

The Eagle



(A NEWSLETTER OF ONA)

Special issue

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June 2012

(Dedicated to Gen Bikram Singh)

This is a very special issue of The Eagle. For the first time in the history of the School, an Old Nabhaite has reached the pinnacle of his chosen profession. Hence it is dedicated to none other than **Lt Gen Bikram Singh (B-71, 1968)** whose elevation to the post of Chief of Army Staff of India has brought laurels to our alma mater and made each one of us justifiably proud.

We have, in addition, paid tribute to the visionary Founders of the School at this great historical moment. Indeed, it was their foresight, vision and planning, which has culminated in one of the Old Boys of the School making it to the topmost rung of the ladder in the hierarchy of the mighty Indian Army.

For this issue, I have worked in tandem with **Gurinder Dhanoa(S-9, 1964)** who not only edited the issue but also helped plan its presentation.

This issue comprises three sections:

1. A tribute to the **Founders** of the School, including our Founder- **Headmaster Mr JK Kate**. These were the great men who not only visualised the concept of our School, but also toured and studied other established Public Schools of India and created a model for our School which was finally executed....all this within just over a decade after India won her freedom.
2. This section is dedicated to the “Man of the Moment”, to whom we pay accolades for his laudable achievement: “Lt Gen” Bikram Singh at the time of writing who would be “**General**” **Bikram Singh** by the time this issue is out !
3. A School is best judged by the achievements of its Old Students. In this section, we have listed the Old Nabhaitees who have excelled in their chosen professions and respective fields of activity. The list is by no means exhaustive. It is limited to the extent of our knowledge of the Old Nabhaitees. What we have unwittingly missed out is the information we do not have. If you can supply additional information for future it will be welcome as it will update our knowledge.

Lastly, as The Eagle is an instrument of communication used by the Old Nabhaitees Association within The PPS and ONA fraternity, we have a message at this momentous juncture from the President of the ONA, **Lt Gen TK Sapru (Retd) (S-42, 1964)** who is himself an achiever and was Army Commander of the biggest Strike Force of India (Western Command) till recently.

Dr Jashanjot Singh Bhangu (S-52, 1967)



The Senior School

Kairon Block in 1960

A Dream Realised

(The italics are by authors, simple fonts are excerpts from some historical writings or documents and bold fonts have been used for highlighting a point)

Looking back I feel my father's dream and vision of having a boy from PPS become Chief of Army Staff one day has finally come true. He would have been a proud, proud Headmaster. "Thank you, General"

Jyoti Kate Mahajan (R-52, 1967) wrote to me this month.

It is not only Mr JK Kate, the Founder- Headmaster but also the great visionary Founding Members of The Punjab Public School Nabha (then Sainik School, Nabha) who would be happy and looking down on PPS from the Heavens with justifiable pride at the visible fruits of their labour.

It is only natural to revisit the late-50s to visualise how these innovative minds were working when they planned this great institution; what objectives drove them when they created this School within an incredibly short period of one year, a feat impossible to achieve in the current times. At the entrance to the Singapore Museum on Sentosa Island, there is a quote from the Father of Modern Singapore and its first brilliant Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew: "Societies who do not know their past have no future".

It is well-known who these Visionaries and Founding - Members of PPS were: the astute and dynamic Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, then Chief Minister of Punjab, "The Leader"; Lt Gen Kalwant Singh , "Saviour of Kashmir" and Western Army Commander, "The Chief Executor"

of the Plan; Col Naunihal Singh Mann ,one of the youngest members of Greater Pre-Partition Punjab Assembly , Chairman UPSC, 1945 and Member War Council of India during World War II, “The Initiator” as member of the Post War Services Reconstruction Fund; and Gen PN Thapar, Western Army Commander and later COAS, who conceived and drew up the final model of the School.

*Coming just over a decade after the independence of India, they were amongst the nation’s leaders rebuilding India and dreamt that the School would provide future building blocks and leaders for the nation. **What a dream come true! The PPS has provided Gen Bikram Singh as Leader of the Indian Army.***



Sardar Partap Singh Kairon “The Great Leader”



Lt Gen Kalwant Singh (Chief of the Committee for starting the School)
“The Executor” of the plan



Col Naunihal Singh Mann
“The Initiator”



Gen. PN Thapar (Painting from Western Command Gallery)
Creator of the Final Model of the School

An Idea Conceived

*The following paragraph from an article written about The PPS by **Padmshri Mr JK Kate** titled “Pride of Punjab” describes the conception of the great institute then called Sainik School, Nabha.*

“The P.W.S.R. F. (Post-War Services Reconstruction Fund) Committee had a balance of nearly Rs. Two crores unutilised by 1959, though most of the ex-Servicemen were rehabilitated by then. Therefore, Mr. Pratap Singh Kairon, the dynamic Chief Minister of Punjab, suggested to the Committee to start a school on the lines of one at Dehra-Dun, (perhaps he meant R.I.M.C.). The proposal was approved and an amount of Rs. 39 lakh was earmarked for this project. A sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Lt. General Kalwant Singh was appointed. Col. S. Naunihal Singh, who has been a member of the Board of Governors for the last 25 years, was also a member of that Committee.”



Mr JK Kate and Governor His Excellency Dharamveera coming down Junior School stairs

*The ball was thus set rolling and within one year thereafter, Sainik School Nabha was launched, with **Mr JK Kate** as its Founder- Headmaster. On the inaugural day of the School, he outlined the objectives of the School (as described in the school chronicle) as follows:*

Mr. Kate, after extending a warm welcome to the distinguished guests lauded **Sardap Partap Singh Kairon** for his zeal and untiring efforts to get the school started. He also thanked the Punjab Government and the managing committee of the Post War Services Reconstruction Fund for palatial buildings and financial assistance. He then outlined the aims of the School

- 1) To prepare boys for either the School Certificate (Senior Cambridge) or the Higher Secondary Examination (*at that time Indian equivalent examination*)
- 2) To render all possible assistance and training to boys **whose parents wish** them to appear for the entrance examination to the National Defence Academy, Kharakvasla.
- 3) **To incorporate all the good features of a reputable Public School such as inculcation of leadership and character and the all-round development of personality by means of a well-organized House system, as well as through various societies and hobbies which would serve to bring out the latent talents and creative ability of the individual.**

*And what had **General Kalwant Singh** to say about the mind of the Board of Governors as its representative to the school on its first working day on April 14, 1960? Addressing the students,*

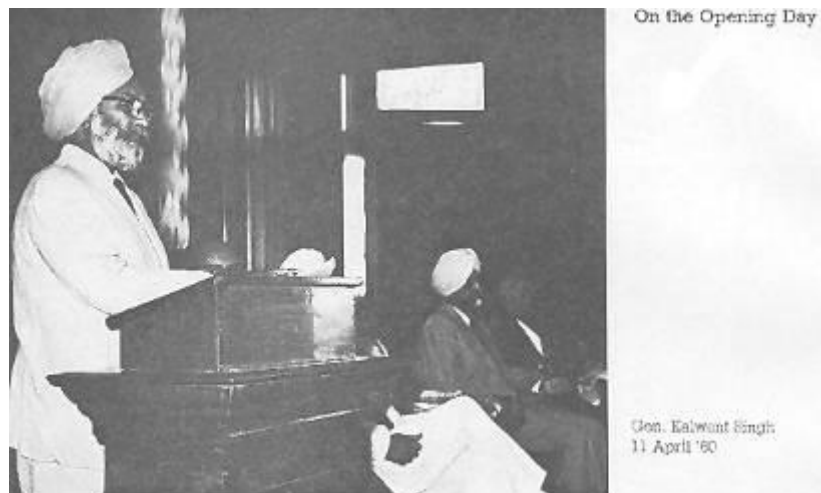
he dwells on what the school will do for them and how the students should grab this opportunity to take their place in the sun and be prepared to fight "The Battle of Life".

Excerpts from the speech by Lt Gen Kalwant Singh on the inaugural day: April 14, 1960

Now, the aim of the School; it is to provide a Public School education to deserving sons of ex-servicemen, serving personnel of the Defence Services **and civilians**, with a view to developing them in body, mind and character and preparing them academically for entry to the **National Defence Academy or for any other suitable career. Another object of the School is to instill in its students a spirit of loyalty, devotion and patriotic service to the country, and to inculcate qualities of leadership, personality, and discipline and team-spirit.**

Military bias is intended to indicate that joining the NCC is compulsory for all boys. **We will prepare you to take your place among the leaders of the future and will try to equip you for the Battle of Life. You are free to choose a Military Career if you want to.**

You, my young friends, especially those who have been awarded scholarships, **must work hard and take full advantage of the opportunity you have been given.** In our country there is a great requirement for young men to come forward and help in the development plans being initiated by our Government.



On April 11, 1961 the School was formally inaugurated by none other than the President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad. After having gone around the School and met the Founding Members and Staff he made the following remarks in his speech:

Excerpts from The President's Speech

It is a pleasure for me to have visited this institution **which is so young in age but full of enthusiasm and hope about the future.** Having started as a Sainik School, that is to say, a school meant only for the sons of ex-servicemen and of those still serving in the Armed Forces, you have now decided to **convert it into a full-fledged public school by widening the basis of admissions so that sons of civilians will also be eligible for admission.** I should think that this change is healthy on the whole, for a broad-based system of admission which can draw pupils from all walks of life is bound to give you a wider field to select from. It also gives an

opportunity to parents belonging to different professional groups to send their children to your school.

This school, which is mainly financed by the Post-War Services Reconstruction Fund and which aims at providing educational facilities to sons of ex-service and serving men, deserves all possible help from the Government and the public. I am glad the Punjab Government has come forward to offer such help in an adequate measure. I have every hope that this institution will soon catch up with similar schools in Punjab and elsewhere and **will continue to grow from strength to strength in the service of the youth and the country at large.**



President HE Dr Rajendra Prasad being escorted by the Founder Headmaster JK Kate. Chairman of the board of Governor HE VN Gadgil and Founder member Gen Kalwant Singh are following.

*Below is an excerpt from the speech (at the same occasion) of Governor VN Gadgil, Chairman of the Board of The Punjab Public School Nabha. He has mentioned the role played by the Govt of Punjab under **CM Sardar Partap Singh Kairon**, which had also been appreciated by the President. He also makes a passing mention about opening of Sainik Schools in Kapurthala and Kunjpura clearly showing The PPS was the leader. The third paragraph in bold letters sums up the thought process of the Founder Members.*

Excerpts from The Chairman's Speech, First Founder's Day

(His Excellency the Governor of Punjab, Shri VN Gadgil)

Mr. President Sir, on behalf of the Board of Governors of this institution, I thank you very much for your visit. We were overjoyed when you accepted our invitation to come here and inaugurate the School.

With regard to the views on education you have expressed in your speech, I would like to say that the Government of Punjab has taken certain definite steps in this direction and has given liberally in this cause.

This institution, which, as you are aware, was brought into being with the help of the Government of Punjab, is still in its infancy, but we devoutly hope and believe that it will develop into a great school and ultimately fulfill in abundant measure the aims and good intents of its founders. We are confident that our enterprise will be crowned with success, especially since you, so great and holy a soul, have bestowed your blessings upon it.

You will, I am sure, be glad to know that the Government of Punjab, under the leadership of our Chief Minister, has decided to start another such institution at Kapurthala and that preparations are already afoot in this connection. Furthermore, the Central Government has decided to open a Sainik School at Jhajar under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence. Steps such as these are undoubtedly a very happy augury for the future of education in our country. Once again, I thank you all and ask your pardon for any inconvenience you may have undergone in coming to join with us in this inauguration ceremony.

*At the same function, the great Founder Headmaster **Mr Kate** in his speech made the following points (School Chronicles compiled by Russeljit Khatra for PPS):*

“If I mistake not, this is the first public school in independent India to be inaugurated by the First Citizen of the country”.

He then outlined the brief history of the School and the various events leading to its successful beginning. He emphasized the commitment of the School to provide quality public school education to the children at fees much lower than any other public school in the country “Our fees are Rs.1,500/- per year, which includes tuition fees, boarding and lodging, text books, stationery, games, medical, washing and bedding. We anticipate that no parent will be required to spend more than an additional Rs.200/- a year to cover the cost of replacement of clothes, pocket money, toilet requisites and travelling expenses. I would however hasten to assure you that our educational standards are in no way sacrificed for the sake of maintaining our fees at a low level. **There cannot be economy on two items; one is staff, and the other is food”.**

His points about austerity without compromising on staff and food are noteworthy and in stark contrast to current attitudes of many such institutions who spend more on frills and fancy publicity and execute programmes that benefit few students but bring more media attention rather than on honing the students’ skills ,and promoting their welfare and well-being.



Chief Guest, Founders ,JK Kate and eminent guests on the Inaugration Day

By 1972, many students had passed out and the School's efforts were showing encouraging results, with a number of boys qualifying to become officers in the defence forces and many moving to professional colleges. A telling comment on a Headmaster's justifiable pride in his wards was clearly visible when **Padamshri was conferred on Mr Kate in 1972 for his contributions to education.**

When asked how he felt when he met the President, he replied that what gave him greater happiness was to see that the three aides who escorted him to the President were his ex students! (From—'JK Kate : A Life Sketch' from old records)

The School now moved from strength to strength. When it turned 25 and celebrated its Silver Jubilee, Col Naunihal Singh Mann (by then the oldest serving member of the School Board) wrote the following about the School's achievements:

From an article "Looking back....." by Col NS Mann (1985)

It is gratifying to mention here the fact that young people educated and trained at this institution have successfully found their vocation in many other fields besides the Defence Services career. To further elaborate this point, it would be appropriate to mention that many of the young men of this institution have found successful business careers abroad and also in the country's various other services like government institutions and the legal profession. Some of the figures, as available from the school records, are given below: -

350 in Defence Services; 200 Engineers; 200 Doctors, 500 in Business, 50 Merchant Navy, 10 Advocates, 150 Farmers, 200 in other various government services, 3 Civil Services and the rest in private firms, abroad and business etc. (*the figures seem on the higher side considering only above 2500 students had passed out by then and at least 400-500 must be in college at that time*)

The above statistics pay a tribute to the broad based education in which our young men are disciplined, taught and trained at this institution.



The Founding Members from right Mr JK Kate, Gen Kalwant Singh, Col Naunihal Singh, Chowdhary Raghuvender Singh (owner of present DLF) and not known



Gen Kalwant Singh and Col Naunihal Singh affectionately interacting with a boy from the School they got off the ground (first Founder's day)

General Bikram Singh

The PPS Roll of Honour for the Year 2010



ROLL OF HONOUR

Awarded by
The Board of Governors of The Punjab Public School, Nabha
to
Lt. Gen. Bikram Singh, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM ✓



President Pratibha Devisingh Patil presenting the Roll of Honour to Lt. Gen. Bikram Singh

Bikram Singh (B-71) joined The Punjab Public School, Nabha on 08 February 1962 where he proved to be a bright all-round student. Besides doing well in academics, he also proved his mettle in sports and extra curricular activities by winning the Athletics Silver Medal in Junior School and Cricket Colours. He was also twice adjudged the best artist. He joined the National Defence Academy in 1968 and passed out from the Indian Military Academy on 31 March 1972 where he was awarded the J&K Rifles Gold Medal in Tactics and Leadership and the Shrinagesh Trophy in Firing.

In the initial stages of his Army career, Bikram was adjudged the Best Young Officer, the Best in Tactics and awarded the Commando Dagger at the Infantry School in 1973. He is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, the Higher Command Course at Mhow and the US Army War College, Pennsylvania, USA. He has held a number of important staff appointments at Army Headquarters, New Delhi which include two tenures each in the Directorate General of Military Operations and the Directorate General of Perspective Planning and, thereafter, as the Director General Staff Duties. During his first two United Nations assignments, he served as the Deputy Chief of Observer Group and Chief Operations Officer of the UN mission in Nicaragua and Chief Operations Officer of the UN mission in El Salvador. His last assignment in the rank of Maj Gen was in Congo, where he was the Deputy Force Commander, and Commander of the multinational Eastern Division, comprising troops from 18 different countries and staff officers of 48 nationalities.

Lt Gen Bikram Singh's significant field and operational tenures include command of an Infantry Battalion, initially in the North East and, thereafter, on the Line of Control in J&K, as well as command of a Rashtriya Rifles Sector in South Kashmir, where he was wounded in operations. Thereafter, he commanded an Infantry Division on the Line of Control, and as Lt Gen, commanded the prestigious 15 Corps in J&K. He now holds the coveted appointment of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command. For his meritorious and distinguished service, he has been awarded Uttam Yudh Sewa Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

He holds two Master's Degrees from India and one from the USA in Strategic Defence Studies, where he also won the International Toastmaster's Award in Public Speaking in 2004.

For attaining exceptional distinction in life as well as doing his alma mater proud, the Roll of Honour is conferred upon him for the year 2009.

His Excellency Shivraj V Patil
Governor of Punjab
Chairman, Board of Governors
The Punjab Public School, Nabha

The Press

Lt-Gen Bikram Singh next Army Chief To take over on May 31, when COAS General VK Singh retires

Ajay Banerjee

Tribune News Service

Defence Minister AK Antony with Army Chief General VK Singh and Lieutenant-General Bikram Singh (R). — PTI
New Delhi, March 3

General Bikram Singh, has been appointed as the next Chief of the Indian Army. Ending months of speculation, the Ministry of Defence today made a formal announcement saying he will be the next Chief of Army Staff and will take over on May 31.

The ministry made a formal announcement this evening. Lt Gen Bikram Singh will be second-ever Sikh, after General JJ Singh (retd), to command the 1.3 million-strong Indian Army. The ministry's spokesperson Sitanshu Kar said in a statement: "Lt Gen Bikram Singh, has been designated as the next Chief of Army Staff, in the rank of General, with effect from the afternoon of May 31, 2012. He will succeed the present, General VK Singh, who retires from the service on May 31 2012".

The present Army Chief, General VK Singh superannuates on May 31. The process to announce the Army Chief is normally done in advance. In this case the Government has strictly followed the principle of seniority.

At present, Lt Gen Bikram Singh is heading the Eastern Army Command and is stationed at Kolkata. The security of the sensitive North-East and the Eastern states is under his domain of duties.

The Army-chief-designate was the Delhi-based spokesperson of the Indian Army during the Kargil conflict in May-July 1999. At that time he was a Colonel and was on the verge of being promoted as a Brigadier.

The retirement date of the present Army Chief had led to all sorts of theories in the past few months. It was only on February 10 this year that the Supreme Court refused to reconcile the date of birth (DoB) of General VK Singh. It said the DoB would remain as May 10 1950 and not May 10, 1951 as claimed by Gen VK Singh.

Had the apex court accepted the DoB of May 10, 1951, then General VK Singh would have retired after completion of a three-year tenure that is March 31, 2013. In that scenario Lt Gen KT Parnaik, the present Northern Army commander, would have been the next Chief as Lt Gen Bikram Singh would have retired in the intervening period.

An Army Chief retires at 62 years of age while all Lieutenant Generals retire at 60 years of age.

Had General VK Singh quit after the February 10 SC order, Lt Gen Shankar Ghosh would have been the senior-most officer. Unfortunately for Gen Shankar Ghosh, he retires the same day as Gen VK Singh.

Lt Gen Bikram Singh, the Army-chief-designate, was commissioned into the Sikh Light Infantry (Sikh LI) regiment on March 31, 1972.

During his distinguished career, he has headed the Srinagar-based 15 Corps. Lt Gen Bikram Singh has served as deputy force commander of a multi-nation UN peace keeping mission in Congo. He had also served as UN observer in Nicaragua and El Salvador during the early 1990s.

His long list of decorations include a Param Vishist Seva Medal (PVSM), an Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM), an Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM), Sena Medal (SM) and a Vishist Seva Medal (VSM).

Lt Gen Bikram Singh has studied with distinction at the Defence Services Staff College, the Army War College and the US Army War College, Pennsylvania. He has also done an M.Phil in Defence Management from the Indore University.

He is married to Surjeet Kaur, who is a housewife. The couple has two sons.

Decorated soldier

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Current posting

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Distinguished Career

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In school, this Gen was man of many facets

Gagan K Teja/TNS

Nabha, March 5

Had Lt Gen Bikram Singh, who will take over the reins of the 1.3 million-strong Army on May 31, not been in the forces, he would have been a poignant painter or a soulful singer.

Bikram Singh had a passion for painting during his school days. At his alma mater, Punjab Public School, Nabha, Singh's paintings fetched him the best artist award for two years in a row.

What's more, the talented lad was good at crooning too and loved to hum numbers picturised on yesteryear actor Rajendra Kumar.

"From a relatively quiet child to a confident boy, who not only excelled in academics and sports but was equally good in various art forms, he (Bikram Singh) grew by leaps and bounds," recalled his first housemaster KC Tandon.

"Bikram was in the Beas House. I still remember him as a young boy who was well-behaved and disciplined. He was very resourceful and dependable. Whatever job was assigned to him, he did it to the best of his ability," Tandon said.

"I vividly remember his paintings were widely appreciated. He was fond of singing too. Songs filmed on Rajinder Kumar were his favourite", said Tandon.

"He was an excellent pupil, always ready to shoulder any responsibility. He had a naughty side too and often used to play little pranks. His elevation to the top position of the Army is a matter of great pride for the entire school," said KPK Tandon, Bikram's English teacher.

A quick glance through his personal record revealed an interesting detail about the General. After joining the school, Bikram Singh added to his qualities with the each passing year. So in the first year, he was quiet child, who turned into confident, cheerful, friendly, dedicated, helpful, and finally an all-rounder. There is not even a single report by his teachers that doesn't mention his painting skills.

Talking to The Tribune, the Headmaster of school, Jagpreet Singh, said: "We are proud of his achievements. The teachers and students have been celebrating since Saturday when the announcement of his elevation was made."

"Bikram's father's letter, which is in our record books, clearly explains why this school is held in high regard. In his letter, he had thanked the then principal JK Kate for moulding his child into a complete man, who was ready to touch new heights," said the Principal.



Armed with knowledge

Quality education and illustrious alumni place Punjab Public School on a unique pedestal

Old-timers at the Punjab Public School recall him as the boy who sang well and excelled in sports. When Lt.Gen. Bikram Singh, 59, takes over as chief of the Indian Army on May 31, there will be many smiling faces on the sprawling 42-acre PPS campus.

The PPS alumni include 13 serving generals and over 150 officers of the rank of colonel and above. The school was started in 1960 to provide quality public school education to the children of ex-servicemen.

The guiding force behind the idea was former Punjab chief minister Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon. The idea took shape once the government donated the land on which stood the old secretariat of the Nabha princely state. The Punjab Governor is the ex-officio chairman of the school, while the chief minister and finance and education ministers are members of the board of governors.

The school has 910 students, from

both rural and urban backgrounds. The faculty includes teachers from across the country and the teacher-student ratio is maintained at 1:20. PPS is a residential school that follows the house system to encourage the spirit of healthy competition in co-curricular activities. The students are divided into four houses: Beas, Yamuna, Ravi and Sutlej.

When it comes to sports, the school provides the best resources.

Apart from the usual games like the tennis and football, the school also provides swimming lessons. Its riding team has been national equestrian champions for the last 15 years. Also, students regularly participate in adventure courses conducted by the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Uttarkashi.

The school has all three wings of National Cadet Corps—Army, Navy and Air Force—and Girls NCC, to motivate the cadets to join the armed forces. PPS is also an active member of the UK's International Award for Young People. ■

Trained to excel: Punjab Public School's equestrian team has been national champions for 15 years; (above) government donated the school building and land in 1960



Combat ready

Army chief designate **Bikram Singh** has fought many a battle, but the toughest challenge awaits him

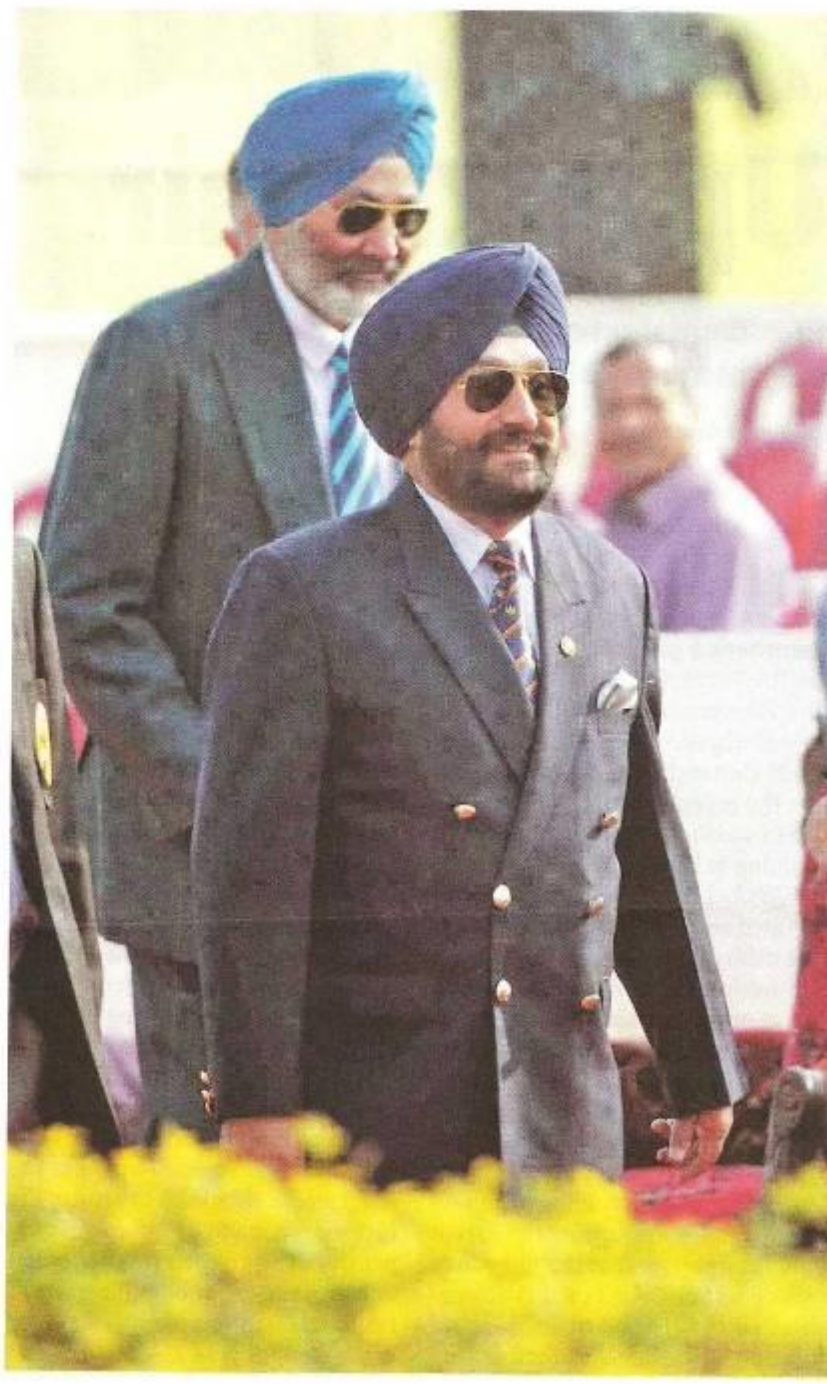
By Syed Nazakat

Mid-November 2002. Brigadier Bikram Singh, commander of the 1 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, was overseeing counter insurgency operations from his small office in Anantnag, Kashmir. He was aggressively pushing his troops deeper into villages in south Kashmir to hunt down militants, mostly Afghans and Pakistanis, who had hideouts in the district.

Insurgency was at its decisive point in Kashmir. Though the Army and the police had managed to secure the district headquarters, the villages were entrenched with militants and ambushes were common. In an attack on March 1, 2001, Bikram was seriously wounded, and a colonel and a rifleman were killed on the spot. Two civilians and a foreign militant were also killed in the encounter. As soon as the wounds healed, Bikram was back in action. When this reporter called on him at his Anantnag office, the brigadier looked calm and was welcoming. The situation, he said, was a "very tough one".

Ten years and many more tough battles later, Lt-General Bikram Singh is all set to become the Army chief. On May 31, when he takes over from General V.K. Singh, it will mark a generational shift, as he will be the first post-1971 war officer to lead the Army.

Commissioned into the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment on March 31, 1972, Bikram commanded an infantry battalion in the northeast and one on



Tough assignment:
Lt-Gen. Bikram Singh

the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. He was a colonel when the Kargil war happened, and was the face of the Army as he briefed the media on the battle. Later, he commanded the troops at RR Sector in south Kashmir.

He earned a steady stream of plum assignments, and became the commander of the Eastern Command in 2010. "He has an excellent ability to look at complex situations and go from planning to implementation," said Brigadier (ret'd) Gurmeet Kawal, a colleague who served with him in the Northern Command. Gurmeet was Bikram's classmate in Punjab Public School in Patiala and in the Indian Military Academy.

Youngest and the only male among five siblings, Bikram is a bookworm, and holds two postgraduate degrees. He earned the reputation of an innovator in combat situations in his early days and excelled in irregular warfare and counter insurgency operations. His colleagues know little about his private life, other than that he likes ghazals, played cricket and hates spotlight. An officer who served under him in the northeast said he had always kept a low profile.

Major-General (ret'd) G.D. Bakshi, who commanded a brigade in Kishtwar, Jammu, when Bikram was in Anantnag, said Bikram's strength was his long combat experience. "He has worked extensively in the field, held important assignments at the headquarters and has served abroad under the UN flag. He has been in active military zone for a long time," said Bakshi. "The nature of warfare is changing and it is good for the Army to have someone as the leader who is an expert in irregular warfare."

Bikram has served under officers like Generals V.P. Malik, N.C. Vij and J.J. Singh. "There are a lot of young colonels who never get noticed," said Vij, under whom Bikram served at the headquarters during the Kargil war. "But he was hard to ignore. He was meticulous and always ready with details."

Bikram will inherit a deeply divided Army, which is hit by a number of

Bikram will inherit a deeply divided Army, which is hit by a number of controversies.

controversies and troubles brewing within the ranks. General V.K. Singh's fight over his date of birth, his shocking allegation that people within the Army plotted against him and the public spat that followed have made him lose the trust of a section of the government. Perhaps, that is why the government announced the name of the next Army chief three months before the incumbent's retirement, instead of the usual two months.

That, however, did not save the Army any trouble. As soon Bikram emerged as a frontrunner for the post, stories started popping up about his daughter-in-law being a Pakistani and a little-known NGO in Kashmir accused him of being involved in a fake encounter in Anantnag in 2001. It has sought a reinvestigation and exhumation of the body for a DNA test. A court has issued notices to the state government and the defence ministry to file their objections to the writ petition, which could be heard later this month.

The timing and the relentlessness of the attack are stunning. A group of retired defence officers and bureaucrats, led by Admiral (ret'd) Laxminarayan Ramdas, has challenged Bikram Singh's appointment. In a public interest litigation before the Supreme Court, it alleged that he was not fit to hold the office as there were allegations of him being involved in a fake encounter and his alleged low level of command over his troops who committed molestation and rape while he was posted in Congo on a UN peace-keeping mission. A more serious charge in the PIL is that, in 2005, General J.J. Singh prepared a succession list in such a way as to facilitate Bikram Singh's rise to the top post in 2012.

"It is unfortunate that some people have started a campaign against the

new Army chief," said Bakshi, who had staunchly defended V.K. Singh's move to take on the government. "We supported V.K. Singh because we believed that he was right. We fought for the integrity of the institution. Now we should not make the whole issue a personal one. It will only harm the institution."

Bikram has his job cut out. Modernisation and operational preparedness of the Army will be his biggest challenges. "Our state of unpreparedness is stretched across the chain of command. Sadly, this is the same as Kargil operation when General V.P. Malik said the Army would fight with what it had. He should focus on these two issues," said Vij.

The arms lobby will pose another challenge to the new Army chief. Many in the defence ministry believe that the lobby has been behind the controversies that tarnished the Army and the ministry. General V.K. Singh's actions against the land scams and Defence Minister A.K. Antony's tough anti-corruption stand have apparently antagonised the middlemen, foreign governments and arms manufacturers.

The problem is that it is former military officers or those who have contacts with them or the defence ministry who constitute the arms lobby. Almost all weapon vendors are represented in India by a local agent or consultant. Given their influence and clout, it will be a challenge for the new chief to procure modern and sophisticated weapons for the Army, keeping the deals clean.

Bikram Singh these days travels frequently from Kolkata to Delhi, where he familiarises himself with the working of the Army chief's office. He has met Antony and V.K. Singh, and has been briefed on the weapons procurement and the ongoing military engagements with different countries. In his characteristic style, he avoids attention and the spotlight. When a colleague called to congratulate him on his being designated as the Army chief, he said: "It is too early. Congratulate when I become the chief." ■



Bikram as Chief Guest at the Variety Entertainment (Golden Jubilee 2010)

An Old Nabhaite's Impression;

An Officer and a Gentleman

The 2010 golden jubilee of Punjab Public School Nabha was attended by hundreds of former students. The celebrations were spread over two days with speeches, ceremonies, other formal and semi-formal functions. It is near impossible to describe the entire experience but two events, involving one particular Nabhaite are worth elaborating here.

The first involved a ceremony specifically dedicated to the honour the support staff; popularly called class IV employees. It was a rather simple affair during which the ONs got a chance to have tea with the staff.

A stage was setup for the guests but all the long serving staff members were seated cross legged on the grass in front of it for the occasion. Several ONs, including me were asked to speak.

Following my speech, another distinguished old Nabhaite was also asked to say a few words. His speech was much more refreshing because for one thing, unlike all previous speakers, he switched to speaking in Hindi rather than the customary English. He explained it was so that he could be better understood by the intended audience. He spoke easily but clearly from the heart. He acknowledged the debt we all owed to these staff members and likened them to his own parents in terms of caring. His words were moving and interrupted by applause more than once.

At the end of the speech, he did something unexpected of someone so distinguished; wiping his own moist eyes, he came down from the dais and sat down cross legged with the staff for the group picture!

The next day the same distinguished Nabhaite was getting ready for another group picture when someone whispered in his ear that the chief guest; the Governor of Punjab was at the table and his presence was required there. It was obvious that he wanted to be in the picture and it would have only taken a few seconds; yet he immediately but politely excused himself murmuring that he had to go and be with his Excellency. The picture would have to wait!

These are two seemingly trivial and unconnected events but demonstrate character as well as discipline. What makes them remarkable is that the ON in question was no ordinary officer but the year's Roll of Honor recipient, General Bikram Singh, VSM; UYSM; AVSM; distinguished army officer, old Nabhaite, and the current Chief of the Indian Army!

While his service credentials leave no doubt that he is exceptionally qualified for his job; these two interactions demonstrate that he is uniquely qualified for leadership for other reasons as well.

The first instance demonstrated both his personal values as well as his upbringing as a Nabhaite; a citizen of a democratic Republic who considers all its citizens as equals, regardless of caste, creed, ethnicity or a high social status. The second demonstrated that he also understood that in a democracy like ours even a powerful serving general must submit instantly to the representative of the people of India.

This later is an important fact that explains why India alone among many post colonial nations (and all the nations in South Asia) survived and thrived as a democracy even as others fell under varying spells of overt and covert dictatorship. In 1947 British India gave way simultaneously to two states; India and Pakistan, yet sixty five odd years later they seem to follow widely divergent political trajectories.

In Pakistan, its armed forces have directly or indirectly ruled the country for most of its existence. The constitution has been raped repeatedly; elected Prime Ministers have been hanged and Chief Justices have been publicly slapped, humiliated and casually dismissed by its

army. Even today, under an elected government, the army continues to lay down the law; ministers meekly show up at the GHQ when summoned by the army Chiefs.

India chose a different path. While India's best and the brightest never hesitated from joining its armed forces and shedding blood when needed; they understood that what they fought to defend was not some vague notion of a nation but something real; a Republic based on the Constitution of India and all the democratic norms and proprieties that go along with it. Fortunately for us, our Defence Forces and leadership understood that the best way to secure our nationhood was not merely by paying lip service to democratic norms practicing democracy in everyday life. In spite of our failings in many other ways we have succeeded in putting in place a government and its instruments which is truly made up *of the people, by the people and for the people.*

The above two instances were two small examples that demonstrate in a big way the reason behind why India today confidently asserts its right to be counted among the great nations of the world while Pakistan remains ever fearful lest it is labeled a failed state by the civilized world.

General Bikram Singh's conduct that day made me ponder three different events in our nation's and our school's history.

On the midnight of August 14th, 1947 India became free. Jawaharlal Nehru spoke thus: "The service of India means the service of its millions who suffer. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation is to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us but so long as there are tears and suffering, our work will not be over...."

On January 26th 1950, India became a Republic with a Constitution that enshrined the following lofty goals in its preamble: Justice: social economic and political, with equality of status, and of opportunity.

On April 11th 1960 The Punjab Public School was inaugurated on behalf of its board by General Kalwant Singh with 'the aim of inculcating students with qualities of leadership, personality and discipline so that they could gain an entry in the NDA and then serve the country with a spirit of loyalty, devotion and patriotism.

General Bikram Singh, as a Nabhaite, as an officer and as a citizen is a culmination of all of the above three events; the single best proof if proof was needed, that all the fond hopes and expectations of our Founders have been met.

I hope and pray that his tenure as the Chief of Indian Army Staff is marked with honor and glory such that it becomes a yardstick by which future officers will be measured against.

Centuries ago in ancient Rome, whenever a new emperor was installed, the Roman citizens used to greet him with the cries of 'Melior Traiano'; or 'may you be like Trajan.' Trajan was an

Emperor considered so perfect that it was wished that his successors could equal him perhaps because it was considered impossible that anyone could exceed him.

Similarly today, I think General Bikram Singh stands as a yardstick against which all present and future Nabhaites will be measured; for he is an officer and a gentleman who perfectly embodies the values taught in the halls and classrooms of PPS, so much so that all that other Nabhaites can hope is to equal him if they are lucky; for one dare not hope to surpass him.

Rupinder Singh Brar (S-291, 1976)

Evolution of Bikram in PPS as perceived by his Housemasters

A peek into the Beas Housemaster's reports on 'Biki' clearly outlines his transformation from a 'shy' (though 'lively') young lad in Class VI section C to a dynamic all-rounder by the time he reached Class XI section A. That he was destined for great achievements is apparent from reports written on him during that period.

The constant traits are reflected throughout his stay in School are his 'lively', 'jolly', 'cheerful' nature, and 'friendly' temperament. He got on well with boys of his own age, and his relations with the staff were easy and natural.

The underlying qualities which were visible throughout his stay were 'modesty', 'intelligence', 'concentration' and 'good behaviour' -- hallmarks of strength of character and self-confidence.

From Class VIII onwards, it was clear that he was getting transformed into an "all-rounder". Apart from scoring well in academics, he became an accomplished artist and developed sound interest in sports, including athletics.

As he matured into a young man in Classes IX and X, he stood out for his sense of 'responsibility' and was perceived as 'dependable' and performing jobs assigned to him well. The Housemaster also in one report mentions his making of a "good Prefect". He also became a singer of high calibre and repute. He continued to flourish in the field of art, earning the highest recognition for two years in a row -- a singular achievement for a boy at that stage and a first in PPS.

The most telling comment is in the Class XI report (*the last report on records*) by the then Housemaster Mr I B Kakar, when he compliments him for qualifying for the NDA and predicts that 'this talented young boy will be a success in life!' **Hail Bikram! Hail PPS!**

(Compiled by **Gurinder Dhanoa (S-9, 1964)** from School reports)

You Said It!

(Congratulations, Reactions, Responses, comments and best wishes at General Bikram becoming the COAS of India from Old Nabhaites.)

Words from Bikram's house and School prefect

(Proud Day For The P.P.S. , Nabha And Old Nabhaites All Over The World)

As we all know **Lt.General Bikram Singh (our Biki)** presently Army Commander Eastern Command, will be taking over as the Chief Of The Indian Army on the 31st May 2012. After a meritorious service in the Indian Army for around 40 yrs. Bikram has been honoured to head the Indian Army

Bikram was my junior and we were together in the same house -----BEAS. He was a very affectionate and lovable boy and at a time when most boys in school were struggling to speak in English Bikram stood out with his very good accent of the language. He had his own ways, or should I say style of doing things and one could never overlook his presence in anything he did. I shared very good moments and had a special liking for him especially when it came to sports and BEAS House wanting to win trophies. Bikram always did BEAS House proud.

After passing out from P.P.S in 1966, I met Bikram a couple of times in Pune while he was in the NDA and I was pursuing my medical degree at The Armed Forces Medical College. Just like the P.P.S. days my bondage, love and affection for Bikram remained the same .

The next time I met Bikram was at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of P.P.S. at Nabha in March 2010, almost 40 years later. Nothing had changed between us. As soon as he saw me he hugged me in such an affectionate manner that it brought tears in my eyes. A lot had changed in him physically (a befitting General and a fit soldier) but his mannerism remained the same. He was the Chief Guest for the day and I admired the way he conducted himself. He greeted and mingled with everyone as he used to do in school, 40 years ago.

In school Bikram was a very keen sportsman and a true fighter who would never give up. I remember the cross country race that had taken place in the school. About a 100mt. or so were left and I saw Bikram suddenly walking. I yelled at him saying "see the boys behind you, they are catching up!!" He looked back a minute or so and then suddenly I saw him dart off like a hare, to finish the race and win the medal. That was Bikram. Never one to give up till the last.

Now he is taking over The Indian Army as The Chief at a time when the Army is embroiled in a lot of controversies. I am sure he will do full justice to the task that lies ahead of him. So, Chief, here's wishing you on behalf of Old Nabhaites all over the world, Good luck and God Bless.

Dr. Narinder Kohli (B-79, 1966) School prefect, Headboy (1966), President's Gold Medal (1966) <kohli.narinder@rediffmail.com>;

Bikram during his PPS days as seen by two of his classmates:

A pleasant and ever smiling and shy boy who joined the school in the winter of 1962.

Consistently good in studies, he took active part in co-curricular activities. He was fond of singing a very popular Hindi film song " *Mohabat ki jhuthi kahani pe roi bari chote khayee jawani pe roe.*'

He would practice sketching during the Art Class and would learn to play the guitar during the Music Class while others would while away their time reading comics.

In hind sight, the other most unusual thing that is remembered about him is that he was never part of any group – something that the boys were so fond of forming.

These impressions and the photos in this issue (*from School Days*) have been gathered from and courtesy **Col P S Mahi (R 55,1968)**

Col Tejinder (S-70,1968) . <tej_inder@hotmail.com>;



A picture that launched a career

(Bikram on the right and his classmate Baljinder(Ravi) on the left in their NDA entrance test passport size photos)

A classmate remembers

To go back 45 years and try and remember what Biki was like is putting too much strain upon the grey cells. Yes, I do remember he was the smartest of the lot to have jumped the gun and complete the UPSC selection process six months ahead of the rest, knowing full well that when the time came to join NDA he would have received his 10th class result and was eligible to join up.

Fast forward 45 years.

I was in the USA in 2004 after quitting my job with Carrier and before starting the small business venture, and had taken time off to travel and enjoy the pleasures before going back to a second career. My wife Sandhya had taken off to Boston, for her classical music performance and I decided to enjoy the delightful company of Dr **Trilochan Bhamrah** (Tochi, **Beas**) in Washington. A delayed flight, and miscommunication on my part, had Tochi running between two airports and his delightful wife Pammi running out of patience with PPS guys.

We decided to drive to Carlisle Pennsylvania where the American War College is situated from Washington and attend **Biki's Passing Out** programme.



Biki at his passing out from US war College

Suited up for the occasion, we started early and drove steadily through Fredrick, passing Gettysburg on to Carlisle and found the War College in Carlisle Barracks. Noticed a lot of laughter in a bevy of ladies, the cause was a handsome Sardar in uniform with INDIA on the sleeve. Biki was located.



At Biki's passing out from US War College, Classmates Shreesh Kathavate(S-159) and Dr Trilochan Singh Bhamrah (B-90) and unidentified gentleman on the left probably a cousin.

The charm that Biki exuded was phenomenal. None could resist him. He was like a magnet attracting brother officers (and their wives!) from other nations into discussions, jokes, repartees, et al. If I remember right he also was awarded the Best Student or Most Popular Student or Best Speaker at the War College.

Couple of nights later we had dinner together with a charming young couple, whose name unfortunately, escapes me, in New Jersey. Both were from PPS. Somebody please recognize the young Sardar in the photograph. Biki and his family joined us as he had packed and dispatched his luggage back to India.

We agreed to stay in touch, did exchange a few emails, and got on with the daily chores, until we heard the NEWS!

It makes me proud to say that we belong to the same school, same class. Biki, you have a lot of challenges ahead of you, but with all our good wishes, and your hard work, we are confident that you will succeed.

The Nation needs it.

Shreesh Kathavate, (S- 159, 1968 batch), Shreesh Kathavate <kathavate@gmail.com>;



With a US Officer



With another US Officer

The Chief

I lost touch with Biki after he left school to join the NDA. Despite being in the army together we never came across each other, till one day I saw him on the TV as the spokesperson during the Kargil ops. Being posted at Rajouri I could get hold of his contact number and was able to speak with him, it was a pleasure speaking with him after so many years. I got the opportunity to come face to face with him only at school again during the Golden Jubilee celebs and I could recognise him straight away..... surprisingly, he recognised me too and called out my name as I

was addressed in school, it brought back great memories and we shared a few nice moments that day. I wish him all the best during his tenure as THE CHIEF.

Rgds

Randhawa, Jati (J 60, 1968) ,<colrandhawa@yahoo.com>;

Why he was named Bikram

It was 40 years ago that I met the young and energetic lad- Bikram Singh--fondly known as 'Biki'-- during our first few days in school at PPS Nabha. We became the best of pals and stayed together till he joined the NDA .

Biki was an all- rounder, and a gifted singer and painter, who participated actively in all other extra- curricular activities.

Biki's father had named him after the accomplished General Bikram Singh, who had perished in an air crash. His father was also from the Army and had served under the great general who had been his ideal. He wanted his son to become another General Bikram Singh one day.

Biki's inspiration came from the letters which he used to receive from his father. I remember he used to receive a letter a day, the only exception being Sundays. He used to be thrilled on receiving his father's letter. So his father's dream has come true, as Bikram Singh- Biki- is going to hold the highest position in the Indian Army.

I wish my best friend Biki all further success and happiness in his life. I am proud of being one of his best friends .

Dr. Kulminder 'Kuli' Singh Dhillon(B67,1968)

With blessing of Waheguru...

It is a very proud moment in the history of PPS that one of us has risen to this height .

Spent some time with Bikki in the dormitories/corridors of PPS , in IMA and DSSC and can say with pride that he has achieved what he richly deserved.

He is definitely the best there ever was and am sure with the blessings of WAHE GURU will do us proud in the next 2 yrs or so.

May GOD bless him . My wife joins me in congratulating him and wishing him the best.

Col Vikramjit Singh(B-136,1967) C-142 Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024, 9810818277

<musk_142@rediffmail.com>



Bari Warsi Khatan Gaya Si.....

In Bhangra team (Bikram standing on the right)



Bikram in Fancy Dress Party for a farewell to 1967 ISC Batch.

(Bikram is second to right of Mr John Mallon in centre, wearing sunglasses ?James Bond)

A feather in....and a contented man

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to NABHAITES Dinner to celebrate Gen. Bikram Singh's extraordinary triumph. He has made all of us proud. We have a right to celebrate this historic moment. It has been my ambition to see a Nabhaite in the coveted chair of Army Chief. I first counted on O.P.Nandrajog. I then counted on Jasbir Singh Liddar and T.N.Sapru. They narrowly missed. I then pinned my hopes on Lt.Gen. Bikram Singh. He has fulfilled my long cherished ambition. His selection is an added feather in PPS cap, I am now a fully contented old man. I wish him fully successful tenure and many more triumphs. The day is not far when another Nabhaite will be Navy Chief.

I congratulate PPS NABHA and all NABHAITES for finding themselves covered with glory. I wish all Nabhaites to reach dizzy heights. How much I long to be with you all on this occasion. But, my stars do not permit me this luxury. Please excuse my absence.
With cheers,

With best wishes to all Nabhaites

O.P.Bhatnagar (ex Hindi, Art, Drama and the designer of School Emblem)

0121-2600818, 0121-42024921 and 09319968494; <opbhatnagar@gmail.com>;

Bikram mentions his Alma mater in interviews

It was very heartening to receive your mail regarding the elevation of Gen. Bikram Singh as C.O.A.S. On June 1, 2012.

We old nabhaites at Delhi were eagerly looking forward to the announcement of his name after the age row of present C.O.A.S. Was settled by Hon'ble Supreme Court. It was very commendable of Gen. Bikram Singh to mention his Alma mater in his interviews. In fact the daily news paper in Delhi was full of PPS news & highlighted his performance as a singer in school.

I am sure Gen. Bikram Singh definitely values all old nabhaites & the functions of ONA. He was at Chandigarh to play Golf Sapru's request & Golden jubilee's celebration as well.

He has definitely made us proud.

Looking forward to meeting him soon at any platform of ONA.

Please do keep in touch & send the emails of maximum numbers of ONA of my batch from 1973 to 1980. I shall be highly grateful.

Deepak Kant Gupta (S-353, 1980) <deepak.gupta@woodhillinfra.com>;

In Golden Letters..

A day to be written in golden letters in the history of The Punjab Public School, Nabha. As Gen. Bikram Singh takes over the reins of one of the largest armies of the world, it is an awe inspiring moment indeed for all nabhaites and ON's. A moment of immense pride for all his

teachers and mentors. A huge thanks to all the teachers for their immense contribution. Onward and upward indeed!

Geeta Sharma Ex (R-529 ,1987), D/o Late Mr. O.P. Sharma; <gksaurora@yahoo.com>;

Member Parliament comes calling

Received invitation. As an old Nabhaite, I feel proud that one of our Schoolmates General Bikram Singh has reached the peak, with his dedication, commitment and hard work.

I met him last at our Golden jubilee celebrations of the School. The warm hand shake had that passion and grit, which is needed to lead the great Indian Army.

Our late Headmaster and a teacher to remember a life time, Mr Kate's Assembly sermons have come true.

The great Asian poet Sir Dr Md Iqbal wrote "Sitaron se Aage Jahan Aur Bhi Hein, Abhi Ishq ke Imtihan Aur Bhi Hein". Onward and Upward to all Nabhaites.

Jagmeet Singh Brar, (J-116,1973) (Member Congress Working Committee)

Former Member of Parliament (LS) <jsbrar_23@yahoo.co.in>;

An Invitation to all in USA

This is a courtesy reminder to those who already know and request to all others about June 2nd ON event in Delaware to celebrate **Let Gen Bikram Singh's** taking over as the chief of the Indian Army on 31st May.

I take the honour and pleasure in organizing and hosting the jubilation event and the privilege of inviting all ONs irrespective of batch, house, region, ON chapter or anything else.

Not just that, I also need your help in creating awareness about it so that more and more of us can be there. How eloquent is the school song and how high the eagle flies and the level of justice we do to the raison d'être that day depends on how many of us are there.

It took school 51 years to clinch one of the chief objectives for which it was founded and we will celebrate it that day and celebrate we will big time.

Please use the link below to exchange information.

Sincerely,

Charanjeet (R-586,1985),

charanjeetsinghminhas@gmail.com, <http://www.qualitreeinc.com/ona/june2.html>



At Golden Jubilee as Chief Guest for the Variety Entertainment and Prize Distribution.

A Cherry on Top

Dear Jashanjot;

Thanks for all your efforts in keeping the PPS alumni a close knit community. Your dedication towards the alumni is keeping the spirit of PPS alive in all of us.

While I won't be able to join in applauding and cheering the success of Lt. Gen. Bikram Singh, I am certain that the pride I feel will be very well represented at the function on June 1, 2012. I have many batch mates, who are currently serving in the Indian Army, and I am proud of their dedication and service to the country.

PPS has made us the men that we are today: soldiers, policemen, income tax commissioners, businessmen and above all dedicated friends and enthusiastic Old Nabhaites. The spirit of PPS is manifesting itself in our daily lives.

Lt. Gen. Bikram Singh's achievement has put a cherry on top of our otherwise successful lives and careers. Even in this country (USA), people have congratulated ME, on the success of Lt. Gen. Bikram Singh, just because I am from PPS. I have never had the opportunity to meet him, but in a way it feels that he and I (and the rest of PPS community) are cut from the same cloth; that we share the same goals and ideals; and that we have the same force and spirit guiding us –

“ONWARD AND UPWARD”. Three little words, that have become a beacon of light and a guiding principle for all of us who hail from PPS.

Congratulations to Lt. Gen. Bikram Singh on this unparalleled achievement, and to the rest of the PPS community for being a part of this historical event.

Vikesh Bansal (J-376 ,1980); <bansal@wandg.net>;

Bikram Singh Characterised

Its indeed a momentous occasion when General Bikram Singh an Old Nabhaite takes over as the Indian Army Chief on 01 Jun 2012.

Bikram was one class senior to me in school. He was in Beas house and I was in Sutlej. What I remember of him in school, he was a quiet, sincere, hard working boy who was liked by everyone, his classmates, juniors and teachers. He had a cheerful disposition and was a good artist who would be sketching around. I haven't met him for the last four decades except seeing him on the TV during Kargil War as the Army's PR man. He always was unassuming non controversial natural leader. I am sure the Indian Army would benefit under his leadership and command. This is another feather in the cap of Punjab Public School, Nabha. We as ONs are very proud of him and wish him all the best as the Army Chief.

Wg Cdr. Bikramdev (S-84,1969).

Hats off to Lt. Gen Bikram Singh Ji and “Long Live The PPS”

I would like to pay my regards and congratulate Lt Gen Bikram Singh for his ultimate achievement. It is the proud moment for PPS and all the Old Nabhaites, and now, we all hold our heads higher than before and say with pride " Long Live PPS" .

Hats off to Lt. Gen Bikram Singh Ji!

Ashish Singla,(R-071,1997); <ashishroysingla@gmail.com>;

Proud Moment

Indeed a proud moment ,had the pleasure of interacting with the general and the first lady yesterday

Lt Col Manjinder Guram (S-608,1987) <guramgladiator@gmail.com>; shillong (on 25/5/12)

A credit to PPS and own merit

Dear Gen Bikram,

By benevolence of almighty you will be chief of army staff from 1st June. All old Nahbhaities hearts swell with joy and pride the credit goes to your old teachers, Alma Mater and most of all to your own merit and qualities of head and heart, our congratulations to you and your family members. The fond memories of childhood spend together from 1960 to 1964 are fresh in mind we wish and pray for all the best fond love and regards

Bhupinder Oberoi (B-33,1964) <bhupioberoi@hotmail.com>;

God Bless!

Gen. Bikram Singh has brought laurels to PPS Nabha. It's a matter of great pride for all of us (ONA). I had the honour of meeting Bikram on the golden jubilee celebrations of our school. It was a treat meeting him as he was sober, down to earth and a general with multi-faceted abilities. He has to go a long way serving the country and make PPS proud with his super administrative skills. May God bless him with all happiness in life and keep the motto of our school in flying colours "Onward and Upward." Fond regards,

Fateh jung singh Bajwa(R-216,1974) fateh bajwa <fateh.bajwa@hotmail.com>;

Jolly Good fellow

This Is Great.

I Have Criss Crossed while in service with Chief Designate. All I can say is.

"He is a Jolly Good Fellow."

All The Very Best To Him .

Sammy.(S-43, 1966); <yps.samyal@yahoo.co.in>;

House pride

My house no. was B-39. Its ages past. Frankly, I do not remember what Bikram looked like then, since we have not had any occasion to come face to face after leaving school. This, however, does not diminish the pride and joy of having a house-mate as COAS and would love to shake hands with him at Nabha, when he happens to visit in the foreseeable future.

I am also happy that our house prefect, O P Nandrajog, also went to become a Lt. Gen, whom I did meet during "operation bluestar" at the entrance to the golden temple in 1984.

Our housemaster sir, Joginder Singh, now 96, also must be happy. Only the other day I read about his unhappy engagement with Panjab university Vice-Chancellor over non-publication of his book. This was in Hindustan Times.

Anyway, I wish Bikram and his family all the success and best of things he desires in life. If possible, one would like to have his cell no. to talk to him.

PPS Gill (B-39, 1963); <ppsgill19@gmail.com>;

Former Punjab State Information Commissioner and Bureau Chief,"The Tribune"

Role Model for youngsters and boasting around

We are really proud of Gen Bikram Singh. It shall encourage youngsters in school to join the Armed Forces. Myself being in the Army, I boast around being from PPS too. "ONWARD AND UPWARD"

Jaswant Dhaliwal (S-414) <http://twitter.com/jastaran> , <http://dhali.co.nr>, <http://jsdgolf.co.nr>

Short and sweet

Great Achievement, makes each Nabhaite proud of PPS.

Sumanpreet Singh(J-566,1982) <suman_preet@yahoo.com>;

General Speak

Wishing Bikram all the very best!A great moment of achievement awaits us all when LtGen Bikram Singh takes over one of the largest and finest Army in the World. Being from the same House(Self-B1) and having retired as GOC-in-C Central Army myself, I have seen him move up the ladder through his hard work and dedication to the service. I am more than sure that with his wide experience in varying fields, the Army will stand to benefit greatly in the years ahead. Surely he, as the COAS, is going to have a tough task ahead of undoing the damage done to the Army's image in the last year or so. I am confident of his abilities to steer the Army in the most professional manner by making it more potent and capable to take on the dangers that lie within and on the long hostile borders.

A charismatic personality, he combines in himself qualities of a great soldier and a fine human being.

God Bless Lt Gen Bikram Singh and the great Indian Army.

Lt Gen O P Nandrajog (B1,1963) (Roll of Honour Winner); <gyandevi@yahoo.com>;

Wishing him the best

It is a proud moment for all Old Nabhaities and especially the ones donning the Olive Greens. Having seen and heard of the outstanding offr and the Gentleman that he is, over the last 32 yrs I have been in service, one never had the doubt that he will attain the ultimate glory. His spirit for the Nabhaities is worth emulating and he will be the role model for youngsters for times to come.

We wish **Gen Bikram** all the very best and assure him that we will be there for him always.

Param Sandhu (J - 262) ; <paramsandhu81@gmail.com>;

Honoured by the visit and being a Nabhaite

No doubt it is a great moment for PPS as **Lt General Bikramjeet Singh** will be the next Chief of Army Staff. I am proud to be a Nabhaite as I have met him several times. I live in Calcutta so I was invited by him to his house a couple of times for dinner, though I am much junior to the General but it was a honour to meet him, a great man ,down to earth very loving and a through gentleman, his wife is also great.

Me and my family have had several occassions of meeting him. It was a great honour for me having him over for dinner at my house, he mentioned that it is only you that I have come to your house I never go out anywhere. I was very honoured, this is because I am a NABHAHITE. I and my family wish him the very best on being the Army Chief.

Ravinder Singh Chattha (J271,1970-75) <ricky@chatthagroup.com>;

A great Motivation

This is indeed a great moment for all of us. This will surely motivate the past and current students to strive to achieve greater heights in their fields of work.

Prathwyraj Panoli (S-879 , 1991), Sales Operations Mgr, ITC Ltd., <ppanoli@hotmail.com>;

A much respected Teacher's blessings

We wish a very bright future and successful tenure to GEN. BIKRAM SINGH. MAY GOD BE WITH YOU.

The P.P.S. community, past,present and future is and shall always be proud of you. Your ALMA MATER is proud of your achievement GEN. SAHEB.

RAM SINGH, Ex-MATHS. MASTER (1969-2003).

Bullet Ride

I have met the General only once when he was doing HC Course & I was doing JC Course in Mhow. Rather, that time there were five of them from our School doing HC Course. We all had organised a School get together at the College Restaurant. **Gen Bikram** had another commitment after that. No one had the conveyance, then I offered to drop him on my Bullet Motorcycle. Now I feel immensely happy remembering that day when I gave lift to 'The Chief' on my mobike.

Col Charanjeev Manju(R-455,1983) <charanjeevmanju@yahoo.in>;

Nabhaite In Uniform

It is indeed a matter of great pride and honour for all nabhaitees from the PPS that **Lt Gen Bikram Singh** is going to be heading one of the largest armies of the world as the Chief of Army Staff. Being in uniform myself, it is an event one is looking forward to. Becoming the Chief of Army Staff is in itself the biggest achievement for an Army Officer. Personal achievements are all part of the same and need no mention separately.

Let us rejoice together and feel proud to be nabhaitees.

Proud to be a Nabhaite in uniform.

Col Alok Batra. (R-195,1974). <alokbatra@yahoo.co.in>;

Bringing order

It is indeed yet another feather in the cap for PPS fraternity.

After all the heat generated about happenings in the Army, I hope Gen Bikram will be able to bring about a semblance of order. Our best wishes to him.

Maj Gen P Behl (R-147,1971) <pappubehl@yahoo.co.in>;

Make it short...

"It is indeed a moment of honour and glory for us to be part of and feel proud for Lt. Gen Bikram Singh"

Rohit Badhwar, (B 0143 ,2000), <rohitb0143@gmail.com>;

Making School, Masters and Founders Proud

When our school was founded, the original idea was to establish a "Sanik School" but in view of the restrictions that accompanied such a school the wise Founders created The Punjab Public School as a private school dedicated to developing the next generation of citizens in the service of the Nation. The students of our school have always been attracted to the Armed Forces and many a young boy has toiled hard to secure an entry. On our part we have followed their careers with great interest - so, while we have rejoiced at their successes particularly those that made the 3 Star rank, we have been waiting for one to make it to the 4 Star rank.

Congratulations Bikram - you have done the whole school, all our **Masters and our Founders** proud. May your tenure be marked with glorious achievements for the Indian Army –

Ashok Balwani (R-90, ISC Class of 1966) Balwani.Ashok@gmail.com



Bikram receiving the Roll of Honour from non other than President of India HE Mrs Pratibha Patil at the Golden Jubilee Function

Wonderful News

It is a wonderful news for the ONA fraternity, we in the Army fully understand the achievement , it is really not easy to reach there, we wish him all the luck and happiness , ever onward and upward

Brig Sandeep Sharma(S-328,1976) ,Indian National Def University,
<sandveen@rediffmail.com>;

Congratulations to All!

Congratulation to all the ONAs' Existing PPS students and Past and Present staff on the achievements of **Lt. Gen Bikram Singh**. Congratulations and all the best to his near and dear one's too.

Onward and Onward.

Ranjit Singh Grewal (B280) <ranjit.grewal@sunlife.com>;

Here comes Beas pride again!

Bikramjit has done PPS proud. Please convey my hearty congratulations to Bikramjit. It gives me even more happiness that he also belongs to Beas House. God bless him with wisdom to lead the best army in the world.

Suresh Khanna (B26, 1966) S K <sckh93@hotmail.com>;

Saying it briefly

I am very proud of **Lt Gen Bikram Singh (B-71,1968)** and PPS.

Sardul Singh Gill, (J-527) <subway11@msn.com>;

Great Optimistic Approach (The best is yet to come)

It is a great honour to be part of the same school which has brought out the best in most of the students , and one stands out in **Lt.Gen. Bikram Singh**. I wish him the very best and great success in reaching the pinnacle in his career and am sure he would do India proud first and then PPS Nabha. It is our great fortune to be known to be from the same school.

PPS for me has been the best thing that could have happened and what we all are today is due to the school it's values, and all our friends from various economic backgrounds. Their support, their friendship , their caring and upmost the sportsman spirit. I believe that some of the best has happened in **Sir Bikram Singh the Munjals** and many more but I still believe **from PPS " THE BEST IS YET TO COME"**

My best regards to all my seniors and Juniors from School, to all the teachers past and present who made us what we are today. I take this opportunity to thank each one of them and my best wishes to them and thier families.

Vineet Kashyap(J-117,1971) <vineet@blkashyap.com>;

Proud Teacher

I am really proud to be associated with PPS. I was not lucky enough to be a student of PPS. But had the chance of teaching in PPS. Let every one who is associated with PPS be proud and celebrate this historical event.

May all of us pray and wish that our Indian army march forward under the leadership of the new General. He has added values to the sentence "ONWARD AND UPWARD".

Vijayakumar.R

Teacher 1991-1993. <vijayakumar.r17@gmail.com>;

Old Nabhaite son of an Old Nabhaite

My name is Puneet Singh Waraich(R-979) s/o Col. Avtar Singh Waraich (R-27), I just wanted say that I am proud to be from PPS, so was my father, I am sure he knew Lt Gen Bikram Singh, and would have been very proud of him. It is a proud moment for the PPS family.

My congratulations, best wishes and regards to Lt Gen Bikram Singh.

Puneet Singh Waraich (R-979,1992) puneetsinghwaraich@gmail.com, 001-281-777-7893

Ex-Headmaster's praise

Bikram has done well to be the Indian Army Chief that can be attributed to his devotion to duty and loyalty to his profession but the **P P S laid the foundation** which gave him strength and courage to face the challenges of life. As I have known while in the Army he stood different from the cadre of officers. I am happy merit has been recognized and rewarded.

I wish him the best and good luck and successful tenure which will make all of us further proud.

Col D S Khera (Retd), Ex Headmaster, PPS (1991-1999)

Remembering a Wonderful Evening

Whereas, Beas guys, classmates are the right guys to write anecdotes about school days, I cant forget his generous gesture in calling me and wife just after we got married to a wonderful evening at Belgaum and welcoming her and also introducing us with all Old Nabhaitees of the station

Three cheers.....!

Hardeep Dutta (J-64,1967)<hardeepdutta@yahoo.com>;

An Emotional Appeal

It is really a very proud moment for all of us to celebrate our ex student **Lt Gen Bikram Singh (B-71,1968)** of PPS NABHA to be swearing in as a new head of Army of India. I am totally very high in emotions as one of our ex student is going to be the Samurai of Indian Army. I wish Sir the very best and hope he conquers back our lost land and maintains a healthy relation with our neighbours. I just want my land back without any compromises which are not in the interest of Great India. Also Respected sir I wish that our Indian Army holds the top position in

the world and every country respect us. I once again wish sir a very best and salute on being our new Army chief.

Pankaj S. J-0260

A letter from Norway with message from Mrs OPSharma (Hindi)

The words at the bottom are from my mother for Lt Gen Bikram Singh

Kindly let me know what exactly are you planning to do with the text

You are doing the community a great service. I think all ONAs appreciate your efforts, I know I do.

Dr. Pooja Sharma(R-388,1981)

MD Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Bergen, Norway ; <ipooja@gmail.com>;

“Congratulations to **Lt Gen Bikram Singh (B-71,1968)**.

It is a matter of great pride and honour that one of our own has made it to the top following the School motto of Onward and Upward.

I am sure that he will be a great source of inspiration to all the present and aspiring Officers of Indian defense services and the present generation of Nabhaites.

My husband Late Mr.O.P.Sharma would have been enthralled and extremely proud of Bikram Singh for having become an epitome of courage, honour and integrity.

Heartiest congratulations on behalf of our entire family. Wish him and his family all the success in the coming years.”

Mrs. Shanta Sharma (Wife of Late Mr. O.P.Sharma, Ex Hindi)

The highest Award

Thanks ONA we today feel very proud that Bikram is army chief and that nabhaites will never forget his contribution given to India and makes us proud , we are on cloud seven.We have received the highest award of India *hamesha sanu maan reheyga*.

Dimpy Dhadli (R-440,1980)<dimpydhadli@hotmail.com>;

A great Mentor

Gen Bikram is a great guy...always correct ,sober, cheerful and in control of things..I had the privilege of close interaction with him for a brief period.We are from the same regiment and he was my mentor when I was appearing in the fiercely competitive staff college exam...no wonder then that I topped the infantry list in the competitive(merit) category...

Gen Bikram is a highly capable administrator, a dependable reliable and supportive comrade and a peerless soldier completely on the level.The Indian army couldn't have made a better choice and we are sure he will keep the outfit in its glory and leave his own tradfemark indelible impression....we wish him Godspeed and goodluck.

charanjitdayal@yahoo.co.uk (R-163,1973)<charanjitdayal@yahoo.co.uk>;

I am a student of ISC batch 2009 and I have seen respected sir **General Bikram Singh** during Golden Jubilee as he received Roll of honour and being a Nabhaite I really feel proud of his great achievement. May god keep his spirit ONWARD AND UPWARD.

Jaskaran Singh(S-538,2009) <pannu_pps@yahoo.com>;

Poetry in uniform and rising son of Nabha

It is indeed a matter of great pride and honour for all of us at PPS Nabha and the ONA to have an alumni reach the highest pivot of the Indian Army. This is a tribute to our foundational teachers like **Mr JK Kate, Ms Malkani** amongst others who would be proud to see their efforts bearing fruit. I have had the honour to serve under the COAS Designate and he is indeed an officer and a gentleman. I would like to put across my observation here that in the 1970's and 1980s where PPS had contributed officers to the Armed Forces who are today at the peak of their careers in their various fields, the number of people joining the forces has waned of late. I hope with this new achievement it will prove as the required catalyst and grant impetus to the enthusiasm amongst the boys to join and thereafter rule the Air , Land and Seas.

The son of Nabha is now the rising sun on the horizon and will have not only the 1.3 million defence forces looking upto him, but also our thousands of the Owl fraternity and the 1.2 billion proud Indians. I enclose a small poem for the General : -

There is a Nallah in front and a Boar as well,
Now that you are in the saddle General, ride like hell
Be rest assured we will be solidly behind you
and ALL will be well.

Brigadier P. S. Minhas (J-360,1981) <arunamini@yahoo.com>;

Celebrate it in Delhi!

This is of course a great achievement by any standard , kindly convey our best wishes to him . Secondly , also think about having any ONA meet in Delhi during his tenure , it would be a proud moment for all of us.

Deepak Nath (S-437)

Fun Shun....

Hope you are doing well. I'm in Paris, so it is unfortunately not going to be possible to be part of the wine-shine whisky-shishky back at home. Have fun and lots of love to you both. Good show, Bikram, but did you remember to strip your bed!

Vijay Singh (B-113, 1967);(Roll of Honour Winner); <vijay@vijaysingh.net>;

A Salute to the Ultimate Soldier

I today Salute Gen Bikram Singh, for he has achieved the pinnacle of the most noble profession "The Indian Army". He stands there today with pride and conviction, with his chest out and head held high. He has not only achieved the ultimate success in his carrier, but today he has carried the name of his School to a different level of High, a place where very few belong. I once again Salute this ultimate soldier, and wish him a healthy, happy and a long life. Onwards and Upwards, Jai Hind

Col Kanwaljit Singh Randhawa (Retd) (B 502) 1982 Batch. <kjsr_67@yahoo.co.in>;

A letter from the Housemaster's son

It is indeed a great honor for all of us that General Bikram Singh takes over the command of Indian Army on 1 June 2012. We all old Nabhiates wish him all the success.

I feel very proud that he is from my Father's Late **Mr I.B Kakars house (Beas House)**. I was much Junior to him but nevertheless had the honor of being from the same house too.

He has truly shown all of us that ONWARD AND UPWARD is the way.

Rajeev Kakar(B-288 -1976 batch); <rajeev@novastar.ae>;

Director, Off No: #905, Single Business Tower, Sheikh Zayed Road, P.O. Box 124957, Dubai, U.A.E.

Tel: +971 4 380 6492, Fax: +971 4 380 6493, Mob: +971 50 844 5087

(It is interesting to note, school boy Bikram's most house reports of Senior School have been written by Mr IB Kakkar, Beas House Master, Rajeev Kakkar's father)

Saying it in Capitals

ITS A MATTER OF HONOUR FOR US TO BE AFFILIATED TO HIM, THROUGH PPS NABHA. WISHING HIM ALL THE BEST IN HIS NEW ENDEAVORS. GOD BE WITH HIM ALWAYS.

Colonel Navdeep Brar(J-463,1983); (<brashbrar@rediffmail.com>;

Beas and Jammu Mate

Bikram was two years my junior at School in BEAS house and we shared a special bond and affinity being from the same hometown, Jammu

While travelling to Nabha from Pathankot with the School party we played many a pranks on the way as we used to have the whole bogey reserved for us.

During service I met him in Jammu when he was a Major and then we could all see him on the TV screens during the Kargil war as a Spokesman of the Army.

We again met during an ONA party at his residence on the banks of river Chenab in Akhnoor near Jammu when he commanded the local div there

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the School at Nabha in April 2010 gave us another opportunity to interact with each other.

He has truly lived up to the school motto and spirit, ' Onward & Upward ' by scaling the top most position in his organization

We wish him a glorious and successful voyage ahead.

K. Mohinder Singh. (B-40, 1966).

Roger Miall (VSO-UK) Remembers Summer of 1963!

Remembering back to 1963, we swam in the canal at Nabha, did community work at half term, and learnt the words of the new school song,

"Onward and Upward".

Warm congratulations on going all the way!

Roger Miall

(VSO teacher at PPS, 1962-63)

Some comments on FB



Nitika Garg its really proud to know dat one of our old nabhaite is rising to such heights..aftrol its 'onwards and upwards'..u hv

made us al proud..many congratulations sir...

Thursday at 9:25am via mobile · Like · 1



Navdeep Singh I felt really good about him on Golden jubilee when he extended himself siting on the ground with Saab Ji As he was already on very high calibre at that moment also

He will be the greatest Chief upto now India had because he is from PPS

Thursday at 9:30am via mobile · Like · 3



Sanjay Dhand really proud moment for pps family....

Thursday at 9:32am · Like



Chitwant Sidhu When is his taking over ceremony???

Thursday at 9:32am · Like



Neeraj Bansal June 01, 2012 should go down as history at PPS Nabha. It is one of the greatest and rare honor

for Nabhaities to see one of our Ex Student don the cap of Chief of Army Staff. During the course of the year he should be called as a Chief Guest of the founder's day and facilitated. Congratulations to Lt. Gen Bikram Singh for bringing this glory to PPS Nabha. Heard and read about his down to earth activities when he visited the school on the Golden Jubilee. Wish him all the very best in his new assignment and May Wahe Guru bless him.

Thursday at 9:37am · Like · 1



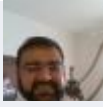
Preet Kanwal Singh a time of great pride for PPS...historical day JUNE 01.2012

Thursday at 10:19am · Like



Preet Kanwal Singh and above all BEAS House.....Beas is always on TOP.....me(B-508)

Thursday at 10:20am · Like · 2



Vikram Chauhan Onwards and upwards to Lt. Gen and largely thanks to the school and all our teachers and our

school staff (Sahibjis) who have imparted us with discipline, etiquettes and taught us to be humble and faithful in life.

Thursday at 10:26am · Like



Harpreet Aulakh this will become a source of inspiration for all the nabhaitees to join hands with our army to

serve our nation. Kudos to the spirit of nabhaitees.

Thursday at 12:28pm · Like



Narinder Pal BEAS HOUSE , of course another proud moment for all us Beasias as well as of course all

NABHAITEES. Agree with Navdeep Singh, Gen Bikram Singh shall be the best Chief ever as he is from PPS. The straight forward ness and he humility PPS has taught us is a rare commodity these days.

Thursday at 12:39pm · Like · 1



Jagdev Singh Sandhu Its a proud moment for all NABHAITEES....hats off to u Gen Bikram Singh...

Thursday at 4:49pm · Like



Harinder Pal Singh Bhullar Great Achievement. We are all proud of him.

Thursday at 8:36pm · Like · 1



Arif Khan 'onwards n upwards' badhiyan to all Nabhites

Thursday at 8:51pm · Like · 1



Suba Singh Khaira Yes a great honour for PPS, as he kept the school flag flying high..Onwards n Upwards.

Thursday at 10:53pm · Like



Surender Mehta Feel very proud !

Yesterday at 4:58am via mobile · Like



Ashok Rajpal without saying a great inspiration for all of us to learn from the dedication for the nation above

onself great laurels for our all beloved general sahib

Yesterday at 8:15am · Like



Vijay Plaha No doubt, it is great honour for our PPS that Lt.Gen. Bikram Singh shall be taking over as COS of our

great Indian Army. And it goes on to prove the courage, perseverance and intrepidness Our General Bikram Singh has shown to surmount all the hurdles placed in his path on his way to become COS of The Indian Army!Although I was in Jumna house(J-51) as a House and later School prefect, having passed out in 1965, I recollect either taking their evening prep class or minding something else! It was a long long time ago...47 years-nearly half a century ago!! Anyhow I hereby convey my Heartiest Congratulations and a great successful period for Gen. Bikram Singh, as COS/Indian Army and felicitations to his whole Family who have been his support throughout his Career. And thank you to our Great pioneering Teachers and Headmasters for continuing to nurture the PPS Family. ONWARDS AND UPWARDS was never so true!!Best Wishes Gen.Bikram Singh!!

20 hours ago · Like



Gurbrinder Mann To reach this post is like conquering Mt. Everest by a mountaineer.(R-05,1970)

Eminent Old Nabhaites

Since this issue of The Eagle is about the great achievement of **Gen Bikram Singh (B-71, 1968) and the realisation of the Founders' Dream**, it is pertinent to mention here many other great eminent Old Nabhaites who have contributed to bring honour and pride to The PPS and ONA and have also helped realise the Dream of the Founders of The Punjab Public School, Nabha.

Below is a list we have prepared, which is to the best of our knowledge. It is by no means claimed to be authoritative or complete. We may not have information or may not be aware of many achievements of all Old Nabhaites. We are open to correction.

It would be great if this list stimulates you to send us more information on the many Old Nabhaites whose achievements we may not be aware of.

There are some names which maybe applicable to many categories. We have tried to keep this to minimum (for example an Engineer could also be an excutive or a business man and a doctor could also be teaching at a Medical School)

The bottomline remains same “All Old Nabhaites are equal” despite their different achievements.

The list is random and not in any particular order

a. Defence Services:

LT Gen TK Sapru (S-42, 1964), Army Commander ,Western Command (Roll of Honour Winner)

Lt Gen OP Nandrajog (B-1, 1963), Army Commander, Central Command (Roll of Honour Winner)

Lt Gen Jasbir Lidder (B-23, 1964), Commandant War College, UN Commander, Sudan (Roll of Honour Winner)

Lt Gen GS Dhillon (B-69, 1967), DG Army Supply Corps

Lt Gen Vinay Sharma(S-129); Master General, Ordinance

Lt Gen RS Sujlana (B-134, 1967), Commandant, IMA , Presently ,Chairman, Punjab Public Service Commission (Roll of Honour Winner)

Lt Gen S Bajwa (J-151, 1969), Corps Commander

Lt Gen SP Tanwar (B-59,), DGMT ,

Lt Gen Bikram Singh (B-71, 1968), Eastern Army Commander (Roll of Honour Winner)

Admiral JS Bedi (J-3, 1964), Flag Offr Western Fleet; (Roll of Honour Winner)

Air Vice Marshal Raghbir S Sandhu (B-49, 1965)

Vice Admiral Satish Soni (R-121, 1971),

Maj Gen SK Wadhawan (Beas, 1971),

Maj Gen TPS Waraich (J-155, 1972),

Maj Gen BPS Mander (J-38, 1964)

Maj Gen S Tiwari (J-34, 1964)

Maj Gen Daljit Sood (B-81, 1966);

Maj Gen Pramod Behl (R-147, 1971)

Maj Gen Anil Mehta (S-232, 1972)

Brigadiers who are still in service , and may attain greater heights

PS Sandhu (J-262, 1976)

SPS Aulakh (J-278, 1976)

Sandeep Sharma (S-328, 1976)

GS Sanghera (S-378,)

KS Nijjar (S-323, 1978)

PS Minhas (J-360, 1981)

Deepak Saini (J-288, 1978)

Rupinder Singh (S-291, 1978)

Harkirat Dhanoa (B-383, 1979)

CK Sood (R-268, 1976)

Manjit Mehta (J-194, 1974)

Ranvijay Singh(S-502, 1978)

b. Prominent Doctors

Satish Jain(R-107, 1970) (Ex-Prof of Neurology, AIIMS)

Dr Surjeet Singh(S-246, 1976) MD,DM ,Prof of Paediatrics, PGI

Dr Yogesh Chadha(R-69, 1968) MRCOG, Senior Specialist in Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the University of Queensland School of Medicine, Brisbane, Queensland.

Dr Yashbir Dewan (J-297,1976) Joined as Senior Consultant Restorative Neurology and Neurosurgery at MAX Institute Of Neurosurgery, Dehradun- MIND, Mussorie Diversion, Malsi Dehradun.

Dr.AS Bains (B-428, 1976) MS ,PGI (Organ) Renal Transplant Surgeon

Dr Harshbir Pannu (S-366, 1976),MS. MCh , PGI(Cardio-thoracic Surgeon, Ex-Escorts Hospital)

Dr PS Lamba((Ex-AFMC, Endocrinologist, Mumbai)

Dr Avtar Brar(J-293, 1974) ,Vascular Surgeon , London

Dr Preetam Singh (J-242, 1973), Retinal Surgeon, Amritsar

Dr Inderbir Nijjar (R-167, 1970) Nijjar Scan Centre, Amritsar

Dr Bhupinder Singh (B-20, 1966) Urologist, USA

Dr Rupinder Brar(S-291, 1976) Cardiologist, USA

Dr Suresh Sofat (J-30, 1966) Ex AIIMS, Cardiologist, USA

Dr NS Sandhu (J-280, 1975) MS, MCh, ex PGI, Paediatric and General Surgeon

Dr Bhalinder Singh Chahal (J-111, 1970), Ex –AFMC, Child Psychiatrist USA

Dr Jagdev Sekhon (R-414) Head, Oncology Deptt. Dayanand Medical College Ludhiana;

Dr Jaideep Singh Sohi (B-857, 1989) MD (USA) Nuclear Medicine ,USA; Staff Physician, Metabolic Imaging, Fresno, CA

Dr Kamal Sood (S-345, 1976) MD, DNB Ex Asstt Prof at PGI, Nephrologist, Staff Specialist Renal Physician in the Sydney West Area Health Service (SWAHS),

Dr Navjit Sidhu(R-159, 1973) DM Nephrology, Ex PGI

Dr Parampal Coonar (S-22, 1966) Deputy DRME, Punjab

Dr Rajinder Sidhu (S-146,) Professor Amritsar Medical College

Dr Rupinder Boparai (B-325, 1976) Cardio-thoracic Surgeon, UK

Dr Surinder Gupta (J-1, 1963) Anesthesiologist, Louisiana, USA

Dr Yogesh Loomba(S-112, 1970) MRCP, UK

Dr Himanshu Garg (J-756, 1990) Respiratory Physician(Australia), Medicity Gurgaon;

Dr Gobinder Dhami (R-78, 1969) Leading eye surgeon, Ludhiana.

Dr Inderbir Singh Khokha (R-154, 1967) Vascular Surgeon ,USA

c. Engineers :

Harinder Singh , (S-62,1967) IIT Delhi ,Chief Engineer, Punjab

Bharat Bhushan (R-71, 1967) IIT Kharagpur, PhD Boston University

Gurinder Chhachhi (S-76, 1967) IIT Delhi, Chemical Bank, USA

HS Sohal (B-111, 1966) General Manager Sales, Bosch India

Ravinder Khanna (B-9) IIT Delhi, Principal Shivalik Institute of Tech , Ambala

Cmdr Mitinder Sethi (J-76, 1966) Vice President with Reliance Company

Vinay Chippalkatti (S-81, 1966) M.Tech (Chemical) IIT Delhi, Successfully sold India's first oil water separator for BPCL, Mumbai, in 1986 as Marketing Director. MD Kpack systems in joint venture with Kpack systems Holland for waste water treatment in India and Asia.

Mr Vimal Mahendru (J-344, 1978) BE (Thapar), MBA (George Washington U, USA) is the President of Legrand Group in India. Apart from Membership of various Govt and Non Govt organizations, he is President, Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association

d Professors

Jagmohan Raju (S-125, 1970) Topper ISC, Topper, IIT Delhi, MBA, IIM,

Ahmedabad, 1980-1982. First Rank in Academics in each year of the MBA program

(Gold Medal), MA in Economics from Stanford University, MS in

Operations Research from Stanford University, PhD in Business, Graduate School of

Business, Stanford University. Merit List. Presently Professor of Marketing at

Wharton Business School, U of Penn.

Jaspal Chatha (R-89, 1966) PhD, Professor of Economics at Lehmann College NY, USA

Dr Satish Jain (R-107, 1970) MD, DM Neurology (AIIMS), Ex-Prof. at AIIMS, Neurology

Dr Kamal Sood (S-345, 1976) (Ex Prof of Nephrology, PGI, Chandigarh) Staff Specialist Renal Physician in the Sydney West Area Health Service (SWAHS),

Dr Surjit Singh (S-246, 1976) (Prof of Paediatrics, PGI, Chandigarh)

Rajinder Bahl (S-121, 1968), (IIT, Delhi, PhD IIT Delhi) Presently Professor at IIT Delhi. Head, Centre for Applied Research in Electronics (CARE), IIT Delhi: 1996-99 and Visiting Professor at University of Tokyo, Japan: 2002-2004

Dr Yashbir Dewan (J-257, 1975) MS MCh Fellowships from US and Japan, (Ex-Prof and Head of Neurosurgery at CMC, Ludhiana)

Dr Jagdev Singh Sekhon (R-414,) MD, Prof of Oncology, DMC, Ludhiana

Dr Rajinder Sidhu (S-146,) Professor, Amritsar Medical College

Dr ParamPal Coonar (S-22, 1966) Prof and Head of SPM, Patiala Medical College

Dr Raj Gupta (J-7, 1964) MS and PhD (Electrical Engg and Applied Maths, Duke U, USA) Adjunct Professor, Executive Director, CEO Perspective at Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management (Roll Of Honour Winner)

e. Businessmen

Vinod Kashyap (J-65, 1967), Vineet Kashyap (J-117, 1971) Chairman and MD respectively of India's Leading Construction company BL Kashyap and Sons

Vimal Mahendru (J-344, 1978) (Engineer) MD, Indo Asian Switch Gear. President of All India Electronics Manufacturers Association

Pawan Munjal (S-163, 1970) CEO, Hero MotoCorp

Suman Munjal (S-165, 1969) Hero Group

Umesh Munjal (S-166, 1969) Hero group/Highway Cycles

Mahesh Munjal (S-183, 1971) Hero Group/ Majestic Auto

Darshan Dhaliwal (S-5, 1963) Leading NRI Businessman in Wisconsin, USA (Roll of Honour)

Rakesh Aggarwal (B-138, 1971) IIT Kharagpur, Leading dealer in home decorations mainly rugs in Carolina, USA

Kishore Musle (J-169, 1970) The biggest Car(auto) decorative stickers manufacturer, Mumbai

Vikas Goel (J-656, 1985) winner of 2005 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in Singapore

f. Legal

Justice Rajan Gupta (B-267, 1976)) P&H HC

Justice Tejinder Dhindsa (S-324,1976) P&H HC

Sunil Vashisht (S-304,1976), Asstt AG Haryana

Jasgurpreet Puri (S-390, 1980), Addl AG, Punjab

Sanjeev Pubby(S-401, 1978) Addl AG Punjab

Amar jit S Virk (R-310, 1978) Civil Judge, Ludhiana

g. Civil Servants:

Gurinder Dhanoa (S-9, 1964) IPS, Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Govt of India. Security Adviser to PM of Mauritius (Roll of Honour Winner).

Late Bhupinder Thind (R-112) IPS, ADGP (HP)

Sunil Sharma (S-199) IPS, IGP, J&K,

Mohinder Singh (B-40, 1966) retired as Relief Commissioner, J&K

HS Dhaliwal (S-728, 1988) IPS (UT Cadre)

RS Khattrra (S-270, 1976) IPS (PPS) SSP, Punjab Police

Arunjit Miglani (B-248) IAS (Chief Administrator GMADA)

BS Sidhu, (B-243,1971) IPS Uttaranchal Police, ADGP

Arvinder Singh Bains (B-296, 1973) M Tech(IIT, Delhi) MD WareHousing Corporation,Punjab

Manpreet Singh Poonam(S-472, 1980) MA(Eco), MBA(FMS, Delhi) and IAS, Delhi Administration. Joint Commissioner, Department of Trade and Taxes, Govt. of Delhi – Aug, 2005 onwards/and also working as Jt. Secy. (Tourism), Delhi, since Oct 2008

Suresh Mittal (R-271, 1976) IRS, Commissioner, Income Tax

JS Aulakh (S-400, 1978) SSP, Ropar

HS Kandola (B-235, 1976)(PCS) SDM, Bhatinda

PPS Gill (B-39, 1963) Commissioner, State Information Commission, Punjab

Harinderpal Singh Mann (S-181 1973) Commissioner, State Information Commission, Punjab

Arvinder Singh Brar, (R-189, 1968 to 1974) IFS, Member Secretary Rajasthan Pollution Control Board

Shashi Bhushan Kumar, IAS cadre, Andhra Pradesh

h. Sportspersons

Equestrian

Late Maj MS Bhinder : India's Best Horse Rider, Bangalore National Games, selected for Bangkok Asian Games.

Col Jagdeep Virk(S-428, 1977)(Retd), Three World Cups, and represented India in over 20 countries; Commanded the 61st Cavalry; Awarded the title of Dato [Sir] by Malaysian Govt.

Col Ajay Ahlawat(S-546, 1986), Veteran. Four World Cups and represented India in over 30 countries; First Indian to be awarded the title of Dato [Sir] by Malaysian Govt.; Advisor for Polo to the Sultans of Malaysia and Brunei/ Founder of the First Polo Club of India - Rissala Polo Club, located at ITC Classic Golf Club.

Late Capt Balbir Singh Yadav was the youngest handicap 4 Polo player of India in his time

Grewal (no details) Polo player

Athletes

Ranjit Pal Singh Mann (R-16, 1965) 400 m India, Delhi and Delhi University (St Stephen's)

Navreet Singh Virk (S-669, 1987) Hop Step & Jump, India

Agyapal Singh Bath 400m , India

Sailors

Rana Aujla (S-285, 1974) India in Sailing and Wind Surfing

Brig.GS Julka (J101, 1970) India in Sailing

i. Politics

Pratap Bajwa(R-203, 1973), Cabinet Minister Punjab and Member Parliament
Gurdaspur

Jagmeet Brar (J-116, 1973) General Secy National Party, Former Member Lok Sabha

Harpartap Singh Ajnala (B-45, 1967) MLA

Gurpartap Sanghera (B-387, 1981), MLA

Iqbal Singh Jhunda (B-322, 1978), MLA

Nikhil Sharma (J-129, 1971) MLA (HP)

Two MLAs in Haryana could not get their details.

j. Journalists

Gurmeet Kanwal, (J-68, 1968) Writes on Defence Strategy in National Dailies,
mainly TOI (Ex- Director Security Studies,Observer Research Foundation)

Kanwarjit Sandhu(J-106, 1970) Resident editor HT and MD Day & Night News
Channel

Vijay Singh Kanwar (B-113, 1967) wrote for International and French Newspapers like
Le Monde, Liberation, Diplomatique, Guadian, HT and Indian Express. Covered
Operation Blue Star, the Bhopal Gas tragedy, Indira Gandhi's assassination and its
gruesome aftermath... for foreign papers

Articles by **KJS Sujlana(B-125,1966)**, **IJ Arora(J-40,1967)** have appeared in different
papers

Late R Ghokhale (J-154, 1969) published magazines like Super before his death

PPS Gill (B-39, 1964) Former Chief of Bureau "The Tribune" and also former Member
Information Commission ,Punjab

k. Social Workers

Dr Devinderjit Singh (S-245, 1973)MD, Managing Baru Educational Trust in
Himachal, Runs over 120charitable schools and Colleges in rural areas and a University
in HP, with Sikh values and traditions.

Dr Varinderpal Bindra (B-51, 1967) and Tejinder Pal Bindra (Beas, 1973) running Late Kuljit Kaur Bindra Charitable Foundation. Established Guru Nanak Chair in Hollstra Univerisyt NY and International Award (\$50,000) for Interfaith studies (people like Clinton and Bishop Tutu on board as judges).

Rakesh Aggarwal (B-138, 1971) went to IIT , Kharagpur. Successful Businessman in US, running Rug Stores. Brings American team of doctors and paramedics and conducts Health Camps in rural deprived areas of UP at his expense. He has donated one lakh dollars to local Hospital for Cancer patients.

Arvinder Singh Bubber (J-44, 1966) Profesional CA (A.S. Bubber and Associates), Social worker and educationist, VC , Kwantlein University, founding President of SPARK Education Foundation, Vice-Chair, Premier's Asia Pacific Trade Council, and in 2006, Bubber was appointed to the Simon Fraser University Presidential Advisory Council on India

l. Acts of Bravery

Maj Rajwinder Cheema (R-9, 1965) Vir Chakra (1971 war), awarded in PPS.

Lt Madanjit S Ahluwalia (S-32, 1963) Nao Sena Medal (aboard INS Khukri 1971 War),

Brig Anil Kayastha (S-63, 1968) One of the few doctors to get Bravery Award in Kargil war;

Fg Offr DS Shaheed(B-54,1965)

Vayu Seva Medal

Maj Amardeep Singh Dhillon (J-381, 1982)

Sena Medal

Lt.Ravinder Kakar(R-97)

Shaurya Chakra

Late SP Rupinder Teja (J-139, 1970) President's Police Medal for Gallantry (Posthumous).

Birinder Singh Sidhu, IPS (S-243, 1971) Awarded Prime Minister's Baton at Police Academy

1.Awarded Police Medal for Gallantry by Hon. President of India.

2.Bar to Police Gallantry Medal by Hon. President of India

m. In Line of Duty (lost their lives)

Late Capt Manjinder Singh Bhinder (R-505, 1984) Best Rider, Bangalore National

Games , Died in Uphaar Tragedy saving others from the fire that engulfed the Theatre.

Late Wing Commander Amritpal Singh Sidhu (S-11, 1964) Chief Pilot Chhatisgarh Govt; died on duty

Late Capt Harjit Singh Aulakh (S-297, 1976) died in Saichen.

Late Harpal Singh (R-173, 1973) (Head Boy) died in Sri Lanka Operation

Late Harpreet Mand (B-137, 1970) died in Assam on duty. Fondly called “Admiral of Assam”. His death sent shock waves in Tea Industry

Late Maj Rajwinder Singh Cheema, Vir Chakra 1971 (which was ceremonially given to him in The PPS on his request)

m. Executives

Rajeev Bakshi (B-151) (Eco Honours, St Stephens, MBA from IIM Bangalore) MD Cadbury India, South Africa, Chairman Pepsico India, later Asia. AMD with German MNC chain Metro Cash and Carry.

Dilip Bedekar (S-67,1967) MSc(Food Tech) MBA ,Country Head, India and SAARC region, Sensient Technologies (MNC)

Ashok Balwani (R-90,1966) BE (BITS,Pilani) MBA (FMS,Delhi) Vice President & Director of DNV Certification for Middle East, South & South-East Asia & ANZ and Director of Human Resources at DNV’s head office in Oslo, Norway. Presently Director many companies including Hitachi HomeAppliances

Inderjit Aulakh (R-109, 1966) Director, Dole International(Fruit Transport) , Miami, USA

Ajay Gupta (J-375, 1982) MBA,Vice President, Kuoni Travels (International Japanese travel Co)

Asheesh Saksena(R-446,1982) BE(BITS Pilani) MBA(FMS Delhi) Joined Tata Adm Services (President, Tatafone), Partner Accenture Ltd, Presently Time Warner Cable announced that Asheesh Saksena has joined the Company as Deputy Chief Strategy Officer and Senior Vice President, Corporate Strategy

Late Radhe Krishan Nagpal (B-152, 1971) Topper ISC, Topper Indian School Of Mines, MBA (IIM Calcutta), CEO, Goenka Group Company

Vijay Singh (J-126, 1971) Vice President PPL Corporation, Allentown, USA. BA(Eco&Maths) Delhi U, Masters in International Business and Finance from Asian Institute of Development ,Manila, Philipines, PhD (Ohio U). Asstt Prof of Finance at U of Pittsburgh, Georgia Tech, George Mason U.

Vikram Kurien(J-120, 1968),BE(BITS, Pilani, MBA(FMS Delhi), Tata Administrative Services CEO of Tata Precision(Singapore) and Director of two other subsidiaries of Tata Precision

Raghuvender Singh Punia (J-85, 1968) Economics Hons(St Stephen), Chartered Accountancy from UK, Partner, PWC at Hong Kong, World's biggest Accounting firm.

n. Arts

Film maker and author–Vijay Singh Kanwar (B-113, 1967) (Roll of Honour)

Acting (Films) - Jimmy Shergill (Jasjeet Shergill, R-796)

A Brief Analysis Of Old Nabhaites And What They Are Up To

(The following analysis will also tell you why it is important that you must completely fill the personal biodata forms at the reception counter at ONA parties.)

The ONA Database has data of 4450 Old Nabhaites on it. Only half of them have reasonable amount of data. Out of these we have 1421 whose column for Profession has been filled. Among these 493 are still students in some college or University. That leaves 928 Old Nabhaites, Below is an analysis of this sample. If you consider 928 to be significant sample you can draw some conclusions from this analysis.

The first column gives the profession, second column shows number of Old Nabhaites in this category. The third column gives the percentage of Old Nabhaites in this profession out of 931. The biggest category is of Defence Officers which is 31% of Old Nabhaites.

However if you were to bracket all the professionals leaving out farmers, business, self employed, Government and others categories (Bankers+ executives+management+doctors+dentists+ engineers+Chartered Acct+Lawyers+Professors) the percentage of Old Nabhaites is 35.71%

This brings to the conclusion that professionals and Defence Officers are 2/3rd of Old Nabhaites i.e. 66% at least.

Profession	No	% of 928
Bankers	13	1.40
Business	177	19.00
CA	10	1.10
Defence Officers	290	31.13
Dentists	07	0.75
Doctors	124	13.36
Engineers	60	6.50
Executives	37	4.08
Farming	51	5.50
Govt	48	5.17
Lawyers	38	4.09
Management	37	4.09
Merchant N	07	0.75
Others	18	1.93
Professors	03	0.32
Self Employed	08	0.86
	928	100.3

Students 493

Professionals Bankers+ CA+ Engineers+ Doctors+ Dentists+
Lawyers+ Professors+ Management+ Executives+ 35.71%

How is that for success of a School? The Founders have a reason to smile on The Punjab Public School, Nabha from the heavens above!.

Dr Jashanjot(S-52, 1967)

Message from the ONA President

This issue is proudly dedicated to **Gen Bikram Singh (B-71, 1968)** an Old Nabhaite, and underlines the contribution of Old Nabhaites in bringing honour and pride to PPS and Old Nabhaites fraternity.

The issue would be incomplete without an address from the President of ONA. As it is not easy to address Old Nabhaites and PPS students and staff spread all over the world, we are carrying his message in this issue.

Below is the message from **Lt Gen TK Sapru (S-42, 1964)**, himself a high achiever, as you all know. You can see the sincerity in his message coming from heart, mind and soul. He also has a word of advice for young Old Nabhaites and students of The PPS.

Message From Lt Gen Tk Sapru, PVSM, YSM, (RETD), President ONA,

On The Eve Of Appointment Of

Lt Gen Bikram Singh As The COAS

1. It is, indeed, an honour for me to be addressing the alumni of Punjab Public School, Nabha, on the eve of an extraordinary event which is sensuous, not just for the Punjab Public School, Nabha, or just for Punjab, or just for our beloved country, but for the whole world at large. On the First Day of June this year, one of our alumni, Lt Gen Bikram Singh, shall head the World's fourth largest Army, the magnificent Indian Army. After a mere 52 years, our alumni now consist of professionals and business leaders from all walks of life. The school has produced eminent doctors, engineers, architects, diplomats, members of the all India Central Services besides numerous Generals, Admirals and Air Marshals; and teachers who have enriched various facilities in PPS as well as schools, colleges and universities elsewhere.
2. Undoubtedly, our Alma Mater has been instrumental in imbibing in us a sense of integrity, honesty, hard work and qualities of leadership so essential to character building. That the school has, indeed, been eminently successful in this vital aspect is borne out by the success of its alumni not only in India but equally, if not more, in other advanced societies in USA, UK, Canada and many other countries the world over. This clearly shows that PPS has been the crucible of competence for the vast majority of its pupils. What can demonstrate this more than the pinnacle of success in one's professional field than that achieved by our designate Chief of the Army Staff, General Bikram Singh?
3. General Bikram Singh is an epitome of hard work, sincerity, dedication and above all superb moral character and integrity. He joined the school at a tender age of 10, in 1962 in the Junior School in Class 5 and passed out after matriculation in 1967. While in school, besides excelling in academics, he participated in all sporting curriculum and other extra-curricular activities with tremendous enthusiasm. His talents were diverse and remarkable with a voracious appetite for reading. After completion of his training at the

NDA and the IMA, he was commissioned in the Sikh Light Infantry in 1972. He is known in the entire Army as a thorough professional who has, all through his service thus far, been an excellent commander, an immaculate staff officer and a great leader of men. He has had a very chequered career with an enviable array of command, staff and instructional appointments, besides a very challenging United Nations assignment at a very senior level. For his extreme dedication and diligence, he has been honored by the President of India with numerous awards which include PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM and VSM. I have no doubt that he will do us all- the School, the Army and the Country- proud in this very coveted appointment, which he assumes on 01 Jun 2012. On behalf of all of us from the PPS, past and present, I wish him the very best and take this opportunity to assure him that we shall always be with him. I also take this opportunity to convey our good wishes to Mrs Bubbles Singh and their children for this very great honor bestowed on Gen Bikram Singh.

4. On this very momentous occasion during the summer of 2012, let all Nabhaites, young and not so young, dedicate ourselves to the success and glory of our esteemed Alma Mater; and hope that every boy and girl who passes out from this very superb cradle of excellence, becomes an exemplary citizen of our country and excels in whatever field or sphere of activity he or she pursues. I can assure you that the future of PPS and all Nabhaites shines bright under a young, dynamic Headmaster, Mr Jagpreet Singh, and his dedicated Staff, who have infused energy and enthusiasm in a growing legacy. With pride and determination in our hearts, I wish everyone bon voyage in their journey “ONWARD AND UPWARD” to success, happiness and ever growing glory.

5. God bless and Jai Hind.

Signed

Lt Gen TK Sapru, PVSM, YSM (Retd)(S-42, 1964)

President, ONA

The Last Word

The last word has to be from none other than the General himself before we end this special issue.

“My grateful thanks and Best Regards to all Nabhaites! May God continue to bless our Alma Mater. I am proud to be a Nabhaite.”

General Bikram Singh (B-71, 1968), COAS, India
