

# Tribute to Gulab Ramchandani



By **DR S GANGULI**

**B**ack in history, we saw a Corporate Man enter The Doon School as an academican, which was met with anticipation doubting his academic experience, but who would have known that this would be a new chapter in the chapters of The Doon School. Gulab Ramchandani's journey with The Doon School was dated from 1979 to 1988 – a steady, accomplishing, beautiful, progressive and prestigious journey! So was the man's charm; to remember those days, makes my eyes water and my heart pound harder, such was his passion for excellence!

His achievements were so many that it is not humanly possible to pen them down for my thoughts are many but my



words are few. He took various initiatives for the school's financial stability, academic excellence, co-curricular expertise and all other aspects, which contributed to the success of the school. Further, to manage the funds of the school, his corporate experience led to rightsizing of the staff, allocation of potential and talent, best fit and optimum utilisation of resources.

We saw the school shine in the field of academics like never before and like no other. Gulab Ramchandani (28 August, 1935 – 13 April, 2017) was a man of scientific temperament; he rationalised the work load, allocated work and tasks for the teachers with great precision and farsightedness. The mastermind worked towards giving students a wider perspective and global experience. The teachers and students developed personalities

and gained immense knowledge.

The term Human Resource Management was alien then but he was practicing all the leading innovative HR practices of today even then. He made all of us grow personally and professionally, and he grew with us. With the outburst of robust talent in school, Ramchandani aimed at extracting the maximum out of this talent pool and it resulted in maximum value addition.

It was not only academics, but also the co-curricular activities that took a piece of Ramchandani's attention. He streamlined the activities and made it more meaningful. His vision was to make the boys of The Doon School global citizens in the true sense. With his humanitarian concepts, the school marked its presence on the world map. He also put

immense passion into creating interest amongst students for preserving environmental resources. The Doon School has always constructed benchmarks and set standards for all others to follow under the esteemed guidance of Heads like Gulab Ramchandani.

The Doon School family was held close by the culture set by Ramchandani. Be it the rejoicing of midterms, or the mushy mud baths during Holi, the fireworks in the beautiful Doon skies during Diwali, or the authenticity of the call-over before Sunday outings, the sense of ownership of one's tutees, the competitive spirits of the inter house matches, we lived it all and we loved it all!

I still recall how, in his farewell speech, he mentioned, "Post my retirement I will grow potatoes on my farm!" Well,

many were unaware but I had belief that that was not going to be his way ahead. His journey went well beyond The Doon School and Gulab Ramchandani took the Lamp to all the dark corners, to the extent that post his era at The Doon School, he established many other schools. There is no end to how much we can learn from his experiences and his journey of life.

A staunch supporter of the true education system and values, he worked to his last breath relentlessly for the betterment of our educational system. He found time for family, friends, society, nature, and almost everything. He passed away attending upon his first love, education and literacy.

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