



Estd : 1922

Weekly

Issue - 1

February 2007

No. 21

The Chronicle

Where gallantry is a tradition

Reflection

In the lamp of heart;
Put the oil of dispassion,
Insert the wick of devotion,
And kindle the light of knowledge,
By constant meditation;
The darkness of ignorance will be
Dispelled and you will be fully illumined.

- Swami Sivananda

Pot Pourri

Hi, readers,

This is the first issue of this term and I hope that you enjoy it to the fullest. Welcome to the new AO and be amazed by the first termers who arrived before college reopened. Cadets were left gaping on the very first day of this term. Cadets also got a shock when they found all their classes messed up in academic block, all my sympathies with IV, IV-A. NDA results were a great achievement this time, so cadets of VA are working really hard for their SSB's. Some even stayed back during the vacations. To add up to cadets' excitement, some schools from Pakistan are coming to our school to celebrate the Centenary of Mr. Hugh Catchpole. RIMCO-Pak Cricket Matches and many other cultural activities will be a part of this great event. Cheers to boxers, especially reducers. (only 2 kg reduction is permitted this time). Sorry to the Debatomaniacs; only inexperienced debators are allowed to participate in the Inter-section Debate.

Congratulations shooters! you'll be getting a new shooting range soon. Cadet Abhinav Chaudhary is sailing high on Tarangini. Hope he keeps the RIMC mast fluttering forever. Riders, you too cheer up, your horses have got a new stable now. Lastly, I suggest to you to hold this chronicle tightly cause you'll encounter many new things inside.

Bhrihu Sharda

Commandant's Mail Bag

Dear Col Prem Prakash,

It was very thoughtful of RIMC to remember and show so much affection by sending the college calendar. It reflects RIMC traditions and reflects magnanimity of culture exhibited by Cadets.

Please accept my grateful thanks for sending me the calendar and it would ever keep my memories filled for years to come. At 81, I wish, I could visit the college but travelling discomfort holds me back.

Once again I express my gratitude to you for the memorable gift.

Yours sincerely

Col H K L Johar (Retd)

Dear Sir,

The college calendar has been brilliantly made and the chronicle speaks volumes of what the RIMC offers and masters are contributing to propel our almamater to the pinnacle of success and glory.

Lt H Aswathi (3 cor) Lt P V Mohan (49 AR), Lt R Verma (2 Lances) and myself got 'A' in our Yo's. And to add to it is Lt P V Mohan has been awarded the 40 C in C southern comb commendation card for excellence in squash.

Dear Sir,

Out of 9 batallion appointments this term 6 are rimcollians. They are as follows:

ACA Aditya Sharma
BCC Vaibhav Sinha
BCC RPS Rana
BCC Lokesh Shukla
BCA Sandeep Karwasra
BCA Harshal Borole

Yours sincerely

Harshal Borole



Opinion Poll

Love... ELIXIR of Life

Love... the word that sets a breeze of warm thoughts flowing through our heart. It's a relation that stands above all differences. But Mr.J Choudhary has discovered the opposite side of it. For him love is a dirty ditch in which one should never fall. He defines love as:

L Lake of sorrow

O Ocean for teens

V Valley of death

E End of life

Does anyone of us agree with him?

Yes 1% No 98% Can't say 1%

Obituary

With profound grief we inform you the sad demise of the following Rimcollians:

Mr Balbir Singh Grewal - 1950-54, Shivaji

Lt Cdr P Dutta - 1954-59, Pratap

Brig Charanjit Singh - 1936-42, Kitcheners

Col PKK Raju - 1958-62 Pratap

JD Choudhary - 1948-52 Pratap

Lt Col SS Nandkeolyar - 1937-42 Roberts

Brig BS Chimni- 1948-53, Roberts

Wg Cdr PK Chhikara

Weather Forecast

Bhupendra

The clear and soothing weather of vacations is done away with, giving way to turbulent gales to ride the campus. The lull before the storm aptly ended at the al fresco with all the rain of Inter-section activities prolonged furthermore. The wind sock was torn apart as debators are about to shake Bhagat Hall to the core. With presentiments of more Hailstones from 'Mount Olympus', I end my forecast.

News From

NDA - ACA Ashok Garg won the President's Gold Medal for the July term 2006.

IMA - SUO R Prakash won the prestigious sword of honour for the July term 2006. He also commanded the parade.

National Junior Riding Championship

Cadet Hem Prakash Chamola won a Bronze Medal at National Junior Riding Championship at Bangalore.

Dateline

12 January : Arrival of first termers and temple function.

16 January : Arrival of Cadets.

17 January : Wreath laying ceremony and Tabbng ceremony of college appointments and Commandant's special assembly.

19 January : Initial weighing in of boxers for Inter-Section boxing competition.

20 January : Cadets of class I took their arrival test.

24 January : College Squash team left for Delhi to take part in the junior Squash Open Tournament.

26 January : Run for Fun for Cadets.

28 January : Cadet's XI Vs Staff XI cricket match class I Vs IA Cricket match was organized with the cadets XI and Class IA emerging victorious in their respective matches.

29 January : NSTSE Examination was conducted.

31 January : Educational visits were organized for all classes to various institutions

Congratulations

The following cadets have successfully cleared their SSB:-

1. Cadet Capt Rohit Shekhar
2. Cadet Sec Com P Ashok Verma
3. Cadet Sec Com Humesh Tuteja
4. Cadet NCO Vasu Banathia
5. Cadet NCO Lalit Pradhan
6. Cadet NCO Satish Kumar
7. Cadet NCO Yougank Panwar
8. Cadet NCO Rohan Swarup Gupta
9. Cadet NCO Mohit Khatri
10. Cadet Aditya Kumar
11. Cadet Samrat Achra

Rimcollians

Mahipal Dangi
Himanshu Shekhar
Rudrashish Majumdar
Sudhir Tomar
Manjeet Kataria
Kumar Gaurav

Welcome Freshers!



Avnish Bhasker

Avnish joins the RIMC family with promises of doing his best in quizzing and Cricket. He has our best wishes for a successful stay.



Dhruv Gusain

A localite , Dhruv is a fan of soccer stars. To Mr. Vishwakarma's delight, he loves music too. He is interested in Horse riding and shooting. Best of luck.



Vishvendra Gill

This lad hails from U.P with interests varying from Table Tennis to Football. He also holds a distinction of being a good singer. He hopes to look forward towards his goal at RIMC. He has our best wishes.



Abhimanyu Singh

This lad joins us from Bihar and is very enthusiastic to make the most out of his stay at this college. We hope he does the best he can and wish to see him somewhere big in future.



Krishnapal Singh

A talented lad from Sainik School Chittorgarh. He is very interested in birds, novels and wants to take up Shooting as his hobby. Basketball, volleyball and cricket are the games he would like to excel in.



Aman Kumar Gupta

He joins the RIMC family from Jammu and Kashmir. He loves Gardening and singing and is keen on playing cricket and Football. Being quite studious he held the 2nd rank in both HFTI and U.S.O Exam.



Vinay Chaudhary

This academician, who has topped UA in National Science and Cyber Olympiad hails from Maria Assumpta Convent Sr Sec School. He is a promising quizzier and we wish him all the best.



Lalit Thapliyal

Being Mr. Thapliyal's son, he is already au fait with the college. Being a promising shooter and swimmer, he is sure to do well in future. We only hope his performance enhances with time.

Where gallantry is a tradition



Welcome Freshers!



Gokul Mahjan

He comes all the way from J&K to prove his worth. Gokul has been a topper of his state, as well as an active quizzier at school level. We wish him the very best.



Bhisma Saini

This sweet lad comes from Military School Chail. He is already an experienced boxer and is also a debater. He is sure to do well.



Manasvi Shukla

Another cheerful lad from Pratapgarh, U.P. Manasvi aspires to be the best in whatever he does. Cricket and hockey being his favorites, Manasvi wants to try his hand at shooting too. All the best.



Abhimanyu Dubey

He hails from Gurgaon, Haryana. He being a member of the under -13 Haryana football team and an advanced swimmer from LNIPE hopes to get in college football and swimming teams soon. He is a keen tabla player and loves to read and draw. We hope he fulfils all his dreams here.



Deepak Bhardwaj

Adding another member to the Haryana family at RIMC, Deepak is a promising scholar, with reading as his favorite hobby. His humourous acts make every one cheerful. He'll be an asset to dramatics club.



Lavanya Tomar

A cheerful lad from Himachal Pradesh with cheeks as red as Himachali apples. He is a keen quizzier and a debator. He has also won many inter -state drawing competitions. Hope that he emerges as a valuable pearl for our cultural club. A good T.T. player, he also wishes to learn squash.



V S Arun

This young enthusiast will probably need to breach Mr. Vishvakarma's hold being a good singer as well as musician. With a keen interest in reading, he promises to be an asset to the college quizzing society.



Sanket

This young sportsman has achieved a lot before. He participated in the 35th and 36th KVS National Sports Meet in Badminton and won a gold medal in the year 2005. A lot of creativity remains untapped within him and he hopes to unleash it all at RIMC.

Dreams and Teams Workshop - A Report

Our institution has left no stone unturned in providing maximum exposure to the Cadets. As a part of this venture two Cadets, Cadet Arvind Singh and I, Ravi Yadav departed for Dreams and Teams workshop on 17th January. We were accompanied by an escort, Mr Balauni. Our first stop was British Council office, KG Road, Delhi where we had an interaction with Mrs Ritika Parvude and Mrs Pushpa Iyer who explained to us about the programme as well as provided us with the tickets for our journey to Kolkata. But this time we were not alone, we were accompanied by the representatives of four other schools of North India - Mayoor School, Ajmer, PPS Nabha, Scindia School Gwalior & The Banyan Tree School, Delhi. Their company turned our monotonous journey into an eventful one. We arrived in Kolkata on 19th January. We took the day off and visited the Victoria Memorial. The next day marked the commencement of the grand event in Heritage School, Kolkata. We were also introduced to Ms Karen Arnold, our chief tutor from British council. There were 10 schools in all taking part in the programme comprising of teachers and two students. The teacher's training programme commenced from 15th Jan.

The first day was vibrant with activity comprising of various lectures on leadership qualities and management skills. We also undertook activities to promote camaraderie and were briefed about various components of a sports event.

The next day was the day of experimentation. We were assigned the task to organize sports activities for kids. It was really an enlightening task, giving us an insight into sports organization.

The next two days went by in preparing for the upcoming events.

24th January was the red letters day of the programme marking its culmination in a set of enthralling events such as relay races, soccer match and an art competition. The chief guest for the ceremony was the Principal of the Heritage school.

The next day was the day of retrospection and evaluation. A conference was organized to discuss the fruitfulness of the programme.

The next day we went for sight seeing in Kolkata, the main attraction being the Indian Museum.

Then came the final day marking the culmination of our visit. We bade good bye to our escorts & tutors and boarded the Doon Express for Dehradun.

This event was really an Apotheosis of success & allowed us to venture in the unknown facets of our own selves.

Flora Through The Lenses!

Sahil Kumar Sahoo

No more are our college photographers limited to the boundaries of the campus. Now they have started aspiring higher. They are not just capturing college Inter-Section Competitions, guest speakers and awardees but have also started admiring nature through their photographs. Yes, they have now learnt to use lenses to express the natural beauty. Six cadets of the photography hobby took part in the National Photography Competition organized by the Nanda Devi forest reserve, Uttaranchal. The competition was held from 8th to 10th Nov, 2006. Out of 111 participants six of our photographers, namely :

Cadet Abhishek Dhingyal

Cadet Bronson

Cadet Tirthankar Deka

Cadet Arvind Singh

Cadet Sahil Kr. Sahoo

Cadet Aditya Udappa

were awarded prizes. The theme was "Uttaranchal Naturally Beautiful". Out of 529 entries from all over the country, our participants were awarded consolation prizes.

Their hard work has paid back. We hope that they would continue the good work and bring laurels to the college in future also.



Where gallantry is a tradition



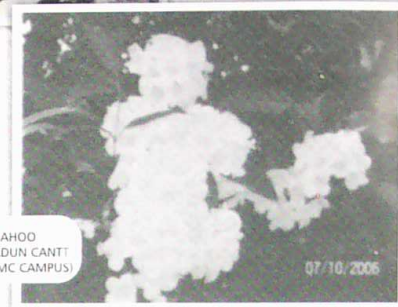
From the Archives

1. Basant Singh, an imperial Cadet was the first one to receive a scholarship in 1901.
2. First batch of Cadets consisted of six Cadets who joined the college on 1 Nov. 1901.
3. First ever kit/uniform worn by an imperial Cadet in college was - 'Phiroze' turban, jorra of gold, white long coat, blue kammerband, white breeches, long leather shoes & belts.
4. Imperial cadets had 2 personnel attendants.
5. Imperial Cadets had even sword exercise parade from 6.00 am to 6.30 am in 1910.
6. In 1910 there were separate mess for Hindu and Muslim Cadets.
7. First ever college fee charges from Cadets was Rs. 1500/-.
8. Khan Bahadur Risaldar and Major Rajan Fuzal Dad Khan Bahadur presented Hockey Cup to college.
9. A tennis tournament was held in the college for the first time in 1923.

Prize - Winning Entries



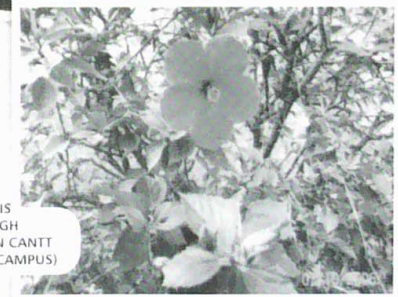
HIBISCUS ROSA CHINA ROSE
 Photographed By Cdt. Tirthankar Deka
 C/O The Commandant, RIMC, Dehradun Cantt
 Ph. No. 0135-2752083 (Place - The RIMC Campus)



TECOMA STANCE
 PHOTOGRAPHED BY CDT. SAHIL SAHOO
 C/O THE COMMANDANT, RIMC, DEHRADUN CANTT
 PH. NO. 0135 2752083 (PLACE- THE RIMC CAMPUS)



PLUMARIA ACUMINATA TEMPLE FLOWER
 PHOTOGRAPHED BY CDT. ABHISHEK DUNGYAL
 C/O THE COMMANDANT, RIMC, DEHRADUN CANTT



CHINA ROSE HIBISCUS ROSA SINENSIS
 PHOTOGRAPHED BY CDT. ARVIND SINGH
 C/O THE COMMANDANT, RIMC, DEHRADUN CANTT
 PH. NO. 0135 2752083 (PLACE- THE RIMC CAMPUS)

Book Post



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Reflection

"Every work has to pass through three stages - ridicule, resistance and acceptance."

- Swami Vivekanand

Omnium Gatherum

In the first place, I would like to inform all the readers that the title 'Pot Pourri' has been changed to 'Omnium Gatherum'.

Things both queer and heartening are impending. While some of the dogmas of this institution have been called into question, our aim largely remains intact - the way to excellence. Cadets always open up in hilarious honesty reflecting the high carte blanche in the college. Though this may find masters crack down on them. A skillful swordsman wielding a plough is inferior to a peasant, so it's high time we carved out a niche for ourselves and aligned our energy in one direction. And for the time being, it remains being hospitable hosts to our guests from across the border. The time is ripe to fly back in it and pay our tribute to the worthy patrons from Gen. Thimayya to Mr. Hugh Catchpole. And also to strengthen bonds with our friends under the canopy of our great alma mater. My aim is to create a 'Cadet's opinion' with the stroke of my pen, which I strive to achieve gradually. Till then, Au revoir!

Bhupendra

Movie Mania

College saw the following movies in the past week, :

'Casino Royale'.
Catch me if you can.

Dateline

- 2-3 Feb.: First termers gave their trials for indoor shooting.
- 4 Feb.: Lecture by Dr. Sunanda Kalra on 'Sex Education'.
- 8 Feb.: Inter-section English Debate was organised.
- 11 Feb.: Lecture by Mrs. Monisha Ahluwalia on '10 Rules of Success'.
- 12 Feb.: Unit tests finally struck the cadets.

Opinion Poll

Should Inter-section activities be reduced.

- Yes 78%
- No 20%
- Can't say 2%

A total of 213 cadets polled.



Weather Forecast

The beaufort scale is on a rise and all the wind socks now point towards the Academic Block. Storm clouds have gathered over the classes and massive hailstones of unit test are sure to hit soon. Westerlies are soon to hit the campus and leave us all in firm bonds with our friends across the border. After the leeward side of Administration, its now for the cultural evening to sacrifice their sleep and practice in biting cold. But, stable mercury level speaks of a soothing weather in the days to come.

-Bhupendra



Marathomaniacs

On the morning of 18th 23 cadets of RIMC left the college at 70' clock for Clean Doon Green Doon Marathon. It will be a mere fib to say that we left for marathon after tremendous and rigorous practice sessions. But it was the other way round. We were informed just one night prior to the marathon. So just 12 hours of mental preparations. In the morning after a journey of about 15 minutes, we lined up near the Pestle Weed School entrance. Two of our teammates went and collected the chest numbers. Our heart gave nimble calls as we were running champions and in a sheer tension to grab it again. At last the red flag was put down and bounding feet could be seen. Within 10 minutes or so, we overlook most of them. The escort bike going ahead of us kept our moral high and it was really a motivating factor to find ourselves leading the way.

The never ending roads started to vex us. The angle of the upslope started increasing. But then there lies the power of mind. We the RIMCOS were running together and kept motivating each other. As the time passed we crossed many corners, many shops, but there was only one thing which was felt omnipresent i.e. the escort bike.

The best part of the race was the last 2.5 kms. route. It was total down slope then. It was the place when we started overtaking each other. It was a good experience on the slope, when the body was set free to go on its own, enjoying the cool air bawling at the ears. At last the 11 kms race came to an end. The results were as follows:

- 1st Sawan Kalyan
- 2nd Yogesh Tiwari
- 3rd Asutosh Pandey
- 5th Vijay S. Thakur
- 6th Aravind.C. Paul

- 7th S. Pandian
- 8th Govind Shukla
- 9th Bhojpal Sakya
- 10th Shyam Singh

Thus it was a clean sweep in c category.

In group B, which was of 5 kms the positions were as follows:

- 2nd Ashish Tiwari
- 3rd Siddharth Prateek
- 4th Anshul Gupta
- 6th Nitish Jha
- 7th Sanket

Thus we lifted up the overall group c trophy. At last not to forget the contribution of Mr. V.K. Rai, our athletics coach under whose able guidance we were able to grab such positions.

Sawan Kalyan

Commandant's Mail Bag

Congratulations!

It was very heartening to learn about Lt. Col. Khaled Zaki & Maj. Shailendra Singh Arya winning the first Prize Gold Medal and Cash Award of Rs. 10,000/- in USI Gold Medal Essay Competition 2006 in Gp 'A' & Gp 'B' respectively - Open to all officers cat. Our heartiest congratulations to them on this fine achievement. We wish them many more laurels in the years to come.

Said it

Sir, Why is Horse latitude named so? Himanjan very enthusiastic.
In the medieval age horses were thrown in Atlantic ocean to pull sail ships from Europe to USA when there were no gales and thus 33°90'N latitude was called Horse latitude. The genius Mr. A.



Where gallantry is tradition

Welcome Freshers!



Daniel Chabungbana

A promising athlete he hails from Drona English School, Imphal. Also, a good news for Mr. Bhatia as he is also a painter and loves games and sports.



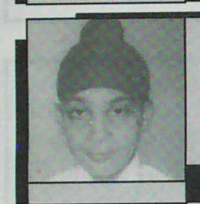
Abhishek Dhamu

Chess and arts seem to be his hobbies and he is also an athlete. He joins us from Punjab and we wish him all the best for his stay here.



Prajwal Bhatt

He is a dynamic personality. This small lad has already stepped into boxing, debate and quiz. He has won prizes in various Olympiads. Hope he proves to be an asset for the RIMC family.



Supreet Singh Heera

This jovial guy comes from Haryana. He loves shooting and swimming. As he says, his aim is "to be in the boots of Gen J.J.Singh." Hope he achieves it fast.



Abhishek Dash

College's foremost exponent in Odissi dance, he has a lot of talent which is still to be unleashed. He also wants to be in college cricket and shooting teams. We wish you luck.



Suhas N. Wagh

This small lad from Nashik, studied in Horizon Academy. A mixture of great talent he was selected for National Youth Festival at Chandigarh. Being a District level badminton player he is also a fond cricketer. He wants to do himself proud by joining the Air force.



Vivek Joshi

This lad from Uttaranchal promises to be an asset for the college Debating and Quizzing Society. He has held distinction in Yeera quiz & Bournvita Quiz contest. He is keen on playing Squash, Table Tennis and Hockey.



Varun Kumar Deevan

This Basketball player from Moradabad, UP. has got a gold medal in the national science Olympiad. At the U.P. Sainik School he developed a deep interest in electronics.



Welcome Freshers!



Arpit Sangwan

Arpit joins us from Haryana. He is keen on Quizzing and hopes to do very well in Academics as well having had distinction in National Science and Cyber Olympiads. Picking up games like squash, cricket, Soccer and Tennis he is sure to do well.



Shinjan Chakroborty

At last, someone to add a feather to the Tripura family. Shinjan is crazy about cricket 'n' football, hope he fulfils it here. A member of National Children Science Congress, he has also scored well in Math Aptitude test. Hope Young Newtons Club and Alchemist club extract best out of him.



Kumar Harsh

This enthusiastic Ranjitian hails from Bihar. Being an experienced athlete he is keen at trying his hand at cricket. All the best for his stay here.



Asteek Chauhan

This chap hails from Mathura, U.P. His interests range from reading detective stories to biographies of freedom fighters. His favorite game is football & cricket. He was adjudged 2nd in interschool debate competition and has also played district level cricket. He has also been awarded a Gold medal in Inter-school Quiz Competition. Lets hope he proves an asset to the college cricket & quizzing team.



Prateek Prasoon

A product of Purana Court Middle School, Prateek also comes from Bihar. His hobbies include numisnatics and philately. He is also keen at learning soccer and badminton. He also holds first position in the Zonal National talent examination. He'll be an asset to college quizzing society.



K. Harish

This lad hails from Vizag, Andhra Pradesh. Unlike other he is interested in Boxing. He has achieved 4th rank in Karnataka Mathematics Olympiad. We wish him all the best for his stay.

Rahul Dev Verma

He hails from Utkernit Middle School, Bihar. He likes Athletics and X-Country and also aspires to be first in his class. Hope he achieves his desired goals.

Mohit Mayank

He hails from Jharkhand and loves painting and playing tabla. He has got a first rank in IGSC All India Scholarship Exam and has keen interest in Basketball and Cricket.

Inter-Section English Debate

Debating at RIMC, has been one of the trends now. With more and more emphasis laid on the co-curricular and academics oriented activities Debate has become an integral part of our learning process.

This time it was to be the Inter-section English Debates with preliminary rounds and no experienced debator taking part. The college Royal English Debating Society organised the English Debate with Mr. Birendra who is the OIC. This was for the first time in RIMC history that Inter-section Debate was carried out on a Cambridge format (Revised).

The Debate was organized in two categories. The Juniors (Class I to III) and seniors (Class III A to VA) both had their preliminary rounds in Open Air Auditorium. In the junior section Pratap and Ranjit section got selected and in seniors Chandragupta and Ranjit section got through to the next round.

The final debates were held in the Bhagat Hall. The topics of finals for juniors was "Ration the old to Nurture the young". Whereas for seniors it was "This house opposes patriotism". Ranjit section won the debate overall. Cadet Astitva and Cadet Phani got the awards for best speakers in Semi finals and Cadets Anshul Roy and Phani got overall best speakers.

The first of its kind at RIMC, the debate was a successful one with seniors facing the interjection panel and even juniors doing extremely well against limitations or time. We hope we continue to excel in debates and organize more of these Inter-section Debates.

Abindu

Dazzling Duo - The perfect two

Bhagat Hall has for long been witness to scores of catchy, boring and a whole variety of 'lectures'. The best part of it, for some is a nice hour's sleep. Unlikely, this week we had two really enlightening lectures. To start with, Dr. Kalra delivered a scintillating lecture on the most sensitive issue in schools - "Sex Education".

Putting an end to all the myths that mushroomed in our minds, she has been really instrumental in giving us a different dimensional view to sex education. Though the lecture was an entire mixture of biological terms, the cadets, as 'intelligent' as they are, easily grasped it all.

The next one was sure to be really good ipsofacto it was given by Mrs. Monisha Ahluwalia. This time it was "Ten rules of success" she decided to take with us. Probably, I should rather call it an 'interaction'. With a perfect blend of style and matter, she again proved to be successful in holding everyone in rapt attention throughout. Typical time constraints have been major shackles at RIMC. The lecture was no exception and Mrs. Monisha plans to present the second half of it in the days to come. And thus lectures remain the inevitable props of a term.



Where gallantry is tradition



Why.....?

There is advancement all around.
Development itself has no bounds.
So, why don't we proudly say
That, India's global perception was changing?

Let it be the advancement in technology,
Or the upliftment in sports and games.
So, why don't we proudly say, that
India's global perception was changing?

Stupendous heights achieved by the Indians,
Unbountiful efforts to enhance the motherland.
Then, why don't we proudly say, that
India's global perception is changing?

Mittal proving it out to the world,
And Shilpa is no less in her efforts.
Still, why don't we say that,
India's global perception is changing?

Hrithik rocking the floor and Sreesanth proving it more,
With a great comeback of Ganguly and desperate
efforts of Ambanis,
Still, why don't we say that
India's global perception is changing?

It's high time that we realize,
That sometime we have to compromise,
That her's
"India's global perception is changing."

Saurabh Kaushik

कुछ मुक्तक

आइए अब काव्य की धारा बहाएँ हम
भावना के सिंधु में गोता लगाएँ हम
अब न रहे इस देश में कालिमा विद्वेष की
हर तरफ नित नेह का दीपक जलाएँ।।

नफरत की आग बुझाएँ हम
आओ सबमें प्रेम बढ़ाएँ हम
इस जग का अँधियारा मिटाए जो
घर घर में वो दीप जलाएँ हम।।

अपने दिल की धड़कन से नया संगीत लिखूँ मैं
नफरत की जगह पर प्रेम की नित जीत लिखूँ मैं
हे माँ मेरी इस लेखनी को धार ऐसी दीजिए
जिससे मीत हर कोई बने वो गीत लिखूँ मैं।।

जो कालिख है उसको काजल समझा जाता है
धन दौलत को ही सच्चा बल समझा जाता है
यहाँ चोर लफंगे गुण्डों का है इतना जोर हुआ
सीधे सच्चों को अब पागल समझा जाता है।।

योगेश तिवारी

Life divine

As I walk along
My lips echo a song
Of Nature's Rhythm Divine
Makes me feel as if life is wine
Rises from my heart an arrow
Does not ring of sorrow
But of the essence of Beauty
Making its feel life is a duty
Which makes me think again
Is this life in vain
The sun rises for hope
For the common people and the pope
Life is a tangle.
So be prepared to gamble
Never lose hope because you have to thrive
And to earn, your have to strive
The world is cruel and heartless
But you should remain dauntless

Archit Kashyap

Book Post



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The

Chronicle



Special Issue : HUGH CATCHPOLE CENTENARY YEAR 2007

March Issue - 1

The last post for Hugh Catchpole

THE NEWS ISLAMABAD 16 FEB' 97
I. Hassan

On February 4 there gathered at Christ Church, Rawalpindi, an extraordinary congregation to witness a funeral service delivered by the Reverend Emanuel Laurin, the Vicar of the Church. The funeral was that of Hugh Catchpole, an Englishman, who had served India and Pakistan since 1927.

Since the establishment of Christ Church in 1852, it was the first time that the congregation was altogether Muslim, except for a few Christian workers of the church. This was because Mr Catchpole was a torch-bearer of tolerance and whose funeral it was that his ex-pupils starting from 1930 to the present day were honouring him. Mr Catchpole having served the cause of education both in India and Pakistan for 70 years was being given a final send off.

He was given a signal honour of being buried in the grounds of Hassan Abdal Cadet College, which he established in 1953 and of which he was the principal for many years. His is the only grave in the ground of the college and the lesson he taught his pupils of tolerance is still proudly displayed by a cross being placed on his grave.

As his body was being lowered into the grave, three buglers of the Pakistan Army sounded the Last Post with that haunting last trailing note. Standing to attention were numbers of air marshals generals and sundry other officers of the forces. These were all his old boys, either for the Prince of Wales's Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun, India, Hassan Abdal Cadet College and the PAF School, Sargodha.

Mr Catchpole, who was almost 90 when he died, was an educationist to his fingertips. When he first came out to India in 1927 as an assistant master at the Prince of Wales's Royal Indian Military College, he was a young tall athletic man who had just graduated from export. He had a shy fleeting smile playing on his visage and blushed constantly at the slightest provocation.

Mr Catchpole (his Christian name was Hugh which was spelt Huge in our newspaper!) was one of those self-effacing people who unlike Mothers Teresa of this world wanted no medals, decorations or mentions.

While Mother Teresa ended up with the Nobel Prize and all the kudos that goes with it, Mr Catchpole was given Sitara-e-Imtiaz by the Pakistan government — a decoration that has been given to a railway station master for operating his signals accurately.

Mr Catchpole elected to remain a bachelor all his life so as to be wedded single-mindedly to the cause of education. Equally he chose to remain in India when Independence came and when as a consequence all expatriates in India whether civilian or of the forces returned to their homeland. It must have become a very lonely existence for him.

Mr Catchpole ended up as the principal of the RIMC Dehra Dun. A few years after Independence, the Indian government was not willing to extend his service. He had eminent ex-students both in India and Pakistan. At this stage he left RIMC and applied for the principalship of Aitchison College, Lahore. He was offered the post but was prevailed upon by one of his former pupils at the RIMC, Major-General Sher Ali (R) and the government's education adviser at the time, S.M. Sharif, to start a cadet college, similar to the RIMC at Hassan Abdal. This he readily accepted, recruited the best possible teachers and started the institution in 1953.

Soon the military college attained a high reputation. Most cadets joined the army, medical and engineering colleges after passing their FSc examination from Hassan Abdal. This was a policy decision that was taken by Mr Catchpole, who wanted the cadets to enter into any walk of life according to their preference unlike the RIMC where a cadet was obliged to join the forces or just remain in the wilderness.

In 1958 Mr Catchpole was persuaded by Air Marshal Asghar Khan, an old RIMCian who was then the C-in-C, to take charge of PAF School, Sargodha. Mr Catchpole took with him several of his well-trained teachers from Hassan Abdal. He remained there as principal from 1958 to 1967 when he retired. He, however, wanted to carry on teaching and joining the staff of Abbottabad Public School and College in order not to be bogged down in the administrative work of being a principal. He taught at the Abbottabad School to his dying day.

Mr Catchpole having read history at Ox-

ford, was teaching history at the RIMC. He had an extraordinary method of teaching. He had reduced both English history and Indian history into notes. He would arrive in class and start off by dictating in long hand to the whole class his notes. One wondered why it was that these notes could not be printed and distributed to each class as it came up. During the class period thereafter he could have talked and informed the students but never did. He remained proud of his notes till the end and never altered this method of "teaching". Perhaps this method had the advantage that because students learnt precious little by this method and were therefore obliged to read up on their own in the library to augment what snippets they had picked up in class. This resulted in some of them achieving almost 100 per cent marks in competitive examinations on an All-India basis.

During a recent reunion of RIMCians, Mr Catchpole was asked why he had not married. His answer was that he did not want a "chooza" to get his money. Because he had never married and lived forcefully, he had saved a considerable amount of money. He donated all his savings to the various schools and colleges with which he was associated. These were the donations of a man who was not rich and besides devoting his whole life with dedication to the cause of education in the subcontinent, cared for each of the institutions he had served during his life. He donated a squash court to the RIMC, Dehra Dun, Rs 200,000 to Hassan Abdal College, a wing at the Abbottabad School and college where he was last teaching, a guest house at the RIMC, donated Rs 500,000 to the RIMC Old Boy's Association (ROBA) and £50,000 to Ipswich School in England where he started his initial schooling. Besides this, he bore the expenses of quite a few young people to go through their schooling and higher education in Pakistan.

It was because of his life-long dedication to education that at his funeral service and burial were almost all his ex-pupils, some eminent such as the best C-in-C of the Pakistan Army, Lt-Gen Gul Hassan Khan (R), Air Marshal Asghar Khan (R) and numerous serving air marshals, generals, and not so eminent as this writer paid their last compliments and gave him a befitting send off, more in gratitude than in sorrow.

The College's

'Movements to Pakistan', seemed the headlines of college orders part-II, the morning after the darkest night in the history of the College. Let the readers see for themselves and try to visualize the trauma of the saddest day of the college when in one stroke of the pen, in a heart-wrenching move, the last act of partition of this great ancient land was perhaps complete, where young boys, sworn to a lifetime of friendship were suddenly told to pack up in the middle of the night and go away for good, across artificially drawn frontiers upon bits of paper in heartless commiseration of political expediency.

Let us try and relive the actual pangs of the partition as narrated by Sureshwar Sinha who as an impressionable young lad saw it with his own eyes and felt in his own heart as also must have all the others. The tale aptly titled 'The Great Divide' is so poignant, that the writer cannot resist reproducing almost in full, this historic but sad event of a school of around 140 young lads from among whom 38 were physically wrenched away from their friends.

THE SILVER JUBILEE YEAR

"One of the most historic moments that occurred during the Silver Jubilee year of the Prince of Wales's Royal Indian Military College was the wrenching away of an important part of it, away from the fertile verdant green soil of the College grounds in Dehra dun to the relatively rugged territory of what was West Punjab and is now Pakistan. Politicians have little time for human emotions, not even for traditions, unless these could be exploited for their immediate personal power games. Thus when they rejected Wavell Plan, which would have created a federal state in India, and maintained the unified Defence system of the sub-continent, they failed to foresee the great strategic and psychological error they were committing for the entire peoples of what were to become the States of India and Pakistan.

PUPPETS IN THE HANDS OF TIME

Perhaps when, even monarchs, and Prime Ministers are mere puppets in the hands of time. The division of this great land came compulsively in the 25th year of the life of the RIMC, bringing in its wake mass transfers of peoples, mass killings and wrenching of many hearts when families and friendships were artificially broken up. One such set of relationships to be devastated was that established and carefully nurtured amongst the cadets of the RIMC, when the country was divided in mid-August, 1947, it was well known to the staff and cadets of the college that sooner or later the axe would fall. They kept hoping for a miracle..... and save the College from near dissolution. But none of this was to be. A couple of months after the division of State came the fateful night when the College was destined to be broken up.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT

It had all been kept a closely guarded secret. The announcement came at midnight of a beautiful autumn evening in October 1947. All Muslim cadets and Staff members (except those whose parents or families had chosen India as their native land) and any members of any other community whose parents or families were in Pakistan and chose to remain there, were to board trucks at 4 a.m. to be taken to Saharanpur, from where they would be flying to Lahore. A similar announcement had been made in the Indian Military Academy at the same hour, and nearly all Muslim 'Gentlemen Cadets' (G.Cs.) were also to leave India in a similar manner.

ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE

No sooner had the announcement had been made, and then all hell broke loose. The whole College was awake, some boys were weeping, others were exchanging garments, watches, shoes etc., as mementos but most were cursing the authorities and the very inept leadership of the two States, who were so totally heartless, had no feelings and had absolutely no understanding of what the traditions of a College meant! Presents were made out by the non-Muslims

Darkest Hour

for those that were leaving-letters and drawings with promises to remain eternally in touch were quickly drawn up. The departing boys virtually refused to pack. It was the rest of us in the dorm (cadets of the dormitory), who put their own things of appropriate sizes into the boxes of the departing cadets.

BREAKFAST AT 3.30 A.M.

Soon an announcement was made that breakfast would be at 3.30 a.m. the caterers of the College M/s Hazir & Co., and their Manager, Mr. Habib were also to leave separately. Everything available in the larder, and all tinned stuff had been ordered to be cooked. But no one was in the mood to eat. Cadets looked at their plates with distaste, but sipped tea from each other's cups, as the final juice that might cement the eternal bond that existed between them. Finally the time came for the departees to leave. The whole College, including the entire staff from the Principal and Commandant downwards was present. These included many British teachers and a wide variety of camp followers. Those leaving must have emptied out all the cash on them by way of tips to bearers. The final tearful hugs were exchanged, and the trucks were boarded. There was only silent waving of hands in farewell as the vehicles moved away. And suddenly they were gone! The College seemed so empty without them and so were the heavy hearts, as the remaining boys kicked their way back to their dormitories."

A TEENAGER RELIVES THE TRAUMA OF PARTITION

That was a young teenager who remained behind. Let us now hear the story of Abdul Quayyum, one of those who had to leave, another teenager leading a clean sheltered life, who actually faced the trauma and hardships of life as a refugee living in a dusty 'tent-city' caused due to events in which he played no part nor over which he had any control. With a tinge of nostalgia he also recalls lovely days and what he learnt 'On Going Back to School'.

FLIGHT TO LAHORE

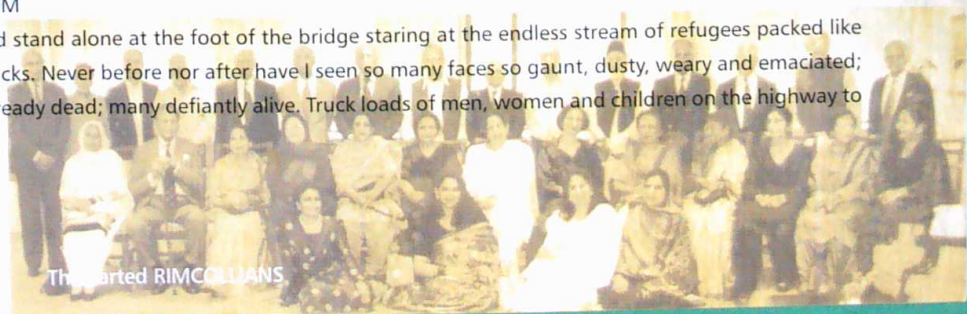
In October 1947, an Indian Air force Dakota flew us across from Saharanpur to Lahore Thirty-eight Muslim boys from the RIMC, several more from the Indian military Academy! Those of us, who had homes in west Pakistan, went home. At the airport I led a delegation of nine Bengali boys, all under fifteen, to ask the prime Minister Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, "Where is the RIMC?" The PM patted me on the cheek and said, "Be grateful son. Be grateful you are on the soil of Pakistan!" I knew nothing of politics but then grasped in a flash exactly what he meant.

REFUGEE CAMP

We moved over to a refugee camp: a bare and wind swept plain at the foot of the Cantonment Bridge. There were several rows of dilapidated tents and we took care to keep the flaps open so as not to choke in the dust inside. the RIMC had taught us not to whimper and we ate with good cheer the two chapattis and the gruel we collected every day from the langar at midday and before sundown. We stayed in the camp some ten weeks or more.

HIGHWAY TO FREEDOM

Every evening I would stand alone at the foot of the bridge staring at the endless stream of refugees packed like sardines in rickety trucks. Never before nor after have I seen so many faces so gaunt, dusty, weary and emaciated; some dying, a few already dead; many defiantly alive. Truck loads of men, women and children on the highway to freedom!..."



The departed RIMC LIANS

To Sir,

MR. H. CATCHPOLE, M.A., CBE, SI.
HEAD OF THE ENGLISH DEPTT.

ABBOTSBAD PUBLIC SCHOOL & COLLEGE
ABBOTSBAD, PAKISTAN
PHONE 2075
29th Oct. 1991

Dear Hukhtkar,
I was very interested to get your letter about the balloon show which is taking place in India. I can understand that there are a lot of formalities to be overcome. Fortunately I can go to India without any formalities provided I don't go by car which in my case I certainly should not do at my age.
I shall very likely go to D. Dehra in our long winter vacation i.e. in January & February. I have been invited several times. I can't remember when I last went but it must have been about 10 years ago. On that occasion I gave them a squash court.
I understand that Mr. Harris & Mr. Wilson are still alive & I was glad to get their present addresses from you as I have been out of touch with them for a long time. I shall certainly write to them.
Yours sincerely,
H.C. Catchpole

Replying to
normal

The Under Secretary of State For India.
Sir,

I regret the delay in answering your letter of 5th June. Mr. Hugh Catchpole of this college, has been my pupil for two years in the Modern History School. He is a man of ability, well above the average, and of unusual diligence. His work has been of most conscientious and thorough: much of it has been of good second-class quality, and some of it has reached a higher level than that I should call as regards his whole work for the Honours School, a good II class man. In character he is quite first-rate, a most reliable member of this society. He is athletic in habit, and in disposition, cheerful and frank. He has been a welcome and useful do not know; in History and English, he is amply qualified for the post to which your letter refers. His influence over boys in training for a military career, would be in all ways admirable. I have no hesitation in recommending him for the Assistant Mastership, Prince of Wales

R.I.M.C. Dehra Dun.
Yours faithfully,
(sd.) M.E. Sadler,
Master of College.

The Under Secretary of State For India.

The Master's Lodgings: University college: OXFORD.

7th June 1928

Der sir,
Assistant Mastership, Prince or Wales's Royal Indian Military College, Dehra dun.
Mr. Hugh Catchpole has been a member of this college for the last three years and will take the Honours School of Modern History this month.
I think that he might do extremely well as Assistant Master at the prince of Wales's Royal Military College. He is a man of exemplary character, good appearance and sound judgement. He came to us from one of the smaller public schools and has the public school tradition. He has been Captain of the College Hockey team and has played other games for the College. He has experience of country life and is quite a good entomologist. He has a strong sense of responsibility and can be relied in the Honours School. Boys would like and respect him. He would get a good second in the Honours School. Boys would like and seems to me well fitted in point of character and temperament to have a good influence with boys and to be a very useful, member of the staff. He has at present had no indispensable part of a candidate's qualification, I think that he is very well worth considering for the post and that as he develops he will prove himself an excellent schoolmaster. He would take a great interest in his pupils, he is friendly in his relation to them but firm in discipline.

Yours faithfully,
(sd.) M. E. Sadler.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter received this morning, I have much pleasure in stating that I have known Mr. Hugh Catchpole intimately since I joined the staff of Ipswich School in January 1920. His work for me (Latin) was always exceedingly good and he is a really able scholar as his University record will show. Furthermore I regard him as possessing outstanding qualities. I was elected president of Athletics for 1929, Soccer Colours, and Mbr of Cricker XI 1926-27.
Personality- As a school prefect, he made his mark and was also Chairman of the School Games Committee and Captain of Cricket and Captain of his house. He is an all round athlete of great capability and has distinguished himself at Oxford. I have every confidence that he will show judgement and capacity in managing boys and that he would be eminently successful in the post in question at the 'Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College'. I know of no-one else who should have more pleasure in recommending for any post of responsibility.
Yours faithfully,
Sd. H.G Ford.
(Senior Classical Master, Ipswich School) University college
Oxford.
15th June 1928

Mr. Catchpole at Humour (Brig. Mokhtar Karim)

His sense of humour, so essential for a teacher, was strong. He was loved and respected by his student. Mr. Catchpole gave everything he could for promoting education and sports both in India and Pakistan. He was a linguist. Urdu, Hindi, Gurmukhi, and Bengali he learnt particularly to teach English to his variety of students hailing from various parts of the Subcontinent.

Mr Catchpole was always young at heart and never spared a chance to display his wonderful sense of humour. He was strict, fair, firm and friendly-truly a great leader and teacher. He was admired and loved by his colleagues, friends and students. A man who always gave reply to his student's letters in his own handwriting-not typed- truly GREAT An institution by himself he was well-known throughout the subcontinent as a great Educationalist, Sportsman and a Philanthropist. He was of the opinion that the medium of instruction in Pakistan should be English for Mathematics and Science Subjects but all the other subjects should be taught in Urdu so that students should be proficient in their national language. He was decorated both by the British and Pakistani Governments i.e. CBE, OBE and 'Sitara-e-Imtiaz' for his devoted work and services BUT one always felt that he DESERVED MORE/HIGHER AWARDS - particularly so when Cricket players and Actors have been knighted.

Before I conclude I would like to narrate few anecdotes:-

- Whenever he caught his students chewing chewing-gum in the class he used to say "I don't care whether you are chewing chewing-gum in the class but you ought not to look as though you are chewing chewing-gum in the class."
- During his last days when General Gul Hassan and I went to see him in the hospital, Gul Hassan asked, "How are you feeling Sir?" His reply was, "Not good, very bad." To this both Gul Hassan and I said, "We don't care whether you are feeling not good/very bad you ought not to look as though you are feeling not good/very bad." He smiled.

With Love

The News, Islamabad Pakistan
Friday, 14th February 1997

A teacher to many generations

From M. Azim Khan

"Let them sleep my Lord. And me mourn apace" (John Donne)

Perhaps there is not one person in the armed forces, government or private enterprise who does not know this grand old man who dedicated over sixty years of his life teaching English language. A graduate from Oxford, his early teaching career started at the Royal Military College, Dehra Doon. At least three of his former pupils rose to be the chiefs of

PAF, viz Asghar Khan, Nur Khan and Feroz Khan, including a host of army generals both in the Pakistan and Indian armies. After partition, he joined Cadet College, Hasanabdal and contributed significantly in making it one of the finest institutions of the country. With the establishment of PAF Public School at Sargodha in early fifties, his expertise was sought as the principal. The school was modelled on the pattern of an English public school which became the source for producing young "Shaheens" for the PAF. Later, he joined Abbottabad Public School and helped Cadet College, Pakistan Steel Mills, Karachi with teaching of English.

I was his student for over six years at Sargodha. Never have I come across a dedicated teacher like him. He would spend hours correcting the English test papers and would repeatedly tell you where the sentence went wrong. He was equally good in Urdu and would not hesitate to conduct a spelling test especially designed by him. He was a perfect gentleman, soft spoken, jovial, well-attired in his well-known combination of blue blazer, the grey trousers and a pipe with its unmistakable aroma that betrayed his presence during surprise visits to the hostels.

He was a keen cricketer having represented his county in England. He raised the standard of sports wherever he served and regarded sportsmen with respect though they may not have excelled in academics.

Mr Catchpole led a modest life and remained a bachelor. Most of his savings were donated to the cause of education in the form of scholarships and he never hesitated to extend financial support to needy students. He had a formidable memory and could recall almost all his former students by name and roll number. His contribution was well recognised and was awarded the Sitara-i-Khidmat, Sitara-i-Pakistan, OBE and CBE.

Every Christmas, I made it a point to send him a card and I would always get a reply. He would write how he appreciated being remembered by his old students and reiterated his determination to continue his "mingis" teaching English despite being in the profession for over half a century. But there was no response to my card of 1996 Christmas. Perhaps, he was too ill to reply or was it that he was preparing to call it a day and return to the jewelled pavilion amidst thunderous applause. A well played innings indeed. May God bless him.
Lahore

MR H. CATCHPOLE, M.A., D.Litt., D.Sc.,
HEAD OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT,
ABBOTTABAD PUBLIC SCHOOL & COLLEGE,
ABBOTTABAD, PAKISTAN.

ABBOTTABAD PUBLIC SCHOOL & COLLEGE,
ABBOTTABAD, PAKISTAN.

14th November 1996

Dear Sir,

I am writing you with a deep sense of regret that I have not been able to visit you in Abbottabad for the last 10 years. I appreciate the efforts you have made to make the school a very fine institution. I am still doing a full time job in my teaching career at the RSMC and I am still in touch with the old staff. I was in luck to hear that you were Harris. I occasionally visit the school and will contact you by phone when I visit.

With all good wishes,
Yours truly,
M. Azim Khan

M. Azim Khan
14/11/96

Catchpole remembered

From Tassaduq

I was grieved to learn about the sad demise of my revered teacher, benefactor and godfather, Hugh Catchpole. It is my proud privilege to have been his pupil and to have benefited from his scholarship, immense humility and natural humanity. He impressed and has left an indelible mark on his students. His character, competence and professionalism attracted anyone who came in contact with him. A great advocate of merit, he was a great teacher and trainer.

Indoors he maintained a huge library for his pupils, and taught and trained them outdoors on sports, particularly cricket. He will long be remembered by his innumerable pupils and beneficiaries.
Abbottabad

NEWS POST

Catchpole remembered

From Atta-ur-Rehman Lodhi

I was also one of his students, albeit for 30 minutes only. However, those 30 minutes left upon me an indelible mark of his personality, integrity and devotion to the cause of education. I feel proud of having kept company with him, even though this was very brief.

It was a cold morning of January 1995 that I first saw him at his official residence at Abbottabad Public School and College. The occasion was seeking admission for my son in the school where Mr Catchpole was head of the English department.

Finding my son's name at the bottom of the list of successful candidates, I decided to see his English paper marked by Mr Catchpole. After great persuasion he agreed to show me the paper. As per appointed time I visited his residence where I found him checking some papers. There were books, magazines and notebooks scattered all around. An aura of his greatness was visible even there.

After brief exchange of greetings, he directed me to find the paper of the boy from a fairly large number of papers set in a pile. I found it and handed it over to him. He quickly went through the answers and then started pointing out the mistakes the boy had committed. While correcting the mistakes, he embarrassed me by asking a few questions about English grammar. Discovering that I was weak in grammar he began to teach me grammar for about 30 minutes. In that small time he taught me some basics that I had not learnt in the last 35 years.

Late Hugh Catchpole was a vibrant man. He inspired his students and many others who met him with hard work, integrity and altruistic qualities. He believed in dignity of man and labour but his frail health and advance years did not deter him from pursuits of noble virtues.

He preferred to die in a country away from his motherland (England) where he came during the colonial period and served for 67 years in the field of education. In his death, we have lost an eminent educationist. We will cherish his memory for a long time to come.
Abbottabad



Salman Rashid pays tribute to Hugh Catchpole, a man who like Paul Scott's Colonel Tusker, never went back home

British founder of Cadet College expires" reads the small, single column item tucked away in an inside page of a newspaper. It went on to say that Hugh Catchpole had died at the Combined Military Hospital, Rawalpindi at the age of ninety one. I had met him in 1992, at his residence in Public School, Abbottabad, and he had been plain Mr Catchpole for me, and this was the first time I learnt what the 'H' stood for in his name. The first thought upon reading the news item was of the funeral and how many of his former students, who doubtlessly owe him greatly, would be informed in time to be able to attend the good man's last rites.

Having read Paul Scott's *Staying On*, I had been looking for Colonel Tusker like characters in Pakistan. The trail, warmed by Geoffrey Moorhouse's excellent book *To the Frontier*, had led to Mr H. M. Close at Edwardes' College, Peshawar. Subsequently an English friend pointed me in the direction of Abbottabad saying there was some "chap called Stagpole or something". So, while briefly in Abbottabad in June 1992, I took time off to check out this "Stagpole or something".

The chowkidar aimed me in the direction of "Cutchpole" (the accent heavy on the last syllable) Sahib's residence and said he was home. But as the tall, clean cut elderly gentleman answered my knock I said rather diffidently that I was sorry I had come unannounced, and that all I needed was a few minutes: after all I was visiting an English gentleman without setting up a prior appointment. "Well, now that you're here, come in," he said somewhat irately. This,

A life lived

I thought to myself, wasn't going to be a pleasant one as I stepped into the sitting room. In the event, however, I spent two very enjoyable hours with him.

The walls of the unpretentious room were resplendent with images of a past when they came, as a matter of course, in sepia tones only. The pictures showed a very much younger version of the man who was calling to his servant to bring us a cup of tea, rubbing shoulders with such celebrities as Mountbatten, Nehru and even our own last military dictator. This was Catchpole, born in Ipswich (England), educated at Oxford who came out in 1928 at the age of twenty two to teach at the Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun. He never went home and was to become one of the two academic versions of Scott's Colonel Tusker in Pakistan.

The fictional Tusker (very likely based on a real life character that Paul Scott knew) had an overpowering air of sadness, and Scott's writing very effectively conveyed the man's personal sense of failure. Tusker's death in the novel left me with a lump in the throat and the sadness of this fictional couple's life was to remain with me for almost two weeks after I had read the novel. H. M. Close, in comparison, was a man satisfied with his life as an academic. Romantically inclined to the Pathans by the writings of early Britons on the Frontier, Close, a lifelong bachelor, had an adopted Pathan son whose children regarded him as a grandfather. Perhaps never the flashy, talkative type, Close came across as a quiet, subdued sort of a man still very seriously committed to his teaching when I met him in 1991. He was then eighty two.

In Abbottabad the first thing that struck me about Catchpole was his flamboyance. In 1992 he was



Hugh Catchpole: Guided generation

"eighty six years young" and his only thought of retirement was in terms of "never going into it". Having officially retired over two decades earlier, he refused to become a vegetable and was still teaching eighteen periods of English every week at the Public

n full



of pupils. Photo by writer

School. His only close relatives were two octogenarian brothers living with their families in England, but Catchpole himself was a "chronic bachelor".

Back in 1928, when he graduated from Oxford, one of the assignments available with the Oxford

Appointments Board was at Dehra Dun to teach English. At Rs 600 per month, it was a well paying job; but more than the money, it was the romance of the sub-continent that brought out the young Mr Catchpole. Those were the days, he had said with just a shade of wistfulness, when a tin of fifty Gold Flake cigarettes could be had for twelve annas or a bottle of scotch for seven rupees. However, he wasn't letting on as to the sort of social engagements a young, well paid single man enjoyed in those heady days of the Raj.

Retiring from Dehra Dun in 1953, Catchpole was invited by the Government of Pakistan to take over what was then called the Ayub Pre-Cadet Military College at Hasan Abdal. Catchpole thought the name was "nonsense". The first thing he did was to rename it the Punjab Military College, and over the years this was to become a prestigious educational institution, now simply known as Cadet College Hasan Abdal. He was the Principal until 1958, when he took over PAF College, Sargodha serving there until 1967. Since then Catchpole had taught at Public School, Abbottabad.

Although he was no longer the Principal in 1992, he remained the Chairman of the Admissions Committee and the only one "who can dare to say 'no' even to a big sifarish".

The satisfaction that his life as an academic had brought him was undeniable. But he was sorry to see the decline of the English language in Pakistan. As late as 1967 in Sargodha his students spoke amongst themselves in English; in 1992, despite persistent coaxing the boys at the Public School were shy of it. He was surprised that even the masters seldom conversed in English with each other or with their students. "As for young people with Master's degrees in English and their heads full of Shakespeare, Milton and Shelley, they can be taught a thing or two about the finer points of English grammar!" he had said with some severity.

Being a bachelor with nobody to bequeath whatever he had saved over the years, Hugh Catchpole had instituted four scholarships at Hasan Abdal. Shortly before I met him, he had spent a week at Dehra Dun and seeing that the College needed a guestroom, had bestowed one million rupees for the construction of a building with four suites. Of course his institutions in Pakistan had been similarly favoured.

When I asked him if he ever considered writing down his memories of a very satisfying life as an educationist, he said he hadn't. Since it would naturally be about his students, many of whom were in important positions, it might read like a deliberate attempt at making comparisons. In any event, he had felt, he would be giving away secrets best forgotten. But he fondly remembered two of his former students: Gul Hasan Khan as an extremely forthright man, and therefore a rarity in Pakistan, who was excellent on the sports field; and Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, an outstanding linguist and a one of the best dressed men Catchpole had ever known.

Some of his old students occasionally dropped by for a chat. But his socialising was largely confined to the few colleagues who were also his friends. With a laugh and a wink he had said that prohibition and the fact that he enjoyed commissary rights at the British High Commission that gave him access to imported alcohol had made him very popular with certain thirsty people. Indeed, even as we sat talking, I had espied a bottle of scotch and one of gin under the table. Of course the names of those who came around for their thirst to be slaked were not to be divulged for many of them were in high places.

I had asked him if his 65 years of teaching made him a contender for the Guinness Book of World Records. It didn't. There were two other people who had taught for seventy years, "But of course when

you're fifteen you're not teaching your only teasing." He had said with a laugh. Surely now with another five years under his belt, he could well figure in that list. About where he would live when he finally retired he had had no doubts: one of the suites at the Dehra Dun guest room was to be his home where the students would always be welcome to tap into the accumulated wisdom of almost three quarters of a century of teaching.

Though I had never had the good fortune of being Mr Catchpole's student, I had felt a pang of jealousy: why should India and not Pakistan own him in the end. Fortunately he never retired. He continued to teach until ill health confined him to the hospital at Rawalpindi and now he is no more. I do not know where he would have wanted to be buried, but I believe it would be in the cemetery at Abbottabad, just a few miles from the school he had last taught in. If that happens, I wonder how many of his students will take flowers to his grave. Most of all I wonder for how long.

As for me, several times in the last five years I had wanted to visit him again. But the occasion never came and I never got to know him any the better. Little as I knew him, there is still a sense of loss — not for my own sake, but for those who will no longer be able to benefit from his knowledge and experience. There is no lump in the throat that the death of Paul Scott's Tusker gave me. That was a life unfulfilled; this life was redeemed, it was glorious, it was lived to the fullest.

Postscript: It was the strangest of things when on January 31st dinner table conversation in our home somehow turned to Mr Catchpole. We had never spoken of him before; my father and uncle did not know I had written his profile in 1992, but we spoke of him and his noteworthy services to education in the sub continent. Just a few hours earlier Mr Hugh Catchpole, ninety one years old and a teacher all his working life, had breathed his last in Rawalpindi. ■



Triangular Series



A Historic Day

13 Feb 2007 was a historic day for the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehra Dun. At around 10:45 a delegation from Pakistan comprising 30 students and 3 masters from Cadet College Hasan Abdal (CCHA), The Abbottabad Public School (APS) and the Principal of CCHA Air Commodore (Retd) Tayyab Naeem Akhtar accompanied by his lady, Begum Tahira walked across the Wagha border to India in incessant wintry downpour.



The Arrival

At RIMC after a long and arduous journey, and despite the late hour and the continuous rain it was a fascinating sight to see the Cadets welcome the Principal, CCHA and his wife with a bouquet of flowers and every single student and master with a rose bud each. Accommodation for the 30 boys was arranged in the newly constructed Chandragupta dormitory, the Principal and Masters were all accommodated in the Catchpole Guest House.



The Beginning

Day one was spent in warming up and net practice. It was a treat to see the boys practice side by side and feeling quite at home. One of the main fall out of this visit began from the moment of the arrival of the visitors and that was how quickly boys made friends with one another, no doubt helped by the common culture and history shared in the sub continent. The evening's extravaganza was graced by Mr. Tayyab Naeem Akhtar, Principal, Cadet College Hasan Abdal. Catchpole has left his footprints on the sands of time through his service with humility and in detainable energy, setting an example for generations to come. The programme commenced with a dance recital by Padmashree Madhavi Mudgal, the famous Odissi danseuse who held the audience in rapt attention by her scintillating performance. She has been an excellent Teacher at the famous Gandhara Mahavidyalaya. With her splendid skill and sophistication, she immersed the whole auditorium in a trance. This was followed by a cultural programme by the cadets of RIMC. As an excellent beginning, the choir presented a 'Swagatam Geet' to mark the event open. A mesmerizing and aesthetic 'Shiv Stuti' was the one to follow next. Rohit Shekhar, by the sheer virtue of his flute left the whole auditorium spellbound with awe. The song 'doori' originally sung by a Pakistani singer had everyone wonderstruck. A classical tune of Beethoven saw its rebirth with Yimvolong and Saurabh giving it a modern touch. In a brilliantly synchronized dance, the dancers had the whole gathering tapping their feet.



Highlights of Cricket Matches 15 -17 Feb

The first phase of Catchpole Centenary Celebrations namely the Inter School Indo Pak Catchpole Cricket Tournament at RIMC was conducted from 15 to 17 Feb 2007. Initially it was supposed to have been a quadrangular Round Robin tourney, but with one of the schools i.e. Air Force Public School Sargodha having opted out, matches were played between the three schools only. Every game was of 20 overs per team and each school played the other only once and all matches were played in the main cricket ground. The main ground festooned with banners and balloons bore a spectacular look, with flags of the three schools fluttering in the breeze. All players, masters and other distinguished guests were presented with a white cricket cap emblazoned with RIMC crest specially prepared for the occasion.

The inaugural match was played on 15 Feb 2007 between CCHA and RIMC. The highlight was the August presence of His





Excellency, Shri Sudarshan Agarwal, Hon'ble Governor Uttarakhand. He arrived at 10'O clock escorted by the cadets on horses and at a solemn ceremony. He was introduced to all the players, who took the oath of fair play and amidst release of pigeons and balloons, he declared the Inter School Catchpole Cricket Tournament 2007 open. He also spoke a few words which included a humorous incident about his own tryst with cricket. The game began with CCHA winning the toss and electing to field and RIMC after losing two quick wickets steadied the ship and went on to score 101 runs. CCHA, clearly the better team on that day won by 9 wickets with 7 overs to spare.



Friendly Hockey Match 15 Feb

In the afternoon a friendly hockey match was played in the lower field behind the pavilion between RIMC and the combined teams of APS and CCHA. It was a twenty minute a half game, hard fought with the Pakistani team netting a goal towards the end of the second half.



Inter School Quiz Contest on 15 Feb

In the evening there was an inter school quiz contest conducted in the Thimayya Auditorium. The quiz was on international events and some rounds were based on matters pertaining to the sub continent. Besides CCHA, APS and RIMC, other schools that participated were, Welham's Girls School, The Doon School and Riverdale High School. Though friendly, it was a close contest with Doon School scoring 105 points, Welhams was second with 85, Riverdale 70 and both RIMC and APS were tied at 45 points each followed by CCHA scoring 20 points. The two schools from Pakistan who were here mainly to play cricket very sportingly participated and gave a good account of themselves.



Match of the Tournament

On 16 Feb was played the match of the tournament between APS and CCHA. The latter won the toss again and elected to field. APS began well, but somehow lost the momentum to be all out for 118 runs. CCHA came in to bat with a lot of confidence knowing fully well that if they won this match the cup was theirs, but APS wasn't about to give up without a fight. They bowled very well and took two quick wickets putting CCHA on the back foot. However like the day before, their Captain came in and steadied the ship with a substantial third wicket partnership and at one time it looked like they were coasting along to victory. That, however, was not to be and APS clawed back with some brilliant catching and fielding to extract crucial wickets quickly and once again the game came back in their favour. It looked like going down to the wire when in one of the dying overs, a successive six and a four were hit. But the Abbottonians held their nerve and in the last ball caught out the last batsman and won by six runs. It was the match of the tournament indeed, just what Mr. Hugh Catchpole would have loved and enjoyed.



Friday Prayers in RIMC Mosque 16 Feb

After the hard fought match the boys went for wash and change and accompanied by their masters went to offer Friday prayers at the RIMC mosque. A Maulvi sahib was invited who attended to the congregation. After prayers and lunch, the boys were taken out to town for a spot of shopping and sightseeing.



Final Match

17th February 2007 or the D-Day of the Mega event i.e. Hugh Catchpole's Birth Centenary Celebrations was witness to some





typical turns in the Cricket Scenario. The occasion was graced by His Excellency, Governor of Mizoram, Lt. Gen. MM Lakhera who is an alumnus of RIMC itself. The trophy for the Series has been instituted by COAS Gen. JJ Singh. The two teams pitted against each other were RIMC and Abbotabad Public School. APS' triumph would have won it the trophy, had it been otherwise the cup would have been shared and the team with highest average run rate would win.



For these reasons, it was a crucial day for RIMC as well as APS. RIMC had an excellent beginning, playing solid and eventually put up a brave total of 110 in 20 Overs.



When APS went in to bat, they were put on the defensive by some accurate bowling with the new ball and very good fielding. However, the Abbotonians kept their cool, saw off the new ball and with some well-placed singles and lusty hitting, were on their way. Eventually, they won the match by 8 wickets with 4 overs to spare and lifted the Chief's Trophy.



Fawod Khan being Man of the Match also won the prestigious award of Man Of The Series. APS has taken the running trophy to Pakistan and will return it within a month.

Cultural Programme by Pakistani Students



On the last evening of their stay in RIMC viz. 17 Feb the Pakistani boys produced a fine impromptu variety entertainment programme of slide show 'Overview of Pakistan' followed by songs, a dance and skits in the Thimayya Auditorium. Considering that they were essentially part of Cricket teams, it was indeed a wonderful show. The heartening fact was that in one song sequence RIMC boys gave accompaniment with guitars and drums. At the end of the function Air Commodore (Retd) Akhtar presented souvenirs from Pakistan to the Commandant and select members of staff of RIMC.



Viewer's Choice



After the function was over, the audience moved for dinner followed by screening of the Hindi Film 'Guru' in the Thimayya Auditorium. The latter was at the specific request of the Pakistani boys made the day before.



The Departure - At last



Early in the morning of 18 Feb, the entire college was gathered in front of the Senior Ante Room to see off the Pakistani students and masters. There was a lot of bonhomie between the Abdallians, Abbotonians and the Rimcos, many promises of friendships made and addresses taken. It was indeed a moving experience especially for the young boys.



Making of History



While the above tries to do justice by narrating the events as they occurred, the essence of it, which may not be quite apparent now, lies in the path-breaking event that took place, namely getting across for the first time since the College faced the axe of partition in Oct 1947, a group of students and masters from across the border. It is hoped that such exchanges take place in the future at venues and times decided by mutual convenience. A lot of what went on behind the scenes, in dormitories, over meals, in the play fields, in movie halls, gifts exchanged as well as interaction between masters of the schools cannot find place in this narrative. The must of necessity remain exclusive to the individuals themselves but suffice it to say that a beginning has been made albeit at some cost which would doubtless pay great dividends for future generations in the sub-continental relations.



Tête-à-tête With Mr. Tariq Saleem of Abbottabad Public School

- Bhupendra: Hello sir ! So, is it your first visit to India? How do you find the weather?
Mr. Tariq: Yes ! certainly its my first visit. Weather conditions are almost the same at both our places. Though we're at a higher altitude.
- Bhupendra: Could you apprise me of the routine at APS?
Mr. Tariq: Residential schools are all the same. APS has a total of 90 seats a year. Students get up at 5'O clock and follow the morning prayers. The P.T. is of half an hour and classes start at eight. We have two recesses, one of 10 min and the other of 30 min. School gets over at 1:10.
- Bhupendra: What about prep in the evening? They're done in the classes itself?
Mr. Tariq: No! Evening prep are conducted in the dormitories. Ten teachers of different subjects go about the dormitories.
- Bhupendra: What about games and other activities?
Mr. Tariq: We've got good infrastructure for almost all games. Cricket is by and large, our favourite. I've represented my country in the U -19 & U-25 and still represent in above-45.
- Bhupendra: Anything you find APS strictly dwells upon?
Mr. Tariq: We've never imparted education that would deviate students form religion. Three prayers a day are done diligently. We have made Saturday nights as 'Café Night' at APS. Students simply go and splurge out at the APS Cafeteria.
- Bhupendra: Is there anything you found quite amusing at RIMC and would like to have at APS as well?
Mr. Tariq: I would like to have a pavilion at our place as well. And your similar 'turn out' in the mess has really impressed me.
- Bhupendra: It was wonderful to have this talk with you, sir. Would you like to give out any message to the cadets of RIMC ?
Mr. Tariq: Thank you, son. It was wonderful talking to you. My message to you all is- "Character is Destiny" so, break the shackles of border and remember.

“मेरा पैगाम है मोहब्बत जहाँ तक पहुँचे”

Building Bridges

P. Ashok

I was jumping with joy after clearing my SSB when I was suddenly told that I along with Gautam would have to go and receive the Pakis coming to India. My first reaction was of amazement - was I really being sent ?

We had to receive them at the Wagah-Attari border. We linked up with Cdr. Bhattacharya at Amritsar, he was the secretary of the Hugh Catchpole celebrations. I had many doubts roaming around in my mind how would these people from across the border be - there were many unanswered questions. Rain and customs play the spoil sport in such occasions and by Gods grace there were plenty of both but the spirits were not dulled.

Thanks to the Indian Customs, we had lunch at the place where we were to have snacks and dinner where we were supposed to have lunch. This became a big joke later - two Rimcos, 14 Abbatonians and 16 Abdallians you must be thinking that they would have got bored but the Rimcos have an ability to continuously chat for hours and hours - and we did nothing less than what was expected. I was shocked to hear that people had seen Dhoom-2 more than ten times. In the bus, the audience were very excited to see the movie 'Gangajal' and we had a lot of fun. One thing they can die for are Bollywood movjes (banned in Pakistan). As they say, blessings often come in guise it was the same, the disguise 'Hugh Catchpole Centenary Year Celebrations', the blessings the countless things we learnt from them, the subtle changes in our thinking. They incidentally arrived on Valentines Day and there were cadets form VA handing them rose flowers in the morning at 2:30. I still laugh when I recollect their reactions / responses. We had greatly mixed with them in the very short span of time - staying up with them till 2'O clock in the morning when they had a match the next day, talking to them, enjoying and obviously cracking jokes at each other. Poor Qaim was the most serious victim of this. Everyone had started calling him "Murrah". We learnt things from them whether it be 'Salam Valikum' or ' Valikum Salam', I started hugging more than just shaking hands or saying thank you.

This was just their jovial aspect. If you think they were limited to this you are totally wrong. Both the teams managed to upstage RIMC - you know how tough RIMC is to beat.

One should listen to the amazing voice of Saadat who could mimic scenes from 'Behind The Enemy Lines', dog fight scenes, train sound - if one would close his eyes then, he would definitely believe a railway engine has just passed by him. Their acting skills were even better, putting up a fantastic skit at a very short notice.

But people say only thing that has a start has an end. So even all this fun had to end being excused from attending classes was the greatest of them. We bid them adieu with heavy hearts on the morning of 17th. I hugged each person at least twice. countless photographs clicked, scores of T-shirts, tracksuits exchanged the night before. The experience as good as a dream ended that day but it was the start of a new period, many new realizations, new ideas.

I was lucky to have such an opportunity and I feel this should be continued - we have to build bridges.

From the Archives

We bring you one of the funny poems of Mr. Hugh Catchpole.

Oddities of English

The English, dear friends, I'm sure you'll agree
Have the funniest language there ever could be.
Many words are not spelt as they sound,
And likewise in grammar some strange things are found.
Now the plural of 'mouse' is as you know, 'mice'.

So why should the plural of 'house' not be 'hice'.

And we talk of one 'man' and also two men'

So surely the plural of 'fan' should be 'fen'.

While one 'foot' plus one 'foot' are a couple of 'feet,

Yet one 'boot' plus one 'boot' are two 'boots' not two 'beet'.

The three forms of 'drink' are 'drink', 'drank' and 'drunk',

So why is it wrong to say 'think', 'thank' and 'thunk'?

And the past tense of 'sing', they tell us, is 'sang',

So surely the past tense of 'bring' should be 'brang'.

For the past tense of 'lead', we're taught to write 'led',

Yet the past tense of 'read' is 'read' and not 'red'.

The masculine pronouns are 'he', 'him' and 'his',

So why not the feminine 'she', 'shim' and 'shis'?

The adjective 'sad' has the forms 'sadder', 'saddest',

So why can't we likewise say 'bad', 'badder', 'baddest'?

The adverb for 'vast' is quite rightly 'vastly',

So why am I wrong if I say 'he ran fastly'?

Now let us examine the words 'but' and 'put',
Why should one rhyme with 'cut' and the other with 'foot'?

And 'bow' has two sounds in this funny 'zaban',

For 'bow' can mean 'jhukna' and also 'kaman'.

While 'though', 'cough', 'tough', 'bough' all look just the same,

But when we pronounce them! It sure is a game.

WORLDS APART...?

-A. Phani Bhushan

All the while I had been thinking India and Pakistan were the same, save the names and a few other minor differences. But the reality struck real hard. The realization that when we say India and Pakistan, we actually refer to two different worlds altogether two worlds separated by a thin fence and a few thousand prejudices. Geographically we are neighbours, culturally we are brothers at odds with each other, but in reality we are the two nations who despite being neighbours, have an instinctive feeling of anger against each other.

When the students came over for their visit, they had the security of the highest order. RIMC gates that never see armed guards were patrolled day and night by soldiers in full combat attire. Why can't they even live without fear in the country of their own brothers. We ourselves went out of our way to be cordial to them and make them feel at home. We don't normally do that much to make our other guests feel welcome. Does a brother have to go out of his way to make his own brother feel at home?

The other day, as I was coming out of the temple, a few students from Pakistan asked me whether it was a 'Mandir' or a 'Gurudwara'. I was dumbstruck that they didn't even know the difference between the two. When asked they replied that they had seen temples only in Indian movies and plays. And they were doubtful as to whether or not they were allowed inside. They were pretty surprised that being a Hindu, I myself had been to Mosques, Churches and Gurudwaras.

Equally shocked was I to learn that there were people who didn't even know what a temple looked like in the land of our so-called brothers. And then somewhere in the conversation came up the ironical and yet inevitable question, "What had you heard of our country? What was your opinion of Pakistan before meeting us?". So much for brotherhood. The only faint reminiscence of our brotherhood is the common interest for cricket, which aptly was the medium for so historic a meet.

Let us please get back the feeling of brotherhood, not just for the sake of peace talks that yield no results but brotherhood in the literal sense and it is upto us, the so called rebellious 'GEN-X' to break free of the prejudices and bring these two worlds together to form the nation that once led the world right since the ancient days.



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Special thanks:
Dr A P Bhattacharya
Photography Club

The Chronicle

Reunion Special

2007 April Issue - 1





THEY ALL WERE HERE

Gen VN Sharma, PVSM, AVSM (Retd)
Lt Gen BS Pawar, AVSM
Lt Gen KS Rao, PVSM, SC, SM
Lt Gen SS Dhillon, AVSM*, VSM
Lt Gen Yash Malhotra, AVSM (Retd)
Vice Admiral BS Randhawa, AVSM, VSM
Maj Gen B Neogy
Maj Gen BP Wadhera, AVSM (Retd)
Maj Gen MM Rai (Retd)
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Maj Gen VB Batra (Retd)
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Brig AS Bedi (Retd)
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Brig CS Thapa (Retd)
Brig HS Gill (Retd)
Brig JS Bhullar (Retd)
Brig Narjit Singh
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Brig R Pandalai
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Col Shammi Sabharwal
Col TK Guha
Col Arun Mangain (Retd)
Lt Col N Ghose (Retd)
Lt Col JS Kaberwal, SC
Lt Col AK Rai
Lt Col Cyrus Minwala
Lt Col JS Brar
Lt Col Karan Dixit
Lt Col Kaushik Sircar
Lt Col MPS Gill
Lt Col MS Khurana (Retd)
Lt Col Neel Kamal, SM
Lt Col Rajeev Bhatia
Lt Col S Mongia
Lt Col SK Dhar (Retd)
Lt Col SK Prasad
Lt Col TK Chanda
Lt Col Vivek Jaswal
Lt Col JS Bhinder
Lt Col Girish Pandey
Maj KC Anand (Retd)
Maj RN Maira (Retd)
Maj Sumit Kochar
Maj AK Singh, SC, SM (Retd)
Maj AJS Juhai
Maj Rajneesh Giri
Sqn Ldr H Gupta
Sqn Ldr Nitin Kanwar
Sqn Ldr Rajesh Kumar
Sqn Ldr Rakesh Rai (Retd)
Sub Lt Karthik Parsuraman
Cdr Abhishek Kankan, NM
Cdr ARPS Atwal
Cdr Deepak Adhar
Cdr PB Chowdhury, SC, NM (Retd)
Cdr Raghunath K Nair
Lt Cdr Anil Jagtiani
Lt Cdr Ceasar Basu
Lt Cdr Tejender Singh
Wg Cdr Ajay Ram
Wg Cdr Bibhor Bhadra
Wg Cdr KA Kariappa
Wg Cdr Rajvir Yadav, VSM (Retd)
Wg Cdr Ravi Sharma
Wg Cdr D Ahluwalia
Wg Cdr RK Sinha (Retd)
Mr Akshay Kumar
Mr KPS Sirohi
Mr N Sunder
Mr Parikshit Jindal
Mr Ramdas Kakati
Mr RS Rautela
Mr Saurabh Redhu
Mr Siddharth Mishra
Mr V Parthasarthy
Mr V Ramaswamy
Mr Vikram Sabharwal
Mr VK Singh
Mr Zia-ul-Hussain
Mr Dharendra Singh
Mr Vivek Singh
Mr Dhruv Gautam
Mr Arup Chakravarty
Mr Virendra Mahaseth
Mr Jagdeep Kairon
Capt PS Sidhu
Mrs BS Chimni W/o Late Brig BS Chimni
Mrs Krishna Sinha W/o Late Maj Gen SC Sinha

Editorial

Editorial

Unlike other years, the Reunion this year was a completely different one. The weirdest dream one could ever have of no boxing during Reunion was true this time. This not only left the Rimcos shocked but also dejected the Rimcollians who directly drove their vehicles to the boxing auditorium, without having had any food or rest, so that they did not miss the boxing finals. Let's leave it; what has happened has happened, but come what may, Rimcos and Rimcollians have their own way of having fun; and they did it to the fullest. God also played a fair game during this reunion by shedding the umbrage and desolation caused by boxing cancellation by covering the college with a white blanket of hailstones during the cricket match which cheered up every one as it was an unforgettable moment which came once in a blue moon. The cricket match, the hockey match all made the air nostalgic helping the Rimcollians recall their best past days in school, the section spirit and the so called esprit de corps. The cultural show put up by the cadets and the play on the life of Gen. KS Thimayya were remarkable. Not to forget the awesome performance of riders in the Horse show which displayed a perfect control of man over animal.

The daredevil Skydiving Show by the Paratroopers was majestic. One could see the Rim colours high in the air displaying the ever rising and raging spirit for the Alma Mater. The DJs, late night interaction with Rimcollians, old stories and many more things were endless but as it is said "all good things come to an end"; and this too did. The impression it has left will be in everyone's hearts forever, be it because of Gen. Thimayya's centenary celebrations or the hailstorm.

Though no one wanted this mood to end but it's not in one's hand to make such moments eternal. It finally came to be captured in photos and cherished forever.

Date Line

03 Mar	-	College celebrated Holi
08 Mar	-	Inspection of dormitories for the Reunion
	-	Weighing in of boxers for Boxing Opens
	-	Boxing opens commenced
12 Mar	-	85th Reunion got underway
	-	Cultural evening by the cadets
	-	Rimcos vs Rimcollians Hockey match
13 Mar	-	Riding show
	-	Skydiving by Paratroopers
	-	Rimcos vs Rimcollians Cricket match
	-	Play on Gen. Thimayya
14 Mar	-	Departure of Rimcollians

Opinion Poll

What was the best part of Reunion?

1 Hailstorm	-	85%
2 Food	-	1%
3 Interaction	-	5%
4 DJs	-	9%

* A total of 178 cadets were polled





**ABBOTTABAD PUBLIC SCHOOL
ABBOTTABAD.**

Date: March 10, 2007

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to convey the sincere & heartiest gratitude and appreciation of my students and staff for the wonderful hospitality which your faculty members (including Admin off, Asst Admin off, Vice Principal and other section heads) and students extended to them. On report back to APS the students and two staff members Mr. Tariq Saleem & Mr. Muhammad Usman Tahir have expressed their good feelings & impressions about the stay at your prestigious institution. They spoke well of your chat with them at various meals and on fields. Specially, they mentioned the befitting reception and your farewell to them. Also, they brought with them a wonderful impression of academic excellence for which this institution stands in perfect glory since its inception in 1922. My delegation submitted and I quote, "The honourable Commandant RIMC, faculty and students warmly greeted us all and their interaction during different meals and on fields was wonderful. Commandant, faculty along with cadets, despite wet & chilly weather, waited impatiently for our arrival as we were late by almost 6 hours (instead of 1800 of 13 Feb we reached at 0130 of 14 Feb). Besides cricket tournament RIMC arranged a variety of Cultural Programs, Quiz competition and formal dinners/luncheons where dignitaries like Governor Uttarakhand, Mizoram and many retired rimcollian Generals were invited (the administration very kindly arranged halal chicken for the guests!) our stay at RIMC was full of sincerity, hospitality and mutual love. Students of both institutions were as if they knew one another for years. On the day of departure it was sadness all around just like close relatives were being seen off".

I hope this maiden encounter of both the institutions will go down long way in the history. We share common history in the sense that the person who served your institution, remained with us the last 30 years of his life. It is also a great pleasure and ray of hope that our meeting could be a mile stone in the way as "people to people contacts".

Sincerely yours,

(MEHBOOB ALAM)
PRINCIPAL



PRINCIPAL

**Air Commodore Tayyab Naeem Akhtar (Retd), PAF, SI (M)
CADET COLLEGE
HASANABDAL**

Date : 02 March 2007

Dear Colonel Prem,

Please accept our deepest gratitude for the hospitality extended to my group during our visit to RIMC. It was extremely gracious of you to welcome us at two O' clock in the morning in pouring rain! I don't know if I could have done the same?

Your personal attention ensured our comfort and gainful employment during our stay at RIMC. Not only that the accommodation was exquisite, the meals were sumptuous and a rare culinary treat for us. I wish I could get similar meals here. A special and personal word of thanks for your excellent team of Lt. Cols Rajesh & Rajeev and others. I wish I had a team of such able lieutenants. I also envy you for commanding such an efficient, clean, neat and environmentally beautiful unit.

My wife joins me in expressing our gratitude to Mrs Prakash for giving us so much of her time and personal attention. It was because of her graciousness that my wife felt completely at home at RIMC.

In the end I would like to thank you, Mrs Prakash, all staff and cadets of RIMC for extending a warm welcome to us, making our stay so comfortable and the interaction that will last a lifetime. I hope and pray that cadet college Abdal can return this hospitality sooner than later.

On behalf of all cadets of Hasan Abdal, my wife and my own behalf I wish you and Mrs Prakash the very best for the future and pray for your well being and good health. May GOD bless you all.

With best wishes and fond regards,

Yours sincerely
Tayyab

Lt Col A. K. Singh
20 A/3, Kasturba Road,
Lucknow

25th Mar 2007

Dear Prem,

We had a 'Rimcollian Get Together' at Lucknow at 11 GRRC Offrs. Mess on 19th March 07. About 12 Rimcollians alongwith their wives attended the function. As usual, the evening was a memorable one. Maj. (Retd.) T. S. Chimni was the senior most Rimcollian who graced the occasion. However, one did feel the absence of other Rimcollians in the strn who either could not attend the function due to Navaratri or who could not be contacted due to non-availability of their addresses.

The other Rimcollians who were present at this evening function alongwith their wives were :

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Maj. (Retd.) T. S. Chimni | 2. Shri Kailashnath |
| 3. Col. (Retd.) K. N. Shrivastava | 4. Lt. Gen. Gautam Dutt |
| 5. Maj. Gen. Pradeep Mittal | 6. Brig. Manvendra Singh |
| 7. Maj. (Retd.) Ashok Kumar Singh | 8. Brig. A. K. Sen |
| 9. Brig. P. K. Sinha | 10. Lt. Col. T. K. Chakravarty |
| 11. Mrs. Sudipa Bhagat (W/o Col. Vijay Bhagat) | 12. Lt. Col. A. K. Singh |

With warm regards,

Yours Sincerely

Dear Friends,

Mr. Rohan Manhas, Pratap 2000-04, won the Dehradun ICICI Tournament with the best gross score of 5 over par. He plays to a h/c of 2. On the 18th March he has been invited, as have all others who have won at 17 different locations, to play a tournament over 18 holes at The Ambi Valley.

He proposes to turn a pro next yr. I think we will then have the first pro from the RIMC. I know that CV Prathap (late 50s) is a great coach in Chennai. Rohan had all the support from his parents, especially his father, to take up golf as a career. Col K S Mann, a ret'd engr offr who has been giving his time to Rimcos on their hobby ANs, is delighted to see Rohan doing so well. In the same tournament Col Mann won the longest drive! Several offrs who have encouraged the game by presenting golf sets to RIMC would also feel happy. Late Biki (Mr Bikram) and his life long dear friend Gen Viru (Virender) and Gen NS Malik.

I am sure Rohan will also step fwd to guide this generation of Rimcos, moreso since he is a local lad, localite as they will call him.

Cheers,

Arun

Malvinder Singh

Kitcheners 1935-1941
317, Appaloosa Court, Sanford, Florida

Sorry! I will miss all the fun this time but intend to make up for the Reunion in future. My greetings to all Rimcollians and best wishes too.

Sincerely

Malvinder Singh





Hockey Match

Archit

As Reunion is ushered in, so are other important events like the hockey match, cricket match etc. These matches offer old stalwarts a chance to pit their wits against future ones.

The hockey match was organised on the 12th evening. It was a very joshy affair, showcasing a classic blend of spirit and skills. The old boys drew first blood but the Rimcos were not to be pinned down for they soon responded. Like a tiger who has smelt blood, the Rimcos moved in but were kept out by the resolute Rimcollians. In a classic exhibition of dazzling stick work and guile, it was proving to be an exquisite affair. The sight of the old boys running up and down the field brought back memories of a cherished and treasured past, which we are enjoying today.

In the 2nd half, the old boys upped the tempo and managed to score a goal. With only a few minutes left, and the college team trailing, the Rimcos cheered up their comrades on the field. The college team responded in the only way it knew, a resounding fight back. After a stunning goal, the players were in their element with adrenalin coursing through their veins. However the old boys were determined, not to be outdone. As the hooter sounded everyone was on his feet, cheering for these performers who had given out their best. 'The old boys got gold by virtue of seniority', at least so says the age old Rimco adage. It was indeed a terrific experience to see the Rimco fraternity fighting it out.



Reunion Horse Show

Jaideep Chugh

The Reunion Horse Show which is held annually on 13th March has always been a much awaited event, a challenging task for the cadets. Thanks to the availability of horses, the cadets along with their coach worked very hard to put up a wonderful show for the Rimcollians. This term it wasn't an Inter-Section event. Instead, the college team was divided into four contingents. The following events were a part of the show:-

- (I) Jumping Normal.
- (II) Hanky Picking.
- (III) Synchronized Show Jumping.
- (IV) Tent Pegging.

The following riders took part-

- (I) Cadet Hem Prakash Chamola
- (II) Cadet Kartik Reddy



- (III) Cadet P.A. Rajdeep
- (IV) Cadet Captain Rohit Shekhar
- (V) Cadet Piyush Deshmukh
- (VI) Cadet Pritam Mishra.

The show started on 13th March at 10.00 A.M. the flag hoisting was done by the riding team captain Cadet H.P Chamola astride Morni.

After this Tent Pegging and Hanky Picking were organised simultaneously. The following riders took part-

- (I) Cadet. H.P. Chamola
- (II) Cadet. P.A Rajdeep
- (III) Cadet. K.Reddy

Then was the Junior Show Jumping Normal in which all the participants took part.

The Best Rider award went to Cdt. Hem Prakash Chamola. The Most Upcoming Rider award went to Cdt. Piyush Deshmukh.

Our Cultural Cult

Bhupendra

I don't know where artists of fame get their muse from. But for our young stalwarts making another successful cultural evening is surely a child's play. And you can't miss out on the magnitude of elan they've always been reflecting. The Reunion 2007 was one such event that could have gone in dire straits if the cadets had not shown their exceptional quality to eke out time and always come up with good things (even at the sake of groggy times).

This cultural evening saw a break in two parts - wherein the musical evening was on the first and drama on the second. Bharat, Bhanu, Kaushik and Sanjeev left everyone mesmerised with their voices. And the evening saw a great end with the music club performing the best they could. The drama 'Thimayya : Remembering a Legend' that was enacted the next day was a very special one as it was inclusive of all major happenings of the life of Timmy, especially those at the college. It really seemed a mammoth task at first, but then with Ms. Paniker and Mr. Birender (and the cadets, for sure,) it was real fun. And thus, our cultural cult proved again that for the Reunion cultural evening to be a success, what really mattered was us and not to forget, Mr. Vishwakarma.





Clean Bowled!!!

Eeshaan

Like every other Reunion, even this time we had an action packed Rimcollians vs Rimcos Cricket Match. After losing the Hockey Match 2-1, the Cadets were quite determined to win this one. And with the World Cup right around the corner the Rimco team was in its element.

The Captain of the Rimcollians' team was Lt Gen Yash Malhotra and the Rimcos' team was led by Cdt Capt Rohit Shekhar. The Rimcos won the toss and chose to bat first and put up a splendid performance of 4s and 6s till they piled up a total of 116 runs, definitely a difficult chase for the Rimcollians but nevertheless, the spirits of the old boys were high and when they came on to bat, it started drizzling. The Rimcollians were no match for the Rimcos and soon were skittled out for a mere 70 runs. The Rimcos registered a decisive victory. The sentiments of the old boys was understood by the clouds and within minutes a hailstorm broke out. The sight of the hail stones falling on the field all over the pavilion was a sight to behold. It felt as if the whole campus was covered with snow. We all enjoyed the beauty until it finally melted away the next morning. Nevertheless, the memories of the cricket match will always be fondly remembered.



Honours and Awards

1. PRESIDENT'S GOLD MEDAL:-

Jan. Term 2006 :- Cdt. Gaurav Hridaya

Jul. Term 2006:- Cdt.Siddharth Rawat

2. COL HAUGHTON'S SILVER MEDAL:-

Jan. Term 2006:- Cdt.Vijesh kumar

Jul. Term 2006 :- Cdt. Shashank Bhargava

3. UN JHA MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL:-

Jan. Term 2006 :- Cdt. Swagat Das

Jul. Term 2006 :- Cdt. Gautam Kumar

4. MAJ GIRISH VERMA MEMORIAL SILVER MEDAL :-

Jan. Term 2006 :- Cdt. Gaurav Hridaya

Jul. Term 2006:- Cdt. Siddharth Rawat





5. Lt Cdr R.K Sen Memorial silver Medal :-

First Term 2006 :- Cdt. Himanjan Sharma

Second Term 2006 :- Cdt. Rakshit Sharma

6. Air Vice -Marshall Jaswant singh Trophy :-

Cdt. Vaibhav Bharadwaj

INTERSECTION AWARDS

1. Education cup :- Pratap section.

2. JGC Scott Cup:- Chandragupta section.

3. Gen KS Thimmayya Shield:- Chandragupta section

4. Gen GG Bewoor's Cup:- Ranjit section.

5. Assam Rifles Trophy:- Ranjit section.

6. 28 Infantry Div Cup :- Shivaji section.

7. Gen VN Sharma Trophy :- Pratap section.

The Skydiving Show

It's the same every year, after the riding show, just before the much awaited Cricket Match, yet each time it is different and inspires awe. The faint drone of the choppers high above; and then the falling skecks becoming umbrellas and then a gracefully falling man at the end of a chute. The highlight this year was the flawless landings by all the paratroopers !!!

Long live Gen. Thimayya

On the evening of the 12th, a first day cover was released commemorating Gen. Thimayya. The evening also saw the presentation of a portrait of Mr. H Catchpole to the college by Lt Gen BS Pawar. The book 'Three Makes a crowd' by Lt Col Kaushik Sircar was also released. The book is a fictional work on three boys' life at RIMC. The next day, a marble bust of Gen Thimayya was unveiled the lobby of the Thimayya Auditorium amid showers of rose petals.





The iridescence of Holi

Anshul Roy

On that auspicious Sunday, there was something refreshing in almost everything around us. Even the first rays of the Sun had ample warmth and a coloured tinge. In many dorms, cadets woke up with a start with water all over them; while in some others, they kept on sleeping calmly with their faces smeared with colours and hues they had never dreamt of before. And thus began a day which the cadets are sure not to forget till it comes again next time.

After a quiet breakfast and a quieter Mandir function (with its hymns and bells), celebrations took centre stage and the OT field sprang to life with cadets being thrown around like mere dummies, colours all over the place and cadets apt at setting new standards that would make the civilized world cover in shame. Later during the day, the teachers joined in the fun and the Pavilion also saw the colours. Thanks to the cafe tender the cadets ate to their fill and retired to their dorms to attire themselves in a better garb which would help them get into their original self.

Thus, an enjoyable day passed by which surely left a colourful imprint on all hearts that would remain so at least till the event comes again next year.

Equipoise

Mr. V.K. Rai, Athletics Coach, RIMC

Henry Longfellow said in his poem 'Psalm of Life' that great men leave behind 'foot prints on the sands of time'. Going through a book called 'Unknown Facts about Well-Known People'-by Dale Carnegie. I came across such 'foot prints' when I read about an incident in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Way back in the middle of the 19th Century, when Lincoln became the President of U.S.A, slavery was rampant in the Southern States of America. It was demeaning and against all norms of human dignity. Lincoln wanted to remove that menace so he made a number of anti-slavery laws. But as the war-lords of those states employed the "black" slaves in the fields and factories, they protested against those laws. It was a tough task to implement them. At times, there were even pitched battles between the Govt. forces and the private armies of those war-lords.

On one fine evening of those critical days, the General Officer Commanding of the Govt forces went to the White House to discuss some matters with the President and asked his Secretary to inform about it. The Secretary was a little hesitant to disturb the President at that time,



so asked the General to wait for sometime. But he had to go to the President at the insistence of the General. President at that time was on all fours with his little son perched on his back-playing "horse horse"! The Secretary summoned all his courage and blurted: "Excuse me Sir! Gen so and so has come to meet you. Lincoln, who was engrossed in playing with his child, turned his face and looked at his secretary with anger and fired him saying "Can't you see that I am busy playing with my child! Ask the General to wait!" The secretary apologized saying "Sorry Sir" and retreated. The President did go to meet the General and discuss the issues for hours together, but only after about 20 minutes when the 'play' with his child was over. Sometimes, I find my boat tilting far too-much to one side and so try to shift some weight to the other side to keep a proper balance-lest my boat might sink! If Abraham Lincoln could do it, I am only a small fry, I can also do it; at least try to!

Said It

What is a doctor who specializes in children's diseases called?
-Mrs. Malhotra, Checking vocabulary

Dr. Kalra Ma'am
-Shakti's Rimco Lingo

"Does anyone have an extra pair of half-sleeved shorts?"
-Gunjan's, Word- Power Made Easy

"Give an example of gas in solid"
-Mr. Dalvi, Serious Chemistry

"LPG Cylinder Sir"
-Ashutosh's General Knowledge

"Please Wait Sir"
-Nishant at a Snail's pace

"Now I have to W-A-I-T because I cant Thee W-E-I-G-H-T, I don't have thee Machine"
-Mr. Tyagi, expert at silencing cadets

Weather Forecast

Heavy downpour of mirth and excitement lashed the campus, for it's the normal thing to be on Reunion. Thunderstorms of Rimcollians followed next. Though the gale of boxing lost its way, the hues of Reunion never lost their charm. Bubbles of gaiety were galore and the Reunion fog overhung the whole college, reducing visibility to zero in academic block. Hailstorms of fun, the dew of nostalgia and the mist of anxiety-all had their say during this wonderful 'two day extravaganza'. The caution from the weather department at the moment reads: Beware of a furious mistral coming in direction of the academic block.

Congratulations!!!

The following AF Rimcollians have been cleared for promotion :

To Air Cmde :

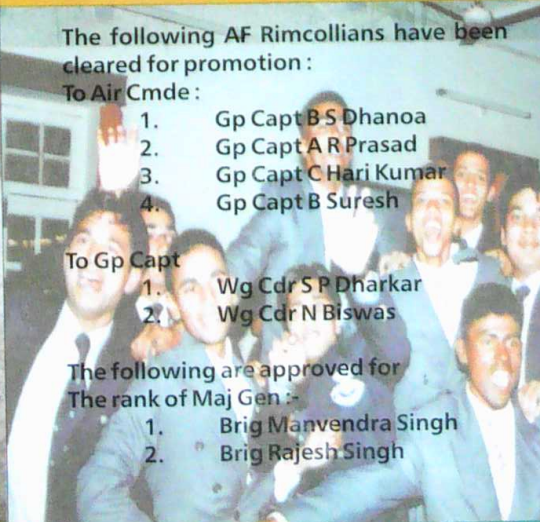
1. Gp Capt B S Dhanoa
2. Gp Capt A R Prasad
3. Gp Capt C Hari Kumar
4. Gp Capt B Suresh

To Gp Capt

1. Wg Cdr S P Dharkar
2. Wg Cdr N Biswas

The following are approved for The rank of Maj Gen :-

1. Brig Manvendra Singh
2. Brig Rajesh Singh





From the Archives

The First Reunion

It was announced in the College Orders of 17th March 1928 that the Old Boys Week was to be held from 22nd March, the day they would arrive and they would depart on 28th March 1928. "Tea was served to the staff and Old Cadets on Hockey grounds at 4.45 p.m. on Saturday 24th March 1928." This was in effect the first Reunion at the College.

"An interesting account of this first Reunion is given by Lt. Gen K Bahadur Singh who was then the Cadet Capt at RIMC.

He has said that Maj Gen Hira Lal Atal along with about a dozen other Old Boys attended this function. They were put up in the 'new' dormitories near the football pitch (which were later Kitchener Section and are now Shivaji Section dormitories). They messed with the present boys and normally preferred to sit at the senior's table in their old sections in the dining room. It was then that the demands for some favourite items of the menu like Scotch eggs were first made. At this first reunion, Cricket, Tennis, Hockey and Squash matches were played between the old boys and the cadets. The cadets won most of the

items. In addition to these matches the college also had Inter Section Boxing matches and staged a PT display. The Old Boys are recalled to have been as rowdy, disheveled and boisterous as they are at present."

Cracking Eggs

This is one of Maj Gen Mohinder Singh Chopra's experiences of egg fights. "I was in Roberts' Section. Our Section Master- Mr. Allen- took personal interest in coaching us in games. I may add that my nickname at the School was 'Anda Pehlwan'. It happened like this. On Sundays at breakfast, we were served with boiled eggs, and we played a game called 'Cracking eggs' against each other at the table. Those cadets whose eggs were cracked by another egg, lost. One Sunday, it happened that I cracked all the eggs of the entire Section, and therefore, became 'Anda Pehlwan'. Cracking of eggs as a sporting pastime at the breakfast table when boiled eggs were served was also confirmed by Maj Gen BP Wadhwa of Kitchener's section during the course of an interview.



Editorial Team



Photography Club

Book Post

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Special thanks:
Photography Club



The Chronicle

*He who walks in
another's tracks leaves
no foot prints.*

-Helen Ottway

Editorial

The obvious nostalgia of leaving home was overcome by the banner at PJ gate reading "WELCOME HOME". The sun is shining brighter than before. It has been raining cats and dogs and that has left everyone tantalising. With some addition and adieu we expect the term to be a better one. Everyone came geared up, refurbished and reinvented from a long streak of holidays for which they had ample excuses not to study. The college is set to welcome the mistral... and the fruit orchards are indeed proving to be a hot spot for the cadets.

Fresh from vacations everyone has already started sprouting their talent as their zeal could be seen in play fields and squash courts. The college looks blossomed by the arrival of 171st course.

Unnoticed by the world outside, our friends have again done us proud..... awards at NDA and IMA, board results, NDA merit list are few of the recently added feathers to our cap. Changes are finding their way in the college routine. The ostentatious displays have lost their existence. Let it be the buffet systems in mess or prep in dorm, cadets are happier than before.

'Pastoral Care era' has just begun and we hope that the coming months stand out distinguished as hayday days.....

WHERE GALLANTRY IS A TRADITION



Dateline

- 28th May - College Vacations began. Stay back classes commenced.
- 29th May- Delegation for Round Square Project departed.
- 09th June - Stay back for Classes IVA and VA over.
- Delegation left for Pakistan.
- 14th June - Round Square team returned and proceeded on vacations.
- 19th June - Team to Pakistan returned after taking part in Catchpole Memorial Hockey Cup.
- 07th July - Shooters' training camp begins.
- 13th July - New Cadets join the College.
- 16th July - Rest of the College returns. Vacation Assignments submitted..
- Neha Dhupia and Ritwik Bhattacharya visit the College
- 17th July - Hobby distribution for cadets.
- 18th July - Div allotment carried out.

Sotto Voce

Over the past few months, there has been an upsurge of turmoil in Pakistan. Firstly the removal of the Chief Justice from Office, followed by widespread protests and rallies and then the recent Lal Masjid incident: 'Operation Silence' was launched to tackle this problem. It left 100 people dead, comprising 88 terrorists and 12 army personnel. Abdul Rashid Ghazi, the leader of the jihadis and head of the Muslim clergy of the Masjid was also killed in the attack.

These events have definitely raised eyebrows around the world. The question that has now popped up is whether the incidents taking place in Pakistan are genuine or is it a cleverly contemplated

plot to gain world sympathy? One can't deny the existence of sabotage completely in this. Many people believe that the turbulence has been created deliberately by Gen Pervez Musharraf. The motive behind it is to gain the support of the United States and to show the world that Pakistan is being instrumental in wiping out terrorism. Well, this is an issue to ponder over.

But we do not have the faintest idea about what is going on in the corridors of power of Pakistan. May be Pakistan is facing a crisis, or may be it is merely posing so as to fulfil its ulterior motive. I think we should let time be the judge!.

Commandant's Mail Bag

Dear Sir,

I have just come back after passing out from the NDA on the 1st. I am extremely delighted to share the news.

The reviewing officer was COAS Air Chief Marshal F.H. Major PVSM, AVSM, SC..

The following were awarded to rimcollians during the Commandant's reviewing parade:-

- ▶ Battalion Cadet Captain (BCC) Vaibhav Sinha was awarded the Raja Rao Rajwade medal for standing first in the over all order of merit.
- ▶ Battalion Cadet Adjutant Harshal Borole was awarded the Lachit Barphukan medal for being the best in officer like qualities
- ▶ Academy Cadet Adjutant Aditya Sharma was awarded the Commandant's Special Medal for display of outstanding devotion to duty
- ▶ The following awards were awarded to rimcollians during the Academy dinner night
- ▶ BCC R.P.S. Rana- Cheif of Staff trophy

for maximum contibution towards furthering interservices co-operation.

- ▶ BCC Vaibhav- Best all round army cadet
 - ▶ Divisional Cadet Captain Rohit Tanwar- Best all- round naval cadet
 - ▶ ACC Lokesh Shukla- Best sportsman of the passing out course
 - ▶ ACA Aditya Sharma- Best in Drill
- The following awards to rimcollians during the passing out parade reviwed by the COAS:-*
- ▶ BCC Vaibhav Sinha- President's Gold Medal
 - ▶ ACC Lokesh Shukla- Bronze medal
- VIVA RIMC
Cadet Harshal Borole
ranjit 99-04

Dear Col Parakash,

Let me start by congratulating you on the splendid Catchpole Centenary Celebrations - June 2007 together with the festivities connected with memories of Catchpole. We were all

delighted to host the visit of the RIMC delegation from Dehra Dun. My only regret was that owing to indisposition I was unable to participate in various functions and the visit to Hasan Abdal. From all accounts it proved to be a memorable occasion which will help greatly in sustaining the RIMC spirit which we all strongly share. Thank you very much for the magazine and other souvenirs you so kindly sent, especially the beautiful key chain and the ballpoint pen which will be a constant reminder of the valuable connections with RIMC. We cherish the ties and linkages and hope and pray that they will continue to grow from strength to strength in the years to come.

My wife joins me in sending you and the family our warmest regards and wishing you all the best in the future.

Sincerely

Lt. General

(Sahabzada Yaqub Khan)

Round Square Regional Project

Is this a mistake? This notion was the first to creep into my mind as I bade goodbye to my homebound friends who went away with cheerful faces leaving me all alone to spend the next fortnight away from home.

These feelings withered away the moment I reached the Welham Boys' School and met the delegations from different institutions hailing from across India and abroad. After a light breakfast, we were taken in a convoy of six vehicles to our project site - the

Jaidwar village, Tehri Garhwal. The next few days that followed are an experience in themselves. The aim of the project was to construct a community center for women. Soon the students began to mingle among themselves and gradually adapted to the village life. Nightlong celebrations, feasts and cultural evenings for the villagers kept the students entertained throughout the stay. All students had to toil for six hours a day in the scorching sun.

Anshul Roy

The project eventually came to a memorable end with the foundation of the community center built and its walls erected. Throughout the project, the RIMC proved to be the force to reckon with as we bagged the Best Team award. We departed with the following lines on our lips,
"Time flies,
I'll be away, and you somewhere
But, worry not, my friend
The love will stay forever"

Weather Forecast

The cadets seem to have gone flabby after the refreshing downpour of vacations. With the sun scowling right over their head, college looks a bit tougher for all of them. As in their wont, the young Rimcos are always ready to beat the heat. The 'Campus Weather' is at peace while a trade of winds takes place - Lt.(IN) Gaurav Rana joins us and Col. R.P. Singh bids adieu. In desperation, we all await the ecstatic monsoon showers to take over and expel the muggy heat of the college routine.

Bhupendra

Welcome....

Lt. Gaurav Rana (1994-99, Ranjit) has been posted as an additional naval officer. He was a BCC at NDA. He is a versatile sportsman with proficiency in riding. He was Mr. NDA of his batch. He is 'very single' and we hope to spend lots of time with him in the games field. Welcome to you, Sir!

Congratulations.....

Cadet Piyush Kumar (92%) and Cadet Sec. Com (Now in NDA) P Ashok Varma (83%) for standing first in the 10th and 12th Board exams respectively.

Movie Mania

College watched the movie 'Metro' on 20th July

GRIT AND NERVE : Basic Mountaineering Course

A life is insipid without challenges. One has to face them and make one's way through them. This is what makes life meaningful. Mountaineering is a sport for those who love facing challenges and for those who truly love nature in all its splendour. Sixteen cadets from eight classes had volunteered for the Basic Mountaineering Course which was held at the Directorate of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali from 1st to 26th May 2007. We were part of the 282 Basic Course comprising 85 members from all over India. The Opening Address was given by Col H.S. Chauhan, the Director. We were imparted training in Rock Climbing and all the knot that are of prime importance in mountaineering. In the evenings we had

lectures on mountain manners and hazards, and Himalayan weather and geology. In the days that followed we were trained in rappelling and Jumaring and rock climbing continued. On day 9, we had river Crossing on the Beas River. On Day 10, we left the Institute for a 14 km trek to Solang Nalla, a famous Ski Resort. We made an attempt to scale the Patalsu Peak (4472m) but we had to return owing to bad weather. The next day and the day after we ferried the ration and kitchen supplies and established our Base Camp at Bakerhatch (3442m) near the Beas Kund. In the following week, we were instructed on using the ice axe, crampons and how to anchor oneself as well as extend belay to a fellow

climber Mr Rajeev Sharma, a climber of international acclaim shared his experience of climbing Mt. Everest with everyone. Day 21 was meant for Height Gaining which was the ultimate test of all the training imparted to us during the course. The qualifying height was 4880m and the peak to be climbed was Shitidar Peak (5720m). With icy winds blowing and the steep ridges beckoning to us, it was an experience we all would cherish.

The Graduation Ceremony was held on the 26th of May. The course offered us a lot to learn and we realised that life is indeed full of struggle and hardships. It also made us gear up for the subsequent Expedition, of which many of us were a part.

Expedition : Mt Deo Tibba (6001m) Jun - 2007

On 1st June the 1st joint IPSC Expedition to Mount Deo Tibba (6001m) was flagged off by Col. Prem Chand, for Manali. The Commandant of RIMC, Col. Prem Prakash, SM was also a part of the flagging off team and blessed them with his wishes. Mr Sanjay Kumar, the expedition leader was presented with an ice axe before proceeding. On the 2nd the equipment was issued and LAP/HAP were arranged. The next day the team departed for Jagatsukh. A lecture on Do's and Don'ts in mountains was also given by Mr. Rajeev Sharma. The same day the team trekked to Chika via Khnol and stayed there. It was an 18 km trek and the height gained was 3160m. On 4th the team moved to Seri by trekking 8 km and gaining a height of 3620m. The next day a trek to Tainta was organised just for seeing the base camp. On 6th the team established their base camp at Tainta at a height of 4070m. On 7th the team trekked to advance base camp for acclimatization. On 9th, the final summiteers were selected and camp ABC was established. The Team leader, Mr. Sanjay Kumar and cadets Varun Nagaich and Abhilash Kumar of RIMC, two cadets Hemant and Karampal of Sainik School Kunjpura, Deepak of MNSS, Rai and Raghav of PPS, Nabha along with three instructors of DMAS, Manali started their ascent for summit at 0245 hours. Making their way



through waist deep snow the team summited at 1010 hours. The Indian Tricolour along with the flags of SS Kunjpura, MNSS, Rai and PPS, Nabha were unfurled. After having carried out a puja and photo session the team started descending the 6001m challenge and reached camp ABC and wound up the camp and moved to Base camp (Tainta) where they were welcomed by Depty. Leader Mr. Birendra Singh. The next two days the team stayed at Base Camp packing and resting.

Lastly on 14th June the Base Camp was wound up and the area cleaned by the team returning to Chika. Thus a successful expedition was carried out under the leadership of Mr. Sanjay Kumar. This was the third successful expedition under his leadership. Before this he has been the leader in expeditions to Mt. Bhagirathi II and Mt. Jogin III.

Whilst You Were Away

The cadets are back on the campus after what was a "happening" vacation. The past month or two have seen the RIMC flag fluttering higher than ever before in every field, be it adventure or academics.

Cadet Rajkamal (X) and Cadet P. Ashok Varma(XII) topped their classes in the board exams. Then followed a successful mountaineering expedition to Mt. Deotibba with Cadet Abhilash Kumar and Cadet Varun Nagaich scaling the 6001 meter high peak. A delegation to Pakistan came back on 19th of June after taking part in the Catchpole Memorial Hockey Cup. A team from the RIMC comprising five cadets and an escort took part in the Round Square regional project. The NDA Merit list saw three Rimcollians as the top scorers with Cadet Rohit Shekhar coming first amongst the examinees. The shooters had to come back early in order to practice for their events, which are sure to take up a major amount of their time in the following term.

Therefore, with aspiring eyes and towering ambitions the wheel of time has rolled on another term. Enjoy.....

Obituary

With profound grief we inform you of the sad demise of these Rimcollians-

- Lt Gen K Bahadur Singh, MBE (1923-29,KIT) passed away on 8th May 2007.
- Capt(IN) S K Jha, (1977-81,Ranjit) passed away on 15 May 2007.
- Col B N Metha, (1929-1935, Roberts) passed away on 16th July 2007.

UPSC Merit List.

In the NDA Merit list, the cadets secured five positions in the first ten. The individual rankings are as under:-

S. No.	Name	Arm	All India Merit List	AF merit
1.	Rohit Shekhar	Army	1	
2.	Varun Aggarwal	AF	2	1
3.	P Ashok Varma	Navy	3	
4.	Raghav Swarup Gupta	Army	7	
5.	Alok Bhaskar	Navy	8	
6.	Yougank Panwar	Army	13	
7.	Yogesh Kumar Singh	AF	15	10
8.	Humesh Tuteja	Army	21	24
9.	Manjeet Kataria	Army	19	
10.	M Longkumer	AF	21	
11.	Sanjeev Timsina	AF	24	06
12.	Kumar Gaurav	AF	29	26
13.	Aditya Kumar	Army	37	
14.	G Satish Kumar	Army	50	
15.	Aditya Dilip Awale	AF	77	63
16.	Mahipal Dangi	Army	78	
17.	Vasu Banathia	Army	84	
18.	Sudhir Kumar Tomar	Army	90	
19.	Gautam Swaroop	AF	114	41
20.	Samrat Achra	Navy	129	
21.	Rudrashish Majumdar	Army	133	
22.	Ankur Tiwari	Army	154	25
23.	Lalit Kumar Pradhan	Army	168	
24.	Mohit Khattri	Navy	255	
25.	Vinayak Gupta	Navy	238	
26.	Neikhotso S Angami	Army	249	
27.	Jyoti Prakash Parida	AF	438	141

Book Post

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THE CHRONICLE



BI-MONTHLY ISSUE I NO.24 AUGUST 2007

Reflection

*'Vision is the art
of seeing the invisible.'*

Editorial

College is abuzz with activities after a lull of vacations. The newcomers seem to comprehend the happenings around them. Eventually they will be engulfed in the flood of activities and will settle down perfectly well...

Of course, it demands effort from everyone, right from Cadet Guardians to the members of staff. Lt. Gaurav Rana is working dedicatedly towards improving the quality of food served in the Cadets' Mess. We can expect a completely new menu and we can't wait to smack our lips! Pre NDA exams for Class V have begun. Indeed, huge volumes of hard work is being put in by them. Class VA is anticipating the results of April 2007 NDA Exams. Soon the preparations for the SSB interviews would begin. The college is attired in vibrant green, thanks to intermittent showers. There have been some modifications in the lexicon of college proceedings and it seems to be benefitting everyone.

A number of events are being hosted by us this term. They include the Regional Round Square Conference, IPSC Shooting Competition, and the IPSC Swimming Meet. As the adage goes "Well begun is half done", so we plan to work honestly and take a head start...

WHERE GALLANTRY IS A TRADITION

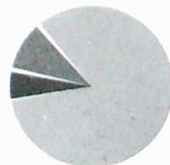


Dateline

- 21st July - The movie 'Metro' was screened in Bhagat Hall.
- 24th July - Clinic for Squash Competition.
- 25th July - Kit Inventory for cadets.
- 26th July - Squash Competition commenced.
- 27th July - Students of various Round Square schools arrived.
- 28th July - Round Square conference commences.
- 29th July - Visit to IMA by various schools and parasailing.
- 31st July - Round Square Conference ended.
- 1st Aug - Visit to various establishments by cadets.
- 3rd Aug - IPSC Shooting Competition commenced.

Opinion Poll

Is the system of prep in dorm fruitful?



- Yes.....83%
- No.....15%
- Can't say.....2%

In all 240 cadets polled.

Weather Forecast

Bhupendra

The furious Mistrals, ceasing only at rare events, endlessly lashed the Squash courts. Braving the elements of PT, all cadets stand determined, offering the most formidable barrier to languor. A refreshing, gay wind runs about the Campus while the Regional Round Square Conference is underway.

Commandant's Mail Bag

Dear All,

We had a fantastic get-together here in London on the 17th July, kindly hosted by Lord Viscount John Slim at the House of Lords. I was amazed by the response to my initial email and eventually the turnout on the day (list attached). Many thanks to all Rimcollians who attended the get-together, to all who shared their thoughts with us on email or phone and especially to those who travelled from as far as Scotland, Southampton, Bridgwater and Swindon especially to attend the get-together. Lord Slim hosted tea with snacks in the Attlee Room for all which was simply delicious and later all were given a chance to go on a tour of the House of Lords.

We were also joined by Guy Catchpole, nephew of Hugh Catchpole and he appreciated it. Lord Bilimoria, son of Gen. Bilimoria also met us briefly.

It was requested by some Rimcollians, if this mail can be copied to Comdt, RIMC for the RIMC

chronicle.

I have posted our pics on the rimcollians yahoo groups on the following link:

<http://ph.groups.yahoo.com/group/rimcollians/photos>

Lord Slim has also asked me to thank everyone for the nice gift presented to him in the letter. (Please read his email below).

I would also like to suggest that we have a Re-union in UK on the 13th March annually. Location can be decided nearer the time. Please feel free to share your thoughts and add your comments.

Kind regards

Deepak

Dear Deepak

Thank you again for all your efficient and excellent work in arranging our happy Rimcollian gathering and tea party. There is just one further thing I would ask you to do. When I opened the envelope back home that the Air

Chief Marshal gave me across the tea table both Buffy and I are completely overcome by the most generous and lovely present you have given us to have dinner at Gordon Ramsey restaurant at Claridges. This is a very wonderful and precious gift to us and I thank all concerned. When we take this kind invitation up we will be thinking of all our Rimcollian friends.

I would be grateful that as you have the email addresses and other forms of contact of those who attended if you could kindly pass the above message of thanks on to them all.

Sorry to lumber you with this but we catch an aeroplane for Italy in the next few hours.

Buffy and I thought our event in the Attlee Room went very well and it is always good to see Rimcollians of all ages mixing and talking.

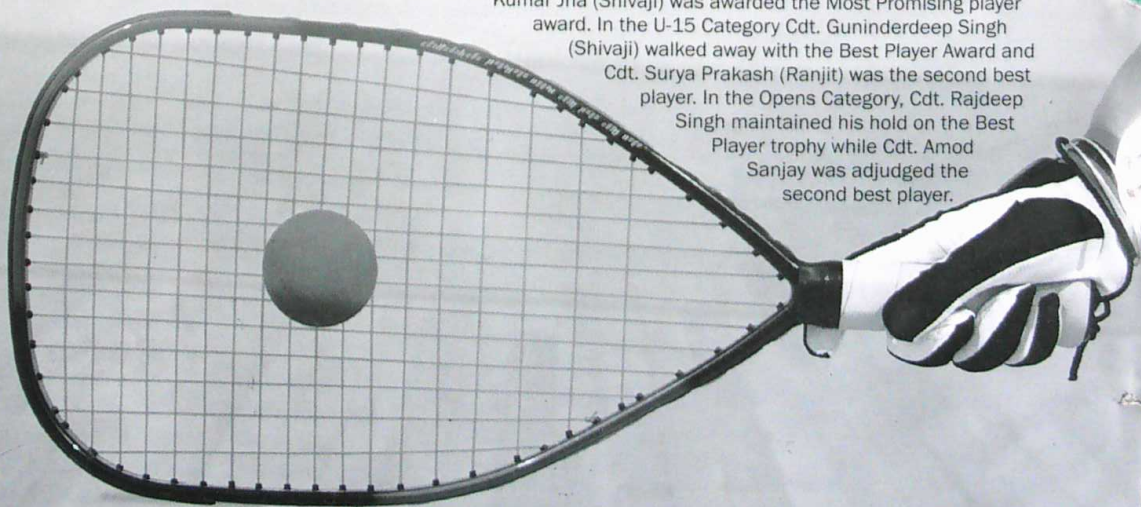
My warmest wishes and thanks to you and every good luck in your business and with your young and happy family.

John

Squashed!

Cdt. Ravi Yadav

Barely ten days after the vacations ended, the cadets braced themselves for rigorous squash practices as the Inter Section Squash Competition was knocking at the door. With many cadets upgrading their talent, the competition saw some neck-to-neck fights in the matches. The Competition was held from 26th July to 31st July. We witnessed some very skillful matches between the participants and also avid participation from many first termers. Cdt. Ayush Salaria of Chandragupta Section bagged the Best Player Award in the U-13 category and Cdt. Vinay Chaudhary of Shivaji Section was the second best player in the same category. Cdt. Nitish Kumar Jha (Shivaji) was awarded the Most Promising player award. In the U-15 Category Cdt. Guninderdeep Singh (Shivaji) walked away with the Best Player Award and Cdt. Surya Prakash (Ranjit) was the second best player. In the Opens Category, Cdt. Rajdeep Singh maintained his hold on the Best Player trophy while Cdt. Amod Sanjay was adjudged the second best player.



The Category wise result was as follows:

	U-13	U-15	OPENS
1st	Shivaji	Shivaji	Shivaji
2nd	Chandragupta	Ranjit	Chandragupta
3rd	Ranjit	Chandragupta	Ranjit
4th	Pratap	Pratap	Pratap

The overall rankings were as follows:

1st	-	Shivaji
2nd	-	Chandragupta
3rd	-	Ranjit
4th	-	Pratap

Welcome Freshers!

Hemdeep Padalia

Hailing from Gujarat, he has a keen interest in computers and aeromodelling. Being a good sprinter and long jumper he is sure to be an asset to college Athletics team.

Ramkrishna Sharma

Coming from the 'St. Mary's School', Rajasthan, he is interested in table tennis and squash. He also aims at becoming a good debater.

Adhyuday Prakash

This bihari is a gifted painter and an excellent mathematician. He wishes to join the Nature's Club. Creative writing is also one of his hobbies. He wishes to join the Indian Army.

Shivam Lakhera

He joins us from Shishu Shiksha Niketan Vidyalaya, Dehradun. His interests are riding, craft and computers. He has immense potential in athletics. Shivam is an Army optee.

Prakhar Kaushik

A debater and a proficient swimmer, he also likes singing and writing. Quizzing and reading are also his passions. He is an awardee of the ITC GK Camp Scholarship. Prakhar has also won laurels for himself in the GK Olympiad and Science Olympiad. He is an Army optee.

Payable When Able

~ Vaibhav

We hear of Rimcollians performing in various fields. Ever heard of any Rimcollian who was a part of Netaji's Indian National Army? Well here's one for you. Mr. Inayatullah Khan (I'm not really sure whether he is alive) was an active member of the Indian National Army at the time when the war of Independence was on. He was captured by the British and was taken to the Red Fort where he was to be hanged. But somehow Jawaharlal Nehru along with some other senior leaders negotiated with the British and got him out of trouble. Nehru then asked him where he would be after being released by the British. Mr. Inayatullah answered that he would be going to Malaysia to spend time with his parents. But he had no

Fiery Eloquence

On 3rd of July 2007, Cadet Abindu Dhar and Cadet Piyush Kumar participated in the Convent of Jesus and Mary Extempore English Debate. There were nine schools competing for the trophy.

The topic for the debate was 'Disagreement is necessary for progress' and one hour worth of time was allotted for preparation. There was a very heated discussion on the topic with active rebuttal. RIMC cheering up team consisted of Cdt. Avaneendra, Cdt Bhupendra, Cdt. Archit and Cdt. Anshul. Mr. Birender was also present there to guide the cadets.

Our debaters performed exceedingly well and their effort got the trophy home. The Doon School was adjudged the runners-up. Cadet Abindu Dhar was adjudged the best speaker. Kudos to the RIMC debaters!

Following were the participating schools:

Welham Boys' School
The Doon school
The Heritage School
St. Joseph's Academy
Riverdale High School
Carman School
CJM (Convent of Jesus And Mary)
RIMC

money left with him so Nehru gave him three thousand rupees cash. Here Inayatullah just said, "Payable when able." They all forgot about it. The partition of India took place. Inayatullah shifted to Pakistan and took up an assuming profession. At this time Nehru visited the Governor General of Pakistan who happened to be in Lahore. Inayatullah saw him, went straight up to him, and gave him a cheque of three thousand rupees. Nehru was impressed by the honesty of the man and asked him to come to India and join the Indian cabinet. Inayatullah just had to say two lines, "No, never will I join your cabinet. You are the one who is responsible for the partition of India!" Nehru was speechless!

Gandhigiri In Sports

Jesse Owens had jumped 26' and 8 1/4", setting a world record a few months before the Berlin Olympics in 1936. He expected to win. But when he saw a tall young German taking practice jumps in the 26-foot range he was surprised. Hitler had especially come to see that event as he expected that German, Luz Long to win that event and prove the superiority of the 'Aryan Race'!

Jesse just took a warm up jump in his track suit but he was shocked to learn that the Official recorded it as his first attempt of the qualifying round. Somewhat rattled, he fouled his second attempt. He was now one foul away from being eliminated from his best event.

At this time Owens was approached by that tall young man, who introduced himself and told him, " You should be able to qualify with your eyes closed." 23'5 1/2"- the qualifying distance was not a problem for him. He suggested Jesse to make a mark several inches before the take off board and jump to play it safe. Owens did just that and easily qualified. In the same afternoon Jesse won the event with a distance of 26'5 1/2" beating Luz Long to a second place. The first person to congratulate Jesse in the full view of Adolf Hitler was Luz Long.

I would like to narrate a similar example of Gandhigiri, which was meted out to me by my great rival- Lavy Pinto who was the Asian Champion. I had a great desire to beat him and it just so happened that we both reached the finals of 100 meters in the Nationals in 1956. We wished each other good luck and went to our lanes. But Lavy noticed that my starting block was far too close to the starting line and advised me to shift it about 2" to 3". Although he was my rival but I had a great admiration for him too and so I immediately shifted it 3" back. And believe me, I had never ever got such a powerful start as on that day and probably due to that I won the Championship, beating Lavy Pinto, the Asian Champion by 2 meters. And the first man to congratulate me was none other but Lavy! Hats off to him! I think Gandhigiri is divine and is the very essence of sportsmanship.

- Mr. V.K. Rai
Athletics Coach

The Wrong Jump

On 30th July, I left for the Boxing Div, for hand practice. Every one was committed to put up a good show at the forthcoming IPSC Boxing Meet. The commitment could be clearly seen when the team was toughening up. After stamina building, I took a few people for punching and then I punched myself. We had had one and a half hours of practice, which was absolutely exhausting. As soon as I reached the dormitory, I realized how much I had exerted that day. Completely exhausted, my muscles had given up and my entrails were burning with hunger. I somehow managed to get up and got ready for the cultural programme. I reached the hall late and was welcomed by Lt. Gaurav Rana. The masters and cadets had already settled down by then. My hungry stomach was revolting. I couldn't resist the urge to go to the cafeteria. But there was a problem- Lt. Gaurav Rana was standing by the door, catching hold of late comers. Then on an impulse I decided to jump out of the window in the backstage and that is where things went wrong.

There I was with one leg out of the window, staring at the coming Safari, which I first thought belonged to Lt. Gaurav Rana. Then I remembered that he possessed a Tata Sierra. The next moment, to my horror, I saw the Commandant and the Chief Guest sitting inside. The worst part was they had spotted me. Scared of what would happen I hastily gulped down the food I had ordered at the café. My friend Ankur came and told me that Lt. Gaurav Rana wanted to meet me. My stomach gave a lurch as I heard the dreadful order. When I reported to Lt. Gaurav, he informed that I was to have an interview with the Commandant. I felt really scared to imagine the consequences. But luck favoured me this time. I was told to write this account as a punishment.

It wasn't as bad as I had expected it to be. One lesson that I learnt was that one shouldn't be scared of something that hasn't taken place. Live the present and forget about the future.

- Cdt. Vikram Dangi

Book Post



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The Chronicle

Reflection

*"Education is the manifestation of
perfection already in man"*

-Swami Vivekananda

Editorial

As the term proceeds, days keep getting eventful. Life seems to get better with every passing day and at the end of it, we all have sublime memories to cherish. The first two weeks of the month have witnessed many significant moments. The Hindi debate gave an opportunity to the cadets to exhibit their oratory skills. The ultimate test of endurance, the cross country competition took place on the Independence Day. Football fever is infecting us fast as the Inter Section and the RIMC Soccer Cup competitions knock at the door. The results of the NDA April 2007 exams were declared. The 162nd course produced a phenomenal 95% result! The preparation for SSB has already begun and there is no doubt that we would embrace success. The PT and swimming tests for the college have begun. Many of us have already overcome fear and eventually jumped from the dreaded 10 meter board! The tabbing ceremony for the appointments of the second rotation was held on the 18th. The rotation system aims at providing equal opportunity to everyone to shoulder responsibility. Times do change, but our aim remains the same. Everyone in this college is working even harder in our quest for excellence and I am sure that we would emerge triumphant...

WHERE GALLANTRY IS A TRADITION



Dateline

- 31st July : Departure of Delegates of Round Square Conference.
- 1st August : Visits to various establishments by the Cadets.
- 2nd August : IPSC Shooting Competition.
- 6th August : Finals of the IPSC Shooting Competition.
- 9th August : Inter-Section Hindi Debate.
- 13th August : Unit Tests.
- 15th August : Independence Day Celebrations. Tree plantation by cadets.

Weather Forecast

The Beaufort scale read 7 in the fields while the soccer competition was underway. The windssock has been torn apart in the Academic block, as it was struck by the exam hurricane. The only survivors seem to be the ones who burnt midnight oil. Gaiety flows with the breeze as the college braces itself for the RIMC Soccer Cup Competition 2007. Weather department assures everyone of a soothing weather and clear azure blue skies.

Moment of Truth...

— ARCHIT

Up ahead, a figure in shorts and coloured vest clogged the crosshairs of my vision. Looking around me, I saw a detachment of 10 people with me. Breathing hard, I tried my best to match strides with the figure up

ahead. I knew that if I fell back now, there would be no catching up. With longer steps and a spurt of energy I kept my position intact. It seemed to the others, I would soon fall back and a threat or a contender would be eliminated. One of us broke away and led the pack comfortably, setting the pace. This elite detachment was engulfed by fatigue after chasing the elusive leader. I knew that this was my only chance. My strength was draining away but I could not stop myself. Filled with mental strength but devoid of the physical one, I came

to the final checkpoint. Seeing the leader, my limbs came back to life. My hands cut through the air like chainsaws and my legs pumped up with adrenaline kept getting me closer to my rival. This would either be my Waterloo or Salvation. I felt myself drawing level with him. I kept going with great heaving breaths, while he bounded along like a gazelle. The enclosure loomed ahead. In my final move, I gave everything I had, overlooked him and dived inside. Looking up to the heavens, I knew that this was my moment of truth.

Regional Round Square Conference - 2007

In the wake of a prominent movement to widen students' knowledge on 'Science and Conservation', the RIMC in consonance with the Round Square hosted the regional Round Square conference from 27th to 31st July. It witnessed the participation of ten leading schools of India and South Asia viz. Daly College Indore, Mayo Boys' School, Ajmer, Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hissar, Vivek High School Chandigarh, The Doon School, The Welham Boys, Millennium School Dubai, PPS, Nabha, GD Birla school, Ranikhet and the RIMC.

The function was inaugurated with the lighting of the auspicious lamp by Mr. Dewan Singh, renowned environmentalist from Delhi, Prof. Vikram Soni, a famous astrophysicist from National Physical Laboratory, Mr. Rajender Singh, known as 'Waterman of India' with Brig. SH Kulkarni, VSM, Sub Area Cdr, as the Chief Guest on 28th July at 9 am. The Commandant in his welcome address eulogized Dr. Abdul Kalam as the ultimate embodiment of a true nationalist and scientist. The Chief Guest in his address, reiterated the urgency to imbibe the ideals of Kurt Hahn, the founder of Round Square. He lauded the efforts of the RIMC for its contribution towards social causes in alliance with the Round Square.

Prof. Vikram Soni, as the first speaker, dwelt on the living scheme in nature. He related everyday activities and their impact on nature. He delivered a lecture and gave a presentation on the carbon cycle and life on earth. He emphasized on a glaring reality that if India continued

using up its natural resources indiscreetly, it would be deprived of its resources 12 times faster than the US. The second speaker for the pre-lunch session was Mr. Rajendra Singh, famously known as 'Johadwala baba' for his relentless and revolutionary effort in the arid region of Arvari in Rajasthan. He constantly insisted on the integration of indigenous knowledge or 'Science of sense' with sophisticated science. He urged the audience to make an insight into the fact as to why rivers die and how could they be revived. After lunch, the students visited the Indian Military Academy and the Forest Research Institute.

On the 30th of July, the third consecutive day of the Regional Round Square Conference, Dr. Amit Joshi sensitized the students with his thrust on community empowerment with local resources. He has helped many locals in the mountains tap their potential and make both ends meet. With an impressive presentation, he explained some of the most appealing realities in the remote mountains. The presentation comprised his achievements in upgrading sundry, water mills, motivating various shrines to provide offerings made from local resources and initiating several other beneficiary projects in mountain backwaters. The students later visited Fatehpur Village, adopted by The Doon School. The evening witnessed a scintillating cultural evening organised by the students of the participating schools. Finally the conference came to a memorable end.

Inter Section Hindi Debate 2007

It is generally believed that the most influential people of the world are proficient orators. Debating requires speaking skill as well as command over the language. Apart from the speakers, a lot of effort was put in by the adets who prepared the speeches. The Inter Section Hindi Debate was held on 9th August. The Senior Category followed the Parliamentary format where as the Juniors followed the Cambridge format. Each section had to field three speakers in Seniors and two speakers in Juniors category. We got a chance to hear some interesting rebuttals from the Seniors. A healthy discussion amongst the Juniors made the debate come alive.

Chandragupta Section emerged victorious in the Junior as well as Senior category and lifted the trophy. The individual awards in the Junior category were as follows:

Best Speaker

- Cdt. Archit Gupta

Second Best speaker

- Cdt Prakhar Kaushik

Third Prize

- Cdt Praveen Kumar Singh

Commandant's Mail Bag

Let us make a beginning,

Let us unite for changing

The lives of those,

Who need our help

As, "Together we can."

A foundation is being established in the memory of Flight Lieutenant Mahesh Trikha who gave his life for the motherland and became a martyr during 'Operation Meghdoot' while being on an operational sortie in a Cheetah helicopter of 114 Helicopter Unit of the Indian Air Force at Siachen Glacier, the highest battlefield in the world. The foundation salutes the individuals like Mahesh, who made

the supreme sacrifice of their lives to uphold the dignity of the nation.

The aim of the foundation is to assist in the rehabilitation of the war widows and the families of the Martyrs. The Foundation will assist in providing higher education and appropriate vocational training for creating Job opportunities for the Armed Forces war widows and their children with special reference to the Indian Air Force. The foundation will also aim to improve the quality of life of the under privileged and marginalized people enabling them to live their lives at par with the normal citizens of the society. The Foundation is determined to overcome all obstacles in order to achieve its aim of replacing their

despair with hope, their fear of security and their ignorance with knowledge.

On a personal meeting, we can give you an insight as to how you can extend your helping hand to reach out to those who need to hold it.

For further details, please contact -

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Welcome Freshers!

Rahul Mishra

A product of Sainik School, Rewa, (Madhya Pradesh), Rahul is a keen sportsman and has interest in reading books and art. Having represented his school in various sports, he wishes to do the same here. We wish him best of luck for his future.

Ankit Malik

Joining us from Bal Bharti School, Haryana Ankit is interested in reading novels. He is also a keen quizzier and has earned laurels for himself and his school in various competitions. Ankit also plays soccer, cricket and table tennis. He aspires to be an Air Force officer.

Avnish Singh

This jovial first termee hails from Gwalior. He is an ace singer and has won best singer prize in National Youth Conference in M.P. He is sure to be an asset to the College Music club. He aspires to be the best singer of RIMC too.

Bharat Thakur

This Himachali is a talented footballer. He also likes to play cricket. Bharat is also computer savvy and hopes to be an asset to the computer club. He aims at becoming an Air Force officer.

S Hari Varma

This chap joins us from the state of Andhra Pradesh. He is an ideal rimco-likes to surf the net and also likes quizzing. Hari also plays table tennis and wishes to fly Sukhois in future.

Hemendra Mishra

He belongs to Gwalior and is interested in drawing and reading and wants to excel in soccer. Hemendra an Air Force optee..

Amrit Panda

This Oriya is a music fanatic. During his stay at RIMC, he wants to prove his worth in cricket and hockey. He wishes to join the Indian Army.

WINNING SPREE CONTINUES...

August 10, 2007 was indeed a remarkable day for RIMC at the Indian Institute Of Remote Sensing (IIRS). The IIRS organized an English Elocution and Science Quiz Competition on account of the National Remote Sensing Day (Prof. Vikram Sarabhai's Birth Anniversary). The Elocution Competition was held in two phases- the initial screening in extempore format and the Declamation for which the topic was "Is Remote Sensing Necessary For India's Development?" RIMC, represented by Cdt Bhupendra Chand stood 2nd while Welham Girls' School stood first. In the Science Quiz, Cdt. Mohit Sharma, Cdt. Siddharth Mohan and Cdt. Shaunak Nivargi romped home with the second prize. They were escorted by Dr. Jairam Chaudhary. It was one of the earliest Competitions in which RIMC participated this term and proved to be a great encouragement.

Nature

~ Cdt. Ashish Kapoor

Walking through the fields,
Going through the wind,
Gliding in the air,
In many a pair,
I see it all,
The nature so tall,
And wide and lengthened
And never ending.

The mud and sand,
Our half land,
It's all the nature
The nature of God,
Of myths and lord,
Of blue and green,
Of browns and blacks,
It's our own nature.

The lovely sunset
The wonderful stream of light
That we see in nature,
The stars and the black
We see at night
Is the mythical nature.

The blues and the whites
Which seem to us cold,
Is also nature.
Nature is God
God is nature.

The volcanoes, the quakes,
The tremors, the shakes
Is also nature.
Tsunami, the floods,
Wind and mud
Is also nature.

Nature is large,
A never imagined one.
Nature is green,
Blue, white and black.
Nature is everything,
Everything that is known to us.

Hell Or Heaven

~ VPS Pathania

I look back at my life sitting with Bible by my side,
Counting my sins and thinking that after death,
Where will I reside.
My body shivers with fear,
Thinking of pain caused by swords and spears.

I don't really know where I will be thrown,
But I am sure I will not be alone.
People are there who don't show mercy
And people are there who always show sympathy.

I m confused and I think I'm gone
As I don't know who will rule me...angel or demon.
I'm not afraid of death and beasts
But it is the thing which never lets me succeed.

I see the ghastly scenes of the hill at night,
And try to remove them from my sight.

I have never seen Heaven,
Neither in my dreams nor on the earth,
But it is the world which I am
Visiting since my birth.

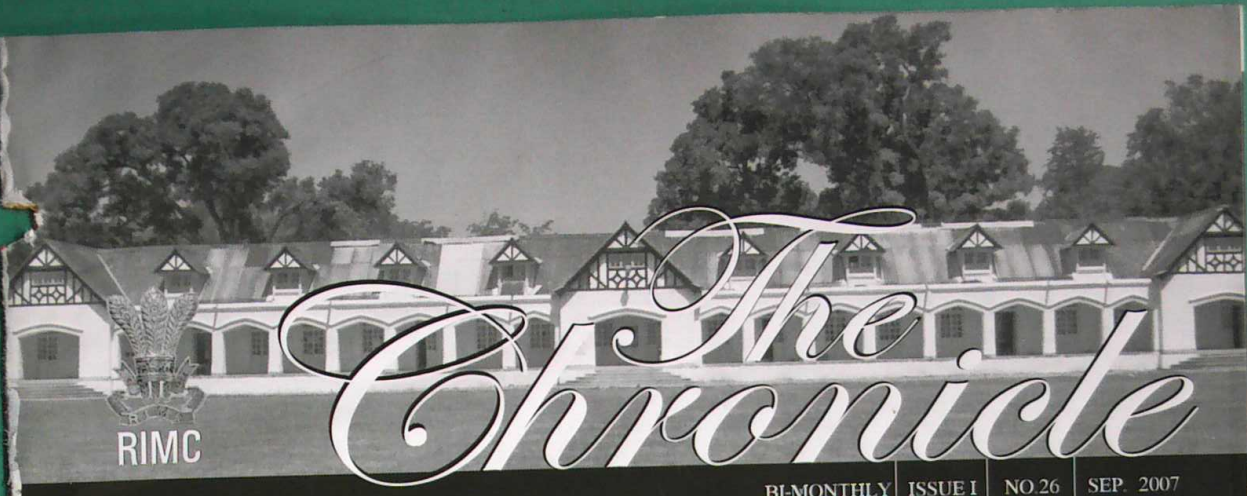
At last I leave it all on the Bible
Which is kept by my side,
Which will decide, where I will be thrown, with an angel or a
demon.

Book Post



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RIMC

The Chronicle

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Reflection

**'The mightiest of works
have been accomplished
by men who
have kept their ability to
dream great dreams.**

Editorial

The barge of section activities seems to have dropped anchor, and the focus now shifts towards college level events. The term nears a much-awaited break, but before that we have to wade through the ordeal of mid term exams. Our pugilists fought ferociously in the ring and put up a good show at the recently concluded IPSC boxing meet. A remarkable display of tenacity, teamwork and skill earned our college Soccer team a place in the finals of the RIMC Soccer cup tournament. The marksmen too brought a haul of 35 medals and many of them have qualified for the pre-national competition to be held in October. These results are testimony to the manner in which RIMC epitomizes excellence. It is just those few sparks of motivation that are required to kindle a fire in the minds of the cadets. Now the swimming team is poised to prove their mettle in the pool in the forthcoming IPSC swimming meet hosted by us. While most of the cadets of Class VA would be facing their SSBs, we have already drawn first blood with cadet NCO Siddharth Mohan clearing his SSB successfully. The term is shaping up well and as it is evident from our efforts, success cannot evade us in the other half of the term as too. The firm belief in oneself can pave a way through the mightiest of difficulties. So lets join hands and continue projecting RIMC as a microcosm of educational excellence.

WHERE GALLANTRY IS A TRADITION



Dateline

- 15th August - Cross-country competition followed by Flag hoisting on Independence Day
- 19th August - NDA written exams
- 21st August - 1st round of inter section quiz Competition
- 21st August - Inter Section Football Competition commenced
- 26th August - Lecture by Prof. Chakravarti
- 28th August - Finals of Inter sections Football Competition
- 31st August - Arrival of Soccer teams for RIMC Soccer cup
- 1st September - RIMC Soccer cup commenced
- 5th September - Departure of college Boxing team for IPSC Boxing meet
- 6th September - Finals of RIMC Soccer Cup Tournament

Weather Forecast Bhupendra

In lieu of a soporific air that treads the campus at odd hours, the joyous breeze has taken charge. The Prep Wind makes a happy chatter in the classes again as dark clouds plague the dormitories at night. Our Soccer Team too put up an enthralling performance. Hike monsoons have taken over after the wild gale of exams. As more classes take their Swimming tests by Lt. Gaurav Rana, the diving pool ceases to be the dreaded place it has been for long.

In addition, the college dons in a cheerful attire.

The Test of Mental Strength

- Cadet Vaibhav Bhardwaj

X-country- again the long lonely monotonous experience of running around the college with your seniors pushing you harder with every step. I am not some X-country analyst but the faces of the cadets said it all. Moreover, the fact remains, nobody loves this sport but the way it flirts with you and makes you pant but still urges you to strive harder with every step to be the first to cross the finishing line, is commendable. It is all about robustness and mental strength. If you will to put your step faster than the previous one you win or else you get lost in the crowd.

Running my last Cross -Country of RIMC made me feel nostalgic. Why.... it had

been the same every year. May be not this time around. I lead the race for the very last time; I crossed the finish line first for the very last time! I lived up for my love in RIMC for the very last time. As usual, the race was run in the two phases-Seniors and Juniors. Juniors had to only survive a 3.85 km. long college round in which Cadet Ashish Tiwari bagged the Gold followed by Cadet Siddharth Prateek and Anshul Bansal. On the other hand, the Seniors had to endure the college round and then go for what we call a "Laal gate round". You need to have your wits about you to complete that. Frankly, we all did not have enough practice to be running this comfortably but it was the

sheer section spirit that carried us through. I had the pleasure of finishing first, followed by Karthik Reddy and Sundara Pandian.

And then was the fruit of all hard work we had put in -the over all section standing:

Ranjit 1st

Pratap 2nd

Chandragupta -3rd

Shivaji- 4th

Irrespective of who won, we all congratulated each other for our wonderful performance. That is why we always stand together. It was a great way to celebrate the 60th Independence Day.

My Version of Running Truant

- Cadet Amitabh Sinha

It was 30th July. Our college was hosting the Junior Regional Round Square Conference. There was a guest lecture and a cultural evening to be presented by the visiting schools in the Thimayya auditorium. The lecture was scheduled to begin at six o'clock in the evening. I and my partners in mischief- Cdt. Vikram and Cdt.Satyam arrived five minutes early and took our seats in the hall. The Commandant and the Chief Guest were yet to arrive and we were eagerly waiting for the programme to start. Suddenly an idea struck my mind and I shared it with my friends. The three of us decided to go to the café until the guests arrived. Since Lt.Gaurav Rana was on the prowl near the front door of the hall, we decided to jump out of the window. As we were jumping out, I saw a vehicle approaching us. At first, I was startled as I thought that it was Lt.Gaurav Rana himself in the car! However, to my relief, it

wasn't him and we continued walking towards the café, quite oblivious of the danger lurking ahead. As the car pulled very close to us, what we saw sent a chill down our spines. It was the Commandant with the Chief Guest! For a split second our eyes met, too flustered to react. After the initial shock, we still went and enjoyed the food at the café, unaware of the consequences of our acts. When we returned to the auditorium, we met Lt. Gaurav who informed us that we were to have an interview with the Commandant. Our entire evening was marred by constant thoughts about the interview but we somehow managed to watch the cultural programme. However, every story need not necessarily have a tragic end, isn't it? As we sat down for dinner, commandant sir came and told us to write an article on our experience of jumping out of the window!

Inter Section Quiz -2007

Cadets were once again seen brushing up their minds for the first round of the Inter-Section Quiz competition, held on August 21, 2007. Many of us read CSRs and other G.K material even in classes. Cadets prepared for the Quiz more than they ever do for the boring mid term and Terminal exams. It was a test of their mental ability and retention power. There was no less enthusiasm amongst the non- participants, which was evident from the number of questions answered by them. The unique feature about the competition was that only novices were allowed to participate. After some entertaining rounds like Science and Technology, sports, current affairs, Audio- visual and cinema, the result was declared. Chandragupta section topped the points tally with promises of lifting the trophy. Pratap section was ranked second. The points of the Inter section written quiz competition will also contribute towards the Quiz cup. So it is a collective effort and I am sure we all would work towards it.

My Journey Back to Life

~ Cadet Eeshan Katoch

The football Competition was going on in full swing and the B-String title deciding match between Ranjit and Chandragupta took place in the morning on Sunday. Ranjit were the underdogs but a brilliant performance by our team and a bit of luck made us win the match 2-0. It brought us an excellent starting for the day.

I was so excited that I along with some of my termers decided to watch the Blockbuster Chak De! India. However, we were let down by the board outside the hall reading "Housefull". But we all had determination which is common in Rimcos. We decided to go take french leave and see the Night Show. After Dinner, I changed to casuals and proceeded for the Mission Chak De! But from nowhere arrived a man none other than Lt. Gaurav Rana who was present at the wrong place at the wrong time for Cadets. He fired his first question, "Where are you going?" "Mission Failed!" I thought. I surrendered to him along with the name of one of my fellow mate.

The story was half unfolded at first as I had told him. But then at that moment, he let me go. The other half was unfurled the next day. He foiled the full plan. Rest of them watched the movie but I couldn't as they had already departed when I was caught. For me Mission Chak De! was gone.

RESULT ~ FAILED SUCCESSFULLY!

Waste Paper Recycling Plant

A waste paper recycling plant of RIMC was inaugurated by the Uttarakhand Sub Area Commander Brig S H Kulkarni, VSM, Mrs. Kulkarni, Col Prem Prakash, SM, and Mrs. Sadhana Prakash amidst the cadets of Craft hobby and MOS on the occasion of 60th Independence day. Mr. Sanjay Kumar, the Officer-In-Charge, gave a complete demonstration on the working of the plant.

The main aim of this plant will be to reuse, recycle and restore used paper. With this, RIMC has added one more feather to its cap to join the conservation drive. This will give scores of opportunities to the young cadets and employees to create new vistas in this resource-deprived world.

ADVENTURE A WAY OF LIFE *at* RIMC

Cadet Sandeep Kumar became the first cadet ever to undergo the Advance Mountaineering Course. Sandeep, who did his Basic Course in 2003 from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling underwent the Advance Course from the NIM, Uttarkashi from 25th April to 19th May. He scaled the peak Draupadi ka Danda-II as a part of his training. He was also a part of the RIMC Mountaineering expedition that scaled Mt. Bhagirathi II in 2005. Sandeep also participated in the National Sport Climbing competition in 2004 where he rubbed shoulders with climbers of national and international acclaim. Keep going Sandeep, we may see you on the summit of Everest some day!



IPSC Squash Competition 2007

IPSC Squash Competition 2007 was held at Sainik School, Tillaiya, Jharkhand. Cadet Rajdeep Singh, Cdt Amod Sanjay, Cdt Akash Shekhawat and Cdt Guninder Deep Singh Sidhu represented RIMC in the competition.

The Competition was held from 3rd September to 6th September, 2007. We reached the venue on 1st September. The participating teams were RIMC, Dehradun, Modern School, New Delhi, Scindia School, Gwalior, Sainik School, Tillaiya.

After being acquainted with the courts, we had our first match with Scindia School in which we defeated them by a margin of 3-0. In our next match against Modern School, we put up a good performance but finally suffered a defeat. The next day we were pitted against Sainik School, Tillaiya. We defeated them easily. By the virtue of points in the league matches, RIMC stood second in the All India IPSC Squash Championship. There was an improvement in our game during the course of the competition as we got a chance to play with some seeded players of India and Delhi. I'm sure that participation in such competitions shall whet our skills.

Debating Wave

In an endeavour to promote debating skills among cadets the RIMC participated in the 7th Padamshree J K Kate Memorial All India Debate at the Punjab Public School, Nabha. Cadet Piyush Raj and Cdt Jaideep Chugh took part in the Debate held on 1st September, 2007. The topic for the debate was "Should Judiciary overrule the Legislature?" Among the 15 schools that took part, PPS, Nabha finished first, YPS Mohali stood 2nd, Pinegrove School, Nainital came 3rd and RIMC stood 8th. It was a humble and good start for the young debaters who will strive to further enhance their score.

Howlers ~ Mohit Kumar

"Why are you doping Avinash?"

~Ms. Panikar

"Ma'am I am suffering from shoe bite."

~Avinash being frustrated

"I will shout so loudly that guys till PJ gate will see me."

~Parth, invisibly

"I want to be a lady doctor."

~Cadet K...

"There are hundreds of planets in solar system but they can't be seen."

~Cadet Ashish Kapoor's far sightedness

"They did not give me any opportunity to feel bad about my passing out ceremony."

~Lalit, turning senti

"Children will u start studying? "

~Mrs. Kaushik

"Ma'am, we have been in state of not studying since 1957"

~Siddharth in a revolutionary mood.

Congratulations!!!

- ▶▶ Cadet Romen Singh for being adjudged as the 'Best Boxer' for the July term 2007 in NDA and Cadet Abhishek Rana for being awarded the 'Best Loser'
- ▶▶ Cadet Gaurav Hridaya for winning the NDA Cross Country. He is the first Rimcollian to have achieved this feat. The other medallists were:
- ▶▶ Cadet Vijesh Kumar- 4th
- ▶▶ Cadet Udit Pant- 12th
- ▶▶ Mr. Brijesh Chauhan for being blessed with a baby boy
- ▶▶ Cadet Prashant Chandra for being adjudged as the 'Best Marksman' of the IPSC Championship for the year 2007

Book Post

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