



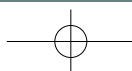
Vol XVIII Issue-I (Bi-Annual) | March 2024

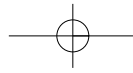
# The Rimcollian

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



**Many a battles world over were won in the playfields of Rajwara Camp**





# GALLANTRY AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS **REPUBLIC DAY 2024**



## **SENA MEDAL, GALLANTRY**

Lt Col G Vijaya Rajan, Pratap

## **YUDH SEVA MEDAL**

Col Manish Ramesh Lanjekar, Pratap

## **PVSM**

Maj Gen H Dharamrajan, Chandragupta

## **AVSM**

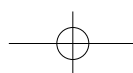
Lt Gen K Vinod Kumar, Shivaji  
Maj Gen Sandeep Singh, Shivaji

## **VSM**

Col Shailender Arya, Shivaji

## **SENA MEDAL, DISTINGUISHED**

Brig Kapil Rana, Ranjit  
Brig Rajneesh Mohan, Shivaji  
Col Gaurav Batra, Ranjit



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Boys Association of Rashtriya  
Indian Military College,  
Dehradun  
**Vol. XVIII No. 1**  
**(March 2024)**  
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# contents

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## THANKSGIVING

DHARMA SIR: A GREAT PERSON TO KNOW 5

## ASPIRATION

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A RIMCO 6-7

## ROVING EYE

GET TOGETHER AT MUMBAI 8-10

FAREWELL TO MAJ GEN ALOK KACKER - GET TOGETHER AT LUCKNOW

KOLKATA CHAPTER: RIMCOLLIANS GET TOGETHER

SURATGARH GET TOGETHER

GET TOGETHER AT POONCH

CHANDIGARH GET TOGETHER

KASHMIR GET-TOGETHER

GETTING TOGETHER TO BLESS GENERATION NEXT

## POTPOURRI

QUICK FLIP 11

## VISION

CHANGES WE MADE, TRADITIONS WE PRESERVED 12-13

## CAMPUS DARSHAN

MATERIAL CHANGE 14-15

## VISION

THE GUARDIANS OF LEGACY 16-17

## NOSTALGIA

SALUTE TO A SOLDIER 18-21

## CAMPUSCAN

THE NDA POP, NOV 2023 22-27

## REMINISCENCES

LESSONS FROM MY MILITARY LIFE 28-31

## MENTORING

JOURNEY OF GRATIFYING PLEASURE 32-33

## REMEMBRANCE

END OF A GENERATION 34-37

THE CYCLIC DOES THE HEAVY LIFT: REMEMBERING UNNI KARTHA 38-39

**PROMOTIONS & NOMINATIONS 40**



## Jo'ttings - Editor's Note



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

**Dear Rimcollians,**

March, a familiar month for all Rimcollians and also for the next edition of The Rimcollian to find its way into print. To me personally course mates (Rimcollians and otherwise) have taken over as C-in-Cs in a number of Commands in the Army, Navy and Air Force. As the circle of life continues with our generation reaching the pinnacle of our careers in the Armed Forces; one can only marvel at the challenges ahead and the capabilities and eagerness of the next generation of Rimcollians.

Lt Gen Adosh Kumar our President ROBA and his team has literally hit the ground running setting in place processes that will take our beloved institution to the next level.

The team at RIMC is also changing, looking at meeting the new age challenges proactively and take RIMC to the next level of excellence. Like it is said that 'change is the only constant', for us in the Armed Forces it is even more stark. And as is our motif the new team takes over thanking the previous team for a job well done and takes on the challenges whole heartedly. Unlike what we see in a lot of other fields where the blame on the previous dispensation lingers long after. The fauji ethos of responsibility and accountability is so unique and refreshing.

Rimcos and Rimcollians continue to excel and that is almost taken for granted. Excellence must remain our forte and a lot is not just in the colour of medals but the reputation we enjoy. Not the banter but the reliability and quality we display in every field, some grudgingly accepted by and some readily accepted by the environment. Nevertheless its Bash on Regardless.

As always I continue the appeal for more Rimcollians to contribute to The Rimcollian. Inviting for the queries, discussions and banter on the social media to change into articles. Whilst 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.

The Editorial team of Col Shailendra Arya, Brig Sanjay Kanoth and our publisher Prof Sidharth Mishra; in spite of their own busy schedules impress with their selfless and tireless work. An activity they undertake with pride and passion.

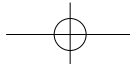
**Ich Dien & God Bless**

Enjoy Reading

Mar 2024

— **Cmde N Anil Jose Joseph, VSM (Retd)**

Ranjit 1977 - 82



## MESSAGE FROM **PRESIDENT**



*Lt Gen Adosh Kumar, AVSM, SM*  
Honorary President ROBA

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**Dear Rimcollians,**

It has been a humbling and gratifying experience as Hony President ROBA in the last nine months. I'm grateful to the Rimcollians fraternity for their faith in me to steer the ROBA activities and accordingly, it has been my endeavour to guide and mentor the school activities in the overall interests of our Alma Mater. This has been done in a corroborative manner, post reaching out to number of Rimcollians, ROBA Trust as well as ascertaining the views of school. We have also consciously tried to bridge the communication gap between the School, ROBA and Trust and succeeded to a large extent. The overall intent is to move together towards the larger aim of growth of RIMC and strengthen our bond. We have made considerable progress on many issues and it is an ongoing process.

We have a new team of Comdt & AO at RIMC and we are sanguine that they will play their parts to perfection.

As we move forward, I exhort all of us for their continued support to overcome number of challenges facing us. Your suggestions are always welcome and needless to say, will be accorded due priority. ROBA and ROBA Trust remain committed to supporting the school in all its endeavours.

On the occasion of 102nd Founders Day and Reunion 2024, I extend our best wishes to all the Rimcollians and Team RIMC.

Thanks and Regards to all

**Viva RIMC - ICH DIEN.**

**LT GEN ADOSH KUMAR**  
1020/Pratap

MARCH  2024

## SECRETARY'S NOTE



**Col Vivek Sharma**  
1407/P (1985-91)

# Digitally Connected ROBA

ROBA has been evolving well with maturity amidst the exponential growth and dimensions of Social Media in the digital world. We commenced our journey of networking with Yahoo group which migrated well to the Google group once the former ceased to function. It has been rather too soon that Emails have become lesser communication medium with WhatsApp taking the forefront.

It remains one common platform where the security restrictions for the Armed Forces permit the use, of course with comprehensive social media guidelines. Thus, we in ROBA, have made it a universal media of reaching out to our fraternity across the globe. Naval Chief recently commented that Social media and Smart devices are the INESCAPABLE DEVELOPMENTS (or DEVILS) and we got to live with. Taking the lessons and adopting the best practices of all the social groups groups that we have been part of, as ROBA Secy, I have spearheaded the communication with following objectives :-

- Expand the reach to every corner of globe.
- Have every Rimcollian, across the generations, bonded together through this medium.
- Free flow of ideas with mutual respect
- Regular updates on RIMC & ROBA activities

In a very short span of time, we have been able to connect through large segment of our ROBA family through various course and regional groups which have been brought together under the umbrella of ROBA Community. We can proudly say that today, every member, from youngest to the eldest Rimcollian, interacts well amongst the Fraternity, demonstrating the rich ethos cultivated at the Rajwada Camp. In order to bring in the space to manoeuvre, communication has been spread over the category of Fields (a term coined by Col JPR Ismail once the inter section matches on social media were being played without a referee imposing the rules leading to not a happy quotient).

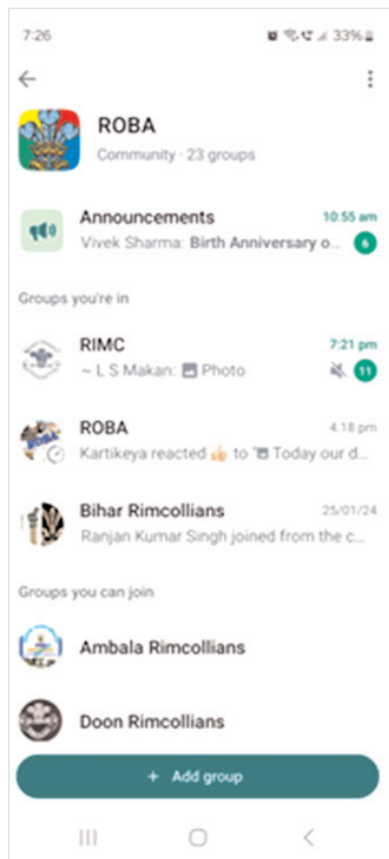
- **Field No 1** — ROBA Group where discussions and information sharing on matters ROBA & RIMC are only undertaken as a rule. ROBA Info Forum Group has two members from each course to be a bridge of information between ROBA and course groups. This ensures spread of information to & fro.
- **Field No 2** — RIMC Group and Regional Groups. These groups have been largely for information sharing amongst Rimcollians on ROBA & RIMC. However, few other information and discussions also pass the muster. Regional group admins modulate the proceedings.
- **Field No 3** — Rimcollians Global Group. This group has been for the members to discuss anything or everything on the earth. It has also stabilised into discussing local to strategic issues with maturity.

ROBA Community is administered by ROBA Secy and is an announcement group combining all the groups under one. This has facilitated all the group members, part of community, to have access to members under the other groups. The information sharing has now transformed and with one click, majority of our fraternity members get to know of happenings within the ROBA family. Be it conduct of events, meetings, mini / micro mini reunions, weddings, honours and awards, seeking information, happenings at RIMC, obituaries etc. To take it further, our ROBA Website, that was launched in 2021, is now being updated as well as upgraded with a professional touch. We are looking forward to it being functional on 102nd FOUNDER'S DAY.

The above aspects clearly show that today we have come a long way in communicating within our fraternity, making a difference by being different. As Secy ROBA, I feel honoured, privileged and committed to the service of our fraternity with unstinting blessings and support of all the Rimcollians.

I sign off with the signature I have coined for our family -

**Ich Dien...Bal Vivek**



March 2024/**THANKSGIVING**Old Boys Association of  
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www.rimcollians.in

# DHARMA SIR

## A Great Person to Know

— **SIDHARTH MISHRA, 1089/RANJIT**

While at school there were different heroes at different points of time but I remain greatly indebted to two of my immediate seniors - Maj Gen H Dharmarajan and Commodore Anil Jose Joseph. This little piece is about Dharma Sir, who on January 31 hung uniform after 38 years of service as GOC Bengal Sub Area.

1036/Chandragupta/113th Course Maj Gen H Dharmarajan is among the finest products of RIMC, who has wielded the quill and the sword with equal flourish. Ever since he joined RIMC, he has topped every class, course and examination winning not only gold medals but also gallantry awards in plenty. A national level sailor, he has also led mountaineering expeditions in the Himalayas. An Engineers officer, Dharmarajan was Commandant of the RIMC between 2007 and 2010, and left an indelible stamp on the campus. A widely travelled officer including attending a National War College Course in USA, he commanded an Infantry Brigade and also worked BGS (Ops) of a Corps and later the 25 Infantry Div. Despite an excellent record he did not make it to the three-star rank, which would continue to rankle in the Rimcollian community for long. It came as a little consolation that he was awarded PVSM a week before he demitted office.

During the school days, Dharma being in different section was a distant figure about whom our course mates from Chandragupta section talked in much awe especially about his cerebral skills. Soon after I had launched the Dehradun edition of *The Pioneer* and my daughter joined Kasiga School in August-September 2007, my visits to the Doon became more frequent. In November 2007, Dharmarajan joined the school as Commandant. It was during those two years that our interactions became more frequent. We discussed whole lot of issues from a child's grooming to media scenario.

Even after he left RIMC, our exchange through letters has continued. He has always responded to my call whenever I have needed inputs while preparing my lectures for the service officers. He has always added so much value to it, the fruits of which I have reaped in plenty. I have preserved his 2015 letter, which is such a valuable critique on the whole concept of Camphor books. "What a wonderful idea! It is so very absorbing, particularly when one can relate to every single word in it. Needless to mention, one invariably homes in onto one's contemporaries. To that extent, your mix of the young and the old is a great blend."

Dharmarajan being on the ROBA executive during the Platinum Jubilee along with his assignment in the Army Headquarters ensured a very smooth sailing for the centenary



**Maj Gen H Dharmarajan receiving Ati Vishisht Seva Medal from the then President of India, Ram Nath Kovind**

volume project, *Valour & Wisdom*. That this book could reach all the Rimcollians who attended the Platinum Jubilee as part of the gift pack was the idea of Maj Gen Dharmarajan. He was also instrumental in guiding the narrative of the discourse which ensured that the book came out as a rigorously researched tome.

Wish you very best for a new innings Dharma Sir! ■

MARCH ♦ 2024

March 2024/**ASPIRATION**

# What it takes to be a Rimco



— COL RAMAN GUPTA  
I523/RANJIT

I'll jump off this place if you don't let me take this test." The retaining wall was around 25 ft high and it was an 11-year-old boy threatening his mom of consequences if he is not allowed to take the RIMC Entrance exam. After all he had been discretely preparing for the test from the study material that his best friend Aman shared with him. Both had a dream to join this prestigious school at Dehradun which admitted young boys in class VII based on a difficult national level examination.

"Dene do ise exam, pass nahi hoga, experience ho jayega, winter vacations mein awaara gardi karne se achha padh hi lega," such thoughts were fed by the neighbours to the lady, who finally relented. The boy was me, and thus started my journey for RIMC. End November 1986 it was.

Study material came in, there was guidance from Sanjiv Gupta's father, who was mom's cousin. Sanjiv was the brightest boy we knew and he was studying at RIMC. Algebra was new, it took time to understand A U B and A intersection B. Somebody said, "Logarithm bhi aayega..." One day mom challenged me to solve an equation, the prize for which would be Rs 2. That was my second earning in life. Money enough to buy a 5 Star bar in those days. There were no small chocolates then. I had once won Rs 50 in an Art Competition in Class 4.

The entrance test was on 25 January. I was the first one to leave the examination hall. The invigilator wondered how the Math paper could be completed so quickly. Fortunately the paper had nothing on Logarithm. Mom was convinced that I wouldn't have written much. The Deputy



Raman Gupta (first from right) in his first day in RIMC, 08 Oct 1987



Ten years later Raman Gupta passed out from the Indian Military Academy with the Sword of Honour in 1997. Here he is seen with his proud parents

Commissioner of Shimla headed the interviewers' panel, I remember being asked to describe the crest of my School and what Lumen Sequere inscribed in it meant. 'Follow the Light' was my answer.

All was forgotten in the coming days, I was not going to pass the exam. My class teacher Mrs Christine Woodward, a fauji wife, was pleased that I took the exam and was very confident that I'll make it. "Only the fortunate join RIMC", she said. She was the best teacher I have had. She once told us the difference between 'backside' and 'behind'. I have never asked anyone to come to my backside after that.

Mom was a teacher in a nearby government school, and was the last to leave the house in the morning. She would carry the keys with her to school. Every day I would return from school before her, collect the house keys from her school and then head home. Ours was a house on the third storey, it was very risky to sneak in from the verandah, and one mistake in crossing the railings could prove fateful.

**THE ENTRANCE TEST WAS ON 25 JANUARY. I WAS THE FIRST ONE TO LEAVE THE EXAMINATION HALL. THE INVIGILATOR WONDERED HOW THE MATH PAPER COULD BE COMPLETED SO QUICKLY. FORTUNATELY THE PAPER HAD NOTHING ON LOGARITHM. MOM WAS CONVINCED THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE WRITTEN MUCH. THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF SHIMLA HEADED THE INTERVIEWERS' PANEL, I REMEMBER BEING ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE CREST OF MY SCHOOL AND WHAT LUMEN SEQUERE INSCRIBED IN IT MEANT. 'FOLLOW THE LIGHT' WAS MY ANSWER**

It was sometime in May when one day I decided not to get the keys from mom and sneak in from the verandah. An envelope slipped under the door with OIGS (Abbreviation for On Indian Government Service) stamped and my name on it caught my attention. The merit list of 35 had my name almost at the bottom. I ran with it to my mom's school. "How did you get inside the house in the first place?" was the first question she asked me. I had to meekly tell her that I jumped in from the verandah. I did get a hug and a shabashi from her for the successful result. Perhaps she was confident that I will make it, but a part of her was not wanting to let me go away from her.

Next was a sprint to the nearby government dispensary; it had the only phone in that area. Aman, my dearest friend had not made it. There was a lump in his throat when he congratulated me. A realisation set in that I would be leaving old friends soon.....to have brothers beyond blood..... the world knows them as Rimcollians. ■

March 2024/**ROVING EYE**

# Get Together at Mumbai

— MR ARJUN ISRANI, 1955-57, SHIVAJI



**Those that attended (not in any order):** Cmde AKK Reddy, Col James Brar (Veteran), Col Karan Dixit, Subroto Bhattacharjee, Cmde Supradeepan, Capt Kapil Bhatia, Cdr M Arun, Maj Gen Soli Pavri, Cdr Himanshu, Lt Gen MA Gurbaxani, Capt RPS Atwal, Cdr Ravi Desai, Cdr Abhishek Jain, Cdr Saorabh Agarwal, Lt Cdr Tabshir Wani, Capt Sumeet Sinha, Brig Raj Manchanda, Wg Cdr Bharat Parab, Col Deepak Jindal, Cmde Amol M Sabnis, Cdr Suraj Aiyappa, Lt Cdr Abhinav, Mr & Mrs Arjun Israni, Suraja Kishore, Mr & Mrs Parth Indalkar, Cdr V Pahlajani, Mr. Anshuman Mohapatra, Capt A Mehrotra, Veeraj Parab, Maj Gen Khurshed Balsara, Lt Cdr Mayank Vishnu, Col Krishan Shinghal, Col Rajeev Kumar, Lt Col RS Pathania

It was a phenomenal get together of Rimcollians at the US Club in Mumbai on Saturday October 21, 2023. Thanks to Lt. General Mohan Gurbaxani and Cmde AKK Reddy (The Secretary of the Rimcollians in Mumbai), the dinner get together was such that my wife and I were able to join it during our short trip to Mumbai, while we were on vacation from San Francisco, California, USA to India.

Over sixty-plus Rimcollian's were able to attend this warm and high energy gathering. Lt Gen Gurbaxani (senior most Rimcollian), Col KK Singhal. Major Gen Solli Pavri, Rimcollian Trustee Valatha Chandrasekhar (course mate of our Rahul Chaturvedi in Houston, Texas), Capt Jasbir Singh, Director, Mazagoan Docks (course mate of our Sdr Ldr Anurana Saluja in California), Mrs Radha Kukreti (wife of late Lt. Cdr. Anant Kukreti, who succumbed tragically in an avalanche during mountaineering), Cdr Himanshu and Cdr Kelkar (both assisted Cmde Reddy in organizing the dinner), Cdr Saorabh Agarwal and several other Rimcollians with their families attended the dinner.

I have highlighted course mates and connections of some attendees to our North American Rimcollian Group. Each person is successful in their career, be it the military or the private sector. Incidentally Cmde Reddy is a course mate of our Vikram Rao in San Jose, California. Vikram is Senior Managing Director of an Investment Banking firm here in the USA and is based in California.

Menu was extensive, elaborate and cross cultural of Western, Indian and Chinese dishes. It consisted of Chat, Starters, Salads, Chop Suey, Main courses and desserts. Starters included our traditional Scotch Eggs which was delicious. There were varietal cocktails, scotch, beer, wine and soft drinks to support the delicious meal. It certainly made the conversation very lively and exciting.

Having attended six Rimcollian get-togethers, 3 in India (2 Founders day in Dehradun, one Mumbai), 3 in the USA (2 in New York, 1 in California), this consisted of a majority of young Rimcollians, dominated by Navy and Merchant marine officers. Rimcollians from San Francisco, USA, Kolkatta,

Lonavala, Khadakvasla and Mumbai (mostly) attended the dinner.

Speech by Cmde AKK Reddy included welcoming everyone and thanking Cdr Himanshu and Cdr Kelkar for their big role in organizing the event. Gen Mohan Gurbaxani followed and complimented Cmde AKK Reddy and his team and thanked them for their hospitality and mentioned and congratulated everyone about RIMC being ranked #1 of all the Government schools in India. Loud claps followed. He added that Arjun and Bindu Israni who were attending, were good hosts for Rimcollians in California and encouraged Rimcollians to call on them when in Northern California.

The interaction during the get together was phenomenal, cheerful, happy and all were reminiscing about their school days and old times. The connection across generations was easy and spontaneous. Lots of new introductions within the mixed age groups.

I had a good conversation with Mr Chandreshekar, ROBA Trustee. He is an expert on Education and talked about the role he had played in education of the students and quality/selection of

## March 2024/**ROVING EYE**

Old Boys Association of  
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the teachers in the ROBA Trust meetings. This was about improving the quality level of teaching at RIMC. His Vision was remarkable, and he is a well-respected scholar in Education. It was also very encouraging and heart-warming to hear Mrs Radha Kukreti say that she would like to continue her relationship with the Rimcollians and

attend these gatherings. It was great to hear her say that.

It was indeed a memorable get together and I was privileged to get to know many of these young men and their enthusiasm for RIMC and the armed forces. Their camaraderie was exceptional and very motivating. My wife Bindu and I thank Gen Gurbaxani

and Cmde Reddy for the opportunity given to us to attend this wonderful Mumbai Rimcollian get together and I personally saw how our great Alma Mater is thriving! I was proud to be part of it and very privileged to attend the get together. Thanks again, the evening was delightful and very special indeed! ■

## Farewell to Maj Gen Alok Kacker - Get together at Lucknow



**A farewell get-together was organised on 25 Oct 2023 to bid adieu to Maj Gen Alok Kacker**

**Standing L to R:** Col AP Singh, Col Abhaya Prakash, Col Sandeep Ahoja, Col TK Chakravarti, Maj AK Singh, Maj (Dr) PN Singh (Father of a Rimcollian), Maj Gen Alok Kacker, Maj Gen Sanjay Singh, Maj Gen DN Singh, Col VV Gidh, Lt Col Gairola, Maj Sunny Francis.

**Sitting L to R:** Son of Col VV Gidh, Mrs Abhaya Prakash, Mrs Alok Kacker, Mrs AK Singh, Mrs TK Chakravarti, Mrs VV Gidh.

## Kolkata Chapter: Rimcollians Get together

Rimcollians across the Globe warm up for the 102nd FOUNDER'S DAY- Reunion 2024\*. It is only natural for us to see get-togethers in plenty at various corners of the country and globe.

22 Jan 2024 was a special mini Reunion at Kolkata, also to bid farewell to Maj Gen H Dharamrajan, Chandragupta, who superannuates on 31st January.

The smiles and glow demonstrates the spirit. Approximately 35 Rimcollians attended the same. It was organised at Kitchner House in Fort William, EC, Kolkata. The event was coordinated by Col Salil Mongia, Ranjit. ■



MARCH ♦ 2024

March 2024/**ROVING EYE**

**Suratgarh Get together**

A small reunion of Rimcollians was held at Suratgarh on 14 Nov 2023



L-R. Col Shiva Rama Krishna, 151/C, Wg Cdr Ankush 159/C, Brig KD Singh, 131/R, Col DPS Rathor 147/R, Lt Col Mandeep Singh 157/C.

**Get Together at Poonch**

Rimcollian get together over lunch was organised by Brig Mudit Mahajan at Poonch on 18 Jan 2024



L to R. Maj Tabish Hasan, Lt Col Gyan R Sahu, Brig Mudit Mahajan, Maj L Marshal Singh, and Maj Gitansh Ahluwalia.

**Chandigarh Get Together**

Tricity Rimcollians get together at Chandigarh, 18 Jan 2024



**Kashmir Get together**



Kashmir Rimcollian Gathering on 28 Jan 2024

**Standing L to R:** Brother-in-law of Kavi, Lt Col Kavi Kashyap, 159 Shivaji, s/o Brig Mishra, Brig Pallav Mishra, 129 Pratap, Col RK Singh, 119 Chandragupta, Brig Sanjay Kannothe, 131 Ranjit, Col Vishal Singh, 149 Shivaji, Col Amit Tiwary, 152 Pratap

**Sitting L to R:** Mrs Kashyap, Mrs Mishra, Mrs RK & Mrs Tiwary



**Getting together to Bless Generation Next**

Seven classmates from the 127 Course attended the wedding of daughter of Brig Dinender Singh Kadyan at Subroto Park, Delhi Cantt on 28 Jan 2024. Rimcollians as seen in the frame from left to right: Cmde P Nitin, Col Sudeepta Ghosh, Brig DS Kadyan, Col Kaushal Kishore, Col Asheesh Kashyap, Brig KJ Singh, Cmde Caesar Basu, Col Vivek Sharma.

# QUICK FLIP

**5 AFSB, GUWAHATI**

**Heartiest congratulations Ishita**



**D/O Mrs Smita & Co Yogesh Gautam 126 Ranjit**

Ms Ishita Gautam, daughter of Late Col Yogesh Kumar Gautam, 126 Ranjit whom we lost a few years ago in an unfortunate accident while he was Commanding a TA Battalion, has been selected for the Air Force Academy for the course starting January 2024.

Heartiest congratulations to Mrs Smita Gautam for her resilient upbringing and Yogesh as he shines amongst the stars.

**14 score perfect 100 percentile in CAT; 29 each get 99.9 and 99.98**

*Mohita Tewari@timesgroup.com*

**Lucknow:** Fourteen candidates — all men — scored a perfect 100 percentile in the Common Admission Test (CAT) 2023, the results of which were declared by the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow on Thursday.

**MEN ON TOP**

Nadu, Bihar, & West Bengal. The next group of toppers, with 99.98 percentile, also comprised 29 candidates with 9 from Maharashtra, 3 each

scored 99.9 percentile, with only 1 woman candidate making it to the list of the 2nd highest scorers. Of these, 9 are from Maharashtra, 7 from Delhi, 4 from Karnataka, 2 each from Haryana, Telangana, UP, and 1 each from Tamil Nadu, Bihar, & West Bengal.

Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Odisha. "IIMs will release their admission lists for subsequent admission processes based on, among other things, the CAT score," an official said.

Also, 91 non-IIM institutions will use CAT score for admissions into their management programmes. Around 2.88 lakh candidates, out of around 3.26 lakh registered eligible candidates, took the test returning an overall attendance of 88%. Out of those 92% were females.

Mr Laksh Gupta, Shivaji secured 100 percentile in CAT 2023 & topped India to get admission in prestigious IIMs. He has a great past record as he secured 100 percentile in JEE Mains 2020 and topped India to get admission in IITs previously.

Laksh also won Gold Medal for India in International Economics Olympiad 2019, held at St. Petersburg, Russia. He is also Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojna Fellow (organised by IISc Bengaluru under Ministry of Science & Technology) and Junior Science Talent Search Examination awardee. Besides, Laksh won various international competitions organised by SRCC, career launcher, Modern School, Manav Sthali School, Mont Fort School, SOF, Silverzone and many other institutions.

Congratulations to the young lad and great feat and a golden day not only for him and his family but also the Rimcollian fraternity.

**FORCES NETWORK** FEB 2024

**Author of the Month**  
**Col Kaushik Sircar**  
IN INTERACTION WITH IQBAL SINGH



**Lt Colonel Kaushik Sircar (Retd)** is a Versatile Soldier and is at ease with both guns and the pen. He joined the National Defence Academy in 1985 and then Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, and was subsequently commissioned in the Infantry with the Assam Regiment in 1987. He has been awarded the Army Chief Commendation for dedication to duty and exemplary conduct. He has operated in the North East, J & K and the Deserts. He was part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) for two years in Sri Lanka. Having served in the Indian Army for 20 years, of which 5 years were with the National security Guards as a Black Cat Commando.

**Q:** Please tell me a little bit about yourself, your background, your education, how you got into writing and why writing is a passion for you?

**Kaushik:** With over 20 years of coloured service with the Assam Regiment, I have done M.Sc. in Defence and Strategic Analysis from Madras University in 2003 and an MBA in Personnel Management from Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies, Pune and a Senior Defence Management Graduate from DAVV, Indore.

I joined the National Defence Academy in 1985 and then Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, and was subsequently commissioned in the Infantry with the Assam Regiment in 1987. I have been awarded the Army Chief Commendation for dedication to duty and exemplary conduct. I have operated in the North east, J & K and the Deserts. I was part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) for two years in Sri Lanka. Having served in the Indian Army for 20 years, of which 5 years were with the National security Guards as a Black Cat Commando.

Colonel Kaushik Sircar, 115th Course, Shivaji Section, an author of six books has been named author of the month by Forces Network. His books were a big draw at Kolkata Book Fair held in January 2024.



Rimcollian and veteran author Prof Sidharth Mishra presented a copy of our book *Valour & Wisdom* to Mr Shaban Mahmood, Minister (Press), High Commission of Bangladesh. The book has several specific references to role of the alumni of RIMC in the liberation of Bangladesh and later some of them contributing to the building of the nascent nation.

**FAMILY BLOODLINES OF PUNJAB SPORTS STARS**

**FATHER & SON AWARD WINNERS**

<b>Sarfaraz Singh (1968)</b> Arjuna Award (2000)	<b>Chetan Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (2000)	<b>Sandeep Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Sandeep Singh (1985)</b> Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (1988)	<b>Chetan Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (2000)	<b>Harpreet Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)
<b>Lata Anamath (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Mahender Anamath (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Schubert Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Harpreet Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Ajit Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Gagan Ajit Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)

**SPOUSE AWARD WINNERS**

<b>Rajesh Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Anamath Kaur (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Jasvinder Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Hemant Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Gurpreet Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Rajesh Kaur (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)
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**KINSHIP AWARD WINNERS**

<b>Ajit Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Harpreet Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Gagan Ajit Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)	<b>Harpreet Singh (1985)</b> Arjuna Award (1988)
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Col Sarfraz Singh carries a family tradition of excellence in sports. While his father was awarded Arjuna Award for excellence in hockey in 1968, Col Sarfraz has been awarded Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in 2019. The father-son duo has found a position of prestige in the Punjab Government Calendar

March 2024/**VISION****Note from Outgoing Commandant**

# Changes We Made, Traditions We Preserved

**Dear Rimcollians,**

At the outset, I extend my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support during my time at the helm of our Alma Mater. My sincerest gratitude to ROBA president Lt Gen Adosh Kumar to have played the role of a great mentor as we progressed on the path of change albeit with a fair amount of continuity wherever it was possible. I write to you summarizing the past year and half that I was in the hot seat of the Commandant of our alma mater.

The team at RIMC undertook new initiatives, and reinforced old processes, in keeping with the ethos of our College. The initiatives were in keeping with the aims of our College, laid down by the first Rimcollian Commandant, Maj Gen (then Col) SD Mahanti. The end state is to make a cadet academically sound, mentally and physically robust, and socially well-adjusted and a gentleman/lady.

We addressed each aspect guided by the work of our predecessors and inputs from our fraternity. I was granted 10 hours of facetime and 25 pages worth of handwritten notes before taking over by Maj Gen H. Dharmarajan to chart the waters, and I remain ever grateful for his sagacious advice on many matters.

**ENTRANCE EXAM:** Lt Col Abhishek Rana, our AAO, played a pivotal role in addressing critical issues related to the entrance examination system. He identified concerns such as malpractices, document fraud, and a cumbersome process, demonstrating a proactive approach to maintaining the integrity of the examination process. He led initiatives such as data crunching to identify states with low numbers, aiming to address regional disparities in participation. He



**COL VIKRAM KADIAN**  
I 564/RANJIT

initiated measures to weed out fraudulent documents, towards his commitment to fair and transparent admission procedures. He also undertook legal action by filing FIRs against individuals involved in malpractices, sending a strong deterrent message against fraudulent activities. He overhauled the exam cell, towards improving the administrative infrastructure supporting the entrance examination. He has restructured paper setting and checking procedures, ensuring a standardized and rigorous evaluation process. He further revamped the paper content to focus on logic and reasoning, shifting the emphasis from rote learning to evaluating candidates' analytical and problem-solving abilities. This strategic change aims to attract and select candidates with a deeper understanding and application of knowledge. Further, he has led the change for the entrance exam to be conducted under the National Testing Authority (NTA), a reputed body known for conducting exams like the CUET. The proposal, currently under consideration at ARTRAC, aims to leverage NTA's experience and infrastructure, potentially

increasing the reach of the exams to approximately 400 centres across the country. We are grateful to Professor. Sidharth Mishra in fostering awareness about the school through his efforts. In the same vein, we would urge the regional ROBA bodies and the College to collaboratively enhance outreach and attract a wider pool of candidates. We also recognized the need for a comprehensive overhaul in the Viva Voce process. A revamped viva voce process has recommended inclusion of the Commandant as a member of the panel, ensuring a more inclusive and informed selection process. Abhishek also addressed issues concerning medical tests, including the introduction of new parameters for girl cadets. We are ensuring uniformity in medical tests to prevent medical issues from arising at a later stage in the life of a cadet, particularly in the NDA medicals. In summary, the restructuring of the entrance examination system at RIMC, led by Lt Col Abhishek Rana, encompasses a multifaceted approach, involving legal measures, procedural enhancements, content realignment, and collaboration with reputable testing authorities. These efforts collectively aim to create a more robust, transparent, and inclusive admission process at RIMC

**ACADEMIC RIGOUR:** Recognizing the importance of educational expertise, we have addressed the challenge of academic rigor by establishing an Academic Council. This council is comprised of distinguished academicians, namely Mr. Madhav Rao and Ms. Manju, whose credentials suggest a wealth of experience and knowledge in the field of education. We appreciate the help of Harminder Multani in facilitating the onboarding process and help us in selecting

## March 2024/**VISION**

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individuals with the right expertise for the Academic Council. We are committed to incorporating diverse perspectives and informed decision-making in academic matters. The Academic Council has undertaken a meticulous and comprehensive analysis of the academic procedures and master competencies at RIMC. This analysis involved a thorough examination of curriculum design, teaching methodologies, assessment practices, and the alignment of academic goals with broader institutional objectives. The active engagement of the Academic Council with the campus, particularly through workshops with masters, underscores a collaborative approach to addressing academic challenges. Workshops involved the collective expertise of the teaching staff and we value their input in the academic enhancement process. The detailed and comprehensive report generated by the Academic Council reflects a commitment to transparency and accountability in the assessment process. This report includes specific findings, actionable recommendations, and a roadmap for implementing changes based on the analysis conducted. The administration's willingness to share the outcomes of the assessment with the broader community further establishes a culture of openness and improvement. Ongoing processes include enhancement of cl 12th board results, faculty development, and curriculum enhancements. Mathematics has been put front and centre, and we have had encouraging results. The College has had 9 cadets making it through the prestigious Maths Olympiad held by Mathematical Teachers Association of India. This represents a 3rd of all candidates who qualified from Uttarakhand. We have also won the prestigious Doon School Maths Quiz for the first time. We have initiated dialogue with Allen Classes to provide adjunct teaching on the campus for PCM. The ROBA Trust has very kindly stepped in to facilitate this. Upgrading our academic infrastructure with modern technology signifies a commitment to providing cadets with a contemporary and technologically enriched learning environment. Every

classroom, GLR, SLR, Maths Lab and the conference hall has been equipped with 75 Inch Immersive TVs with broadband connection to enhance teaching. We are perhaps the only the government schools to do so. The incorporation of modern technology is aimed at enhancing the educational experience, making learning more interactive, engaging, and aligned with current educational trends. The library has been revamped with new shelves, books and internet PCs to enable learning. 150 additional PCs have been authorised to enable a networked learning environment. To foster a love for reading, a collection of stories of our cadets has been published in the form of a book with the title, "Ich Dien: These Are My Stories". The book has stories and illustrations from our cadets and will be included in the language syllabus. The emphasis on a robust academic framework is aimed at a holistic approach to education, encompassing not only curriculum and teaching methodologies but also the physical and technological resources that support the learning process. The girl cadets are excelling in academics with Cadet Niyanta Pal as the Medhavi of her class and the others close behind. Old boys have been regularly invited for lectures and interactions with the cadets and we are grateful for their time. The NDA written results have picked up, and we are working to revive the SSB results, which have admittedly been below par. I must place on record the stellar contribution of our service officers, Wg Cdr Arvind Rawat and Lt Cdr Sangeeta Sehrawat in the academic block.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The National Institute of Mental Health and Sciences (NIMHANS) conducted a thorough evaluation of RIMC, leading to recommendations for improved mental health support and overall institutional enhancements. Recommendations include changes in the entrance exam format, the provision of comprehensive pre-enrollment information to parents and cadets, an increased focus on creative activities for all cadets and more balanced allocation of time between academics and extracurriculars. Ongoing training programs are in place for

Masters/Teachers, emphasizing mutual respect and updating teaching methodologies. Institutional principles are being reinforced to foster constructive leadership, and specific measures are being taken to address the unique needs of girl cadets. Besides, workshops by NGOs towards gender sensitization have been conducted. A new Child Protection Policy, as mandated, has been prepared and being rolled out. We are committed to creating a holistic and supportive environment, actively implementing these measures for the betterment of the institution.

**SPORTS:** Games, as always has been a focal point on campus. Lt Col Abhishek has persevered in his efforts to enhance the quality of coaching and overall standards. Shooting has reaped rich rewards with 04 cadets qualifying for the nationals. The riding team has brought in laurels in various events. Maj Pratap Pundhir has steered the riding efforts from IMA and we are indebted to him. Squash has been revived with Cadet Gargi winning the Uttarakhand Girls U-15s and the boys steadily progressing. The cadets have undergone scuba training in our indoor pool, besides undertaking various courses at HMI and NIM. The girl cadets are actively taking part in all activities.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES:** I must place on record the exceptional work ethic and commitment of Lt Col Sandeep Shanker, our AO. He has tirelessly toiled away in keeping our ships engine room running without missing a beat. Sandeep has worked wonders in the field of works, funding, discipline of all class of employees, networking the campus, outsourcing and general ship shape of our campus. Sandeep has trebled the amount of funds available at our disposal through government channels. Outsourcing of services to the tune of Rs 2.5 Cr has been cleared. An internal audit was done by our new CA and funds have been re-worked to give us better value. He has reworked the ancient sewage and water supply system on campus, a task I thought was beyond our capability! Shivaji section dormitories have been re-done, with teak wood doors and windows, and the bathrooms fit for Ranjitiens. Ranjit section bathrooms have

March 2024/**CAMPUS DARSHAN**

# MATERIAL CHANGE

*The eighteen months that Col Vikram Kadian spent on the Rajwara Camp as Commandant, saw a material change in the infrastructure of the College including the start in the functioning of the new Mess which had been pending for almost a decade. Here we share some glimpses of the renovated library and other infrastructure. The silent contribution of GOC Uttarakhand Sub Area Maj Gen Sanjiv Khatri too is acknowledged. **Editor***



The main sitting hall of the library building

been revamped to their usual high standards. A new central water heating system has been installed. Pratap section will undergo renovation in the coming year as part of the roll on plan. The bathroom in the centre of the education block has been re-sited to a side. The New Cadets Mess has been made functional with addition of space and new equipment. The kitchens of the old cadets mess are undergoing renovation. A new infirmary and revamped CH has shored up our medical requirements. I must place on record the largesse of Dr Nishant Ranjan for the same. The Memorial area has been spruced up, with the old Vijayanta on eternal vigil at the cross-roads. The Archives has been revamped and further work is in pipeline, funds for which have

been sought from the ROBA Trust. The Ante rooms have had their wood panelling restored and photographs of Chakra Series awardees have been placed there to motivate our cadets. Reviving and enhancing state scholarships have been a focal point, and efforts are underway to negotiate with states for enhanced financial support. Certain states viz Punjab have enhanced the scholarship and a few states have restarted scholarships which were suspended for a time. Scholarships from individuals and courses has also flowed in and we are indebted to them for their largesse. Old boys have visited us with regularity, and they have been gracious in their time and inputs. A new security system with approximately 200 cameras and a gate management system

has been put into place by Sandeep. He has also been able to connect the entire campus on OFC and we have one of the best networked campus amongst our peers. I must place on record the largesse of Maj Jagdeep Kairon (Retd.) for helping us out for the networking, among other things.

**FAREWELL:** It has been a short and intense stint at the helm of our Alma Mater. Gen Adosh Kumar has been very kind with his time and advice and once again our sincere gratitude to him. Col Rahul Agarwal will steer the ship from now on, and I wish him fair winds and following seas.

Viva RIMC  
Viva Rimcollians  
Kady

# March 2024/CAMPUS DARSHAN

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The renovated and updated Wall of Honour



The new security room



The central stack hall of the library building



A panoramic view of the Cadets' Mess



A closer look of the Cadets' Mess

March 2024/**VISION****Note from Incoming Commandant**

# The Guardians of Legacy

— COL RAHUL AGARWAL  
1798/C

President's Cavalcade at School on March 13, 1997

In the vast expanse of India's military educational landscape, RIMC stands tall as an epitome of unique legacy. The College, established with a singular vision of preparing young minds for a career in the armed forces, it has consistently set the bar for excellence and unparalleled tally list. Collectively, we have a big responsibility to keep this name flying high now and in times ahead.

To truly understand the guardianship of this legacy, one needs to understand what makes us so different and unique. Today, we stand as a beacon of educational excellence, character-building & discipline thereby producing outstanding academic results while also instilling values that last a lifetime. The training rigors as well as holistic practical approach towards handling HR,

ambiguous situations, decision making dilemmas and courage of conviction prepare our cadets for the challenges they will face as officers in the defence forces.

So how do we ensure the legacy continues ahead and who is rightfully the Guardian of this Legacy....

Does the responsibility lie with the academic & administrative body alone!! Or going further, the ROBA for ensuring over the top guidance & assistance!! Or glorifying the alumni achievements and adhering to established customs and traditions!!

Who bears the heaviest load in shouldering the actual responsibility?

What bears fruit for us as fraternity in uniform?

Nothing sails on the past glory and

big names often lose relevance faster than one can think, if not consistently nurtured in right direction. Sustained efforts, commitment, sincerity of purpose and continuous improvements are crucial for achieving lasting glory.

It is a collective effort. The fresh crop needs to be nurtured and given a platform while the crop themselves have to go out there proving themselves Alpha in all fields. Mentors bears the responsibility of facilitation, while the onus of performance in the arena rests on the shoulders of our name bearers. We strive for an augmented presence on the playfield, fostering mutual support in all aspects conducive to excellence. The outlook of cadets towards their career shaping should be one of dedication, discipline, and a strong sense of duty.



March 2024/**NOSTALGIA**

# Salute to a Soldier

— LT GEN ADITYA SINGH (RETD)

Fate works in mysterious ways. Most of us who have served in the forces will recall how chance, coincidence, luck or, happenstance has intervened, mostly for the good and sometimes, otherwise. I for one on balance believe I have benefited and my recent experience in ensuring a salute to a soldier, is testimony.

I am the fourth generation to have served in the Indian Army. However, I hardly knew my father or, of his Army career. He like most of his generation, was of the old school and as children we 'were seen and not heard'. My brother and I were sent off to boarding school at the age of ten when my father was on a non-family assignment. Our interaction was limited to the occasional summer or, winter vacations, where time was divided between five siblings. He passed away in July 1963 at the age of 56. It was the day before I left for NDA as a young 15 year old. The only consolation for him at that stage was knowing that that one of his sons would be carrying forward the family legacy.

## GENESIS

This story however, traces its roots to when he as a young lad joined the Rashtriya Indian Military College (then Prince of Wales Military College) with the first batch in March 1922. From there he went to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Punjab Regiment. During World War II he served with the 8th Army and was one of the first Indians to command a Battalion in the Italian Campaign.

Fate directed that I along with my elder sister and younger brother visited Italy in 2019 and got an opportunity to tour the battlefields where my father then, Lt Col T Mahadeo Singh was in



Tri Stambh at Gen Mahadeo Singh Road

command of 1st Battalion, 2nd Punjab Regiment. Under his command the Battalion in a decisive attack broke through the German Chengez Khan line leading to their surrender in May 1945.

This final battle involved securing the rail and road bridge on the Idici River held by German Parachute Division. India's Official History of the Second World War 1939-1945 has recorded it as: "This was the Battalion's finest effort and a glorious hour of trial"<sup>1</sup>. He was awarded Distinguished Service Order. Having visited the site

and re-lived the battle, I as a military man, was awestruck. It was a victory against all odds and an account was published in the Rimcollian of September 2020.

The Pandemic of 2020 also allowed one to reflect. This gave birth to a thought that his deeds as a soldier, be given permanent recognition. The question was how?

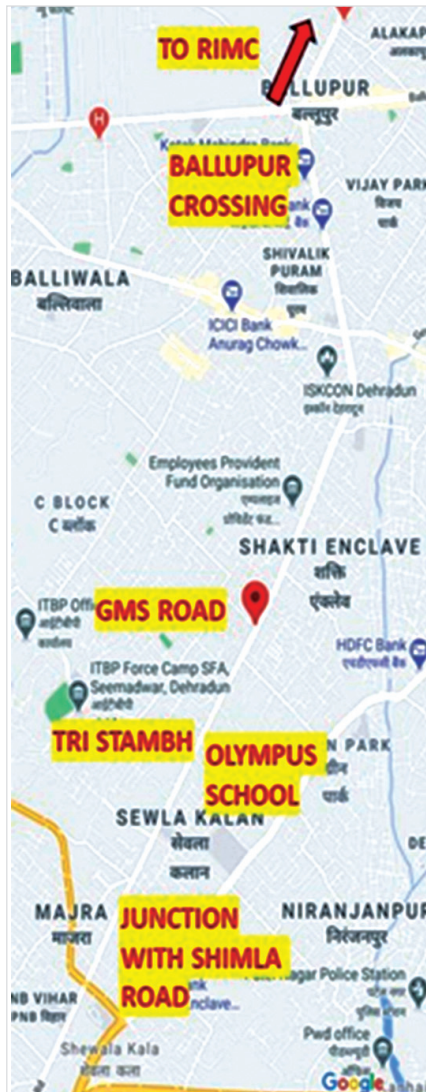
## THE POSSIBILITY

Providence provided a possibility in Dehradun, the Town which was the

1. Page, 657 of 'Official History of the Indian Armed Forces in the Second World War 1939 - 45: The Campaign in Italy 1943-45'( Official History)

## March 2024/NOSTALGIA

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foundation of his military career. He was posted to Dehradun as Chief Instructor, Indian Military Academy (IMA) after completion of his command in 1946. On independence, he was appointed Deputy Commandant and subsequently in December 1947, the first Indian Commandant of IMA. In this capacity he was part of the team to set up the Joint Services Wing (JSW) the forerunner to the National Defence Academy (NDA) at Clement Town and was appointed as its founder Commandant in 1949.

Holding dual charge of both the IMA and JSW, there was a requirement of daily commute between both institutions which were a distance of about 18 km via the main town of Dehradun. This required negotiating a very narrow

portion called 'Suicide Alley', a tiresome drive.

Maj Gen Thakur Mahadeo Singh, DSO therefore identified that Dehradun could be bypassed if a road was constructed along the canal from Ballapur to the Saharanpur Road. He pursued this case vigorously with the Government and had the road constructed in 1949. The foresight for this 5 km 'bypass' has evolved into a thoroughfare which has gained increased importance over the years and is now a part of the national highway network.

The State Government in recognition of his long association with Dehradun, distinguished war record and service as the first Indian Commandant of both the IMA and JSW, decreed that the Road would be named General Mahadeo Singh Road in his honour. It is thus, first road in India to be named after a military officer.

Very few, if any, are aware of this background and almost all only know of it by its acronym, 'GMS' Road. It was therefore felt that a suitable structure recording salient details in a prominent manner, be erected in his memory. The main hurdle was that being a public road, private construction was debarred. Also, there was no such precedent.

### THE PROJECT AND ITS ACCEPTANCE

To overcome this and obtain formal approval, services of Shri Abhimanyu Dalal, a renowned architect of Delhi, was sought. It was considered that acceptance of any structure would only be possible if the design was unique, striking as also, adding pride and value to Dehradun.

The Road has developed from single to four-lane over the years. A reconnaissance of road revealed that any edifice would have to come up on the central verge and ideally provide for inter-visibility. A unique three stone stele design was prepared. The columns would be of RCC with red sand stone cladding. In addition to the State emblem of Uttarakhand, these would have the crests of the IMA, JSW and RIMC the

three institutions that the late General was associated with in Dehradun. The stele would also have the background details carved in Hindi and English. In view of the triple stele design, it was proposed to call it 'Tri Stambh'.

The proposal was forwarded to the State Government and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Fortuitously, the minister in charge of NHAI was Gen VK Singh whom I had known in service and thus, able to convince. He promised his support but, explained that approval of the Uttarakhand Government and its PWD was essential. This involved a number of visits to Dehradun as also a request to the Sub Area Headquarters to assist. Luckily, a former military man Lt Gen Gurmit Singh had been appointed as Governor Uttarakhand. He thus, understood the significance of the project, was impressed by the design and requested that the State government look into it.

Maj Gen Sanjeev Khatri, a Rimcollian was the Sub Area Commander and spoke to the Chief Secretary Uttarakhand, as also Principal Secretary PWD. All this is indicative of some unseen hand that ensured support by the right people at the opportune moment. To have the backing of the Governor and the Minister of State, both former Army colleagues, was more than mere coincidence.

I finally met Shri RK Sudhanshu, IAS Principal Secretary PWD on 7th April 2022 along with Shri CM Pandey, Chief Engineer PWD Uttarakhand and others which included representatives of the NHAI. To start, there was apprehension of a private structure on a public road but, the unique design, as also that it would be the first such structure anywhere, as also that it would add value to Dehradun swayed them. In discussion, Shri Sudhanshu asked as to when I would like to dedicate Tri Stambh. I replied that I would like to do it in 2022 itself being the Centenary year of when my Father came to Dehradun. The date I recommend was 9th November, the 115th Anniversary of his Birth.

## March 2024/**NOSTALGIA**



Site Selection with Chief Engineer PWD



Bhoomi Puja 8 June 2022

His face lit up and he remarked in Hindi 'Yeh to bahut shubh din hai'. (This is a very auspicious day). I queried as to why it was 'auspicious' and he replied that 9th November was the Foundation Day of Uttarakhand. I responded that this coincidence was a signal from heaven and he should give his go ahead. I further added that Uttarakhand was colloquially known as 'Dev Bhoomi' and this would honour a 'Mahadeo'. This clinched the issue and he directed that a reconnaissance be conducted to select a suitable site.

A joint visit by Chief Engineer PWD Uttarakhand and Engineers of the NHAI was planned for the same afternoon. As mentioned earlier, the Road has developed from a single to four-lane with very little scope for any structure on the central verge. Destiny however, had provided for a Peepul tree in middle of the road front of Olympus School. The Peepul tree enjoys a religious status and hence, the road had been widened with a traffic island for its protection. The site was thus, more than significant and was finalised.

In retrospect I am convinced, that the existence of this Road and series of coincidences mentioned above which allowed for acceptance of such a pathbreaking project, all came about with divine intervention. We of the family, are indeed grateful.

## CONSTRUCTION AND DEDICATION

Being a public road the construction work to be under the aegis of the State PWD. Here too, the Chief Engineer, Shri CM Pandey who was present at the site selection promised his full support. He deputed Shri Neeraj Tripathi, AE PWD, to oversee the project and assured me that he was the person who could get the job done. This proved to be true. Neeraj took complete ownership and his commitment was exceptional.

It was a pioneering project to strict time lines. Work started after a Bhoomi Puja on 8th June 2022. This ceremony on a traffic island in middle of a thoroughfare amid moving traffic was surreal and something only possible in

## March 2024/NOSTALGIA

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Road Signs

India. The ceremony among others was graced by Rimcollians, Flt Lt Ajit Singh and Gp Capt Deepak Ahluwalia.

The construction involved three-meter-deep base structure and foundations. Neeraj Tripathi the AE was undeterred and work carried on 24x7 in the middle of a busy road. Shri Vipul Khandelwal and Mudit Jain of Puja Arts from Delhi did all the stone work including carving.

### CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOUNDATION AND STRUCTURE

To provide identity, road signs representative of Tri Stambh were constructed on the central verge on either end of the Road, i.e., Ballapur Chowk and where it meets the Shimla Bypass. These too involved digging and work at busy intersections.

Miraculously there was no major mishap and Tri Stambh was ready for its Dedication on 9th November 2022. The Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt Gen Gurmit Singh presided over this 'Salute to a Soldier'. It was a bright and beautiful morning befitting the ceremony, truly blessed by the Gods.

There were some finishing touches which included the carving of the Late General's portrait on the central stele and Tri Stambh was finally handed over to the PWD on 4th March 2023. The matter for its long term maintenance and up keep came up and it was suggested by Gp Capt Deepak Ahluwalia that this could be possibly be undertaken by the ROBA Trust from a dedicated corpus created by the Late General's Family.



Lt Gen Gurmit Singh, Governor Uttarakhand at the Dedication of Tri Stambh on 9th November 2022 with members of the Late General's Family



Signing of the Agreement at RIMC on 9th November 2023: Lt Gen SS Grewal, Gp Capt Deepak Ahluwalia, Flt Lt Ajit Singh, (Trustees ROBA), Col Vikram Kadian, Commandant RIMC, Lt Gen KK Khanna and Lt Gen Aditya Singh

the first Rimcollian whose memory would be supported by the ROBA Trust for perpetuity. Coincidentally, Tri Stambh is down the road from RIMC.

The Agreement to formalise this was signed was signed at the RIMC on 9th November 2023 with the Senior Trustee ROBA, Lt Gen SS Grewal and others, bringing to conclusion a saga of events which only providence and divine intervention could have brought about.

This 'Salute to a Soldier' is thus, truly blessed and a fit edifice to inspire all Rimcollians. ■

This was accepted by the Trustees and has ensured another 'First' in respect of the Late General. First batch of RIMC; first Indian Commandant IMA; founder Commandant of NDA; first Indian Military officer to have a road named after him and that too, in Dehradun where his service career began; and now

March 2024/**CAMPUSCAN**

# THE NDA POP, Nov 2023

— COL VIJAY GIDH, VSM (RETD)



The medal winners. Two of the three medallists are Rimcollians.

The bi-annual Passing Out Parade (POP) at the National Defence Academy (NDA) is a much eagerly awaited event. And if the medal winners at the POP happen to be from RIMC, one can imagine the sense of pride in witnessing the parade.

The POP of the 146th Course of the NDA on 30 November 2023 held a significance that will be etched in history. It was special on three counts - President Droupadi Murmu was the Chief Guest for the parade; this year's POP marks a

special milestone as the country's premier tri-service academy will complete 75 years of its foundation in January 2024; and for the first time in the illustrious 75-year history of the NDA, a contingent of women cadets, marched proudly on the revered Khetarpal Parade Ground.

It was a pleasant Thursday morning when we witnessed an impressive POP of the 146th Course of the NDA on 30 November 2023. A total of 1225 cadets participated in the parade, 348 cadets

were from the passing out course. The passing out cadets included 186 Army cadets, 36 Naval and 105 Air Force cadets, including 21 cadets from friendly foreign countries - Bhutan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Krygyzstan, Uzbekistan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh. A contingent of 15 women cadets, presently in their third term of the six-term training, marched shoulder to shoulder with male cadets. As the contingent - that was placed next to the prestigious squadron of cadets holding academy appointments - passed the attendees, a loud round of applause cheered them.

The first batch of 19 women cadets (10 Army, 06 Air Force and 03 Navy) is a part of the 148th course and will pass out in May 2025. Of them, a total 15 women cadets formed the marching contingent. The women cadets were part of the November 2022 and May 2023 POPs in the first two terms of their first year, but were not part of the marching contingent. They were in various preparatory roles like part of the manning the mast of the quarter deck, to cheer the graduating course as they go past the deck in slow march.

Addressing the passing out cadets after reviewing the parade, the President made a specific mention of the participation of women cadets as a marching contingent for the first time ever at the Academy. In her speech, President Murmu said, "NDA has started training women cadets from 2022. Today for the first time women cadets are participating in the Passing Out Parade in the marching contingent. This is a historic day in the true sense. I am confident that all women cadets will take the NDA and the nation to new heights of glory. Even today our daughters have to struggle to choose the career path of their liking. That is why I want to specially congratulate these women cadets."



BCC Pratham being awarded President Gold Medal by the President of India

The President said that the training and the life values received from the NDA always helped cadets move ahead in life. She advised the cadets to move forward by learning and adopting new technologies to face the challenges of future. She expressed confidence that they would face every challenge with courage and bravery while carrying forward the values of the Armed Forces.

The President said protection of India's borders and internal security were essential for peace, stability and prosperity. "We follow the tradition of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', but our forces are fully capable of and ready to face any external or internal situation that tries to damage the spirit of unity and integrity of the country," she said.

The event was also attended by Governor of Maharashtra Shri Ramesh Bais, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan and Southern Army Commander, Lt Gen AK Singh.

After the conclusion of the POP, the President paid homage at the Hut of Remembrance at the NDA, which is a cenotaph that commemorates the sacrifice of the NDA alumni Armed Forces officers who have laid down their lives in the line of duty.

President Murmu also laid the foundation stone for the fifth battalion building that will have a capacity to accommodate four squadrons (120 cadets in each squadron), increasing its capacity from the present 1920 to 2400 cadets. The new building, located near the Quartermaster Fort in NDA, will accommodate Romeo and Quebec squadrons, as also have provision for future addition of two more squadrons. The President said that the NDA was a cradle of leadership, which had given birth to great warriors. This Academy has a special place among the best training institutions in the country and is recognized as a strong pillar for the Armed Forces and the country.

It was very heartening to see Capt Avinash Chhetry (2008-13, Shivaji) performing the duties of Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to President Murmu in a very dignified manner. This smart young officer had been awarded the PGM during the POP of 130th Course in May 2016; he has the distinction of being the first NDA cadet from the North East to win the PGM in NDA. It had been a pleasure meeting Cadet Chhetry and his proud parents during Tea at Salaria Square in May 2016.

The President released a commemorative coin, postal stamp and first day cover of NDA as part of 75 years of NDA. The coin is of Rs 75 denomination, issued by the Government of India Mint. Both the stamp and first-day cover have been issued by the Department of Posts.

## CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF NDA

The NDA completes '75 Glorious Years' of its existence on 16 January 2024. To commemorate this glorious occasion, various academic, sports and adventure activities are being conducted from 19 January 2023 to 16 January 2024. The aim of these year-long series of events is to highlight the Academy's achievements in various spheres during its 75 years of service to the nation. The NDA has trained more than 38,000 cadets, including 1000 cadets from 32 Friendly Foreign Countries and made them into dynamic military leaders and military scholars.

Some of the important activities include Seminar on Leadership, several hikes and excursions, sailing expedition, river rafting, cross country flying on Super Dimona aircraft, car rally, sports meet and marathon. Selected officers and NDA cadets were nominated for each event.

The events began with the release of logo on '75 Glorious Years of NDA', Theme of NDA, Cycling Expedition from NDA to Mulshi Lake, NDA Open Sailing Regatta in the picturesque Khadakvasla Lake, Super Dimona Ferry to IAF Academy, Hyderabad, X Country Flying to Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala; Poem and Drawing Competition, Release of NDA Song 'Bharat Maa Tujhe Salam', Inauguration of Sudan Façade Lighting, White River Rafting Expedition in Upper Ganga River at Raiwala, Cycling Expedition to Pawna Lake, NDA Inland Enterprise Class Regatta, NDA Open Squash and NDA WizQuiz.

The most thrilling were the treks to the four corners of the country: - Guhar Moti - the Westernmost Corner; Indira Col, Siachen Base Camp - the Northernmost Corner; Indira Point in Andaman & Nicobar Islands - the

## March 2024/**CAMPUSCAN**



Col VY Gidh with BCC Pratham, his family and other Rimcollians

Southernmost Corner and Kibithu - the Easternmost Corner. The cadets got an opportunity to visit APS, Bhuj, APS, Leh, as also schools enroute to Kibithu. They interacted with the students, with a view to motivate and inspire them to join the Armed Forces. These hikes also gave an opportunity to the participating cadets to see the remote corners of India.

The most popular event conducted was the 'NDA Marathon' held on 15 October 2023. This was the first time the Marathon was conducted within the Academy's hallowed grounds and civilians were permitted. There was an overwhelming participation of 13,500 individuals from all walks of life across the country. The 'NDA Marathon' was aimed at igniting the spirits of the nation's youth while offering an exclusive

glimpse into the Academy. The NDA Marathon featured multiple race categories including a 42 kms Full Marathon, 21 kms Half Marathon, a 10 Kms run, and a 3 kms run, all happening concurrently. The oldest participant was 96 years while the youngest 5 years.

The Car Rally : JSW - NDA will be flagged off from Raj Bhawan, Dehra Dun on 23 December 2023 to commemorate the movement of cadets from Clement Town to Khadakvasla 70 years ago. The route followed will be Dehra Dun - Delhi - Gwalior - Mhow - Nashik - Mumbai - Pune and terminate in NDA on 28 December 2023. The Grand Finale of the 75 GYC will be conducted in NDA on 15-16 January 2024.

The most thrilling event for the Rimcollians who witnessed the parade,

was the Award Ceremony. Battalion Cadet Captain Pratham Singh, a Rimcollian, was awarded the coveted President's Gold Medal (PGM) for standing first in the overall order of merit. Another Rimcollian, Battalion Cadet Adjutant Harshwardhan Bhonsle was awarded the Bronze Medal for standing third in the overall order of merit. Juliet Squadron bagged the prestigious "Chiefs of Staff Banner" for being the Champion Squadron.

The passing course consisted of 15 Rimcollian cadets, of which 07 were from the Army, 06 from the Navy and 02 from the Air Force. In addition to winning the PGM, BCC Pratham Singh was adjudged the Best Army Cadet, Best in Sports, Best in Riding, Best in Jointmanship, Best in BSc - Computer

## March 2024/**CAMPUSCAN**

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Science Stream, Blue in Riding, Blue in Athletics, Bayonet Pin for Service Subjects, Certificate of Proficiency (COP) in Drill and COP and Merit Card in Chinese Language. In addition to winning the Bronze Medal, BCA HS Bhonsle was awarded the Gold Medal for Best Naval Cadet, COP in Riding, Chinese and Drill.

It was a pleasure meeting Pratham Singh and Harshwardhan Bhonsle and their proud parents after the parade. I congratulated them on behalf of the Rimcollian fraternity. Pratham (Pratap, 188th Course) was a student of APS, Allahabad before joining RIMC in January 2016. The young lad from Pangoli, Pathankot is the fourth generation in the Army and belongs to the family of gallant soldiers. His great grandfather, Col Randhir Singh Salaria was a commissioned officer and fought in Burma during WW II. His grandfather, Col Tirath Singh, Vir Chakra is a gallantry award winner of Indo Pak War 1971. His mother, Col Anuvandana Jaggi is a serving Signal Officer presently commanding an operational unit in Rajasthan. She has the distinction of having served as the leader of the United Nations Military Observers Team during the UN mission in Burundi.

Pratham's journey with armed forces began with him joining RIMC with All India Rank 1. He did exceedingly well during his formative years at RIMC where he earned academic feathers in all his terms. He was a Blue in Athletics and holds the High Jump record of RIMC, the Best Athlete in Dehradun District Athletics and represented Uttarakhand state in Athletics Junior Nationals at Vishakhapatnam. He was a Merit Card in Swimming and was adjusted the Best Swimmer in the College. He was Half Blue in Riding and won medals in national and international riding events Delhi Horse Show, IPSC, etc. Pratham is also an avid squash player and represented the college in IPSC competitions. He had some interesting memories about how he gradually learnt high jump in school - after initially missing out on a medal in Class 1A, he



Col VY Gidh with BCA Harshwardhan Bhosle

gradually improved his technique to eventually win the event in RIMC, District Athletics and Junior Nationals.

Pratham acquired leadership skills that are expected of an Army officer. He was the Cadet Captain of 188th Course of RIMC and passed out with the prestigious Sword of Honour and Akshay Chibber award of excellence. Pratham topped the NDA entrance examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission while joining the NDA in April 2021. Pratham is a dedicated young boy committed and passionate about serving the motherland.

Harshwardhan (Shivaji, 188th Course) was a student of New Education

Society's Vimala Goenka English Medium School, Petala, Kohlapur before joining RIMC in January 2016. He has some fine memories of his RIMC days. He loved adventure and had volunteered for the Adventure Course at Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM), Uttarkashi while in Class 1A; the Paragliding Course at Mechanised Infantry Regimental Centre (MIRC), Ahmednagar in Class 3 and the Windsurfing Course at Army Air Defence (AAD), Gopalpur in Class 3A. Their UPSC-NDA examinations were postponed from 19 April to 06 September 2020 due to COVID. He was senior dormitory NCO in Shivaji Section and the RIMC had already prepared him

## March 2024/**CAMPUSCAN**

for the challenging training regime at the NDA.

His father Mr Shailesh Bhonsle works as a cashier in The Kohlapur Urban Coop Bank, while mother Mrs Seema Bhonsle is a housewife. His younger sister Miss Tanishka is a student of Class 9.

Harshwardhan was inspired by his granduncle Air Marshal Ajit Bhonsle to join the RIMC and NDA. Air Marshal Bhonsle is Juliet Sqn, 50th Course; he also served as Deputy Commandant, NDA and retired as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations). It was a pleasure to meet Air Marshal Bhonsle during the Tea at Salaria Square, who was our one-year junior from NDA.

It was a pleasant surprise to meet Cdr AP Bhattacharya, (1956-60, Ranjit) after the parade.

RIMC cadets continue to excel in NDA during the Autumn Term 2023. In addition to the awards won by BCC Pratham Singh and BCA HS Bhonsle, DCC Ishan Solanki was Best in Sailing.

Rimcollians in NDA who have won key appointments during Spring term 2024 are as under:

- ACC Bharat Kadian
- ACA Manik Turan
- BCC Bharat Kadiyan
- SCC Kushagra Sharma
- SCC P Navaneeth Sukumar
- SCC Prakhar Negi

The 145th Course entered the NDA during the pandemic in April 2021, which resulted in e-learning and curtailed physical activity in keeping with Covid-19 guidelines. During that

period, distance learning played a key role, which the Academy was already fully equipped with. All the study material was available on the Local Area Network of the Academy.

The Convocation Ceremony of the course was held at Habibullah Hall on 29 November. Savitribai Phule Pune University Vice Chancellor Suresh Gosavi was the Chief Guest for the occasion. A total of 353 cadets, including 21 from friendly foreign countries, were conferred Degrees by Jawaharlal Nehru University. A total of 77 cadets received their Degrees in Science, 87 in Computer Science and 55 in Arts Stream, while 134 cadets received their B.Tech course completion certificates. They will complete the fourth and final year of their Engineering Degree at their respective finishing Academies - that is Indian Naval Academy in Ezhimala and Air Force Academy in Hyderabad before being commissioned as officers into the Indian armed forces. BCC Pratham Singh topped the Computer Science stream. Suresh Gosavi asked the passing out cadets to prepare themselves for unconventional warfare comprising misinformation campaigns, cyber threats, economic sanctions and geopolitical manoeuvres. Gosavi added, "More than physical courage, moral courage is instilled by education that becomes the driving force for any action, he added. The IAF's aerobatic team, Suryakiran, performed an air show for the parents of the 145th course over the Salaria Square on 29th afternoon, a day prior to the POP.

The RIMC cadets have also excelled

in various fields in the Doon Valley. RIMC secured First Position as the Best Government Boarding School in India for 2023-24, recognised by Education World.

Team RIMC maintained their supremacy at the 75th Annual District Athletics Championship held at Doon School on 04-05 November 2023. Cadet Vaibhav Kumar was declared the Best Athlete (U16), they were the Outstanding Marching Contingent and won the Overall Best Team award.

RIMC won the Valley of Words, National School Debate, 2023 conducted at the Thimayya Auditorium of RIMC on 26 November 2023. The National School Debate, a part of Words International Art and Literature Festival annual calendar is an initiative which aims to attract young school debaters from all over India. A total of 16 reputed schools from all over India had participated in this debate competition. The Chief Guest at the event was Maj Gen Atul Rawat, AVSM, ADG NCC and the Guest of Honour was Dr Sanjeev Chopra, Festival Director of Valley of Words/Shabdavali. Cadet Abhishek Kumar and Arush Goswami of RIMC won the 'Best Speaker Award' in Hindi and English respectively.

The credit for the remarkable performance of our cadets at RIMC and 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. ■

## MORE NEWS FROM NDA

Heartening news from NDA as our young Rimcollians have earned the top honours to be awarded during the POP, Nov 2023.

**President's Gold Medal to BCC Pratham Singh, Pratap.** In addition, Pratham has also been awarded:-

- Best Army Cadet
- Best Cadet in Riding
- Best sportsmen
- Best Cadet in BSc (Computer science)

**President Bronze Medal to BCA Harshwardhan Bhonsle, Shivaji.** He has also been awarded the Best Naval Cadet.

## NEWS FROM IMA

The Rimcollian Gentleman Cadets have been awarded following units / regiments at their recent passing out.

- Lt Sudhanshu, Chandragupta - 17 KUMAON
- Lt Pankaj Sangwan, Shivaji - 24 Field Regiment
- Lt Agam, Pratap - 16 SIKH LI
- Lt Ashish, Pratap - 89 Armoured Regiment
- Lt Ripunjay, Chandragupta - 14 Grenadiers
- Lt Utkarsh, Ranjit - 69 Field Regiment
- Lt Satyam, Ranjit - 181 Medium Regiment
- Lt Pankaj Roy, Chandragupta - 14 ASSAM
- Lt Raturaj Badale, Shivaji - 408 Missile AAD
- Lt Sangkalpa Gogoi, Ranjit - 1 NAGA



Rimcollians during the IMA POP

## NEWS FROM INA PASSING OUT PARADE AT EZHIMALA, NOV 23



Sub Lt Deep Dave, Ranjit left and Sub Lt Abhay Bhadauria, Ranjit right earned their stripes. Proudly flanked by their parents and in the centre is Lt Shashank Shekhar 176 Ranjit.

Sub Lt Ajay Joseph, Ranjit, Capt Ajay Singh Bhadauria, Chandragupta (elder brother of Abhay), Lt Cdr Kaushal Kumar, 173 Shivaji and Capt (IN) Sumanta Roy, Shivaji were also there to cheer the youngsters on this very special day. Heartiest congratulations to Deep & Abhay from the ROBA tribe.

March 2024/**REMINISCENCES**

# Lessons from My Military Life



— BRIG STEVE ISMAIL  
SM (RETD)

I wore a military uniform for 44 years, before I retired last year at 56. It was as long as I could have served. It doesn't matter that I am fitter than most 30-year-olds.

My military life, begun at the age of eleven, has been a tough road. It began when I joined 115 course in Pratap Section at RIMC on the 24th of January 1979, and wound on, through NDA, IMA, my battalion, 2/1 Gorkha Rifles, varied operational and peacetime rotations, numerous courses and

several staff and instructional tenures. Along the way, I lost a term at RIMC, failed several tests, topped the all India merit list for my batch joining NDA. I enthralled and disappointed many people, teachers and mentors included.

Days were full, nights too, in the early years. Food was enough but very basic, with a heavy dose of physical activity as well as academics. Discipline was strict and infringements, real or perceived, brought a quick and harsh response. I have crawled and rolled

front-ways, sideways and backwards, through mud, across grass, on gravel and down stairs. My body has stopped bare hands, wooden rulers, heavy books, boots and hockey sticks. Satisfaction at my ability to emerge unscathed from adversity always overpowered any negative feelings. Training was hard and it ground out the best in each of us. There was no choice and too little time to brood. There was rarely malice in the ill-treatment. It was meted out and taken



A unique photograph, Assam, 2007, Three Rimcollian COs, Commanding Gorkha Battalions, in the same Division, that each of their fathers also commanded. From left: Col (later Brig) Steve Ismail, CO 2/1 GR, Col (later Maj Gen) Alok Kacker, CO 2/9 GR and Col (later Lt Gen) Zubin Minwalla, CO 4/9 GR

March 2024/**REMINISCENCES**

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Brig Steve Ismail while in service

YOU CANNOT BE HAPPY IF YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE DOING WORK YOU WOULD RATHER NOT, OR AROUND PEOPLE YOU WOULD RATHER NOT BE WITH. IT IS A MYTH THAT EVERYONE MUST FIND THEIR PASSION AND PURSUE IT. INSTEAD, YOU CAN BUILD PASSION AROUND WHAT YOU DO. IT IS THE SAME WITH PEOPLE. YOU CANNOT LIKE EVERYONE AT WORK. THERE WILL OFTEN BE SOME YOU DISLIKE. IF YOU ARE GENUINELY ENGAGED IN YOUR ROLE, YOU WILL BE VALUED FOR IT AND THE ONE OR TWO CONTRARY PEOPLE AROUND YOU WILL BE REDUCED TO MINOR IRRITANTS. FULFILMENT DEPENDS LESS ON WHAT YOU DO, AND MORE ON HOW YOU ENGAGE WITH AND RELATE TO IT.

as part of becoming a soldier. It did not scar me for life. I went on to serve beside and make friends with some who disciplined me.

My life as an Infantryman was often Spartan, tough, unremarkable and very demanding, physically and emotionally. As an officer, leading troops in challenging terrain and situations, it pushed me beyond my perceived limits. I served in combat and saw many great acts of personal courage and selflessness. I have seen enough of death and destruction to understand the terrible cost of war. The cruelty of conflict on people with no choice but to try and survive the crossfire and competing agendas has touched me deeply.

The training and conditioning in formative years, the exacting standards of discipline, fitness and accountability imposed on me for years forged my resilience. Going through hardship and deprivation together, for years, forged bonds of fellowship and identity that

## March 2024/**REMINISCENCES**

have stood the test of time. A course mate I haven't met for thirty years, is all caught up within minutes of chance meeting. We may be very different as individuals, yet in our common identity as soldiers from the same batch, there is no separating us.

For what they are worth, here are some life lessons I have learnt.

**Purpose.** The purpose of life can be a never-ending philosophical discussion. To be fulfilled in life, you must serve a purpose outside your own needs and wants. Instead of asking, "What do I get out of this?" ask, "What value can I give to this?" The more time, effort and energy you invest in your role, the more it will become you. New avenues for satisfaction and fulfilment will open up all the time. Many of us are unhappy because we are looking to gain or get things, instead of to give value. We are conditioned to live from Fear - of missing out, getting less, or of someone else getting more - instead of living from Faith, a belief that through selfless effort we create value. **Meaning and fulfilment in life are only found in serving a purpose of value.**

**Engagement.** You cannot be happy if you spend your life doing work you would rather not, or around people you would rather not be with. It is a myth that everyone must find their passion and pursue it. Instead, you can build passion around what you do. It is the same with people. You cannot like everyone at work. There will often be some you dislike. If you are genuinely engaged in your role, you will be valued for it and the one or two contrary people around you will be reduced to minor irritants. **Fulfilment depends less on what you do, and more on how you engage with and relate to it.**

**Awareness.** Being more engaged in our role and lives requires us to be curious about everything that affects our role, our people, our health and anything that has the potential to improve or undermine our effectiveness as individuals, as teams and alter our life experience. We are blessed to live in an age where knowledge and wisdom is literally at

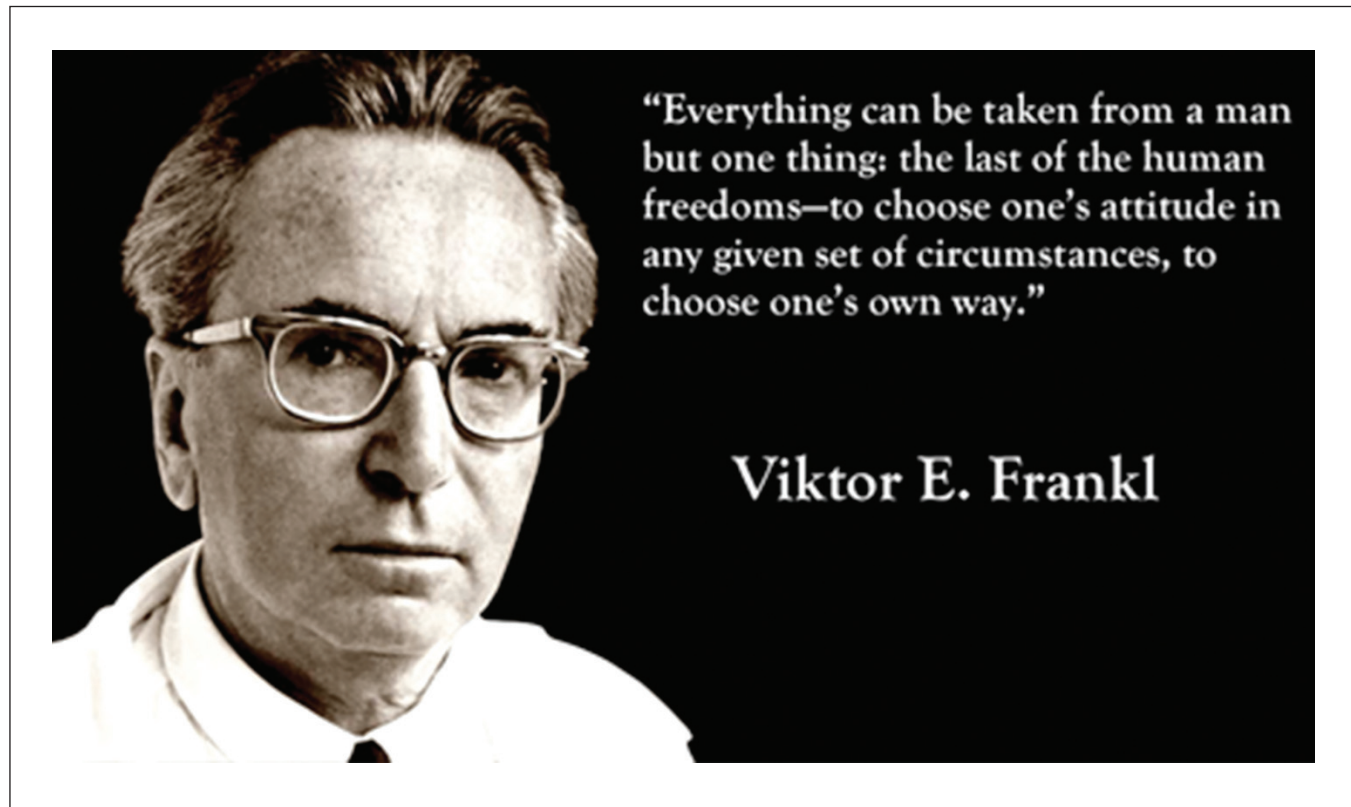


Steve Ismail in his present occupation of mentoring students at Shiv Nadar University

**ALL THROUGH OUR EVOLUTION, WE WERE MEANT TO BE ACTIVE. DAILY VIGOROUS EXERCISE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY DAY. IT CAN BE DONE ANYWHERE WITH NO SPECIAL EQUIPMENT. THE KEY IS TO BE CONSISTENT AND ELEVATE THE HEART RATE FOR AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR. TRY CYCLING, RUNNING, SWIMMING WITH TWO TO THREE FULL BODY STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING SESSIONS PER WEEK**

our fingertips. Never in human history has it been so easy to access ideas and the wisdom and the experiences of other people. For a start, we need to educate ourselves about our physiology and emotions, how they are affected by our life choices and how our choices impact others and our environment. There is no end to learning, and the more I learn, **the more I see how little I know and how much more value I can bring to my role, my relationships and my own life.**

**Exercise.** All through our evolution, we were meant to be active. Daily vigorous exercise is an important part of my day. It can be done anywhere with no special equipment. The key is to be consistent and elevate the heart rate for at least half an hour. Try cycling, running, swimming with two to three full body strength and conditioning sessions per week. Besides



long-term health benefits, **regular exercise boosts mood and immunity, increases flexibility and agility, improves digestion, sleep, self-confidence and energy levels and makes the world seem a much better place.**

**Balance.** Our mind, body and spirit are inextricably interconnected and imbalance in any of these three areas affects us in numerous ways. Physical diet is the food and drink we put in our bodies. Well-being is promoted by fresh, whole foods, close to their natural state and a low intake of refined foods, sugar and saturated fats and stimulants. Mental diet is the ideas and influences we absorb from what we read, watch and listen to, and the people we keep company with, whether face to face or online. Constant exposure to news, sensation, and negative, despondent views of the world or divisive and hate filled perspectives induce a stress response and degrade health. The same is true of toxic and acrimonious relationships. **Well-being is a result of balancing purposeful effort, regular exercise,**

**healthy physical and mental diet, adequate rest and good relationships.**

**Mindfulness.** I use this word to mean more than meditation, which is a very centering and life enhancing activity. A lot of dissatisfaction is rooted in ruminating on the past and future, much of it imagined. To be present in the moment requires total engagement. This is not difficult when one is absorbed and enhanced by what one is engaged in. Find activities that you enjoy, outside your work. These could be anything from playing a sport to gardening, model making, playing a musical instrument, carpentry, cooking, baking, painting, working with machines, angling or anything that involves movement of your body and engagement of your attention. **The more present I am in my role and relationships, giving my attention and energy to the moment, the more value can I give to them.**

**Gratitude.** Victor Frankel, who survived Nazi death camps, authored an inspiring book, "Man's Search for Meaning." He wrote that everything can be taken away from a person, except his

ability to choose how to respond to and perceive his circumstances. I am consciously grateful for all the opportunities I have had, my wonderful family and friends, my good health and my ability to see the good in most situations. There is so much to be grateful for every day of our lives and in every interaction we have. Even unpleasant experiences and setbacks teach us life lessons and prepare us to better face life. That too we should be grateful for. **Gratitude is an attitude we must cultivate through awareness of others less fortunate than ourselves, through conscious affirmation every day.**

I have lost many friends. I have narrowly escaped with my life and learnt the value of each day I am given. A day will dawn, when my time is up and I will leave the stage of life, as we all must do. I will go out like a soldier, who fought the good fight, and made good to the end.

*(Post-retirement, the author has been employed as Dean, Students Welfare at Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida)*

March 2024/**MENTORING**

# Journey of Gratifying Pleasure



— COL VIVEK SHARMA  
127TH/1407/PRATAP

All of us remain indebted to RIMC for what we have been at every stage of life. Even while following the professional path, ethos enshrined remain the guiding light in our path of excellence. During my assignment with MT Directorate in 2007-08, I had the opportunity of working closely with and for the wellbeing of RIMC. It is here that one closely saw the entrance procedure and understood the process in entirety.

Having become a little wiser, one could motivate, facilitate and guide shaping one of my unit senior officer's son, Gurvir Talwar (now Capt Gurvir Talwar, Pratap) to join RIMC in 2009. Incidentally, in my unit, 12 GUARDS, I am only the second Rimcollian commissioned, after Maj Gen Vishal Agarwal, 120 Ranjit. None have joined after that.

On assuming the command of my unit in 2011, one of my Key Result Area was to have the young children of the Paltan's family join the RIMC. Accordingly, I went about identifying children of all ranks studying in class 6th and created a cell for mentoring these boys for RIMC, RMS and Sainik Schools.

Five boys were encouraged and motivated to be part of this mentorship program. The experience of MT Directorate was utilised in channelising the preparation of these boys who were wards of our JCOs & Other Ranks. While two joined Rashtriya Military School (RMS) Chail and one joined a Sainik School, it is the special journey of one boy to Rajwada Camp that I have decided to cover in this article.

Pankaj Sangwan, a young lad showed all the promise to be what it takes to make the cut for RIMC through

the very stringent selection process. He worked very hard, however, missed the admission in first attempt due to merit and remained in reserve. Gaining all the confidence from the preparation, he and all of us were buoyed, certain of his success. Since one Company of the unit was deployed for the UN assignment, Pankaj's father, Nk Ved Prakash (now Nb Sub) had been deployed at MONUSCO, Congo when the next round of selection commenced.

As a Paltan, we undertook the responsibility of being the support in making Pankaj realise his dream and in turn, giving us the gratifying experience of shaping the youngster for the premier institution. His determination, tireless efforts and our direction ensured that Pankaj made the cut in stringent RIMC Merit list in 2014.

**WE WERE ALL ECSTATIC, ELATED AND PROUD OF HAVING ACHIEVED A PHENOMENAL FEAT - SIMILAR TO THE FEELING I FELT WAY BACK IN 1984 OF HAVING BEEN SELECTED TO BE AT THE HEAVEN ON EARTH. PANKAJ WAS THUS THE APPLE OF OUR EYES. WE FOLLOWED HIM THROUGH THE ENTIRE SELECTION INCLUDING THE MEDICALS AT MILITARY HOSPITAL JODHPUR IN THE ABSENCE OF HIS FATHER. WE WERE HAPPY TO BE THE GUARDIANS, THE EXPERIENCE OF WHICH WE CHERISH SO WELL, TILL TODAY AS THE PALTAN'S FAMILY**

We were all ecstatic, elated and proud of having achieved a phenomenal feat - similar to the feeling I felt way back in 1984 of having been selected to be at the heaven on earth. Pankaj was thus the apple of our eyes. We followed him through the entire selection including the medicals at Military Hospital Jodhpur in the absence of his father. We were happy to be the guardians, the experience of which we cherish so well, till today as the Paltan's family.

Pankaj joined RIMC in January 2015 and took his initial step of settling through classes 1 & 1A. Little did we know then that we were destined for a longer journey of mentorship together. It was summer of 2016 that I received a God-sent opportunity and responsibility of being at RIMC to pay back as the Commandant. Thus, Pankaj became my responsibility, yet again, as a foster parent, albeit with stricter control.

He was then in class 2 and had to endure me through his balance journey at RIMC. All through, his parents partnered leaving the fate of Pankaj in my hands and never ever looked at the remote possibility of taking undue benefit. It was a blind trust, mutual respect and deep understanding which we shared. In fact, the parents were overcautious much to the agony of Pankaj.

The strong culture of RIMC saw him demonstrate that he was one amongst the 250 and never to have any priority rights throughout our time at the helm. It turned out to be another opportunity for his family and me to be part of his milestone moment of joining NDA. We proudly stood together as parents during his graduation.

March 2024/**MENTORING**

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We continued our interactive journey through NDA and then IMA being the mentors. As combined parents, we shared many a special moment together. It was now time for him to take the big step in life, the Final Step from Chetwode as a Cadet and first step into the professional life in the Army as junior leader, a commissioned officer. While one has been part of the

passing out of various courses who had been my cadets for many terms, this one was special in its own right.

Parents and Pankaj had given no choice but to be part of this milestone event. It was a pleasant surprise to receive the passes arranged by Pankaj for this occasion. 09 December 2023, thus, was an extraordinary day of being Paltan Family, Former Commandant and ROBA Secretary

living the emotions at different levels and responsibilities, together at the same time - something which can be felt and difficult to narrate. The real bond beyond blood commenced in 2012 as a Foster parent. It has now turned into a brother Rimcollian - a gratifying journey for life. ■

*(The author is former  
Commandant, RIMC and presently  
ROBA Secretary)*

March 2024/**REMEMBRANCE**

# End of a Generation

— COL VY GIDH

**30** June 2023 was indeed a sad day for the Mohite family and the Rimcollian fraternity with news of Capt HA Mohite's demise in Pune. The funeral was held at Vaikunth Smashanbhumi, Pune and attended by family members and well-wishers including retired military officers. All arrangements including the Guard of Honour were done by 1 Maratha Light Infantry (Jangi Paltan) and a wreath laid by Col Parvej Mulani, CO 1st Maratha LI.



**CAPT HAMBIRRAO AMRUTRAO BAJI MOHITE, KITCHENERS, 1936-42**

Capt Hambirrao Amrutrao Baji Mohite, 1st/5th Maratha LI, nicknamed Dada, belonged to a military family whose four generations have served with distinction in the Maratha Regiment for over 100 years. Capt HA Mohite was preceded in death by his younger brothers Col Shivajirao (Minnie) and Lt Col Shahajirao, both having served in the 1st Maratha LI. Dada would have turned 99 years this 18th September and with his passing, to many, it feels like the end of a generation of military officers that were part of the forces deployed in Italy in 1944-45 during World War II.

Capt HA Mohite, nicknamed Mickey, was born in Karanjkhop, near Satara, on 18 September 1924 into a family of

military history dating back over seven generations. His early years were spent in Talbid, the ancestral village of the Mohites in Satara district. His initial education till class II was in the local board school in a small village of Durgapur, in Ahmednagar district. Later he shifted to the nearby Satral village school where the school being a little further away, he travelled in a bullock cart with his cousins.

When his father Col Amrutrao Mohite was posted to Belgaum in 1932, he and his brother Shivaji, his two years younger, were admitted in St Paul's High School, Belgaum. It was understood that he would follow the family tradition and father's footsteps to join the Army. With a view to give him a good start, his father sought to enroll him in a top class military school. The Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military School (RIMC), Dehra Dun was an elite institution set up by the British, which would prepare him for a career in the Army.

While writing this obituary, I could access the RIMC archives, and see the records of then No 351 Cadet HA Mohite who joined the RIMC with a scholarship in August 1936. This scholarship of Rs 1000/- per annum was awarded by the Government of Bombay, tenable for a period of six years with effect from 1st August 1936. The payment of the scholarship was to be made in two equal installments of Rs 500/- each at the beginning of each term in advance and was subject to regular attendance, satisfactory progress and good conduct on the part of the cadet. The reports indicate that Cadet Mohite was good in Mathematics, satisfactory in other subjects but initially weak in English. His English teacher was initially concerned about his bad spelling and the untidiness in his work. However, during the subsequent terms, the teacher was satisfied with the hard work put in and the improvement shown by the cadet.



**AS A CADET AT RIMC**

The Section Master, Maj MC Philips, MC. OBE (Retd) was initially satisfied, and later pleased with the overall effort put in by the cadet. Cadet Mohite subsequently excelled not only academically, but also in sports. He was a Section NCO in Kitcheners Section, a member of the school hockey and swimming teams; and was awarded a Bronze medal and an Intermediate Certificate by the Royal Life Saving Society, London in 1940.

The dossier contains a letter written by his father Capt AR Mohite from Peshawar to the Principal, PWRIMC on 14 April 1938 requesting for information about his son's injury. He had learnt from his son's letter that a small bone of one of his wrist was fractured, but had not given any details of the incident. The Medical Officer, PWRIMC, Capt FV Stonham, IMS sent a hand-written note to the Adjutant, PWRIMC on 18 April 1938, informing that "Cadet H R Mohite injured his wrist while swinging from the branch of a tree on 23 March 1938. X Ray showed a "Fracture of the Styloid process of the right Ulna" i.e., the tip of the lower end of one of the bones of the right forearm was detached. Appropriate treatment has been applied by the MO (Capt F Stonham) and the boy is under observation. He is otherwise well,

## March 2024/REMEMBRANCE

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attending classes but excused all parades." A letter was promptly sent by the Principal to Capt AR Mohite on 18 April 1938 giving details of the incident.

The Principal, Mr JGC Scott (ex-Royal Navy) was pleased with the hard work put in and progress shown by the cadet; as he subsequently did make himself a valuable member of the College community, both in and out of the school.

Mr Scott was really impressed that the Mohite family were all fighting Maharattas and his father was then a Major in the 10/5, Maratha Light Infantry. He remarked that "Cadet Mohite was one who developed late, but is now turning into a responsible fellow. He is very keen and energetic over all he undertakes, and should make a very good military officer."

Cadet Mohite appeared for his Senior Cambridge Examination with Higher Mathematics and Higher Hindi in December 1941. He cleared the written exam for seeking admission to the Indian Military Academy (IMA), the medical fitness test and along with four other RIMC cadets, was sent to Lahore for the Final Interview Board in December 1942. There were many candidates from all over India, who had come formally dressed in three piece suits, newly stitched for the interview. The five RIMC cadets in contrast were in PT kit, shorts, T shirt and well-polished canvass shoes. During his interview, Cadet Mohite was asked if he was a PT instructor. On replying in the affirmative, he was asked to do a handspring, which he executed very well. The Chief Examiner, a British gentleman, had probably gone through his written papers and told him to improve his spellings - which was his weak point from RIMC days! Surprisingly, only five candidates were selected by the CI Board for Emergency Commission, and all the five were from RIMC!

Cadet Mohite was assigned to the Officers Training School (OTS) in Bangalore for six months training in January 1943, and was commissioned into the British-Indian Army in the Maratha Light Infantry in 1943. He was posted to 1/5th Maratha LI, which was part of the



AS LIEUTENANT IN 1944



AS CAPTAIN IN 1944

Indian troops deployed in Italy during WW II. He travelled by ship from Bombay to Italy and joined the unit on 07 May 1944. As the Anti-tank Platoon Commander, he was baptized into the war during the fiercely fought Fourth Battle of Monte Casino from 11-18 May 1944. Lt Mohite was later selected to attend an Anti-tank course at the Central Mediterranean Artillery School in Southern Italy. He was the only Indian officer in the school which conducted various courses for hundreds of officers of the Commonwealth Forces. He was declared the Best Student and awarded a distinction for this course. In April 1945, the last great battle in Italy was the crossing of the Senio River. During this battle, heavy casualties were suffered by the battalion, where Sep Namdeo Jadhav was awarded the Victoria Cross. The company commander was killed and he took over as company commander of the 'Y' Company assuming the rank of Captain. The company advanced to

capture the industrial town of Ferrara, overcoming severe resistance and crossed the River Po just before 2nd May 1945 when victory in Europe was declared. In the midst of the war, he got an opportunity to visit Pisa, Florence, Naples and Rome; and was very impressed by the cenotaph built in memory of Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj of Kolhapur who had died in Florence. The battalion returned to Mumbai on 10 July 1945.

When the Indian Brigade commanded by Brig. K.S. Thimayya, DSO proceeded to Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF), in May 1946, 1/5 Maratha LI was selected as part of the Force, and deployed in Hamada. However, Capt Hambirrao was selected to be part of the brigade staff as Liaison Officer. They reached the port of Kure, Japan and travelled by train through the recently atom bombed city of Hiroshima to reach Matsue to establish the Brigade Headquarters, unaware of the dangers of the radioactivity, He visited Tokyo and parts of Japan and saw first - hand the horrific devastation caused by the atomic bombing. Capt Mohite returned with the battalion to India in August 1947 and took part in the Junagad operations in end 1947.

On the death of his father in 1948, Capt Hambirrao resigned from the Army to look after his farm lands in Loni in Ahmednagar district. He adopted modern methods of farming, and put his heart and soul into making the lands flourish. His untiring hard work won many accolades in farm fairs and competitions. The fruit orchards yielded very good crops and were filmed by and documented in the Government's Agricultural department as fruit growing was still a new concept. He became the Promoter of the first co-operative sugar factory, Pravara Co-operative Sugar Factory and served as its Director and the founding Managing Director (MD). In addition, he served on several Central and State Government advisory committees for the sugar industries. In 1953, a documentary film titled 'Shoulder to Shoulder' was produced by the Film Division of India featuring Capt "Dada" Mohite and the achievements of the first co-operative sugar factory of

## March 2024/REMEMBRANCE



Visit of Prime Minister Pandit Nehru when Capt Hambirrao was MD of sugar factory



At the Pune Sub Area get-together

India. The documentary was screened all over India in several languages.

Later, he also served as Director on the board of Bank of Baroda and Bank of Maharashtra. He has been felicitated by several organizations for his army service and his contributions to the development of the villages around his farmlands.

After the Sino Indian War 1962, it was decided to establish Sainik Schools in certain states to offer military education to young students, so that they get motivated to join the Armed Forces. Capt HA Mohite was part of the committee formed to set up a Sainik School in Maharashtra. The Satara Sainik School was set up with many features similar to RIMC on his recommendations.

Capt Mohite, was an amazing orator (skills that he would credit to his time at RIMC), and often regaled the audience with anecdotes of his life as a young boy attending a village school to the best military school (RIMC) in the nation. Attending OTS and IMA, he had lived through a World War and seen first-hand the ravages of nuclear destruction. Pivoting to being an accomplished agriculturist and being part of the birth of a co-operative sugar movement, he had many insights that he loved to share with the audience. Having brilliant command over English, Hindi and Marathi, he was in his element at the podium. He was an avid reader, and a meticulous record keeper. He loved history, especially regimental history and the fact that the Mohite family of Talbid were inexorably connected with the military. He had documents dated from the

1900's preserved by him and the desire to record and archive them for future generations, led him down the path to writing a book 'Baji Mohites of Talbid: Our Glorious Family History'. Aided by daughters Veena and Anita, it took him over 5 years of relentless research and writing to publish it in 2018. This was definitely a passion project he enjoyed pursuing.

Although he had been a keen 'Shikari' when hunting was legal, he was also an avid environmentalist. As a life member of the Bombay Natural History Society, he read their newsletters and journals with deep interest and corresponded on matters of his interest. He was a life member of the United Services Institution and had contributed several articles to its archives. He was also a regular contributor to the Regimental newsletters.

Dada Mohite was a stickler to his routine. An early riser, he never missed his early morning meditation, his daily morning walk and exercises in the park. Come what may, he spent hours in the garden raking and mowing the lawn. This was not an easy task for a nonagenarian, given that he had both his femur's fractured and repaired due to accidents over the years. He balanced a life of discipline and principles which reflected in every facet of his existence. A lifelong teetotaler and nonsmoker, he had vigour and strength that always shined bright.

My association with Capt HA Mohite started around 2010. After my retirement, I would visit Col SA Mohite at times, since his son Vikram happened to be a cadet

when I was the Junior Dormitory Commander in Shivaji Section in 1971-72. It was a pleasure to meet Capt Mohite, who would generally be enjoying his gardening activities. He had excellent memories of his six-years stay in RIMC from 1936-42 and would narrate some of the interesting incidents. He had a good handwriting (thanks to his English teacher in RIMC!), and presented me a hand written page on Prince of Wales RIMC, 1936-42, locally called "Rajwada Camp"; which I have proudly preserved. It contains the strength - 130 boys +15-20 British boys in Wavell Section; the names of the Principal, Adjutant, Section Masters, names of teaching staff, Doctor, sisters & medical orderlies, PT & Games personnel. The Panditji, Shri Bala Datt Pande, who apart from looking after the temple, also taught Hindi, was very fond of Cadet Mohite. When he opted to take Urdu as his second language, Panditji strongly objected and insisted that he should take Hindi.

It was an honour to go through Capt Mohite's recently published book "Baji Mohites of Talbid : Our Glorious Family History". The book traces the rich military history of seven generations of the Mohite family. Capt Mohite's great grandfather Jamedar Anandrao Mohite, Poona Horse had served in Kandhar and Afghanistan in 1880-81; his grandfather Sub Maj Ramchandra Mohite, IOM, IDSM, MVO, 32 Lancers & 103rd Maratha LI, 1st Bn, was the Orderly Officer to HM King Edward VII. He served in Mesopotamia in 1914-15 and was Killed in Action at

## March 2024/REMEMBRANCE

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Kut-Al-Amar on 24 December 1915. His father, Col Amrutrao Mohite, MSM, had enlisted as a Sepoy in 103rd Maratha LI. He was severely wounded during the fighting at Kut-Al-Amar during World War I, where he lost his left eye, and taken as Prisoner of War (POW) by the Turks in December 1915. He was among the first Indian to be granted King's Commission in 103rd Maratha LI in Palestine in 1922, and fought in Burma during World War II. He later commanded 26/5, Maratha LI in 1945 and died while in service in 1948.

In his book, Capt Hambirrao Mohite has also recounted how life defining his years at RIMC were, where he has alluded to the discipline and rigour of RIMC and attributes these very tenets by which he led his entire life.



After the talk on The Battles of Monte Cassino

Capt HA Mohite and Col SA Mohite have both been a source of inspiration, it was always a pleasure meeting them. An interesting incident is worth mentioning. After a trip to the Italian battlefields where our battalion had fought during World War II, I was to deliver a talk in Pune University on "The Battles of Monte Cassino" in 2014. I had invited the Mohite brothers, they both came well-dressed in their Regimental attire. Capt HA Mohite, who had fought as a 2Lt during the Fourth Battle, proudly wore his medals - the Cassino medal, Italian Star, WW II medal, Occupational Force in Japan medal and the independence medal. After the talk, I was invited over by the Mohites, where Capt Mohite proudly narrated anecdotes of his World War II days!

In November 2017, I presented the Mohites with a set of wall and desk Rimcollian calendars, 2018. Capt Mohite expressed his desire of attending the Vijay Diwas function being organized by HQ Pune Sub Area on 16 December 2017. He



Col Vijay Gidh, VSM (Retd)



Capt Mohite with Lt Gen Upasani, Col Deb & Col Gidh during Vijay Diwas

was the senior most veteran during the event but preferred to maintain a low profile.

Both brothers had great Rimcollian spirit and would regularly attend the Reunion in Pune every year, until Col Mohite's death in 2017. During the Reunion organized at CAFVD, Khadki on 03 April 2022, Capt Mohite did the honours of the special cake-cutting ceremony - a nice two-layered cake with the RIMC crest on top and 100 Glorious Years written on the bottom. It was his last Reunion; since being unwell, he was unable to attend the Reunion organized at Commandant, NDA's residence in March 2023. His demeanor with his long handlebar moustache which he had throughout his life (an iteration similar to the one of his namesake Sarsenapati Hambirrao Mohite) was a familiar sight during every Rimcollian reunion held in Pune.

When we visited the Mohite family to pay our condolences in early July 2023, I got an opportunity to meet Capt Mohite's daughter Anita Ghorpade and her husband Cmde (IN) Dilip Ghorpade (Retd). The family is staying in Chennai and it was a surprise when Dilip recognized me, he was our junior in NDA in early 1970s, though from another squadron. Capt Mohite's son Uday, who is based in USA and Anita kindly agreed to send me a write up on her father, which has helped me tremendously in preparing the Obituary.

Capt Mohite is survived by his wife Indumati, daughters Veena and Anita, sons Ujwal and Uday, spouses Deepak, Dilip, Chandralekha and Gayatri, seven granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.



Capt Mohite with Col Gidh and Col Bakshi, at Pune

Dada Mohite is considered by many to be a "Renaissance Man", but by far his greatest joy and pride were his children, grandchildren and their successes. This is encapsulated poignantly in a personally handwritten note (Dada had the most amazing penmanship that he credited to his formative years at RIMC and the calligraphy he learnt during his time in Japan) sent to his youngest granddaughter Trishna, when she was sworn in as an officer in the United States of America Navy. 'Shabash', Congratulations. You have kept our family military tradition continuing for yet another generation. In fact enhanced it by doing so as the first lady officer. We are proud of you, our blessings.....25th November 2021." His love for the military, family traditions, progressive thinking and the love for his family shine through beautifully in that note. He truly leaves behind a lasting legacy of a life well lived.

Capt Mohite was a legend. On behalf of the Rimcollian fraternity, we all pray for the departed soul and offer our condolences to the bereaved Mohite family. He continues to live in our hearts. ■

*(The author is a former AO, RIMC and a prolific writer)*

March 2024/REMEMBRANCE

# The Cyclic Does the Heavy Lift: Remembering Unni Kartha

— COMMANDER ARUN JYOTI



WING CDR UNNI KARTHA  
1962-66/RANJIT

For once, I do not know where to start and how to end! I have always tried to find a solution to any problem or an issue that I have encountered in this life. Have always considered that there is a ray of hope lying somewhere just to be traced.

In July 2023, I called up my venerable Fox Senior Wg Cdr Unni Kartha/Fox/37 to check the rotor speed. The voice on the other side was wavering but yet commanding.

"I am going Arun", thundered the dashing Aviator. Tears built up inside me as I sat all alone on the bench in the park with a thousand flowers spread around me. The world went silent even as the planes kept taking off above me from Delhi's busy airport. Nothing mattered to me at that moment as I heard for that one final time the pearls of Unni Sir's wisdom.

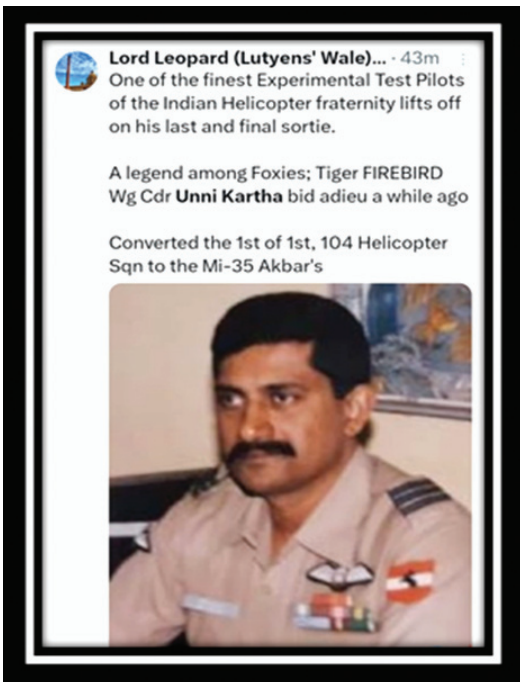
"No, you will not come to see me. Son, remember me always as you had seen me the first time in 2011 at Foxtrot Mega Jam, New Delhi", Unni Sir was direct and clear as he battled the monster inside him. "I have refused to take any treatment Arun and I want to go away but this is not a surrender", he was speaking with a great effort.

He could feel that my breath was shaking and I had my own volcano building up. "Arun, are you crying? I want you to say a Fox Farewell to me. Do not shed any tear. Let me go Son", he wanted me to reconcile.

The walk I took back home that day was probably the longest since I lost my own parents in 1989 and 2018. I got ready and drove to work silently praying for not making Unni Sir suffer any further. He was bullying me in not allowing me to come to see him. We both knew that we would not be able to

March 2024/**REMEMBRANCE**

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withstand that moment. I drew the peace with Unni Sir and we both knew that we will never see each other!

I first met the affable Unni Sir in 2011 when we informed him about the 2nd Foxtrot Mega Jam at New Delhi. He was magnanimous and magnetic. We developed a great bond. That particular Social ran well and in the end Unni Sir simply emptied his pocket to make it a grand success. "Go on and scale big", was his forever advise to me.

In 2012, single-handedly and recovering from a heart surgery, he resurrected the memory of Manipur's legend Major Bob Khathing who won NEFA for India. Major Khathing's family was pleasantly surprised when Army and State Authorities celebrated the centenary of Manipur's brave heart Major Bob Khathing.

There is so much about Wg Cdr Unni Kartha that words would fail to encompass his persona. He was a man who should have just kept flying and never aged or retired. He would simply keep others first.

Valhalla was his favourite destination and over many a Whiskies, we would plan the Valhalla Fall Ins. He would always say, "There would be fun sessions there",



**COLOURS OF GLORY FOUNDATION**  
CHENNAI

cordially invites you to the launch of the book


**Mi-4s AT WAR**  
LIBERATION OF BANGLADESH

Date & Time: Sunday, 28 January 2024 at 6.30 p.m.  
Venue: C P R Convention Centre (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
1 Eldams Road, Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018

Squadron Leader Pushp Vaid, Vr C (Retd)  
[Veteran 1971 War & Co-author of the book]

will make a presentation of the book, along with that of two other books

**CYCLIC STORIES & CYCLIC RIDES AGAIN**  
by his co-author, Wing Commander Unni Kartha, who is no more



Of all the missions undertaken by the Indian armed forces during the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971, the most daring one was the transporting of troops across the mighty river, Meghna, by helicopters into enemy territory, carried out by the IV Corps of the Indian Army, advancing on Dhaka from Agartala in the southeast of Bangladesh. A joint operation by the army and the air force that came to be hailed as the 'Meghna Heli Bridge', it proved to be a gamechanger of the war, bringing about the sudden collapse of Pakistan's military machine in the east and a swift victory for India. Now, for the first time, we have a hands-on account of the operation, by none other than the Flight Commander of the Helicopter Unit that executed the mission and was decorated for his gallantry therein. Squadron Leader Pushp Kumar Vaid, who has co-authored the story with Wing Commander Unni Kartha, a prolific writer, besides being an accomplished helicopter pilot himself. Titled after Mi-4 Helicopters that were employed in the mission, this masterpiece of a book is a magnificent addition to India's war literature. Two other outstanding books on the lighter side of life in the armed forces, packed with plenty of humour, Cyclic Stories & Cyclic Rides Again, by Wing Commander Unni Kartha, who, sadly, succumbed to cancer a few months ago, are also being launched simultaneously.

Please join us for tea at 6 p.m.  
A confirmation of your attendance would be appreciated: WhatsApp 94440 71788

[www.coloursofglory.org](http://www.coloursofglory.org)

Unni Kartha, the Cyclic, lives on through his books and stories

Unni Sir, you would be sorely missed but we have let you go as per your wish. Tears will fill many a hearts that you touched with the words that only you could imagine. There are many who call themselves Mavericks but you were the original Maverick.

\*King Fox\* was the call sign you chose during \*Foxtrot Diamond Jubilee -2012\* and led us from the front in all Fox occasions. Your love, affection and care for humans around you will always make them miss you. You can never fade away.

I can still hear the Rotor and you commanding your favourite Daks, MIs and taking those dare devil missions to make crazy take offs turn into happy landings.

Go Unni Sir go and take charge of Fox Sqn at Valhalla. We all will hope for a Mid Term Mood when we reunite.

Not in grief because you ordered Unni Sir. RIP Sir. Lights Out Fighters. ■

(Written by Commander  
Arun Jyoti, Retd)

MARCH ♦ 2024

March 2024

# PROMOTIONS & NOMINATIONS

## PROMOTION TO LT GEN

- Maj Gen Mohit Wadhwa

## PROMOTION TO REAR ADMIRAL

- Cmde Peush Pawsey, Chandragupta
- Cmde Sundeep Verma, Chandragupta

## PROMOTION TO COLONEL

- Lt Col Shubham Lakhera, Chandragupta, 153 Course
- Lt Col Karan Sharma Pratap, 154 Course
- Lt Col Vaibhav Sinha, Chandragupta, 155 Course
- Lt Col RPS Rana, Pratap, 155 Course
- Lt Col Sundeep Karwasra, Pratap, 155 Course
- Lt Col Shivesh Tiwari, SM, Ranjit, 155 Course
- Lt Col Abhishek Gargmukh, Ranjit, 156 Course
- Lt Col Ajit Singh Negi, Chandragupta, 156 Course
- Lt Col Udit Pant, Shivaji, 156 Course

- Lt Col Kalyanbabu, Ranjit, 156 Course

- Lt Col RS Anvesh, Chandragupta, 156 Course

## PROMOTION TO BRIGADIER

- Col Mudit Mahajan, Shivaji
- Col Vikram Kadian, Ranjit
- Col Rahul Pathak, Chandragupta

## NDC NOMINATION

- Brig Mandeep Singh Grewal
- Brig BJS Soni
- Brig Vaibhav Agarwal
- Brig Ashutosh Dwivedi

## FOREIGN NDC NOMINATION

- Brig Kapil Rana at the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) in UK.

## DSSC and other courses Nomination

### COMPETITIVE STAFF VACANCY

- Maj Piyush Raj, Ranjit
- Maj Abhishek Chandra, Pratap
- Maj Vaishak Madhushoodan, Shivaji
- Maj Harshit Suri, Shivaji
- Maj Bhojpal Shakya, Pratap

### DSSC

- Maj Supreet Singh Heera, Ranjit
- Maj Suhel Kadu, Ranjit

### DSTSC

- Maj Vishmay Dani, Ranjit

### ALMC

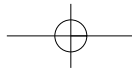
- Maj Avneendar Thakur, Chandragupta
- Maj Gaurav Chahar, Chandragupta

# LAST POST



Ser	Rank and Name	Year at RIMC	Section	Date of Death
1.	Lt Col TK Barua	1954-58	PRA	7-Apr-23
2.	Brig Jasbinder Bir Singh, VSM	1951-54	SHI	8-May-23
3.	Col SK Das	1958-62	RAN	27-May-23
4.	Capt Hambir Rao Mohite	1936-41	KIT	30-Jun-23
5.	Mr Ajit Kumar Gupta	1970-74	SHI	28-Jul-23
6.	Maj Gen Man Mohan N Rai, AVSM	1945-48	ROB	5-Aug-23
7.	Col Ambarish Tewari	1982-86	RAN	8-Aug-23
8.	Lt Col Jasbir Singh Khurana	1939-45	KIT	26-Aug-23
9.	Wg Cdr G Unni Kartha	1962-66	RAN	28-Oct-23
10.	Mr Jolly Paul Nanda	1972-76	CHA	29-Dec-23
11.	Mr Keshaw Raj Gajmer	1971-76	CHA	19-Jan-24
12.	Mrs Jaswant Kaur W/o Maj Gen Karam Singh			27-Jan-24
13.	Wg Cdr U Ranjit Rao	1961-65	SHI	29-Jan-24
14.	Lt Gen Gautam Dutt	1961-65	PRA	3-Feb-24
15.	Maj Gen Bibekananda Chowdhury	1953-57	PRA	5-Feb-24





# RASHTRIYA INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE



*SPORTS IN RIMC IS A PASSION;  
AN INALIENABLE PART OF LIFE*

