

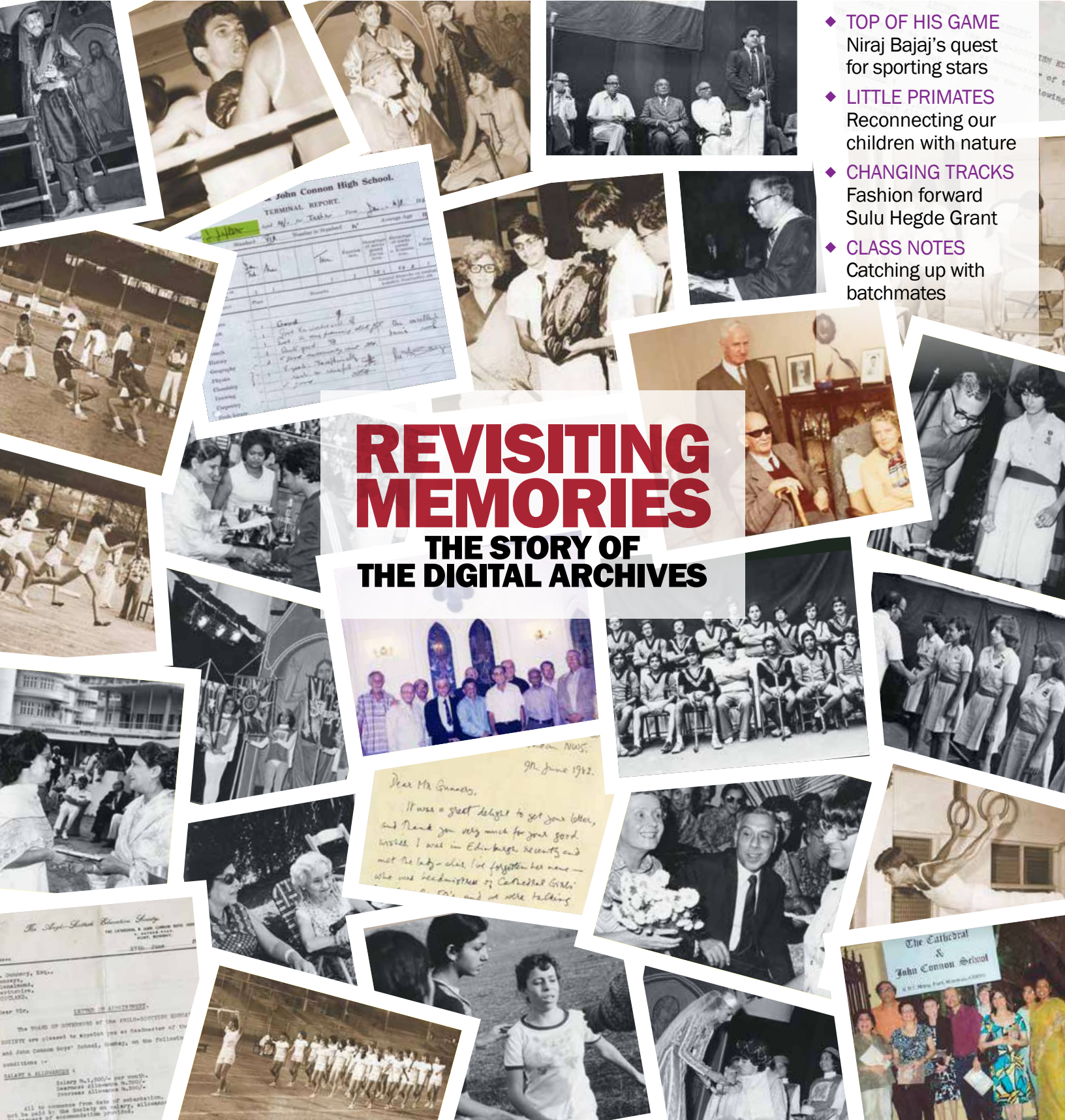
# The XC Cathedralite

The Cathedral & John Connon Alumni Magazine

- ◆ **TOP OF HIS GAME**  
Niraj Bajaj's quest for sporting stars
- ◆ **LITTLE PRIMATES**  
Reconnecting our children with nature
- ◆ **CHANGING TRACKS**  
Fashion forward  
Sulu Hegde Grant
- ◆ **CLASS NOTES**  
Catching up with batchmates

## REVISITING MEMORIES

### THE STORY OF THE DIGITAL ARCHIVES



John Connon High School.  
**TERMINAL REPORT**  
 and % of Teacher  
 Student: [Name] Grade: [Grade] Teacher: [Name]  
 [Table with columns for various subjects: English, History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Drawing, Computer, Book-keeping, etc.]

Dear Mr. Gnanas,  
 It was a great delight to get your letter, and thank you very much for your good wishes. I was in Chicago recently and met the lady - alas I've forgotten her name - who was headmistress of Cathedral Girls' School, and we were talking

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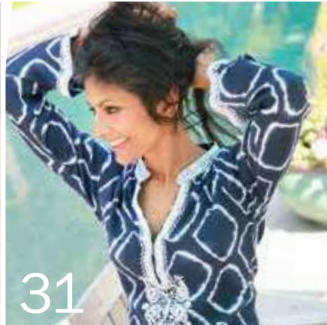


PALLADIUM

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Published by The Cathedral and John Connon Alumni Association, 6, P.T. Marg, Mumbai 400 001 and printed at Spenta Multimedia Pvt. Ltd., Peninsula Spenta, Mathuradas Mill Compound, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013.  
[www.spentamultimedia.com](http://www.spentamultimedia.com)

Do write in with your feedback and ideas to [magazine@catalumni.com](mailto:magazine@catalumni.com)



## President's Report 2016

To my fellow alumni,

It is with mixed feelings that I pen my final report as President. Six years filled with nostalgia and networking with a veritable Cathedral mafia embedded in every nook of the civilised world. A source of learning and the joy of giving back to the institution that built us, it gave me the opportunity to work with some colleagues whose engagement with Cathedral began more than five decades ago and others who were literally born internet-enabled. In all my interactions, alumni were unanimous in crediting Cathedral for the skill-sets for multitasking and pushing oneself beyond extremes while pulling others along. Discovering and sharing in the successes of fellow alum achievers was the icing on a very rich cake.

This year saw Shyla Boga Patel conduct the 14th Cathedral Summer School in Manori. While it was a huge hit with the 35 middlers who engaged with 22 Manori village kids, it will be difficult going forward to attract a viable number, given the plentiful distractions available to them internationally. In a bid to attract a different sub-set of members, "Paintstorm", an intimate art-based event to channelise the inner Picasso, was an unqualified

success. Hosted at alumni-run The White Owl, the Sunday was enjoyed by several members and children. The 2015 *X-Cathedralite* was arguably the best ever: particularly the cover story, 'Kitchen Unconfidential', which profiled 13 alumni who are the toast of Mumbai's culinary scene. So many Cathedralites responsible for upping the city's cool quotient!

Founders' Week was celebrated with great aplomb. The proud reunion classes occupied pews at the magnificent St. Thomas' Cathedral. The basketball match had the Old Boys under Sumit Chawla and Akshay Multani whip the Young Lads mercilessly 66:14. They were cheered on by visitors enjoying the traditional Middle School Old Girls Tea, hosted "Back to Break Time" style, serving up the RTI fare that memories are made of. Apparently, the lemon tarts and patties remain same-ol'. On the Willingdon fairways, 28 fanatics battled it out over birdies and beers with Jamsheed Mehta and Shivas Nath coming away tops and Wilson House sweeping the stakes. Out on the *maidan* down by the sea, the School cricket team won this year as well.



Members of the Executive Committee 2016-17

L to R: Shonar Lala Chinoy, Anang Agarwalla, Sundeep Ahuja, Chitra Rajkumar, Gautam Shewakramani, Shyla Boga Patel, Mukeeta Jhaveri, Rohita Chaganlal Doshi, Anushka Shivdasani Rovshen  
Missing from picture: Mrs. Meera Isaacs, Prakash Thadani, Viral Doshi, Udita Jhunjhunwala, Mitali Anand Kalra and Amit Advani



## Executive Committee

(2016–17)

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Sundeep Ahuja  
(ICSE '77, Palmer)

### Vice Presidents

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Mrs. Meera Isaacs, Principal  
(*ex-officio*)

Mukeeta Jhaveri  
(ISC '83, Savage) (*ex-officio*)

Viral Doshi  
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Shyla Boga Patel  
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Chitra Rajkumar  
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Mitali Anand Kalra  
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Amit Advani  
(ISC '94, Palmer)

Prakash Thadani  
(ISC '69, Savage)

The Executive Committee looks forward to your active involvement with the Association.

Please do contact us on the Cathedral Alumni Helpline (99305 77120) or through our website [www.catalumni.com](http://www.catalumni.com). You can reconnect with us by registering/ updating your details at [www.catalumni.com](http://www.catalumni.com)

The Association and the School have been labouring to launch a Digital Archive to document our living heritage, a first-of-its-kind initiative by a private educational institution. We are grateful to donors across the world for sharing their treasures and to Malti Thiagarajan, the indefatigable Head Librarian, for spearheading this project, Nadish Naoroji (1969) and Gautam Shewakramani (2001) for cost-effective tech “jugaad” solutions and team Spenta for the last-mile intervention.

In our enthusiasm, we underestimated the tech challenges and the cost of a custom solution, hence the delay. In our defence, we have made it as engaging and rewarding as possible for those looking for a trip down memory lane against the labyrinth of the changing contours of life in Bombay vs. Mumbai.

We will miss deeply Gita Simoes and Ratan Lalkaka, vociferous advocates of all things Cathedral. We also lost Savage Housemistress Mrs. Antony, a centurion, the gentle but firm Headmistress Mrs. Patruni and popular Palmer Housemistress Mrs. Punoose, whose lilt while describing the wonders of Ajanta and Ellora will always be remembered.

I like to think that I leave the Association in strong hands. In fact, we have been supporting the work of Future First Global, a U.K.-based foundation tasked with strengthening alumni networks globally. The team has been infused with young blood, products of the digital age and avid consumers of social media. How the magazine and our events are conceptualised, executed and marketed today reflect the new realities. One of my early challenges was re-launching the [catalumni.com](http://catalumni.com) website to reflect the changed world of [www](http://www). Today, we are working on 3.0 to make access to the Association more mobile-friendly in its next avatar. It will continue to be a challenge to keep the diverse-in-age-and-technology membership equally engaged. The Archive I hope will always be a work-in-progress, a labour of love for generations to cherish and nurture. The Retired Teachers' and Staff Medical Benefit Scheme continues to be a small safety net to cushion the burden of cascading health costs. We currently have 53 grateful members covered by insurance.

Thank you, Executive Committee, for your can-do-la attitude, for finding something to smile about when things went south, for taking ownership and delivering tough asks. Thank you for energising me and mentoring me. Thank you, Mrs. Isaacs, for your stewardship of our beloved alma mater and support for all our alumni ventures. Seeing Cathedral in the news for all the right reasons, be it accolades for Best School or new initiatives related to security or social responsibility or lowering the stress-factor for kids by eliminating exams upto Std. 7 or making a success of juggling IB and ISC, you and the School make us stand tall.

~ **Mukeeta Jhaveri née Kataria**  
(ISC 1983)



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# Annual Speech Day – 2015-16



*Mrs. Meera Isaacs, Principal*

Welcome to our 156th Annual Day. This is the one day in the year when we publicly acknowledge and celebrate the achievement of the School and its multifaceted pupils.

We are honoured to have as our Chief Guest Mr. Darius Khambata, Maharashtra's former Advocate General and former Additional Solicitor General of India. He is one of our illustrious alumnae, as is his wife, Kerman.

I, on behalf of the School, acknowledge our Board of Governors, a bulwark of support and strength. With our visionary Chairman, Mr. T. Thomas, at the helm, ably supported by stalwarts in their field, the School moves from strength to strength while holding steadfastly to our age-old traditions and core values.

I wish to acknowledge those who have given yeoman service and to whom we are compelled to bid farewell. Rocky Rodricks—the Physics laboratory was his kingdom, and all who entered therein, his subjects. He dispensed humour, knowledge on Physics experiments and homespun homilies in equal measure. He was loved by all. He served this institution for more than 44 years.

Mr. Vishwas Joshi, meticulous keeper of Accounts and guardian of the Book room, served for 33 years. He certainly has the right ideas

about retirement, as he is already holidaying in Goa.

Mr. V. Gopalakrishnan, Head of our Mathematics department, staunch believer in the mantra of incessant practice, generous purveyor of Malayali goodies, expert chocolate taster and dispenser, a repertory of jokes and stories and general philosopher-on-call.

Ms. Armaity Disawala, Junior School Librarian, was with us for 24 years. Her love for books and stories has been inherited by her young students. An expert calligrapher, she raised the task of certificate writing to a fine art. She was a devoted daughter to her ailing mother and saw to her every need.

Mr. Neville Unwala, Administrative Assistant for 11 years, ensured that every function went off like clockwork, with every mic, chair and banner in place. Small touches (a stock of mints for a bad throat) were his hallmark. Large-hearted and jovial, he was an excellent mimic.

It is my privilege to welcome the staff who have joined this year, especially Mr. Justin Sebastian, our soft-spoken, organised and youthful IBDP Coordinator. His deep knowledge of the International Baccalaureate (IB) has stood the School and his wards in excellent stead. While it was a conscious decision to begin with a small cohort,

it is clear that the School has already established its credentials on this front, as the number of applicants for the coming year has more than doubled. I need to acknowledge the meticulous groundwork of all the IB teachers under the guidance of Mr. Sebastian.

I move on to the Board examinations results, the very same that are viewed with trepidation by students harried by their Whatsapping panicky mothers. At the ICSE examinations, of the 144 candidates who appeared, 114 got 90 per cent and above, 28 fell in the 80-89 per cent category and 2 were in the 70s. Tanmay Chopra topped with 98.80 per cent.

The ISC examination saw 70 of the 111 candidates securing over 90 per cent. Aiman Shariff topped Science, Shivani Kedia, Humanities, and Soham Daruwalla, Commerce.

Through the year, more than 200 international college and university representatives met our students, providing information as well as interviews on home turf.

The mandatory preparatory SAT scores averaged a mean Reasoning Score of 1940 compared to the world mean of approximately 1490. The PSAT scores were equally impressive.

Currently, we offer 16 Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Of the 114 students who sat for 235

## Principal's Message

AP examinations in May 2015, 53 per cent achieved a perfect score of 5, 31 were awarded AP Scholar, and 10, AP Scholar with Honors, while 24 were awarded AP Scholar with Distinction.

Despite Donald Trump's alarming comb-over and outrageous threats, college admission responses from the US have been exceptionally good. After a long interval, California Institute of Technology has opened its doors to us. Our Head Boy and Head Girl have been admitted to Harvard. Others include Yale, Columbia, Wharton, Cornell, Stanford, Northwestern, Swarthmore, Haverford, Carnegie Mellon University, Vassar and Babson. He couldn't have known he would have to contend with the grit of our children or the determination of Mrs. S. Shukla.

Conditional offers to read unconventional subjects have come from several institutions in the UK. Financial assistance too has been forthcoming. International Art schools visit us regularly and admit our students, often with large scholarships.

We've had a blisteringly busy year. What begins at the Pre-primary is reinforced at the Infant, Junior and Middle School levels, until the students of the Senior Section and indeed all the Sections are inundated with opportunities to explore their talent and creativity. Music, drama, elocution, sport, art—you name it, we foster it.

Here are snippets of our year:

Twenty Seniors were part of the all-expenses-paid Sakura Science Project initiated by the Japanese government.

Eight students from Std. 12 represented India at the London International Youth Science Forum 2015 held at Imperial College. They had the opportunity to meet young scientists from more than 65 countries.

Two students won a merit award for their research on Parkinson's

disease at the Brain Camp in Singapore in June 2015.

The Aqua Regia Science Quiz saw our teams placing second and third at the city finals.

At the regional finals of the Texas Instruments Science and Technology Quiz 2015, our team were the first runners-up.

Std. 12 Science students attended a programme by ONGC and Shell, allowing them to perform experiments to study the mechanism and technique of petroleum drilling.

The School was invited by the Ministry of Earth Sciences to participate in a video conference with scientists working on the Scientific Ocean Drilling Platform in the Arabian Sea. It was a splendid opportunity to learn about Oceanography and Geo-Sciences and to interact with scientists.

Driven by their passion for astronomy, a group of Std. 11 students formed the Astronomy Society. A trip to Ankleshwar provided a view of Saturn's rings and Jupiter's moons using a refracting telescope. Our students also entered their research project, 'Space Settlement Design', in a NASA competition.

Students of Std. 11 started a Makers Club to inculcate the spirit of learning by building. They started with the basics of electronic circuits and built simple, single-function robots. They are now on to more complex projects.

The Middle School Robotics team sailed through the Regionals at the Indian Robotics Olympiad and went on to compete at the Nationals.

In keeping with the UN's 'Year of Light', the second Inter-school Science Fair was 'Light and Science'. There were projects on innovative traffic control systems, energy-efficient Diwali decorations, solar windows, braille printers and more. The young Cathedral scientists' projects were outstanding and the judges from TIFR had no option

but to award them first place in all categories!

Middle School's Design Innovation Hub is perhaps the most popular venture this year. Children are encouraged to think, design, implement and, most important, make mistakes till they learn. The Eureka moments are plentiful; the learning is imaginative and fun.

The School placed at the debate hosted by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the city finals of The Great Debate, a national debate organised by the British High Commission and British Council.

Our students participated in Gizmo Geeks 2015, which comprised various aspects of technology and decision-making, and swept the event in 'Think, innovate and blog', the robotic challenge and 'Sci-fi Author'.

We won the Times NIE Fundamental Quiz 2016 from over 135 participating schools.

Two of our students won the National Spelling Competition conducted by Spell-Link, while in the English Language Olympiad 2015, two students attained international ranks.

Another received a special prize in the International Informatics Olympiad.

At the inter-school competition Immaculata, hosted by St. Mary's School, we won prizes in 10 categories.

Four Std. 10 students won the Bombay YMCA 34th Inter School Panel Debates in September. The team won every debate in which they participated and became overall champions. They returned with a massive shield that was as tall as themselves and almost as broad as the entire team together.

The Shri Ram Debates also saw our students winning Best Speaker awards in round after round of the tournament.

We were the only school from India to be invited again by the United Nations International School (UNIS) to attend their 40th Annual UNIS-UN



Conference held at the UN General Assembly in New York. Our students are fortunate to get this opportunity to listen to some of the best minds. Two of our students were selected to take part in the panel discussion in this historic place.

EUMIND (The Europe meets India Student Exchange Programme) and the Reach Cambridge programme have now settled into a familiar pattern.

I presume that the programme at the Arts University Bournemouth will also become a staple.

### **And now some highlights from the sports arena:**

The year has been particularly rewarding for us on the sports field. Our girls' football teams have been the proverbial Golden Girls of the turf. Both our Under-12 and Under-14 Girls' Football teams won first place in the Saran Football Tournament. Our girls also bagged the Winner's position in the Mumbai Mirror Girls Soccer League. In the MSSA Tournaments, the Girls Under-16 team placed first, and the Under-14 team, second. At the DSO level, both our Girls Under-14 and Under-16 teams bagged first place and were runners-up at the zonal level. *"The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital,"* said American footballer Joe Paterno. With hours of dedicated practice under their feet, our Girls Under-17 team won the DSO Subroto Football Tournament, went on to clinch the winner's position at the zonal level and played at the state level, where they were runners-up. Our Girls Under-19 team won at the DSO level and went on to play at the zonal level. Samara Mulchandani of Std. 7 was selected to play football at the national level. Our Boys' teams covered themselves in glory too. The Under-16 team won the FC Bayern Munich Youth Cup zonal finals and qualified for the national finals, which they won at a thrilling match. Our Under-14 team were second

runners-up at the DSO Subroto Cup Tournament.

Our students were selected to represent the West Zone at the All India ICSE & ISC Schools Football Nationals and for the School Games Federation of India Nationals.

*"Never underestimate the power of the human spirit. The potential for greatness lives within each of us,"* said American sprinter Wilma Rudolf. Our athletes—notable among which are Anya Hegde, Tariqa Durazi and Zena Shroff—blazed a trail of glory at various competitions through the year.

Our swimmers did us proud. At the DSO and MSSA levels, 16 of them bagged medals. Aakanksha Vora displayed tremendous grit and lung and muscle power to bag first place in practically every event she took part in. Is it any wonder that Harvard is clamouring for her?

Our squash players bagged medals at the MSSA Inter School Tournament and the DSO level. Rewa Bharna, Abhilasha Bhasin, Riddhi Sampat, Chaitanya Shah and Viraj Nadkarni

deserve a round of applause. At the Greater Mumbai District Badminton Championship, our lone shuttler Rahul Vyas placed second in the Under-15 Boys' Singles category and our Under-16 Boys' team stood third.

At the Mumbai DSO Lawn Tennis Tournament, our Under-17 Girls' team were winners.

Under-17s Zaheer Merchant and Daryush Kapadia powered the Maharashtra team to first place at the SGFI Rugby Nationals.

At the DSO Girls Under-19 Table Tennis Championship, our team won the DSO title and, in the Women's category, the runners-up position. At the Mumbai DSO Boys' Tournament, our Under-17 team were runners-up and qualified for the Zonals.

Demonstrating a high level of self-discipline were our chess players, who bagged various prizes. Rishabh Shah of Std. 6 placed first at the national level and bagged the MSSA Excellence Awards in Sports. At the Harmony Inter-School Competition at the national level, Dhruv Sanghai and Vir Khubchandani won gold.



Debates

## Principal's Message



Sports day

Any visitor to the Senior School who has witnessed the bloodcurdling mayhem in our quadrangle will bear me out. Where else but on the basketball court are the most passionate battles fought? *"The more difficult the victory, the greater the happiness in winning."* Our Under-19 Girls team won the Don Bosco Basketball Tournament. The boys placed third. The Under-14 Girls won the Savio Hoop Basketball Tournament and placed first at the DSO level. The same team were runners-up at the Zonals. Aditi Narvekar was selected to play at the SGFI Basketball Tournament. Devangi Maheshwari represented the West Zone team at the All India ICSE & ISC Schools Basketball Nationals and Vijay Sule was selected to play at the SGFI Basketball National Tournament.

Our Senior School cricket teams have resurrected themselves to win first place at the DSO level and the Winners' place at the MSSA Plate Division Harris Shield Cricket Tournament 2016.

Karate and judo saw our youngsters coming through with flying colours. Our students took part in eight national karate events. The medal tally was an impressive 45 Gold, 51 Silver and 46 Bronze. Our students also emerged winners at niche sports such as sailing, skating, golf, archery and fencing.

It is fitting to pay tribute to a truly splendid sportswoman, Anuradha Shankardass, whom I had the privilege to teach in my early years at the School. Tall, bronzed and long-limbed, she was the epitome of athletic grace and power. She received the Old Girls' Prize for the Best All Round Girl Student of Std. 9 and later, the prize for the Most Outstanding Girl of Std. 12. She won several athletics awards at the inter-school, state and national levels. She passed away on June 26, 2015. In her honour, her parents have instituted a rolling trophy for girls, the Anuradha Shankardass Grover Trophy for Excellence in Athletics, together with the generous sum of

₹15 lakhs to be used to encourage and promote athletics.

**"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." ~ Aristotle**

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."

Service to the community is part of Cathedral's DNA and begins at the Infant School itself. The 'Gift a Gift Campaign' was started this year to inculcate the joy of giving among children. On their birthdays, the 5- to 6-year-olds sponsored hygiene kits for underprivileged children. More than 500 kits were delivered to various NGOs. Their ongoing newspaper drive amassed a healthy ₹1 lakh. The money was used: (1) To sponsor a young girl's education for the year, through World Vision, (2) To gift hygiene kits and crayon boxes to 160 NGO children on "Making Someone Happy" Day, (3) For fans and Aquaguard to the NGO "Oscar" and (4) For the Shepherd Widows' Home for urgent repairs.

The Junior School plays its part. In order to help children appreciate ways in which they can contribute to the happiness of underprivileged children, each class of 38 students interacts with children from an NGO. Funding comes from the money raised by the children and volunteer mothers through bake sales, where they all pitch in. This year, 10 sparsely funded NGOs were helped.

The Middle School helps a tribal school at Shahapur School. Ten old computers were repaired by a kind parent and, magically, a Computer Laboratory materialised in the Shahapur School. The children's collection of more than ₹7.5 lakhs was donated for the treatment of cancer patients, for leprosy rehabilitation and the NGOs Habitat for Humanity, HelpAge India and Salaam Bombay. Children from Std. 7 visited the Jai Vakeel School and spent an evening



interacting with their visually challenged peers.

A talk by Mr. Anshu Gupta of Goonj helped the children realise how poor the poor in our country really are, how clothes make a difference to a person's image and that when we give, it must be done with grace so that the person receiving is not stripped of his dignity.

This year, the 150 students of the Interact Club showed their dedication and commitment in making a difference to the lives of the underprivileged through unique programmes. Students of Std. 11 and 12 spent a day in a village on the outskirts of Mumbai building houses for low-income, marginalised families through the NGO Habitat for Humanity. The students of Std. 8, 9 and 10 visited Karjat along with The Light of Life Trust to appreciate the difficult lives of villagers. Over the years, the Interact Club's most rewarding contribution has been in writing for visually challenged students at St. Xavier's. More than 100 students made time from school activities to reach out to their special friends. The Club inculcated the "value of giving" in the Middle and Infant Sections by collecting old toys for NGOs. We had a fairly sedate fashion show, hosted in association with The Light of Life Trust. Outfits were donated by designers such as Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla, Falguni and Shane Peacock and Satya Paul. Club members sashayed down the ramp to raise ₹ 20 lakhs, earmarked for drought relief in Marathwada. The idea of school children collecting the substantial amount of ₹ 20 lakhs for our stricken farmers caught the imagination of the social media. There was a mad scramble for sound bytes, which our students handled with impressive aplomb. The Club was adjudged Best Interact Club of the Year and bestowed with the International Presidential Rotary

Club Citation for its extensive and dedicated work to the betterment of society.

Another popular club is Symposium, which trains students with the skills necessary to hold one's own at the Model United Nations. A myth has sprung up that it is the stamping ground for future Head Boys, Head Girls and Prefects. I hate to strip the magic from this bit of esoteric nonsense, but I assure you that nothing is further from the truth.

MUNNING has been synonymous with our School. The Cathedral Model United Nations, now in its 19th year, was held for the fifth consecutive year at the Trident, with more than 500 participants from various schools across the country. I thank Mr. Devendra Bharna, Executive Vice-President of the Oberoi Group, for indulging us again. The School participated in seven MUNs across the country and the eighth at Harvard, the Olympus of all MUNs. A tally of 69 awards for the year is remarkable.

In June 2015, our dream of launching the Diploma Programme of the International Baccalaureate finally saw the light of day, with its first cohort of 23 students and their enthusiastic teachers. The programme melds seamlessly with the principles, vision and ideology of this heritage school. Our search for a building has met with success. There could, of course, be the proverbial slip between the cup and the lip, but I refuse to even contemplate such an eventuality!

"Gratitude that isn't expressed is like wrapping a gift and not giving it." The School is blessed to have such superb teachers whose dedication, loyalty and foresight are invaluable in sustaining the quality synonymous with 'Cathedral'. I know how much extra work especially all those who opted for the IB programme have put in. I don't think I can thank them enough.

Our Vice-Principals, Mrs. J. Mayadas and Mrs. N. Samuel, our Headmistresses, Mrs. D. Bhattacharya, Mrs. S. Ganguly, Mrs. S. Lele and Mrs. R. Talpade; our Administrative Department headed by Mrs. G. Malkani, and my Personal Assistant, Sandra De Souza, who does a superb job by helping me keep my sanity. The School works smoothly and efficiently because of them.

Our PTA has been gracious and efficient. I thank them for the innumerable times they have put the well-being of the School above their own.

Our alumni can always be relied upon, whether it is Dr. Gokani, conducting Leadership Camps and being our mainstay for all things medical, or the office bearers of the Alumni Association for their support and generous financial contribution to various causes, or the many former Cathedralites who always respond with alacrity to our needs.

Let me now turn to our outgoing Std. 12, led by Arjun Mirani, our Head Boy, and Aakanksha Vora, our Head Girl; these fine young people will be missed. They have taught us a number of life's invaluable lessons and touched our hearts and minds with their warmth and good humour. They go with our goodwill, our affection and blessings, for they are the inheritors of the future. Your time as caterpillars has expired. Your wings are ready.

As is my wont, I can't resist giving them advice, borrowed from Steve Jobs: "You can't connect the dots looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future..."

So, good luck, and perhaps you will return to tell a new generation of Cathedralites how you connected the dots to the realisation of your dreams.

*(This speech has been edited and names removed due to space constraints. The full text is available on [www.catalumni.com](http://www.catalumni.com))*



## SEEK AND YOU SHALL FIND

Alumni and School joined hands to create a storehouse of digital memories from past years. Step back into history...

**W**e are an old school; a very old school. Old schools tend to have a history attached to them. Our history seems more precious and interesting than most. Should we let this pass us by as has sadly been the wont in our country? Certainly not.

And so the archives were born. A repository of all things 'school'.

The Alumni Association, in conjunction with the School, has started the Digital Archive Project. Here, we will ferret out material, tag it, caption it and upload it to our website.

How can we build a mountain of memories without a little something of import from each of you? Open those drawers, contact your friends, unearth the pictures, letters, report cards, drawings, essays, anything related to School. Send them to us. We don't promise to use each one but we will return them in pristine condition.



## In my quest to add to the archives, I went in search of a Cathedral legend. I went... LOOKING FOR LADY TEMPLE

No one can dispute the fact that she was a ‘character’. Dresses billowing over buckram, pale-blue rinsed hair, fair and freckled, Lady Marie Temple was a character indeed. She taught art in the Cathedral Girls School in the ‘50s and ‘60s. Her protégées were many, but for the likes of me she knew there was no hope; that was our secret. Somehow, I often came home with a stunning work of art and the family “oohed” and “aahed” and rushed to get it framed. In the bottom right hand corner was a rather flourished ‘Shyla’. Lady Temple had put her brush to my little canvas and with a few strokes transformed my debacle into a thing of beauty and a joy forever. She had generously given me the credit. She did this with so many of us, but she also carefully honed the ‘real’ artists and there are many of her pupils who went on to make a name for themselves.

I can’t quite recall when she left our school or when I, knowing that all fake artists get caught, gave up art. What she did do was leave with all of us memories of her flamboyance and style, her love for her craft and her sense of fun. Don’t want to do potato prints? Let’s make potato chips on the chemistry lab’s Bunsen burner instead! Cooking oil appeared from Bhikoo and soon we were cooking instead of painting. Total recall says those chips were raw, saltless and a disaster. But fun it was.

About 50 years after my last art lesson, for some reason, memories of Lady T came flooding back.



*Lady Marie Temple in Bombay*



*Lady Marie Temple in her studio in the UK*

And who better to locate for the archives? Where did she go? Some said Australia. What happened to her? I wanted to know. I wanted to collect her pictures and some information that we could keep. She was, like so many others in her time, what made the school very special. She certainly had a prominent place in these archives.

So, like all those who search and will find, I went to the Internet. There I Googled her and found ‘Lady Marie Wanda Temple (Henderson). 1908-1997.’

The link was geni.com, which revealed a family tree managed by Peter Paul Grenville Temple. So I instantly joined geni.com (you could have free membership for 15 days!) and e-mailed them to pass my message on to Peter Paul Grenville Temple.

Ten days later, there was an enthusiastic message in my inbox from PPGT: “Marie Temple was my mother. You must get in touch when you’re in the UK and I’ll give you some photographs and articles for the archives.”

We got in touch, had the most glorious tea together and he left me riveted with stories of Lady Marie Temple and her husband, Sir Richard. I came away bearing some articles and these photographs for the archives.

~ **Shyla Boga Patel**  
(ISC 1969)



# THE FIRST IN CLASS. ALWAYS.

## THE FIRST TO:

find treatment for Parkinson's

.....

set up a paediatric ICU

.....

set up a state-of-the-art stone centre

.....

perform MR guided ultrasound surgeries

.....

test genetic disorders

.....

perform a TAVI on a senior citizen

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Assisted Reproduction



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Onco Science



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Jack as a young boy in Matheran

## OLD BOY

Ever wondered who the oldest Alumnus is, and what School might have been like in those days? Thanks to the Digital Archive, we were able to find out more about Jack Japheth, who celebrated his 100th birthday on April 24, 2016.



Donning his Cathedral uniform and tie



Jack scores a century

## A CENTENARIAN RECALLS

Close to a century later, Jack recalls a few memories of his days in Cathedral. Gym teacher Capt. Bill Humphreys had left the class for a while. In his absence, Jack took over, giving out commands imitating “His Master’s Voice”. He thought his “number was up” when Humphreys came up behind him but instead, much to Jack’s surprise, he bent down and said, “Very good indeed!” Fastidious student that he was, Jack once re-wrote a whole book because of a few corrections and always marked his corrections with an asterisk and a corresponding footnote. Col. Hammond was his Headmaster and he also remembers Mr. Bruce and Mr. Nix-James.

Jack Japheth's report cards

The Borderer The Cathedral & John Connon High School April 1931



# THE GUNNERY YEARS

Shyla Boga Patel (ISC 1969) tracked down Bernard Gunnery's son in England and received these pictures and documents from his father's years as Principal (1953-65).



Baby Bernard in his father's arms



Chief Minister V.P. Naik laying the foundation stone of the Infant School at Malabar Hill with Bernard Gunnery looking on



Letterhead of Principal Gunnery's invitation to Buckingham Palace to receive an OBE for his service to education in India



Three Principals and a lady. Standing: Bernard Gunnery. Seated: Col. Hammond, Mr. C.V. Nix-James and Mrs. Hammond

**Another noted educationist that Bombay will miss is Bernard Gunnery, the principal of the Cathedral and John Cannon School for more than 11 years.**

Mr. Gunnery, who has the appearance of a college don, told us that he was retiring with very mixed feelings. "I will miss India, I will miss Bombay and I will miss Cathedral," he said. "I was very busy here and I was very busy here and I was very busy here."

He was in a reminiscent mood and spoke of the day when he decided to come to Bombay. At that time, he was teaching at Trinity College, a public school in Scotland. "I saw an advertisement in the papers and applied for the Bombay job. I would have been a fool if I had not applied."

One reason he applied was because he wanted to feel the warm tropical sun on his back again. He was in Asia in the early 1930s, working for a business firm in China. It was the general chaos and the Japanese invasion that sent him to teaching.

At the Cathedral, besides being the principal, he taught English, French, history and morals. He found Bombay children very rewarding. The parents also were very keen, which in a way makes things easier for a schoolmaster.

Mr. Gunnery, who is a past president of the Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools of India and a member of the Council for Indian Schools' Certificate, has some very definite views on education. If standards are falling—most of them are, he says—because there are too many child-teachers and too little money to pay the teachers.

What Mr. Gunnery wants is that persons to enter the teaching profession. He said he wants a decent income. He is convinced that if this is done, the standards here would be as good as anywhere else.

At a time when some ultra-nationalists are talking of doing away with the metric Cambridge examinations, I must be wary on the same are worth noting. He considers it impossible to do Indian schools, at least in the present state.

Some of the top ones to maintain their international standards is a general qualification and recognised by practically all the universities abroad. It is India's lack, through a world-wide examination, with the outside world and its academic activities. Not many may like Mr. Gunnery's calling the S.S.C. examination as "after all a purely local examination" as he has been noticed, even all Indian universities recognize the school leaving examinations conducted by official States.

**Advantages Pointed Out**

On the other hand look at the advantages of the Cambridge examination as put forward by Mr. Gunnery. A child in England and a child in the same day and perhaps the same examiner sees through both the same papers. As he says, it leads to a reasonably fair evaluation of a student's merits.

Mr. Gunnery, who describes himself as an Englishman who worked in Scotland and India, has no regrets about giving up the world of "poshness" even while studying at Oxford. He had kept teaching as an "alternative top." It was his record as an educationalist that brought him the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) in this year's New Year's honours.

For the rest, I believe he would like to go on teaching and preferably in India if he gets another chance. "I would be something that even his old students would like."

A sub-committee of the Organisation of African Unity has decided in favour of the creation of a post-Africa-Lagos yesterday.

**HE CHEATED DEATH TWICE**

**NEW YORK, January 29.**

A 16-year-old boy, cheated twice when he fell 236 feet from the roof of the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, and survived.

As a result of the fall he broke a collar bone. A cargo ship gear came in time to miss him by a few feet.

The boy, Tom Turner, of Livermore, California, was able to swim to a rescue boat. He was rushed to hospital, where his condition was later said to be satisfactory.

Over 200 people have committed suicide by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge since it was opened in 1937. Few people have survived the fall.—APERN.

**Cambridge Exam.**

I asked him about the language. "Too many languages are a handicap but the Swiss seem to have managed it well." He did, however, say that the number of students in classes should be kept down to the minimum possible.

At a time when some ultra-nationalists are talking of doing away with the metric Cambridge examinations, I must be wary on the same are worth noting. He considers it impossible to do Indian schools, at least in the present state.

**Cartoon:** A man in a suit and hat says to a woman: "The \$260 we've lost because you didn't do a 10-a-week raise six months ago. I first started nagging?"

A clipping from the Evening News about Principal Gunnery's retirement



ack 9/7  
The Anglo-Scottish Education Society.

THE CATHEDRAL & JOHN CANNON BOYS' SCHOOL  
5, OUTRAM ROAD,  
FORT, BOMBAY.

27th June 1953

TEL. 20940.

B. Gunnery, Esq.,  
Ramsays,  
Glenalmond,  
Perthshire,  
SCOTLAND.

Dear Sir,

LETTER OF APPOINTMENT.

The BOARD OF GOVERNORS of the ANGLO-SCOTTISH EDUCATION SOCIETY are pleased to appoint you as Headmaster of the Cathedral and John Cannon Boys' School, Bombay, on the following terms and conditions :-

SALARY & ALLOWANCES :

Salary Rs.1,600/- per month.  
Dearness Allowance Rs.320/-  
Overseas Allowance Rs.200/-

All to commence from date of embarkation. Income-tax will not be paid by the Society on salary, allowances or assessment in respect of accommodation provided.

QUARTERS :

Free furnished quarters will be provided.

DURATION OF APPOINTMENT :

The appointment, in the first instance, shall be for 3½ years.

LEAVE :

Six months' leave on full pay will be granted at the end of a period of duty of 3½ years.

PASSAGES :

First class return passages will be provided for yourself, wife, and each child once in each period of 3½ years.

TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT :

The appointment shall be subject to termination by either the Board or yourself at the end of the first year subject to six months' notice on either side being given.

The appointment shall be subject to termination at any time due to long or incapacitating illness subject to six months' notice being given.

PROVIDENT FUND :

A Provident Fund exists in the School, membership of which is obligatory. A copy of the Rules and Regulations governing this Fund has already been sent to you.

OUTFIT ALLOWANCE :

An outfit allowance of £50/- or its equivalent in rupees will be paid to you on your arrival in Bombay.

Yours faithfully,

J.S. Tilley  
(J.S. TILLEY)  
Chairman.

Principal Gunnery's salary and terms of appointment at Cathedral

19 Raveley Street  
London N.W.5.

9th June 1982.

Dear Mr Gunnery,

It was a great delight to get your letter, and thank you very much for your good wishes. I was in Edinburgh recently and met the lady - alas, I've forgotten her name - who was headmistress of Cathedral Girls' School in the 50's, and we were talking about you. My most vivid memory is of taking the Common Entrance exams in your flat in the school building. I remember being flummoxed by the Scripture paper, which asked at one point: 'There is a painting in the National Gallery in London which shows two men running. Who are they, & what Biblical text is being illustrated?'

The answer, apparently, is 'And John did outrun Peter'. I did not do well on that question.

Yes, I've heard from Kay Lam. We've spoken on the 'phone a few times but so far have not met.

"Emil Zagallo" is of course based on nobody at all... and "Ousoe", as I'm sure you'll agree, bears no resemblance to any actual headmaster!

Anyway, many thanks again for writing, and perhaps I might look you up when I am in Bristol?

Yours sincerely,  
Salman Rushdie.

Letter from Salman Rushdie to Bernard Gunnery



## MEMORIES OF TIMES PAST

Anushka Shivdasani Rovshen (ISC 1997) interviewed some of our most senior alumni to capture their living history on video for future generations. May their voices and stories live on forever in our digital archive!



Class of 1950 occupied this room during their Senior Cambridge year, not realising there was a chapel hidden behind the rear wall. During the 50th anniversary of graduating, the 1950 class boys posed in front of the chapel as a remembrance of their last year in school.

### **Mehli Lalkaka** **Senior Cambridge 1950**

Our Principal at the time, Mr. Bruce, was so strict that the young boys were terrified of him. If Bruce came onto the balcony and these boys were playing in the quad, they would quietly disappear into the corridors. If a boy was caught talking or up to some mischief in class, he would be sent outside; he would be terrified lest Bruce pass by and give him six of the best. Now I'm told when a boy is sent out, he's very happy because he doesn't have to attend class!

### **John Palkhivala** **Senior Cambridge 1948**

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto (class of 1944), the future Prime Minister of Pakistan, was in school at my time. He was a great cricketer, a great debater, a flamboyant character. He would wear a silk shirt with the buttons open, much to the disgust of Mr. Bruce. It was always silk, white trousers and fancy shoes and he'd have his friends around him—Asif Currimbhoy, the older Dattooboy, the older Dharamsee boy. Bhutto was a good Indian boy, a great nationalist, and he irritated the school quite often by expressing his nationalist views in school debates. Two things were forbidden in these debates—politics and religion. So when there were inter-House debates and you were talking about a subject, such as the Earth going around the sun, Bhutto would somehow find a way to bring it around to how India should be independent!

### **Bapsi Chubb** **Senior Cambridge 1947**

During the war years, when the siren went off in Bombay (it was Bombay in those days), we were all told to come down, very quietly, very disciplined, sit in the hall quietly, sing a song or do what we like, and when the "All Clear" went, it was a drill; we were all sent upstairs. We thought it was a lot of fun. We didn't know when the siren would go off but we enjoyed it.



Nazir Hoosein, standing extreme right, with glasses

### **Nazir Hoosein** **Senior Cambridge 1955**

We used to do quite a few plays and operettas and I remember that Shai Abraham used to be on the piano and Mr. C.J. Oliver was in charge of the sets and we (Nazir Chagla and I) were behind the scenes making the sets. One of our famous plays was *Alibaba*. We had a water fountain on the stage and during the course of the play, the fountain turned to blood. It was all very well timed. There was Chagla sitting up on a ladder where the supply line was and on cue he had to pour the red distemper into the vessel. Unfortunately, Chagla missed the cue once and poured the distemper late. The lead actor was our teacher, Mr. Shiri, and he turned to the audience and said, "The fountain, it's turning to blood." When he turned around, it was doing nothing of the kind. It was a very long 10 seconds that it took for this fountain to suddenly turn into blood. Everyone clapped when it did.





Dr. Pилоo Hakim, standing extreme right, in jacket

**Dr. Pилоo Hakim née Cooper  
Senior Cambridge 1951**

I was one of the more studious girls and a very dear friend of mine was not so bright, especially in Maths. In one of the exams, she kicked me in the back as she wanted to see my answers. I thought I was being helpful and allowed her to see my paper, not realising that one of the teachers had seen this. Afterwards, when the results came out, I got minus 20 but they didn't minus anything from my friend's paper. Mrs. Nissin, our class teacher, told me, "Pилоo, I'm very disappointed in you. I didn't think you'd do this—you cheated as much as the girl who was cheating from you." I've never forgotten that incident; it takes two people to cheat, not one.

**Saleem Ahmadullah  
Senior Cambridge 1955  
HSC 1957**

The building next to Senior School is Siddharth College. When I first went to school, we had the ground floor of that building. It was taken over during World War II as enemy property.



Saleem Ahmadullah

My father was the custodian of this property and in 1947-48, he offered it to the school but they didn't want it. The reason was that soon after Independence, Cathedral was not sure what was going to happen to mission schools. We would have got that entire building very cheap!

We had a master named C.V. Nix James. He was a remarkable man, extremely clever and interested in Arts, Maths and Science. He ran an astronomy class for the boys who stayed on in the school at night. In a corner of the building, the corner near Siddharth College, there was an enclosed terrace and he set up a telescope for the students to do some stargazing. He even taught Homi Bhabha and he told us that when the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education was opened, Bhabha sent him an invitation. When Mr. Nix-James was wandering around there, bored by the speeches, he bumped into Bhabha himself. And he said, "I remember you—are you still teaching physics with a meter stick?"



Hemlata Shilpi, on the ground, extreme right, with plaits

**Hemlata Shilpi née Shah  
Senior Cambridge 1951**

We had a Biology teacher, Mrs. Moos, whom we ragged a lot. She used to take us for excursions to Hanging Gardens and we had two-three cars. One car would go to Hanging Gardens with her and the rest of us would wander off somewhere else. She would be waiting for us and we would reach only when it was time to come back to class. Sometimes, we would hide in the School toilet. We would have to pass through Lady Temple's class to do that, but she was a great sport and wouldn't let on where we were. Mrs. Moos would come looking for us when she found half the class empty and we would say we found a green cockroach in the toilet!



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## BEHIND THE SCENES



Arch Archivist

It all began when I was sent to Delhi to attend a seminar on creating a digital library and came back with a plan: Why not create a digital archive of our own school? I proposed the idea to Mrs. Isaacs, who saw value in the archive project and gave me permission, as well as her active support.

I realised that apart from the existing photographs and printed material, I needed to tap the Alumni Association. They wholeheartedly backed the project and I felt like my prayers were answered when I received an email from **Nadish Naorji (Class of 1969)**. He said he had no material to contribute, but had handled many digitisation projects

for major Australian and Indian clients. As Managing Director of Pixel Perfect and Multimatch, leading digital colour lab and colour consultancy, respectively, I could not have been blessed with a finer mentor.

The Cathedral and John Connon School Digital Archive was born with full support of the school management and the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association. It has been an excellent learning opportunity for me technically, managerially and administratively.

Nadish helped me with details of the entire project, even when he was hospitalised! We partnered with an incredibly skilled photographer, Jagdish Patil, for high-resolution digital images. We have converted data from .jpg files into searchable .pdf files and our data can be manipulated for use on a computer, tablet, mobile device or even cinema screen.

Keeping in mind the likelihood of the obsolescence of the current application software, we have ensured that the raw data archived is of a high resolution, well preserved and can easily be imported into any future application software.

We truly hope that the archived data of the past 156 years will bring inspiration to the Alumni Association as well as to present and future generations of teachers, staff and students.

~ **Malti Thiagarajan**  
Head Librarian, Cathedral and John Connon School

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Our labour of love, the digital archive, which contains thousands of old photographs, letters, magazines, and school memorabilia, can be accessed via our website: <http://www.catalumni.com/digital-archive/> or Facebook page: The Cathedral & John Connon Archive <http://www.facebook.com/catalumniarchive>. The latter will allow you to tag and comment on pictures, helping us identify your classmates and teachers for whom we may not have accurate records.



# “REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST IS NOT NECESSARILY



First aid



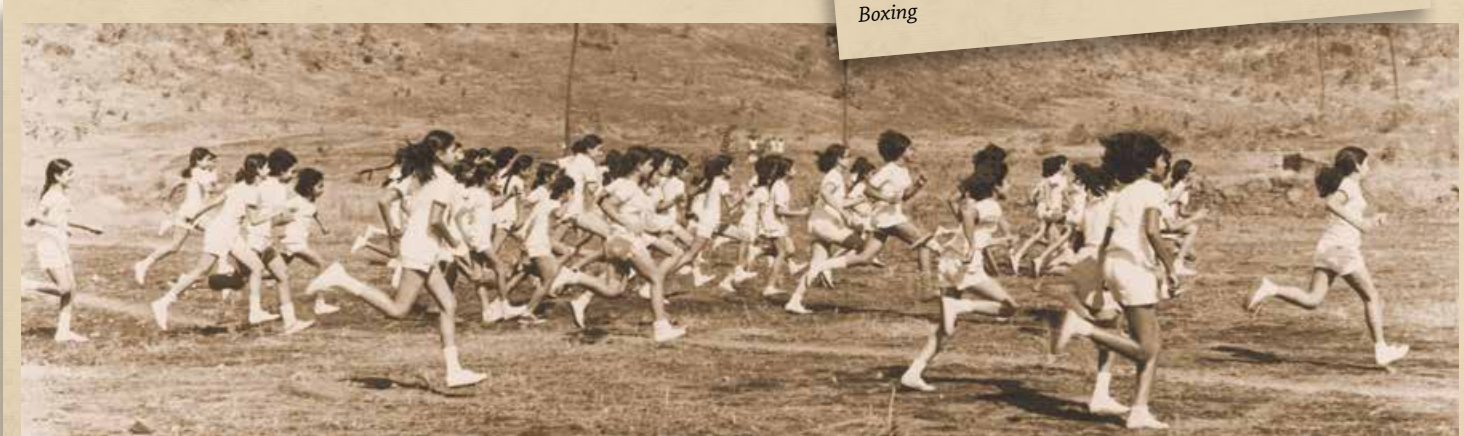
Investiture in the Quad



Centenary cartoon featuring PTA mothers badgering a company executive for advertisements



Boxing



Cross Country at Aarey Colony



**THE REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS AS THEY WERE.”  
- MARCEL PROUST**



School help



Theatre



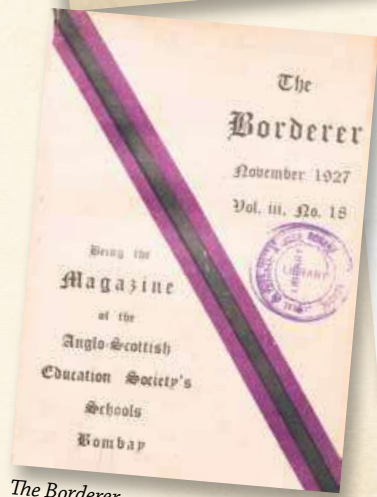
Kuruvilla Jacob — the anchor



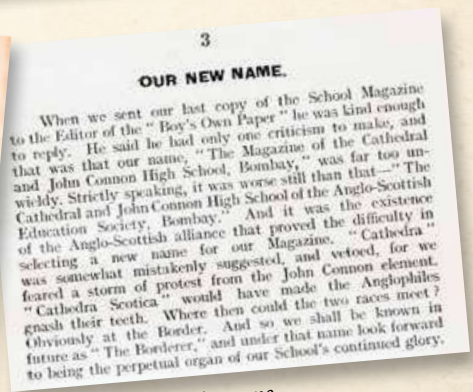
A peon retires



Rope ladder walk in Senior School Quad



The Borderer



The Borderer changes its name

**Compiled by**  
**Shyla Boga Patel (ISC 1969)**  
**Miel Sahgal (ISC 1989)**  
**Shonar Lala Chinoy (ISC 1990)**





"I am the first girl in my family to go to an engineering college. After completing a degree in Computer Engineering, I will pursue my Masters from a U.S. University. The Vinod & Saryu Doshi Foundation gave me a chance to dream big."

CHITRA WATWANI, VINOD DOSHI-CoEP MERIT SCHOLAR 2012

"One day, I will be a professional basketball player."

MOHAMMED SHAN, 5-YEAR-OLD PARTICIPANT AT AN NGO SUMMER CAMP SUPPORTED BY THE VINOD & SARYU DOSHI FOUNDATION



"The Vinod Doshi Festival has revived the experimental theatre movement in Maharashtra; it is of great value to young playwrights, directors and other *rangkarmis*."

DR. MOHAN AGASHE, ACTOR AND THEATRE PERSONALITY

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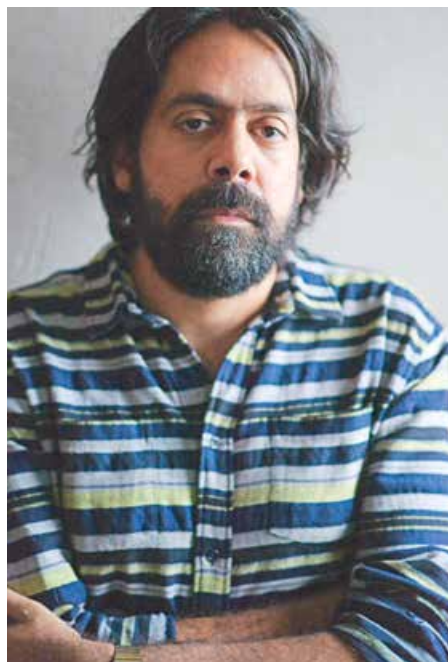
 [VinodSaryuDoshiFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/VinodSaryuDoshiFoundation)

**VIN&D  
SARYU  
DOSHI  
FOUNDATION**



# Experiments in film

Filmmaker **Ashim Ahluwalia (ICSE 1989)** on keeping his voice independent in a Bollywood-dominated industry.



Stephanie Cornfield

Ashim Ahluwalia

United World College, Singapore, on a scholarship and it was there that I began enjoying the arts. It was also there that I realised I was not as stupid as I had been told I was. Later, I went to film school at Bard College.” Ashim’s boutique production house makes TV commercials as well as features (fiction and non-fiction). He is currently directing a feature film, *Daddy*, on Arun Gawli.

It was at film school that Ashim saw his first Satyajit Ray film and was exposed to world cinema. But a love for his home city brought him back and all his films since have been based in Mumbai. “I felt confident to come back to do stuff here in the non-Bollywood space. So I set up a film-making company for commercials production and that’s how I got acquainted with the industry.”

Ashim has stayed independent in his filmmaking style and choices. “I am very excited by cinema but I am not pre-set in the kind of films I make. I want to work in new spaces and extend what I do in that space. In that sense, the Akbar Padamsee film is not the experimental film for me; actually the film with Arjun Rampal (*Daddy*) is more of an experiment,” he says.

~ **Udita Jhunjhunwala**  
(ICSE 1984)

Some time after he returned from film school in New York in the '90s, Ashim Ahluwalia was driving through Mumbai’s Grant Road area when he spotted posters of C-grade horror-sex films. “I suddenly remembered them from my school days—in the '80s, a C-grade horror film was the only way to see a naked woman,” says the filmmaker. This chance flashback resulted in a gritty, noir film, *Miss Lovely*, which premiered at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival and won multiple awards. It also earned Ashim his second National Film Award after the feature-length documentary *John*

& *Jane* (2005), which was set in the call centre world of Mumbai. His most recent work, *Events in a Cloud Chamber*, a collaborative experimental film with 88-year-old modern artist Akbar Padamsee, had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival in September 2016.

Like most boys growing up in the Bombay of the '80s and early '90s, Ashim thought he would end up studying business. The prospect made him uneasy. Film studies happened quite by chance. “I exploded with rebellion after Cathedral. I was a bad student who was often thrown out of class,” he says. “I went to



Poster of 'Miss Lovely'

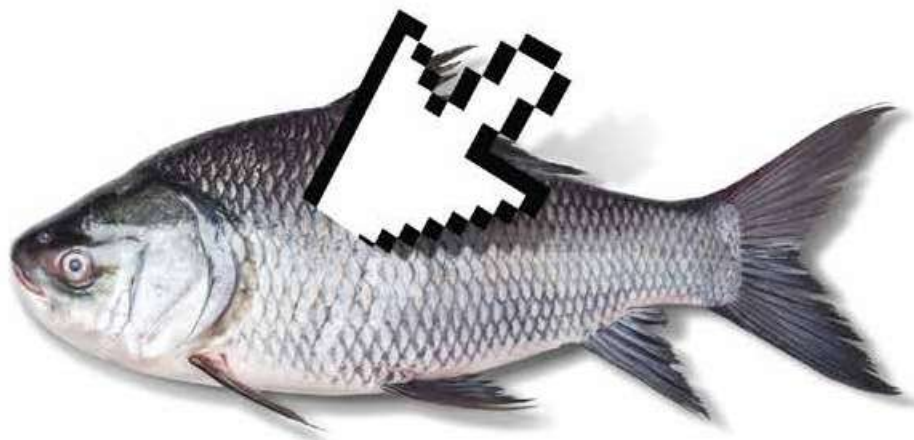
## LOST AND FOUND

“I love the idea of the forgotten film history of India and a parallel history, such as the C-grade film industry. It was fascinating for me that Akbar Padamsee had made two experimental films, one of which, *Syzygy*, had been laughed out of the cinema. It was traumatic for him,” says Ashim. The other film, *Events in a Cloud Chamber*, was made in 1969. After a handful of screenings, the film was misplaced, lost and almost forgotten. “After Akbar told me about this, I kept thinking how it must be for an artist in the twilight years of his life and what if I could get him to remember what he made back then. It was also emotional for me to understand and a very intimate way of making a film.” *Events in a Cloud Chamber* (2016) is a result of that recent collaboration and recollection.



A screen grab from 'Events in a Cloud Chamber'






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▶ **H**aving the privilege to oscillate between England and India, both logic and intuition have been constantly on par, being internally nurtured and challenged as if no separation. Facts and ideas, text and images, respect for history and contemporary chaos found equanimity in developing the grammar of one's language and the priorities of one's educational vision.

Ironically, when great libraries were opened to me at LSE and Oxford, my disrespect for the book was deepest. This fact only reaffirmed my preconception that formal education is artificially placed in life at inappropriate times and that serious higher learning cannot be disseminated only through four or five years of college-university experience.

In 1993, when I returned to India with the single-minded focus of building a university as fine as my alma maters, it was a crystal clear principle that self-discovery must privilege teaching. This implied that the Offline-Online Archive-Library-Research Center must be at the core of the institution-building process.

Further, to sustain the intellectual integrity and independence of the content, so very difficult in Indian higher education, especially for the arts, culture and humanities, a vast knowledge-base, rooted in the actual material cultural object, must be laid open to the public. In the Age of Google, this became even more essential, though I had forebodings regarding digitising the arts and culture, given the negative influence upon sensibilities and introspective attitudes.

The digital Knowledge-Base-cum-Search Engine found its early form with [www.osianama.com](http://www.osianama.com) in 2013 after more than 20 years of being conceptualised in my mind. Yet, creating vast flows of data and information becomes meaningful if, and only if, your vision is rooted before and beyond what online searches can create. The

online experience must be precise, specific and complementing the offline imperatives, along with inspiring a creative energy which forces the individual inwards to research anew and deeper, to innovate with facts and ideas, text and images, while engaging with live minds anew, to break existing preconceptions.

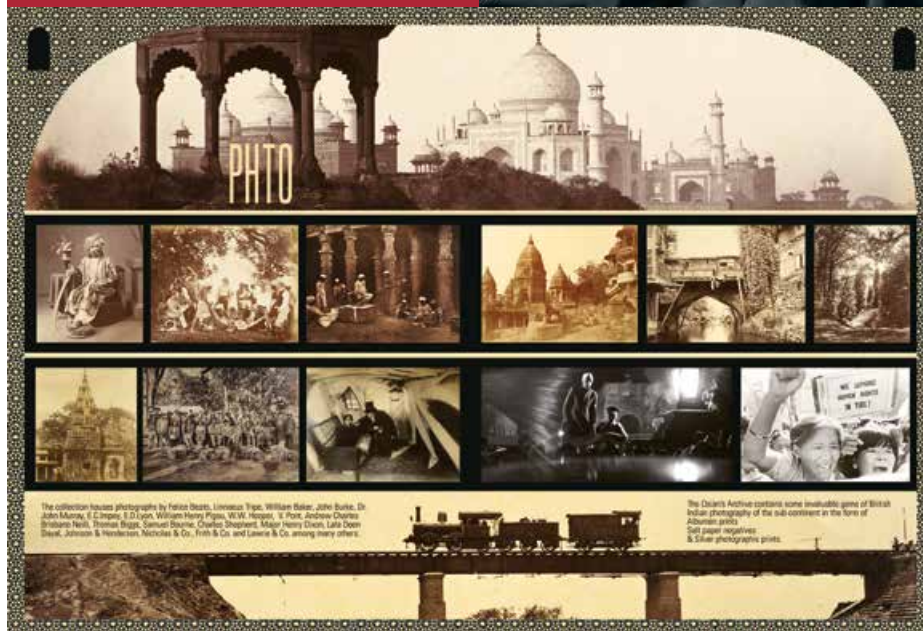
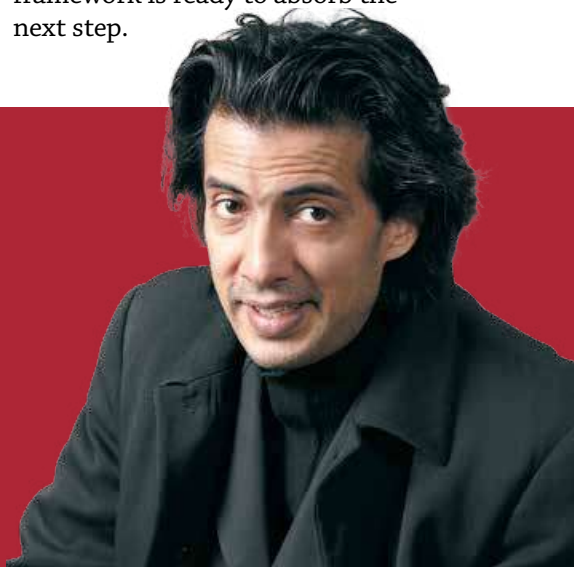
The digital architecture of [osianama.com](http://osianama.com) so as to encapsulate India's cultural civilisation within a few finger pushes followed by its historical context and thereafter relating it to the contemporary ideas and values is the ongoing process. By January 2017, a mature Version 2.0 will be ready to share with the public.

That one chose the Excel Sheet cell, the oldest and simplest technological data entry unit, as the basis of the programming, in this high-tech world, meant absolute precision and perfection of information once the content was uploaded, though a most tedious and time-consuming process for content creation and image linkage.

However, when [osianama.com](http://osianama.com) will help make the global student and public fall in love with India's contemporary cultural civilisation, spanning the last 300 years, one part of me will smile and recognise that another key pillar of my university framework is ready to absorb the next step.

## Cultural Cornucopia

Osian's Neville Tuli (ICSE 1979) on creating Osianama, a repository of information in a data-driven age.







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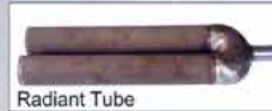
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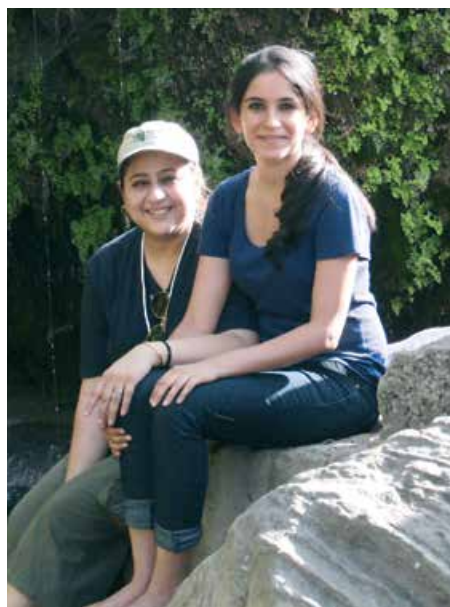
# The change-maker

With a passion for our environment and the desire to make a difference, **Swati Hingorani (ISC 2005)** urges us to come together to preserve our resources for future generations.

It is nearing midnight as I write this on August 14 in Washington, D.C., but in India, everyone is waking up to our Independence Day. The India I saw growing up, and my vision of what our country can be, is what cemented my decision to work in wildlife conservation. My off-the-cuff answer to why I picked this career path is the movie *Free Willy*. I was five when I watched it and I knew orcas would be a part of my future. In Std. 3, Mrs. Khullar handed me my essay with a note on top: “Swati, one day you will be a wildlife journalist.” My love for the wilderness led me to Bittu Sahgal’s *Sanctuary Asia* but it is what I learnt there that made me stay in this field.

Working in the environment allows me to influence other issues too. Gender justice, for instance. In a country where women and girls spend up to six hours a day collecting water, it’s impossible to empower them without addressing the chronic lack of water. Look no further than our own city to see how natural resource scarcity causes and intensifies poverty—the 2016 drought drove entire families out of their homes and into refugee camps.

The real question is: what can we do about it? A lot! At *Sanctuary*, I witnessed the power of the written word and the ripple effect that teaching a child about the environment has. In 2011, I was introduced to 2041, an organisation working to protect the Antarctic from mining and drilling. I was surprised to learn that Antarctica accounts for 90 per cent of the world’s ice and 70 per cent of the world’s drinking water. I visited the continent and



Sitting in nature’s lap...Swati at right

was overwhelmed by its raw beauty and power. I worked with Gemma Borgo-Caratti, a young environmental leader from Australia, to start a programme for young people to learn about the Antarctic and act on issues threatening it. One of the simplest, most powerful ways to protect Antarctica is to promote the use of renewable energy, making it financially unviable to mine on the continent. I was able to contribute by supporting Bittu Sahgal, Anish Andheria from the Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT), Robert Swan of 2041 and Harsh and Reshma Piramal from the Conservation Wildlands Trust (CWT) in setting up a renewable energy education base in the Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. India’s tiger reserves are her purest sources of water. One of the biggest threats is coal mining and the education base serves in showcasing the potential of renewable energy

and engaging the local community in conservation.

From 2014 to 2016, I worked at WCT, which addresses the umbilical connection between the environment and development. The magic lies in WCT’s approach—it works with the government to shore up protection of tiger reserves (which give birth to more than 600 of India’s rivers) and looks beyond, to the communities in these landscapes. It gives the children living there what you and I were privileged to receive at Cathedral, a good education that allows them to make decisions about their future.

Organisations such as these need all hands on deck and that’s where Cathedral alumni come in. When I look at my former classmates, I see how passionate we all are about our work, how we’ve found what drives us. I’ve seen how we support each other and that’s what we need to continue doing—issues like environmental degradation and poverty need lawyers, doctors, writers, teachers and scientists, and we have them all. Let’s get to work!



Tiger-spotting in Ranthambhore



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# Top of his game

Sports build character, says former Commonwealth and Asian Games table tennis champion **Niraj Bajaj (ISC 1970)**.



Niraj Bajaj with his wife Minal (seated) and children, also ex-Cathedralites, Nirav (ICSE 2007) and Kriti (ISC 2003).

**N**iraj Bajaj started playing table tennis (TT) at home at the age of eight. From casual games with his brothers (all Cathedral alumni), by 11 he was representing Maharashtra and by 15 he had become the all-India junior TT champion. He represented India for seven years (1970-77), during which he was All-India Table Tennis champion thrice, ranked India No. 1 four times, captained the Indian team, participated in the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games, earning medals and accolades for the country. He was conferred the highest state and national sports honours—the Shiv Chhatrapati Award and the Arjuna Award, respectively.

And then, at age 22 (when players peak around 25), he retired from the game.

“Some of the best times of my life were when I was playing for the country,” says Niraj, seated in the commodious cabin from which he juggles his many responsibilities as a part of the family-run Bajaj Group. “There is nothing more beautiful than representing your country.”

Although his TT proficiency was not incubated at school, Niraj commends

the institution for supporting his endeavours. “Virtually the entire Bajaj family has studied in Cathedral, from my eldest brother, Rahul, to my children and nephews. We are Cathedral loyalists. I often travelled for tournaments and School went out of its way to give me leave, including excusing me from Senior Cambridge prelims, which clashed with the world championships in Tokyo.”



Niraj Bajaj receiving the Arjuna Award from the President of India in 1974.

A dedicated training routine and a demanding competitive schedule did not affect his grades. Niraj stayed in the top ranks of his class and his game until he set down his TT bat in favour of higher education and the family business. “I believe you can easily pursue both sports and studies if you use your time well, and one helps the other,” he says.

What can sports teach? “You learn to take life’s ups and downs, you know how to deal with victory as well as defeat,” he states. “When I was playing in China against the reigning world champ, with an audience of approximately 30,000 locals, I was leading in the decider 20-17. I was one point away from victory when I lost that match. Sports teaches you to face all kinds of challenges and to take the good times with the bad. I believe every child should play some sport,

not just for physical health but also mental health; to build up values and character.”

He still enjoys the occasional game with friends and family. “Of course, in a very different class to what I played before. I have continued to support the sport from the outside without getting involved in administration.” He has channelled his commitment and passion into Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ). The brainchild of world billiards champion Geet Sethi and world badminton champion Prakash Padukone, OGQ is a not-for-profit that supports sportspeople pursuing Olympic sports.

“OGQ is my chance to give something back to sport, which gave me so much joy. It has one motive—to create world champions. We know from very close quarters what the deficiencies are in the system and what we suffered. So, instead of complaining, we decided to do something positive. Right now we support 75 athletes aged 10 upwards. We still have a long way to go,” explains Niraj.

Commitments in the joint family and as part of the mega-corporation occupy most of his time. “The hats keep changing but it’s all for the group, the family and the country,” he says. What does he consider his greatest personal achievement? “As a business we are a great success story, but it’s the result of tens of thousands of professionals and several family members over generations. To that extent, TT was an individual sport. At a tournament, your surname does not matter.”

~ **Udita Jhunjunwala**  
(ICSE 1984)



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# A flair for fashion

Sulu Hegde Grant (ISC 1975) on the challenges of change and the excitement of starting a new chapter.

After Cathedral, I followed a course more common now than it was then for a young woman from India—attending university abroad. In pursuit of a degree in electrical engineering, I enrolled at Cornell University, in a cold and snowy part of upstate New York.

With this degree, I escaped to sunny Silicon Valley, California, to Hewlett Packard. Although trained in electrical engineering, my skills were better suited for the marketing side of the tech industry. Accordingly, my work was around sales and product marketing.

It was a natural progression for me to pursue an MBA at Harvard Business School. This opened doors to new opportunities and places. My next move was to McKinsey & Company as a Management Consultant in London—invigorating, challenging, frantic and highly rewarding. I married, gave birth to two wonderful children and was able to balance my career and family life (largely through having the best help at home anyone could ask for).

Always looking for the next best opportunity, I joined one of McKinsey's clients, a global mobile satellite communications start-up, as Vice President of Distribution Strategy. I left the consulting field, where one offers advice, to take responsibility for making critical decisions. Unfortunately, the company was swept into the vortex of the dot-com bubble burst in 1999 and I was, for the first time in my professional life, faced with a major setback. Luckily,

a friend from business school had a small private equity firm in London and he invited me to join as Partner.

A couple of years later, with my husband spending more and more time in the U.S.A. for work, we decided to move from London to Westport, Connecticut. I became the proverbial “soccer mom”. I loved it and truly enjoyed getting to know other parents and supporting my kids in our small but very pretty New England town.

As my children grew, I got the itch to get back to work. As a major departure from everything I had done, in my mid-forties, I became an entrepreneur and launched my own

business, designing and selling women's clothing under my brand, Sulu Collection ([www.sulucollection.com](http://www.sulucollection.com)).

I had no training in fashion, design or retail but I took

a chance. I test-

marketed our early designs on established

boutiques in Palm Beach.

They loved the styles and placed big orders. I was blessed with

good timing. I chose to focus on the high-end, high-margin segment of the

market with a line of distinctive, handcrafted tunics, dresses and kaftans made in India. It

was a steep learning curve. We currently sell to select boutiques and resorts across the U.S.A. and the Caribbean as well as online. Celebrities such as Jodie

Foster, Halle Berry and Katie Couric have worn our designs.

One advantage of the business is that I work closely with my mother, who manages production in India. Having left home nearly 40 years ago, I now speak to her on a daily basis and often travel to India for business, keeping me connected with family and friends in Mumbai.

The moral is that I like change. I find it exciting. I like to shake things up. I truly believe that women, in particular, feel less defined by their profession and are more open to “re-inventing” themselves at different stages of their lives. Changing tracks has been great for me!







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# Little Primates

In a world of beeping phones and blinking screens, **Miel Sahgal (ISC 1989)** examines the need to reconnect our children with the natural world.



It's easy to be riveted by the antics of monkeys. The eternally playful young ones leap, fight, examine bits of food and explore their surroundings. Watchful adults are fiercely protective of infants, giving older juveniles a longer lead to test their skills and boundaries.

When sanctioned free play, our own little primates, the children of urban India, are not too different. They swing on jungle gyms, create their own games, experiment with social hierarchies and observe fellow creatures of the natural world. That's when we allow them to just 'be'.

More often, however, the little humans in our care, children of privilege, spend many of their waking hours sitting in classrooms, instructed about what to learn in preparation for adult life. Much of their 'play' is structured, part of a résumé-fattening treadmill of activities closely scrutinised by 'helicopter' adults. And now, our children are frequently sequestered indoors, captivated by screens.

Given that our brains have not changed a whole lot since our Environment of Evolutionary Adaptedness (EEA), what are the impacts of a childhood out of touch with our instinctive primate selves and the natural environment? When children spend more time engaged with things made by humans than by nature, how does it affect their biology, psychology and the adults



that they will grow into? Childhoods ripped apart from nature, the fabric of our existence, are childhoods disconnected from our very source of life and from every other living being on this planet we call home.

Richard Louv created the phrase 'nature deficit disorder' in his influential book *Last Child in the Woods*, starting an international conversation on the importance of reconnecting children with nature. Numerous studies now reveal that more time in nature leads to healthier children with increased attention spans, better academic performance, improved moods, lower stress levels and greater spiritual grounding. It helps raise a generation of individuals prepared to embrace the mantle of environmental stewardship urgently needed in this era of ecological instability.

The forward-thinking Rachel Carson spoke of the 'sense of wonder' about the natural world that must be kept alive in every child. Young children with direct sensory

experiences in nature are likely to feel empathy and love for the natural world, exploring it as they grow, garnering the knowledge needed to protect it. It is love, not fear, that makes us take up cudgels—only when each assault on nature is looked upon as an assault on something beloved will we have adults who instinctively gravitate towards ecologically gentle choices.

Our hope, then, is to encourage more natural childhoods, infused with free, unstructured play outdoors. While it's fantastic to spot tigers in the wild, it's equally important to be enraptured by a spider web in the neighbourhood park. Hidden natural treasures exist right under our noses, in school compounds and residential complexes. When we, the adults in their lives, hold up a magnifying glass to celebrate the simple things, it is likely that our children will find joy there too.

All we need to do is help our little primates switch off, unplug, de-schedule, get outdoors and just 'be'. Nature will take care of the rest.

The Alumni Association organises events to help get families outdoors. Recent trips include a Flamingo Watch at Sewri and a Nature Trail followed by a clean-up drive at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. Sign up at [www.catalumni.com](http://www.catalumni.com) to ensure you don't miss the next one!





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## Pursuing Possibilities

**Girish Nair (ICSE 1981)** instils the quest for knowledge and the urge to innovate in Cathedral students.

**D**eep in the heart of Middle School, something special is taking place. Synapses are firing, connections are being made. Kids in uniform are hunched over a table, engrossed in the task before them.

Welcome to the Middle School Innovation Hub. This is where children are exposed to applied learning, paradigms of design and critical thinking, computer-aided design, 3D printing, 3D doodling, basic electronics, programming of sensors, actuators and the internet of things. Students have designed bracelets, rings, spaceships, swords, cars and—out of this world—even buildings for Mars. This year, they are being challenged to invent and design their own game.

Senior School, too, is in on the game. An Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Club (IDEC) has been set up for them. Girls have designed a prototype for a sanitary napkin dispenser and other teams have developed day-to-day products for clothes shelves, keeping headphone wires untangled, football shoelace lock pins and more. They are also exposed to different aspects of entrepreneurship.

All this is thanks to Girish Nair. After working in technology and business management for more than 25 years at various start-ups

as well as at Intel, Webvan and Siebel in Silicon Valley and Netcore in Mumbai (where he was COO/CEO), the die-hard techie has turned entrepreneur with Curiosity Gym. Founded in 2015, its mission is to help catalyse innovation in India through schools, colleges and makerspaces (an area where people gather to make and create).

“Since I was a child, I was interested in automation and people interaction,” Girish explains. “This interest was cultivated into a passion for engineering. On completing my higher studies from IIT Bombay and Virginia Tech, I sought employment in fields of my training and passion. As time passed, I realised my matured passion was to help others learn, build products and succeed.” And so was born Curiosity Gym.

The pursuit of happiness can come at a price but Girish encourages the quest. “At each stage of your life, make sure you are doing what makes you happy. This usually involves taking a risk. Don’t look back at that time you had the opportunity to make a difference but turned it down for fear of social pressure or lack of courage. As Heraclitus said, ‘Change is the only constant.’”

**~ Compiled by  
Anaita Vazifdar-Davar  
(ICSE 1996)**







## Founders' Day 2015

**F**ounders' Day 2015, like every other, was full of nostalgia and merriment. The reuniting classes reminisced about 50 years ago as if it was just yesterday. With special events lined up for that week (golf, a play, class meet-ups), there was plenty to evoke nostalgia and leave everyone awash with school spirit.

Here are a few moments from the beautiful church ceremony and the festive coffee morning that followed.

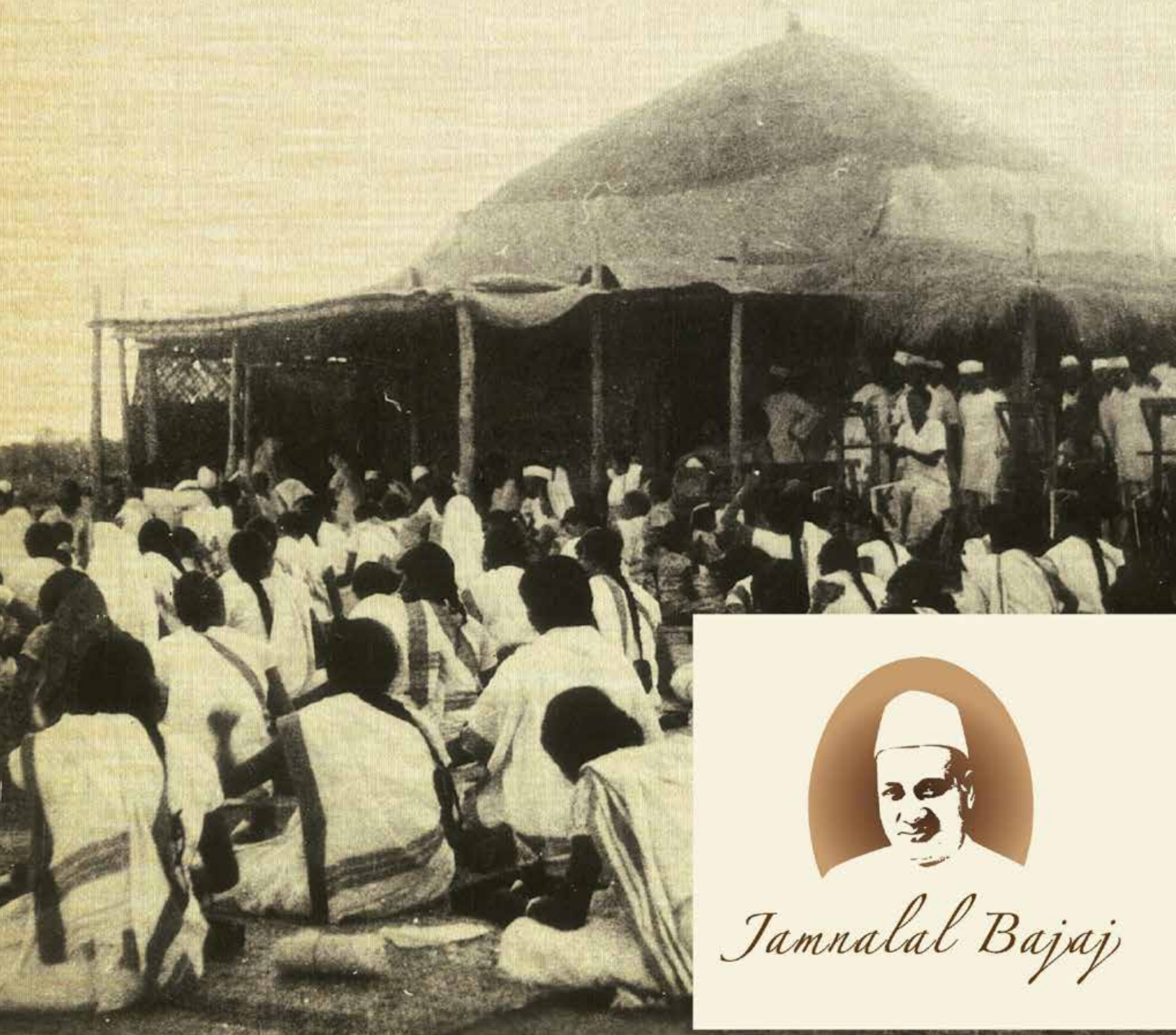






The cottage where Jamnalal lived became a hallowed place. Here women assembled for spinning yarn to pay homage

www.JamnalalBajaj.com  
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*Jamnalal Bajaj*





JAMNALAL BAJAJ FOUNDATION

# Gender Equality

“In society, men and women have the same status and both have the same needs.”

- Jamnalal Bajaj

Jamnalal Bajaj believed that men and women were on par in society and none was inferior to the other. The aims and ambitions in life were the same for both. He sought to remove society's bias which did not let women succeed in a level-playing field. He was a crusader to improve the condition of women and rallied for their rights not only through his personal conduct, but also through public speeches and social interactions.

[www.jamnalalbajajfoundation.org](http://www.jamnalalbajajfoundation.org)

Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation strives to serve the ideals to which Jamnalal Bajaj had dedicated his life and promotes the kind of Gandhian constructive activities in which he himself was deeply involved during his lifetime.



## Events



Survival skills



On the beach

# SUMMER FUN

Each year before the summer holidays we have the Summer School; or should I say we *had* the Summer School. For 14 long years, at the end of April, 45 excited “mid-dlers” headed off to Manori. There, 25 children from the local school joined them. Together, they sang and danced; they learnt pottery and music; they kicked the ball around and gazed at the stars. But, cliché though it is, all good things come to an end. And so the Summer School 2016 was our swan song.

We did some pretty interesting things over the years. Rocket science, pottery, kite making, flute playing, painting, stargazing, cooking, eating, tie-dye, nature walks, eating some more, environmental science, recycling paper, beach games, and hushed midnight feasts...all fun stuff.

But it’s all over now. Why? It’s simple. The last two years have been a struggle. A struggle to put together 45 children from the Middle School; for reasons best known to them, we have had no long waiting lists, no pleading for a place on that bus to a week of gay abandon. Since 2014, the “please, miss; please, miss, I want to come again” clamour has died down. Perhaps, summer camps and holidays in cooler climes beckon.

Anyway, it was great while it lasted.

~ Shyla Boga Patel  
(ISC 1969)



Making music



Castles in the sand



Clay play

Local dance





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# GETTING CREATIVE



True, Sunday mornings are for lie-ins, but it didn't take much coaxing to get this group out of bed! We were pleasantly surprised when 40 bright-eyed and bushy-tailed ex-Cats (including half a dozen kids) arrived at The White Owl, Lower Parel, by 11 a.m. on a Sunday in July, all charged and ready to get creative.

The reason? Paintstorm, a new art-social concept run by two alumni, Aanchal Bubber Mehta and me (both ISC 2005), as well as two other partners.

Participants created a painting called 'The Sky of Amethyst' featuring the trademark Cathedral purple as well as the iconic Malabar Hill skyline. The kids were the most enthusiastic and got straight to business; alumni mingled before they were taken through the creation of the painting: first, a tracing and then painting with acrylics on canvas board. Each piece of art evolved in a wonderful way, especially the ones which deviated from the set painting by experimenting with colours or adding objects to the scene.

It was a lovely morning filled with bonhomie, camaraderie, laughter and fun...and the paintings they got to take home were the icing on the cake!

~ **Sanjana Bubber**  
(ISC 2005)



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## In Memoriam

### MRS. ANTONY

**M**rs. Antony joined Cathedral in 1963 and retired in 1975.

Do you remember how the teachers of the Girls' school were lined up across the stage behind Mrs. Cabral during Assembly? My mother was up on that stage and she was all smiles. In fact, as a little girl, I was embarrassed about how widely she would smile throughout Assembly.

She taught History, along with English Language and Literature, Geography and Scripture. She was involved with School sports and took Savage to great heights with her support for games as Housemistress.

Mr. Kuruvilla Jacob often brainstormed with her and she was instrumental in providing input for the first school building expansion, which they constructed at the (then) Boys' school.

My mother was a college professor and wished to return to teaching at the college level after marriage.

She was offered a job at Sophia College while she was expecting me but was too ill during the pregnancy to continue. Later in life, I heard her say how much she enjoyed teaching at the school level, being more of an influence in a child's life at that younger age.

After her retirement, she pined for her teaching days, saying they were among her best memories. Rather than just deliver a lecture, she enjoyed the give and take from students. She also enjoyed assisting with various extra-curricular activities such as games, music and drama. She told me she often had dreams of her Cathedral days.



**Mrs. Chinnamma Antony**

~ **Geeta Antony**  
(ISC 1969)



*Mrs. Antony passed away on  
March 15, 2016 at the age of 102.*



### MRS. PUNOOSE

**I**n the crowded storehouse of our memories, some faces, some individuals stand out. Mrs. Punoose, History teacher and Palmer Housemistress, is one of these.

With her big *bindi* and smiling face, she brought mirth and cheer to the classroom. One of my enduring memories is of her cajoling me to represent the House in gymnastics. The idea seemed daunting and I pleaded that I would fail miserably but she convinced me. After all, the prestige of the House was at stake. As someone who took the motto 'School first, House next, self last' seriously, I succumbed to pressure and started training diligently. I still have a photograph of me jumping onto the vaulting horse...my pigtails flailing around my head, my face reflecting the terror I was experiencing. Somehow, I managed to pull it off and win some points for my House. Mrs. Punoose sure knew how to be charmingly persuasive!

With her husband associated with the railways, she sometimes invited us to gracious parties at Bombarci, their beautiful residence, where their daughter Sabina, our classmate, skilfully assisted her mother in being the perfect host.

What I remember most are Mrs. Punoose's History lessons. She would intersperse her explanations with a quote or anecdote. Some of her favourite lines were by Emperor Jahangir when he set eyes on the Kashmir valley: "If there is a heaven on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here." Mrs. Punoose had told us this so often that one day, as soon as she started, "If there is a heaven on earth...", our cheeky Std. 9 class in unison chorused: "It is here, it is here, it is here."

Not one to be outdone, she wagged a finger at us and said, "And if there is hell on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here!"

Mrs. Punoose, wherever you are, I am certain you will regale all around you with your anecdotes. As for us, we remember you with gratitude, for transforming what could have been the hellish boredom of a classroom into a heaven of gleeful memories.



**Mrs. Nalini Punoose**

~ **Priti Iyer née Warriar**  
(ICSE 1981)



*Mrs. Punoose passed away on  
July 12, 2016.*



**MRS. PATRUNI**

What can one say about Mrs. Patruni? Educator par excellence? Able administrator? Headmistress and class teacher who devoted her teaching life to the school. She was all that and so much more. She touched the lives of countless people; she didn't just teach a few batches, she taught many generations of the same family. As I read everything people have written about her, one thing stands out in each and every comment—she was one of the kindest and most caring people they have ever known. She was strict and believed in discipline when needed, but she also knew that children need to be children and have fun. I was quite surprised to hear that she was the favourite chaperone for camps and children looked forward to going on school trips with her.

Mrs. Patruni was a multifaceted lady who embodied elegance and grace. She has left an indelible mark on her students' minds and hearts. I was fortunate to talk to her last year for *The X-Cathedralite's* Teacher Updates page and I was amazed at her courage and resilience. She had

beaten cancer twice and suffered a fracture which left her bedridden for a while. Not once did she lose hope or sound sad. She was positive and full of life; her voice had a *joie de vivre* that was impossible to forget. Her unwavering faith kept her strong through the ups and downs. She enjoyed taking part in church activities, interacting with children and giving back to society. She told me, "What is the worth of one's life if we cannot help our fellow humans? And the biggest service to God is to pray to him with a clean heart and serve his people in whatever way we can." I think it is this beauty of her heart that made her highly respected and loved by all. Her memory will be cherished by many generations.



**Mrs. Caroline Patruni**

~ **Anang Agarwalla**  
(ISC 2005)



*Mrs. Patruni passed away on August 27, 2016.*

**RATAN LALKAKA**

**President of the Cathedral Alumni Association 1989-1991**

My father, Ratan Lalkaka, was a proud and staunch Cathedralite, who never missed a single Founders' Day Service since 1947, the year he graduated.

He was a stalwart of the Service, always in the first pew and dressed nattily in his school blazer and tie, his sacred apparel, which he grandly donned for this occasion.

My brother Zareer and I grew up with incessant tales of his youth and the happy days he spent at Cathedral. Somehow, there was one story he had missed telling us, which was shared at a PTA meeting when he, my son Niki, and I were invited to represent three generations of Cathedralites. My father thanked his parents for sending him to Cathedral, despite the distance from their Bandra home and the huge difference in fees between Cathedral's monthly ₹ 12 and the local schools' less-than-₹ 5!

This decision changed his life. He learned sterling values and imbibed an incomparable way of thinking and conducting himself. Dad spoke proudly and eloquently of his teachers, principals and the high code of moral conduct and sense of fairness that prevailed.



*Three generations of Cathedralites—Ratan Lalkaka (extreme right) with his children Zareer Lalkaka (Class of 1977, in white) and Naheed (along with her husband, Hormazd Sorabjee) and grandson Niki Sorabjee (Class of 2007, centre).*

The lifelong bond that he shared with his school friends continued till the end, something that is common among fellow Cathedralites even today.

~ **Naheed Sorabjee**  
(ISC 1974)



*Mr. Ratan Lalkaka passed away on September 7, 2016.*



# FROM THE STAFFROOM



● Neeta Rao



● Vijaya Gupchup



● Noshir Engineer



● Vettihuruthil  
Gopalakrishnan



● Lakshmi Ramani

### Neeta Rao

It must be said that the ebullience and cheerfulness of Mrs. Rao is truly infectious. She retired in February 2014 after teaching for more than 15 years. She donned many hats at Cathedral—teaching Sciences and Maths at the Learning Resource Centre, regular classes, heading the EVS department and Nature Club. She was also Barham Housemistress. She currently stays in Navi Mumbai and enjoys not making the commute to school every day! She is fond of watching TV, reading, practising yoga and going on holidays. Her zest for life is inspiring.

### Vijaya Gupchup

A powerhouse of a lady, she has done more than the average person can dream of doing. Not only was Dr. Gupchup a teacher and Headmistress, she is also an author and

historian (and an ex-Palmerite). She started as a teacher's aide in the late '70s and as a room rep for Std. 5. Encouraged to pursue a B.Ed. by former Headmistress Mrs. Banerjee, she applied to school again after a gap year and became the Std. 2 class teacher. Dr. Gupchup retired in 1998 after a long and brilliant career. Now in her 80s, she is as sprightly and sharp as ever. She has authored numerous books for children as well as four research books and has another out this year. Other than writing and research, she enjoys reading, spending time with her family and leading a busy, busy life.

### Noshir Engineer

After 30 years as Head of a factory plant, Mr. Engineer came to the Senior School in 2000 to teach Chemistry. He was the lanky gent you'd find

in the Chem lab most of the day. He could appear to be serious, but was one of the most jovial and amiable teachers ever. He was also responsible for the IAYP programme. After retirement, he misses school and being around children. He is currently busy teaching and working with the Light of Life Trust in Karjat and developing his farm there.

### Vettihuruthil Gopalakrishnan

Fondly known as Mr. Gopal, he joined Cathedral in 1988 and taught Maths at the Senior School. He doesn't believe in retirement or that anything should be postponed till after retirement. There is no age for learning and teaching; we are students of life, is what he says. Continuous learning and updating oneself is a must. He has always advocated leading a balanced life. He now teaches the IGCSE Maths

syllabus part time at Christ Church School, walks for 45 minutes a day, watches TV for about the same time and reads the newspaper and a book or two.

### Lakshmi Ramani

Always cheerful and helpful, Mrs. Ramani taught Mathematics to Std. 11 and 12 from 1999 to 2012. She lives in Navi Mumbai and teaches at Podar International School in Nerul. She stays active by volunteering with The Dignity Foundation thrice a week in Vashi, where she takes part in diverse activities such as Zumba, yoga, making clay Ganpatis and going on picnics. Mrs. Ramani believes in spending her time gainfully. She enjoys listening to classical Indian music and attending classical dance performances.

~ Anang Agarwalla  
(ISC 2005)



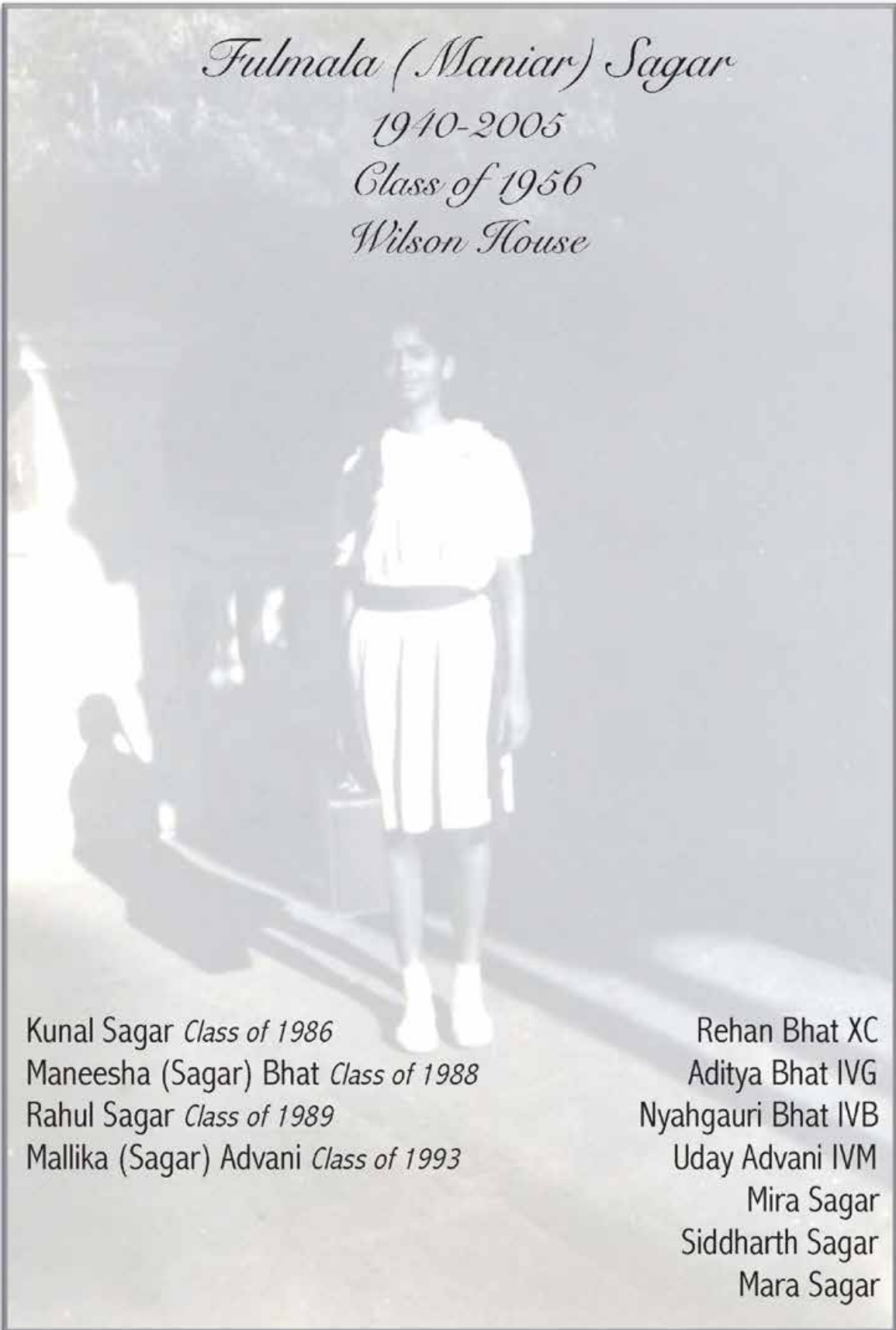
*In memory of our mother and grandmother*

*Fulmala (Maniar) Sagar*

*1940-2005*

*Class of 1956*

*Wilson House*



Kunal Sagar *Class of 1986*

Maneesha (Sagar) Bhat *Class of 1988*

Rahul Sagar *Class of 1989*

Mallika (Sagar) Advani *Class of 1993*

Rehan Bhat XC

Aditya Bhat IVG

Nyahgauri Bhat IVB

Uday Advani IVM

Mira Sagar

Siddharth Sagar

Mara Sagar





Monday, November 16, 2015: Welcome Dinner at “The Trees” (1st row—on the floor): Sulakshana (Shone) Ardeshir, Dilraj Thacker, Mahendra Thacker, Khalid Mohamed, Vikram Shivdasani, Sheila Shivdasani, Yasmin Assur, Gillian Byrne, Diana Mehta, Manu Parpia, Paula Petigara, Kavass Petigara. (2nd row, sitting): Emmanuel Grodzinski, Edwina Grodzinski, Uma Mehta, Sonia Bhandari, Sunita Sood, Mary Mecklai, Pheroza Godrej, Meena Advani, Sumita Banerjee, Vidita Rakshit, Reena Uttamsingh, Madhu Ruia, Ruth David, Applette Sopher. (3rd row, standing): Firdaus Mehta, Firoza Kavarana (guest), Rohinton Bhappu, Shelley Bhappu, Naresh Gupta, Sunder Advani, Goutam Rakshit, Jayoo Patwardhan, Zarir Vachha, Nasser (Momo) Mecklai, Kiran Pandit, Anil Goyal, Homi Colah, Suresh Seksaria, Henry Byrne, Kaajal Thadani, Bharat Kamte, Suresh Thadani, Nachiket Patwardhan, Reeta Dalal, Jamshed (Jemi) Dalal, Moti Daryanani, Bharat Ruia, Amanullah (Amoo) Assur, Girish Uttamsingh, Nikhil Merchant, Ivor David, Nandan Maluste, Roland (Ronnie) Sopher.



Tuesday, November 17, 2015: Chaat Party at Godrej Bhavan roof-garden. Sitting (L-R): Gillian Byrne, Manju Sawhney Mahindra (guest), Diana Mehta, Sulakshana (Shone) Ardeshir, Anita Gupta, Bela Seksaria, Sunita Sood, Sumita Banerjee, Yasmin Assur, Sonia Bhandari, Meena Advani, Dilraj Thacker. Standing (1st row): Girish Uttamsingh, Amanullah (Amoo) Assur, Homi Colah, Kiran Pandit, Kavass Petigara, Nikhil Merchant, Paula Petigara, Pheroza Godrej, Jayoo Patwardhan, Ruth David, Ivor David, Henry Byrne, Reena Uttamsingh, Mahendra Thacker, Edwina Grodzinski, Bharat Kamte. Standing (2nd row): Suresh Seksaria, Nachiket Patwardhan, Naresh Gupta, Anil Kumar.



Wednesday, November 18, 2015: Gala Champagne Dinner at Oricon House Terrace. Sitting (1st row): Naresh Gupta, Goutam Rakshit, Khalid Mohamed, Nasser (Momo) Mecklai. Sitting (2nd row): Ruth David, Edwina Grodzinski, Neelam Goyal, Gillian Byrne, Uma Mehta, Sunita Sood, Sonia Bhandari, Bela Seksaria, Pheroza Godrej, Anita Gupta, Meena Advani, Dilraj Thacker, Yasmin Assur, Taera Chowna, Sulakshana (Shone) Ardeshir. Standing: Roland (Ronnie) Sopher, Applette Sopher, Firdaus Mehta (hidden), Ivor David, Diana Mehta, Emmanuel Grodzinski (hidden), Henry Byrne, Paula Petigara, Kavass Petigara, Kiran Pandit, Mahendra Thacker, Anil Goyal, Jehangir Chowna, Girish Uttamsingh, Reena Uttamsingh, Heena Kamte, Suresh Seksaria, Bharat Kamte, Anil Kumar, Amanullah (Amoo) Assur, Homi Colah, Sunder Advani, Sheila Shivdasani, Vikram Shivdasani, Girija Mirchandani, Yogi Motwane (guest), Suresh Mirchandani.

## ▶ Class of 1965

It gives Jamshyd and me the greatest pleasure to gather our dear old friends together on this occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Class of '65!

What began as a small effort on our part to recapture the old days burgeoned into a warm and wonderful event, thanks to the enthusiastic response we received.

There is nothing quite like one's school days, no experience to equal the strong bonds that are formed as school children, as Cathedralites; bonds that endure over time and across space. That period in our lives was special; it shaped us and instilled in us a certain value system, and although our paths have diverged since then and we have different life journeys, it is reassuring to know that we can connect in the same affectionate manner.

Thinking back then that we may drift apart or that we may not remain as close as we were in high school, that fear proved to be unfounded. There's a sense of peace that comes with knowing that we share a childhood history...and that in a swiftly changing world, we can still hark back to the special ties that bind us together.

Let us raise a toast to our wonderful friendships!

~ Pheroza (Shroff) Godrej  
(Class of 1965)





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## Reunions

### ► Class of 1974/75

We are a very special batch. In 1974, two sections went ICSE, the rest went ISC in 1975. Our “partitioned” class (unlike India) remained intimately connected. Okay, history lesson over.

The class of 1974/75 celebrated 40 years of graduating from Cathedral at a fantastic party on December 19, 2015 in the Republic of South Bombay. We planned it early and well, formed a core team and went online. The venue, outreach, costs and other details were put on Google Docs, visible to all.

As the date approached, many of us from far and wide flew in to be together that evening. Friends who had not



seen each other for decades hugged and hollered in excitement! The liquor flowed, as did the nostalgia. Great decorations and great food. Spouses were an endangered species that evening but the handful sporting enough to show up had a ball. “Thermocole Caterpillar”,

our class rock band, cranked out a set of '70s rock classics and the enthusiastic few danced along. Others fled to the balcony to chat. We took a moment to remember batchmates not with us in this world, including Jaksa Kelez, whom we had lost suddenly, only days before. Finally, we donated a small surplus to the Alumni Association’s Medical Fund.

Today, in our mid-50s, we are at the top of our game. This is our prime time. Which is why the theme of the evening, “Not Yet Over The Hill”, resonated with all. What a night!

~ **Dinesh Mirchandani**  
(ISC 1975)





# 40 YEARS AGO

Class of 75

With gratitude  
for our wonderful  
teachers who  
shaped us into  
whom we are  
today.



School Leavers — Commerce Group



School Leavers — Humanities Group



School Prefects — 1975



School Leavers — Science Group



## Reunions



### ► Class of 1990-92

It was hard for us to accept that we'd been out of school so long that a child born the year we graduated would be done with college by now. We weren't going to take it lying down. Not at the beginning of the celebrations, anyway!

The Reunion Committee—Kunal Khanna, Rayomand Patell, Priya Talwar, Sunaina Kilachand, Sreeja Nedungadi and Chirag Doshi—put together a grand bash at Liquid Lounge, Chirag's restaurant at Opera House. A super spread, House-colour inspired cocktails (booze courtesy Feroz Merchant) and a retro candy bar with Fusen gum, bull's eyes and Phantom sweet cigarettes...who could ask for more?

Double glazing ensured the screeches of joy and horror were well-muffled as the party rocked into the wee hours. A hilarious "awards show" curated by Anu Munshi, a kick-ass playlist of music from the '80s, nostalgia-inspired décor designed by Tara Sahgal and Pooja Hiremath (lovely w/o Sameer Hiremath) and an AV of old photos by Sunaina Kilachand set the mood.

Photo walls with images of ET, Sam Fox, Michael Jackson and the like jostled for space with snapshots of school and the pièce de résistance—a wall-sized blow-up of Rocky's iconic school bell. The turnout was good with several people flying home from far-flung nations for the occasion.

The evening ended with a bunch of happy (if a bit worse for wear) 40-something-year-olds climbing down a flight of 'memories stairs' with goody bags of school-inspired swag amid enthusiastic paparazzi on 'the purple carpet'. It must have been a successful reunion as a few die-hards speed-boated out to Chirag's Alibaug pad a couple of days later to extend the flashback.



~ Tara Sahgal





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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## ► 1949

### **Haresh Chaganlal**

**Seth** (Savage) went to university in Europe and then started a pharma unit, a small shipping company and a unique company manufacturing Zircon jewellery. He married twice and had three children—**Rohita, Nikhil** and **Gayatri**—all ex-Cathedralites. After retirement, he has been living in Goa and loves his home and beautiful garden. A jazz aficionado and worshipper of Billie Holiday and Charlie Parker, his real passion is street photography. “I am proud to say my Facebook Photography page has garnered 12,000 Likes.” Another passion is art collecting. “Oh, I forgot to say I know 2,000 lyrics of French, English and Brazilian songs. A sign of a totally misspent youth!”



## ► 1956

**Alaknanda Duriand née Samarth** (Barham) has spent the last few years in London, where her family is based, with some visits to Paris. She has done some performance research projects. Mentoring at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) keeps her connected with young actors at the highest level. In India, there is a lot of archival work and books on leading theatre figures. She has written a few of her happy memories of those collaborations in Mumbai, the city in which she grew up.

**Amarjit Kulwant Singh née Anand** (Palmer) continues to be very active in Chandigarh, where she lives. She works with the following organisations: The Indian Red Cross, Chandigarh, The Indian Council for Child Welfare, The Chandigarh Branch Committee Against

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace at the Punjab University, The Haryana Financial Commissioner’s Office, and The Haryana Agriculture Marketing Federation. She travels occasionally to visit her son in Thailand and her daughter in the U.S.A.

### **Chitra Rajkumar née Bhogilal**

(Savage) lives in Mumbai and has served for more than 30 years on the Alumni Association Committee, who value her contribution as a former Treasurer. She is busy the whole day and is very involved with her family, especially her grandchildren. Always involved in alumni and school activities, she still finds the time to help out at the Dignity Foundation. She loves to attend music concerts, both Indian and Western, and is an avid theatre-goer.

### **Dina Daver née Billimoria** (Wilson)

has committed her past few years mainly to family, as there have been health issues. However, she has been fairly active at an assisted-living facility, Lotus Home, which was built for ladies over the age of 65. She used to be involved in a craft organisation, Paramparik Karigar, which encourages the great arts and crafts of India. Apart from looking after elderly family members, she currently devotes time to her semi-bedridden mother and also takes an interest in the office work of her late husband.

**Ernest Haskell** (Barham) made trips to India in 2010, 2013 and 2015 for landmark birthday celebrations. He always meets alumni from across the years. In 2012, he moved from New Jersey to Florida. He travels within the U.S.A., primarily to NYC and San Francisco, with prolonged trips to Tuscany, Provence and Portugal. He is reading more, fishing less and pacing his rounds of golf.

### **Habiba Miranda née Hydari**

(Wilson) lives in Goa in a beautiful heritage home, Casa dos Mirandas, which she decorated herself. Her recent ill-health has curtailed her travels, but she is planning a visit to Mumbai for her class’ 60th reunion. Her sons live close by and she enjoys visits from her grandchildren.

**Jane Bigg née Simon** (Palmer) lives in Godalming in Surrey, England. Her main hobby is reading and she belongs

to a book-group. Her main enjoyment is meeting family and friends whenever she can, so she is very sorry to be missing the 60th reunion of her class. She wishes all her classmates a wonderful time together and will be with them in spirit.

**Joan Austin née Rees** (Wilson) has unfortunately been plagued by ill-health for the last several years, but her spirit remains undaunted. She retains a sense of humour and is upbeat about life. She lives in Exeter, Devon, U.K.

### **Joan Densham née Meyers**

(Barham) lives in Weybridge, Surrey. She finds working in the garden and allotment is enjoyable and rewarding, but unfortunately plant pests feel the same. She sings with a female choir, which raises spirits and, sometimes, the roof. She is a reliable church bell ringer, which makes up for her lack of skill. She finds country dancing once a week a wonderful way to exercise the knees. Her days of long trips are over, but the ones she did were great.

### **Khadija Sarela née Haveliwala**

(Wilson) lives in Mumbai, but of late her activities have been somewhat restricted by a fall, which means that she attends class parties with her trusty stick. She looks forward to the visits of her son and his family from England, and her granddaughter is the light of her life.

**Meena Bhat née Lele** (Palmer) returned to Mumbai in 1996 after many years of living and teaching in Bangalore. Although retired from active teaching, she continues to guide the chain of Pawar Public Schools as a member of the Board. She sings with a small female choir and loves keeping in touch with her ex-students from Bangalore and Mumbai through Facebook. She enjoys the company of her grandchildren and meeting friends.

**Muku Hamied** (Barham) continues to guide Cipla, where he puts in a full day’s work. Although reclusive, he remains in touch with his classmates and enjoys the occasional lunch or tea with them. He lives in Mumbai, travels frequently and is a doting grandfather.

**Nirmala Sundaram née Panjabi** (Wilson) relocated to Mumbai in 2011, after being based in Chennai since 1984. Mumbai has always been home for her





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## Class Notes

and she moved here after her husband passed away. She now leads a relaxed and retired life, enjoying her hobbies—solving puzzles, reading and spending her evenings at the Bombay Gymkhana. Catching up with school and college friends, who are as warm and friendly as she remembered them, has been a delight. Truly, a wonderful life!

**Patsy Mistry née Dubash** (Palmer) is always a welcome visitor to Mumbai, where she remains a generous hostess and loyal friend. Her home in Mumbai becomes the focal point of class reunions. She keeps in touch with her far-flung grandchildren and loves being with her family.

**Paulette Harte née Glover** (Savage) lives in British Columbia, Canada, where she is surrounded by her family and loving grandchildren.

**Rajni Anand née Shivdasani** (Savage) lives in Mumbai and travels often with her daughter. Her hobby remains playing cards, though she drags herself away from the table when her classmates meet for lunch or tea. Blessed with a sense of humour, Rajni remains her effervescent self in spite of health issues that crop up occasionally.

**Ranjit Matthan** (Savage) has had an eventful decade with work and family. Work recognition came with the 2006 K. M. Philip Gold Medal from the All India Rubber Industries Association and the 2014 Hancock Medal from the Royal Chartered Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (U.K.). Work has kept him active in consulting from Korea to Guatemala and he has interspersed it with family holiday visits. In April 2016, he celebrated his 75th birthday and his 50th wedding anniversary.

**Razia Grover née Quamarain** (Palmer) lives in Delhi. She tries to keep herself busy working on books, editing, proofing, etc. She also has a tiny Indian folk art business run out of her home, which is fun because it brings her in touch with “real” people, the artists. However, she wishes she was more of a creative person herself.

**Rima Kashyap née Savara** (Palmer) has travelled to exciting places since 2015 including the Sundarbans and Shantiniketan, Prague, and after a lot

of hesitation, Australia. As a bonus, she planned a trip to New Zealand, where she stayed in hostels. The highlight of her trip was staying in the old women’s jail, now a hostel, in Christchurch and her visit to the Antarctic Centre. She visited Spain earlier this year.

**Ruby Bhagwagar née Kapadia** (Savage) lives in Delhi, where she works as a General Physician in two charity clinics from 8 a.m. to noon, six days a week. It keeps her mentally and physically fit. She rarely comes to Mumbai.

**Ruma Pal née Ghosh** (Palmer) lives in Kolkata. After retiring from the Supreme Court, she served as a Member of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions, ILO. She is involved with the education of underprivileged children and pro bono work with destitute women.

**Sherna Kotwal née Tarapore** (Palmer) lives in Turrumurra, New South Wales, Australia. In the last 10 years, Sherna’s art practice has continued to grow, culminating in a successful solo exhibition in 2015. She continues to exhibit and travel for her art. She leads a busy life caring for her family and her joy, her pet dog Smoky.

**Siloo Captain née Mistry** (Barham) lives in Mumbai and is happily retired after a busy working life of 38 years. She enjoys visits from her children and grandchildren.

**Sohrab Kapadia** (Palmer) lives in Mumbai, where he is presently in active retirement by volunteering his time and effort to the Sea Cadet Corps, a non-government organisation that gives a platform to the young to imbibe values and discipline through nautical means. He trains approximately 3,000 cadets, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, for five hours every Sunday.

**Suguna Ramanathan née Iyer** (Savage) taught short-term courses at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and at Ahmedabad University, after retiring following 32 years of teaching at St. Xavier’s College, Ahmedabad, in 2002. She now wants to spend such time as is left reading things that she wants to read, often re-reading old favourites, attending lectures when possible, meeting friends and helping her

school-going grandchildren with their homework when needed.

**Thrity Saraf née Vazifdar** (Savage) lives in New Jersey, U.S.A., where she has retired from practice as an ophthalmologist. Travelling was great fun, but now she works harder than ever at home! She is busy with medical appointments, de-cluttering paperwork, gardening and socialising. She visits her grandchildren, in Maine whenever possible and finds that is the best enjoyment.

**Waseem Brelvi** (Savage) is happy to report that his wife and he are well, apart from a few minor aches and pains. They live in Fremont, California, near San Francisco, but make annual visits to Abu Dhabi to visit their younger daughter and family and to Mumbai to see other family members. Their older daughter lives with her family in Palo Alto, a half-hour drive from them. They plan to do a lot more travelling overseas in the next 10 years.

**Yvonne Gill née Shabathai** (Wilson) lives in London, U.K., where she is just hanging in there and will be thinking of all her classmates come Founders’ Day. She misses her husband, late son and parents, but is enjoying her daughters, sons-in-law and seven divine grandchildren.

## ► 1961

**Maneck “Meck” Chichgar** (Barham) has been retired for six years, after being a professional geologist for 43 years. He is now a grandfather. His beautiful wife, Pervin, passed on into the loving arms of her Lord in January 2016, after putting up with him for 55 years!

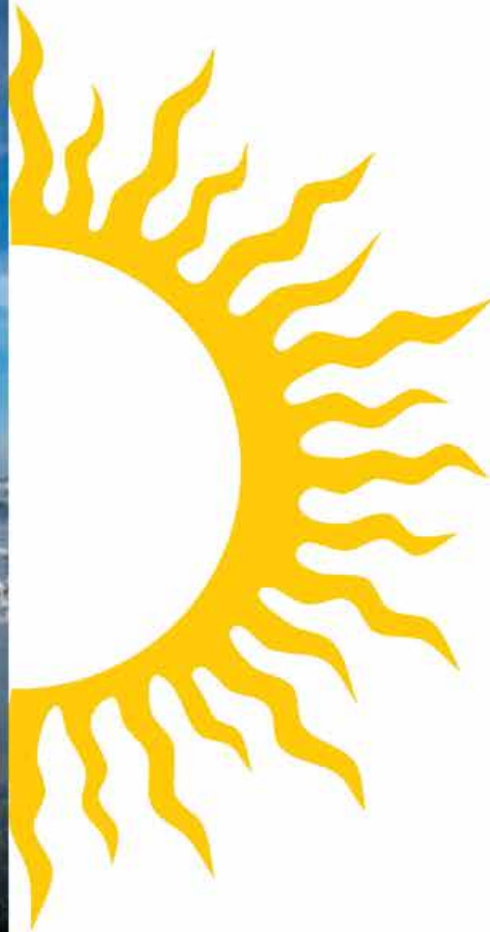
## ► 1962

**Girish D. Vyas** (Palmer) has worked with Air India in Mumbai, Vadodara, Paris, Muscat, Milan, Sydney and Hong Kong and retired in 2003 as Regional Director–Far East, South-East Asia and Australasia, HKG. He joined Global Aviation Service Group as Managing Director, JTB Jupiter Express Services from 2003 to 2007. He is Vice Chairman, Air India Retired Employees Association, Secretary, Strand Marg Association, ALM, and Chairman, IONIC Residents’ Association.





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## ▶ 1967

**Rajan Medhekar** (Wilson) graduated from BITS Pilani and obtained an M.Sc. from Bombay University. He joined the I.P.S. in 1975 and was allotted the Kerala Cadre. He was C.P. Tvm, I.G.P. (Tvm Zone) and Additional D.G.P. (L&O), Intelligence & Crime Branch. He worked in the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, for 10 years and was the Special D.G., B.S.F. in-charge of Bangladesh/Pakistan borders and anti-Maoist Operations and B.S.F. HQ. He was promoted and posted as D.G., N.S.G. (a.k.a. 'Black Cats'). He retired from service in 2012 after two years in the N.S.G. Married with two daughters, he is currently an independent Security Consultant to the Government of India and some corporates.

## ▶ 1968

**Pheroze A. Madon** (Palmer) is the General Manager at Entrac Inc., and is based in Englewood, N.J.

## ▶ 1969

**Aneel Vasvani** (Barham) is officially retired and became a fulltime 'bum' last year. He now spends his time travelling through 'the good old U.S. of A' and reads a lot. Although not a captain of industry, he has, over the years, furnished a few thousand American households.

### **Zarine Khambatta Batliwalla**

(Barham) has been living in the San Francisco Bay Area for 40 years, where she has been involved in every aspect of real estate, from helping clients and investors to owning properties. She and her husband, Neville, travel a lot and thoroughly enjoy their two daughters and three grandchildren. Although they have lived away since 1973, she keeps in close touch with her school friends. She would love to reconnect with her classmates on their travels to SF!



**Cyrus Jassawalla** (Wilson) obtained a B.Sc. from St. Xavier's College and a B.S. and M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University. He worked for Bayer for 34 years, with assignments

in the U.S.A., Germany and India. His last overseas assignment was in India, where he was Country Head for the Polyurethanes Business. He has since retired and is enjoying playing golf, travelling and spending time with family in Houston and San Diego.

## ▶ 1970

**Minoo Framroze** (Barham) runs the Framroze wrestling akhara in Bharuch.

## ▶ 1971

**Sarojini Linda Nambiar** (Palmer) lives in bustling Bangalore. Her daughter, Mrinalini, works for Samsung International in Manhattan, where she spends a lot of time with her toddler grandson. "My beloved brother, **Padman** (Wilson, Class of 1973), died of cancer a few years back. My father, Padma Bhushan K.P.P. Nambiar, died of dengue, and my son, Arjun, died crossing the road with no one to help! These are the drawbacks of our Indian cities. I'm in grief and keep happy by travelling. Life is precious!"

**Madhavi Mutatkar née Tongaonkar** (Barham) graduated in Economics and Statistics from Elphinstone College and obtained a Master's in Communications with a specialisation in Television from F.T.I.I. She worked in Doordarshan, in both production and managerial capacities, then joined Zee Enterprises as President- Programming and Business, where she launched popular channels for the group. She has her own production company for advertisement films, documentaries and serials. She is on the board of several media schools and is a part of state, national and international television awards.

## ▶ 1972

**Manoj Mehra** (Palmer) reports that **Gautum Shahani's** son is getting married in the first week of September 2016 in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. **Nikhil Mazumdar** and Manoj are neighbours in New Jersey, while **Arun Shanbag** lives in Stonybrook. The four of them meet at least thrice a year and would love to meet up with any classmates when they visit.

## ▶ 1974

**Harsha Ramalingam** (Savage) retired last year from Amazon, a company where he enjoyed an



engaging stint. He was a V.P. responsible for the eCommerce Platform, CIO and CISO functions of the company. He is now on the board of Intralinks, a public

## ▶ X-Cats in the news



**Dinaz Stafford (ICSE 1976)** is thrilled with the results of Mira Nair's *Queen of Katwe* (2016), the inspirational true story of Phiona Mutesi, a young girl from the streets of rural Uganda who pursues a dream of becoming an international chess champion. As part of Dinaz's duties as Casting Director, she explored the slum areas around Kampala, conducted acting workshops and then worked to ensure the performances on set. Dinaz has worked with Mira Nair since *Salaam Bombay!* (1988). She also made her own award-winning short film, *Kisses on a Train* (1994), and a documentary, *Still, the children are Here* (2004).

Dinaz was involved with the creation and development of Salaam Baalak Trust Mumbai, a charity that improves the lives of street children. She is married to Matt Black (one half of the well-known Electronic Music duo Coldcut) and settled in the U.K.





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## Class Notes

company. He lives with his wife, Lois, in Seattle and enjoys travelling (most recently to the Galapagos) and exploring the outdoors in the beautiful Pacific N.W.

**Uday Mehra** (Barham) started his career as a ship broker in Mumbai. He then moved to Greece, where he learned the ropes of ship management, working with ex-Onassis fleet captains and technical teams. He then moved to the Middle East and is now based in Dubai, from where he sells luxury yachts worldwide. He and his wife, Radhika, have a son, who is presently studying in Barcelona, Spain.

### ► 1975

#### **Rima Bhatia**

(Wilson) obtained an M.A. from Elphinstone College and emigrated to Switzerland, where she obtained her C.E.L.T.A. in teaching from the University of Cambridge, did German translations and taught Business English and Advanced English for Cambridge Exams as an examiner and interlocutor. She now lives in the U.S.A., where she combines the Physics studied at school with the Philosophy and Logic learned at college to do independent research in theoretical physics for her life-work as a dissertation in book form.

**Abeezar Essabhoy** (Savage) obtained a B.S. in 1981 from U.C. Berkeley and then became a C.P.A. at Deloitte. He joined Citibank and served as Director of Taxes for Western U.S.A. for the next seven years. In 1992, he started developing real estate and currently manages these properties.



**Nitin Salian** (Wilson) is a practising General and Laparoscopic Surgeon and part of a team that does bariatric (weight loss) surgery. He currently practises at Bombay Hospital, Breach Candy Hospital and Wockhardt Hospital.

### ► 1978

**Ashwani Keswani** (Wilson) pursued Engineering after school and followed it up with a Master's in Manufacturing Engineering from Northwestern University and an M.B.A. from Penn State. He moved back to India in 1991 and has stuck to Engineering as a career. He lives in Mumbai with his wife, Nita, son and daughter and is the

Executive Director for Asia Pacific for the Oetiker Group.

### ► 1979

**Dinesh Karunakaran** (Savage) set up a business of his own in Bangalore after a long stint at B.P.L. (where he was last C.O.O. of B.P.L. Telecom). He is currently in the throes of getting his start-up venture off the ground. He is married to Vinita and they have a son.

### ► 1980

**Amit Ahuja** (Palmer) is based in Dublin, Ireland, where he is the C.E.O. of J.B.C. Global Supply Chain with offices

### ► X-Cats in the news

**Jasmine Jehangir née Billimoria (Class of 1978)** has been passionately perfecting her glorious creations ever since she became interested in stained glass as an interior designer in Mumbai in the '80s. She and her sister Binaifer Karanjia (Class of '73) have lovingly restored and created stained glass for numerous heritage edifices, public spaces and private residences.

Today, Lady J Studio, her label, has evolved under her own aesthetic into mixed-media pieces incorporating

stained glass, mosaic, semi-precious stones and canvas. Heavily influenced by her love of the jazz form, her

high-quality pieces are a paean to jazz, with beautiful tones, distinctive colours and creative improvisations.

Jasmine and her husband Jehangir (Class of '70) are trustees of Pune's Jehangir Hospital. Jasmine plays the saxophone and Jehangir, the trumpet

for the Jazz Junkeys. When we're lucky, their daughter Simone sings and son Cowas joins in on the drums.



### ► X-Cats in the news



**Primit Jhaveri (HSC 1981)** returned to his other alma mater, The Simon School, University of Rochester (MBA 1987), after 29 years to deliver the Commencement address, the first non-US invitee to address the graduating class. He also received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Primit is currently CEO of Citi India, responsible for all Citi businesses throughout the country, with nearly 14,000 employees and 2.5 million customers. In 2015, he established a scholarship to provide financial assistance to Indian students seeking a degree at the Simon Business School.

A strong supporter of the performing and visual arts scene in Mumbai, he is still to be found on the tennis court most Saturdays. An avid traveller, he is on the board of Pratham and IIFA, where he confesses he learns more than he contributes.



in Ireland, U.K., Antwerp and Dubai. Amit is married to Ailish Foy and they have three lovely lads.



► 1981

**Paul Hardy** (Wilson) obtained a degree in Automotive Engineering and a second degree in Electrical Engineering in the U.S.A. He currently works for Nike, Inc. in Beaverton, Oregon, as Director of Integration Engineering. He is married and has two children.

**Girish Nair**

(Barham) is founder of Curiosity Gym and has started the popular Innovation Hub in Middle School, besides mentoring the Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Club in Senior School. Prior to this, Girish was C.E.O. of Netcore. He has previously worked in Silicon Valley for Intel, Webvan and Siebel. Girish did his Engineering from I.I.T., Mumbai, and Virginia Tech, and also pursued (but hasn't completed) a second Master's at Stanford. His motto: Innovate Constantly.



► 1983

**Ardaman Kohli** (Wilson) became a Digital Transformation Advisor to governments, a socio-economic hobbyist, and knows a thing or two about cyber security and chilling out in the Canadian Rockies. He's looking forward to moving back to India this year and reconnecting with everyone.

**Mukeeta Jhaveri née Kataria** (Savage) has moved from being an I-Banker to Art Consultant to Advisor in cultural philanthropy for CSR and scale-ups for NGOs. "Life is great!" She is passionate about India-centric art, design, heritage conservation, art collecting and travel. With both (House Captain) children having flown the coop, her DP status often reads "Mumbai in Transit". She



confesses that she is a bit sad to relinquish her six-year-old Catalumni President hat (déjà vu Head Girl 1983) after cutting the P.T.A. cord only last year.

**Jaydeep Banerjee** (Palmer) is an Operations Consultant with a voracious appetite for the written word. He considers himself deliciously amoral and agnostic and believes in the simplicity of thinking. He lives by simple maxims and keen observations and often reiterates one of his favourite quotes: "Leave no answer unquestioned." His first book, *Serving You*, available on Amazon, is a tribute to simplistic thinking, eternal love and creative business thinking.

► 1984

**Udita**

**Jhunjhunwala**

(Barham) is a writer, critic, author and columnist with her contributions on cinema and lifestyle appearing in *Hindustan Times*, *Mint*, *Screen International*, *Vogue India*, *Scroll.in* and *Firstpost.com*, among others. She has contributed to two books—*Women in Indian Film* and *Bollywood's Top 20: Superstars of Indian Cinema*. She is also curator of the Cinema section at the Kala



Ghoda Arts Festival (KGAF) 2017 and has been on the jury of film competitions at KGAF, the Mumbai Film Festival (MAMI) and the Indian Documentary Producers Association (IDPA) Awards. She is also an active member of the SOAS (University of London) alumni association and the Cathedral alumni association.

► 1985

**Ajay Kaisth** (Barham House Captain) is Principal, KAI Advisors, a fee-only financial planning firm based in Princeton Jct., N.J. The firm helps clients with financial planning including budgeting, investments, insurance and retirement, enabling them to achieve their financial goals. He enjoys music, travel, time with family and friends and playing competitive tennis.

**Brijesh Hari**

(Palmer), an intrepid adventurer, assembles personalised e-bikes (a futuristic form of pollution-free transport) and, in his spare time, charters *Tara*, a 40-foot luxurious catamaran, with plans underway to sail her to the Andamans and create a bunch of new and unheard of lifestyles and adventures.



► X-Cats in the news

**Dr. Ameet Dhurandhar (ICSE 1986)** studied Obstetrics and Gynaecology (M.D., D.G.O.) and is among the first obstetricians in India to conduct water births and the first to conduct natural, pain-free childbirth under hypnosis (hypnobirthing) in Mumbai. A Piscean, Ameet has always been intrigued by birthing in water. His area of specialisation is water birth, hypnobirthing (hypnosis for pain relief), vaginal birth after Caesarean

section (VBAC) and infertility. He has also trained in laparoscopic surgery in France. Ameet believes "all mothers should be given an opportunity for a water birth." He is well known for his water births for celebrity couples such as cricketer Jonty Rhodes and his wife. Now a father of two sons, Ameet was known in school for his athletic abilities, be it boxing, cross-country, rugby or badminton. He is still active on the badminton courts.





► 1986

**Cyrus Pardiwala** (Palmer) lives in New York with his wife, Kimberly, and son. The family loves their global travels with friends and family and exploring the world beyond the beaten path. Cyrus serves as the Global Operations Partner at PwC and is based out of New York and London. Cyrus's son is reminded often that he is fortunate to be in a school "just like Cathedral"!

► 1989

The Lala siblings, **Maleeka Lala, Shonar Lala Chinoy** and **Rishad Lala** (Palmer, Class of '89, '90 and '97), like good homing pigeons, have all returned to *aamchi* Mumbai. Maleeka sources and promotes unique paintings from young upcoming artists all over India and sails the *Bom Baia* with **Brijesh Hari** (1985) in her spare time. Rishad spends his time between Mumbai and Casa Lala in Alibaug. Shonar, a former World Banker, is passionate about reducing poverty and designing evidence-based policies. She works for a development consultancy, 3ie, evaluating microfinance for the poor. She has researched and written extensively on debt relief, poverty reduction and NREGA. Shonar's husband, Sajjid Chinoy, is a macroeconomist. Their daughter is a next-generation Palmerite at Infant School.



Maleeka Lala



Shonar Lala Chinoy



Rishad Lala

► 1991/93

**Alefiyah Sarma née Merchant** (Savage) works for Diageo North America. Alefiyah has worked at Colgate-Palmolive and Coca-Cola and has led marketing for brands such as Jose Cuervo, Baileys, Don Julio and Smirnoff. Alefiyah lives in Philadelphia with her husband, Raj. In her spare time, she dabbles in triathlons, consults for non-profit organisations and travels extensively.

**Ambika Nehru** (Wilson) worked in advertising for 14 years before quitting

to start her own T-shirt business called Asya. Asya works with self-help groups in villages in U.P. using traditional Lucknow chikankari embroidery in contemporary ways. The income generated empowers the village women financially and otherwise.

**Anjali Nangia Pollack** (Palmer) attended St. Xavier's College in Bombay and then F.I.T. in New York. She never left New York and now lives on the Upper West Side with her husband, Michael, and two sons, Damian and Zachary. She is an interior designer and runs a boutique firm in NYC—Anjali Pollack Design.

**Anita Schiavi née Chowgule** (Wilson) went to commercial school and to learn German in Switzerland. She worked at various companies as a sales and administrative assistant. She now works at the Swiss Alzheimer Association in the administrative and accounts department and organises various events for the association on a national level. She lives in Yverdon with her husband and step-daughter.

**Bhavna Vazirani Vaidya** (Palmer) graduated from Tufts University and then returned home. After seven years with Unilever as part of the marketing team for Lakmé Cosmetics, she is now a freelance brand strategist specialising in the lifestyle and luxury space and has recently launched a range of beauty products for Westside. She is married to Tariq Vaidya and has two children at Cathedral.

**Binita Bodani Putcha** (Barham) obtained a B.A. from Sophia College and then began her career in PR at Indian Public Affairs Network (a Hill & Knowlton Associate). In 1998, she founded ActiMedia, which is a leading lifestyle PR agency, managing several leading international and Indian lifestyle brands. In 2012, Binita launched Funky Monkeys, Mumbai's first indoor play centre for kids, and has since opened several branches.

**Chandani Kapur** (Palmer) studied Psychology and Sociology only to pursue her first love, fashion design and garment construction, at NIFT. She became head designer at a store and supplies stylised cotton garments to high-end stores. She has also gone back to her passion for jewellery and semi-precious stones. In addition, has been teaching poetry, elocution and yoga to primary school children in Mumbai for more than 15 years.

► X-Cats in the news

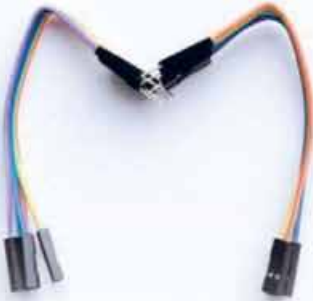
**Priyanka Kakodkar (ISC 1990)**, Editor (Special Projects) of *The Times of India* (TOI), is on a winning streak. In 2015, she received the Prem Bhatia Award for excellence in environmental and development reporting. She is the joint recipient of the 2015-16 Chameli Devi Jain Award for women journalists "for work that combines social concern and compassion with groundbreaking reportage and sharp analytical skills". She also recently won the Statesman Award for Rural Reporting 2016.

Priyanka travelled through Marathwada and Vidarbha and produced a riveting body of work highlighting policy failures and the resulting humanitarian crisis. One story covered the plight of farmers in Marathwada digging water from a dry riverbed. Another revealed the gender bias in drought statistics, as women farmers who are not land owners are omitted from the suicide count. Another showed how the beef ban paralysed the cattle market, forcing some farmers to move into camps run by local politicians if they wish to feed and water their cattle.

With more than 50 stories on the TOI front page, she has raised the social conscience and rural awareness of the urban elite. Certainly, her daughter Avantika, in Cathedral's Pre-Primary section, has an abundance of inspiration in her mother.







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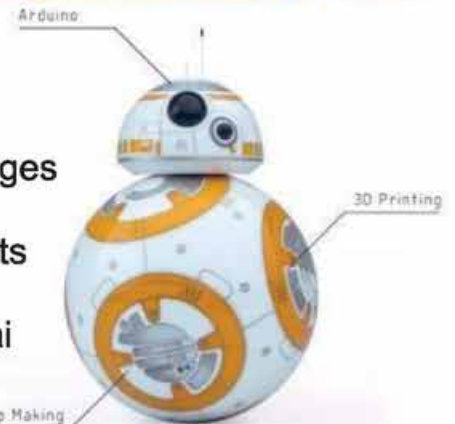


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## Class Notes

**Darshita Thakkar Talim** (Barham) is a general dentist and lives and works in Orange County, CA. She is also a full-time mom to her son, dog and husband.

**Devika Bhatnagar née Chopra** (Savage) graduated in Economics from Sophia College and went on to study Business Management. She worked at Standard Chartered Bank, Mumbai. She moved to San Francisco, where she lives with her husband and daughter. She is actively involved in her daughter's school community and loves cooking and entertaining, creating recipes and dabbling with her food blog.

**Diya Ramachandran née Renjen** (Wilson) worked in advertising for a decade in London and Mumbai and is currently enjoying being a full-time mom.

**Divya Shroff née Rajani** (Palmer) obtained a B.A. (Psychology) from St. Xavier's College, followed by a diploma in Early Childhood Education from Sophia Polytechnic and then taught for many years at preschools in the city. After an M.A. in Early Childhood Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, she now teaches at the Cathedral Infant School. She recently married Ajay Shroff.

**Freya Javeri** (Savage) graduated from Bombay Veterinary College and completed postgraduation from the University of Melbourne in 2001. She now runs her own practice in Ahmedabad. She is also the veterinary consultant for the Canine Research Centre of Zydus Research. She continues to pursue her hobby of breeding and showing purebred dogs. She also judges dog shows across India and abroad.

**Gulshirin Dubash** (Palmer) is an actor and theatre professor at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan. She also works with a non-profit organisation called Clowns Without Borders that goes to refugee camps, war zones and disenfranchised areas of the world, clowning for children.

**Kanupriya Agarwal Bajoria** (Barham) lives in Kolkata. She is married to Anand and they have a daughter. Kanupriya runs a catering unit specialising in desserts and gourmet meals. She also runs a boutique for ladies' garments in Chennai and Kolkata under the label 'Moksh'.

**Karin Gupta née Birdy** (Savage) is a partner at Christina, a family-run

business. She manages design and production for their eight stores across India and has recently launched their website, [www.christinaindia.com](http://www.christinaindia.com). Her passion is travel; she never misses an opportunity to scoot off with her husband, Nikhil, and their two sons, both Cathedralites.

**Karishma Agarwal née Gupta** (Barham) is an avid trekker and fitness enthusiast, which led her to open her own yoga studio in Mumbai. When she is not climbing some mountain or balancing on her head, she follows her other two passions, baking and painting.

**Khulood Noorani née Kably** (Savage) is married to **Awais Noorani** (Palmer, 91/93). After 19 years of marriage, our classmates still wonder how the "good girl" wound up with the "class prankster". She is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Cathedral School P.T.A.

**Kulsum Merchant** (Wilson) lives in London. She didn't change her name to something African, but still loves Kenya, and has added her husband, cats and South America to her list of passions (not necessarily in that order!) She misses all her classmates and their circle-dancing at school socials.

**Laila Naterwalla** (Palmer) obtained a B.A. in Political Science from St. Xavier's College and an LL.B. from K.C. Law College. She set up her own business in partnership to run a fitness health club in Bandra and managed the MIG Cricket Club fitness centre. After selling the business, she continued studying health and wellness in the U.K., returning with a diploma in body and beauty therapies to Mumbai, where she has been working at the Jiva Grande Spa, Taj Wellington Mews, since 2007.

**Mallika Sagar Advani** (Wilson) graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a degree in History of Art. She joined the auction business right after, working with Christie's for six years, first in New York and then in Mumbai. In addition to being an Independent Art Consultant, she now works with Pundole's, the Mumbai-based auction house which she helped set up in 2011. Her 10-year-old son, is definitely better at Maths than she was!

**Mandira Koirala** (Palmer) is married to Himanshu and lives in Gurgaon with their two kids. Her company, The Koirala

Group, has Ladybird Effect, a marketing/branding, imaging/PR company that works with fashion and lifestyle. She has her hands full and life is good with no complaints.

**Megha Shah Ralhan** (Savage) started out with a career in marketing and then moved on to finance, working at Northwest Airlines in Minneapolis and then Citigroup in New York and London. She now takes pleasure in being a full-time mom. Her two sons have inspired her to rediscover her creative interests through "full-time" baking.

**Meghna Damani** (Savage) is a documentary filmmaker and artist in Jersey City. Her autobiographical film, *Hearts Suspended*, won critical acclaim and was instrumental in bringing to light the untold story of thousands of dependent spouses in the U.S.A. While continuing to help women on the dependent visa rebuild their lives, she is working on her next film project and other artistic endeavours.

**Nairika Kotwal** (Wilson) works for The Arts Council, Inc. in Gainesville, GA, an arts advocacy group that presents a variety of world-class performances year round and engages in bringing the arts into schools in nine surrounding counties. Nairika's pride and joy are her two sons.

**Natasha Nagpal** (Barham) did a double major in History and Psychology from Jai Hind College and then a Master's in Tourism. She was with Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. for 10 years as Head-Product Development & Contracting. She was the Regional Head, S.E. Asia, for the New Zealand Tourism Board. She now resides in Atlanta along with her husband and son and is the head of his school P.T.A. committee.

**Niyati Nath née Mehta** (Palmer) read English Literature, followed by Law. After practising law for 15 years, she decided to train in Craniosacral Biodynamics, an alternative therapy with a naturalistic approach to health. She is a craniosacral therapist in Mumbai. She still loves reading and indulges her passion for scuba diving in her spare time.

**Niharika Sagar Seth** (Barham) completed her schooling at Modern School, Vasant Vihar, Delhi, and graduated from Shri Ram College, Delhi. She then worked at IPAN, a public relations consultancy, leaving only to enter her next role—that of a wife. This took her to



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## Class Notes

Hamburg, Germany, where she now lives with her two daughters. After training and working as a designer during her first six years in Germany, the birth of her daughter inspired her to start her own line of children's accessories, Coocoobara.

**Nisha Mehta** (Wilson) obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts, specialising in interior design, in London. She then worked with Talati and Panthaky Associated Pvt. Ltd. and Phirosa Neterwala. She currently heads the Interior Design Department at The Phoenix Mills Ltd. She has two children. In her spare time, she pursues her hobbies—learning Kathak, Western vocals and painting.

**Nymrata Advani Bickici** (Wilson House Captain) obtained a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College in Economics and Mathematics and a dual M.B.A from Columbia Business School and London Business School. After 11 years at Citigroup, she currently serves as C.F.O. at Silver Slate Group. Nymrata is married to Yunus Bickici and has two children. She is based in New York.

**Pooja Sahgal** (Savage) obtained a B.Com. from H.R. College and an M.B.A. from Sydenham Institute of Management. She worked in advertising in J.W.T. and Lowe Lintas, followed by a secondment at Unilever for a year. She then joined Marico, working on a number of brands as Senior Brand Manager, and then Kellogg's as Marketing Manager. Pooja has recently returned from a secondment in England with Kellogg's UK.

**Preeti Sethi** (Wilson) has been working in direct marketing and loyalty programme management, which includes an eight-year stint at Direxions Marketing Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. She is now married and settled in Delhi, where she is a full-time mother to two daughters.

**Purnima Thacker** (Palmer) graduated from Sydenham College and Government Law College and obtained an LL.M. from the University of Sheffield. She heads the I.P. and Media Practice Group at Mulla & Mulla and has been actively involved with the International Trademarks Association, where she served as co-chair of the India Advisory Council. She conducts art workshops for children with Know Your Art. She has a six-year-old son and is a member of the Cathedral School P.T.A.

**Rachna Mubayi Bery** (Wilson) worked as a consultant in the field

of Public Health and Education after obtaining a degree in History from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and a Master's in Development Studies from the U.K. She now lives in New Delhi with her husband, Jatin, and their two children. She has recently set up Design Unlimited, which works in the Events space. Alongside, she runs the Chatter Matter Club, a children's book club that encourages young readers.

**Rajshree Pathare** (Barham) graduated from Sydenham College and pursued advanced studies in Computer Applications. Rajshree is married to Ashok and they have one son. Both Ashok and Rajshree manage a specialty chemicals company, Paxchem Ltd.

**Rittika Chokhany née Budhiraja** (Wilson) obtained a B.Sc. in Occupational Therapy from Seth G.S. Medical College (KEM Hospital). After working as an Occupational Therapist for a while, she did a diploma course in Interior Design and is very happy with her new line of work. After taking a seven-year break to raise two beautiful children, she has recently started working again.

**Sabina Samtani Villa-Abrille** (Palmer) studied Commerce and Economics at H.R. College, Mumbai, and then immigrated to Sydney, Australia, in 1998. She married Miguel in 2002 and moved to the Philippines for six years. They live in the U.K. with their 12-year-old son. Sabina works in health insurance.

**Shaista Agboatwala-Gupta** (Palmer) is a Consultant Paediatrician living in Mumbai. She pursued Paediatric Medicine at the J.J. Group of Hospitals. She is married to Anand Gupta and they run iScan Imaging Centre at Kemp's Corner in Mumbai, specialising in C.T. scans and M.R.I.s. She is also mother-hen to a six-year-old, who studies at Cathedral.

**Shaheen Hoosenally** (Barham) left Cathedral in Std. 8 to go to boarding school in England. She went to undergraduate and graduate school in New York, where she met her husband, Guido Boysen. They moved to Amsterdam for three years and then to Nairobi, Kenya, for three years, where they had their eldest daughter. In 2010, they moved to Johannesburg and had their second daughter. They move to Mauritius in December.

**Sheila Diwan** (Savage) lives and works between Mumbai and Singapore. She graduated in Economics from Sophia

College, Mumbai, and works in the manufacture and trade of oleochemicals, where she heads Southeast Asia. Travel and designing lighting and furniture continue to be her passions.

**Shiru Awatramani Gulani** (Wilson) graduated in Psychology from St. Xavier's College and obtained a teaching degree from Sophia Polytechnic. She taught at Cathedral Infant School for more than a decade. She then married Anil Gulani and moved to Shanghai, where she now works with the Shanghai American School. In her spare time, she is a tarot card reader and continues to enjoy painting.

**Shonali Garud** (Barham) graduated from St. Xavier's College with a B.A. in Psychology and Anthropology, followed by a Master's in Gender and International Relations from the University of Bristol. She lives in New York, where she is a full-time mom to a high-schooler and middle-schooler. She continues to be an active member of her daughters' school P.A. and participates in the admissions and art programmes.

**Simone Currim** (Palmer) is Consultant Orthodontist at Jaslok and Saifee Hospitals and practises as a highly specialised orthodontist, treating patients with cleft lip and palates, craniofacial anomalies and cases requiring a combination of orthodontics with surgery. She is one of the few Invisalign-certified orthodontists in the country. Most importantly, she thoroughly enjoys her work and on most days leaves work in a better mood than she comes in!

**Sonal Arora** (Palmer) graduated from H.R. College with a major in Advertising. She got married soon after and started designing Indo-Western and Indian clothes for women under the brand XOTICA. She set up her own boutique under that name and holds exhibitions in Singapore and Mumbai. She is the proud mother of two Cathedralites.

**Stuti Morarka Kanodia** (Barham) is married and lives in Kanpur, where she is a homemaker and has two daughters.

**Tammy Brennan née Ezra** (Wilson) left Mumbai with her family in 1989 for London, where she finished her studies including an M.Sc. in Psychology. After many years consulting, Tammy works for herself as a Management Consultant, specialising in people-centred change management in the financial sector. Despite missing Mumbai, Tammy loves



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## Class Notes

living in London with her husband, George, son and daughter.

**Tanvi Mehta** (Palmer) has worked in photography, film, TV and academic publishing in project management and creative roles. She moved to Sydney with her spouse and lived by the beach for 10 years before moving to Singapore in 2013. She is reinventing herself as an educator and qualitative researcher and has two kids.

**Tarini Mohindar** (Wilson) lives in Mumbai. She spent a decade in advertising before becoming an entrepreneur five years ago, when she started her own restaurant, Café Zoe, in Mumbai. With a fondness for travel, she tries to discover new places whenever she can escape the city.

**Abhimanyu Mathur** (Palmer) studied at Cathedral (till Std. 5), The Doon School (Std. 12), Sydenham (B.Com.) and Mumbai University (M.B.A.). He is currently in advertising and works at Lowe Lintas. He met Piya, the woman of his dreams, and got married at the age of 29. His son is in Cathedral.

**Abhishek Agarwal** (Savage) worked for almost a decade at Microsoft before starting S3Edge Software, an asset tracking company, with some other Microsofties. He had hoped to retire by now, but that seems like a distant dream!

**Abhyudaya Morarka** (Barham) has gone back and forth between the U.S.A. and India so many times that he no longer knows which country he belongs to! It doesn't help that his wife and two kids are Americans. He was lucky to be part of the early 2000 dotcom bubble burst with his own online venture, then with CEB, a corporate education company. He now finally has his own digital media education venture in Mumbai, FX School.

**Aditya Kilachand** (Barham) has a degree in finance from Boston College. He has been working in hospitality and has co-founded various restaurants in Mumbai. He is simultaneously involved in the development of niche luxury real estate projects.

**Akshat Thanawala** (Palmer) is Senior Director of Product Management at GrubHub Inc. in Chicago. He has spent more than eight years in travel, working at Expedia Inc. and Orbitz Worldwide. He has a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from University of Rochester and an M.B.A.

from INSEAD. In his spare time, Akshat likes to swim, do Aikido and read. He is an avid hiker and loves to travel.

**Arnav Sheth** (Palmer) teaches Finance at Saint Mary's College of California and at the University of California, Berkeley. A mathematician by training, he has published several articles and a book in October 2011. When he's not presenting at conferences around the world, he dabbles in entrepreneurship and has co-founded two companies. He lives in San Francisco with his wife.

**Awais Noorani** (Palmer) left after Std. 10 to complete a B.Com. at Sydenham College. After a few years of working in the supply chain at Zodiac, he graduated from I.M.D., Switzerland, with an M.B.A. Since then, he has been busy running the international business for Zodiac, which serves customers in the U.S.A., Europe and South America. He is married to **Khulood** (Savage, 1991-93)

**Brijesh Bhatia** (Savage) pursued undergraduate studies at the University of Texas. After graduating, he joined Microsoft Corp. and has been living in Seattle since.

**Carl Cooper** (Savage) obtained a B.Com. from Jai Hind and an M.B.A. from École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (ENPC), with a major in Marketing. He worked at Compaq Computers and then at Tracmail, one of the first call centres in India. In 2005, he founded Safehouse Information Management Solutions, which provides information management services and solutions. He is married to Geeta, from Mauritius, and they have a daughter.

**Chintan Gandhi** (Palmer) obtained an undergraduate degree from Babson College in 1996 and has since worked in the pharmaceutical and infrastructure sectors in India. Living in Mumbai, he now manages Millennium Herbal Care, a research-driven natural healthcare products company, making highly effective and safe condition-specific dietary supplements.

**Divij Kak** (Savage) is an actor in Bollywood. He also likes to dance, sing and write.

**Faisal Siddiqui** (Barham) graduated with a B.Com. from H.R. College and an M.B.A. in Aviation from Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. He now runs the family business of travel and aviation services.

**Feroz Dubash** (Palmer) read Law at Cambridge and worked in London at Linklaters. He moved to Mumbai in 2006 to help set up Talwar Thakore & Associates (TT&A). Feroz is currently a partner at TT&A and is married to **Perin Bharucha** (Savage, 1998/00), a fellow lawyer. They have two children.

**Gautam Kakodkar** (Wilson, Head Boy) lives in New York's Upper West Side and works in Finance. After graduating from Dartmouth, he went on to receive a Master's degrees from M.I.T. and the Tuck School of Business.

**Gaurav Bhatia** (Wilson) graduated from Middlebury College and worked in advertising in New York. He then moved with LVMH Moët Hennessy to set up their Champagne business in India. He is married to Pratima, a fashion designer, they have two sons and a puppy.

**Harsh Seksaria** (Barham) graduated from Sydenham College, Mumbai, and has since been involved in the family business. He loves playing golf, listening to music and catching up with friends. Harsh is married to Nalini and they have two kids.

**Heathcliff Vaz** (Savage) moved to the U.S.A. soon after leaving Cathedral. He has lived all over the U.S.A. and is currently based in Houston, Texas, where he lives with his family. He works as an Oil & Gas Banker at Citigroup. It's been a wild ride!

**Jaideep Kulkarni** (Savage) is an endocrinologist in Australia. After leaving School in 1991, he made it unscathed through two years at Jai Hind College and later got a graduate and postgraduate education in Internal Medicine from Grant Medical College, Mumbai. He loves his busy life as a professional and a dad.

**Jehangir Panthaki** (Wilson) studied and worked in London with Barclays Bank PLC and moved back to Mumbai in early 2006. He runs his own property investment portfolio of commercial and residential properties in Mumbai and Pune catering to the IT/ITES industry, along with a residential project in Tardeo, Mumbai. He has also invested in a back-end food processing business supplying to Pizza Express, PVR, Inox and YUM Foods. He is married to Ooravis from New Zealand.

**Karl Karkaria** (Palmer) lives in Richmond, Kentucky, with his wife, Dusty, and five-month-old (hyper!)



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## Class Notes

son. In order to make a living, he owns and operates a couple of The UPS Store franchises, but the real fun happens when they are travelling, reading books and watching wild shows such as *Game of Thrones*.

**Karan Khemka** (Palmer) is Head of The Parthenon Group in Asia. He is married to Heike Khemka.

**Karl Billimoria** (Wilson) did a nine-year stint in the Middle East and is currently V.P. Contingency Risk with HSBC Bank, India.

**Kedar Mehta** (Wilson) has maintained his passion for all things automotive, but to the horror of his understanding wife, Samantha, this has now passed on to the next generation as his children's favourite game, while stuck in their car seats, is to point out every "cool" car they can identify. And living in Los Angeles means there's plenty of opportunity!

**Mathew Abraham** (Wilson) is still a physicist working on stitching together atoms to make new materials. Much to his delight, he is able to collaborate with some professors at I.I.T.-B, so he gets to visit our great city of Mumbai a few times a year.

**Mridul Mehta** (Palmer) spent a few years in academics (in Mathematics) and then moved to finance. Earlier this year, he resigned from the hedge fund he worked at and is now an entrepreneur, spending time between Boston, New York and London.

**Nikunj Sekseria** (Barham) obtained a B.A. in Economics and a B.B.A. in Finance from U.T. Austin. After that, he spent 14 years with the Citi I.B. division in New York and London before moving back to Mumbai last year with Citi.

**Pradip Ghosh** (Wilson) graduated with a B.A. from Columbia University and has been living in New York City for most of the last two decades. He has had many roles in financial services over that time and currently works as Managing Director at Ares Management. Pradip is married to Gwen and they have two daughters.

**Prateek Mehta (Poncho/Ponjo)** (Barham) studied at N.Y.U. Stern School of Business and then had a brief stint at B.N.P. Paribas before joining the family business. He is Director at AEPI Designs and The Apple Tree, both garment and design companies working with leading fashion designers such as Armani and Chloe. He is currently concentrating on launching a few fashion brands for

the Indian market, after successfully launching the "Rahul Mishra" label. Would probably explain why he is still single!

**Rahul Agarwal** (Barham) is Head of the online share trading business at I.G., a FTSE250-listed company in London. He has spent the last 10 years in the U.K. and now lives in Surrey with his wife, Reema, and their son.

**Ravi Bohra** (Wilson) graduated with an Economics degree and an Interior Design diploma but ended up dabbling in movies and advertising. Currently a freelance copywriter/photographer/graphic designer in Mumbai, he is hoping to start his first film in the coming year with his family production house, Bohrabros.

**Rutton Patel** (Savage) recently moved from London to Dubai, where he lives with his wife, **Kainaz Antia** (Wilson, 1995/97), and their two sons. After school, Rutton obtained a Chemical Engineering degree (Berkeley) and an M.B.A. (University of Chicago). Following stints in consulting, banking and entrepreneurship, he currently leads an engineering business focused on energy distribution.

**Sachin Shah** (Savage) lives in Mumbai and founded Samsara Capital, a real estate investment firm, 10 years ago. He also runs a non-banking finance company, which does real estate lending, and has founded a cold storage business. He is passionate about investing in start-ups. Sachin is married to Gayatri and they have two children, both at Cathedral. Sachin obtained an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 2001 and a Bachelor's from Babson College in 1996.

**Shiraz Chotia** (Palmer) graduated in Economics and Accounting from Mumbai University and obtained an M.B.A. in Marketing. After having spent the first few years of his career in advertising, he moved to brand management and marketing for companies in the lifestyle, retail and luxury space. Shiraz also had a short stint in Australia working in the educational software space. For the last six years, Shiraz has been associated with reputed real estate companies in various leadership roles and currently heads Marketing at a leading real estate company.

**Shirzad Khusrokhan** (Barham) studied Economics and Art at Lawrence

University. In 2003, he obtained an M.B.A. from Columbia University and has been living in New York's Upper West Side ever since. Shirzad continues to play in bands and exhibit his art while maintaining a career in technology.

**Shonar Majmudar** (Wilson) obtained degrees in Biochemical Engineering and Economics from the University of Rochester and then worked on vaccines and antibody development in the Biologics group at Merck & Co., U.S.A. He returned to India in 2004 and has since worked in various roles, consulting for a U.S. P.E. Fund on Life Science investments in India, and set up a design services start-up. Most recently, Shonar co-founded Serra Fine Chemicals, a producer of niche specialty chemicals for flavour and fragrance.

**Sumer Verma** (Wilson) became a scuba diving instructor straight out of college and has been pretty much diving for the past two decades. He manages Lacadives, one of India's best known dive schools, and is a professional underwater photographer and filmmaker. Students from Cathedral come annually to his school to learn diving.

**Dr. Vivek Tilwani** (Palmer) is an Endoscopic and Trauma Care Surgeon, a university-recognised Postgraduate Medical Teacher at Grant Government Medical College, Mumbai, and Saifee Hospital, and a leading Medicolegal Consultant based in South Mumbai with numerous papers, publications and awards to his credit. He has treated victims of several mass disasters including the Mumbai terror attack and bomb blasts as well as the Kutch earthquake of 2001.

**Vivek Sikri** (Wilson) runs a digital camera design company based in Cambridge, M.A. He no longer has any spare time since he has a year-and-a-half-old daughter.

**Zaheer Karanjia** (Barham) flies all over the world as a Boeing 777 pilot with Emirates. Having had a kid along this journey, Zaheer lives in Dubai and still keeps as active as ever from going to the beach to off-roading in the desert.

**Zubin J. Shroff** (Wilson) is a fiction writer. He lives alone in a densely populated part of Minnesota, U.S.A.

- Compiled by Purnima Thacker



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► 1992

**Sreeja Nedungadi**

(Barham) is currently C.O.O. of India School Leadership Institute, a non-profit that provides training to school principals of budget private schools and government schools in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune and Delhi. She and her husband, Gautham, live in Mumbai, and have two daughters.



► 1993

**Fali J. Hodiwalla** (Barham) is currently based in Mumbai with his wife and son. He is a Partner with Ernst & Young, focusing on advising clients in India and abroad on a wide range of business issues.

► 1994

**Atiyah Curmally** (Savage) lives in Washington, D.C., where she works as an Environmental Specialist with the International Finance Corporation. When she is not calculating carbon emissions, she spends her free time trawling museums and working on a Master's in Design and Decorative Arts.

**Ranjit Mitra** (Wilson) is based in good ol' Mumbai and has worked with various media organisations such as B.B.C., Times Group and Mindshare in Consumer Insights and Business Strategy. He is currently with Turner, where he heads Programming for their English movie channels, HBO and WB.

**Harshad Daswani** (Wilson) lives in Mumbai and runs The Beach Company. He loves breakfast, dislikes potholes, swims every day and would like to be an astronaut when he grows up.

► 1998

**Gautam Kitchlu** (Palmer House Captain) graduated from Tufts University with a B.A. in Economics and International Relations and joined his family business in home furnishings exports. He obtained an M.B.A. from I.N.S.E.A.D., following which he has been in the e-commerce space with several start-ups. His current venture, Discern Living, helps users to visualise their interiors and find furniture and décor products that fit their space, budget and style requirements.

► 1999

**Nicole Mody** (Palmer) has worked in the event industry for the last 10 years

► X-Cats in the news



Christopher Stark Photography

To see an Indian involved in the world of libraries is a treat; to find that she is an ex-Cathedralite is even better. **Simran Thadani (ISC 2001)** has always been interested in the written word. The trained calligrapher and paleographer has worked extensively with special collections—rare books, manuscripts, fine press and the book arts—for the last 10 years and has most recently co-edited the latest edition of *The ABC for Book Collectors*, a must-have reference work for anyone in the field.

Simran obtained her B.A. with Honours at Wellesley College and an M.A. and PhD at the University of Pennsylvania. After years of service as a summer staff member at Rare Book School, University of Virginia, she is now Executive Director of Letterform Archive, a San Francisco-based non-profit library and museum dedicated to inspiration and education in typography and graphic design, which opened to the public in early 2015. She is also a member of the Grolier Club, America's most selective society for bibliophiles.

and specialises in creating events and marketing properties for brands under the name Comida Communications. She is also the curator for the food section at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival and recently released a recipe book titled *Flavours of Kala Ghoda*.

► 2001

**Jamshed Guzder** (Palmer) obtained an M.B.A. from I.M.D. and is currently a Director at BDS Project India and New



► X-Cats in the news

Kolkata-born, Mumbai-bred ace debater **Antara Ganguli (ISC 1997)** has written for *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *Times of India* and *The Indian Express*. In July, she released *Tanya Tania*, an epistolary coming-of-age novel set in 1992.

Inspired by hard times faced in the Indian megapolis while Antara was at school, it is hailed as “a fresh, new voice that is both diary and elegy”. Through letters, two young girls, Tanya



Talati in Karachi and Tania Ghosh in Bombay, find common ground between their divided nations.

“Anty”, as she was popularly known (coincidentally, she had handwriting that ran across the page as small as ants), came to us from J.B. Petit. At *Tanya Tania*'s book reading in Mumbai, both camps showed up in equal force, competing for who could cheer louder for her. She currently lives in New Delhi and works in international development with a focus on girls' empowerment.



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## Class Notes

Clear Ideas, Mumbai. He and his wife, Jeanine, have recently welcomed their son into their lives.

**Sunny Gandhi** (Savage) is Director at Sunraj Diamond Exports Limited, where he focuses on jewellery and the expansion of the business into the Russian and South African markets. Helping to raise his son is part of his daily responsibilities!

### ► 2002

**Suruchi Jain** (Wilson) obtained a Bachelor's in Economics and Statistics from St. Xavier's, Mumbai, where she met her husband, Varun. After college, she worked for a global strategy consulting firm, Monitor Group. After four years of working, she pursued an M.B.A. at University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She has been working as a professional in the equity markets since 2011 and has recently set up her own wealth management practice under the name Opportune Wealth Advisors Private Limited.

**Aditya Jhaveri** (Savage) is winging it as a lawyer in the City of London and is balding way sooner than expected!

### ► 2004

**Khyati Mandalia-Kothari** (Wilson) is currently pursuing an M.B.A. at London Business School. Prior to this, she was Vice President (Finance) at a solar power development company in Mumbai. She married her classmate, **Karan Kothari**, three years ago.

### ► 2005

**Shailja Ruia** (Barham) obtained a B.Com. (Accounts & Finance) from H.R. College, Mumbai, and went on to do Marketing at Palladium, Phoenix. She is Manager in Leasing at Palladium, apart from pursuing her passion for singing by doing jingles and a few assignments for schools.

### ► 2006

**Tejasvee Prasad** (Palmer) is currently spending his days and nights walking on top of steel beams,



inspecting steel connections, at the new Miami Dolphins Stadium in Miami, South Florida. When not at work, he often enjoys scouting local breweries for craft beer and running.

### **Natasha Malpani**

(Palmer) is in Stanford's M.B.A. programme, after having spent the past five years working in impact investing in London. She previously studied Immunology and Development at Oxford and Cambridge.

**Hena Kapadia** (Savage) is Gallery Director at TARQ, a contemporary art gallery in Colaba. She married **Nakul Agarwal** (Wilson) from the same year and they currently live in Mumbai.

### ► 2007

**Priyanka Menon** (Savage) pursued her childhood dream of being an architect. She graduated from L.S. Raheja School of Architecture in 2014. During the five-year course, she took part in and won various national-level design trophies for her college. In her final year, she wrote a thesis on 'A School for Autistic Children and Young Adults'. She is currently working in the urban design cell at Ratan J. Batliboi Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

**Tanvi Ajmera** (Barham) is a Public Health Advisor at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. She manages child, youth and family mental health, trauma and juvenile justice programmes across the nation. Tanvi lives in Washington, D.C., and is looking to grow a Cathedral alumni network in the Maryland-Virginia-D.C. area. Please email her at tanvi8@gmail.com.

**Mahesh Merchant** (Wilson) obtained a Bachelor's in Commerce from Jai Hind College, Mumbai, while simultaneously qualifying as a Chartered Accountant. He is with Deloitte in Mumbai.

**Karishma S. Shah** (Palmer) lives in Mumbai, where she manages her company, The Write Avenue, which focuses on content development and essay editing services. Prior to this, she worked in public relations. She will be



getting married in December 2016 and moving soon thereafter to Luxembourg with her husband.

### ► 2008

**Kedar Shirole** (Palmer) is a financial analyst with Houlihan Lokey in New York, working on M&A transactions in the industrials sector.

### ► 2009

**Maitrayee Dhaka** (Savage) is an engineer at Tesla Motors, working on enabling the next generation of Autopilot.

### ► 2010

**Anirban Poddar** (Savage) graduated from Columbia University in 2014 with a B.A. in Economics-Philosophy and Computer Science. After graduation, he worked with management consulting firm PwC Strategy (formerly Booz & Company) in New York, before returning to Mumbai last year. He is currently working on his own start-up, ShopHop.co.in, with two of his school classmates, to provide a marketplace platform to home-grown food entrepreneurs across the country.

**Vaharan Elavia** (Wilson) graduated with a First Class in Architecture in 2015 and is currently working as an Associate Architect at the BNK Group in Mumbai. After getting some on-site work experience, Vaharan plans to pursue a Master's in Sustainable Architectural Design overseas.

### ► 2013

**Priyanka Agarwal** (Palmer) added a lot more education and friends at Northwestern University, U.S.A., and recently at Judge Business School, University of Cambridge, U.K. She has now launched her own tech company focusing on the higher education sector Connect2Teach ([www.connect2teach.com](http://www.connect2teach.com)), connects experts from industry and academia with universities and corporates across the world. She says, "You never really truly leave Cathedral; the learning, the school pride and the friends stay with you forever!"



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Alok Mohattta

Cathedral Class of ICSE 74/ISC 75 (40th Reunion Group)

for their generous donation towards

The Retired Teachers' & Staff Medical Benefit Scheme

Our grateful thanks also to

Tarun Jagwani

Radhika Tanna Shah

Maneesha Bhat, Mallika Advani, Kunal Sagar & Rahul Sagar

Tamanna & Ashwin Samant

Vishesh Agarwal

Dhruv Chopra

Parag Gupta

Harsha & Lulu Raghavan

Rashid Sam Contractor

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Sunny Sunil Gandhi

for their generous support to the Alumni Association and

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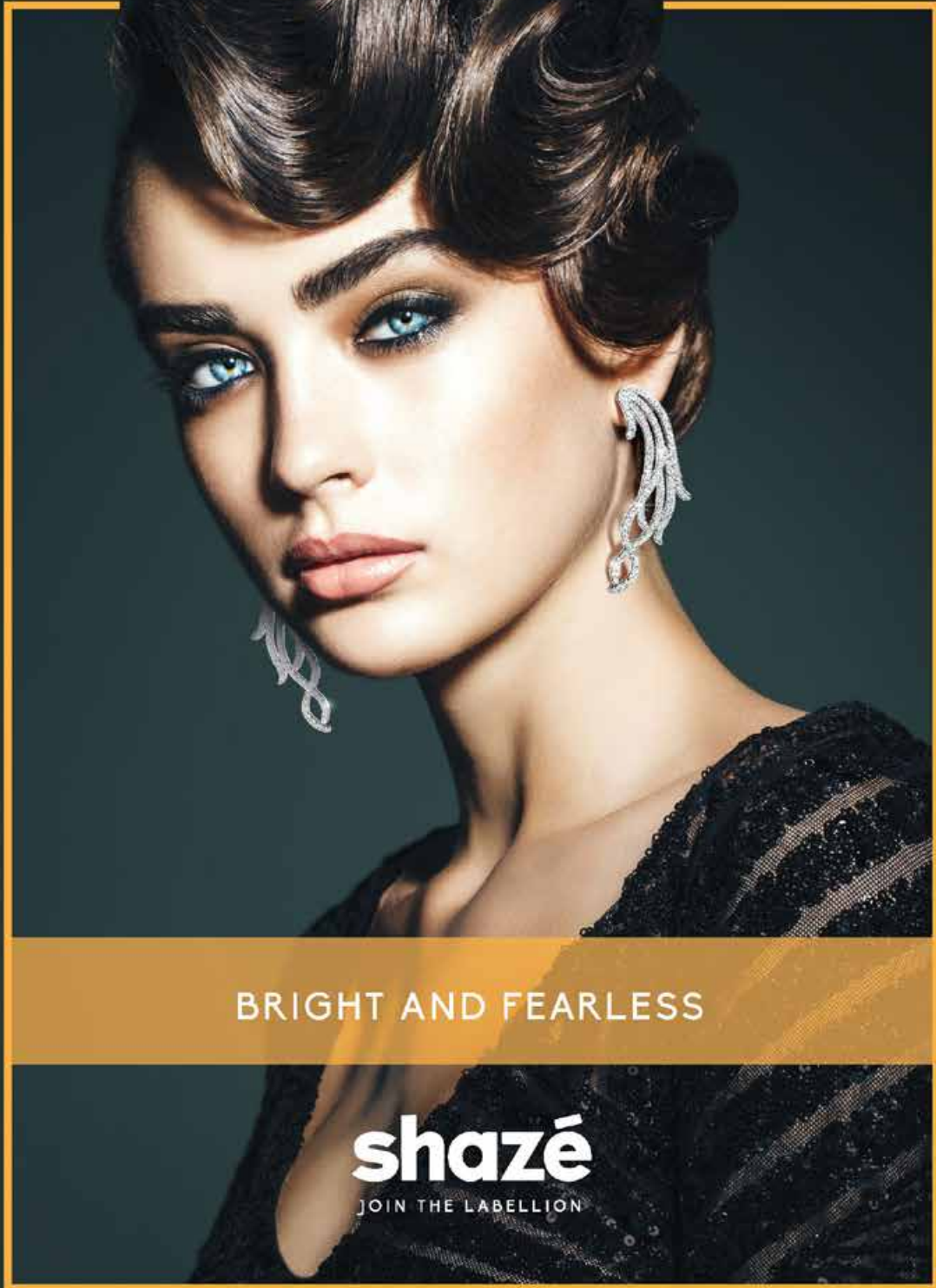


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