



# OBA Calling

AUGUST 2021



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# Old Boys' Day 2021

Sunday, September 5, 2021

## **7:15 a.m.**

Holy Mass

Placing of Wreath at War Memorial

Unfurling of School Flag and singing of School Anthem

## **9:00 a.m.**

Group Photograph

## **9:30 a.m.**

Annual General Meeting at Xavier Auditorium, SJBHS

Covid-19 protocols will be in force.

[Click here for the AGM Notice & Programme - 2021](#)





# Message from the Secretary

The forthcoming AGM shall bring the curtains down on the OBA year 2020-21. Elected in 2019, the incumbent Managing Committee has had an extended run as the AGM could not be held last year. With just a few weeks to go for the celebration of Old Boys' Day on September 5, the planning for hosting Josephites at Mass and the 102nd AGM is under way.

At the first meeting post the election held in September 2019, I was nominated to take over as the Secretary and I can humbly state that I've put in my best to do justice to the responsibilities that come with the position.

Of the several tasks shouldered, I thoroughly enjoyed working on one in particular - that of perusing old records and talking to several Old Boys to pinpoint the names of our House Captains right from 1929, the year the House system was introduced. These names have been updated on the boards that are displayed outside the old OBA Office. Indagation of the annuals to determine the full names of the former Presidents and Secretaries of the OBA was another very interesting and enriching experience and the simple undertakings of renovating the signage at the main entrance to School, sprucing up the OBA Office etc. all lent a sense of satisfaction and fulfilment.





This outgoing Managing Committee will be remembered not only for having been at the helm of the OBA's affairs at the time that the world battled the Covid-19 pandemic but also for having held the Extraordinary General Meeting on December 1, 2019 – a landmark event wherein the revised Memorandum and Articles of Association were adopted.

While the Inter-Batch Football Tournament and Christmas Dinner were successfully conducted towards the end of 2019, the majority of the events scheduled thereon had to be cancelled. I'm pleased to asseverate that despite the constraints and challenges faced over the two years, the Managing Committee did manage to conduct the Welcome to OBA programme in each of the years, the Golf Tournament in the first year and the Celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph and Hockey Tournament in the second year. Also, very glad to add that an online Chess Tournament was conceptualised and two editions were successfully carried out.

The OBA continued to extend its support to the SJBHS Innovation Lab and in both years, meticulously carried out the process of selecting the winners of the Achievement Awards. The OBA Calling Editorial Team did a stellar job, publishing 8 editions of the periodical. The team is now looking to pass on the baton to a fresh set of hands.





The Managing Committee would not have been able to successfully complete most or any of the events without the unparalleled support of all the Sub-Committees. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the members of each of them.

Come September, the world will seem, to me, to be a slightly different place. After a very enjoyable association of a decade and a half, the time has come for me to say goodbye to the Managing Committee. It will be a world wherein I have no official communications to publish, no agenda of monthly meetings to send out, no meetings to convene, no minutes to record, no messages and calls to respond to, no schoolboys and Old Boys to lend a helping hand to. *C'est la vie*, I guess!

I wish the incoming and all future Committees the very best, having utmost faith that each will continue to toil to win and spread the OBA's renown.

Fide et Labore.

Rajeev Shenoy

Secretary (2019-21)





# OBA Lifetime Achievement Award 2021 Winners

Dr Chandu Visweswariah (1977 ICSE)



- Globally recognized authority on Computer Chip design and Renewable Energy.
- During his 28 years at IBM, pioneered circuit analysis and optimization and invented statistical timing.
- Distinguished Engineer in Electronic Design Automation in IBM's Systems and Technology Group.
- Led a worldwide IBM Smarter Energy and Environmental Science team.
- IEEE Fellow (1995), "Innovator of the Year" (EDN Magazine 2006), Member of the IBM Academy of Technology (2009), IBM Master Inventor (2011), IBM Corporate Awardee (2003, 2012).
- Recognized as IBM Fellow in 2013, one of the highest global recognitions in technology and engineering.
- Holds 119 patents, authored the book "Electronic Circuit and System Simulation Methods" and over 100 other publications.
- In 2017, founded Utopus Insights out of IBM research. Since acquired by Vestas, world's largest wind turbine manufacturer.
- Today, under Vestas ownership, Utopus' digital platform supports over 100 GW of renewable wind energy systems across 60 countries.
- Co-founder of environmental not-for-profits Croton100 and CURE100 to achieve net zero emissions.





## Dr Joy A. Thomas (1977 ICSE) - (1963 -2020)



- Secured the first rank in the All India JEE, the entrance examination for admission to IIT.
- Awarded the Charles LeGeyt Fortescue scholarship by the IEEE while at Stanford University.
- Co-authored "Elements of Information Theory", a standard at hundreds of Universities worldwide.
- Pioneered data mining and data compression, the MXT memory-doubling technology developed by Joy is used in all IBM computer systems.
- Founded Stratify in 1999 (acquired by Iron Mountain).
- Co-founded Insights One in 2010 (acquired by Apigee and then by Google).
- Joy's colleagues established the Joy Thomas Foundation (JTF - [www.joythomasfoundation.org](http://www.joythomasfoundation.org)) to promote Science and Technology (STEM) education.
- Joseph's Alumni Association of North America (JAANA) is working with JTF to launch a STEM online education programme for the 7th through 12th standard students at SJBHS, which will subsequently be available to students worldwide.
- Quote: "Joy was perhaps the most brilliant gift from India to the US in engineering sciences in recent decades." Dr. Paulraj, Prof. Emeritus, Department of Electrical Engineering, Stanford University.







## Dr Rajen Dias (1972 ISC)



- 1984-2002, Senior Staff Engineer, managing a team for Package Failure Analysis during development of new products and technology building blocks.
- 2002-2016, Principal Engineer, managing the Assembly Technology Development Quality and Reliability Pathfinding Programs.
- 32 years with Intel Corporation, USA. 37 patents granted, 32 more filed.
- Received Intel's most prestigious 'Intel Achievement Award' thrice.
- Received 'Intel Division Recognition' award fifteen times.
- Authored articles and papers, co-authored a chapter on Advances in 3D Interconnect Characterization Techniques.
- Received global recognition as IEEE speaker and reviewer of manuscripts.
- Over the last 2 years, Rajen has faced very severe challenges on the health front, inspiring people quietly even in the face of adversity.





## Shubhendu Ghosh (1970 ISC)



- Over 38 years of telecom experience in India and Middle East.
- Recognized for driving telecom growth, both mobile & broadband, in Metro Districts.
- Served in the “hi-tech” R&D wing of the Ministry of Communications - TRC and TEC, New Delhi.
- Represented India from 1985 to 1990 at the Study Groups of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Geneva.
- Deputed to Qatar Telecom (1992-98) set up Qatar’s first mobile network.
- In 2000, awarded the “Outstanding Achievers Gold Medal” by the Dept. of Telecom, Govt. of India & in 2010, awarded the “Eminent Engineers Award” of the Institute of Engineers, India.
- First Deputy Director General (Strategic Planning) at BSNL HQ,
- Headed Bangalore Telecom District as its longest-serving Head and Principal General Manager, awarded “Best Telecom District” award for five consecutive years till 2012.
- Awarded The Innovative 100 - 2007 CIO Award by the International Data Group (IDG).
- Awarded the National Energy Conservation Award, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, achieved a decrease of 28% Electrical Energy consumption for Bangalore Telecom.
- As part of social responsibility, served in several NGOs.





## Lt Gen Venugopal Menon, SM, VSM (Retd) (1973 ISC)



- In 1974, joined the National Defence Academy (NDA), awarded Bronze Medal.
  - Secured Silver Medal at the prestigious Indian Military Academy (IMA).
  - In 1978, commissioned into 110 Engineers Regiment (Indian Army Corps of Engineers).
  - Selected to attend the prestigious Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.
  - Commanded 116 Engineer Regiment at Ladakh during "Operation Vijay" of the Kargil War.
- As a Major General, served as Head of the Administration for the entire Northern Command of the Army.
  - Awarded the Sena Medal (SM) and Vishist Seva Medal (VSM).
  - Led the UN Peace Keeping force in Mozambique.
  - Holds an M.Sc. degree in Defence Studies and M.Phil. degrees in Defence and Management Studies & Defence and Strategic Studies.
  - Expert in Combat Engineering, Nuclear-Biological-Chemical warfare.
  - The first Josephite to be promoted to the prestigious rank of Lieutenant General.
  - In Dec 2016, superannuated after 38 years of service to the Nation.





# OBA Award for Significant Achievement 2021 Winners

Dr Kartik Chandran (1989 ICSE)



- Global authority on epidemics and pandemics.
  - From 2013 - 2015 headed the WHO team in tackling the Ebola virus.
  - Helped uncover critical host factors required for cell invasion by the virus.
  - Heads "Chandran Lab" in the Virology Laboratory at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York.
- 
- The Chandran Lab strives to understand molecular warfare between virus and cell, and develop antiviral treatments.
  - Recognized authority in Emerging viruses, Ebola and Marburg viruses, Bunya viruses, Hanta viruses, Viral genetics, Antivirals.
  - Expert in Basic and Translational Research on Emerging RNA Viruses.
  - Authority on detecting and blocking the SARS-COV19-2 Spike.





## Siddharth Raja (1990 ICSE)



- In March 2021, enlisted in the “Legal Powerlist 2020” as one of the top individual lawyers in India (above 10 years-experience; in the Private Equity & Venture Capital / Corporate & Commercial / Mergers & Acquisitions categories) – a recognition by Forbes India, in association with LegitQuest.
- Also in March 2021, Saakshya Law, his law firm, awarded the “Debutant Law Firm of the Year – Apex 2021 Awards” by Venture Intelligence, India’s leading source of information and analysis on Private Equity, Venture Capital and M&A transactions in India.
- Stellar professional and personal achievements spanning over 30 years.
- In 1997, won the Gold Medal at NLSIU, Bangalore.
- 1997-98, British Chevening, Foreign & Commonwealth Office Scholar, University of Warwick Law School.
- 1997-98, JN Tata Scholar, United Kingdom.
- Mediation Specialist at India’s leading mediation and conciliation firm, the Centre for Advanced Mediation Practice.
- Contributes to causes to help improve our children, city and society. Owns a heritage and historical walking tour company, Nandi Valley Walks.
- 2016-17, Member of Bangalore Tourism Advisory Committee, Government of Karnataka.
- Governor, Board of Governors, Bangalore International Centre.





# Josepheights!

## Devdutt Padikkal (2016 ICSE)



Devdutt Padikkal has the distinction of being the first millennial cricketer to represent India in cricket.

He made his T20I debut on 28 July 2021 for India against Sri Lanka. He has also played for the India Under-19 team in the past.

From 2014, Devdutt has represented Karnataka in the Under-16 and Under-19 categories. In 2017, Devdutt was selected to play for Bellary Tuskers in the Karnataka Premier League. He made his first-class debut for Karnataka in November 2018. In December 2018, he was bought by the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the player auction for the 2019 Indian Premier League.

He became the first player in IPL history to score three fifties in his first four matches. He made his List A debut in September 2019, turning out for Karnataka in the 2019–20 Vijay Hazare Trophy. He was the leading run-scorer in the tournament having amassed 609 runs in eleven matches.





In October 2019, he was named in India A's squad for the 2019–20 Deodhar Trophy. He made his Twenty20 debut in November 2019, representing Karnataka in the 2019–20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Devdutt won the Emerging Player Award for the 2020 Indian Premier League (IPL), playing for Royal Challengers Bangalore. He scored 473 runs in 15 matches for Royal Challengers Bangalore in his debut IPL season. He was selected in Karnataka's squad for the 2021 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

The OBA had recognized Devdutt in December 2019 by honouring him with the Young Josephite Sportsman of the Year award during the JOSEXCEL (Josephite Excellence in Sports) felicitation event. The OBA congratulates Devdutt on his latest achievement and wishes him the very best for a stellar cricketing career ahead!





## Shankar Vedantam (1985 ICSE)



Two of the most formative moments in my school years took place when I was 10 and 12 years old.

In the 6th standard, my class teacher Mrs. Mamata Shetty encouraged me to go on stage and take part in a debating competition. Being a shy kid, I was hesitant, but I discovered I was good at it.

I won first place that year.

Two years later, in the 8th standard, cocksure of my oratorical abilities, I went up on stage again -- and suffered a terrible bout of stage fright. I forgot my speech, lost my composure, and melted down on stage.

Failure proved more instructive than success: In recent decades, I have given dozens of lectures and keynote speeches, sometimes to audiences that number in the thousands. I can testify that, as preparation, nothing beats going up on a stage before 300 middle-schoolers who are happy to laugh their heads off at you when you mess up your speech.







Bio:

Shankar Vedantam passed out of St Joseph's Boys High School in 1985. He is the host and creator of Hidden Brain, the award-winning podcast and public radio programme. The show, which explores the intricacies of human behaviour, receives more than three million downloads each week and is featured on some 400 public radio stations around the United States.

Vedantam is also the CEO of Hidden Brain Media. He previously served as National Public Radio (NPR)'s social science correspondent and as a reporter and columnist at The Washington Post. He is the author of 'The Hidden Brain: How our Unconscious Minds Elect Presidents, Control Markets, Wage Wars and Save Our Lives' and co-author of the 2021 book 'Useful Delusions: The Power and Paradox of the Self-Deceiving Brain'.

Vedantam received a Master's degree in Journalism from Stanford University and has served as a fellow of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. A sought-after public speaker, Vedantam has lectured at the Gates Foundation, Columbia University and the World Bank.





# News from School

**The OBA congratulates Fr Principal, students, teachers, and parents for School's outstanding achievements in academics.**

## **ISC Results: 157 appeared, all passed in the First Class**

Science Toppers

1. Abinaya E - 98.6%
1. Khushi Malhotra - 98.6%
2. Saahil Salil Sanghvi - 98.2%
3. Preethi M - 97.8%

Commerce Toppers

1. Rakshit Agarwal - 98.8%
2. Vibhas P - 97.8%
3. Shekha Nair - 97.2%

## **ICSE Results: 261 appeared, all passed in the First Class**

Toppers:

1. Adyoth Channakeshav - 98.83%
2. H Antonius Godfrey - 98.5 %
3. S Ayush - 98.16%

## **Common Law Admission Test (CLAT 2021)**

Rishabh Devaiah - Karnataka State Rank #1, All India Rank #14

Rakshit Agarwal - Karnataka State Rank #2, All India Rank #20

Swagat Srinivasan - Karnataka Rank #7, All India Rank #62

## **Other news**

Fr. Joel Fernandes, SJ moved on in pursuit of higher studies and in his place, Fr. Vishal D'Souza, SJ took charge as the Primary School Administrator of SJBHS.

SJBHS hosted Transcendence 2021, an online Science, Technology and eSports fest from August 1 to 14 and is all geared up to host Bifrost 2021, Bangalore's most-awaited Commerce Fest, from August 30 to September 5.





# Josephites, Unforgotten!

## Obituaries

The OBA regrets the sad demise of the following Old Boys. May their souls rest in peace.

Our deepest condolences to the bereaved families:

David Lobo	1977	August 8, 2021
Hugo M G De Souza	1932	August 7, 2021
N Rajkumar	1961	August 7, 2021
Noel D'Rocha	1963	July 29, 2021
Brian Goveas	1968	July 22, 2021
Maurice de Rebello	1949	July 18, 2021
Kersi Anklesaria	1968	July 1, 2021
Elangovan Gajraj	1987	May 28, 2021





# Get in Touch!

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The OBA invites you to contribute to future editions of the OBA Calling.

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## **OBA Calling Editorial Team**

Deekshith Thimmaiah (ICSE 2003)

Jyotinath Ganguly (ICSE 1975)

