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The Rimcollian

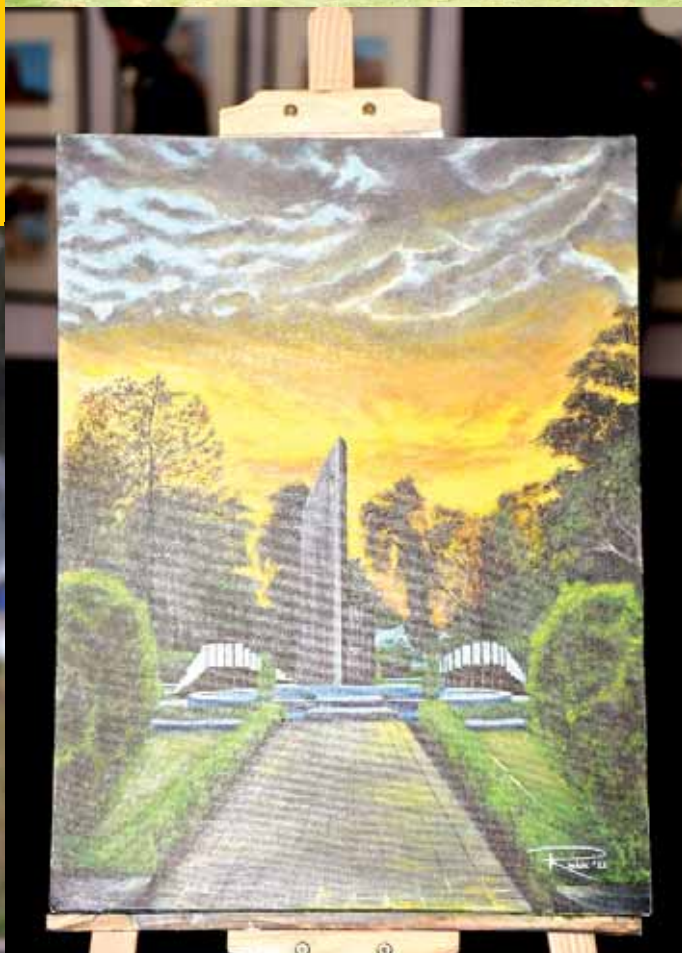
(Newsletter of the Old Boys Association of Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun)



101st
Reunion
SPECIAL

ADIEU DEAR EDITOR

The founding editor of The Rimcollian, Lt Col **JASBIR KHURANA** passed away in the US on August 26, 2023



THE OLD BOY-CADET BONDING: How is the college doing? It's doing fine sir

Change of Guard at ROBA



Lt Gen NK Khanduri, President ROBA, superannuated on 30th June as the GOC-in-C, Western Command. At the meeting of ROBA Working Committee, in New Delhi on Tuesday, 20 June 2023, it was unanimously resolved that he hands over ROBA Presidency to Director General (Artillery), Lt Gen Adosh Kumar, Pratap (1977-82). Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Lt Gen Adosh Kumar for the coveted responsibility.



Members of the Working Committee with Lt Gen NK Khanduri and Lt Gen Adosh Kumar



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Jo'ttings - Editor's Note



**Cmde N ANIL JOSE JOSEPH
VSM (Retd)**

Dear Rimcollians,

Come September and it is time for '*The Rimcollian*' to find its way into print. A time in between the previous Rimcollian get together and the anticipation of the next. The déjà vu of the centenary would definitely have taken a year plus to tide over. And as life returns to eyes down to our renewed aspirations and challenges there have been many changes too.

Lt Gen NK Khanduri our President ROBA until 30 June has since handed over to Lt Gen Adosh Kumar, my course mate and at one college number difference. The immense contributions of Gen Khanduri are masked behind his calm demeanour and his quiet efficiency.

A new team is at the helm at RIMC led by Col Vikram Kadian, SM which is looking at meeting the new age challenges proactively and take RIMC to the next level of excellence. A quick review and identification of foundations that nurture and stimulate a cadet's overall development only highlight that the school would achieve greater heights.

Girl cadets at RIMC, greater expectations from RIMC etc. are now already a norm. The performance of cadets at RIMC, at finishing Academies and Rimcollians everywhere is and has always been a revelation in every field prompting many to say that we can do so much more. And we can.

The last one year has seen many a Rimcollian being very active on social media and whilst many would advise discretion and prudence, these must be ensured, largely as an individual's responsibility. As the editor one would desire that some of these queries and discussions turn to action and as articles for *The Rimcollian*. And while there are many Rimcollians contributing, it would be more complete if more old boys and families put pen to paper and contribute to '*The Rimcollian*'. Do mail it directly to the editor as and when an event occurs.

And no Editor's note would be complete without special thanks to our publisher Prof Sidharth Mishra and the editorial team members Col Shailendra Arya and Brig Sanjay Kannothe for their selfless and tireless work.

Ich Dien & God Bless

Enjoy Reading

Sep 2023

— **Cmde N Anil Jose Joseph (Retd)**

Ranjit 1977 - 82

MESSAGE FROM **PRESIDENT**



Lt Gen Adosh Kumar, AVSM, SM
Honorary President ROBA

Rimcollian Old Boys Association

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Dear Rimcollians,

It is with humility that I have assumed the responsibility of Hony President ROBA. I'm grateful to our fraternity for their faith in me to steer the ROBA activities and it will be my endeavour to further strengthen our great institution.

We all have a strong emotional connect with the School and that is our strength. I would continue to seek your suggestions to further improve the standards. The ROBA Trust and ROBA have always been forthcoming to facilitate the School in 'way forward' and that will continue.

There are major changes happening in RIMC with induction of girl cadets and ARTRAC seeking greater accountability. Our future challenge remains to get MoD approval for increase in strength and consequent requirement of better infrastructure.

I am also aware that we need to be more interactive, so that there is no trust deficit. Our collective goal is to see our institution prosper and our bond grow stronger. I would request if all your recommendations can be sent to me and we will earnestly endeavour to implement them to the extent possible. I would also request all of us to be prudent in our comments on social media as these are sometimes quoted in other forums, creating unnecessary controversies.

On behalf of all of us, I wish to extend our gratitude to Lt Gen Nav K Khanduri for his unwavering support to the School, ROBA and all the Rimcollians, despite his pressing official commitments.

I am sure that our bonhomie will increase in future and together, we will be able to find lasting solutions for betterment of our 'Alma Mater'.

Thanks and Regards to all

GOD BLESS RIMCOLLIANS - ICH DIEN.

LT GEN ADOSH KUMAR
1020/Pratap

SECRETARY'S DESK



Col Vivek Sharma
1407/P (1985-91)

Dear Rimcollians,

It is with great humility that I share this message. It has been an electrifying experience being the pivot of action on behalf of our illustrious ROBA. Being your representative for all the coordinating support, towards the best interest of RIMC and ROBA, the journey has been exciting with challenges galore filled with emotional highs.

In this year of one plus 100, we celebrated Reunion at RIMC with reduced strength but tremendous spirit. We have gone through the period with deliberations on many a things ,big or small, with each one of us contributing the views of agreement as well as disagreement, even if mute spectator. Despite the turbulence, it has been very gratifying to have all of us converge with unambiguous support after having deliberated each aspect threadbare.

It has also been the period where we have extended our reach within the Fraternity with open communication through AGBM, ROBA Working Committee meetings, social media and regional chapters. ROBA community has brought together Rimcollians across the generations under one umbrella. The news and views are now being shared at a click globally. It is also heartening to see that regional chapters are growing into mini Reunions with increased participation and strengthening the bond. Rimcollians are now sparing no opportunity to have the mini, micro mini or for that matter impromptu get togethers.

When it comes to extending a hand to anyone in need, one feels blessed to see the instant response from multiple hands. As a result, we have been able to provide the much needed support especially in the cases of medical emergencies. We are maturing in our approach of handholding and making efforts to see that the Exceptional Asset Rimcollian is channelised well towards society and nation building.

On behalf of the ROBA Working Committee, I wish to extend deep gratitude to each one for being the guiding path, lending unconditional support, having faith in each other and making our efforts count towards the betterment of RIMC. May our tribe continue to grow exponentially.

Ich Dien & God Bless

Sep 2023

— Col Vivek Sharma

A LETTER FROM COMMANDANT



RASHTRIYA INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE DEHRADUN – 248003 (UK)

Dear Rimcollian,

1. At the outset, our greetings and best wishes to you and your families. I write to welcome all those coming for this year's alumni meet to the college. Our profound best wishes to those who are meeting in various corners of the world.

2. Team RIMC has a mandate of progressing the college towards fulfilment of the potential of each cadet that makes part of this campus. By inference, that places the Cadet as the Centre of Gravity. We do not have to look far for the path, the trail having been laid down by Col (Maj Gen) SD Mahanti, the first Rimcollian Commandant, in his letter Number 1 to the parents. Essentially, the aim of the college is to enable a cadet to be: -

- (a) Academically excellent.
- (b) Mentally and physically robust.
- (c) Socially well adjusted.
- (d) A gentleman/lady and an officer.

3. Having taken stock of the challenges and current environment, we have armed ourselves with sagacious advice from the President ROBA, former Commandants and those with the best interests of this institution at heart. Rimcollian's of all hues have stepped forward to help steer the course. A few issues are summarised below: -

(a) **Academics.** A total focus on academics to include enabling enhancement of master proficiency. The end state is to focus on core subjects of PCM enabling cracking of NDA exam with ease, besides walking out with concept clarity into the world. The above has been worked in based on wide feedback generated from cadets, parents, NDA and academia. Challenges abound. We have minimal teaching days in a term, compounded by exams, hikes, co-curriculars, alumni meet etc. It would be easy to conflate the challenges as the same for times past. In truth, every Commandant faces a certain set, each unique while still similar in facade. Today, the NDA exam is tougher with the competition increasing every term. The first step was to put together a body from academia which the team here can rely on for matters educational. The school has an academic council in place for the first time in our history. Dr Madhav Rao and Ms Manju are renowned academicians with a wealth of experience and are working with the college since Dec 22. My gratitude to Harminder Multani for putting this together. Rahul Choudhary worked his way up to Doon and has facilitated our interaction with CENTA, a premier teacher accreditation agency. The first accreditation scores are already in, with a layout for improving master proficiency. PCM being core subjects, Brig Mothi George, a fellow Rimcollian and Principal Tashi Namgyal Academy in Gangtok put us wise to an excellent master, Dr Sai who holds a PhD in Physics. He has since joined us in Feb 23 and has added value to the campus. There are currently 07 masters who teach Mathematics in one form or the other, including Mr Priyanshu from Allen Kota who takes special classes for RIMC cadets on Sundays. Capt (IN) MP Naveen has my gratitude for putting Mr Priyanshu and RIMC together. Shoury Kuttapa spend time on the campus with masters, bringing his unique brand of teambuilding. The number of computers has been enhanced enabling cadets to seek knowledge from the internet. The library is being revamped to modern standards. Interactive Digital Boards are being



RASHTRIYA INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE DEHRADUN – 248003 (UK)

brought into the classroom. The GLR is being made sound-proof and will serve as a model room for AV classes incl internet-based education. PTM have been instituted in both terms to enhance communication with parents. The alumni meet is preceded by a PTM being held on 10-11 March 2023.

(b) **Suspensions and FIRs.** A master was suspended for seeking monetary favours from parents, while 05 FIRs have been filed against persons for fraudulent entry of wards basis forged birth certificates. More will follow as we make tech work for us. Aditya Swaroop is our standing counsel without being one, and our gratitude is in order for him for working out numerous replies to legal issues that besiege us regularly!

(c) **Sports.** Sports had taken a backseat due to COVID. Ritwick Bhattacharya is working with the college to get the Squash team on track. The squash courts have been re-vamped recently. 135th Course has come together and refurbished the Aga Khan Court. The girl cadets have performed admirably in this year's inter section squash and we hope a future India/World number 1 is here with us somewhere. A boxing coach is on campus courtesy Ritwick. In true Rimco spirit, the boxing coach is told often he knows but little of boxing! The riding team will ride in this year's Delhi Horse show. Maj Pratap Pundhir is training them at IMA. We will be hosting Riding for IPSC this year. Rahul Kesar has our gratitude for helping us out every time we approach him!

(d) **Outdoors.** Outdoor weekend hikes have started with Col Rajeev Kumar, SM (Retd) an old boy taking the cadets through the paces. He has a wealth of experience and we see value in the time he spends with them, teaching myriad issues. NIM and HMI courses have been started. May be an expedition in the future. Hikes last term went to various places where Rimcollians were at helm. Our gratitude for their indulgence.

(e) **Girl Cadets.** They are a talented and brilliant bunch, much like the rest of the cadets. The necessary changes to our mindset and approach are a by and by. The larger community needs to understand that changes on account of their being on campus is a given and we must accept it with grace.

(f) **Misc.** Other issues include expansion of school strength and securing of funding to cater for girl cadets, for which the President ROBA is gracious with his time and sage advice. Shailender Arya, Rahul Pathak and a few more are running point on these matters, and have our gratitude. Mr Siddharth Mishra has been a permanent source of encouragement, advice and effort in other core issues. Col Manu Chopra & Dr Nishant Ranjan have been our personal physicians and doctors on call. Nishant has done yeoman service in helping provide all assistance in drawing up plans for the new infirmary and revamping of CH. A number of senior serving and retd Rimcollians have pitched in for all that we need, at any time.

4. **Pudding, Proof.** The proof of our endeavours will lie in the results. The days are ahead. Mid-term exams start on 20 March. NDA exam is on 15 April. 3A boards in late April. 5A boards in May. Each day is important as we have less days to teach, iterate and improve.



RASHTRIYA INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE DEHRADUN – 248003 (UK)

5. **Your Contribution.** Is the understanding that we have the best interest of all our cadets in mind. The cadet must have as much time possible in pursuit of what are important markers for them in various stages of their life. A dorm shift for an alumni meet consumes 07 days minimum all-inclusive for the cadet. An big cultural show, about a month in the middle of the term with critically important exams days away. With girl cadets on campus, liquor in any form where cadets are is a given no go, by the law of the land. We are surrounded by civil areas including a big residential ONGC colony. A loud DJ night in the middle of board exams being conducted across the country is not what we would want for our children, much less for others. Adequate guest rooms and hotel rooms were booked a month in advance to simplify your stay, facilitated in every way by the ever-gracious and helpful Gen Sanjeev Khatri, our GOC Sub A. It will be our utmost endeavour to make your stay and time on campus memorable.

We welcome you to your Alma Mater.

(Vikram Kadian)
Col
Commandant

This letter was written by the Commandant, Col Vikram Kadian, SM addressing all Rimcollians on the eve of the 101st reunion.

Random Thoughts on a Rejuvenating Meet

— Commodore Simon Mathai, NM



Girl Cadets welcome Rimcollian ladies



How you been bro



Lt Gen P Ananthanarayan, ROBA President Lt Gen Nav K Khanduri and Vice Admiral Adhir Arora

New Delhi, 14 March 2023: Back in Delhi after two glorious days at Rajwada Camp. I thought I should pen down a few random thoughts when the memory is still fresh. With bountiful flowers in full bloom, the campus seemed like an artist's canvas, splashed all over with varied hues. These two days in the company of fellow brethren at our Alma Mater is all that any spirited Rimcollian requires, to be rejuvenated and charged up for the remaining part of the year.

With all of us having had mega celebrations for the Centenary last year, this year's reunion was expected to be a jaded one. But it was historic in a sense, as it was the first Reunion since girl Cadets have been inducted.

The college administration did roll out the carpets and pull out all stops to make sure the 'Old Boys' felt at home. The AGM too was conducted in a very congenial and dignified manner. It was heart-warming to hear about the many



At times the stern face of Commandant, Col Vikram Kadian, also bears a smile



Keeping alive the legacy of Valour & Wisdom - Bal Vivek

initiatives that have been set in process with a very clear 'end state' in mind.

It was delightful to hear the Commandant's report, in which he lucidly articulated the four

cornerstones that underpin the Cadets overall development, viz - Academic excellence, Robust physical and mental growth, Social adaptation/adjustment and Being an Officer & a Gentleman/

Lady. I am certain a focused and methodical approach by the Commandant and his able team, will help us in covering lost ground, as also ensure that our Cadets pass out fully



Difficult to get past the old boy Commandant



Hockey trophy goes to the old boys



Maj Gen Alok Kacker to Maj Gen Sanjeev Khatri:
Never saw you studying so hard in the school

equipped and worthy of the college's rich legacy.

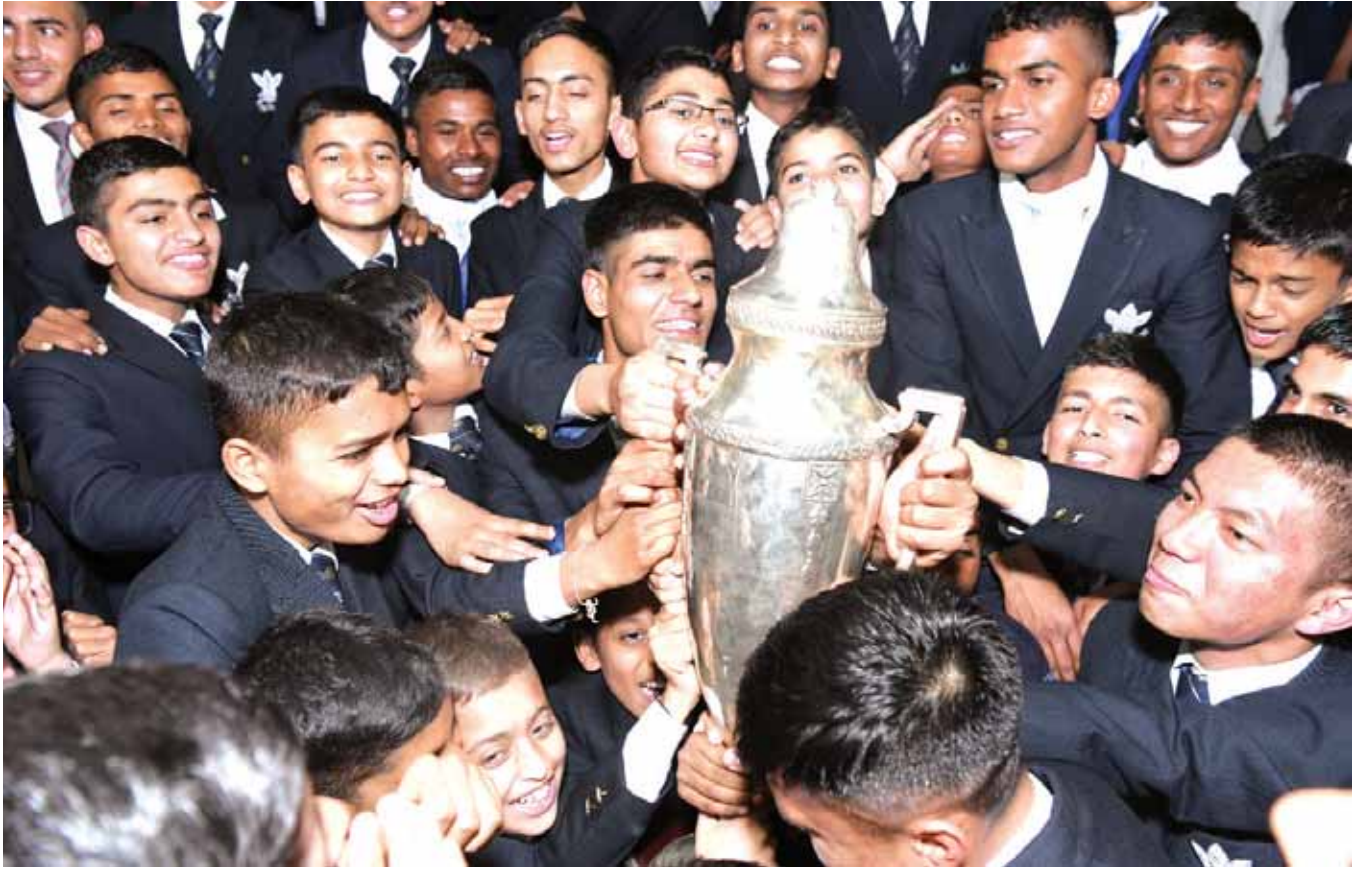
I had opportunity to interact with the young cadets in the basketball court and during various events conducted. They seemed happy, and were a picture of confidence, zeal and resolve. The enthusiasm and participation of the girl cadets in various activities were also very encouraging.

Amidst all the fun and frolic that we all had over two days, there was one common sentiment that underscored all activities. It was a feeling of satisfaction that we have the best team at the helm, with everyone pulling together, and ROBA in full support.

On our part as Old Boys, we need to do more than just lip-service, we need to collectively put our shoulder to the wheel, be it in further building up the ROBA corpus, getting the best instructors, assisting in mentoring the cadets, sage



A boxing bout in full swing



The spirit to win remains intact



That flew over Mr LN's House

advice, and supporting the school management from outside.

Thanks once again to all those who worked tirelessly behind the scene, to enable us rekindle and relive our glorious 5 years in the college. May our tribe increase! Ich Dien.

Lt Col Sumit Bathla adds: So True...let's all be RIMCOLLIAN like...Simon Sir's words sum up everything. Those who were there ...had a wonderful time. For those who could not make it, for whatever reason, please do come over next year. ■

Cheers' to Our 'Alma Mater'



And the cadets won the cricket trophy



PUNE RIMCOLLIAN GET TOGETHER

— COL VIJAY Y GIDH

The Rimcollian Get Together in Pune held on 18 March 2023 was a special occasion. It was for the first time that the Reunion was being conducted in NDA, thanks to V Adm Ajay Kochhar, AVSM, NM, the first Rimcollian Commandant of NDA. The weather had been uncertain during the past few days, and light rain was expected in Pune region till 19 May. Hence the venue for the Reunion had been changed from Kondwana, the residence of the Commandant NDA to Santosh Hall, which is located adjacent to the Cadet's Mess, NDA. However, the weather gods were kind to the Rimcollians, as it appeared bright and clear on 18 May 2023. Mrs Kochhar suggested that the event be conducted in Kondwana.

It was a pleasant Saturday evening when we assembled for the 101st Founders Day Reunion at Kondwana on 18 May 2023. A central vehicle had been organised by NDA from RSI, Pune to NDA for those who wished to avail of the opportunity. We had a good gathering of 50 officers and 20 ladies. Not many get an opportunity to visit the NDA Commandant's residence, either as NDA cadets or visitors. The beautiful Khadakvasla Lake with the Sinhagarh fort in the background, gave a special ambience to the surroundings. The wonderful arrangements made by Wg Cdr Bharat Parab and Team NDA, coupled with the great hospitality of the hosts - Vice Adm and Mrs Kochhar, made it an evening to remember.

Among the veterans, we were fortunate to have Maj Gen & Mrs Rajan Aney, Maj Gen & Mrs AR Raikar, Gp Capt & Mrs AG Bewoor, Col & Mrs Kewalramani and Col & Mrs DH Parab. We missed the presence of Capt HA Mohite, a 98 year old veteran of World War II, Maj Gen PD Sherlekar, R Adm PD Sharma and Col Ashok Bakshi, who were unable to attend due to commitments. We were glad that Mr SS Sandhu and Dr Virender Sharma could attend with their wives.



It was a pleasure to interact with Adm Kochhar and the other Rimcollian officers posted in NDA and get news about the fine performance of our RIMC cadets. Many Rimcollians were thrilled to meet Dr Virender Sharma, who was an English teacher in RIMC and Section Master, Pratap Section during the 1980-90s. Virender later joined as Registrar in NDA and is presently with FLAME University in Pune.

It was nice to meet Mr SS Sandhu and his wife after many years. As CDA (O), Mr Sandhu will always be remembered for the good work done regarding the disbursement of pay and allowances of

Army officers. Mr Sandhu was a year senior to me in Shivaji Sec during 1960s and an excellent athlete and X-Country runner during his cadet days. He had cleared the NDA written exam and SSB; however he was unable to join the NDA due to medical reasons. We did the same Staff College Course at Wellington in 1988-89 and during weekends, the couple would enjoy trekking in the Nilgiris.

Some young officers attending courses of instruction in CME, Pune arrived after some time. It was a wonderful feeling meeting Capt Mohd Sohail Islam after five years. As ACA in NDA during Spring Term, 2018, he had done a commendable job and was awarded the President's Silver Medal. Sohail had the privilege of commanding the Parade during the 134th Course Passing Out Parade in NDA on 30 May 2018, when the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind took the salute. BCC Akshat Raj, another Rimcollian had won the coveted President's Gold Medal. It was nice meeting Akshat and Sohail during the High Tea at Salaria Square after the parade. They were both good friends and had competed hard against



Team NDA had installed a big photo frame - "Family Beyond Blood", 101st Founders Day, Pune - 2023, where many Rimcollians or their better halves were seen enjoying themselves being photographed in the frame.

After the usual round of drinks, snacks and bonhomie, it was time for the special cake-cutting ceremony - a nice cake with "Ich Dien" inscribed on top and "RIMC, 1922-2023" written on the side. Maj Gen Rajan Aney, the senior most Rimcollian, did the honours, ably assisted by the junior most Rimcollian, GC Aryan Ahluwalia. We had the customary group photograph after the cake-cutting ceremony.

The arrangements for the function were excellent. The menu for the dinner which included Scotch Eggs and Topsy Pudding was delicious and reminded everyone of the excellent food we had in School.

Finally there was a loud cheer for RIMC. We are grateful to V Adm & Mrs Kochhar and Team NDA for the lovely evening. Like all good things have to come to an end, we departed with some fine memories of the wonderful time spent, hoping to meet more often in NDA. ■

each other at the RIMC, and later at the NDA. Sohail had confided that the duo shared a "friendly rivalry" since their RIMC days!

While interacting with some young Rimcollians, it was nice to meet a familiar face. He happened to be Aryan Ahluwalia, son of Gp Capt Deepak Ahluwalia, whom I had met during the Reunion in Pune Sub Area in March

2018. Aryan had just passed out from RIMC and I had requested Capt HA Mohite, if I could have the privilege of having a photo with the senior most and junior most Rimcollians. The photo appeared in the Rimcollian Newsletter, September 2018 issue. Aryan was a Gentleman Cadet in OTA, Chennai and was scheduled to pass out in September 2023.

Get-together at British Columbia, Canada

Rimcollians in the province of British Columbia, Canada met for the first time in Vancouver on March 21, 2023. They were joined by Jack Uppal who flew in all the way from Ottawa.



ROBA PRESIDENT'S TRICITY INVITE: 19 FEB 2023

— COL VIVEK SHARMA

As a new year resolve, we had contemplated a get-together at Chandimandir in a Run up to 101st Founders Day@ Reunion 2023 at RIMC. President ROBA mooted the idea and blocked the dates, keeping in mind the weather conditions. During a ROBA Working Meet, amongst Rimcollians at Chandimandir on 17 January, the final print was worked out. Lt Gen Nav K Khanduri, Hony President ROBA, graciously extended the invite to all the Rimcollians to his residence ARBOUR on 19 February 2023.

The Tri-city chapter social group remained dormant on the proposal for a few days. It was in the first week of February that the momentum picked up and the Tricity Rimcollians warmed up with confirmation of attendance. With the growing vibrancy, the Rimcollians from



the satellite cities of Ambala, Patiala, Amritsar and Jalandhar joined in. By the time the D Day arrived, the get-together turned out to be a mini Reunion with a very large strength. Lot of background work had been initiated to mobilise the Rimcollians and of course serve them with spirited get-together filled with

unparalleled bonhomie, garnished with sumptuous Scotch Eggs, Pancakes and Coffee pudding. Maj Gen Sandeep Singh, Shivaji, organised the availability of RIMC Chef, who was taken into the folds by Mrs Sony (Sandeep) Singh and Mrs Vijaya Khanduri. They did a rehearsal round a day prior ensuring that the Rimcollian

Team Seattle of Rimcollians celebrate Founder's Day

Pacific North West 101st Rimcollians reunion at Seattle, attended by Raman Gill, Abhijit Joshi, Sandeep Singh, Anubhav Mishra, Fairoz Hussain and Mushtaq Tarafdar with spouses and kids. Event was at Top Golf which had a Rimcollian cake cut by the junior most and senior most in the group. Thanks to Anubhav for the organization, we'll continue the tradition and expect the tribe to grow in Seattle. ■



The get-together in Melbourne: April 2023



Mr Kaushang Shah, Maj Samir Shrivastav (ret'd) and Mr Harmanjit Jauhal. Akshay Kumar recently moved to Australia joined us.



Family savoured the tastes of RIMC Kitchen in Scotch Eggs, Pan Cakes and perfectly blended coffee pudding. The sumptuous organic starters, personally supervised by Mrs Vijaya Khunduri ensured that all the spirit of drinks found a healthy balance. Maj Gen Sandeep Singh, MA and ADC did all the background management of serene environment with calm and ease.

It was a very pleasant sunny afternoon, cheering the birthday of Chattrapati Shivaji (No wonder 40 percent attendees



were Shivajians) placing the huge responsibility on the other sections to ensure the sanctity (A souvenir shop had been set up by the RIMC reps which was a hot seller and of course had to be guarded...pun intended). The gathering of 130 family members is something that has not been witnessed in the past. What made it more special is the fact that the senior-most attending was Brig Param Bains of 1949 vintage (Pratap), included two

serving Army Commanders and former Air Chief (all Chandragupta) and the youngest Capt Avinash (Ranjit) of 2017. As is the norm, youngsters took on roles in facilitating whatever was required. It had been a great pleasure, privilege and honour for the entire fraternity to have been at the Arbour. The get-together will go down as a memorable event, cherished by all the attendees and would remain etched in memories for times to come. ■

Rimcollians at Agra - March 2023

On the occasion of 101st Founder's day, a get together to celebrate the historic day was organised and hosted by Brig Rajnesh Mohan Cdr 50(I) PARA Bde at Agra Cantt. The occasion was also graced by Col Prem Prakash (Retd) ex Comdt RIMC. The graceful evening marked the Agra chapter in celebration of our founder's day.

Serving Rimcollian Air Force Officers and Army Officers posted in Agra attended the get together. It was a hearty evening filled with nostalgia and reminiscence of times spent at pristine camphor odour filled place at Dehradun with officers sharing their experiences and anecdotes of their time. A truly well spent evening by all. ■



Standing from Left: Maj Y Bronson Meitei (GSO 2 Para Bde), Lt Dhama (23 PARA SF), Lt Col Shubham Lakhera (GSO 1 Air Para Bde), Gp Capt Faisal (Chief Operations Officer 4 Wing), Brig Rajnesh Mohan (Cdr 50(I) PARA Bde), Col Prem Prakash (Retd), ex Comdt RIMC, Wg Cdr PK Pandey (12 Sqn, 4 Wg), Lt Col Anuj (ADR&DE), Maj Siddarth Das (23 PARA SF)

The Ahmedabad Chapter Meet - 26 March 2023



Left to Right: Col HM Patel (51-55 Pratap), Col Arvinder Singh (78-83 C'gupt), Gp Capt A Sinha (80-84 C'gupta), Col RD Sharma (75-80 Pratap), Col Kuldeep Mehta (73-78 Shivaji), Wg Cdr Manish Das (97-01 Ranjit), Mr Rohan Manhas (2000-04 Pratap)

Tricity Get-together at Ambala, April 2023



Left to Right : Lt Col Kalyanbabu, Ranjit; Col Vivek Sharma, Pratap; Mrs NC Sharma; Lt Col Bhawani, Ranjit; Capt(IN) Arvind, Shivaji; Brig HS Jaggi, Chandragupta; Maj Gen & Mrs M P S Gill, Shivaji, Col Prem Singh, Pratap, Mrs Neha Bhawani Singh; Col Suresh Yadav, Chandragupta, Col L J Singh, Shivaji; Col N C Sharma, Chandragupta.

Bangalore Get-together April 2023



Left to Right: TK Jacob, Maj Brajesh Kumar, Maj Shaubhika Kumar, Ms Shirin Banerjee, Ranjit George, Suparna Khurana, Renu George, Brig Ravi Pandalai, Shyamala Pandalai, Ritika Chopra, Laila Girish Kumar, Mr CB, Gp Capt Deepak Cariappa, Col Salam K Singh, Col Milan Khurana & Col Girish Kumar.

Get Together at NDA: Aug 2023

Get together at NDA is always full of energy and it appeared as fully charged cheers to Light Blue - Dark Blue in the afternoon of 12th August, Saturday. Both Cadets and the posted DSs squeezed in their time to meet and greet post lunch and prior proceeding for their clubs. Despite being an extraordinary busy day for everyone, it was a pleasure to find everyone rushing through the kit parades to be having maximum time on target @ Cadets Cafeteria NDA.

Cmde Supradeepan, Pratap also



happened to be around with his family, hearing the announcement as cheering, he joined in the get-together.

It was great to learn about the boys doing well wherever they have been. 4 medallists in cross country recently.

Based on the inputs from the DSs, four Cdts were presented with Rimcollian Cap for exceptional excellence keeping the flag flying high. Others motivated to continue the training as a well-rounded leader.

Reasonably sufficient Cake was catered for, formally cut by three

Kochi Get-together March 2023



Dehradun Get-together 23 June 2023



nominated cdt's having their birthday on 10, 11 & 15 August. The cake was finished in seconds by the others as trademark move.

Signatures of all the attendees were obtained on the centennial first day cover envelope with their college numbers and will be sent to RIMC archives for posterity.

We have a sizeable strength of Rimcollian DS posted now from all three services and all of them are up and about their task as true professional leaders. A fabulous and vibrant afternoon that has added the Hb count of each one of us. ■

For the Alma Mater, Always and Ever

— Lt Col JASBIR KHURANA

*(Lt Col Jasbir S Khurana was the first editor of The Rimcollian, which was founded in 1952. He held to this position till the Platinum Jubilee in 1997, handing over the baton to our current publisher Prof Sidharth Mishra. Col Khurana was the first chronicler of the Rimcollian community and this is best justified with the article he wrote for the Platinum Jubilee publication - **Where Gallantry is Tradition.** — Editor)*

The RIMC Old Boys Association was formed in 1949. Maj Gen Hira Lal Atal (Rawlinsons - 1923) who was then the Adjutant General, was the Founder President and Gen (then Colonel) G G Bewoor (Kitcheners 29-34) was the founder Secretary. Thus, the first Old Boys activity was held in March 1928 when an alumni week was organized by the school between March 23 and March 28. The first Old Boys Reunion was held in Dehra Dun in 1929. Col J R Hutchison, DSO from Central India Horse was then the Commandant.

An interesting account of this first Reunion was given by Lt Gen K Bahadur Singh who was then the Cadet Captain at RIMC. He has said that Maj Gen Hira Lal Atal along with about a dozen other Old Boys attended this function. They were put up in the "new" dormitories near the football pitch (which were later Kitchener Section and are now Shivaji Section dormitories). They messed with the cadets and normally preferred to sit at the seniors table in the cadets mess with their old sections. It was then that the demands for some favourite items of menu like Scotch eggs were first made.

At this first Reunion, cricket, tennis, hockey and squash matches were played between the Old Boys and the Present Boys and the Present Boys won most of the matches. In addition to these matches the College also had Inter Section Boxing matches and staged a PT



Lt Col Jasbir S Khurana passed away in the US on August 27, 2023. He was preceded in the final journey by his better half Dr Bir khurana in July 2023. The couple would be long remembered for their contribution to the Rimcollian community.

Display. The boxing tradition thus have its roots in the 1929 reunion.

Since then, the bonds of the "Old School tie" became stronger and thereafter Old Boys Reunions were held annually at RIMC till World War II

when they were discontinued. After the War, the first Reunion was held on 14 August 1947 (Independence eve) at the Maidens Hotel, Civil Lines, Delhi. The Old Boys celebrated Independence Day in the Hotel Dining Room that night.

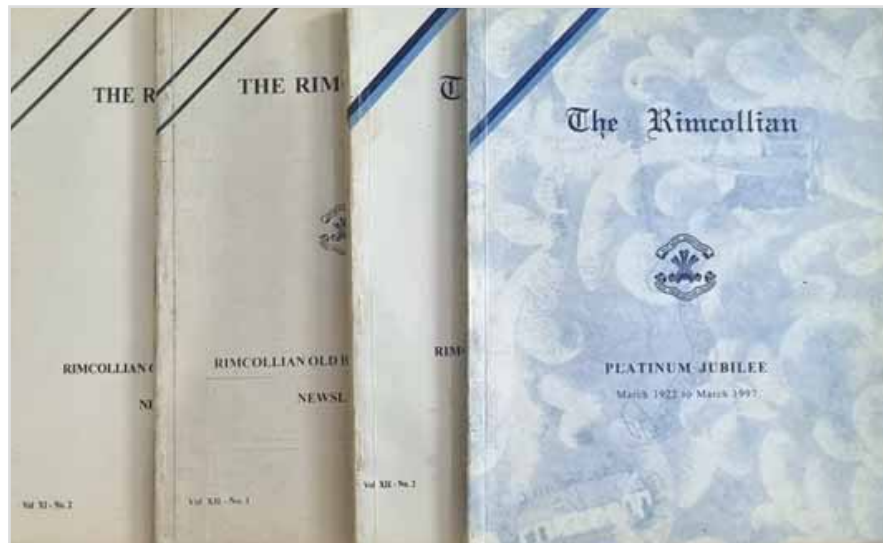
In order to formalize and reactivate the Rimcollian activities and also to ensure regular attendance, membership and funds, it was decided to formally found the RIMC Old Boys Association. In 1952 it was decided to hold the Old Boys Reunion in Dehra Dun to coincide with the Founder's Day. Thereafter holding of the reunions on the school campus was revived in March 1953.

The first written account of the Rimcollian Old Boys Association was published in the Association's first Newsletter in March, 1953, giving an account of the 3rd Annual Reunion. Gen Gopal Bewoor was the President and Maj Gen (then Col) Virendra Singh was the Secretary. To assist the Secretary, Lt Col Jasbir Khurana appointed Assistant Secretary and Editor of the Newsletter, which was christened as *The Rimcollian*. At that time there were only 24 Life and about 100 Annual members.

Around this time, the design for the Old Boys blazer pocket and buttons were and finalized by the Old Boys Working Committee. The first lots of ties were obtained from UK sometimes in 1951-54 through Maj Gen S Harnarain Singh (Kichener) who was then posted in UK as our Military Advisor. At this time the Old Boys Association also decided, as our token of affection for their Alma Mater, to present a trophy to the College. This trophy which is made in silver chase-work now adorns the College Cadets' Mess was produced by the famous silversmiths, Hamiltons of Calcutta.

The period 1952 to 1955 was a period of intense activities in as far the Old Boys Association was concerned. The newsletter was a regular feature and membership of the Association increased considerably. An attempt was also made during this period of associating the Pakistani Old Boys with our Association and whenever some news of the old Boys was received, this was published in the newsletter.

The Fourth Annual Reunion was held on 13th of March 1954 at the Delhi Gymkhana Club, New Delhi. The



A glimpse of the editions of *The Rimcollian* brought out under the editorship of Lt Col Jasbir S Khurana

Present Boys cricket team along with Mr EJ Watson who was then the Principal, came to Delhi. The Old Boys vs Present Boys cricket match was played at IAF Station Safdarjung grounds. Col Naseer Ahmed who was then Military Adviser, Pakistan High Commission in India attended this meeting. Not only this, it was perhaps for the first time that 12 Pakistani Rimcollians met in Lahore on 20th February, 1954 and decided to form a Rimcollians Old Boys Association of Pakistan affiliated to the Rimcollian Old Boys Association in India. Lt Gen (then Maj Gen) Mohammed Yusuf was elected as its Founder President.

The 5th Annual Reunion was held on 13th of March, 1955 in Dehra Dun. By this time the Old Boys Association was on a very sound footing. During this year Mr EJ Watson also left the College. The membership had by now increased to 164. During this period the emphasis had been on enrolling Life Members. As a matter of policy, it had been decided that Old Boys would be eligible to become members of the Association only on commissioning or becoming economically independent.

The 1956 Annual Reunion was held at Delhi again and as in 1954, a team of the Present Boys came over to Delhi. This year it was perhaps for the first time that a non- Rimcollian was the Chief Guest at a part of the Rimcollian

Reunion function - Dr Radhakrishan, who was then the Vice President of India, was the Chief Guest and gave away the prizes at the cricket match.

The 1957 Reunion was held at Dehra Dun again. During this Reunion, at the instance of Maj Gen Hira Lal Atal, it was decided approve of Old Boys Coat Lapel Badges. Our Reunion in 1958 was held at Delhi again. Soon thereafter, it was also decided that the Annual Reunion would be held at Dehra Dun from 12-14 March each year.

There was tremendous pressure by the Government to change the name and crest of the College to a more Indianized one. ROBA then suggested the present name and emblem which retains the acronym - RIMC and the three peacock feathers (the National bird), because it bears a close resemblance to the original College crest. This was adopted in 1964. However, it was decided that the ROBA crest would be retained on all its items.

In January 1971, when this was last reviewed, the Association had 189 Life and 182 Annual members, making a total of 371. In the 80's it was decided that cadets on leaving RIMC would be enrolled as members by the College. Although this has been suggested on many earlier occasions, it had been felt that cadets should only be made members when they became economically independent.

On Firm Footing

The Golden Jubilee in March'1972 was a memorable event. President of India, Dr VV Giri was the Chief Guest and Maj Gen Hira Lal Atal (Rawlinsons 23) was the senior most Old Boy present. On this occasion the Old Boys presented the College with a wrought iron gate for its main entrance and named it as Thimayya Gate, in memory of its most illustrious old boy late Gen KS Thimayya, and the road leading from the Young Road to Thimayya Gate as Thimayya Raod.

The celebrations were held in the backdrop of the 1971 war, where the Rimcollians had displayed extraordinary valour and leadership qualities, with some of them making the supreme sacrifice. The Martyrs' Memorial, which is located in the centre of the lawn facing the triangular base of the flag mast, was another gift given by the old boys. The memorial, an exquisite piece of architecture in white marble, was the most appropriate presentation to make on this occasion. On the morning of 13th March 1972, the memorial was presented to the college in a very solemn function by then president of the association Maj Gen Virendra Singh in the presence of Maj Gen Hira Lal Atal, the senior most old boy.

The memorial was consecrated with the recitation of passages from Gita, Bible, Quran and Guru Granth Sahib, after Gen Atal had inspected a very smart Guard of Honour presented to him by the Cadets. In his stirring presentation speech, Gen Virendra Singh said that the departed soul would always be loved and remembered by their school in whose lap they spent their childhood, with gratitude and awe. Thereafter Gen Atal laid the wreath on the behalf of the old boys and the last post was sounded by the buglers. Every year since then at the annual reunion the senior-most old boy present has laid the wreath on behalf of the fraternity on the morning of March 13. A tradition every old boy, from any walk of life, finds values to uphold, strengthening the bonds of the fraternity.

The high point of this celebration was that three serving army commanders, Lt Gens GG Bewoor, KP Candeth and PS Bhagat sharing dais with the President at the main function. This function was attended by 400 old boys and many came with their families. The President in his address said, "During this period of 50 years, the

college has made history by Indianising the top ranks of the Army, Navy and Air Force and rendering yeoman service to the country by producing worthy officers and able leaders." Among the President's cadet escorts was Birender Singh Dhanoa, who later became the Chief of Air Staff.

The traditional hockey and the cricket matches were played with much grandeur on March 11 and 12 respectively, with Maj Gen MG Rajwade leading the Old Boys hockey team and Gen GG Bewoor, the cricket team. Gen Bhagat had umpired during the hockey match. While the hockey match ended in a draw, the cricket match was won by the Old Boys team, with Gen Bewoor taking two crucial wickets by conceding just 10 runs. Gen Atal handed over the trophy to Gen Bewoor.

On the evening of March 12, after the boxing finals, Gen Hira Lal Atal announced that he was instituting two medals in the memory of his late brother, also an old boy, late Brigadier KL Atal, Maha Vir Chakra in 1948 Kashmir operations. These medals are given to the best athletes in the senior and junior sections each year.

Courtesy the initiative of Lt Gen PS Bhagat, then GOC-in-C Central, Command, major repair works were undertaken at the school including the building of a new pavilion, which is much bigger in size than Old Pavilion, which was gifted by the Maharaja of Patiala. The celebrations rejuvenated the feeling of fraternity and affection for the institution among the members of the alumni.

In the year 1980, the old boys presented two busts to the college, those of Lt Gen PS Bhagat, Victoria Cross and Maj Somnath Sharma, Param Vir

Chakra. On the evening of March 13, the busts were unveiled by Mrs Mohini Bhagat, wife of the late General, and Brig (later Gen) Vishwa Nath Sharma, the brother of the PVC winner. The presentation speech at the unveiling of the busts, installed at the main entrance of the Convocation Hall, gen GG Bewoor said that it would act as beacon of dauntless courage, strong determination and supreme sacrifice to generations of Rimcollians. The Convocation Hall has since been renamed as the Bhagat Hall and the new library building as Somnath Library.

The next major event towards which the association contributed was the Diamond Jubilee held in March'82. The association at this point of time was headed by Lt Gen K Surendra Singh. Then Chief of Army Staff Gen KV Krishna Rao, came as the Chief Guest for the Founder's Day. On behalf of ROBA, Indian National Army veteran and former ambassador Niranjana Singh Gill (Kitchener), who was the oldest Old Boy present, gifted the College with a silver trophy in the form of the College emblem of three peacock feathers. On this occasion, the Association also started a Benevolent Fund with a corpus of Rs 1.5 Lakhs. The interest from this is set aside exclusively for the benefit of retired and serving Group D employees.

While the association continued to work towards the strengthening of the fraternity in the service of the school, the next major milestone is going to be the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 1997.

A major achievement has been the revival of the newsletter. The bi-annual issue of the newsletter has been a great success and able to build up the Rimcollian network. The newsletters are being read outside the Rimcollian circles, especially the supplement on Pakistan visit was very favourably reviewed. What started as in 1929 as an informal gathering of a few old boys today has grown into a large association with over 1000 odd members, with headquarters in Delhi coordinating with over 20 regional secretaries stationed all over the country and overseas. ■

Ajit Kumar Gupta - A gentle soul

It is with great sorrow and pain I share the untimely demise of my classmate from School and one of my dearest friends Ajit Gupta. He passed away on 28 Jul 23 at his native place. He was suffering from Parkinson and facing lot of uncalled for pressure from few family members over property. A great sportsman and gentlest of souls Ajit did not join Services and left his corporate job early to look after his ailing parents. He remained a bachelor. In 2019, 2020 & 2022 we attended the reunion together. He was happiest during those days. Tomar, Ajit and self would reminisce with joy and laugh over so many events of a bygone era. These visits were



more than just celebrations, together we considered it a pilgrimage. Goodbye Ajit, Cmde Satish Aiyappa: Heartfelt condolences Ranjan ... it was such a

pleasure to meet him, for the first time after leaving school, with you during the Centenary meet. May his dear departed soul rest in eternal peace. Sadgati

Col Dilip Kumar: Deeply shocked to hear this sad news. Met him during the 20& 22 reunion after ages and now lost him so quickly thereafter. He was such a good sportsman, so soft spoken and a gentle soul. More than any physical ailment, I think he was more troubled by his mental and emotional issues. Sacrificed his personal life to look after his ageing parents and the property. Goodbye Ajit. We'll miss you. Om shanti.

— Brig Ranjan Kumar Singh

Ambrish Tiwari - From tiny frame to sturdy casing

Ambrish Tiwari was three years junior and in the Ranjit section. When he joined he was lean and short, the kind of boy the section's boxing captain is always on the lookout for the minimum weight category. If I remember correctly, Ambrish did box at the school. He was kind of an all-rounder playing almost all games, participating in debates and scoring well in academics. The kind of cadet who may not be a stalwart but an asset in real terms.

I think the largest contingent in his class was from Ranjit Section - Ambrish Tiwari, Subodh Kumar, Prabhat Kumar, Sudhanshu Prasad and Sanjay Kumar. Ambrish was an exception in a way that he was from Kumaon and remaining from the Republic of Bihar. But he teamed with these taller and sturdier class mates to remain an important clog in every section squad.

Several years later, almost three-decades, that I received a call which mentioned that it was Ambrish Tiwari



on the line; it took a while to place that mature voice in the tiny frame I remembered. He had taken over as Administrative Officer at the school and had called to seek details for the sponsors who had funded the All India Soccer Championship, which RIMC was to host in those days. Our newspaper had associated the previous year along with a few other sponsors.

After taking the details, he was quick to add that the next time I was in Dehradun, I should stay at the school.

As the luck would have it, the school then had Hukum Bainsla as Commandant, about two years senior to Ambrish and also from Ranjit Section. The two together, what people called them in zest, made the Gorkha Brigade. When I visited them, Ambrish was so difficult to recognise: that tiny frame had grown into a sturdy casing with a gentle soul.

A few years later when Maj Gen Jarken Gamlin penned an article for The Rimcollian on his regiment - 2/8 Gorkha Rifles, that one realised that he belonged to an illustrious unit which has had several Rimcollians on its rolls including our editorial committee's quiet contributor Brigadier Sanjay Kannoth.

Difficult to accept that someone whom you had received as a junior in the school races ahead on the way to Valhalla. Sorry to see you depart so young my friend, be at peace, may the Good Lord take you in his refuge.

In Grief - Sidharth Mishra

My learnings from the RIMC Commandants

— **CAPT TARAL CHANCHANI, RANJIT/174 COURSE**

My tenure at school was exacting, adventurous, memorable and yet halcyon. And it is not one aspect which factors for all these sentiments. On the contrary it is a gamut of everything ranging from course mates, seniors, juniors, masters and all the memories revolving around them. Today, when a slightly more matured vision of me looks back to those days, I realise that every memory was derived only out of one thing - the atmosphere. The atmosphere was something that a lot factors contribute to, but what, in my opinion the most deciding factor is the leader, the man at the helm - The Commandant.

I have had the privilege to train myself under three Commandants, from three different Arms and each with a distinct, awe inspiring personality. From each Commandant, there were different learnings.

I still remember my first morning at school, when the first thing I see is Col (now Maj Gen) H Dharmarajan, erstwhile Commandant on a horseback with his disarming smile staring right back at our slothful faces. Now, as a first-termer, the awe of facing 'THE COMMANDANT' in such an embarrassing state put half of us into a tizzy. But, he on the other hand asked us to go look for a notice board with our merit list, and in the process, he achieved his aim of making the whole course see the college at once. In those days, instead of PT, we had multifarious activities called Skill Classes. Each course was made to learn a different skill every day. Instead of the daily mundane PT, we had swimming, riding, squash, shooting as our new morning curriculum. It help is development of specific skills.



But the perpetual fear we had, was that of Morning Assembly wherein he would call anyone of his choice to the stage and ask him to speak on a current topic. Although, it certainly was a good practice but little intimidating for us, the toy soldiers. We learnt to think on our feet. However, he had a soft side too. He would celebrate our birthdays by getting a cake baked for us and

celebrating it with our course mates. Our tenure under him was fruitful in all aspects spectrums of a holistic growth. I can never forget the man with an envious demeanour, who was an epitome of discipline with a disarming smile.

Soon we were under command of the flamboyant, Col (Now Brig) Pankaj Kumaria. A typical Black Beret, The



Cavalryman was one of most suave personalities, I have ever come across. With a unique voice, even his scolding was a music to our ears. He further enhanced our focus to a more academic orientation, which he believed (and now even I do) is the need of the hour. He gave us tremendous exposure by encouraging our participation in multiple Inter-School events. I cannot thank him enough, for giving me an exposure, which earned me my first girlfriend (who is now unfortunately married). His style of grooming was more inclined to ensure our growth more as military leaders, which is the long term objective of RIMC.

The last Commandant in school for me was Col (now Brig) HS Bainsla, a staunch infantryman. A six-footer, this Gorkha officer was humble and learned person, with a personality worthy of emulation. Being a ground soldier (figuratively as well), he made a paradigm shift of focus to train us more for our challenging times in NDA. With his Key Result Areas on the lines of NDA training, he infused heavy dosage of Officer Like Quality's that have shaped us to be better officers and most importantly better humans.

Each of the Commandants, with their distinctive character have etched many facets into our personality, which definitely are unforgettable. The continuous changing impetuses have transformed us to what I term - well groomed. We not only learnt and enhanced our military bearings but also learnt the essentiality of holding moral fibre and social fabric. The passing of decades, exposure of technology and quality of students; ensured perpetual challenges and with each man at the helm of affairs mitigating them and rather capitalise them to formulate learning objectives.

And to come to think of it, being posted to your alma mater as the Commandants, needless to say is an achievement in itself. With such enigmatic personalities on the chair, all the cadets have to do is - CAPITALISE. ■



A Memorable Encounter with Dr UN

— **CMDE N ANIL JOSE JOSEPH, VSM, IN (RETD); RANJIT/112**

I was in Kolkata in the year 2006 to take over INS Shardul as its first Commanding Officer. Our base port was to be Karwar in Karnataka. So I thought it would be better to have all the families shift to Karwar and settle the 'administrative side' as the ship still had some time before she could sail. Interaction with the Naval Officer in Charge Karwar, convinced us that houses were available and that the new Kendriya Vidyalaya would be able to enrol all the children.

As the Captain, I decided to move with the first lot, and was at Karwar on 01 May 2006 to tackle issues upfront. Sure enough, we all got accommodation, but the KV refused to admit the children. I met the Principal Mrs Roopa Katiyar, who turned out to be a 'Doon type' and 'district athletics type' and the ice was broken. She advised shifting children to a local KV at the previous station before moving to Karwar. We did as advised, for the rest of the children from our Shardul family. A herculean task getting kids in different naval stations shifted to a local KV and then effecting the transfer of the sailor to Karwar. A task that was effectively undertaken by Team Shardul. The agreement to accept NCS kids in KVs came after this incident. But I am getting ahead of myself here.

Even though we managed admission of 'Shardul children' to KV very effectively; a few kids, including my own, could not attend school. Those who shifted first with me could not undertake this exercise of shifting to a KV at the previous station. The school (KV) indicated it was not possible, as there were no vacancies and until a second section was approved, this was

at a 'limbo'. Any query at Karwar, Headquarters Western Naval Command and Naval Headquarters met a dead end with the line 'file is with KV Sangathan and the approval is around the corner'.

Well, round the corner stretched to three months and our bureaucratic red tape saw no progress..... What I define as 'Present Continuous' or 'kadam thaal'. There were children sitting at home whilst others went to school. Some of the children may have been pleased at the prospect, but the worry lines on the parents were increasing. I was under pressure from my own ship mates, my wife and my conscience, having promised my men that school admission was guaranteed.

I thought to myself why not make an attempt directly. I asked Cmde KP Ramachandran, NOIC Karwar, permission to talk to KV Sangathan, hoping that the angst of a parent and the words of a Commanding Officer, who had promised his men, would carry more weight than a file that was moving up and down (or may be not moving at all). Cmde Ramachandran who had approached KV Sangathan for the same, told me that there was a 'Dr UN Singh' who was in charge of approving the second section. Dr UN Singh, I wrote in my memo pad.

Dr UN Singh!..... It rang a bell...."Listen, listen, ladies gay! No haughty feat of arms I tell; soft is the note and sad the lay that mourns the lovely Rosabelle....."I was quietly confident that doors would open, as I was sure that this was Dr. UN Singh, my English teacher from RIMC.

I rang him up and told his PA that I was an old student and would like to speak with him. I was put through

immediately and the conversation went thus.....

Good morning sir, this is Cdr Anil Jose Joseph. I do not know if you remember me sir, but I was a student of yours at RIMC".

I was stumped by his response.

"You are the one who ate bananas to increase his weight in boxing".

He had picked a very innocuous incident to connect. I gathered my wits and managed a 'Well sir, I am trying to take out those bananas now' (having gained enough and more weight since 1982).

Well, from there on it was a different story. I explained the predicament I was in and within 15 days the second section was functioning at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Karwar and to top it all, even the shortage of teachers there was addressed. Incidentally, the oversubscribed KV at Karwar was the only English medium school for many, many miles to the South, North and East. Why not the west? Figure it out for yourself.

For me personally, the interaction thereafter was like a blessing each time I spoke to Dr UN Singh. Despite being a busy man in busy chair, he still had time for 'his student' every time I called.

This then is a first-hand account of a memorable encounter with an old master.

The term master suggests an experienced or trusted advisor and at RIMC we referred to our teachers as masters. It is widely used in boarding schools in England and that must be the etymology for RIMC. Without doubt our teachers have left a lasting impression on us, and RIMC is no different. But being a boarding school



Dr UN Singh Jt Comm KV Sangathan (extreme right)

the masters are also actively involved in the mentoring and grooming process. Many of us in the Armed Forces do not realise that unlike at NDA, the cadets at RIMC are a completely different age group 11 to 16 years (even though dressed in trousers and Olive Green) and one cannot carry the template of a Divisional Officer at NDA to RIMC. The cadets (children) at RIMC need to be handled differently. The Masters have a huge role in the metamorphosis of the boy into a young man at RIMC, the 'Cradle of Warriors'.

The challenge of getting a second section in the KV, getting the KV adequately staffed was a challenge in our Navy and once done there were many who claimed it as a feather in the cap. That there was an 'Ich Dien' hand, a master and his pupil hand, is a fact that one never boasted but is quietly proud of. And like I said my blessing was in re-establishing my connection with a mentor, my old master.

And since then I have always made it a point to connect with him on his birthday and on September 5. A message and then a phone call was a routine.



Ranjit Basketball team 1981 which was also the College team. Dr UN Singh, second from right, between GV Krishna and Alok Kacker

I have made it a point to call my teachers on their birthdays and on Sep 5. Some in fact most have since passed away but I am sure they live in our memories and in all that they taught us.

Even now when we meet the sparkle in their eyes are like life itself, oozing energy, they have so much good to

convey and blessings and cheer in plenty that one is motivated. I dare say that even when we speak one can visualise the sparkle and the energy.

Master suggests an experienced or trusted advisor and that they have remained always. May God bless them and their like who inspire generations. ■

The Mountains are Calling

— LT CDR VAIBHAV

In Sep 21, as part of the Swarnim Vijay Varsh Celebrations, Indian Navy's Western Naval Command launched an expedition to Mt Trishul. Lt Cdr Yogesh Tiwari (Shivaji/163) and Lt Cdr Anant Kukreti (Chandragupta/164), being avid mountaineers and integral members of many past expeditions including Navy's summit to Mt Everest, were also part of this team.

For both of them, this was being seen as another routine expedition. Who would have known that nature had different plans for its most ardent lovers. In the wee hours of 01 Oct 21, a deadly avalanche engulfed the expedition's lead team consisting of five members, including Yogesh and Anant, and a porter. Their mortal remains were found on 02 Oct 21, laying to rest any hopes of survivors.

From their RIMC days, Yogesh and Anant were cut differently. Surfeit with talent, Anant excelled in english debates, was known for his precise articulation of thoughts and was an ominous south paw. Yogesh on the other hand mesmerised everyone with his hindi poetry and was a distance runner par excellence. (He went on to participate in many trails and ultra marathons whilst in the Navy). Gratification in the form of medals and trophies did not allure them. Having tasted success in various fields, they both found their calling in exploring the mountains where





FROM THEIR RIMC DAYS, YOGESH AND ANANT WERE CUT DIFFERENTLY. SURFEIT WITH TALENT, ANANT EXCELLED IN ENGLISH DEBATES, WAS KNOWN FOR HIS PRECISE ARTICULATION OF THOUGHTS AND WAS AN OMINOUS SOUTH PAW. YOGESH ON THE OTHER HAND MESMERISED EVERYONE WITH HIS HINDI POETRY AND WAS A DISTANCE RUNNER PAR EXCELLENCE. (HE WENT ON TO PARTICIPATE IN MANY TRAILS AND ULTRA MARATHONS WHILST IN THE NAVY). GRATIFICATION IN THE FORM OF MEDALS AND TROPHIES DID NOT ALLURE THEM.

they finally met their end. Both the officers were awarded Nao Sena medal (devotion to duty) posthumously in a Naval Investiture Ceremony held in Visakhapatnam on 31 May 23.

To honour Anant's achievements and thirst for knowledge, a trust "Shaheed Anant Kukreti Smarak Nyas" has been started by his family. They aid young students who are financially handicapped to meet their aspirations. The details are placed below.

They are part of the yore now. Their stories of human limits and endurance continue to inspire young minds and adventurers. May their souls rest in everlasting peace and keep a watchful gaze over those who dare to brave the mountains. ■

Our Friend SK

— DR NISHANT RANJAN, CHANDRAGUPTA, 1990-93

Satyajeet Kumar Singh, or SK, or sometimes Satya, the man who lived life by his own terms, who walked this planet for just about 45 years, but to his friends it seems like an eternity of bliss and excitement walking by his side. A man who had no purpose but to seek pleasure in each moment he got to live. Someone for whom happiness meant being with his friends forever, for whom friends were as important as his family of four - his better half Sakshi and two young sons aged 14 years and 10 years.

A doting son, who took great care of his 88 years old father, having lost his mother when he was probably a toddler. His life reminds me of the immortal dialogue uttered by the eternal love-boy and mega star of Hindi cinema, Mr Rajesh Khanna in the classic called Anand; " Babu mushai, zindagi lambi nahi badi honi chaahiye".

A man who manufactured pleasure out of nothingness, reinforcing the fact that life is a journey to cherish all her moments, life isn't a mission to accomplish, a target to achieve or a glory to bask.

Going back 32 years in life when I joined RIMC as a lost lad from Mars, who having managed to pass a gruelling entrance examination to RIMC from a Hindi medium government school in an unknown sleepy town called Begusarai in central Bihar struggled to catch the words whispered on to his ears called 'orders' to be transmitted to the next cadet, who had no inkling of how the imperialist British pronounced queen's English to be appreciated by all the fellow colonisers of the Indian state, who was the softest target of all jokes enough to destroy the self-esteem, self-worth and self-confidence of a growing child, who was completely lost and petrified like a novice lamb thrown into a cage of ferocious wild animals, here



came a thin built boy called SK Singh, my holding section as well as Chandragupta section mate, a source of great help and solace, who helped me find my own footing in a fierce world. SK Singh became a friend for life since then till he chose to bid us good bye prematurely.

I got to spend three and a half years with SK Singh in RIMC. Having some constant niggle in his knees, he remained in and out of the MH for a significant number of days in the school. Whatever time he got to spend

with us in the school, he was either a prankster, a tiny bully, a man with a helping pair of hands, a complete pleasure seeker and someone who was good in mathematics like most of his Bihari peers.

Following his 3A board examinations he had to quit RIMC for his chronic medical ailments adjudged him unfit to pursue a career in armed forces.

I was beginning to find my ground by then and was metamorphosing into a well groomed man, was doing fairly

well in academics and other activities of the school, was coming into my own having realised my strengths and the school was a perfect place to develop what I had. But then somehow under the influence of journals and magazines, the civil service topper's interviews etc created a deep impact on my mind and I took the most disastrous decision of my life to quit the regimented life in RIMC and join the cruel civil world. A decision I terribly regret in the hindsight.

Having quit RIMC, I joined Modern school, Barakhamba road, in New Delhi. Seated in the heart of the capital, this prestigious school had a close connection with RIMC. The founder of the school was Major General Virendra Singh, an eminent RIMCOLLIAN and his family. The school boasted of the students who came from rich and famous families of the national capital. I was yet again stumped by the mesmerising glitz and glamour of the school campus.

One fine morning as I was readying to leave my school hostel to attend the morning assembly, my sleepy gaze fell on a familiar face, my eyes sparkled and the heart skipped a beat in joy. I was shocked to see SK Singh in the hostel. Till that moment I had no inkling about his whereabouts after leaving RIMC.

For the next two years we were again in the same class and the same hostel famously known as Golden jubilee hostel of The Modern School.

As the school was in the proximity of Connaught place and the famous Bengali market was in its backyard, me and SK would often escape for late night movies in Odeon, Plaza, Rivoli, Regent in CP and sometimes beyond to far off cinema halls like Priya and Chanakya in South Delhi.

We watched the movie Ham Aapke Hain Kaun for a record five consecutive shows in Chanakya. All the famous eateries like The Wimpy's, Nirulas and Nathu's Sweet shop in the nearby CP and Bengali Market offered us the best seats whenever we visited them, obviously for the generous tips offered by SK Singh. For two years I enjoyed the



company of SK, sometimes too irritating as he missed no opportunity creating distractions in my studies and took immense pleasure in disturbing me especially around exam times. Yet again SK helped me calm my nerves in an unfamiliar glitzy environment where I was cutting a lonely figure.

After having cleared our class twelve CBSE board examinations, I parted from SK to prepare for my medical entrance examinations. In the midst of my preparation, SK landed in my shared accommodation in Mukherjee Nagar, North Delhi, one fine evening. He informed us about his tremendous success in an entrance examination for deck cadets in Anglo Eastern shipping company. He broke the news that he has stood first in the competitive entrance examination that was taken by all of three candidates and that he wished to take us out for party, something none of

us could refuse. So the entire flock went out to celebrate his success, losing one full day just before exams.

Following that I again lost connection with SK for the second time. I cracked my all India CBSE premedical entrance examination and managed to get a MBBS seat in the prestigious Calcutta National Medical College, Park Circus, Kolkata. Life in medical school was rigorous. My first professional examinations had finished and the results were awaited.

I was anxious as Calcutta University was infamous for passing just about 50 percent students in medical schools. To calm things down I had gone for a movie, 'The sixth Sense' in the famous movie theatre in Esplanade's New Empire. After watching the movie as I was trying to comprehend what just transpired in the movie, someone patted me from behind.



Various Reunions, SK in centre in both the photos

I was shocked to see SK Singh. He was in Kolkata and was putting up at Marine club, Kidderpore. Since that day for next five-six years SK would often come down to Kolkata after his sailing and he would take me and all my classmates from the medical college main hostel for parties around the city of joy. We would party whole night to be woken up by the room service boys in the marine club Kolkata next morning following which we would rush to our morning wards in the medical college hospital to be chided bitterly by our 'virus' professors.

Because of this we missed many classes and some of our exams. I had to pay dearly on some occasions because of excessive partying with the great rock star SK Singh. SK had become so popular in my college that everyone would wait for him to return to the city of joy after his sailing assignment. All my medical college batch mates loved him.

After completing my long and arduous medical training I returned back to my native state as an orthopaedic surgeon to join my father's practice. My father is a well-known orthopaedic surgeon in our hometown and the state of Bihar. I soon realised my dream to establish a super speciality hospital called Mediversal Hospital in

Patna. I received immense support from SK in this endeavour.

My last eleven years of stay in Bihar were laced with many memorable evenings spent with SK during which he took the lead in organising many Rimcollian get-together in Patna. SK by then had left his sailing career and was trying to establish himself in real estates as a builder. He had completed an apartment project with lot of passion and hard work. The last ten years of his life were a roller coaster ride, interspersed with good and bad times, successes and failures. However SK being the king wasn't much effected by the setbacks and his morale stayed upbeat all along.

I was always by his side in times of his setbacks.

During the last ten years SK and I took the flights from Patna on at least three occasions to celebrate the Reunion in RIMC along with our course mates from 136 course. We would stay in Sheraton Dehradun and the colourful memories would linger forever. Along with our course mates Tarun Massey, Uday Bikram Choudhary, late Wing Commander Mandeep Singh Dhillon, Lt Col Harpreet Singh, Col Shailender Arya, Col Samindar Mor, Lt Col P Shankar Swaroop and Cdr Shravan Kapila, me and SK had a blast. It has

almost become an annual pilgrimage for our course mates to attend the reunion each spring to spend few quality moments with each other.

In 2017, when we lost our course mate Wing Commander Mandeep Singh in a transport helicopter crash in a rescue mission in Arunachal, I travelled with SK to Tezpur to attend his funeral along with some of my course mates. We also made sure we attended his rituals in Patiala, Mandeep's hometown. SK was a spirited (joshi, as we say in RIMC) guy who would make extra efforts to be by his friend's side in times of their grief.

Last year in July he shifted to Guwahati to start some business. His health was beginning to slide by then. One fine evening I got a call from Mediversal Hospital Patna that SK Singh has been brought by the hospital ambulance from Patna airport in an extremely critical situation. He was such a gutsy guy that he had the courage and grit to fly all by his own when his liver, lungs and kidneys were failing. I know none who can stand and walk with such worsening health forget taking a flight on his own from Guwahati to Patna.

He had landed in the same hospital he had helped me establish. Many of the senior doctors in the hospital knew him well having been taken out for parties by him while training in the medical college in Kolkata. They all paid top class attention and did everything to revive him. However his health kept declining. His family shifted him to AIIMS Delhi by an air ambulance where he breathed his last, seven days later.

I was present during his cremation at Digha Ganga Ghat in Patna. I had lost my best friend of 32 years. It seemed as if our destiny were intertwined. Every time I lost him, SK managed to find me from nowhere.

Now that I have lost him, could you please tell me where do I find him one last time? Please, if you could! ■

(Dr Nishant Ranjan is MS Orthopaedics and runs a multi-speciality hospital in Patna.)

HONOURS & AWARDS

GALLANTRY AWARDS

SHAURYA CHAKRA



Somay Vinay Munde IPS,
Superintendent of Police

SENA MEDAL

Maj Neikhotso Angami, 160 Shivaji,
Sena Medal Gallantry, Independence
Day 2023

From DSSC - 78 Staff course at Wellington

Cdr Vaibhav Gupta - Royal purple
Gorkha Brigade medal for being Best
in Jointmanship.

Cdr Siddhartha Gupta - Cavalry
Trophy for being Best in Critical
Thinking.

From Army Commando School



Heartiest congratulations to Lt Sailo,
Ranjit for being the Best Student in
Commandos.

FOREIGN COURSES

Commodore K Shankar, 131 Pratap,
has been selected to attend the NDC
course at Bangladesh.

Lt Cdr Nikhil Jayant Prabhune has
been selected to attend Naval Staff
course at from July 2023 onwards at
the US Naval War College, New Port,
Rhode Island, USA . At present he is
on INS Vikramaditya as Navigation
Officer.

Lt Cdr Sawan Kalyan, 163 Pratap has
been selected to attend the UK Staff
College. At present he is Navigation
Officer at Kochi.

FROM AFA

Flt Cadet Adhija Venketash, 185 Ranjit has
been awarded Chief of Air Staff
Commendation for his exemplary
demonstration of flying skills in the most
trying conditions while training at AFA.



From his Citation...

On 10 Apr 23, Flt Cdt MA Venkatesh
(176851-N) was detailed to fly LLN-4, a low
level navigation sortie in formation as Call
sign "Poison-2". While on third navigation
leg at 1000 feet AOL (28.5 NM away from base),
he experienced a bird hit on port wing. He
took correct and prompt actions of easing up
to medium level after checking engine
parameters and conveying the same
emergency to his leader. After being informed
by leader about visual indications of fuel leak
from port wing, he maintained his composure
and took actions of fuel leak by putting the
port wing fuel pump on. After having levelled
out at medium level he maintained his
situational awareness and flew his aircraft for
visual inspection by chase aircraft and
simultaneously planning his descent for
expeditious recovery. He displayed his
presence of mind by asking for vectors to
finals and simultaneously checking handling
of aircraft at low speeds and in landing
configuration. After having ascertained
handling characteristics, he safely recovered
aircraft off a long finals approach.

PROMOTIONS & NOMINATIONS

PROMOTIONS

Air Cmde Amitabh Shendye, 117 Ranjit, to Air Vice Marshal.
Maj Gen Zubin Adeshere Minwalla, 119/Chandragupta to Lt Gen

Lt Gen KV Kumar nominated as the SO in- C.

COLONEL TO BRIGADIER, ARMY

Col Sonu Taluja, Shivaji, Infantry

Col S Kannothe, Ranjit, Infantry

Col Kamaldeep Singh, Ranjit, Infantry

Col Ravi Kumar, Ranjit, ASC

Col Kunwar Jitender Singh, Chandrgupta, ASC

Col Ravinder Singh

Col Shailender Arya

Col Saminder Mor, SM

CAPT TO COMMODORE, NAVY

Capt (IN) Gagandeep Singh Sidhu, Shivaji

Capt (IN) Kapil Bhatia, Shivaji

Capt (IN) A Kiran Kumar Reddy, Shivaji

Capt (IN) Arun Bahuguna, Ranjit

Capt (IN) K Shankar, Pratap



Lt Gen Adosh Kumar takes over as DG Arty: May 2023



Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari took over as AOC-in-C #SWAC on 01 May 23. He succeeds Air Marshal Vikram Singh, who retired on 30 Apr 2023. On arrival, the Air Marshal laid a wreath on the War Memorial and was presented with an impressive Guard of Honour at HQ SWAC, Gandhinagar.




Air Marshal N Tiwari takes over as AOC-in-C SWAC


QUICK FLIP



Somaym Munde, IPS at the investiture ceremony of Shaurya Chakra at Rashtrapati Bhavan with Gen VN VN Sharma and our promising Capt Avinash Chhetry , ADC to the President.



दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय
University of Delhi



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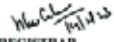
REF. No: CNC-ED/UA/

DATE: 14.02.2023

NOTIFICATION

In respect of election for membership of the Court from the Alumni Association under Statute 2(I)(xxvi) of the Statutes of the University, it has been found that after the expiry of time for withdrawal, the number of validly nominated candidates remaining in the field is equal to the number to be elected. That being so, all the candidates so nominated, namely the following, are declared duly elected to Court for a term of 5 years with effect from 16.03.2023:-

S.No.	Reg. No. in the Electoral Roll	Name & Address
1.	15	Dr. J.L. Gupta
2.	18	Anil Sardana
3.	34	Aman Kumar
4.	52	Dr. Jai Gopal Sharma
5.	68	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singhal
6.	118	Sidharth Mishra ✓
7.	211	Dr. L.S. Chaudhary ✓
8.	249	Rajesh B. Mangla
9.	301	Anil Kumar
10.	312	Dr. Narender Kumar Chadha


 REGISTRAR

Prof Sidharth Mishra, 115/R, elected as Member of the Delhi University Court, Feb 2023. The highest university body is headed by the President of India in her capacity as the Visitor of the University



Rimcollian Sudip Roy Barman, 113/Ranjit won the Agartala assembly by more than 8000 votes in Tripura state assembly elections held in March 2023. This is his 5th consecutive win.



It is matter of great pride for our fraternity to learn that one of our youngster, Samarth Jauhal, Ranjit, has cracked JEE Advanced and selected to pursue civil engineering from IIT Kharagpur.



Congratulations to Ms Leena Yadav D/o late Maj Gen Vijay Yadav, Kitchener's Section, for getting Filmfare Award for best documentary TELL IT LIKE WOMEN

THE NDA POP, MAY 2023

— COL VIJAY GIDH, VSM (RETD)



CDS Reviewing the Parade

Some of us residing in Pune are fortunate to visit the National Defence Academy regularly. A trip to our Alma Mater brings back many pleasant memories of the three eventful years we spent at this hallowed institution. Attending the bi-annual Passing Out Parade (POP) is always a pleasure, particularly if the medal winners happens to be from RIMC.

It was a pleasant Tuesday morning when we witnessed an impressive POP of the 144th Course of the NDA on 30 May 2023. The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Gen Anil Chauhan was the Reviewing Officer for the parade. A total of 1175 cadets participated in the

parade, of which 356 were from the passing out course. The passing out cadets included 214 Army cadets, 36 Naval cadets and 106 Air Force cadets, including 19 cadets from friendly foreign countries - Bhutan, Tajikistan, Maldives, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Addressing the passing out cadets, the CDS said "We are living in a time when the global security situation is not at its best. International geopolitical order is in a state of flux. The war in Europe, continued deployment of the PLA along the northern borders and political and economic turmoil in our immediate neighbourhood - all present

a different kind of challenge for the Indian military."

"The armed forces are committed to maintain the legitimacy of our claim on the Line of Actual Control and play a constructive role in maintaining peace and stability in our immediate and extended neighbourhood."

"Armed forces of India are on the path of a major transformation. Jointness, integration and creation of theaterised commands are on the anvil. I am confident the spirit of jointness, imbibed by you at the NDA, will act as a catalyst to speed up these reforms. I want you to further the spirit of jointness as you grow in your respective services."



BCC Afrid Afroz awarded the coveted PGM by CDS

The passing out parade also saw participation of women cadets in various preparatory roles. The women cadets with crew cut were part of the parade, but did not march on the parade ground. They were among the contingent of second term cadets that mans the Quarterdeck mast and hails their passing out seniors. NDA had admitted its first batch of 19 women cadets in June 2022, and 19 in the second batch in January 2023.

Gen Chauhan, an alumnus of the 58th Course NDA, had a word of praise for the women cadets at the parade. "I also noticed a few women cadets as part of the parade. I congratulate them for breaking into a male bastion. I am glad you have chosen to shoulder equal responsibility to defend the national interest", he remarked.

The most thrilling event for the Rimcollians who witnessed the parade-live or on TV, was the Award Ceremony. Battalion Cadet Captain Afrid Afroz was awarded the coveted President's Gold Medal (PGM) for standing first in the overall order of merit. Romeo Squadron bagged the prestigious "Chiefs of Staff Banner" for being the Champion Squadron.

The passing out course consisted of 14 Rimcollian cadets, of which 08 were

from the Army, 05 from the Navy and 01 from the Air Force. In addition to winning the PGM, BCC Afrid Afroz was adjudged the Best Air Force Cadet, is a 4-star bronze torcher and was awarded Certificate of Proficiency (COP) in Arabic. He was a proficient polo player and was part of the NDA team that took part in the Junior National Equestration Competition and the Army Equestrian Championship.

It was a pleasure meeting Afrid and his proud parents after the parade. I congratulated Afrid on behalf of the Rimcollian fraternity. Afrid (Shivaji, 187th Course) was a student of Army Public School, Patiala before joining RIMC in July 2015. He excelled during his three-years training at RIMC, both in academics and outdoor activities. He was awarded a Blazer in Athletics and Half Blue in X-Country. He was three times the Best Athlete -- in A, B and C Division in District Athletics and represented the district at Nationals (NIDJAM). "RIMC has played a massive role in grooming me before I joined the NDA" he proudly mentioned. '

When asked what he learnt from his RIMC and NDA days, Afrid said "It taught me ways of life, to do every job to the best of your calibre; to never give in,

knowing that everything passes and this too shall pass; every pain doesn't kill you, it makes you stronger."

The family hails from village Jamalgarh, tehsil Nuh, which is located near Gurugram in Haryana. They later shifted to Patiala when Afrid's father, Dr Mohd Habib was posted as a professor in Punjabi University, Patiala. Dr Mohd was subsequently Head of the Department of Religious Studies in Punjabi University, Patiala; and has the distinction of being decorated with Shiromani Sahityakar Award for best book, Punjab state award for Best Teacher and Best Non-Sikh Scholar of Sikhism. His mother Zubaida is a homemaker and Afrid is the youngest among the family of three boys and one girl. The eldest brother Inaam, is a manager at the Trident, Patiala and is settled there; while brother Amaan works at Mahindra Tech in Mumbai. His sister Saima is a functional test engineer at Infosys and was instrumental in grooming Afrid during his school days in Army Public School, Patiala, and guiding him to join RIMC. The family shifted to Hyderabad last year and Dr Mohd is a professor in the Department of Comparative Religions at Maulana Azad University, Hyderabad.

Dr Mohd mentioned that Saima had tried for Air Force Common Admission Test (Afcats) but was screened out, while Amaan tried for Army SSB through NCC entry but could not make it. The family was proud that Afrid, who was a bright student, could follow his dreams of becoming a fighter pilot.

"Afrid was always interested in flying and military life, and the sentiment of serving the nation has been a part of our family", said Dr Mohd. "The passing out parade was glorious. I could see India's pride reflected in the cadets. The future of India's defence was marching in front of us", Dr Mohd added, when asked of his impressions about the parade.

RIMC cadets continue to excel in NDA and won many medals during the Spring Term 2023. BCA Dayne was awarded Lachit Barphukan Medal for Best in OLQ, Silver Medal in Firing and

Merit Cards in Boxing & Basketball. Sgt Pratham Singh was awarded a Blue in Riding & Polo; while BCC Afrid Afroz and Cdts Prakar Negi, Cdt D Majumdar and Pratham Kundu were awarded Half Blues. Cdt Nishkal Dwivedi was awarded a Half Blue in Squash; BCC Afrid Afroz and Cdt Jodha Thongjaomayum won Half Blues in PT; while some cadets won Merit Cards in Football, Basketball, PT and Squash. Rimcollians in NDA who have won key appointments during Autumn Term 2023 are as under:

- BCC Pratham Singh
- BCC Lakshya
- BCA JD Sharma
- BCA HS Bhonsle
- SCC Abhishek Pundir
- DCC AS Kushwah

The 144th Course entered the NDA during the pandemic in June 2020, which resulted in e-learning and curtailed physical activity in keeping with Covid guidelines. The batch was kept isolated and later distributed among the 16 squadrons once Covid rules were relaxed and training began at full throttle.

The Convocation Ceremony of the course was held at Habibullah Hall on 29 May. Director of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indore, Himanshu Rai was the Chief Guest for the occasion. 386 cadets, including 19 from friendly foreign countries, were conferred degrees from Jawaharlal Nehru University. A total of 81 cadets received their degrees in Science, 90 in Computer Science and 59 in Social Science. Besides, 137 cadets received their B Tech course completion certificates. These cadets will continue their fourth year of their B Tech curriculum at the respective service academy - that is Indian Naval Academy in Ezhimala and Air Force Academy in Hyderabad. Rai asked the cadets to strive hard and learn new things apart from what they learnt at the academy. He advised them to be adaptive leaders, understand issues of their subordinates and don't look at ranks and designation for inspiration.

To mark the Diamond Jubilee



Col Vijay Y Gidh with BCC Afrid Afroz and his proud parents

celebration of NDA, the NDA song - 'Bharat Maa Tuje Salaam' - was released on Monday, 29 May. The song symbolises the ethos of the tri-services academy, the camaraderie they share and reinforces the spirit of sacrifice and dedication of the armed forces.

The NDA admitted its first batch of 19 women cadets in June 2022; these include 10 for Army, 03 for Navy and 06 for Air Force. This batch, part of 148th Course, is slated to pass out from the academy in June 2025. The second batch, part of 149th Course, also has the same strength. The Navy is in the process of increasing the intake of women cadets from 03 to 12 cadets every term. The majority of the military training activities of boys' and girls' cadets is done together in a gender-neutral manner from June 2022.

In view of the historic judgement in 2021, the Centre had agreed to admit girls to the RIMC and Rashtriya Military Schools from 2022. During the academic year 2022-23, 10 girl cadets had joined RIMC. While only one girl

cadet joined in July 2022, she remained alone for a good six months before nine others joined her in the campus on 24 January 2023. The 10 girls have carried themselves in a fine manner, matching their classmates step-by-step. On 11 February 2023, one of them became the first girl cadet to anchor an official programme in the historic Thimayya auditorium. It is a matter of pride that a brother - sister pair is presently studying at RIMC - they share a common goal of joining the armed forces. Cdt Srujan Telluri joined RIMC in July 2021, while his sister, Cdt Agnes Telluri joined in Jan 2023! It will be a first for the family when either one or both siblings manage to join the forces.

The credit for the remarkable performance of our cadets at NDA goes to the Commandant and the Staff at RIMC for the good foundation laid while in school. In addition, the inspiration and motivation given by Rimcollian instructors posted in NDA goes a long way in encouraging these young cadets to excel in all spheres. ■

News from NDA, IMA, AFA and INA



From IMA

SUO Raghvendra Baghel, Ranjit steered his company Cassino, to the overall championship and received the COAS Banner.

SUO Abhimanyu Singh, Pratap has been awarded the prestigious Gold Medal by COAS during the POP. He has also been awarded RAJRIF Medal for 'Best in Tactics'

and JAT Regiment Medal for being 'Best in OLQ'

Allotment of Arms

- Lt Vishesh Tripathi, Ranjit, 1 Para SF
- Lt Subrata , Ranjit, 143 Medium Regiment
- Lt Raghvendra Baghel, Ranjit 4/9 GR
- Lt Abhimanyu, Pratap, 57 Engineer Regiment

- Lt Narendra Shekhar Azad , Ranjit 100 Field Regiment
- Lt Gaurav Kumar , Chandragupta, Signals
- Lt Ankur Pandey, Pratap, 2 Bihar
- Lt Ankit, Chandragupta, 76 Field Regiment
- Lt Puneet Jatrana, Shivaji, 90 Armoured Regiment



From NDA

Awards at NDA POP - 30 May 2023

- President's Gold Medal : BCC Afrid Afroz
- Best Airforce Cadet in Passing out Course: BCC Afrid Afroz
- *Best Cadet in OLQs: BCA Dayne
- *Best Cadet In Firing : DCC Aman Vishwakarma.

From AFA

In the Passing-Out in June 2023, four Rimcollians were commissioned in the IAF.

- Shashwat , Shivaji - Fighters
- Adhija, Ranjit - Fighters
- Pratham, Shivaji - Helicopter
- Krunal , Pratap - Helicopters

52 DAYS 1300 KILOMETERS

— **CAPT SHAMSHER SINGH**



Le Puy en Velay - starting city of our Camino

It is the RIMC which introduced the bug of adventure in me. Right in the first term in Oct 1958, at the age of 11 years I was hiking from Kalsi to Chakrata during the mid-term. Little did I imagine that one day I will be walking 1300 kms. So here is the narrative of the walk, not of 1 day but 52 days, non-stop,

Impossible not be drawn into adventure when that adventure begins from your own city. Le Puy en Velay (France) has been known as a starting point for a 1700 kilometers long pilgrimage since the middle ages to Santiago de Compostelle, Spain, to a church where, it is believed rests the body of Saint James. Now a days many persons undertake the walk. It can be undertaken in one stretch or in stages according to the availability of time. It can be accessed by Google search - type CAMINO for more information. The datewise discription of our walk is taken from the diary kept by Chantal,



Postal card showing the main pilgrimage routes from France

Years 2014/16

We began our walk from Le Puy on 25 Jul 2014 at 0830 hrs. Before that we had already walked 15 kms on 24 Jul, from our house to Le Puy, as the tradition goes that pilgrimage to Compostelle must begin from your home.

During these years we undertook the

walk in two stages of 10 days each covering about 250 kms each, first from Le Puy to Golinac and then from Golinac to Moissac (France). This gave us the confidence that next time we could walk the entire stretch from Moissac to Santiago de Compostelle (Spain), about 1300 kms, in one go.



Resting on a wheat haystack on way to Puente La Reina.

19th July 2016

We leave our car in the parking of the hostel and begin to walk at 0830 hrs. It is sunny and already hot. We pass through beautiful village of Espeyrac and eat our haversack lunch at a pic-nic table near the church at Senergue. As we cross the village an old man advises us not to take the steep, rocky path for going down to Conques but follow the road to enjoy the beauty of the valley. On the way we see the Indian buffaloes grazing for the first time in France. We also cross two families walking with small children but with their haversacks on a donkey. A

brief conversation reveals that they are from Canada.

We follow the advice of the old man but it is extremely hot and we reach Conques dead tired at 1500 hrs, we have walked 24 kms. First we reserve the beds in the dormitory, take a bath, wash our clothes and then go to eat icecream. Seeing my turban, a person comes to talk to us. He had been to India. A pizza for dinner and we go to photograph the beautiful abbay of Conques. We are just in time for a guided visit of the abbay by a monk. At night there was a lovely musical concert too in the abbay.

We had terminated our walk at Moissac last year. We begin our walk on 3rd July. We walk steadily day by day with each day becoming warmer and warmer. 5th July is particularly difficult. We are walking through the sunflower fields and when we reach Marsolan, we find the hostel to be full. The next hostel is 9 kms away, at La Romieu. No choice but to walk on under the scorching sun. 6th July we spend the night at a "donativo", where a family welcomes the pilgrims and the pilgrims make an offering.

18th July

We leave early at 0730 hrs. Far away we can see the Pyrene mountains which separate France from Spain. We have been walking since 15 days. At a village, a house has put some tables, a fridge, some cake and everything to make a coffee. We appreciate the hospitality and put some money in the intended box for the offering. We speak with an Irish woman who has walked this pilgrimage five times. Amazing.

Steep climb, extremely hot and last few kilometres to Saint Jean Pied de Port are extremely tiring. We reach exhausted at about 1300 hours. Same routine, lunch, bath & cloths wash. Then we proceed to L'acueil des Pelerins, an office where we are given a map with adress of hostels in Spain and advice for making the walk bearable/comfortable.

28th July 2016

This is our 10th day of walking. The sky is covered but it is warm. On the way someone has put melons in a crate, we take one and put change in a pot and we continue. We eat the melon after a steep climb, towards noon. We reach Lauzert at about 1300 hrs. In the evening there is a special market exclusively devoted to food made from the local produce. We share a table with friends, which we have made during the march. We have a beer and eat a tasty meal.

July 2017

We leave Le Puy on 2nd July by a shared car to Toulouse and from Toulouse to Moissac we take the train.



La Halle (market hall) in the centre of the village of Auvillar, France

19th July

Today is a great day, we are feeling fit. We wake up at 0430 hours, breakfast and get ready to begin our walk at 0700 hours. The climb is steep and we make the first halt at a cafe/bar at Orissonto. We notice a pilgrim arriving with a shovel on the backpack and speaking in American English. Strange, Shamsher goes to have a chat with him. He is from Utah, USA, a mining engineer carrying a detector of metal and a shovel to dig a piece of gold, if he finds. We strike a good

friendship and meet at the same hostel at the end of the day.

At about 1100 hours we halt at a stall truck selling cheese. We buy some and get our creancials stamped for last time in France. At about 1330 hours we cross the frontier to Spain and a steep descent of 5 kms begins. At about 1500 hours we check in the Albergue de Roncesvalles run by Catholic volunteers. It is a modern hostel with about 300 beds and facilities for eating/washing. In the restaurant we share the table with a couple from Croatia.

28th July

The sky is covered. The fields have been harvested and the stubble gives a golden colour to the landscape. We are walking from Azofra and heading to Granon. On the way we visit the cathedral at Santo Domingo de la Calzada where a living cock announces the mid-day. To reach Granon, a steep climb under the

burning sun. We find the places in a hostel "donativo (on donation)" run by volunteers from USA. The comfort is rudimentary and we help to prepare the evening meal. At 1900 hours we are invited to attend mass. After the mass we gather in the balcony of the church where we are asked to make a wish holding an electric candle. We pass a calm night.



The path through the wheat fields in Spanish mesetta (plateau).



A typical trail marker in Spain showing the direction of Camino

8th August

We step out at 0700 hours. It is quite cold. After 7 kms we stop at a bar to have hot chocolate. Now we are approaching a big city, Leon and after a long walk through the city we reach the hostel, looked after by Benedictines. We meet a volunteer of about 50 years who had stayed at Dehra Dun/ Kolkata for 4 years. After lunch we visit the cathedral which is very beautiful. After dinner at 2100 hours we are called to the church where 14 Benedictine sisters present musical program. One sister comes to talk to Shamsher that she had met Indian pilgrims at Rome a few days earlier.

15th August

Today is the Independence Day of India. We start early morning after breakfast. Ther is a steep climb to reach O Cebreiro at altitude of 1330 meters. We meet noisy Italians doing a live

21st August

Today is our final walk from O Pedrauzo to Santiago de Compostella. We leave at 0620 hours with a torch, it is already warm. After walking the path following the terrain up and down we reach a small hillock with a cross, Everyone stops there because for the first time Santiago becomes visible with its majestic cathedral. Soon we are in the city but it is long to cross the city. It is only at 1300 hours that we reach the cathedral. We go to the office for final registration and stamp on our credentials. There is a long queue and we come out only at 1400 hours. Then we go to the information office to find and reserve a hostel only to discover that all hostels nearby are full. Finally we find a hostel little far away which has only two beds left. We pass the reservation, hurriedly have a lunch and take a taxi to the hostel. After cleaning up we take a bus for cathedral. We visit the magnificent cathedral and after buying some souvenirs we are in time for the evening mass at 1930 hours. While entering we pass behind



The Camino credential, stamped with the places crossed and the scallop shells

the big statue of Saint James where we are permitted to touch the scallop shell which he holds in his right hand, for his blessings. Brother of Jesus Christ, Saint James had come to Spain to announce

the gospel and he was recognised as the patron saint of the pilgrims. After the mass we have a soup in a vegetarian restaurant and take a bus to return to our hostel.

smartphone conversation with their families. They shout that they are meeting an Indian with turban and offer Shamsher their phone to speak something. We stop at Fonferia after a long walk of 25 kms.

23rd August

Last day of our walk from Fisterra to Muxia. According to tradition we must walk to the Atlantic coast and consign our walking sticks to the ocean with a prayer. We do thank the natural elements to have given us the courage to undertake this long walk and for keeping us in good health all along.

At the Cruz de Ferro (Iron Cross), where we deposited a stone from our garden in France, following the tradition





Come rain & thunder but we shall meet



Dear Sirs & Brothers,

Thank you for pouring in numbers and making it big ... it was great to establish the connect across generations and with loads of affection. From Gen VN to youngsters from Delhi University, we had galaxy of Rimcollians across eight decades.

Heavy rains, Delhi Traffic, Saturday evening and all others dampeners fell flat amidst our blood bond. Kudos to the spirits. Despite the last minute cancellation, we had many last minutes entrants too, to make the count touch a huge 268, grateful to all the ladies for being gracious with patience.

Deep gratitude to President ROBA, Lt Gen Adosh Kumar and Mrs Kumar for rolling out all carpets and placing every resource at our disposal besides personal indulgence. Mess secy Arty Mess and SO to DG were there through the day of uncertainty alongwith their tireless staff to set the stage for us, we owe our deep gratitude to all of them.

One regret that we couldn't capture everyone in one frame photo. Wonderful Reunion courtesy all those who made it grand by their presence.

Let the bond grow; Ich Dien...Bal Vivek

—Col Vivek Sharma,

16 September 2023



BRIG AN LUTHRA ADDS: Congratulations to Vivek and all the organisers for mustering up such a large gathering! The rain Gods played spoil sport and dimmed the flavour a bit. That of course is putting it mildly!

Notwithstanding, President ROBA and Mrs Adosh ensured that everyone felt at ease. Gen Sharma was as always bright and fresh as they come. Gen YK Yadav still looked young as ever and proudly declared that his son is also a Rimcollian.






Former Rimcollian DG Arty Gen Vinay Shanker was in good spirits and while recharging drinks lost his way in the dark but cleverly blamed the tables for having moved around!

Keep the ball rolling Rimcollians and if you do attend along with your spouses don't abandon them for better part of the evening on some pretext or the other!

Cheers till we meet again.



THE LAST POST

Name	Section/ Years	Date of Demise	Remarks
Mrs Indira Kumar W/O Maj Gen AR Kumar (Retd)	17 Feb 23	—	—
 Brig Amlan Pratap Datta	1953 - 57 Ranjit	27 Feb 2023	Vir Chakra, Bangladesh
 Col TL Barua	1954 - 58, Pratap	7 April 2023	5/11 GR Col Tarun's family comprises his wife Betty whom he married in 1969 in Shillong, son Prashant in Pune and daughter Teesta in Bangalore. Col Barua was commissioned in 5/11 GR, a battalion raised by his uncle, Brig. ML Barua, who influenced his joining the RIMC and the Gurkhas. A special dispensation was allowed to Assamese cadets in the school who would be allowed out to lunch on all Sundays between 12 noon and 3.0 PM to partake of the famed Barua hospitality whose kitchen was a virtual cornucopia.
Brig JB Singh, VSM (Retd)	Shivaji	08 May 2023	81 Armd Regt
 Col S K Das		26 May 2023	5 JAK LI
 Dr UN Singh	English Master	28 May 2023	Dr UN Singh later worked in senior positions in Kendriya Vidhyalaya Sangthan.
 Capt HA Baji Mohite		30 June 2023	Capt Mohite was the senior most veteran of Jangi Paltan (Maratha Light Infantry) and the last of four WW II veterans 30 June 2023. He was the senior most Rimcollian.

Name	Section/ Years	Date of Demise	Remarks
 <p>Dr Jas Khurana Wife of Col Jasbir Khurana</p>		10 July 2023	
 <p>Mr Ajit Gupta</p>	Shivaji, 1970 - 74	28 July 2023	
 <p>Maj Gen Man Mohan Rai</p>	Roberts, 1945-48,	05 Aug 2023	
 <p>Col Ambarish Tiwari</p>	1982-86, Ranjit,	08 Aug 2023	2/8 GR Adm Officer RIMC, Dec 2010 - May 2013
 <p>Lt Col Jasbir S khurana</p>	1939-45, Kitchener	26 August 2023	Founding Editor, The Rimcollian



Letters to Editor

You may help out as deemed fit

Our daughter, Apoorva, was born as a special child and has a permanent medical condition (cerebral palsy, no binocular vision, lack of coordination of muscles etc). My wife, Latika, through her efforts, has tried to make her as independent as possible.

Yet, as parents, in the evening of our lives, our anxiety is how will she manage/ sustain after us. So, she started a venture of blend of spices called "Waves of Love"- the traditional taste.

It is taking baby steps, and needs to be hand held so that it can stand on its feet.

Although, it is getting lots of appreciation from its users, it still needs to reach out to more and more people. It needs to be marketed through word of mouth, personal support and encouragement. Help us in giving this brand wings so that, it not only takes off, but also starts soaring high.

We're NOT looking for charity or sympathy but genuine customers who once they buy our blend of spices, become our loyal followers. We are confident that once a customer buys our product, she/ he will buy again and again!!

We are selling directly through our website.

We did try Amazon & Flipkart initially, but found that they take a lot of commission. Moreover, because they are consumer orientated, they squeeze the seller and aren't of much help. They tired us out and we ultimately gave up. Happy that we did.

We also tried keeping it in elite gourmet outlets but the shelf rent was too high and left us with no margin. Glad that we decided to leave that route too.

Now because of the website and direct sales we are building

up strong relationships with EACH and EVERY customer- though small in numbers, most of them are repeaters who have bought the products 5 to 10 times. (Just see the clips of some of the youngsters, on Instagram- @wavesoflovee - going Ga ga over the convenience and the flavours!!!) This has given Latika the confidence that the product is REALLY hassle free and good- which is our USP.

We don't want to compromise on QUALITY. We are in it to build trust and a loyal customer base to begin with.

We are NOT catering to the masses either, like Everest/ MDH/ Catch etc, but are looking at a NICHE market, at people who are into conscious living. Also catering to the needs of the working individuals who don't have the time and patience yet want to cook dishes with good flavour.

Last but not the least it is the word of mouth which is helping us in spreading our wings. Now you be the wind beneath our sails by spreading the word.

We have a user friendly website through which orders can be easily placed; do visit it and go through the reviews:-

Instagram: @wavesoflovee

Website: www.wavesoflovee.com

How can you help? I quote Majrooh Sultanpuri,

“मैं अकेला ही चला था जानिब - ए - मंजिल मगर लोग साथ आते गए और कारवाँ बनता गया”

Join in!!!!

God Bless you

Col RS Khatri (Retd)

Master English (1981-83)

ICH~Dien ~ I serve

I am meant to sweat and toil
I carry weight of legacy
still pursue uncharted territories
I serve while defying prophecy

I am engrained to lead
To take the team along
I am meant, when chips are down,
to muster and walk extra furlong.

I bleed shades of blue
I bleed colours of flags I serve under
I feel pulse of men I work with
and we as a Team work wonders.

I am humble in outlook,
I, while alone, stand for a clan
I exhume pride in my work
I serve with guts and to the best I can.

I am not just what I am
I stand for 101 yrs of glory
I don't long for what I deserve
I am a RIMCOLLIAN
And with panache...
I serve.

Col Bhaskar Shukla
144th Course/ 1995-99-Ranjit



Happy to share, Capt Shivam of 3/11 GR , my Bn and a Rimcollian of course, was part of the successful team of 11 GR and Sikkim Scouts that scaled Mt Kanchenjyangao on the morning of 18 September 2023.
—Brig SAMAR SINGH PUNDIR



Rimcollians@NDA Open: Brig Anuj Kalia, 125 Ranjit, Winner .. in above 50 years category and Capt Vaibhav Chauhan, 181 Shivaji , Runners Up in Men's category Proud recipients flanking, Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, Commandant, NDA.



Three generations in the service of the armed forces: (from left) Mr Balraj K Ahluwalia, IG (retd), RA&W and former Gorkha Rifles, Lt Aryan Ahluwalia and Gp Capt Deepak Ahluwalia. Aryan and Deepak are Rimcollians.



Heartiest congratulations to **Capt Orkhodip**, 175 Shivaji, on being adjudged the **Best Student of Combat Team Commanders Course**.
Ich Dien...Bal Vivek



We don't know how God chooses martyrs. We do know that they give us the most precious gift they possess - their very lives.

-- Cesar Chavez