



# club life

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



**Lt Gen D R Soni**  
**PVSM, VSM (Retd) President**

Dear Members of the Delhi Gymkhana Club,

I trust this update finds you and your extended families well & safe from the ongoing pandemic.

A lot of discussion has been ongoing on various Social Media platforms, regarding the AGM, its postponement, the Audit of the Club and the Appeal against the NCLT Order in the NCLAT.

I would like to address each one separately, to put you in the correct picture.

The Financial Sub-Committee is in constant touch with the Auditors of the Club. As I had mentioned in my earlier mail, the lack of availability of Staff with both them & us, to expedite the Audit. However, we have been regularly meeting the Auditors' requirements earliest, in order to finalise the same. The FSC meeting with our Auditors on 22 September, which I too attended, was quite fruitful and we are quite hopeful that we will have the draft from them in a few days.

Once that is received, we will be better positioned to schedule the AGM and the Club elections. I myself am very keen to hold these as early as possible.

The NCLT Hearing is scheduled for 06 October. As far as the Appeal in the NCLAT goes, our lawyers completed their arguments on 24 September and the Government will present their arguments on 07 October.

The Club filed a Complaint with the Police for the Discrepancy of Liquor Stock, on 17 September, after the GC Meeting on 15th. This was pursuant to our internal enquiry into the issue. The case is currently with the Delhi Police.

Meanwhile, the Club had an Inspection by the Excise Department on 17 September, at around 7 pm; they went through our stocks, confirming the discrepancy arrived

TRANSFORM YOURSELF AND YOU CAN TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

at by our Internal Enquiry. They issued us a ‘Show Cause Notice’; Our reply, including certain documents required by them, were provided by us on 29 September.

While we were still addressing the subject of the Kashmir Lawns with the NDMC, they brought up two long outstanding issues for resolution:

1. The Club has never possessed a Health License for our cottages and the NDMC served us a Show Cause Notice. We have now applied for this.

2. Next, we need to clear Property Tax dues with the NDMC, from 2010 onwards, till date. This complex legacy issue too is being addressed by us, as we go to print.

I shall update you all whenever there are changes/developments in the above issues.

Continuing our efforts to instil ‘Gender Sensitivity’ in the Club, our Panel of three GC Members have formulated an SOP, which has been approved by the GC. This has since been placed on the various Notice Boards in the Club and the Library.

A last word, if I may; These are likely the most troubled times that the Club has seen. We are actively pursuing resolution of some serious issues, which I would like to reiterate, largely relate to past years. I sincerely request Members to try and restrain personal agendas/election

rhetoric and come together as one, in the best interest of the Club. Vilification of Club Members on Social Media Platforms does not help in any way; it simply vitiates the environment & shows the Club in poor light. It is thus my earnest appeal to all, especially the WhatsApp Group Administrators, that slanderous and defamatory posts be stopped earliest. We are a Club of respectable members, friends & family. Let us maintain the high standards of behavioural propriety that befits our great Establishment.

Meanwhile, we have largely resumed operations in the Club and hope that they are to your satisfaction. But do remember to please take precautions, for your own health & that of others.

Wishing you the very best, that you remain safe, healthy and well.

May God Bless the Delhi Gymkhana Club. Jai Hind

**Lt Gen D R Soni**  
**PVSM, VSM (Retd) President**

**PREVIEW**

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**ARROGANCE MAKES YOU THINK YOU ARE ALWAYS RIGHT,  
WHILE CONFIDENCE IS HUMBLE AND QUIET.**

# 'SAFE NO MORE' - WAITING FOR THE URBAN GROWTH BOOSTER SHOT!



5.5 million and counting. As India races to the top spot in the world Covid-19 tally to beat US, comes in yet another blow – a staggering near 6.6 million white

collar jobs lost between May-Aug 2020 as per CMIE.

Wiping out the employment gains made over the past four years, the pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of urban jobs. There is reason to worry. The month of Aug 2020 alone saw a dip in both urban (.46%) & rural employment levels (1.14%) versus July 2020. Overall, the country witnessed a steep unemployment increase by 0.95% (8.35% Vs 7.40%) in a single month. While this data does not include self-

employed professionals, the crisis is much worse for industrial workers in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) than in big corporates which contribute nearly 29% of the country's GDP.

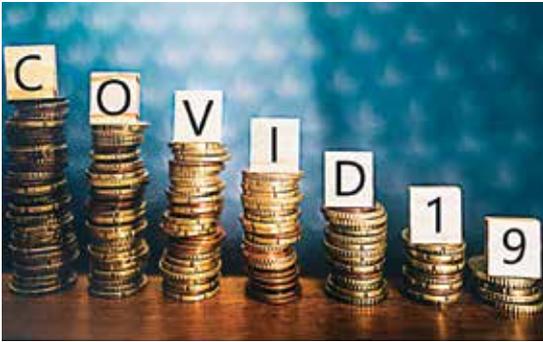
This does not augur well. With no signs of the pandemic receding, the situation could further worsen.

Factors such as struggle to control the virus, curbs in urban areas with on-off lockdowns, lack of demand in the market; continued agony of MSMEs; muted credit growth primarily due to modest direct spending component by government in the relief packages announced (more of indirect support such as credit guarantees and liquidity infusion); lack of enough workforce due to migrants returning home causing industries to function at a sub-optimal level could add fuel to fire and have a debilitating impact on the economy. While some may say that with small firms finding it difficult to stay afloat in the long run, it could mean a larger market share for bigger firms, it may still not necessarily translate into more jobs as the latter may opt for increased automation.

Having said this, there is still hope. One optimistic datapoint in this aspect is that July 2020 recorded the highest registration of new companies in the country in more than seven years, a sign that some believe may be of reinvigorated interest by investors and plans by local entrepreneurs to start new business ventures in times to come. Conversations around urban employment guarantee scheme to complement the existing rural job scheme MNREGA have begun. States like Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala to name a few already have urban employment initiatives in place while there are others like Punjab & Rajasthan which have requested the centre support on the same. The crisis is also an opportune moment for people to upskill and reskill themselves to meet the growing demand for jobs in gig economy, tech



**THERE IS NO SECURITY ON THIS EARTH; THERE IS ONLY OPPORTUNITY.**



especially around AI, cybersecurity, blockchain, cloud computing etc., e-com and the new age 'service at home' jobs.'

But all this may come to a nought and lead to multiple concerns with a delay in Covid-19 vaccine. At a global level, there could be a second wave of the virus, government and corporate support to the furloughed workers and bank moratoriums on loan repayments may expire; US-China relations may further dwindle, and economies may further shrink. As per World Bank global economy could shrink by 5.2% in 2020 and emerging market countries will face tougher economic challenges than developed ones, given their limited social safety nets and healthcare capacity.

India will be no exception. While many analysts believe that the Indian economy may contract by 5% in FY21, economists at Bank of America Securities have stated that a longer wait for a vaccine against the virus may lead to a contraction of up to 7.5% in the Indian GDP in FY21. With a 23.9% shrinkage as per release by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), India's GDP has shown the worst quarterly dip in the three months to the end of June

## IMPORTANT

1. Members are requested that they **MUST** wear masks while walking in the Club.
2. Members are requested to **NOT** walk on the Grass Tennis Courts.
3. Members are requested to **NOT** use walkers, Prams & push-chairs on the Grass Tennis Courts.

- the worst ever since the country started releasing its quarterly data in 1996. In fact, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) foresees the economic contraction triggered by the pandemic extending into the second quarter primarily due to the severe shock to the consumption levels.

With nearly 180 potential vaccine candidates globally in various stages of clinical trials as per WHO, coming up with a vaccine to halt the pandemic may be just half the battle won. The next big test would be to get those billions of doses available to every corner of the world on a war footing especially at a time when each is putting their own interest first. With UNICEF leading efforts to procure and supply COVID-19 vaccines in what could possibly be the world's largest and fastest ever procurement and supply of vaccines, one can hope for a shot at the earliest. The Indian experience with the UNICEF India pulse program has been hugely successful and is an amazing public health achievement which many considered impossible way back in 2009.

The crisis is unprecedented. While the good news is that India's case fatality ratio (CFR) - the proportion of people who die among those who test positive for COVID-19 - has dipped from 2.15% in early August to 1.72% on September 6, the challenge is to collectively revive the economy, bring jobs back while continuing to have our guards up because no matter what, protecting human lives will always be the top priority.

**Ashwajit Singh (P-5473)**  
**Former editor Gymkhana Life**

**KIND WORDS CAN BE SHORT AND EASY TO SPEAK,  
BUT THEIR ECHOES ARE TRULY ENDLESS.**

## THE TRIP TO RANIKHET WITH THE 'OLDEN GOLDIES'



Vipin Aggarwal

**R**anikhet, which means Queen's meadow in hindi, gets its name from a local legend, which states that Raja Sudhardev won the heart

of his queen, Rani Padmini, who subsequently chose the area for her residence, giving it the name, Ranikhet, though no palace exists in the area.

In 1869, the British established the headquarters of the Kumaon Regiment here and used the station as a retreat from the heat of the Indian summer. At one time during British Raj, it was also proposed as the summer headquarters of Government of India, in lieu of Shimla. Later 99 Mountain Brigade was also established at Chaubatia, which is at a height more than 7000 feet.

From Ranikhet, one can view the entire Himalayan range. Ranikhet was earlier in Uttar Pradesh, now it is in Uttarakhand. Ranikhet's natural beauty, awe-inspiring in every possible way, continues to capture one's imagination.

Back in 1994, I visited Ranikhet in December with a family friend Mr. Ashok Chandra, who had retired as a senior bureaucrat from the Government and was also DC in

Almora in early 1960 I stayed with Mr. Chandra in Forest Guest House at Mall Road in Ranikhet after arriving a little late in the night. The next morning we woke up early. Viewing the entire range of snow peaks in the distance, I remember immediately falling in love with the place. The view was like a beautiful painting! At that moment, I made up my mind to have our second home in Ranikhet.

So we started looking for land to construct a house. Meanwhile, we hired two cottages – one from Shah family and other from Col. V.P. Singh at Kalika – next to the Ranikhet Golf Course. Finally we were able to get land at Majkhali for our dream second home. However, destiny seemed to have a different plan: so instead of our home, a Resort with 15 rooms got constructed in 1998. Initially it was named Cost Plus. Later we changed the name to Woodsvilla Resort, which is located at the top of the hill. Finally we expended and added another property for long stay named as Woodsvilla Residency. With which we are having around 80 rooms with 50 keys, as more Suits were added in the both properties.

Once we also held a meeting of General Committee of Delhi Gymkhana Club, when Gen. Jagdish was the President and I was chairing the Finance Committee. After that we started taking friends from the Gymkhana Club and members of 'Olden Goldies' (a music group of likeminded people) for visits to Ranikhet year after year.

In this article, I am sharing the experience of one of our trip to Ranikhet in April 2019. At that time, we had formed a group, which included members of the Gymkhana Club and Olden Goldies; professionals such as lawyers, interior designers, Chartered Accountants, and educationists, and people from the world of business. In all, group consisted of 40 people for the said visit to Ranikhet.

We met at the New Delhi Railway Station at 5:30 a.m. to take the Shatabdi Express, which would take us to Kathgodam, the base station for travelling on to Ranikhet. Our train started at 6:00 a.m., and soon we were served tea. Later, at 7.30 a.m., breakfast was served. Most of us

**BEING MISERABLE IS A SIGN OF STRONG EGO.**



happened to be in the same coach of the train. So our holiday effectively started in the train itself!

Before reaching Moradabad station, we organized local Moradabadi dal and jalebi for everyone – a pleasant surprise for the group. Everyone was carrying some eatables that we shared among ourselves. Time passed just like that, and we reached Kathgodam around 11:40 a.m. Wow was the word that escaped from our lips, as we completed the first half of the journey!

At Kathgodam, staff members from Woodsvilla Resort were waiting to receive the group. We were served tea, pakora, soft drinks, and water at the station. It took about an hour to come outside and settle down in the bus and other vehicles, which were there to take us to the resort.

Just after Kathgodam, the hilly area starts. It takes around three hours to reach Woodsvilla Resort, though it is just 90 kilometres away. Before reaching Woodsvilla, we stopped at Kainchi dham, the famous ashram of Neem Karoli Baba. This is where Steve Jobs of Apple spent a number of months before returning to the US. Kainchi is located midway between Kathgodam and Ranikhet after passing through Bhowali. There is a small eatery, which is known for its kari pakora, mix pakora, and tea, which was enjoyed by everyone apart from darshan of Kainchi Temple.

We reached Woodsvilla Resort at Majkhali around 3.30 p.m. On the way, we crossed the Army Golf Course, a

unique establishment surrounded by hills and covered by tall trees. We checked into the Resort, freshened up, and around 5 p.m. Lucknowi chaat waiting for all.

We were served chaat on the huge terrace next to Restaurant Cloud 9 of Woodsvilla Resort. The sun started setting slowly. The rays of the sun lighted up the peaks, and then there was the sunset – it was breath-taking!

I forgot to share this earlier: we had professional musicians with us for the program scheduled for the nights. After enjoying food on the terrace, everyone went back to their rooms. We again met up around 8 p.m. This time the venue was the multipurpose hall, which is located just below Restaurant Cloud 9.

We stayed for three nights at the Resort, and all of us had different plans for each night before the dinner. Mr. SP Rawal was the main source to organize all the musical evenings.

Everyone sang on the first night along with dancing on the music. Then I announced that next day the sunrise would take place at 5.30 a.m. There would be Yoga session at 6.30 a.m. For those who wanted to go for a Jungle Walk, there would be a guide available. The walk was to start at 7 a.m. We also had the company of Rashmi Govil, who is a professional Yoga teacher from Gurgaon and a member of our music group and she thrilled everyone with her Yoga class along with meditation.

It appears from the terrace of the restaurant while looking at down to the various villages as stars have come

**KEEP YOURSELF SO BUSY THAT YOU HAVE NO TIME TO GET BORED.**

at surface. It is really most beautiful view with total silence in night.

All were tired after the day's exertions. But most of the members were up at 5:30 a.m. the next day to watch the sunrise, which could be viewed from the balcony of every room. Some of us joined the Yoga class, while others went for the Jungle Walk. The walk was simply amazing! Down the road, there is a village named Digoti. It is roughly a 45-minute walk. Birds were chirping, and there was fresh breeze and chill in the air.

Everyone was hungry by the time breakfast was ready and served at Restaurant Cloud 9. We sat outside on the open terrace under the sun and watched the snowy peaks of the Himalayas.

After the morning session, everyone assembled outside the restaurant for a game. We were able to organize a picnic lunch at the beautiful mess of Dogra Regiment, the food was arranged from the Resort. We used to organise picnic lunch at Ranikhet Army Golf Course, it was also a great fun to have lunch with beer at Golf Course and also some members including spouses, had played putting on the Golf Course. The lunch at Army Golf Course was always coordinated by our member Gen. Uban.

We returned to the Resort around 4 p.m., and enjoyed the evening tea with bread pakoras and cookies.

Like on the first night, there was a bonfire to go with the program on the second night. Many senior Indian Army officers were our guest for the

evening. The Deputy Commandant of the 99 Mountain Brigade at Chaubatia, Col. also played Saxophone, which made everyone dance to the tune.

On the third day, after yoga and morning walk, we had breakfast. Some of us went to play at the golf course. Later, a city tour was organized. There is a very famous temple, Jhula Devi Temple, dedicated to the goddess Jhula Devi. There are a large number of hanging bells, offered by devotees, in the temple. After a wish gets fulfilled, a bell is offered by the particular devotee. It is also said that the wishes of the devotees get fulfilled at the next visit to the temple. Later we visited the Kumaon Regimental Centre, which is housed in an old church; where you can buy handmade shawls and tweed for suits sweaters, jam, and jelly, among other items being manufactured by the Army officers wives. After that we visited the Kumaon Regimental Centre Museum, where we could gain insights into the history of the region.

On way back, some of the members stopped at Umang, a local initiative to involve village ladies; by Mr. and Mrs. Paul where apart from hand woven shawls; local jams, jellies, dals etc. are sold on very cheap rates.

Then we returned to the resort, had lunch, and relaxed for a while. After that we were invited by the Commander of the 99 Mountain Brigade at Chaubatia to visit the helipad, which is at a height of 7000 feet above the sea level. We were served tea and snacks at the mess. We were also shown Jhurmath, which is an extremely well-maintained antique guest-house of four rooms where senior visiting officers of the Indian Army can stay.

On the third night, our last at Ranikhet, we again invited Indian Army officers and local residents for dinner. There was music and dance, and bonfire and snacks. We were really at Cloud9 as Army Band also joined that evening.

After breakfast, on the fourth day, we left the resort around 11 a.m. to catch the Shatabdi Express at 3.30 p.m. from Kathgodam. Before reaching Kathgodam Station, we stopped at Udupiwala, which serves the most delicious dishes from the southern part of India. It is hardly a 15-minute drive from Kathgodam Station.

*continued on page 9...*

**BEGIN TODAY WITHOUT THE HANG-UPS OF YESTERDAY.**

## EASY-RIDING



There is saying that whenever a Madrasi (Punjabis' omnibus term for all those south of the Vindhyas) child is born, his feet are towards Delhi; because sooner or later he 's going to land up there – either as an IAS officer or a steno! Our Central Government is so full of these brainy guys. And so are the colonies, be it R.K Puram or Sarojini

Nagar or WEA and now even Janakpuri and all those Vihars across the Yamuna. However, what a North Indian usually associates a Madrasi – TAMILIAN to be precise – with is neither his survival instinct nor his intellect but his frugal nature!

I remember the hilarious story our late friend Hari Hiranandani used to tell about the time he travelled to Madras by G.T. Express. There was our Sindhi Bhai – resplendent in a three-piece shark-skin suit – boarding the first class coupe half an hour before departure time, so that his porter could safely bring in his hold-all, suit case, food basket, surahi of water, reading material etc. The he had to arrange for ice slabs, order tea, breakfast... ..a hundred details to be attended to.

And precisely two minutes before the train was to steam out of New Delhi station in walked a Madrasi clutching a small duffel bag under his arm, and sat down beside our friend. Hari was worried. He thought the guy had boarded the wrong train; he couldn't be undertaking a 48-hour journey without luggage; in any case this little fellow in chappals and lungi couldn't be a first class passenger. But before he could voice his concern the train had started and our man was

engrossed in his newspaper.

Come dinnertime and Hari had his 'dastarkhan' laid out – plates, cutlery, hot case, napkin, everything was there. A perfunctory "would you like some dinner" and he proceeded with the serious business of eating. Meantime, the train stopped at a small station; our lungiwala got down, grabbed something from the platform vendor and his dinner was over. He climbed on to the upper berth, undid his lungi, spread it like a sheet and was fast asleep before Hari Bhai could even finish his meal.

Morning, while Hari was still laying out his shaving kit, towels, dressing gown, etc, our friend from down South had a quick bath, dried himself with his lungi and then proceeded to dry it by tying it to the window bars. Soon he was again ready for the day with the clean white lungi tied round his waist, this time double-folded, perhaps more appropriate for the hot day.

The same story was repeated the next night and the following morning



LIFE IS NOT INDIVIDUALITY,  
ALTHOUGH IT MANIFESTS THROUGH INDIVIDUALS.

while our Sindhi 'gentleman' meticulously went through the motions of changing clothes, getting his bed made and rolled up, ordered and devoured elaborate meals and complained generally about the lack of ice slabs and the discomfort of travelling. But the guy in the multipurpose lungi was at peace with himself. He ate quick small meals from the platforms, read voraciously during the day and slept like a baby at night.

Finally they reached Madras. The lungiwala clutched his duffel, waved good bye and walked out while Hari waited for a porter to carry his luggage. He was quite distraught seeing no red-shirted ones around when a funny little fellow in doubled up lungi and no shirt walked up and asked if he needed porters. "Yes. Where?" said Hari. "Here", said the little man and waved in a few others when he saw that the 'suited-booted'saheb had lots of luggage.

One picked up the holdall, another one the suit case, the third one the surahi and fourth the food and basket. Finally, when the fifth looked sad having found nothing to carry, Hari, generous to a fault, couldn't see this; he handed over his "Reader's Digest" to the guy and said, "Here, you carry this, my good man."

Already dumbfounded by the amazing companion in his multipurpose lungi. Hari's bewilderment was complete when he stepped out and found our man being garlanded by a whole lot of people. Then he read a banner and realised that he had travelled for two nights with a well known industrialist of TamilNadu!

**Krishan Kalra (P-4530)**  
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We reached the station and boarded the train. On the way back, we sang while remembering the wonderful time spent together at Ranikhet. After dinner on the train, we were back in Delhi.

So this is our story of one of the visits to Ranikhet. We have had so many trips during these past 20 years, and we cherish every one of them! We think it is the best way to strengthen the bonds of friendship and camaraderie.

Tourists also visit places like Almora, Kausani and Binsar forest which has a beautiful drive at 1-2 hours.

Apart from leisure trips, our architect friend, Mr. Surinder Sareen who has become our spiritual leader, organizes 3-4 trips per year to Jageshwar Dham, which is a Shiv Dham and very famous for Mrityunjaya Jaap. On the way people visit Golu Devta temple, which is very popular in the hills of Kumaon.

We had also organized a lot of eye and heart camps at Woodsvilla Resort with the help of doctors of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and National Heart Institute, New Delhi. We have also had eye operations in Herakhan Hospital of Ranikhet. The contribution of Dr. Ashok Grover and Dr. OP Yadav for these camps was great help to the local people. We are also thankful to chairman late Dr. Sama for these camps.

For some years now Madhu ji another spiritual leader also takes her group to the Babaji cave apart from holding medical camps. Babaji cave is just at 1:30 hour drive and many foreign and indian disciples visit throughout the year making our resort as a base.

We can't forget the visits by Prakarta Maa and Vineeta Ji from Shanti Niketan for taking many trips for spiritual and meditation initiative.

In these different and difficult times, our friends are looking forward to leave the confines of their homes to again visit Woodsvilla Resort in Ranikhet – to refresh old memories, and make new ones!

**Vipin Aggarwal**  
P-4819

LIVING INTELLECTUALLY IS BONDAGE, LIVING INTELLIGENTLY IS FREEDOM.

## ARAB – ISRAEL BONHOMIE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA.



India's stand towards the newly established State of Israel was impacted by many factors, including India's own partition on religious lines, and India's relationship with other nations. While Mahatma Gandhi believed that the Jews had a good case and a prior claim for Israel, yet India voted against the 1947 Partition of Palestine Plan and Israel's admission to the UN in 1949, so as not to offend the sentiments of the Arab countries. On 17 September 1950, India eventually recognized Israel. In 1953, Israel was permitted to open a consulate in Bombay. Not wanting to compromise relations with the Arab world and jeopardize the lively hood of large numbers of Indians working in the Gulf who contributed to India's foreign exchange needs, India did not pursue full diplomatic relations with Israel for many years. India's dependence on the Arab world for its energy needs was another reason for the lack of normalization of ties with Israel. This policy continued till 1990s

After decades of non-aligned and pro-Arab policy, India formally established relations with Israel when it opened an embassy in Tel Aviv in January 1992. In 1997, Ezer Weizman became the first Israeli President to visit India. In 2003, Ariel Sharon was the first Prime Minister of Israel to visit India and in 2015, Pranab Mukherjee became the first President of India to visit Israel and also to address the Knesset. In July 2017, Narendra Modi became the first ever Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel. Since then, India's relations with Israel have not looked back. India and Israel are now cooperating in every field – military, intelligence, water, agriculture, space, science & technology to name a few.

India's growing ties with Israel has not impacted its

relations with the Gulf States, which speaks volumes for its diplomacy, and Indians continue to work and prosper in the Middle East. If anything, the events of the recent past have only strengthened India's relations with the Arab world.

In 2015, US, UK, France, China, Russia & Germany signed a nuclear deal with Iran to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. Under the agreement, Iran agreed to limit its sensitive nuclear activities



and allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities in return for the lifting of crippling economic sanctions. Two countries were most unhappy with this deal – Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Israel opposed the nuclear deal as it felt it wouldn't succeed in preventing Iran developing nuclear weapons and will allow the country to exert greater influence in the region. Iran on its part continued to verbally attack Israel and call for its destruction even after signing the nuclear deal.

HAPPINESS LIES IN THE MIND; NOT IN OBJECTS.

Saudi Arabia believes that Iran wants to dominate the region, bring all Shia Arabs under its influence and even control Mecca & Medina. They fear that a nuclear armed Iran would become a regional superpower. Iran already has influence in Shia dominated Iraq (thanks to the US lead invasion of Iraq, the Sunni minority government of Saddam Hussein was toppled and Shia majority government established), has allies in Syria and has influence over Shia Hazbollah in Lebanon bordering Israel. Saddam's Iraq acted as a buffer between Iran & Saudi Arabia but now the two are in a state of Cold War and have been fighting a proxy war in Yemen for many years with no clear outcome. Iran also enjoys the tacit support of Russia as Saudi Arabia is supported by the US.

Saudi Arabia was the first country visited by Donald Trump in May 2017 as President. Then in May 2018, USA officially withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal and in the same month reallocated the country's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. More recently, Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and his point man in the Middle East brokered a historic deal to normalize relations between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain and with perhaps other Arab countries to follow. Bahrain, which is economically and militarily dependent upon Saudi Arabia (majority Shiite population ruled by Sunni Al Khalifa family since 1783), would never have consented to this



deal without Saudi approval. This deal is strategically convenient for both Israel and Saudi Arabia though ideologically they continue to be poles apart. This has the potential to transform the strategic environment in the Middle East, isolating and reducing the influence of Iran and in turn Russia. This historic deal was soon followed by a deal, which went mostly unreported in Indian media, between Serbia & Kosovo and the normalization of the relationship of these two countries with Israel. Kosovo is the first Muslim country to have its embassy in Palestine and Serbia is the first European country to have its embassy in Palestine much to the chagrin of the EU.

Then there is Turkey, which, for years has been trying to westernize and join the EU but has not been accepted. This led the country and its politicians to reflect upon its choices. Being a majority Muslim country, the Erdogan regime has opted to move on and restore it to its past glory of the Ottoman era which spanned over 600 years and ended only in 1922 with the defeat of Turkey in the First World War and the establishment of Turkish Republic. At its height, the Ottoman Empire was the leader of the Islamic world. Erdogan and his supporters believe that Turkey

**AS SOON AS YOU BECOME OPTIMISTIC,  
YOUR SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT IS FILLED WITH PEACE AND JOY.**

should, once again, revert to that exalted position currently enjoyed by Saudi Arabia. His conversion of the Byzantine era churches, which till recently were museums, to mosques is a step in that direction.

With Saudi Arabia continuing to be a major player in the Muslim world wielding influence within the OIC and the OPEC and with Israel having normalized relations with most Arab countries, these developments, besides having major implications for the Middle East could, serendipitously, have implications for India. For one, it puts Pakistan in a quandary; it now has to choose between staying in relationship with Saudi Arabia which is now aligned with Israel or continue to forge a relationship with Turkey. Thanks to its nuclear arsenal, Pakistan began to perceive it's self as the leader of the Islamic world and continues to insist it will not recognize Israel. Its entire foreign policy is centered on Kashmir for which it tried to drum up support within the OIC but failed. Seeking support in the name of Islamic solidarity doesn't appear to have much currency in the shifting sands of the Arab world. It's not worked for Palestine, how will it now work for Pakistan? Pakistan's move to create an alternative to the OIC with Turkey and Malaysia, ostensibly for support for its stand on Kashmir, was quickly demolished by Saudi Arabia. And once Mahathir Mohammad ceased to be the Prime Minister of Malaysia, its economic interest forced it to cozy up to India. Pakistan is now an outlier. It tried mending fences with Saudi Arabia but with not much success so far. Given that it's a Sunni majority country where Shias are routinely prosecuted and killed, it's unlikely to cozy up to Iran. And what purpose would that serve anyways? Also, how does it benefit being with Turkey? Its economy is in shambles and it owes billions to China for the CPEC. China needs the deep water port at Gwadar to reduce dependence on The Malacca Strait which, at its narrowest is only 2 kms wide. And with Navies of USA, India, Australia, Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia & Indonesia keeping the Strait warm, it needs a port to secure its energy supplies via the Arabian Sea. China will not

let go of Pakistan and consequently Pakistan will have to take sides with the country/grouping which serves China's strategic goals better. If Trump returns to power, US – China relations will continue to be on a boil and with US supporting India against China, it's unlikely Pakistan will walk into the Israel-Saudi camp.

For India, with its growing proximity to USA and deepening friendship with Israel, these developments couldn't have come at a better time. India's relations with Saudi Arabia and UAE have never been better. With the Chinese dragon breathing down its neck, India is currently in a much stronger position to stand up to the threat and strike a deal at the negotiating table. India may also use this opportunity to show some magnanimity and extend an olive branch to Pakistan to try and resolve the Kashmir imbroglio which has vexed this region for over seven decades. Certainly Pakistan would not be very comfortable being under the heavy boot of big brother China and sidelined by the major Islamic powers. Any respectful passage that can get it out from under the mountain of debt should normally be welcomed. Can India work out a deal with the generals and agree on a definitive boundary between the two countries ending decades of animosity and terrorism?

**Arun K Batra**  
**(P-4148)**

**DO NOT SPEAK OR DO ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD NOT LIKE TO BE SPOKEN OR DONE TOWARDS YOU.**

# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

## (Title-Harassment at Workplace)

Date: September, 2020

### Purpose:

1. Delhi Gymkhana Club Ltd. is committed to providing a work environment that is free from all forms of discrimination, bullying and harassment.
2. Club will not tolerate Harassment of employees by managers, supervisors, or co-workers.
3. Club also will not tolerate Harassment of its employees by non-employees with whom Delhi Gymkhana Club has a business, service, or professional relationship, such as vendors, and contractors. Nor will Club tolerate Harassment by its own employees of non-employees.

### Policy Guidelines

1. This Policy extends to all employees of the Company and is deemed to be incorporated in the service conditions of all employees. The Company is committed to providing a workplace free of harassment, and so this policy is intended to be gender



neutral and will apply uniformly in case of harassment of any person, irrespective of the gender of the parties.

2. Employee means a person who is employed / retained at a workplace for any work on regular, temporary, ad hoc or daily wage basis, either directly or through an agent, whether with or without the knowledge of principal employer for a remuneration or no remuneration working on a voluntary basis or otherwise, whether the terms of employment / retention are express or implied and includes a co-worker, a contract worker, consultant, probationer, trainee, apprentice or called by any other such name.

3. Workplace includes all offices / premises / sponsored functions or events / customer / vendor facilities / other facilities and any place visited by employee arising out of or during the course of employment including transportation provided by the employer for undertaking such journey.

4. The Policy applies to all persons involved in the operation of the Company and prohibits harassment, whether directed to employees, applicants for employment, or other people the Company does business with, such as outside vendors, contractor, consultants or customers.

**NEVER TRY TO BE LIKE SOMEONE ELSE.  
LET OTHERS ACCEPT US FOR WHO WE ARE.**

## Form of Harassment:

1. Any form of Harassment on the basis of age, race, colour, religion, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, disability, veteran or military status, marital status, genetic information or any other classification protected under “Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Act, 2013” and a violation of this will be treated as a disciplinary matter. The Club is committed to a workplace free of such misconduct.

2. Harassment includes verbal, physical, written (including electronic mail) and visual conduct that creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile working environment.

## Disciplinary Action:

1. Any employee found to violate above mentioned guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action including termination of employment and even beyond.

2. With regards to acts of Harassment or discrimination by contractors or vendors, appropriate corrective action will be taken after consultation with the appropriate management personnel.

## Impact:

1. The Harassment interferes with an employee’s work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.



## Investigation Procedures:

1. Club cannot help resolve a Harassment situation unless it knows about it. Therefore, it is the employee’s responsibility to bring concerns and/or problems to the Club’s attention so that it can take whatever steps are necessary to address the situation.

2. Managers who receive complaints or who observe harassing conduct or discrimination should inform at Human Resources Department in writing immediately.

3. The complainant gives a written document describing the complaint, support documents/ witnesses if any, action expected and names of specific personnel if any for corrective action.

4. Comments of the Secretary on the complaint and interview with recommended action.

5. Comments of the HR on complaint and interview if complaint was shared.

6. The required documents must be circulated a day in advance with the Gender Panel Committee.

7. It is important the Committee’s time be taken seriously and the Committee have the opportunity to control the proceedings and investigate all angles of the Club’s involvement for making necessary recommendations to the GC.

# LUCKNOW



A.K. Srivastava

I was lucky enough to come across this book in the library. Glancing through it I realised that I have found a gem. Serendipitous, I believe is the word. Mir taqi Mir's detailed and moth watering description of the menu of a banquet hosted for Warren Hastings. The lovely names of Wajid Ali Shah's army regiments, how the nawabs became kings and

much more

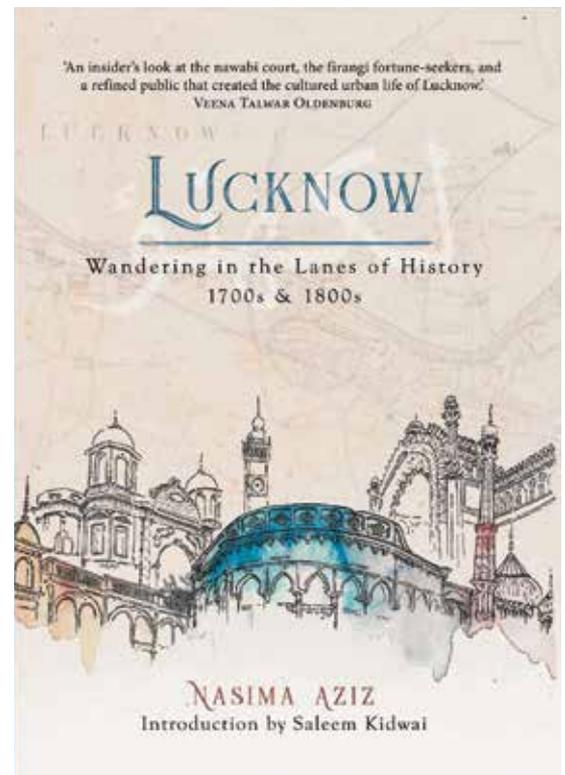
The author, born and brought up in Lucknow, has travelled around the world with her diplomat husband. The result is an account rooted in Lucknow and yet informed by a world-view which seems to have strengthened the local cultural values of her heritage.

The book is mainly about the 18th. and 19th. centuries but some earlier and later information is also given to make the book a richer source of information and pleasure.

Saleem Kidwai, in his introduction, talks about an Anglo-Indian girl around the mid twentieth century who led a dual life. As Miss Rose she performed in the cabaret at Mayfair and as Miss Gulab became a kathak dancer at melas and cultural functions.

In her introductory chapter the author talks about the trinity of Mayfair Cinema, Kwality Restaurant and Ram Advani Book Shop. All, unfortunately, now gone.

The book is not only a history of Nawabs and The East India Company. The various facets of the lucknawi culture- food, music, architecture, literature are described with deep knowledge and understanding. It ranges from the lives of senior officials to life on the street. There are courtesans, poets and also an English barber. Reading the description of food, including a very detailed account of the difference between biryani and pulao, is very tantalising. The bottom line seems to be that pulao is for the sophisticates of Lucknow while Biryani is for the



roughnecks of Delhi. I wonder what the author served at her diplomatic parties.

Expert book reviewers say that some weaknesses should also be pointed out to show that the reviewer knows his stuff. All right, then. There is no mention of loafing butterflies in the winter sunshine. But, on a serious note, the absence of any mention of chikankari is a bit surprising. In Trotter-Nama, which is largely about Nucklow, Sealy has mentioned, "gossamer bodices, chikan-worked, of which a courtesan may put on twelve and still not be modestly clad."

The jonk wali was among the street vendors who used to go around. She had leeches which were used for bloodletting. Apparently, the anti-coagulant which the leeches injected into the body so that they could gorge on the blood, acted as blood thinner.

NEVER PLAY THE ROLE OF SELF-APPOINTED JUDGE OF THE WORLD.

She did not sell leeches, but provided a service.

Another important service provider who went around was the chap who removed ear wax. This person was onto a good thing. Not only was he paid by the persons whose ears were cleaned, the ear wax which he collected commanded very good price. Elephant fights were popular and the ear wax was fed to them to make them aggressive.

Those who know their Mughal history will remember that among the many reasons for the annoyance of Jehangir with his son Khusrau was that the latter's elephant routed Jehangir's in a very prestigious tournament in Agra.

Elephants were a fairly common mode of transport for respectable gentlemen. "It was as common in these circles as a horse". How these heavy maintenance animals were kept in large numbers, you have to guess. One is reminded of horse drawn carriages near Central Park, New York and in Bruges in Belgium. The horses have to wear diapers. I doubt that the elephants were so dainty. If the Lucknow roads were clean, the municipality must have been super-efficient.

Some chapters are entitled Chehel-Pehel. The author's explanation for choosing this title is very interesting. "Chehel-pehel is a group activity that is less hurried than to-ing and fro-ing; more elegant than gadding about; not as loud as hubbub, more like a lovely hum; one beat quicker than a stroll, more purposeful than meandering; more refined than running hither and



thither, less hectic than hustle and bustle--"

In 1580, Emperor Akbar decided to divide his realm into twelve subahs, each under a Subedar. Awadh was designated a subah, with Lucknow as capital. Shaikh Abdur Rahim Bijnori was the first Subedar. Over the years, the descendants of Abdur Rahim and other holders of the office came to be known as Shaikhzadas. Like the Mughals, the Shaikhzadas were Sunnis. They ruled as Subedars till 1722 till a Persian, Saadat Khan, a Shia was appointed as the first Nawab.

By this time, the Mughal emperor had become weak, so the Nawab could establish his own dynasty. But the Nawab and his successors had to deal with a much more difficult protagonist-the East India Company.

There were a total of ten Nawabs, the first, as mentioned above, being Saadat Khan and the last was Wajid Ali Shah. How the Shah got added to the name is an interesting story.

Nawab Saadat Khan ruled from 1722 to 1739. He shifted his capital from Lucknow to Faizabad from where the first three Nawabs ruled.

Nawab Shuja ud-daula ruled from 1754-1775. His reign was eventful and troublesome. The battle of Plassey took place in 1757 after which the Mughal Emperor became much weaker. The real blow for Awadh came in the Battle of Buxar in 1764 in which the EIC defeated the combined forces of the Mughal Emperor and Nawabs of Bengal and Awadh.

**HAVE STRENGTH TO SAY 'NO' AND THE COURAGE TO LISTEN 'NO'.**

The Treaty of Allahabad, 1765 had the following provisions about Awadh;

1. Hand over the Allahabad and Kara;
2. Pay Rs.5 million to the Company;

The Company adopted a policy of a new treaty every time a new Nawab was appointed and every time a new Governor General took over. Each treaty was more ruinous for the Nawab than the previous one.

The Company became very rapacious and grasping. In 1772 they demanded another treaty and got it. By this the Company sold back Allahabad and Kara to the Nawab for Rs.5 million. At that time, the EIC was in dire financial straits due to famine, maladministration and corruption. Therefore, Allahabad and Kara were sold back to the Nawab. It is well known that the tea tax was imposed to help the British tide over their difficulties, leading to the loss of American colonies in 1776.

If you are wondering why the capital was shifted back to Lucknow, the answer is simple. Nawab Asaf ud-Daula wanted to get away from his domineering mother.

This Nawab built a number of grand buildings in Lucknow including the ***bhul bhulaiya*** which was constructed as a famine relief work. Dalrymple says that the Mughal Emperor also toyed with the idea of a similar project in Delhi but he gave it up because



***Bhul Bhulaiya, Lucknow***

he had no money. The Nawab was popular and about him it was said, "***Jis ko dey na Maula, usko dey Asaf ud-daula.***"

Wajid Ali Shah became the Nawab in 1847 and continued till 1856. A lot has been written about his love for music and dance etc. These were bad optics for a ruler.

Dalhousie was the Governor General and he wanted to gobble up Indian states (Satara, Sambhalpur, Nagpur, Jhansi, Tanjore, Arcot and others). Sleeman, the Resident in Lucknow sent an adverse report and the Nawab was deposed in 1856. He set out for Calcutta to plead his case with the Governor-General. He composed the following poem when he was leaving Lucknow:

***"Babul mora naihar chooto he jaye".***

This has been made immortal by K.L. Sahgal

The plan was that if necessary, he will go to London to plead with Queen Victoria. Qurratulain Hyder in her, "Aag ka Darya" says that the Hindu populace sang this doggerel, "***Hazrat jatey hain London; kripa karo Raghunandan.***" Lovely example of Ganga – Jamuni culture.

Wajid Ali Shah did not have the energy to go to London, but his mother, a very feisty lady, did go. The 1857 uprising happened and that put paid to all her efforts. On the way back, she died in Paris. Wajid Ali Shah passed away in Calcutta in 1887, the golden jubilee year of Queen Victoria.

The book is strongly recommended for those interested in Lucknow and Awadh.

**A.K. Srivastava  
(P-3862)**

**IT IS A FOLLY TO BE WISE AMONGST FOOLS.**

# EDUCATION & ITS DISCONTENTS



While of late it is the National Education Policy that has been on the political anvil, education as a whole has been a much discussed

topic ever since the pandemic swept away life as we knew it and imposing on us strict laws of social distancing. It has for one certainly altered the manner in which humankind will henceforth conduct the process of delivering and acquiring knowledge. In a nutshell this translates into the transformation of the literal classroom into a virtual one, and virtual in this instance will no longer be a marginal add-on to the hegemonic contact classroom of yore comprising of back benchers, nerds and aspiring Romeo's but would now rule the roost as the prime mode of teaching. This entails problems of its own for both the teacher and the pupil and as an old hat with the institution my two-pence worth observation regarding this new normal was that whereas earlier it was the students enticing professors into conversational diversions now the tables had turned and it was my ilk who are time and again tapping on the virtual presences on their retina screens to make sure that online learners were all there, all attentive and most of all motivated.

The prognosis, to begin with, was grim.

Data analysis indicates that the virtual learning curve shows a downward incline as learners are not often inclined towards venturing further onto newer and unexplored frontiers of knowledge. But then, analysis, as we know, changes with every minuscule alteration in the social dynamic. Narratives to the contrary soon surfaced and told of a truth other than the one propounded by the purists. One such narrative that stayed with me runs thus - a scholar once ventured into an online course on Shakespearean tragedy and for a lark enrolled for the entire semester. The fascination was lifelong despite the virtual reality platform, and he went on to becoming one of the finest researchers on the bard on our planet today.

Digitized books, including rare volumes along with advanced CAD and CAM techniques certainly establish the ease of online learning. Nonetheless conversation regarding this new normal continued to rage, and that too in the most unlikely of spaces – the coffee tables of the Lutyens upper-class wherein the dilemma being thrashed out was as to whether it would be advisable to defer overseas education by a year (hoping the pandemic would have disappeared by then or humankind have gotten a firm control over it), or not? Between the tingle of fine porcelain and sugar tongs, conversation veered, very practically, towards the benefits of currency saved in not having to pay for the brat's overseas board and lodging for an entire year!! Pretty much reminiscent of the chicken and egg debate but the truth remained unsaid. None of us were prepared to forgo life as experienced on a university campus. Nothing, absolutely nothing can substitute the thronging diversity of humankind and the dynamic that thus emerges, as one experiences in the University.

The pandemic in this regard has provided us insight into the fundamental error of our civilization ideology which is the deeply flawed disavowal of diversity as witnessed in the swerve towards racism and ethnic alienation in our societies today. So being silently complicit with the ethnic homogenization at work either in our land or in the distant Americas is truly against the grain and this most unlikely of nexus's – education and the pandemic - has sorted out what it means to be truly human.

**Simran Chadha (U-1041) teaches Literatures in English and Literary Theory at a Delhi University college.**

LAUGH AT YOURSELF, SMILE AT OTHERS.

# BEAUTY IS IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER



**D**elhi Gymkhana Club..... It's 12.30 pm and the nonagenarian, well into her nineties is anxiously waiting for her elder brother's hair-cut to get over so that he can join her for lunch. Even the waiter knew their standard soul food - sweet corn chicken soup followed by grilled fish and caramel custard

as dessert in the end. Happy and hungry they gorged on the meal while exchanging notes on each other's children and reminiscing old times. The hair-cut was just an excuse, for the fun lay in the adventure of planning and reminding each other of the date, which usually both always got mixed up. This was a cheerful lunch tradition at the Delhi Gymkhana Club which the brother-sister had started a few years ago and continued even in their nineties.

One day, my son Shiv Khanna accompanied his grandfather Madan Mohan Kishan Wali to the Club for his hair-cut followed by the regular brother-sister lunch. The conversation led to discussions on the generation gap widening at an alarming speed, and somehow gravitated towards the concept of beauty. My Bua, Dr Shanta Wazir Bhargava (Membership No L-0638) asked Shiv whether he thought beauty is subjective-located 'in the eye of the beholder,' or whether it is an objective feature of beautiful things. Before he could reply, she revealed that in her younger days when they were searching for a prospective bride for Madan she had categorically asked him what he desired in a woman. As always, his response was terse and to the point. He said, "tantalising beauty".

At that time the three of them laughed it away as a usual male outlook; although Shiv was a little taken aback and could not digest that his grandfather whom

he thought was quite a sombre intellect could be so frivolous about his life partner. Unable to contain his curiosity any longer, the moment they reached home Shiv put a feeler question to his grandfather as to what exactly did he mean.

His grandfather said, "Young man, your generation is so obsessed with physical beauty and products that you tend to judge a person's character on the basis of their appearance. Remember the saying that appearances are often deceptive."

Shiv persisted probing, "Then what did you mean by tantalising beauty? Obviously it pertains to a person's looks".

"You are wrong," his grandfather retorted. "True beauty is a unique mix of a beautiful heart and a radiant soul, which only can be gained through knowledge and education. A person with a beautiful heart is happy and spreads happiness and positivity and knows how to tackle problems of life."

"You know so much about music and poetry, so have you heard of Lalleshwari?," he enquired. Shiv was totally flummoxed. If his grandfather had asked him about Carole King, Cindi Lauper, Madonna or Beyonce he would have answered. But this name was totally foreign to him.

Seeing Shiv's perplexed expression his grandfather replied, "You should know your roots! Lal Ded, or simply Lalla, as many liked to call her, was not just a medieval woman poet in whose verse we hear the first heart-beats of Kashmiri poetry; she is the most powerful symbol of Kashmir's civilizational ethos. Kashmiri

**VALUE EVERYTHING THAT WE HAVE AND REALIZE THAT THERE ARE MANY WHO DO NOT HAVE WHAT WE DO.**



Pandit women, commonly known as 'Bhattyein', have always been ahead of their times. I am proud of the fact that Kashmiri culture and tradition has always put a premium on learning, for the world we experience is not the real world it is a mental construction, filtered through our physical senses."

Shiv grandfather asked him if he remembered the 'Thaal' his grandmother arranged in the morning of Navreh or navroj (New Year). "In addition to the standard items used by other communities like flowers etc., an essential part is the ink pot and pen. Early morning this thaal is shown to every member of the household, irrespective of gender

symbolising equal opportunity of education and learning." A notable feature of early Kashmiri society was the relative high regard in which women were held. Most Kashmiri families had a strong tradition of learning, and women's accomplishments during their times were significant. Without there being any organised women's movement they began to explore career opportunities. Awakened to their talents all three of my father's sisters followed careers throughout their lives. Usha Wali chose to remain single in a time when a single working woman was unheard of, and till her last day proud of being economically self-sufficient.

He continued, "Now-a-days the system of education only puts pressure on students to get more marks completely ignoring physical activities. It has been forgotten that academic learning and sports education complement each other. Remember the old saying, "All work and No Play makes Jack a Dull boy". In our times sports education accompanied academic curriculum, inculcating qualities of leadership, sharing, team spirit and tolerance. Kashmiri pandit women took the lead and

Prabha Shivpuri Ganju, was Captain Baseball team; Shakti Kaul Bhan, tennis champion and Veena Tikoo Channa represented Delhi State in Women Swimming, to name a few.

Shanta Bua who had started the discussion and was now a mute spectator perked up and proudly claimed, "In the State of Jammu & Kashmir among the first trained lady doctors were Dr. Prabha Labroo, LMP; followed by Dr. Sheela Razdan, MBBS, 1948; myself Dr. Shanta Wazir, 1949; others included Prof. Dr. Gauri Bazaz Malik, MBBS, MD 1950; Dr. Prabha Ganju, MBBS, 1952; Dr Durga Kaul Gariju MBBS, 1954 and Dr. Shanta Raina."

She added, "Realising their potential educated women also started showing interest in the political field. Shiv let me enlighten you, it is common knowledge

**EVERY TEMPTATION IS A TEST OF YOUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH AND WISDOM.**

that the Constitution of India was adopted by the elected Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949 and came into effect on 26 January 1950. You may be knowing that Dr. B R Ambedkar, fondly referred to as Baba Saheb was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. But tucked away in the annals of history is the contribution of the fifteen female members of the Constituent Assembly – whom your history lesson missed out. Among whom one was a Kashmiri pandit - Vijaylakshmi Pandit, who she was imprisoned by the British on three different occasions, in 1932-1933, 1940, and 1942-1943.”

“What about nani” enquired Shiv.

Prompt came the reply, “Sudha was an alumni of University of Allahabad, which was in those days called the “Oxford of the East”. Its rolls include a president, vice-presidents, prime ministers, and number of chief justices of the Supreme Court, besides a large number of senior bureaucrats; including members of this club.”

“So young lad,” he concluded. “It is no secret that a good education has the power to change a life. It develops a person’s personality and attitude. Refines your speech, gives confidence and makes one value people, all which reflect in your personality. And that is the tantalising beauty I was searching in my life partner.”

**Dr Charu WaliKhanna (P- 5176)**

*The author is an advocate and former member NCW. Presently she is developed youtube channel ‘Parenting Tips with Charu’.*

## Achievements



**Mr JS Bedi (P-3346)** was unanimously re-elected President of Delhi Race Club at its 80th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 26th September 2020.

**Aparna Joshi D/o Vibhas and Shobha Joshi (U0997 D1)**, currently pursuing a degree course in Liberal Arts Utilised her time during the national lockdown constructively by writing two books for the benefit of Senior School Children on the following Topics



As The ICC (International Criminal Court) comes of Age at 18, outlining the role of the International Court of Justice.

India and Her Neighbours : Past, Present and Future  
Both the Books are available on Amazon Kindle.



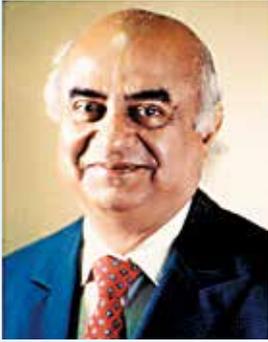
**Bijoy B.Lall** of Modern School, Vasant Vihar, **grandson of Mrs.Kamala Lall and Late Mr.S.S.Lall, and son of Roochi and Bhaskar Lall (U-0661)**, is the School Science Stream Topper with 98% in the Grade XII Board Exam, 2020.

**Devang Sati S/o Mrs Pushpa Sati**, Assistant Librarian, secured 95% in the School Science Stream in the Grade XII Board Exam, 2020.



**THE WORLD DOESN'T OWE YOU ANYTHING, SO STOP COMPLAINING.**

# THE LAST BRITISH SATRAP OF RAJPUTANA



Lieut. Colonel Sir Donald Moyle Field, Chief Minister of the former princely state of Jodhpur from 1935 to 1946 was among the last of the British Raj leaders of Rajputana, now called Rajasthan, to depart from India before its independence.

Donald Field came out to India in the 1920s as a British Army rookie to serve his king and country in an alien environment of North West Frontier Province (NWFP). He found the terrain harsh and inhospitable and its people hostile. This was a phase of his life he rued and longed to return home.

Destiny and circumstances combined to pull him out of the NWFP and propel him into the elite Indian Political Service, the 'eyes and ears' of the British Crown in the

princely States.

The Political Agents, as they were called, donned white tunics with gold braids and epaulettes, long tailing sabres and 'sola topees', adorned with imperial plumes as they rode in horse drawn 'bugees' with proper cavalry support, enough to awe the local citizenry and even the princely rulers.

Field's new career in the Indian Political Service took him to the dizzy positions of Resident in Kashmir, Chief Minister of Udaipur and later of Jodhpur for the longest period from 1935 – 1946.

During this period, Jodhpur was in the thick of India's freedom movement. There were almost daily processions of groups of 'Praja Mandals' (groups of party workers) chanting Gandhi ji's mantra of 'Quit India'. The situation was turning volatile by the day.



*Sir Donald Field, Chief Minister of Jodhpur 1935-46*



*Field Club, Udaipur*

At the height of agitation in the state, according to an apocryphal story, an invitation was extended to Pandit Nehru to visit Jodhpur as a state guest by the then Ruler of Jodhpur, Maharaja Umaid Singh, a wise and farsighted ruler who could read the writing on the wall. There was widespread joy among the people as the news of Nehru's arrival spread.

The preparations for welcoming the second tallest leader of India's freedom movement on his arrival in Jodhpur unnerved Sir Donald Field. He diplomatically remembered a long standing commitment

THE WISE DO NOT LOSE THEMSELVES IN BECOMING INSISTENT AND ARGUMENTATIVE.



*Field Cottage, Mt. Abu*

to join his compatriots in a 'Shikar' (hunting) expedition in the wilds of Central Province (now called Madhya Pradesh) being hosted by the princely rulers of that region.

Prior to his departure for the hunting expedition, Donald Field left a hand written letter addressed to Mr. Nehru with the State's Chief Secretary to personally deliver it to the distinguished guest on his arrival in Jodhpur. In his letter Donald Field conveyed his profuse regret and apologies, owing to an unavoidable out of station commitment, for not being personally present to welcome him in Jodhpur. He to also remind Nehru of the chance meeting that he and his wife, Carmen, had with him on his arrival at a British port.

Nehru took a minute to recollect meeting the British couple and smilingly recalled that Carmen used to invariably join a group of the ships passengers who would surround him on the deck and engage him in long, and animated discussions about India's struggle for freedom

from the British Rule.

Carmen would empathise with India's freedom struggle without letting it be known that her husband, an Englishman, was in the active service of the British Rule in India against which the freedom struggle was being waged.

He came to know this fact only later when she introduced Donald Field to him on alighting from the ship at a British port.

Nehru is said to have graciously reciprocated with his good wishes to the British couple and expressed the hope to meet them in happier times in free India.

Donald Field and his wife left for England in 1946 to retire on his imperial laurels at his country home in England.

The popular 'Field Club' at Udaipur and the 'Field Cottage' at Mount Abu, now a five-star hotel continue to bear testimony to his decade long rule in the princely states of the erstwhile Rajputana.

**R. K. Puri**  
(P-1228)

**rajkpuri1938@gmail.com**

On passing on of those cherished DGC Members who departed from the shores of life, the Club Fraternity solemnly pays its respects and condolences



Maj Gen Lachhman Singh  
Lehl (P-1762)



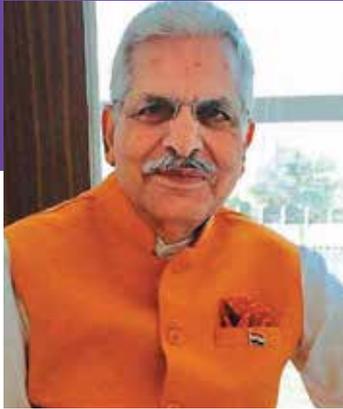
Mr Inder Prakash  
Sanon (P-2108)



Mr Surendra Kumar Jain  
(P-2522)

**YOU NEED NOT HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT EVERYTHING IN LIFE.**

## EDITORIAL



In normal times the new GC would have taken over a week ago but we are passing through abnormal times and hopefully we will soon have an announcement for the fresh elections. Thank you very much for your patience and understanding. This could well be the last issue from the present GC. However a year has passed and surely it calls for introspection of the year gone by. Unfortunately it was not a pleasant year - more like Roller Coaster ride.

Feels like yesterday when we were dancing in “Gymkhana” style with members milling on the Kashmir Lawns, cheering the CDS, General Bipin Rawat, in the company of our President. The CDS has now faced two spirited battles at Galwan Valley (June) and at Pangong Tso (August) that have humiliated the Chinese. Three cheers.

Apart from the devastating effect of

Covid19 crippling the operations of the club, disturbing events have happened with alarming regularity. The saddest part is that it was a consequence of our own doing. Things snowballed to the extent that the courts intervened in our own family affairs. In an unfortunate turn of events things came to such a pass that the government had contemplated and moved the courts to take over the club. Our own “The Delhi Gymkhana Club” with over 100 years of heritage legacy, among the best in the country, second home to many die hard members. At the end of the day who suffered/suffers -- “Our Club”, and people fail to understand that as members we all have a relevance as long as the club thrives. If the Club is effected what’s the point of “your stand” or “my stand”? It is a reality that we as a club have lost some luster and the events have made a dent in its reputation. I trust we can unite to overcome the current unseemly situation. And develop the will to find the way forward. WE MUST.

As conveyed in the last Club Life we are ready starting digital Newspaper/Magazine reading. Will separately send the process to facilitate members to enjoy reading from the comfort of their homes.

Good to see the activities in the club are reopening slowly with all due precautionary measures taken in the interest of the health of our members, this being of prime importance to us. Diners are back at the Kashmir Lawn and with the Weather Gods favouring us with cooler weather it has become a joy to spend a leisurely evening outdoors. Dining facilities in the Dining hall are continuing as per norms. Long awaited Barber’s Shop is already reopened.

I eagerly look forward to the blooming of the old camaraderie and joie-de-vivre at the Delhi Gymkhana. I believe we have the will to make it happen.

**SP Rawal**

**Chairman, Library sub committee & Editor Club Life**

**WE CAN SOAR TO GREAT HEIGHTS WITH THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING.**

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