



Vol XX Issue-I (Bi-Annual) | March 2026

The Rimcollian

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



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THE NDA PASSING OUT
PARADE NOVEMBER 2025



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GOC-in-C ARTRAC VISITS RIMC



Lt Gen Devendra Sharma, PVS, AVSM, SM, GOC-in-C Army Training Command (ARTRAC), visited RIMC Dehradun on February 2, 2026, to review training infrastructure and development projects. He praised the institution's, RIMC Dehradun's, high standards, exceptional NDA/NA (I) 2025 results, and girl cadets' achievements in shooting, encouraging cadets to pursue careers in the armed forces.

LETTERS

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your thoughtful gift of The Rimcollian. I truly appreciate the gesture. Thank you once again.

Rabi Narayan Kar, Ph.D., FCS,
Professor & Principal, SLC,
University of Delhi

It was nice to receive the copies of The Rimcollian Newsletter, September 2025 yesterday. The magazine has come out very well and it was a pleasure going through the interesting contents. Our compliments to the Editorial Team.

With regards, **Col Vijay Gidh**

I have just received the Rimcollian of September 2025. Thank you. Anil, you do me great honour by including my story in the magazine. I am singularly privileged by this gesture from you as our Editor. Grateful.

God bless, **Anant Bewoor**

Dear Rimcollians, Greetings to one and all. It gives me immense pleasure to share the progression of our fraternity, through our bi-annual mouthpiece, 'The Rimcollian'. It was a memorable 103rd Reunion for both RIMC and Rimcollians with festive fervour at Rajwada Camp, as well as across the globe. Our Editorial Team has aptly captured the moments and archived it for posterity. It is heartening to see that the bonhomie amongst our fraternity has grown, engagements enhanced and noteworthy contributions for the best interests of RIMC are on the rise, under the vibrant team of ROBA & ROBA Trust, which are collaborating actively with Team RIMC.

We are pleased to welcome more members into ROBA Working Committee. Lt Gen S S Grewal, Retd has assumed the onerous responsibility of Chairman ROBA Trust, though Gen VN Sharma will always remain our guiding beacon. It fills our heart with pride to see Team RIMC bringing joys with well-rounded excellent performance in all spheres of training activities.

Rimcollians too are excelling in every sphere and more recently, when the operational necessity demanded immediate action, our Old Boys were at the forefront, across the spectrum of operations, spearheading the salvo of thoroughbred professionalism at all levels. This has befittingly been recognised in the Gallantry Award List with Capt L Sailo being awarded 'Kirti Chakra'. As we move forward, I urge and exhort each member of our fraternity to continue with the same bonhomie and support for each other towards our Alma Mater. My compliments to the Editorial Team for the all-encompassing Newsletter and best wishes, as always to Team RIMC and Rimcollian Family.

Viva RIMC, Ich Dien!
Pankaj Kalakoti

Contents

President

Lt Gen Adosh Kumar
AVSM, SM
Director General, Artillery

Secretary

Col Vivek Sharma
+91 9459397901
vivekups9@gmail.com

Treasurer

Anil Jagtiani
+91 9650690100
Rimcojags@hotmail.com

Honorary Editor

Cmde NAJ Joseph, VSM (retd)
+91 9969205651
robamagazine@gmail.com

Editorial Committee

Brigadier Sanjay Kannothe, VSM
Colonel Shailender Arya, VSM
Colonel Gaurav Hamal
Wg Cdr D Hazarika

Published and Printed by:

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

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R Satish Jakhmola

Cover photo

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

Dear Rimcollians,

March is a special month for Rimcollians. Notwithstanding the plethora of informal and impromptu get togethers March brings a special feeling and with it a renewal of our pledges and commitments. The Rimcollian network has always been 'neighbours' envy, owners pride. Nevertheless, we must be positive and proactive about it and conduct ourselves in the best manner possible. Our proactive ROBA Secy has made distances shorter with his ears to the ground approach.

Lt Gen Adosh Kumar our President ROBA and our ROBA team have displayed great maturity and tact in handling several situations and charting our way ahead; that will take our beloved institution (and ROBA) to the next level.

Rimcos and Rimcollians continue to excel and that is almost taken for granted. Excellence must remain our forte and a lot is not just in the colour of medals but the reputation we enjoy. Dedication, Commitment and 'doing one's best'; among the many traits that the Commandant and team instil at school. Team RIMC continues our long standing strive where excellence is almost a norm in a world where mediocrity is rewarded. Kudos to the Commandant and his team for our stellar performances.

We shared some of our time-tested school customs that instils so much. And this edition has a few articles that focus on these values. Even the 'masti' activities, pranks etc all have a learning too. And probably even a reason to be. There is a 'why' behind everything and if we can understand that we will understand the nuances differently. Of course, every incident must be handled with maturity and sagacity. Very simply a prank at different ages and levels would need a different approach.

I continue the appeal for more Rimcollians to contribute to 'The Rimcollian'. Inviting for the queries, discussions and banter on the social media to change into articles. Whilst there are many Rimcollians contributing it would be more complete if more old boys and families put pen to paper and contribute to 'The Rimcollian'. Do mail it directly to the editor as and when an event occurs. Even a simple letter to editor will do.

The Editorial team of Brig Sanjay Kannothe, Colonel Shailendra Arya and our publisher Prof Sidharth Mishra; despite their own busy schedules impress with their selfless and tireless work. We also welcome Col Gaurav Hamal and Wg Cdr Dhritishman Hazarika two regular contributors into the Editorial team. Col Vijay Gidh and Shiva Ramnath have been regular as always. An activity they all undertake with pride and passion.

Ich Dien & God Bless

Enjoy Reading

March 2026

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



Lt Gen Adosh Kumar, AVSM, SM
Honorary President ROBA

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



Dear Rimcollians,

As we step into the month of March, I am filled with pride reflecting on the remarkable energy, resilience and unity that continues to define the Rimcollian spirit. The last year has been replete with achievements including the GOC-in-C ARTRAC Unit Citation, that endorses relentless efforts of Team RIMC. Furthermore, the NDA results and performance of our youngsters at PCTAs is a true manifestation of well directed collaborative efforts. The infrastructure upgrades and quality of life of the cadets has improved manifold with active support from both ROBA and Trust.

The above achievements remind us that progress is built through consistent efforts, collaboration and shared vision for excellence, whether in academics, professional development, service initiatives or community engagement. Let us continue to foster an environment where ideas are welcome, talents are nurtured and challenges are met with confidence. Together, we are not only shaping our present, but laying a strong foundation for the future of Rimcollian excellence.

The Reunion at Delhi in Oct 2025 was an occasion for us to reaffirm our collective commitment to supporting the institution that has shaped us. On the occasion of 104th Founders Day and Reunion 2026, I extend best wishes to all the Rimcollian, families and Team RIMC. I would urge each one of you to remain proactive and supportive to one another. Thank you once again for your dedication, contribution and belief in our collective mission. We all look forward to many more success from our great institution in future.

Thanks and Regards to all

Viva RIMC - ICH DIEN.

LT GEN ADOSH KUMAR
1020/Pratap

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COVER STORY



WITH GRATITUDE TO THE ALMA MATER

— BY COL PREM PRAKASH, 104 COURSE/ RANJIT

How often does it happen that you get an opportunity to share your experiences and expertise with the teachers of your alma mater? Not only that; if you also happen to head that institution 20 years ago! Can you imagine the excitement? In addition you are able to discuss about the subject like National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023; after discussing something similar viz. NCF 2005 years ago! It is like reliving and rediscovering! During my recent sessions on NCF 23 in other

schools I did make a mention about this interesting fact. The lesson is that no experience is less in value and usefulness!

Schools organise teacher training sessions at different periodicity; however training sessions at the commencement of new academic session is popular amongst schools. RIMC too has been undertaking this initiative of conducting training of Masters over several years. It is also mandated by CBSE and in addition this activity is essential to keep the

Masters updated on the contemporary curriculum, pedagogy and best practices. Such training at the start of the academic session also helps the faculty in refreshing themselves and engaging amongst themselves as a team. It was a good way to empower and build self-esteem. In fact I recall that we used to have more frequent training sessions and workshops at MOS Learning Centre!

I had been in touch with the Commandant regarding training of

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I had been in touch with the Commandant regarding training of masters. He too was quite responsive and enthusiastic about this idea. Additionally he also felt that as ex-Commandant I will be able to connect more with the faculty and sessions could be made really contextual and valuable

was organised over three days wef 14 to 16 Jan 26. I thought the topic was quite current and relevant for our Masters. As a Soft Skills Trainer and Facilitator plus a Resource Person with CBSE, I could impart some engaging and insightful lessons on the subject. We had around 25 Masters of all classes who participated in this FDP.

Let me share some insights into the session which was conducted for over three hours followed by sit-down lunch in the quadrangle outside the freshly renovated historical Bhagat Hall. It was a memorable occasion for me to engage with Masters for this Facilitation session. There are such nostalgic memories of Bhagat Hall as a Cadet, a Parent, Rimcollian and Ex-Commandant. Now this experience was exhilarating and made me feel a little emotional in a happy way! I wonder how many of us can appreciate the kind of feeling that one would have in such a situation and with this kind of opportunity! I did get goose-bumps and had memories flashing!

I had divided the session into three modules.

- Pedagogical Exploration which had

masters. He too was quite responsive and enthusiastic about this idea. Additionally he also felt that as ex-Commandant I will be able to connect more with the faculty and sessions could be made really contextual and valuable. I had this advantage; plus I had been in this field of education after superannuation in 2016. As such it was a win-win situation for all of us! In fact Rimcollians could contribute in a significant way with their respective expertise.

I was thrilled to receive a message from the Commandant and later the AAO that they are having a few days of training sessions and will be great if I could also take one of these. Well, it was a dream come true for me and I readily agreed! I had this great privilege to have a facilitation session on New Pedagogy, Capacity Building and some practical aspects of Communication Skills on 16 Jan 25 as part of their Faculty Development Programme (FDP) which

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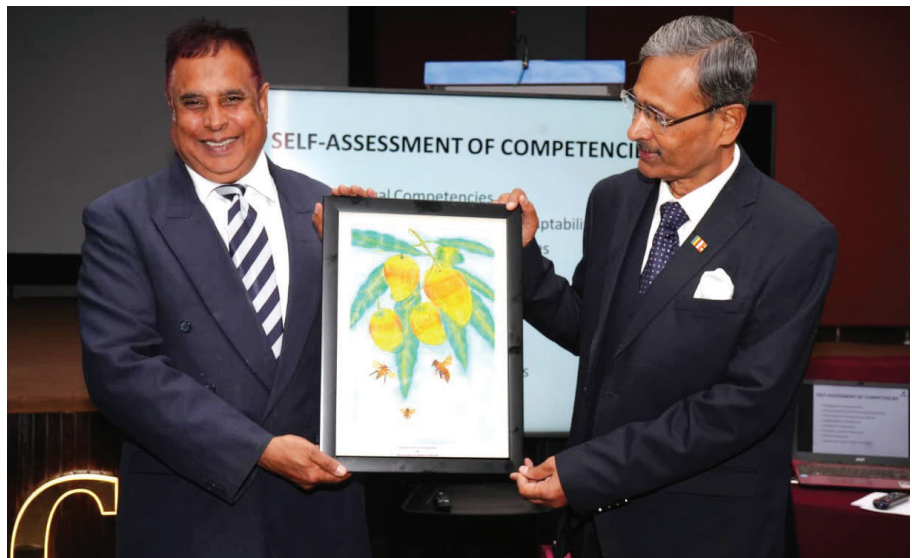
some aspects of NCF 23.

- Self-Assessment of Competencies.
- Communication Skills.

We had the session in the Facilitation framework mode to include some of the following:-

- Ice-breaker.
- Ways of Working (WoWs).
- Learning Outcomes (LOs).
- Pedagogical Exploration through group work on certain tasks including Curricular Goals, Pedagogy, Content and Assessment.
- Debriefing.
- Self-Assessment of Competencies through Rating Scale.
- Capacity Building through Self-Commitment Exercises.
- Communication Skills and Tools through Role Plays and Scenario Analysis.
- Key Punch Game.
- Exit Survey.

This Facilitation way of covering various aspects of Learning Outcomes



was a little different from routine training session with some activities. Facilitation draws upon the potential and learning of the participants themselves. It is based on the philosophy of 'Group Wisdom Harvesting' and here we had so many of our Members of Staff (MoS) with wide

and deep experience. It was fascinating to witness the response of the Masters across ages, experience and subjects.

1. Pedagogical Exploration – In this first module we covered details as under:-

- How do children learn and implication for teaching.



- Elements of pedagogy for achieving aims of education.
- Elements of effective pedagogy in the classroom.
- Planning for teaching.
- Managing classroom/student behaviour.
- Responding to individual learning needs.
- Pedagogy across stages.
- Overall principles of pedagogy.
- Major shift in teaching-learning concepts and tools.
- Presentations by groups on aims of education, curricular goals, competencies, pedagogies, content and assessment on one topic of their respective subjects.

This module was quite informative and useful for our Masters who don't get into details of manuals published by CBSE and NCERT. Here we explored some aspects of NCF 23 which gave them a fair idea and understanding of NEP 2020 and NCF 2023. This will serve them well as

academics.

2. Self-Assessment of Competencies

– This aspect was covered by way of self-assessment of their competencies and making a commitment to themselves. This was aligned to the idea that for a positive change and consolidation, capacity building is essential and for that competencies must be developed, imbibed and practiced. A number of competencies as under were assessed by the Masters:-

- Communication Skill.
- Subject Competence.
- Learning Environment Creation Competence.
- Professional Development Measures.
- Digital Competency.
- Inclusion Measures.
- Gender Sensitivity.
- Assessment Strategy.
- Pedagogical Competencies.
- Behavioural/Critical Thinking/Adaptability.
- Promotion of Constitutional Values.
- Stakeholders' Satisfaction.

- Conduct in Classroom.
- Conduct outside Classroom.
- Ethical Standards.
- Awareness about CBSE's Policies.

Awareness and self-assessment of relevant competencies give the Masters a good idea of their strengths and areas to work upon. These competencies go on to build a strong academic culture within an institution. In that manner RIMC stands to benefit. Masters showed keenness to self-assess and commit themselves to learn and grow further.

3. Communication Skills – This skill is one of the most important one for everyone and more so for educators and teachers. When Masters possess good communication skill they can impart the same to cadets right from the beginning. They can make their classes more interactive and impactful. Certain areas where we delved into include the following:-

- Communication Pyramid.

COVER STORY



- Mehrabian Rule and its Application.
- Body Language.
- Listening Skills.
- Communication Tool in terms of Pause-Express-Connect.
- Groups were then given different scenarios and were made to do Role Plays.

Communication Tools provided a congenial way to communicate with various stakeholders especially the cadets and parents. Role Plays were enacted with great involvement and some interesting lessons were also drawn. Masters could really relate to scenarios which were given for enactment.

I must make a brief mention about this game/activity 'Key Punch' which was about bringing out lessons on team building, communication, foresight, collaboration and so on. Masters were grouped as per their Sections under the Section Masters for this game. Commandant too participated from Chandragupta Section. I will not disclose the winners lest the passions run high! Lessons were driven home adequately though!

I must make a brief mention about this game/activity 'Key Punch' which was about bringing out lessons on team building, communication, foresight, collaboration and so on. Masters were grouped as per their Sections under the Section Masters for this game

It was an engaging and immersive session for all of us. This was also a session with a change, in the manner that RIMC is more focused towards NDA and therefore faculty is also more aligned towards overall development rather than greater focus on academics. Pedagogical exploration gave a good opportunity to Masters to become a little more aware of the same. Some features of NCF 23 were new and exciting for them!

Let me thank and compliment the Commandant RIMC, Col Rahul Agarwal who is leading the team with impeccable leadership. We are also aware that very recently RIMC has been conferred with ARTRAC Army Cdr's Citation. It is a big deal and accolades to team RIMC. This comes close on heels to top three All India Rank holders amongst the cadets joining the NDA! Do we need more?

Long live RIMC!

(The author is an Old Boy, a former Secretary of ROBA, a former Administrative Officer and also a former Commandant)

Roll Call in National Capital - Reunion@Delhi 04 Oct 2025

— By COL VIVEK SHARMA, 127 COURSE/ PRATAP



The annual feature of Reunion @ Delhi is getting bigger each year in warmth, proportion and participation, matching the spirit of our annual pilgrimage at RIMC in March. While we have the sanctity of 13th March cheering us to be at Rajwada Camp, Reunion @Delhi provides opportunity to rekindle the same bonhomie. That's the reason it is now designated as Reunion @ Delhi and not the Delhi Chapter. The timing and venue of the event facilitates wider participation. Accordingly, the planning was done well in advance. This year, we locked the date of 4th October, on 10th July during ROBA Working Committee Meeting, giving adequate notice to the members to plan.

Maj Gen A R Kumar, 68 Shivaji from Hyderabad was first to press the buzzer of confirmation closely followed by Col Laishram Joychand Singh, 85 Shivaji from Ambala. Gradually, others contributed to the buildup with

Information Warfare across in social medium - the WhatsApp Community and Rimcollians Gmail group, resulting in congregation from all corners of country pushing the NCR Rimcollians also towards the venue of the event - Artillery Officers Mess, 26 Polo Road, Delhi Cantt. Rimcollians from as far as Tawang, Panagarh, Bhuj, Bhutan, Jammu, Hyderabad and as close as Patiala, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Mathura, Yamunanagar, landed up to light up the occasion with fervor it deserved. One member managed to reach in the afternoon from far west of the globe to be reaching just on time, over dressed for the occasion in the Rimcollian Blazer, drenched in the extraordinary spirit.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS

Brig A N Luthra, 59 Shivaji was the seniormost attendee. He made it possible to attend despite having an equally important commitment during the lunch of attending 102nd birthday celebration

of Lt Gen S N Sharma, elder brother of Gen V N Sharma. Capt Abhimanyu Singh Rathore, 185 Pratap was the youngest attendee. In fact, he had a flag-in ceremony of the rafting event at Patiala in the afternoon and thereafter rushed to be part of the exclusive club. There were about similar number of pleasant entries at the last moment. The Rimcollian house never closes. Rear Adm R K Singh, 125 Pratap had to attend an official commitment that emerged out of the blue. True to the spirit, he rushed to catch up with well past 10:30 PM. There were some members who left their family wedding celebrations midway to be part of the crowd.

Col Rahul Agarwal, 143 Chandragupta, Commandant RIMC and Lt Col Ankur, Ranjit, AO RIMC graced the occasion to share the wonderful happenings at our alma mater. The 125th Course had the maximum participation with seven Rimcollians and three ladies. It was also an apt opportunity to celebrate

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ROVING EYE



Cmde Devanshu Rastogi's (125 Shivaji) birthday and it was made special with a surprise Rimcollian Cake. Col SK Khatri, AEC, who had been the Master English at RIMC from 1983 to 85, was the special invitee and could meet many of his pupil in the gathering. It was not a mere coincidence that ladies demonstrated more section spirit - Mrs Malhotra, Mrs Batra, Mrs Ramdev and Mrs Srivastava sported the Pratap Section colour with pride.

Virtual Attendance. A heartwarming gesture from Lt Gen Narayan Chatterjee, Pratap. For last 7 days, he had been running temperature consequent to another treatment. He tried best to get fit but due to the illness, had to regret attending. While conveying his profound regards to Rimcollian seniors and best wishes to contemporaries and juniors, he sent a humble contribution of Rs 5000 to ROBA for the memorable event. He has also become the first one to have registered for Reunion 2026 @ RIMC.

The jazz band amused the gathering with melodies of all-time greats flowing out of the senior anteroom. It also unearthed the hidden talent of Brig Ravi Kumar, Ranjit after the happy hours, duly supported by Capt IN SA Sharma, Ranjit and Cmde Rana VS, Ranjit recording the master voice.

PARADE STATE

The final Parade State stood at a total of 220 family members constituting 140 Rimcollians, 70 ladies and 10 Children. The crowd was so huge that it wasn't practical to capture them in one frame. It has thrown up a lesson for future - to plan a cameraman to be on roof top or use of drone for photo click or capture the pictures as per section group. However, an effort resulted in the senior Veterans leading the pack along with ladies to pose for the picture not so perfect, but worth a memory.

RIMC CLOUD KITCHEN

As we progressed towards the evening, members were adequately warned to build the appetite for RIMC kitchen savories. Thanks to Team RIMC, we



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created the cloud RIMC Kitchen with two Chefs from RIMC stamping the authentic taste. Scotch eggs and pancakes supplemented the dinner spread while coffee and tipsy puddings augmented the dessert station, set up by the caterer.

Members did feel threatened by the increasing strength of a particular section and feared that they may miss the taste of

much sought savouries. It was no surprise that members started their meal in reverse order - coffee pudding, scotch eggs and pancakes.

DEEP GRATITUDE

To all the members for making it convenient to attend, especially, the ladies. The gratitude extends to Brig

Saminder Mor at Mathura and Col Abhishek at Hisar for their support. Lt Gen Adosh Kumar, 112 Pratap, President ROBA not just facilitated the venue but also placed his Staff Officer at disposal to provide support in every respect. As a coordinator for the fraternity, it has been a delightful and humbling experience to stitch together this event. ■

CARE & KIND - DELHI MEET & GREET 04 OCTOBER 2025

I attended my first get together in Delhi in December 1994; soon after picking my fulltime job in media. Fast forward to 04 October 2025. From being a young-bee to a senior alumni, I have witnessed not just a generational change but also societal and geographic metamorphosis.

Suburbs did not exist for Rimcollians then, today a large crowd comes from Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad and Gurgaon, and the host, our secretary Col Vivek Sharma, from Mathura.

There has been a generational change in payment mode too. From stylishly writing cheques to scanning QR code. In between, soon after demonetisation, we paid in cash too, for reasons in interest of the fraternity but better not disclosed in public.

Being in communication education,

I marvel at the optimal use of digital medium by the host. His affectionate expressions generates just the right vibes to take the challenge of travelling even 40-50 kilometres in Delhi's heavy traffic to attend the get-together.

Attention to minute details like allowing open collar in sultry weather and what's the right time to serve dinner so that we can travel back in good time to be safe home located at long distance, make Gen Adosh Kumar and Vivek the great hosts that they are.

Meet & Greet Wonderful theme for the get-together. I did get to meet and greet from the generation we idolised of Gen Vinay Shankar to that we saw blossom from cadets to officer. Vivek must have had an impactful tenure as Commandant, as many of his cadets make to these meets coming from out station locations too.

Must say that in the past few years under Gen Adosh-Col Vivek, ROBA has shed its material avtaar. Its never breathing down the neck asking for money but subtly and sufficiently motivating one and all to pay.

That should be the spirit - be inclusive as any alumni association's strength is not just its bank balance but its membership base. The desire to be part of fraternity.

As I travelled back across the roads of Delhi, Sonu Nigam sang Javed Akhtar's beautiful lyrics, so apt for the evening.

*"Har ghadi badal rahi hai roop zindagi
Chaav hai kabhi.kabhi hai dhoop
zindagi*

*Har pal yahan.... jee bhar jiyo....
Jo hai sama..., kal ho na ho...."*

~ Sidharth Mishra

Rimcollians UK Get-together

The UK Rimcollian Get together planned well in advance and cheered to have the maximum members converging to be celebrating togetherness on 14th November, 2025. The UK Rimcollians get-together was steered and coordinated by Jeetesh Singh, 146 Course. The loud cheers, smiles and spirit are visible in the picture.



Left to Right : Capt IN Gaurav Rana (145 R), Mr. Rahul Ghosh (129 C), Mr. Marcus Pradhan (156 P), Mr. Laksh Gupta (186 S), Mr. Vineet Mulam (172 S), Dr. Deepak Narwal (120 C), Dr. Harinder Singh Trehan (Chandragupta 69-74), Mr. Vikram Sharma (151 R), Mr. Jeetesh Singh (146 P), Mr. Sarpal Singh Butalia (196 I - 1965 S)

MARCH 2026



ROVING EYE



Farewell to Admiral V Srinivas

RIMCOLLIANS GET-TOGETHER – KOCHI

— By CDR DEEPAK SUHAG, 162 COURSE/ SHIVAJI



Rimcollian get-gather was held at the picturesque Gunners Den, INS Dronacharya, on 13 October 2025 at Kochi. This get-together was also special, as it featured a heartfelt farewell for Vice Admiral V Srinivas, the seniormost serving naval Rimcollian at Kochi and Mrs. Vijaya Srinivas. The warmth and camaraderie were palpable as everyone gathered to honour their immense contributions and wish them well for their next chapter of life. The previous three Rimcollian get togethers were all hosted at Navy House.

The evening unfolded with a specially organized RIMC quiz, in which the family



There was a Rimcollian Quiz Competition for the family members. The winners were Miss Ann Mary Joseph (First Prize), Mr Likhit Srinivas (Second Prize) and Mrs. Preeti (Third Prize).

members and Rimcollians enthusiastically participated. Laughter and good-natured competition filled the air, transporting attendees back to the spirited quiz hours of school days. Special mention goes to the family members who won prizes in the quiz: Miss Ann Mary Joseph (First Prize), Mr Likhit Srinivas (Second Prize) and Mrs. Preeti (Third Prize). There was a Quiz for the Rimcollians too and most of the answers flew from Cdr Raju Mathew and Cmde Anil Joseph; and with

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Standing row (L to R) : Midshipman A B Ghosh (C/189), Midshipman Aditya Giri (C/189), Slt Ishan Solanki (R/188), Slt Lakshya (C/188), Slt Neeraj Kumar (P/186), Lt Cdr Shashank Shekhar (R/176), Slt Veeresh (R/187), Slt Harshwardhan Bhonsle (S/188), Capt AJ Mathews (C/138), Cmde Mahipendra Salklan (C/136), Cmde Manav Sehgal (S/125), Cdr CM Varghese IN Retd (R/120), Cmde N Anil Jose Joseph, VSM I.N (Retd) (R/112), Mr Likhith Srinivas, VADM V Srinivas PVSM AVSM NM IN (Retd) (S/112), Mr. Balakrishnan (R/64 ; 1953-58), Cmde B K Kumar IN Retd (R/70), Maj Gen Rajagopal (Retd) (S/78), Cdr Raju Mathew (IN Retd) (P/90), Cdr Karan Tyagi (P/156), Cdr R Madhusodanan (IN Retd) C/101, Capt B Divakar (P/144), Cmde Benny Antony Methala IN Retd (P/106), Capt Rishi Raj (P/154), Cdr Deevaj Thapa (C/150), Cdr R P Singh (C/156), Lt Cdr Ranjeet Kumar (S/170), Lt Cdr Lulu Lourembam (S/177), Lt Vivek (R/182)

Setting row (L to R): Miss Ann Mary Joseph, Mrs Sonia Thomas nee Bharadwaj, Mrs Geetha Philip, Mrs Rashmi Salklan, Mrs. Nidhi Sehgal, Mrs. Mallika Kumar, Mrs. Vijaya Srinivas, Mrs. Radhika Rajagopal, Mrs. Rita Mathew, Mrs Jenny S Joseph, Mrs. Jeevitha Divakar, Mrs. Preeti, Mrs. Oinam Agasti, Mrs. Kavita Singh

On Knees (L to R): Miss Michelle, Miss Ira Thomas, Miss Mira Thomas, Midshipman Anantjeet Mishra (S/189), Slt Ayush Agnihotri (R/187), Cdr Deepak Suhag (S/162), Slt Akash (S/188)



a lot of extra comments and banter from all over that added more gaiety to the proceedings

No Rimcollian get-together would be complete without wonderful eats, and this occasion was no exception which included *Mussoorie light sparklers* and traditional *scotch eggs*. Cake-cutting ceremony was organised that symbolised the strength and continuity of the Rimcollian bond.

What made this dinner truly magical was the RIMC-themed dining arrangement - a centre table with separate section tables as followed at School. The gavel found its place at the centre table, used for announcements as per enduring RIMC tradition, evoking affectionate smiles and memories. The evening reached its emotional high when the jazz band of INS Dronacharya filled



the air with nostalgic melodies that brought wide smiles, warm hearts, and a shared sense of joy.

The gathering was addressed by the seniormost Rimcollian present Mr Balakrishnan (1953-57), who shared his life experiences with everyone present; and wished Admiral and Mrs Srinivas on behalf of all Rimcollians. Cmde Anil Joseph being a course mate of Admiral Srinivas, also shared a few

memories of school times, adding an extra layer of nostalgia and camaraderie to the event.

Altogether, the evening was brimming with nostalgia, laughter and the enduring joy of school days. **The get-together affirmed what every Rimcollian knows: times may change and distances could grow, but the vibrant school spirit and brotherhood remain as strong as ever. ■**

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The RIMC Squash team of 1996 with Gen VN and Mrs VN Sharma (archive pic)

Dream Teams

— By **WG CDR D HAZARIKA, 145 COURSE/ SHIVAJI**

Some teams win trophies. Others win championships. And then there are a rare few that shape who you become, long after the medals are packed away and the cheers have faded. You rarely recognize them for what they are while you're in the middle of it. It is only years later—when memory softens the edges and sharpens the meaning—that you realise you were part of something special.

DREAM TEAM /Noun: 'dri:m ti:m/ - A team of people perceived as the perfect combination for a particular purpose.

Looking back, destiny has been kinder to me than I often acknowledge. Over the years, I have had the rare privilege of being part of a few such “dream teams”—groups of people who came together at

the right moment, for the right purpose, and achieved far more collectively than any one of us could have alone. At the time, none of it felt extraordinary. It is only with the benefit of distance and hindsight that the true scale of those moments, and the people who made them possible, becomes clear.

Like everything else, it began in RIMC. The first of these teams was the **school squash team of 1995–96**. That season remains etched in memory, not just for the results, but for the journey itself. We seemed unstoppable on the squash courts, running through every team we encountered. What followed was an almost nomadic stretch - close to 45 days away from RIMC - beginning with the Zonals in Delhi and culminating at the

Nationals in Chennai. For a group of young players, it was an intense mix of competition, travel, discipline, and camaraderie.

Major Mallapurkar and Lt Cdr Akshay Joshi were with the team, and under their guidance, we played with confidence and purpose. Wherever we went, the courts came alive. By the end of the season, the results spoke for themselves. We won the **Under-19 team title**, with Ritwik finishing runner-up in the Under-19 individual event. The Under-16 and Under-14 teams also finished at the top, making it a season of near-total dominance.

One moment that stands out was the Junior National finals in Chennai. Our Commandant, **Col D. H. Parab**, made



Hunter Squadron 1st String 2002

the effort to be present—a gesture that carried far more weight than he perhaps realized at the time. His presence steadied us as we crossed the final hurdles: Doon School in the semifinals and HR College, Mumbai in the finals. It was a defining experience—one that taught me early the power of leadership, belief, and collective effort.

Soon after, I left Dehradun to join the **National Defence Academy**. If the squash courts had been my first lesson in teamwork, NDA took it to another level entirely. I was fortunate to be allotted to **Hunter Squadron**, widely regarded (and fiercely defended) as the toughest squadron in the Academy. There is, of course, no debate on this point—ask any ex-NDA cadet after a few drinks and you will get the same answer, delivered with absolute conviction.

In my final term, I was appointed the **hockey captain** for the squadron. The tournament that followed was one of quiet confidence rather than loud celebration. My Squadron Cadet Captain spent the first two days meticulously analyzing the results across all fifteen

squadrons. On the third day, he walked into my cabin wearing a grin bright enough to light the room. The math was irrefutable - we had already won the trophy, with the opposition far behind. What followed was a moment of shared secrecy. I made him swear—quite dramatically—on his entire family to keep the result under wraps until the final day. When we finally lifted the trophy, having won both the first-string gold and the overall championship, the satisfaction was not just in winning, but in knowing how methodically and decisively it had been done.

Later still, in the world of **military aviation**, I found myself once again among an exceptional mix of people. This time, the stakes were higher, the environments harsher, and the margin for error virtually non-existent. In the back of beyond of our vast nation—often far from recognition or comfort—we undertook tasks that felt routine at the time but now reveal themselves as truly herculean. We worked with limited resources, unforgiving terrain, and timelines that left no room for hesitation.

There was an unspoken understanding that failure was never an option. What bound us together was not rank or circumstance, but trust—quiet competence, shared hardship, and the certainty that every individual would do their part when it mattered most. There were no headlines for those days, and very little record beyond memory. No photographs to capture the fatigue, the triumphs, or the faces that made it all possible. Only now, looking back, do I fully grasp the scale of what we accomplished and the caliber of the people I had the honour to serve alongside. I often wish I had taken more pictures—not of machines or places, but of the people themselves.

To all those wonderful individuals who were part of these dream teams—thank you. The memories we made, the lessons learned, and the bonds forged should carry me forward until the end finally beckons. Until then, I choose to live by the words attributed to Vinegar Joe Stilwell:

Illegitimi non carborundum.
Don't let the bastards grind you down. ■



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Gangotri group of Peaks , clicked with The Zenith across the Gangotri Glacier (foreground).

Le Cadre Parfait IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT FRAME

— By **COL GAURAV HAMAL**, I37 COURSE/ SHIVAJI

This morning, six thousand feet above sea level, I sat in my room perched on the northern lip of the valley, watching the sun make a shy entrance through the clouds like a child peering backstage before a school performance. It offered a reluctant warmth, the sort that lulls you into a languorous, delightful inactivity. I had just drained a cup of black coffee which, in its usual contradictory way, made me feel both philosophical and faintly dehydrated. My phone lay in my

hand like a small hypnotist, coaxing me through YouTube's endless parade of cats, pseudo-philosophers, and cooking hacks that I will never, under any circumstance, attempt. I wasn't watching; I was marinating.

Inevitably, boredom seeped in—there is only so much one can endure of cats dipping themselves into cardboard boxes—and with it arrived the familiar guilt. Shouldn't I be meditating? Exercising? Conquering the world?

Almost immediately, my YouTube addled mind protested. Why must every hour perform like a poorly paid labourer in a productivity factory? Why must life be an accountant's ledger, every minute scrutinised like an expense claim?

And then, like a sun-drenched breeze from the Mediterranean, the Italians stroll into the mind with their marvellous philosophy of *il dolce far niente*—the sweetness of doing absolutely nothing. Only Italians could make idleness sound





My first real memory of photography is from childhood, at my uncle's house, where neat stacks of Life and National Geographic sat on shelves bowed under their weight. I must have been about eleven, lolling on a cane chair, slowly turning their glossy pages. The pictures seemed alive.

like a dessert on a silver platter. This wasn't laziness, but a refined, leisured idleness, perfumed with food, wine, sunshine, and a shameless delight in simply existing. But YouTube, alas, is a counterfeit imitation of this leisurely sweetness. For a short while, it feels like floating in a warm pool of delightful triviality. But somewhere around the hundredth video—particularly the oddly compelling ones about villagers digging swales in Vidarbha—the sweetness sours, and even stillness begins to itch. True dolce far niente is like a fine wine; the algorithm serves nothing but fizzy cola.

But I digress.....

THE CAPTION THAT SET THE MIND WANDERING

What set the entire chain of thought in motion was a picture someone had posted on WhatsApp with the caption *Le Cadre Parfait*. French, undoubtedly. At the NDA I never studied French—my “foreign language” was lower Hindi, which thankfully was not especially foreign. So, I asked Google for help, and it dutifully informed me that the phrase meant “the perfect frame.”

The picture belonged to Jagdish Singh Samant, a fellow Rimcollian from my own section. He has developed a fondness for placing French captions under his photographs—perhaps as a small puzzle for the viewer, or perhaps simply because they look elegant. Whatever the reason, his photography has been improving steadily. Some years ago, he posted a photograph of a single leaf against a plain background. We exchanged a few messages about why placing it against a strong light might render the veins translucent or even turn the leaf into a silhouette. Later, we spoke of the rule of thirds, that simple but transformative idea that can shift a photograph from ordinary to compelling.

These were casual chats, hardly “lessons,” yet I smile now as I see his frames grow more deliberate—an extra breath of space here, a more thoughtful play of shadow there, a patient awareness of light creeping into the edges. In an age of mobile-phone cameras, instant filters, apps, and artificial intelligence that can

“improve” a photograph beyond what one could actually see, it is refreshing to watch someone learn to truly look.

And in a sense, this is how the journey begins for many of us: by looking, by imitating, by stumbling, and ultimately by discovering one's own eye.

GROWING UP AMONGST ART

My first real memory of photography is from childhood, at my uncle's house, where neat stacks of Life and National Geographic sat on shelves bowed under their weight. I must have been about eleven, lolling on a cane chair, slowly turning their glossy pages. The pictures seemed alive. I knew nothing then about shutter speeds, apertures, lens choices, exposure compensation, or the alchemy of film. Yet the photographs—especially those in National Geographic—felt almost enchanted.

Years later, I discovered how rigorous their craft truly was. National Geographic photographers were artisans of the highest order. They worked entirely in film, making their decisions before pressing the shutter: choosing the film stock—Kodachrome for its famously rich yet unforgiving colours, Ektachrome for its cooler tones—selecting the right lens, judging the light, calculating the exposure, and then waiting weeks or months for the negatives to return from distant labs. A single wrong judgement could ruin an entire assignment.

For every photograph published, hundreds were rejected. These were men and women who carried their craft in muscle memory—trained not by Photoshop but by patience, trial, and the hundreds of rolls that failed quietly before the one frame that succeeded.

I knew none of this as a child. I only knew the photographs were very, very good.

A SANCTUARY OF QUIET

When I came to RIMC, the library became a refuge. For a boy enduring the prickliness of seniors, the relentless discipline of the school routine, the quiet ache of homesickness, and that peculiar brand of solitude that boarding schools produce—now neatly labelled “boarding



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school syndrome”—the library was a sanctuary. The moment its door closed behind you, a hush settled. In that hush, I returned to National Geographic and Life, their bright spreads of people, animals, mountains, deserts, cities—each a window into another world. Perhaps that was where the first spark of wanting to take photographs was truly born.

But hobbies at RIMC were not chosen; they were allocated. I was placed, without negotiation, into “gardening and nature study” under the kind and patient Mr P. O. Augusty, the biology teacher who had travelled all the way from Kerala in search of work. He would lead us—an unenthusiastic gaggle of twelve-year-olds—around the campus, explaining the Latin names of flowers and the patient lives of shrubs. My interest was polite but brief, and by the first term’s end most of us had started to itch to find ways to drift away.

By my third or fourth term, I had, through gentle persistence, wriggled into the photography hobby where I had long desired to be.

THE AWAKENING OF AN EYE

Fortune smiled on us. Captain J.P.R. Ismail had been posted to the school and took charge of the photography club. He was a rare combination: an enthusiastic photographer, a patient teacher, and a man who spoke of complex ideas in language that made sense to young cadets. This was the era when the old Agfa Click-III and Rolleiflex twin-lens reflexes were slowly giving way to sleeker 35mm SLRs. The club owned none of these newer machines, but Captain Ismail brought his own Pentax K1000—a rugged, unfussy device, often called the AK-47 of cameras for its simplicity and reliability.

Under his guidance, the mysteries of photography unfolded. He taught us the rule of thirds, the purpose of apertures, the mechanics of shutters—we were thunderstruck the day he casually detached the lens from the Pentax and fired the shutter so we could witness its metallic eyelid flick open and close. He explained how depth of field changed the emotional texture of a picture, how telephoto lenses flattened perspective, and how wide-angle lenses stretched the

world. He spoke of pinhole cameras, silver iodide crystals, the history of film, and the delicate dance of exposure—all in a tone that made us feel like initiates of an ancient craft.

There was no pressure, no exam, no reprimand. Only the sheer pleasure of learning. In the regimented life of a cadet, those hobby hours under him were small pockets of freedom.

A PLACE OF MAGIC

The photography hobby possessed a darkroom tucked away in a quiet corner of the campus. To us, it was a place of alchemy. The red glow of the safelight bathed the room in a warm, eerie glow, and the air always carried the sharp, chemical tang of developer and fixer. Under that red light we watched images slowly emerge—first as pale ghosts, then gathering substance until faces, trees, buildings, and skies solidified from nothingness. It was astonishing. It was magic.

We worked only in black-and-white. Colour film was costly; developing it was even more expensive and needed professional labs. But black-and-white photography taught us to truly see—tones, contrast, textures, the geometry of shadows. There was a discipline, even an austerity, in this monochrome world.

Senior cadets guided us gently, showing us when to dip, when to rinse, how long to expose the paper under the enlarger, when to sigh, discard the overdeveloped, ruined print, and begin again. They also opened doors beyond the darkroom—taking us along as unofficial apprentices when photographing debates, sports meet, and most grandly, Founder’s Day.

Founder’s Day had a rhythm of its own. After clicking through the festivities, we hurried the rolls to the Tech-Nica Colour Lab near Connaught Place. By dawn the prints returned, and we mounted them into thick albums with matching catalogue numbers. Old Boys browsed these proudly, placed orders, and we handled the logistics—money, reprints, and finally posting them off through the Indian Post. It was a crash course in responsibility and efficiency.

Amidst all this, humour thrived. I

once photographed an entire debate with admirable diligence only to discover, at the triumphant moment of rewinding, that the camera contained no film at all. Another time, we captured a Master in the Mess caught mid-bite—mouth wide open—an image quickly hidden away to preserve both decorum and our skins.

Yet the triumphs sparkled: footballers caught in perfect arcs, rising to head the ball; faces of boxer’s frozen mid-punch, the impact contorting their faces into dramatic expressions; sprinters suspended in impossible poses at the finish line, high jumpers suspended mid-air, defying gravity in the graceful arch of a Fosbury Flop. These were moments that proved what fast shutter speeds, wide apertures, and a steady hand could achieve—fleeting instants of pure drama, held forever.

A SOVIET BEAST COMES CALLING

Among all the photographic oddities in the hobby room, none commanded the awe of the Soviet-made Fotosnaiper. Donated by Michael Dalvi—a Dosco by schooling, restaurateur by profession, cricketer by enthusiasm, and the son of Brigadier John Dalvi, author of the seminal Himalayan Blunder who was imprisoned as a prisoner of war after the 1962 war—the camera came with his cheerful declaration that Rimcollians and Doscos could indeed be friends.

The Fotosnaiper was an extraordinary contraption. Essentially a Zenit 35mm film SLR fitted onto a metal rifle stock, it had a long 300mm telephoto lens and a trigger mechanism to fire the shutter. Made from unapologetically heavy brass and steel, it weighed enough to dislocate your shoulder. It was originally designed for military reconnaissance; only later was it civilised—if one can use that word—for wildlife and sports photography. There was nothing delicate or Japanese about it. It was a workmanlike beast: heavy, rugged, unstoppable. To drop it would probably damage the floor, not the camera. But in its heavy lens lived a certain magic. It gave us reach. It gave us drama. It made us feel, in the impetuous way only schoolboys can, like snipers of light.

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

KEDARDOME – PHOTOGRAPHY AT 22,000 FEET

In 1994, I was selected for the RIMC Platinum Jubilee expedition to Mt Kedardome. Because I knew my way around a camera, I was enlisted—alongside my fellow enthusiast, Abhijeet Tembe—as one of the expedition’s photographers. The task required us to carry the Pentax, the imposing Fotosnaiper, a brace of UV filters to blunt the savage mountain light, a polarising filter to deepen the blues of the Himalayan sky and tame the gleam of ice, and a small mountain of film rolls—all of which grew progressively heavier in the thinning air.

At altitude, photography becomes an eccentric challenge. Every step steals breath. Your lungs tighten. Your fingers stiffen. Your breath fogs the viewfinder. The wind strikes your face with icy indifference. Yet you kneel, squat, stretch, and sometimes cling to slanted rock faces to frame the mountains, your footing precariously uncertain.

We were fifteen- and sixteen-year-olds then—boys who thought they could climb a 22,000-foot peak and did. One moment we trudged up icy inclines with silent determination; the next, we perched on treacherously tilted ledges, steadying the Fotosnaiper like marksmen to capture the delicate silhouettes of our comrades crossing knife-edge ridges. With the Pentax, we framed sweeping vistas—jaw-dropping glaciers, ridges glowing pink at dawn, clouds swirling like restless spirits around the peaks.

And when the films were finally developed, we found they were not just souvenirs but testimonies—small, silver-halide testaments to effort, endurance, and adolescent audacity.

THE CRAFT THAT ENDURES

Photography, I now understand, was never just another hobby tucked into the school timetable. It was, quietly and insistently, a teacher. I was not naturally talented—could not act, sing, or debate with flair. Even the School Band, the Diamond Cutters, would probably have sent me away from the triangle. But behind a lens, something shifted. I learnt to see:



Picture taken With The Venerable Pentax K-1000 of the Photography Hobby.
L to R : (Porter ; name unknown, Porter ; name unknown, Cdt Gaurav Singh Hamal, Captain Sandeep Singh, Captain YS Meitei, Lt Col M P Yadav (Expedition Leader) Cdt Saurabh Batta, Cdt Soubhagya Nayak, Cdt Gaurav Kumar Saini.

*the warmth of emotion on a face caught in an unguarded moment,
the fleeting shape of an athlete’s leap,
the violent grace of a boxer mid-punch,
dew shimmering on a spider’s web,
the frozen music of water paused mid-ripple,
the Himalayas glowing gold before the world was fully awake.*

This was not talent; it was craft. And craft is learnable. It grows with patient eyes, with repetition, with mistakes made and corrected, with conversations, with encouragement, with time.

In the regulated life of RIMC—with drills, PT, academic rigour, stiff-upper-lipped discipline, the ever-watchful hierarchy of seniors—the camera gave us permission to pause, to breathe, to look for beauty even in the ordinary. That was its greatest gift.

Even now, decades later, the habit remains. Photography never really leaves you. It becomes a way of walking through the world—always observing, always framing, always waiting for that hidden moment: *Le Cadre Parfait*—the perfect frame.

PRESERVING A VISUAL HERITAGE

In the cupboards of the Photography Hobby in School, hundreds of 35mm negatives still lie—quiet, patient relics

of a bygone era. Recently, thanks to the initiative of Colonel Vikram Kadian, then Commandant, the school procured a Kodak Slide-N-Scan Film and Slide Scanner. With it, these negatives can be digitised, restored, sharpened, and revived with the help of Photoshop and modern tools.

If uploaded to Google Photos, its extraordinary face-recognition algorithms could track a boy from a Founder’s Day photograph in 1975 across numerous albums with astonishing ease. Old Boys could send in their own negatives—either scanned locally or posted to the school—and these, too, could be digitised.

Slowly, this could evolve into something far richer than a collection: a living, breathing visual history of RIMC.

A treasure, shared across generations of Rimcollians.

AN ODE TO PHOTOGRAPHY

In the end, the camera remains more than a device. It is a companion, a quiet mentor, and a faithful archivist of time. Each frame holds a story. Each photograph rescues a moment from the river of forgetting. Perhaps the true gift of photography is this: the willingness to notice—and the intent to preserve. ■

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THE DIFFICULTY OF BEING OG



— By **CMDE N ANIL JOSE JOSEPH**, 112 COURSE/ RANJIT

With due acknowledgement to Gurcharan Das for the idea for the title

Interestingly the dictionary describes ‘OG’ as a slang for someone who is incredibly exceptional, authentic or old school. Surprisingly its origins lie in gang culture. In the Military it has been largely used for someone who follows the book, someone on the straight path; At the extreme end, a stickler for rules, but largely, it means someone who places a lot of emphasis on doing things correctly, on following laid down procedures or SOPs etc.

What is an OG? Or who is an OG? It may have meant someone who is a stickler for rules or someone who follows laid down procedures, someone who insists on societal norms. Some may argue that these norms too change or evolve. Yes, procedures may change but only after due process and until it changes ‘what is’ is the way to be, the best recourse. Changing or evolving societal norms would be true but to be true values don’t change. What changes is our level of acceptance and then that becomes the norm. In all the ensuing discourse quite often, we may forget that ‘What is right and wrong actually does not change’. Or maybe we begin to value the value a wee bit lesser.

It appears people don’t want to be called an ‘OG’ anymore. I wonder why is it that today few want to be known for being on the right path? Why is being OG taken as a fault? Why is it ‘not cool’ to be called an OG?

This is not just true in the Military it is probably the case the world over. To be called a ‘good boy’ or ‘good girl’ is not popular or cool anymore. To be the teacher’s pet is made out to be a fault among peers. So much so that ‘cool’ kids are deliberately choosing to be a little out of line. Also, probably some of the terms from earlier generation have assumed



different connotations. My elder daughter tells me that a teacher’s pet has come to mean a snitch. Is it because the teacher favours the pet and jealousy among peers have created this insinuation or does the ‘teacher’s pet’ actually snitch?

It could be a thin line between being a snitch and doing the right thing. And we in the Military should know that better. Camaraderie and doing the right thing can be challenging. When discussing ‘OG’ people quite often associate ‘OG’ with telling on others. I have known many who have said ‘I know but I cannot tell’ and then taking on more punishment or standing the test a wee bit more because of his or her stand; beautifully articulated by Al Pacino in the movie ‘Scent of a Woman’ where he defends his ward for not having snitched.

While one does not tell on his friends and we end up taking the punishment together (particularly in the Military); we forget the norm of the individual stepping up to own up his mistake. That is character. That is moral courage.

It is indeed a strange world, wherein society is probably instilling this culture in kids, of wanting to be a little ‘out of line’ than ‘in line’. The cliché ‘decency is taken for granted’ is taking root in greater measure and a not-so-subtle emphasis that it probably does not ‘pay’ to be decent. I refer to this as a cliché, for notwithstanding one still needs to be decent. This is akin to the fauji quote of ‘a senior should never behave like a senior, but a junior should never forget that he is junior’. A beautiful maxim but often misunderstood, for some may not perceive the nuances and thereby end up ‘crossing the line’. This however does not mean our conduct should change – a quiet word or a little rap when one perceives it should do the course correction.

So why has ‘OG’ taken a negative connotation? Why this negativity to the term; Why have different connotations emerged of the word ‘OG’? The naysayers often say there are different perspectives to ‘being OG’. Is it because the term ‘OG’ has taken a different meaning or is it jealousy that has triggered the changed perspective?

Sometimes I wonder whether it is from biblical times when Cain questions God ‘Am I my brother’s keeper’. And yet we have people who look out for others or offer opinions even when not sought for he or she believes it is the right thing to do at the cost of sometimes inviting ridicule or even plain animosity. “No action is intrinsically right or wrong, it is the intent that makes it so”- Bhagwad Gita. So, what we need is to always question the intent before one acts. In other words, why are you doing what you are doing.

Most often the so-called OGs are the same voices reminding us of the right things, the conscience keepers. And quite





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often they are teased for being OG. Take a late-night boisterous party especially with peers. There will be one sane voice telling us that we may be crossing our limits. It is our own inner voice too and yet; we wish it away. We make fun of that friend telling him to 'chill' and 'loosen up' and 'to enjoy'. We all know 'the OG' is right, yet we choose to ignore or make fun of him. When in fact, he is the one who gets you back safe from the boisterous party.

It is the toughest thing to stand up to one's friends. He who stands up to his friend, reminding him of the right and wrong is the true friend. We need to respect the individual for standing up for his convictions. Harry Potter's Headmaster, Dumbledore gives extra points to Neville Longbottom for standing up to his friends. This is a story I often share with kids when discussing courage of conviction and being a true friend. Take the instance of the 'carrying on of eats in the Academy' – here too every batch would have one person who would have said, "Let's not do it". Here again he is teased but then we all know he is right.

There is steel in those men and women who stay on the right path; temptations are many, but they don't waiver. They too can choose the easier wrong instead of the harder right. Respect that in them, even if one cannot follow the path of the harder right.

Vibheeshana had the courage to tell Ravana that he was wrong. Lesser known is that even Kumbhakarna advice Ravana on what was right. However, wherein Vibheeshana chose to walk away Kumbhakarna decided to fight and subsequently die for his brother. It is a choice too and with it the consequences too.

In today's materialistic world temptations are aplenty and distractions, not one but 'five too many'. Teenagers and young adults getting caught in drugs, alcoholism etc. Some claim that they just want to try, some describe it as an expression of freedom of making a choice, probably trying it when in a company or peer group. For in a peer group amidst the fun and frolic and the desire to blend in and be accepted, there is a lowering of guard. Therein lies the courage of doing



the right thing – it is a challenge and those who can – Respect them.

To those who call it freedom of choice a simple question is who gave you that freedom; lend a little thought to that. And with that freedom comes responsibility; we owe it those who give us that freedom and we owe it to ourselves. And with every choice that we make the responsibility to face the consequences of one's action is something we will do well to remember. To those who call it as a 'want to try' or 'just did it once'. Imagine that when one is 'trying' there is a police raid. There is no justification thereafter.

As is often said we are always known by the company we keep. We also know that there is likely to be some 'mixing of drinks', some 'adulteration'. How is that right or an expression of choice when the 'friend' hides that from you? And is that friendship? While friendships and camaraderie go a long way and are very important, right and wrong do not change just because someone is our friend.

A young officer inferred that the OG is probably concerned with keeping his conscience clear. He gave a hypothetical situation wherein an officer aware of his colleague's misdemeanour is in a dilemma to tell his superiors or let it be. He then asked whether his choice makes him a lesser friend or ethical? It is a choice to be made, and it depends on our moral compass. 'Our sense of Right and Wrong'.

Every choice that we make has its consequences. And in this case at the very least he surely must tell his friend even at the cost of losing the friendship.

A friend of mine once recounted how he was teased when he was in school because he had chosen Priesthood as a vocation. Should it not have been respecting that call and encouragement for making the choice?

Take the simple act of punctuality, of being on time. Or, in the navy closing up on watch 15 minutes prior or for duty half an hour early; the person who does this is also teased. Why does doing a good job get ridiculed? Is it a manifestation of some jealousy that prompts this reaction? Everyone knows right from wrong, yet why is it not cool to do the right thing? Something I ponder often. With the existing peer pressure and the need to blend in and be with the group, it is a challenge to be yourself.

To stick by one's beliefs, shows character. Organisations too have a character. Though Olive Green is the colour of the Army uniform there is another friendly banter that the Navy is more OG.

Maybe it is time to get back the positivity in being OG. It may be a challenge to be good, be good anyway. It may be challenging to remain decent, be decent anyway and to be an OG, but be OG anyway. ■

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Hanging spurs

LT GEN K VINOD KUMAR, 112 Shivaji, SO in C superannuated on 31 Dec 2025 after an exceptional service to the nation. A highly decorated Strategic Defence and Technology officer he served for over 39 years across the Indian Army Corps of Signals, the United Nations and Indian boardrooms. As Government Director on the Board of ITI Limited, he steered digital modernization, cyber resilience, and large-scale capital procurements. Gen KV is renowned for providing board-level strategic vision, robust technology governance, and holistic enterprise risk management. He demonstrated excellence in setting up nationwide communications infrastructure, spearheading spectrum policy, HR development, and innovation in cyber and electronic warfare and niche technologies like Quantum. Also a very spirited Rimcollian. ■



AIR MARSHAL NARMDESHWAR TIWARI superannuated as Vice Chief of the Air Staff on 31 Dec 25, after four decades of distinguished service in the Indian Air Force. Commissioned on 07 Jun 1986, he is a highly accomplished fighter and test pilot, who held several crucial appointments during his illustrious career, including that of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Air Command. An alumnus of RIMC, NDA and the US Air Command & Staff College, Air Marshal Tiwari was conferred the SYSM, PVSM, AVSM and VM. He leaves behind a legacy of professionalism, leadership and operational excellence. ■

Vice Adm V Srinivas PVSM AVSM NM superannuated on 31 Oct 2025. See page 14

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Rimcollians as Colonel of 3 & 9 Gorkha Rifles, Lt Gen Zubin Minwalla (left) and Maj Gen CS Dewgun

A FAREWELL FROM A SOLDIER TO A SOLDIER, RIMCOLLIAN TO A RIMCOLLIAN

— By **LT GEN ZUBIN MINWALLA**, 119 COURSE/ CHANDRAGUPT

It was time to bid adieu to my friend philosopher and guide, from school days, Major General CS Dewgun. For the last time, in uniform, we stood side by side at the War Memorial at 39 GTC, Varanasi to pay homage to the fallen soldiers of both Regiments.

My mind wandered to RIMC, where we grew up together. It is never easy to bid farewell to a fellow officer, especially one with whom the bond goes all the way back to our school days. From growing up together, to crossing paths on Number of assignments including commanding brigades together on the LC. It has been a privilege to witness his journey.

General CS Dewgun stood out for his



sincerity, hard work, and meticulous approach in everything he undertook. The way he carried himself, served 3 GR with dedication, and consistently upheld

the finest traditions of the service, is truly commendable. As he moves ahead to the next chapter, he carries with him not just the respect of his peers, but also the goodwill and admiration of all who have had the fortune of serving alongside him.

On behalf of the entire Rimcollian fraternity, I wish him and the Dewgun family, success, happiness, and fulfillment in every endeavour ahead. He will be missed but never forgotten. As they say, “A soldier marches ahead, not for glory or reward, but for duty, honor, and the belief that his footsteps pave the way for others to follow”.

Cheers CSD. May God be with you in all your endeavours. ■

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NOSTALGIA



Photo By: Sidharth Mishra

— By **COL GAURAV HAMAL, 137 COURSE/ SHIVAJI**

There is a peculiar magic that settles over the RIMC campus once the sun dips behind the hills and evening folds itself over the dormitories. The air grows cool, carrying the faint scent of dew and pine, shadows lengthen, and somewhere, in a quiet corner of a dormitory, a few restless cadets begin to stir. They whisper, plot—a little conspiracy born of boredom, courage, and a craving for adventure.

RIMC was, and continues to be a stiff place, run on routine and restraint, with a pronounced belief in the virtues of self-control and a rather Brit stiff upper lip. Days were broken into drills, parades, inspections, and trying to avoid surly seniors. Indiscipline was not debated; it was corrected. Rebellion, therefore, had to be discreet. It arrived not as a shout, but as a shrug—a handful of small,

forbidden pleasures stolen from a life that left little room for softness.

Rebellion often began in small, mischievous ways. It was not so much escape as variation. The indoor swimming pool, forbidden after lights out, became a stage for midnight escapades. We would slip through the large windows on the sides, which, owing to their age and warped wood, could never be shut securely. Inside, the water glimmered under the pale moonlight, the smell of chlorine mingling faintly with the cool night air, as the tiles echoed with stifled laughter and splashing. The thrill lay not just in swimming, but in moving through a space usually barred—a taste of freedom that boys outside the school took for granted every day.

Sometimes, instead of water, it was squash. Playing at two in the morning,

the echo of the ball, the crisp swish of the racket, the chill of the morning creeping in—it all made us feel different, awake, asserting quietly that we were our own men. Defiant, yes, but also tasting a liberty our peers in ordinary homes experienced without a second thought.

Cutting bounds followed naturally. It was not so much escape as variation—a stolen pleasure from a routine that brooked no indiscipline. Every dark street, flickering lamp, and faint murmur from the sleeping town seemed sharper, more alive in the night. A stolen moment on a roadside stall, the warmth of fried tikkies, the hubbub of a bazaar—it all felt like a world normally open to others, a taste of life outside walls and rules.

As we moved into the senior classes, cutting bounds became a rite of passage. First came small jaunts—slipping out to the market at Garhi Chowk, hardly 400 meters from the unmanned boundary





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gate near the Garhi Police Thana. Quick visits to the tikki shop for scalding hot tikkies or chaat, occasionally bun-tikki—the rustic cousin of a burger wrapped in a leaf, packed in newspaper. The aromas, the crunch, the chill of the night—heightened the thrill of forbidden pleasures, pleasures ordinary boys took freely each day. Confidence grew, and soon one ventured toward the main city, drawn by illicit bites, small adventures, and a world alive in ways the campus rarely allowed.

Planning mattered. One had to know which Duty Master was on, whether surprise inspections were likely, and whether the Administrative Officer—alert at improbable hours—might be prowling. The risks were small, but the consequences were memorable.

Routes became legendary. Southern wall near ONGC Colony, quiet streets leading to Ghantaghar, dodging hedges and startled villagers, the bolder shortcut through Sirmaur Estate, across Kishan Nagar Chowk, over Bindal Bridge—all taken with the silent intensity of explorers charting unknown lands. Rajendra Nagar opened to Hansa's Cafe, a senior-year favourite for a quick, illicit bite. The smell of frying food, the hum of conversation, the damp-pavement scent—all enhanced the sense of pilfering a slice of life that ordinary boys enjoyed every day, while we had to plan and dodge for it.

And yet, ever in the background, lurked the threat of being discovered—by a Master, out shopping, or worse, the Administrative Officer. In ops-room parlance, it is called a “threat in being”—a ticking clock, ready to strike down the unwary. In one such incident at Hansa's, Giri and I once almost got caught. We had stepped out during preps, for a bite. Sitting under the outdoor seating, waiting for our order, we spotted a Maruti Gypsy in olive green drab at the gate. The school's Gypsy. The Commandant emerged.

Without a word, and in one swift motion, we decamped—through the dining area, into the kitchen, out the rear, jumped the boundary wall, wove through the adjacent house to bewildered faces probably watching television, and exited

from their front gate without a glance. Quick thinking saved us—a lesson that cutting bounds was as much about cunning as courage.

Cunning, indeed, became a craft. Pillows became decoys, friends' whereabouts were fabricated, audacity flourished. Success brought laughter, pride, and an unmistakable thrill. Yet, some adventures lingered longer than triumphs.

RIMC was, and continues to be a stiff place, run on routine and restraint, with a pronounced belief in the virtues of self-control and a rather Brit stiff upper lip. Days were broken into drills, parades, inspections, and trying to avoid surly seniors.

I recall one particularly fragrant—and mortifying—incident. The Kedar Dome Expedition team had stayed back after the term break for a meeting the COAS and flagging-in. One night, Shivender Singh of Pratap Section & I went out for a movie. On return from the 9 to 12 show, there were no Vikrams or Autos to be had. He and I tramped back on foot and attempted a shortcut through undergrowth near Rajendra Nagar, towards ONGC and in the general direction of the school. The area that time was not very developed and was overgrown with under growth and bushes. He was leading, when in the darkness I heard a muttered curse. On scampering forward I realised that he had fallen into a shallow manure pit beside a cattle shed. Recovery was slow, dignity was not preserved, and enthusiastic washing in the Garhi Nallah helped less than hoped. For several days afterwards, his arrival could be detected

early - a pungent reminder of night's adventure!

Not all perils were olfactory. Legend has it that two nameless cadets, sometime in the 70s or 80s once thought they had luck on their side when a car offered them a lift home near the Bindal Bridge after a 9 to 12 show at Prabhat Talkies. Blissfully unaware, they chatted and laughed in the rear seat, only to discover that the driver was none other than the eagle-eyed AO, his girlfriend sitting beside him. Mortification set in, and a valuable lesson in awareness and attention to detail was learned, albeit the hard way.

Sometimes, cutting bounds reached its most delectable heights: in Class 5, during preps, we slipped quietly from the boundary wall into Kalinga Colony, adjacent to the boxing ring near the Commandant's house. The usual culprits—Parimal, Amit, Somaditya, and I—gorged on the spicy shaadi fare, a welcome departure from routine mess food. Only after the twentieth Gulab Jamun perhaps was Somaditya refused by the server, “khatam ho jayenge”, was his refrain! Soma, ever the sweet fiend was annoyed, while we doubled up in laughter. All said and done, the escapade felt like a stolen piece of a world normally free to all boys—the taste of food, laughter, and time unbound, pleasures ordinary children took for granted. A tiny, sweet rebellion that lingered far longer than the sugar rush.

For those who ventured into the night, evading detection, tasting forbidden snacks, moving through dark streets with twinkling lights above, even enduring the occasional mud or dung, the thrill lasts forever. Cutting bounds was a rite of passage, a reminder that even in the strictest rules, there is space for courage, cleverness, and small, unsanctioned joys.

RIMC, in its quiet, disciplined way, teaches many lessons. But cutting bounds—well, that teaches something entirely different. It teaches the heart to beat faster, the mind to think sharper, and the soul to savour fleeting freedom.

Some lessons aren't found in books or drills. They are found in daring, mischief, and unforgettable nights fully lived... at the edge of the bounds. ■

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REMEMBRANCE



Swimming team of Shivaji Section won the Championship; Cadet Krishnaji is seated on the left.

REMEMBERING KRISHNAJI SHANKAR KARANDIKAR

— By **COL VIJAY Y GIDH, VSM, 92 COURSE/ SHIVAJI**

Allow me to remember and tell a little about the life of a Rimcollian Cdr KS Karandikar, Pratap, 1954-59. Krishnaji Shankar Karandikar was born in Pune on 05 July 1943. His early life was shaped by the warmth of a close-knit family and the lively atmosphere of his father's local restaurant famous for its special *Missal* – a famous Maharashtrian dish. Located on Law College Road, opposite Law College, Pune, “Kaka Karandikar's Missal” became a landmark in the area, fondly remembered by generations of lawyers.

Krishnaji began his education in a Marathi-medium school in Pune. A spirited debate between his father and a friend – who claimed that English-medium students were inherently smarter, prompted a dramatic change. Determined to prove otherwise, his father withdrew him from school and put him

in the Shivaji Preparatory Military School, Pune. Since he did not know English, he was placed in the second standard despite being in the fourth. His father studied English alongside him, and within months, Krishnaji caught up and was promoted to the correct grade. Krishnaji was later selected to join the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun in August 1954.

16 July 2025 was a sad day for the Karandikar family and the Rimcollian fraternity with news of the demise of Cdr KS Karandikar in Pune. While writing this note, I could access the RIMC archives and see the records of then No 1022 Cadet KS Karandikar, 66 Course, Pratap Section. The records indicate that Cadet Krishnaji was initially quite weak in academics and games. He was advised to study during the vacations, as he was capable of showing better results

provided he works hard. He had been advised to improve his handwriting and read more books and newspapers to widen his knowledge. His short height – only 4'8” was also a drawback.

Over the terms, Krishnaji showed more interest in his studies and improved his performance in the class. Initially he was weak in PT and a non-swimmer; but subsequently he was able to represent his section in the swimming competitions and win prizes. His Section Master, Mr GB Shaw and the Principal, Mr Din Dayal were gradually satisfied with his progress, both remarked that he was capable of doing much better. Towards his 7th term he performed well and improved his final placing from being 10th or 12th in a class of 19 cadets: to now being 4th in the class. In his 9th term, he secured the first position in his class! He was awarded a prize for his good work in science. From



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6 July 2025 was a sad day for the Karandikar family and the Rimcollian fraternity with news of the demise of Cdr KS Karandikar in Pune. While writing this note, I could access the RIMC archives and see the records of then No 1022 Cadet KS Karandikar, 66 Course, Pratap Section.

being a shy and quiet-natured cadet, who was advised to take part in debates and other co-curricular activities to get rid of his shyness – he showed tremendous improvement in academics and games and increased his height to almost 5 feet.

His dossier in RIMC seems quite interesting, as in addition to his class reports, there was tremendous correspondence of nice handwritten letters by his father and the College authorities. His father's monetary situation was not well and there was considerable delay in remission of Cadet Krishnaji's fees almost every term. His father's yearly income hardly exceeded Rs 1500 to Rs 1800; so he often requested the College authorities for partial payments, since he had to pay for his daughter's school fees. The father once requested the College for a recommendation certificate that Cadet Krishnaji is a bonafide student; this would give him some concession in the expenditure of his daughter's education; she was two years younger than Krishnaji. The father had availed of a refundable loan from their Brahmin Association to pay for his children's education. Fortunately, Cadet Krishnaji was awarded Bombay State Scholarship of Rs 1000 for



Lt Cdr & Mrs Karandikar after their wedding

the last year of his training in PWRIMC.

His father requested the College for the next term's prescribed books, so that he would coach Krishnaji during the vacations. This ensured that the cadet's academic performance improved over the terms. The father also requested the College authorities not to send his son on mid-term hikes, since it would save him

the expenses for the trips undertaken by the cadets. This time be instead utilised by his son in studying. In May 1958, Krishnaji attended the Naval cruise ex Bombay to Cochin, for which the father later made the payment of Rs 144. 70 Nps!

The hard work put in by Cadet Krishnaji finally paid out during his 10th term, when he passed the NDA written

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examination and cleared the SSB. However, during the medical examination a defect was found in his eardrum, which required immediate treatment. Lacking the means for paying for the expenses, Mr Karandikar reached out – based solely on a shared surname – to Col GK “Bhau” Karandikar in Delhi. In an act of remarkable generosity, Col Karandikar hosted Krishnaji for a month, ensured he received the required treatment, and was found fit. He was selected to join the 22nd Course NDA in August 1959.

The Inter Services Wing (ISW) was raised on 01 January 1949 as part of Armed Forces Academy (AFA) in Clement Town, Dehra Dun with six companies (A – F). On 21 March 1950, the ISW was renamed as Joint Services Wing (JSW) and the AFA was rechristened as National Defence Academy (NDA). Thus, six companies were now called squadrons. On 16 January 1955, the NDA shifted to Khadakvasla, Pune and the six squadrons were divided into three Battalions with two squadrons each. Later the number of squadrons kept increasing with the rise in the intake of cadets. The “Lima” squadron traces its genesis to the year 1962 when it was determined that more cadets needed to be admitted to the academy, following the JSW’s move from Clement Town to NDA, Khadakvasla. The Lima squadron became 12th in the family of the squadrons in NDA. The cadets from the **22nd NDA Course** were the squadron’s pioneers. The squadron unlike its predecessors did not go under any shifting or change of building and the squadron building remained home to all the “Lions” from 22nd course onwards. The name of the squadron always remained as “Lima” in consonance with NATO phonetic code. Among the first set of Squadron Officers and Cadet Appointments, I was surprised to find the name of **Divisional Cadet Captain (DCC) Krishna Shankar Karandikar**. It was nice to find this newly recorded information about Lima Squadron in the squadron office when we ex-Lions visited Lima Squadron while attending our 48th NDA Course Golden Jubilee Reunion in June 2025. Incidentally, our son Col Varun also



On board a merchant ship as a Merchant Navy officer.

The hard work put in by Cadet Krishnaji finally paid out during his 10th term, when he passed the NDA written examination and cleared the SSB. However, during the medical examination a defect was found in his eardrum, which required immediate treatment.

happens to be from Lima Squadron, 104th NDA Course!

Cadet KS Karandikar was commissioned in the Marine Engineering Branch of the Indian Navy in July 1963 and was posted to INS Shivaji, Lonavla for further training. He later married Vasanti Kelkar (later Anuradha Karandikar), whose father was an officer from the Dogra Regiment and had fought in the Burma Campaign during the Second World War.

Lt Karandikar’s younger sister Sunanda Karandikar had developed a keen interest in Table Tennis. She represented Maharashtra State in the National Championships in 1964 and secured 3rd position in the Under 20 years category.

Over the next two decades, Cdr Karandikar served in the Indian Navy with distinction, in both sea and shore postings. He served aboard INS Mysore, INS Vikrant, and eventually as Chief Engineer on INS Deepak. He also specialized in diving, and pursued language studies, earning certifications in both – Japanese and Russian. To his family, he was the embodiment of physical discipline – famous for his bull worker workouts and unwavering commitment to cold-water baths regardless of the season. He often practiced diving techniques by donning scuba gear and doing laps in the pool, with his young son Arvind walking alongside, half-worried and half in awe. In 1985, he attended a course in the Institute of Defence Management, and a few years later, in his forties, he took up windsurfing. Though his early attempts frequently ended with a motorboat towing him back to shore, he persisted until he became a confident and capable windsurfer.

When he was posted in Bombay in early 1980s, his son Arvind developed a keen interest in sailing. He joined the Sea Cadet Corps and was selected to represent India in the Cadet Class World Sailing Championship held in Melbourne, Australia in 1985.

Cdr Karandikar retired from the Indian Navy in 1989 and embarked on a second career in the Merchant Navy. His work took him to ports around the



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world, including San Diego, Tacoma and Philadelphia – cities where he created special memories while exploring with his son Arvind, who was studying and later working in the United States. He retired from the Merchant Navy in 2001.

After Cdr Karandikar retired from the Merchant Navy, he undertook a second innings as a father, raising his grandson Varun, following the demise of his daughter. Back home in Pune, he entered a serene and purposeful phase of life. He developed a deep interest in yoga, pursued gardening, and even enrolled in courses at the Agricultural College, Pune. He attended yoga workshops across Pune and beyond. In a typically curious turn, he learnt to play the small keyboard he had originally bought for his grandson!

Having seen the world through the lens of a sailor, he later visited many countries as a tourist with his wife, enjoying them with fresh eyes and a renewed sense of wonder.

My close association with Cdr Karandikar and his family began after my retirement around 2008, when I learnt that he stayed in the Ex-Servicemen Colony, Kothrud, Pune which was quite near our place. I would visit their nice small bungalow where Cdr Karandikar would proudly show us their kitchen garden maintained by his wife. The papaya trees bore fruit around the year. The big mango trees would bear good fruit every year in May and the couple would come home with a bag full of delicious mangoes which we would enjoy eating. We would travel together for the Rimcollian gettogether in Pune in March every year.

Cdr was keen that his grandson Varun joins the NDA and thereafter the Indian Navy. So I had taken along Cdr and Varun to NDA to obtain the requisite information about the UPSC Entrance Exam for NDA and INA. The visit to NDA was useful in motivating Varun. He tried for the NDA and INA but was not able to make the grade.

In July 2015, there was a spread of dengue due to mosquito menace in our area. I was suffering from chikungunya and even after treatment, my bones would



In the Swiss Alps

Over the next two decades, Cdr Karandikar served in the Indian Navy with distinction, in both sea and shore postings. He served aboard INS Mysore, INS Vikrant, and eventually as Chief Engineer on INS Deepak.

pain severely. When Cdr Karandikar learnt of the same, the couple visited our place. Cdr Karandikar presented me with a set of white gloves which he had preserved in his old trunk. These gloves had been used by him underneath the special deep sea diving gloves used by the Naval divers during the Indo-Pak Conflict 1971. Cdr was part of the Naval deep sea diver team deployed to check if any mines had been planted by the enemy around the dockyard in Bombay (Mumbai) during the 1971 War. The gloves were nice and warm and a big relief for my cold hands!

Mrs Karandikar was a student of naturopathy and would follow some home-based remedies for many ailments. Many a times, her simple home therapies were a big relief rather than going to the doctor for minor ailments.

Arvind Karandikar is a Computer Scientist who was working at Intel, IBM and Shell. He conducts training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). When our son Col Varun had come home during November 2025, he informed Arvind that the Indian Army is introducing some latest technology in their functioning, which at times is difficult to follow being an Infantry soldier. Arvind gladly conducted few coaching classes for Varun in AI and ML and updated him about the same!

In the late 2010s, Cdr Karandikar began showing signs of cognitive decline and was eventually diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia and Alzheimer's. Though the illness gradually diminished his physical and mental vitality, he met these challenges with the quiet resilience that had defined his life.

Cdr Karandikar passed away on 16 July 2025, a few days after his 82nd birthday. He is survived by his wife Anuradha, son Arvind and grandchildren Varun Rajmachikar (now a commercial pilot) and Shruti Karandikar (studying astrophysics at the University of Arizona, USA). Arvind kindly sent me a small write up on his father, which helped me in preparing this note.

Since Mr Karandikar had to undergo many difficulties while paying for his son's expenses in RIMC, the Karandikar family has decided to contribute an amount of Rs Two Lakhs as scholarship for needy cadets in RIMC. This corpus will be utilised by the College authorities for paying the fees and other allied expenses of any deserving cadets, whose parent's financial situation is not good.

Cdr Karandikar leaves behind a legacy of discipline, curiosity, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to self-improvement – a life lived with courage, integrity, and an enduring zest for learning. On behalf of the Rimcollian fraternity, we all pray for the departed soul. He continues to live in our hearts. ■

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The NDA Passing Out Parade November 2025

— BY COL VIJAY GIDH, VSM, 92 COURSE/ SHIVAJI

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

It was a chilly Sunday morning when we witnessed an impressive POP of the 149th Course of the NDA on 30 November 2025. The temperature in Pune had dropped to 9.8 degrees Centigrade, while NDA was colder being around 8 degrees! The Chief of Naval Staff, Adm Dinesh Tripathi was the Reviewing Officer for the parade. A total of 1250 cadets participated in the parade, which 329 were from the passing out course. The passing out course included 209 Army cadets, 38 Naval cadets and 82 Air Force cadets, including 20 cadets from friendly foreign countries – Bhutan, Tajikistan, Maldives, Tanzania, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Lesotho, Kenya, Cameroon, Mauritius and Yemen. The second batch of 15 women cadets were also among the passing out course.

Addressing the passing out cadets, the Naval Chief remarked that technology will drive future warfare, strategy, and national security, and must be embraced as India's greatest strength. He said technology is accelerating decision-making and redefining military capability, urging cadets to remain innovative and agile.

Adm Tripathi praised the second batch of women cadets commissioning from the NDA, noting that the Services recognise only merit. "I am delighted to see the second batch of women cadets graduating today, 15 of them standing shoulder to shoulder with their male



counterparts. This reaffirms that the Services honours only one standard, that is merit." "You carry the weight of the nation's expectations. Let Sewa Parmo Dharma – Service Before Self – guide you," he concluded.

NDA had witnessed a momentous occasion on 30 May 2025 as the first-ever batch of 17 Female Cadets from the 148th Course had passed out from the Academy - an event of historical significance and a transformative milestone in NDA's legacy of nation-building. While two female cadets have topped the academic stream so far – one in the 148th Course and another in the 149th Course; Cadet Sidhi Jain became the first woman to receive the President's Bronze Medal for standing third in the overall order of merit. An Air Force cadet, Sidhi hails from Ujhani in Badaun district of Uttar Pradesh, and unlike many military families, she comes from a

household rooted in education – both her parents are teachers by profession.

The most thrilling event for the Rimcollians who witnessed the parade – live or on TV, was the Award Ceremony. ACC Siddharth Singh was awarded the President's Silver Medal for standing second in the overall order of merit. As the parade commander during the POP, ACC Siddharth commanded the parade with exceptional composure and military precision; his word of command during the parade was exemplary. Golf Squadron bagged the prestigious Chiefs of Staff Banner for being the Champion Squadron for a record third time!

The passing out course consisted of 19 Rimcollian cadets, of which 11 were from the Army, 05 were from the Navy and 03 from the Air Force. CSM Tejas Narwade was adjudged as the Best Naval Cadet, while BCA Swastik Gautam as the Best Air Force Cadet.

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It was a pleasure meeting ACC Siddharth Singh and his proud parents after the parade. I congratulated Siddharth on behalf of the Rimcollian fraternity. Siddharth (Chandragupta, 192nd Course) was a student of Sainik School, Nalanda before joining the 192nd Course in RIMC in January 2018.

Hailing from Dumraon, near Patna, Bihar, his father, Mr Sunil Kumar Singh is General Manager in DBS Automobiles, a branch of Tata Motors. His mother, Mrs Suman Singh is a homemaker. His elder brother, Flt Lt Samarth Singh is an Air Force fighter pilot, and ex-NDA 142nd Course,

Siddharth has fond memories of his stay in RIMC. He says, "I feel grateful to have spent the few important years of my life in RIMC as today it makes it easy for us to stand apart. The few formative years of the childhood well spent, gives us the Rimcollians, the boost it requires to stay afloat."

Siddharth excelled during his RIMC days. He was hardworking, disciplined and very motivated from his junior terms itself. His Class Teachers found him to be talented, a gifted performer and an asset to the class. Over the years, he took part in various scholastic and co-scholastic activities successfully. He was a talented orator and represented the College in Hindi and English debates, and quiz teams. He actively participated in various sports events, represented the College in RIMC Soccer Cup and District Athletics. He attended the Advanced Mountaineering Course at Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Uttarkashi and Paragliding Course at Mechanised Infantry Regimental Centre, Ahmednagar.

Siddharth had been active in training and motivating juniors in all respects. As Cadet Captain in Class VA, he displayed good leadership qualities. His Section Master found him to be a gifted performer in the field of sports and other activities. The Vice Principal remarked that he has shaped very well into an all-rounder and a potential leader. The Adm Officer remarked that he has performed well and has tremendous potential to do so in future.



The Commandant remarked that Siddharth is a mature boy who has always been a source of inspiration for the entire College. He always tried to lead from the front, and he was certain that he would aim for the same in future.

Siddharth was awarded a Merit Card in Athletics, Half Blue in Boxing and a Gold Batch in Debating. He was the Cadet Captain in Class 5A and was awarded the President's Gold Medal and Sword of Honour while passing out from RIMC in December 2022.

Regarding his NDA days, he says, "NDA is a place where we require to prove ourselves from the Day 1 and nobody makes it easy for us. Staying at the apex becomes the necessity for us and well someone has rightly brought it out that 'There is very less space at the top, however it is enough for the Rimcollians to claim.' "I would like to thank my parents without whom I cannot imagine any of this. I want to thank my Alma Mater for filling me with his confidence and finally each and every person who in some or the other way supported me."

At NDA, Siddharth was an all-rounder, excelling in games, outdoors and academics and has many achievements to his credit. He was a

Merit Card in Athletics, Blue in Boxing (Best Boxer in Autumn Term 2025) and Best Sportsperson of the Passing Out Course. He was awarded Certificate of Proficiency (COP) in Drill, was 1st in Public Speaking in his 5th term, a Bronze Torch holder and won Merit Card and COP in Russian. He was a Sergeant in his 5th term and Academy Cadet Captain in his 6th term.

Some officers of the 49th Course NDA residing in Pune had attended the POP. The 49th Course would be celebrating their Golden Jubilee of passing out from the Academy; and many officers from various parts of India and few from abroad, would be conducting their Reunion in NDA from 10 -12 December 2025.

The Convocation Ceremony of the 149th Course was held at Habibullah Hall on 29 November 2025. Mr Ajay Kumar, former Defence Secretary and present UPSC Chairman was the Chief Guest. A total of 328 cadets, including 18 cadets from friendly foreign countries were conferred the bachelor's degrees from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). This included 72 cadets in the Science Stream, 92 cadets in Computer Science Stream and 52 cadets in the Arts Stream.

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CAMPUSCAN

Cadets from the B Tech Stream, comprising of 112 cadets from the Navy and Air Force, received their three-year course completion certificates. These cadets would be conferred degrees after their one-year training at respective pre-commissioning academies – Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and Air Force Academy, Hyderabad.

Recalling the border clashes at Galwan with China and Balakot strikes against Pakistan, Mr Ajay Kumar called upon the passing out cadets to step into the Services as scholar-warriors, saying that leaders were forged not only in steel and stamina but in intellect, clarity and moral conviction.

I had an opportunity to meet some of the foreign cadets during the Tea at Sudan Block. It was nice to interact with Cadet G Douresh from Mauritius. I had the privilege of being the Sponsor Officer for the three Mauritian cadets – Dylan Thomas, Zuhayr Madarbux and Chiranjeev Bungsy, during the period 2017-20, when the NDA had followed the system of appointing Sponsor Officers for the foreign cadets from ex-NDA volunteers in Pune. After obtaining permission from the NDA authorities, we were permitted to take the foreign officers home on Sundays, once a month. The Mauritian cadets relished the fish dishes prepared at home, something which they missed in NDA! It reminded them of the fish delicacies they enjoyed at home. The cadets were grateful, and now as officers in the Mauritian Defence Forces, they have still kept in touch. Cadet Douresh had been informed about the Indian Sponsor Officer by his seniors, but we had never met before!

It was suggested by the NDA authorities that I write an article for the NDA magazine on my experiences of being a Sponsor Officer. My article “Our Mauritian Cadets” was published in the NDA Trishakti magazine, Spring Term 2020.

It was very heartening to learn that our RIMC cadets continue to excel in the UPSC examinations for admission to NDA. RIMC has once again etched its name in golden letters in the UPSC NDA & NA 2025 Final Merit List. In an



unprecedented achievement, RIMC cadets clinched the All-India Top Three Ranks – Vaibhav Kumar (AIR 1), Deepanshu (AIR 2) and Abhishek Kumar (AIR 3) – demonstrating the unmatched legacy of the institution as the Cradle of Leadership and Discipline. Adding to this stellar accomplishment, five cadets have secured positions within the Top 10, reflecting the depth of talent, training and tenacity nurtured within the College. This remarkable outcome stands as a testimony to the unwavering dedication of the mentors, faculty and training staff, whose relentless pursuit of excellence continues to shape the nation’s finest future officers.

It was nice to learn that a group of 33 RIMC cadets from Class IIIA accompanied by the Commandant, RIMC, Col Rahul Agarwal, Mrs Agarwal, Mr PK Jain and Mrs Tabya Khatoon had visited Pune from 07-12 November 2025. On the first day, they visited the NDA. Their first event was a short film screening on NDA at the prestigious Habibullah Hall, followed by a visit to the iconic Sudan Block. Later, they explored Peacock Bay, the Cadet’s Mess, Gol Market, AFTT and ETT. The cadets carried back with them a sense of enlightenment and inspiration. The second day was an outing to IMAGICCA, India’s largest water and theme park. The third day brought an informative visit to the Air Force Station, Pune, where they learnt about the various wings of the Air

Force; the highlight being witnessing the mechanism of the Su-30 MKI and the BrahMos missile carrier aircraft. On the fourth day, the cadets had the honour of interacting with the GOC-in-C Southern Command, Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth. After exchanging mementoes, they proceeded to experience a series of technical and practical activities at the College of Military Engineering (CME). The final event was a fun-filled rejuvenation as they met some esteemed Rimcollians and recreated deep-rooted memories with them. The cadets took off from Pune on morning 12 November and reported back to the College campus by dusk. The hikes concluded successfully leaving the course energized and motivated for their next journey!

It was very heartening to learn that ACA Nishkal Dwivedi had been awarded the Sword of Honour and Gold Medal during the IMA POP on 13 December 2025. Nishkal was a BCC in NDA and it had been nice to meet him during Tea at Sudan Block after the POP in November 2024.

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

MARCH ◆ 2026

News from NDA, IMA and INA

INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY

The following Rimcollians were commissioned in the Indian Army from IMA and were allotted Arms as under:

- Lt Nishkal Diwedi - 2/9 GR
- Lt Abhinav Bhadauria - 21 Rajputana Rifles
- Lt Aditya Kale - 5 Madras
- Lt Rajveer Bishnoi - Signals
- Lt Elias - 56 Armoured Regiment
- Lt Alok Yadav - 1905 Rocket Regiment
- Lt M Vickram - 192 Field Regiment
- Lt Fuzail Khan - 63 Field Regiment
- Lt Jodha - Intelligence Corps



Rimcollian Nishkal Diwedi receiving the prestigious Sword of Honour from Chief of Army Staff Gen Uppendra Diwedi.

NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY

Rimcollian appointments in NDA for Spring Term, 2026:

- BCA No 2 Bn – Meda Chaitesh.
- BCA No 5 Bn – Nakul Singh Rathore.

INDIAN NAVAL ACADEMY

During the INA POP on 30 November 2025, seven Rimcollians earned the stripes and were commissioned as Sub Lt. Among them, Sub Lt Shaurya Prajapati was the ACA at INA and was awarded prestigious President’s Silver Medal.



In the Picture

Sub Lt Shaurya Prajapati 190 Course, Sub Lt Aditya Giri 189 Course, Sub Lt Archit Patyal 190 Course, Sub Lt Aman Ghosh 189 Course, and Sub Lt Omkar Asutosh 190 Course.

Missing from the frame - Sub Lt Ronit Mishra 189 Course and Sub Lt Anantjeet Mishra 189 Course



MARCH 2026

QUICK FLIP

Major Dhruv Yadav Memorial Lecture

14 September 2025, Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi

Rimcollians at the Maj Dhruv Yadav Memorial Lecture at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt.



Right to Left : Col Manish Lanjrekar, Col Sreenivas, Col Nabarun Majumdar, Brig Rohit Teotia, Mrs Teotia, Brig Ujjal Dasgupta, Wg Cdr Rajvir Yadav, Lt Gen P Ananthnarayan, Col Anil Singhroha , Cdr Somaditya Chakraborty

RAKSHA MANTRI AWARD FOR GOKUL MAHAJAN

Gokul Mahajan, a Rimcollian, 170 Course Shivaji, CEO Defence Estates in Arunachal Pradesh has been awarded with the prestigious Raksha Mantri Award 2025, conferred by Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, during the Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence – 2025, held on 16th December 2025 in New Delhi, for exemplary service, outstanding professional dedication and significant contributions to the management and development of defence land and record management.

Notably, this is the first occasion where a region from the North-Eastern states has been selected for this honour.



Earlier he has also been conferred three National Awards by the Hon'ble President of India for his outstanding contributions in Cantonment Management and Development. These

recognitions reflect his exemplary leadership, innovative initiatives, and citizen-centric approach in improving service delivery across cantonment areas.

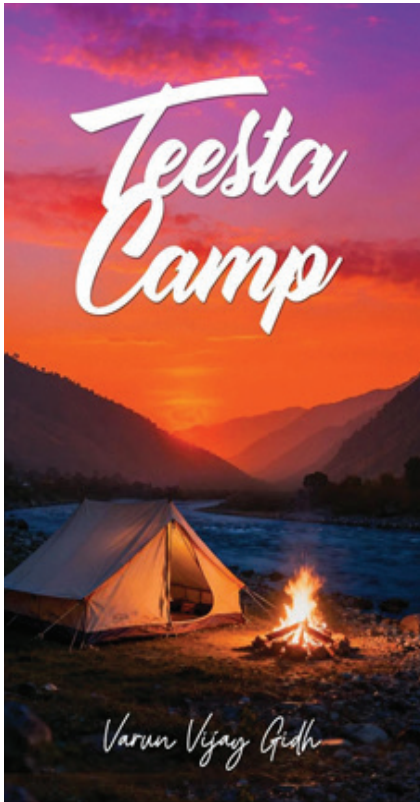


We are pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2026, Col. Ajay Kumar (Retd.), currently Dean – Administration & Campus Life, VidyaGyan Bulandshahar, will assume the role of CEO – VidyaGyan. Col. Kumar brings with him 32 years of distinguished service in the Indian Army and extensive experience in leading complex institutions. Since joining VidyaGyan, he has played a pivotal role in strengthening campus discipline, student life programmes, facilities management, safety systems, and risk preparedness. His student-first approach and deep understanding of institutional operations position him well to lead VidyaGyan into its next phase of growth.

Col Ajay Kumar, an ex-Commandant RIMC takes over as CEO VidyaGyan, a CSR initiative of the Shiv Nadar Group

Teesta Camp – A Book by Varun Vijay Gidh

The genre of this book is Bildungsroman - a literary genre, originating in Germany, that focuses on the psychological, moral, and emotional growth of a protagonist from youth to adulthood, often called a “coming-of-age” novel. It has 24 chapters, and it has been published by Creative Crows. The USP of the book are its unique characters and it is a story of six friends who are Smriti, Kingshuk and Yasmin from West Bengal, Pawo from Bhutan, April from Shillong and Diego from Gangtok. The X Factor of the book is the weaving of multiple sub plots and inclusion of many interesting personalities into one story and sell BRAND INDIA globally showcasing its multicultural identities.



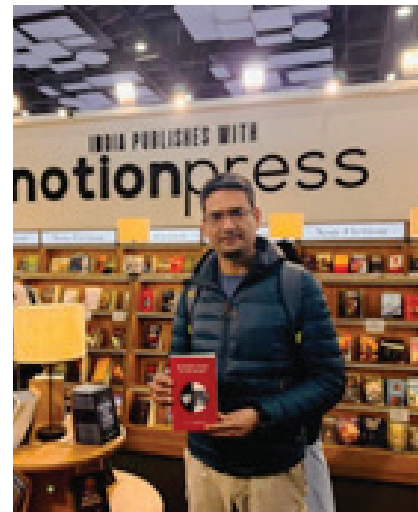
Top 50 Most Influential Authors of 2025.

Published 20 hours ago on December 30, 2025
By Delhi Wire



Welcome to our Top 50 Most Influential Authors of 2025 list. Each year, we share names of writers who had a strong impact on readers around the world. We pick writers from many kinds of books that made people think, feel, or talk. You will find authors of novels, business books, self-help work, history, and

Col Digvijay Parihar, 144 Ranjit hitting the bookshelves with ‘Business Runs in the Family’. His book has stood 23rd / 50 in best fiction books in India.



POTPOURRI

Lt Gen Mohit Wadhwa Assumes Command of Headquarters 101 Area On 29 October 2025.



Maj Gen Rakesh Nair takes over a GOC of an operational division in the J&K.



Maj Gen Rohit Teotia, 125 Ranjit assumes the Command of Prestigious Dot Division



Anshul Bhatt, 138 Chandragupta, a career banker, now heading the MNC Coverage for the leading French bank BNP Paribas.



Saravana Bhava, a US-based Rimcollian on the cover of Enterprise World

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar Takes Command as 19th Chief of Andaman & Nicobar Command



A Rimcollian, Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, AVSM, NM, took over as the 19th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) on October 1, 2025. Throughout his notable naval career, Vice Admiral Kochhar has led frontline warships, managed key operational and training assignments, and held vital leadership roles. His previous positions include Assistant Controller of Carrier Projects, Assistant Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition, Commandant of the National Defence Academy, and Chief of Staff at the Western Naval Command.

Lt Gen Zubin Minwalla moves to a key appointment in Integrated Defence Staff.



353 5

hqidsindia Lt Gen Zubin A Minwalla assumed charge as the Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff on 27 Nov 25 after relinquishing coveted

Top honours for our multi-talented Cdr Deepak Adhar, Chandragupta

His short film "Mukti" with Cdr Deepak Adhar, getting top credits in the cast won the International Shorts Award Los Angeles last week for best story. This was the only Indian entry to win any award in any category.



MARCH 2026

POTPOURRI



Rimcollian filmmaker Hari Verma, 171 Ranjit, 2007-12, continues to shine. In January 2026, his movie 'Signal' was screened at the Sydney opera house. It was among the 22 chosen short films from over 400 qualified short films from around the world for a prestigious film festival called the SF3. Hari's film Signal won the Best International Short Film at the SF3 Film Festival

in Australia. A rare feat for the Rimcollian fraternity.

Sagi Sree Hari Verma has also received a formal invitation from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (OSCARs) to showcase his recent Award-winning short film and participate in a key panel discussion.

The event is scheduled to take place at the Oscars' headquarters in Los Angeles in June 2026. This invitation marks a significant milestone in his career. Among many other creative works of his, he directed a short documentary on Indian Army's IBEX Brigade in Uttarakhand in 2022.



Dr TGK Mahadev, 115/C at the World Economic Forum 2026 at Davos, Switzerland

MARCH ♦ 2026

PROMOTIONS NOMINATIONS & AWARDS

**Gallantry & Distinguished Awards on
77th Republic Day, 26 January 2026**

Sena Medal Gallantry

- Capt Jagdeep Narayan

PVSM

- Lt Gen K Vinod Kumar
- Vice Adm Ajay Kochhar

AVSM

- Maj Gen Arindam Saha

VSM

- Maj Gen Vishal Agarwal
- Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherjee
- Rear Adm Sritanu Guru
- Brig SS Tanwar
- Brig Abhijeet C Tembe

PROMOTIONS

Brigadier to Major General

Brigadier Sanjeev Kumar, Shivaji

Commodore to Rear Admiral

Commodore Shritanu Guru, Chandragupta

Lt Colonel to Colonel

- Lt Col K Jayanth, 156 Course
- Lt Col Lenin Pal, AAD, 157 Course
- Lt Col Laldin Puia, 5 GR, 158 Course

- Lt Col Vikas Kumar, 9 GR, 158 Course
- Lt Col Anshuman Gairola, 8 GR, 158 Course
- Lt Col Gaurav Hridaya, 9 GR, 159 Course
- Lt Col Vijesh Kumar, MAHAR, 159 Course
- Lt Col Prabhat Singh Rana, 11 GR, 159 Course
- Lt Col RP Singh, ASSAM, 159 Course
- Lt Col Rakesh Singh, GARH RIF, 159 Course
- Lt Col Vedant Pun, 3 GR, 160 Course, 159 Course

National Defence College, India and abroad

- Brig Sanjay Kanoth, Ranjit
- Brig Sumit Kapoor, Chandragupta
- Brig Mudit Mahajan, Shivaji

DSSC, DSTSC and ALMC

- Shantanu Mohan, 172 course (competitive vacancy)
- Bhishma Saini, 170 course
- Lalit Thapliyal, 170 course
- Samarth Gangapure, 171 course
- Vishwendra Gill, 170 course
- Utkarsh Tripathi, 166 course
- Suyash Gupta, 172 course
- Tabish Hasan, 172 course
- Devashish Upadhyay, 168 course
- Rahul Mishra, 171 course
- Vivek Yadav, 169 course

Foreign Staff College

- Lt Cdr Arpit Sangwan, 170 Ranjit, France
- Lt Cdr Ranjeet Kumar, 170 Shivaji, Iran

MARCH ♦ 2026



STOP PRESS



Our Alma Mater has been awarded GOC-IN-C ARTRAC UNIT CITATION, **Congratulations Team RIMC**

Rimcollians during the Annual Gorkha Brigade Lunch at Delhi on 15 February 2026



STANDING:

Maj Sandhya, w/o Lt Col Vijay Singh Thakur, 163/C, Lt Gen SK Singh 88/P, Maj Gen DA Chaturvedi 104/R, Maj Gen JS Nehra 109/P, Lt Gen PN Ananthanarayanan 107/C, Lt Gen Zubin Minwalla 119/C, Brig Sanjay Kannothe 131/R, Lt Col Karnee Pratap Singh 163/P, Lt Col Parth Barua 147/C

SITTING

Mrs Nehra, Mrs Rikhi, Mrs Chaturvedi, Mrs Romen, Mrs Minwalla, Mrs Peru, Brig SP Sinha 61/R, Col Y Romen Singh 156/C, Mrs Baruah



LAST POST



Ser	Rank and Name	Year at RIMC	Section	Date of Death
1.	Lt Col Gur Iqbal Singh	1955-59	SHI	3-Apr-25
2.	Lt Gen RK Gulati	1948-54	KIT	16-Apr-25
3.	Maj Gen N Kumar Chadha	1948-52	PRA	17-Apr-25
4.	Lt Cdr KS Karandikar	1954-58	PRA	16-Jul-25
5.	Capt (MN) Raj Mohan Jolly	1953-56	SHI	3-Aug-25
6.	Mr Ravi Maitrey	2014-19	RAN	22-Aug-25
7.	Col Gyaneshwar Prasad	1955-60	RAN	6-Oct-25
8.	Brig DK Khuller, Padma Shri, AVSM, Arjuna Award, FRGS	1953-57	RAN	10-Nov-25
9.	Brig Kuldip Singh Chhokar	1952-56	PRA	16-Nov-25
10.	Cdr KK Gulati, VSM	1948-50	PRA	16-Nov-25
11.	Mr Rana Dutta	1969-73	RAN	25-Nov-25
12.	Lt Col SDS Jamwal	1938-43	ROB	29-Nov-25
13.	Col Prosenjit Barua	1955-59	SHI	20-Dec-25
14.	Capt (MN) Rakesh Kumar Awasthi	1966-72	CHA	29-Jan-26
15.	Maj Gen PK Chhiber, AVSM	1956-59	RAN	3-Feb-26
16.	Mr Ashok Rawat	1967-72	RAN	9-Feb-26
17.	Wg Cdr Alok Kaushal	1957-61	PRA	9-Feb-26





OUR
ALMA MATER
FROM AN
Artist's
Brush

