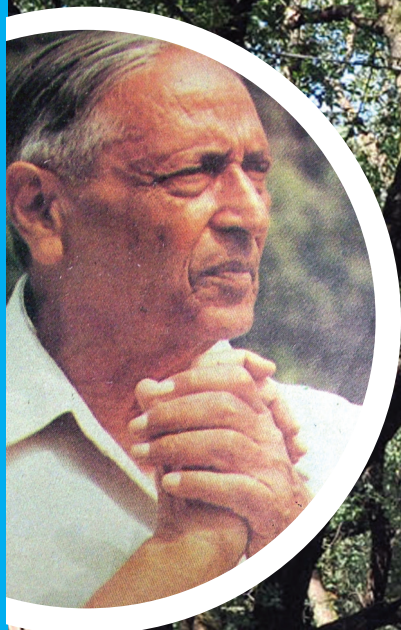


Vol VI, Issue-I (Bi-Annual) | March 2012

The Rimcollian

Consistently published by the Boys' Association of Rashtriya Siksha Kendra, Bangalore



Good Bye
GEN VIRU SIR

Keeping in
Touch



A man difficult to emulate

About a decade ago, I recall Lt Gen (retd) MM Lakhera, presently Governor Mizoram, telling me at a ROBA executive meeting that it was time that we found an address to hold our meetings. Till recent past, the conference hall of Raghuraj Singh Junior Modern School on Humayun Road in the heart of the national Capital, remained the meeting place of Rimcollian Old Boys Association and the associated trust. "Narang, RIM College ki file layo," General Virendra Singh would tell his PA in baritone voice as soon as he had a Rimcollian in his office.

He loved sharing the letters he would write about his alma mater and the ones he would receive concerning RIMC. They would all be neatly placed in his file. I came in contact with him in while attending the annual reunion at the school in 1995. "What is a Rimcollian doing in a newspaper office? Biki you must meet this young man," he told his buddy Bikram Singh, who for long was associated with the management of The Statesman. A day or two after returning from RIMC, I got an early morning call from the General. "I would wait for you in my office at 3 pm," the General never waited for an answer.

The meeting was to prove a session in baptism. The one hour which I spent with the General on that early summer afternoon has ensured a long association with the school. "Institutions are built by the contribution made by people in important position. You as a journalist will have an important role to play for the school. Never under-estimate yourself," the Gen Viru had said inculcating that sense of self-assurance in me, then a struggling pen-pusher.

I consider myself lucky that I had the

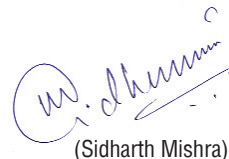
opportunity to work with him during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of both the Modern School and the Rashtriya Indian Military College. While Modern School was his family enterprise, his service to RIMC was selfless and emanated out of his love for the alma mater.

If someone was to ask me what was General Viru's biggest contribution to the school? My answer would be that he gave the financial sinews to the old boys association. He used his personal network to raise huge funds sometimes even at the cost of the Modern school. "There are enough people to shell out for Modern School, we should not miss out on the opportunity to raise some monies for RIM College," he would tell this incorrigible reporter, who would not resist asking him difficult questions.

Rimcollians would do well to check the souvenir ROBA brought out during Platinum Jubilee. It would tell the story of this man's contribution to our coffers. He did not even hesitate in making a request to Mother Teresa for a donation. He neither came back with an empty-hand; he made her sign a personal note of blessings for the school and its students.

That was General Viru. There shall not be another one like him and the challenge is to emulate him.

Viva Rimcollians
Viva RIMC,


(Sidharth Mishra)

26 Feb 2012



Chander's Note

This edition of the Rimcollian focuses on Pakistan, as our school has common history with the nation. Indo - Pak relations are focused at the individual level in this edition. It will not be out of place to mention what one has always felt "we have excellent personal to personal relations at the individual level, but as a nation cannot sort out things". As long as Pakistan's foreign policy is influenced by the Army and strategic depth is the "raison d'etre existence" of the Pakistan military psyche the situation is likely to remain at best Status Quo. Abbottabad is to Pakistan what Dehra Dun is to India therefore, the paths that our nations are following may be crisscrossed but geographically we are neighbours a hard truth therefore, it is imperative we keep our personal bonds going.

The aim of The Rimcollian is also to get our alumni thinking and act as a catalyst of change. Living in a knowledge based society and being one of the premier schools of the nation we have only kept the flag flying in defence services, whereas, now there is a need to make our presence in other fields as well. One of the aims therefore, of this magazine is to make it an intellectually stimulating experience for all please does contribute accordingly.

Do kindly send details with photographs and names of all those who attend various meets. Now that the net is a little inactive the best way to connect may well be the magazine. In 2011 we brought out the magazine twice hope you all enjoyed reading the same as much as the mid night oil we burnt?

Brigadier (retd) CS Thapa
Pratap (64-69)



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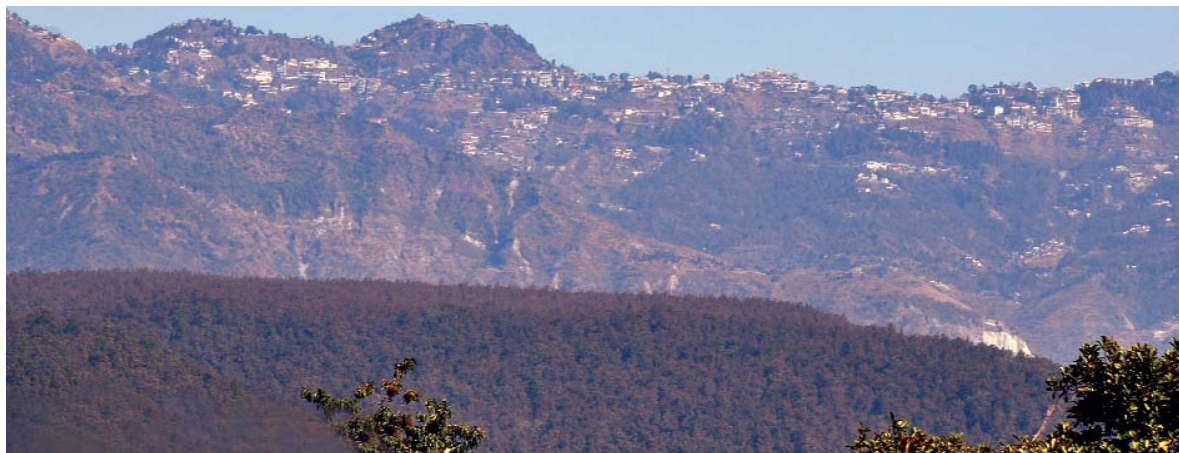
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contents

The General with
 a large heart **2-4**

OBITUARIES **5-6**



RIMC?? What's that?	7-10
It Happened in 1997!!	11-12
Keeping in Touch	13
Hurt that Abbottabad operation has caused	14-15
The First Physicist	16
RIMC - The fair view	17-18
The School Tie	19
Republic Day Honours	20
Jai Jawan Jai Kisaan	21-23

The General with a large heart

It's difficult to write an ode to Major General Virendra Singh - the man with so many facets. In 1995 I had interviewed General Viru for The Pioneer. This interview probably would tell the story of the man our fraternity is going to miss. — Sidharth Mishra

The angelic innocence of children motivates him. The 'General Saab' is the darling of Delhi Cheshire home, where both the young and the old rush to him. But the winner of the Rajiv Gandhi award for excellence does not seem to be easily moved when it comes to certain things.

"I do not like talking about myself," says Maj Gen Virendra Singh, with a sonorous voice. But this not appeal, and I persist. Finally, after a lot of persuasion, he gives in. the meeting is fixed for a Sunday afternoon. I am told the General is a very punctual man, so I arrive 20 minutes ahead of schedule.

A five minute wait and the General arrives "It's good that you value time," booms Singh's voice, like many of those heavy guns of the different armoured brigades he commanded with distinction.

"Money is the most powerful weapon today-whatever little I could do was possible because I was born in a rich family. If I were to earn my livelihood, I dare say, I would not have been half successful," this is how the founder of the Cheshire Home movement in India, Father of the NCC (the National Cadet Corps), President, Board of Trustees of Modern Schools, pioneer of the war widows' rehabilitation movement, sports enthusiast, successful businessman and a grandfather sums up his life's achievement.

Maj Gen Virendra Singh was born in the famous Kashmere Gate (old Delhi) family of Rai Bahadur Sultan Singh, his grand father had once the richest banker in North India. Sultan Singh hated the theory of the martial and non- martial



Gen Virendra Singh at Cheshire Home

Courtesy: Pioneer



Viru and Biki, the great buddies

races propounded by Commander-in-Chief Lord Roberts, and desired that Virendra (Viru for his friends) join the army. When Viru went for an interview to join the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College at Dehra Dun in 1928, Field Marshal Birdhood told him: "You Jains cannot even kill ants; how will you become a soldier?"

Birdhood was wrong. Singh did become a soldier. After being commissioned in the 16th cavalry in 1937, he rose to become the director of NCC. He was recalled from retirement in 1962 by Pandit Nehru and asked to formulate a scheme for compulsory military training of every able-bodied college student.

"I had sought pre mature retirement in 1961 to work for the Modern School, a commitment I had made to my father, Lala Raghuvir Singh, the founder of the school. "However when the nation require my services, I donned the olive-green uniform again," says Singh.

Modern School is celebrating its platinum jubilee this month; and Singh has been associated with the management of the school for the past 36 years now. "I have fulfilled the commitment I had made to my father," says the General.

The National Cadet Corps, which was founded in 1943, had remained in the embryonic stage until the Chinese Debacle of 1962. "Pandit Nehru had the dream of building a youth movement inspired by the values of patriotism and heroism." The General worked hard to turn Nehru's dream into reality. During his stewardship, the NCC expanded to include 2,000 military officers, 10,000 Junior and Non-Commissioned Officers, 8000 College and 6000 school teachers as part time officers, and over three million cadets.

"But wars are not fought everyday; youth had to be given an opening to channelise their energy;" thus social service was introduced in the NCC.

In 1963, the General on call of Dr Rajendra Prasad, led a team of 30,000 cadets to Supaul in Saharsa district of Bihar and helped the government build a bandh over the perennially flooded Kosi river. "Having given a shape to Panditji's



Gopal Bewoor, Nawab Zafar Alam, Viru and Nityanand Khanna at a reunion

Courtesy: Allied

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dream, I decided to take leave and go back to Modern School."

Singh had his second retirement from the army in 1966 but soon realized that he needed to work to keep himself "occupied". He "dabbled in business and that too fairly successfully." From becoming a major partner in Hindustan Thompson Association (HTA) to promoting the diamond trade in India, Singh left his mark wherever he worked.

"My father had told me that I was lucky that I was well endowed but that did not mean that I should forget the less fortunate." The visit to Japan with British occupation forces in 1945 and sight of so much misery all round, moved him considerably.

"When Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, the person to drop the atom bombs, visited India in 1954, I invited him to address the officers of the armoured brigade I was commanding in Babina." Since then he began a fruitful association in the service of humanity. Under his leadership, the Cheshire Home movement in India has come of age, with 29 such homes being run successfully in the country today.

"Working simultaneously at the Cheshire Home and modern school has given me the perception of the worst and the best the human beings can go through."

He was greatly influenced by Gandhi early in life. "The Mahatma stayed with us during his fast in 1924. His simplicity and concern for humanity was overpowering. He told us to be concerned about the poor and the weak and never go ahead in life with a half hearted approach."



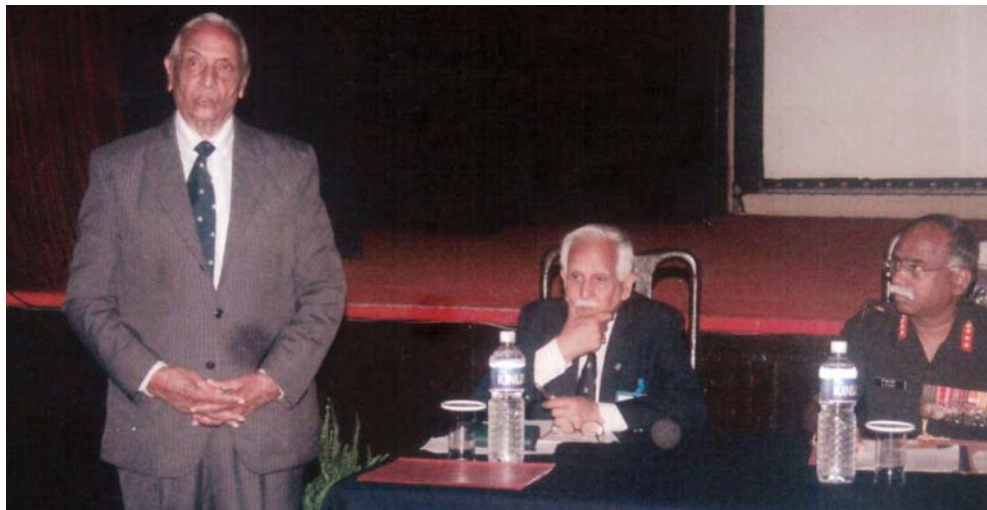
Cutey Sabharwal, Samir Sinha and Viru in Ante-Room

"I feel sad at the general degeneration all around. Money as power is being abused. The other day I had to plead with the Lieutenant- Governor to get my driving license; I was not ready to bribe the corrupt men at the transport authority."

What keeps you going? Promise the little children hold, the fruitful association I had with some great persons in the past and, of course, the pleasure of playing golf, three times a week.

"The leaders of yesteryear were charged with a sense of patriotism and basic honesty. Panditji was a visionary; Indiraji had the ability to bring out the best from everyone. People like YB Chavan, C D Deshmukh and H M Patel were singularly devoted to their jobs and had the interest of the country uppermost in their minds. They motivated lesser mortals like me to rise to their expectation. They set examples and we followed."

His two year old grand daughter too has given him a new lease of life. "In the evening of my life, when I go to bed everyday, I have the desire to rise early the next day and spend some time with the children of the Cheshire Home and the Modern school. I visit my alma mater in Dehradun every year to meet the chirring young boys there, who



General Viru addressing ROBA AGM at school in March 2007. This was his last visit for a reunion

"I FEEL SAD AT THE GENERAL DEGENERATION ALL AROUND. MONEY AS POWER IS BEING ABUSED. THE OTHER DAY I HAD TO PLEAD WITH THE LIEUTENANT- GOVERNOR TO GET MY DRIVING LICENSE; I WAS NOT READY TO BRIBE THE CORRUPT MEN AT THE TRANSPORT

make me feel sprightly.

How do you feel after receiving the Rajiv Gandhi award for excellence? "Well, the young leader held great promise, it's a pity he died so young. We need more men like him. I feel happy; I am a contended man."

It's evening, and the General leaves his room to mingle with the residents of the Cheshire Home, who have come out in the garden. "People come to you because they have faith in you. I keep striving to keep their faith intact. This is my worship and this home my temple."

OBITUARIES

Major General Virendra Singh

I am deeply saddened to inform you of the sad demise of our beloved Major General Virendra Singh a doyen personality. He was not in good health for some time and passed away peacefully on Friday, 07 October 2011, in the morning around 08.20 AM. His mortal remains were cremated at Nigambodh Ghat later during the day. He was 94 years old. General Virendra Singh was a perfect gentleman with a very big large heart and a magnanimous personality. After partition in 1947, he took over command of 16th Light Cavalry and was responsible for the change over from the old class composition to a completely new South Indian Class (SIC) composition. The conversion was carried out successfully. He was a man of many personalities with a vast network of contacts. He raised National Cadet Corps, a vibrant youth organization covering school and college going students all over India, to prepare them for a career in the armed forces.

The General was a philanthropist and gave back a lot to society. He and his family took pride in establishing the famous Modern School & its many branches in Delhi. As Chairman of Cheshire Homes (India), he set up many old age homes for disabled senior citizens & children in collaboration with Cheshire Homes, U K. During his routine daily life he always found time for his many public and

Satish,

Thank you for a good write up on Gen Viru. I would request you and Col Handa to have an obituary published in the Post Horn Gallop and the Rimcollian magazine with some of our views. Gen Virendra Singh was a grand example of a big-hearted philanthropist and a military leader with remarkable organizational capability. He had an elephantine memory for names, faces and individual problems of officers, soldiers and sundry people and acquaintances, including all those who belonged to his Alma Mater RIMC, his Regiments the 16 Light Cavalry and the 45 Cavalry, and The Modern School.

He helped all with thorough efficiency, if necessary persistently cajoling those in power to do whatever he demanded for those he wished to help. All had to lend their efforts to achieve Gen Viru's desires as all had themselves received the Gen's help. He was a very successful fund-collector for his charity organizations, the Cheshire Homes and the World Memorial Fund, both raised in India together with his great friend (from the Korean War) Group Captain Lord Leonard Cheshire, VC, DSO & Bar, DFC.

He will be fondly remembered by all who knew him and those he helped with their problems. We all need to celebrate his long, successful life and his good deeds, while we mourn the passing of a thorough gentleman and a good friend. I returned from a trip to South America late last night and was able to visit his home and convey condolences to the family; and attend the funeral with them. Unfortunately I will not be able to be present at the prayer meeting as I have to leave for Chennai on 11 Oct for 4 days. I request my condolences be again conveyed to the family and my absence explained.

Regards

GEN VN SHARMA

social obligations to society.

Till the end, General Virendra Singh remained dedicated to 16th Light Cavalry, the unit he commanded immediately after partition in 1947. He donated generously to the regiment for the welfare of jawans and their families. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. He is survived by his

daughter in law, Meera Pradeep Singh who can be contacted on +91-98-111-17310.

MAJOR SATISH KHANNA

(16th Light Cavalry Regimental
Officers Association)

33, Prithvi Raj Road (Suite # 6-B)
New Delhi - 110 011 (India)

Major General Virendra Singh touched many hearts. While he contributed to grooming the able bodied and well endowed at RIMC and Modern School, his contribution in rehabilitating the differently able by setting-up the Cheshire Home (India)



K Vignesh Kalaichelvan

My brother K Vignesh Kalaichelvan, Shivajian, while running practice cross-country (3rd term) in NDA suddenly had a cardiac arrest in the evening around 5.30 PM, on 6th Jan 12. He was evacuated to the hospital, and put on life support machine but they could not revive his heart. He left for his heavenly abode on 7th Jan early morning around 0430 AM. According to my mother's wish, as my brother always wanted to be an air force officer, we called our close relatives to NDA. As per my brothers wish since he always wanted my relatives to come for his POP, the last were performed at NDA on 8th Jan 2012 instead of our hometown. Few Rimcollians had also attended the same. My parents and I went to the squadron to see his room and talk with his course mates'. While searching his room, I found a new diary of 2012 in which he had written about the daily events. In his diary he had written that "..... my stamina is not up to the mark and I should do better the next day.....I should be a good example to my Rimcollian juniors and make everyone proud....." Even on the final day before he fell he was just mumbling "only 1 km is left and I should not give up.". He was just so determined to make everyone proud. Being a Rimcollian myself and a brother to him, I am yet to revive from the shock.

VINOTH VANYA
MIG 164,5th Main Road
TNHB Nolambur
Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600037
Phone:9453360729



Col Rao Ram Singh

It is with profound grief we inform the passing away of one of our Senior Rimcollian, Col Rao Ram Singh, 1937-43, Kitcheners, (former Union Minister) on 30 Jan 2012 at Rewari (Haryana). The last rites were performed on 31 Jan 12 (Tuesday) at Rewari. Col Ram Singh was an ardent Rimcollian and was a

diehard paratrooper who commanded 2 PARA in 1965 war, he raised HAWS and after retirement was not only Speaker of Haryana Legislative Assembly but also a Union Minister.

NOK address: **SMT SHARDA YADAV**,
Kanina House, Rewari (Haryana),
Mob:09416214008,
09810022734. -
Honorary Secretary



Sahibzada Alamzeb

With great sorrow I forward an email just received from Naseem Sahibzada the daughter of Sahibzada Alamzeb. He was 97 and the senior most Rimcollian till he passed away on January 5. In 2007 when 92 he wished to see his alma mater which he left nearly 75 years before - for one last time. His wish came true when he visited RIMC as part of the Catchpole Centenary Celebrations along with his two daughters Naseem who lives in the USA and Dr. Gulshan Sahibzada under whose loving care he was, all along till the last days at their ancestral home near Abbottabad. -

CDR AP BHATTACHARYA



President's Cavalcade at School on March 13, 1997

RIMC?? What's that?

Mayank Kanungo

12 Mar 1997 was a bizarre sight in school. The fervor of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations was at its peak as the erstwhile Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College was celebrating its 75 years of glorious existence. Hundreds of Rimcollians, not thousands, swarmed the school. The villain in the piece for the old boys strength in hundreds being the school tradition that has maintained its uptight tradition of selecting just one boy from each state and keeping the overall school strength to a dismal 250, for the last 75. As the old boys swarmed all over the school campus for the annual reunion it was a delightful sight for cadets like us, youthful and impressionable in their teens, to see men of all ages, accompanied by their families shouting and hugging each other like school kids. Some were meeting each other after a gap of 50 years. We could imagine our own future, just watching them.

I HAPPENED TO BE IN THE RECEPTION TEAM DETAILED TO RECEIVE THE OLD BOYS AND MAKE THEM AT HOME. THE ENTIRE SCHOOL HAD BEEN INTO A SPIN SINCE A FEW DAYS, THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA WAS TO ARRIVE THE NEXT DAY, ON 13TH AND SO MANY EVENTS WERE PLANNED

I happened to be in the reception team detailed to receive the old boys and make them at home. The entire school had been into a spin since a few days, the President of India was to arrive the next day, on 13th and so many events were planned for him. Rehearsals, dress rehearsals and final dress rehearsals! It was all about that. We

were quietly sitting in our reception

cell attending to the Old boys when a special bus (it looked like one) with a load of oldies arrived. They looked the usual oldies like the ones we always received every year. I mean you could hardly make out any difference, except, they were different. As they started disembarking, an old man from the bus recognized another old man standing with us. They didn't shout or say anything nostalgic; they just slowly moved towards each other and hugged tearfully. The two men had once served the Indian Army, than the British Indian Army, but had then been separated by the partition. That bearded Hawk nosed man from the bus was named Naseerullah Babar, I still remember him. That emotional moment announced the arrival of the Pakistani Rimcollians! There was a lot of chitter chatter thereafter. The most amazing part was, even after so many years, these people used the same terminologies in their stories, as we did' rounds' 'PT kit' 'Kit room' 'legs up hands down' 'rolling across central lawn,' 'by Jove' and even the word 'Marrower'. That was hilarious.



The College office

The school had not changed after all in all these years!

I was fortunate to be a liaison cadet (if that is what you call it) to Gen Sahibzada Yakub Khan, who, among many key appointments was also the longest serving Foreign Minister of Pakistan. His wife Tuba.., if I remember the name correctly wore a splendid and immaculate silk saree with the ease, grace and panache of a royalty. "Oh I love sarees" she chirped looking at my bewildered face, (I presumed they didn't wear sarees in Pakistan) "I lived in Bombay before the partition and we used to wear sarees all the time". Gen Yakub recounted his good old days in school. We then met up with some other Pakistanis who narrated the harrowing days during the partition when it was all as usual at the school till the day; many of the cadets whose parents had opted for Pakistan were quietly huddled into a truck and were escorted to Lahore by the School administration. Some even dropped out of the truck mid way to return to the school. They wanted to choose their own destinies.

The Indian kids woke up next day to find out that they would never see the faces of their friends again. Or would they? By sheer stroke of irony and the deadly game of fate, they did see their friends again - face to face, in the war zone! "The wars of 1965 and 1971 were fought on the play grounds of RIMC". The statement in itself is not an exagger-

THE INDIAN KIDS WOKE UP NEXT DAY TO FIND OUT THAT THEY WOULD NEVER SEE THE FACES OF THEIR FRIENDS AGAIN. OR WOULD THEY? BY SHEER STROKE OF IRONY AND THE DEADLY GAME OF FATE, THEY DID SEE THEIR FRIENDS AGAIN - FACE TO FACE, IN THE WAR ZONE!
"THE WARS OF 1965



ation. A list of the top military brass, on both sides, would reveal the names of numerous Rimcollians at various levels, planning and executing operations against each other. Gen Yakub himself was one of the chief architects of the 1965 war as the Chief of General staff of the Pakistan Army. Outflanking him was another distinguished Rimcollian, Air Marshal Malik Nur Khan, the Commander in chief of PAF, (Pak Air Force) who is considered the hero of the 1965 air war in Pakistan- the man who led the Pakistan air force achieve parity over the three times bigger Indian air force on the very first day of the war. Air Marshal Nur Khan took over the reigns of PAF from another Rimcollian, Air Marshal Asghar Khan, credited with the formulation and raising of the PAF from the ground up! On the Army front, Gen Yakub handed over the reigns of the Army after the '65 war ended in a stalemate, to yet another Rimcollian, Gen Gul Hassan Khan who became the Commander in chief of Pak Army during the 1971 war. Gen Gul was not as lucky, as Pakistan suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of India. It just made me wonder, what would have become of the Pakistani Army and Air Force had these four individuals decided to drop out of that Truck and chosen India as their Destiny?? (Although it's just a theoretical presumption as none of these individuals was actually in that truck, so the truck is merely a metaphor for choice) Pakistan, I feel, ought to be far more indebted to this great school than even India!!

On the other side were Gen K S Thimayya, who retired as the Army Chief just before the outbreak of the 65 war, Lt Gen Candeth who was the chief strategist of Indian Operations as the Deputy Chief of Army and then later became the GOC in C of Western Command during 1971, Lt Gen J.S. Dhillon, the Commander of XI Corps which was responsible for the Punjab sector and is credited in producing and conducting the battle plan that smashed the Pakistani battle armour (tanks), turning a potentially dangerous defeat into an amazing victory in 1965. The list goes on and on. "We were like Arjun" Gen Yakub said in a woefully philosophical tone "on both sides of the border"! 'No one is your enemy, and no one is your friend. It's the circumstances



Sadbhavana Car rally arriving at School on March 11, 1997

that make either' The Bhagwat Gita right-fully surmises that thought. The wars weren't just fought in the situation rooms of the Generals; some Rimcollians had to fight it out face to face. The most notable of such incidents is documented in the RIMC Archives, when an entire Armada of Pakistani tanks was destroyed by the Indian side which was commanded by a Lt Colonel of Indian Army. He decimated all the tanks except the one which had the commanding officer of that Particular Pak Tank brigade. It was a Brigadier in that tank. The Lt Col was always aware whom he was up against, and perhaps the brigadier knew it too. The two old friends got out of their respective tanks and shook hands. A Rimcollian could not even think of killing another Rimcollian, even in the battlefield.

Now, cut to the present date. "RIMC? What's that?" is what some civilian would quip whenever you tell him that you attended this particular school. It makes my blood boil. So much of exclusive history is embedded in this great

WELL TO DROP THEIR
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THEY WOULD
IGNORANTLY

institution and the general awareness in the public is close to zero. So, when it comes to RIMC, there can only two types of people in this world. Those who know the school too well to drop their jaw in awe raise their eyebrow in apprehension or nod knowingly out of respect when you mention the name (most of them would be from the defense circles) or those who don't react at all. For they know absolutely anything. If anything, they would ignorantly pontificate whether it has anything to do with the Doon School, which is just a stone's throw away from RIMC. Prince Edward, the Prince of Wales and the then future king of England, who founded and inaugurated the school in 1922, would definitely be an unhappy man in his grave seeing this state of affairs. The concept behind establishing such a school - his idea, was to build a 'one of its kind' in the country to impart a 'British Public School' education to the young Indian Kids who wished to join the Royal Indian Army. Needless to say, the British were in no mood to leave the country back then as

Gandhiji and his peaceful movement had assured them that they could continue to enjoy Indian hospitality for at least another century. What they were definitely lacking in their large expansive armies was the presence of an Indian Officer cadre, since the World War I had taken its toll on the British officers earlier posted to India. The Prince wanted the Indians to train in this school and then be sent directly to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst (just to put the reader in perspective, both Prince William and Prince Harry were trained from this Academy) to be inducted as an officer in the British Army. That became the tradition.

The first batch that signed up were children from either Royal or affluent families or from families of long Military traditions, hoping to get trained as an officer and a gentleman. Hiral Lal Atal, the first Cadet Captain (Head Boy) later became Maj Gen Atal and Adjutant General of Indian Army and designed the Param Vir Chakra, the Highest and the most prestigious award conferred on an individual for his bravery in the face of enemy. How was he to know, that this very medal after its inception, would first go to another Rimcollian, Maj Som Nath Sharma who laid down his life in the Battle of Badgaum, Kashmir in 1948. As a 10 year old, I happened to watch that heroic act of Maj Sharma in a television serial on Doordarshan called 'Param Veer Chakra'. The memory is still vivid, as I watched Farooq Sheikh enact Maj Sharma's role as the wounded warrior fighting till the last bullet. I wanted to join the Army then and there. I was pleasantly surprised when I entered RIMC that this was the same school Maj SN Sharma had attended. Unfortunately, I have not really been able to emulate my childhood hero in anything. The only gallant thing I have ever done in life is to jump from that 10 m board in NDA, or probably getting married!

I happened to meet a journalist from Pakistan in 2009 who went to the Hasan Abdal Public school in Pak. This school is known to be a sister school of RIMC as it was founded by Mr Hugh Catchpole, the last British Headmaster of RIMC who built the school on the same lines. He founded the school much on the request of the Pakistani establishment and vari-

ous Rimcollians in Pakistan who felt that a school like RIMC needed to exist in Pakistan too. But there is something about that school that disturbed me. David Headley and Tahavvur Rana, the key plotters of India's 26/11 who are presently undergoing trial in US went to this very school. I quizzed the man about them. That Journalist told me something that I won't forget. "It's the question of values my friend" he said, "you can't uproot values and traditions from one place and re graft them in another. Hasan Abdal lacks the basic values which the RIMC has so carefully nurtured". I got the point. He also added that although the HAPS was a premier school now in Pak, but the name RIMC still echoes in the higher echelons of

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Pakistani society. The reason he said was the fact that the Rimcollians there had contributed immensely not only to the Military life but also the public life as eminent appointment holders, and known for their courage and integrity. Which brings me to some ponderous questions - why isn't the RIMC as famous or well known in India as its civilian counterpart The Doon School? Haven't we publicized ourselves well enough or haven't we really told our illustrious history to people more extensively? Where does a Rimcollian stand today in this rapidly changing world? Are the Rimcollians able to keep up with the rest of the crowd, who have changed gears and moved on to the fast lane, while we still hold on to the ethics and values taught at school? Should we even be just a feeder institute to NDA/IMA/NAVAC or branch out into public services? Won't we lose

our exclusivity in that case, trying to compete with civilians?

It is a lesser known fact, that King Edward, who founded RIMC, abdicated his throne after a week of being crowned as the King of the British Empire. He left the throne to marry a divorcee, with who he was hopelessly in love and didn't consider it proper to twist the rules which didn't allow him to marry a divorcee, in his favor. He chose to step down, 70 years later when Prince Charles announced his marriage to another divorcee, no one seemed to care. Something similar is the case with all the Rimcollians. I think we are running a little behind time and clinching too hard with our values and traditions, which is perhaps becoming counter productive for us, especially for those who are serving in the armed forces. We are hopeless romantics, die hard fans of warfare, emotional, foolish yet brilliant. We are smart, not smart Alecs, as the world thinks of us. We uphold our values close to our heart, sometimes fanatically. We are well read, perhaps more read than our superiors, which lands us in trouble as we are not afraid to speak our mind. Is this why so many of us are feeling stifled in the various positions we occupy? The 2 to 3 odd guys from each class are still doing exceptionally well in all the spheres of activities, but what about the rest 20 odd who are equally good but are either burning out, peaking out or losing focus. Is it frustration, lack of incentives or an inability to cope up with a totally different world? Perhaps the world of Armed forces that resides in the school still reverberates of the British times, whereas the world outside, especially the Indian Armed forces have changed leaps and bounds. In that case shouldn't we just change ourselves and move with the world? But then what use will that training of 5 years be for us which I still uphold over the training I received at NDA? Are there really any answers to these questions? "RIMC???" What's that?" can that be answered so simply?

Post Script - I have knowingly left out what a wonderful level the RIMC has achieved today in terms of education and facilities, as they are not the moot point here. Disclaimer: I don't mean to demean any other individual/school with this note.

It Happened in 1997!!

Brig Dimpy Khanna, 2L & 85 Armd Regt

It was the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the RIMC, Dehra Dun in March 1997, when many RIMCOLLIAN'S had got together to reminisce and celebrate. Many from the Pakistan services had been invited, and they had come with their children and grand children to show their "Roots"! Among the many were Air Marshal Asghar Khan, General Shahabzada Yakub Khan (ex Cavalry and former foreign Minister), and General Mumtaz Khan.

I was at that time posted as the BGS of the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehra Dun. Brig Rusty Dey, 2L (a thoroughbred RIMCOLLIAN) and his gracious late wife Gita were staying with us for the duration of the celebrations. Not being a RIMCOLLIAN normally one would be invited for one major function, but since Rusty was staying with us he insisted that we accompany them for most of the RIMC functions. Both the then Commandant IMA, Lt Gen Amy Sandhu (DH) and the Deputy Commandant were away from the IMA during the period of the celebrations and I was holding fort for those few days!

On the first evening of the RIMC celebrations, after the screening of the fabulous documentary about RIMC, made by Brig Suhkjit Singh, MVC, (14 H), at the cocktails, some visitors from Pakistan expressed a desire to visit the IMA (their Roots and foundation), to see for themselves, as also show it to their spouses and children. Gen Tich Sharma, 16 Cav & 66AR (ex COAS) and General Virendra Singh, 16 Cav (Virus - the Grand Ole' man of the Indian Cavalry) asked me to organize the visit. Since permission had been given to the



Gen Viru with Sahibzada Yakub at Platinum Jubilee in March 1997

**SPECIAL PERMISSION
WAS OBTAINED FROM
ARMY HQ TO PERMIT
VISIT THE FOLLOWING
DAY. AT THAT TIME A
VISIT BY PAK
DELEGATION TO THE
IMA INVOLVED - A BRIEF
HISTORY ABOUT THE
IMA SINCE 1932, VISIT
TO THE CHETWODE
AND THE MUSEUM**

Pakistani delegates to visit the RIMC only, special permission was obtained from Army HQ to permit such a visit the following day. At that time a visit to the IMA involved - a Brief History about the IMA since 1932, visit to the Chetwode and the Museum, a cup of tea in the Commandant's Office quadrangle and of course the IMA Drill Square

Since the visitors had limited time, they were punctual to the tea next morning, escorted to the Auditorium for the briefing by the charming and effervescent late Mrs Swaroopi Sharma. In the history bit there was mention of the founding Father of the Indian Freedom movement and the need for



Taj Mohammed General Viru with Khanzada watching the Hockey match

having an "In House" institution to train the Indian army officers, at that time being sent to Sandhurst for training. Names like Maulana Azad, Moti Lal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi and Mohammad Ali Jinnah were mentioned as part of the founding History of the IMA. Similarly, their photos were displayed in the Museum too. The visit to the Museum included a walk through "History of the Indian Military" from Mahabharata to present times, where there was a portion of the "Surrender Ceremony" of the Pakistan Army in 1971, where the large size photo of the signing ceremony and General Niazi's pistol were on display.

Prior to the visit, being a sensitive issue, we at the IMA discussed what could we do when the Curator, who was narrating the history, arrived with the visitors at this sensitive portion?! Should this portion be covered with a white cloth or should we not bring them here?? Since this was part of our history we decided to go ahead with the complete visit, ensuring that our officers and wives, accompanying the visitors, step back and the Curator stop his briefing prior to arriving at this portion, and let the visitors be free to see and comment themselves. The comments were loud and clear, some unprintable! "A shame"; "He should

have shot himself"; "He deserved it" etc. Later the visitors went down to the Hall where all the "Roll of Honour" boards since 1932 were on display. These naturally included names of the then Indian Muslim officers, some of whom later (on partition) were transferred to the Pakistan Army

After the visit to the Museum, we went to the Commandant's Office quadrangle for Tea, where the grass was lush green and the flowers were in bloom. Hot tea/coffee with the typical IMA sandwiches, pastries, patties and biscuits were thoroughly enjoyed and all the Old timers narrated anecdotes about their instructors and training classes, and were tempted to do some "front rolls" for ole' times sake!!

Their remarks in the Visitor's Book were a treat, they wrote copious notes - thanking the Indian Government in permitting them to visit their "Alma Mater" and for making their visit memorable and complete. During this tour my wife came to me saying that 3 young couples, all sons & daughter of Gen Mumtaz Khan, were keen to visit our House so as to see and have a feel of an Indian Army Officers Home. I agreed to take them home once we had finished with the official tour. Around 1:40 pm when we reached our Home - a sprawling bungalow in the IMA, I

invited them for a drink, not sure whether they would accept! It being lunch time my Sahayak was away and I went to the bar to organize some beer and gin, when two of them came to assist me and said "arre bhai issi liye to ayen hain, zara jaldi mein hain, to thodi madad kar dete hain" and started helping themselves, like any other Indian friend would do at your Home!!

They wanted to sit comfortably, with their feet folded up on the sofas enjoy their drink, smoke a cigarette and chatted about India & Pakistan and in particular about their last 2 days at the RIMC, and how happy they were to see the Indian culture, the graceful and charming Indian women, mixing so freely with the men and joining in all the fun and frolic - which was quite contrary to what they had been informed all these years. We struck quite a rapport with the family, and post retirement, we went to Lahore and Islamabad to attend a wedding in 2006 and they visited Delhi twice in 2005 and 2010

Coming back to their visit to the IMA, in the evening at the RIMC main dinner function, Shahabzada Yakub Khan, came up where my wife and I were standing, and warmly shook my hand and thanked me for organizing their memorable visit to the IMA and then escorted both of us, on either side of his arms to meet the most elegant and charming lady, his wife sitting very gracefully on a high back chair, looking quite regal. She extended her hand and said " Brigadier, I want to thank you personally for conducting us around the historic and most well kept and preserved IMA; and also thank the IMA and the Indian Government for not distorting History, and ensuring that History is preserved in its true form for generations to see and learn" . Those words really brought tears to our eyes - to get such genuine and frank appreciation from our so called "enemies" meant a lot.

I need to share this memorable incident with the present generation of our friends and colleagues so as to be apprised what our "Roots" were!



Taj Mohammed Khan zada with visiting Rimcollian delegation to Pakistan during Catchpole centenary

Keeping in Touch

Col Arun Mamgain

Thanks to Cdr Arun Bhattacharya for keeping us in touch with Rimcollians in Pakistan. The Cdr has visited many of them in their homes when he visited Pakistan, he has made it a mission to keep in touch with them and keep us informed.

Most Rimcollians in Pakistan are in their 'final term' or have already passed out. It is very heart warming to know how much being a Rimcollian means to them and their families. In 1992 (was that the first time?) when they visited The College, they were overwhelmed by the experience and just could not have enough of it. I remember some of them asking anxiously if it would be alright for them to move around unescorted and

take a few pictures in the Mess and the Ante Rooms! Security and all that.

Karim Saheb (the one who served in all the three services) had come to the IMA for the GJ of his course. He rang up to say he wanted to visit The College. I was still new to the place and was aware of all the orders about prior permissions etc. We requested him to come along as an Old Boy sans the Pak tag. Happily for all of us there was a farewell lunch in honour of the passing out batch and we had a special chief guest wearing the IMA blazer to present the mementos.

Karim Saheb was among those who visited whenever an opportunity was there. He always visited the Masjid and donated for its up keep. One of his visits coincided with the festival of Id. After the

service was over he had all of us in splits of laughter with stories of how they played pranks with the Maulvi Saheb. Every time the Maulvi Saheb and the rest bowed down to give thanks to Allah, one of them would scoot around the Masjid and return with a loot of guavas! There were more that cannot be mentioned here.

One hopes that the friendly matches between schools across the border that happened during Col Prem Prakash's time will be revived.

In the senior ante room we had a golden star to mark the photographs of those Rimcollians who had passed away. Maybe, we could do something similar on the boards in the Bhagat Hall and on their dossiers in the archives.

Hurt that Abbottabad operation has caused

Sidharth Mishra

The breaking news on the morning of May 2 about Osama bin Laden being killed by the Americans came as quite a rude shock to me and many of my friends. No, I am certainly not an 'upholder of human rights' of the terror mongers to feel agitated in the way the head of Al Qaeda was decimated. What upset me was that he was killed in Abbottabad, a name which we have associated for the past several decades with one Mr Hugh Catchpole, a highly venerated English teacher respected across the Indian subcontinent.

While most of the news reports talked about James Abbott, who built the town of Abbottabad, it was Hugh Catchpole, who gave the town the stature of being second Dehradun. There are three Catchpole schools, which are situated in and around Abbottabad - Cadet College, Hasan Abdal, Abbottabad Public School and PAF College, Sargodha. Catchpole's grave is at Hasan Abdal.

The news reports also talked about Pakistan Military Academy at Kakul, the equivalent of Indian Military Academy at Dehradun, but none referred to these schools, which Catchpole built brick by

brick at the call of his former students from the prestigious Prince of Wales Royal (now Rashtriya) Indian Military College (RIMC) in Dehradun during the pre-partition days. In 1952, Major General Sher Ali, then Adjutant General of Pakistan Army, who was also Catchpole's pupil at the RIMC, moved the proposal to raise a school on the line of RIMC in Dehradun to meet the requirement of the Academy at Kakul.

Gen Sher Ali could not think of a better person to set up the school than his old teacher, whom the Indian Government had decided to retire as the



Hugh Catchpole with some of his pupils in the senior ante-room



RIMC cadets with students of Catchpole Schools in Abbotabad

Principal of RIMC in 1954 at the age of 47. Catchpole crossed over and remained active teaching English after giving up his responsibilities as principal of the various schools he founded till he died at the ripe age of 90 in 1997. It's unprecedented that for an Englishman who died in Pakistan and was buried at a cantonment town there, funeral service was held at the Cathedral in Delhi cantonment.

In the same year, the old boys of the school in Dehradun led by former Indian chiefs - General VN Sharma, Air Chief Marshal NC Suri and General S Padmanabhan - did him the singular honour of building a guest house in the name of their master, part of funds for which had come from Catchpole's lifetime savings. This also happened to be the Platinum Jubilee year of the RIMC, which was founded by Prince of Wales on March 13, 1922. While making the donation Catchpole had expressed the wish of retiring to Dehradun as he "was entering the 90s".

Incidentally, James Abbott's descendant Neil Roy Abbot was also a student of Hugh Catchpole at the RIMC in the 1940s. The Dehradun School had also enrolled British boys during the World War II as it had become difficult for them to travel to England to join public schools there on account of World War II. Now in his 80s, Neil Roy Abbott lives in Jhansi, whose cantonment was founded by his forefather. He too had served with the Garhwal Rifles like his father before retiring to look after his family farms.

THE NEXT SHOCK WAS DISCLOSURE OF THE NAME OF ONE TAHAWWUR HUSSAIN RANA AS THE MAIN CONSPIRATOR IN THE 26/11 ATTACKS ON MUMBAI. RANA HAD HIS EDUCATION AT CADET COLLEGE HASAN ABDAL, THE MILITARY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL WHICH CATCHPOLE HAD FOUNDED IN PAKISTAN.

Writing in the RIMC Platinum Jubilee commemorative publication about the founding of Hasan Abdal College, Brig Habib Akbar, who studied at RIMC and taught at Hasan Abdal, had said, "The young 8th class entry was housed in Omar and Aurangzeb wings. Lt Qayyum and Mr Haq Nawaz, both Rimcollians, were appointed their house masters. To inculcate the traditions of the RIMC in these impressionable cadets, the house masters lived with them setting examples of character, righteous conduct, manners and discipline, undisturbed by the outside influences." Catchpole had even flown in Karmatullah, the grounds man at RIMC, several times to develop playing fields similar to the Dehradun School.

But how much did Catchpole succeed in keeping the students of these schools "un disturbed by the outside

influences." In 2007, the Catchpole schools in India and Pakistan celebrated their master's centenary with functions taking place in Dehradun and Abbottabad. Despite the overt warmth, there was an undercurrent of distrust with the Pakistani state and institutions turning increasingly communal.

The leader of the Pakistani delegation at the celebrations, one Brigadier Malik Mokhtar Karim, had left the Indian military brass red-faced by mentioning Kargil in his thanksgiving speech during the dinner hosted for them at the RIMC, in Dehradun. The next shock was disclosure of the name of one Tahawwur Hussain Rana as the main conspirator in the 26/11 attacks on Mumbai. Rana had his education at Cadet College Hasan Abdal, the military residential school which Catchpole had founded in Pakistan.

The killing of Osama bin Laden by the Americans at Abbottabad thus has caused much angst to the generations of Indians who were never taught by Catchpole, but heard from their school seniors about the gentleman who tried to create schools similar to the RIMC in Pakistan. Despite fighting Pakistan in war and in its subversive acts in various parts of the country, there was a soft corner for Abbottabad. The events unfolding now would make it difficult to sustain the affection between the Catchpole schools of Dehradun and Abbottabad. May I be proved wrong!

(Courtesy The Pioneer, June 22, 2011)

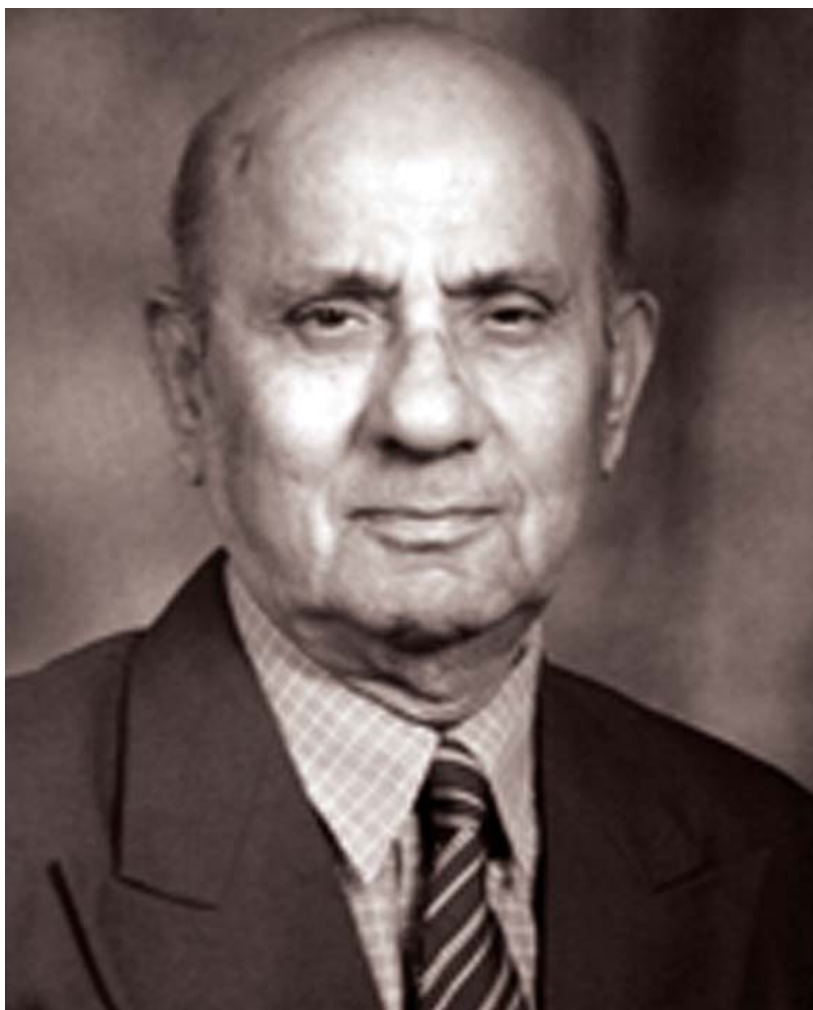
Vasant Ganesh Nene

The First Physicist

Mr VG Nene received his early education from Government High School Unnao (UP) and BNSD College Kanpur. He took his MSc degree from Agra University and Bachelor of Education from Dayal Bagh College Agra. After serving for some years as Lecturer in Physics in Government Intermediate College of Uttar Pradesh and as lecturer in Physics in Dhan Singh Bhist Government Degree College Nainital, Mr Nene joined RIMC in July 1963 as a Master in Physics.

During his stay of more than 28 years in RIMC his contribution to curricular and co-curricular was substantial and noteworthy. His main contribution was reorganizing the teaching of physics in view of raising RIMC from ISC level to Higher Secondary Standard and in the implementation of CBSE syllabus of Higher Secondary level. In view of this change Mr Nene took great pains in planning the construction of new laboratory, lecture halls and requirements of laboratory equipments and audio visual aids as per requirements of the Higher Secondary syllabus, so as to increase the effectiveness of teaching. He also adopted the Nuffield techniques of teaching as far as possible. To further augment the teaching of science he tied up an arrangement with British Council, New Delhi under which two educational films pertaining to science subjects were to be screened per week. He maintained high standards of teaching as a result of which ISC and latter HSC results were always excellent and cadets fared extremely well in the NDA entrance exams.

Mr Nene took keen interest in all



Mr VG NENE, Vice Principal, June 1988 - Feb 1990

games, especially in cricket. He exhibited great love for teaching and shared great sincerity and affection towards the cadets. He was held in great esteem by cadets and his peers and his services stand well recognized. He served RIMC as a Master in Physics and later on as Section Master. He also held the post of Vice Principal during the last four years of his stay. He retired from service in 1992.

After retirement he served as the

Registrar of Tarapur Vidhya Mandir, Boisar (Maharashtra), an Intermediate College run by Tata Special Steels Trust and was also working as the coordinator of Indira Gandhi National Open University Center.

Now he is settled in Bangalore. Mr Nene's elder daughter Vanita, who was on the RIMC faculty for some time, passed away recently after a brave battle with cancer. He lives with his son Sanjay, also a Rimcollian. - **CS Thapa**



The Souvenir to School gifted by IAF Rimcollians

RIMC - The fair view

Anupma Khanna

Socials, the Indian variant of the coveted 'Prom Nights' are the high point of almost everybody's school life. And this is undisputed. The entire year is a wait for D-Day, given which it is not difficult to imagine the frenzy surmounting when one class in the entire all girls missionary school is chosen to hold their social with boys from among the most prestigious schools in the country. And when this happens after a hiatus of over fifteen years, well it's nothing short of a rare life changing celestial occurrence! And so it was. The year was 2001, the providential class XI that to the envy of the entire high school section was selected to have a party with RIMC boys or Rimcollians, as they liked to be called. Before I jump on to the finale, I cannot but reminisce with tickles the fight that went into it. Now our class teachers, two very kind hearted ladies, were burdened with the ominous task of sifting only

around thirty girls for the party. But good women as they were, fully cognizant of the happy anticipatory fluttering that went in the hearts of us young girls, they devised a filter process- it was made mandatory to get a letter of sanction, (yes actually a letter of sanction!) signed by our parents. And so was an attempt made to shift the weight to our respective families. But girls will be girls; and plots are made only to be foiled. Fear, fondness, and fibs- we enacted whatever worked. The very next morning almost all the hundred lasses flashed their approvals proudly. Ah! I almost relived that laugh when one of my pals mired in the 'liberal children-conservative parents' syndrome...oscillating somewhere between the generation gap...hoodwinked her parents into believing that 'social' meant a social work project of planting trees in RIMC campus! And so went the other anecdotes.

Well, let's fast forward now to the

grand finale...the moment of redemption...it was an afternoon when for some reason the sun seem to shine brighter than usual. Dressed in our striped salwaar-kameez and the most fancy hair dos we could sport within the bounds of school protocols, there we were- a whole hundred plus of us- all queued up, feeling like princesses in waiting. And when the 'jonga' arrived, many a heart skipped a beat together. Perfume whiffs, deafening whispers and then a silence. Come on! It was unbecoming for Convent girls to display unrestrained emotion. Two prim lads and a poised lady alighted from the army truck. And they were SHOCKED! Period. "Ma'am, there are only around thirty boys in the class. Are ALL these girls coming for the jam session?" asked their teacher. There was a short period of confusion and the next thing I remember we...all of us were climbing up the vehicle. It seemed to be the longest ride ever before the magnifi-



The dormitories in their complete splendour

cent gates of Rashtriya Indian Military College were opened by uniformed ushers. Believe me, back then, it was the closest we could feel to passing through the precincts of the Royalty's palace in England! At some spot close to where the war memorial stands proud currently, stood our youthful knights...and it was all so fable like, if only the poor boys had not got completely outnumbered and baffled by the battalion of girls that was stepping down...Voila, it still makes me laugh. But very well bred boys as they were, confusion was concealed with decorum, though not that successful as the boys must have by now realized.

Everything was as per expectations, except that instead of each debonair young man guiding his 'date' for the evening, we were now all one whole mammoth group exploring the famed campus of the school. And I must say, given that for most of us this was our maiden visit, it impressed upon as a mightily sprawling place. I particularly remember the many grounds, the indoor swimming pool, the temple, stable and the horses. Listening to the exploits of the equestrian boys that evening felt like a rendition of the grandest possible feats. Deserving special mention is the fact that

underlying each moment that we spent at RIMC that evening was a very healthy, refined and joyful air, shared mutually. After about an hour or so of sightseeing within the school, as excitement hit a crescendo we proceeded to the dance hall. It had been decorated fondly with streamers and balloons. On one side were delectable eatables, neatly laid. In what had been made the DJ's console stood a few Rimcollians and a lady, apparently one of the teachers. With lights dim and excitement touching the brim, it was time to groove and swing. From backstreet boys, Bryan Adams to Bollywood hits of the time, RIMC and CJM set the floor to fire.

The etiquettes that distinguish Rimcollians from most others were all pervasive. Each one was like a young royalty. And in their diversity, did the boys unite. The camaraderie was striking. I'm yet to know if it was fun for the boys or not, but the ratio was skewed to the degree of one guy playing the dancing partner to as many as five girls simultaneously. With music remixing being orchestrated by some of the boys from the school itself, the one number that made us skip in mirth was "Who let the dogs out??" Vying furtively for the covet-

ed 'Dancing Queen' and 'best couple' title, each girl put her best dancing foot forward. Hours flew past and before we knew it 'twas time for awarding the titles. Time seemed to freeze! And then crashed...crashed the hopes of my lovable but envious class mates when my partner's name was called out for leading me to claim my proud title...YES! I was the star of the evening...my partner's name, happily enough, I still remember it; primarily because of the peculiar surname, he was called Dhirendra Jaada. Is he reading this, I can't but wonder! Danced away energies were regained with the signature and inimitable RIMC confectionary and snacks. How we wanted to hold back time. In another spilling the beans, back at C.J.M our principal had given us clear instructions- "No exchange of numbers, no meetings thereafter!" The closet affairs remained well guarded secrets! Before I sign off, this is to all Rimcollians we had met, "You guys were affable, urbane, intelligent, talented and very articulate. Clearly, you have upheld the highest echelons of what began as the Prince of Wales College. Kudos to you, young warriors!"

(Anupma is a gifted writer who is associated with The Pioneer.)

The School Tie

CS Thapa

The school tie is gradually becoming a signature dress code considering the large number of Television savvy Rimcollians, and thank fully most are proudly displaying it with pride on their chest. It's so easy now to spot them displaying the tie, sending a loud proud message, "Is it the arrival of the Rimcollian as an opinion maker"? Uniforms are the most visible element of a school and immediately reflect on the reputation of the same, it is a way of projecting the school before the public. As the old saying goes, "clothes maketh the man" so does the school uniform set a bench mark for itself. To see young smart children going around proudly and smartly in their school uniform gives a sense of joy to all, there by, setting a good reputation for the school. This is what the school children of today owe to the alumni of any school. The school tie therefore, is a life long companion worn on special occasions and occupies a place of pride as it silently hangs inside the cupboard.

The school tie thus gives a sense of belonging and identity to a person. How many school alumni proudly display the same can be counted on ones finger tips, this is another source of identity in a crowd. Proudly worn on certain occasions it gives a sense of oneness. It sends a silent message that we have a lot in common. The same masters, same environment, the same ethos and possibly imbibed the same qualities. Only a few public schools alumni wear their school tie. The bottom line being it is a matter of pride. Others argue it is snob value. The truth lies in the eyes of the beholder. Those who wear their school ties do so with respect of course they are proud of their school or else why would they like to be identified with some thing that they wore in school, though all alumni ties are a little different. The



school ties by the have nots' is identified as a short cut leverage to success. What they forget in today performance based world it might get you there but perform you have to in order to sustain therefore, those who use short cuts are invariably short chained.

The school tie is a concept of honour, and also an exclusive club, but there is the other side of the divide. With economic liberalization and the system of education becoming more commercial as also government aided schools becoming popular and also performing well the concept of the school tie is gradually dying down. The school as social mobility concept is fast dying, thank god for this miss placed sense of direction. The other factor that has come in is the increased number of opportunities there by increasing options, thus making a level playing field for all, which was always required. Literally speaking those who serve in the garment and business processing outsourcing sectors do not wear ties. In other sectors what's in is corporate power dressing ties are just an accessory. There is a popular joke

doing the circuit, a man comes for an interview wearing all three famous ties of English schools, "Just wear your school tie" says the interviewer and sends him back.

In our education system of yester years the young men stayed and learnt in Gurukals. To day besides some schools this system is also partly present and prevalent in some diverse fields such as religion the monks stay in seminaries; the children also live in certain types of madrassas. Essentially what really happens in the process of isolation the Childs character is built up. They also build up a good guru shisya relationship. If we need education the healthy development of mind body and soul the school tie will be a fallout of this system and our society in its wisdom will decides that it does or does not want this system of education than only in a couple of years the school tie to shall be declared extinct. As for people like us," unto death do us part", therefore, hopefully we will see more of the school tie in all walks of life for the betterment of the nation, a place we have not occupied centre stage .

Republic Day Honours

PVSM

Lt Gen SK Singh, UYSM, AVSM (1965-68, PRA)

Air Marshal DC Kumaria, AVSM, VM, VSM (1965-68, PRA)

Kirti Chakra (KC)

Lt Col Kamaldeep Singh, (1987-92, RAN)

Lt Col Kamaldeep Singh, 18 RR Bn, was mission Cdr for Op Maidanpura on 15 July 2011. On receipt of hard intelligence of presence of five hardcore terrorists in the area in Dist Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir, the officer, at 2250 hours led five quick reaction teams and established cordon of target house. After confirmation of presence of terrorists, he tightened the cordon with another seventeen quick reaction teams, thereby sealing all possible exit routes and evacuated five civilians held hostage. While under fire, he readjusted his cordon parties to effectively engage the terrorists leading to immediate elimination of two terrorists.

The Officer while in close cordon sited a terrorist bringing down heavy fire onto the cordon party. The Officer while controlling the operation himself maneuvered to an advantageous position through deft battle craft eliminated one hard core terrorist and seriously decapitated another. In an operation lasting over two days, he displayed absolute calmness, exemplary tactical acumen, and motivated his troops leading by personal example. For his professional acumen, astute leadership, indomitable courage and personal bravery which led to elimination of five hardcore terrorists, Lt Col Kamaldeep Singh is recommended for the award of 'KIRTI CHAKRA'.

AVSM

Rear Admiral Bimal Kumar Verma (1971-75, RAN)

YSM

Brig Sanjay Ahuja (1971-76, CHA)

SM (Distinguished)

Maj Gen BS Negi, YSM, VSM (1970-74, CHA)

Brig CP Mohanty, VSM (1973-78, SHI)

Col Arindam Saha (1983-89, CHA)

Maj Varun Vijay Gidh (1995-99, SHI)

VSM

Maj Gen Daljit Sood (1966-70, PRA)

Maj Gen Rajesh Singh (1966-70, CHA)

Maj Gen Ashok Kumar Sen (1967-72, RAN)

Jai Jawan Jai Kisaan

Surjit Singh

Agriculture or farming is the most appropriate sequel to soldiering. Our cantonments are more akin to small towns and villages than the concrete jungles that our metropolitan towns have become. When thrown in the midst of the slimy people who live in cities, we are like fish out of water.

Last week, I had an opportunity to spend some quality time with an NDA buddy, Lt Gen SS Grewal. Sarabjit made a planned switch to his "2nd Innings" in a very methodical manner. He started preparing for it more than a decade before his retirement, and he was veritably

looking forward to it when he was dined out of the Battle Honours Mess by the Army Chief.

Grewal has occupied high places in the South Block, but the Lord gave him legs which were long enough for his feet to remain in touch with the ground below. He has no hesitation to work on the fields with his own hands. He can spend hours on the tractor and drives around on the dust tracks on his motor cycle.

I asked him if he ever felt lonely. His reply was in a resounding "NO" He is at complete peace with the simple rural folks living around him. I asked him if there was adequate health care. His answer was, "If

one follows the path shown by Buddhaji, you should not need doctors!"

In due course, I understood why and how he turned to 'Vipassana' for his spiritual sustenance. Sarabjit was born in Rangoon (Burma) so his roots are Buddhist culture. He commanded a Ladakh Scouts unit and was later appointed their Colonel Commandant. After retirement, the first thing which he did was a course on Vipassana, and he practices it every day.

For those who may not be able to reach his village near Mustafabad in Haryana, I am placing some pictures to give you a general idea of what I saw.



The tractor is as fit for duty as the farmer, all set to go for a round of his fields. "Jai Jawan, jai kisaan!"



The vegetable garden in the backyard. Everything which they eat is 'organically produced' and that keeps the doctors away. They do not have a hospital around, and they do not need one, either.



Grewal makes full use of technology. This solar panel gives them enough warm water, and therefore power cuts do not affect them. The house is built such that in summer it remains cool all through. Even though air conditioners are installed in every room, and they have full power backup, he actually does not need even a fan for most of the year. The cool air under the trees is exhilarating!



This picture depicts Sarabjit's connection with Buddhism. The 'Tankha' on the left supplements a picture of a "gumpha" in Rangoon (or Yangon, as they now call it) Do you notice 'Nirvaana' in Grewal's eyes?



I thought I would insert this picture as a reminder of his days as a GOC. But believe you me, his present house is no less than a 'flag staff house' in any way.



And now, the 'kisan' is all set to show me the route out of his village. He insisted on accompanying me up to the main road, lest I wander away into the dust tracks.

Farming is no longer what it was. A lot of technology goes into it. Even the dairy farming has changed. And those who have adapted themselves to current practices can earn a handsome amount of money, and at the same time, breathe fresh air and eat organic food and farm fresh vegetables and fruit. And if you do that, you will not have to run to doctors for those 'clinical' tests.

I must conclude this with the story of our revered father, Major Balwant Singh ji, who lived on his agriculture farm after he retired in 1966. One day, I said to him, "Pitaji, you are now getting old, and must shift to a town where medical facilities are available. What will we do, if something happens to you...?"

And most non-challantly, he said, "What can happen?? You mean a heart

attack or a brain stroke ??? If that happens, then I will die. And I am quite ready for that..."

And indeed, no such thing happened. He lived to the ripe old age of NINETY THREE, without any surgery or clinical analysis.

With best wishes for Sarabjit and his wife, who joins him in Vipassana regularly.

(Lt Gen SS GREWAL has been most benevolent among the Rimcollians making it to the brass of the armed forces. Without any fear, he did a lot of favour to his alma mater as the Adjutant General of the Indian Army, his last assignment as a soldier. He continues to serve the school as a very active member of ROBA Trust-- Editor)



FROM THE HEADMASTER

THE DOON SCHOOL
DEHRA DUN-248001

21 October 2011

Brig. C.S. Thapa (Retd.)
Rimcollian Old Boys Association
C/o Rashtriya Indian Military College
Garhi Cantt.
Dehra Dun 248 003

Dear Brig. Thapa,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 October 2011.

It is heartening to see how the entire *Rimcollian* Committee has paid their tribute to their Guru. The ethos and camaraderie of your institute is clearly visible.

I on behalf of Doon School wish *Rimcollian* even greater glory in the years ahead.

With best wishes and warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Peter McLaughlin
Headmaster

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BALANCE SHEET

ROBA TRUST											
BALANCE SHEET AS AT						12/31/2011					
LIABILITIES	CORPUS FUND		KCMET FUND		DR.S.D.MISHRA FUND		S.D.TATA TRUST FUND		MASTER FUND		TOTAL
CORPUS											
Balance Brought Forward	5,355,968		2,140,640		-		4,642,896		2,410,105		14,549,610
Add : Receipts during the year	825,305		-		200,000		-		3,956,501		4,981,806
Add : Surplus during the year	167,837	6,349,110	54,079	2,194,719	-	200,000	(21,876)	4,621,020	(258,984)	6,107,622	(58,944)
											19,472,471
CURRENT LIABILITIES											
Audit fee payable	25,369		-		-		-		-		25,369
Honorarium Payable	13,750	39,119	-		-		30,000	30,000	31,000	31,000	74,750
TOTAL		6,388,229		2,194,719		200,000		4,651,020		6,138,622	19,572,590
ASSETS											
INVESTMENTS											
Fixed Deposits with LIC Hsg. Finance	300,000		-		-		-		3,700,000		4,000,000
Fixed Deposits with HUDCO	550,000		-		-		-		-		550,000
Fixed Deposits with PNB Housing	400,000		100,000		-		1,100,000		50,000		1,650,000
Fixed Deposits with HDFC	1,600,000		-		200,000		-		1,150,000		2,950,000
RBI Bonds	245,000		95,000		-		1,150,000		475,000		1,965,000
Fixed Deposits with ICICI Bank	430,959		948,834		-		-		225,000		1,604,793
Fixed Deposits with ICICI Housing Finance	-		-		-		2,000,000		150,000		2,150,000
Fixed Deposits with Kotak Bank	1,500,000		700,000		-		-		100,000		2,300,000
Fixed Deposits with Canfin Homes	350,000		-		-		-		-		350,000
Fixed Deposits with LIC Housing	500,000	5,875,959	-	1,843,834	-	200,000	-	4,250,000	-	5,850,000	500,000
											18,019,793
CURRENT ASSETS											
Interest receivable	191,536		52,519		-		11,700		41,421		297,177
Interest Accrued But Not Due	228,870		74,198		-		-		82,902		385,970
Advance to Staff	33,500		-		-		-		-		33,500
ROBA General Fund	30,678		-		-		-		-		30,678
Income Tax Refund Due (Earlier Years)	69,565		38,997		-		59,117		26,544		194,223
Tax Deducted At Source	18,822	572,971	1,506	167,220	-	-	13,300	84,117	1,461	152,328	35,089
Balance at Bank											
- In Savings Accounts	(60,701)	(60,701)	183,665	183,665	-	-	316,903	316,903	136,294	136,294	576,161
TOTAL		6,388,229		2,194,719		200,000		4,651,020		6,138,622	19,572,590

ROBA TRUST											
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED						12/31/2011					
INCOMES	CORPUS FUND		KCMET FUND		DR S.D.MISHRA FUND		S.D.TATA TRUST FUND		MASTER FUND		TOTAL
Interest on Company/ RBI/ UTI Deposits	316,951		79,079		-		248,124		169,316		813,470
Contribution towards Scholarships	13,453		-		-		-		-		13,453
Donations	66,313		-		-		-		-		66,313
Bank Interest	16,975	413,692	-	79,079	-	-	248,124	-	169,316	-	910,211
TOTAL		413,692		79,079		-	248,124		169,316		910,211
EXPENDITURES											
Scholarships	6,000		25,000		-		6,000		-		37,000
Professional Charges	13,200		-		-		-		-		13,200
RIMC Cadets Welfare	53,905		-		-		-		-		53,905
Honorarium to RIMC Masters	-		-		-		-		174,000		174,000
Honorarium to Tata Masters	24,000		-		-		264,000		254,300		542,300
Honorarium to Staff	123,750		-		-		-		-		123,750
RIMC Staff welfare	25,000	245,855	-	25,000	-	-	270,000	-	428,300	-	969,155
TOTAL		245,855		25,000		-	270,000		428,300		969,155
SURPLUS DURING THE PERIOD		167,837		54,079		-	(21,876)		(258,984)		(58,944)

