborated to bridge the group's understanding of birds and trees. They connected the perching, nesting, and diet of birds to the barks, growth and structures of trees, covering a balanced framework and interaction between the flora and fauna on campus. The group learnt about certain trees and birds like the Indian Grey Hornbill's role in the dispersal of seeds, the Common Flameback Woodpecker in consuming termites in trunks, and Mynas as an invasive species in the rest of the world. The group also learned about the unique skill of mimicry of calls by the Drongo, and why Babblers are also known as the seven sisters. The Dean of Academics, Mr Anjan Kumar Chaudhary, emphasised the significance of the *Birds of Chandbagh* and The Doon School's pivotal role in raising community awareness about its bird species through tools like the Merlin App. He noted the school's recognition as a hotspot on eBird, an ornithology app by Cornell University.



Duabanga (Bondorphulla) (*Duabanga grandiflora*), on the *bajri* road to the library. A native of Arunachal Pradesh, it is called the Bondorphulla because monkeys descend to drink the sweet nectar from the flowers. However, if all the flowers are eaten there would be no fruit and the tree would not spread. So, the tree shares a symbiotic relationship with red ants which keep the monkeys at bay.



The group listens to one of the expert guides leading the Walk

With the assistance of Dr Brigadier Rawat, a retired army officer who has devoted his life to beekeeping in the pursuit of his passion for nature, the group explored the world a few storeys above ours between the high canopies, learning about bees and hornets alike. Fascinated by their busy lives, the group investigated their secret lives, learning about their routines, jobs and ecological impacts. The unknown process of honey and wax-making was covered in the discussions, truly showing how complex bees really are. Between the concerning statistics showing the importance of bees for the existence of mankind, and the occasional spotting of a hive, the group enjoyed studying species of bees such as the Rock Bee (*Apis dorsata*), known for its large size and distinct behaviour, and conversed about the “Mad Honey” made by the Himalayan Giant Honey Bee (*Apis laboriosa*) from the Rhododendron, commonly known as Gulab Buransh (*Rhododendron arboreum*) flower nectar, an intoxicating kind of honey that can make one dizzy and nauseated. After the refreshing,

enlightening and a slightly tiring experience, the group concluded the session with a hearty breakfast on campus. We finished the session with more knowledge, new interest, and a fresh perspective towards the nature that mankind has overpowered by concrete and modernisation.

“After attending this session, it dawned on me that the ecosystem created in our school is vast and beautiful. The little details that I used to dismiss carelessly now seem magnificent. Whether it be the leaves of a Bottlebrush tree or a dove’s nest, every phenomenon in the natural world has an underlying purpose and meaning. This Nature walk was truly enlightening and every bit worth attending!” — Manit Jain (55 T, 2028).

Kai Kubo, originally from Japan, is an SC Form student at The Doon School. He serves as the School Social Service Secretary and Boy-in-Charge of the NEST Society, leading initiatives in both community outreach and scientific engagement.



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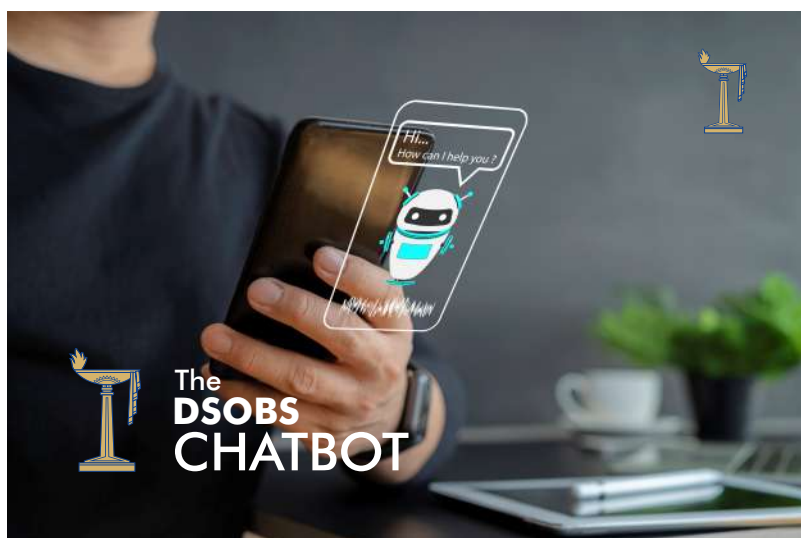
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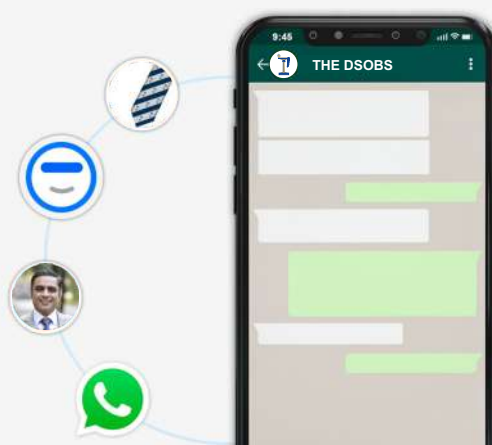
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Tributes



Indresh Narain (288 K, 1961)

Indresh Narain (288 K, 1961)

They Don't Make Them Like This Anymore

Pallavi Narain

The loss of a parent and a much loved husband brings with it an unreality. A siren-like, high pitched whining in the ears, and then silence. The world continues to move but, in actuality, it stops spinning. It is deafening. And incredibly lonely.

I'd like to think my father, Indresh Narain, and his unbridled laughter are etched in memory and immortalised through the school he loved so much. The corridors where he walked, the trees he climbed, the Rose Bowl he sat in, giggling with his friends, the unfettered child he was and then the absolute gentleman he became.

It is remarkable what boarding school gave him.

Dad was enrolled in Welham Boys' School at the age of 6. So tiny, he didn't even understand what a month was. The days our grandmother would go to see him were marked carefully on a calendar he would stick onto his desk. We would wonder how someone could possibly enjoy being away from home when they were so little but Dad told us, "They kept us so busy, we didn't have time to miss home." He remembered his teachers so lovingly and the guard at the gate, who kept a watchful eye on the little boys playing in the schoolyard. What a beautiful



Stepping onto the hallowed Doon *bajri*

At the grand age of 9, having graduated from Welham Boys' School, he stepped onto the hallowed Doon *bajri*, ready to conquer the world.

It's interesting how that generation functions. Long after he and his friends completed school in 1961, our father having attained the throne of Music and Diving Captain, they all kept in close touch with each other. For years we were only privy to this wonderful world of boarding school and friends who chuckled at charmingly-worded jokes and had such a marvellous turn of phrase to tease each other, until my sister and I were sent to Welham

Girls' School, and then we were part of this special bond. "If you are lucky, you'll have sons, but if you're really lucky, you'll also have daughters," was our father's refrain and also our first introduction to feminism. Since our mother is not a product of boarding school, she would sometimes opt to un-accompany him for school dinners but he just wouldn't accept it. I have never met anyone so determined to share every single area of his life with his spouse.

The years went by and my sister got married and eventually pregnant with her first born, an application was filled in excitedly for Doon. Since he is a British born *desi*, the poor chap was relegated to Eton College, the Doon of the West. Then arrived a granddaughter, the glue who bound us all even tighter because she completed the circle with an application to Welham Girls. Dad had remarkable rules of discipline for everyone, but his grandchildren had his heart in their hands.

Dialling back to our own childhoods – they were flooded with stories of **Arjun Singh (223 K, 1961)**, **Solil Chatterjee (330 K, 1961)**, **Sumantra Nag (40 K, 1961)**, **Pradeep 'PK' Gupta (219 K, 1961)**, **Indrave Singh Mann (65 T, 1961)**, **Bhartendra Baswan (180 H, 1961)**, and **Lalit Mathur (319 K, 1961)** (Bassy and Gassy respectively), **Mahendra 'Monty' Pratap Singh (270 T, 1957)**, **Pradip Bhatia (144 K, 1961)**, known to all as Fatty, **Pavan Hari (258 K, 1961)**, **Lalji Singh, Madhukar Shah (259 K, 1961)**, whom Dad lovingly called Raja Saab and last, but not least, **Vikram 'Vicky' Narain (197 K, 1960)**, with whom notoriety was abound.

Over the years as Dad became more invested in giving back to the community he loved, he served for many years on the Board of Welham Girls (naturally, because girls are first) and then was invited to serve on the Board

of his alma mater. Mum and I would roll our eyes good naturedly when a call came in from **Sumanjit Chaudhry (7 J, 1963)**, **Khalid Ali Baig (86 H, 1961)**, **Rahul Bhagat (865 J, 1982)**, Anjum Dhandania, or Anupama Joshi because we knew he would be happily settling in for a chat that could range anywhere between 30 minutes to three hours and during that time, since I train students to sit the Doon and Welham exams, I would be unceremoniously tossed out of the room lest there be a conflict of interest. As if.

Writing a tribute to a loving father, a devoted husband and someone, who had the gift and remarkable ability to make everyone feel special, has been one of the toughest things to do since it comes with the attendant misery of the finality of his not being here in the form we want.

I'd like to imagine my father is in the sunshine and rain, in laughter and in dreams, in the finest malts, and beautifully prepared food. He is a man who taught his daughters to be financially independent, who embraced his wife's parents as his own, who made no distinction between his nieces and nephews and children, which is why they featured front and centre in the announcement of his last rites.

I could list our father's myriad achievements through his 40 years at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) but what comes to mind the most is the culture he created. I'd like to think what he really left behind is a legacy of love. "The biggest gift you can give someone," he used to say, "is your time."

Our tribute is not only for the man whose loss is felt around the world, but also a tribute to the boys, who will turn into men and hopefully immortalise the adage, "they don't make them like this anymore."



Nalini Narain, Pallavi Narain, Indresh Narain, and Yamini Narain Mathur

Ravindra 'Chicken' Singh Sikand (265 T, 1971)

Chicky

Reena Varma Mithal



Ravindra 'Chicken' Singh Sikand

I'll stand before the Lord of Song,
With nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah...
He has no fear of what could go wrong,
An innate understanding of the life beyond, Hallelujah.

It was a time that feels unreal today,
The wicked smile of the handsome DJ,
The Cellar, rocking to his musical choices,

His fans singing along in their disparate voices.

Give us a glimpse of your magical nights...
The sounds, the glamour, the smells, the sights,
But he is a purist, and can't be distracted,
His persona is one that cannot be enacted.

The gradual transformation to a family man,
A road not taken easily, I'll say what I can!
The lure of our gentle Meera was irresistible,
With questions persisting, his pursuit was inimitable.

Now he must be compelled to lead a "normal" life,
For he has two boys and of course a wife!
But the bounds of convention are not for him,
The exploration of what this means must now begin.

He allows his love and compassion to come to the fore,
The single-minded DJ from the days of yore,
An open home and heart, welcoming one and all,
Amidst the daily pressures, he knows to stand tall.

Thankfully, the spirit and laughter cannot be
suppressed,
Even when the challenges that life brings make him feel
oppressed,
He continues to push forward despite Dylan's changing
times,
Finding joy in the moment, the ridiculous and sublime.

Rest in peace Chicky, we know you're not going
anywhere,
You are with us in this life, we have so much to share,
You'll guide us and give us the strength of your
affection,
Your eternal presence will always inspire love and
reflection.

With all my love Meeru...

Ajai Banerji (397 H, 1972)

Profound Intellect, Sharp Wit... and Slapstick Humour

Shiv Kunal 'Fauji' Verma 182 H, 1976



Ajai Banerji (397 H, 1972)

The passing of Ajai Banerji came as a double whammy. Not only was he in my House and a respected S Former when I joined The Doon School in 1972, but his younger brother, **Sanjai 'Chut Banjo' Banerji (387 H, 1976)**, was my batch and we were in the same room as well. **Amitav Ghosh (246 H, 1972)** was the House Captain, and we had quite a colourful lot of Prefects that included **Ratish Deo Singh (247 H, 1972)** Dinshaw **'Danny' Mody (398 H, 1972)**.

Ajai was among the less flamboyant, by nature he seemed a lot more reticent. However, despite his heldback nature, I managed to get a stinging slap from him, for having corrupted his younger brother!

It used to be brutally cold in the morning and the ridiculous regulation sweaters that we wore over singlets did nothing to keep us warm. A month into School, I decided, "What the heck" and instead of my PT

gear, started changing into my School Clothes. Chut Banjo asked if I was "Excused PT" and I said no, but was going to brazen it out. The lure of warm stockings pulled Chut Banjo into the world that was inhabited by shamblers, crooks, and other devious characters, so we two strode out confidently to explore The Doon School's darker side.

"Oye... you two!" bellowed **Mr Darshan 'Darru' Singh**, our PT Master, who then wrote "182 & 387" on his pad and, sure enough, three hours later our numbers were announced by the Headmaster, **Col Eric Simeon** during Assembly. "Please report to Mr Darshan Singh," was the grim message. By then, I was beginning to master the art of "Who sir? Me sir? No sir?" and as Darru glared at me, I stuck to my guns and said I was, indeed, "Excused." Poor Banjo, who had not quite contemplated organised crime as a lifestyle, meekly looked at his shoes and admitted he was "Not Excused." Two hours later, Chut Banjo had a Yellow Card, which effectively becomes a black mark on one's career and is hard to shake off, especially if all your immediate batch are the distinguished, goody-goody types!

Whatever dreams Ajai had for Sanjai had gone up in smoke, so he caught hold of me and with the humongous hand of a sixteen-year old gave my eleven-year old cheek a tight *jhaap* which is usually accompanied by a blue flash and tears! However, Ajai was a gentleman to the core, and having done his brotherly duty, he proceeded to treat me quite decently.

Sanjai and I remained in close touch after School, and it filled me with pride when Ajai won the BBC's Mastermind crown. "He's my House," I'd say with unconcealed pride, for a genius amidst the sea of grey and blue, though not uncommon, was still a rarity. Later, when he was teaching at The Doon School, I was shooting *Making of a Warrior* at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), and we would sit around in Chandbagh and talk of the various Banerji brothers and nephews. I last met him three years ago at the Jaipur Literature Festival where he made it a point to attend the launch of my book, *Life Of An Industani: Six Degrees Of Separation*.

Ajai was the founder of The DSOBS and a teacher at

School. In addition to Doon, he studied at IIT Kanpur, IIM Ahmedabad, and Stanford University.

After teaching at Doon until 2004, he became an independent financial researcher with a keen interest in transportation safety. As a passionate railway enthusiast, he authored several books on Indian railways and was a well-known member of the Rail Enthusiasts' Society. His deep interest in the world of cricket was also well known to us during, and after his time at School.

Ajai's Dosco connections ran deep. In addition to Sanjai, he was an older brother to **Udai Banerji (72 H, 1982)**, father to **Ranjai Banerji (282 H, 2004)**, and an uncle to **Sujai Banerji (176 H, 2009)**.

Ajai was a walking encyclopaedia with a bent towards

statistics. I would often glean little bits of information on various subjects, ranging from cricket to the railways to the army. For those of us who had the good fortune of knowing him, he was a sincere human being, and in the annals of The Doon School, he will leave his mark as the Mastermind who topped the BBC charts, which was no mean feat!

No words can fully capture his achievements or the impact he has left on the world. Personally, I will remember him for his profound intellect, sharp wit, and slapstick humour – a privilege I was fortunate to experience in his company.

He is survived by his wife Reena, son Ranjai, and daughter-in-law Anusua, who reside in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Rest in peace Ajai, but you will be missed.

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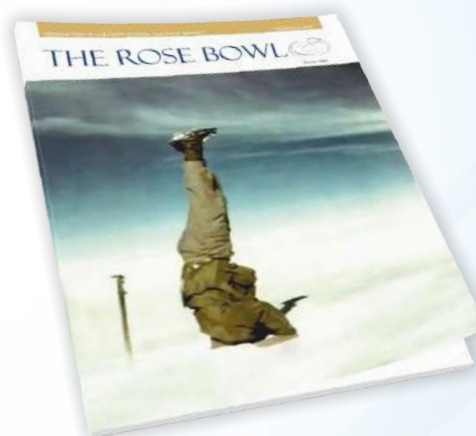
In 2023, The DSOBS mailed out 3,700 copies of the Founder's edition of *The Rose Bowl*. This was a special issue, commemorating the life of the legendary Mr Gurdial 'Guru' Singh (GU).

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.

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In Memoriam



Mohd Afzal Khan (17 J, 1944) and Col (Retd) Mohd Zafar Khan (8 J, 1946)

With regret, we inform you of the passing of **Mohd Afzal Khan (17 J, 1944)**, brother of Col (Retd) Mohd Zafar Khan (8 J, 1946), on June 8th. The two brothers were consecutive School Captains, a rare feat in School history. Our heartfelt condolences to Zafar and all members of the family.



With grief, we inform you of the passing of **Yashvant Narayan Vinchurkar (211 J, 1947)** on November 14th 2024. Our sincerest condolences to all members of his family and loved ones.



With deep regret and profound grief, we inform you of the passing of **Vijai Kapur (289 J, 1948)** on April 6th. Vijai Kapur was the President of The DSOBS from 1973 to 1975. Our deepest condolences to all members of the family and the fraternity at large.



With grief, we inform you of the passing of **Samarjit Singh Malik (58 K, 1951)** on May 29th. Our sincerest condolences to all members of the family and his loved ones.



It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of **Air Cmdre (Retd) Pritam 'Pat' Singh (229 J, 1955)**, on June 23rd. Our heartfelt condolences to all members of the family, his batchmates, his former armed forces colleagues, and all of his loved ones.



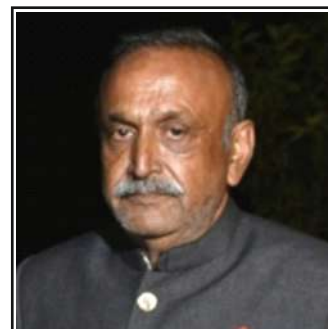
With deep regret, we inform you of the passing of **Dalraj Singh Brar (49 K, 1964)**, father of Gurbrinder S Brar (577 K, 1988), on June 30th. Our heartfelt condolences to Gurbrinder and all members of the family.



It is with profound grief that we inform you of the passing of **Madhur Bajaj (23 H, 1968)** on April 11th. Our sincerest condolences to his whole family and loved ones.



With profound grief, we inform you of the passing of **Praveen Singh (200 K, 1971)**, father of Vikram Singh (339 K, 2005) and Arjun Singh (532 K, 2007), and brother of Madhu Johri (235 H, 1967), on May 25th. Our heartfelt condolences to Madhu, Vikram, Arjun, and all members of the family.



With profound grief, we inform you of the passing of **Dharmendra Singh (571 H, 1980)**, father of Udayan Singh (283 H, 2004) and Shailendra Singh (112 H, 2008), and brother of Padmendra Singh (127 H, 1973), on May 28th. Our sincerest condolences to Udayan, Shailendra, Padmendra, and all of the loved ones he leaves behind.



With deep regret, we inform you of the passing of **Ravinder Kumar (196 J, 1969)**, father of Siddharth Kumar (668 J, 1995), on June 3rd. Our heartfelt condolences to Siddharth and all members of the family.



It is with deep regret that we inform you of the passing of **Ravindra Sikand (265 T, 1971)**, father of Nikhil Sikand (363 T, 1999) and Udith Sikand (325 T, 2004), on April 14th. Our deepest condolences to Nikhil, Udith, and all members of the family.



With deep regret, we inform you of the passing of **Dhruv K Gera (630 J, 1988)** on March 10th. Our heartfelt condolences to his loved ones.



It is with our deep regret that we inform you of the sudden and tragic passing of **Sunjay Kapur (147 H, 1990)** on June 12th. He was a Member of the Board of Governors of the IPSS. Our heartfelt condolences to all members of the family and the entire Dosco fraternity.



It is with the deepest of grief that we inform you of the passing of one of the youngest members of the Society, **Arya Das (222 J, 2025)**, daughter of Mr Samik Das (SKD), Master at The Doon School, on July 17th. An exceptional student and a gentle soul, Arya had recently topped the IB batch of the graduating Class of 2025. Our heartfelt condolences to Mr Das and all members of the family. The entire Doon School community has been shaken by this news and holds all of Arya's loved ones in its thoughts.





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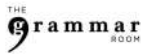


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THE ROSE BOWL | Summer 2025 | VOL. XLI No. 3

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