

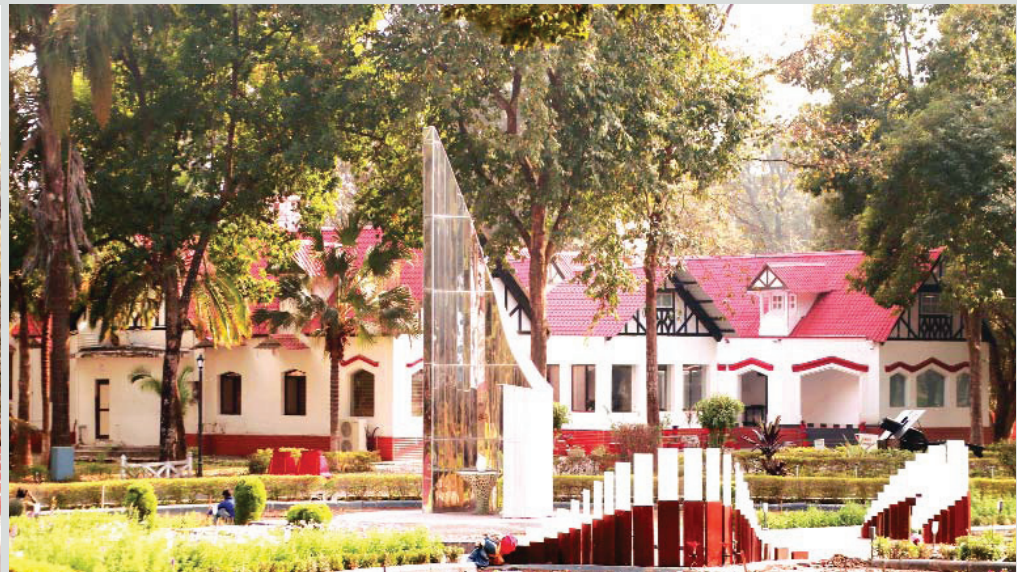
Vol XVII Issue-I (Bi-Annual) | March 2023

The Rimcollian

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



Centennial Change - The first two batches of girl cadets at Rajwara Camp



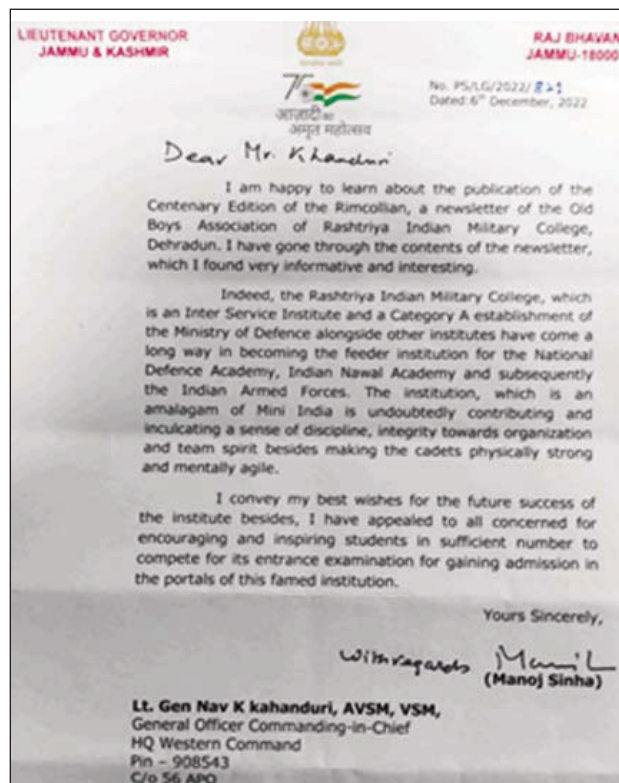
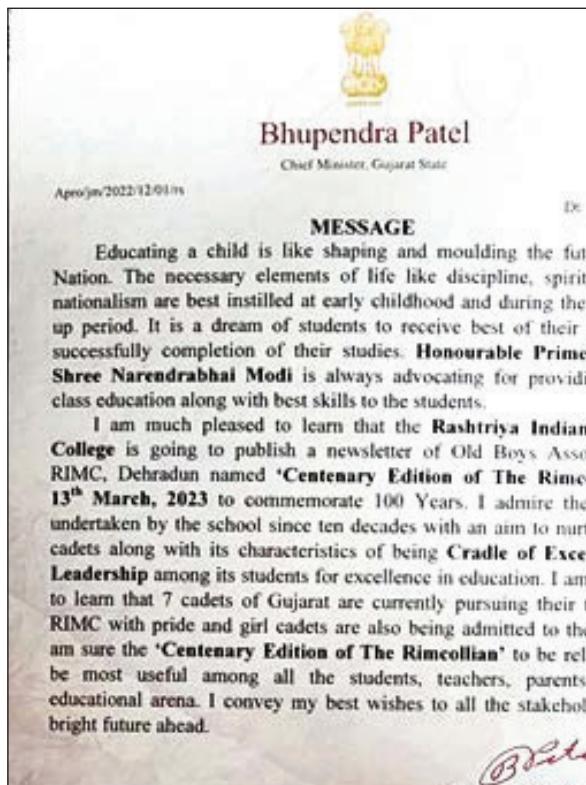
LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Editor, Newsletter

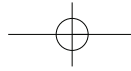
I feel supremely delighted to know that you have been elevated to occupy the Editors chair. Please accept my heartiest Congratulations and my complements. I also wish to inform you that all the articles are very well composed and have great merit. I express my high appreciation. They make very absorbing and interesting reading. All the photographs are also from the top drawer. I am certain that under your care the Newsletter will flourish further.

VG Nene

Ex Vice Principal, RIMC



WRITE TO EDITOR
with your valuable feedback
robamagazine@gmail.com



The
Rimcollian



Bi-Annual Newsletter of the Old
Boys Association of Rashtriya
Indian Military College,
Dehradun
Vol. XVII No. 1
(March 2023)
RNI No. DELENG/2005/15400

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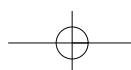
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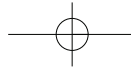
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MAIL ARTICLES TO: robamagazine@gmail.com





Jo'ttings - Editor's Note



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

Dear Rimcollians,

The 13th of March is approaching, a catch 22 for many of us who want to make the pilgrimage to our beloved alma mater, as well as partake in local reunions in our respective zones and places of work / stay - wherever we are and whatever be the number of old boys. Rimcollian Reunions, especially those in Dehra Dun, are eagerly awaited every year, with alumni making it from far and near.

The Rimcollian magazine too, a biannual undertaking is also an eagerly awaited publication with a summary of news Rimcollian. The many subscribers look forward to their own hard copy notwithstanding the often-highlighted point of this being a digital era and a soft copy should do.

A delayed receipt of *The Rimcollian* invites a good chiding and so one can imagine non receipt. The distribution is a herculean task that is undertaken by the team as is the upkeep of addresses by ROBA and this is a matter that needs to be addressed and fine-tuned. For starters, you will all agree that it is our responsibility to ensure our address at ROBA is kept updated. And in this regard, it may be prudent to have our permanent addresses in.

Requests for having the calendar every year have also came up. We had published the calendar series only till the Centenary, but we could look at the same if there is interest Rimcollian wide.

The transition to the new ROBA management has also happened seamlessly, with all new office bearers hitting the ground running.

The new developments and discussion in our community is the successful enrolment of girl cadets at RIMC. We now have two batches at school. While there may be critics and naysayers and plenty of debate on the pros and cons, there is also some food for thought. It has long been a value system and a community shaped by the idea of 'man provider, woman homemaker'; times have changed and the responsibilities both in and out of the house, for both men and women have evolved.

Men often don't realise that many women still have a choice to make (and often a difficult one) at some stage of their life that men almost never have to make - a decision on home or career.

Most importantly particularly in today's world one cannot deny anyone their choice. Choices must be open to all and there should not be a compromise on what has to be followed in an organization or a profession.

While there are many Rimcollians contributing I will request more old boys and families to put pen to paper and contribute to 'The Rimcollian'. Do mail it directly to the editor as and when an event occurs.

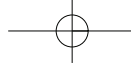
Special thanks to our publisher Prof Siddharth Mishra and the editorial team members Col Shailendra Arya and Col Sanjay Kannoth for their selfless and tireless work.

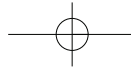
Ich Dien & God Bless

Enjoy Reading

Mar 2023

— **Cmde N Anil Jose Joseph (Retd)**
Ranjit 1977 - 82





MESSAGE FROM **PRESIDENT**



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Dear Rimcollians,

It has been indeed a very gratifying experience discharging the duties of President ROBA for past eight months with the blessings and support of our fraternity. The guidance from elders and constant inspirational path followed by our generations of Rimcollians has set the right pace in 101st year of our illustrious journey, The list of gallantry and distinguished awards on Republic Day to our Rimcollians, are testimony to the tradition of valour and wisdom and the glorious future that we embrace.

The watershed moment for RIMC has arrived with 10 girl Cadets on campus which has changed the complexion of our institution, for the better. Having been closely monitoring the happenings at RIMC with deep involvement with RIMC administration, in pursuing various aspects, it is reassuring to see that we are turning our challenges into the opportunities, very well.

Our younger generation continues to excel at the PCTAs with leadership role at NDA donned by our Cadets. In the professional progression within the services, Rimcollians are making a mark contributing to the growth of the organisation. Even in all other spheres, old boys are a class apart and we as a fraternity have assumed a pivotal role in Nation Building.

I am grateful to all the old boys in their volunteer service to RIMC with precious time, expertise, ideas, contributions with moral and material support in making our institution better each day. I exhort each one to come forward with our expertise and make a difference. Through the office of ROBA and ROBA Trust, we remain committed to support our Alma mater wherever they need hand holding.

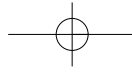
As we turn 101 this year, wishing the RIMC, Rimcollians and the extended family the very best of times

GOD BLESS RIMCOLLIANS - ICH DIEN.

LT GEN NAV K KHANDURI
901/C (1975-79)

MARCH  2023





March 2023/**REMEMBRANCE**

Adieu - Gen Niranjan Singh Malik

— **SIDHARTH MISHRA**

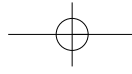
It was sometime in 1995, few months after I had debuted as a journalist that I had received a call from Col (later Maj Gen) Harjot Sehgal for attending a meeting in the South Block office of then Adjutant General, Lieutenant General Madan M Lakhera. It was to be working committee meeting of the association, whose secretary Gen Sehgal was. The meeting was scheduled for the evening. I calculated that from the meeting I could go to my newspaper office for the evening shift. I wondered what to wear for the meeting and how do I carry my office papers. The standard dress code in the newspaper offices those days for the journalists was jeans, sandals and a kurta or a t-shirt, at best a shirt tugged out with collar open. Here I was required, though nobody had sent me the dress code, to be smartly turned out complete with shining shoes and tie. Instead of the cotton bag slung across the shoulders, I carried a leather brief bag.

I got dropped by a Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus on Rajaji Marg and walked to the rear end of South Block. My name was there in the invitee list and was ushered into the office of the Adjutant General, which overlooked the Raisina Hills. Gen Lakhera flanked Gen VN Sharma, then ROBA president, and on the other side of Gen Sharma was the legendary Maj Gen Virendra Singh. On seeing me, Gen Virendra Singh introduced me, "here is a rogue who is pushing the pen, and we have to give him some work for the Platinum Jubilee." I suddenly realised that among the select group of people in that office that day were those who constituted the ruling brass of Indian Army -- Lt Gen Sundarajan



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March 2023/**REMEMBRANCE**

**Old Boys Association of
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A rare photo dated 13 March 1998, Commandant, Col Arun Mangain escorting senior most old boy Maj Gen Virendra Singh and then ROBA president Lt Gen NS Malik.

Padmanabhan, Lt Gen Vinay Shankar and Lt Gen Niranjana Singh Malik.

My discomfiture in that group of aged and immaculate could be well-appreciated. I hardly contributed anything in deliberation that day. After the meeting, as I stood in a corner, Gen Malik walked up to me, stretched his hand and said, "Hi, Sidharth, I am Niranjana Malik." On the morning of January 10, 2023 when Col Vikram Kadian informed that Gen Malik was gone, I realised that I was going to miss the call of "Hi, Sidharth" delivered in the sharp voice with a smile.

In the next meeting of the association, I had given the wish list -- funds for printing the Platinum Jubilee volume and making of a documentary. Gen Malik by then had taken over as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (DCOAS). Both the projects were funded by the Indian Army, the profit

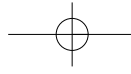
I AM GLAD WE MET AT THE SCHOOL, HE WAS NOT EXACTLY IN THE PINK OF HIS HEALTH. BUT THEN HE AND SHAKUNTALA MA'AM WERE SO HAPPY TO BE ON THE CAMPUS FOR THE CENTENARY AND SEE US ALL. "HI SIDHARTH, TU MERE KO MILTA NAHI HAIN (YOU DON'T MEET ME)," HE HAD SAID WITH THE SAME SMILE AND SHARP VOICE BUT SOMEWHERE POOR HEALTH WAS TAKING A TOLL ON HIS PERSONA

from the sales of the book and screening of the documentary on Doordarshan formed the seed money for the publication of *The Rimcollian* in the early years. He must have done much more for a very successful organisation of the Platinum Jubilee, which Maj Gen SVP Singh could share as he doubled-up as association Secretary and MA to the DCOAS.

At the Platinum Jubilee annual general body meeting, Gen Malik was elected ROBA president. It was a unique AGM with a big contingent of Old Boys attending from the across the border and one among them was a former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Lt Gen Sahibzada Yakub Khan. I had the opportunity of working closely with Gen Malik thereafter. I cannot forget how he and Gen Viru worked overtime to get a Rimcollian General out of the trap he had landed himself in.

MARCH ◆ 2023





March 2023/REMEMBRANCE

I was smuggled by Gen Malik and Gen Viru to the house of the unfortunate General near Lodhi Garden, where he was under house arrest. The real story of Tehelka scam was laid bare before me. On coming out of his house, Gen Malik had mentioned that it was not going to be easy for me to write the copy but as a true Rimcollian I should learn how to swim against the tide.

This prepared me for my interaction with my editor, the venerable late Dr Chandan Mitra. Chandan remained quiet for a while after hearing the story, took a puff from his cigarette and said, "The story would be published prominently but you decide whether you want to give your name to it or not. The chances of public backlash is immense." I decided to own the story, and when I look back I realise, it was the first nail in the coffin of the scandalous team of Tehelka magazine. It could happen because Gen Malik had given me the strength that day to learn how to swim against the tide. Going against the tide, I recalled he had tried to help a young serving Rimcollian facing General Court Martial proceedings too.

Some kind of a bonding happened between us. I covered his election, he had contested on a BJP ticket during the 1999 Lok Sabha polls from Kairana seat in Western UP. I remember a bus-load of Rimcollian veterans arriving in the dusty town of Shamli to campaign for him. Unfortunately during the course of campaign, he had a cardiac attack. Shakuntala Ma'am tried to keep up the morale of the campaign but then politics is a different ball game.

Later he took in a big way to social work specially spending time for the education of girl child in the rural belt of Western UP. His spiritual Guru, Swami Kalyan Dev was a great social reformer and spent his lifetime for the education of children specially girl child. He would for years profusely thank me for having put together a team for doing the biography of his Guru. In fact at times it became embarrassing too. But then he was like that.

With passage of time the

Eulogy Gen NS Malik

In human mortality, another paladin 'passeth'. May Gen NS Malik rest in peace! I convey my heartfelt condolences to family and friends of Gen NS Malik.

In 1989, under Joint Implementation Plan-86, my newly re-raised, upgraded and up gunned AF Sqn (104) and I were directly 'under command' of then Brig NS Malik, BGS X Corps. He was my direct 'hands on the till' boss, and a 'God Father'.

He was the finest soldierly gentleman general I served, and revered, because he sought no sycophancy, gave no quarter for 'Biradri', only asked for highest degree of professionalism, to understand requirements of the army, to prepare and practice new employment doctrine for joint air-land warfare, using attack helicopters (Mi-35s) in the desert sector, for a war that seemed highly plausible at that time. He was a good teacher and preacher with high intellect, extraordinary energy and chutzpah, pushed me up the steep gradient of the learning curve quickly.

The "Malik Doctrine" for joint air-land warfare perhaps continues to be in vogue even today. "In Memoriam." *Wg Cdr Unni Kartha (Retd).*

interactions became digital, thanks to WhatsApp. When the Centenary editions of *The Rimcollian* started to publish in 2021, we had carried a story on Gen Malik writing a letter as ROBA president to then Prince of Wales (now King) Charles about the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the role of his ancestor in the setting up of the school. On receiving the copy of the September 2021 issue of the newsletter, he phoned, "Hi Sidharth, how do you manage to keep these records?"

The last digital interaction with him was on 5 March 2022, when Gen SF

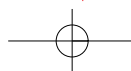
Rodrigues passed away. He shared a short personal obituary, "I would like to convey my heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Gen Rodrigues, my mentor, guide and philosopher. I would like to put down in short our relationship throughout my career in the army. I served as DS with him as CI at DSSC where, after a few bouts of disagreement, we developed respect for each other. He had named me 'Rebel' and "Pakad Danda". This was his name for Rimcollians based on the literal translation of the name of our principal Mr (Hugh) Catchpole in Hindi. Here he saved me from being downgraded for heart problem and miss my posting to Iraq by getting me to be seen by a doctor in Coimbatore. Next I was fortunate to serve with him, commanding Independent Armoured Brigade. He was my Corps Cdr. Next he was my Army Cdr when I was Div Cdr. Next Chief with me as Corps Cdr. His words to congratulate me on my promotion to Mtn Bde Cdr, written in hand, said - See, you are better off with me. Later he would pull my leg on joining the BJP. I feel devastated. We pray for his soul to rest in peace. Om Shanti, Om Shanti. Niranjan Malik, his rebel and Pakad Danda."

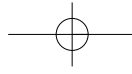
In the same conversation he had mentioned, "I will send you extracts of what I have written in my 'Musings of a Rebel' a book by me ready for publication. Can you suggest a publisher? Best wishes and see you at the school." I am glad we met at the school, he was not exactly in the pink of his health. But then he and Shakuntala Ma'am were so happy to be on the campus for the centenary and see us all. "Hi Sidharth, *tu mere ko milta nahi hain* (you don't meet me)," he had said with the same smile and sharp voice but somewhere poor health was taking a toll on his persona.

There would be so many others who would have similar pleasant experiences to share about Gen Malik, Adieu Sir, we would remember you very fondly. ■

The writer belongs to 115th Course, Ranjit Section.

MARCH ♦ 2023





March 2023/**ROVING EYE**

Old Boys Association of
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Bangalore Chapter Get Together; Gorging on Veg Scotch Eggs



Bangalore Rimcollians get together was long overdue from pre-Covid time but somehow could not materialize. Lately, after a strong push from K Cherian, Bangalore Rimcollians Lunch finally fructified on 04 Sep 2022. After a lot of pondering, the venue was decided as CMP Centre and School with Lt Col Shanker Swaroop being posted there.

Like any other Rimcollian get-togethers, the number growth in the attendance roster was sluggish in the beginning with some waiting for others to take the lead, while few waiting to weigh their decision conditional to the final brewing strength. Ultimately, it caught up pace in harmony towards the fag end with a total of 20 Rimcollians making it after conquering Bangalore traffic. With ladies and children inclusive, the final head count was 32.

Fortunately, few transiting Rimcollians also attended. The closing attendance was as under: -

- (a) Chiranjit Banerjee
- (b) Lalit Kumar Bhatia with lady and daughter



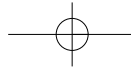
- (c) K Cherian with lady
- (d) Oinam Marjit
- (e) RS Bhatti with lady
- (f) RN Balagopal with lady
- (g) Sanjeev Agarwal
- (h) Girish Kumar
- (i) Jasbir Bajwa with lady
- (j) PS Swaroop with lady and son
- (k) DK Singh with lady
- (l) Praveen Kumar with lady
- (m) Rajan Chhikara

- (n) Brajesh Kumar with lady and son
- (o) Buddha Jyoti Kar
- (p) Venkat Parthasarthy
- (q) Ashish Pun
- (r) Prabhat Kumar
- (s) Jeyjo Pothen
- (t) Ramkesh Singh

The jamboree started with getting to know each other, catching up with old friends, remembering bygone school

MARCH ◆ 2023





March 2023/ROVING EYE



days, the 'in my times gup-shup' etc. To have a variance from the usual table of events, Swaroop conducted a musical game to assert supremacy of Ranjit Section. All sections were found struggling for triumph, especially

Chandragupta Section but axiomaticly, Ranjit emerged victorious.

Though a little delayed, the lunch spread was sumptuous and scrumptious. Swaroop was fearing a

likely shortfall in catering with the sudden influx of strength on the last day, but by good fortune, it ended up being abundant. An interesting part of the menu was the inclusion of a new RIMC dish; Veg Scotch Egg. While Swaroop's intention in briefing the cooks was for the customary RIMC scotch egg, however due to non-deliberation and a mere assumption of it to be comprehended as a meat dish, the cooks prepared the delicacy in a vegetarian role. Notwithstanding, even that turned out to be a 'hit', especially for the vegetarians. Now we have a new fare for inclusion in RIMC menu dictionary.

The happy times culminated in a group photograph for memoir, with splashing pluck cards of the four sections and cheering. An overdue chapter finally accomplished jubilantly.

Kochi Get-together: From the Eyes of a Midshipman

Midshipman Harshvardhan Singh Rathore, 184 / Ranjit

Even though we had never met, we nevertheless managed to get along, we all shared a craving for scotch eggs, coffee mould and tipsy, and yet somehow, weirdly enough, CBs were not Charge Books but Cutting Bounds, and for us, football stood in for soccer. These similarities ensure that the Old Days and the Old Boys always find each other.

I am getting ahead of myself here. The first thing, the young Midshipmen from the First Training Squadron did on reporting at Kochi was to look for Rimcollians in the base and join the WhatsApp group. The knowledge that our senior Rimcollians were close by lend us wings. After joining ITS we got busy getting our sea legs. We had a mix of sea sorties, studies and sports and we learnt the nuances of seamanship, ship handling and so much more that we can fill pages. Towards the end of our course, we had our Passing Out Ceremony on board the ship and the Valedictory dinner to put an official closure to our training.



SITTING ON GROUND FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Sub Lt Harshvardhan Singh Rathore, Sub Lt Hrithvick Patiyal, Sub Lt Prakhar Thakur, Sub Lt Shreyanshu Jha, Sub Lt Ajay Joseph, Sub Lt Jitendra Kumar Verma, Sub Lt K Vishnu Raj.

SEATED CHAIRS LEFT TO RIGHT

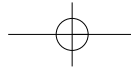
Ms Asmita, Mrs Jyoti Anoop, Ms Aaravi, Mrs Sumanjita Prakash, Master Vandit Raaj, Mrs Rita Mathews, Cdr Raju Mathews, Mrs Jenny Joseph, Mrs Amrita Roy, Mrs Megha Gopinath, Ms Ann Mary Joseph.

STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Lt Shashank Shekhar, Cdr Anoop Sharma, Sub Lt Aurobindo Mishra, Sub Lt Anmol, Lt Anshul Sahu, Capt Sumanto Roy, Cmde N A J Joseph, Sub Lt Puru Saraswat, Cdr Rakesh Kumar, Lt Cdr HP Chamola, Lt Cdr Nithun Gopinath, Lt Sourabh Thorve, Sub Lt Vivek Yadav.

MARCH ♦ 2023





March 2023/ROVING EYE

**Old Boys Association of
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Of course, no training can be complete without a Rimcollian get together at Kochi. And thus, to celebrate our passing out, Old Boys from Kochi and nearby gathered for a get together at Katari Bagh steered by the Rimcollians doing sub courses. The night was filled with nostalgia, expectations,

humour and excitement while our bellies were filled with good food. Senior Rimcollians, Cdr Raju Mathews and Cmde N A J Joseph graced the occasion with their families and Rimcollians from Kochi Naval Base joined the Band of Brothers. The get together was an eye opener on the

camaraderie we shared across generations. Such a friendly and relaxed get together has certainly encouraged us to perform well and to maintain our fervour and zeal to succeed in our voyage in the Navy and keep the RIMC flag flying high.

ICH DIEN

Rimcollians in Kolkata



Rimcollians at Kolkata at the get-together of their 37th NDA Course from 01-03 Feb 2023.

Sitting L-R: Col JS Sidhu, Chandragupta; Col Swapan Bhadra, Ranjit~ Sword of Honour & Gold Medallist at IMA; Maj Gen SVP Singh, Shivaji, Col CS Lehl, Shivaji.

Standing L-R: Brig DD Kapoor, Pratap; Maj Gen Pradeep Mital, Pratap; Col AK Arora, Pratap & Maj Gen B Shivashankar, Pratap

Get Together At MHOW



Lt Gen PNA Ananthanarayanan hosted 198 Course as well as officers doing various courses at Mhow in the Infantry House on 28 Sep 2022.

Rimcollians at 39 Gorkha Training Centre, Varanasi, November 2022



Left to Right: Brig Rakesh Nair, Maj Gen CS Dewgun, Maj Gen Alok Kacker, Maj Gen DA Chaturvedi, Col YS Meitei, Brig Sinha, Brig Anil Malhotra, Col Hitesh Duggal

Rimcollians Mumbai get-together on 27 Nov 2022



MARCH ♦ 2023



March 2023/**COVER STORY**

Breaking Glass Ceiling

The change of Centenary for the RIMC would be best remembered for opening its grand gates for the daughters of nation. During the academic year 2022-23, 10 girl cadets have joined the school. The first was Gargi, who joined in the Summer Term 2022 and remained alone for a good six months before nine others joined her in Winter Term 2023. These girls arrived on the campus on January 24. On February 11, filmmaker Dr Ankit Sharma was on a visit to the school and requested for a shoot with the girls in uniform. The way they carried

THE PIONEERS

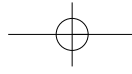
- Cdt Gargi
- Cdt Janavi Koralli
- Cdt Aahna Tiwari
- Cdt Aditi Vishnudas Shinde
- Cdt Telluri Agnas
- Cdt Shambhavi
- Cdt Sharvi
- Cdt Niyanta Pal
- Cdt Moringthem Arnika Devi
- Cdt Abhipshaa Mohanta

themselves is a sure indicator of them matching their classmates step-by-step. On the same evening Cadet Shambhavi became the first girl cadet to anchor an official programme in the historic Thimayya auditorium.

We are also sharing the suggestions which were filed by alumni Professor Sidharth Mishra with the government on the directions of the Supreme Court, and which in turn have become a guiding principle for the induction of the girl cadets and expansion of infrastructure.

— EDITOR



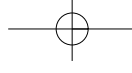


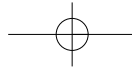
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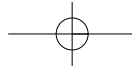


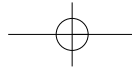
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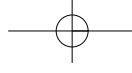


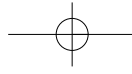
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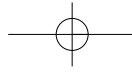
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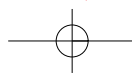


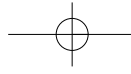
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CRDJ - Centre for Reforms, Development and Justice

Regn No. RDS/North/254/2011 (Delhi)

10 September 2021

Advocate Aishwarya Bhati, ASG
Learned Counsel for Govt of India
New Delhi

Reference: Suggestions Vide Ho'ble Supreme Court order in the intervention application in Writ Petition [C] No.524/2021.

Madam,

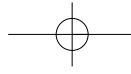
The suggestions are being filed in the view of the SC order dated 8th September 2021 in Writ Petition [C] No.524/2021.

At the outset I must compliment for being the torch-bearer of the movement for equal opportunity for women in the uniformed forces and the history would recall your contribution with the reverence it deserves.

Coming to the point at hand, the affidavit in reply of the Government clearly states that since RIMC is a feeder institution to the NDA, whatever decision is taken qua NDA would be applicable to RIMC. With the assumption that the opening of the gates of the RIMC for the girl child is only a matter of time, these suggestions are sought to be made.

However, Madam, mere opening of the gates of RIMC for girl child would not herald equality per se and we may be witness to what happened with the armed forces following the Babita Puniya case, following which the Supreme Court in the **Lt Col Nitisha Case**, where **Hon'ble Justice DY Chandrachud** enlightened the world on the concept of **Indirect discrimination**. My suggestions Madam, thus is made under two heads –



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Concerns and Way Ahead.

CONCERNS

Indirect Discrimination. Given the inertia of the system and inherent biases, there may be an intent to deny equal opportunity to the girl. In the support of this concern the discriminatory promotion policy of the army, which was subsequently struck down for the Hon'ble SC court in March this year, could be cited.

Size of the Pie. RIMC is a centre of complete education like the Sandipani Rishi's ashram of the yore, where the Krishnas and Sudamas rubbed shoulders without discrimination of social and economic stature. A large number of students, especially in the post-independence era of this near 100-year-old institution, have come from rural and sub-urban background upholding the **Spirit of Equality**, as enshrined in our constitution. Thanks to the education received at the RIMC, they have gone onto become military leaders of great acumen and also in the other fields of life including in the fields of journalism, environment, education and not to forget law among others, the **late Vice Chairman of the Law Commission Sh NM Ghatate**. If we allow girls without increasing the small strength of 250 students at the school, we would be **shrinking the size of the pie for the boys from the rural and sub-urban background** who have thus far benefitted from government's benevolence.

While I have raised these valid concerns, I also wish to submit a roadmap towards the resolution of this problem.

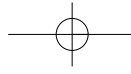
Way Ahead

Madam, in 2006 the Government brought in a policy of reservation for admission of students from other backward classes in the institutions of higher education through **Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admissions) Act**. This act was upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as it **proposed to increase the size of the pie** without taking away the opportunity from the students who were already enjoying it.

Madam, here I would like to draw your attention to a report in **The Times of India dated 23 January 2019**, which would give some idea of the

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roadmap adopted by the government for the successful implementation of the policy. (Quote starts): “The government introduced reservations for OBCs in higher educational institutions in 2006, with a mandate that 27% seats will be reserved for persons from the backward communities.

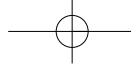
In order to ensure that the percentage of seats for other categories are not adversely impacted, seats across HEIs were increased by 54%. The expansion was implemented in phased manner till 2012. The government granted additional funds to the tune of Rs 2,166.89 crore to central universities and Rs 4,227.46 crore to centrally funded technical institutions for accommodating OBC quota.” (Quote closed)

To understand how the size of the pie was increased, please refer to the article in **The Hindu newspaper dated 25 June 2013**, which gives details of the financial provisions made by the government for the implementation of its initiative of social equality vis-à-vis Delhi University. I quote: From 2007 onwards, Delhi University and its many colleges have been rich, flushed with funds from the University Grants Commission for the OBC expansion scheme. To use the university’s own wording, this has been “the biggest disbursement of funds in the history of the University involving the sanctioned non-recurring grant to various colleges of more than Rs. 436 crore and a recurring grant of more than Rs. 883 crores.” (Quote closed).

To increase the size of the pie, your attention is also sought to another news item dated August 1, 2019 in the news portal **News18.Com** (<https://www.news18.com/news/india/ugc-sanctions-more-teaching-posts-in-delhi-university-under-obc-expansion-scheme-2254409.html>), which would give an idea about how the faculty strength was increased to meet the demands of expansion and not dilute the standards of the teaching-learning process. A relevant quote from the article: “An expert committee constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) approved the release of teaching posts in the second-tranche under the OBC expansion scheme to share the increasing workload of teachers in colleges affiliated with Delhi University.

The official further added that approximately 500 Assistant Professor-level posts would be created under the scheme.” (QUOTE Closed)



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Conclusion

Madam, as the saying goes, there are no free lunches thus **no government policy of social change can be implemented without the adequate financial provisions** as evident in the case cited above.

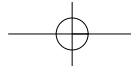
The applicant could cite these cases as he was at the helm of implementing authority of three Delhi University Colleges – Maharaja Agrasen College, Shivaji College and Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, as the chairman of the governing body of these colleges between 2003 and 2013.

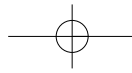
As an alumnus of the prestigious Rashtriya India Military College it has been my proud privilege to make these suggestions on the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. As a conscientious citizen of this country I would be at the beck and call of government to give any further assistance in the matter.

With Best Regards,

(SIDHARTH MISHRA)

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Scientific Approach To Physical Fitness

— COL RAJIV AHLAWAT



Col Rajiv Ahlawat (1988-93, Pratap) is a fitness expert who regularly delivers lectures on fitness and physical training. He has commanded an Engineer Regiment and the Cadet Training Wing at Pune — *Editor*

“To achieve the desired physical activity goal with minimum effort without injuries”

INTRODUCTION. Physical fitness is of paramount importance for anyone aspiring to join the defence forces and the importance and the focus to maintain it, gets further amplified during the professional career. A major drawback of the existing approach to physical fitness is that it is entirely based on physical training (practical) with total absence of any physical education (theory) due to which the efforts to get fit are not commensurate to the output achieved, besides leading to injuries and a large number of us not being able to maintain the desired standards of physical fitness throughout our lifespan.

RIMCOLLIAN SPORTSMEN. RIMC is known for legendary sportsmen at the national level and we all grew up hearing the stories of exploits of Rimcollians at NDA and thereafter in service. Finding a place in the Limca book of records for having the unique distinction of maximum number of Arjuna awardees was a feather in the cap for RIMC.

NEED FOR ADOPTING/LEARNING SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

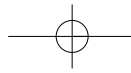
■ We have limited time and energy to learn and excel, due to multiple physical activities. So, the knowledge can help us to excel despite the challenges of less time.

- Knowing the basics of exercise science will help us to keep ourselves physically fit throughout our life despite the challenges of weather, injuries, limited time, age and availability of exercise equipment.
- The sports infrastructure, professional coaching and sports culture/competitive eco system in civil has improved by leaps and bounds in the last few decades. The ease with which Rimcollians could excel in any competition sport few decades ago, may not be possible in the present environment with the age old approach of “Practice makes a man Perfect”.
- My desire to join RIMC was fuelled by the urge to have maximum playtime in my life. RIMC provided the perfect environment and facilities for activity hungry young boys.
- **Fiery Spirit of a Young Boy** - One of the bizarre examples of what human body can do was my insistence to play as a member of the college hockey team against the Old Boys team in the traditional hockey match during March 1992, which was to be followed by my boxing finals, an hour later. When I think of my stubborn decision now, it amazes me ! But it portrays the infinite energy and enthusiasm at RIMC.
- **A Matter of Chance and Circumstances turned into**

Opportunities : On the sporting front a lot of things happened by chance or circumstances. I was never a volunteer for boxing, but was nominated rather late (Class IV) when I was spotted by one of the seniors as a penalty for wearing a boxing glove (being a non-boxer) and having fun with one of my boxer classmate. Thereafter, I went on to win two medals at RIMC. The desire and strength to participate in javelin came from the strong shoulders (which were outcomes of boxing practice) and participating in discus throw was again incidental. One day while returning back to dormitory after a practice session of javelin throw, I was making fun of one of my seniors in Pratap section who was practicing discus throw.....as to how just a lightweight disc compared to the heavier and more difficult to throw ‘Javelin’. He asked me to give it a try to reinforce his view that discus throw was technically more difficult than javelin. I gave it a try and realised that perhaps it was a better event.....didn’t hurt the back much if one could master the technique. While it didn’t excel at RIMC, I started participating in discus throw and earned a silver medal at IMA. Another day, I was selecting the triple jump team of Pratap section as officiating Section Commander (Class VA). Since the probable didn’t seem to be

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At Police Training College - Rohtak

performing well, I requested them to give me their spikes for demonstrating how to jump. I happened to jump more than them, and in the bargain nominated myself as the second participant from Pratap section. I was lucky to win a silver medal, two days later, much to my surprise ! In cricket, one never used to get chance to bat, being relegated to 7-down position. But, after the fiery exposure to stopping practice in hockey (standing in the goal post to stop full throttle/lightning shots by forwards from the D-top), I garnered courage to opt for opening batsman's slot (which had few takers due to fear of facing the fastest bowler). So, at least a chance to bat was definitely assured, how much one scored wasn't very important, as long as one could bat through initial few overs.

Triple Jump surprise performance in RIMC - Never underestimate!

■ **Nehru Cup 1990** - Col DH Parab, then Commandant RIMC gave us a

lifetime opportunity to participate in Sub-Junior Nehru Hockey Cup at New Delhi. The practice matches to prepare for the tournament included National level teams like ONGC, Railways, ASC Centre Jalandhar, Punjab Armed Police etc. The participation in Nehru Cup gave us an insight on what it takes to rub shoulders with national level teams in terms of skill, stamina, hard work, difficulty in managing studies with sports and above all; the mental preparation. The demands of performance instilled respect for any athlete or sportsman competing at National and International levels.

- **Lessons Learnt at RIMC** - The sports and fitness curriculum at RIMC enshrined/imbibed following in us :
- Never under estimate the capability of the human body.
 - Yearn to learn everything and don't presume inability due to your physical size
 - Complementarity of Sports - Each type of sport can develop new talent and physical abilities, some of which may empower/transform your

capabilities in another sport, which you were not good at earlier.

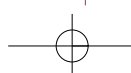
- Refereeing sports competitions is an enabler to develop Officer Like Qualities (OLQ) and imbibes discipline and confidence.
- You may not be the best, but give your best in whatever you do !!!
- I was not the best in anything, but never left any opportunity to learn and participate. I would summarise my proficiency in sports at RIMC, in Swami Vivekanand's quote

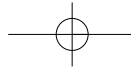
“Some are better than me and I am better than some. But nowhere I am the worst”

Turning Point : Tenure at CTW. The opportunity of being entrusted with the responsibility of training of GCs of Technical Entry Scheme (TES) at CTW CME was the role destiny played in the start of my journey in the field of sports science. I recollect two important events during this tenure which generated my interest in this field -:

- **Guest lecture on Scientific Running** - We used to receive many requests seeking participation of CTW cadets

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in long distance running/Marathons being conducted in Pune. One day I requested one of the retired officers (who was coordinating one of these competitions) that I wanted someone to give a talk to the cadets on scientific aspects of running, rather than just focussing on participation. Based on my request the officer connected us to Mr Anand Hatwalne, an IT professional who was also training a group of marathon runners in Pune. After attending the talk, I kept pondering that we had been running since the age of 11 years and yet a person from a civil life was more proficient on this subject, while we had no clue.

- **Hockey Team Practice Session** - One day when I was overseeing the CTW hockey team practice, I noticed that one of the cadets (who was to pass out in the next few months) was not bending down properly while playing. The entire team was sent to the Sports Medicine Centre (SMC), Pune to get the hockey specific fitness evaluation done. The results highlighted less leg strength and back strength of that GC, besides other aspects of some other players in the team. This left me wondering - If after four years of military training a cadet's legs and back were still weak, when will they ever be strong? Also, if a cadet has been passing all his mandatory tests such kind of weakness should not occur. I sought an appointment with Deputy Commandant of APTC next day to seek answers to my queries. Post interactions, I understood following:
 - All aspects of physical fitness can't be tested by any training institution. So, only few important tests (considered to be relevant for our profession) are identified to determine physical fitness.
 - Many other muscles required for specific sport may not be at the desired level of fitness, and hence, will need specific/additional fitness regimen.



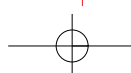
Triple Jump surprise performance in RIMC - Never underestimate!

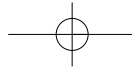
Putting things into Motion at CTW - An old saying 'The proof of the pudding lies in eating'. So, it was decided to put things into motion at CTW. A number of measures related to **scientific approach** to Physical Training of cadets were introduced, which were instrumental in reducing the number of hospital admission and Sick Leave cases due to injuries by about 35%, besides improvement in results of sports and cross country. CTW, CME made a historical clean sweep by winning all five trophies in the Inter CTW Triangular Sports Meet 2017. The results reinforced the belief in the

newfound knowledge and best practices :

"Preparation is more important than Practice"

Dissertation at Higher Command - The quest to pursue this knowledge as research work during my Higher Command Course started on a dim note. Bubbling with the enthusiasm to progress the recent learning at CTW (lest I forget the lessons by the end of next tenure), I decided to choose a greenfield topic for my M.Phil dissertation **"Physical Training Methodology in Pre Commission Training Academies : A Critical**





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An excellent exposure from RIMC in the Nehru Cup

Review". During my first interaction with the professor to finalise the topic, he highlighted that the research is more likely to be a military paper as there were no books, other countries do not put the details of pre commission training in the open domain etc. So he suggested to look for an alternative topic and discuss again on the following day. I went back home and contemplated, 'To persist or choose the easier option', and much against the Rimcollian tradition of choosing the path of least resistance, I decided to follow my inner voice. I went back the next day and informed that I would like to pursue by first choice of topic. If the dissertation turns out to be below average work, so be it (many before me would have also done the course so I too will----- NDA learnings !!!). The dissertation gave me great insights, because all research was based on my primary data and more than 15 questionnaires/surveys. The injury pattern data compiled after intensive survey questionnaires was the most important facet of the dissertation



Lecturing the cadets at RIMC

because unless we know the problem, we can't find solutions.

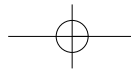
Bringing a Change : There are two ways to bring about a change, top down or bottom up. I believe that spreading awareness of whatever one has learnt to those who need it, may in some way help them in achieving their goals rather than trying to bring about an institutional and policy change. So far

the journey has been good and I have been able to connect with many people through various institutions. The interactions have been encouraging, but it's a long way to go !

CHALLENGES

The challenge of following a scientific approach is that right from our cadet days, we are motivated and





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QUALIFICATIONS.

- World Squash Federation. Certified Level I coach
- Red Cross Society. Certified by Indian Red Cross Society in First Aid & CPR.
- American Council on Exercise.
 - o Certified Physical Trainer
 - o Specialisation in Youth Fitness
 - o Certified CEC in Training of Female Athletes during different stages of life

Guest Lectures 15 Guest lectures in last two years

- Schools. RIMC & Faculty Development Programme for Administrative Officers and Vice Principals of 33 Sainik Schools organised by Sainik Schools Society.
- Pre Commission Training Academies. Cadets Training Wing, CME (TES Entry) & OTA, Chennai
- Category 'A' Institutions/Officer Training. Armoured Corps Centre & School, Infantry School, Mhow, Military Institute of Technology, Junior Command Course and College of Military Engineering, Pune.
- Category 'B' Institutions/Regimental Centres. Bombay Engineering Group & Centre and Mechanised Infantry Regimental Centre.
- Other Govt Departments. Police Training College, Sunaria (Rohtak)
- Veterans.

Research & Articles

- GOC-in-C ARTRAC Gold Medal at Higher Command Course for best dissertation on "Physical Training Methodology in Pre Commission Training Academies of Indian Army- A Critical Review".
- Article on "Physical Training Methodology", published in Army War College Journal 2020 awarded Brig NB Grant Memorial Gold Medal for the best published article by an Engineer officer in any magazine in year 2020.
- Article "Active Aging for Army Veterans" Directorate of Indian Army Veterans (DIAV), AG's Branch magazine 'Sammaan 2022'.



At Sainik School Society

taught to give our best in whatever we do, and not conserve anything for later. This approach is essential to be built in our psyche because in war against an adversary we may never get a second chance and giving less than your best may result in defeat. So, these learning are also implemented in sports and running competitions, where maximal

effort is demanded, not the right/required effort essential for that activity! Perhaps, with knowledge, the approach to both will change (war and sports)

"Use your best efforts for application at the time and place of your choosing"

Way Ahead : RIMC is overflowing with budding achievers in all walks of life. It is the dream of every Rimcollian to see our cadets being empowered in scientific approach to physical fitness, so that they achieve outcomes with minimal efforts and no injuries and outshine the older generations. We see them as future role models in the defence forces and brand ambassadors of 'Lifetime Physical Fitness'. It's a Long Way to Go, but time has come to make a beginning!

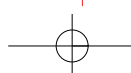
CONCLUSION

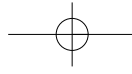
Most of the Rimcollians are 'Done and Dusted' by the age of 40-50 due to some or the other injuries which could not be recuperated fully and are unable to participate in any rigorous physical activity/sport in the latter half of their life. The focus of every Rimcollian should be 'Lifetime Physical Fitness', for which the foundation has to be laid in the schooling years. ■

rajivsudesh11@gmail.com
9589097305

(Any Rimcollian seeking advice is most welcome to contact)

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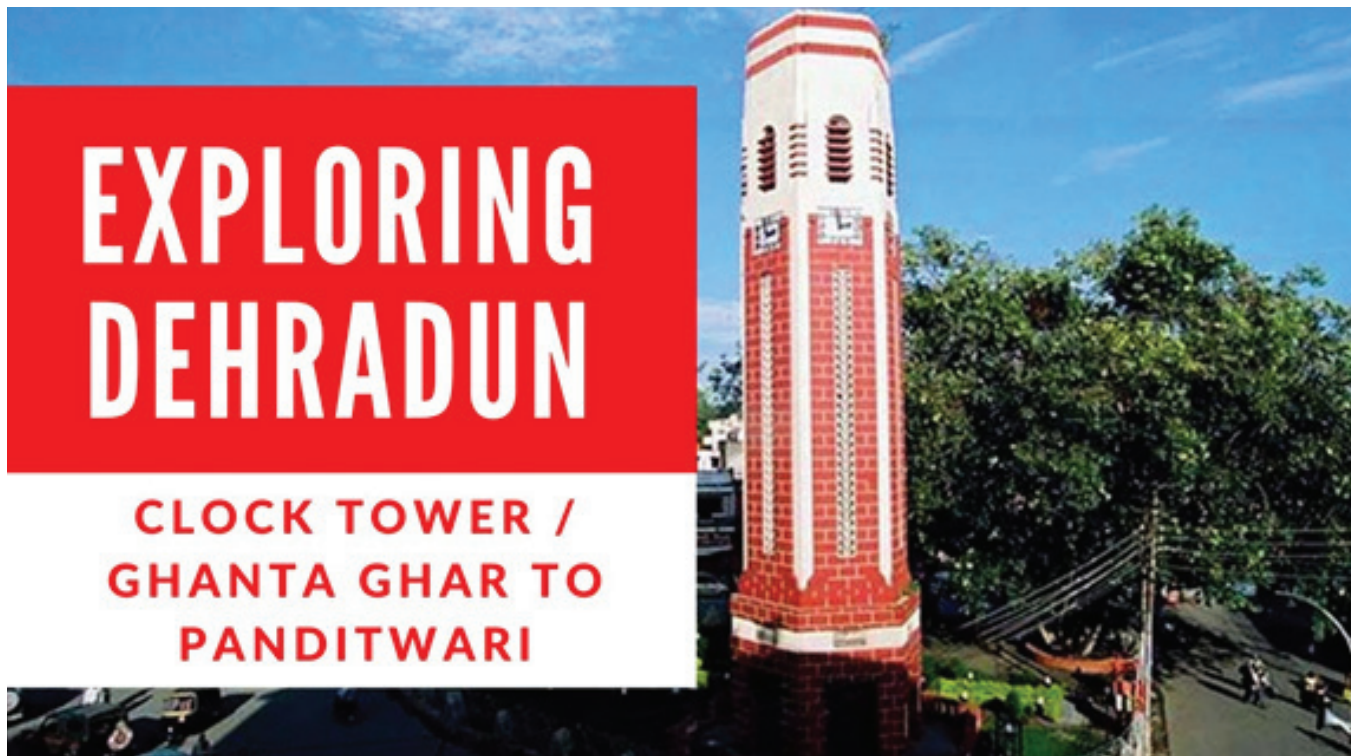


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Cutting Bounds - A Rite of Passage

— **LT COL GAURAV HAMAL, SHIVAJI, 1990-95**



At the prestigious RIMC, where discipline and academics rule supreme, the cadets have found a sneaky way to escape the humdrum of their daily routine - by slipping out at night! Whether it's to catch a flick, savour some secret snacks or just roam the town, this sneaky yet largely harmless activity has become a mandatory rite of passage for young cadets. It brings to fore their bravery, pluck and sense of adventure. Some folks might even say it helps the Rimcollians develop their creativity by forcing them to think outside the box and come up with crafty solutions to dodge the College's strict rules. It goes on to fuel their sense of adventure and propensity to take risks, and it helps

them to become more efficient, thinking military leaders later in life.

I'm inclined to think that cutting bounds possibly helped generations of Rimcollians develop creativity by requiring them to think outside the box and come up with creative solutions to evade College rules and regulations, though not everyone may agree with this. This possibly also engendered resourcefulness, as cadets are pitched to improvise and decide upon alternatives to achieve their goals.

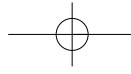
The planning and preparation that goes into these night-time escapades are nothing short of intricate, requiring some spy-like intelligence gathering. The cadets must keep tabs on the whereabouts of the Masters and

Officers, especially the Duty Master and avoid any surprise inspections. They also must decide on the movie to watch (though any old flick will do for the sake of the adventure!) and plot their route to the cinema and back without raising any suspicion. The challenge of watching a movie at night is part of the thrill.

The first step is gathering information on the Masters' routines, including the Duty Master of the day and any planned inspections or fall-ins. A detailed knowledge of the times when the Duty JCO / Duty NCO are most likely to make their rounds is surely a positive. They also have to consider if the AO is off to a party and if that would mean he's less likely to make a

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surprise visit. However, there's always the exception of an insomniac AO, as that of one in the recent past, who roamed the dorms like the ghost-who-walks, catching cadets who were up to all sorts of mischief.

Once they have the info, they must then determine what to do outside of the bounds. The excitement of just jumping over the boundary is a huge accomplishment in itself. Then comes the decision on the route, foods to sample, movie to watch and its length, which would impact the transportation back to campus after the movie. Though this last consideration is often thrown to the winds, for if the movie is found not too interesting, one could always skip out, dig into some forbidden chaat or momos and hike back to the campus.

Getting to the cinema and back to campus undetected requires careful navigation. Climbing the wall to the South of the campus near the ONGC Colony and walking the three kilometres to Ghantaghar, ducking behind hedges, parked cars, or houses whenever a vehicle approaches, is a common route. The most direct route is through Sirmaur Estate, Kishan Nagar Chowk, and Ghantaghar after crossing the Bindal Bridge, all while avoiding any potential obstacles or danger. The adventurers must also be mindful of the strict curfew after lights out and the consequences of being caught breaking it.

To keep the Duty Master convinced, cadets often use clever tactics such as lying that a fellow cadet went to study in another dorm. Some even go as far as creating dummy bodies using pillows to fill their beds! These tactics require resourcefulness, a fair deal of cunning and ingenuity, and the cadets must be quick-witted and resourceful to execute them successfully. More often than not, they work.

Sneaking out to watch a movie at night has always been an essential part of the RIMC experience. It strengthens the cadets' sense of adventure, risk-taking and prepares them to become efficient military leaders in the future. The experience teaches them



teamwork, leadership, quick thinking, and the golden rule of never snitching on a fellow comrade. It provided for a hilarious, fun filled adventure that all of us, with the exception of a few OG types have undertaken. A forbidden pleasure, it remained a sneaky accomplishment that made for an unbeatable thrill complete with butterflies-in-the-stomach excitement.

Let me tell you about the time I got into a sticky (though stinky is closer to the description) situation during my time in the Alma Mater. My fellow adventurer, who is now a fancy attack helicopter pilot, & I were to stay on campus after the holidays as part of the expedition team to meet with the COAS who was supposed to flag in the Platinum Jubilee mountaineering expedition to Mt Kedar dome. After slipping away for a late-night movie and having partaken of the obligatory tikkis we were footing it back towards the College, for at that late hour there were no Vikrams or auto rickshaws to be had. We took a supposed shortcut through the foliage near Rajendra Nagar to get back to campus, little knowing of the potential hazards on this adventure. While struggling to make a way through the bushes, my adventurous friend stumbled into a shallow manure pit next to a cattle

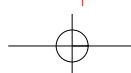
shed, & was neck deep into cow dung! I had to reluctantly lend a hand to help him scramble out of the stinky mess. We quickly retraced our steps & he took a vigorous dip in the Garhi Nallah to wash off the smell, but to no avail.

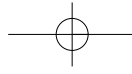
When we finally made it back to campus, our mates could smell the stench from a mile away. The dung diver tried to act cool, but the smell was overpowering & a giveaway! It took him the better part of two days, and more than one bar of soap to get rid of the smell. For those two days we could tell he was about to enter the dorm just by the way our olfactory senses were assaulted.

Cutting bounds at night has forever been a rite of passage for young cadets at the RIMC. It brings a sense of adventure and thrill that is unmatched. The process of planning and executing escapades like these has possibly helped develop leadership and contributed to countless generations of Rimcollians becoming efficient, practical leaders who could think on their feet. For them, the experience of cutting bounds will forever remain a cherished memory for the rest of their lives. ■

(The author is a former Administrative Officer of the school, who was part of the team which kept the school functional during the pandemic)

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March 2023/**NOSTALGIA**

Old Boys Association of
Rashtriya Indian Military College
www.rimcollians.in

Deciphering The Doon Names

— **COL SHAILENDER ARYA, SHIVAJI, 1990-94**



The word Dehradun conjures an image of boarding schools amidst an idyllic city full of litchi orchards, the once-retirement paradise now the blooming capital of Uttarakhand, and a gateway to Mussorrie. All of us have spent many happy years here at RIMC, and even later while training at the Indian Military Academy or being posted here, but have rarely pondered about the curious names of various places in the Doon Valley. Not many know that Doon (or dun) is a local term meaning a long valley or the origins of Mussorrie are disputed between a wild Himalayan bush and a robber. Here is an interesting description of how many places and schools in the Doon Valley have been named.

‘When Guru Ram Rai, the eldest son of the seventh Sikh Guru Har Rai, came to present day Dehradun with his followers in 1676, he established a camp (dera, later corrupted to dehra) for them at village of Dhamawala. Around this time, the present-day city of Dehradun started to develop and the word dehra was linked to dun (long valley), and thus the city was named Dehradun. Towns named after ‘dera’ also abound in Pakistan - Dera Ismail Khan, Dera Bugti and Dera Ghazi Khan - but somehow, and perhaps thankfully, they never became Dehra. The Dehradun municipality was established in 1867, and in 1900 railways made its way to Dehradun via Haridwar.

‘The name Mussorrie is often attributed to a derivation of ‘Mansoor’, a shrub which is indigenous to the area. The town is often referred to as ‘Mansoori’ by most locals. The Mansoor or Mansur shrub (*Cororiana nepalensis*) indeed grows well on the local calcinated soil. The changeover to the current spelling ‘Mussorrie’ is credited to a local medium



Shakespeare Road, Dehradun Cantonment

for advertisements. According to Charles Williams in his 1936 book, *A Mussorrie Miscellany*, The Mussorrie Exchange Advertiser was the semi-official murderer of the name ‘Masuri’, replacing the victim with ‘Mussorrie’.

‘On the contrary, according to an article ‘Mussorrie House Names’ in the book *Once Upon a Time in Doon*, author Bill Aitken suggests that the name of the Mussorrie town is derived from the famous dacoit Mansur who operated in this area. According to him, the name of the town, believed by the British to derive from a local plant called Mansoor seems too neat a theory and may have been invented to throw people off the scent. The fact is all the locals pronounce the name of the town as ‘Mansuri’ (or Mansoori) and not ‘Masuri’. Why should the Garhwalis corrupt their own usage? He reveals that Mansur was said to be a dacoit who had his base in these hills and it would not do for the British to have an upcoming hill station named after a bandit.

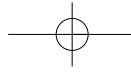
‘The first permanent building in

Mussorrie was built at Landour in 1825 by Captain Young, the ‘discoverer’ of Mussorrie, who was also the Commandant of the first Gorkha battalion raised by the British after prevailing in the Gorkha War. Young’s house ‘Mullingar’ was the family home during the hot summers in the plains. It was named after Mullingar, a townland in the civil parish of Donaghmore, in his home County Donegal. Young’s Dehradun-based battalion, then called the Sirmour Rifles, was initially raised in a Gorkha Prisoner of War camp in Paonta Sahib in Sirmour District, and hence the initial name Sirmour Rifles.

Captain (later general) Frederick Young apart from being the founder of the twin hill-stations of Landour and Mussorrie, was also the first man to introduce potatoes in the Himalayas. The Young Road near RIMC in Dehradun Cantonment is named after him. The nearby Shakespeare Road is named after one of Frederick Young’s successors, a Colonel L. Shakespeare, again of Gorkha

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Rifles, who took an interest in the local temple and was popularly known as Devi Sahib. His small son grew up in the Gorkha lines and was known as 'Devi Sahib ka Chhokra'!

The nearby Doon School was established in 1935 on the 69 acres lush Chand Bagh Estate, the former campus of Indian Forest College. Later the 28 acres Skinner's Estate was acquired from the family of the Colonel Skinner, and thus the adjoining area is known as Skinner's Field. Colonel James Hercules Skinner was a renowned Anglo-Indian adventurer after whom the Skinners Horse regiment (1st Horse) of the Indian Army is named. James Skinner's granddaughter Alice Skinner also built Sikander Hall in Barlowganj, Mussorrie in 1920, so named because James Skinner's adoring soldiers had compared him to Alexander the Great by calling him 'Sikander Sahib'.

'A part of the Chand Bagh estate was once a deer park. Chand Bagh means garden of the moon and a group of Doon School alumni (called Doscocs) from Pakistan have opened a boarding school for boys called Chand Bagh School at Muridke near Lahore as a Pakistani version of the Doon School. While PWRIMC got its name from the Prince of Wales, the Doon School was named after the Doon Valley; the other schools in Dehradun were named after their founders or their respective hometowns. Colonel Brown School was founded on March 17, 1926 by Colonel and Mrs William Brown as a residential school for boys. The Welham Boys School was named after the little Welsh village from where the founder, Miss H. Oliphant hailed. Similarly, the Cambrian Hall School is named after the 'Cambria' hillock in Wales, UK.

'In the western Doon Valley, Herbertpur has been named after the British tea planter named Herbert who had first set up a tea estate here circa 1860. Nearby, Dakpathar is where dak (mail) carrying gharri (carriage) used to make a stop, and Selaqui is reportedly named after the village Sela which had a small well (qui). Another important town is Vikasnagar which was formerly known as Chauhadpur Nardidih. After



Sikander Hall, Mussorrie

independence several hydro-electric power project were laid in the region because of which the region witnessed growth and development activities. Hence the name was changed to Vikasnagar from Chauhadpur.

'According to Ganesh Saili in his book Doon Valley Across the Years, the Clement Town came up in early 20th century when few retired British and Anglo-Indian railway servants purchased land in the Majra Village, build cottages and settled down here. In 1936 under the leadership of an Italian priest, Father Clement, a co-operative society was formed in this area, more land was acquired and blocks of an acre to five acres were sold to Britons and Anglo-Indians, the intention being to form a self contained colony. In the fitness of things, the colony was named Clement Town after its founder. Father Clement left for Italy in 1952 and soon died thereafter, merely three days after his arrival in Italy.

'The naming of Astley Hall is obscure though somehow an English connection runs to the other Astley Hall which is a country house in Chorley, Lancashire, England. The erstwhile Astley Hall of Dehradun covered three hundred acres and was once home to the English freebooter, Frederick 'Pahari' Wilson, a deserter from the British Army who later made his fortunes in Garhwal, mainly in logging and other dubious activities and became a self-proclaimed 'Rajah' of Harsil. The Astley Hall was also once rented to the viceroy Lord Dufferin and

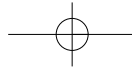
had a lovely stream running through it. The Paltan Bazaar derives its name from being the erstwhile market for the Army as 'Paltan' means an Army unit or a battalion.

'In 1932, the Indian Military Academy (IMA) was set up in the erstwhile 206 acre estate of the Indian Railways' -- Railway Staff College. Brigadier LP Collins was appointed the first Commandant. The main residential block is called Collins Block while the main administrative block and the hub of academic training is called Chetwode Hall after Field Marshal Philip Chetwode who inaugurated IMA on December 10, 1932 at the end of the first term. The area or the village where the IMA was set up is known as Premnagar. It was named after Rai Bahadur Prem Nath. He was a Kashmiri Pandit from Lahore, the full name being Rai Bahadur Prem Nath Thusu, and his sister Swaroop Rani was the second wife of Pandit Moti Lal Nehru, after the death of his first wife Bhonashuri Nagu during child birth.

'IMA and RIMC also gave some other names to Dehradun. After independence, the first Indian Commandant of IMA in 1949 was Major General Thakur Mahadeo Singh, after whom the General Mahadeo Singh road (GMS road) in Dehradun is named. He was from Punjab Regiment and also an alumnus of RIMC. Incidentally, out of four battalions of IMA, two are named after the alumni of RIMC - Bhagat Battalion after Lieutenant General PS Bhagat, the first Indian recipient of the Victoria Cross and

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**Old Boys Association of
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Astley Hall, Dehradun

Thimayya Battalion after the illustrious Army chief General KS Thimayya.

“Independence brought a new spate of naming. In the Shivaliks, the Rajaji National Park was named after C. Rajagopalachari, a prominent leader of the freedom struggle and the last Governor-General of Indian dominion. One of the most important landmarks of the Doon Valley, the Clock Tower, initially called Balbir Tower, was built to commemorate India’s independence. It was a collaborative effort of the Dehradun Nagar Pallika and Lala Sher Singh and Lala Anand Singh, leading businessmen of their times and was named after one of their ancestors named Balbir who was

also an honorary magistrate in his days. That also explains the Balbir Road in Dalanwala.

In Dehradun itself, curious names abounded. The Robber’s Cave which is locally known as Guchhupani is named so as it is said that robbers used to hide themselves from police here. Closer to Garhi Cantonment, the revered Tapkeshwar Shiv temple is an ancient place of worship and is situated on the banks of a rivulet. It is named Tapkeshwar as water droplets, originating from a rock, fall on the Shivling placed in the shrine. A run to Tapkeshwar used to be the first thing for budding RIMC boxers every morning.



Clock Tower, Dehradun

Sahasratra Dhara which literally means the ‘thousand fold spring’ is another famous tourist spot of Dehradun and was previously simply called Sulphur Spring. Dehradun has also been a city of ‘walas’ where dozens of localities from Aamwala to Chikkuwala exist. The meaning of some of these erstwhile fruit-producing localities is self explanatory.

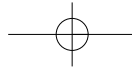
‘A number of villages in the Doon Valley are also suffixed with ‘Grant’ like Anfield Grant, Jolly Grant, Kunja Grant, Markham Grant and Simlaas Grant. According to the book *The Holy Himalayas: A Geographical Interpretation of Garhwal*, during the British Raj, a major part of Dehradun Tehsil comprising Doiwala and Sahaspur blocks was gifted to a few British people in form of big estates, locally called ‘grant or mafi’, thus giving these estates or the villages the name of Grant.

The initial division of open lands of the Doon valley into plots called ‘Grants’ was carried out by Frederick Young. This generous division, especially to himself, was brought to the notice of Sir Thomas Metcalfe, the British Resident in Delhi at the Mughal Court of Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar II. Metcalfe then gave the Grantees an option - either keep the Grants or work for the East India Company!

‘According to the old timers, Dehradun had a reputation as a city of ‘grey hair and green hedges’. It was an attractive blend of salubrious climate, British influences, military establishments and good living. While the largely British population of Mussorrie gave a distinct English touch to the Mussorrie names; the Hindu and Sikh mythology, British planters and soldiers, Italian and American missionaries, and the local Garhwali, Punjabi and Kashmiri Pandit communities contributed various names to Dehradun. Today Dehradun is increasingly synonymous with schools, and it is not far when the word Doon will enter the dictionary as ‘a place of boarding schools’. Perhaps the naming cycle from the mythological Drona-nagri to present-day Doon shall be then completed. ■

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March 2023/**ALUMNI UPDATE**

AIR MARSHAL SP DHARKAR TAKES OVER AS AIR OFFICER COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF OF EASTERN AIR COMMAND



Air Marshal SP Dharkar, AVSM assumed charge as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Headquarters Eastern Air Command, Indian Air Force on 01 Oct 2022.

An experienced fighter pilot with over 3600 hours of flying, he is an alumnus of the Rashtriya Indian Military College Dehradun, National Defence Academy Pune, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Air War College, USA. Commissioned in June 1985, he is a Qualified Flying Instructor, Fighter Strike Leader and

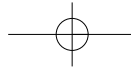
Instrument Rating Instructor & Examiner and has also been an Air Force Examiner.

During his illustrious career, he has commanded a front line fighter squadron and a Fighter Flying Training Establishment. He has instructional experience in conducting Professional Military Education for medium and senior level officers at the Defence Services Staff College and at the College of Air Warfare, Secunderabad. He has served as Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Training) at Air Headquarters

and Air Defence Commander at Headquarters Eastern Air Command. He has the distinction of being the first Director General of Defence Space Agency. Before assuming his present appointment, he was the Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters South Western Air Command at Gandhinagar.

Air Marshal S Dharkar succeeds Air Marshal DK Patnaik AVSM, VM who superannuated on 30 Sep 22 after more than 38 years of distinguished service in the IAF. ■





March 2023/**ALUMNI UPDATE**

Old Boys Association of
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PROMOTIONS & NOMINATIONS

Rimcollians Nominated for NDC

Brig Anuj Kalia
Brig Rakesh Nair
Brig Amaresh Gunjan

HC Nominations

HC Course
Vighnesh Belliappa, Inf
MR Lanjekar, Inf
Nitin Kumar, Inf

HDMC

Bhaskar Shukla, Armd
Raja Wangdi Sherpa, Inf
Deepak Tewari, KC, EME
Neeraj Naithani, EME

Promoted from Lt Col to Col

Engineers

Lt Col R Prakash
Lt Col Udit Negi
Lt Col Amit Tiwary

AAD

Lt Col Aditya Sood

Infantry

Lt Col Abhishek Tyagi
Lt Col Arun V
Lt Col Shivrama Krishnan

Rimcollians Nominated for DSSC

Akash Shekhawat: Competitive DSSC
Maj VS Thakur: DSSC
Maj Shyam: DSSC
Eshaan Singh Dod: DSSC
Maj Yuvraj Pratap: DSSC
Maj RP Singh: DSSC
Maj Vinayak Gupta: DSTSC
Maj Gaurav: ALMC/ ISC
Maj Abhishek Chandra: ALMC/ ISC

Armed Forces Tribunal Nominations

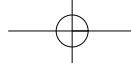
Nominated as Administrative members of the Armed Forces Tribunal.

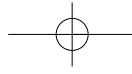
Air Marshal B Suresh
Lt Gen CP Mohanty
Maj Gen Sanjay Singh

Elected

Elected to Delhi University Court.
Professor Sidharth Mishra

MARCH  2023

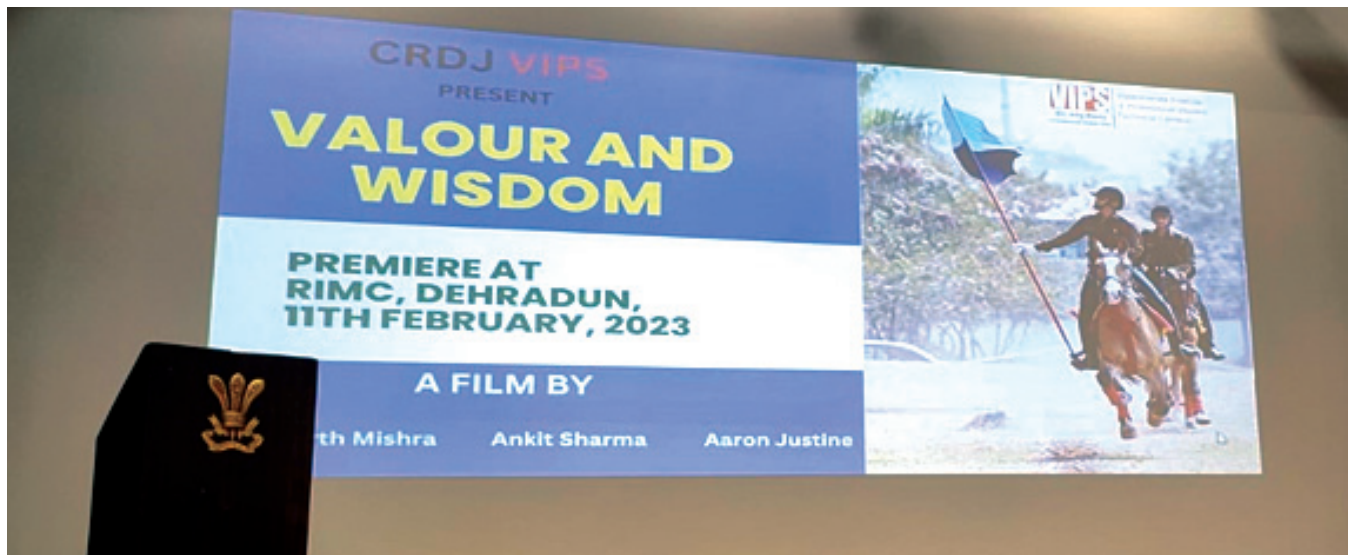




March 2023/**FILM PREMIERE**

Valour & Wisdom - Our history on celluloid

— **TEAM RIMC**



Valour & Wisdom, the hour-long documentary is not a typical jazzy promotional film with loud music but sedate recording our history on a visual platform. Whenever an educational institution reaches a milestone of its existence, it's the opportune time for it to reflect upon its contribution to the society.

Today the history of education is an important scholarly field of historical inquiry and they are best recorded through the journey of institutions largely through the lives of their alumni. The success of these literary works depends greatly on who is commissioned to write - a credible author or a safe choice?

The centenary volume titled *Valour & Wisdom*, has been penned by credible authors who despite being the alumni of the institution, which completed a century of its existence, approached the project objectively. The guiding thought has been the established praxis that the RIMC has shaped nation's military leadership largely. The book also takes a measure of the contribution of the alumni outside the

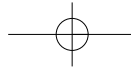


Maj Gen Sanjeev Khatri being escorted by the Commandant, Col Vikram Kadian to the Thimayya Auditorium. Also in the picture is Air Cmde Rajeeve Sharma, an alumni of RIMC in uniformed services.

Continuing with the initiative, veteran media person and a well-known alumni, Professor Sidharth Mishra took upon himself to record many a events of our history on video platform. Supported by his colleague Dr Ankit Sharma and student

Aaron Justin at Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, Professor Mishra's documentary is a huge tome of research which focusses on our role as military leaders beginning from World War II to Operation Bandar, capturing almost eight decades of our nation's military history.





March 2023/**FILM PREMIERE**

**Old Boys Association of
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The large number of guests at the premiere

Premiered at Thimayya Auditorium on February 11, in the August presence of GOC Uttarakhand Sub Area Maj Gen Sanjeev Khatri, former GCC-in-C, Central Command, Lt Gen VK Ahluwalia (retired), former commandants Col Ajay Kumar and Col Vivek Sharma, Sh Ashok Bhaskar Pandey, Regional Manager, General Insurance Corporation Ltd, a large of old boys, invited guests, faculty members and cadets, the four-part documentary held the audience spellbound with its collection of

vintage videos and the immense research work in putting together a narrative. Introducing the film, Professor Mishra said that the first media person among the Rimcollians was late Gen KS Thimayya, who had got a documentary made on the Kashmir Operations which was launched soon after Independence.

Professor Mishra said that it was a matter of divine intervention that the premiere was now being held in the auditorium named after Gen Thimayya.



Professor Sidharth Mishra introducing the documentary



Dr Ankit Sharma, director of the film, being felicitated by Maj Gen Sanjeev Khatri

“The day is historic for another reason that for the first time a girl cadet was anchoring an official function at the school,” Professor Mishra said. He also recounted the support of Mr Suneet Vats, the Vice Chairman, Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies for making available the editing studio and Cmde Saurav Deb (retd), 115 course RIMC, and presently working as Chairman-Managing Director of NEPA Mills Ltd, for partly funding the project.

“And not to forget the support of my colleagues in the Rimcollian editorial committee Cmde NAJ Joseph, Cols Sanjay Kannothe and Shailender Arya and the patronage of Air Marshal PP Reddy (retd), the erstwhile Chairman of the Editorial Committee,” Prof Mishra said.

Professor Mishra and Dr Ankit Sharma were felicitated by Gen Khatri. In his concluding remarks, Col Vikram Kadian, the Commandant said, that the documentary brought back memories of many a field postings of the areas where these battles were fought. “It also reminded us about the history of many a medals instituted in the school in the memory of some of the old boys. There is a need to take this work forward as it would help us put our heritage on the video platform,” the Commandant said.

Later a large number of cadets interacted with the film makers and gave their feedback on the film. Their queries regarding several instances in the film and also arranging such old videos were answered. ■



March 2023/**CRETIVITY**

Rimcollian Among inaugural PEN Presents winners



V RAMASWAMY, RIMCOLLIAN

Six translators representing four of the languages of India have been selected for PEN Presents, the new award for sample translations. The first issue of PEN Presents is a partnership between English PEN and the British Council, as part of India/UK Together, a Season of Culture.

The translators among others include a Rimcollian, Mr V. Ramaswamy, for a translation from Bangla of Adhir Biswas' *Last Boy: An Untouchable Boy's Classroom*.

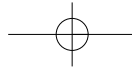
V. Ramaswamy took up literary translation from Bangla,

of voices from the margins, after two decades of grassroots and public activism in support of the labouring poor in his city, Kolkata. He has translated Subimal Misra's *Statue from America: Early Stories*, *Wild Animals Prohibited: Stories*, *Anti-Stories*, and *This Could Have Become Ramayan Chamar's Tale: Two Anti-Novels*, and Manoranjan Byapari's novel *The Runaway Boy*.

His translation of Adhir Biswas's *Memories of Arrival: A Voice from the Margins*, was published in 2022, as were Shahidul Zahir's *Life and Political*

Reality: Two Novellas (co-translated with Shahroza Nahrin), and *Why There Are No Noyontara Flowers in Agargaon Colony: Stories*.

He has attended residencies at Sangam House, India, Writers Omi, USA, and at the Toji Cultural Foundation, Korea. He was selected for the inaugural Literature Across Frontiers - Charles Wallace India Trust fellowship in creative writing & translation at Aberystwyth University, Wales, in 2016. Ramaswamy was recently selected for the inaugural translation fellowship of the New India Foundation. - *Team Newsletter*



March 2023/**ACHIEVERS' GALLERY**

Old Boys Association of
Rashtriya Indian Military College
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Rimcollian gets recognised as venture capital analyst

Manas Kala (2125/Chandragupta, 155 Course) recently received the 10/10 Award for Future Visionary Leaders by Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad. Here he recounts what it means — *Editor*



I received the 10/10 Award for Future Visionary Leaders by Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad. The award is to recognize the potential I have demonstrated as a venture capital analyst and aspiring founder.

I feel honoured to have received the award from H.E. Hideaki Domichi-san (Former Ambassador of Japan, Former Senior Vice-President of JICA) and Dr Krishna Ella, Founder, Chairman & Managing Director Bharat BioTech. Even more so, because Prof Bheemarjuna Reddy Tamma received the award on my behalf and my Ph.D. supervisor Prof. Hirozumi Yamaguchi joined me in this celebration. It was a start-studded event which included talks from H.E. Hideaki Domichi, Dr. Krishna Ella, Dr. Ajai Chowdhry (Founder HCL), Dr. Alka Mittal (Director HR ONGC), Mr. Tsuneyuki Haga (President CEO, NTT-AT IPS Corporation), Mr. Suzuki (Chief Director General, India, JETRO), Mr. Mickey Mikitani (CEO Rakuten), and other leaders from industry and government.



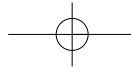
Although I could not attend the event in person as my Ph.D. defence was on the same day, I fully appreciate the significance and gravity of this recognition. The award recognizes that I have embarked upon the challenging journey of a Founder. It applauds me for my efforts thus far. But more importantly, it holds the “future” me accountable to accomplish my goals and manifest my dreams.

Come hell or high water. And I certainly will rise to the occasion. I am

grateful for the help and support I have received from my bosses, leaders, mentors, and colleagues in my entrepreneurial pursuits - Dr. Hirozumi Yamaguchi, Alireza Masrou, Natasha Low, CFA, Paolo Shamoon, Kosu K., Betty L., Leonard Reinhard and Arisa Chelsea Ueno. Special thanks to Ms. Prathyusha Thammineni, Dr. R. Sai Chandra Teja PhD and Mr. Nitin Agarwal from IIT Hyderabad Alumni Association for all the good work they are doing! Always Forward! ■

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March 2023/**POTPOURRI**

QUICK FLIP

Army Equestrian Championship 2022



Standing left to right. Prakhar Negi (Pratap), Ripunjay Naithani (Chandragupta), Pratham Singh (Pratap), Afrid Afroz(Shivaji) and Aman Mishra (Shivaji).

In the Army Equestrian Championship 2022 at Jaipur in Oct 2022, five Rimcollians represented the NDA team (out of seven). Amongst these five

Rimcollians, they bagged 38 Medals in various events (NDA tally 46).

Cdt Pratham Singh just missed the Best Rider, though had outstanding display

(incidentally, he holds the College high jump record in Athletics as well). Kudos and compliments to the young riders for constantly striving for excellence.

FLYING SIKH

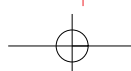


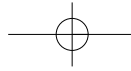
Congratulations to Col Tejinder Singh, III Course, the true Flying Sikh of RIMC, for winning the 100 km Endurance Run held in Nov 2022 in Darjeeling, competing with participants of various nationalities.

Southern Command INDIAN A... · 45s
 Maj Gen Deepak Singh Bisht, SM** took over the reins of #ShahbaazDivision from Maj Gen Bhavnish Kumar. On assumption, The GOC paid homage to the fallen braves at the war memorial #Saugor & exhorted all ranks to continue working with utmost zeal & enthusiasm.
 #SudarshanChakraCorps



Maj Gen Deepak Singh Bisht, a Rimcollian, takes over 4 Infantry Division, one of the oldest divisions of the Indian Army.






A Rimcollian lands LCA Tejas on INS Vikrant

The Naval variant of India's indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA) made its maiden landing on board the INS Vikrant on 06 Feb 2023, marking a milestone towards the Navy's self-reliance plans. The LCA Tejas was flown by a Rimcollian, Commodore Shivrath Dahiya. Incidentally, Commodore Shivrath Dahiya's son is also a Rimcollian.



ANI Tweet: Indian Navy's Commodore Shivrath Dahiya, performed the flight test carrying out successful arrested landing, hot refuelling and launching from the Ski jump of the LCA Navy from the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

THE TIMES OF INDIA OPEN APP



KOLKATA: Major General H Dharmarajan on Thursday took over as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Bengal Sub Area on Wednesday.

Excelling at Gunnery Course

On culmination of Advanced Gunnery course at School of Artillery, Devlali, the Gunner Rimcollians have excelled in all legs and got best in SATA, Gunnery & Tactics, respectively.



Left to Right: Capt N Siddharth, Shivaji/175, Capt Om Bawiskar, Chandragupta/178, Capt Ajinder Singh, Pratap/175

Treebo Hotels Cofounder Joins Matrix



BENGALURU Rahul Chaudhary (in picture), the co-founder of budget hospitality chain Treebo Hotels, has joined VC fund Matrix Partners India, an early investor in companies such as ride-hailing and electric vehicle venture Ola, digital payments provider Razorpay and short video player Dailyhunt, among others. In his new role, Chaudhary will be looking at early-stage investments for the fund, focussing on seed-to-series-A startups. In June last year, Chaudhary had stepped down and assumed an advisory role at the hotel aggregator, which he cofounded along with Sidharth Gupta and Kadam Jeet Jain in 2015. He continues to be a board member at Treebo Hotels. Bennett Coleman & Company Limited (BCC), which publishes The Economic Times, is also an investor in Treebo Hotels. —our Bureau

Another feather in the cap of Rimcollian Ted Dhillon



As ESG Adoption Soars, FigBytes Secures Additional US\$14.5M Funding

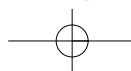
Sonam Devgan
President and Co-Founder
FigBytes

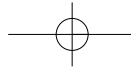


Ted Dhillon
CEO and Co-Founder
FigBytes



FigBytes Inc.'s Post: We are thrilled to announce that FigBytes has secured an additional US \$14.5M in funding, bringing our total funding to US \$25M. FigBytes plans to use these funds to support its continued growth and expand its sales and marketing, customer success, and product development activities in North America, Europe, and India.





March 2023/**CAMPUSCAN**

News from NDA, IMA and INA

NDA

Rimcollians have five Academy / Battalion Appointments in the Spring Term NDA 2023

- ACA Aman Mishra, Shivaji
- BCC Afrid Afroz, Shivaji
- BCA Dayne, Chandragupta
- BCA Thanil, Ranjit
- BCA Aman Singh, Pratap

IMA

Rimcollians commissioned on 10 Dec 2022 and allocated their Arms & Services at IMA Dehradun

- Lt Gaurav Prakash - 3/8 GR
- Lt Ashutosh Mishra - 1/4 GR
- Lt Prakhar Tomar - 21 Sikh
- Lt Aseem Anand - 3/11 GR
- Lt Aaryan Dhama - 23 Para SF
- Lt Pranav Mittal - 9 Madras
- Lt Y Saksesh Singh - 18 Maratha LI
- Lt Priyanshu Sinha - ASC (2/4 GR)
- Lt Aman Vashisht - Aviation (5 Armoured)
- Lt Lalrendika - Aviation (9 Mech)
- Aman Kumar - 51 Engr Regt
- Abhishek Chauhan - 17 Raj Rif

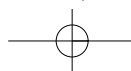
In the PT Tests at IMA in November 2022, our spirited Rimcollians, BUO Gaurav Prakash, Shivaji and GC Dika, Shivaji, have been awarded Blazer and Blue, respectively.

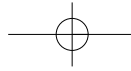
INA

Six young Rimcollians were commissioned from INA as Sub Lts in Nov 2022.

- Shreyanshu Jha, Pratap
- Harshvardhan, Ranjit
- Prakhar Thakur, Shivaji
- Hritvick Patiyal, Pratap
- K Vishnu Raj, Pratap
- Jitendra Kumar Verma, Shivaji

Sub Lt Harshvardhan was adjudged the Best All Round Cadet at INS Tir and awarded Telescope.





March 2023/**STOP PRESS**

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Tricity GTG

— COL VIVEK SHARMA



It has been a blessed day with warmth it deserved. The affection, bonhomie and spirit par excellence. Our Revered Veterans were at their best ... looking and acting younger.

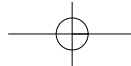
Youngsters were up and about to

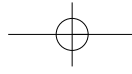
be acting on one shout ... so nice to connect with all. So many of us travelled long distances to make the list of attendees endless ... 130 plus including 2 Cs in C. A gathering that had Rimcollians of Pre Republic Vintage 1949 and youngest of 2017.

Grateful to Gen & Mrs Khanduri for being the amazing host ... ROBA President made it a great day for the Fraternity. A memorable and cherishable afternoon.

Ich Dien ... Bal Vivek

MARCH  2023

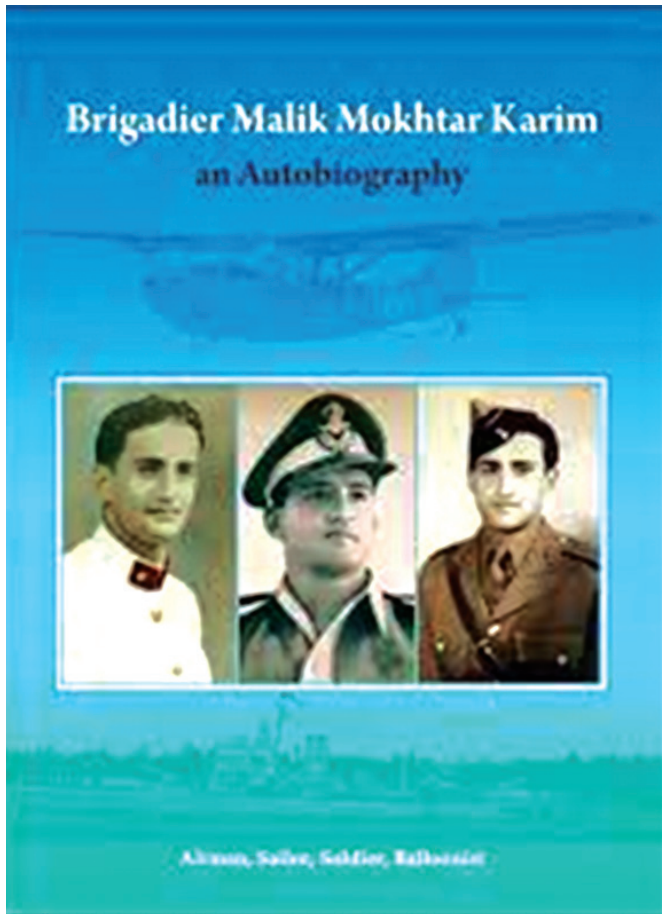




March 2023/**REMEMBRANCE**

Adieu Brig Mokhtar: Airman, Sailor, Soldier & Balloonist

— GP CAPT SULTAN M HALI



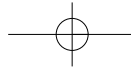
The father of Pakistan's Army Aviation and pioneering balloonist, Brigadier Mokhtar Karim, who had the unique distinction of also having served in the Royal Indian Air Force and Royal Indian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RINVR) as an officer, met his Maker on January 16, 2023. His funeral at H-8 Graveyard in Islamabad was attended by his admirers, friends, relatives and officers and men from the various Corps he had served. During the solemn burial ceremony, before the Dua (prayer) led by the religious teacher, a young officer from the Army

Aviation read out excerpts from his memoir. In brief, Brigadier Mokhtar Karim was educated at the Prince of Wales's Royal Indian Military College, DehraDun, from August 1937 to May 1943. He joined the 22nd GD Pilot's Course of Royal Indian Air Force as a Flight Cadet in August 1943 and was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in April 1944.

Thereafter, he quit the RIAF and joined the Royal Indian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RINVR) in early 1945 at Bombay as a Midshipman but was promoted to Sub Lieutenant after six months. He

demobilized after WW# and joined the Indian Military Academy Dehra Dun in August 1946 as a Gentleman Cadet where he held senior appointments including Battalion Senior Under Officer of Auchinleck Battalion and was a strong contender to receive the Sword of Honour but he had to migrate to Pakistan before the passing out parade. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Pakistan Army in October 1947. His was indeed a unique career as he held commission in all three services. He joined Artillery and Air OP and later spearheaded





March 2023/REMEMBRANCE

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the creation of Army Aviation.

After his retirement in 1977, he served in senior positions with Fauji Foundation. In 1988, at the age of 65, he joined the Adventure Foundation Pakistan; got his Balloon Flying License from the UK and pioneered Hot Air Ballooning in Pakistan. His last flight was in April 2010 at Khanpur Lake at the age of 87. This article is not a obituary so numerous details of Brigadier Mokhtar's illustrious career and exciting life may be omitted. It is a recollection of my personal contact with the departed soul. I first met Brigadier Mokhtar Karim at the residence of my maternal uncle Brigadier Manazir, who was then in POF Wah, while I was a Flight Cadet at PAF Academy Risalpur, now named after Brigadier Mokhtar Karim's close friend Air Marshal Asghar Khan. It is a coincidence that not only did Air Marshal Asghar Khan and Brigadier Mokhtar Karim share their alma mater Royal Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehra Dun but while the former is regarded as the "Father of Pakistan Air Force", the latter is remembered as the "Father of Pakistan Army Aviation".

Coincidentally, we had a common heritage. His father and my maternal grandfather were posted at Hazaribagh in India. He narrated that as a child he had gone with his father and my grandfather to witness the landing of an aircraft in Hazaribagh for the first time on a grassy field. The daring British pilot performed some thrilling aerobatics before landing and won the hearts of the spectators. We kept meeting at various social events and he would amuse us youngsters with tales of his fascinating experiences, the adventures he had been involved in and thrilling moments he had faced.

As Brigadier Mokhtar Karim's mortal remains were being lowered in his grave, my mind was wandering to another funeral we both had attended on February 1st 1997 at St. Paul's Church, Rawalpindi - the funeral of Mr Hugh Catchpole - a remarkable personality. Catchpole was a British educationist and philanthropist, who had taught at RIMC, becoming its Principal in 1948. In 1952, he was invited by his former students to establish Cadet College Hasanabdal and became its



Hugh Catchpole

Founder Principal. He assumed the mantle of Principal of PAF Public School Sargodha in 1958 till his retirement in 1967. He had chosen to settle in Pakistan and continued teaching at Abbottabad Public School till his demise. He had sponsored scores of students from humble backgrounds to enable them to continue their studies in better educational institutions.

The church funeral ceremony was unique, since there were only two Christians: the pastor who was leading the memorial service and the remains of Mr. Catchpole. The rest of us, his students were Muslims including Air Marshals Asghar Khan and Nur Khan, who were former Air Chiefs, Lieutenant General Gul Hasan, former Commander in Chief of Pakistan Army, Lieutenant General Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan, Major General Nawabzada Sher Ali Khan of Pataudi and Brigadier Mokhtar Karim. Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak, the serving Air Chief, who had been Mr. Catchpole's student at Cadet College Hasanabdal was also present along with a large number of bureaucrats and civilians, who had been Mr. Catchpole's students. Every institution in Pakistan, where he had taught, was represented by its Principal and a batch of students in school uniform to pay reverence to the departed soul.

This scribe was then serving as the Director Public Relations of PAF and my team had captured the whole ceremony on video - the clips of which were aired on TV

- while my article titled "To Sir with Love" on the life of Mr. Catchpole was published in various dailies. Brigadier Mokhtar visited my office a couple of days later and proposed that we produce a documentary on the life of our beloved teacher.

Two students of Mr. Catchpole, Brigadier Mokhtar Karim and myself put our heads down to write the script, which was narrated by the Brigadier in his rich bass tenor, while my media team edited the visuals for the documentary. It was also titled: 'To Sir with Love', reminiscent of the 1967 Sydney Poitier movie. The documentary was aired on TV while Brigadier Mokhtar Karim presented its copies to Air Marshals Asghar Khan and Nur Khan, his fellow Rimcollians (alumni of RIMC).

At the Rimcollians' reunion celebrated at RIMC in March 1997, 'Catchpole Guest House', built from funds donated by Mr Hugh Catchpole was inaugurated. Among the 1200 Rimcollians, there were 20 from Pakistan, which included Lieutenant General Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan, former service chiefs Air Marshal M Asghar Khan, Lieutenant General Gul Hassan Khan and Brigadier Mokhtar Karim. Air Marshal Asghar Khan had the documentary 'To Sir with Love' aired on the occasion. The next day, I got an excited call from Brigadier Mokhtar Karim informing me that the documentary was an instant hit at the reunion. He conveyed Air Marshal Asghar's message that I should immediately prepare one hundred copies of the documentary and send it for distribution among Rimcollians. I duly complied.

Few people are aware that his life partner Saida Bano, renowned artist and horticulturist had designed the flying badge of Army Aviation, which still continues to adorn the chest of Army aviators. Looking back now, twenty-five years later, I believe it is high time that a documentary is produced on the life and achievements of Brigadier Mokhtar Karim, pioneering Airman, Sailor, Soldier and Balloonist, who dedicated his life to Pakistan and brought it international fame.

—The writer is former Director,
Director Public Relations,
Pakistan Air Force;



March 2023/**REMEMBRANCE**

Remembering Brigadier Karim

— **ABHISHEK TIWARY, CHANDRAGUPTA, 1989-1994**

This is going to fall short of what an obituary should look like. I am attempting it, nevertheless. Some people have profound impact on you for their humility and charisma. Brig Mokhtar M Karim was one such person for me.

I met Brig Mokhtar M Karim at his residence in Islamabad on 10th June 2007. He had hosted a lavish dinner for the Rimcollian group visiting Pakistan to celebrate Mr Hugh Catchpole's centenary. I may have met him in 1990 while I was cadet in school as a contingent of Pakistani old boys had visited the school for reunion then, but I have unfortunately no recollection of that meeting.

Brig Karim and I were instantly drawn to each other over that dinner. And there was a reason for that. He told me he was born in Sheikhpura of Bihar province of undivided India. When I told him I was from Bihar too, it took him no effort to go back 60 years in time, almost instantaneously. Memories of his childhood days in Sheikhpura came rushing back - he recollected the Eid celebrations to Holi celebrations and all his friends and their families in the street while growing up. And as tears flowed down his cheek, he couldn't help but hug me. He had never met anyone from Bihar after 14th Aug 1947. It surprised me to know that he had kept track of Bihar's slow development and showed immense concern.

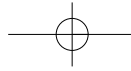
I kept in touch with Brig Karim and his family for a long time. I was sadly made aware of his failing health a few months before his



death. I remember our last conversation. He had ended by saying - "How is our province (Bihar) doing? We must do something for the upliftment of the

state and its poor people". That was the last I had spoken to him. I wish I had seen him a couple more times.

May his soul rest in peace!



March 2023/REMEMBRANCE

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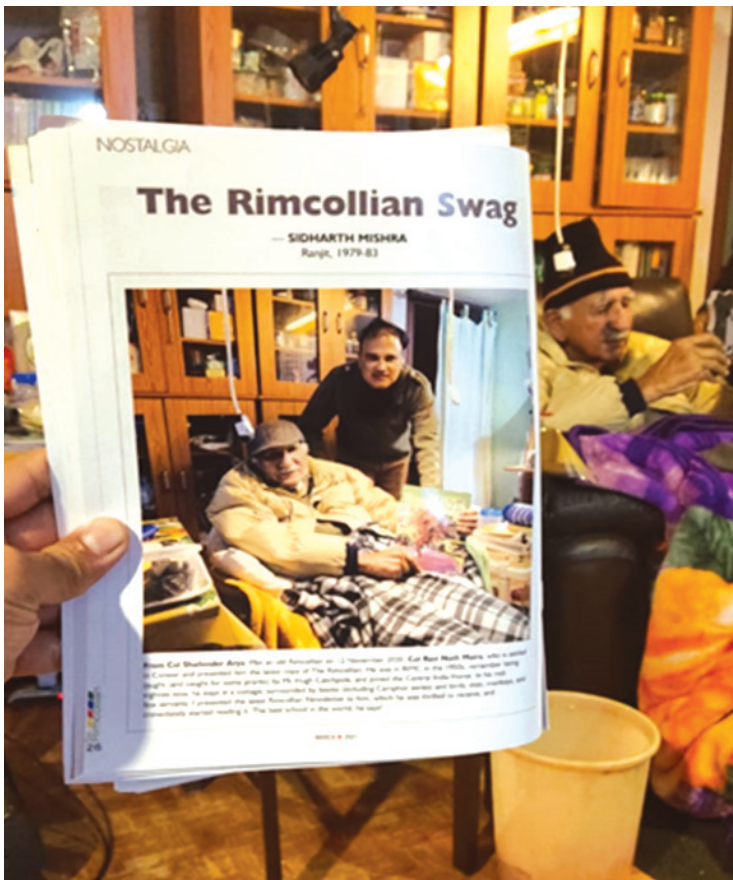
In Loving Memory Of
Our Beloved Father
Sri.Virendra Mahaseth



25.08.1943 - 09.11.2022

With deep sorrow we inform the sad demise of our Beloved Father who completed his journey of life & left for his heavenly abode on 9th Nov 2022

We request your kind presence to grace the solemn occasion for the eternal peace of the departed soul

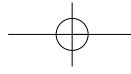


Late Col Ravi Maira in his cottage in Conoor, Nilgiris. In photos, officers from his Regiment, Central India Horse, meeting him, including Col Ashish Koijam, a Rimcollian. The Rimcollian Newsletter featured him few issued back (his article in picture with him).



Commander Sureshwar Dhari Sinha, a Rimcollian, an Indian Navy veteran and environmentalist who played a crucial role in petitioning the Supreme Court in a matter concerning flow of water in the Yamuna, passed away at his home in Delhi in September last year.





SECRETARY'S DESK



Dear Rimcollians,

It is a matter of great honour and privilege to have been entrusted with the responsibility of Hony Secy of our illustrious Old Boys Association. I have very big shoes to fit since my predecessor, Gp Capt Deepak Ahluwalia, has been spearheading the functions of ROBA for past decade with unparalleled zeal, enthusiasm and passion. We have been witness to the active ROBA in support of RIMC in every sphere. It will be my earnest endeavour to match up the exceptional work, at least in the spirit, if not deeds.

As I undertake the most challenging path of being the connect across the generations, with all humility, I assure our family beyond blood, of sincerity of purpose and best foot forward in pursuing the objectives of ROBA. I consider my tenure as Comdt RIMC to be an asset since it gave me an opportunity to connect with nearly entire fraternity while nurturing cadets as young Rimcollians. Though a mute spectator, it has also been a learning experience to have been indulged in ROBA affairs for past many years. Having been nominated for the task during the AGM of Mar 2022, it has been the faith of our senior serving fraternity who kept me involved into the dealing with service HQs on the RIMC & ROBA affairs as the acting Secy since Jun 2022, thus ensuring a smooth transition. I am grateful to Gp Capt Deepak Ahluwalia for guiding me through the years, handing over the charge with detailed brief and assuring his constant support even in future. I am also grateful to Hony President ROBA for placing the blessed hand on me for past many months enabling me to discharge my service on matters RIMC & ROBA.

I solicit the support of all our revered seniors, peers and young Rimcollians in discharging the duties to achieve our prime objective of maintaining bonhomie amongst the fraternity and providing support to the staff at RIMC.

Ich Dien ... Bal Vivek

Col Vivek Sharma
1407/P (1985-91)



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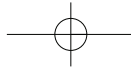
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Republic Day 2023 Awards

PVSM

- Lt Gen A S Bhinder
- Lt Gen Nav Khanduri
- Air Mshl S P Dharkar

AVSM

- Lt Gen P N Ananthanayanan
- Vice Adm Adhir Arora
- Maj Gen Alok Kacker
- Maj Gen Zubin Minwalla

Sena Medal (D)

- Maj Gen Akash Kaushik
- Maj Gen Mohit Wadhwa
- Maj Gen M Khalid Zaki
- Maj Gen Vishal Agarwal

Bar to VSM

- Maj Gen Vikram Varma

VSM

- Maj Gen D S Bisht
- Cmde Manav Sehgal
- Brig Rakesh Nair
- Col Sarfraz Singh

Nao Sena Medal (D)

- Lt Cdr Yogesh Tiwari (P)
- Lt Cdr Anant Kukreti (P)

