

Vol XIX Issue-II (Bi-Annual) | September 2025

# The Rimcollian

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

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GATHER TOGETHER



## KIRTI CHAKRA



**Captain Lalrinawma Sailo** of 4 PARA (Special Forces) has been awarded the Kirti Chakra, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry honour, in recognition of his exceptional courage during high-risk operations.

A native of Chanmari, Aizawl, Captain Sailo is an alumnus of the **Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC)**, the National Defence Academy (NDA), and the Indian Military Academy (IMA).

He is the one daring officer who killed three terrorists **during Op Mahadev**, who had massacred 26 civilians at Pehalgam.

## SARVOTTAM YUDH SEWA MEDAL



**Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari**, currently serving as the 49th Vice Chief of the Air Staff, has been awarded Sarvottam Yudh Sewa Medal for his leadership in the air strikes conducted during **Op Sindoor**. A hero of IAF attack on Tiger Hill during **Op Safed Sagar** in Kargil, in 1999, Air Marshal Tiwari is an alumnus of **Rashtriya Indian Military College**, Dehradun and graduated from the National Defence Academy, Pune. Narmdeshwar Tiwari is an alumnus of National Defence College, New Delhi and passed out as the President Gold Medalist.

# I-DAY AWARDS

### KIRTI CHAKRA

- Capt L Sailo, Ranjit

### SARVOTTAM YUDH SEWA MEDAL

- Air Mshl N Tiwari, Chandragupta

### YUDH SEWA MEDAL

- Brig Rakesh Nair, Chandragupta
- Brig Vivek Goel, Shivaji
- Brig Mudit Mahajan, Shivaji
- Air Cmde Rohit Kapil, Ranjit

### VAYU SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

- Sqn Ldr Koustabh Nalawade, Pratap

### MENTION IN DESPACHES

- Capt Adhiraj Rawat, Chandragupta
- Capt Karan Bainsla, Ranjit

## LETTERS

**Dear Sidharth,**

I feel so much happy to receive The Rimcollian which unfailingly brings joy and forces me to go in the past and enjoy the past and the present. My grateful thanks. Regards. Your teacher.

**VG Nene**  
Former Vice Principal

**Dear Anil,**

I regularly get The Rimcollian, sent by Sidharth Mishra. It keeps me so well connected with my former students who give so much affection to their teacher.

**CA Joseph**  
Former Vice Principal

Thank you  
**Anil and Sidharth**  
for sending the newsletter  
without fail.  
God Bless the old boys.

**RC Chaturvedi**  
Former Teacher



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**President**

Lt Gen Adosh Kumar  
AVSM, SM  
Director General, Artillery

**Secretary**

Col Vivek Sharma  
+91 9459397901  
vivekups9@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Anil Jagtiani  
+91 9650690100  
Rimcojags@hotmail.com

**Honorary Editor**

Cmde NAJ Joseph, VSM (ret'd)  
+91 9969205651  
robamagazine@gmail.com

**Editorial Committee**

Brigadier Sanjay Kannothe, VSM  
Colonel Shailender Arya, VSM

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Prof Sidharth Mishra  
on behalf of Rimcollians Old  
Boys Association (ROBA), Room  
No 16D, 2nd Floor, Wing 2,  
West Block 3, RK Puram,  
New Delhi 110066  
Tel. No.: 011-32904426  
email: robaoffice@gmail.com

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R Satish Jakhmola, Dipti Mishra

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# Jo'ttings - Editor's Note



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

**Dear Rimcollians,**

'Come September' and time for another issue of 'The Rimcollian'. A period this year has seen umpteen formal, informal and impromptu get togethers. Always a pleasure to see Rimcollians and news about Rimcollians even from afar. The Rimcollian network has always been the envy of others and the virtual world, the availability of social platforms etc has increased our connectivity. A proactive ROBA Secy who puts all news and gatherings in the 'Community networks' has indeed been a spur and Rimcollians have responded in kind by sharing.

The plethora of information shared has provided the editorial team with enough fodder; a little military style 'volunteering' and voila we have a few contributions. We did discuss the cliché about 'volunteering and thus it continues to be a challenge in the fraternity; inviting more Rimcollians to put pen to paper, there is so much discussion on our social media do try and convert some of these; even simple letters to editor is a start. Do mail it directly to the editor as and when an event occurs

Our spirited ROBA team led by a visionary and effective President have set to motion a lot of planned tasks. And team RIMC continues our long standing strive where excellence is almost a norm in a world where mediocrity is rewarded. Kudos to the Commandant and his team. Rimcos and Rimcollians continue to do what is a Rimcollian trait – 'Do ones best', wherever we are.

Some of our school customs are time tested and instills so much. Take the case when a first-termer reports at school. The first-termer and his parents are taken around the school by a second-termer; in most cases the cadet guardian to be. What a wonderful advertisement for the parent and a beautiful learning ground for the second-termer / cadet guardian. In our days we were seated in class by the order of merit of the previous term; and unlike other schools at RIMC the cadet who came first (The Medhavi) sat in the back bench and so on with the those low in merit in the front desks. The cliché 'back bencher' has a different meaning here. In fact so much of thought in this seating. So many intangibles in learning that we imbibed.

And no Editor's Note would be complete without special thanks to our publisher Prof Siddharth Mishra and the Editorial Team members Brig Shailendra Arya and Brig Sanjay Kannothe for their selfless and tireless work. As also an old regular Col Vijay Gidh and a young volunteer Shiva Ramnath.

**Ich Dien & God Bless**

Enjoy Reading

September 2025

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

Ranjit 1977 - 82

## MESSAGE FROM **PRESIDENT**



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

Rimcollian Old Boys Association  
Room No 16D, Wing-2, 2nd Floor,  
West Block-3, RK Puram,  
New Delhi - 110 066  
E Mail: robaoffice@gmail.com



**Dear Rimcollians,**

Greetings to one and all !!

It gives me immense pleasure to share the progression of our fraternity, through our bi-annual mouthpiece, 'The Rimcollian'. It was a memorable 103rd Reunion for both RIMC and Rimcollians with festive fervour at Rajwada Camp, as well as across the globe. Our editorial team has aptly captured the moments and archived it for posterity. It is heartening to see that the bonhomie amongst our fraternity has grown, engagements enhanced and noteworthy contributions for the best interests of RIMC are on the rise, under the vibrant team of ROBA & ROBA Trust, which are collaborating actively with Team RIMC. We are pleased to welcome more members into ROBA Working Committee. Lt Gen S S Grewal, Retd has assumed the onerous responsibility of Chairman ROBA Trust, though Gen VN Sharma will always remain our guiding beacon.

It fills our heart with pride to see Team RIMC bringing joys with well rounded excellent performance in all spheres of training activities. Rimcollians too are excelling in every sphere and more recently, when the operational necessity demanded immediate action, our old boys were at the forefront, across the spectrum of operations, spearheading the salvo of thoroughbred professionalism at all levels. This has befittingly been recognised in the Gallantry Award List with Capt L Sailo being awarded 'Kirti Chakra'.

As we move forward, I urge and exhort each member of our fraternity to continue with the same bonhomie and support for each other towards our Alma Mater.

My compliments to Editorial Team for the all encompassing newsletter and best wishes, as always to Team RIMC and Rimcollian Family

Viva RIMC  
Ich Dien

Thanks and Regards to all

**Viva RIMC - ICH DIEN.**

**LT GEN ADOSH KUMAR**  
1020/Pratap

# OF PETALS AND MEMORY

— BY LT COL  
GAURAV HAMAL

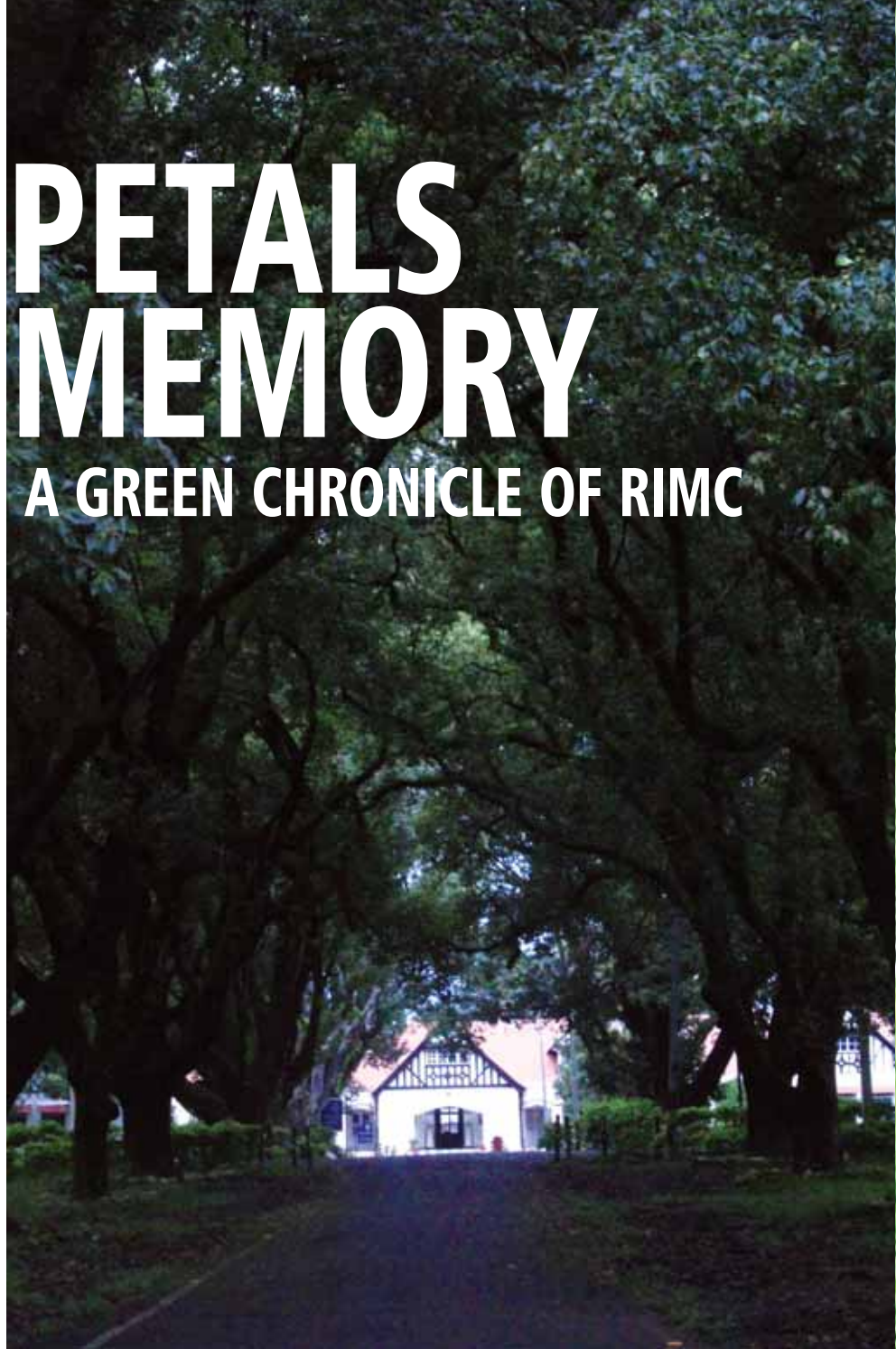
Among the many things that stay with me from my tenure at the school, it is not the parades or the schedules, the inspections or the spreadsheets, that linger in memory. It is the quiet dignity of the earth—the trees we planted, the flowers that came back year after year, and the solemn hush of the War Memorial under the weight of the dawn light.

Between 2019 and 2021, I served RIMC in the role of Administrative Officer. It was a time of continuity, but also of quiet restorations. Without fanfare and without lavish budgets, we tried to bring back something that was fading—a culture of growing things. Not to decorate the College, but to honour its spirit.

## OF GARDENS, CUTTINGS AND QUIET PARTNERSHIPS

We worked closely with the 127 TA (Eco) Battalion, the Forest Research Institute, and the well-tended nurseries of JICA, Maldevta, and the FRI. Local military units—gentlemen gardeners in uniform—shared with us their cuttings and saplings without hesitation or hierarchy. From this spirit of generosity, we planted over 2,500 trees, hedges, creepers, and flowering plants across the campus.

Unlike the ready-made approach of buying from nurseries, we encouraged our gardeners to propagate plants the old way—by hand, from memory, with patience. Creepers and hedges were multiplied from slips and cuttings; bamboo was planted strategically to offer



Unlike the ready-made approach of buying from nurseries, we encouraged our gardeners to propagate plants the old way—by hand, from memory, with patience. Creepers and hedges were multiplied from slips and cuttings; bamboo was planted strategically to offer privacy and structure

Uttarakhand. These included Red Cedar (Toon), orchid tree (Kachnar), Kadamba, Baheda, Bhimal, Dadim, Kusum, Peepal, Arjun, Camphor, Golden shower tree (Amaltas), and Buddha coconut tree (Kakad). Along walls and fences, we planted creepers like creeping fig, Mysore clock vine, Garlic Vinesh, Glory bower vine, and Flame vine. Bamboo — hill bamboo (Ringal), Dendrocalamus Giganteus, Stick Bamboo and Bambusa Balcooa—was planted for screening, resilience and form.

Our gardeners exchanged cuttings with those at the Sub-Area, DSOI, and nearby units. There was no transaction here, only memory and trust. It was a kind of underground fraternity—gardeners doing what they've always done, away from the eyes of committees and procurement files.

Today, such traditions are being lost to commercial nurseries. Hybrid flowers bred for symmetry, not scent, now dominate. These showy blooms die young, leave no seed, and carry no story. They may suit manicured landscapes, but not memory.

privacy and structure. Araucaria saplings were planted along paths, grown patiently into form. It was not just planting. It was gardening.

Dehradun, after all, is a city with a horticultural soul. It has a quiet culture of green generosity. Seeds, bulbs, cuttings—none of these are sold. They are passed across fences and garden walls in jam bottles and seed envelopes, freely, without envy. RIMC belonged to this world once. And for a brief time, it did again.

### THE OLD WAYS: SEEDS, NAMES, AND MEMORY

In those years, many of the flowerbeds at the College still bore the touch of older ways. Seeds were gathered, dried in the sun, and saved in Horlicks jars and jam bottles from the Cadets' Mess: marigold, geranium, chrysanthemum, dahlia, sweet william, snapdragon, nasturtium, cosmos, zinnia, and hydrangea. Some came from bulbs, others from memory.

We brought back over 39 tree and plant species native to or thriving in



### THE WAR MEMORIAL: FROM WHITE SILENCE TO GREY ABSENCE

And then, there is the War Memorial.

Once clad in white marble, it stood in solemn dignity—a tribute to the fallen, untouched by fashion or design. It needed no embellishment, only silence and sky. Around it bloomed cosmos, sweet william, nasturtium, marigold, snapdragon, zinnia and dahlia. A magnolia tree, a champa, and a backdrop of flame-coloured thunbergia draped across its frame like a wreath. These flowers came from seeds stored in old bottles, and from the gentle persistence of hands that remembered how to grow them.

Today, the white marble is gone. In its place is a flat grey slab—modern, dull with its metal grey tiles warping in direct sun. The flowerbeds similarly lie bare. The colours have gone away—perhaps for a touch of uniformity, perhaps by oversight. But with them, something essential has been lost.

A magnolia tree, a  
champa, and a  
backdrop of flame-  
coloured thunbergia  
draped across its  
frame like a wreath.  
These flowers came  
from seeds stored in  
old bottles, and from  
the gentle persistence  
of hands that  
remembered how to  
grow them

It does not feel solemn now. It feels abandoned. Once, the War Memorial was a place where silence had meaning. Now, it feels mute.

### TOWARD A LIVING LEGACY

But not all is lost. The earth still remembers. And so do we.

There is something cultural to this bond between soil and identity. In Uttarakhand, nature is not only preserved—it is celebrated. The festival of Harella, where saplings are planted to mark the monsoon, is proof of this ancient bond. Perhaps it is time to make a small gesture to mark a young cadet's arrival: let each Rimcollian plant a sapling when he joins and tend it over five years. By the time he passes out, he would not only remember his time here, but the tree he raised. And it will endure.

Let us return to saving seeds and multiplying plants through cuttings and bulbs, not simply procuring catalogue plants. Let gardeners plan again, season



by season, bed by bed.

Let the walls be softened with vines—creeping fig, glory bower, thunbergia, flame vine. Let the boundaries breathe.

Let bamboo rise again—the Thai Umbrella Bamboo, Golden Bamboo, native hill bamboo, the hardy species that belong to this soil: Ringal, *Dendrocalamus giganteus*, and *Bambusa Balcooa*.

Let us maintain a ‘Green Ledger’—a register of saplings planted, with the names of cadets or staff who planted them, the species, the season. Let trees become not just part of the landscape, but part of the College’s story.

### SUGGESTED VARIETIES FOR 2025–2030

**\*Trees\*:** Red Cedar (Toon), Orchid Tree (Kachnar), Kusum, Camphor, Arjun Tree, Peepal, Kadamba, Buddha Coconut Tree (Kakad), and Golden Shower Tree (Amaltas)

**\*Bamboo\*:** Ringal (Hill Bamboo), *Dendrocalamus giganteus*, *Bambusa balcooa*



**\*Traditional Flowers\*:** Marigold, Geranium, Chrysanthemum, Dahlia, Sweet William, Snapdragon, Nasturtium, Cosmos, Zinnia, Hydrangea, Annual Phlox, Poppy

**\*Creeper and Climbers\*:** Creeping Fig, Mysore Clock Vine, Flame Vine, Glory Bower Vine

### EPILOGUE

As I write this, I do not know how many of those saplings still stand, or whether the flowers still bloom in their old beds. But I hope that at least some do. Because they carry not just chlorophyll, but memory. And as every gardener knows—you only truly lose a plant when you forget its name.

Let us not forget.



# Bonding Bonhomie

— By PREM PRAKASH

*[The article was published by Col Prem Prakash to highlight the significance of the School's Annual Reunion]*

Rimcollians have 12 and 13 March marked in their calendars as annual pilgrimage to their alma mater that is Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun. All efforts are made to join this cradle of excellence for the Reunion. Those who find it difficult organise get together at various places across the country and the world. Reports are still pouring in!

I was wondering whether to talk about this subject on this professional platform like LinkedIn. I realised that this institution which has provided six Service Chiefs to India and three to Pakistan (leave the civil sector as of now) must be spoken about. This vibrant campus of 1922 (1901 as Imperial Cadet Corps) vintage which nurtures boys (and now girls) to transform into men should attract attention of public at large. No better place than RIMC to enter and pass out after five years if someone wants to join Armed Forces!

We all had an invigorating experience over two days. At such times everyone becomes part of that band of Rimcollians, the bond of which is beyond blood! The best part is meeting your coursemates and Section mates with whom you have spent better part of your teenage. And yes, you get to meet the Masters and Staff also who are the caregivers to the cadets. These are unforgettable moments and memories.

Let me broadly share some of the important events that we participate in these two days apart from other activities:-

- Hockey match between Rimcollians and Rimcos (had the privilege of playing and getting a medal even if that was just for morale boosting)



- Intersection boxing including girl cadets
- Guest dinner
- Wreath laying ceremony
- Group photograph
- Annual General Meet of ROBA and Trust
- PT display
- Equestrian display
- Cricket match between Rimcollians and Cadets
- Grand lunch in Cadet Captain quadrangle
- Cultural programme
- Award ceremony
- ROBA dinner

The experience of attending these Reunions is out of the world. The food of

course is always looked forward to especially scotch eggs and pancakes! Rimcollians like me who have been posted in RIMC also take a round of the campus and visit all nooks and corners to relive fond memories.

In fact these Reunions and visits add to all the professional qualities that we may have. It is not just an alumni meet but it is about building and cementing relationships which impacts our professional, personal and social lives. It is also about passing on the baton and guiding future leaders to shape our society, country and the world.

Nostalgia which will last a life time and more. Hangover remains as we look forward to Mar 2026! ■

# Pune Rimcollian Get Together

## 02 March 2025

— By **COL VIJAY GIDH, VSM (RETD)**

The Rimcollian Get Together in Pune was held at Oasis and Retreat, RSI on 02 March 2025. Since some Rimcollians were likely to visit Dehra Dun for the Reunion from 11-13 March, it was decided to conduct the Reunion early on 02 March 2025.

It was a pleasant Sunday afternoon when the Rimcollians assembled at the RSI. We had a fairly good gathering of 41 officers and 25 ladies. Among the veterans, we were fortunate to have the presence of RAdm PD Sharma, Maj Gen Rajan Aney, Maj Gen AR Raikar, Lt Col Prakash Kewalramani, Col Dilip Parab and Col AK Bakshi. We missed the presence of Maj Gen PD Sherlekar, Cdr KS Karandikar, Gp Capt AG Bewoor and Mr SS Sandhu. The Rimcollian instructors posted in NDA were unable to attend due to some commitments in NDA.

Col Soubhagya Nayak, who was posted in HQ Southern Command, had ensured that all arrangements were meticulously done and everyone enjoyed the function. The other members of the Organising Committee who assisted him well were Wg Cdr Bharat Parab, Cdr Aplesh Mohan and Lt Col KK Giri.

It was nice to meet Mr & Mrs Virender Sharma. Mr Virender was Section Master, Pratap Section and later Registrar, NDA when I had the good fortune of being posted as the Administrative Officer in RIMC and later Battalion Commander in NDA. A spirited gentleman, he was very popular with many of the Rimcollian officers who were cadets in RIMC or NDA during his tenures there. It was a pleasure to meet Maj Gen Viney Handa after many years. As a Captain, he had been posted as a Staff Officer in the Assam Rifles Sector HQ in Imphal; and was very helpful when I was commanding my unit during the peak of insurgency in Imphal in late 1990s. Brig Sonu Taluja, Commander of the Infantry Brigade in Pune was posted



'Rimcollians enjoying themselves'



'Ladies special'

as a Divisional Officer in NDA during my tenure there. Col Raman Gupta was then posted as Assistant Adjutant in NDA, and we shared some interesting anecdotes of our days in NDA! Maj Aman Nugyal, an ex-Para Commando officer had put on a lot of weight. Our unit had the privilege of serving under his father, Maj Gen

Nugyal, GOC of the Division, when we were deployed for Counter Insurgency operations in Assam in early 1990s. Lt Col Rochak Bakshi, a Certified Financial Adviser, was seen giving advice to fellow Rimcollians on financial matters.

When we were cadets in the NDA in early 1970s, Col DH Parab was a



'The Reunion cake'



'We enjoyed the Reunion'

Divisional Officer in Foxtrot Squadron, while Col AK Bakshi was the Weapon Training Officer in the Army Training Team. It is always a proud privilege for us to meet them during the Pune Reunions every year. Col Parab was later the Commandant, RIMC and Mrs Gita Parab would entertain us with nice anecdotes of the wonderful days they spent in Dehra Dun. Mrs Shobhana Paradkar was spirited as usual, taking good photographs during the function, which she would kindly send us later on the Pune Rimcollian group. We missed the presence of Mrs Ameeta Gargey, a regular attendee during the Pune Reunions, who had to go out of station due to some commitments.

However, it was nice to meet her husband Col DP Gargey and their son Arnav. Col Gargey being posted out of Pune, had to miss out of the Pune Reunions many a times.

After the usual round of drinks, snacks and bonhomie, it was time for the cake-cutting ceremony – a lovely cake with a photograph of the traditional RIMC building with PUNE REUNION, Pune Chapter written on top. RAdm PD Sharma, the senior most Rimcollian, did the honours.

The menu for the lunch which included Scotch Eggs and Topsy Pudding, was delicious and reminded everyone of the wonderful food we had in School. We

thank Col Soubhagya Nayak and his team for the lovely afternoon. Finally there was a loud cheer for RIMC. Like all good things have to come to an end, we departed with some fine memories of the wonderful time spent. It was too late, when we realized that in all the excitement, we had forgotten to have the customary group photograph.

Col Manu Chopra, our AMC specialist had to miss the function at the last minute due to some official commitments in Mumbai. He was kind enough to organize another Rimcollian Get Together in Pune during dinner on 13 March 2025, which was attended by some Rimcollians based in Pune. ■

## Pune Reunion in March 2025 – The Second Account!

— By MAJ GEN RAJAN ANEY

“Beware the Ides of March!” So was Caesar warned. But for Rimcollians, wherever they may be in the world, the month of March is not a time for caution but one of great anticipation – the much-awaited Reunion on 13th March.

Each year, a fortunate few manage to make the pilgrimage to Dehradun to

celebrate the Reunion within the cherished grounds of our Alma Mater. Over three days of spirited revelry, they indulge in generous amounts of liquor and food – including the iconic Scotch eggs and Topsy pudding – while cheering at the fiercely contested, high-decibel Inter-Section Boxing Finals. And, as tradition dictates, Shivaji Section (Blue)

often emerges victorious, securing the coveted cup once again this year.

For the many Rimcollians who aren't lucky enough to attend the celebrations at the College, local reunions offer a chance to relive the camaraderie. Pune was no exception this year. The initiative was spearheaded by the two senior serving Rimcollians in town, Brig Sonu Taluja



**[Left to Right] Standing:** Col Manu Chopra, Wg Cdr Bharat Parab, Maj Gen Anil Raikar, Gp Capt Arun Sinha, Maj Gen Viney Handa, Air Cmde RS Das, Col RR Bashyam, Cdr VR Naphade, AVM SN Deshpande, Rochak Bakshi, Lt Col Anoop Kunwar, Col Deepak Jindal, KK Giri; **Sitting L to R.** Mrs Luoizink, Mrs Sinha, Mrs Bashyam, Maj Gen Aney, Cmde Naphade,

**[Left to Right] Sitting:** Capt Luoizink, Capt Shikhar, Capt Prem Jyoti, Capt Sai Ganesh.

and Col Soubhagya Naik, who, with the help of a few others, set the wheels in motion through a flurry of WhatsApp messages. A “Reunion Lunch” was scheduled for 02 March 2025 at the RSI.

I made a determined effort to propose a Dinner on 13th March, emphasizing the significance of the date for Rimcollians. However, logistical challenges and service commitments led to my suggestion being vetoed by a slim majority (democracy in action, after all – even a senior Rimcollian like me gets just one vote!). Thus, the Lunch on 02 March went ahead as planned, drawing a strong

turnout of over 60 Rimcollians.

There were some murmurs about organizing a second event on the 13th March, but as days passed, the silence was deafening. Then, on 11th March, I paid a visit to Col Manu Chopra – a maverick and a rare breed of Rimcollian. Believe it or not, this highly qualified and professionally accomplished doctor is currently the Head of Respiratory Diseases at AICTS, Pune. As I was about to leave, I casually mentioned, “Nothing seems to be happening on the 13th front.” That was enough.

The next morning, Manu dropped a

message in the Pune WhatsApp group: “13th – big day...party to banta hai!”

True to form, the diehard Rimcollians responded immediately. Within a day, Manu had orchestrated a wonderful Dinner on 13th March, which was well-attended despite the short notice. The evening was filled with laughter, shared memories, and classic Rimcollian camaraderie. Since we are now well past our “front and backrolling” days, the entertainment came in the form of light-hearted anecdotes about our mischievous College days.

The dinner was sumptuous – with ample Scotch eggs (enough for Manu to pack a few takeaways) and the indispensable Topsy pudding. I must admit I drank more than my doctor would have approved of – and I suspect I wasn’t the only one!

It was a truly fitting Reunion Dinner, flawlessly organized at the last minute. My sincere thanks to Manu for stepping up and delivering an evening that lived up to the finest Rimcollian traditions. Thanks also to all who attended on such short notice – your presence made it a night to remember.

Long live the Rimcollian spirit (though perhaps “Brotherhood” is no longer the right word, now that we have young lady cadets among us – my apologies to them). May the Rimcollian bond continue to flourish and grow stronger with each passing year. ■

## Guwahati Reunion: 30 March 2025

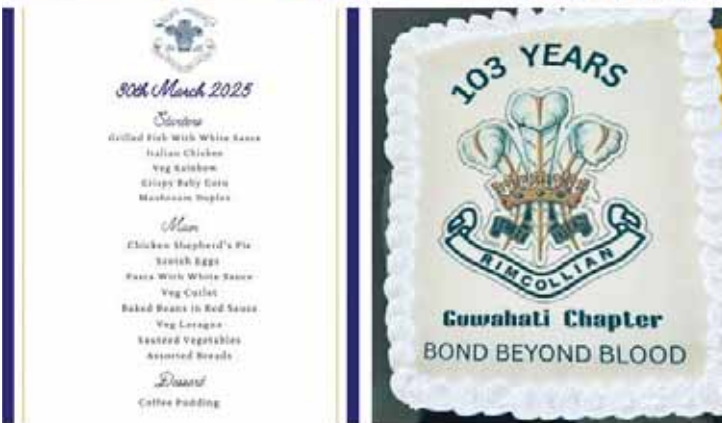
Guwahati Reunion lunch was hosted by Maj Gen RD Sharma at Narangi on Sunday, 30th March 2025.

The event was coordinated, as usual, by Lt Col Joe Varghese who managed to carry the memories of his pilgrimage to the School Reunion this year along with Wg Cdr Hazarika and Mr Vishwajit Pathak.

The family get together saw active participation by ladies and children □



**L to R:** Col T M Reddy/S, Maj Gen RD Sharma/S, Lt Col Joe Varghese/C, Wg Cdr Dhitisman Hazarika/S, Mr V Pathak/C, Col Udit Negi/P, Col Rexson Robertson/ P, Lt Col Jaspreet Chahal/C, Col WJK Singh/C, Maj Tirthankar Deka/R.



## Rimcollians in Gandhinagar: 10 March 2025



**Standing L to R:** Col Nitin Raj (Retd)[S/80-85], Gp Capt KN Singh (Retd)[C/88-92], Maj Taral Chanchani [R/2009-13], Col Kuldeep Mehta (Retd)[S/73-78], Air Mrshl N Tiwari (C/77-82), Col HM Patel (Retd)[P/50-55], Col Sai Anvesh [C/2000-04], Gokul Mahajan, IDES [S/2007-11], Rohan Manhas [P/2000-04], and Cdr Parimal Verma (Retd)[P/90-95].

**Seated:** Mrs Shalu Nitin Raj, Mrs Richa Tiwari, Master Sharvin Singh Manhas, Mrs HM Patel and Cdr Pratyush Manhas (Retd).

## Reunion in Lucknow: 10 March 2025



Lucknow has a reasonable smattering of Rimcollians. The last get together was held in September 2024 and again on 10 March 2025. Both get togethers were held in the Offrs' Mess of 11 GRRC, presently commanded by Brig SS Pundir, a Pratapian.

The get together saw a total of 9 Rimcollians attending, Maj Gen Sanjay Singh presently in AFT and Maj Gen DS Bisht could not attend being out of station.

Left to Right: Lt Col Pankaj Kumar/C, Brig Soumeet Patnaik/P, Cdr Nishant/S, Mr S Ahooja, Mrs AK Singh, Mrs Pankaj, Mrs Ritu Pundir, Ms Kaira Mann, Mrs Mann, Mrs Shukla, Col Rahul Mann/S, Dr PN Singh (Parent), Maj AK Singh (pl add Sec of Maj AK Singh), Brig SS Pundir/P, Cdr Gaurav Shukla/S.



The get together saw great bonhomie and Section banter. The gathering was treated to soulful music played by the Gorkha band and the Rimcollian wives were totally involved in the gathering.

Followed by the cake cutting, the Rimcollians came to the serious business of consuming Scotch eggs followed by the delicious tipsy pudding. Finally, it was time to bid goodbye. The next get together is already planned with a resolve to include all those who could not make it this time. □



## Rimcollians at Vishakapatnam: 22 March 2025

The Reunion of the Rimcollian Vizag Chapter was held on 22 March 25 at Leherika, Watermanship Training Centre, ENC Command Mess, Vizag.

A total of 21 Old Boys attended the event. The get together had oodles of recollection and reminiscences.

A very special thanks to Capt Mahipendra Sanklan, seniormost serving Rimcollian for gracing the occasion and sharing happy and emotional stories, and to Cdr Rishi Raj, for arranging a perfect batch of scotch eggs.

We look forward to have all the Old Boys in the next get together. □



## Ladakh Rimcollians: 16 March 2025 In the shadow of Peaks, Rimcollian Spirit Stands Tall

— By BRIG SIDDARTH CHOPRA

On the momentous occasion of RIMC's 103rd Founder's Day, the spirit of camaraderie and nostalgia echoed through the high-altitude terrain of Karu, where Rimcollians from forward areas gathered for a memorable reunion. Hosted by Maj Gen Arindam Saha, YSM, SM, GOC 3 Inf Div, and Mrs. Ila Saha, the afternoon was a perfect blend of cherished memories and timeless traditions.

Fifteen officers and two ladies graced the occasion, making it a lively affair. Among the notable attendees were Brig and Mrs. Ashutosh Dwivedi, Brig Q 14 Corps and Brig Siddharth Chopra, Cdr 254 Armd Bde, each adding to the warmth of the gathering.

With the Himalayan peaks as the backdrop, conversations drifted effortlessly through the hallowed portals of the heavenly Tudors, bringing back memories of cross-country runs, midnight escapades, and the endless charm of the Doon Valley. The laughter, the familiar banter, and the unmistakable Rimcollian wit made time stand still, even if only for a while.

Over a sumptuous lunch, complete with scotch eggs, bonds were rekindled and stories exchanged, reaffirming the shared legacy that unites Rimcollians across ranks and generations. As the afternoon gave way to the golden hues of the Ladakh sun,



**Sitting L to R:** Brig Ashutosh Dwivedi/S, Mrs Neha Dwivedi, Mrs Ila Saha, Maj Gen Arindam Saha/C, Brig Siddharth Chopra/R.

**Standing:** SO to GOC (non Rimcollian), Maj Akshat Agnihotri/P, Lt Col Alok Bhaskar/S, Maj Om Bawiskar/C, Maj Yougant Pandey/C, Maj Sheeshank Chauhan/S, Maj Shinjan Chakraborty/C, Lt Col Roshnikanta/S, Lt Col SK Yadav/R, Sqn Ldr Nishant Rana/S, Maj Neeraj Maurya/S, Capt Somay Badola/S, Lt Col PS Pundir/C.

the gathering reaffirmed a simple truth—wherever we may be, the Rimcollian bond endures. In the midst of towering mountains and distant frontiers, it is the shared legacy of RIMC that keeps us connected, always. □

## Tricity Reunion at Chandimandir: 23 March 2025



A call to all the Rimcollians for a Tricity Aget together is always heard loud and clear with Rimcollians from various corners merging to be at the pre decided Epicentre of Light Blue Dark Blue Spirit.

So here it was, people concentrating from Yamunanagar (Senior most Lt Gen Grewal), Mathura, Ambala, Jalandhar, Purkaji (Junior most Lt Abhimanyu), and Amritsar.

The serving brass of Chandimandir took a break from official commitments and in the process gave a break to others.

Brig Ashish Dutta/C took the lead under the stewardship of Lt Gen Mohit Wadhwa/P, COS Western Command ably supported by Brig Sumit Kapoor/C,



coordinated by Dhruv/R with a team of youngsters - mainly Capt Ashish Pandey/P and Abhimanyu/P.

The attendance demonstrates the spirit

and the picture reflects the lovely set up garnished with delicious savouries.

Wonderful day...with deep gratitude to all and cheers to the Rimcollian spirit. □

## Kochi Get Together: 23 March 2025

Venue Navy House Kochi - Res of V Adm V Srinivas & Mrs Vijaya Srinivas  
A tradition has been established in

Kochi to celebrate the annual Reunion a week or two after 13 March so that Rimcollians can attend at both homes –

the alma mater and their hometown. And maybe even more!



**Kneeling L to R:** Cdr Vishal 154/C, Cdr Aashish 154/S, Cdr Anvesh Murthy 154/R, Lt Ankit Awwal 180/P, Ms Taanvi Divakar, Ms Ann Mary Joseph, Master Avinash Divakar, Mr Pratik Srinivas, Sub Lt Aman Singh 186/P, Sub Lt Abhay Bhadauria 186/R, Sub Lt Ayyush Agnihotri 187/R, Sub Lt Aman Vishwakarma 185/S, Sub Lt Aakash Satam 189/C, Sub Lt D Majumdar 189/S, Sub Lt Manik Turan 189/R, Lt Kaustubh Patil 183/S, Lt Ajay Jose Joseph N 179/R, Sub Lt Aditya Singh Rana 189/C

**Sitting L to R:** Mrs Shrutika Wankhade, Mrs Jeevitha Divakar, Mrs Nidhi Sehgal, Mrs Rosemary Simon, Mrs Jenny Joseph, Mrs Vijaya Srinivas, AVM PA Harimohan 70/P, VAdm V Srinivas 112/S, Cmde BK Kumar 70/R, Mrs Mallika Kumar, Mrs Radhika Rajagopal, Maj Gen P Rajagopal 78/S, Cdr Raju Mathew 90/P, Mrs Rita Mathew, Mrs Anjali Rawat, Mrs Prachi Abhijit

**Standing L to R:** Lt Mrinal (Flag Lt), Cdr Swapnil Bathe (Former Instr at RIMC), Master Shetragya, Cdr Siddhant Wanhade 162/P, Cdr Vaibhav Gupta 155/S, Cdr Ruchir Khajuria 155/S, Capt Gaurav Rana 143/R, Capt B Divakar 142/P, Cmde Manav Sehgal 125/S, Cmde Sritanu Guru 127/C, Mr CA Joseph, Cmde N A J Joseph 112/R, Cmde Simon Mathai 120/R, Cdr CM Varghese 120/R, Cdr Ashok Balakrishnan 126/C, Cmde Benny Antony 106/P, Cdr Ronnie Chowpoo 153/P, Lt Cdr Anmol Rawat 172/S, Lt Cdr Abhijit Vaish 175/P



The Navy House entrance



The CINC welcoming Rimcollians



Boys in school colours, girls in section colour



Caught on camera -  
some serious talk!



Bonding time



C-in-C's catch

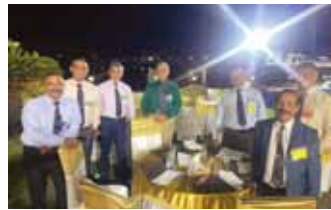


The young ones' corner

Seniormost Rimcollians in one of  
the photo points - AVM PA  
Harimohan 70/P, Mrs Shobhana  
Harimohan, Mrs Mallika Kumar,  
Cmde B K Kumar 70/R



At Ease



Catching up with our Teacher  
- Mr CA Joseph



The Middle ones' corner



More colour here



Straight from the kadai to....



**CORE TEAM** - L to R, Lt Ajay Joseph  
179/R, Lt Mrinal Flag Lt, VAdm V Srinivas  
112/S, Cmde Anil Joseph 112/R, Capt B  
Diwakar 142/P NA to C-in-C, Cdr Arjun  
Kapoor, SO to C-in-C



The Cheery corner



Catching up with GenNext

## UK Rimcollians Rekindle the Spirit in London: 06 June 2025

After a long hiatus, the UK chapter of Rimcollians reunited in style on 6th June 2025 in the heart of London. What began as a casual idea quickly gained momentum, thanks to spirited mobilisation and extraordinary coordination among members spanning across batches and decades.

A loud shout by Jeetesh and equally strong response by the Rimcollians not just in UK but from Florida, Dublin as well to make it bigger than big. It was an



## ROVING EYE

\*Op Rimcollian” announced on UK Group well in advance which saw the mobilisers, Jeetesh - Kapil Rana and all others, to plan the convergence at a given time, date and venue.

From the initial polls to venue coordination, and even a few attendees flying in from Dublin and Florida (yes, really!), the evening was a testament to the timeless camaraderie that binds every Rimcollian - regardless of age, rank, or postcode.

Held at Lockes in Covent Garden, the gathering brought together 16 Rimcollians for an evening of laughs, stories, and shared memories. With drinks flowing, ties loosened (or deliberately left behind), and conversations echoing with senior ante-rooms energy, the get-together was more than just a catch-up - it was a heartfelt revival of bonds forged at the school.

This successful evening has set the tone for regular meet-ups and a renewed sense of connection among Rimcollians in the UK.

Get together Parade state:

Strength: 19

Present: 16

Attendees (in order of seniority): Dr. Harinder Singh Tehran C/69-74, Mr. Saranjit Arora S/72-77, Mr. Vivek Sood S/76-81, Dr. Gopal Mahadev C/79-83,



\*Clockwise from L\*: Laksh Gupta 186/S, Marcus Pradhan 156/P, Mr. Saranjit Arora 102/S, Dr. Gopal Mahadev 115/C, Dr. Karan Sonpar 123/R, Brig Kapil Rana 128/R, Mr. Jeetesh Singh 146/P, Vineet Mulam 172/S, Vikram Sharma 151/R, Abhishek Thapar 140/P, Amit Jain 130/S, Col Amit Tomar 139/P.

Dr. Deepak Narwal C/81-86, Dr. Karan Sonpar R/83-89, Brig. Kapil Rana R/86-91, Mr. Rahul Ghosh C/86-92, Mr. Amit Jain S/87-92, Col. (ret'd) Amit Tomar P/91-96, Mr. Abhishek Thapar

P/92-96, Mr. Jeetesh Singh P/95-98, Mr. Vikram Sharma R/97-2002, Mr. Marcus Pradhan P/2000-03, Mr. Vineet Mulam S/2008-11, Mr. Laksh Gupta S/2015. □

## 3rd Annual Canada Reunion at Vancouver: 22 March 2025

Rimcollians gathered at Surrey Vancouver from multiple cities - Seattle, Calgary, Kamloops, Kelowna and Vancouver in March 2025 for their annual Canada Reunion, a tradition now.



Standing L to R: Bishwa Pati 123/S, Shashank Saket 157/P, Ranjan Dutta 113/C, Anubhav Mishra 131/S, Sandeep Singh 123/P, Jay Naidu 160/S, Cdr. Dave Yadav Ranjit 1952, Fairoz Hussain 135/C, Ameet Singh 139/C, Shaikh Mustaque 135/P.

## The Rimcollian Ottawa Chapter



Ram Sure, Ted Dhillon and Jack Uppal

## Rimcollians at Los Angeles: 30 March 2025



**L to R:** Manjunath Narayana S, Air Cmde JS Sandhu P, Capt Sunil Kohli C.



Saurabh Batta, 137/P (Rt) and Brig Kapil Rana, 128/R got together at Geneva on 15 March 2025. The Pratapian drove from Zurich to rekindle his association with the Ranjitian.

## Rimcollians in Mathura: 06 March 2025



**L to R:** Lt Col Gyan Sahu R, Brig Rahul Pathak C, Col Vivek Sharma P, Col Manish Lanjekar P, Brig R S Rana, Father of Sea Cdt Aditya Rana, Maj Shinjin Chakraborty C.

## Rimcollians Get together at Kochi: 03 March 2025



Lt Prakhar Thakur S, SLt Harshvardhan Singh R, SLt Aman Singh P, Lt Abhimanyu Singh P, SLt Shreyanshu Jha P, SLt Tanmay Sharma R, Lt Hritvick Patyal P.

## Gathering at Pune: 08 March 2025



**L to R:** Col Ashish Sharma/P, Mr Virender Sharma (Ex Section Master Pratap, now Registrar Flame University Pune), Col Raman Gupta/R, Col R Chakraborty/P, Brig Sonu Taluja/S.

**Sitting L to R:** Mrs Taluja, Mrs Yachna Gupta, Mrs Sharma, Mrs Chakraborty & Mrs Sharma.

## Rimcollians at the Kota House, New Delhi



**Standing L to R:** Brig DS Bajaj/S, Col RS Kohli/P, Mr Akshay Joshi/S, Cmde Arvind Wadhwa/R, Cmde Pradeep Singh/S, Maj Gen MPS Gill/S, Brig IS Samyal/R, Mr JS Rajput/P.

**Ladies L to R:** Mrs Eerma Bajaj, Dr Garima Singh, Mrs Seema Samyal, Mrs Gill, Mrs Radha Joshi, Mrs Rinku Rajput, Mrs Sweetey Kohli.

**Rimcollians in Akhnoor:  
06 March 2025**



**L to R:** Col Poshuk Ahluwalia/P, Col Udit Pant/S, Brig R Shankar, VSM/C, Mrs Ahluwalia, Mrs Suman, Maj Navneet Suman/P, Maj Akash Shekhawat/S.

**Reunion at Jodhpur:  
12 March 2025**



**L to R:** Brig Sonu Taluja 131/S, Cmde K Shankar 131/P, Brig Rakesh Nair 125/C, Brig Dhiraj Ramanand 131/R, Col SS Tanwar 138/S.

**The Patna Reunion**



**L to R:** Lt Col Ankur Mishra 162/R, Mr Sachin Kumar 178/C, Capt Shivam Kumar 179/P, Mr Aditya Kumar 178/P.

**NOIDA Reunion: 13 March 2025**

Noida Rimcollian Reunion was held in Gurjinder Vihar Officers Institute, Greater Noida on 13 Mar 25.



**Attendees:** Mr Gurpreet Singh, Col and Mrs Vivek Pandit, Col AK Mitra, Col and Mrs Yash Saxena, Col and Mrs Vivek Singh, Col and Mrs Vishwajeet Singh (organiser), Col and Mrs Aman, Nav Cdt Shashwat.

**Mini Office Reunion in  
Delhi: 13 March 2025**



**L to R:** Wg Cdr Umang Nautiyal/S, Wg Cdr Ankit Uniyal/S, Gp Capt Nitin Nayal/S, Brig Rohit Teotia/R, Cdr Ronie Chowpoo/P, Wg Cdr Narendra Varma/P.

**Rimcollians at Mr Zia's  
place in Vasant Kunj, New  
Delhi, March 2025 prior to  
moving to Dehradun**



**L to R:** Col Prem Prakash, SM (Retd) 104/R, Brig Mothi George Jacob 105/C, Lt Cdr Tabshir Wani 170/R, Maj Gen Jarken Gamlin 105/P, Ms Yasmin D/o Mr Zia, Mrs Ritu Pandit, Mr Ziaul Hussain 105/R, Akash Mukherjee - Family friend, Col Vivek Pandit 105/C.

**Jalandhar Chapter @ Reunion 2025**



**Standing L to R:** Col Rajkumar (Vickrant's father), Vickrant Raj, Lt Col Srinivas, Col Ashish Kulkarni, Maj Subhash Gupta (retd), Lt Col ML Bhagat (retd), Mr Abhishek Thapar, Maj N Siddharth, Lt Col Abhishek Sharma, Lt Col Abhishek Anand

**Sitting L to R:** Mrs Srinivas, Mrs Subhash, Mrs Rajkumar, Master Abhyansh Anand, Mrs Anand, Mrs Siddharth and Miss Sithara

## Gopalpur Chapter: 13 March 2025



Attendees: Brig and Mrs BP Pattnaik, Aseem Mahapatra, Wg Cdr Prusty, Maj Gen SD Mahanti, Maj Gen and Mrs IS Panjra, Mr Prabal Mallick, Col Sushil Minhas, Col Parag Mukherjee. The gathering was hosted by Maj Gen and Mrs Panjra.

## Akhnoor Reunion: 16 March 2025



**Kneeling L to R:** Capt Kshitij Jayant 180/S, Yashodhan Isher 180/P, Capt Jagdeep Narayan 180/S, Capt Sahil Yadav 180/C, Capt Paarth Gupta 180/C, Maj Vivek Yadav 169/C, Maj Navneet Suman 169/P

**Standing L to R:** Maj Yuvraj Pratap Singh 163/C, Col Udit Pant 156/S, Anshumali Sharma 148/S, Col Poshuk Ahluwalia 148/P, Mrs Ahluwalia, Mrs Kshitij, Mrs Navneet, Brig R Shankar 135/C, Maj Akash Shekhawat 164/S, Maj Ligang Sera 166/S, Rakshit Sharma 164/P

## Rimcollian Gathering at JC Course Mhow



**L to R:** Mrs Shail Jha, Mrs Pooja Gill, Maj Vishwendra Gill 170/P, Maj Aaditya Tyagi 168/S, Maj Nitish Kumar Jha 169/S, Maj Orkhodiip Paul 175/S, Maj Abhishek Dash 170/S.

## Reunion at Yelahanaka: 13 March 2025



**Sitting L to R:** Kushagra, Lamba, Vishnu, Ishan, Rajat.  
**Standing L to R:** Utsav Singhal, Ajay Vashist, Sandeep Baswaraj, Marjit Singh, Rahul Anand, Mrs Anand, Mrs Pandita, Mrs Das, Naveen Pandita, and Roland Singh.

## Rimcollian Family Meet at IIT Kharagpur



**L to R:** Samarth Jauhal, Abhiraj (S/o Col. Vivek Singh), Sea Cadet Shashvat Singh.

## Rimcollians at Kochi



**L to R:** Cmde Sritanu Guru/C, Sub Lt Deep Dave/R, Sub Lt Abhay Bhaduria/R, Cmde N A J Joseph/R.

## Rimcollian Family Lunch @ Naval Academy



**L to R:** Maj Ashutosh 172/S, Capt Sumanta Roy 138/S, Col Napoleon Nayak 142/S.

## Rimcollians at Ferozepur



**Standing L to R:** Capt Aryan Singh Sumbria R, Cdr(IN) Ashish Kumar, Col Aditya S, Lt Col PPS Bhullar, Col R Prakash, Lt Col Vedant Pun C, Capt Priyanshu Sinha P, Capt Ashish Pandey P.

**Sitting L to R:** Ms Riyo, Mrs Monica, Lt Cdr Jyostna (Retd), Mrs Bhullar.



17 March am - About Life in the Armed Forces & Navy

# AN ENDURING AND COMPLEMENTING BOND - A PRIVILEGE

— By **CMDE N ANIL JOSE JOSEPH VSM I.N RETD**

Getting to talk at one's alma mater is a privilege I have had the good fortune of doing so almost every year. This year was no different once our Commandant, Col Rahul Agarwal concurred. That it became an article for this issue is courtesy the Editorial team. When I shared the photos with them, Sidharth Mishra piped up "*Cdt (later Cmde) Joseph please write up on your experience, it could be in 750 or more words with these photos.*" Now that is an order even if it is from one's cadet ward.

My inspiration was then Lt Cdr Naphade's visit to school in 1980-81. He was dressed in his No 1s (Navy's winter ceremonial). He had wings and stripes. The knowledgeable ones among us began arguing whether he was a Naval Officer or an Air Force Officer. Appalled at our knowledge he chose to address us all in the Geography Lecture Hall. The effect of which was an increase in Naval optees among Rimcos; and the memory of that incident a spur for me to spread awareness of all that we do (in this case about the Navy and the Armed Forces) with an evangelistic zeal.

My inspiration was then Lt Cdr Naphade's visit to school in 1980-81. He was dressed in his No 1s (Navy's winter ceremonial). He had wings and stripes. The knowledgeable ones among us began arguing whether he was a Naval Officer or an Air Force Officer. Appalled at our knowledge he chose to address us all in the Geography Lecture Hall

With the turn of the century, it started with my talking about Life in the Navy to cadets at RIMC a little more regularly. While we have had organized visits from RIMC to ships and establishments (and some still ongoing) which is without doubt a good exposure; it is but for a few, as not all the cadets get to go; and it is not the same as getting to hear life experiences.

Incidentally approval for ship visits to Port Blair had an interesting side story. I was NA to Admiral Bansal when the request came from school about a regular cruise for RIMC cadets from Visakhapatnam to Port Blair. The request was discussed during a Command meeting and what started as a discussion suddenly turned to 'what is so special about RIMC'. Now as an NA one is normally silent during meetings unless called upon to speak, but I could not control myself. I butted in reminding the audience that the discussion was whether the sailing could be allowed or not and if any other school asked for it the discussion should be about 'whether we can or cannot'. Having highlighted about deciding YES or NO about the cruise; I



15 March - An interactive session with cadets who had appeared in SSB

then went into a lecture mode on why RIMC is different, the aspect of being under DMT then and so on. And when I sat down the CINC just approved the Port Blair Cruise and he did not talk about it later even in confidence.

The talk about Armed Forces as a Career with a little more emphasis on Navy grew to become a standard talk; with the Navy tasking me to schools and colleges as well. Interestingly, in the Navy there is a letter from the Personnel Branch that encourages Officers to talk at their alma mater. I used this letter often to make the travel to school either on leave or Ty duty.

Largely the talks were done around the time of Rimcollians, in March, depending on one's scope and permission to break away from work. One found the interactions extremely lively with cadets coming up with queries that one may not be prepared for. They were keen to know about a wide variety of aspects of life in the Armed Forces: not to mention a comparison of the times at RIMC. The inquisitiveness and the resultant sharing of experiences was invigorating for me, not to mention testing my capacity to put across correctly to a young impressionable mind. There were quite a few Rimcollians who interacted with the cadets about Life



17 March pm - Introduction to SSB.

The talk about Armed Forces as a Career with a little more emphasis on Navy grew to become a standard talk; with the Navy tasking me to schools and colleges as well. Interestingly, in the Navy there is a letter from the Personnel Branch that encourages Officers to talk at their alma mater.

in the Armed Forces - mentoring and guiding. I remember young Virender Rana being a regular. He used to 'infiltrate' after my talk on Armed Forces and the Navy, to motivate the young ones to join MARCOS. That we have a steady stream of Rimcollian MARCOS is his 'prompts'.

As a Captain (Indian Navy) the pilgrimage to school every year became a near certainty. That successive Commandants allowed this interaction as a feature was their grace and my privilege. Gradually the interactions expanded to cover Military Values. It was during this

## ALUMNI BOND



With our Teachers - Selected one from the archives with Mr SP Bhatia in frame (2018)

period that a small committee from ROBA (the Ethics Committee) drafted the Honour Code. The talks and interactions conferred an intangible distinction of being able to get a connect with generations of Rimcollians beyond our normal 'hellos'. When my son joined RIMC the bonds strengthened, with the cadets and teachers now seeing me in one more 'Avataar'.

After I did the Interviewing Officers course the interactive sessions now began to include 'SSB'. With an MA in Psychology and becoming a qualified Counsellor, the scope and ambit widened for me. My life experiences and the variety of appointments that I had tenanted, the interaction subjects were varied and sometimes tailor-made. Every few years I have had the privilege of sitting with our teachers on aspects like 'Being a Good Teacher' (something I do with other schools and colleges), about parenting, the uniqueness of life in RIMC, NDA and the Armed Forces - like a bridge between teachers, staff and cadets. These interactions were extremely fruitful as one could get in different perspectives and understand different points of view. It definitely contributed to my own

growth as a person. How much it benefited the other participants only they can tell. Of course one gets an idea during interactions and subsequently through messages.

The interactions with successive Commandants, AOs, AAOs and other Officers and staff were also fascinating, and I believe I have been able to contribute in such discussions - for besides the IO, MA Psychology and being a Counsellor, the Armed Forces have given us all experiences not just in Operational and Administrative fields but also in Training. Being a Divisional Officer in NDA, an instructor in ASW school, Training Officer onboard ships, Visiting Faculty, to being Chairman of Schools (KVs, NKG NCS), President PTA etc. Just highlighting the fact that we are all so singularly lucky and our life experiences so varied and multifaceted. Post retirement I am a visiting Faculty at Navy's Centre for Ethics Leadership and Behavioural Studies (CELABS) and a Guest speaker at a number of Naval Institutes in Kochi, at Chilka and a few Colleges and schools in Kerala. Being able to share these across institutions adds to one's own experience; and in tapping on to best practices.

I often describe the Armed Forces as the Profession of Professions and that it is a **calling**. Our multifaceted exposure to life gives us unique benefits of being able to contribute to society in many different ways. We owe it to ourselves and the society. That I am able to do it in a small way is God's grace, definitely a privilege, one that is fulfilling and contributing.

The biggest accolade is when one sees a glint of recognition in the eyes of those with whom one had interacted with and them coming forward to greet you even years later. The challenge however is remembering the names (a losing battle where a treat then becomes due). Some often say that they joined the Navy because of me (and a few even from the Army or Air Force as well for I have been as impartial as possible when I talk of Life in the Armed Forces). The decision was theirs and I one among their many sounding boards.

The satisfaction extends when people connect to talk about Life in the Forces and otherwise, about the values we share etc. and life's challenges that substantiate, develop or even question ourselves. These discussions and lessons stay lifelong and is an enriching bond. A unique privilege. ■

## AN RIMC FOLKLORE

Contributed by *Maj Gen Jarken Gamlin*

This is a song I learnt as a child in my first school Ramakrishna Mission School in my hometown and subsequently in RIMC. In the original poem चोडवन word is replaced by जवान as in 1962 India had a population of 54 Crores. The original poet is Gopal Singh Nepali. This song used to be sung by the cadets in Inter school Competitions and was a winner every time

*(Editors comment - Be sure to ask Jarken sir to sing this whenever you meet him. It sounds wonderful in his voice)*

शंकर की पुरी, चीन ने सेना को उतारा,  
जवान करोड़ों को हिमालय ने पुकारा स  
हो जाये पराधीन नहीं गंगा की धारा,  
गंगा के किनारों को हिमालय ने पुकारा स

अम्बर के तले हिन्द की दीवार हिमालय,  
सदियों से रहा शांति की मीनार हिमालय,  
अब मांग रहा हिन्द से तलवार हिमालय,  
भारत की तरफ चीन ने हैं पाव पसारा,  
जवान करोड़ों को हिमालय ने पुकारा स

हम भाई समझते जिसे दुनिया से उलझ के,  
वो घेर रहा आज हमें बेरी समझ के,  
चोरी भी करे और करे बात गरजके,  
बर्फाँ में पिघल ने को चला लाल सितारा,  
जवान करोड़ों को हिमालय ने पुकारा स

कह दो की हिमालय तो क्या पत्थर भी न देंगे,  
लद्दाख की तो बात क्या बंजर भी ना देंगे,  
अरमाँ है हमारा मरकर भी ना देंगे,  
है चीन का लद्दाख तो तिब्बत है हमारा,  
जवान करोड़ों को हिमालय ने पुकारा  
हो जाये पराधीन नहीं गंगा की धारा  
गंगा के किनारों को हिमालय ने पुकारा....

## IMPERFECTLY PERFECT

By Flt Lieutenant. *Kapil Kishan Pandey, 2925/R*

One day, I saw  
A bed of roses, a castle in the clouds,  
An ocean of milk, a valley of flowers.  
It felt like utopia, yet it was real.

The place lay beyond the horizon,  
And still, I chose to go.  
The path was metanoia.

Wayfarers crossed my journey,  
Some held my hand,  
Some gave the push I needed.  
Choices were made, time slipped away  
I soared higher, the terminus in sight.

I climbed, alone among the clouds,  
Standing at the peak of my dreams.  
The castle, the roses,  
The ocean of milk, the valley of flowers  
All mine, yet I felt empty.

Overwhelmed, I stood in solitude.  
It was me and my dreams,  
Yet all I had gained  
Was shadowed by all I had lost.

An epiphany struck  
It was all a dream.

Still eager to chase my visions,  
Yet haunted by the fear  
Of losing the reality I call my own.

We all chase what we don't have,  
Risking what we do.  
That's the beauty of dreams  
They shape new worlds  
Yet leave behind pieces of us.

And in that loss,  
We become imperfectly perfect.



With then Vice Principal Mr VG Nene in the Academic Block

# THE PIONEERS OF EXCELLENCE

## RIMC'S FIRST 10+2 BATCH

— By **CAPT (IN) SUMEET SINHA**

**A**s we delve into the rich history of the RIMC, we pay tribute to the trailblazers of the first 10 + 2 RIMC course. This iconic batch, which joined the College in August 1983, holds a special place in the annals of RIMC's history.

In response to the National Defence Academy's (NDA) decision to raise its entry qualification from Class 11 to Class 12 from July 1988 batch, RIMC introduced the 10+2 curriculum for the first time in its history. This bold move marked a significant milestone in the college's journey, as it adapted to the changing requirements of the NDA.

### A UNIQUE JOURNEY

123 RIMC was a unique course which joined school in August 1983. The entrance exam for Jan 1983 batch was not

held due to some reason and hence the intake in this batch was double the strength of normal courses which had joined earlier. Soon after joining, half of the cadets from this course in Class 1 were double promoted to fill the vacancies of the higher class 1A, which was lying vacant for a term. Another six of us who were actually 124th RIMC got double promotion in the next term of January 1984 and we subsequently joined the lower half of 123rd course.

### ADAPTING TO CHANGE

Fast forwarding the timeline to August 1987, when we graduated to Class V and the double promoted half of course to Class VA respectively, the government suddenly decided to raise the NDA entrance qualification from Class 11 to Class 12. We were soon informed by

RIMC authorities that our course is no longer eligible for appearing in NDA entrance exam in December 1987. There was a mixed feeling of remorse and rejoice for that entire term.

We soon bid farewell to the double promoted half of our batch to join the 79th NDA course. Our NDA entrance exam had been officially postponed by a year! But here's the best part: our class got to enjoy an extra-long seniority time in Class V A. Yes, you read that right! Our class, after obviously being senior most in VA continued to graduate to Class VI and subsequently to VI A. We remained the senior-most batch in school for a whopping three terms! The first 10+2 batch of RIMC, which graduated in May 1989, therefore holds a special place in the annals of our esteemed institution as we were the pioneer batch to pass out from



With then Commandant Col CV Venugopal and other college officials

school after completing six glorious years. In the same breath, we truly sympathize the 125th course who was our Class IV A for three consecutive terms!

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEGACY

The entire batch, comprising of talented and dedicated cadets, rose to the challenge and excelled in their academic pursuits. The extra year at school gave us more time to reorganize and regroup ourselves to face the new challenges of NDA 10+2 entrance exam. We had 100 percent success at NDA UPSC and all 26 of us qualified the written exam. Our hard work and perseverance paid off, as 21 of us joined the NDA. The remaining of us have gone on to achieve success in various fields on the "civvy street," making their alma mater proud. The following amongst us are still serving with three having been recently elevated to two-star rank:-

- Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherjee
- Maj Gen Arindam Saha
- Maj Gen R D Sharma
- Col Vivek Singh
- Col Ashish Nautiyal
- Col JM Deb
- Col Sanjeev Khurana

- Col RC Kaushik
- Capt (IN) Anil Kumar
- Capt (IN) Sumeet Sinha
- Col Vinod Kumar Sharma

Another three amongst us have quit/ superannuated from Army in recent past and are working as entrepreneurs/ renowned corporate entities:

- Lt Col Himmat Singh
- Col Sanjay Kumar Sinha
- Col Vishwajit Kumar

A large number amongst us left Armed Forces in early stage and are now well established in India/ abroad.

- Lt Cdr AJS Sandhu (Business Entrepreneur)
- Lt Sandeep Singh (Microsoft USA)
- Capt Karan Sonpar (Professor/ Ireland)
- Capt TS Dhillon (Tech Entrepreneur/ Canada)
- Maj Pawan Kumar (Tech Consultant/ USA)
- Rajiv Chatterjee (Tech Entrepreneur/ US)

The under mentioned comrades joined the civvy street and are doing extremely

well for themselves:-

- Rajiv Singh (Airline Pilot)
- JS Parhar (Captain Merchant Navy)
- BB Pati (Bakery Business / Canada)
- Kumar Saurav (IIT Graduate / Corporate)
- Diwan Singh (Entrepreneur and environmentalist)

Maj V Ravi Shankar is unfortunately not amongst us as we lost him in an accident very early. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

The achievements of this batch serve as a testament to the College's commitment to excellence and its ability to adapt to changing circumstances. As we look back on this momentous occasion, we honour the pioneering spirit of the first 10+2 batch and celebrate their contributions to RIMC's legacy.

"Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another." As we continue to inspire and influence future generations, we draw strength from the achievements of our predecessors. Here is to the trailblazers of the first 10+2 batch – may their legacy continue to inspire us to strive for excellence! ■

# ISRAELI AIR RAID ON OSIRAK NUCLEAR STATION

NOTES FROM INSTRUCTIONAL TENURE IN IRAQ

— BY **GROUP CAPT A G BEWOOR, VM (G)**



Operation Opera: Israel's Raid on the Iraqi Reactor on 7 June, 1981

## INTRODUCTION

In Sep 1980 I was with 23 Sqn Iraqi Air Force flying AN-12s at the Baghdad International Airport. On a night x-country training flight from Baghdad to Mosul to Basra and back I would see the amazing view of refineries all over Iraq flaring petro-gas across Iraq. On 11 Sep 80 afternoon I was told to "take rest" for a few days and not come to work till further orders, and as the world knows, on 22 Sep 80 Saddam Hussein attacked Iran with a Mid-day air strike contrary to all strategic doctrine. The Iraq-Iran war had started and I remained 'araam se' till January 1981.

## IRANIAN RETALIATION

Any self-respecting nation must retaliate, but Iran could not attack on the evening of 22 Sep 80 because their pilots would be flying into the setting sun. We pilots of the Indian Air Force Training Team were certain that Iranian Air Force must attack next morning, and sure enough they did. Early morning on 23 Sep 80, my wife Vinita and I climbed onto the

roof of our home which was about 500 mtrs, as the crow flies, from the International Airport. Just as the sun was peeping up in the East we first heard the roar and then saw a red coloured Phantom pull-up flying westwards, looking for the runway. The pilot saw it, dropped a wing to his left, and aligned himself for an attack. I remember telling my wife that the complete Transport fleet of the Iraqi Air Force would be decimated. But there was only one Phantom in this raid. We saw the bombs drop and two huge plumes of dust followed the explosions. The Phantom disappeared and we both were sure that I would return to India since surely, most if not all AN-12s of the Iraqi Air Force must have been destroyed. Incidentally, the Phantom received no opposing anti-aircraft fire. Readers, would you believe it, the pilot missed everything and hit the desert, the Iraqi Air Force dispersed into neighbouring countries within four to five hours. The Iranian Air Force also attacked the Al Rashid military air base in Baghdad and other Iraqi airfields. They did not attack Basra, the closest air field to the Iranian border.

## BLUE ON BLUE

For some strange reason, an Iraqi IL-76 was sent to Basra on the evening of 22 Sep 80 after the Iraqi attack on Tehran that day. That IL-76 got airborne on the morning of 23 Sep and was flying to Baghdad exactly when the Iranian attack was taking place. The IL-76 was told to hold some distance South of Baghdad over the VOR beacon at Al Hindia, and wait for clearance to land at Al Rashid, the Air Force base. After the attack was over, the IL-76 was ordered to descend for landing. He was being controlled by the

Iraqi Air Force controllers. Imagine the crew's horror when they were engaged by their own anti-aircraft guns & missiles, the ill-fated IL-76 was shot out of the skies by their own air defence weapons. A very tragic start indeed for the Iraqi Air Force. One reason for this tragedy was that the Air Defence Command of the Iraqi Air Force was not under the Air Force but directly under their MOD. The drill in Iraq was that whenever Saddam Hussein flew, no other flying was allowed. The possibility of someone flying his aircraft into the Hussein's aircraft as a coup could never be ruled out. That is what I learned from the Iraqi guys. On the morning of 23 Sep 80 because of the attack by Iran, the Air Defence guns / missiles were Free and had not been ordered Tight after the Iranian attack was over. They took and got orders from the AD Command not Air Force. It would be a factor when I narrate the story of the Osirak nuclear plant.

## ANTI AIRCRAFT DIWALI

To impress and give a boost to the confidence of the citizens of Baghdad we witnessed a most remarkable Anti-Aircraft Diwali on the night of 23 Sep 1980. As it became dark on that September evening, sunset was about 1800 hrs, all the Ack Ack guns in Baghdad opened up. Their tracers making a Diwali unseen by any of us. Guns were located between houses, on the roof of houses, and the barrel elevation was rather low. It was magical as well as frightening. Especially for children since the guns were very close to our homes. I also saw at least five to six missile flames as they flew into the dark skies above Baghdad. Moon was 95% visible with Moonrise at 1800 hrs along with sunset, full Moon was on 25 Sep

80. So the reader can visualise how bright the skies were that night. The irony is that throughout the Iraq-Iran war, there was zero or very little night attacks by any side. Much like the Mahabharat rules of engagement.

## OIL REFINERY BURNS

One cold morning in December 80 my family and I were visiting an ancient monument called Akarguf close to Baghdad. I was taking 'rest' remember. Suddenly we heard a couple of loud bangs and a huge column of thick black smoke rose menacingly from the Eastern parts of the city. It appeared that the Iranians had hit the Baghdad oil refinery. Huge plumes of flames rose menacingly along with thick black smoke. We decided that it would be better to go home. By 1700 hrs a thick blanket of smoke covered Baghdad city with a strong smell of

sulphur. Later we learnt that Iranian Phantoms had put in that attack. Once again I did not hear any anti-aircraft guns, distinct as their chatter is. This attack on the refinery led to acute shortages of kerosene, cooking gas, and electricity. We spent many nights without power. Our only source of illumination being the biggish shiny heat reflectors of the Japanese made metal room heaters working on K-oil.

## SINGLE ENGINE LANDINGS

I re-started flying on the AN-24 on 05 Jan 1981. All flying was done at an air strip West of Habbanya Air Force Base which readers may recall was the last Royal Air Force base East of the Suez.

Habbanya was about two hours from Baghdad by road. We would leave on Saturday mornings and return on Thursday evenings. Remember, Friday was the weekly holiday in Baghdad. Once while flying at a height of 4 Kms and practicing Single engine operations, we got the message saying, "Jahannam". That meant air raid, and were ordered to land. I would have preferred to stay at 4 kms, because the Iranian Air Force pilots invariably stayed at deck level, it would have been safer. But the controller said start descent immediately.

One did not argue with Saddam's Air Force. My problem was to get the Flt Engineer to restart the Starboard engine. He failed to do it twice and was panicking. All this while we were descending, and there was palpable fear in the intercom natter. I finally talked the restart procedure to the flight engineer, and got the engine running at about 1 Kms height. Later I learnt that Iraqis seldom, if ever, did actual shut down of engines. In Indian Air Force we do actual shut down regularly. I remedied that by giving my three pupils one single engine landing each, to their absolute delight and confidence, including the Flight Engineer who kept telling me how easy and safe it all was afterall.

## THE OSIRAK RAID

### ALONE IN THE AN-24

In April I returned to Baghdad International airport to continue training on AN-24. On 07 June 1981, I had two instrument flying sorties for the afternoon. Baghdad runway is very long, and after the last landing at about 1840 hrs we taxied back using the whole length. Now starts the action. As we shut down the noisy engines, I opened the side window, and heard the distinct sound of Anti Aircraft firing. Casually I mentioned to the pupil pilot that there must be an air raid near Baghdad because I can hear anti-aircraft firing. Would you believe it, in 10 seconds flat I was alone in the cockpit. The propellers were turning, the aircraft was electrically live, and 'yours truly' was alone in the AN-24. One has to wait for the propellers / engine to stop turning on their own. It was prohibited to de-energise the aircraft with the propellers still turning, because when power is switched OFF the spring loaded system would automatically open the fuel cocks. Since the engine / propellers were turning the integral EDPs fuel pumps would also turn, and fuel would start going into the hot engine which could have

## HISTORY



**Bombed Out:** In 2002, journalists tour the site of the nuclear reactor bombed by Israel during an air raid in 1981

started a fire. I was thinking fast on what to do, when I looked West towards the setting sun, I realised that my aircraft was the only one with rotating propellers in the line of about 10 AN-12s, IL-76s and AN-24s. Those rotating propellers would attract the attention of an attacking pilot. So dear readers, I too ran out from the rear door and sat down about 200 mtrs away. I could not see any of my crew. After about 15 mins I decided to get into the AN-24, de-energise the aircraft, complete the shut down procedure and then walked back to the Sqn.

### THE CONFIRMATION RECCE

On the way I noticed that two 20 kilo-litre fuel tankers were attached to two IL-76s and a smaller tanker was attached to an AN-12. It was clear that refuelling had been interrupted by the air raid warning. At the sqn I was sheepishly met by my pupil and one Col approached me and said, "Just rehearsal, only practice." I acknowledged this

info and told them about the connected fuel tankers, they rushed to take the tankers away. After the debrief one of my pupils offered me a lift home. By now it was dusk, and as we were driving on the perimeter road, the complete air defence artillery opened up. The pupil suddenly froze and stopped the car right next to one Gun position just 10 feet away, and the next thing I knew was that he had opened his door, Left side, and was crawling out; I pulled him in and said that the safest place during an air raid was outside the airfield, so let's get going. It appealed to him, and off we went. Later we came to

know that the aircraft being fired at was the Israeli Infra red recce and it was those photos that Israeli TV showed to confirm destruction of Osirak. Readers would recall that the Israeli attack took place at 1835 Baghdad time on 07 June 1981, right when I was flying instrument training at the International Airport very very close, about 1 Km South of the Osirak nuclear plant.

### SO WHAT ABOUT ME?

As readers know, this was the daring and brilliantly executed Israeli air raid to destroy Osirak nuclear plant. Well, when those 8X F-16s with their 6 X F-15 escorts were attacking Osirak, I was merrily carrying out Instrument Landing practice for my pupils at the international

airport at Baghdad. Not a care in the world, oblivious of the 'tamasha' just one km to my right. Baghdad Air Traffic Control was also unaware about the attack. The other fact is that there was absolutely no other flying in progress over Baghdad International nor at Al Rashid the military base next door. Just me, Anant Bewoor, and his pupil Lt Riyadh; in an AN-24, all alone above Baghdad, with the F-16s and F-15s milling around, one kilometre North of me.

It is ok for me to believe today that the Israelis were not interested in that single AN-24, but what if a twitchy fingered Israeli Air Force pilot had seen us? Surely they must have seen us? The Israelis remember Osirak for their success; I recall it for other reasons. ■

RIMCOLLIAN OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION



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**ROBA**

**WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**10th JULY 2025**





## MINUTES OF THE ROBA WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10JUL 2025



1. ROBA Working Committee Meeting was held on 10 Jul 2025 from 1700 hr to 1930 hrs held at ARTY MESS, Delhi Cantt. The meeting was chaired by **President ROBA** and steered by **Secy ROBA**. Following members attended the meeting :-

1.1	Lt Gen Adosh Kumar	- President ROBA
1.2	Lt Gen Ajay Ramdev	- Member ROBA Working Committee
1.3	Maj Gen Deepak Bisht	- Invitee
1.4	Brig DS Bajaj	- Invitee
1.5	Rear Adm RK Singh	- Invitee
1.6	Col Yash Saxena	- Member ROBA Working Committee
1.7	Capt (IN) Manish Sain	- Member ROBA Working Committee
1.8	Brig Sanjeev Kumar	- Invitee
1.9	Cmde Rana VS	- Invitee
1.10	Brig manoop Grewal	- Invitee
1.11	Brig Rakesh Nair	- Invitee
1.12	Col Vivek Sharma	- Secy ROBA.
1.13	Brig Kamaldeep Singh	- Invitee
1.14	Brig Sonu Taluja	- Invitee
1.15	Lt Col Ankuar Agarwal	- Adm Offr, RIMC
1.16	Gp Capt Nitin Nayal	- Invitee
1.17	Lt Col Abhijeet	- Invitee

2. President ROBA welcomed the members and informed the attendees of some of the ongoing issues concerning RIMC. ROBA Secy then commenced the proceedings and informed the attendees that the quorum had been formed as the working committee to take forward various important aspects. Adm Offr RIMC was representing team RIMC and apprised the house about the following important happenings at RIMC.

2.1 **Exceptional NDA results of the previous course.** He also informed that the efforts are on to continue with the momentum and improve further. The current batch / course has commenced the SSB and initial results are very encouraging.

2.2 **Access Control Mechanism for Entrance at RIMC.** He informed the house of the application being developed to facilitate smooth entry to RIMC campus for Rimcollians and the same would be promulgated soon.

2.3 **Entrance Exam RIMC.** He informed the house about the entrance exam procedure being proposed to be conducted by an external agency. Comdt, RIMC has carried out the detailed interaction with various agencies and non prepared a consolidated proposal to HQ ARTRAC. The proposal, if accepted and approved, will relieve RIMC of additional burden that takes away lot of time. This will further add to transparency in the system.

3. Secy ROBA informed the house about the general well being of Rimcollians and their exceptional performances/achievements. The leadership positions at NDA, IMA and NAVAC, performance on various professional courses and events, as also the approval of promotion to the higher ranks was shared.

4. The house was informed of the ongoing issues and points of information about RIMC and ROBA. The progress on points of AGM 2023 included:-

4.1 **ROBA Website.** It has been under development and being facilitated by ROBA Committee by deep engagement with a developer. The same is ready and complete and will be launched soon. Some of the attendees highlighted the aspects of security and insisted on hiring the services for regular update, if necessary. The house was informed



that ROBA Secy and ROBA Clerk will be responsible for regular updates. A committee may also be appointed. Services of the developer will be hired for patches.

4.2 **Financial Assistance to RIMC.** During the AGM, the assistance for accretional manpower and asset creation at RIMC was approved. The same has commenced with hiring of Technician @ Rs 15,000/- month and ROBA Assistant at RIMC is being paid Rs 8,000/- month since he is performing the additional task (currently employed at PA to Comdt through outsourcing) Rs 1,08,000/- have been paid for the repair and renovation of Audio-Video system in Thimayya Auditorium. Rs 4 lacs have been sanctioned for procurement of Shamiyanas. Bills are awaited from RIMC.

4.3 **Re Naming of RIMC Squash Courts.** It was proposed during the Reunion AGM that RIMC Squash Courts be named to honour the late Brig Raj Manchanda, Arjuna Awardee. The proposal had been considered by RIMC and it has been seen that the courts have earlier been named and changing that will not be appropriate. One of the courts within the Catchpole Courts, may bear the name and decorative board of Brig Raj Manchanda.

4.4 **Increase in the ROBA Membership.** The annual subscription of Rs 500 to Rs 1000/- was proposed and considered during the AGM. Working Committee opined that the current amount of Rs 3000/- is adequate. The list of contribution will be shared with the fraternity to top up the membership. Keeping the security and privacy in mind, it will be shared course wise.

4.5 **Visit of President.** It was brought out that the proposal for the President's visit to RIMC must be progressed with due urgency, as the proposal is still pending with HQ ARTRAC. Maj Gen Vishal Agarwal, Ranjit has been requested to indulge. Lt Gen Ajay Ramdev has assured that he will follow up once the proposal reaches him. Subsequently, Maj Avinash Chetty, ADC to President will be requested to facilitate.

4.6 **Inclusion of New Members in the Committee.** All the attendees have been included into the Working Committee. Air Mshl N Tiwari, Lt Gen K Vinod Kumar and Mr Sidharth Mishra have also been part of the committee but couldn't attend due to last minute commitment.

4.7 **Appointment of ROBA Secy.** Col Vivek Sharma highlighted the need for replacement of ROBA Secy. The same had been approved during the meeting on 05 Oct 2024 and AGM 2025, however, no names have been received. President ROBA mentioned that they had tried to move Lt Col Saumya Ranjan Sahu to Delhi but that didn't work out. After a lot of deliberation and discussion, considered decision was arrived to nominate three Assistant ROBA Secretary from each of the service. Rear Adm RK Singh, Pratap would forward a name from Navy. Gp Capt Nitin Nayal was requested to nominate one from IAF in consultation with VCAS, Air Mshl N Tiwari. President ROBA would also be ready to facilitate posting. Brig Rakesh Nair would be proposing a name from Army. In the meanwhile, search for ROBA Secy will continue.

#### 4.8 **ROBA Trust Points.**

4.8.1 Lt Gen SS Grewal, Trustee had forwarded the point about ROBA Trust amount to be paid by the Cadet on graduating from the RIMC. The house was apprised of the role and function of ROBA and ROBA Trust. Secy ROBA further elaborated about the procedure adopted to have the members/Rimcollians register to ROBA. Since the contribution to Trust is voluntary, RIMC has not been able to deduct from security deposit and put in Trust. All the members were of the opinion that the requisite amount needs to be deducted from the security deposit. President ROBA asked RIMC to consider payment from the security deposit and give feedback at the earliest.



## ROBA WC MEETING

4.8.2 Another point was for hiring of a clerk for ROBA office at Bhikaji Cama. Lt Gen Ajay Ramdev mentioned that he would clarify during the forthcoming Trust Meeting on 19 Jul 2025 that the clerk hiring was agreed to be from ROBA Trust.

**4.9 Staggering Posting of Comdt & AO RIMC.** Secy ROBA brought out that since both AO and Comdt joined together at same time, we would need to plan their relief in a staggered manner. Comdt to be tenating the appointment for minimum three yrs to provide continuity and AO about two and half years. Brig Mandeep Grewal was requested to coord the same with MS-I.

**4.10 Social Media Outreach.** It was informed to the house that the earlier efforts couldn't materialise due to the high cost of content creation.

5. **Reunion @ Delhi.** Secy ROBA proposed to finalise the date for Reunion @ Delhi. Considering the weather condition and other factors of venue, 04 October was proposed being a Saturday. The same had been accepted and promulgated to the fraternity.

6. With deep gratitude to all the members and ROBA Sectt, the meeting was declared closed.



Dated :17 Jul 2025

(Vivek Sharma)  
Col  
Hony Secy ROBA



**ICH DIEN**

**BAL VIVEK**

# The NDA Passing Out Parade May 2025

— BY COL VIJAY GIDH, VSM (RETD)

It is always a pleasure attending the bi-annual Passing Out Parade (POP) at the National Defence Academy (NDA), particularly if a medal winner happens to be a Rimcollian. It was a pleasant Friday morning when we witnessed an impressive POP of the 148th Course of the NDA on 30 May 2025. Pune and some parts of Maharashtra had been witnessing unseasonal heavy rains since mid-May due to some weather disturbances along the western coast of Maharashtra. The hours-long rehearsals of the parade were held in both scorching heat and rain. However, everyone heaved a sigh of relief when the rain clouds were kind enough to clear over Pune from 28 May 2025 onwards, the day of the Commandant's Full Dress Rehearsal.

Gen VK Singh (Retd), Governor of Mizoram and former Chief of Army Staff was the Reviewing Officer for the parade. The POP of the 148th Course assumed special significance, since NDA's first batch of women cadets were to pass out from the portals of the academy. The complete line-up consisted of a total of 1341 cadets divided in 18 contingents of each squadron. Of these 1341 cadets in the parade, 336 were from the passing out course. The passing out cadets included 219 Army cadets, 40 Air Force cadets and 77 Naval cadets, including 17 cadets from Friendly Foreign Countries. 17 women cadets passed out for the first time.

The first batch of women cadets of the NDA, marching in synchrony with male contingents, scripted a new chapter in the history of the Armed Forces on 30 May 2025. The 17 trailblazing women cadets crossed the 'Antim Pag' after going through three years of intense military and academic training, standing shoulder



BCA Tejas Bhatt being awarded with Bronze medal

to shoulder at the Arun Khetarpal Parade Ground.

The women cadets were part of each aspect of the parade. For the first time, they were also 'pilots' to receive the guests to the quarter deck. Like previous parades during their time at the academy, they did not have a separate contingent – instead they marched together with the male cadets, indistinguishable with their military crew haircut and confident stride.

After the parade, the women cadets celebrated the moment together with a 'push up' competition in front of Sudan Block, where they first stepped into the academy three years ago, with the dream to carve their names into the history of the Indian military.

Gen VK Singh, an alumnus of the 36th Course NDA which passed out of the academy 56 years ago, while addressing the passing out course, remarked, "Today as I stood once more

on the drill square of the National Defence Academy – not as a cadet, but as the Reviewing Officer for the 148th Passing Out Parade – I was overwhelmed by memories. Years ago, I marched on this very ground, full of dreams and determination, shaped by the values this academy instilled in all of us: discipline, honour, service. Returning now, I saw these same values reflected in the sharp eyes and steady steps of the cadets on parade”.

“This visit was especially meaningful – it marked a historic moment with 17 women cadets proudly joining the ranks of NDA graduates for the first time. Their grit, grace and resolve were a testament to the inclusive strength of our Armed Forces”.

“These young women are the inimitable symbol of ‘nari shakti’, embodying not just women’s development but women-led development. I envision a future not far from now when one of these women rises to the highest echelon of the service they go to.”

“To return as an alumnus is to walk among echoes of the past, yet see the future marching ahead”.

“To the 148th course – serve with humility, lead with courage, and protect with honour”.

“Jai Hind”.

The most thrilling event for the Rimcollians who witnessed the parade – live or on TV, was the Award Ceremony. BCC Tejas Bhatt was awarded the President’s Bronze Medal. Golf Squadron bagged the prestigious ‘Chiefs of Staff Banner’ for being the Champion Squadron.

The passing out course consisted of nine Rimcollian cadets, of which four



Gen VK Singh congratulating BCC Tejas Bhatt

were from the Army, three from the Navy and two from the Air Force. In addition to winning the Bronze Medal, BCC Tejas Bhatt emerged as the Best Cadet in Firing. ACA Madhav Kumar narrowly missed out on president’s medal, finishing 4th in the overall of merit, however he was awarded a Blue in Squash and Certificate of Proficiency (COP) in Drill. SCC Prabhdeep Singh was the Best Rider of the passing out course.

Some of the other motivation awards won by the Rimcollian cadets in NDA are as follows: Cadet Tathagat Tiwari was awarded a blazer in PT, SCC Nikhil Jangra, a Half Blue in Squash, Cadet Anurag Vipin and Cadet Arnav Singh Bhau won Half Blues in PT. Many cadets were awarded Merit Cards in various disciplines.

It was a pleasure meeting BCC Tejas Bhatt and his proud parents after the parade. I congratulated him on behalf of the Rimcollian fraternity. Tejas (Shivaji, 191st Course) was a student of Beersheba Senior Secondary



The NDA POP Medal Winners

School, Haldwani, Uttarakhand before joining RIMC in July 2017.

Hailing from Haldwani, his father, Mr Krishan Chand Bhatt is a school teacher in Champawat district of Uttarakhand. His mother, Mrs Bhawna Bhatt is a homemaker. His younger brother has just finished his schooling and is preparing for engineering exams.

Tejas has fond memories of his stay in RIMC. He says, “My experience of RIMC is unmatched, we spent a considerable time in the college even during the covid lockdown, tons of memories were created. Everything that I went through has helped me grow, the guidance of masters and instructors at RIMC was always a beacon of guiding light. I am also grateful to my 21 termers for sticking together and strong during the thick and thin. Nothing can match the experience and all round learning that RIMC gave me, such exposure cannot be found anywhere else, not even at NDA.”

Tejas played all games in RIMC and was a Merit Card in Shooting and X Country. He was Section Commander of Shivaji Section in his X term and was awarded the prestigious Sword of Honour

At NDA, Tejas was an all-rounder, being good in games, outdoors and academics. He played basketball, hockey and football first string for his November squadron, and won 3 gold and a silver medal in Inter Battalion Athletics Competition. He was awarded a COP in Chinese and Drill, was the course topper of BA for two terms and a four-star torch holder, and won the Best Firer award among the Army cadets of the passing out course. Tejas was Staff Corporal in his 4th term, Sergeant in his 5th term and BCC in his 6th term.

Some officers of the 48th Course NDA residing in Pune had attended the POP. The 48th Course would be celebrating their Golden Jubilee of passing out from the Academy; and many officers from various parts of India and few from abroad, would be conducting their Reunion in NDA from 09-11 June 2025.

Mr Nana Patekar, the veteran Hindi film actor was among the dignitaries who attended the POP. It was nice to meet him after the parade during High Tea at



Col Vijay Gidh with BCC Tejas Bhatt and his parents

Salaria Square. I congratulated him for his excellent performance as an Army officer in the superhit Hindi movie ‘Prahar’ in 1991. He informed me that he had done an attachment with the Maratha Light Infantry for three years, where he lived and trained as an Army soldier. He was thus familiar with the Army way of life and fully confident of performing the role of Maj Chauhan in the movie.

It was a pleasure to meet the 17 women cadets of the 148th Course when they were lined up in front of Sudan Block, waiting to be introduced to Gen VK Singh after the parade. When I introduced myself as a veteran from the 48th NDA Course, they were thrilled. Our daughter, who is an English teacher in SPM Public English School, Pune, had accompanied us for the POP. The women cadets shared their experiences with her – how the NDA had transformed them in their

3-years rigorous training – from young and shy 16 year old girls to smart 19 year old NDA women cadets, aspiring to be officers in their respective service! Some of the women cadets mentioned that one of the first major changes in their transformation to future officers was that their heads were shaven! They could devote their precious time in studying or resting, rather than spend time tying up their hair!

It was nice to meet DCC Shambhavi Singh, the first women cadet to have passed out from Lima Squadron – my squadron in NDA! We had a photograph for good old memories sake!

The first batch of 19 women cadets had joined the NDA in July 2022. Of the 19, one had to leave because of medical reasons; another quit due to personal reasons. Initially the women cadets were staying separately in Quebec Squadron,

including those who joined in subsequent terms. However, in 2024, it was decided to shift the women cadets to various squadrons. Now, the women cadets are staying in every squadron, they stay on the First Floor on the Office Flank and are entitled to their privacy. The women cadets undergo the same intense physical training, drill and academics as the other cadets. They are running, playing and training together. Every activity is gender neutral.

At present there are 121 women cadets in the NDA, while five had dropped out. There are 34 women cadets from Haryana, 27 from UP, 13 from Rajasthan, 11 from Maharashtra, 06 from MP, 04 from Punjab among others. There are 1.5 lakh girls from across India appearing for the UPSC Entrance Examination for NDA every six months, among the 12 lakh aspirants. This year a girl from Pune has topped the NDA exam among girls and secured an All-India Rank Number 3 among the 12 lakh aspirants!

Out of the 17 women cadets who passed out on 30 May, 11 were holding appointments like Sergeants, Divisional Cadet Captains or Battalion Cadet Captain (BCC). One of them, BCC Ritul Duhan, who hails from Haryana, will go down in history as the first woman to be appointed BCC in NDA; she was BCC, No 5 Bn. Three Silver Medals are awarded now, one each for best Army, Navy and Air Force cadet. BCC Ritul Duhan was awarded the Best Air Force Cadet. Cadet Shriti Daksh is the first woman cadet to have topped the Arts Stream in the history of NDA. Incidentally, her father, Wg Cdr Yogesh Kumar Daksh, a retired Air Force officer is from Hunter Squadron, 86th Course NDA. So she opted for 'parental claim' and joined Hunter Squadron! Shriti's elder sister is also serving in the Air Force, as a Flying Officer.

Gen VK Singh also unveiled a magazine titled 'Breaking Barriers', in which officers and the NDA Commandant have written about their experiences training the first batch of women cadets. It also contains some interesting experiences shared by these women cadets during their three years of rigorous training in the academy.

Maj Gen Sanjeev Dogra (Retd), who was Deputy Commandant and Chief Instructor at the NDA from November 2021 to June 2024, has written an excellent piece titled 'When They First Marched In: A Chronicle of NDA's First Daughters'. It vividly captures the scenario from the time when the 19 girls arrived at Pune railway station in July 2022 till they would eventually pass out from Khetarpal Parade Ground on 30 May 2025, and finally depart from the Tri Shakti Gate one last time.

Gen VK Singh also unveiled a magazine titled 'Breaking Barriers', in which officers and the NDA Commandant have written about their experiences training the first batch of women cadets. It also contains some interesting experiences shared by these women cadets during their three years of rigorous training in the academy

After the Supreme Court in 2021-22 paved the way for women to take the NDA entrance exam after Class XII, the first batch of 19 women cadets joined the NDA in July 2022. Similarly, it was a matter of pride that RIMC also inducted the first batch of girl cadets in July 2022. Initially 05 girls were inducted ever term; however the numbers have been increased to 10 girl cadets from the next term. There are 28 girl cadets presently undergoing training at RIMC and we look forward to July 2027, when the first batch of RIMC girl cadets would be joining the NDA!

The Convocation Ceremony of the course was held at Habibullah Hall on 29 May 2025. Prof Dr Poonam Tandon, Vice

Chancellor, Deen Dayal Upadhyay University, Gorakhpur was the Chief Guest for the Convocation Ceremony. 339 cadets, including 17 cadets from Friendly Foreign Countries were conferred bachelor's degrees from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Of them, 84 cadets were conferred degrees in the Science Stream, 85 in the Computer Science Stream and 59 in the Arts Stream. In addition, the BTech stream comprising 111 cadets from Navy and Air Force, also received three-years course completion certificates. These Naval and Air Force cadets will be conferred degrees after their one-year training at their respective pre-commissioning academies – Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and Air Force Academy, Hyderabad.

It was very heartening to learn that our RIMC cadets performed very well in the UPSC examination for admission to NDA. 28 cadets from RIMC qualified for the final UPSC NDA selections, setting a new benchmark. Cadet Imon Ghosh from West Bengal secured the first position in All India Ranking (AIR), while Kartik Pant was No 5. We had five cadets securing positions in top 20 nationwide and 10 in top 100, out of the 28 cadets who will be joining NDA in July 2025. Well done Team RIMC, we are proud of you!

It was nice to learn that a group of RIMC cadets and masters visited NDA after many years. Lt Col Rakesh Kumar, the Assistant Administrative & Training Officer and Mr UP Dalvi, Section Master, Shivaji Section along with 16 Class VA cadets visited NDA on 17 April 2025, as part of Mid Term Hike. It included Cadet Imon Ghosh and some other X termers, who will be joining the NDA in July 2025. They were also shown the new NDA movie and had later had lunch with the NDA cadets in the Cadet's Mess.

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

# News from NDA, IMA, AFA and INA

## NEWS FROM NDA

The major appointments for Autumn Term 2025 are as under:

- ACC Siddharth Singh
- BCC Ritik Rathee
- BCA Swastik Gautam

## NEWS FROM AFA

AFA Passing Out Parade was held on 14th June 2025. The following young Rimcollians were commissioned today and earned wings.

- Fg Offr P. Navaneeth, 189 Shivaji, Fighters
- Fg Offr Divyanshu Dwivedi, 189 Chandragupta, Fighters
- Fg Offr Sharon Sonny, 189 Pratap, Fighters
- Fg Offr Armaan Singh, 189 Pratap, Fighters
- Fg Offr Sachin Kumar, 187 Chandragupta, AE Branch
- Fg Offr M Lucky Singh, 188 Ranjit, AE Branch

Two Rimcollian Naval Officers were awarded the coveted wings

- Lt Aniket Kashyap, 181 Shivaji, Maritime Recce
- Lt Vishnu Raj, 184 Pratap, Maritime Recce



Rimcollians at the AFA

## NEWS FROM IMA

IMA Passing Out Parade - 14th June 2025

Heartiest Congratulations to our following young stars on taking the final step as Officer Cadet and First Step as the Commissioned Officers.

- Bharat Kadian, Pratap - 78 Armd
- Anurudh Pratap Singh, Shivaji  
1871 Field Regt
- Prakhar Negi, Pratap  
6 Dogra
- Kushagra Sharma, Ranjit  
4 Maratha Light Infantry
- Aman Somra, Ranjit  
4/9 GR
- Harshwardhan Gupta, Chandragupta  
81 Armd Regt



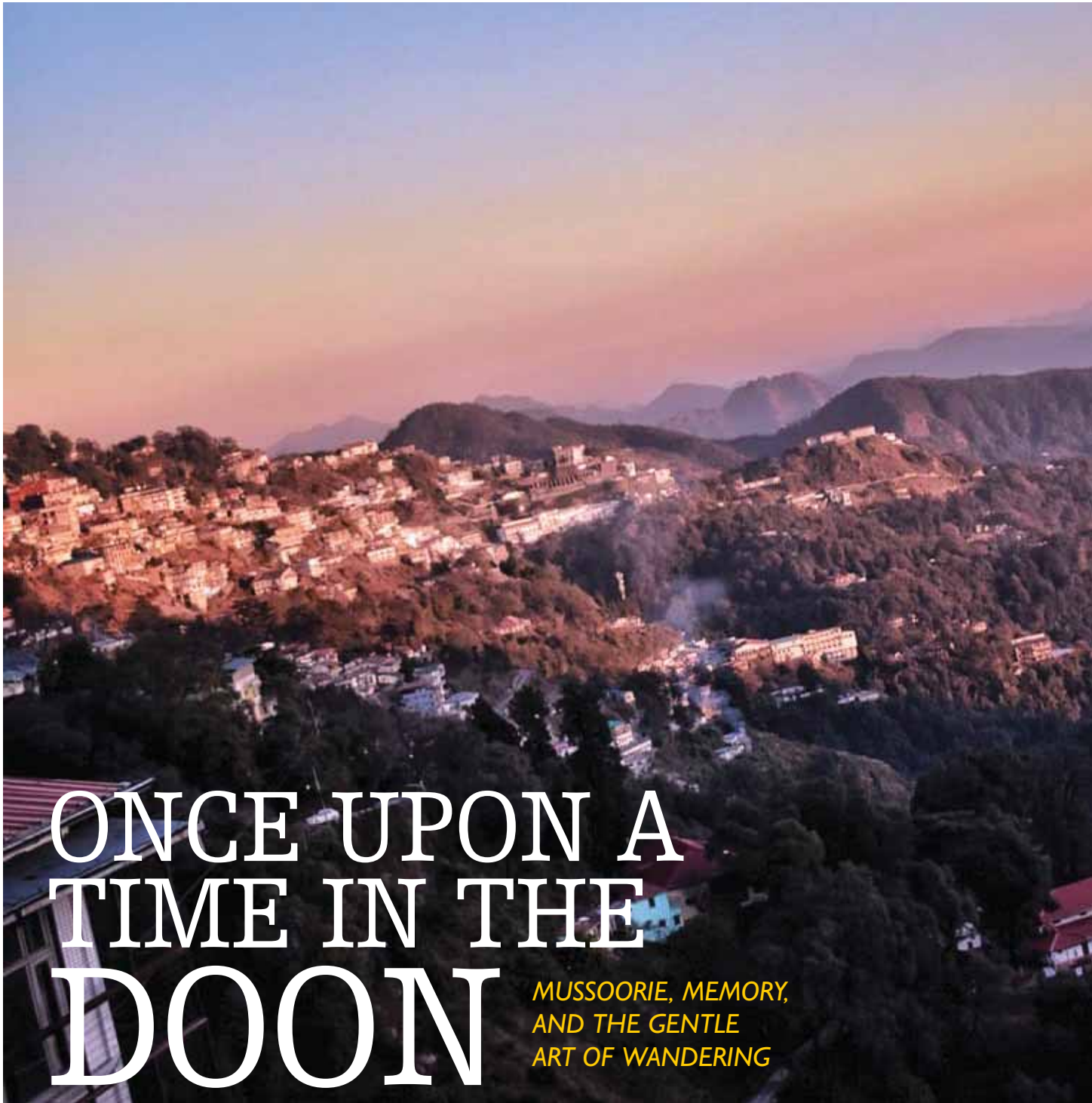
**Standing Left to Right:** Lt D Majumder, Shivaji; Lt Bharat Kadian, Pratap; SLt Aditya Singh Rana, Chandragupta; SLt Manik Turan, Ranjit; SLt Lakshya, Chandragupta; OC Nishkal Dwivedi, Chandragupta; Abhishek Pundir, Shivaji; Maj Vishal Shaw, Shivaji; Mrs Rachna Malhotra; Lt Anirudh Pratap Chauhan, Shivaji; Lt Prakhar Negi, Pratap; Lt Kushagra Sharma, Ranjit; Lt Aman Somra, Ranjit; Lt Aryaman Bhagel, Pratap; OC Abhinav.

(Not in picture: Lt Harshwardhan Gupta, Chandragupta and Lt Ishan Solanki, Ranjit)

## APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT TERM IN IMA

Following Officer Cadets have been appointed to leadership positions at Academy and Battalion level:-

- Academy Under Officer Nishkal Dwivedi, Chandragupta
- Battalion Under Officer Rajveer Bishnoi, Chandragupta
- Battalion Cadet Adjutant Jodha, Chandragupta
- Capt Karan Bainsla, Ranjit has been selected and posted as the Platoon Commander, IMA.



# ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE DOON

*MUSSOORIE, MEMORY,  
AND THE GENTLE  
ART OF WANDERING*

— BY COL SHAILENDER ARYA, & LT COL GAURAV HAMAL, SHIVAJI

Some places, like old friends, are best visited slowly - with patience, curiosity, and perhaps a comfortable pair of shoes. The Doon Valley is one such place. It doesn't lend itself easily to haste or agendas, nor does Mussoorie,

which watches over the valley like a slightly eccentric aunt in a faded but elegant shawl, full of stories if you care to linger. "There is more to life than increasing its speed," said Gandhi, and in the Doon Valley, that feels less like advice

and more like geography.

I read a charming collection of essays, compiled in a book titled 'Once Upon a Time in Doon' edited by Ruskin Bond. Given Bond's decades of lovingly archiving the region's eccentricities, the



title feels entirely plausible and rather apt. It had, as expected, delightful accounts of Doon's (and Mussoorie's) more sedate past—when clocks ticked a bit slower and Rajpur was still more village than suburb.

One chapter, 'IMA, FRI, The Doon School and RIMC', was written by Kunal

Verma, a photographer best known for documenting Project Tiger in the 1980s. He explores how these venerable institutions took root in Dehradun's soft soil. Verma, being a proud product of The Doon School, naturally tips his hat to the school's traditions before turning his lens toward RIMC—its quieter rival across the

way. RIMC, he tells us, sits on 138 acres of green lawns, not far from the Doscos, against whom Rimcollians have long earned their stripes on cricket pitches and hockey fields. The rivalry is spirited, but never quite bitter - more a continuation of an old colonial pastime: friendly antagonism in blazers.

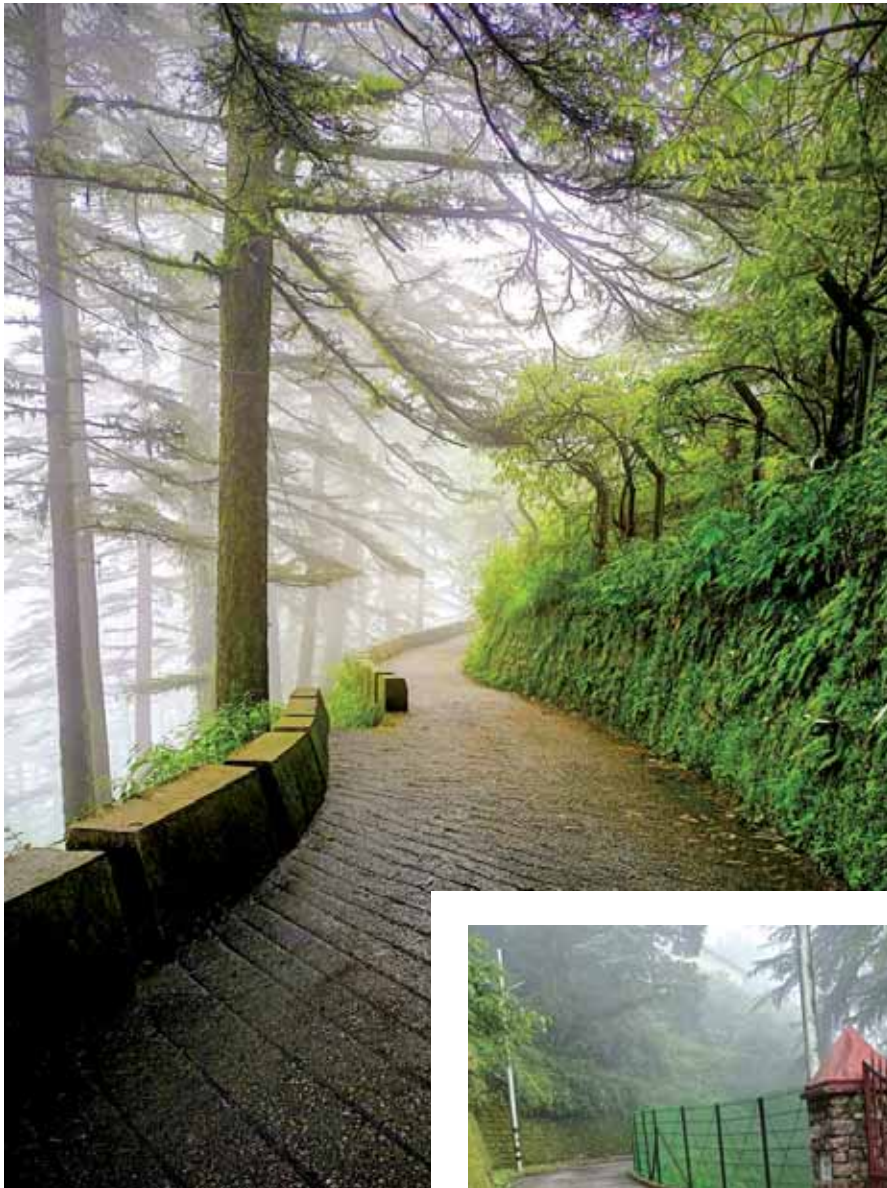
Among the many thoughtful excerpts in the book was a letter by Jack Gibson, an iconic schoolmaster who taught at The Doon School and later served as principal of Mayo College. He never did take the helm at the NDA, despite the myth. In his letter to a parent, he advises that each boy must learn to think clearly, endure hardship, and understand lives outside his own. Words that might feel lofty today but seemed almost obvious when one grew up in the Valley—where winter frost and summer mudslides were great levelers.

And then, there's Mussoorie. A name that, depending on whom you ask, comes either from a local shrub ("mansur") or, more entertainingly, from a bandit named Mansur who once ruled these hills. Bill Aitken, a long-time resident and seasoned wanderer of the region, suspects the latter. He argues that the British, ever uncomfortable with naming hill stations after outlaws, may have concocted the botanical explanation to save face. After all, nothing like a bit of Latin nomenclature to put a gloss on dacoity.

But Mussoorie doesn't really care what you call it. If you pay attention—and walk slowly enough—it will show you its true self. The real Mussoorie isn't found on Mall Road or in weekend crowds, but in the quieter by lanes and forgotten footpaths: the circuitous Camel's Back Road where one can still catch glimpses of Tehri in the distance; Lal Tibba, which rewards the persistent climber with a brief, miraculous slice of untouched forest; and those little 'hole-in-the-wall' chai shops that offer overly sweet pahadi tea alongside golden, blistered samosas and dangerously hot gulab jamuns.

There are still old wooden houses stacked like books in a dusty shelf, each one craning its neck for a bit of light, jostling for a bit of view. Mofussil bazaars

## NOSTALGIA



where the goods are ordinary, but the conversations are gold. Cobbled paths where Deodars lean like sleepy sentinels, rustling ever so faintly, carrying with them that clean mountain scent that somehow manages to stir both memory and appetite.

You'll find that appetite comes quickly here. Whether it's the altitude, the walking, the Deodar-scented air, or just the faint thrill of being nowhere in particular, Mussoorie makes one hungry—not just for food but for time itself. Time to sit, time to wander, time to remember.

Whenever it snowed in Mussoorie for the first time each winter, we were



given a special reprieve from the humdrum routine. Under the guidance of 5 and 5A - we would, with a packed lunch which invariably (and unimaginatively) consisted of puri and aloo, trek up the bridle path that began

at Kuthalgate, just north of Rajpur. This trail, once a mule track, was Mussoorie's lifeline in the days before motorcars. It kept the summer retreat of the Raj stocked with everything from condiments to colonial comforts. Ladies who balked



Shakespeare Road, Dehradun Cantt

at riding sidesaddle were hoisted up in doolies or palanquins, borne by sweating coolies with mountain calves and infinite patience.

That old path, sadly, has now been paved over—and if you attempt to walk it today, you do so at the peril of being run over by self-styled Rossis on Royal Enfields. Yet the views remain enchantingly familiar: layer upon layer of blue-green hills unfolding like a breath held too long, and the mist draped Don valley in the distance. On a clear day, you can see silvery Ganges snaking in the distance to the Southeast.

In fact, so keen was the British interest

in Mussoorie that a railway survey was once conducted to extend the line all the way up to the hill station from Dehradun. As early as 1898, an ambitious route was proposed - complete with tunnels, switchbacks, and sheer ambition—but it proved too expensive and technically treacherous. Apparently, even British engineering balked at the idea of hauling steam engines up those inclines, and the grand plan was shelved, leaving the hill to its own quiet devices. One suspects that Mussoorie, with its half-wild soul and its scandals in tow, was quite content to be left alone.

Evenings often arrive in soft rain. The

clouds roll in like houseguests who don't need an invitation. In moments like these, these lines from Kipling's *Namgay Doola* come to mind; "...the last puff of the day-wind brought from the unseen villages the scent of damp wood-smoke, hot cakes, dripping undergrowth, and rotting pinecones. That is the true smell of the Himalayas, and if once it creeps into the blood of a man, that man will at the last, forgetting all else, return to the hills to die."

One doesn't need to be quite so dramatic, but there's truth in the sentiment. The smell of pine needles after a rain. The silhouette of a monkey on a corrugated tin roof. The damp, musty scent of libraries with windows cracked open to let in the mist. If you've spent any length of time in the Doon Valley or in Mussoorie's quiet shadows, you'll recognise these things not as details, but as old companions.

There are other oddities, of course. General Frederick Young, who once raised the first Gurkha regiment from fierce and proud Nepali hillmen, also had the good sense to introduce potatoes to the region - an act arguably more revolutionary than all his military exploits. Young Road is named after him. And nearby is Shakespeare Road, named for Colonel Henry Shakespeare, known to the locals as 'Devi Sahib' for his devotion to a nearby temple. His son, who grew up among the Gurkhas, was fondly called "Devi Sahib ka Chhokra" - a title far more endearing than anything in the Army rolls.

These small stories - odd, charming, often half-forgotten - are the heartbeat of the Valley. They're what turn a postcard landscape into a place that lives in you long after you've left.

Mussoorie and the Doon Valley are best discovered on foot, at a wandering pace, perhaps with a dog or a notebook in tow. \**"Not all those who wander are lost,"* Tolkien reminded us, and in these hills, wandering is not a detour - it's the destination.

And who knows? Around the next bend, there might just be a bench, a samosa, and a view you'll never quite forget. ■

# QUICK FLIP

Rimcollians at the Army Aviation Lunch get together on 09 Mar 2025 @ Manekshaw Centre Delhi



L to R: AS Bedi (Shivaji), Harjot Saighal (Shivaji), Narayan Chatterjee (Pratap) and CM Bali (Ranjit)



In Europe: Col Vijayant Singh (left), Chandragupta, 137 Course our DA in Czech Republic finds Deepankar Trivedi, IPS, Shivaji 138 Course on an official visit in Slovakia. They both had a wonderful Rimcollian meeting, on the sidelines. The settings are magnificent.

Young Rimcollians at Pune for the wedding of Lt Cdr Kaushal, 173 Shivaji, with Ms Shubhra, on 08 March 2025.



Attendees: Lt(IN) Anushil, Lt Cdr A Shukla, Maj Rudrasish Majumdar (retd), Flt Lt Chetan, Maj Prathamesh Kohale, Maj Chandrakant Acharya, Mr Prasad Bagauli, Capt Gaurav Kumar, Capt Shashank Dahiya, Lt Cdr Sourabh Thorve, Capt Yugant Pandey.



Rimcollians at the Valedictory Function of HDMC 20 at CDM Secunderabad.

L to R: Col Ankur Kaushal, Chandragupta; Gp Capt Parijat Jha, Shivaji; Brig Rakesh Nair, Chandragupta; and Col Ashutosh Kumar, Chandragupta.

Farewell Tea hosted by The Rimcollians Fraternity for Col RK Singh, Chandragupta and Lt Col Kavi Kashyap, Shivaji.



L to R: Lt Col RP Singh, Brig K Jitendra Singh, Pratap; Col RK Singh, Chandragupta; Lt Col Kavi Kashyap, Shivaji; Col Shailesh Sharma, Pratap; and Lt Col Arjun, Chandragupta

## Rimcollians Meet at Chandi Mandir ~ On the Sidelines of an Important Event



**L to R:** Brig Shankar, Chandragupta, Brig Vaibhav Agarwal, Ranjit, Col Punar Mann, Ranjit, Lt Gen Mohit Wadhwa, Pratap, Brig Ravinder Singh, Shivaji, Brig Sumit Kapoor, Chandragupta and Col SS Tanwar, Shivaji.

## Professional Achievement of a Distinguished Rimcollian

**Mr Kranthi K Tata, 1991-96 Shivaji**

I am humbled and deeply honoured to receive the Leadership Award from the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (@SASE). I've had incredible opportunities throughout my career to collaborate with talented colleagues and this is a recognition to the teams at GE Aerospace and Unison that do incredible work to invent the future of flight. My heartfelt thanks to SASE for this honour and for their unwavering commitment to growing STEM careers. Their efforts inspire countless professionals and students to pursue their passions and make a lasting impact to science and technology. To everyone who has been part of my career journey — thank you for your support and encouragement.



SASE - Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers  
SASE is proud to announce Kranthi Tata with Unison GE Aerospace as SASE Pro's Distinguished Career Award winner for 2025. With over 25 years of experience, Kranthi has established himself as a growth-oriented leader in strategic and operational management across industrial and service industries. His career with GE spans multiple segments and geographies, including North America, Europe, and Asia. Throughout his career, he has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership in P&L management, operations, and technology by investing in people and culture, developing and executing strategic initiatives, fostering innovation, and driving significant customer and business outcomes. As President & CEO of Unison, Kranthi is shaping the future of aerospace technology while exemplifying the values of leadership, resilience, and innovation. He understands the importance of being at the forefront of managing change to make a profound impact on aviation and beyond. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence are raising Unison to new heights, expanding our horizons in the industry and inspiring future generations of leaders. Join us at STEM Connect (<https://lnkd.in/gGNyrbFv>) in Pittsburgh, PA, Oct 1-4, 2025, to help celebrate Kranthi Tata!

## Col Sarfraz Singh, Shivaji hoists the RIMC Flag atop Mt Kanchenjunga



Col Sarfraz scaled the mighty Kanchenjunga on 19 May, leading a joint Indo-Nepal Mt Kanchenjunga expedition, one of the toughest 8000 meter peaks of the world.



With the President of India

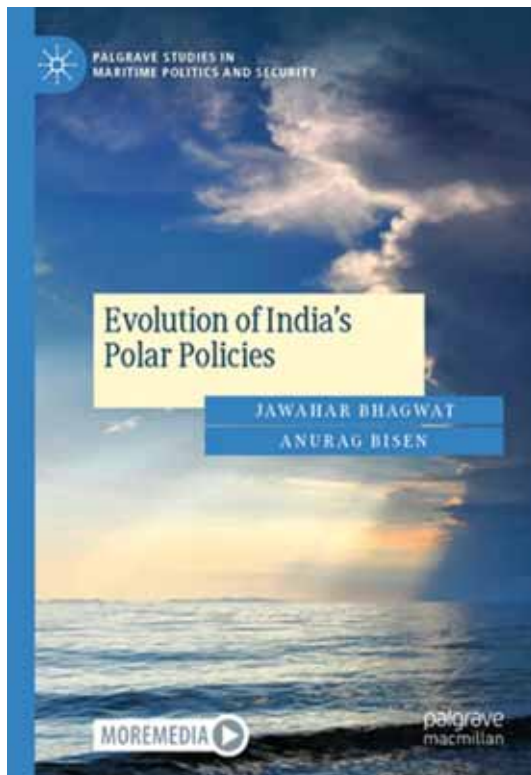
## The Adventures of Col Sarfraz Singh

Col Sarfraz Singh, Shivaji continues to inspire the generations with his prolific adventure cravings.

Col Sarfraz Singh at the flagging-off of the India-Nepal Joint Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Kanchenjunga, 8586 metres. The expedition was flagged off by Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri in presence of CDS and COAS in April 2025 from the South Block, New Delhi.



# NEW ARRIVALS ON THE STACKS



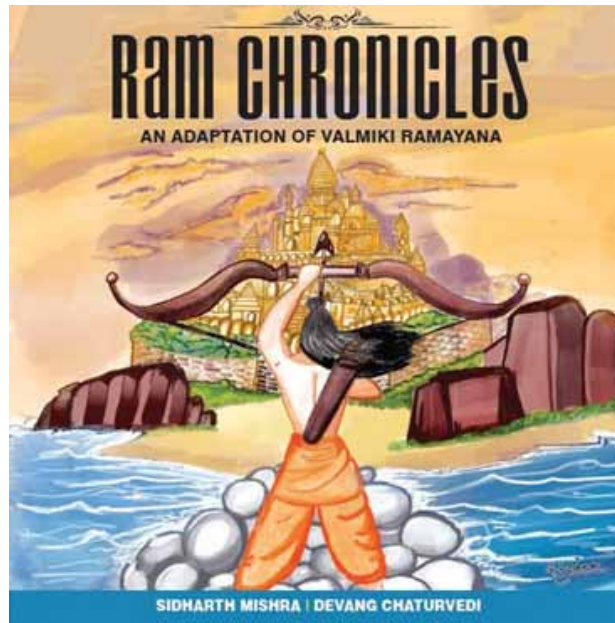
Indeed a great honour for the brotherhood to have Capt (IN) Anurag Bisen, 116 Chandragupta, and currently Senior Fellow, VIF get his co-authored book released by the Russian Ambassador, Secretary Ministry of Earth Sciences, Director, Vivekananda International Foundation, Executive Director, Northern Forum and Indian Ambassador to Russia (online) – March 2025

By Brig Suyash Sharma, 114 Chandragupta released the book in March 2025



“Pun Unintended: Read at your own Risk”, as the name suggests is a book to be savoured at leisure. An assortment of witty, humorous and satirical take on a number of topical issues as also serious introspection on some of them. The topics chosen by the author range from current international affairs to the mundane domestic ones and at times are anecdotal where the author has touched upon his own experiences in his illustrious military life.

Eminent journalist, best-selling author, academician and above all publisher of The Rimcollian, **Prof Sidharth Mishra** (Ranjit/115) has come out with a work of lifetime, the adaptation of *Valmiki Ramayan* in English. This effort has been appreciated by **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath**, who has penned the foreword and **Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood**, who has written the preface to the book. The book is available on Amazon & Flipkart. To avail a greater discount mail to [sidharthmishra@hotmail.com](mailto:sidharthmishra@hotmail.com) or WA +917303807451



The effort behind Ram Chronicles, tailored for millennials, is a labour of pure devotion and dedication by the diligent duo of veteran journalist and academician Professor Sidharth Mishra and his young colleague Devang Chaturvedi, who tirelessly invested long hours to ensure the success of this book. It promises to introduce Gen Z to our cultural and spiritual heritage.

– **Yogi Adityanath**  
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Prof Mishra and Mr Chaturvedi's insightful storytelling makes the legendary epic accessible to a contemporary audience. Whether one is a devotee, a scholar, or a casual reader, *Ram Chronicles* offers a thought-provoking and compelling journey that bridges the gap between myth and reality, making the wisdom of the *Ramayana* relevant for today's world.

– **Ashish Sood**, Education Minister, Delhi

## VCAS - One Rimcollian takes over from another

**Air Marshal N Tiwari** took over as Vice Chief of Air Staff from Air Marshal SP Dharkar, another eminent Rimcollian, who superannuated on April 30.

Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the South Western Air Command, took charge as the new Vice Chief of the Air Staff on May 2. He succeeded Air Marshal S P Dharkar, who superannuated on April 30.

In October 2024, Air Marshal Dharkar, an accomplished fighter pilot, had assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Air Staff. He had succeeded Air Chief Marshal AP Singh who is currently the Indian Air Force Chief.



Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari



Brig Mudit Mahajan, Shivaji, the Poonch Brigade Commander, briefing the media after Operation Sindoor



Maj Gen RD Sharma takes over the Bison Division in South India, June 2025

### PROMOTIONS & NOMINATIONS

- **Mr Akshay Joshi** has been empaneled as Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

#### ARMY

- **Colonel to Brigadier:** Ardaman Jit Singh Jauhal, Siddharth Ranjan, SS Tanwar, Punar P Mann, Abhishek Patnaik, Abhijeet C Tembe, Gaurav Batra, Himanshu Pawar, KM Nithin Kuttappa.
- **Brig to Maj Gen:** Mandeep Grewal, BJS Soni, Anuj Kalia, Rohit Teotia, RD Sharma, Amaresh Gunjan, Rakesh Nair.
- **Maj Gen to Lt Gen:** Ajay Ramdev.

#### NAVY

- **Captain to Commodore:** Amit Sood and Sumanta Roy
- **Commander to Captain:** Fanchal Barua, Abhimanyu Dalal, Arun Mahalingam, G G Raturi, Brijesh Mishra, Ashok Garg, Rishiraj Chaudhary, Ashish Kumar Abhishek Jain, Asoom Sharma.

#### IAF

- **Gp Capt to Air Cmde:** Gopi Mohan.



Lt Gen Ajay Ramdev takes over the DGIT, April 2025

— BY COL SUGANDH SHARMA

I believe the school had a bird watching club or a hobby that alas, died a premature death. In Dehradun's verdant campus, bird watching can offer aspiring defence officers invaluable tactical training disguised as peaceful observation.

**Reconnaissance Skills Development**

Distinguishing between a dove and a pigeon at distance mirrors the precision required for military surveillance. Cadets can learn to detect subtle

behavioral changes in birds that often indicate human presence—essential intelligence-gathering skills for future operations.

**Mental Resilience and Discipline**

Extended silent observation sessions can build the psychological stamina needed for reconnaissance missions and crisis decision-making. The patience required to track a Himalayan woodpecker's movements develops the mental discipline crucial for long-duration military operations and selection interviews.

Strategic

**Thinking Analyzing** bird territorial patterns and predicting movements based on environmental factors cultivates the strategic mindset essential for military planning and tactical operations.

**Environmental Intelligence**

Cadets can naturally develop expertise in reading environmental indicators—recognizing when wildlife behavior signals changing conditions or potential threats, skills highly valued in field operations.

**Campus Training Ground**

From dawn patrols near the cadet's mess observing house sparrows to tracking seasonal migrations, our campus provides a natural laboratory for developing observation skills, stealth, and situational awareness.

The birds surrounding us offer tactical lessons no classroom can provide, preparing tomorrow's officers through nature's own training program. ■

*(The author belongs to 120th Course/Chandragupta. All pics have been clicked by the author within his home in Dehradun. None of the birds are captive)*

# BIRDS OF DIFFERENT FEATHERS GATHER TOGETHER







# Olympics medallist visits RIMC

**M**anu Bhaker, Olympics double medallist visited Rashtriya Indian Military College on 20 July 2025 to interact with the cadets and faculty members. She was in Dehradun on a shooting training visit and took out time from her busy schedule to visit the school. This was made possible by the efforts of Maj Avinash Chetry, Shivaji. She addressed the RIMC community in Thimayya auditorium, visited the Rifle Shooting Range and interacted with the cadets. She was especially impressed by the interest shown by girl cadets in the sports of shooting. She happily signed autographs with them and also got photographs with other cadets. She was presented a memento on the behalf of the school. Bhaker has 2 medals at the Olympic Games, 22 medals at the World Championships and World Cups, as well as 10 medals at the Asian



Games and Asian Championships. At the 2024 Olympics, she became the first Indian woman shooter to win a medal by clinching the bronze in the 10m pistol event. She won another bronze in 10m

pistol mixed team, becoming the first Indian to win two medals in a single Olympic Games. Bhaker is also the youngest Indian to win gold medals at the World Cup. ■

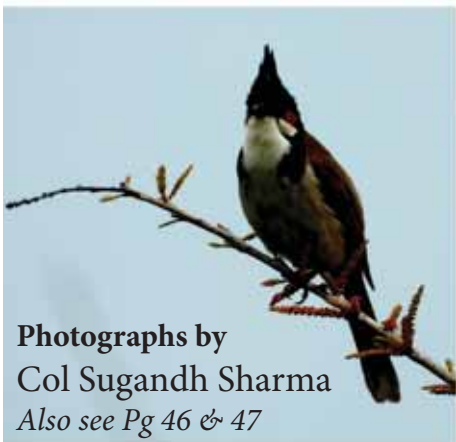


# LAST POST



Ser	Rank and Name	Year at RIMC	Section	Date of Death
1.	Maj Gen Naresh Kumar Chadha	1948-52	RAW	17-Apr-25
2.	Lt Gen RK Gulati	1948-54	KIT	16-Apr-25
3.	Lt Col Gur Iqbal Singh	1955-59	SHI	03-Apr-25
4.	Capt Raj Mohan Jolly	1953-56	SHI	03-Aug-25
5.	Ravi Maitrey	2014-19	RAN	22-Aug-25





Photographs by  
Col Sugandh Sharma  
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