



SILVER JUBILEE YEAR 2022

COFFEE TABLE BOOK

RIVERSIDE SPORTS RECREATION CLUB &

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Club Avenue Marg, Mayur Vihar Phase-I Extension, Delhi - 110091

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01.

PRESIDENT MR. MATHEW BENJAMIN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

02.

MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OF NCT OF DELHI
MR. MANISH SISODIA.

03.

GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM DR. HARSH VARDHAN
THE UNION MINISTER RECEIVED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

04.

MESSAGE FROM EAST DELHI M.P MR. GAUTAM GAMBHIR.

05.

HISTORY OF RIVERSIDE SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB ALONG
WITH PICTURE GALLERY & THE BACKDROP OF THE
LOCATION OF THE CLUB.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Members,

I am happy to share with you the first e-version of the Coffee Table book commemorating the Silver Jubilee Year of the founding of the Riverside Sports & Recreation Club in 1995.

First of all, let me sincerely thank all Members of the Club for their unqualified support and perseverance during the nearly two year-long Covid-19 Pandemic period. During the three waves of the pandemic we have lost some of our valued Club Members and as well as their near and dear family members. The Pandemic inevitably also severely disrupted the functioning of the Club.

While the worst seems to be now over, the Club has suffered immensely due to financial crunch and disruption of services. To some extent this was mitigated by honorable members who financially contributed to keep the institution running and helped tide over the prospect of virtually shutting down the club. A BIG salute to all those members who extended their magnanimous and timely support.

As you are aware, one of the tasks undertaken by the current Managing Committee was to carry forward the task of completing the Club History work undertaken to coincide with the Silver Jubilee of Riverside Club founding. The MC had in fact proposed a printed Coffee Table Book but the pandemic threw a spanner in the works.

A Sub Committee set up for the same did a commendable job, has retrieved precious photographs and also took help of past Office Bearers and founding Members to complete work in as accurate and holistic manner as possible.

The MC has now decided to upload the Club History and the backdrop of its location on the CLUB WEBSITE along with rare pictures that could be salvaged so far. Members can still send copies of pictures which you may have from your personal collections and we will also preserve them.

Our ultimate goal is to bring out an illustrated and printed Coffee Table Book, and we will make yet another attempt later during our tenure. This will be the first such endeavor to preserve the remarkable contributions made by the residents of Mayur Vihar to set up this unique Club cum socio-recreational & cultural center in East Delhi.

Some advertisers and Members have also responded and their contribution will take care of the expenses incurred so far. I thank all of them for their gracious support.

On behalf of the Riverside Club my grateful thanks to Mr Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister, Government of NCT Delhi, Dr Harsh Vardhan, former Minister for Health & Family Welfare during Covid-19 Pandemic and Mr Gautam Gambhir, Member of Parliament, East Delhi for their messages of support and goodwill for the Club.

I also wish to record my thanks to Members of the Coffee Table Book Sub-Committee A.K. Chakraborty, Late Dr Dinesh Sahai, John Sharma and R K Menon who all put in lots of efforts to bring out this beautiful history of our Club. My colleague and currently Treasurer of the Club Mr Jose P.A. deserves special mention as he also worked creditably to clinch the coffee table Book project.

I am sure Members will enjoy going through the meticulously written Club History. In any case if Members still recall some of the glorious moments during the last 25 years of Club's existence or have some memorable anecdotes, please do send it across. We will accommodate them.

Best wishes,

Mr Mathew Benjamin
President

MESSAGE FROM

MANISH SISODIA

मनीष सिसोदिया



DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

उप मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली सरकार

DELHI SECTT, I.P. ESTATE,

दिल्ली सचिवालय, आई.पी.एस्टेट,

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D.O. No. Dy-CM/2022/343

Date : 28/03/22

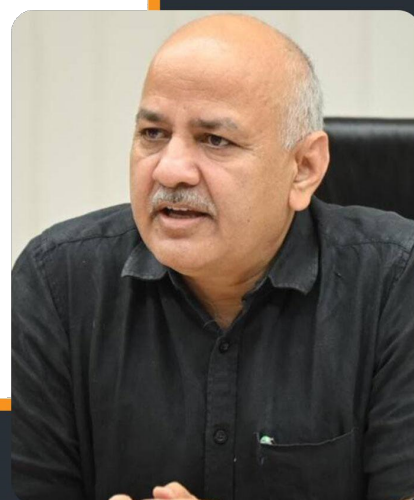
MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Riverside Sports and Recreational Club, Mayur Vihar –I is celebrating the Silver Jubilee Year of its founding and bringing out a unique Coffee Table Book to mark the occasion which will contain useful information about the Club.

The Riverside Sports and Recreational Club, Mayur Vihar –I is a pioneering example of collective endeavour by residents of clusters of Group Housing Societies in the area which succeeded in establishing this socio-cultural centre by community effort. The Club has become a vibrant centre for sports and community interactions in this part of Trans-Yamuna region.

On this occasion, I convey my best wishes to all the members of the Club and also wish for the successful publication of the Coffee Table Book.


(Manish Sisodia)



MR. MANISH SISODIA

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OF NCT OF DELHI.



सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास
Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas

डॉ. हर्ष वर्धन
Dr Harsh Vardhan

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी
व पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री, भारत सरकार
Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare,
Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
Government of India

०८ अक्टूबर २०२०

संदेश

मुझे यह जानकारी प्रसन्नता हुई कि रिवरसाइड स्पोर्ट्स एंड रिक्रियेशन क्लब अपनी रजत जयंती मना रहा है तथा इस अवसर पर स्मारिका का प्रकाशन हो रहा है।

रिवरसाइड स्पोर्ट्स एंड रिक्रियेशन क्लब पूर्वी दिल्ली में एक महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखता है। क्रीड़ा एवं मनोरंजन संबंधी जन-आकांक्षाओं को विगत अनेक वर्षों से पूरा करता आ रहा है। इसके साथ ही क्लब ग्रुप हाउसिंग सोसायटी के माध्यम से संबंधित निवासियों को लाभान्वित कर रहा है। जनहित में क्लब का प्रयास महत्वपूर्ण है।

रजत जयंती के अवसर पर रिवरसाइड स्पोर्ट्स एंड रिक्रियेशन क्लब के सभी पदाधिकारियों एवं सदस्यों को बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएँ देता हूँ।

(डॉ. हर्ष वर्धन)

अध्यक्ष

रिवरसाइड स्पोर्ट्स एंड रिक्रियेशन क्लब
क्लब एवेन्यू, मयूर विहार-1 विस्तार
दिल्ली-११००६१

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GOODWILL MESSAGE

DR. HARSH VARDHAN
FORMER
UNION MINISTER FOR HEALTH & FAMILY
WELFARE OF INDIA.

MESSAGE FROM

GAUTAM GAMBHIR

Member of Parliament
Lok Sabha
East Delhi



सत्यमेव जयते

Member :
Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Urban Development

Ref : MPED/GG-3327/MSG

Date : 02/09/2020

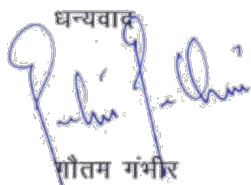
सन्देश

अति प्रसन्नता का विषय है कि "रिवरसाइड स्पोर्ट्स एंड रीक्रीएशन क्लब" अपनी रजत जयंती पर स्मारिका का प्रकाशन करने जा रही है।

मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि इस स्मारिका के माध्यम से संस्था के सभी सदस्यों में आपसी सहयोग/सौहार्द बढ़ेगा व संस्था द्वारा किए जा रहे सामाजिक कार्यों का व्याख्यान प्रस्तुत होगा।

भविष्य में भी समाजिक कार्यों में संस्था निरन्तर इसी प्रकार समाज हित में कार्य करती रहे इसी आशा के साथ स्मारिकों के प्रकाशन पर सभी पदाधिकारियों व सदस्यों को मेरी तरफ से हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ।

धन्यवाद


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MR. GAUTAM GAMBHIR

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, LOK SABHA,
EAST DELHI.

Riverside Sports & Recreation Club

Managing Committee 2021-23



LEFT TO RIGHT (SEATED) – MR JASMINDER SINGH SIKKA (VICE PRESIDENT), MR SUDARSHAN KUMAR (SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT), MR MATHEW BENJAMIN (PRESIDENT), MRS. SWATI ARORA (SECRETARY GENERAL), MR JOHN RAKESH SHARMA (SECRETARY), MR JOSE P.A. (TREASURER),

LEFT TO RIGHT (MIDDLE STANDING)- MRS REEMA MALHOTRA, MR ARUN MAHAJAN, MR NAND LAL ARORA, MR ANGAD PAL SINGH, MR NEERAJ DIXIT, MR PANKAJ ARORA, MR GYAN PRAKASH AGGERWAL,

LEFT TO RIGHT (STANDING) – MRS RITA SHARMA, MR. KAMAL KUMAR SHARMA, MR SHIVAJI SAMADDAR, MR SHAILESH SAXENA.

THE RIVERSIDE CLUB JOURNEY

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED BY COLLECTIVE EFFORT

The Managing Committee of **RIVERSIDE SPORTS & RECREATIONAL CLUB** is delighted to present the maiden and the e-version of the Coffee Table Book 2022 marking the yearlong Silver Jubilee celebration of the foundation Day of the Club in Mayur Vihar-1, the first such facility to come up in this part of the national Capital.

The Covid-19 Pandemic posed a huge challenge to everyone in the country. The Riverside Club too weathered the scourge and is emerging with strength and renewed vigour thanks to splendid support and solidarity extended by Members. Recognising the stature, strength and utility of the Riverside Club, some 61 prestigious Clubs in India have so far also availed affiliations with the Riverside Club.

The Club activities began partially opening up again after seven months (Sept 2020) under Unlock down 5 guidelines by strictly adhering to all Government Pandemic norms. The Club Managing Committee also felt it presented an opportunity and decided to bring out the proposed Coffee Table Book 2021 coinciding with the 25th anniversary of Club's formation. However, the second wave of Covid-19 in April/May 2021 again threw a spanner. Nonetheless, this virtual edition of the Coffee Table Book, now before you on the Club Website and via a specially crafted Video, seeks to highlight the achievements of Riverside Club and the significant role the Club has played in fostering socio- cultural and recreational activities for residents of this huge cluster of Group Housing Societies in this part of East Delhi.

BACKDROP

Media persons of Samachar Apartments were the first to shift to the new dwellings in Mayur Vihar-I Extension area in 1990 after a draw of lots for allotment of flats in September 1989 by the former Housing Minister H. K. L. Bhagat and DCHFC General Manager H. C. Joshi.

By 1990 a number of Samachar CGHS members out of 250 flats in Samachar Apartments shifted and they felt acute lack of recreational / community facilities or a venue for social and cultural interactions among residents of upcoming 21 group housing societies in Mayur Vihar Extension area. Travelling to even the 'Press Club of India' at Raisina Road to unwind, too, was then an uphill task due to poor connectivity.

In fact, the DDA architects had just forgotten to allot space for such recreational facilities in the entire area. The erstwhile Federation of CGHS Mayur Vihar-I Extension and its Chairman N D Prabhu, a former Deputy Manager of news agency PTI and resident of Samachar Appts, therefore took up the issue with executive Members in 1992 at one of its meetings. Mr. Randhir Beri, Senior Advocate from Dronacharya Apartments suggested to Mr. Prabhu that the Federation must take up the issue vigorously for allotment of a suitable land nearby for a Recreational Club or Community Centre in the Mayur Vihar Extension Area. Thus the first seed of the Riverside Club was laid by Mr. Randhir Beri.

Federation Chairman N. D. Prabhu vigorously took up the matter in 1993 with the then Lt Governor of Delhi, the DDA and Central Government with the active support of then East Delhi BJP MP B. L. Sharma 'Prem' and representations were duly sent to authorities concerned in early 1990s which were significantly also forwarded by local MP, B L Sharma.

In this backdrop, in 1995 media persons in Samachar Apartments and the Federation sought an appointment with HRD Minister of State for Sports Mukul Wasnik in November 1995 to press for our case for allotment of land for recreational/sports facilities or for a club in the area. The minister then summoned a high level meeting of DDA and government officials. Among the persons from the area who attended the meeting were N. D. Prabhu, B. S. Padmanabhan, A. K. Chakraborty, Randhir Beri and K. L. Luthra (founder of ASN School) who was also associated with the federation.

As the meeting began at the minister's office at Shastri Bhawan, to our great surprise the DDA Director – Lands informed the minister that they had already earmarked a 2000 sq. ft land for recreational facility/club following MV Housing Federation's representation in early nineties. What had indeed happened in between was that our earlier representations duly forwarded by East Delhi MP got processed favourably down the line at various levels within DDA. The DDA officers also informed the earmarked area was now ready for allotment.

The minister Mukul Wasnik then directed DDA officers to formally allot the land and accordingly minutes were formalized. DDA officials also informed us that roughly about Rs 17 lakh would be the cost of the land and various other statutory requirements too needed to be fulfilled before allotment. At first, we were all worried as to how we would be able to raise such a large amount to acquire the land.

However, since the Federation had already won half the battle, they went ahead with renewed gusto to accomplish the mission. A meeting of representatives of CGHS Mayur Vihar Extension was held at Samachar Apartments on October 8, 1995. Among those who attended the meeting were N. D. Prabhu, B. S. Padmanabhan, A. K. Chakraborty, V. M. Badola, J. B. Celestine, Major (ret'd) Pradeep Rao, M. G. Srinath (all from Samachar Apartments) S. K. Bhatia (Glaxo Apartments), Randhir Beri (Dronacharya Apartments), R. P. Gupta (Vasant Apartments), Ravi Jaitley (United India Apartments) and Shanker Bhan (Rosewood Apartments). A formal decision was then taken at the meeting to establish the Club. N. D. Prabhu was elected president, Shanker Bhan and S. K. Bhatia as vice-presidents, A. K. Chakraborty secretary general, B. S. Padmanabhan as treasurer and Ravi Jetley as secretary of the proposed club.

Later, on the same day, October 8, 1995, Prabhu informed A K Chakraborty in his inimitable style over a drink at his residence that the founding day of the proposed club was indeed a happy augury and a lucky day for him as October 8 also happened to be his birthday. So the day of the birth of the club coinciding with the birthday of Mr Prabhu also proved propitious for the club project.

At the meeting on October 8, 1995 it was also decided to frame a draft of Memorandum of Association, establish an interim office address at 244, Samachar Apartments (N. D. Prabhu's residence), to open an account with Bank of Madurai, Acharya Niketan in the name of Riverside Sports & Recreation Club, to be operated by president, secretary general and treasurer.

The name of the club was proposed by senior media person and veteran Bollywood personality V. M. (Vishwa Mohan) Badola. The Riverside Club in fact later became the first club to be established in this part of East Delhi.

MC member and senior Advocate Randhir Beri (Dronacharya Apartments) took responsibility to expeditiously procure registration of the club under Registration of Societies Act, 1860 and he acquired the registration within 12 days. A request was made to Rajesh Sharma, well known painter/artist resident of Dronacharya Apartments to design the club logo.

HISTORIC BACKDROP AND PERSPECTIVE



The area where the Riverside Club is located also has an interesting historic backdrop. During two out of the three historic battles fought at Panipat, the great Maratha Army used the club site and adjoining villages along Yamuna river bank as a camping ground. The same area is now dotted with clusters of group housing societies. The Club therefore is located in an area of immense historic significance and the Riverside Club can legitimately claim to be associated with a great legacy. The adjoining historic Chilla village in fact used to play host to the great Maratha army.

The Mayur Vihar Extension area also has another interesting perspective. The Samachar Apartments, housing the largest number of resident journalists in the capital, nay Asia, was first allotted land by DDA at Geeta Colony and that too near a cremation ground. When agitated members took up the matter of shifting the location with Authorities concerned and central ministers, the DDA officers, out of pique, deliberately made a fresh allotment at the present site that is Mayur Vihar-1 Extension area, near Chilla Village.

The deliberate mischief was revealed when Samachar Apartments architects approached the Urban Arts Commission for approval of plans to begin construction work. It was then pointed out by the Commission that the said area was actually earmarked for a modern Abattoir (Slaughter House) under the Master Plan of Delhi and therefore our request for approval of Building Plans was out-rightly rejected.





CELEBRATED WIFE, RAJ CHAKRABORTY'S BIRTHDAY ON 1ST NOVEMBER, 2020 AT CLUB RESTAURANT WHEN IT RESUMED SERVICES AFTER COVID-19 FIRST LOCKDOWN RELAXATION. ALSO SEEN ARE SON IN LAW SHIVAJI CHATTERJEE, DAUGHTER DEEPTI, NIECE MONA AND HER DAUGHTERS YASHI, TOSHI AS WELL AS DAUGHTER IN LAW PAYEL AND SON AMIT.



A.K. CHAKRABORTY (PM 004) FORMER SEC. GEN. OF RIVERSIDE CLUB WAS PRIVILEGED TO MEET FOUNDER PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB MR. N.D. PRABHU FOR LAST TIME AT A BENGALURU HOSPITAL IN 2014 ALONG WITH WIFE RAJ CHAKRABORTY AND SON AMIT.

SPONSORED

FORMER PM **INDIRA GANDHI** INTERVENES

Senior media persons and members of Samachar CGHS were taken aback by the curious development and were quite shocked at the cavalier and deliberate act of DDA to slight media persons.

Some senior media persons covering the PMO then approached the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in a delegation at one of the famous public hearings she used to hold at 7, Safdarjung Road bungalow every morning. This was sometime in the early eighties. The moment Mrs. Gandhi saw media persons she was a bit worried and inquired from R. K. Dhawan, her PS, why the journalists had turned up so early in the morning. Dhawan told her that the media persons had come to seek redressal of some problem in allotment of land for their Housing society.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi then told Dhawan to tell the media persons to wait outside her office, to offer them tea and later she would hear the woes of the scribes. She also immediately instructed Dhawan to summon the then Housing Minister Bhishma Narayan Singh while she finished her breakfast. Within ten minutes the Housing Minister came down running. Thereafter, when Mrs Gandhi emerged in the portico to leave for office she instantly pulled up the minister saying "if journalists have to come to me to solve their problems, then what for are you the Minister of Housing". Bhishma Narayan Singh was left shell shocked. After saying those cryptic and stinging words Mrs Gandhi just sat in her car and left for office.

Events thereafter moved at lightning speed. The land use of the area was changed from an 'Abattoir' to Housing in the Master Plan of Delhi by a Cabinet Sub Committee decision. The DDA then made the allotment of land to Samachar Apartments in Mayur Vihar Extension and also to another 20 CGH Societies in the area. Mr Bhishma Narayan Singh was replaced by Buta Singh. The modern Abattoir eventually came up later at Ghazipur and is now fully functional. The Chilla village was thus also spared the agony thanks to efforts of residents of Samachar Apartments. That is how the Riverside Club too eventually came up close to Chilla Village. The former Housing Minister and later a Governor, ironically later stayed in one of the Societies in the area.

BROADBASING THE CLUB OFFICE BEARERS

At a January 14, 1996 meeting of the Managing Committee (MC) held at Parwana Apartments, it was decided to broad base the MC and induct five more members from housing societies in the area. They were S. L. Kaul (Nirman Apartments), C. P. Agarwal (Medha Apartments), O. P. Sharma (Shekhar Apartments), Pramod Jain (Sadar Apartments) and Dharam Pal (Parwana Apartments). Later, senior Naval Officer Commander K. C. Kaushal from Vardhman Apartments, former RAW officer S. K. Tuteja (Kirti Apartments) and theatre critic D. S. Bajeli (Kala Vihar) were also inducted as Founding MC Members.

H. C. Joshi, general manager Delhi Cooperative Housing Finance Corporation (DCHFC) and a resident of Dronacharya Apartments, was later co-opted as member of the founding Managing Committee.

Club Members were allowed to pay a life subscription of Rs. 5000 in two instalments and this move enabled the club to shore up its finances. The treasurer informed MC that Rs. 10 lakh had been deposited in the bank as a term deposit. A number of club members magnanimously also placed fixed deposits with the club to bolster finances. The fixed deposits were later returned to members with interest.

A land line telephone was also obtained – those days through the good offices of the Minister for Communications! The MC member and chartered accountant C. P. Agarwal was appointed Internal Auditor of the club. The MC also decided on May 5, 1996 to temporarily freeze membership of the club. The total membership then stood at 614 including Promotee members (414).

Efforts to get IT exemption under 80 G (as a non-profit, no loss organisation) a prerequisite required for the formal land allotment by DDA also fructified and the help extended by Kamal Sharma, member from Manas Apartments in this regard was appreciated by MC members.

President Prabhu informed MC meeting held on April 7, 1996 at Sadar Apartments about receipt of the formal letter from DDA allotment of 2000 sq.ft. Land to the Riverside Club and the price quoted was Rs. 17, 29, 677.

The DDA said the club would also be required to pay advance rent of Rs. 43,242. The total amount would have to be paid within 60 days of the issue of the DDA letter that is March 29, 1996. Subsequently, the club made the payment for the land on the last date to DDA. Club member Mukesh Sharma (Parwana Apartments) was kind enough to accompany the office bearers to the DDA office as he too had credible contacts there.

The secretary general A. K. Chakraborty informed a MC meeting held at Parwana Apartments on May 31, 1996 that physical possession of the Club site from DDA had been completed on May 27, 1996. Mr Sanjay Gupta, who later became Secretary General of the Club for ten years, had introduced the office bearers to Mr P S Gaur an influential resident of Patpargung/Chilla Village who also ensured there was no threat from Chilla villagers. He recommended a caretaker Mr Yakub Ali to look after the vacant land. Yakub was later absorbed as a staff member and later retired from the Club after meritorious service.

The President also informed MC about a civil writ petition filed by Lalit Bansal of Mayur Vihar Sports Association challenging allotment of land to Riverside Club in the Delhi High Court.

Eventually after some anxious moments, the Club Office Bearers got the stay vacated by a Division Bench, fought the plea tenaciously and won the case. The Delhi High Court even applauded the pioneering work undertaken by the Riverside club in the Mayur Vihar. Randhir Beri, senior Advocate and MC member was of immense help in resolving the issue and hiring of reputed lawyers.

Following an observation from Delhi High Court, the MVSA later got an alternate piece of land in Surajmal Vihar allotted by DDA and is now known as 'East End Club'.

Fencing work on the club site was undertaken even as there were threats of encroachment by the rattled residents of Chilla village. As the place was swampy and inhabited by snakes and other reptiles, there was a flock of peacocks which came every morning to hunt for them from the nearby wooded Radio Monitoring Centre on the Guruvayurappan temple road. The caretaker Yakub Ali, a tough Gujar, in fact tilled the land for some time and cultivated a crop of tomatoes and onions from the club site before construction work began.

The fledgling club and its office bearers had to even face nasty agitations and threats from Chilla villagers, provoked by some political parties, anti-social elements and land grabbers. The motivated refrain of the agitators was that the club would become a "Cabaret Joint and a drinking hole" posing a threat to the traditional values and ethos of the Chilla village residents. The agitation later quickly petered out. Today, the Chilla village is prime property in the Capital thanks to the Riverside Club, the adjacent group housing societies and the Mayur District Centre. The Chilla Village has also emerged as yet another up-scale 'Hauz Khas' village.

STRIKING THE GROUND

Bhoomi Puja at the club site was held on November 3, 1996. The first general body meeting of the club was also held on November 3, 1996 after Bhoomi Puja.

Advertisements were placed by the founding managing committee for pre-qualification of architects in three Delhi newspapers on June 19, 1996. On October 27, 1996 the MC decided to select M/s Adlakha & Associates as the architect for construction of the Riverside Club. One of the points that went in favour of M/s Adlakha was that they were also the architects for United India Apartments in Mayur Vihar Extension. The design of the Club was also approved after a discussion by MC. M/s Chauhan & Co. were selected as auditors for the year 1995-96.



The MC decided to reopen membership at a revised rate from December 15, 1996. It was decided to take the total members to 750. Corporate membership was then pegged at Rs. 75,000.

For the first time a meeting of the Managing Committee was held at the club site on December 1, 1996. It was at this meeting that a decision was taken to appoint a FundRaising Committee with vice-president Shankar Bhan and former DCHFC General Manager H C Joshi as conveners.

The members of the Fund Raising Committee were Mukesh Sharma (Parwana Apartments), P. Dev Kumar (Samachar Apartments), S. Mahadevan (Vardhman Apartments), S. K. Tuteja (Kirti Apartments), S. K. Srivastava and Rohit Khanna (United India Apartments), Mukul Pandey (Una Apartments), Jitendra Sharma (Shekhar Apartments), A. K. Khurana (Medha Apartments), D. P. Ghosh (Vigyapan Lok Apartments), A. Vishwanath (Dronacharya Apartments), P. S. Gaur, (Kirti Apartments), Dinanath Mishra (Nav Bharat Times Apartments), P. K. Seth (Batla Apartments), Chaman Gupta (Shekhar Apartments), R. Nath (Rosewood Apartments), P. N. Pandey (Glaxo Apartments), Pramod Jain (Sadar Apartments), R. P. Gupta (Vasant Apartments), Randhir Beri (Dronacharya Apartments), Viney Jain (Kedar Apartments) and Ashok Gupta (Pushpanjali Enclave).

A community lunch organised by the Fund Raising committee and MC meeting was also held at the club site on April 13, 1997. The MC was informed by secretary general A K Chakraborty about the lease agreement signed with DDA on April 6, 1997 and sanction was taken for inserting advertisement in newspapers inviting pre-qualification application from contractors for construction of the club house.

Out of 35 applications, the architect shortlisted 13 contractors. M/s Jeet Enterprises were finally selected as contractor since the plus point in his favour was that he was constructing the 'Punjabi Saudagar Society' close by and had men and material on site.

The construction work thereafter began in earnest. On the advice of the Architect we had gone in for bulk purchase of cement for construction work directly from the JK Cement Company and thereby saved a lot of money. Thanks are also due to K. K. R. Das, member from United Apartments who as General Manager of Rathi Super Steels made available to the club the entire quantity of steel for the Club House structure at highly concessional price. K. K. R. Das was also the secretary of the nearby Uttara Guruvayurappan Temple and has richly contributed to the overall development of the area.

DDA officials visited the construction site on July 23, 1999 paving the way for obtaining the 'C Form'. Thanks to chairman of DCHFC and senior BJP leader Vijay Kumar Malhotra, the club also received Rs. 10 lakhs as grant-in-aid for the construction of a community/banquet hall. A function was held to mark the event on December 6, 1998 which was graced by Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

One of the significant clauses the Managing Committee inserted in the Tender document of the Club was that the contractor and architect were jointly responsible for obtaining the final 'Completion Certificate' before we made the last payments. They kept their word and the Riverside Club is among the only few institutions or housing societies in the entire area which has a Completion Certificate from the competent authorities, i.e. DDA. The all- important certificate was later received on August 19, 2000.

LOAN SANCTIONED BY DCHFC

The Managing Committee was informed on July 25, 1997 that the club had approached DCHFC for a loan of Rs. 60 lakhs. A delegation comprising president N. D. Prabhu, vice president S. K. Bhatia, secretary general A. K. Chakraborty, treasurer B. S. Padmanabhan and Commander K. C. Kaushal had called on DCHFC Managing Director Mr. Malaichamy. The loan was eventually cleared on September 21, 1999 following intervention of H. C. Joshi, general manager DCHFC, the then chief secretary of Delhi Umesh Sehgal and efforts of our Club member and the Political Editor of the 'Hindustan Times' Vinod Sharma. The loan had helped Club clear outstanding contractors and architects and to meet other infrastructural requirements of the club, like the swimming pool, the last to come up.

The Chief Minister of Delhi, Sheila Dixit handed over the first instalment of DCHFC loan of Rs. 15 lakhs, out of the Rs. 60 lakh loan, to a delegation of Riverside Club office bearers led by Secretary General A K Chakraborty and H C Joshi on 15 November 1999 at her official residence in the presence of then DCHFC Chairman Deep Chand Sharma.

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Later when S K Bhatia was President of the Club in 2003 tentative steps were initiated to pay back the DCHFC loan as the interest was very high. Later in 2005, the then incoming president C. M. Jain cleared the last outstanding loan amount of DCHFC and the Riverside Club became debt free. The sagacious decision was taken by CM Jain, in spite of reservations by some MC members. Mr Jain did not want any burden on the club. The decision also reflected the measure of financial stability and confidence the Riverside Club had achieved by then.

Chandrajeet Yadav was very happy that the Riverside Club was coming up and that media persons had taken the initiative.

He used to boost office bearers morale to complete the project as early as possible. Yadav felt apart from sprucing up the neglected place, the Club would act as a catalyst for the overall development of the area. He invariably invited Mr Prabhu and A K Chakraborty for tea at his flat in Shekhar Apartments and also keenly watched construction activity from his second floor flat balcony.

Mr Yadav was significantly instrumental in goading the DDA and Delhi Government to allot a small piece of land near the club for a Mother Dairy booth. He took the Club office bearers into confidence and said the Lt. Governor of Delhi Tejinder Khanna had worked under him as Joint Secretary in the Commerce Ministry. The Mother Dairy booth eventually came up very fast and proved a boon to the club, the nearby Baraat Ghar, Chilla Village and the Housing societies in this part of Mayur Vihar -I Extension.

It deserves to be recalled that the then Secretary General V K Malhotra who had good contacts in SBI Bank and without any guarantee, all remaining dues of DCHFC were cleared (Approx. Rupees 25 lakhs). Later on due to an audit objection, Mr V K Malhotra had to submit his property papers to the bank as collateral after obtaining clearance from MC. One can therefore only imagine and appreciate the level of devotion and commitment Members showed to safeguard and promote the interests of the Riverside Club

During the construction phase of the Riverside Club, members of the club evinced keen interest and regularly visited the upcoming site to virtually take stock, update themselves and to witness how their dream project for a recreational and cultural centre in the area was finally taking shape.

Among the regular visitors and members who turned up at the construction site during this vital phase of the Club construction were former high profile Union Minister Chandrajeet Yadav, who stayed across the road at Shekhar Apartments, Ashok Gupta, Editor and owner of the newly launched fortnightly newspaper 'The Mayur Infomail', V. K. Malhotra (Glaxo Apartments), Sanjay Gupta (Nirman Apartments) and Suraj Prakash Jain, advocate (Samachar Apartments).



Ashok Gupta, editor of the fortnightly 'The Mayur Infomail' too evinced keen interest and was of great help to the Club in the sense that the neighbourhood newspaper became a medium for the club to reach out to its members and keep them updated about the construction work and other related developments. Later, Ashok Gupta also took responsibility for organising the annual Swimming Competition in the club which evoked tremendous response from the young and old Members & residents.

THE CLUB BLOSSOMS

Late S. P. Jain was almost a regular visitor to the club in the evening during the construction phase. Later, the daughter of Jain, Ms Shobhana Jain, senior journalist with UNI, resident of Samachar Apartments and former president of the Women's Press Club of India was elected as MC member of the Riverside Club.

The Billiards Room was inaugurated by Dr. A. K. Walia, Minister for Finance and PWD on July 15, 2000. For the selection of billiards table and other accessories, the services extended by senior Club member John Rakesh Sharma, a billiards lover and resident of Upkar Apartments, was remarkable. He persisted with N. D. Prabhu often had his say. One of the billiards tables was donated by contractor J. S. Khera of M/s Jeet Enterprises, a gesture applauded by the managing committee.

When the club became fully functional, the MC took care to appoint a decorated Indian Navy officer, Commodore B. S. Sood was the first manager of Riverside Club, keeping in mind the dignity and esteem the club had acquired by then. Later another decorated army officer Colonel Negi of Kumaon Regiment served as manager.

Now the Riverside Club has affiliations with nearly 56 prestigious and reputed Clubs located in various regions of the country. Two of our former illustrious members of the club are respected Judges in the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court.

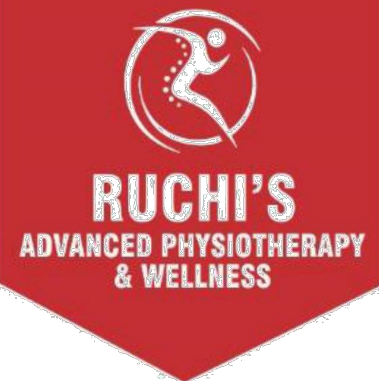
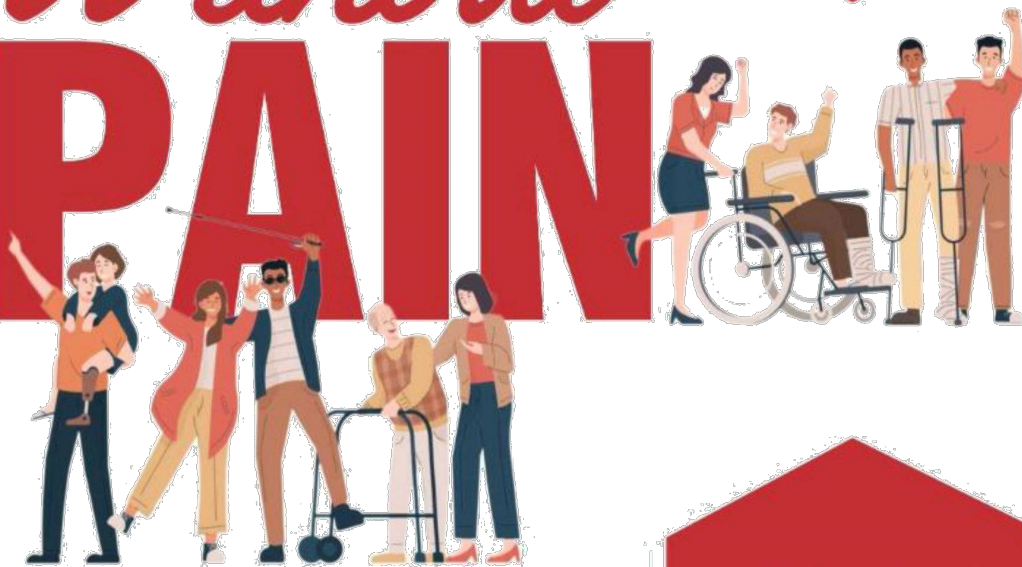
Although the Club had become fully functional by 2001, the villagers in Chilla village nonetheless remained hostile to its existence and the intrusion of this institution in their fold. One of the ways they expressed their sense of frustration and anger was that they continued to pitch their wedding tents bang in front of the Club causing a lot of inconvenience, safety hazards to Members and creating traffic hurdles.

The then Federation of CGHS Mayur Vihar Extension and with the pivotal help extended by Mr H. C. Joshi, (Dronacharya Apartments) then took up the task of change in land use of the plot between Club and the Church for a Baraat Ghar. In this task, the then Minister of Finance and PWD Dr. A. K. Walia was of tremendous help. Finally, the Baraat Ghar constructed by MCD has come up, a huge boon to Chilla villagers and they no longer pitch their wedding tents in front of the club.

The club initially had a temporary electricity connection which took a heavy toll on its finances. The challenge of commissioning the closeby Electric Sub Station (ESS) was also taken up. As the Club pursued the matter, one of the notorious colonisers of nearby New Ashok Nagar locality conspired to encroach upon the land for the ESS as it had become a prime property because of the location of the club.

One night a huge statue of Lord Hanuman was placed in the middle of the proposed ESS. The Club office bearers then undertook a mammoth operation to save the land as it was critical for the setting up of the ESS. With ministerial contacts, they approached the DDA to clear the encroachment. DDA responded fast and very timely. In the presence of police officers and a large posse of policemen and DDA officials, the statue was lifted by a priest amidst chanting of hymns and later submerged with all honours in the nearby Yamuna River.

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THE EMBERS OF OPPOSITION TO CLUB DIE

The club will remain indebted to veteran BJP leader and MP Vijay Kumar Malhotra, late Dinanath Mishra, MP and Editor of Navbharat Times who interceded with DDA and Delhi Vidyut Board. Finally, the ESS became operational after relentless pursuit. This provided a big relief to the Club in terms of electricity charges and better services.

Later in 2003, the Federation of GHS Mayur Vihar Extn, of which A. K. Chakraborty was by then Chairman and Mukesh Sharma as the Secretary General, pursued the naming of the three roads in the newly developed area in the Capital with the Delhi government. The Federation suggested naming the road from UP Link Road to Club as 'Club Avenue', the road in front of the Club as 'Sadbhavna Marg' and the one from UP Link Road to Chilla Village as 'Sahkarita Marg'.

The reasons and justification the Federation provided to the high-power 'Road Naming Committee' of Delhi Government for approving the names was quite significant.

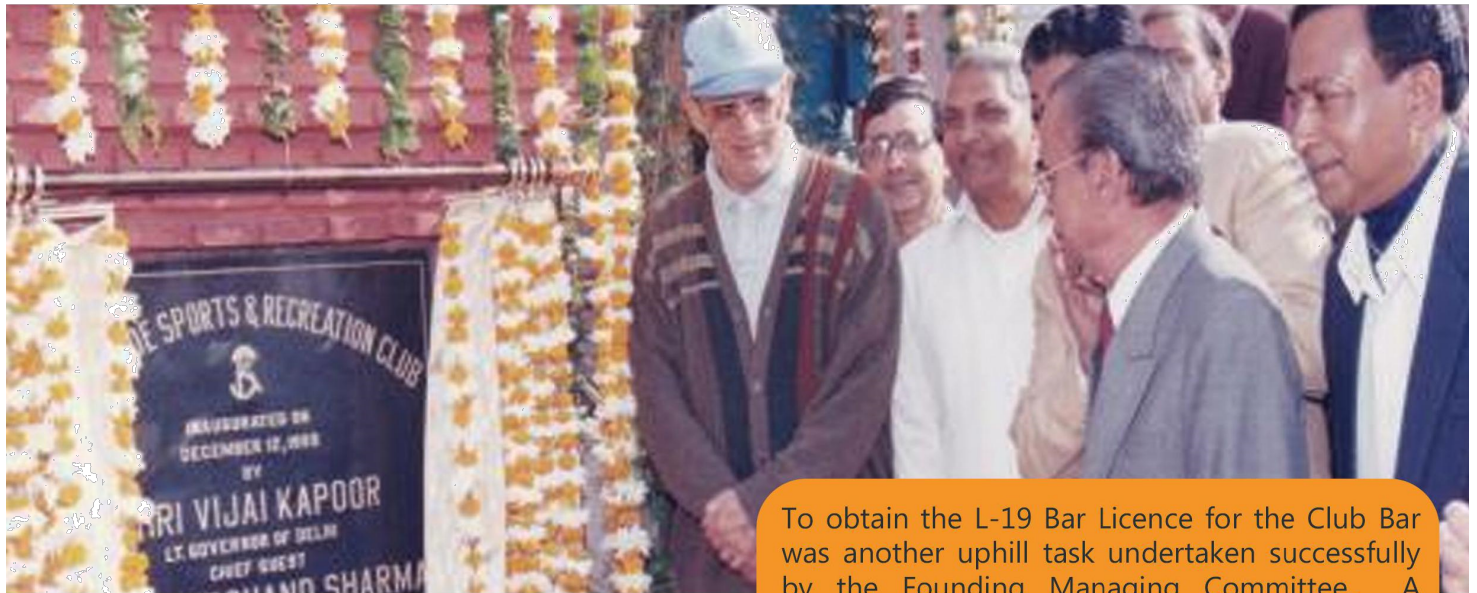
For Sadbhavna Marg, it was submitted the road acts as a bridge between Housing Societies and the historic Chilla village, it has a number of religious sites such as Temples, a Church, the Riverside Club and prestigious schools. Apart from unfortunate developments in Gujarat in 2002, then fresh in public mind, the additional reasons submitted was that a symbiotic relationship has emerged between the societies and the Chilla village. Milk produced in the village was consumed in the housing societies, men and women found gainful employment and attendant staff too stayed in the village on rent. A clear and healthy understanding of mutual benefit had emerged and therefore the naming of the road as 'Sadbhavna Marg' would reflect and respect the sentiments of peaceful and fruitful living.



For the naming of Sahkarita Marg, it was highlighted that there are a cluster of Group Housing Societies in the entire region, an experiment of the Delhi government which has succeeded to a large extent in resolving the housing problem in the Capital. One of the pioneers of the cooperative housing movement H. C. Joshi (General Manager, DCHFC) also resided at Dronacharya Apartments. Therefore, naming the road as Sahkarita Marg will be most appropriate. The third road "Club Avenue" would be a fitting tribute to the first Club to come up in this part of East Delhi.

The Road naming Committee of Delhi Government met in the month of July 2003 under the stewardship of Chief Minister Sheila Dixit. Dr. A. K. Walia, Minister for Finance and PWD, who had forwarded our representation, strongly pleaded the case of the Housing Federation strongly at the meeting. The Committee then unanimously approved the three road names. A function was formally held by Delhi PWD on Club Avenue Marg on 10 September 2003 where Dr. A. K. Walia formally dedicated the three roads in the area.





CLUB HOUSE FLAGGED OFF

The Club House was handed over to the club by M/s Jeet Enterprises on December 13, 1999. Before that the Founding Managing Committee had obtained permission and a certificate for the digging of Tube Well on 24. 11. 1998 from Central Ground Water Authority. The tube well was important for the operation of the swimming pool. As per Audit Report (2000-2001) the total construction cost of the Club House was Rs. 1, 47, 52, 639, 38. This included land, building, furnishing, furniture, Swimming Pool Water Filter plant, office equipment, Kitchen equipment, Sports equipment, Billiards table and Music System.

In December, an agreement was also signed with Rahul Tandon of Professional Catering Services for operation of the restaurant. Professional Caterers had two terms and the longest tenure in the club, while its owner Rahul Tandon, apart from acquiring a club membership had developed good rapport with everyone.

The Lt. Governor of Delhi Vijay Kapoor inaugurated the Club House with a lot of fanfare on December 12, 1999. Among the VIPs present were former area MP, B. L. Sharma 'Prem', former Union Minister Chandrajit Yadav and local Congress party MLA Brahm Pal. Mementos were given to all members of the Founding Managing Committee by the Lt. Governor, who had also flagged off commencement of the digging work of the swimming pool.

To obtain the L-19 Bar Licence for the Club Bar was another uphill task undertaken successfully by the Founding Managing Committee. A number of tedious statutory formalities had to be completed with the Excise Department. To obviate the need to avoid spending any unaccounted money, Club office bearers had to take recourse to intervention of the highest political authority. The active and supportive role of our distinguished club member and Political Editor of the 'The Hindustan Times' Vinod Sharma (Samachar Apartment) and journalist Punkaj Vohra in this regard was indeed commendable.

Mr. A K Chakraborty recalled one fine morning, the then Minister for Finance and Excise of NCT Delhi, Mohinder Singh Saathi rang up and said "Badshaho twada excise license tyar hain; come and meet me." A delegation comprising president N. D. Prabhu, A. K. Chakraborty, Suraksha Mehra (Medha Apartments) and Vinod Sharma met Mr Saathi at the Old Secretariat Office in the presence of the Excise Commissioner on May 2, 2000. As a formality a team of Excise officials including the principal secretary of the Minister A. K. Singh visited the club site on May 8, 2000 for site inspection. Subsequently, the L-19 Bar Licence was formally granted.

To celebrate the big achievement of the Club, and as a Thanks Giving to all contractors, vendors and well-wishers of the Club and various civic departments, a cocktail party was held on 17 November 2000 which was incidentally the first wet day for the Club inside the Club House.

LAST TASK OF FOUNDING MANAGING COMMITTEE

The construction of the swimming pool was one of the last tasks the Founding Managing Committee wanted to accomplish before laying down office. A sub-committee consisting of MC member Commander K. C. Kaushal and Suraksha Mehra were given the responsibility of pushing the project and installation of the filtration plant. Both of them did commendable work and the swimming pool was completed in all respects in record time.

The swimming pool was handed over to the club by the contractor on September 16, 2001. It was then formally inaugurated by Mr Narendra Nath, Chairman of East Delhi Development Corporation, who was invited on behalf of the Club by H. C. Joshi.

After the inauguration of the swimming pool marked by great enthusiasm by youngsters, and when office bearers were leaving to see off the Chief Guest, an unfortunate incident happened which is worth recalling. The Club caretaker Yakub Ali noticed that a young girl who had jumped into the pool out of enthusiasm, was about to drown in the swimming pool. Without batting an eyelid and still wearing the Club uniform, Yakub Ali jumped into the swimming pool and miraculously saved the girl. The Club will remain indebted to him for this act of exemplary bravery and community service. The MC as a recognition of Yakub Ali's gallantry the MC awarded him with a salary hike.

Another interesting incident took place when Founding MC were at the helm of affairs of the club. One evening H. C. Joshi, a senior executive of Glaxo Company staying in Glaxo Apartments walked into the office and appeared to be greatly agitated. He told President Mr. Prabhu "Do you want me to jump from the roof of the Club House". When inquired, he said my membership of the club has led to civil war in my family. My son now wishes to be the primary member and also avail facilities of the club. He then pleaded that the club should have a procedure/option for transfer of membership during a Members lifetime. What perhaps Joshi wanted to convey was that the club must adopt such a procedure for the larger benefit of a member's family.

After Prabhu assured Joshi that the managing committee would consider his suggestion he calmed down. Later, during the special general body meeting on July 29, 2001 a number of amendments were moved to the Memorandum of Association and this included the suggestion of H. C. Joshi.

Now a primary member of the Club can transfer his membership once in a lifetime to a family member upon completion of formalities and paying a transfer fee of Rs. 5000 and also remain a dependent member. Needless to point out that Joshi's prank did help a large number of senior and retired club members. The proposal to reduce the tenure of the club managing committee from three to two years was also adopted at this special GBM.

September 8, 2001 saw the last meeting of the Founding Managing Committee before fresh elections. The principal office bearers: N. D. Prabhu (president), A. K. Chakraborty (secretary general) and B. S. Padmanabhan (treasurer) took a principled decision not to contest further elections of the club and to foster democratic and smooth transition to a new team. Vice President S. K. Bhatia (Glaxo Apts) was however persuaded to become President of the club with fresh new members to ensure continuity.

The Riverside Club has now completed 25 years from its formation in 1995 and is currently observing its Silver Jubilee Year. During the intervening period regular elections have been held and successive Office Bearers have richly contributed to carry forward the mission to develop the landmark Club as a thriving institution to promote social, cultural and recreational activities.

All major events like Diwali, Holi, Christmas, New Year, a summer Water festival, ladies get together, Tambolas and regular Medical Camps for the benefit of members were organised within the Club premises. Dr. Anurag Chopra, who has also served longest tenure as MC member and one who invariably won highest votes in Club elections was of great help in organising the Medical Camps. Other Doctor members of the Club like Dr. Dinesh Sahai also chipped in. Mr. K K Mehra, President of the Club from 2007 to 2017 recalled when he demitted office there was a fixed deposit with the Bank of Rs. 70 lakhs as reserve fund. All these funds were generated out of Club revenues and cost effective techniques. Mr. Sanjay Gupta, who also served with Mr. Mehra, as Secretary General for ten years, said the Club had invited former Prime Minister V P Singh for the opening of the Swimming Pool competition. Annual Table Tennis and Billiards tournaments in the memory of Club legends like N D Prabhu (founder President) and B S Padmanabhan (founder treasurer) were organised jointly with the fortnightly 'The Mayur Infomail'.

Mr. Sanjay Gupta said the then Managing Committee successfully provided a lift within the Club, a provision helpful to visitors and elderly staying in the Guest Rooms. In another significant decision, the MC also took the decision to introduce ADD-ON Membership for the Club member's 2nd child. This was a unique decision by Riverside Club.

Mrs Rita Sharma became the first women office bearer of Riverside Club in 2017 after being elected as the Secretary General of the Club. Rita Sharma has persevered to also address concerns of lady members and make them more comfortable during family and Club functions. Mr Sunil Agarwal, who also had a long ten year tenure (2007-2017) as treasurer of the Club, is also Founder Convenor of Mayur Vihar CPE Study Circle of Chartered Accounts that holds its monthly meeting in the Riverside Club Banquet Hall. With the support of the Club, the study circle of CAs has been held from April 2004. The seminars are held to update member CAs of latest trends by interactive sessions and to foster good professional practices.

Among the Presidents of the Club, Vijay Satokar of Samachar Apartments would be the only one who took over the reins after election necessitated by a resignation and had only one year in office. "The Club was going through a rough patch on all fronts when I took over", recalls Satokar from Amrawati. "Team work and never say die spirit of the Members saw the great institution weathering the storm and emerging stronger" he added.

The banquet hall, restaurant, bar, billiards, cards room, swimming pool and the guest rooms facilities of the Club have ably served the requirements of Members of the Club and as well as the residents of entire Mayur Vihar and adjoining areas. The Club in fact has members from Group Housing Societies in Mayur Vihar Extn, Phase 1 & 3, Vasundhara Enclave, East End Apartments, I P Extension, Patparganj, neighbouring NOIDA and other parts of Delhi.

LIST OF OFFICE BEARERS SINCE INCEPTION

YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY GENERAL	TREASURER
1995-2001	N D Prabhu	A K Chakraborty	BS Padmanabhan
2001-2003	S K Bhatia	V K Malhotra	C M Jain
2003-2005	S K Bhatia	V K Malhotra	Anand Sharma
2005-2007	C M Jain	Sanjay Gupta	Anand Sharma
2007-2017	K K Mehra	Sanjay Gupta	Sunil Kr Agrawal
2017-2018	C M Jain	Mrs Rita Sharma	Sanjay Gupta
2018-2019	Vijay Satokar	Mrs Rita Sharma	Sanjay Gupta
2019-2021	Mathew Benjamin	Mrs Rita Sharma	Rajeev Kachhal
2021-2023	Mathew Benjamin	Mrs Swati Arora	Jose PA

A significant milestone in the Club's history was the appointment of an 'Empowered Committee' by the General Body meeting of Riverside Club held on January 6, 2019 and presided over by President Vijay Satokar to undertake a thorough review of the functioning of the Club in the light of experience gained during the last 20 years of its full-fledged functioning. The primary task assigned was to usher in more transparency and accountability in its functioning and ensure no vested interests develop due to long tenures of Office Bearers.

The members of the Empowered Committee were : A K Chakraborty (Convenor), John R Sharma (Co-convenor), C P Aggarwal, Mukesh Kumar Sharma, Arun Mahajan, Vinod Sharma, Shobhana Jain, Kultaran Singh, P A Jose and Atul Gupta. The President Vijay Satokar & Sec. General Mrs Rita Sharma were ex-officio members.

After marathon meetings the Empowered Committee submitted its report on 17 February 2019 to the Managing Committee containing the proposed wide ranging amendments to the existing Rules & Regulations of Riverside Club and also detailed a separate Guidelines for smooth & transparent functioning of the Managing Committee.

The Special General Body meeting held on 12 January 2020 and presided over by incoming President Mathew Benjamin unanimously adopted all the proposed amendments to the Statue of the Club. Tenure of Office Bearers were limited for two terms and stringent norms enforced to bring more transparency and accountability in the functioning of this public institution.

With the Covid 19 pandemic hitting the country and the lockdowns enforced from March 23, 2020 by the Government, all activities including the full preparations underway to open the Swimming Pool had to be rolled back. However, in spite of the financial crunch facing the Club, the salaries of workers were not cut. Workers received full payment during this crisis period.

Rallying to the call of the Managing Committee, the Club Members graciously contributed a total sum of Rs. 1, 50, 255 to meet any contingency requirements of the Club. Though the Club was closed during Pandemic till Un-lockdown 5, the Office Bearers of the Club made a special drive to admit new Members. This resulted in collection of Rs 10, 66, 720 from 01. 4. 2020 to 04. 10. 2020. Members were also given opportunity to avail Life Subscription at attractive rates and this mopped up Rs. 6, 23, 610 (Six lakh twenty three thousand and six hundred ten). It is also worth recalling that during the Covid period, the treasurer Rajiv Kacchal made a payment from his personal account of Rupees two lakh and fifty thousand for timely payment towards Property Tax of the Club house. This timely intervention saved the Club penalty of late payment. The amount was later reimbursed to Mr Rajiv Kacchal.

The first official function to be held in the Club during the Pandemic was on Independence Day August 15, 2020. The President Mathew Benjamin and Sec. General Mrs Rita Sharma unfurled the national tricolour in the presence of a sizable number of Members. A luncheon was also arranged. The enthusiasm and support of members braving the Corona Pandemic while scrupulously observing Covid appropriate norms, at this critical juncture indeed proved a very happy augury for the Riverside Club.

As the Riverside Club was gearing up to return to normal functioning, the devastating second wave of Covid-19 Pandemic hit the country ferociously in April/May 2021. Once again all services including renovation/opening of the Swimming Pool were disrupted and the Club had to close down once again.

It was during this period that around twelve eminent members of the Club fell victims to Covid and related health issues. They included Shankar Bhan (PM-003), V M Badola (PM-007), Commander K C Kaushal (PM-113), Dr. Pradeep Bijalwan (OM-070), Dr Pradeep Tara (OM-008), H C Joshi, Sandeep Gupta (AM-179), Dr A K Walia (Distinguished Member), Amit Agarwal (AM-342), Amit Choudhary (M-184), Sanjay Kumar Gupta (OM-227) and Jamshed Ahmed Siddiqi (M274).

Mr. Shankar Bhan, VM Badola were members of the Founding Managing Committee of Riverside Club. Bhan was the Vice President and also associated with the Federation of CGHS of the area, while VM Badola, a veteran film personality in Bollywood and he also stayed in Samachar Apartments. His suggestion for naming the Club as Riverside Club, due to proximity to River Yamuna, was adopted. Badola Sr son Varun Badola himself also an actor, is now a Member of the Club.

A MEMORABLE PICTURE



MEMBER OF THE RIVERSIDE CLUB IN A BOISTEROUS MOOD AT **NEW YEAR** PARTY HELD ON 29TH DECEMBER 2019, A COUPLE OF MONTHS BEFORE THE VICIOUS **COVID-19** PANDEMIC HIT THE COUNTRY & DISRUPTED FUNCTIONING OF THE CLUB NEARLY TWO YEARS.





***“BEST WISHES TO THE
MANAGING
COMMITTEE AND THE
CLUB MEMBERS FROM
RAO FAMILY FOR A
PROSPEROUS AND
HAPPY POST COVID
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Dr Pradeep Bijalwan, aged 67, resident of Samachar Apartment and regular visitor to the Club, was known as People's Doctor. He breathed his last at his residence on April 23, 2021, unfortunately a victim of Covid-19 and oxygen crisis. He was very popular as residents of the 250 strong Society could call him any time during an emergency. He never refused a death certificate as he had full faith in those who went to him. Dr Bijalwan took only token money from residents or accepted any money given by the patient. He was associated with an NGO working for Delhi's street children.

Dr Pratap Bhanu Mehta, noted educationist and social scientist, in his obituary highlighted the noble qualities of Dr Bijalwan by describing how he selflessly worked in Covid-19 camps set up for street children. The daughter of Dr. Bijalwan, Vasundhara Bijalwan is now a member of the Riverside Club.

Dr. Pradeep Tara, resident of Vardhaman Appts who later shifted to Noida was an accomplished Doctor. He was equally very popular in Mayur Vihar. His disarming smile virtually worked as a magic treatment for patients. It was indeed a shock for the residents of this part of East Delhi when the news broke out following a prolonged battle with the pandemic.

Commander Kaushal, resident of Vardhaman Appts was a decorated officer of the Indian Navy. As Managing Committee member Commander Kaushal took up the responsibility to oversee the construction of the Swimming Pool and the installation of the Filtration Plant. It was due to his dedicated services and military sense of responsibility that the Swimming Pool project was completed within the time schedule.

Mr. H C Joshi, resident of Dronacharya Appts, was a former General Manager of DCHFC. Joshi played a key role in sanctioning of loan for completion of the Club project and later was instrumental in pursuing the clearance and construction of MCD Community Hall adjacent to the Riverside Club. He was briefly inducted into the Managing Committee and remained a friend, guide to the Club. Joshi ji also had the honour of conducting elections to the Club MC as Returning Officer for several years.

Dr A K Walia, a senior minister in the Cabinet of Shiela Dixit in the NCT of Delhi was a well-wisher of the Club and extended all help in building up infrastructure in the area. As minister for PWD he inaugurated the naming of Club Avenue Road leading to the Club. He also inaugurated the Billiards room of the Club. Dr Walia was conferred the Honorary Distinguished Membership of the Club for his deep interest and support extended to the Club.



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The Managing Committee extends profound sympathy to family members of our esteemed Members who are no longer with us and left us during the first and second wave of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We also acknowledge their valuable services. May their Soul Rest in peace.

As the Club Managing Committee was preparing to undertake resumption of full-fledged facilities of the Club, the third phase of the Covid-19 pandemic suddenly hit the country in December 2021. All services of the Club had to be closed down. After the month-long shutdown, the Club resumed operations on 27.1.2022. During the third phase, the bar and restaurant services (except Home delivery/takeaways) were closed on those days.

The resilience and support shown by Club Member's during the difficult days of the Covid-19 Pandemic had also inspired the Managing Committee to bring out the Coffee Table Book 2021 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Club founding. However, due to financial crunch triggered by the Pandemic, we could not bring out the print edition of the Coffee Table Book and therefore we had to present it in virtual form by uploading it on the 'Club Website' and also sharing with Members in a Video format. The old photographs and details are now in digital format and thereby preserved for posterity. The Managing Committee will nonetheless endeavour to bring out a book edition of The Coffee Table Book before the term of the present Managing Committee ends.

Describing the 25 year journey of the Club, the President Mathew Benjamin has aptly summed up – "a thought of a CHAUPAL has in fact become a REALITY" and thus this valuable asset is now with Members of Riverside Club to carry it forward to greater glory.



A Look Back To Our Club

Through Some Valuable Pictures Of History



1. Levelling the plot allotted by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to Riverside Sports & Recreation Club, near Chilla Village in Mayur Vihar Ph-1 Extension in East Delhi, before the Bhoomi Puja function on 3 November 1996. Founding President Mr. N D Prabhu is seen riding the tractor and Mr. Yakub Ali who later served as caretaker of the Club is also seen in the foreground.



2. President N D Prabhu turned the first sod after Bhoomi Pujan at the Club site in November 3, 1996.



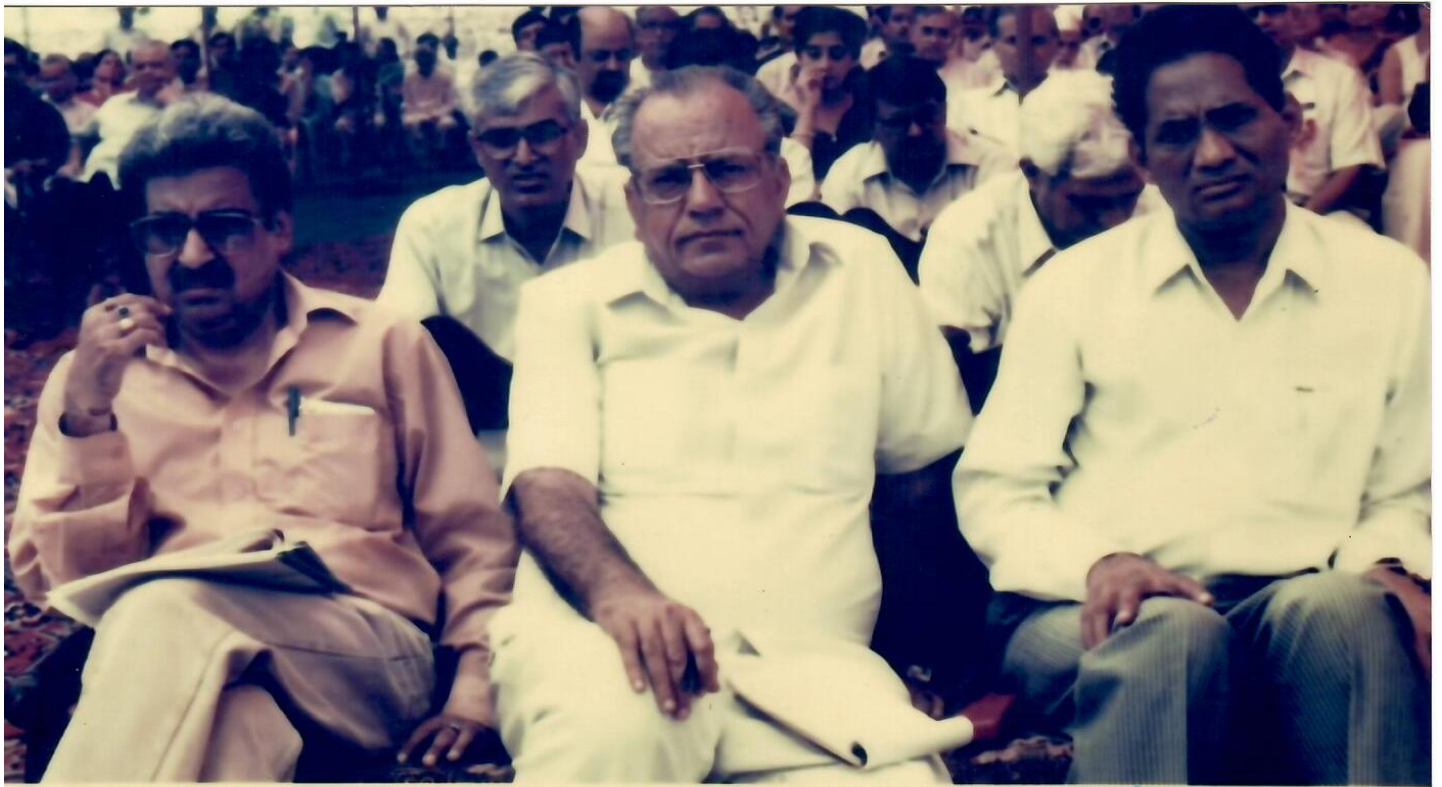
THE FIRST BIG DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE CLUB ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1997, WHEN THE FOUNDATION STONE WAS UNVEILED BY THE THEN LT. GOVERNOR TEJENDRA KHANNA.

3. The first BIG DAY in the life of the Club when the Foundation Stone of the Riverside Sports & Recreation Club House was laid by the then Lt. Governor of Delhi Mr. Tejendra Khanna at a function held on September 7, 1997. Lt. G. Tejendra Khanna, seen speaking the function. He not only blessed the project but wanted it to be constructed expeditiously to benefit the residents in this newly developed part of the Capital.



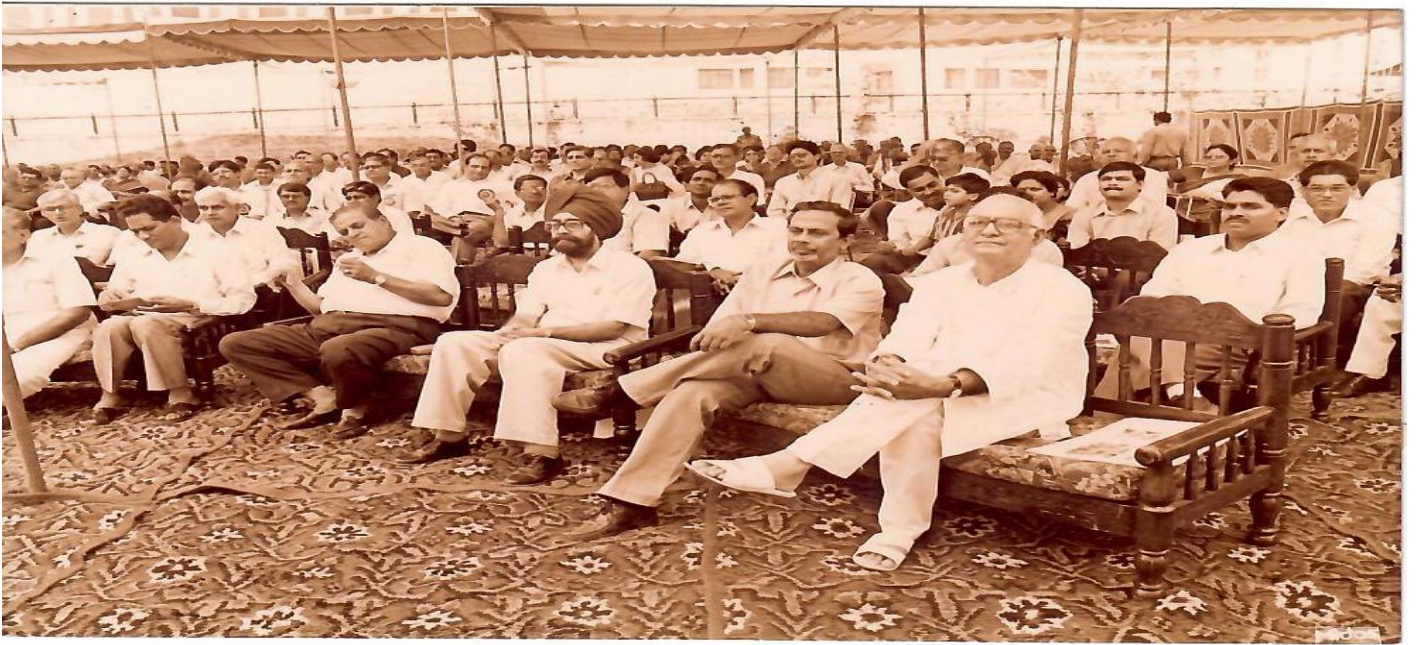
MR. TEJENDRA KHANNA UNVEILS THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE CLUB ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1997.

4. Lt. General Tejendra Khanna unveiling a plaque during the Foundation laying ceremony of the Club on September 7, 1997, while the President of Founding Managing Committee N D Prabhu is seen clapping.



MR. NARENDER KAPOOR THE ARCHITECT OF THE CLUB (EXTREME LEFT) AT THE FOUNDATION STONE FUNCTION ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1997, BESIDES HIM IS FORMER MAYOR OF DELHI MR. YOGDHAN AHUJA.

5. A large gathering of residents of the area and people from other parts of East Delhi turned up at the Bhoomi Puja on Sept 7, 1997. Seen in the picture (L to R) are architect of the Club Mr Narinder Kapoor from Adlakha & Associates and the former Mayor of Delhi Yogdhan Ahuja.



6. Among the large and distinguished gathering at the foundation stone laying ceremony on September 7 1997 were then BJP East Delhi MP Mr. Babulal Sharma, who had first initiated the proposal for building a Club at the present site. Along with him are Mr. K L Luthra, Chairman of ASN School and Mr. Subhash Kohli, the Municipal Councillor of the area. Also seen are former Cabinet Union Minister Chandrajit Yadav and Club member Mr. Subimal Choudhury.





7. Managing Committee members witnessed the first concrete being laid for the foundations of the Club structure on 19.10.1997. Seen in the picture (L to R) are Vice President Shankar Bhan, Secretary General A K Chakraborty, S K Tuteja, the President N D Prabhu and Secretary Ravi Jaitley.



8. Construction began at the Club site in full swing after the appointment of Architects and Contractor. Office bearers were seen supervising the work on 15.1.1998. They included (L to R) Secretary General A K Chakraborty, Vice President S K Bhatia, President N D Prabhu, Secretary Ravi Jaitley and Treasurer B S Padmanabhan.



9. Office bearers of the Managing Committee of Riverside Club seen outside the main entrance of Club Structure on 25.10.1998 when work had been completed on the ground and first floor of the Club.



10. The Riverside Club was fortunate to receive an outright grant of Rs. Ten Lakhs from Delhi Cooperative Group Housing Finance Corporation (DCHFC) on 21.4.1998 for the Banquet Hall. Veteran Delhi BJP leader, former MP and Chairman of DCHFC Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra presented the Rs. 10 lakh cheque to a delegation of Riverside Club. The delegation included (L to R) B S Padmanabhan, Shankar Bhan, S K Bhatia, Ravi Jaitley, A K Chakraborty, N D Prabhu, Dev Kumar and Indian Navy Commander K C Kaushal.



11. The Chief Minister of Delhi Mrs. Shiela Dixit handed over the first instalment of sanctioned loan of Rs. 50 lakhs by DCHFC to the Riverside Club at a function at her residence on 15 November 1999. Seen in the picture are then chairman Deep Chand Sharma, Mrs. Shiela Dixit, the MD of DCHFC Mr. Malaisamy, Secretary General A K Chakraborty and General Manager of DCHFC Mr. H C Joshi.



12. The Riverside Club was formally inaugurated by the Lt. Governor of Delhi, Mr. Vijay Kapoor on 12 December 1999 at a glittering function at the Club site.



13. The Lt. Governor Vijay Kapoor unveiled the plaque dedicating the Club to its Members. Seen in the picture are H. C. Joshi, then area MLA Mr. Brahmpal, President N D Prabhu and Secretary General A K Chakraborty.



14. Lt. Governor Vijay Kapoor took a round of facilities in the Riverside Club after inaugurating the Club. He is seen discussing the proposed swimming pool in front of a layout of the Club. On the far-right side Mr. Pramod Adlakha, Club Architect from Adlakha & Associates can be seen.

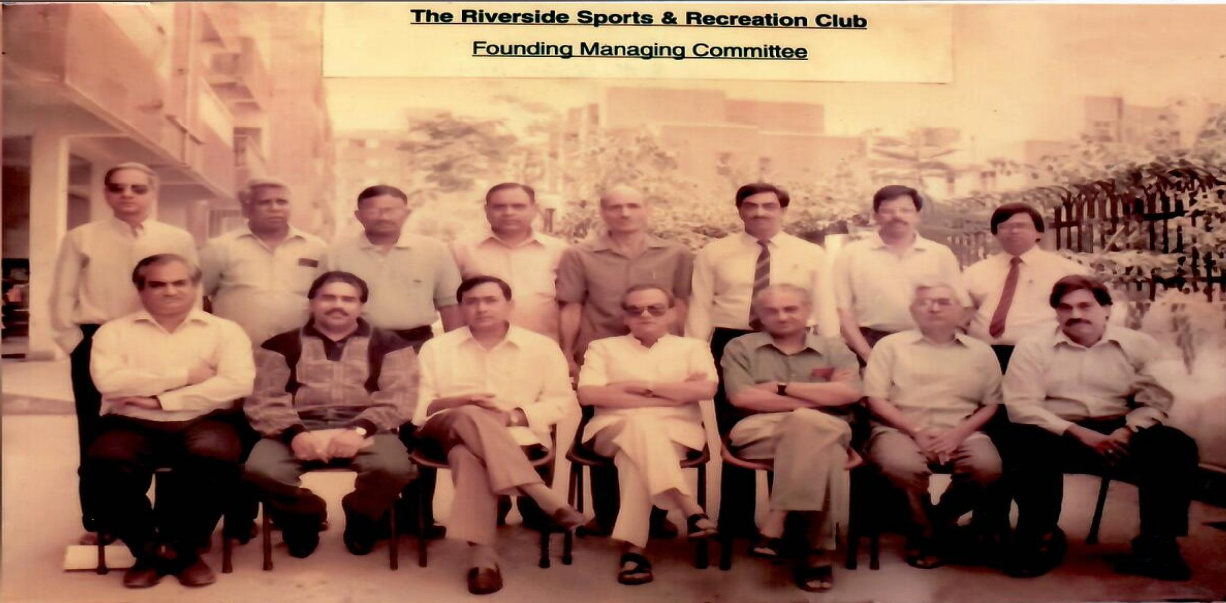


15. A section of Club Members during inauguration of the Club. (To go with a collage of pictures)



16. A section of Club Members during inauguration of the Club. (To go with a collage of pictures)

The Riverside Sports & Recreation Club
Founding Managing Committee



Seated (L to R) : Messrs. Dharampal (Parwana), Shanker Bhan (Rosewood) Vice-President, A.K. Chakraborty (Samachar) Secretary - General, N.D. Prabhu (Samachar) President, S.K. Bhatia (Glaxo) Vice-President, B S. Padmanabhan (Samachar) Treasurer and Ravi Jetley (United India) Joint Secretary.
Standing (L to R): Messrs. V.M. Badola (Samachar), Bosco Celestine (Samachar), Mai. Pradeep Rao (Samachar), Promod Jain (Sadar), S.L. Kaul (Nirman), Randhir Beri (Dronacharya), C.P. Aggarwal (Medha) and R.P. Gupta (Vasant).
Date: 7-04-96

17. Group picture of the first Managing Committee of the Club from October 1995 to 2001. Picture taken on 7.04.1996.

Seated Left to Right: Messrs Dharampal (Parvana), Shankar Bhan (Rosewood) Vice-President, A K Chakraborty (Samachar) Secretary General, N D Prabhu, S K Bhatia (Glaxo) Vice President, B S Padmanabhan (Samachar) Treasurer, Ravi Jaitley (United) Joint Secretary.

Standing L to R Messrs: V M Badola (Samachar), Bosco Celestine (Samachar), Major Pradeep Rao (Samachar), Pramod Jain (Sadar), S L Kaul (Nirman), Randhir Beri (Dronachary), C P Aggarwal (Medha), and R P Gupta (Medha).



18. A view of the Founding Managing Committee meeting held at the fully furnished Restaurant in the Year 2000.

Seated (L to R): Messrs Dharampal (Parwana), Shankar Bhan (Rosewood) Vice President, A K Chakraborty (Samachar) Secretary General, N D Prabhu President, S K Bhatia (Glaxo) Vice President, B S Padmanabhan (Samachar) Treasurer, Ravi Jaitley (United) Joint Secretary.



19. A Special General Body meeting was held on 12 January 2020 during which some crucial and far reaching amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Riverside Club was adopted.

Seen in the picture are A K Chakraborty, Convenor of the Empowered Committee appointed by AGM to draft wide ranging amendments to the statute of the Club at the dais, sitting are Treasurer, CA Rajeev Kacchal, Secretary General Mrs Rita Sharma, President Mathew Benjamin, Vice President Dr Dinesh Sahai and R K Menon, Secretary.



20. Riverside Club has emerged as a focal point for sports and cultural activities for the cluster of Group Housing Societies in this part of East Delhi. The Swimming Pool of the Club has been very popular with youngsters and members of the Club. A number of VIPs have also graced the events in the Swimming Pool.



21. Dr. A K Walia, Minister for Finance & PWD, Government of NCT of Delhi giving away prizes to young winners at a swimming event at the Swimming Pool. Seen in the picture (L to R) are Mrs Rita Sharma, Sanjay Gupta, Secretary General, Dr A K Walia and President Mr. K K Mehra.



22. Mr. H C Joshi, General Manager of DCHFC giving away a certificate to Mrs. Rita Sharma.



23. Mr. John Rakesh Sharma, a keen swimmer receiving a medal at one of the events. Former President C M Jain can be seen in the background.



24. President of the Club Mr. C M Jain welcomed former Prime Minister V P Singh at one of the swimming pool events held in the Club.



25. Minister Dr. A K Walia handing over a memento at a Swimming Pool function. Also seen is Mr. Arun Mahajan, organising Member.



26. Former Prime Minister V P Singh graced one of the swimming -pool events here young contestants were given prizes. Also seen are Sanjay Gupta and C.M. Jain.



27. A view of senior Club members receiving prizes at the Swimming pool events are Arun Mahajan, John Rakesh Sharma and CA Rakesh Mishra. Also seen are Sanjay Gupta, Secretary General Prime Minister V P Singh and Club, President K K Mehra.



28. Free Medical Camps at the Riverside Club has been very popular among the Club members and their dependents, who availed medical facilities. Dr. Anurag Chopra, who has often taken initiative can be seen at one of the medical camps.



29. Former President of the Club Mr. S K Bhatia availing the medical facilities at one of the medical camps held in the Club.



30. At one of the popular free Medical Camps organised by the Riverside Club are seen Late Savitri Sahai, resident of Shekhar Apartments being examined by a Doctor while Founding President N D Prabhu is also seen in the background.





Dr. A.K. Walia, Minister for Health & Urban Development in a warm handshake with Mr. Mukesh Rehani, only Professional billiards player of Delhi ranked 21 in the world, after inaugurating the Club's Billiards Table on July 15, 2000. On his right is Mr. John Sharma, Coach and Manager of Rehani. Also seen are Mr. Ashok Puri, donor of the table, Mr. H.C. Joshi, General Manager, D'Son and Mr. Sandeep M.A.

31. The Billiards Room in the Riverside Club was inaugurated by the Minister for Finance & PWD, Government of Delhi Dr. A K Walia on 15 July 2000. Seen in the picture are Club member John Rakesh Sharma introducing to Dr. Walia one of the well-known Billiards Champions of India Mr. Mukesh Rihani. Mr. Rihani was Delhi State Billiards champion and No:12 ranking in World professional Billiard.



32. Delhi Minister Dr. A K Walia trying his hand on the Club Billiards table. Seen in the picture (L to R) Dr. Kailash Bihari, John Rakesh Sharma, Ashok Pahuja, K K Nayyar, H C Joshi and area MLA Brahm Pal. Mr. Pahuja became a Donor Member by donating a billiards table at concessional rate.



33. President Mathew Benjamin and John Rakesh Sharma are regular players of Billiards.



34. The Card Room in Club is another very popular joint in Club, patronised by a large number of Club members and their guests.



35. The Badminton Court of the Riverside Club, is yet another much sought- after facility by members.



36. In recognition of the location and social-cultural role being played by the Riverside Club, Mayur Vihar-1 Ext., the Government of Delhi decided to name the PWD road leading from Noida Link Road to the Riverside Club as 'Club Avenue' Marg. Dr. A K Walia, minister for Finance & PWD dedicated the Club Avenue Road at a function on 10 September 2003.





37. Minister Dr. A K Walia unveiled a plaque naming the road connecting the Riverside Club as Club Avenue on 10 September 2003. Seen in the picture (L to R) are Club office bearer C M Jain, A K Khurana, Mukesh Sharma and A K Chakraborty (Secretary and Chairman Federation of MV Group Housing Societies), Vijay Kumar Malhotra, secretary general of the Club, Dr. Walia, Local MLA Brahm Pal, DCHFC Gen. Manager H C Joshi and President of the Club S K Bhatia.



38. It was a momentous occasion for the newly constructed Riverside Club Members, when the Bar of the Club was inaugurated on November 17, 2000. Picture shows Club President N D Prabhu breaking coconut on the auspicious occasion. Others seen in picture are joint secretary Ravi Jaitley, Secretary General A K Chakraborty and Treasurer B S Padmanabhan.



39. President N D Prabhu opened a Champagne bottle during the Bar opening.







पीएफसी अब है महारत्न

एक सीपीएसई के लिए सर्वोच्च सम्मान

फॉर्ब्स ग्लोबल 2021 के
अनुसार, परिसंपत्तियों के
आधार पर विश्व में

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₹56,000 करोड़

से अधिक की नेट वर्थ

वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 में
अब तक का सर्वाधिक

₹8,444 करोड़

का निवल लाभ

उत्पाद एवं सेवाएं

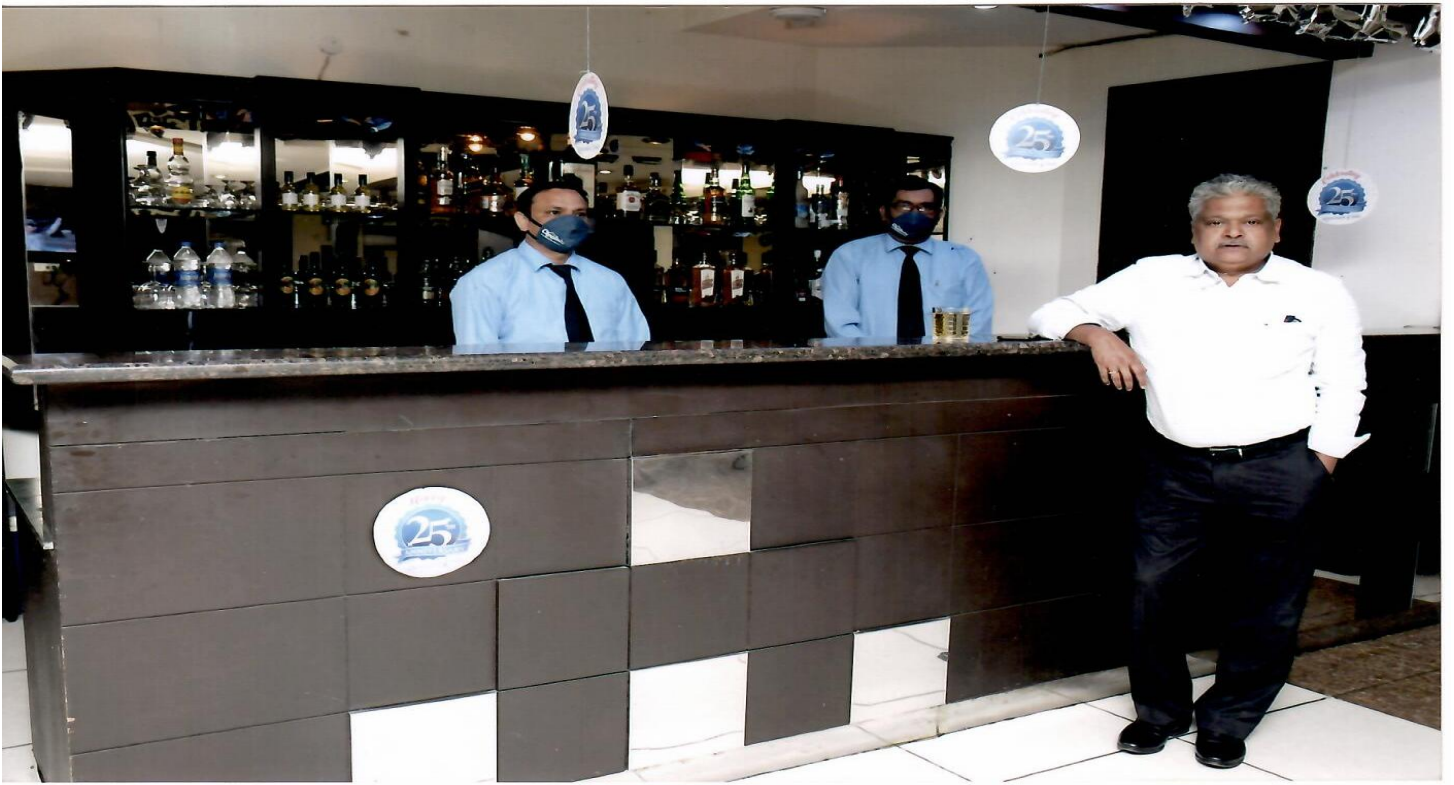
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40. The Club Bar picture at its earlier location and along with the picture of the present location. President Mathew Benjamin (1999 to 201) snapped at the well -stocked bar at the present location. (two pictures to go together)



41. Club MC member KKR Das is seen with an eminent jurist and senior advocate Randhir Beri at the Club Bar opening on November 17, 2000. Mr. Das has also been associated with the Guruvayurappan Temple in Mayur Vihar-1.



42. Mission Accomplished: Riverside Club founding President N D Prabhu boisterously dancing his heart away in the reception area of the Club after the conclusion of the Bar opening on November 17, 2000. Others seen are Secretary General A K Chakraborty, Navy Commander and MC member K C Kaushal and the Vice President S K Bhatia.



43. Club members Prabhakar Sharma and Ms Suman Tripathi, who also managed the Club Swimming Pool, rythmatically danced during a cultural event in the Club.



44. Former secretary General Sanjay Gupta and former Vice President Late Dr. Dinesh Sahai delightfully danced during a Club event.



45. A section of the enthusiastic turnout of Members and families at a New Year party in the Club.



46. Mr. N D Prabhu President often won the hearts of youngsters with his spontaneous twists and dancing. Picture at the event while a member Ashok Gupta clapped away in appreciation.



47. Club President S K Bhatia seen at a Christmas celebration in the club. New Year party, Ladies meet, Tambola, Karva Chauth, Diwali and Holi are other events observed enthusiastically by Club members.



48. President K K Mehra speaking at a Mushaira event held in the Club.



49. The first function held in the Club House during Covid-19 Pandemic was the Independence Day celebration on 15 August 2020. The National Tricolour was hoisted by the President Mathew Benjamin and Secretary General Rita Sharma. Also seen are secretary R K Menon and Mrs. Rita Benjamin.



50. A view of the well -attended Club General Body held on 31 January 2021 by observing all the due Covid related protocols. The Club Treasurer CA Rajeev Kachhal speaking, while also seen in the picture (L to R) are Vice Presidents Ashwini Mehra, Dr. Dinesh Sahai, President Mathew Benjamin, secretary R K Menon, Secretary General Rita Sharma.



51. General Body meeting held on January 31, 2021, held virtually under Covid- 19 conditions witnessed good turnout of Members. Seen sitting (L to R) are former office bearers, Sanjay Gupta, A K Chakraborty, Sunil Aggarwal, K K Mehra, Anand Sharma and Jose PA. while Mr. G R Bhojwani CA and an active Member is seen with the mike.



52. Cultural events has been a strong point among the multifarious activities of the Riverside Club. Club President S K Bhatia seen amidst a Christmas party.



53. A cake was cut to celebrate the opening of the refurbished Bar of the Club in March 2013. Seen in the picture on the occasion are Adv Jasbir Singh Malik, President K K Mehra, Rita Sharma and Adv Arun Mahajan.



54. Club Secretary General V K Malhotra giving away a prize to one of the musicians during one of the several events regularly organised by the Club.







AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTASAV - 75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY 15TH AUGUST



SILVER JUBILEE YEAR RIVERSIDE SPORTS RECREATION CLUB & 2022

Complied by Coffee Table Book Sub Committees:-

- **President : Mr. Mathew Benjamin (2019-2023)**
- **Secretary : Mr John Rakesh Sharma (2021-2023)**
- **First Secretary General of the Riverside Club (1995-2001)**
Mr. A.K. Chakraborty

Other Contributions from:

- **Mr Arun Mahajan, Mr, Angad Pal Singh, Mr. Jose P.A.**
- **Ms. Rita Sharma, Mr R.K. Menon and Late Dr. Dinesh Sahai**

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