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WANG YI'S VISIT JAYADEVA RANADE	2	KESHAVSPEAK BRIG. KESHAV CHANDRA	3	GO NOT TO THE TEMPLE RABINDRANATH TAGORE	4	REDRESSAL MECHANISM Dr DK VERMA	5	NAVARATRI COL. DD SHARMA	6
HINDUS & SIKHS Dr JAGJIT S PUNJRATH	7	ALIGN WITH HUKAM HARVINDER PAL SINGH	8	WELCOMING OLD AGE CAPT VP CHAUDHARY	9	NDA – CADET TALES COL JS CHANDOAK	10	WILFUL CRATURES ANSHULA RAO	11
HARD HOSPITALITY Dr ARVINDER S NAGPAL	12	GANGA MAI SAVITRI SAHWNEY	13	AGEING GRACEFULLY JAYASHREE BAXI	13	LAHOO KA KATRA (H) JAYASHREE BAXI	13	<b>R.I.P.</b>	<b>14</b>
ART NEWS SUNDRY ARTISTS	14	GEET SIRJAN (P) GURDEEP 'GUL'	15	DEEYE (H) NIMMI VASHISHT	16	HAMARA BHARAT NIMMI VASHISHT	16	A PICTURE IS.... SUNDRY CONTRIBUTORS	17
		SPECK OF DUST AUTHOR UNKNOWN	18	LAUGHTER LINK COCA COLA	18	MULTIMEDIA LINKS SUNDRY ARTISES	19		

# CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI'S VISIT TO INDIA WAS CERTAINLY NOT ORDINARY

-Jayadeva Ranade



There are many aspects of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to India on March 24-25, which point to it not being any ordinary visit. It was duplicitous and the itinerary itself revealed Beijing's scant regard for Indian sensitivities. The inclusion of Pakistan in the itinerary and his attending the OIC meeting in Islamabad, where he expressed support for an independent Kashmir, was a thinly-veiled threat to India. Wang Yi said "On Kashmir, we have heard again today the calls of many of our Islamic friends. And China shares the same hope". Umar Farooq and the Hurriyat chief were also invited to the OIC to which China was invited for the very first time.

The central item on Wang Yi's agenda for India was to persuade Prime Minister Modi to attend the BRICS Summit scheduled for some months later. Chinese President Xi Jinping is under considerable pressure domestically as he implements his 'zero-Covid' policy and because of the war in Ukraine and growing threat of US sanctions against China. The latter will be disastrous for China's economy which is already under severe stress and dependent on exports – China's exports to the US alone are well over US\$ 500 billion each year. Criticised for the deteriorating Sino-US ties, as Xi prepares to secure a third term at the 20<sup>th</sup> Party Congress late this year he is looking for a 'success'. India has thus far been adamant that unless China restores the status quo at the borders and withdraws its troops to their pre-April 2020 positions the relationship will not be normalised. That India will not change its stand was made expressly clear by India's External Affairs Minister Jaishankar promptly after his meeting with Wang Yi in Delhi. If India doesn't change its stance China will be denied access to the Indian market.

The BRICS Summit is a major international event for China and an opportunity for Xi to advertise his stature. For India this provides an additional opportunity to pressure Beijing to cease the incursion and withdraw its troops from our borders. In any event, India has little to gain from participating in the China-led BRICS. Attempts to project Wang Yi's visit to India as an attempt to restore bilateral relations and persuade Prime Minister Modi to attend the Summit are specious. His attending the Summit will, on the contrary, effectively set back India's efforts to restore the pre-April 2020 status quo and render the border commanders conferences and other mechanisms infructuous. It will also confirm China's propaganda since April 2020 that Chinese forces have been victorious in Ladakh and that by using military force Xi has been able to bend India's will.

Wang Yi also brought no tangible proposals with him and in his meetings with the External Affairs Minister and National Security Adviser made clear that the border issue was on the backburner. In fact, he proposed the resumption of normal ties setting aside the border issue, implying that Beijing sees the current deployment of Chinese troops as the new status quo. The continued deployment of large numbers of Chinese troops along the border and plans for massive development of military-related infrastructure in Tibet and Xinjiang under the 14<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan additionally confirm that far from easing tensions China is preparing for further actions.

It is relevant to recall here the remark by the Chinese Defence Attache to India during the Chinese incursion in April 2013, just prior to Li Keqiang's first visit to India as Premier. He confided to an Asian diplomat of Chinese descent that the incursion had been approved by the Chinese Politburo. A question raised during the Politburo's discussions was whether India would call off Li Keqiang's visit and the Politburo assessed that India would not as it was "frightened" of annoying China.

Wang Yi, incidentally, has a personal vested interest in getting Prime Minister Modi to attend. It would gladden Xi and possibly improve Wang Yi's prospects of succeeding Yang Jiechi as Politburo member at the Party Congress likely to be held in November this year.

Curious too, and what should have sounded an alarm, was that China, which initiated the request for a visit by its Foreign Minister, requested that the visit not be announced. Since such a visit would obviously not have gone unnoticed and failure to announce it would arouse suspicion, the Chinese request was very odd. It was an obvious attempt to test how far India would go to accommodate China even at this fraught juncture in their relations. Clearly Wang Yi's visit to India was intended to sow suspicion, especially in the West, that India and China are coordinating policy on the crisis in Ukraine. Numerous recent Chinese statements have sought to dissimulate such an impression in a bid to deflect the West's focus from China's unwavering support to Russia particularly in the wake of the Putin-Xi Summit on February 4. The visit to India by Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, which followed within days, could potentially add to such a perception.

A second objective was to create division within India by dissimulating that the two countries are working out a 'quiet' deal. Chinese propaganda efforts attempted to strengthen this perception, which explains the clarification in Indian newspapers that India had rejected the Chinese proposal that Chinese troops would withdraw just behind the LAC in return for India agreeing to withdraw behind PP-16. Other articles hinted at a thaw and suggested that bilateral trade arrangements were under discussion.

It is important for India to hold its position and not yield ground. Any concessions will give China an irreversible advantage.

*(The author is former Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India and is presently President of the Centre for China Analysis and Strategy. Courtesy Tribune, Chandigarh dt 19 April, 2022)*



**THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN** conflict, which has been on-going since 2014 when there was a change of regime in Ukraine, has entered the third month ever since the current escalation on 24<sup>th</sup> February. How the adversaries are faring depends on which newspapers you read and which are your preferred social media. Will Russia raise the level by using nuclear armament out of frustration and will US discard proxy-ship and enter armed conflict using biological or chemical weaponry? Is NATO as monolithic as it used to be pre-Perestroika, pre-Mikhail Gorbachev? As wise-after-the-event persons and arm-chair strategists are wont to say, **“time will tell”**. An old adage has it that there are no eternal friends or enemies; it’s only eternal interest. India must act in her sole National interest and that interest lies in *Atmanirbharta* (self-reliance).

**ON ANOTHER PLANE**, almost away from the ‘great glare’, is the conduct of China which has been fast emerging into the economic big-league. Its hostility to India is ill-concealed but at the moment its rivalry with US, a competitor in World economic order, is paramount. The recent visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, ostensibly to invite PM Modi to G-20 meet is yet another instance of China riding rough-shod over India’s sensitivities. We have included, as a lead article, a write-up by Sh Jayadeva Ranade, a former Addl Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat. He is a security and intelligence expert with 30 years’ experience as a China hand. We couldn’t have found a better brain to analyse the current situation. I urge readers to comment on the article.

**I HAVE, EVER SINCE I BECAME CSCA PRESIDENT** for the first time in 2002, made a habit of wishing every one of its members on his/ her birthday. If the birthday person is not available, I speak to the spouse and ask my good wishes to be conveyed. This has helped know of the family’s concerns, at first hand. Very pleasant surprises sometimes emerge from these interactions. Last week, for instance, I came across a very talented writer, Gurdeep ‘Gul’, who has won many awards and written several anthologies in Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi. Recently her book *“Ashq Nishan Nahin Chhodte”*, an anthology of Urdu poems in Devanagari script, was released. She has contributed a Punjabi poem *“Geet Sirjan”* for this issue.



**ANOTHER PERSON** whose poems we periodically carry in **Golden Sampark** is Nimmi Vashisht. I was extremely happy to know that she recently released her fifth book *“Band Darwaze”* an anthology of 75 poems. I am carrying two of her short poems in this issue.

**LAST MONTH** we had printed a very thought-provoking article by Sh Tejinder Kalra. In this issue we are carrying a few more – all related to *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* or family of all living beings not only in this world but the entire universe and, indeed, in all the galaxies. One wonders why so much attachment to “Us” and “Ours”. If we have to worry about leaving a legacy then should we not be concerned about environment and avoidance of waste?



**THE GOVERNING BODY** of Chandigarh Senior Citizens’ Association has taken charge from the Ad Hoc Management Committee and is already fully functional. President Satnam Singh has gone out of his way to select his team of office bearers picking talent over faction-based loyalties. I have no doubt this will pay good dividends for the growth and progress of the Association.

**KEEP SMILING** and be blessed.

*Keshav*



## GO NOT TO THE TEMPLE

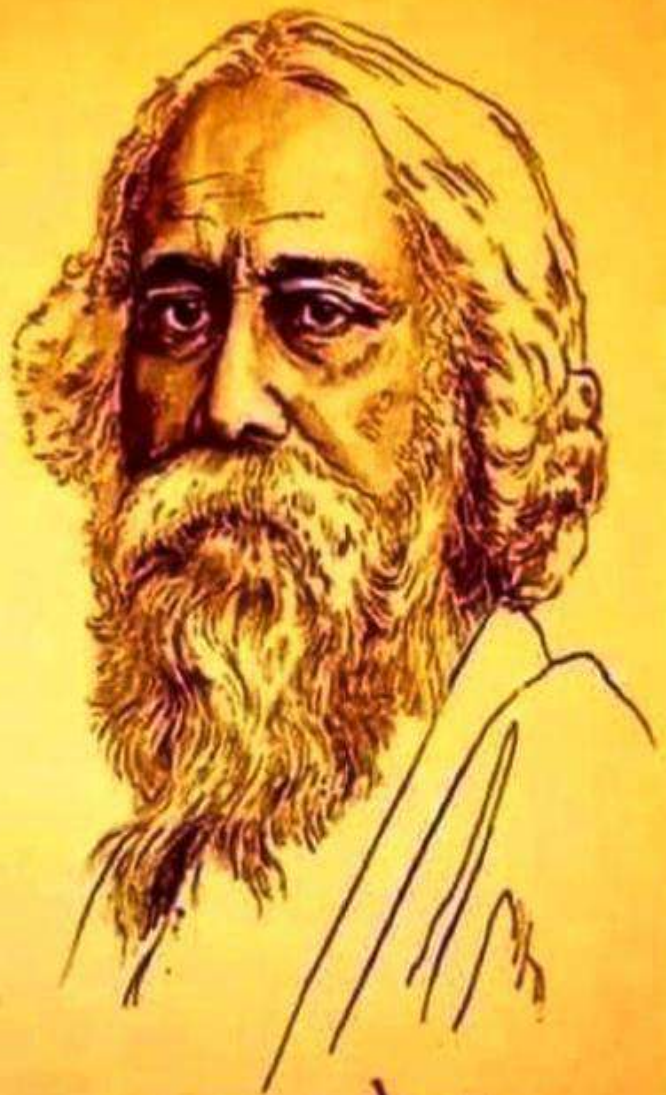
**Go not to the temple to put flowers  
upon the feet of God,  
First fill your own house with the  
Fragrance of love and kindness.**

**Go not to the temple to light candles  
before the altar of God,  
First remove the darkness of sin,  
pride and ego, from your heart...**

**Go not to the temple to bow down  
your head in prayer,  
First learn to bow in humility before  
your fellowmen.  
And apologize to those you have  
wronged.**

**Go not to the temple to pray on  
bended knees,  
First bend down to lift someone who  
is down-trodden.  
And strengthen the young ones. Not  
crush them.**

**Go not to the temple to ask for  
forgiveness for your sins,  
First forgive from your heart those  
who have hurt you!**



— गुरुदेव —

**RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

## GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM IN INSURANCE



-Dr DK Verma (Panchkula)

MOB: 9876504958

In my article on mis-statements by unscrupulous agents I had made some suggestions how to guard against being misled. I was happy to know that some senior citizens taking my advice had the policy documents checked and not finding the promised benefits returned the policy within the free look period and got bulk of their money back (a minor deduction of Rs 207 on a premium of Rs1 Lakh). In this article I will give the grievance redressal mechanism in respect of grievances/complaints of policy holders against insurance companies.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the regulator for insurance business in the country, provides for a well-defined and documented redressal system. As per its guidelines relating to grievance redressal, insurance companies are required to take action on the complaints and resolve the same within a reasonable time. In case the same is not resolved within 15 days or the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution, he or she can approach Grievance Redressal Cell of the consumer affairs department of IRDAI which, in turn, takes up the same with the Insurance Company for resolution/ response of the insurers. The complaint can be registered on Integrated Grievance Management System by calling on toll free number, by email or by sending the complaint by post along with copies of relevant documents. Alternatively, the complaint can be taken up directly with the Insurance Ombudsman or appropriate legal forum like Consumer Forum, or jurisdictional court of law in case of non resolution/ response on the complaint by the insurer.



The institution of Ombudsman, however, provides for a simple, cost effective and speedy mechanism for resolution of complaints wherein no fee is payable while filing complaints. The complainant policy holder must first complain to the Insurance Company and if no satisfactory reply is received for 30 days escalate his/her grievance in the office of ombudsman.

- The complaint must be accompanied by a copy of the complaint made to the Grievance Redressal Officer of the Insurance Company.
- The complaint to Insurance Ombudsman has to be filed within one year of response from the insurance company and may be filed online also.
- No third party complaints, or those filed by Advocates/Legal consultants, are entertained as per rules. Advocates/legal consultants are not permitted to represent the complainant during hearings also.
- The ombudsman can, however, decide cases upto the monetary value of Rs 30 Lakhs only.

Besides being a cost effective measure, the orders of ombudsman are binding on the insurance companies and mostly accepted by them. As such the persons aggrieved in any manner which may be relating to mis-selling of insurance product, non-receipt of policy document or non-settlement of insurance claims can approach any of the authorities for redressal of their grievances. However it is always better to satisfy oneself before buying a policy, understand terms and conditions, read the document and take up with the insurance company in case of discrepancies within free look period to avoid complications at a later stage.

*(The writer was Insurance Ombudsman, Chandigarh)*



## NAVARATRI FESTIVAL—FESTIVAL OF TEACHINGS



-Col Dinesh Dutt Sharma (Retd)

MOB: 7587519163

“सर्व मंगल मांगल्ये शिवे सर्वार्थ साधिके । शरन्ये त्रयम्बिके गौरी नारायणी नमोस्तुते”॥

Each Indian festival has a relevance, reason and significance behind its celebration. Navratri, as the name suggests, means nine nights. It is one of the important Hindu festivals. It is dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga, the deity of Power. Each day of the nine-day festival is dedicated to the worship of different forms of Goddess Durga, which unfolds the religious importance of the occasion. For the devout these days are sacred for in these days Goddess Durga takes stock of her devotees and grants all blessings, removes ills and evils and ensures unproblematic lives for her devotees.



Navratri is a festival in which God is adored as Mother. Hinduism is the only religion in the world which has emphasised to such an extent the motherhood of God. To celebrate a good harvest and to propitiate the nine planets, women also plant nine different kinds of food grain seeds in small containers during these nine days and then offer the young seedlings to the goddess.



Some also say that the nine days are devoted to the Trinity of God worshipped in a female form. For three days Maa Durga (Goddess of valour); for three days Maa Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth) and for three days Maa Saraswati (Goddess of Knowledge and Art) are worshipped. On the fifth day, that is, Lalita Panchami books are gathered, lamps are lit and prayers are offered to invoke Saraswati. On The eighth and ninth day, Yagna (sacrifice offered to the fire) is performed to honour heavenly Goddess and bid her farewell.

Momentary spiritualism and Opportunistic inclination towards any god or festival without knowing the true essence of the teachings it has is not the proper celebration of any festival. Maa's these nine days give "TEACHINGS FOR WHOLE LIFE" ---one has to pledge to follow them throughout life for the benefit of humanity, such as:-

- ❖ Self-Discipline in Life.
- ❖ Shedding own Ego, Ills and Evils.
- ❖ Learn to Sacrifice.
- ❖ Learn the joy of Giving and Sharing.
- ❖ True respect and regard for Parents and Old Aged People.
- ❖ True respect for all Women and treating them equal not the inferior race.
- ❖ True respect for all Teachers.
- ❖ Develop love for Humanity and habit of Brotherhood.
- ❖ Learn to conserve all Natural Resources.
- ❖ an unconditional faith in God Almighty----"The Supreme"

**Remain safe within the confines of your home.**

**I hope this article provides another reason to look at life with optimism.**

**God willing, COVID 19 Pandemic shall pass.**

## HINDUS AND SIKHS – SAME SIDE OF A COIN?



-LM/1898 Dr Jagjit Singh Punjraath  
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The above question may come as a surprise to some readers but let me remind them that before Guru Nanak there were no 'Sikhs' – the term was used only in the sense of a disciple (of a Guru). It was not until that auspicious Baisakhi day in 1699 that Sikhs had their current identity – *Kesh*, *Kada*, *Kirpan*, *Kachha*, *Kangha* – and their surname 'Singh' (Lion). Till then, the 10<sup>th</sup> Guru himself was known as Guru Gobind Rai.

He asked five Hindus from various parts of the country, and belonging to different castes, to join hands to form a group which he called Panj Pyare and baptised them into Khalsa (pure) to fight the injustice being perpetrated by Mughal kings and Afghan invaders who were ruling the whole of North India and many other parts of the country. He then requested these five men (Daya Ram, a Khatri from Lahore; Dharam Das, a Jat from Hastinapur; Mokham Chand, a tailor from Dwarka; Himmat Rai, a water bearer from Jagannath; Sahib Chand, a barber from Bidar) to baptise him into Khalsa to fight injustice.



Every Sikh was a Hindu. Hindus became Sikhs over a period of time for several reasons, including, to escape persecution; to be a part of brave 'family'; to become rich from booty looted from retreating invading forces and (like my own family) for not having a male child etc.

Sikhs' rise as a force to reckon started with the Tenth Guru. Initially, Sikhs were in small numbers and could not face the invading armies. They would attack the rear and flanks of returning victorious armies and recover the looted wealth, release the captured women from the invaders and disappear among the swamps and lower hills of the Himalayas. Slowly their group started getting richer and bigger and they became bolder and more aggressive. They now started fighting bigger armies and finally defeated Ahmed Shah Abdali and gradually took control of the whole of Punjab. With this ended attacks by foreigners from the North.



Sikhs started controlling small areas of Punjab as separate groups called *misls*. It was Maharaja Ranjit Singh who united these *misls* into a federation, expanded his rule right up to Afghanistan-Iran border and finished Mughals rule in North India. Till he was alive, even British did not dare to attack him and instead sought his friendship. Only after he died, the British divided the ruling family and took over Punjab in 1848. Ranjit Singh was a very wise, clever and capable ruler and had people from all religions working in his defence forces and administration. He contributed gold equally to Hindus and Sikhs temples at Amritsar and Benaras. He banned cow slaughter in his empire and in territories where Muslim rulers were subjugated.

With so much in common Hindus and Sikhs were united by *Beti* and *Roti* - marriage customs and common foods. Not many readers may be aware that a majority of Sikhs are vegetarian and everyone is against cow slaughter. Many Hindu families had a custom of bringing up the eldest male child as a Sikh. In a Sikh family I know, both the son and daughter are married to Brahmins. My maternal grandfather was a Hindu Khatri, (Late) Sh Prabh Dyal Seth. After he had four daughters he went to the temple and pledged that if his next child was a male, he would make him a Sikh. He had three other children – all four children were male and, true to his pledge, he made them Sikhs. But it was not a one-way traffic. My Bua is married into a pucca Arya Samaji family – Nagaraths. I remember my childhood in a village. All festivals were celebrated jointly and there were framed photographs of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna in all places of worship.

## ALIGN WITH THE HUKAM TO ATTAIN INNER PEACE

-Harvinder Pal Singh (Yol Cantt)

MOB: 8968966554



Guru Granth Sahib, the eternal Guru of the Sikhs, attributes all happenings of life to 'Hukam', a word derived from Arabic, meaning 'Divine Order'. So much is the importance given to it that this word appears on the very first page of the Adi Granth, with the entire Gurmat wisdom revolving around it. '*Hukam Rajai Chalna, Nanak Likhiye Naal*- O Nanak, thou shalt obey the Lord's command and walk in the way of His will. Translated as '*Pavittar Niyam*', Hukam is referred to as '*Rit*' in the Veds, '*Dhamma*' in Buddhism, '*Dharma*' in Jainism, and features as '*Al-Qadr*' in Islam, exemplifying Allah's Predestination.

Hukam is just another law of the universe, as are the laws of gravity, light and sound. '*Hukamey Ander Sabko, Bahar Hukam Na Koye*' – everyone is subject to this law and no one is beyond it. It is through this Hukam that you experience bliss and grief. But the mind creates a fantasy world of its own and prefers to live in that dream. Actions that please the mind are accepted; it complains when things do not go its way. The mind rejects the cosmic reality represented by the Hukam and wants the universe to behave according to its own way. A conflict thus arises between what is happening inside us and the world outside.

In a world that is suffering from a mental health epidemic, there are two ways of living; one of conflict and the other of surrender. Our ego thrives on conflict but is annihilated in surrender. Ego lies in the ignorance of 'I am the doer', whereas surrender removes this delusion, giving the belief that 'I am only a means or an instrument'. When you are just a fish in the river with a Hukam to go with the flow, any attempt to change the course is sheer absurdity and a waste of strength. As Guru Nanak says: '*Nanak Hukamey Je Bujhe To Haumai Kahe Na Koye*' – the one who has understood this command would not speak in ego.

The question now arises, do we accept our defeats and victories as God's will and do nothing about them? Here Gurbani elucidates that if you have the ability then it is your Hukam to take action. But if this ability is not in your destiny, then it is prudent to accept your providence the way it is. It is your duty to work, but to desire for the fruits is against the Hukam. Accepting the Hukam doesn't mean that you give up; it only means that rather than blaming the circumstances, over which you have little control, you change the way to look at life.

If joy and sorrow come from the same hand, why then make a difference between the two? They will lose their impact the day you realise this. '*Jinhey Pashantha Hukam, Kadey Na Rovai*' – those who recognise the Lord's command, never weep.

The universe is not against us, it is we who are resisting it. Aligning with the Hukam will only assist *in* harmonising us with the Divine will and attaining inner peace.

(Courtesy: The Times of India, Chandigarh, dt 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022)



## WELCOMING OLD AGE



LM/60 Capt. V.P. Chaudhary

Bheeshma Pitamaha, the hero of the 18-day Mahabhrata War, it is believed, was 170 years of age. After his exit it was Dronacharya, a centenarian, who took over as the Commander-in-Chief of the Kaurava Army. Stories from our ancient books tell us of many other great people who worked well into old age and when they did retire (or took *Sanyas*) they broke all contact with worldly affairs and went into the forests to meditate on God. What was the secret of their longevity and how come they were so at peace when the inevitable end came?

To the common man, old age stands for ills, pills and bills whereas to our Rishis and saints it was the best part of their lives. How? Sant Kabir, at the age of 120, was 'young and fresh', so was Sant Ravidas at 151. The secret, so they said was God's name and the daily *Kirtan* with *Sangat*. Happy old folk look to the future instead of harping on their 'glorious' past (inventing, in the process, stories of their 'great' exploits). Gandhi Ji, at 78, never spoke of his adventures in South Africa or even of his success in India's fight for freedom; he only spoke of his vision of India's destiny i.e. Ram Rajya. Picturing a happy future gives one a 'kick' in life.

Our joys and sorrows depend not so much on outward circumstances but on our mind's reaction to them. Plato said, "All diseases begin in the mind, hence all cures, too, should begin there". Our mind becomes sick due to hate, fear, worry, anger and jealousy. God's name alone can cleanse it. In youth, the body and mind have such unlimited vigour and self-assurance that one doesn't feel the need for God or for holy books but when advancing years batter the body, sap energy and weaken self-confidence, religion becomes the universal refuge. God's name (not tonics, not drugs) is the spiritual injection – a cure for all ills. But, as says the Gita, "Out of thousands, just one takes to this path. And of the many who practise it, very few (are sincere enough to) succeed to the goal. "Most of our prayers are for show, to gain people's respect, or an attempt to win God's favour for our selfish motives. Almost everyone seeks to 'trick' God, or 'bribe' him. That is why their efforts come to naught bringing out the difference between the genuine stuff and the fake: a hundred rupee note can buy many things, one lakh rupee (forged) notes nothing.

A maxim in the scriptures says that if there is free time then nature fills that vacuum with disease, fear and anxieties. Happiness is a by-product of our 'busy-ness'. If you have no work, CREATE it preferably one that does good to others.

Another cause for senile unhappiness is high expectations. Such a person is a chronic complainer: he keeps complaining to anyone who would listen. "My son does not adequately finance me, the relatives and friends for whom I did so much do not care enough for me, the younger children do not listen and don't give due respect to their elders". Such persons do not understand that those who do not "listen" to them operate on a different wave length and that the advice they try to give is 'dated'. They seem to have forgotten their own oft repeated advice – Expect not and you will not be disappointed. Those who retired from high office still wish that others should salute them and dance attendance on them. Making a compromise with reality seems difficult for them.

We envy others' 'pluses' and bemoan our own 'minuses'. The right attitude is to count one's blessings, which are many, instead of exaggerating one's ills, which are trivial and transitory. You may not know it but you may be better off than crores of other people.

(Courtesy CSCA Souvenir 2003)

## INSTRUCTOR DAYS -- CADET TALES



--LM/ 1968 Col Jaspal Singh Chandoak (Retd)  
MOB: 9872851651

Each one of us, in the Services, is rightly proud of having trained in the National Defence Academy (NDA) as cadets. Those three years at that highly prestigious Institution are memorable, indeed! Yes, day in day out, we all love to recall the great days spent there.

Imagine the pride you feel, if you get the unique chance to go to your Alma Mater as an instructor. Well, that happened to me in December 1977 on being posted as Squadron Commander "Juliet" Squadron. Same Academy, same buildings and same ambience - but to be there in the capacity of an instructor, gave me an elated sense of achievement. Many civilian instructors of my time as cadet (1959 to 1962), like Mr ML Kaul (HOD Chemistry), Mr TN Raina (HOD English), Mr SSP Bhatnagar (HOD Physics), and Mr HM Kandhari (HOD Foreign Languages) were going strong even then (1978- 1979). What a pleasure it was to interact with them as a Squadron Commander!!



ADM R HARI KUMAR

I was privileged to serve under the Deputy Commandant (then Commodore) VS Shekhawat and the Battalion Commander No 3 Battalion (then Wing Commander) AY Tipnis. Both rose to be Chiefs of Navy and Air Force respectively. As I write, it is a day of remarkable coincidence. Two of my cadets from 61st Course have risen to be the Chiefs of Air Force & Navy – ACM VR Chaudhary and Adm R Hari Kumar.



ACM VR CHAUDHARI

Boys will not be boys if they are not up to some mischief, even though they are disciplined cadets. They sometimes forget that their commanders have gone through the very same situations. 'Fibbing' is common but cognizance is taken only in extreme cases like this one. Cadets 'A' & 'B' went on weekend leave to Mumbai. They overstayed (probably for what they felt were good reasons, to spend more time with their girlfriends) and sent a telegram – the communication mode of those days – "Cadet 'A' met with accident – jaw fractured & lungs punctured – admitted Beach Candy Hosp". On return, Cadet 'B' was asked to put the same in writing. I felt that that was a fit case for investigation. So NDA HQ wrote to Beach Candy Hospital and, as expected, the reply was negative. Both of them got the "tohfā" they deserved.

One disciplinary case I cannot forget for it left me with an exceptional experience. Cadet 'C', in his 5th term, suddenly became highly undisciplined. As normal counselling did not have the desired effect and he was very near 'Withdrawal' (NDA term for dismissal), I decided to deal with him in a personalised and unconventional manner. With the Battalion Commander's consent, I invited 'C' to my residence. Over a cup of tea, he gave vent to his feelings of helplessness and dismay at pressing domestic problems. I told him that all problems are transitory and he must look ahead. As to punishment, much beyond his belief, I said there would be 'NO punishment'. Lo and behold! My counselling had a magical effect, and he became a disciplined cadet from the very next day. It was just unbelievable. Eventually, Cadet 'C' passed out with his course in December 1979. It was a worthwhile case study of 'change of attitude' due to personalized and 'out-of-the-box' counselling. It was a pleasant surprise to run into 'C' (then Major) in HQ Western Command. I can't forget his touching sentiments when he said to me, "Sir, I owe my commission to you for forgiving all my misdeeds". I was truly humbled, and overwhelmed with pride for having been Juliet Squadron Commander.

Today, as I sit back in my rocking chair, all that surrounds me are the mementos and photographs of the instructional tenure with the best memories as an ex-NDA: cadet and instructor.



"JULIET" SQN MEMENTO



MEETING AUSTRIAN DEFENCE CHIEF



NDA MEMENTO

## WILLFUL CREATURES

-LM/2669 Anshula Rao

MOB: 9779738189



They too have strong will power. In fact, they are relentless in their pursuit of goal. Not ready to give up in spite of numerous push backs. Well, these are pigeons whom I have grown tired of.

Spring season has set in and the pigeon couple is desperately looking for some space in our concrete house for laying eggs. They seem to be the same couple whom I had welcomed two years back in my terrace with regular feeding of grains. Also, I had put a cardboard box open on one side in space between the small concrete shade above a door (which is towards the edge of my terrace) and an extended metallic covering over it. This pair had started frequenting the spot bringing in some twigs, leaves and paper. It didn't take long for them to hatch eggs there two or three times. I do recall



that I enjoyed the soft frequent chirping cries of baby pigeons (usually two) whenever one of the parents would visit to feed them. It is during this time I learnt that pigeons initially don't bring anything from outside for their few weeks old babies, but both mom and pop pigeon feed their babies turn by turn with their own milk type secretion called crop milk. Both male and female pigeons and some birds like doves and flamingoes have an expanded pouch called crop or croup connected to the digestive tract and is located at the base of their necks.

Well, my zeal and patience of them ebbed away. Main factor being one of the parent pigeons had to clean the transient baby place off and on. Many times when I would be going towards the parapet wall of my terrace, I had to cross a big bed of dirt which would be pushed down very adequately from the edge of concrete shade on my neat and tiled terrace floor. Sometimes I would hear continuous strong vibrating sound and I knew the parent is sitting & its sturdy flapping would rain down their droppings.

I had had enough. So, after waiting for the last batch to grow and fly off, my husband and I had to scratch our heads and find ways to deter them. The space where the pigeon pair had been cozying up was closed with a strong cardboard piece. Some polythene pieces were attached to the edge of extended roof so that their flurrying in breeze could scare them away. For generations these pigeons have been dwelling in concrete places and now we rarely find them habitating on trees. As such the attempts of these pigeons to keep pecking in our terrace and pecking the cardboard piece in repeated attempts to dislodge it has not dwindled, even after two years.



Well, like pigeons what is not relentless? The weeds in a garden keep popping up in spite repeated regular action. The Covid virus has been persistent. All I can do is accept and bow my head to Dynamic Mother Nature.



## HOSPITALITY THAT WAS HARD TO STOMACH



-Dr AS Nagpal (Ludhiana)  
MOB: 9815177324

My younger sister and I both got married in the same year but she went away to Port Blair with her husband where he had business interests.

Six years elapsed, due to family and business commitments, before I could keep my promise to visit her. It was in 1993 when I finally made a plan to visit Port Blair along with my family. There are only two ways to reach there, by ship or by air. I thought four days would be quite enough to spend with my sister, so I booked the air tickets accordingly.

But we had not expected the events that unfolded after we reached there. Port Blair has Bengali, Punjabi, Tamil & Telegu populations living in harmony. However, the Punjabi community is a well-knit community who believe in sharing happiness and grief. Living far away from their ancestral places has brought them closer. They meet every Sunday at a Gurdwara and also plan family picnics together.

When my sister announced that her only brother was coming to visit her for the first time after marriage, everybody was thrilled. All of them wanted to invite me and my family to their homes. As the requests were more and the days were less, the invitations were divided into three breakfasts, four lunches, four dinner and four teas. Even after this my sister had to apologize to some friends.

Now every day started with going to somebody's home and ended, too, on the same note. Punjabis love their non-vegetarian and sea food and everybody tried different dishes to impress.

Much before the visit came to a close our digestive system had given up and even the sight of food was making us dizzy. We had to repeatedly apologize to the host for the meal for not doing full justice to the repast. In the process, we couldn't have even a single meal at my sister's place.

Otherwise, not only Port Blair, but the entire chain of Islands is full of natural beauty. It has totally unexploited tourism potential. We visited the historical places like Cellular Jail, Havelock Island and the museums. On the family picnic day our two families traveled in a boat to a distant Island. It dropped us on an uninhabited small Island which one could criss-cross in ten minutes. Water of the ocean was crystal clear and we could see the sand beneath. It was like a big swimming pool or a private beach for our families for the whole day as the boat was to pick us up only on its return journey.

The whole experience of Punjabi hospitality and natural beauty of Port Blair is etched in my memory forever. My sister comes to meet us almost every year and asks us to come to Port Blair but I have still not been able to gather enough courage to withstand their hospitality.

Hopefully I will go there again someday to refresh my memories.



## GANGA MAI

Life, this frail life, is nothing but a moment in that vast expanse we call time.  
Time, that moment in eternity that holds sway all that we hold dear.  
For life is like that offering of diyas and flowers floating down the Ganga...  
The current takes me and soon I disappear, like a leaf floating downstream  
Swallowed by the eddies of life, like the purified ashes in the temple,  
Symbol of a past life, past joys and of all your philosophies.  
As the conch shell reverberates and the icy stream from the Himalayas  
Cools my soul. I dip into the currents of my mind.  
I bow to custom immemorial, hoary tradition, ancient memories.  
The water is silent and deep, but the turbulent rapids are still raging within me.  
The strife quietens and for a moment in Ganga's bosom I find peace.  
For a moment I am not, yet I am...Lost in the infinity and vastness of the Universe.  
For a moment, I am YOU. Oh! Ganga, mighty river.  
Coming as you are from the height and heart of the sacred Gangotri,  
To join the poetic confluence of the Alaknanda and the Bhagirati,  
And then to enter from the singing fretful rapids into Rishikesh;  
Peaceful abode of Rishis and Munnis. To yet again merge into my life,  
In the vast Gangetic plains and the tumultuous agitation that bathes my soul,  
My heart and my life. For I know, that sometime, I will return to feel the icy depths  
And submerge my earthly presence in the dark and hidden profundity of YOU.  
Oh! Ganga Mai. Ganga Mai. For a moment, I am YOU.

-Savitri Sawhney

### AGING GRACEFULLY

Radiating smiles  
Walking  
Those extra miles  
Learning technology  
A new art  
I am smart  
Dancing  
With the drum beats  
Swaying with music  
At the life style retreat  
From kick boxing  
To yoga  
I relish the sweet blog  
I can mingle  
Sing jingles  
With kids, young or old  
For old is gold

-Jayashree Baxi

### लहू का कत्रा

न झुकेंगे हम  
ना डरेंगे हम  
आज भी इन बाबुओं  
में है दम  
अपने मात्र भूमि के लीये  
आखिरी सांस तक  
लड़ेंगे हम  
इस लहू का कत्रा-कत्रा  
बहा देंगे हम  
सिर कटा देंगे  
पर अब सिर न झुकार्येंगे हम

-जयश्री बक्सी

## R.I.P.



LM/844 Wg Cdr JM Kaushal  
#2551, Sector 35 C, Chandigarh  
(11 Nov 1925 – 07 Apr 2022)



LM/864 Dr Kuldip Singh  
#2139, Sector 15 C, Chandigarh  
(18 Feb 1929 – 22 Apr 2022)

## ART NEWS



NAVRATRI PAINTING BY Ms VINOD KAPOOR



“AAYI VAISAKHI” SAMAIRA DRESSED UP AND WAITING TO SHAKE A LEG, IN TRADITIONAL GEAR CARRIED FROM CH’GARH BY DOTING GRANDPARENTS GEETA AND VINAY GOYAL



INTROSPECTION BY Dr TEJ PAL SIGH CHAWLA

**BREAKING NEWS. POET NIMMI VASHISHT RELEASED HER 5<sup>TH</sup> BOOK “BAND DARWAZE” ON 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**



## ਗੀਤ ਸਿਰਜਣ



LM/2119 PROF. GURDEEP 'GUL'

MOB: 9872993281

ਆਓ ਕੋਈ ਗੀਤ ਬਨਾਈਏ,  
ਰੂਹ ਦੇ ਦੁਖ ਨੂੰ ਫੇਰ ਹੰਡਾਈਏ

ਸਰਘੀ ਵੇਲੇ ਦੀ ਨਿੰਮੀ ਲੇਅ  
ਗਈ ਏ ਹਿਜਰ- ਹਨੇਰੇ ਸਭ ਧੋ  
ਨੂਰੀ ਰੋਸ਼ਨ ਅੱਖੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ  
ਗਮ ਦਾ ਸੁਰਮਾ ਫੇਰ ਲਗਾਈਏ  
ਆਓ ਕੋਈ ਗੀਤ ਬਣਾਈਏ-----

ਪਿਆਰ ਗੜ੍ਹਚੀ, ਪੁਰਵਾਈ ਵਿਚ  
ਖੁਸ਼ੀਆਂ ਰੱਤੀ, ਬੀਨਾਈ ਵਿਚ  
ਦਰਦ ਉਦਾਸੀ ਨੂੰ ਛਿੜਕਾ ਕੇ  
ਹੰਝੂਆਂ ਦਾ ਬੂਹਾ ਖੜਕਾਈਏ  
ਆਓ ਕੋਈ ਗੀਤ ਬਣਾਈਏ-----"

ਅਣਮੁੱਲੇ ਅਲਸਾਏ ਲਮਹੋਂ  
ਨੀਂਦ ਖੁਮਾਰੀ, ਮਿੱਠੇ ਸੁਫਨੇ  
ਰਾਂਝਣਿਆ ਦੇ ਘਰਾਂ ਚ ਜਾ ਕੇ  
ਲੱਭੀ ਹੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਫੇਰ ਲੁਕਾਈਏ  
ਆਓ ਕੋਈ ਗੀਤ ਬਣਾਈਏ-----

ਟੇਪਾ ਟੇਪਾ ਖੁਰਦੀ ਰਾਤ ਵਿਚ  
ਚੰਨ-ਤਾਰੇ ਦੀ, ਖਾਸ ਬਾਤ ਵਿਚ  
ਚਾਨਣ ਦੀ ਫੁਲਕਾਰੀ ਪਾੜ ਕੇ  
ਸਿਆਹੀ ਦੀ ਇਕ ਥਿਗਲੀ ਲਾਈਏ  
ਆਓ ਕੋਈ ਗੀਤ ਬਣਾਈਏ-----

ਸ਼ਾਮ ਸੰਧੂਰੀ, ਖੁਲੀ ਫਿਜ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ  
ਹਸਦੀ ਗਾਂਓਦੀ ਮਸਤ ਹਵਾ ਵਿਚ  
ਸੁਖ ਦੇ ਅਲਸਾਏ ਗਲੇ ਚੋਂ  
ਤਾਨਪੁਰੇ ਨਾਲ ਬਿਰਹਾ ਗਾਈਏ  
ਆਓ ਕੋਈ ਗੀਤ ਬਣਾਈਏ-----

ਜਿੰਦ ਬਰੂਹੀਂ, ਸੁਖ ਦੀਆਂ ਚਮਕਾਂ  
ਧਰਤ ਕਣਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਨੂਰੀਂ ਦਮਕਾਂ  
ਖੁਸ਼ੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਲੁਕੱਣ ਮੀਟੀ ਵਿਚ  
ਮੁੱਠੀ ਭਰ ਕੇ ਦਰਦ ਖਿੰਡਾਈਏ  
ਆਓ ਕੋਈ ਗੀਤ ਬਣਾਈਏ---

ਉੱਡ ਗਏ ਨੇ ਆਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਪੰਛੀ  
ਵਿਛੜੇ ਨੇ ਦੁੱਖ ਦਰਦ ਦੇ ਸੰਗੀ  
ਰੋਹ ਦੀਆਂ ਕੁਝ ਮਾਰ ਝਰੀਟਾਂ  
ਮੌਲੇ ਜ਼ਖਮ ਨੂੰ ਛੇੜ ਜਗਾਈਏ  
ਆਓ ਕੋਈ ਗੀਤ ਬਣਾਈਏ--"

ਸੋਹਣਾ ਘਰ ਤੇ ਨਿੱਘਾ ਕਮਰਾ  
ਗਲੀਂ ਮੁਹੱਬਤੀ ਬਾਂਹ ਦੀ ਵਲਗਣ  
'ਗੁਲ' ਸਾਹਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੀਰੀਨੀ ਵਿਚ  
ਤਲਖੀ, ਕੁੜੱਤਣ ਆਣ ਮਿਲਾਈਏ

' ਗੁਲ' ਵਸਲ ਦੀ ਸੀਰੀਨੀ ਵਿਚ  
ਤਲਖ ਕੁੜੱਤਣ ਆਣ ਮਿਲਾਈਏ



## दीये

शहीदों की चिताओं पर  
 बर्ष में एक ही बार क्यूँ लगें मेले  
 क्यूँ नहीं करते याद उन को रोज़  
 इन्सान मन्दिरों, गुरुद्वारों में तो  
 जा सकता है हर रोज़  
 जला सकता है रोज़ दीये  
 काल्पनिक मूर्तियों पर  
 किस ने देखा, किसने घड़ी मूर्तियाँ  
 शहीदों को तो देखा है  
 महसूस उनकी तकलीफों को  
 उनके प्रयासों को  
 हमें आजादी दिलाने के लिए,  
 हम बेखौफ़ जी सकें इसलिए  
 उन्होंने खुद ही के जीवन की  
 आहुतियां दे दीं  
 अपनी मातायों को अकेले रोते  
 बिलखते छोड़ दिया पर  
 भारत माँ पर आँच नहीं आने दी  
 भारत मां का पाक दामन नहीं छूने  
 दिया किसी को  
 और हम बर्ष में एक दिन सरकारी  
 छुट्टी कर के स्कूल कॉलेज कार्यालय  
 बन्द कर के उनके बलिदानों का कर्ज  
 उतार रहे हैं  
 चंद लोग बस आयोजन करते हैं  
 एक दो घण्टे देश भक्ति के गीत गाते हैं  
 बाकी शापिंग और फिल्में देखते हैं  
 शहीदों की याद में कुछ करना चाहिए  
 देश को  
 मन्दिरों, गुरुद्वारों...

## हमारा भारत

हम भारत के वासी हैं  
 देश में हैं चाहे प्रवासी हैं  
 दिल में है जो बसा हमारे  
 वो प्यारा हिन्दोस्तान है  
 हमारा भारत महान है

हमारी आन ,बान और शान है  
 करम कोई ना गलत करेंगे  
 रखना सदा उसका मान है  
 हमारा भारत महान है

होठों पर सच्चाई को रखते हैं  
 दिलों में सफाई को रखते हैं  
 रखते हैं ध्यान ना दुखे दिल किसी का  
 करते सभी का सम्मान हैं  
 हमारा भारत महान है

बहती है गंगा यहाँ कल कल करती  
 दुखों को वह पल पल हरती  
 मिलता है सकूँ उसके आँचल तले  
 हरेक का रखती वह मान है  
 हमारा भारत महान है

प्यार करने की यहाँ पर रीत है  
 हर कोई इक दूजे का मीत है  
 ऐसे देश में रहने का मिला हमें वरदान है  
 हमारा भारत महान है  
 यहाँ रंग रूप का भेद भाव नहीं  
 किसी को आता किसी पर ताव नहीं  
 प्यार को हम निभाते हैं  
 खुशियाँ देते हैं सब को और  
 औरों से खुशियाँ पाते हैं  
 पूरे विश्व को ...

# A PICTURE IS .....



Spot the Difference?

[maybank2u.com](http://maybank2u.com) is not the same as [maybank2u.com](http://maybank2u.com)

[citibank.com](http://citibank.com) is not the same as [citibank.com](http://citibank.com)  
(the first one is correct, the second one is from hackers)

The "a" in the later url is a cyrillic alphabet.

An average internet user can easily fall for this. Be careful for every mail requiring you to click on a link.

Please Stay Alert



## WARNING! SECURITY ALERT

At a wedding, party or public gathering, robbers are now requesting for the MC to make an announcement of a particular car with registration number so and so blocking them. When the vehicle owner goes out to move the car, he/she is then attacked by criminals at gunpoint. These criminals know that you have your car keys and will force you to drive out of the premises with them inside your car.

**PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING WHEN YOUR VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER IS CALLED OUT AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION:**

1. Take your time before going out.
2. Don't go out alone. Be in the company of at least 2 people.
3. Don't go directly where your car is parked. Confirm from a distance if you are truly blocking a car.
4. Watch your surroundings carefully before approaching your vehicle.

**SPREAD THE WORD**



## Retirement:

A stage when you seem to know all the answers but nobody is asking you any question!





## THE SPECK OF DUST

-Author Unknown

The dust once thought that if she could ever fly  
she would never come back to earth.  
So, she prayed and meditated and chanted  
and did all that was in her power to make the Gods fulfill her desire.

And the Gods did listen.  
The wind blew with such power  
that it took the dust over the trees,  
over the mountains, into the sky.  
She travelled everywhere.

She felt she fulfilled her destiny.  
The magic played on for some time.  
But now..she wanted to return back and rest.  
Enough of this travel, enough of this  
sense of reaching somewhere.  
Being this enlightened, self awakened  
dust particle, higher than the rest !

She wanted to be dust again.  
She wanted to be..just be.  
And she cried from the deepest core of her heart.  
She cried till the Gods sent her back.

There back on earth, she rested like never before.  
She realised she was always this.  
Always perfectly herself but all that journey  
to the sky and beyond, was perhaps  
only to make her see so.  
And how she smiled then..looking at the sky.  
It was amazing.

All her knowledge had dropped.  
All desires had dropped.  
She was once again,  
a nothing.  
But within that nothingness,  
there was this amazing Grace,

The Grace of Being.  
And she settled.  
She finally settled as she was.

No seeking,  
no searching..  
Just being, AS IS.

And then the winds smiled,  
the seeds dropped,  
the sun shone,  
the rains showered  
and flowers sprouted.

The dust had dissolved.  
She was no more.  
She had become All.

### NEED A GOOD NON-POLITICAL LAUGH? THIS WILL DO IT QUICKLY!!

When you think of riding the subway, laughter and joy aren't the first words that spring to mind. It's a cramped place full of grumpy people either coming home from a bad day at work or are just generally upset. Yet if you're fortunate enough, sometimes you can find happiness in a subway train.

One such magical moment was captured when a Belgian advertising agency working for Coca-Cola hired an actor to randomly start laughing on the train. With the tagline—"Happiness starts with a smile"—their new ad aims to bring a bit of joy to everyone's day. Just watch and we dare you not to let out a small giggle, too!

[Coca-Cola: Happiness starts with a smile - YouTube](#)



ON A HOT SUMMER'S DAY AT ZAKIR ROSE GARDEN, CHANDIGARH (Courtesy: Indian Express)

### MULTIMEDIA LINKS

Jaya Sarkar (Remembered by Smt Smriti Irani). *Mera Chhota Sa Ek Mohalla Tha*. <https://youtu.be/K7ehEmJoPSY>

Swasti Mehul. *Papa Mummy*. <https://youtu.be/Ruuz127h-MQ>

*How to Prevent a Heart Attack*. <https://youtu.be/NY9veoqE2PI>

LM/2119 Shayara Gurdip Kaur 'Gul'. *Adab Ke Naam*. <https://youtu.be/jSP91BCZ-kw>

Meenakshi Salve (with Stained Glass Creations). *Jaane Voh Kaise Log The*. <https://youtu.be/MnMWBmsqp8g>

Prem Sagar (New Delhi). *Meri Zindagi Men Aate To Kuchh Aur Baat Hoti*. <https://youtu.be/pMQmRoTZPrk>

Nirmaljit Singh (Mohali). *Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas Tum Rehti Ho*. <https://youtu.be/8URr808FtRI>

LM/105-106 Dr & Mrs TPS Chawla. *Amber De Tare*. <https://youtu.be/yYpN4Wtg1Tk>

LM/1047 Kamla Mirchandani. *Awwal Allah Noor Upaya*. <https://youtu.be/c5fh6E2hSbA>

Pammi Dhillon (Mohali). *Bekas Pe Karam Kijiye*. <https://youtu.be/V5LPd71k6Ng>

Tarun Kumar (Bengaluru). *Dil Dhoondhta Hai Sahare Sahare*. <https://youtu.be/VojjHEQ5GoI>

Dr Sarabjot Singh Behl. *Main Gujranwala Chhor Aya*. <https://youtu.be/AzUmOjUp4RQ>

Pammi Dhillon (Mohali). *Old Songs Medley*. <https://youtu.be/45BZJqx07xg>