



August 2023
Volume 48 Issue 2

Indian Schools Alumni & Friends
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I N S A F

Special 50th Anniversary Edition

INDIAN SCHOOLS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

INSAF CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN OPERATION VIA A VIRTUAL VIDEO MEET

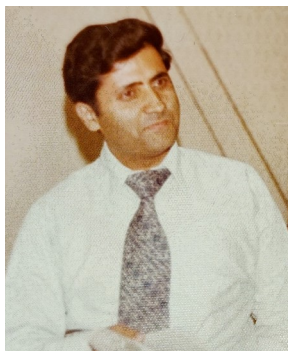
On July 29, a number of INSAF members joined via Google Meet for a virtual celebration of INSAF having completed 50 years in operation.

The Meet reviewed the history and growth of INSAF, and honored the INSAF donors and the INSAF Builders and Sustainers over the years. This special 50th anniversary edition of the Newsletter presents a few highlights from the Meet. In addition, glimpses from some Newsletters during 1976-2003 are provided. Please note that all Newsletters from 2004 onwards are available on the INSAF website.

Honored at the July 29 Google Meet:

- All those who have ever given back to a cause through INSAF
- Current Board Members:
 - **Sh. Joginder Kundra**
 - **Ms. Padmashri Lad**
 - **Dr. A. J. Poulouse**
 - **Sh. P. K. Malhotra**
 - **Sh. Om Garg**
 - **Sh. Rajeev Paliwal**
 - **Ms. Anita Sra**
- Previous INSAF Board Members:
 - **Sh. Vijay Bajaj (Canada)**
 - **The Late Dr. Prem Bajaj**
 - **Sh. Vinod Bansal**
 - **Dr. Sudershan Bhateja**
 - **Ms. Padma Tatta Cariappa**
 - **The Late Sh. Bindi Chexal**
 - **Dr. Santosh Chokhani**
 - **Dr. Baljit Singh Gambhir**
 - **Dr. Vimal Goyle**
 - **Sh. Sujan Gulati**
 - **Dr. P. Harshavardhana**
 - **Dr. Pawan Kahol**
 - **The Late Sh. K. Kumar Kapur**
 - **Dr. S. Keshavnarayana**
 - **Ms. Amrit Kaur Khosla (Canada)**
 - **Sh. Ashok Mehan**
 - **Dr. Soma Murthy**
 - **Dr. Inderjeet Paika**
 - **The Late Dr. Ramesh Paliwal**
 - **Dr. Ashok Sachdev**
 - **Sh. Harmohinder Jeet Singh Sodhi (Canada)**
 - **Ms. Kathryn Sharma**
 - **Dr. Bhavender Paul Sharma**
 - **Dr. Rajesh Verma**
- **The Late Sh. Bhagat Singh Sodhi (Canada) — Former Newsletter Editor**
- **Major Project Leaders:**
Sh. Joginder Kundra, Dr. P. Harshavardhana, Sh. Arun & Ms. Padma Tatta Cariappa, The Late Sh. Chani Sra, Sh. Ramesh & Ms. Jyoti Patel, Sh. Anop & Sh. Chandra Vora

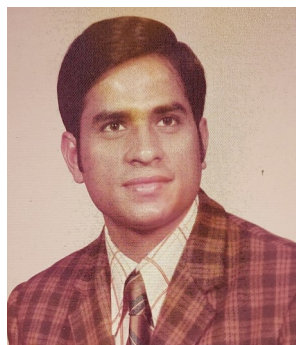
THE 1972-75 BOARD (THEN CALLED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)



SUDERSHAN BHATEJA (1972)



ASH MEHAN (1972)



P.K. MALHOTRA (1972)



BHAV SHARMA (1972)

VERY EARLY MEMBERS WHO BECAME BUILDERS AND SUSTAINERS



SANTOSH CHOKHANI IN 1975



**RAMESH & PRATIBHA PALIWAL IN 1970s
(SADLY, BOTH PASSED AWAY 2021)**



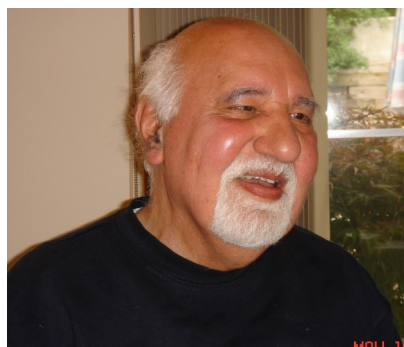
**VIRINDER (BINDI) & MANJU CHEXAL IN 1998
(SADLY, BINDI PASSED AWAY 2001)**



SH. JOGINDER KUNDRA IN 2017



**DR. RAM CHAUDHARI (2007)
(SADLY, PASSED AWAY IN 2015)**



**SH. KUMAR KAPUR IN 2006
(SADLY, PASSED AWAY 2021)**

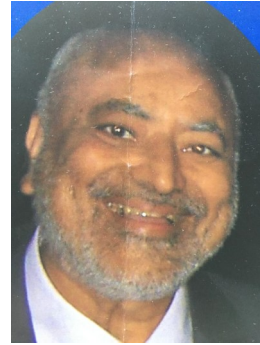


**DR. PREM BAJAJ IN 2015
(SADLY, PASSED AWAY IN 2022)**

REMINISCENCES...



L-R: DR. ASHOK SACHDEV, DR. HARSHA, DR. RAMESH PALIWAL, SH. KUMAR & MRS. SUDESH KAPUR, DR. BHAV SHARMA, DR. SOMA MURTHY (AT A 2006 INSAF MEETING, KAPUR RESIDENCE. PHOTO: SOMA).



SH. BHAGAT SINGH SODHI (2005)
(SADLY, PASSED AWAY 2009)



SH. CHANI SRA (2014)
(SADLY, PASSED AWAY 2020)


A FEW PROJECT RELATED REMINISCENCES...

- In 1989, Ash & Darshan Mehan sponsored a 3-week trip to the U.S. for an independently selected teacher from A.P.

Page 46 – INDIA-WEST – December 8, 1989

**Friends of Punjab Univ.
Honor 'Outstanding' Teacher**

- Over the years, there have been 4 disaster relief projects funded collectively by voluntary donations. The latest two (School in Nepal after an earthquake, and covid relief) have been documented in recent Newsletters. The first two were:
School in Bhuj after a Gujarat earthquake (2002-03):

 **Society for Research & Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies & Institutions** Gujarat Earthquake Relief Activities:

School support in Andaman Nicobar (2005).

INSAF's TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY AT HUT BAY, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

- 2003 India Abroad headline on a one-time Project**

Insaf donates encyclopedias to libraries across US

What \$1,000 Bought in 1987-88

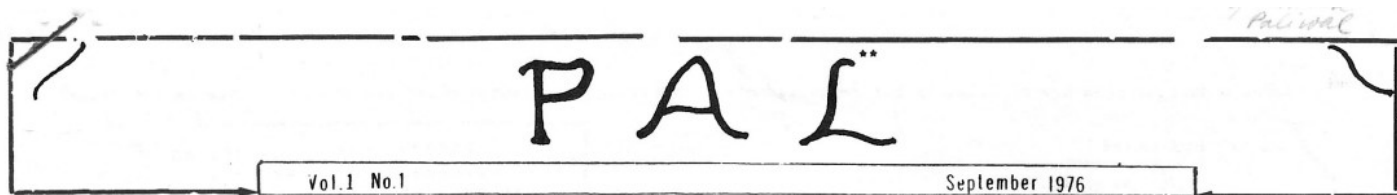
In 1987, members raised \$1,000 for Bhav's field project in Punjab when he took a 6-month leave of absence from work. Here's a tabulation of what \$1,000 could buy:

- 4 BLACKBOARDS
- 4 CEMENT WALL WRITING BOARDS
- 1 DRINKING WATER HAND PUMP (INSTALLED)
- 10 JUTE TAPPADS
- 20 WALL MAPS
- 50 EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
- 1 BOOKS & FEES FOR 10TH GRADE EXAM
- 150 UTENSILS AS AWARDS FOR STUDENTS
- 6 PAINTED WALL MAPS
- 6 BENCHES FOR LAB CLASS
- 6 NOTICE BOARDS FOR SCHOOLS
- 1 SOWING LESSONS FOR A WIDOW
- 1 CALCULATOR FOR A SCHOOL
- 2 SCREENING OF EDUCATIONAL FILMS
- 3 MONTHS OF 3 NEWSPAPERS AT A SCHOOL
- 25 BOOKS FOR A SCHOOL LIBRARY
- 1 SEED MONEY TO START ADULT ED PROJECT

A WALK THROUGH THE INSAF HISTORY VIA GLIMPSES OF NEWSLETTERS OVER THE YEARS.....

The very first official Newsletter, published in September 1976, was named P. U. Alumni Letter (or PAL, which also conveniently meant "friend").

The next few pages show a few random excerpts from 1976- 2002. Newsletters from 2004 onwards are being left out as all are available on the INSAF website.



*** SCHOOL AID PROJECT ***

"Pencil Sharpener Project": Our first project of 1976 looks "go" if we can enlist 15 or so members to participate. The idea is that we should present PENCIL SHARPENERS to schools in India. A pencil sharpener, you know, is an item teachers and students can use and should also last a while. Kaye is coordinating the project and here is what we should do: (The we includes members who had indicated a preference in school aid projects--Jindia; R&P Paliwal; S.Sharma; Amarjit; Soni; A.Mehan; B&M Chexal; Bhateja; P&S Malhotra; B&K Sharma; Maheshwary; Chokhani; P&R Bajaj; Joshi; and anyone else--including new members--who would consider joining)

1. Send the name and address of any school you attended and the dates.
2. The cost is approximately \$5 for sharpener and \$3 for shipping. Please mail a check payable to FOPUAA for \$8 to Kaye at 732 Bevier Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854.

Kaye will: Buy the sharpeners from a store which has promised a concession if 15 or more are bought (it seems the ones available in New Delhi are imported anyway and no cheaper); and send them to the school you suggest with a covering letter on your behalf saying that you are presenting the pencil sharpener for the students and faculty and that you attended that school on dates. Please...don't delay very much. Send,call,write by Oct. 15.

This PAL at a glance

- * School Aid Project Set to Go
- * Change Proposed in Association Name
- * FOPUAA Grows
- * An Appeal is Made to Help Association Grow
- * Clothes Project Update
- * PU Alumnus Khorana Achieves More Recognition and Leads Team to Breakthrough
- * World Punjabi Conference
- * New From Home
- * Origin of PAL
- * What's Happenin with Us

Name change conversation began almost right away

Would the following please drop a line to Sant? He wonders if you have been just tied up with other things to remember sending \$1.50 (\$2.00/couple) for membership renewal: Satish Shoor, Sushil Suri, Dr. R.S.Jain, Bhim Bhakoo, Onkar Kalia, Ustaad Arora, Harbinder Bir Jally, Dr. Jaipaul, and Ashok Kaushal.

**KNOW OF AN ITEM
FOR PAL ?
SEND IT.**

A PROPOSAL --
I would like to submit a change that should be considered in the association. Since a good number of us live in Canada, I feel the name of the association should be changed to say "...Association, North America", instead of "...Association, USA", as we have now.
Name withheld by request
A Friend of PUAA in Canada
8-30-76

**New members who went on to play a significant role later:
Ramesh Paliwal, Jeet Sodhi,, Kuldip Singh, Ms. Amrit Kaur Khosla**

WARM WELCOME TO:

Pratibha and Ramesh Paliwal of Rutgers Univ.; and Mr. Rajinder Mahindroo of Fords, NJ, who joined us in Spring this year. Mrs. Sushma and Mr. Harmohinder J.S. Sodhi, Thornhill, Ontario; Mrs. Bhupinder and Dr. Kuldip Singh, Mississauga, Ont.; Mrs. Amrit and Dr. Jagjit K. Khosla, Oakville, Ont.; Mrs. Susy and Dr. Shami Dua, Mississauga, Ont.; Mrs. M. and Mr. Madan L. Goel, Mississauga, Ont.; Mrs. Shyamala and Mr. Sunder Krishnan, Mississauga, Ont.; and Mr. Surinder Chawla, Toronto, Ont., who have just joined the association.

Please feel free to use PAL, to talk about the association and any of its activities.

**News and views of the FRIENDS OF PANJAB UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. Published Jan/May/Sept and when necessary. Members encouraged to send contributions for PAL to: 732 Bevier Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854.
Publisher: The Friends of Panjab University Alumni Association, U.S.A. Editor: Bhavender Sharma

P. U. ALUMNI LETTER

VOL. 3 NO. 3 NOV 78

In this 1978 Year....

32 donors were thanked for their project donations. Those included Dr. Chander & Mrs. Bhateja, Bindi & Manju Chexal, Dr. Santosh Chokhani, Amarjit & Rajesh Dandona, Dr. Baljit & Sharan Gambhir, Keshyap & Abhilasha Joshi, Surinder & Nirmal Maheshwary, PK & Suresh Malhotra, Dr. Ramesh & Pratibha Paliwal, Dr. Bhav & Kaye Sharma, Satish & Uma Sharma.

25 Schools were listed, which were to receive Paraag, Bal Sandesh & Jagriti, or National Geographic for 1,2 or 3 years.

A letter to the Editor recommended annual membership increase to \$10/couple, and urging we seek voluntary donations for proposed projects.

Financial summary showed \$750 in project grants during 13 months ending Jan '78

ASSOCIATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During June to October 1978:

- ** Further work was done on arranging educational magazine subscriptions to 25 schools.
- ** 31 pounds of clothes were sent for recycle .
- ** A contribution of \$ 100 was made to the flood relief efforts .

INCOME TAX EXEMPTION EXTENDED

This past summer, the Association was required to submit to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) our accounts for the last 5 years. The IRS was to decide whether to extend the income tax exemption granted to the Association in 1974.

In a letter dated August 16, the IRS informed the Association that its tax exempt status shall continue. Therefore, contributions to the Association continue to be US income tax deductible.

As yet, we have not applied for a Canadian income tax exemption.

1978 ELECTIONS

The 1978 election has proved to be a non-election. Here's the story. Our election commissioner, Dr. Kuldip Singh, received a total of 4 nominations for the four executive committee positions. The following nominations were received with the consent of the nominees:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Vinod Bansal | (Elizabeth, NJ) |
| 2. Bindi Chexal | (San Jose, CA) |
| 3. Sant Chokhani | (Greenbelt, MD) |
| 4. Amrit Khosla | (Port Elgin, Ontario) |

Naturally, Kuldip saw no need to ask for ballots. So our next exec will be made up of the above members. Kuldip has been on the phone regarding who would be what on the next executive. November 30 is the planned date for the new executive to take over. The present and the new executive will be working together in the next couple of months. As you can tell, one of the present execs, Sant, will be the link between the past and the future.

The next issue of PAL will carry introductions to the new executive committee members.

News and Views of the Friends of P.U.Alumni Association, USA. Publication intended Jan/May/Sep. Members are encouraged to write to PAL & express their views. Letters should be addressed to PAL, 1205 State Road, Lindley, NY 14858. Please indicate if anonymity preferred. Publisher: Friends of P.U.Alumni Association, USA. Executive Committee: Dr. Santosh Chokhani (Pres.), Dr. Inder Paika (Gen. Secy.), Satish Sharma (Vice Pres.) and Kaye Sharma (Finan. Secy.) Editor: Bhavender Sharma

P A L

P. U. ALUMNI LETTER

VOL. 5 NO. 3 OCT. 1980

Elsewhere in this 1980 issue....

39 donors were thanked for their project donations. Those included Dr. & Mrs. Prem Bajaj, Dr. Chander & Mrs. Bhateja, Bindi & Manju Chexal, Dr. Santosh Chokhani, Dr. Baljit & Sharan Gambhir, Om & Veena Garg, Vinod & Kiran Jindia, Keshyap & Abhilasha Joshi, Surinder & Nirmal Maheshwary, PK & Suresh Malhotra, Dr. Ramesh & Pratibha Paliwal, Dr. Bhav & Kaye Sharma, Satish & Uma Sharma.

Sodhana Founder Dr. P.D.K. Rao gave several updates from the work by Sodhana in Chipurupalli, Andhra Pradesh.

Letters from 3 schools who had received INSAF grants were shared. These were essentially thank you letters which also noted how the grant funds would be utilized.

This issue also had a section about the personal news of some members. An example: "Our representatives in the Tundra, Om & Veena Garg, have moved closer to civilization, from Schefferville Quebec to Labrador City, Newfoundland."

ASSOCIATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During June 1980 and October 1980:

- ** Several packages of clothes have been sent to India for recycle
- ** An allocation of \$200 has been made to support a village development project in Andhra Pradesh
- ** An allocation of \$15 has been made for a Primary school in Punjab
- ** A contribution of Rs.1200 has been sent to continue the Sonia Memorial scholarship

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Hopefully, a copy of the September 1980 edition of the membership directory, including the constitution, has made its way to your door. If you have not received a copy, please holler loud at Bhav or the Postal Service because one of the two must have goofed.

This edition of the membership directory has been put together by Sant and Bhav. Undoubtedly, there are errors and inaccuracies in it. Moreover, in some cases, the information is incomplete. So please help by mailing any corrections to Sant Chokhani at 1944 Winterport Cluster, Reston, VA 22091. Also thank you all who have already helped with corrections.

SCHOOL-AID PROJECT

Earlier this year 11 schools were sent contributions to aid deserving students in purchasing textbooks and other school supplies. Many of the schools have acknowledged the receipt of the contributions as reported in this and the last P A L. In the near future, the exec committee is to formulate its decision on which schools should see a renewal of this project.

A contribution of Rs. 120 has been allocated for the L B J Public School in Chandigarh, Pb.

News and Views of the Friends of P.U. Alumni Association, USA. Publication intended winter/summer/fall. Members are encouraged to write to PAL & express their views. Letters should be addressed to PAL, 15 Vance Drive, Truro, NS B2N 2Z4 Canada. Please indicate if anonymity is preferred. Publisher: Friends of P.U. Alumni Association, USA; Executive Committee. Vinod K. Bansal (Pres.), Amrit Khosla (Vice-Pres), Santosh Chokhani (Gen. Secy), Virinder K. Chexal (Finan. Secy.), Editor: Bhavender P. Sharma

IN 1983-84: PROJECT LOCATIONS EXPAND ACROSS INDIA; CONTINUED GROWTH IN PROJECT GRANTS

FINANCIAL REPORT.....

By early 1984....

Project grants had reached \$784, and project locations, aside from Punjab, now included Andhra Pradesh (Rural Dev, Dr. Rao), Gujarat (D.D. Girls School, Navsari), and Uttar Pradesh (Dehradun).

Our ambition for 1984 was to increase the total project grants by over 50% (actual increase at the end of 1984 was 21%).

The following is the financial statement, presented by our financial secretary, Ramesh Paliwal, covering the period January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1983.

Balance from 1982.....	\$737.55
<i>(includes \$400 in fixed deposit)</i>	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
Membership dues & project contributions.....	\$995.00
Income from interest.....	\$ 32.17
<hr/>	
Total.....	\$1027.17

EXPENDITURES.....

Rural development projects (thru Dr. Rao).....	\$300.00
Sonia memorial scholarship.....	\$120.00
Publication of PAL(3 editions).....	\$199.00
D.D. Girls School, Navasari, Gujrat Scholarship.....	\$ 30.00
L.B.S. School, Chandigarh, Scholarship.....	\$ 45.00
Merit-cum-means scholarship (Baljit Singh).....	\$ 50.00
Scholarship awards thru Integral Mission, Dehradun.....	\$ 40.00
<hr/>	
Total	\$784.00

Net revenue in the year 1983.....	\$243.17
Balance at 1983 year end.....	\$980.72
<i>(includes fixed deposit of \$400.00)</i>	

1983-1985 Leadership:

Bindi Chexal (Pres)
 Sujan Gulati (Vice Pres)
 Santosh Chokhani (Gen. Secretary), Ramesh Paliwal (Financial Secretary)

Newsletter Editor:
 Bhagat Singh Sodhi

BUDGET/GOAL FOR 1984.....

Santosh Chokhani, General Secretary of FOPUAA has prepared the budget needs and goals for achievement in 1984. We need your help in meeting these goals. In addition, we will welcome your comments on the breakdown of funds. Your help in implementing these goals is solicited. Volunteers are needed to help execute the various programs. The 1984 proposed budget allocation is:

Scholarship.....	\$200	Adult Literacy.....	\$400
Books, Magzines, etc.....	\$100	City Village Exchange.....	\$0.0
Career Counseling.....	\$0.0	Teacher Training.....	\$100*
Teacher Incentive.....	\$*	Clothes Recycle.....	Sender
Scholarship Fund(Fixed).....	\$100	PAL & Administrative.....	\$200

Total : \$1,200

*Shared Funds

Elsewhere in this Newsletter....

A report on the field work by Bhav Sharma, who took a 6-month sabbatical to do some field work in India.

The project included teaching at 3 village schools in Punjab during the Khalistan militancy. With the help of the teachers, needed items such as first-aid boxes, notice boards, black boards, benches and stools for students, carpets rolls, graph and English teaching aids, thermometers, Indian atlases, library books etc. were provided with funds raised by FOPUAA. A handpump for drinking water was installed at one of the schools as there was a strong need for it there.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

A check for \$175 was sent to the Government Girls School, Dhaneta, H.P. on behalf of Shashi and Amrit Chada. Subsequently, we received the acknowledgement letter from Mr. Hansraj Sharma.

We also received an acknowledgement for the \$40 sent to the D.D. High School for Girls in Navsari, Gujrat on behalf of Bhav and Kaye Sharma.

On July 27, 1987, the deputy registrar of Thaper Institute of Engineering and Technology sent us a letter acknowledging the receipt of \$100 for the Sonia Memorial Scholarship sponsored by Drs Chander and Renu Bhateja.

We also received a very nice letter from Sri P.L. Trakru, Principal of D.A.V. College in Jalandhar, thanking us for the \$35 in scholarship sponsored by Inderjit Paika.

SODHANA

As you know, the association has been contributing to Dr. P.D.K. Rao's Sodhana project in Andhra Pradesh. We received a letter from Dr. Rao. Subsequently, Dr. Bhav Sharma visited him during his recent 6 month sabbatical to India. Here is a summary of communiques from Drs. Rao and Sharma.

"...Industrial Labor and even lower class employees in cooperative institutions come to us to seek our guidance and help in forming workers unions to fight for better working conditions and wages... Our rickshaw driver friends started constructing their colony whose total estimate is Rs. 720,000. The colony consists of 90 houses each at Rs 8,000..... there was a 5 year legal battle with landgrabbers and rich....."

"...We offer help to college going youth from villages who associate with us and help us in our work. We provide them coaching, books, examination fees. Also, we rent a room for some of the boys to conduct their studies in a better atmosphere. We also provide meals to really poor boys so that they get balanced diet and improve their health. We also provide decent clothing to some of these boys. Our educational expenses come to nearly Rs 8,000 per year. We feel that we are not offering this as charity to them. These boys work hard and play a very useful role in our various activities. Quite a few of our boys coming from families which are totally illiterate are now graduates.... FOPUAA contributes \$300 to Sodhana's annual budget of \$2,300-2,700/year...."

1987-1989 Leadership:

Ramesh Paliwal (Pres), Sujan Gulati (Vice Pres), Jeet Singh Sodhi, Canada (Gen. Secretary), Baljit Singh Gambhir (Financial Secretary)

Newsletter Editor: Santosh Chokhani

FOPUAA Becomes INSAF...

In today's world, you can bet on one thing being constant; that's change! FOPUAA is not immune to that. New members, new projects, members moving on to new jobs, oh, I almost forgot, we have a new name for the organization! Four months after the polling process was initiated in October 1993, 70% eligible members (based on 1993 membership dues payment) approved the name change. Here are some statistics: members on the mailing list - 73, members who paid 1993 dues - 40, members who voted - 29, votes approving name change - 28 (70% of 40).

Votes were computed as described in the Oct. '93 P.A.L and the final points scored by each entry are as follows: BUAA - 122, INDIANA - 125, INDUAA - 130, INSAF - 152, VIDESH - 100. Therefore, INSAF will be the new name for our organization!

Will the name of the newsletter change?

Yes. The newsletter will be called "INSAF Newsletter." This newsletter, on page 2, actually bears the new masthead and Page 2 onwards you will see the new appearance as well.

Dr. Bhav Sharma on Name Change, Feb. 18, 1994

We have witnessed a wonderful and exciting step in the evolution of our association 20 years after its start up. Now our group has a new name: Indian Schools Alumni & Friends (INSAF). And, this is while we continue, unchanged, our personal commitments to make a contribution to the meager resources that gave us our start.

Over the last few years, a consensus had evolved amongst us which said "let us expand our group's name from Punjab to India." But "what name should we have?" This question simply could not have a single "correct answer." Several PALs ago, one name was suggested by Ramesh and feedback was invited. This resulted in each of us getting a chance to evaluate 5 alternatives. For me personally, there is a lot of satisfaction in knowing that the new name was chosen because, on a relative basis, INDIAN SCHOOLS ALUMNI & FRIENDS (INSAF) is relatively the most acceptable to us collectively.

I would also like to say that I am truly grateful to Ved Chaudhary, Sant Chokhani, Bindi Chexal, Soma Murthy, and Ramesh Paliwal for their sincere contribution in proposing the 5 alternatives, each of which had good points to recommend it. In addition many thanks are due to Soma Murthy for his objective and impartial conducting of this referendum.

To Those who might have preferred a different choice, I ask for their friendly indulgence. I feel the time has come now for us to move forward enthusiastically with dedication to our basic goals.

* Newsletter of The Friends of Punjab University Alumni Association. Publication intended three times a year. Executive: Dr. Ramesh Paliwal (Pres.), Dr. Baljit Gambhir (Gen Secretary), Mr. Jeet Sodhi (VP & Canadian Affairs), Mr. Kumar Kapur (Fin Secretary). Please send your views, suggestions, to the editor: Dr. Soma Murthy (Editor - PAL), 1561 Alamitos Dr., Lakewood, NJ 08701, USA.

INSAF Newsletter

Indian Schools Alumni & Friends

March 1995

Letter From Our New President

First of all I would like to express my best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy and prosperous 1995. I would like to thank the past committee and all those who helped us achieve success in 1994. I would like to propose the following main objectives for 1995.

- Continue full support for the past projects and start new projects with the help of our most valuable asset, the caring members of our unique organization.
- Publish a members directory with an up-to-date information to help us know each other better and to develop more contacts.
- Increase the membership by at least 20% through network of our members. With the help of other members, Bhav Sharma has put together a brief pamphlet on INSAF to help us introduce our organization to others we associate with. Let's promote the cause we feel so genuinely about.
- Define the role of cluster leaders more clearly and utilize their energy and leadership to increase member participation.

I really feel good to be part of this family of kind-hearted people and looking forward to devoting some of my time to it. Participation and cooperation from each of you will help this "noble" organization grow bigger and better.

Thank you,

P. K. Malhotra

This newsletter of INSAF (formerly called FOPUAA) is intended to be published on Feb. 1, July 1, and Oct. 1. Please send your views and suggestions to the editor:

Mr. Soma Murthy, 1561 Alamos Drive, Lakewood, NJ 08701. Telephone: (908) 905-9771

INSAF EXECUTIVE

President	Mr. P. K. Malhotra
General Secretary	Mr. Vinod K. Bansal
VP & Canadian Aff.	Mr. Vijay Bajaj
Financial Secretary	Mr. Kumar Kapur

- *Letter From Our President* **What's Inside?**
- *Projects News*
 - Kowshika Sankethi Assn., Karnataka
 - D. D. High School for Girls, Navsari, Gujarat
 - Sodhana, Chipurupalli, Andhra Pradesh
 - Batlahally High School, Karnataka
- *1995 Financial Report*
- *1995 Project Contributions*
- *Bits and Pieces*
- *1995 Member Contributions*

Kowshika Sankethi Association (scholarship), Karnataka - Meera & Ram Ramamurthy

The association was founded in 1942 in Mysore to provide educational assistance to poor but merited students of Sankethi community. The association currently runs the following hostels/programs.

1. One Boys' Hostel in Mysore with 60 students. The hostel provides free accommodation and books to all the residents and free food to 20 economically deserving students.
2. Two Girls' hostels at Hassan with 65 students. ALL are provided free accommodation, food, books, and medical expenses. For very poor, college fees are also given.
3. One Boys' hostel at Hassan with 25 students. ALL are provided free services as in the girls hostels.

◆ INSAF Newsletter ◆

Volume 24 Issue 2

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2000

November 1999

♥ INSAF on the Net !

Everyone seems to be on the Internet. Even breakfast cereals have web sites. Now our humble INSAF has joined the "Internet Revolution" with a simple web site.

Thanks to several companies offering "free web-site hosting", the price was finally right for INSAF to have a web site. Ours is hosted by Netscape and the address is:

<http://sites.netscape.net/insafobps/homepage>

[Please note that in "insafobps", the 6th letter is the letter "o" from the alphabet, not a "zero."]

Currently, our web site has the following features:

- A brief introduction to INSAF
- A map of India
- Names of the current Executive Committee
- A listing of the current INSAF projects (This is essentially the same as that on Page 2 of every newsletter)
- An ability to send an e-mail to the Newsletter Editor in case the viewer would like more information on INSAF

Please check it out when you have a chance and send any suggestions you have. Unless it requires features not provided by the "free" site or the implementation skills too advanced for your Newsletter Editor, every attempt will be made to incorporate any improvements you suggest.

Now you can send an e-mail to anyone who might have an interest in INSAF-like activities and letting them know of the web site address. This gives us another tool to let others know about INSAF.

Indian Schools Alumni & Friends or INSAF (formerly called FOPUAA) intends to publish this newsletter 2 times a year. Please send your views and ideas, the news of your project, or news of mutual interest to the editor:

Bhavender Paul Sharma, 3005 Del Ray St, San Mateo, CA 94403.
E-mail: sharma@interspex.com Telephone (650) 570-4644.

Inside This Issue

INSAF Web site

Maharashtra Back Among INSAF Projects

Corporate Matching of Contributions

AWB Food Bank, Batlahally and Bakewal Coll.

Tidbits

Dear Fellow Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my executive committee members as well as all of you who have contributed their precious time and money, which has resulted in a successful year 1999. For those who have not yet paid their membership dues, please do it now along with any additional amount you wish to send for the ongoing projects. We must view the beginning of the century as a new challenge and work harder to accomplish our goals; i.e., open our hearts and wallets for the less fortunate. We definitely have some very good ongoing projects, and your generous support will propel these projects to a new level.

We also need to increase communication among the executive members as well as you, our valued members of INSAF. In view of our demographic locations, one of the tools we can all use is e-mail. I have volunteered to publish and distribute our millennium membership directory and would like to request all of you to put down your e-mail address along with other updated information on the membership form. This membership directory is strictly for private use of our members and will not be sold to any other organization. So let us do it together.

Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season as well as the year 2000.

--P.K.Malhotra, Dayton, OH.

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INSAF Newsletter

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Publisher:

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2001	2000	PROJECT	\$ Level
1	2	Bhulpur Shiksha Samiti, UP	7,200
2	3	Jharkhand Adivasi Dev (Samanway)	5,000
2	-	Little Angel Schools, Hyderabad, AP	5,000
4	-	Sep 11 World Trade Center (Red Cross)	2,500
4	-	Arya Samaj - Telco, Jamshedpur, JHAR	2,500
6	5	Govt High School, Banbhouri, Punjab	2,000
7	6	Sodhana, Chipurupalli, AP	1,450
8	-	DN Inter College, Gulaothi, UP	600
9	-	Rutgers U. Hindi Chair (World Hindi Org)	500
9	8	Community Sponsorship Program, Pune	500
11	-	Bal Niketan, Panchkula, Haryana	320
12	-	SS Vidya Mandir School, Alwar, RAJ	300
13	-	India Heritage Project, NJ and CA	122
14	15	DD Girls High School, Navsari, Gujarat	100
15	15	Balabhavan Nazareth Orphanage, KER	60
15	15	Govt. High School, Ramgarh, Punjab	60
15	15	Govt. Primary School, Ramgarh, PNB	60
15	15	SR Arya Higher Sec Sch., Patiala PNB	60
15	15	Parupkar Homeopathic Hosp. Gurgaon	60

Exec Leverages Technology

In a small breakthrough of sorts, the INSAF leadership has found a way to "talk live" and that too "free". Using the ICQ software and the Internet, at least 3 "meetings" have now been held, even though the attendees were at their homes in New Jersey, Ohio, Kansas, and California.

"Meetings" will now be held on the first and third Thursdays each month.

NEW WEB ADDRESS

Some of you may be aware that Netscape, which used to offer free web site hosting, discontinued that service in October, 2001. Consequently, INSAF had to find another "free" website host. Thanks to Yahoo's Geocities, we now have one. Please check out the new website and refer others potentially interested in INSAF. Please also be sure to e-mail any suggestions to the Editor.
[Http://www.geocities.com/insafwebpage](http://www.geocities.com/insafwebpage)

THOSE WHO SPOKE AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEET (SCREENSHOT PHOTOS)

LISTED IN SEQUENTIAL ORDER OF THEIR REMARKS



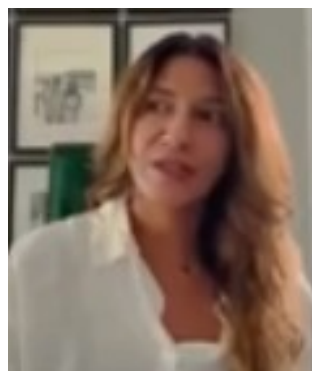
**ASH MEHAN
(FMR. BDARD MBR.; PROJ. LDR.)**



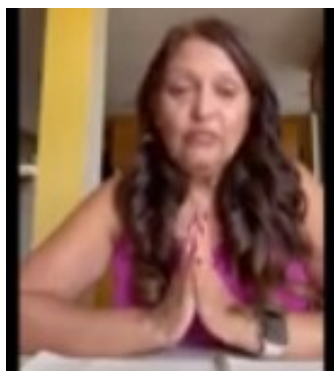
**P.K. MALHOTRA
(BOARD MBR.; PROJ. LDR.)**



**SANTOSH CHOKHANI
(FMR. BOARD MBR.; LONG-TIME VOL.)**



**JAYA PALIWAL RE: HER DAD
(LATE DR. RAMESH PALIWAL)
(FMR. BOARD MMBR., LONG-TIME VOL.)**



**MANJU CHEXAL
(RE: LATE SH. BINDI CHEXAL)
(FMR. BOARD MMBR., LONG-TIME VOL.)**



**GAURAV CHAUDHARI
RE: GRNDPA LTE DR. RAM CHAUDHARI)
(FMR. PROJ. LDR.)**



**SUDESH KAPUR
(RE: LATE SH. KUMAR KAPUR:
FMR. BOARD MMBR., LONG-TIME VOL.)**



**PADMASHRI LAD
(BOARD MMBR., LONG-TIME VOL.)**



**JEET SINGH SODHI (CANADA)
(FMR. BOARD MMBR)**

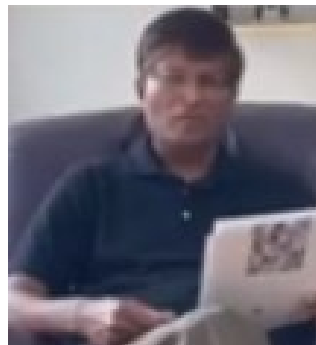
THOSE WHO SPOKE AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEET (SCREENSHOT PHOTOS)



SOMA MURTHY
(FMR. BDARD MBR., NEWSLET. ED.)



JOGINDER KUNDRA
(PRES.& BD. CHAIR; PROJ. LDR.)



P. HARSHAVARDHANA
(FMR. BOARD MBR.)



PADMA & ARUN CARIAPPA
(FMR. BOARD MBR., PROJ. LDR.)



ANITA SRA
(BOARD MMR., PROJ. LDR.)
(RE LATE SH. CHANI SRA, PROJ LDR)



RAMESH & JYOTI PATEL
(LONG TIME PROJ. LDRS)



ANOP VORA
(LONG TIME PROJ. LDR)



CHANDRA VORA
(LONG TIME PROJ. LDR)



ASHOK VARMA
(LONG TIME PROJ SPONSOR)



BALJIT SINGH GAMBHIR
(COFOUNDER; FMR. BOARD MMR.)



SURINDER MAHESHWARY
(COFOUNDER; PROJ LDR)



BHAV SHARMA
(ANNIV. MEET HOST)

NOT SO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT INSAF

WHEN AND HOW DID INSAF GET STARTED?

During 1971-72, P.K. Malhotra, Ash Mehan, and Bhav Sharma were housemates in New Brunswick NJ. P.K. and Ash worked locally as engineers, and Bhav was starting out in a Ph.D. program at Rutgers University. During the Holidays in Dec 1971, good friends and former classmates visited the 3 housemates. The group, all of whom were 1969 graduates in Chemical Eng from Panjab University Sector 14, Chandigarh, concluded after a good long discussion that we must give back as we got our start in India. This was the conceptual beginning.

Thus, along with the 3 housemates, the co-founders are:

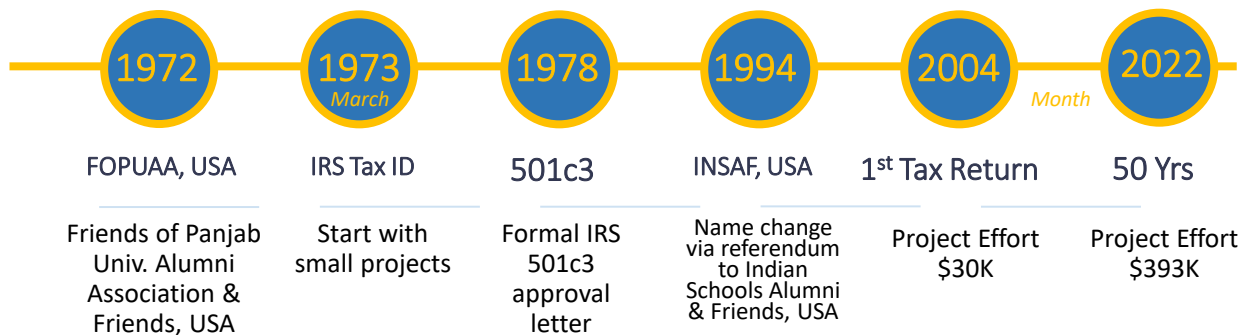
ASHOK SONI, BALJIT SINGH GAMBHIR, BHIM SEN BHAKOO, KESHYAP JOSHI, RAKESH SAINI, ROMEL SINGH BHULLAR, SURINDER MAHESHWARY, VINOD ARORA, VINOD BANSAL

In 1972, an Association named "Friends of Panjab University Alumni Association, USA (FOPUAA)" was formed. A senior Ph.D. student at Rutgers, Sudershan K. Bhateja, and the 3 housemates became the first Board (called Executive Committee then).

So, IF IT WAS FOPUAA AT THE START, WHEN DID IT BECOME INSAF? WHEN DID IT BECOME AN IRS APPROVED 501c3 NON-PROFIT?

FOPUAA became INSAF in 1994. Initial registration with the IRS as a nonprofit was in 1973 and full formal approval came in 1978. The Figure below provides an overview from the beginning to the end of 2022:

A Timeline to 50th Anniversary



8/24/2023

INSAF 50th Anniversary

5

WHY DID FOPUAA IN THE EARLY YEARS HAVE SOME BOARD MEMBERS FROM CANADA?

We had originally hoped to have a registered non-profit in both Canada and the United States as we also had members from Canada, some of whom volunteered for the Board. However, by the early 1990s, we came to realize that we did not have a critical mass of volunteers in Canada, and we decided to keep our focus in the United States.

MORE NOT SO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT INSAF

HOW HAS INSAF's GROWTH BEEN IN MONEY SPENT ON PROJECTS?

Project grants were modest for the first few decades. Growth started in late 1990s. Table below gives an idea of the trend.

Year	Project Grants
1976	Less than \$100
1986	\$ 1,146
1996	\$ 12,953
2006	\$ 110,701
2016	\$ 170,451
2022	\$ 393,018

HOW MANY MEMBERS DOES INSAF HAVE? HOW HAS THE MEMBERSHIP GROWTH BEEN?

INSAF has 196 members. The table below provides the trend.

Year	Membership Donation/Couple	No. of Members
1977	\$2/Yr	70*
1980	\$2/Yr	135*
1993	\$15/Yr	66
1996	\$15/Yr	150*
2002	\$15/Yr	54
2004	\$15/Yr; \$150 Life	72
2016	\$15/Yr; \$150 Life	175
2023	\$15/Yr; \$150 Life	196

*estimate from membership directory

WHAT ABOUT IMPACT? WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED COLLECTIVELY IN 50 YEARS?

Those are tough questions. One perspective on the INSAF members collective accomplishments can be seen as follows:

- Over US\$ 3.3 million given back to help
- Over 1,000 cumulative annual projects (about 20-30 projects/Yr during the last 20 years)
- Over 1,000 donations made to INSAF for various projects
- Perhaps over 33,000 times when someone benefitted from INSAF grants (a guesstimate assuming US\$100 enough to make a difference for a given beneficiary)

THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE GIVEN BACK FOR A CAUSE THROUGH INSAF