

Vol XVIII Issue-II (Bi-Annual) | September 2024

# The Rimcollian

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

## In Memoriam



**Gen S Padmanabhan**  
PVSM, AVSM, VSM

05 December 1940 - 18 August 2024

# LETTERS TO EDITOR

**Dear Cmde Joseph,**

Thank you and the team for the eRimcollian magazine, March 2024 issue! The magazine and the contents are superb. Great pictures too. I am enjoying reading it. I will certainly contribute articles to the magazine when appropriate!

I am comfortable with e copies. Plus being 10000 miles from you it is the most effective way for communication to the foreign audience!

For domestic India print version is probably appropriate. Also you have many seniors who prefer it that way. So your hybrid version of print and eVersion is very workable and probably the solution for now.

It is a global world for sure. You should still charge Rimcollians, whether it is Print or eVersion. There is a cost to doing it and the Rimcollian brotherhood will be happy to contribute.

With Best Wishes  
**ARJUN ISRANI**  
1952-57/Shivaji

**Dear Sir,**

The copies of The Rimcollian are being received with great promptness now. Thank you for the effort. Remember the days when it was getting difficult to print but thanks to the indomitable spirit of Sidharth sir and Brig Chander Thapa, it

never went out of print and is on a very strong footing today. Brig Steve Ismail's article is straight from his heart.

With Regards,  
Gp Capt **PRABHAT KUMAR** (retd)  
1982-87/Ranjit

**Dear Sir,**

Thank you so much for the copies of The Rimcollian. Just received them by post, and was engrossed in going through the excellent and evocative content. Thank you for including my ruminations too. Please let me know how I much I remit and to which number or account.

With Best Wishes  
Brigadier **STEVE M ISMAIL** (retd)  
1979-84/Pratap

**Dear NAJ and Sidharth,**

You people do a wonderful yeomans service to the school and the alumni community. Really appreciate the commitment and sincerity of the whole editorial team, which keeps us all connected.

With Best Wishes  
Capt (IN) **KK AGNIHOTRI**  
1977-81/Chandragupt

## Editor's Response

**Dear Borthershood,**

On the behalf of the Editorial Committee consisting of Prof Sidharth Mishra, Brig Sanjay Kannothe, Col Shailendra Arya and yours' truly, it gives me immense pleasure to share with you an update on the March 2024 Edition of The Rimcollian. The print copy of the edition was released during the reunion and distributed among the attending old boys (115) by the ROBA Secretariat. Thereafter 330 print copies have been dispatched to those who have paid for life subscription. The address records shows that a large number of subscribers who have paid, have not shared their addresses and in some cases the telephone numbers are missing. Please update your addresses by dropping a mail at robaoffice@gmail.com. The school has been provided with 300 copies to be distributed among the cadets, masters library, Commandant's mail bag etc. The ROBA president under his signature also



shares print copies with several in the brass and those who matter as goodwill gesture. Bulk copies have been sent to centres like Kochi and Mumbai, who placed a demand for distribution during the reunion of the local chapter. The wages earned by us as the newsletter team

is to get a call from a among the senior most living Rimcollian Air Cmde Satwant Singh, saying with a choked voice that he was happy that his school has not forgotten him.

Vive RIMC, Viva Rimcollians  
**Cmde NAJ JOSEPH (retd)**

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## Concept & Design

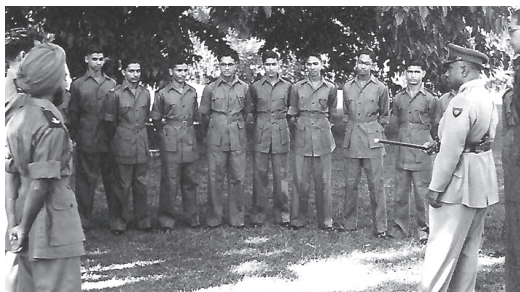
Suman Jakhmola, Dipti Mishra

## Printed at

Om Printers

## Photo credit

The cover photos & several  
other pictures used in this  
edition have been sourced from  
RIMC, various Rimcollians  
and internet.



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# Jo'ttings - Editor's Note



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

**Dear Rimcollians,**

Come September and it is time for 'The Rimcollian' to find its way into print. As we began looking at our renewed aspirations and challenges; this time around much of our long pending tasks are finding fruition. The ROBA office, Rimcollian website, social media handles and so on. The work of a few committed ones, the ones who are tasked that is the 'volunteers' in the Military parlance and the larger silent majority. It is time the silent majority increases participation.

On the aspect of 'volunteers', one wonders *why* this 'don't volunteer' cliché takes prominence particularly in the Military. Unlike in a school where when a teacher asks a question, few children put up their hands, the teachers asks one who answers and the class moves on. In the Military we always seek out the person not putting up his or her hand, the one sleeping, the one not paying attention etc. as our interest is in the one who has not understood; for a team is only as good as the last man in the chain. One would guess that over a period of time this would have evolved into 'don't volunteer'. Besides the Military adage that every man or woman worth his salt will do. Nevertheless, without volunteering one is not going to get opportunities or excel and even learn. Something that I highlight in my talks 'Don't Volunteer' has to be a 'Control Alt Delete' after the Academies. Far better if it goes away from the Academies itself. And therefore, looking for more Rimcollian volunteers in every field.

A new team is at the helm at RIMC led by Col Rahul Agarwal looking at meeting the new age challenges pro-actively and take RIMC to the next level of excellence. The immediate results and events are reassuring. Girl cadets at RIMC, greater expectations from RIMC etc. are now already a norm. The performance of cadets at RIMC, at finishing Academies and Rimcollians everywhere is and has always been a revelation in every field prompting many to say that we can do so much more. And we can.

The last one year has seen many a Rimcollian shine in many fields, many going about their tasks even unobtrusively. All these too must find a 'share' among the Rimcollian community. And while there are many Rimcollians contributing it would be more complete if more Old Boys and families put pen to paper and contribute to 'The Rimcollian'. Do mail it directly to the Editor as and when an event occurs. Letters to the Editor would also be a good start for a small contribution.

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

**Ich Dien & God Bless**

Enjoy Reading

Sept 2024

— Cmde N Anil Jose Joseph, VSM (Retd)

Ranjit 1977 - 82

## MESSAGE FROM **PRESIDENT**



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

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**Dear Rimcollians,**

It has been a humbling experience steering the ROBA and activities at RIMC as Hony President ROBA. The faith and support of the Rimcollians fraternity has been the greatest strength. Accordingly, it has led to the guidance and mentoring of the school activities whenever required. The new team of Commandant and Administrative Officer has settled well and are taking the best steps in the overall interests of our Alma Mater.

The professional excellence by Rimcollians everywhere fills our heart with pride and serves as inspiration for the young cadets at RIMC even at NDA and IMA, it is indeed heartening to see that our youngsters are tenating the top appointments. The distinguished names in the honours and awards including gallantry, promotions to senior ranks and the urge in every Rimcollian to excel is a great tribute to our Alma mater.

In the past few months, many of our stalwarts have left us for their heavenly abode. General S Padmanabhan is one such stellar personality whose contributions We are towards nation building and to the Indian Army will always be remembered. hence dedicating this edition to commemorate his extraordinary life. Our Editorial team has researched extensively to pay appropriate homage and respect to our late COAS.

As we move forward, I exhort all of us for your continued support towards our institution. Your valuable suggestions are always welcome. ROBA and ROBA Trust remains committed to supporting the school in all its endeavours.

Viva RIMC  
Ich Dien

Thanks and Regards to all

**Viva RIMC - ICH DIEN.**

**LT GEN ADOSH KUMAR**  
1020/Pratap

# Life of a Legend

GEN SUNDARARAJAN PADMANABHAN, PVSM, AVSM, VSM  
1952 - 56 / SHIVAJI



**G**en Sundararajan Padmanabhan assumed charge of the Indian Army, as the Chief of Army Staff from 30 Sep 2000 - 31 Dec 2002. Gen Padmanabhan passed away at Chennai on 18 August 2024.

Born in Trivandrum, Kerala on 05 Dec 1940, he is an alumnus of the prestigious Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehra Dun and the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla in Pune. He was commissioned into the Regt of Arty after graduating from the Indian Military Academy (IMA) on 13 December 1959.

His illustrious career included several prestigious command, staff and instructional postings, besides having participated in numerous operations, a Defence release here said. A graduate of the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) at Wellington in 1973 and the National Defence College (NDC) at New Delhi, he commanded an Independent Light Battery from August 1975 to July 1976 and later on commanded the Gazala Mountain Regiment from September 1977 to March 1980. This mountain regiment is one of the oldest artillery regiments of the Indian Army and has participated in several wars. He served as Instructor Gunnery at the School of Artillery in Deolali, been a Brigade Major of an infantry brigade on its raising and served as Colonel General Staff of a Mountain Division from January 1983 to May 1985, where he was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM).

He has also spent two tenures as an instructor at the IMA. He commanded an Infantry Brigade from December 1988 to February 1991 at Ranchi, Bihar and Punjab and was then appointed as the General Officer Commanding of an Infantry Division in Punjab from March 1991 to August 1992. He served as Chief of Staff, 3 Corps from September 1992 to June 1993.

After his promotion to Lieutenant General, he was commander of the 15 Corps in the Kashmir valley from July 1993 to February 1995. It was during his tenure as the 15 Corps Commander, that the Army made big gains over the militants in Kashmir and could even scale down its operations. General Padmanabhan held the appointment of Director General Military Intelligence (DGMI) after the successful culmination of which, he took over as the GOC of the Northern Command at Udhampur on September 1, 1996. Before being appointed as the Chief of Army Staff, he was the GOC of Southern Command.

He retired on December 31, 2002, after completing more than 43 years of distinguished military service.

Equestrian sports made a late entry into RIMC and that happened when General S Padmanabhan became the Chief of Army Staff. He pushed through this facility and ever since, RIMC has produced many a good rider. With increasing exposure many youngsters now have the opportunity to excel in Riding.

— **Team RIMC**



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री  
**Prime Minister**New Delhi  
श्रावण 29, शक संवत् 1946  
20<sup>th</sup> August, 2024**Smt. Roopa Padmanabhan Ji,**

I received the news of the demise of General S. Padmanabhan (retd.) with a feeling of grief and sadness. My heartfelt condolences are with you in this hour of intense grief. Such a loss leaves a void that can never be filled.

Widely respected for his fine leadership skills, General Padmanabhan remained a quintessential soldier all his life. Throughout the course of his long career, he served the nation with dedication and commitment, particularly during his tenure as Chief of Army Staff, towards further strengthening our frontiers.

A profound thinker on strategic affairs, General Padmanabhan was equally adept at wielding the pen and educating people through his communication skills.

The values that General Padmanabhan instilled will continue to inspire the family. Memories of the times spent with him will provide you solace and comfort in this difficult hour. He will be missed by family, friends and well-wishers, but he will always continue to reside in hearts.

May you gather the strength and fortitude to endure this grievous loss.

Om Shanti.

(Narendra Modi)

**Smt. Roopa Padmanabhan**  
Basera Apartment  
46, Besant Avenue  
Adyar, Chennai  
Tamil Nadu- 600020

# A cerebral General, witty human and dyed in the wool Rimcollian

**W**ith deep sorrow and profound respect, we at RIMC mourn the demise of our esteemed alumnus, General Sunderarajan Padmanabhan, who served the Indian Army as 19th Chief of Indian Army with unparalleled dedication and distinction.

General Padmanabhan was not only a beacon of courage and leadership in the defense of our nation but also an inspiration to all who knew him. His journey from the classrooms of RIMC to the highest echelons of the military stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment, honour, and patriotism.

As we remember his extraordinary life, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, comrades, and all those whose lives he touched.

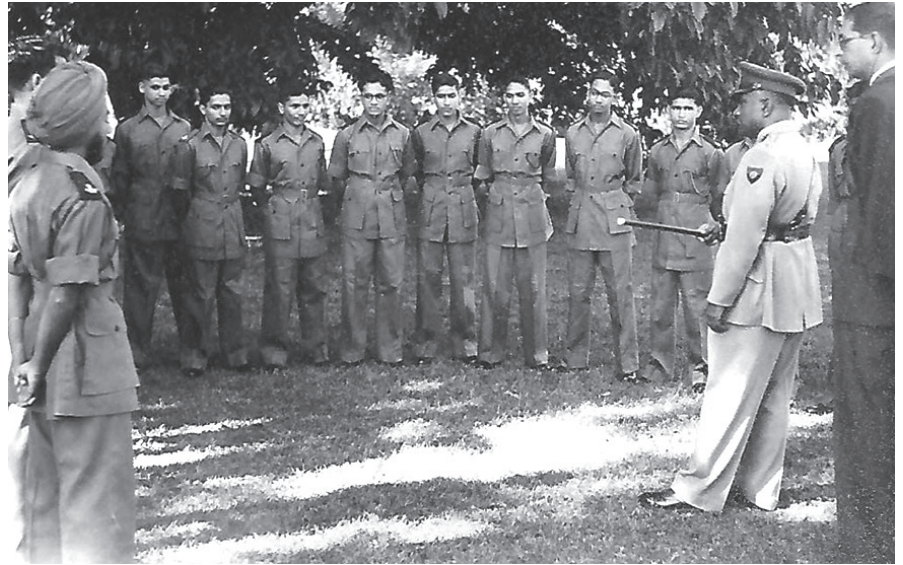
His legacy will forever inspire future generations of students to serve with integrity and valour.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

In grief and warm regards,

—**Team RIMC**

We are deeply saddened by the passing away of General Sundararajan Padmanabhan. General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff and all ranks of the Indian Army, extend heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. A visionary leader and accomplished soldier, General Padmanabhan served as COAS from Oct 2000 to Dec 2002, successfully leading the Indian Army during Operation Parakram. With over 40 years of dedicated service, he also held the position of Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. Post-retirement, he contributed to society through his literary pursuits and insightful talks on strategic issues, authoring three books that reflect his profound knowledge.



The COAS Gen Shreenagesh during term end visit (December 1955) interacting with Cadets S Padmanabhan, JP Khanduri, HM Khanna, PK Datta, PD Sharma, NS Malik, PK Munshi and HM Patel (Photo courtesy Lt Col HM PATEL.)

The Nation and Indian Army will forever cherish his invaluable contributions.

—**ADGPI, Indian Army, on X**

We have lost a legendary Rimcollian. Passed away at 2330 hr yesterday at his home. Will pay my respects tomorrow and lay a wreath on behalf of all of us and the Gunners. Om Shanti

—**Lt Gen Adosh Kumar, ROBA President**

Sad loss of a colleague and coursemate! A close friend from the time we shared the same dormitory in Shivaji Section till our last meeting at Dehra Dun celebrating many happy occasions and episodes in life. My heartfelt condolences to Roopa who has looked after him zealously and lovingly in her own indomitable style for some time now since he went down under the weather. Om Shanti

—**Brig Ashok Luthra, (retd)**

Extremely sorry to have learnt about the sad demise of our dear friend and Rimcollian colleague Gen Paddy. May God rest his noble soul in Heaven in peace forever and give courage to members of the family to bear this irreparable loss. Om Shanti

—**Lt Col HM Patel (retd)**

In tribute to Gen S Padmanabhan, one can say, "He was a great intellectual General, a Chief in every sense, and a wonderful human being." He endeared himself to one and all with his charismatic persona and oratory. The Army, the Gunners, and the RIMCOLLIAN fraternity will all miss him dearly. He was the one among the very few, in the rare earth mould. I have fond memories of the fewer interactions one had with him. Pray GOD ALMIGHTY BLESS his noble soul in HIS holy abode

—**Maj Gen SVP Singh (retd)**

**GENERAL S PADMANABHAN, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (RETIRED)****(05 DECEMBER 1940 To 18 AUGUST 2024)**

With deep grief, we inform the sad demise of IC-11859Y General S Padmanabhan, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retired) on 18 Aug 2024 at his native place Chennai.

The General officer was commissioned into 60 Medium Regiment on 13 Dec 1959 and commanded 7 Field Regiment, 261 Artillery Brigade, 87 Mountain Brigade, 301 Infantry Brigade, 7 Infantry Division, 15 Corps, Northern Command & Southern Command. Thereafter, the General Officer took over as the Chief of Army Staff on 01 October 2000 and retired on 31 December 2002, after 43 years of distinguished service.

General S Padmanabhan was a visionary and a strategist. He was at the helm of affairs at critical juncture after OP VIJAY and steered Indian Army during OP PARAKRAM.

His passing has left an irreparable void in the Gunner fraternity. He is survived by his wife Mrs Roopa Padmanabhan, son Mr Srinivasan and daughter Mrs Lakshami.

All ranks of the Regiment of Artillery convey their heartfelt condolences. We pray to the God Almighty to give the bereaved family strength and courage to bear the irreparable loss. May God rest the departed soul in peace.

**Director General & All Ranks  
Regiment of Artillery**

**Address and contact details :  
Mrs Roopa Padmanabhan (Wife)  
Basera 46, Besant Avenue, Adiyar  
Chennai - 600020 (TN)  
Mob No-9840388599**



# Last Post for Gen Paddy at Chennai



Mrs Roopa Padmanabhan lays wreath



An army official presents the National Flag to Mrs Roopa Padmanabhan during a sombre event marking his funeral



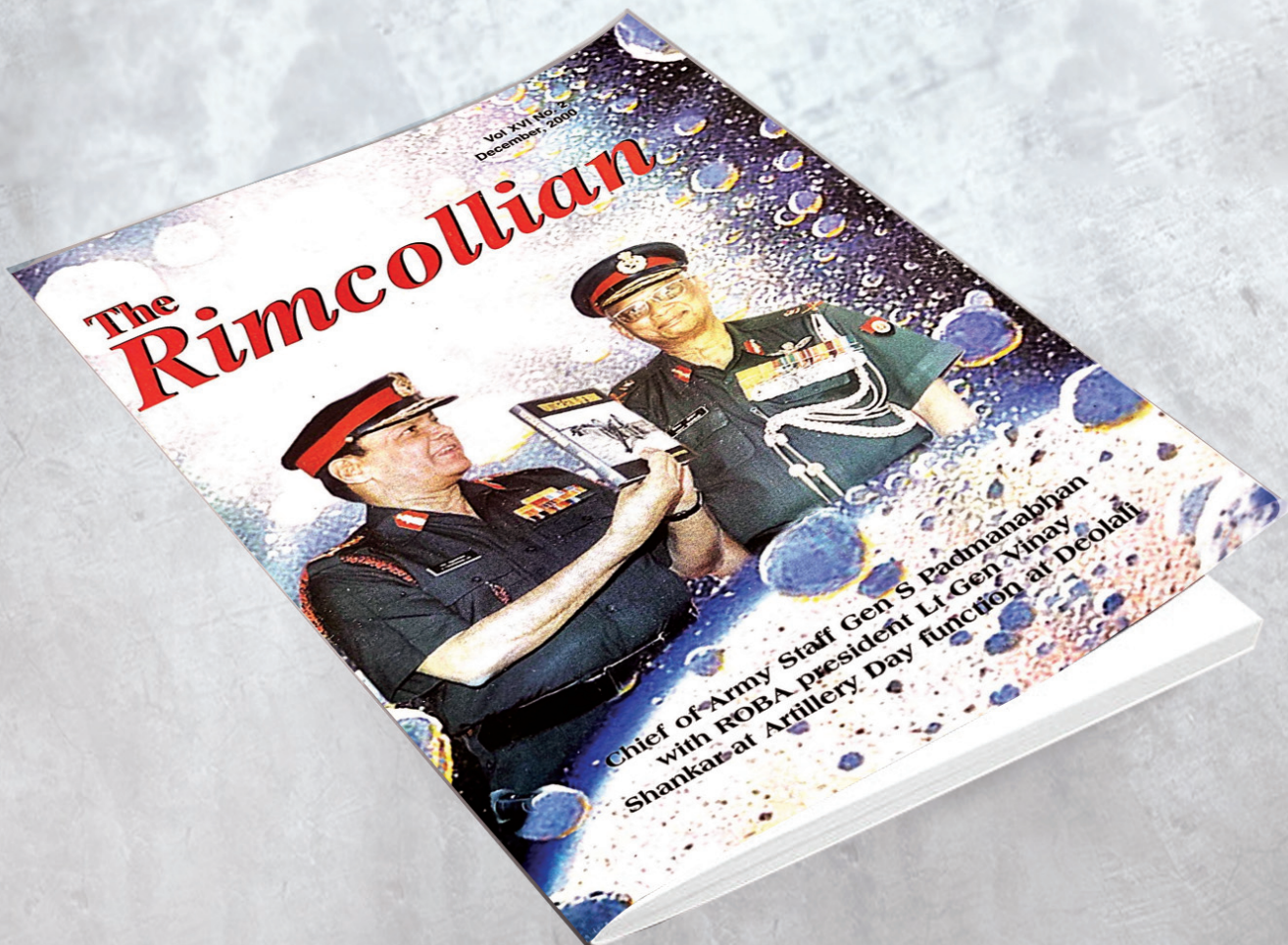
Air Marshal B Suresh (retd) lays wreath on the behalf of President, ROBA at the funeral



Special memorial parade at Gen Padmanabhan's alma mater - Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun

# GEN PADDY'S GLORIOUS TENURE FROM NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

The tenure of Gen S Padmanabhan as the Chief of Army Staff was covered well in the newsletter. During his tenure, Lt Gen Vinay Shankar was the Director General Artillery and also ROBA president. The two gunners together did their best for the alma mater. Here are a few clipping from the newsletter editions between 2000 - 2002. — **Editor**





December 2000

## 'I am no Napoleon but I'll bring synergy and strength'



*This interview was published in The Pioneer (Sept 24), a week before Gen S Padmanabhan took over as the Chief of Army Staff. It indeed was matter of pride to be the first to have interviewed the Chief — Editor*



**Sidharth Mishra**  
New Delhi

LIEUTENANT GENERAL Sundararajan Padmanabhan is the man world's largest voluntary army awaits. Scheduled to take over as the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) next Saturday, Gen Paddy gave his first interview, after his selection for the top post, to The Pioneer on Saturday.

Relaxed and warm, with a childlike smile lighting up his face, the General does not look unnecessarily bogged by the controversy which has come to plague the Indian Army in the recent times. He is, however, certainly concerned. "I have to ensure that the Army remains apolitical and far from any controversy," says the General.

"The Army has to play the role for the nation in its most critical hour. It should enjoy the utmost confidence of the nation...it certainly cannot function if its credentials are under doubt," says the man who has worn the olive-green uniform for nearly half-a-century now. He joined the Royal Indian Military College (RIMC) at Dehra Dun in 1952 when he was not even 12.

He is aware that his taking over as the Chief is being looked forward to in a big way. "I am not a General in Napoleon's league. Change is natural and everybody looks forward to it," says the General in an obvious bid to downplay the takeover.

But when pointed that there must something which makes him so charismatic, the General says: "It's probably my deep abiding belief in Indianness and the ability to enjoy every assignment which has

come my way." And there have been many an important assignment, including as Corp Commander in Srinagar during the Hazratbal crisis, Director-General Military Intelligence, Northern Army Commander in Udhampur and current posting as GOC-in-C Southern Command at Pune.

But closest to his heart appears to be the instructional assignment he held as a Colonel at the Indian Military Academy. And for the next two years, training could well be the buzzword for the Indian Army.

"Better weapons and better training. Proper tactics for better speed towards success. I want our operations to be mission oriented. Our Army should reach a level of superlative training resulting in higher level of achievement," says the man who himself has been veteran of many a such operation.

On the shortage of young officers in the force, the General says: "Young people can take inspiration from me. From the day I went to RIMC, I have not really known any other life. If asked to go back and make a fresh choice, I would again wear the uniform as a 12-year-old. Profession of arms is just not a career but a calling, a way of life. I have lived it with dignity and satisfaction." He adds: "We have over two lakh people applying for a vacancy of just 250 in the officer cadre. More the people applying, better the quality of leadership."

What is going to top his agenda? "To ensure that every arm of the Army keeps pace with the other. To achieve a level of synergy and develop ourselves into a very strong battle winning force. I think that is how all the patriotic Indians would like to see the Army to be," says the General, conscious of the fact that he would be required to bring to play all his experience and expertise to make the Army sail through the current high tide of controversy.

Gen Paddy is getting ready for his first assignment as the COAS. His first official visit as the Army chief would be to visit Jammu and Kashmir, where the troops are fighting an unending war with the most unscrupulous enemy.

\* 2 \*

December 2000



## *Padmanabhan takes over as Army Chief*

**Pioneer New Service**  
New Delhi

**Sept 30:** Gen S Padmanabhan, who took over as the new Chief of Army Staff, asserted that topmost priority would be to bring in operational efficiency and introduce nuclear tactics to enable armed forces to face any nuclear threat.

Gen. Padmanabhan, at an impressive ceremony at the lushgreen lawns of south block, inspected a guard of honour from units of the Rajputana Rifles, and later took over formally from the outgoing chief, V P Malik.

"The nuclear threat has manifested in the country's neighbourhood and army had to evolve and fine tune its tactics and strategy to face it", he told newsmen.

Asked to elaborate, the new Army Chief said reaction to nuclear-warfare would entail "rapid dispersal and rapid build- up" of forces.

Asserting that nuclearisation of the region had in no way changed the role of conventional forces, he said he aimed to make the army "lean and trim".

Calls for "jehad" emanating from the country's neighbourhood needed to be taken careful note of, Gen Padmanabhan said.

The contours of insurgency were rapidly changing colours, he said and demanded a "dynamic riposte".

Stating that there had been an escalation in the proxy war situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he said this had been caused by an increase in the number of foreign mercenaries being pushed from across the line of control.

Padmanabhan said both the foreign dominated groups and their backers in Pakistan were giving the cover of jehad in Jammu and Kashmir in pursuance of unleashing "raw terrorism against the local people and security forces."

"Though there may be odd hiccups, we have got a good grip on the situation. We will defeat the nefarious aims of these mercenaries", he said.

Advocating a sustained annual funding of three per cent of the gdp for defence, he said this would enable the army to modernise in a planned manner to ensure that while combating insurgency, the country's operational preparedness to meet the conventional threat is in no way compromised.



Padmanabhan said his other thrust areas would be to bring in organisational changes and improve service conditions. "Our effort would be to see that state-of-the-art weapons, equipment and latest technology are introduced and absorbed soonest", he said.

Conceding that prolonged deployment of the army in combating insurgency and fighting the proxy war diluted the effectiveness of the troops, he said the army had made its views known to the government on this, but till the authorities decided the army keeping its sense of "patriotism, professional ethos" would continue to deal with internal security.

He scoffed off reports of "fatigue syndrome" setting in army units in jammu and kashmir and said "the morale of forces across the Madhopur bridge is very high. Maybe the morale in the Capital could be low".

Padmanabhan said the army had also made its views known to the government on the restructuring of the armed forces, Ministry of Defence and on moves to integrate intelligence agencies. "I am certain that the government which has set up special task force for these would take positive steps".

On shortage of officers in the army, he said the publicity campaign launched by the army on recruitment had led to "a recent increase in intake".

Earlier, the outgoing Army Chief Gen Malik said he was satisfied with his three year tenure which he described as "eventful".

"These years were full of challenges and me and my men faced these tasks well", he said.

(The report appearing in The Pioneer dated Oct 1 is reproduced. Editor)

\* 3 \*



# Reunion' 2002

*Gen S Padmanabhan visits RIMC March 12&13*



1



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2

- o Boxing Champs with Lt. Col. Dhar.
- o Chief enjoy a personal moment with Mrs. Padmanabhan.
- o COAS presents the Championship Trophy.
- o Gen Padmanabhan accompanied by Col. Mangain, visits a dormitory.
- o Lady's Man: Maj. Gen. Manoharan with Rimcollian ladies.



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▶ December 2002 ◀

# PASSING THE BATON



Gen S Padmanabhan and Mrs Roopa Padmanabhan with Gen and Mrs N.C. Vij at the change of guard in Army HQ on Dec 31st, 2002



## The Rimcollian

# A RARE GENERAL WHO SAW MERIT IN SYNERGY BETWEEN SWORD AND PEN

— **SIDHARTH MISHRA**, 115th Course/Ranjit

It's very rare for a Chief of Army Staff, who retired nearly quarter of a century ago, to get tributes from mediapersons, independent of the press statements released by the Ministry of Defence and the Army. General Padmanabhan did not surprise me with the flood of accolades which came his way following his death on 18 August 2024.

Fellow Rimcollian, Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam, wrote on Bharat Shakti portal, "Largely incommunicado for over a decade prior to his passing last Sunday, a whole generation of strategic

planners and military officers have missed out on learning about the uncertainties of contemporary conflict from General S. 'Paddy' Padmanabhan, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) during a series of national security crises during 2001-2002. 'Paddy's' writings in the public domain comprise three books that do not do justice to his cerebral understanding of civil-military relations, contemporary warfare and leadership in turbulent times."

AVM Subramaniam is contemporary military historian of

repute and his opinion about Paddy are as objective as it could be from any other honest writer on military affairs. The Hindustan Times in its tribute wrote, "An accomplished boxer and a cricketer, Padmanabhan knew a smattering of Punjabi as he was commissioned in a unit with Sikh troops and was known for his professionalism, leadership and integrity.

He was offered the job of Jammu and Kashmir governor post-retirement, which he politely declined in the spirit of his belief that old soldiers must just fade away."

"General Sundararajan Padmanabhan was widely regarded as a straight-talking cerebral officer, affectionately called "Paddy" in defence circles. He had publicly rubbished

'PADDY'S' WRITINGS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN COMPRISE THREE BOOKS THAT DO NOT DO JUSTICE TO HIS CEREBRAL UNDERSTANDING OF CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS, CONTEMPORARY WARFARE AND LEADERSHIP IN TURBULENT TIMES





Gen Padmanabhan watching the solar eclipse at the roof of his house in Chennai in 2009

Pakistan's nuclear sabre-rattling during Operation Parakram, which was launched after the terror attack on Parliament in December 2001," wrote Times of India.

What surprised me was the space of prominence given by anti-establishment portal the The Wire, where Lt Gen Zameer Uddin Shah wrote, "It was only later when General Paddy was adding a foot note to my newly published book that I learnt about certain misgivings conveyed to him when I was tasked to quell the riots (in Gujarat). He wrote, "Many eyebrows were raised when I nominated 'Zoom' to lead the Army complement to Gujarat. Some seniors told me of their misgivings. I told them in no uncertain terms that the choice of troops and their leader was a military decision and not open to debate." My formation ensured that his trust was not misplaced. Large scale violence in Gujarat was quelled by the Army within 48 hours by firm, fair and assertive action. He was a chief who stood his ground and brooked no



Gen S Padmanabhan addressing media

interference in matters military."

Writing a very affectionate obituary, Aditya Sinha, the former editor of the New Indian Express wrote, "General S Padmanabhan and his wife, Roopa, lived opposite me on the same floor during my four years in Chennai (2007-2011), my family and I lived in the front of the building, facing Besant

Nagar Road. So I knew him a bit from his retirement days. However, I had known him before: I first met General Padmanabhan when he, the Commander of the XV Corps, held a press conference in Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. This was in September 1993, when JKLF (Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front) militants had been trapped inside the Hazratbal Shrine, a beautiful marble mosque on the even more beautiful and marble-like Dal Lake, with snow-capped mountains yonder, and the army had the JKLF boys surrounded. The general declared his intention to wait out the militants. "I can be Gary Kasparov," he said, referring to the dominant world chess champion, who lost only when computers got powerful enough. I was impressed. Generally, faujis are not seen to be thinkers. But this one was. I tracked his career after that."

If he told the Press Conference that I can be Gary Kasparov, in an interview with yours truly he had said, 'I am not a General in Napoleon's league'. He was probably trying to tell the world who

his idol was. It showed the man's learnings, understanding and analytical ability to draw parallels. In my more than three decade long career in journalism, I had a short stint of about two to three years as the defence correspondent for my newspaper. This period incidentally coincided with Gen Paddy's tenure as the Chief.

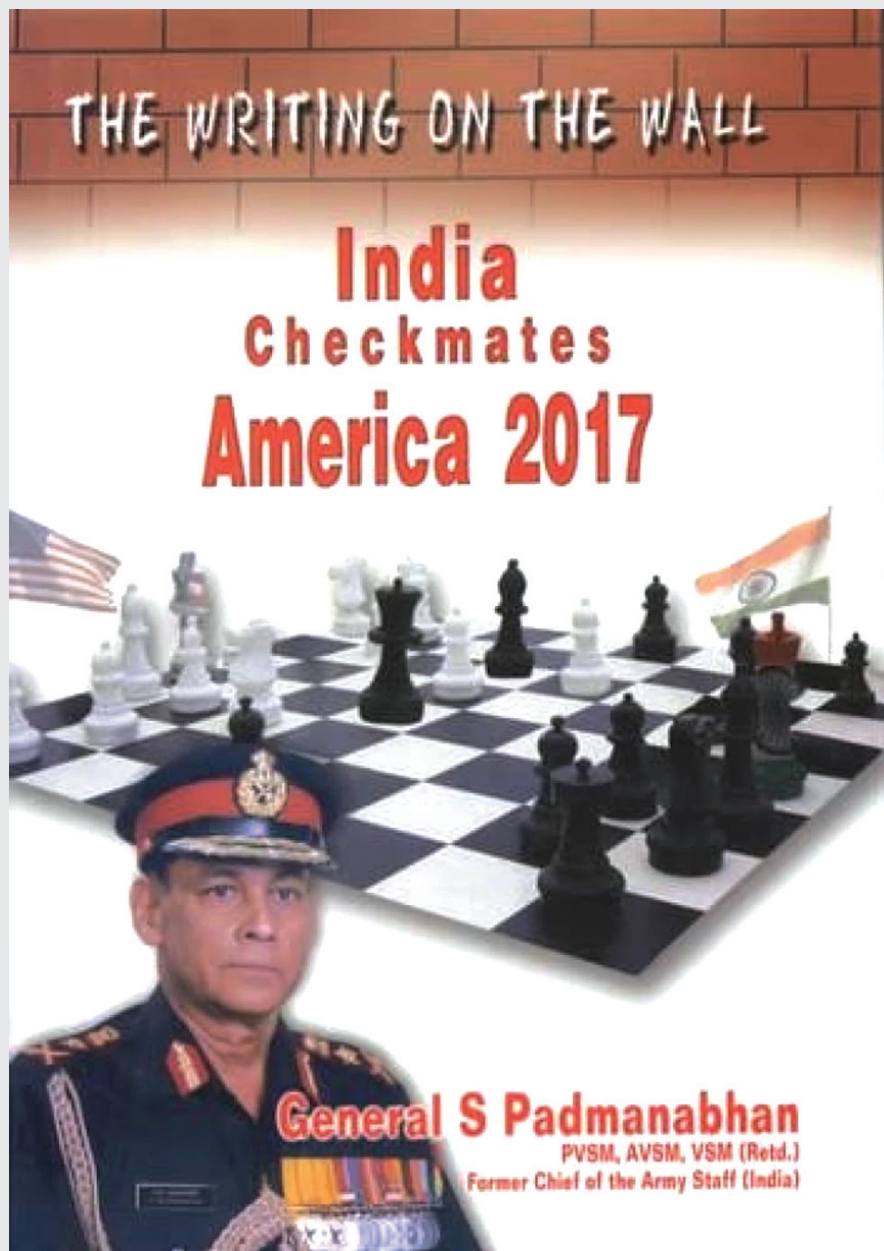
Following the notification for the position, in my enthusiasm, I had approached the ROBA president Lt Gen Vinay Shankar if he could arrange an interview. The Chiefs are not known to give independent interviews and largely speak the approved lines in public. Here I was asking for the sky, but somewhere I was confident that he would oblige. He did!

The interview was organised at the Southern Army Commander's hut in the cantonment area and here I was with a photographer for an assignment which would also catapult my career to a higher level. He had said, "I have to ensure that the Army remains apolitical and far from controversy. The army has to play the role for the nation in its most critical hour. I should enjoy the utmost confidence of the nation."

There were some other instances, where I saw him at his cerebral best. I was there at the Army Day press conference in Jan 2002, where when asked how India would respond to a nuclear attack, General Padmanabhan had said perpetrator would be punished so severely that its continuation thereafter in any form would be in doubt. To another question, he said, "Yes, we are ready for a second strike," adding that India had sufficient nuclear weapons.

Though it did cause consternation in both the South Blocks and government headquarters across the globe, the 10-month-long Operation Parakram which he conducted later came to be interpreted as an exercise in 'coercive diplomacy' by the then Vajpayee government to get Pakistan to stop cross-border terrorism.

He had quite a tumultuous tenure. In March 2001, when he was visiting the school for the reunion, he for once



looked grim. The reporter in me not to miss the opportunity, wished him and took the liberty to say that he rarely looked as grim as he was looking that 13th evening. "Your brethren (media people) have caught a brewing arms scam on the camera. The concern is that somebody from the school too is involved, and I believe he has been trapped," he had said referring to Tehelka scam.

His understanding, his handling of the situation and his trust reflected in what he had said. The Army came out clean from the whole incident. But that

did not make Paddy retreat into a shell. He continued to address and engage with media. He believed, like his contemporary from the school Air Marshal Vinod Patney, that media could be force multiplier. No wonder a tri-service media course was started for the officers at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), where this writer had the opportunity to engage officers, including Rimcollians, for several years.

Days before he was to demit office, there was a hijack drama at the international airport with a nincompoo

of a Minister rushed to say that Pakistan was behind the incident. Those were not the days of 24x7 media coverage, with most of the newspapers going to print that the hijacked plane was parked at the airport. However, by 4 am in the morning it was clear that a drunkard political worker had created the 'tamasha'.

Soon after the incident, the General had thrown a farewell dinner for the Rimcollians at the Army House. Again not to miss the chance, I had asked him

how ready the Army was that night. "I learnt about it only on reading newspapers next morning. My people understand when the real time crisis is and whether to wake up their General or not," he had said with his signature smile and wink.

The last I met him was at the launch of his book, "The Writing on the Wall: India Checkmates America 2017." He had sent me a copy for the pre-launch review, which I did 'critically'. To be fair the only criticism which I could do

was a proof reading error, which was more of a reflection on the publisher than the writer.

The launch had taken place at Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia with then Defence Minister George Fernandes releasing the book. It was at this launch that Fernandes told the gathering that the General had declined the offer for the gubernatorial office in Srinagar. So that was General Paddy, if not in Napoleon's league, certainly in the league of Thimayya and



## An Ode to a General with exemplary integrity

I was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery in June 2000 and, as a young officer, attended the Founders' Day at school a few years later. After the cricket match, we had a gathering on the central lawn, where General Padmanabhan was surrounded by a number of young officers. He was truly a personality we all looked up to. During our conversation, an orderly interrupted us, informing the General, "Sahab, aapka shoes jo phat gaya tha, usko repair kara diya hai. Maine shoes aapke room mai rakh diya hai ."

As young officers, we found it somewhat awkward that a General was having his shoes repaired. Perhaps we were too young and held naive notions about rank and status. However, General Padmanabhan noticed the awkward silence and chose to address it. He began by sharing how

much he was enjoying his retired life and his preference to stay out of the limelight. He then disclosed that he had been offered several post-retirement government assignments, which he had declined-not because he didn't want them, but because he believed that the policies he had established as the COAS would be diluted if he accepted those positions. He also subtly acknowledged that he was aware of his unpopularity due to his role in the long-drawn-out Operation Parakram, during which the forces ultimately did not see action.

As a young officer, I couldn't fully grasp the gravity of what the General said, but over the course of my service, I came to understand the integrity and conviction it takes to make decisions like the ones General Padmanabhan made.

— Lt Col Rochak Bakshi

# ROVING EYE

*The Rimcollians camaraderie grows by carrying forward the age-old tradition of finding the time and place to meet and recall 'the good old days at the school'. Here is a brief report on Rimcollian meetings across the globe - Editor*

## Reunion in Ahmednagar: March 2024



The 102nd Founders' Day was celebrated in Armoured Corps Centre and School, Ahmednagar with the much conviviality and laughter on 13th March 2024. The occasion was graced by Maj Gen Balbeer Singh Malik (Retd) and Col DH Parab (Retd). It was hosted in the Cavalry Villa, the current resident of which is Maj Gen Vikram Varma, VSM\*\*, Shivaji 119, Commandant ACC&S.

Those who attended Included Maj Gen Balbeer Singh Malik (Retd), Col DH Parab (Retd) Lt Col Gaurav Singh Hamal, Mr Ricky Parab, Col Vishal Singh, Capt Niraj Ingavale, Capt Gulshan Kumar, Lt Punit Jatrana and Lt Shashank Saumya. The fact that there was a preponderance of Shivajians (and that back in school Shivaji has convincingly romped home with the Boxing Trophy and the Championship;

lanyards on the right!) brought about the 'X' Factor to the congregation !

The culinary delights comprised delectable Scotch Eggs - how could a Rimcollian get together do without them? Care was taken to ensure that the tastes of the trademark dish remain as close to what's cooked in school, and going by the alacrity with which the Scotch Eggs were gobbled up, it would be fair to say that justice was done to the effort!

All in all, it was an evening well spent, with a lot of easy laughter and reminiscing, and a bit of "... in my times..." tales that evoked much mirth. The tales that Maj Gen Malik recounted, of the time around partition, had the new generation agog with wide-eyed wonder. It wouldn't be out of place to say that the Armoured-Nagar Rimcollian chapter continue to be lively and full of joie de vivre! ■

## A Spring Lunch in Kashmir

**Sitting L to R:** Brig Arun Ahuja 1255/S, Col RK Singh 1201/C, Mrs Deeksha Kashyap, Mrs Nidhi Ahuja, Mrs Sweety Kannooh, Brig Sanjay Kannooh 1509/R, Brig KJ Singh 1460/P

**Standing L to R:** Maj Mayank Dhama 2615/P, Lt Seoul Tripathi, IN, 2774/C, Lt Ripunjay Naithani 2975/C, Lt Col Kavi Kashyap 2238/S, Col Amit Tiwary 2022/P, Col Aseem Panda 1931/S, Col Abhik Mukherjee 1882/P, Lt Col Ankur Tiwari, 1745/C, Col Vishal Singh 1963/S, Maj Lalit Thapliyal- 25/D/P, Lt Col Priyadarshi 2181/C.



# Reunion Kochi Chapter

— CMDE SIMON MATHAI



Lt Cdr Kshitij Katoch 174/C, Lt Cdr Abhijit Vaish 175/P, Lt Cdr Mayank 175/R, Slt Yash Kapoor 185C, Cdt Shashwat Singh 188P (NCW), Slt Abhimanyu Ghorpade 185C, Slt Ankur Sharma 185P, Slt Abhay Singh Bhadauriya 186R Lt Cdr Ravi Pathak 173P, Lt Cdr Rushikesh Nimkar 174/S, Lt Cdr Rishabh Saha 174/P

**Sitting L to R:** Mrs Anjali Rawat, Mrs Prachi Pandey (Vaish), Mrs Bindu Pradeep, Mrs Rita Mathews, Mrs Vijaya Srinivas, VAdm Harinder Singh Retd.66/R, Mrs Meena Singh, Mrs Mallika Kumar, Mrs Radhika Rajagopal, Mrs Uma Vishwanathan, Mrs Jenny Joseph, Mrs Rosemary Simon

**Standing L to R:** Lt Cdr R P Singh 163 / R, Lt Cdr Anmol Rawat 172/ S, Capt B Divakar 144/ P, Cdr. Ashok Garg 154/P, Cmde Simon Mathai 120/ R, Cmde NAJ Joseph Retd 112 / R, Mr CA Joseph former Master in RIMC, VAdm V Srinivas FOCinC South 112 / S, Cmde B K Kumar Retd 70/ R, Gen P Rajagopal Retd 78/ S, Cdr CM Varghese Retd 120/ R, Cmde Manav Sehgal 125 / S, Mrs Nidhi Sehgal, Cmde Sritanu Guru 127 / C, Cdr Raju Mathews Retd 90/ P, Cdr V Vishwanathan Retd 100/ R, Cdr RP Singh Retd 106/ R, Capt Mathew George.Retd 102/P, Capt A J Mathews 136./C, Mrs Geetha Mathews, Master Neil, Miss Michelle, Lt Cdr Aravind Paul 161/ C, Cdr Rishi Raj 154 /P, Master Hridyansh, Mrs. Kanika, Dr Reshma Rajagopal

The Kochi Chapter Reunion was held in the Gunners Den at INS Dronacharya on 23 Mar 2024.

The picturesque surroundings served as the perfect backdrop for the event, and the lilting music dished out by the INS Dronacharya band blend well to make it an ethereal experience.

Cmde Manav and his team pulled out all stops to ensure everyone had a fabulous time. The huge efforts put in were amply evident in every small detail that was taken care of.

VAdm Harinder Singh (retd), Cmde BK Kumar (retd), Maj Gen Rajagopal (retd), Cdr Raju Mathew (retd) were among the senior veterans who attended.

Of course, VAdm Venam Srinivas, FOC-in-C South, was also present.

The guest of honour truly was Mr CA Joseph who was an instructor in our times and taught in school from 1980 to 1992.

The traditional Scotch Eggs and Coffee pudding were an integral part of the menu. A quiz was organised separately for the ladies and gentlemen.

Altogether, it was a wonderful evening filled with copious amounts of nostalgia and some warm bonhomie on abundant display. Thanks Manav for making it a fantastic evening to remember and cherish. ■



# Mumbai Rimcollians: March 2024

— CAPT AKK REDDY



Cutting the customary cake by Lt Gen MA Gurbaxani of 66 Course (1954-58) and SLt Vivek Yadav of 182 Course (2013-17).

The Mumbai Rimcollian get together was celebrated at Army Institute at Colaba. The get together was well subscribed with 40 Rimcollians and total strength of 65 personnel.

Senior most Rimcollian was Lt Gen Gurbaxani and others who attended were Gen Soli Pavri, Gen Khursheed Balsara, Gen SK Gupta, Col PC Dhanraj, Chetan Desai, Col SK Yadav (100 mtrs record holder), Cmde Asheem Mittal, Cmde Rastogi, Suraj Kishore, Col Balraj Gurung, Cmde S Supradeepan, Shantanu Mukhopadhyaya, Col Ashutosh Sharma, Cdr Ashish Bhattacharya, Cdr Shankaram, Cdr Suraj Aiyappa and many more Rimcollians who travelled 3-4 hours navigating dense Mumbai traffic to reach the venue.

The Scotch eggs were plenty with over 300 eggs consumed and many packed the Scotch eggs.

As usual, the musings were nostalgic, with Lt Gen Gurbaxani educating the audience about developments at school and change of



L to R: Capt Saorabh Agarwal, 1181/C, Cmde Amol Sabnis, 1151/S, Lt Cdr R Laxman(Retd) 1137/P, Brig Raj Kumar Manchanda, 1126/S (1957-61), Maj Gen Soli N Pavri, 342/R, Cdr Vikram Pahlajani, 365/P, Col Krishan Kumar Shinghal, 992/S, Capt Abhimanyu Mehrotra, IN, 507/P.



guard and followed by Cmde Simon Mathai articulating his experiences from his pilgrimage to school, who made his pit stop at Mumbai enroute to Kochi from Dehradun.

Thanks to Brig Sanjay Kannoth and

the Rimcollian Newsletter team, who arranged 50 Newsletters from ROBA, which were a perfect return gift.

We all parted with Ya Ya Shivaji and a promise to catch up over lunch post monsoons in Mumbai. ■

## Rimcollians in Lucknow, 10 July 2024



Left to Right: Col Rahul Mann, Col TK Chakravarti, Maj Gen Sanjay Singh, Col Abhay Prakash, Maj Gen DN Singh, Mrs DN Singh, Mrs Sanjay Singh, Mrs Ritu Pundir, Col Pankaj Kumar, Mrs Chakravarti, Mrs Pankaj, Mrs Abhay Prakash, Brig SS Pundir and Maj AK Singh.

## Rimcollian Get-together at Mhow on 6th July 2024



Standing (L-R): Col Gaurav Soni (Ranjit), Lt Col Ashish Kulkarni (Chandragupta), Brig Pradeep Singh (Pratap), Brig KJ Singh (Shivaji), Mrs Kohale, Mrs Pallav Jha, Lt Col Pallav Jha (Ranjit), Brig Suyash Sharma (Chandragupta), Maj Gen M Khalid Zaki (Pratap), Maj Khuman Laba (Ranjit), Maj Gurvir Talwar (Pratap), Maj Rahul Mishra (Ranjit)

**Kneeling (L-R) ;** Maj Rajdeep (Shivaji), Maj Prathmesh Kohale (Chandragupta) Maj Sachin Bajwa (Ranjit) , Maj Hemdan (Pratap), Maj L Kobing (Pratap), Maj Arjun Thakur (Ranjit)

## Shimla Chapter @ Rimcollians Meet: May 2024

A get together at Shimla to bid farewell to Maj Gen & Mrs Khalid and Col & Mrs Dinil George while welcoming Maj Gen & Mrs Vishal Agarwal to the Queen of Hills.



### STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT

Mrs Samant, Mrs Roveen, Maj Gen Vishal Agarwal, Ranjit, Mrs Tejal Agarwal, Col Dinil George, Ranjit, Mrs George, Mrs Khalid, Maj Gen Khalid Zaki, Pratap, Col Raman Gupta, Ranjit, and Col Jagdish Samant, Shivaji.

### KNEELING LEFT TO RIGHT

Brig Roveen, Pratap and Col Vivek Sharma, Pratap

# FROM THE RIMCOLLIANS IN NORTH AMERICA CHAPTER

## The 2nd Annual British Columbia Reunion, July 2024



SITTING LEFT TO RIGHT

Cdr Davender Singh Yadav  
- 856/R (1950);

Ranjan Datta - 113/C;

Shailesh Naik - 176/C;

Ameek Singh - 139/C; and

Jay Naidu - 160/S

## Rimcollian Spirit @ Ontario, California, USA on 11 July 2024



**Left to Right:** Maj AJS Virk, Ranjit, 75-80; Dr. Manjunath Narayana, Shivaji, 94-99; Commodore Benny Antony Methala, Pratap, 74-79

## Reunion of Master with Rimcollian Shishyas @ Srinagar

Mr C A Joseph recently travelled to Srinagar. Once he made up the plan, he wanted to connect with Rimcollians there. Message was passed to Col RK Singh, 1201/C, who is posted at Srinagar. Col RK took it up further coordinating with Mr Joseph and organising a get together of Rimcollians at Srinagar. The young Old Master and young Old boys, along with the ladies, made it big with warmth and affection.



**Left to Right:** Brig Arun Ahuja, Shivaji; Lt Col Kavi Kashyap, Shivaji; Mrs Kavi; Mrs Ahuja; Mrs Joseph; Mr CA Joseph; Col RK Singh, Chandragupta; Mrs KJ Singh; Brig K Jitendra Singh, Pratap and Lt Col Abhik Mukherjee, Pratap

## Rimcollian Get Together at School of Arty, Deolali, Aug 2024



**From Left to Right:** Capt Ajinder Arora, Pratap, Maj Krishanpal Singh, Shivaji, Maj Gaurav Mhetre, Pratap, Lt Pankaj Sangwan, Shivaji, Col Rahul Bose, Shivaji, Lt Col Richie Richardson, Chandragupta, Lt Satyam Kumar Singh, Ranjit, Capt Shrang Vats, Chandragupta, Maj Manishankar Raj, Ranjit, Capt Harshit Kaushik, Chandragupta, Maj Hemant Poonia, Pratap, Capt Ravi Kumar, Chandragupta, Capt Mrigank Shekhar, Pratap

## Rimcollians in Tezpur, 13 March 2024



**Standing L to R:** Lt Col Shishir, Col Amrinder Singh Badwal, Lt Col D Souza, Col Prem Singh, Col Asheesh Kashyap, Brig Anshuman Narang, Lt Col N Majumdar, Col Padi Batt.

**Sitting:** Maj Abhishek Singh, Mrs Devyani (w/o Maj Abhishek), Mrs Khushboo (W/o Maj Armaan), Maj Armaan Arun, Maj Vivek Yadav

**Front:** Capt Shreshta Gupta, Capt Yash, Capt Shivam, Capt Asheesh Pandey, Capt Ajay Bahdoriya

## At home with Col DH Parab and Mrs Geeta Parab



A recent get-together at the house of Col DH Parab at Ahmednagar



# Nurturing Minds at the Somnath Library

— **LT COL GAURAV HAMAL**

**T**he school library, a sanctuary of untold adventures, beckoning with the enchantment of unread pages and uncharted worlds, has long held a special place in our memories. It was a welcome refuge where textbooks relinquished their weight, replaced by the freedom of choice, where the mere act of opening a book felt like embarking on a journey of the mind. For many a Rimcollian, it was in those quiet corners, under the watchful gaze of dusty tomes that the thrill of reading for pleasure was discovered. The scent of pages held promises of adventure, and the soft shuffle of paper created a symphony of

imagination. Even now, the magic of discovering unknown worlds in the school library remains as rewarding and fresh as ever.

In the collective memory of Rimcollians, Somnath Library has forever etched itself as a beacon of knowledge and imagination. Standing as a sanctuary for young cadets offering a refuge from the demanding academic challenges and providing a haven for intellectual exploration, the library with its labyrinth of bookshelves and treasure trove of knowledge is the one building in the academic block that sees the most footfalls. It remains a place where

dreams take flight, and where the love for reading continues to be nurtured and celebrated.

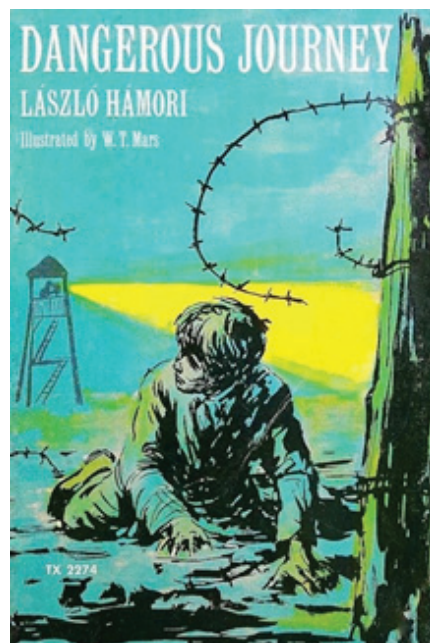
I remember my own time at school when we used to bunk classes to spend time at library, which then used to be housed in what is the Archives now. The junior library, under the mezzanine deck of the Convocation Hall, as Bhagat Hall was called then, held hardbound books from a long forgotten era. The volumes dated back to 1920s and held classics like "Amir's Ruby" and "Adventure Island". These books, now over a hundred years old and none the worse for repair, are still on the shelves, having gone through



a bit of restoration. I remember reading, wide eyed, books like "Great Escape Stories" and "Dangerous Journey" (Laszlo Hamori) in that cosy little enclosure that smelled of old books and polished wood.

In today's fast-paced world, dominated by social media and instant gratification, the importance of fostering a culture of reading cannot be overstated. The widespread use of electronic devices and the prevalence of short-form content have contributed to a decline in attention spans and a decreased appreciation for longer forms of content such as books. However, at RIMC, the emphasis on reading remains steadfast, recognising its pivotal role in shaping young minds and preparing future leaders.

The Somnath Library serves as the primary source of entertainment for young cadets, who have limited access to modern devices like smartphones and computers, and consequently, social media. The library therefore, becomes the one place where they can escape the



pressures of academic life and immerse themselves in the world of books. The library offers a diverse collection of books, ranging from classic literature to contemporary fiction, from history to

science, from mathematics to art. It is a treasure trove of knowledge waiting to be explored.

In the past couple of years, the transformation of the Somnath Library has been remarkable, reflecting the school's commitment to fostering a love for reading among its cadets. Significant efforts have been made to revamp the library, making it not only appealing but also highly accessible to young readers. The layout has been improved to create a welcoming and comfortable environment, with redesigned bookshelves and ergonomic furniture providing cadets with comfortable reading and study spaces. Air conditioning has been installed to ensure a pleasant climate, allowing cadets to escape the discomfort of the outdoors and immerse themselves in the world of books.

But perhaps the most significant change has been the expansion of the library's collection. Recognising the importance of catering to diverse interests and preferences, the school has, and continues to invest significantly in acquiring an eclectic range of books, journals, comics, magazines, and publications across various genres. From the classics to the contemporary, from fiction to non-fiction, from mystery to romance, there is something for everyone. The library's shelves are now a treasure trove of knowledge waiting to be discovered, fuelling the imagination and satisfying the thirst for knowledge of young cadets.

In addition to physical books, the library also offers access to digital resources through workstations with internet connectivity. This forward-thinking addition aligns with the digital age while still preserving the sanctity of traditional reading. Cadets can now access a vast repository of knowledge at their fingertips, allowing them to expand their horizons beyond the physical confines of the library.

The fruits of these transformations are evident in the increased footfall and engagement at the library. Cadets are drawn to the library not out of obligation but out of genuine interest. They can



often be seen spending their free periods in the library. They come to explore, to discover, and to learn. The library has become a hub of intellectual curiosity and exploration, fostering a deep and abiding love for reading among the young cadets.

The impact of the Somnath library extends beyond the library's physical boundaries. Reading is not just about academics; it is about personal growth. It instils empathy, broadens horizons, and fuels creativity, helping children grow cognitively by sparking their imagination. Reading also helps improve vocabulary, nurtures the children's thirst for knowledge and bolsters cognitive skills. It is an established fact that children who read regularly become well-rounded individuals with a deeper understanding of the world, equipping them to face the challenges of life beyond school.

Owing to the emphasis on reading during their formative years, many Rimcollians often carry their love for reading well into their adulthood. It is not surprising therefore, to note that contributions of Rimcollians have played a pivotal role in enriching the library's

offerings. Several, recognising the importance of giving back to their alma mater, have generously donated books to the Somnath Library. Lt Gen Gen CP Mohanty, the erstwhile VCOAS made available about 600 books, while Mrs Ashali Verma, celebrated author and daughter of Lt Gen PS Bhagat generously donated about 250 books from her personal collection. These contributions have further diversified the collection, adding valuable works across various genres. The alumni's dedication to supporting the next generation of cadets by fostering a love for reading speaks volumes about the enduring bonds formed within the Rimcollian brotherhood.

Looking ahead, there are plans to further enrich the library's offerings. The school is committed to continuously expanding the library's collection, acquiring books, journals, magazines, and publications across various genres. Additionally, plans to enhance digital resources, such as e-books and online databases, will allow cadets to access a vast repository of knowledge at their fingertips.

The transformation of the Somnath

Library at RIMC is a testament to the power of vision and dedication. The efforts to create an enchanting world of reading have not only made the library more appealing and accessible but have also helped in fostering a deep and abiding love for reading among the young cadets. This literary odyssey of transformation is not just about books; it's about nurturing minds, shaping futures, and preparing young leaders to navigate the complexities of the world. As the library continues to evolve and grow, it stands as a beacon of knowledge and a testament to the enduring magic of reading. The administration's commitment to this vision ensures that the love for reading will continue to flourish at RIMC, shaping the lives of young cadets and, in turn, the destiny of our nation. The contributions of alumni, through their generous book donations, stand as a testament to the enduring bonds formed within the RIMC community and the commitment to enriching the educational experiences of future generations. ■

*(The writer served as Administrative Officer at the School in the run-up to the centenary celebrations)*



# THE HERITAGE

— LT GEN NS BRAR, SHIVAJI 1961-65

As a cadet in 1961, I vividly recall the welcome address of the Principal, Mr Deen Dayal (there was no Commandant then, only an Administrative Officer, Captain Onkar Singh). For any visitor he would list out the achievements of Rimcollians during the morning assembly in the Convocation Hall - now Bhagat Hall which impressed the visitor and was very motivating for the cadets. In December 1962, during the visit of President Radhakrishnan, the address concluded with 'and last but not the least, The ADC to the President of India - Captain Zaki', who was accompanying him, and that drew a big smile from the President and of course added to our pride in the Alma Mater. It was Heritage being played out.

On a recent visit to the campus, I was keen to see what changes had been brought about as I had last been there before the Centenary Celebrations. Happily on entering the campus it presented a neat, spick and span look. The disappointments were to follow.

Before proceeding any further it would be appropriate to acknowledge that all activities related to the Centenary were steered by senior Rimcollians and there is no intention to question their good faith.

At the outset it needs to be reiterated that there is a distinct difference between 'Restoration' and 'Renovation'. Restoration aims to bring any heritage structure, object, print, painting etc to its original shape and form by replacing damaged portions with similar material, removing layers of paint, additions etc to bring back the original. Recent restorations were Humayuns Tomb, Delhi and The Taj, Mumbai. Renovation on the other hand alters, adds and substitutes the original to give it a new look and purpose. UNESCO, before declaring any world heritage site insists that all additions are removed and the original restored as was done for the Secretariat and Assembly buildings in Chandigarh recently, though only about sixty years old.

I was quite disappointed to see that

much of what had been done was 'Renovation' resulting in losing the original character of some structures. On entering the Commandant's Office and expecting to revive old memories of my first day at the College, I was surprised to see that the original was totally gone. The wall separating the office from the adjoining room with the old world fire place was gone and the adjoining room had been amalgamated into the original making it into a large 'hall'. Gone was the old dark Burma teak desk, doors and windows with the glass panes and the original flooring replaced by aluminium and glass and ceramic tiles with a glass swing entrance door. The cosy, and if I may add a bit intimidating, old office was gone for ever and with it were the associated memories.

Sadly, the War Memorial presented by the Old Boys during the Golden Jubilee had even more of steel and fibre glass completely altering and obliterating the 50 years old heritage marble structure. The original



memorial had a sober and poignant aura which cannot be substituted by steel and glass. Nowhere are memorials renovated, they are all restored painstakingly. This perhaps was the biggest disappointment. This is a classic case of Renovation overriding Restoration.

It was heartening to note that much good work seems to have been gone into maintaining the Archives. The dossiers are being painstakingly digitised and bound. What is much needed is financial support for procuring anti acid sprays for saving old documents and restoration of some other objects. The charter of ROBA Trust provides for such expenditure and must be done. Preservation, repair and restoration of old silver, lithographs and paintings also need attention. Fire risk audit and anti-fire measures require serious attention.

The Thimmaya Auditorium has been painted in shades of blue on the outside whereas all others building are traditionally white with black built in wood work. It appears totally out of character and needs to be redone to confirm to the overall painting theme of

other buildings.

The Cadets Mess had been recently shifted into the new building which does not have ante-rooms which need to be added. The white table cloths had been substituted with white rexine and the glass tumblers with steel, giving it the appearance of an ordinary eating house. Surely the cost of using cloth and glass is not something that is unaffordable. Wall hangings and other displays, both inside and outside, need much to be done to give it the appropriate dignity and grandeur befitting the vintage of the College.

The interior of the Senior Ante Room of the old Cadets Mess has been restored by bringing out the original wall panelling, however the Rogues Gallery seems to have been done away with. While such photographs can be placed in digital form in freely accessible touch screen panels, there is no substitute for the motivation of young cadets as by physical display. The future of the old cadets mess, anterooms and associated infrastructure needs some serious and deliberate discussion aimed at preservation, and certainly no

renovation, less the heart of our heritage is lost.

While the interior of the old swimming pool has been put to good use, altering the front porch and windows could have been avoided and restored instead.

A new hospital structure has come up in front of the old Section Hospital, perhaps the old building can be restored and put to good use. It may have been appropriate to house the ROBA Office there permanently, however, as a proper place has been acquired in New Delhi, the structure should find some use, maybe as guest rooms.

It may be appropriate to set up a standing Rimcollian Heritage Committee which could look into preservation by seeking expert analysis and methods for doing so. It should also go into any proposed changes with the same objective. INTACH is a very competent and helpful organisation for this purpose.

Finally much as we are proud of our past glory and strive to achieve more in the future, the inspiration from our heritage also needs to be ensured. ■

# The Boxer's Saga

— SUBIN BALAKRISHNAN



It's not always that I agree to willingly get bashed up by an 80+ senior citizen, no matter what the occasion. But when the senior citizen is your Dad, and he's celebrating his 82nd (birthday), you make some concessions.

Picture taken at the same spot, 70 years on after Cadet S Balakrishnan had his first tryst with Boxing, at the Rashtriya Indian Military College, (RIMC) Dehradun. My Dad, (to the right in the picture) was in the boxing ring with his contemporary, Cadet Joyonto Sengupta, who later went on to win the coveted President's Gold Medal of his course at the NDA, and then again at the IMA. Tragically, he lost both his eyes in action as a young Captain, heroically fighting in a tank versus tank battle during the 1965 war against Pakistan. He passed away some years back, having led a remarkable life (a post on that fabulous man shall follow).

It was the ardent wish of my brother and me to recreate this scene from 70 years back. And in Jo Jo's absence, yours truly stepped in for him, attempting to fill up some truly large shoes.

While we perhaps haven't done a thoroughly professional job of the scene remake, Cadet Balakrishnan sure looks the pro, having clearly improved his boxing skills, practising by bashing up guys way younger than him over the years!

This in loving tribute to Capt Jo Jo Sengupta.

PS: While the picture records for posterity that Cadet Balakrishnan had indeed landed a punch on Cadet Jo Jo's left cheek, my Dad confirmed (after a couple of drinks) that he had lost the bout to a physically stronger and technically superior Jojo.

*(The writer is son of Mr S Balakrishnan, 969/Ranjit, 1954-58)*





**102<sup>nd</sup> FOUNDER'S DAY @ REUNION 2024**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ROBA ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING**  
**13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**



**General**

1. ROBA AGM was conducted during the **102<sup>nd</sup> Founders' Day Celebrations (Reunion 2024)** at Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun on **13<sup>th</sup> Mar 2024** from **1030 to 1115 h** at the historic **Bhagat (Convocation) Hall**. The Meeting was chaired by Lt Gen Adosh Kumar, Hony President ROBA. Following were present:-

- (a) Gen V N Sharma – Chairman ROBA Trust
- (b) Air Chief Mshl N C Suri
- (c) Air Chief Mshl B S Dhanoa
- (d) Cdr Anil Jagtiani - Hony Treasurer
- (e) Lt Gen Zubin Minwalla – Member ROBA Wkg Committee
- (f) Col Rahul Agarwal – Comdt RIMC
- (g) Col Vivek Sharma – Hony Secy ROBA
- (h) All the ROBA members attending 102<sup>nd</sup> Founder's Day attended with enthusiasm and in complete strength.

**Proceedings**

2. **Address by President ROBA**. Hony President ROBA welcomed the attendees. He shared his thoughts with the members and expressed his gratitude for the support he has received from everyone since assuming the responsibility as Hony President ROBA on 01 Jul 2023. Some of the highlights :-

- (a) **Gratitude**. Expressed the gratitude to all the members for attending in great strength. Special gratitude to Gen V N Sharma , Air Chief Mshl N C Suri and Air Chief Mshl B S Dhanoa for infusing the enthusiasm with their blessings.
- (b) **Reunion 2024**. Lauded the tireless efforts of Team RIMC and Secy ROBA in working together to make the conduct of Reunion possible despite the constraints of short time available to Comdt and AO, having moved in just 15-20 days prior.
- (c) **Harmony in Functioning**. Working in harmony with ROBA Trust and Team RIMC for the betterment of RIMC.
- (d) **Office at Bhikaji Cama**. Fructification of office of ROBA Trust at Delhi for which a committee of Rimcollians , Maj Gens M P S Gill and Ajay Ramdev, Wg Cdr Ankit Uniyal and Mr Vikram Sabharwal, did the ground work.

-2-

- (e) **Inauguration of Museum**. Complimented the Trustees, Team RIMC and all others in making it possible for Maj Somnath Resource Centre to be a reality.
- (f) **Selection of Appointments at RIMC**. Through a streamlined process of interview over video conferencing. The same was attended by a panel of Rimcollians constituting Hony President ROBA, Lt Gen K V Kumar, SO-in-C, Lt Gen Mohit Wadhwa, Maj Gen Ajay Ramdev and Col Vivek Sharma, Hony Secy ROBA. Six Rimcollians, as per willingness and availability, were interviewed. The posting was then processed with MS Branch.
- (g) **ROBA Website**. Work in progress to take forward the project of a functional ROBA website. It is expected to be functional in next six months.
3. **Condolences**. A mark of respect and condolences were offered on behalf of the Fraternity to those family members who left us for their heavenly abode since Mar 2023. List is attached at **Appx 'A'**.
4. Hony Secy ROBA, Col Vivek Sharma , then continued the proceedings. He briefed the attendees on the following:-
- (a) Brief note on the ROBA activities was presented to the attendees.
- (b) Gratitude was extended to Hony President ROBA and Lt Gen Zubin Minwalla, GOC UB Area for rendering complete support for the conduct of Reunion through their indulgence with local fmns. Also, to Team RIMC for the affectionate support and warmth despite the internal challenges.
5. **Accounts**. Presentation of accounts was done by Hony Treasurer, Cdr Anil Jagtiani. Members requested discussion on certain aspects and the house was left open to express their views. Major aspects that emerged:-
- (a) Col Prem Prakash asked if any budgeting had been done for the expenditure of the ROBA Fund. Hony Treasurer expressed that suitable and appropriate budgeting would be carried out for the ROBA fund for the expenditure during the current year.
- (b) At the end of the discussion, the accounts, on being proposed by Flt Ajit Singh and seconded by another member, were deemed to have been passed by the house.
- (c) Summary of accounts is attached at **Appx 'B'** .

### **Agenda Points**

6. Agenda points received in advance as also any issues raised during the course of meeting were discussed by the attendees.
7. Details of the agenda points and the decisions arrived at, are placed at **Appx 'C'**

### **Presentation by Treasurer ROBA Trust**

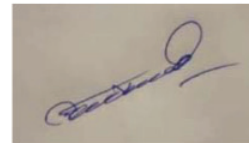
8. Flt Lt Ajit Singh, Treasurer ROBA Trust, made a brief presentation on various projects and measures undertaken by the Trust in consultation with RIMC and ROBA.

**Conclusion**

9. At the end, Lt Gen Narayan Chatterjee , gave a brief insight into his experience of Platinum Jubilee conduct, where he was incharge of reception of overseas Rimcollians at Delhi, being ADG Aviation. He also presented a souvenir to Comdt RIMC.

10. Hony President thanked everyone for the meaningful discussion and contributing passionately in the AGM. Meeting was then closed.

11. List of attendees of 102<sup>nd</sup> Founders Day is attached at **Appx 'D'**. The contribution received and expenditure state has already been shared with the attendees on 20 Mar 2024. The accounts have been settled.



**(Vivek Sharma)**  
**Col**  
**Hony Secy ROBA**

**Dated : 25 Mar 2024**



**ICH DIEN**

**BAL VIVEK**



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**Appendix 'A'****CONDOLENCES**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>RIMC</u></b>	<b><u>SEC</u></b>	<b><u>Passed away on</u></b>
Lt Col TK Baruah	1954-58	PRATAP	07 Apr 2023
Brig JB Singh, VSM	1951-54	SHIVAJI	08 May 2023
Col SK Das	1958-62	RANJIT	27 May 2023
Capt Hambir Rao Mohite	1936-41	KITCHENERS	30 Jun 2023
Dr UN Singh, English Teacher	-	-	28 May 2023
Mr Ajit Kumar Gupta	1970-74	SHIVAJI	28 Jul 2023
Maj Gen MM Rai, AVSM	1945-48	ROBERTS	05 Aug 2023
Col Ambarish Tewari	1982-86	RANJIT	08 Aug 2023
Lt Col Jasbir Singh Khurana	1939-45	KITCHENERS	26 Aug 2023
Wg Cdr G Unni Kartha	1962-66	RANJIT	28 Oct 2023
Mr Jolly Paul Nanda	1972-76	CH'GUPT	29 Dec 2023
Mr Keshav Raj Gazmer	1971-76	CH'GUPT	19 Jan 2024
Wg Cdr Udaivir Ranjit Rao	1961-65	RANJIT	29 Jan 2024
Lt Gen Gautam Dutt, VSM	1961-65	PRATAP	03 Feb 2024
Maj Gen B Chowdhuri	1953-57	PRATAP	05 Feb 2024



BALANCE SHEET AS AT	31-Jan-24	
	<u>PROVISIONAL</u>	
LIABILITIES	ROBA	
<b>CORPUS</b>		
Balance Brought Forward	1,09,42,302	
Add : Receipts during the year	1,36,000	
Add : Surplus during the year	1,85,661	
		<b>1,12,63,963</b>
<b>MEDIA &amp; PUBLICATION FUND</b>		
Balance Brought Forward	41,95,135	
Add : Receipts during the year	4,000	
Add : Surplus during the year	36,315	
		<b>42,35,450</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Audit Fee payable	21,240	
ROBA Trust	14,500	
Payable to RIMC	3,650	
		<b>38,890</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,55,38,303</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
<b>Corpus Fund</b>		
LIC HFL	12,00,000	
Cent Bank HFL	7,50,000	
PNB Housing Finance Ltd.	5,38,398	
GOI Bonds	4,00,000	
Mutual Funds	69,95,378	
	<b>98,83,776</b>	
<b>Media Fund</b>		
Mutual Funds	7,34,283	
Cent Bank HFL	32,50,000	
	<b>39,84,283</b>	
		<b>1,38,68,059</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Stock - Souvenirs	76,690	
Income Tax Refund Due	1,75,426	
Tax Deducted at Source	26,540	
Interest accrued but not due	2,91,716	
Balance at Bank	11,09,404	
Cash in Hand	-1,532	
		<b>16,62,244</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,55, 38,303</b>



-6-

<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT</b>	
	<b>PROVISIONAL</b>
	<b>31-Jan-24</b>
<b>INCOMES</b>	
Sales - Souvenirs	
<b>Cost of Souvenirs sold</b>	
Opening Stock	76,690
Add : Purchases	0
Less : Closing Stock	76,690
<b>Profit from Souvenirs</b>	---
<b>Other Incomes</b>	
Interest on Deposits - Corpus Fund	14,756
Interest on Deposits-Media Fund	2,16,076
Get Togethers/ Reunions	15,040
Bank Interest	28,894
Donation	1,24,001
Newsletter sales	50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,48,767</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Bank Charges	7,953
Staff Incentive	0
Auditor Remuneration	21,240
Legal & Professional Charges	11,800
Postage - Publications	72,735
Newsletters & Publications	1,07,026
Postage	637
Honorarium to Staff	0
Internet/ Website Expenses	5,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,26,791</b>
<b>SURPLUS DURING THE PERIOD</b>	<b>2,21,976</b>



## On the Reunion: A Poem

— COL SUGANDH SHARMA,  
CHANDRAGUPTA, 1981-86



In nineteen twenty-two, on this March day,  
A school was born, in a charming way.  
With wisdom's seed, its foundation laid,  
A cradle of leadership, where  
futures are made.

Rimcollians, they proudly proclaim,  
The sons of this school, their  
honour to acclaim.  
For here they learned, to strive  
and to soar,  
To lead with grace, and achieve  
even more.

In every field, they boldly stand,  
From military to civil, across the land.  
Their alma mater, a beacon bright,  
Guiding their paths with wisdom's light.

Today they gather, the old boys true,  
To reminisce, and share fond hue.  
In tales they weave, of days gone by,  
Their bond unbroken, reaching for the sky.

So here's to Rimcollians, strong and bold,  
Whose legacy shines, a story told.  
In the cradle of leadership,  
they found their way,  
Marching forward, on this  
historic day.

# A Brief on *The Rimcollian*

— **CMDE NAJ JOSEPH, VSM (RETD)**

1. The Rimcollian was started sometime in 1950s, continued for some years with specific periodicity and folded up in 1970s.
2. It was revived in 1994 with an eye for bringing Rimcollians together in large numbers during the 1997 Platinum Jubilee celebration. Lt Col (retd) Jasbir Khurana as editor and Sidharth Mishra as assistant editor were instrumental in its revival.
3. In 1998, the functioning of the newsletter was formalised and decided that its circulation be encouraged among those who donate to the ROBA Trust, which was to set aside Rs 100 per donor per year to meet expenses.
4. Col Khurana retired in 1998, and Sidharth Mishra took over the editorship. Soon after ROBA Trust given shortage of funds stopped paying for the printing and to stop the newsletter from folding up, push was given to raise money through advertisements etc.
5. In the year 2000, the Memorandum of ROBA was registered which makes three specific references to Editor and The Rimcollian:
  - a. 1-I-2-i-Honorary Editor Means Honorary Editor of The Rimcollian
  - b. 1-III-2-III-2-The Commandant RIMC and the Honorary Editor of The Rimcollian would be ex-officio members of the Working Committee
  - c. 2-1-IV-2-b- The Honorary Editor of The Rimcollian may incur expenses related to the publishing of the journal subject to annual limits prescribed in the Budget.
6. This continued till 2012, when Sidharth Mishra gave editorship in favour of Brig CS Thapa. A statement on income-expenditure during 1998-2013 showed that the newsletter never bled the ROBA coffers and always maintained above breakeven status.
7. In 2013 the newsletter did not have a print edition, which was resented by several Rimcollians and thus it was revived in the present form in 2014 with Brig Thapa as Editor and Sidharth Mishra as Publisher (Under the RNI rules.)
8. While reviving the print edition in 2014, then treasurer Maj MS Bedi created a separate Magazine Fund so that the newsletter has a dedicated corpus. He also started a lifetime subscription drive, promising two print edition each year to those who paid Rs 2000/- magazine fund. Maj Bedi and Sidharth Mishra as a team also undertook a massive fund-raising drive bringing big monies in form of advertisements in the glossy magazine. Today there is over Rs 42 lakh in the magazine fund and about 600 lifetime subscribers.
9. Such professional marketing could be done as with a foresight The Rimcollian title was registered with the Registrar of Newspapers in India (RNI), giving legal sanctity and credibility to its status.
10. In 2018, Brig CS Thapa all of a sudden passed away. At this point, former ROBA president Air Marshal PP Reddy became the Editor. Under his leadership an Editorial Committee was created of four more members - Chriranjit Banerjee, Cmde NAJ Joseph, Brig Sanjay Kannothe and Col Shailender Arya, to take on the onerous tasks of various publications for the centenary like centenary issue of the *The Rimcollian*, calendars, Centenary History, which went a long way in generating esprit-de-camaraderie in the community. They were selected on the basis of their regular contribution for several years to building up Rimcollian literature including the newsletter and the Camphor series books.
11. All these projects were self-funded and generated profit adding to the corpus. The complete production work was handled by Prof Sidharth Mishra in his capacity as Publisher of all the editorial related projects. Sidharth as Publisher of *The Rimcollian* is also liable for any legal action, under the related government publication rules.
12. Today publication of the newsletter is self-funded through the interest earned on the corpus and also through sales/advertising.
13. The content and finances are supervised by a Board of Rimcollians consisting of four people under the leadership of Cmde NAJ Joseph and Prof Sidharth Mishra, Brig Sanjay Kannothe and Col Shailendra Arya as members. This committee is timely delivering editions since 2022.
14. An eEdition is also issued subsequent to the release of the print edition. The publishers also maintains a newsletter archive in addition to the one being maintained at the school. These editions are majorly appreciated and continue to build the camaraderie in the brotherhood.
15. A few notes of appreciation are there in the letters to the editor.

# QUICK FILLIP



## Vice President invited to RIMC

During the investiture ceremony, the Vice President interacted with Maj Gen H \Dharamrajan and Capt Avinash Chhetry, the ADC to President ... (Avinash was a Cadet when Maj Gen Dharamrajan was Comdt RIMC). While engaging in conversation, he expressed

that he will visit RIMC.

On September 1, he made it a point to include in his Uttarakhand itinerary, a must visit to RIMC. Team RIMC has conducted him and other dignitaries including the Governor Uttarakhand, at a short notice despite a simultaneous ...

extremely important event of NDA Written exam for Classes 5 & 5A.

He had been in awe of Rimcollians and RIMC...today he was mesmerised to see our torch bearers, as exceptional leaders. Kudos to Commandant and Team RIMC.



### A PROUD MOMENT FOR OUR FRATERNITY

Maj Gen Jarken Gamlin (1974-79/Pratap) being administered oath of office of Chief Information Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh, by the Hon'ble Governor of the state, Lt Gen KT Parnaik (retd)

## T Kranthi Kumar, 139 Shivaji

Mr Kranthi Tata has recently assumed another leadership position as President & CEO - Unison, a GE Aerospace company



**Kranthi Tata** ✓ (He/Him) · 2nd

President & CEO - Unison, a GE Aerospace company

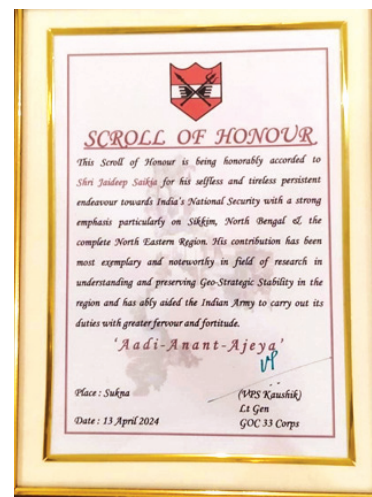
GE Aerospace · Cornell University - S.C. Johnson Graduate School of Management  
United States

## Maj Pritam Mishra, 164 Pratap was adjudged the BEST ARMY RIDER at the Delhi Horse Show 2024



Harmanjit Singh Jauhal, 1561/C, in Police, Australia, getting an Appreciation Award by Sikh Volunteers Australia and the Prime Minister Mr Anthony Albanese on the 7th April 2024, during the Baisakhi celebrations.

Mr Jaideep Saikia, 1060/P, a renowned security expert on the North East was the keynote speaker at a Seminar organised by HQ 33 Corps



Lt Cdr Nikhil Prabhune, 2353/C has recently graduated from USNWC. He earned a Masters in Defence and Strategic studies with distinction, and also received the Zimmerman Gray award for the best essay amongst International students.

*"Wings of History: Discover, Write, Inspire"*

The Unni Kartha Chair of Excellence in IAF History honours the distinguished legacy of Wing Commander Unni Kartha, who is celebrated for his innovative approach to historical writing. This prestigious opportunity seeks to inspire young writers to blend rigorous research with a compelling narrative style and steadfast intellectual integrity, crafting stories that resonate globally.

If you are passionate about Indian Air Force history and possess the skills to weave enthralling tales, we encourage you to apply. Awardees will receive an honorarium, exclusive access to Indian Air Force archives, and a platform to showcase their work.

This opportunity is open to anyone between 18 and 50, regardless of their educational background. We seek talented writers, who bring fresh perspectives and tell engaging and inspiring stories. Please make sure your application includes detailed information about yourself, your writing style, and the aspects of IAF history you are eager to explore. Don't miss this chance to let your unique voice be heard.

Email us at [Capsnetdroff@gmail.com](mailto:Capsnetdroff@gmail.com)

Centre for Air Power Studies honours Wg Cdr Unni Kartha, 341/R, by instituting The Unni Kartha Chair of Excellence in Indian Air Force History.

# Maj Gen H Dharmarajan in media for his noble deeds

## Soldier, Bureaucrats Awarded for Advancing Communities in Tough Times

**A major general empowers border villages, helping boost their income**

Krishna.Thevar@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** A bureaucrat who created awareness to prevent domestic violence during Covid; a major general who empowered border villages, helping them boost their income and provide fresh produce to the army; an IPS officer

who converted police outposts in Maoist-hit areas to serve as government service centres; and an IAS officer who used mushrooms to not just raise income but also helped solve Assam's malnutrition problem. These changemakers were chosen as the best innovators in the country by the Capacity Building Commission on Sunday. Some of the innovations like the one by Major General Hariharan Dharmarajan hugely transformed border villages in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal, Uttarakhand and the Northeast. In 2018, when Dharmarajan was posted along the J&K border, he found that the army units had to procure everything from produce to hired transport to stationary, repairs, spares and other materials from as far as Jammu and Pathankot in Punjab. "From fruits to vegetables, even eggs and milk were all purchased from the hinterland mandis. Besides the logistical cost of bringing the refrigerated produce, there was also the delay involved in transporting perishables to the troops. This is when I thought of getting the locals to grow and sell fresh produce to the Army," said Dharmarajan. "We got all the sarpanches together, equipped them with the latest farming techniques and quality se-

eds..." said Dharmarajan. Another commendable achievement was made by Ankit Goyal, the then Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police, who found that government schemes were not reaching the Maoist-hit region. "We had Andhaar enrolment camps, ensured tribals were issued caste certificates to avail themselves of government schemes and coordinated with banks for Jan Dhan accounts," said Goyal. The IPS officer also roped in companies to provide skill development to local youth through courses, leading to jobs for 11,000 youths. In Kokrajhar, Varnali Deba who was the District Commissioner in 2021 identified mushroom cultivation, in consultation with the Bodo-land Territorial Council, to provide a means of livelihood for women self-help groups. When Covid struck the world, IAS officer Ayush Prasad decided to focus on one of its fallout — domestic violence. With lockdowns and people losing jobs, fights became common in families. "We mobilised Asha workers and anganwadi sevikas and identified homes where women were facing domestic violence. We arranged for counselling, got police cases filed and created awareness on domestic violence; we changed viewpoints," said Prasad.

eds..." said Dharmarajan.

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### THE BEST INNOVATORS

#### THINKING BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE

When Covid struck the world, IAS officer Ayush Prasad decided to focus on one of its fallout — domestic violence



Indian Railways Locomotive named after Major Somnath Sharma



Maj Gen Mohit Gandhi, 1179/P has been appointed Commandant of EME School, and a Colonel Commandant of EME from July 2024 onwards.

## Sabhiki Cup Squash: March 2024

Rimcollians all the way in Squash, as usual in the Sabhiki Cup Squash. While the Gold went to NDA and the Silver to INS Ezhimala, it was Rimcollians on both sides.



**Standing Left to Right :** Cadet Nikhil Jangra, Shivaji, Cadet Nishkal Diwedi, Chandragupta, their mentor for years - Sgt Sachin Ughade, Cadet Veeresh, Ranjit INA, and Cadet Madhav, Shivaji.

## WW2 hero's great-grandson is now fourth-generation officer

Tanmayee Tyagi | TNN

**Dehradun:** Dhruv Dahiya from Bengaluru is a fourth-generation officer. His great-grandfather fought WW-II on Burmese and African fronts, his grandfather is a Shaurya Chakra recipient who saw action in 1971 Indo-Pak war, and his father, Commodore Shivnath Dahiya, a test pilot for Tejas, was the first to land the aircraft on INS Vikrant.

On Saturday, the 21-year-old was among 394 cadets to pass out from Indian Military Academy. He was accompanied by his father, Shivnath, and grandfather, Sajjan Kumar. The family originally hails from Haryana's Rohtak. Now settled in the USA,



Dhruv Dahiya, 21, was among 394 cadets to pass out from Indian Military Academy on Saturday

Dhruv's grandfather flew all the way to be part of the proud moment. Kumar, who was on the frontlines during the PNS Ghazi attack, said, "My father, Tek Chand, was a captain in British military. He fought in WW-II and was away from

home for five years. My mother would wait six months to receive a letter from him. He suffered bullet injuries during the war, but never gave up."

Dhruv's family legacy continued with his father, a chief test pilot for LCA Navy, who performed the first successful arrested landing, hot refuelling and launching of Tejas on INS Vikrant last year.

The fourth-generation of flier hopes to follow in their illustrious footsteps. "This isn't pressure for me, it's inspiration," said Dhruv, a former RIMC Dehradun graduate.

He added: "Like them, I look forward to excelling in my military career. I'm going to do my best to make my country and family proud."

An article on Lt Dhruv Dahiya's (2978/C) family legacy in the military. He is son of Cmde Shivnath Dahiya, 1488/C and nephew of Col Vijayant Singh, 1641/C.



The Wings ceremony in INS Rajali, Arakonam: All Rimcollians and family with the young Helicopter pilots Lt Deepak Gupta(180 Ranjit), course topper and Lt Ajay Jose Joseph N (179 Ranjit) who earned the coveted wings on 7 June 2024. Ajay is son of Cmde NAJ Joseph (112 Ranjit) Other Rimcollians in picture Cdr Karan Tyagi 154/ P Lt Cdr Mohit Choudhary 169 /P. And missing from picture Lt Cdr Kumar Vikram 172 /S and Lt Cdr Ravi Pathak 173 / P.

# News from NDA, IMA, AFA and INA

Services Subject, Best in Navigation and Best in Seamanship.

## NEWS FROM NDA

**Appointments July 2024 term.** Cadet Jodha, Chandragupta nominated as Academy Cadet Adjutant and Cadet Nishkal Dwiwedi, Chandragupta has been nominated as the Battalion Cadet Captain

Cadet Tathagat Tiwari, Ranjit has earned the PT blues in his 3rd term.

## NDA PASSING OUT PARADE, 24 MAY 2024

Our boys continue to shine, bring laurels for Alma mater and add to our pride. ACA Manik Turan, Ranjit was awarded the prestigious President Silver Medal and Best all round Naval Cadet.

Cdt Aditya Rana, Chandragupta was awarded Best in Naval

SCC Prakhar Thakur, Pratap, Best in Riding.

## NEWS FROM IMA

### Allotment of Arms at IMA

- Dhruv Dahiya, Chandragupta - 82 Armd Regt
- Aman Mishra, Shivaji - 4/8 GR
- Maitrayan Das, Shivaji - 6/8 GR
- Dayne Thiamsangliana, Chandragupta - 19 Garhwal Rifles
- Satyam Gupta, Shivaji - 7 Maratha Light Infantry
- Ajay Pratap Singh Jadon, Chandragupta - 65 Armd Regt
- Sahil Sharma, Pratap - 49 Armd Regt
- K Thanilkumar Singh , Ranjit - 9 Rajput

# BOOKS CORNER



Amongst many other accomplishments, Harminder Singh Multani, 132 Shivaji has now pushed himself to pen down the experience in his recent publication.

## Serenade of Star-Crossed Lovers



Serenade of Star-Crossed Lovers is a collection of poems authored by a young Rimcollian Arnav Kaliramana, 3173/R, 194 Course. The author has recently passed out of RIMC and is joining NDA. He is son of Col Satya Narain Kaliramana, 1471/C. Published by Evincepub and available on Amazon



Veteran author and academician, Professor Sidharth Mishra (115/Ranjit) present a set of his books titled - Synthesis: Integral Media Studies (Vol I, II & III) to the Commandant, Col Rahul Agarwal to be kept in Somnath Library.



# The NDA Passing Out Parade , May 2024

— COL VIJAY GIDH, VSM (RETD)

It is always a pleasure attending the bi-annual Passing Out Parade (POP) at the National Defence Academy (NDA), particularly if a medal winner happens to be a Rimcollian. It was a warm Friday morning when we witnessed an impressive POP of the 146th Course of the NDA on 24 May 2024.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Manoj Pande was the Reviewing Officer for the parade. A total of 1265 cadets participated in the parade, of which 337 were from the passing out course. The passing out cadets included 199 Army cadets, 38 Naval cadets and 100 Air Force cadets, including 19 cadets from Friendly Foreign Countries including Bhutan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives. A contingent of 24 female cadets, presently in their third and fourth term of training also took part in the parade. Known as the Cradle of Military Leadership, the NDA is the country's premier Joint Services Training Institution. The 146th Course was inducted in June 2021 and after completion of three years of rigorous military training, the cadets passed out in a grand ceremonial event. The cadets will now join their respective Pre-Commissioning Training Academies.

Addressing the passing out course, the Army Chief said, "In another year's time, you will be commissioned officers and will be mandated to lead men and women into combat. The character of warfare is undergoing a profound change. In order to operate in the battlefield of tomorrow, you need to enhance your technical competency thresholds. So keep your quest for embracing technology and striving for professional excellence going."

Underlining the role of the training at the NDA, the Army Chief said, "Despite technological advancements, the critical role of the man or woman behind the machine in the battlefield stands undiminished. During the training at NDA, you have been introduced to fundamental aspects of leadership. As you journey ahead, do focus on sharpening the leadership skills and work towards making yourself worthy of donning the mantle of a junior leader. Keep yourself physically fit, have an inviolable yardstick of integrity as your beacon and brave through difficult situations on the edifice of moral as well as physical courage. Have the courage of conviction to select the harder right even when it is the hardest thing to do, because that is what

leaders are expected to do. A true leader leads by example, ensures the well-being of his or her command and never takes the trust for granted, rather earns it. In a sense, always uphold the values that have been instilled into you at the NDA."

The Chief said in his speech, "The female cadets on parade truly epitomise Nari Shakti and our commitments towards the inclusive armed forces." The first batch of 19 women cadets (10 Army, 03 Navy and 06 Air Force) were inducted as part of 148th course in July 2022 and will pass out in May 2025.

## 75 YEARS OF NDA

The NDA completed '75 Glorious Years' of its existence on 16 January 2024. On this occasion, a year-long commemorative activity to highlight its achievements in various spheres was conducted from 19 January 2023 to 16 January 2024.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE IN LIMA SQUADRON

Gen Manoj Pande also visited the Lima Squadron to which he belonged. The cadets of the squadron presented him with a frame comprising three photos - one from his academy days bearing the number 13799, his group

photo from the academy days and his photo as the Chief of Army Staff. The frame has the title "Lion Was I Born. Lion Will I Die", and the caption, "With the best wishes from the proud Lion family."

### THE RIMCOLLIANS

The most thrilling event for the Rimcollians who witnessed the parade - live or on TV, was the Award Ceremony. ACA Manik Turan was awarded the President's Silver Medal. Golf Squadron bagged the prestigious 'Chiefs of Staff Banner', for being the Champion Squadron.

The passing out course consisted of 13 Rimcollian cadets, of which 04 were from the Army, 04 from the Navy and 05 from the Air Force. In addition to winning the Silver Medal, ACA Manik was adjudged the Best All Round Naval Cadet. Cdt Aditya Rana was Best in Naval Services Subject, Best in Navigation and Best in Seamanship; while SCC Prakhar Negi was Best in Riding. Many cadets were awarded Blues, Half Blues and Merit Cards in various disciplines.

ACA Manik Turan being awarded Presidents Silver Medal

It was a pleasure meeting ACA Manik Turan and his proud parents after the parade. I congratulated him on behalf of the Rimcollian fraternity. Manik (Ranjit, 189th Course) was a student of SB Mission School, Karnal before joining RIMC in July 2016.

Hailing from Karnal, Haryana, his father, Mr Satbir Singh retired as a Naib Subedar from the Army Education Corps in 2009 and served as a government teacher for some years. His mother, Mrs Sunita Rani is currently a government teacher in Haryana. Two of Manik's uncles retired from the Armed Forces, as a Subedar in Signals and Junior Warrant Officer in the Indian Air Force respectively.

Manik has fond memories of his stay in RIMC and vividly remembers the day he joined school. It was all new faces, a new place and new routine - everything was so overwhelming. Initially everything was difficult and he was worried whether he would survive the 5



ACA Manik Turan being awarded Presidents Silver Medal



With BCC Bharat Kadian

years in RIMC! It was all because of their 30 course mates - the course spirit and the busy routine in RIMC, they did not realise how all those 5 years passed by! They started enjoying spending time together. Whatever he has learnt in life, the major part is because of the time spent together in RIMC. In future, whenever confronted with any problem - he would look back to his RIMC days and it just clicks 'OK, that's how it can be done'. He would give anything to get a chance to relive those 5 years as a cadet in RIMC!

As a cadet in RIMC, Manik was an all-rounder. He enjoyed playing games

and represented his section in most teams, and the College teams in Athletics (Javelin Throw) and Cricket. He secured a feather in Academics every term and was his class topper during his X term in RIMC.

The 189th RIMC Course performed exceedingly well in the UPSC examination for admission to NDA. Cadet Aditya Rana secured All India Ranking (AIR) No 1, Cadet Nakul Saxena was No 2 and joined INA, Cadet (ACA in NDA) Manik Turan was No 4, Cadet (BCC in NDA) Bharat Kadian was No 5, while Cadet (DCC in NDA) Sachin Kumar was No 6, when they joined NDA in September 2021. Out of the 16 RIMC cadets who joined NDA, 13 passed out in May 2024. They had one ACA, one BCA and four SCCs among the key appointments.

Manik feels that NDA was a cakewalk after passing out from RIMC - many Rimcollians would agree to that. There are Rimcollians in every term and squadron to help a RIMC cadet, in case any help required. RIMC prepares us for our lives; it teaches us how to tackle the problems that come our way. The bonding made in school is of a completely different level and it only keeps getting stronger. Manik is confident that in case of need, he could always depend upon the Rimcollian

fraternity for advice; Rimcollians are a Family beyond Blood!

It was a pleasure to meet my course mate Maj Gen AK Sen, (Ranjit, 1967-72) after the parade. Hailing from Kolkata, Gen Sen wanted to show NDA and Pune to his family - he was accompanied by his wife, daughter and granddaughter. After undergoing 'NDA Darshan' and a visit to his Juliet Squadron, the Sen family kindly joined us for Lunch. When asked their views about their visit to NDA, the family was totally impressed with the POP and the NDA campus. The last time we met Gen Sen was in 2012 - he was the Commandant, CIJW School at Vairangte and we had visited this beautiful place after a memorable trip to Manipur.

It was a pleasant surprise to meet Gp Capt PR Jayachandran (Chandragupta, 1979-84) and his wife. Jayachandran had been an instructor in NDA when I was posted as a Battalion Commander in early 2000s. Mrs Jayachandran proudly recalled the lovely time they had when the Rimcollian instructors visited our place in NDA. It was nice to meet Col & Mrs Munindra Gupta. Munindra had been an instructor in RIMC when I was posted as Adm Offr in mid 1990s, and was later our neighbour in Separated Family accommodation near RIMC.

Some officers of 46th Course NDA residing in Pune had attended the POP. The 46th Course would be celebrating their Golden Jubilee of passing out from the Academy; and many officers of the course from various parts of India and few from abroad, would be conducting their Reunion in NDA on 07-08 June 2024.

The Convocation Ceremony of the course was held at Habibullah Hall on 23 May 2024. Dr Sat Prakash Bansal, the Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh was the Chief Guest. 205 cadets, including 17 cadets from Friendly Foreign Countries were conferred bachelor's degrees from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Of them, 82 cadets were conferred degrees in Science, 84 in Computer Science and 39 in Arts. In addition, the BTech stream comprising 132 cadets of Navy and Air Force cadets, also received three-year



Col Gidh with Rimcollian Maj Gen AK Sen

**IT WAS A PLEASANT SURPRISE TO MEET GP CAPT PR JAYACHANDRAN (CHANDRAGUPTA, 1979-84) AND HIS WIFE. JAYACHANDRAN HAD BEEN AN INSTRUCTOR IN NDA WHEN I WAS POSTED AS A BATTALION COMMANDER IN EARLY 2000S**

course completion certificates. These cadets will be conferred degrees after completion of one-year training at their respective pre-commissioning academics - Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and Air Force Academy, Hyderabad. The IAF's Sarang helicopter aerobatics team dazzled spectators by displaying daring manoeuvres in the air show conducted for the parents of the 146th course over the Salaria Square on 23rd afternoon, a day prior to the POP.

## NDA INTRODUCES AI IN SYLLABUS

The NDA has commenced revision of the curriculum to induct subjects such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, cyber space and information to tackle technology-driven warfare.

The internal committees - Inter-Services Study Group (ISSG) and the Academic Study Group (ASG) - are responsible for periodic review of the academic curriculum in the NDA courses. The NDA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IIT, Powai, and the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) to access their online resources, online live lectures, etc. Access to the National Knowledge Network and the Infnlibnet are also a value addition.

## POSTING OUT OF RIMCOLLIAN COMMANDANT

After an eventful and enjoyable 2-years tenure as Commandant NDA, Vice Adm Ajay Kochhar, AVSM, NM relinquished command on 25 May 2024. He has been posted as Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command. Vice Adm Gurcharan Singh, an ex-NDA officer, assumed the appointment of Commandant. Rimcollians residing in Pune had been very fortunate to attend a lovely Reunion hoisted by Vice Adm & Mrs Kochhar at the Commandant's Residence in March 2023. We wish Vice Adm and Mrs Kochhar a nice tenure at their next place of posting in Mumbai.

RIMC cadets continue to excel in NDA and won many medals during the Spring Term 2024. Rimcollians in NDA who have won key appointments during Autumn Term 2024 are ACA Jodha and BCC No 1 Bn Nishkal Dwiwedi.

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

# HONOURS & AWARDS

## Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards, Independence Day 2024

### SENA MEDAL, GALLANTRY

Gitansh Ahluwalia, 174 Pratap

### COAS COMMENDATION

Lt Col Gaurav Hridaya

Maj Tejas Deshpande

### MENTIONED-IN-DESPATCHES (GALLANTRY)

Capt Yugant Pandey, Chandragupta,

### GOC-IN-C COMMENDATION

Col Napoleon Nayak



Maj Gen H Dharmarajan, AVSM, SM\*\*, VSM (1036/C) receiving the Param Vishisht Seva Medal from the President during the Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 19 July 2024.



Maj Gen Sandeep Singh, 1153/S, receiving the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal from the President during the Investiture Ceremony on 19 July 2024.



Maj Gen H Dharmarajan and family after the Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan with Maj Avinash Chhetry, 2632/S, ADC to President.



Col Sarfraz Singh, 1645/S after being conferred Vishisht Seva Medal for his extraordinary feats in the field of adventure

# PROMOTIONS & NOMINATIONS

## LT COLONEL TO COLONEL

Lt Col Ashish Kulkarni, Chandragupta, Army Aviation

## COLONEL TO BRIGADIER

Col Vijayant Singh, Armoured Corps  
Col Siddharth Chopra, Armoured Corps  
Col Ashish Dutta, Armoured Corps  
Col Rajiv Ahlawat, Engineers

## BRIGADIER TO MAJOR GENERAL

Brig Inderjit Panjra, Ranjit  
Brig K Mukherjee, Chandragupta  
Brig Arindam Saha, Chandragupta  
Brig RD Sharma, Shivaji

## CAPTAIN TO COMMODORE, INDIAN NAVY

Capt Anup Ranjan, Shivaji  
Capt Nitesh Garg, Chandragupta  
Capt MP Naveen, Shivaji  
Capt Mahipendra Salkhan, Chandragupta

## COMMODORE TO REAR ADMIRAL, INDIAN NAVY

Cmde RK Singh

## NOMINATION FOR HIGHER COMMAND / HIGHER DEFENCE MANAGEMENT COURSES

Col VV Gidh - HCC  
Col Basant Sewada - HCC  
Col Dinil George - HCC  
Col Ashutosh Kumar - HDMC  
Col Ankur Kaushal - HDMC  
Col Gaurav Soni - HDMC  
Col DPS Rathore - HACC  
Col Biswas Nambiar - HACC

## NOMINATIONS FOR FOREIGN STAFF COURSES

Wg Cdr Vikas Madan, Pratap - **USA**  
?Sqn Ldr Vinoth Vanya, Chandragupta - **Thailand**  
Sqn Ldr Anshu Kr Singh, Shivaji - **Bangladesh**

## NAVY NOMINATIONS FOR DSSC 80

Cdr Harmit Singh Gandhok, Ranjit  
Cdr P Ashok Verma, Pratap  
Cdr Jyoti Prakash Parida, Chandragupta  
Cdr Vaibhav Bhardwaj, Ranjit  
Sqn Ldr Satyam, Shivaji  
Sqn Ldr Sidharth Mohan Sharma, Chandragupta

## NAVY NOMINATION FOR 3I NSTMC

Cdr Yashpal Cherukuri, Chandragupta



Dear Rimcollians,

It is with a heavy heart that I share this note, as I learned through one of my students, of the untimely passing of our beloved alumnus, Guru Kant Rai. As his English Master at RIMC, I had the privilege of witnessing his growth and development first-hand.

Guru or GK as I would call him was a vibrant and enthusiastic cadet, always vocal about his thoughts and eager to engage in every discussion. His remarkable debating skills and ever-cheerful personality left a lasting impression on everyone he encountered.

It is incredibly difficult to comprehend that he has left us so soon. The reasons for his departure are known only to him, and it pains me to think that he faced such struggles. I wish I had the chance to speak to him or that he could have shared his thoughts with me.

I remember each and every incident vividly because I had the privilege of teaching him for almost six to seven terms. Guru was not only one of our finest students but also a beacon of inspiration and joy for everyone around him. His presence filled our lives with energy and hope, and his loss is profoundly felt.

Just earlier this month, on the 9th June, thanks to the ROBA Secretary, I had the chance to meet him. Never in my wildest imagination did I think that this would be our last meeting. None of us could have foreseen that fate had different plans for him.

In this time of immense sorrow, let us stand together as a community. We remember Guru fondly and mourn his loss deeply. For me, his departure is not



## Condolence Message



Gurukant Rai 2018-23  
Ranjit



It is with deep grief that we share the shocking news of Gurukant Rai, 193 Ranjit, deciding to leave this world today morning at 0530 h for the reasons best known to him and almighty.

Last Rites have been performed at Manimajra Chandigarh . The fraternity was represented by Secy ROBA , his termor Nitin Singh 193 Shivaji and Col & Mrs Ganesh Kapahi , Parents of Shaurya 191 Shivaji.

**Rimcollian fraternity extends deep condolences to the family and prays for the peace to the departed soul. We pray almighty to give strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.**

Father Mr Sidharth Rai  
7986542730

Mother Mrs Vandita  
9216565864

**In deep Grief**  
**Rimcollian Old Boys Association**



**ICH DIEN**

**BAL VIVEK**

just a professional loss but a deeply personal one. He was a student who brought vibrancy and enthusiasm to every endeavour, and his memory will always hold a special place in our hearts. My heartfelt condolences go out to

you all and his family. May his parents find strength and solace in the cherished memories of their remarkable son.

With the deepest sympathy,  
Prמוד Sharma, Ex-Master, RIMC

# tribute



## Condolence Message



**96 RANJIT - 1969-74**

Deeply saddened to share with the fraternity, the untimely demise of Mr Mohan Singh Bisht, 94 Ranjit, today morning.

He was unwell and admitted in Max Saket Delhi few months ago. He is survived by his wife Mrs Neema Bisht, son Apoorva and daughter Akanksha. Last rites will be performed on 22nd July in the morning at Shipra Ghat, Bhawali.

May God be with the family and may his noble soul rest in eternal peace.  
🙏 Shanti 🙏

In deep Grief  
Rimcollian Old Boys Association

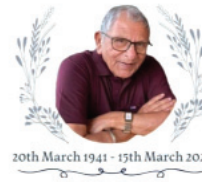


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BAL VIVEK



## Condolence Message



20th March 1941 - 15th March 2024

It is with deep sorrow and grief that we share the sad news of passing away of Cdr Partap Krishan Khosla 1953-57, Shivaji College No. 963 at Gurugram yesterday

In deep Grief  
Rimcollian Old Boys Association



ICH DIEN

BAL VIVEK



## Condolence Message



**1945-47**

**Rawlinson**

29 March 1934 23 March 2024

It is with deep grief that we share the sad news of passing away of our Rimcollian Sharyar Mohammad Khan a Pakistani career diplomat.

Rimcollian fraternity extends deep condolences to the family and prays for the peace to the departed soul. We pray almighty to give strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

In deep Grief  
Rimcollian Old Boys Association



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BAL VIVEK



## Condolence Message



Senior IPS officer Rajiv Ratan

**109 Ranjit**

It is deeply regretted to announce the sad and untimely demise of Shri Rajiv Ratan, IPS, Ranjit and DG (Vigilance) at Hyderabad.

He suffered a cardiac arrest and passed away soon. More details being ascertained.

Rimcollian fraternity extends deep condolences to the family and prays for the peace to the departed soul. We pray almighty to give strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

In deep Grief  
Rimcollian Old Boys Association

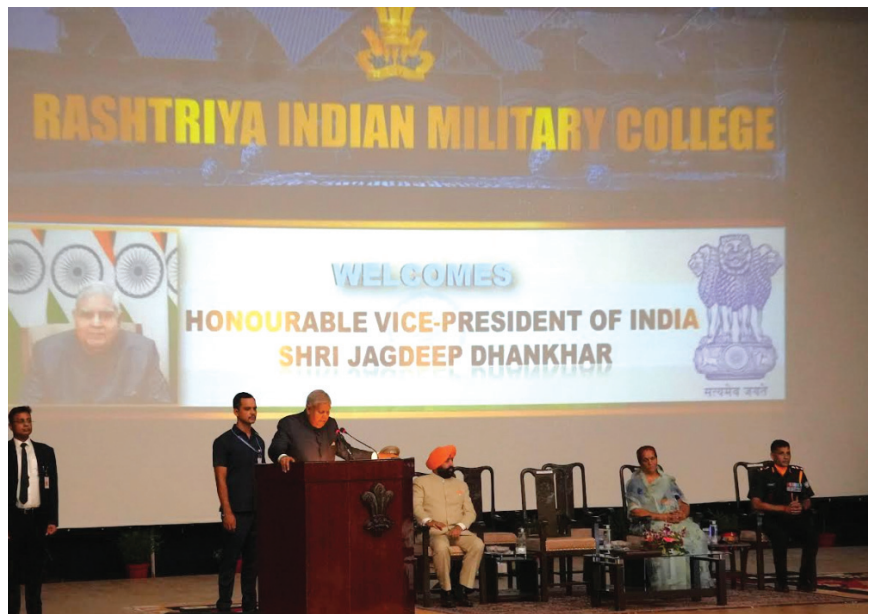


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# VICE PRESIDENT VISITS RIMC

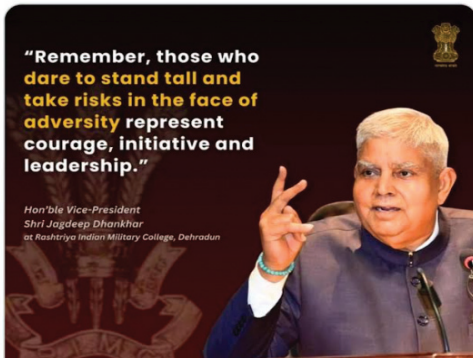
Vice President of India, Mr Jagdeep Dhankar during a visit to the state of Uttarakhand took out time from his busy schedule to visit RIMC on 1 September 2024. His was accompanied by Second Lady of the country, Dr Sudesh Dhankar and Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (retd). Here is a glimpse of the visit. - Editor (Pics courtesy RIMC)



Vice-President of India  
@VPIndia · Follow



Remember, those who dare to stand tall and take risks in the face of adversity represent courage, initiative and leadership. #RIMC



# LAST POST



Ser	Rank and Name	Year at RIMC	Section	Date of Death
1.	Cdr Pratap K Khosla	1953-57	SHI	15-Mar-24
2.	Mr Shaharyar M Khan	1945-47	RAW	23-Mar-24
3.	Mr Rajiv Ratan, IPS	1976-81	RAN	09-Apr-24
4.	Cdt Gurukant Rai	2018-23	RAN	25-Jun-24
5.	Cdr VK Kochhar	1948-51	KIT	17-Jul-24
6.	Mr Mohan Singh Bisht	1969-74	RAN	21-Jul-24
7.	Gen S Padmanabhan, PVSM, AVSM, VSM	1952-56	SHI	18-Aug-24
8.	Maj Paramjit Singh	1954-58	PRA	15-Sep-24



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**Rated Companies Fixed Deposits**

**Tax Free Bonds**

**Systematic Investment Plan (SIP)**

**Mutual Funds**

**Life Insurance**

**Taxable Bonds (8% G.O.I Bonds)**

**Financial Planning**

**Retirement Planning**

**Tax Planning**

**National Pension Scheme**

**Children Education Planning**

**Post Office Schemes**

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