

Principal's Report

125th Annual Prize Giving – December 8, 2007

Your Excellency Dr. Balram Jakhar, Hon'ble Governor of Madhya Pradesh, President of the Board, Maharaja Tukoji Rao Puar of Dewas Sr., Vice President Maharaja Narendra Singhji Jhabua, Members of the Board of Governors, guests, parents, Old Dalians, colleagues and students I have great pleasure in welcoming you to this milestone 125th year celebrations.

A special welcome to the former Principals of the College, Mr. Vijay Bhatnagar, Air Cmde. G. Venugopal and Dr. MV Prasad, to all the retired members of staff, to the children of our late Principals Mr. EC Marchant and Mr. RN Zutshi, to former Chief Guests at our Annual Prize Givings, Raj Singhji Dungarpur and Dr. Chitranjan Ranawat.

The success of this occasion and indeed of the College is measured in the gathering that I see before me.

Dr. Balram Jakhar is a prominent name in the Indian political scenario. He is an eminent Parliamentarian and the Governor of Madhya Pradesh since 2004.

He was born to Chaudhari Rajaram Jakhar and Patodevi Jakhar in the Panchkosi village of Ferozepur district, Punjab on August 23, 1923. He studied in Foreman Christian College in Lahore and got a degree in Sanskrit in 1945. He married Rameshwari Devi and they have three sons and two daughters.

Dr. Balram Jakhar was elected as the member of the Punjab Assembly for the first time in 1972. In 1977 he was re-elected and also became the leader of the opposition. He was elected to the seventh Lok Sabha from his birthplace Ferozepur in 1980 and then in the 1985 Lok Sabha elections he won from Sikar. From 1980 to 1989, he served as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

He was the man behind the computerization and automation of Parliamentary works. He promoted the Parliament library, research work, reference, documentation and information services to facilitate usage and knowledge of members of the Parliament. He also contributed to the establishment of Parliament Museum. He was the first Asian to be elected as the Chairman of Commonwealth Parliamentarian Executive Forum.

In 1991, he became the Agricultural Minister in the Congress government. Balram Jakhar is the president of Jalianwala Bagh Memorial Trust Management Committee and the lifelong President of Bharat Krishak Samaj. A farmer at heart he has contributed a lot in the use of scientific techniques in agriculture. In 1975, the President of India awarded him with the Udyan Pandit award for his contribution to Horticulture. He has also penned a book titled People, Parliament and Administration.

He has been awarded the Doctor of Science and Vidya Martand honorary degrees by Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar and Gurukul Kangri Visvavidyalaya, Haridwar. His hobbies include Sports and Reading.

Since 30th June 2004, he holds the post of the Governor of Madhya Pradesh.

On behalf of the Daly College family I thank you, Sir, for giving us your time today.

Before I read the College report for the last year, it is appropriate that on this historic occasion we remember some of the personalities whose contributions have made it possible for the College to reach where it is today. A more comprehensive tribute can be read in the History of the Daly College which will be officially released by His Excellency later today, but I would like to highlight four names of persons long departed.

Our founder General Sir Henry Daly on whose death Queen Victoria lowered the flag to half mast on her personal yacht. Sir Henry was a linguist and a great soldier who commanded the cavalry regiments of the Guides, Hodson's Horse and Central India Horse, and who as Political Agent of the Governor General and Resident at Indore, conceived the novel idea of starting a school for the sons of Indian Princes. He started with the Rajkumar School in 1870 and played a hand in setting up Mayo College in Ajmer and Rajkumar College, Nowgong, which later shifted to Raipur. In 1882 his school was renamed the Daly College and it is 125 years from this date that we are celebrating.

The second name I would like to remember is Principal Percy Hide. A strict disciplinarian but with a great love for his students, he laid the foundations of a system designed to build character. In his memory is named the old swimming pool and on his marriage the students and staff presented the Hide Cup for Hockey.

The third personality of great significance was Sir Henry's son, Sir Hugh Daly. When he was appointed Resident at Indore in 1905 it had already been decided to downgrade the College from a Chiefs' College and to send the sons of the Rulers to Mayo. He not only had this decision reversed but persuaded the Govt. of India and the Princes to help set up a grander school. Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar III of Indore presented in 1906 the 118 acres on which we now stand and also gave a grant of Rs. 2.50 lacs. Sir Hugh engaged Col. Sir Swinton Jacob to design the marble main building and in many other ways ensured the future of the Daly College. It is a personal regret of mine that today we have absolutely nothing in the College named in honour of him.

The fourth and last personality I will highlight is a former Principal who again has nothing named in his memory. Mr. EC Marchant, with the support of the then President, Nawab of Bhopal, and the then Vice President, the Maharaja of Panna, visualised an independent and egalitarian India and had the courage to transform the Daly College from a Chief's College into a Public School. He not only reorganised the system along modern day lines but met with the Heads of some other schools and thus made the Daly College a founder member of the Indian Public Schools Conference.

Today I salute the memory of these great men and also all the others whose contributions I have recorded in my book on the Daly College.

And now I return to the present.

This last year has been a fulfilling one and I must apologise in advance to those children who may not find mention today. The achievements have been many and I will not be able to highlight all of them. I start with academics. If the 2006 CBSE results were the best the College has had, the 2007 results were even better. CBSE Certificates of Merit were awarded to 4 students in Class XII and as many as 11 Merit Certificates were awarded in Class X. In Class XII these were awarded to Adeeba Ansari who secured 100% in Math, to Gautam Mediratta in Chemistry, to Raghvendra Agrawal in Economics and to Nayna Agrawal in Business Studies. In Class X the recipients were Krishna Gupta in Hindi, Anjal Patni in Science and Dheergaraj Tongia, Nancy Patwari, Sneh Ashish, Salaj Newatia, Jayavardhan Agrawal, Ayush Tayal, Mohit Agrawal, Anjal Patni and Krishna Gupta all seven who scored 100% in Math.

In Class X 50 students scored 85% and above of whom as many as 16 secured 90% and above. Sauhard Bindal topped with 95%.

In Class XII 130 out of 142 candidates secured 1st divisions with Gautam Mediratta topping the Science stream with 95.6%, Adeeba the medical stream with 93.8% and Priyanka Malviya and Aditi Singh topping the Humanities stream with 82.8%. Seven students averaged in the 90's. The Board of Governors was pleased to convey its congratulations to the teachers and the students. The Daly College has now taken the lead both in academic innovations and in academic results. The Class of 2007 has gone in for further studies to pursue careers in Information Technology, Commercial Flying, Law, Hotel Management, Business Management, Commerce, Chartered Accountancy, Design, Electronics, Engineering, Medicine, Mass Communication and Bio Technology.

They are now spread over a wide area including Indore, Pune, Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, USA, UK, Dubai, Australia, Aurangabad, Gandhinagar, Simla, Manipal & Cochin. 10 of them are at the Daly College Business School.

I would here like to make mention of 3 Junior School students who, after gruelling rounds at the state and national levels, represented India in the International UCMAS Abacus Mental Arithmetic Competition held last month in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. With national champions from 33 countries competing for the world titles, the level 3 title was won by Tejas Gandhi of Class III competing against children twice his age. Fifth runner up places were won by Aryan Pathak and Amogh Kawthekar in their respective levels.

In the previous international competition in Malaysia it was Shrishti Gupta of Class I who was declared world champion for her level.

In the National Level Science Talent Search Exam Swati Agrawal and Harshvardhan Jain stood 2nd in Indore and Nishit Jain 3rd. All three are in Junior School.

Also from Junior School, Palash Goyal stood 2nd in MP in the Cyber State Level Science Olympiad.

Hansu Nahar of Class XI has completed his Diploma in the French language. He is now, while still at school, teaching French on a regular basis.

On the cultural front the College won the Aarohan all India Cultural trophy and also continues to dominate the IPSC Cultural Fest. The College won the IPSC Cultural Fest trophy in 2005 & 2006 but this year the concept of an overall trophy was discontinued. At the Aarohan Fest those who won first prizes are Siddharth Sachdeva & Jai Arora, and the College came first in English group song and western choreography. At the IPSC Fest in Jaipur the individual winners are Vineeth Rajan, Apoorv Kumar, Deepriya Kejriwal, Veenal Choudhury and Mansi Agrawal. Vineeth Rajan has now been declared the best classical instrumental soloist in the country for four years in a row. He has been recognised by Aakashwani and you will later this evening have an opportunity to hear him play. Sonia Daga was placed 2nd in Classical solo dance.

The Daly College cultural troupe of 21 students accompanied by 5 teachers performed in Oman and Dubai and Daly hosted the cultural troupe from Appleby College in Canada.

Harshveer Jain and Aman Jain won the Ranker's Point Quiz and Daly won the Leo Club Quiz. In a rare occurrence both the Daly participants Kadambari Rathore and Deepriya Kejriwal were placed first in the IPSC Hindi debate in Jaipur. Pulak and Archit also did well.

In the IPSC Literary Fest in Gwalior the College did extremely well. Students deserving special mention are Ishita Kothari, Kadambari Rathore, Deepak Solanki, Nandini Bansal, Vibhuti Wange & Aman Godha.

In the IPSC IT Fest, Harshveer Jain was placed second in cartooning.

Shivani Karmarkar of Class VI has been awarded the prestigious Cultural Talent Search Scholarship for Kathak by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

On the sports front, the Daly College continues to flourish. A record 60 students qualified to participate in the nationals in athletics, football, tennis, chess, skating, swimming, shooting & cricket. Another 31 went for the nationals in squash taking the total to 91. This justifies the 50 plus sports coaches and instructors we have at Daly. I would like to make a special mention of Dheeya Somaiya who lost a closely fought semi-finals in Squash in the Malaysia Open in Kuala Lumpur and of Ojaswini Singh who at the age 9 is now in the top 20 in the U-12 and is showing tremendous promise in tennis at the national level having benefited from Sajid Lodi's tennis academy now located at the Daly College. Sajid Lodi has been honoured at an international level and our squash head coach Gajendra Singh has been declared the best coach in India. A young cricket team has just returned from playing for the Hanumant Singh trophy in Australia. We won the trophy in December 2006 but were unable to retain it this year.

In hockey, Piyush Jain, Pradyuman Singh, Sarang Porwal, Arimardan Baghel, Vatsraj Singh were the boys and Bhavna Verma & Devika Mankotia the girls who played at the national level. Shivank Dev Singh has also been selected for the nationals U-19.

Those selected for the nationals in athletics were Parth Dawar, Akash Bundela, Abhishek Pandit, Nagendra Pratap Singh, Soham Jethmalani, Sourabh Saklecha, Amritpal Singh, Shubham Suri, Sumer Singh, Ambika Singh and Snehdeep Kaur Chinna.

Five of our girls, Umashree Pancholy, Smruti Oza, Divya Bhonsle, Palak Agrawal & Nidhi Jain participated in the Football nationals held in Goa. Shirin Barua & Raksha Mehta will be going to Mizoram to represent MP in the nationals.

Sanket Rojatkhar has been selected for the Football nationals to be held in W.Bengal.

The following boys will represent the IPSC in the Tennis nationals: Harshil Sethi, Suraj Haryani, Bankim Silawat and Ojaswini Singh.

Samyak Gangwal and Parika Singh have been awarded sports scholarship by the Sports Authority of India for Chess. Those who have qualified for the nationals in Chess are Mudit Agrawal & Pursharth Singh from Junior School and Samyak Gangwal and Krishnesh Bapat from Senior School.

Parv Kapoor was selected for the national skating championships in Ahmedabad.

In the IPSC swimming Akanksha Wadhvani won a gold and two bronze medals while Mukul Singh won 5 silver medals. Overall the College won 1 gold, 9 silvers and 19 bronze medals. At the State level the College won 16 golds, 10 silvers and 7 bronze medals. The 4 students who qualified for the nationals are Abhishek Singh, Mukul Singh, Suraj Pamecha and Sara Mehdi.

In Basketball 12 girls have qualified for the nationals. These are Nainy Seth, Juhi Sodani, Tanvi Jain, Shreya Surana, Shefali Agrawal, Sakshi Kabra, Mahima Devda, Pooja Rawat, Prachi Kotia, Pooja Laddha, Hazel Brown and Aditi Banthia.

In shooting at the State level the College won 23 golds, 22 silvers and 15 bronze medals. Our team also participated in the all India tournament in Noida and in the IPSC championships in Dehra Dun with great success. We were placed second in the IPSC team event and the following have qualified for the nationals: Nagendra Pratap Singh, Arimardan Singh Baghel, Raj Rastogi, Abbas Husain & Siddheshwar Singh. At the IPSC girls shooting held at Sanawar, Daly was placed third. Kadambari Rathore won two golds and Garima Agrawal and Laveena Rajwani won a gold each. Silver medals were won by Garima, Meghna Nagrath, Karishma Saxena and Kohelika Paul.

In the DC-Mayo Junior Shield meet Daly won the Salim Khan Cricket and the HL Dutt Hockey whereas the football match was drawn.

In cricket Parth Kasliwal and Anand Vardhan have been selected for the nationals.

In squash 5 girls are ranked at the national level in their respective age groups and these are Dheeya Somaiya (2nd), Nikita Mann (6th), Shreya Suresh (6th), Kopal Patni (7th) and Saloni Bindal (8th).

One of the most exciting things that has happened to the College is its induction in 2005 into the Round Square. The Round Square is a group of 60 full member schools with patrons like Nelson

Mandela, King Constantine, and Prince Andrew, Duke of York. The 60 schools include some of the leaders in Canada, USA, Bermuda, Peru, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Germany, Switzerland, France, England, Scotland, Kenya, South Africa, Botswana, Oman & India. The Round Square believes in Internationalism, Democracy, Environmental responsibility, Adventure, Leadership & Service and this has helped us at the College to focus clearly on each of these.

Since becoming members 21 Dalians have already been on 6 to 8 week individual exchanges to different schools in Oman, Australia, Peru, Canada, USA, South Africa and Thailand. Their experiences, while personally enriching, bring fresh ideas within our community and enhance the levels of confidence and leadership. In return students have come to us from Australia, Peru, Canada, USA & South Africa. At this moment we have 3 young ambassadors with us from Australia & South Africa.

During this same period 8 students have gone on different Round Square International Service Projects where they have worked hand in hand with students from all over the world. Another 15 have attended International Round Square Conferences and 36 have attended Regional Conferences in the S.Asia and Gulf region.

The highlight was clearly when Daly hosted the 40th Round Square International Conference in October 2007. It was put together by a student committee of 25 led by Ahzam Husain and an adult committee of 4 led by Sarita Badhwar. But more significant was the exemplary team work shown by all the involved students, staff and support staff. At the end of 5 days 520 very happy delegates returned home with fond memories of our hospitality, warmth and organisational skills. It is no wonder that at the end of the Conference HM King Constantine II of the Hellenes declared this to be the most memorable of his 40 Conferences and one that surpassed all expectations. I was particularly glad to see how our 62 student chairs & co-chairs of discussion groups, and the other students who made stage appearances rose to the occasion. At the end of the Conference the Round Square Board of Directors resolved that the lateral leadership at Daly where students were in the forefront must be the model for the future. I would like all the students who led discussion groups, adventure outings and service outings to know that the entire Board of Governors is immensely proud of them. As an indication of the magnitude of the Conference I would like to mention that amongst those who were with us were King Constantine, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Nita Mukesh Ambani, Maharaja Gaj Singh of Jodhpur, Princess Diya Kumari of Jaipur, Maharani Usha Devi Holkar of Indore, Prince Richard Holkar, Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia of Gwalior, Jaya Row of the Vedanta Trust, environmentalists Raghu Chundawat and Joanna Van Gruisen, Manpreet Badal and the Board of the Round Square and the Daly College.

Also part of the Round Square but not part of the Conference was a joint service camp by Daly and Appleby Canada at Jhirijamli tribal village in Barwani District. This camp was a huge success and included ten Dalians and was led by Rajesh Santhanam. They along with the students and staff of Appleby helped sponsor and construct a Health Sub Centre. Tremendous support was received for this service camp from the Minister for Tribal Affairs, Kanwar Vijay Shah.

I would now like to say something about the financial health and infrastructure of the College. The financial health is better than it has ever been with the largest reserves we have ever had in spite of the massive infrastructural changes in recent times which include the following:

At the Daly College Business School, from where in 6 years we have produced the De Montfort University topper in every alternate year, there is a new academic block and a girls residence.

We now have an independent athletics track and field complex, an Olympic size swimming pool inaugurated by Rahul Dravid, an indoor shooting range donated by the Class of 1979, decoturf tennis courts inaugurated by Mahesh Bhupati, a renovated school kitchen, a DC Café donated by some Old Dalians, a Craft Technology Design Centre inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, 3 glass backed squash courts and 3 open squash courts. The glass backed courts were inaugurated by Maharani Usha Devi Holkar & Maharaja Amarinder Singh of Patiala. A Conference Room cum Museum cum e-Library donated by Maharani Usha Devi and inaugurated by Dr. RK Pachauri, extensions to Rajendra House, Bharati House, and the Junior School Academic Block, a new girls House, a new staff residential block, a 125 KV generator, an automatic laundry, a windmill, a water recycling plant and the air conditioned 1200 seater Dhirubhai Ambani Auditorium recently inaugurated by Nita Mukesh Ambani. For the Auditorium I am grateful to all those who made donations Donors included Mukesh Ambani, the Old Dalians Association, Mrs. Ritu Singhal, family of Amrita Mittal, Mrs. Sangeeta Kathiwada, Mr. Manoj Daga, Mr. Ashok Agarwal, Mrs. Roopali Khemka, Mr. GS Bhatia, Mr. Anurag Modi, Mr. Munish Chandhok, Mr. Manoj Kasliwal, Mr. Rajkumar Agrawal & Mr. Om Prakash Neema.

I would also like to thank Manish Kalani for his invaluable honorary consultancy in the construction of the Auditorium and also Dilip & Anirudh Kasliwal in the transformation of the campus they have achieved through their honorary and innovative landscaping.

My innings as Principal of the College soon comes to an end. However, the Board of Governors has been kind and has asked me to bat on for another innings. Some of the things I hope to achieve in the next innings is to reduce the number of students per class, to building new bathing and toilet blocks for Ashok & Vikram Houses and to build a complex for skating, indoor shooting and a pavilion for the athletics field. To finance the toilet blocks we will be open to donations of Rs. 50 lacs each for naming the new Olympic size swimming pool and the Craft Technology Design Centre. For the Skating Rink and the Shooting Range donations of Rs. 25 lacs each will enable the donors to name these facilities as per their wishes. I am looking for support from amongst the Old Dalians and parents present here today.

I now have some recent news of Old Dalians.

Dhiraj Bora has been nominated Deputy Director of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor being built in France jointly by China, the European Union, India, Japan, S. Korea, Russia and the USA.

Digvijay Singhji has become a respected senior statesman at the national level. Laxman Singh is a Member of Parliament in India and Deepak Obhrai a Member of Parliament in Canada. Maharaja Tukoji Rao Puar and Maharaj Nagendra Singh Nagod are serving as Ministers in

Madhya Pradesh and Old Dalian MLAs in MP include Maharaj Khilchipur, Brijendra Singh and Maharaj Churhat.

Sandeep Kothari has taken over as Fund Manager of Fidelity Mutual Fund.

Ranjan Das has been appointed CEO of the Indian subcontinent for the German software giant SAP. After Daly he had studied at MIT and at Harvard.

Shubham Gupta of the Class of 2002 is the only IIT student this year to be selected for a PhD at MIT. Jocey Babbar has been awarded a merit scholarship at Middlesex University where she is reading law.

Vikram Rajadhyaksha, Chairman & CEO of DLI USA, who did his MS in Geotechnical Engineering at the University of Cincinnati is presently a member of the US Committee on Large Dams and the ASCE Committee on Minority Programmes.

Dr. Chitranjan Ranawat is Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery and the Ranawat Orthopaedic Research Foundation at Lenox Hill Hospital, New York.

Sanjeev Kakkar is serving as an Executive Director in Hindustan Lever and Ashok Agarwal is Executive Director of ETA, Dubai and is involved in the Burj Dubai Building which will be the tallest in the world.

Manish Kalani's meteoric rise as an entrepreneur has become a case study at IIT.

Sayed Khan Malik is professor of transplant surgery at Harvard Medical School.

Col. Adil Ali Mahmood is Commandant of the President's Body Guard and Maj. Hemant Singh Ponwar is the ADC to the President. Maj. Sanjeev Bhatta who had served as ADC to the President has been awarded the Shaurya Chakra for his role in encounters with the Lashkar-e-Toiba in Kashmir.

Rahul Patwardhan is CEO of software giant LogicaCMG.

Dr. Bijoi Bordoloi is currently a visiting Professor at BITS Pilani on a Fulbright Programme. He is Professor of Computer Management & Information Systems in the School of Business at Southern Illinois University.

Other prominent Professors from Daly include Diana Schmidt in Germany, Rhodes Scholar Dr. Brijraj Singh Naulana in the USA, Prabhat Patnaik at JNU and Dinyar Godrej in the UK.

S. Sriram and Parikshit Sethi have been authoring books. Hart Singh who did his MBA from MIT Sloan School has taught entrepreneurship to 22 batches of MBA and undergraduate students at Rutgers University, Polytechnic University and Farleigh Dickinson University. He is President & CEO of a consultancy firm and an inventor of software.

The Old Dalians acting in Bollywood and on TV include Vijayendra Ghatge, Deepak Dar, Anil Nagrath, Raymon Saluja & Bikram Saluja. Yashovardhan Kauns who qualified in film production from the Vancouver Film School in Canada has successfully directed, produced and edited a number of short films and has been holding solo exhibitions of his paintings in India and abroad.

Nimish Mehta after serving as Sr. Vice President at Oracle Corporation and as President & CEO of Impress Corporation has now been appointed President & CEO of Stratify in California, USA.

Praveen Kankariya founded Impetus Technologies in 1991. Today it is listed in the top 100 IT companies in the world.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Class of 2008 for their responsible leadership, the Vice Principal Mr. Rajan Potty who continues to do an excellent job. The Bursar Col. Giriraj Singh who has decided to move back to Jaipur in April next year we shall miss him, the Headmaster of the Junior School Mr. Chansoria and his deputy Dr. Rajopadhyay, the RMO Dr. Maitra, the Director of Academics Mr. Jacob John, the Director of Round Square Activities and Internationalism Sarita Badhwar, the Director of Culture Ahmed Ansari, the Director of Sports Dharam Verma, the Boarding House Coordinator Nawab Iftikhar Hasan, the Housemaster, Housemistresses, Heads of Departments, Coordinator Pre-Primary Indu Kapoor, the Academic Coordinators, the Finance Manager Mr. Nitin Taori, PRO Mr. Kalyan Kapasiya, the Estate Manager Natwar Singh, the Mess Manager Mr. Narasimham, the Estate Engineer Mr. Siddiqui, my Executive Assistant Suresh Kumar, the Heads of all Admin Departments, teaching, administrative and support staff and finally but most important the Board of Governors which has guided me so well. I would also like to thank the Old Dalians Association for their support and affection. In preparing for this Celebration I have had the opportunity to work closely with the President, Secretary and others on the Executive Committee and this has brought us closer together and this augurs well for the future of the College. My thanks also to the Administration of Indore and heads of all departments who have always been most helpful.

Thank you.

