

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2019

Honourable Chief Guest Shri Kamal Nath, Chief Minister of our State, MP, Patron Raja Digvijay Singhji Raghogarh, President of the Board of Governors HH Maharaja Narendra Singh Jhabua, Vice President Shri Devraj Singh Badgara, Members of the Board, Mr. Kiran Jeevan Prasad Dar, distinguished guests, parents, Old Dalians especially the Silver Jubilee Batch of 1994 and Golden Jubilee Batch of 1969, colleagues and dear students,

I welcome you all to the 149th Annual Prize Giving of the Daly College.

Before I commence my annual report, with great pleasure I introduce our Chief Guest, Shri Kamal Nath, who presided over this function exactly a decade ago when he was the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways. Our common connection is The Doon School where his sons studied while I was a young Master at the school. He is an alumnus of the Doon school himself.

A 9 time MP from Chhindwara since 1980, Shri Kamal Nath has headed various ministries in the Union Government; Environment & Forests, Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Road Transport & Highways, Urban Development and Parliament Affairs. In addition, he has been member of a number of Parliamentary Committees – Petroleum & Chemical, Local Area Development, Power, Commerce, Finance & Corporate Affairs to name a few. Known for quick and decisive actions and his friendly relations across the political spectrum, successive Prime Ministers appointed him to ministries where this skill proved very useful.

Shri Kamal Nath helped formulate national policies to make ministries more proactive and responsive to the needs of times. He was responsible for the National Policy on Ecological Conservation and Abatement of Pollution, formulated a new Textile Policy and India's first comprehensive Foreign Trade Policy. He has represented the country in international forums with distinction when he mixed his diplomatic skills and business acumen as a hard negotiator to India's advantage – at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, WTO talks, World Economic Forum in Davos, G-20, G-33 and several other summits.

Educated at the Doon School and at St. Xavier's Calcutta, Shri Nath is the President of the Board of Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad; Lajpatrai Memorial College Committee, Ghaziabad; and Chairman of the Centre for Advanced Education, Nagpur.

Shri Kamal Nath was awarded the FDI Personality of the Year Award, 2007 in entire Asia and the world. He has also been awarded with the National Coal Mine Labourers Federation and Bharat Youth Samaj. Shri Nath has also been a member of the Congress Working Committee from September 2002 to July 2004.

He became the Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee on April 26, 2018 and was elected leader of the Madhya Pradesh Congress Legislature Party on December 14, 2018. Shri Nath was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on 17 December, 2018.

On a lighter note, may I add that the combo of Daly College and Doon School is working well in Madhya Pradesh. May this friendship continue to flourish. We have three young, dynamic Old Dalian parents who are, serving the State under your leadership and I am happy that they are gracing the occasion today – Raja Priyavrat Singh who is on the Board as well, Shri Surendra Singh Baghel and Shri Sachin Yadav. Vidhan Sabha Speaker, Shri Narmada Prasad Prajapati whose exploits in hockey on this very ground are legendary. I also acknowledge Shri Laxman Singh's gracious presence on the occasion. He is as sharp as ever on and off the field – the other day he hooked my beamer for a four down the fine leg at the Rajgarh Cup as if he were playing at the Narsinghgarh Cup as a present Dalian.

To top it all, our Patron, Raja Digvijaya Singh of Raghogarh who is also gracing the occasion continues to play a hugely significant role, supportive of the development of the State. This year in March we had a unique get together of Old Dalians who have won the assembly elections last year. Raja Digvijay Singhji presided over the function.

I would also like to thank Mr. Kiran Jeevan Prasad Dar, Padam Shri R N Zutshi Awardee for the year 2019, for presiding over the Junior School function yesterday and for his inspirational address.

Mr. Suresh Mathur, Old Boy of Mayo College, distinguished educationist with more than three decades of experience as a teacher and Head at various top institutions in India and Dubai, and Kanwar Sultan Singh, eminent Old Dalian of 1984 batch, and Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court were nominated by the Government on the Board last month. We welcome them warmly and wish them a happy tenure.

Mr Suresh Mathur's experience was immediately put to good use when he inaugurated our Exhibitions on the theme of 'Happiness' yesterday and spent close to four and a half hours going through the various exhibits put up by our students. Mr. Mathur, your gesture made the fruit of our efforts even sweeter.

Now I read the Principal's report for the year 2019 in which I will be assisted by members of the Prefect Council - Paranjay Singh, Ashmi Jha, Gaurika Anand and Kush Bachhawat.

Within the time constraints, I will touch upon highlights of the year gone by while the detailed Principal's report has been uploaded on the College website and a copy has been kept on your seat for you to go through at your leisure.

Academic Results

Class X CBSE results saw a 4% jump since previous year with a batch average of 78%. Out of 153 students, 37 have scored in the 90s. Perfect score of 100 has been obtained by 10 students in various subjects. Toppers were Ranvir Singh Chhabra, 98%, Harman Singh Bagga 97% and Vedant Adhana 96.8%.

CBSE Class XII – batch average of 77.25% was almost comparable to previous year. 29 students scored in the 90s out of 145. Toppers were Vedant Jain 97.2 %, he scored 100 in Business Studies and Economics, Ananya Sharma 96.6%, Shreya Sojatia 96.4%, Aakash Kataria 96.% and Ishika Sitlani 95.6%. 8 perfect scores of 100 were achieved in English, Business Studies, Economics & Fine Arts. Merit certificates were awarded by CBSE to 6 students for being amongst the top 0.1 %. Two unsuccessful students take away a bit of shine from an otherwise good result in XII.

Cambridge International results also continue their upward trend. In IGCSE (Class X) results 61.7% entries were either A* or A, a 6% jump compared to last year. It is worthy to note that this batch had opted for the more challenging English as first language. The Toppers were Sia Phulambrikar 94.1%, Arnav Mittal 92.8% and Rudra Saigal 92.18%. Out of 27 students, 24 earned the coveted Cambridge International Certificate in Education (ICE) Award with Distinction or Merit. 67 % earned Distinction.

In the A levels 40% of entries were either A* or A which is better than last year's. Toppers were Anand Nair , Shourya Vikram Singh Chouhan and Naquiya Barwaniwala 80.25%.

Following students have won the prestigious 'Outstanding Cambridge Learner' awards in recognition of their exceptional performance in the Cambridge Assessment International Education exams in 2018-19 :

- Sia topped the world in IGCSE Economics and topped the Country in IGCSE Geography.
- Mahika Vats won a High Achievement in AS Level Geography.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in applauding the students and staff for their efforts and achievements in 2018-19, CBSE and Cambridge exams.

In sports, we have had a total participation of 430 students (233 boys and 197 girls) in all India IPSC tournaments and 401 played in SGFI Inter School District/ Divisional and State levels and 32 in CBSE clusters. There are 111 students selected for 65th National School Games, 127 selected at national level in Open tournaments, thus a total of 241 national representations. We also have 4 international representations.

Staff News

Professional development of staff continues to be essential to our growth.

While 11 teachers attended training programs conducted by Cambridge in English, Maths, Psychology and Global perspectives, 16 teachers attended various workshops organised by the CBSE on topics ranging from gender sensitivity, life skills, classroom management apart from academic subjects. Another 33 teachers attended PD programs, conferences and training sessions organised by British Council, MPCA, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development Indore, TAISI, IIT Indore,

DIDAC India, STEAM Conclave, a unique initiative of the MP Government where arts is added to STEM. In addition many of our teachers were appointed as resource persons by the CBSE to conduct workshops on various subjects and topics.

This year teachers had two in-house training sessions– a three day session in January on the theme of ‘Responsibility and Accountability’, was inaugurated by Professor Himanshu Rai, Director IIM Indore and a 5-days training session in June on the theme ‘Happiness and Kaizen’ had Mrs Vanita Uppal, OBE, Director, The British School, New Delhi deliver the keynote address.

The Principal and Mrs. Vineeta Bedhotiya attended the G30 summit organised by Appleby College and Upper Canada College, Toronto in May. They also visited Hotchkiss School in America.

Mrs. Kumud Singh and Dr. Yogeshwar Shukla will attend the Cambridge School Conference in Bali next week.

The Community remembers fondly some of its leaders who left for their heavenly abode- two eminent Old Dalians, former President of the Board of DC, former Union Minister and former Governor of Goa, HH Maharaja Bhanu Prakash Singhji of Narsingharh, Mr Deepak Obhrai, RN Zutshi awardee and Parliamentarian from Calgary, Canada. I was fortunate to meet Mr Obhrai in Toronto for a chapter get together in May this year when he drove all the way from Ottawa to be with us. Yesterday we received the news of the sad demise of former Principal, Shri HL Dutt who was at the helm of affairs from 1979 to 1983. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

Infrastructure

As a result of continued financial discipline and streamlining of purchase procedures we have sufficient funds to invest in 35 projects for upgrading student and staff facilities. This has been largely possible due to the support and guidance of the Board.

When I joined in 2017, we took the risk of digging up the ground at the Scindia Pavilion for the purpose of relaying it. Today this cricket ground along with the renovated Scindia Pavilion matches international standards and has the BCCI approval. Recently we hosted the Vinoo Mankad U-19 Tournament on this ground and many budding stars of Indian cricket displayed their talent and skills. Encouraged by this success we have taken

up the challenge of restoring the Main Building to its original colour. We are delighted by the outcome as are all the stakeholders, in particular Old Dalians some of whom may never have seen the original stone. The building looks glorious than ever before and it has happened under the expert advice and supervision of Mr. Pravin Shrivastava retired from the Archeology Department and the man behind restoration of many heritage buildings in the city including Rajwada. A very mild acid along with Multani mitti which we all know is a natural cleansing agent used in face packs, has been used in the cleaning of the stone. Internal restoration and renovation of the building will continue with classrooms getting modern furniture in keeping with the heritage, and the reorganizing of office spaces.

Renovation work of Ashok and Vikram House buildings, started about 6 months ago, has gathered momentum with the appointment of the Project Manager cum Engineer. We hope this mammoth project will be completed in the next year. The buildings will be air cooled and are being internally reorganized for new furniture layouts and other amenities. There will be annexes attached to each of these buildings to house staff and for other facilities for students. For this purpose the tendering process has been completed and contracts finalized.

All four synthetic tennis courts have been repaired and re-laid with proper drainage and with strengthened steel framework. New lights have been installed too.

Work on 50 m and 25 m open shooting ranges is complete except for the pavilion for the 25 m range. Computerized target system is being installed too.

Work on the Gymnasium to convert it into 4 badminton courts of international standards is underway and we hope that this will also be ready before the start of the next academic session.

Renovation and restoration of Barwani House is another project which is expected to be completed by March. Similarly the Dhirubhai Ambani Auditorium requires repair and renovation, particularly to its sound and light system, and the work is expected to complete by coming March end.

We are modernizing the kitchen and upgrading the Dining Hall. While the kitchen design has been approved by the Board, work on the renovation of

Dining Hall, to make it appear pleasing and homely, is expected to start after the APG. Old washrooms will be renovated and another entry and washroom area added on the southern side.

All the fields including the athletics ground has been re-laid and it is a sight to behold as one enters from the Gyan Dwar, particularly in the morning, lush green top with dew drops on either side of the road.

Washrooms of Science Block, Computer Science Block and New Block are renovated.

Other projects which should commence this term are; Renovation of old squash courts by raising their heights and floors, upgrading interiors to showcase rich legacy of the game at College, new maple flooring in the six courts and air-conditioning in three, STP of 200 KLD capacity, stables for 10 horses, installation of safety nets for Golf near Musakhedi gate and renovation of the College hospital.

Junior School – the Board deliberated at length for the Junior School renovation and I am happy to report that the Board agreed with the suggestion to build it anew as the present building had been made in stages with different architects and ideas and lacks coherency and is unsuitable for 21st century. The heritage buildings of Barwani and Sitamau Houses will be renovated and the new building has been planned to be built in stages while running the school smoothly. The building will be called 150th year Jubilee Building. This building will take its inspiration from the designs of the Main Building and Ashok/ Vikram House buildings. We will soon be sharing a walk- through video with you. Of course this will be an expensive project and I have full faith that the community will rise to the occasion for the benefit of their children and generations of Dalians thereafter.

We are at the cusp of the 150th year of our existence. Daly College has evolved with time and faced many challenges like any other established institution, of long standing, in the world. In the face of what promises to be an uncertain and unpredictable future we must prepare our students with a holistic education, like in our ancient Gurukul system, for every possible challenge that may lie in wait due to the nature of information explosion, artificial intelligence, environmental stress and God knows what else. Skills acquired for a particular job will be rendered useless in 5 years time and

one will have to learn to unlearn and relearn. If one cannot do that it will be 21st century illiteracy. Artificial Intelligence will make for more individualistic development and give complete power and responsibility to students. The child would be using technology to render himself impervious and therefore teachers and parents would need to become as Krishna was to Arjun- friend, mentor, guide and coach. Classrooms would need to be more engaging, focusing on real learning rather than on formal content. Intellectual ferment and environmental sensitivity must be inculcated.

As we enter our 150th year we shall deliberate and may use the experience of professional agencies like Deloitte, PWC, E&Y to look at the various challenges I have just mentioned.

You are all welcome to contribute by sending your suggestions to the school.

In the end I would like to place on record my grateful thanks to the parents who continue to believe in us and support our new initiatives wholeheartedly.

To the faculty, administrative and support staff, I would like to say that change has never been an easy proposition for humans but you have done well and we have covered a lot of distance together in providing what is best for our students. To the local media which has been quite regular in publishing our students achievements, I record my thanks.

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge the support and guidance of the Board of Governors and the Old Dalians. Also, my gratitude is due to the local administration, Police and Civil both, media for their support. In the end I would once again like to thank Shri Kamal Nath for his gracious presence this evening. Ladies and gentlemen this year we have engaged a professional group from Mumbai for helping us with our cultural programme which will start after tea and I request you all to witness the cultural programme for which the students and staff have worked very hard. I am sure you will enjoy it. It is on Mahatma Gandhi as we celebrate his 150th anniversary but with a little twist. What would things had been if he had survived the attack on him.

Thank you once again.

Jai Hind!

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