

From the Editor's desk

Hello friends,

A very happy New Year 2020! Am sure all of you would have had a great festive season and are ready to take on this year with renewed energy and josh! The year 2019 has indeed been very special for our Alma Mater, having completed 50 years of its glorious existence and commitment to quality education.

We had a grand Golden jubilee celebration in January 2019, with over 1000 people participating in the gala event. Following this, an official Alumnus body was formed headed by Ishwar Nankani as the President. The PGGS Alumni Association's Committee has put in tremendous efforts to keep the Garodian Alumnus torch burning.

The other highlights of the past year have been the **Garodia Premier League** Cricket tournament on 8th December and the **Annual General-body Meeting** on 22nd December. Lots of discussions were carried out to ensure that the PGGS Alumni stay connected and a series of interesting activities are being planned for the year 2020.

This issue of the Garodian Alumni Times, the second in series, has contributions from Dev Bakshi of Batch '84 on a very pertinent topic in today's day and age and also the first Presidential address. We have also kept this edition more pictorial to include as many photographs from the Cricket tournament and the AGM for all those who missed these events. You may enjoy viewing many more photographs on our Facebook page.

We leave you to enjoy the reading and viewing a whole lot of pictures to help you reminisce about your school days. Looking forward to your feedback, comments and contributions for our forth-coming issues by writing at alumni.newsletter@pggarodia.org

Signing off until next time with best wishes for a happy, healthy and a prosperous 2020 to all...

Dr. Sumitra Venkatesh, Batch of 1989
Editor, Garodian Alumni Times

President's Address

Hello Dear Garodians,

Season's Greetings!

As the famous poet Edith Lovejoy Pierce wrote:

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

"Opportunity", as it literally means, is a chance to do something that you would like to do.

While it would be arduous to change the world around you in a jiffy, a consistent and determined effort to seize every opportunity will never fail you in achieving what you desire.

With 2020, the start of a new decade every day, every week, every month and every year could become the first chapter for you to fill. Remember always the pen is in your hand.

So go ahead and fill those pages and make an album of good and happy memories to cherish for life.

Speaking for myself, I have had some delightful and memorable moments with PGGS Alumni. I met schoolmates and made new friends, as if I knew them forever. It feels like "back to school again"!

I earnestly invite you to create your own album full of joyous and colorful memories with your alma mater. Make it a bestseller!

*Something new, something old,
nevertheless learnings they hold.*

Cheers,

Ishwar Nankani, Batch of 1983
President, PGGS Alumni Association

Reader's Contributions

Catch Them Young

Three years since I blogged about it, the Government of India has finally made cashless toll payment / collection mandatory. And I repeat the benefits:

- Use of accountable money
- Reduction in handling of hard currency notes, thus their longer life span
- Tracking of particular vehicles and the goods being carried in them
- Availability of master data of vehicular traffic
- Tracking of vehicles involved in thefts / other illegal activities
- Eradicating the need for awarding contracts to entities for toll-collection
- Last but not the least reduction in air as well as noise pollution

Today, I would like to share a few thoughts about the link between Traffic Violations and the development of human desire and tendency from childhood to violate laws of the land with impunity.

When a child sees an adult violating any law, the child is inspired and encouraged to follow the adult. This is also equally true when the child sees an adult abiding by the law. Such behavior is more so when the adult is known to the child, as a parent, relative, neighbor or a friend.

Violation of law could be littering or could be as severe as an economic violation or a physical attack. But, you will realize that only a few violations are committed in public view. Most others are covert, about which the child may be ignorant or could learn through the media.



One glaring example of violation in public view, which is generally considered trivial, is "Traffic Violation". Recently, considering its seriousness, Government of India had recommended punitive steps for discouraging Traffic Violations, but many State Governments have either decided not to follow suit or are lagging behind.

Seriousness of Traffic Violations:

Traffic Violations are witnessed first-hand all through one's life. I think that it has a long lasting and serious effect, especially on a child's impressionable mind.

In daily life, when a child sees an adult vehicle driver or a pedestrian, rampantly indulging in Traffic Violations with impunity, and escaping without any fine or punishment, a seed is sowed in the child's mind that 'it's okay to violate and get away' or 'chalta hai' or "that's the way life is".

This seed only grows with time and may lead to

frequent and graver violations as the child grows and unfortunately the child may follow it throughout her/his life!

On a daily basis we see that if one driver breaks a signal, hordes of others follow. Equally, if one driver honks, hordes of others start honking. It just needs that 'one person' to start it!

On the other hand, if this menace is curbed and the child sees everyone on the street following the law, a positive seed will grow. By this not only many a lives could be saved, but many a lives would be made. It can bring about the cultural change of adherence to the laws of the land, which we all yearn for.

Harm caused by Traffic Noise:

This may sound 'nagging', but undisputedly and literally, "Traffic Noise" is that part of Traffic Violations which is rampant.

As I have highlighted in the past, one can escape other sources of noise (e.g. construction noise, industrial noise, loudspeaker noise or for that matter any festival noise) but No one can escape Traffic Noise. Whether she/he be a child or an adult or a senior citizen, each day, everyone, everywhere gets assaulted by Traffic Noise. Most of it is attributable to incensed honking.

It is known fact that honking causes irritation, hypertension, high blood pressure, migraine, headache, exhaustion, etc. resulting in lack of concentration, fatal accidents, road-rage and brawls.

Not only the person who honks and the person honked at, but even all others around, are equally and badly affected. There have been various studies, including reports of World Health Organization, about the ill-effects of noise.

When Indians go abroad, one way of enjoyment is "walking around". Though, enjoying a walk involves various factors viz. weather, footpaths, space, etc. one important aspect which everyone admits is that 'nobody honks' and 'a pedestrian crosses at the zebra crossing without the fear of being run-over'. This is a reality because in many countries, honking is considered offensive and pedestrians have first right of way.

I have recently addressed a communication on these lines to our Honorable Prime Minister and suggested implementation of measures to curb Traffic Violations. I am happy to share that my suggestions have been noted and responded to positively by assuring to examine them for effective and practical implementation.

May this year continue to bring peace, joy and prosperity for our country!

- Ishwar Nankani, Batch of 1983

Reader's Contributions

Dar Ke Aage Jeet Hai

As a young child, the biggest fear that I had was the fear of failure. Failure to me at that age was associated with negativity and to FAIL was BAD, WRONG and something that successful people never experience. The fear was so strong that I stopped myself from doing a lot of things. I never participated in sports, I missed the elocution and the many other small, but significant things that we do in our growing-up years.

I was a very 'bindaas' child in all the other aspects of life, but when it came to competitive stuff, (most importantly with the so called 'Intelligent' ones). I went into a shell; this was purely due to my fear of failure. At that age, most of us (especially me) were not sensitized to this. My fears were larger than me and gripped me; making me lead the life that I did.

How do these fears come up in the first place?

Fear is the most inherent character of a human being. To give you an analogy, like we have loads of different cars in this world. Though they are all different, there is a commonality in their design and all cars have engines, tyres, steering, brakes, doors, etc. Likewise, though we are all human, we have different perceptions, fears, wants, needs, desires and many others. These are the designs that make us human beings. In the world of ontology (**Science Of Being**), these design principles of being human connect each one of our lives with the other. We see ourselves in others and vice versa. By sharing this article, I want you to locate your life and see what stops you from doing what you actually want to do or you are set out to do. I am no one to comment on what stops you, as you are to identify that and search the missing link that will make the real difference in your life or the quality of life you lead.

I vividly remember the incident which set the fear of being ridiculed for the first time in my life. This was when I was in class 3 and had chosen to participate in the school sports day. It was a cool winter morning and we were in the school ground. Back in the days, the school ground had a huge Sacred Fig/ Peepal tree right in the center of the school ground and a lot of locals came there for puja (Old timers will know what I am talking about). The students, some parents and the teachers were standing at the periphery of the ground. In the center of the ground, there was a block of lanes approximately 200 meters long and I am on my shining new brown BSA gifted by my father for the sports day. I remember distinctly each of my friends in their respective lanes and our PT sir standing with the wooden clap. The minute he said "Go", I peddled away to glory and within seconds I reached the other

side. I remember flinging my cycle and jumping with joy. Suddenly from the corner of my eye, I saw everyone laughing and turned around to realize that I had participated in a 'slow-cycling' race. That day I said to myself that "if you participate in competitions where you are exposed to people and fail, people ARE going to laugh at you and ridicule you". That day, the fear of failure set in for the first time.

I lived my life with that fear until 1994 when things happened to help me realize the fact that the fears were my own creations and that the young boy who had one bitter experience had chosen to live with them. In fact, they were my perceptions and were so real for me. All I did was to accept my fears and take actions in all those areas that had stopped me earlier.

Did I ever fail thereafter? Sure, I did! Hundreds of times. Did people ridicule me? You bet, they did! But what differed was that my relationship and attitude to fear had altered.

For me, the fear of failure still exists, but it does not stop me from being in action. The minute I experience fear, it opens my mind as I know it is imaginary and I go ahead to do what I started to. More often than not, I 'act' on my fear and emerge victorious! The key here is to overcome all fears that prevent you from being a winner!

What's the lesson here?

We, as a parent in the name of our experience tell our children what to do and not. Why do we do so? Surely out of our concern for them.... But what are we actually setting them up for? We, in the unsaid, prepare them 'not to fail'. Is failure bad, wrong? In our world of perception it surely is, as that's how our parents dealt with us as a child.

In India, failure has negative connotations to it e.g. when a company fails and files for bankruptcy, it is never again given loans by the Banks for the next venture. It is high time that we get out of this mind set.

Failure is something that is experienced by someone who is in ACTION and only when we are in action, life happens.

India is a cricket loving nation and this edition is just after the cricket tournament of our school what better analogy than cricket.

When we play the game of cricket, we either win the game or lose the game

WHERE IS THE FUN?

In WINNING, LOSING OR PLAYING?

- Dev Bakshi, Batch of 1984

Alumni Activities So Far

PGGS Alumni Association Cricket Tournament 2019

Of everything that brings back the good old school memories, cricket certainly takes the cake! The PGGS Alumni Association organized a Cricket Tournament for the first time in 2019 (the year of its inception). It was incredible how the process was so meaningful, which led to rediscovering and rejuvenating many old friendships!

This mega event was held on the 8th of December 2019 at the Chedda Nagar Gymkhana Turf. PGGS Alumni Association had put together a lot of effort to successfully conduct this cricket tournament named **“Garodia Alumni Premier League”**.

There was a total of 16 teams that participated in the Tournament. The Trophy named **“Mahesh Garodia Rolling Trophy”** was won by the batch of 2002 after playing the final against batch of 1992. Different age groups, different stamina levels, but the same overwhelming enthusiasm was the highlight of the entire event!

This was more meaningful with support and encouragement by various dignitaries like Ms. Mitali Rudra (Principal, P.G. Garodia School), Dr. Ali Irani (Renowned Physiotherapist - Sports), Mr. Ian Davis (Principal, GICLM) & Mr. Mahesh Garodia (Chairman, P.G. Garodia School).



Our heroes for the day were Prashant Karia (Best Batsman) and Ankit Narsana (Best Bowler).

We can never put down in words the efforts that went in to organize this wonderful event. We are really fortunate to have many of our Alumni around us who gave us unfathomable help and guidance. This will surely enable us to keep organizing such events in the coming year and beyond!

PGGS Alumni Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meeting of our Association was held on 22nd December at School's auditorium. During the meeting various suggestions were made with regard to our Association's activities for the year 2020. An appeal was made to the members to get at least one new member each, so as to double the strength of our Association in the year 2020.



Prashant Karia (batch of 1992) and Bunty Doshi (batch of 1994) were felicitated for their contribution in making the cricket tournament a huge success.

Siddhant Shah (batch of 2019) was felicitated for his contribution as Co-editor of Garodian Alumni Times.



30 new members joined our association on that day.

The meeting was followed by entertainment programme, games and refreshments.

PGGS Alumni Association's One Time Registration

1. To submit your details, go to <http://www.pggarodia.org/alumni.htm>
2. Towards membership of the PGGS Alumni Association, you are required to remit an amount of Rs.1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) by cheque / demand draft / pay order favoring "PGGS Alumni Association" (to be sent at School Address to the attention of "PGGS Alumni Association") or **preferably through PAYTM** by following the below mentioned steps:

By clicking here go to : <https://paytm.com/education>

Step1: select your institute location >>> State MAHARASHTRA >>> City MUMBAI

Step 2: select your institute >>> P G Garodia School

Step 3: fill in required details Name, DOB, Batch, Email, Mobile, Profession, City (presently living in)

Step 4: proceed for payment of Rs. 1,000/-.

The Alumni Committee

2019-2020

President: Ishwar Nankani, Batch of 1983

Vice President: Rakesh Suneja, Batch of 1985

Treasurer: Purvi Dalal, Batch of 1990

Joint Secretary: Vikas Puthran, Batch of 1985

Joint Secretary: Minal Mehta, Batch of 1994

Members of the Committee

- Dev Bakshi, Batch of 1984
- Hemananda Kunder, Batch of 1985
- Nishant Garodia, Batch of 1985
- Jogen Desai, Batch of 1986
- Monika Chheda, Batch of 1988
- Raaja Gokulgandhi, Batch of 1989
- Ritu Joshi, Batch of 1989
- Sumitra Venkatesh, Batch of 1989
- Aekta Doshi, Batch of 1992
- Hiten Parekh, Batch of 1994
- Nandita Popat, Batch of 1994
- Nishant Thanki, Batch of 1998
- Maitri Vora, Batch of 2013
- Bharati Mehta, Co-opted - Teacher
- Shobhita Rajesh, Co-opted -Teacher and Batch of 1985



You can reach the PGGS Alumni Association at
alumni@pgharodia.org

 : [PGGS Alumni Association](#)

 : [PGGS Alumni Association](#)

The Editorial Board

- **Editor:** Sumitra Venkatesh, Batch of 1989
- **Co- editor:** Siddhant Shah, Batch of 2019

Members of the board

- Ishwar Nankani, Batch of 1983
- Dev Bakshi, Batch of 1984
- Navil M.D., Batch of 1985
- Rakesh Suneja, Batch of 1985
- Shobita Rajesh, Batch of 1985
- Nishant Thanki, Batch of 1998