



COLLEGE

C H R O N I C L E

IINVEILING THE CENTENARY

UNVEILING THE CENTENARY
OF SUBCONTINENT'S OLDEST MILITARY LEGACY



Editorial...

Rimcos, Rimcollians, Countrymen, lend us your eyes,
We come only to describe centenary, not to praise him.
The result has met everyone's eyes,
But the toil remains untold and hidden.
So it be not with the centenary,
Of this legacy of gallantry,
Rimcollians say that it was fun,
And Rimcos didn't burn themselves in the sun.
They speak of it as a joyful epoch,
And Rimcos practiced naught for the performance.
And tis believed, for Rimcollians are honourable men.

Thrice played was the musical symphony,
That, is believed, was achieved by Rimcos with no toil any.
We write not to disagree with what was indeed fun,
But only to bring the truth under the sun.

Shiva Rampath Pillutla

























CENTENARY 2022





13TH March, 2022 | Day (1)

13th March 2022 is a day that would seem quite like any other day. The sun rose with the same sheen. The Ganges flowed at the same pace. The Nation went about its diurnal activities without anything new. But I know, as does the small, sagacious, gallant, courteous, courageous tribe branded "Rimcollians" (I fall short of adjectives to describe the tribe), that it isn't the case.

Now that I have told you that day wasn't as common as it may seem, I am obliged to tell you about it, dear reader. In fact, I would be HONOURED. That day was the Centennial Anniversary of a great Legacy, the like of which is unparalleled. It is famous for its tradition of Leadership, Chivalry, Integrity and Responsibility. Oh, I almost forgot, gallantry too. That is the oldest tradition of this oldest Military School of the Subcontinent, named the RIMC.

The Cover page of the booklet in your hands would have told you by now that you are turning the pages of the Monthly Chronicle of the Rashtriya Indian Military College. And it is the First Edition of the new century, i.e, it is the 101st Edition. It is to inform you, dear reader, of how the First Century of such a great legacy culminated in a befitting Celebration.

Okay, Enough. I have bored you enough with all the formalities. But, after all, this is a military Institution too. But I promise, from now on, I will tell only what is relevant and try not to fly off at a tangent.

There are many things I want to say, like, you see, the same grounds on which we today run and, once witnessed similar activities by not only the first Param Vir Chakra recipient of the Nation, Maj Somnath Sharma but also of the recipient, in the subcontinent, of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry before the Partition, Lt P S Bhagat (later Lt Gen). That is why this soil prides itself on its tradition of gallantry. Imagine ten chiefs being produced by only one institution!

Sorry. I couldn't control myself. This happens whenever I start speaking (or writing) about RIMC's history. I mean, I spent four months of my tenure gathering data on RIMC. So there is a lot to tell, like in 1934, a routine order was formulated by the administration that the cadets will not pluck fruits from trees. But, it was in vain! The cadets, (then and now) have no regard for such rules. (I really shouldn't be telling this, the AAO might give me special treatment.)

Again, again apologies. I cannot resist myself to give a titbit here and there. Okay, so where was I? Oh, I did not start only. How terrible of me! Okay, so people believe that the Centenary was a three day affair. The Chief Guest arrived, received Guard of Honour, attended a small cultural evening programme, had a meal and left. Later the old boys cheered on their sections during the boxing championship finals, cadets had a tete-a-tete with the old boys, and Tata goodbye! Centenary Over!!



People usually think on the above lines. And that is why I am writing this. That is NOT the case. Centenary for different people is different: for the first termers, it is a missed opportunity, for they arrived after the Centenary; for Rimcollians, it is a moment of pride, ecstasy, Nostalgia and Immense Joy, for old bonds are rekindled; for the very, very old boys, it is a time travel, for new buildings came up where they used to run and roll, where there were trees they plucked fruits from, and so on; for the administration, it is a matter to be handled meticulously. After all, hundred years down the line, they will be looked up to (for some tips probably?).

However, the ones who got polished the most were the cadets! Sounds ironic, isn't it? We were the ones sweating out in the Drill Square in the sweltering heat, practicing for the cultural event, working out for boxing, and so on, when we were supposed to be stress-free. But look at the paradox, if there is any clan who actually enjoyed the centenary without having gone through any kind of rigor, it would be the Rimcollians' lady wives! I mean, they looked happier than their spouses to be present at the Reunion. And, believe you me, the ladies cheered on their husbands' section in the boxing finals and celebrated their victories.

Okay. I hope it has been made clear to you that it was the cadets who toiled the most. Now let me tell you about the day of the centenary and parallelly about how we prepared for the event.

Before anything, we are cadets of the oldest military school in the subcontinent. Thus, we had to bear the best drill standards. Hence, the Chief Guest had to be given the best Guard of Honour ever given in this country. So fifty-one cadets, headed by the Cadet Captain, under the tutelage of the Drill Instructor, Hav Dharmender, practised everyday, burning themselves under the cruel Sun. I was saved from taking part in it, otherwise, how would this report reach you? Anyways, since I cannot tell you the details, I have to consult my friend, cadet Kunal Balyan.

Okay, Kunal says, the Chief Guest, Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand, arrived and was escorted by him and cadet Aditya Kumar, another friend of mine. He tells me of how they toiled very very hard in the Drill Square every afternoon, trying to get the swing of their arms perfect by holding bricks, for an add-on weight. I myself was a witness to their torpid behavior in the dormitory once they came back after an exhausting practice session.

And he even had RIMC cavalry force escorting him, headed by cadet Madhav Pratap Singh. See, I am not stretching the facts when I say Cavalry Force. The kind of coordination displayed by the equestrians and their Mustangs was extremely professional, and hence the sobriquet 'Cavalry Force'.



Then, after inspecting the Guard of Honour that followed laws of superhuman precision, the Chief Guest admired the War Memorial. Ah, what a wonderful edifice it is! As a part of the beautification of the campus for the centenary, it was changed from peaceful white to sombre steel, which shone in the morning and shone brighter under the moonlight.

My fingers itch as I go off the track, but I must tell this fact. The war memorial was conceptualised by Maj Gen Virendra Singh on the eve of the Golden Jubilee. Thus, the centenary was also the Golden Jubilee of that memorial of the immortal Bravehearts.

Then, slowly, the procession moved from the War Memorial to the Down Field, where a temporary hanger was erected to accommodate the vast alumni of the school. Then began the actual celebration. Or did it? The National Anthem was played first. And then... the Commandant gave a huge, gigantic report of the college! After what seemed like an eternity...wait. I almost reserved my name for EDs. I forgot to tell you, the Centenary Commandant is Col Ajay Kumar.

The Commandant gave a three hundred hours long report. Fine, it might have been two ninety-nine, but you get the catch, right?

Writing this part is going to be a most mammoth task for me. I mean, I know around 10,000 words of the language and all of them would fail to describe the melodies of the musicians of our college. Let me give you an idea of it. If the legendary Ravi Shankar were a witness to the programme, he would have seen ten mirrors of himself performing on the stage. Unbelievable? Huh huh. If you had been a witness to it, you would have surely agreed with my words, if not, then you will discard this piece as the extremest form of hagiography. But believe me, the best produce only the bestest.

The rendition was a concatenation of beautiful melodies of the talented musicians of our college, who performed alongside our English master, Mr Pramod Sharma, who played the harmonica. Not belittling anyone's performance, the name that lingered on everyone's lips was that of the master saxophonist, my friend, cadet Divyansh Vyas. He brought the house down with his maiden debut in saxophone performance, which was probably the first time in the history of RIMC Cultural Programme.



Then, after this wonderful amalgamation of consorting cords, (which, at the request of the enchanted Rimcollians was performed again two days later {See, I told you it was a wonderful, excellent, fantabulous performance}), there was the release of Books and First Day Stamp covers.

It began with the release of the book 'Valour and Wisdom', authored by Air Marshal PP Reddy and Prof Siddharth Mishra. It is a book that delineates lucidly the contribution made by Rimcollians to the Armed Forces, which is undoably one of its kind. Then was the book release of Bal-Vivek: Mantra For Metamorphism, authored by forty cadets, edited by seven cadets, under the mentorship of Mr Pramod Sharma and Dr K Shayamasundara. And you know what dear reader, in that book, published was a hundred stanzaed poem, a biography of RIMC, titled the Hundred Feathered Peacock, with each stanza depicting one year of RIMC. The poem is wonderfully written in rhymtic verse... I run out of words to describe the pulchritude of the poem. The poet, Cadet Shiva Ramnath... I do not know how to describe him. He is a most humble Literary Genius. Perhaps you will get an idea of him as I narrate my conclusion.

After we clapped for what seemed like 54 years, the next set of people walked onto the stage for the release of the first-day cover. Yeah, I know what you are thinking, a stamp was released on the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee too. You know, the audience has to cheer on. So we were clapping away like madmen until our hands were sore for the release of a stamp that we were never going to use.

Then again, there was a coffee table book released by the Chief Guest. It was titled "Rimcollians - A Class Apart" (True or not?). It was compiled by Brig Suyash Sharma and beautifully illustrates the oldest tradition of RIMC: Gallantry. Okay, a small titbit. On the eve of Platinum Jubilee, a book was released too, titled Where Gallantry Is a Tradition: A Saga of The Rashtriya Indian Military College.

Now, as is diurnal every year, there was a presentation of awards by the Chief Guest to the Rimcollians who were the best in some field in the two passed out courses. Again, no one except the person receiving the award knew what the medal was for. I mean, if the audience is nonchalantly clapping away while chattering frivuolously amongst themselves, who can hear anything above that din. And mind you, the din really was tumultuous. It is an open secret that the cadets are claque-types who are paid through the bajri outside the Anterooms.

Next, finally, after a long exhausting session of thunderous clapping, the events planned for the celebrations seemed to have drawn to a halt. The Commandant had decided to present the



memento to the Chief Guest! How delightful it seemed to clap then, knowing that this would be the last but one applause for the event. But our hopes were dashed as the Chief Guest descended with full enthusiasm upon the podium to address the gathering.

To be frank, his enthusiasm was contagious. We found our tired palms hitting each other involuntarily to raise a thunderous applause every time he finished a paragraph. He described his personal experience with our predecessors and waxed lyrical about their ability to blossom where ever they are planted(Not that he could have found any faults, of course...).

Finally, after we had expended our last ounce of energy in putting our hands together, another person came onto the stage. It was our beloved Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, who is the current President of ROBA (Rimcollians Old Boys Association[I know, Rimcollians are old boys themselves, so it's like Old Boys Old Boys Association, now now, shush!]). He was there to present the Vote of Thanks on behalf of our Tribe and did a commendable job.

I mean, he began by saying, "The person who comes to present the Vote of Thanks finds everyone looking at their watches!" Such pearls of Wisdom!! Such wisdom and intelligence! No wonder he had ruled the Indian Skies.

After he came down from the stage, the emcees took the stage back...Oh-uh. How rude of me! The emcees of the event were Cadets Arush Goswami and Yagna Pathak. They then requested the audience to rise and a most mellifluous tune was played, which signifies the end of any formal event, The National Anthem.

So allow me too, Dear Reader, to put an end to this formal gathering of words. Before signing off, however, Let me quote a few stanzas from The Hundred Feathered Peacock, the biography of RIMC.

This is the Saga of the Peacock,

Of the one with a hundred Feathers,

How fast ticks the clock,

So less time but so many memoirs.

Thus ends the legacy that begins with the kings, Composed by me of the 194th Vikings, By me, Shiva Ramnath of Kitcheners, the whilom Shivaji, Shivaji, The Champions of the First Centenary!

Goodbye Dear Reader!

Yours most humbly, Shiva Ramnath Pillutla 194th Course



14TH March, 2022 | Day (2)

Speck less kits, polished shoes, sharp salutes, sacrosanct war memorial and the indelible sacrifice of our martyrs. Our greatest glory is not in never falling down but in rising every time we fall. RIMC has a glorious history with many falls but even glorious is the way we have stood back on our feet and taken a gigantic leap. The wreath laying ceremony at these hallowed portals was not merely 250 cadets standing in savdhaan but the entire Rimcollian fraternity offering homage to the fallen warriors.

To make it an unforgettable moment, this time, we were accompanied by a large gathering of Rimcollians and their families and of course, a better version of our war memorial. To adorn the wreath-laying ceremony, we were honored to have a fly-past by aircraft of the Indian Air Force. I myself could feel the palpable aura, standing amongst my comrades, cherishing the heartening experience. I hope this tradition of bestowing homage to our beloved martyrs continues forever.

Cadet Akshaj Datt Sharma

The institution cradled in the heart of Doon celebrated hundred years of prestige and its signature excellence with utmost precision and as vibrantly as possible. Out of the several events and activities masterfully organized as part of the centenary celebrations – with each activity having its own unique charm and beauty to carve a significant place in the hearts of the audience – perhaps the Air Force Drill was the most suitable to bring to light the elegance of discipline.

Any person who viewed the wonderful and interesting phenomenon occurring in the Parade Ground that day can say that it was nothing short of a miracle. The coordination in the movements of the men that was built over innumerable practices, the fiery and unwavering determination in their eyes, and the refusal to fall prey to even a single minor fault; for perfection was the key to a proper, coordinated drill.

The men moved in a manner that matched the flow of the music, with sharp and swift tricks for the fast-paced beats and slow and classic elegance for the slow tune. They had enormous control over their bodies and their rifles swung to their command as if they were an extension of their body. It would have been difficult for ordinary people to simply perform with such manual dexterity.

The drill had many stages and every stage was interesting and eye-catching. Rifles exchanged hands after trying to touch the limitless skies. As if it were an iron-clad rule, the marching never stopped and the performers of such an extravagance looked nowhere else but straight. They took on various positions and showed their boldness. If those rounds of dedicated and coordinated dancing – if it can be allowed to be called dancing, for it was a mesmerizing combination of their choreographed movements -- were not enough, the climax of the event or the final round of drill could not fail to impress anyone. The Team Commander of the men who had been performing till now took the responsibility upon himself to try the challenge that looked impossible and foolhardy at first sight. A path was formed and flanked by men on both sides, and the men kept on rotating their rifles continuously in the same lucid and fluid motion they had been implementing to entertain their mesmerized audiences.



For the information of the uninitiated, a rifle can be used in combat in ways other than shooting bullets as it has several hard and sharp portions that might come in handy. The platoon commander was at high risk when he started marching on the path formed by his men without an iota of hesitation, similar to the men who knew no hesitation in following his commands.

The Team Commander had taken upon a challenge, and he did not disappoint. He managed to perform a feat thought to be impossible, proving his non-flamboyant mettle, not through the usage of words but through his bold actions. Not only did he command his squad with a highly efficient technique, but he also took responsibility and never faltered.

All in all, the Air Force Drill performed at the Parade Ground of RIMC was a demonstration of outstanding discipline amongst men brought upon by years of practice. It was the fragment of the centenary celebrations that focused on the importance of military coordination and made the Rimcollians nostalgic about their days of marching in the same Parade Ground as young cadets.

Cadet Diptanshu Bhowmick

After standing for hours for the wreath-laying and observing the precise and flawless drills of the Air Force team, the cadets changed into the games rig and rushed to the pavilion to spectate the cricket match between the teams of Rimcos and Rimcollians. The mother field was beautifully decorated with colorful flags. The drinks and snacks counter had just opened and the pitch was ready to be played on. It was a memorable experience to enjoy the match while savoring the snacks and drinks which were being served on the field itself. The match also gave all the Rimcos an opportunity to interact with the Rimcollians and thrill more about their forthcoming years in the army. Both the teams had their best 11 players lined up on the pitch for the gentleman's game to begin. The toss was won by the Rimcos who chose to bat first. It was a match worth watching. We had given the Rimcollians a target of 97 runs. After the end of the first inning, a Para Sailing show awaited the audience. It was unbelievable to see soldiers wearing big propellers on their backs and flying high in the sky. The show added to the excitement in the environment and also added a new milestone on the bucket list of many Rimcos. The match resumed and even though we had the best of the players of our college playing for us, it seemed as if it was a cake walk for the team of Rimcollians to chase the target. The Rimcollians won their traditional cup again continuing the streak for the 10th year. We got to see some of the closest saves and also some of the unluckiest of the misses.

The boundaries, the swings, the spins, and the fielding, everything was beyond our expectations. It was a worthwhile experience and served as an excellent pathway to develop and strengthen the bonding between the Rimcos and the Rimcollians. At my first eunion, it was an experience that would always remain with me in form of sweet memories.



Amidst the grand events of the Centennial Celebrations, there was a small corner occupied by the Hobby Display. Though the corner was small, the ideas and the image of creativity displayed by the Cadets were phenomenal. The art & Craft hobby display that was set up in the Down Field had caught everyone's attention. The Hobby Display showcased Warli art, pencil sketches, thread art and canvas paintings. The wonderful part was that the artists, though amateur, had beautifully brought out RIMC theme in all the art forms.

Cadets Imon, Sarwagya and Prem made the Warli art and the details in the Warli depicted the patience and time invested in it. Whereas Cadets Avtrit and Marcus, had shown their ability to play with colours. Cadet Arnav Singh's skills were displayed through a wonderfully painted canvas. The huge canvas size painting had attracted everyone on which all Rimcollians signed. In the end, sat Cdt Arnav Suman's thread art which had a style of its blue color threaded crest.

The college photography and aero modeling in coalition had also displayed their photography and videography skills with the help of screens and cameras.

Cadet Arnay Suman

If there is anything that everyone looks forward to on every reunion, it is the Inter Section Boxing Cup and this year was no exception; All sections worked hard for months to lift the prestigious cup in front of all the Old Boys on the grand occasion of the Centenary Celebrations of our college.

The prepartions for this dream of every section began from the very commencement of the term, as the weight reduction to get into the respective weight categories began; we could see all the sections getting up early in the morning and sweating it out in the cold of Doon. The early morning puching sessions began soon and it was the sound of these fierce punches which woke the College. With months of training, hardwork, and determination, time passed and the day of the Inter Section Boxing Championship finally arrived.

The first day of the boxing championship saw 12 Semi Finals in which all the bouts were nail-biting and all the boxers gave each other a neck to neck competition but only 12 out of 24 could walk out of the ring victorious while others do with learning and hope to do better the next time.

On the second day, we witnessed 6 more Semi Finals and six Finals which gave goosebumps to the audience and these were the fights to be remembered for a lifetime. What made them even more special was that the college witnessed its first knockout in the last 4 years.

The third and the Final day of the Centenary Inter Section Boxing Championship was graced by the presence of hundreds of rimcollians who gave a boost to their Section Boxers. They were no less on josh as they yearned strongly to see their sections lift the Boxing Cup. The 6 finals that took place were bouts that would be remembered by all, forever, and the boxers in the ring fought till the last second with every ounce of energy left in them and did their Sections proud.

In the end, it was Chandragupta Section which emerged victorious, closely followed by Ranjit, Pratap and Shivaji.



15TH March, 2022 | Day (3)

After the 1st day of the Centennial Celebrations, the second was full of matches between Rimcos and Rimcollians. Basketball was the sport that was being played parallel to cricket. Though the audience of basketball was comparatively less than that of cricket, the josh level was on the same graph level. Rimcos and Rimcollians were present in the renovated basketballs in front of the Chandragupta section. Both played equally well, but Rimcos wouldn't let go of this one after cricket. The Rimcos won by 3 points. Skill was never scanty in any of the teams; it was just about how they performed in the courts.

The hockey match was also a delight to witness and a treat for the Rimcos, who played. They also had a tough time competing against the Rimcollians. Both the teams scored as well as conceded goals, thereby making the match a cliffhanger. Finally at the heated moment when the score was 3-2 the whistle was blown and Rimcollians emerged victorious in this one.

Then were the friendly matches of squash played between Cdt. Nafis, Cdt. Amit and Cdt. Arnav Kaliraman and the Rimcollians. They had a great time in the squash courts now known as 'Catchy'. As the Rimcos won, the Rimcollians promised them a treat.

Cadet Sarthak .Iha

While paving the glorious path for the future on the eve of the Centenary, the college witnessed a Naval Band Display on 15th March, 2022. One of the most distinguished bands of the Indian Armed Forces, Indian Naval band aka Indian Naval Symphonic Band was there on the stage to mesmerize all the cadets as well as the Old Boys with their mellifluous tunes.

Founded in 1945, the band is recognized worldwide for its remarkable performances. Its admirers range from India to many foreign countries like France, USA, England, Italy, and China. Its proficiency has been appreciated by many eminent personalities like the President of India, Queen Elizabeth II of England and the President of Ethiopia, to name a few. The range of its repertoire includes arrangements of not only symphonies but also solos, concertos and other forms of contemporary music that includes Indian classical and Western pop music.

The way the band was organized and the different variety of songs played left an indelible mark on everybody's heart. The songs of symphonies and solo performances were carefully picked from 1960s to 2000s with a blend of English and Hindi genres. It was a delight for everyone as they were transported back to their halcyon days of youth.

What really stole the show was the solo performance by the band's violinist, who, with his quick fingers and swift bow strokes relegated the original song to the second. At the end of the performance, the audience could not but express their admiration for the band by giving standing ovation.

The evening was filled with melodies and old memories. It was a fascinating experience for the cadets to enjoy old music while an everlasting connection between the ages was embedded.

Cadet Abhishek Kumar



The Cultural evening on 15th March was the final feather in the crown of the Centennial Founders Day. The program started at 1800 hrs in the hangar in the down field. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp and then a documentary, *Vision and Valour* by Professor Siddharth Mishra, was aired for the audience. The documentary was insightful. After the documentary, the Commandant addressed the gathering and gave an insight into the challenges that lay ahead for the college as it steps into a new century.

After the Commandant's address, the emcees, Cadets Bharat Singh Rathore and Sankalp Jaiswal launched the cultural evening into the action, ensuring the audience that the dose of formality was over. The first performance was delivered by Mrs IIa Pant and her team in the form of a welcoming classical dance. Her dance was tantalizing. The emcees then showcased different stages of life at RIMC through various songs. This segment was shown enormous love by the audience. Subsequently, they introduced the Hindi medley.

It was performed by Cadet Rishaan Gupta and it was so mesmerizing that at one point of time, the audience, unconsciously, started singing along with him. Following the Hindi medley, there was Cadet Vanlalmalsawmzuala with his English medley. He sang the extremely popular song, *Hotel California* and the legendary *Bohemian Rhapsody*. His performance was indeed legendary. Just when the audience started missing Rishaan, he graced the stage again and this time by singing a soulful Sufi Mashup. The performance was so charismatic that everyone could feel a connection with a higher form of energy. What followed next was something that was brought on the stage for the second time, in the three days affairs, due to the popular demand – The 'Symphony'. The symphony consisted of both the Cadets and Masters. It was followed by a thunderous applause. This time there was something special in the cultural evening. The entire cultural evening was an embedded part of the drama in which the Pandavas run the college with Drona, Krishna and Narada. Now it was time for some comedy on the stage, Cdt. Arnav came on the stage as a news reporter to give them the 'News hour'. The news hour left the audience in splits. Then it was time for the most energetic performance of the night.

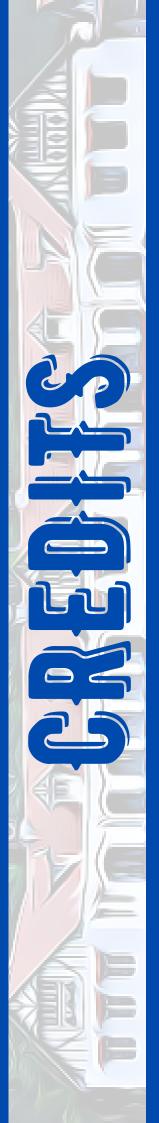
The dancers of our college presented a Bollywood dance thudding with energy. Their performance was jaw dropping. They are highly pleased after witnessing the cultural evening. As soon as the cultural evening ended, the prize distribution took place with Gen VN Sharma on stage. Out of the various prizes, Shivaji section took away Gen VN Sharma's overall Championship Trophy and the newly introduced 'Championship Banner'. Following the prize distribution, Air Marshal N Tiwari handed over a model of a fighter aircraft to the Commandant. At the end, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa presented Vote of Thanks after the address by the Chief Guest Gen VN Sharma and the evening concluded with the National Anthem.

Centenary



At A Glance





A PET PRODUCTION OF JOURNALISM CLUB

CHIEF EDITOR

CDT. SHIVA RAMNATH PILLUTLA

CO-EDITORS AND DESIGNERS

CDT. ABHIJAT RAWAT
CDT. SWASTIK PRASHER
CDT. AKSHAJ DATT SHARMA

OIC JOURNALISM

DR. K SHYAMSUNDARA

CONTACT US

rimc.journalism@gmail.com