



# 22<sup>nd</sup> Course



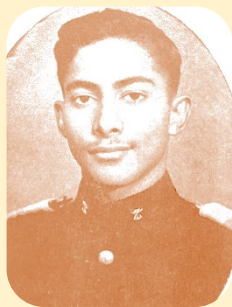
## Vaidun Vidyadhar 22/I - SYDNEY

*The course credits cover one of the renowned Cadet JK Sengupta, nine gallantry awards (two posthumous) and a total of 22 two stars and above ranks. Course participated in the 1965 and 1971 major operations. Post service, the course excelled in politics, civil services, sports, engineering, and the corporate world with distinction.*

### Cadet Days – 1959 to 1962

The course joined the academy in June 1959 and passed out in June 1962. The course comprised of 175 cadets: Army 130, Navy 19, and Air Force 26.

When we joined there were 10 Squadrons in all. 1 Battalion had 4 while the other two Battalions had 3 each. Towards the end of our stay two more Squadrons, Juliet and Lima were added.



JK Sengupta

In the 50s and 60s, a career in the armed forces was one of the first choices and most sought after. The armed forces were able to attract some of the very best. I still remember what Mr GD Bhavnani, our civilian Chemistry instructor used to tell us. **“You are the cream of the nation”**.

**JK Sengupta:** Fondly known as JoJo needs special mention. He was the No 1 highest achiever in our course. Appointed Academy Cadet Captain, awarded the Gold Medal at RIMC, NDA and IMA. Unfortunately, this outstanding officer lost both eyes due to a missile hit in 1965. Had it not been for this, he would have been a potential candidate for a future COAS. A loss to the service.

**Academy Sports Teams:** The course excelled in Hockey and Tennis representing the Academy.

Hockey: BB Satpathi, LS Makan, CS Panag and KTA Bandoola

Tennis: HS Sial, JS Chandoak and Baldev Singh

### Service Days – 1962 to 2001

During the 1965 and 1971 amongst the nine Gallantry Awards with two were posthumous.

SPS Sekhon, VrC, (posthumous) - 1965

SP Verma, VrC, (posthumous) – 1965

Apramjeet Singh, VrC, - 1971

Hari Janu, SM (Gallantry) 1965

Ajinder Bal, MD (Gallantry) – 1965

CN Bal, MD (Gallantry) – 1965

Sudarshan Suri, MD (Gallantry) – 1965

HS Chhokar, MD (Gallantry) – 1971

SS Mehta, MD (Gallantry) -1971

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A total of eight from the course rose to three-star ranks

|               |                |                |                |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Pramod Bhasin | Dinesh Chauhan | Surendra Jain  | Shamsher Mehta |
| Krishan Pal   | Virender Sewal | Gurpreet Singh | Hari Uniyal    |

A total of 14 from the course rose to two-star ranks

|                |                        |                  |                |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Subhash Anand  | Jeffrey DeSouza        | Inderjit Dhillon | Surendra Gupta |
| Gurmukh Israni | Vasu Jayashankar       | Jagtar Kang      | George Lasrado |
| Hardev Mangat  | Ramesh Mehta           | Charanjit Panag  | Anil Sawhney   |
| Mohan Singh    | Ramanathan Karthikeyan |                  |                |

**Mohan Singh:** Was the leader of the first ever sailing expedition in the history of the Subcontinent to cross the Bay of Bengal from Chennai to Port Blair (Andaman Islands) in two small sailing boats (that are basically meant for coastal sailing), in Feb 70, taking 22 days of nonstop sailing to reach Port Blair, having only a magnetic compass and a sextant to guide them to follow the planned route. He is the first engineer officer, in the service history, to destroy a double decker rail cum road bridge in the 1971 Operations, against the severe odds of heavy shelling.

**TPS Chowdhury:** Was the leader of the Seven Members Team, for the “First Indian Sailing Expedition in Yacht Trishna”, from Gosport (UK) to Mumbai, in Oct 84 taking 81 days, covering 7000 Nautical miles, with only a Sextant. Was also the Leader of the 10 Member Team for “First Indian Sailing Expedition around the world in Yacht Trishna”, from Sep 85 to Jan 87, covering 30,000 Nautical miles, with only a Sextant and No GPS.

**Jaspal Singh Chandoak:** Had a prestigious tenure as Sqn Cdr 'J' Sqn Cdr from Dec 77 to Jan 80 at the NDA. 54 to 57 courses passed out during his tenure.

## Post Service Days – 2001 onwards

Several officers from the course performed exceptionally well post service in the civil arena

**Pramod Bhasin:** Was appointed Director General Advance Technology Vehicle in the rank of Secretary, Govt of India. The project was to build India’s first Nuclear Submarine and nuclear tipped missiles. Following this was appointed Chairman Defence Council of ASSOCHAM for eight years and was simultaneously Defence Advisor with Larsen & Toubro

**Darshan Lal:** Held senior management positions in the corporate world and served as Director in several reputed companies

**Shamsher Singh Mehta:** Held senior management positions in the corporate world and served as Director of several Boards

**Anil Sawhney:** Held senior management positions in several reputed companies and served as Director in others.

**TPS Chowdhury:** Was Team Leader and Highway Engineer at National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), National Project Coordinator for the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and Secretary Adventure Racing Federation of India ( ARFI)

**Amarinder Singh:** Joined politics and is the present Chief Minister of Punjab.

**Baldev Singh:** Joined politics and was elected MLA in UP Assembly from Aligarh

**Mohan Singh:** MD of Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) for nine years

**Baljit Ahluwalia:** Was Founder member of Sports Authority of India, Chief Administer All Stadiums in Delhi, Executive Director National Institute of Patiala Director Laxmi Bai Institute of Physical Education Gwalior, Member Organizing Committees, ASIAD 1982, Commonwealth Games 2010, National Games Pune, National Games Guwahati, Presently Senior Consultant sports, Amity Group of Schools.

**Inderjit Dhillon:** Was DG Help Age India (*NGO dedicated for the elderly*) and then Chairman and Awardee, Cheshire Homes (*for handicapped persons*) Presently, Patron of Ashi Haryana (*A NGO for a home for destitute children covering education for underprivileged*). As President of Ashiana Children's Home, awarded for contribution in the field of child welfare from District Council Panchkula.

**Manjit Oberoi:** Commenced skiing in Kufri, followed by formal basic training at Gulmarg and then advance training after 1965 operations. Was then instructor too. Participated in both Joint Slalom and Slalom '1966 National Ski Meet' at Khilanmarg and Gulmarg and was declared number one Skier. American skies and poles were used to win the competition.

**Jaspal Chandoak:** A self-taught driftwood artwork artist, with three solo exhibitions to credit. His artifacts are aesthetic objects with utility value, that light up dark corners of the house & the 'mind'. These efforts of unique reflection of creativity, wherein perception & concepts of Art find a remarkable sense of life's expression & imagination. Exemplifies the maxim - 'Creativity is God's kind gift.



**Manjit Oberoi at the Skis**



**Driftwood Artifacts by Jaspal Singh Chandoak**



**Course Reunion at NDA in 2010.**

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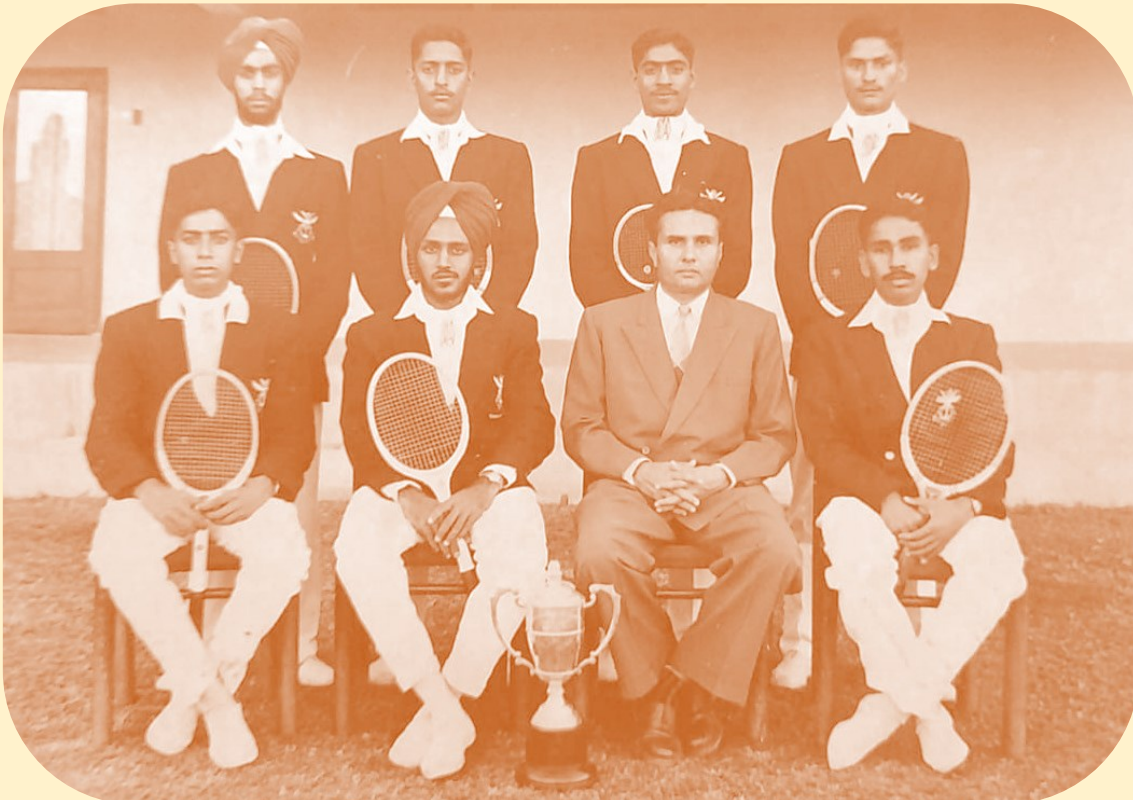
### **Academy Hockey XI – Spring Term 62**

Joint Winners Campbell Tournament and Runner up Maharashtra League

Sitting L to R: BB Satpathi, LS Makan (Captain), SSP Bhatnagar (OIC Hockey), NP Singh & CS Panag

Standing L to R (I Row): RS Kahlon, GS Riari, K Davar, KTA Bandoola, PP Kapahi & RS Cheema

Standing L to R (II Row): RK Choudhary, M D'souza & HS Kahlon



### **Academy Tennis – Spring Term 62**

Sitting L to R: K Khanna, HS Sial (Captain), FR Dotiwala (OIC Tennis) & Y Prasad

Standing L to R: JS Chandoak, Baldev Singh, RS Sethi, & AD Seth

(Team beat Artillery School (3-0), HS Sial, Junior Singles Champion Deccan Gymkhana Tournament 61)

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