



Hello Everyone,

Hope you will soon be enjoying the company of each other and **the tigers and of course tigresses**. It is hard to believe that we left the school 49 years ago and here we are entering **vanaprastashram**. When we met for 25th anniversary, many of us were seeing each other for the first time since leaving school. But the next 25 years we stayed more connected and almost on a daily basis for the past 5 years.

**Hadas laid the foundation for our lives but each one of us built a different structure on it.** So the way we spent the past half a century looks very different and yet when we reminisce on school days the school kid in us takes over. Many “forwards” on Whatsapp have described how things were in “our time”. So I do not need to repeat yet I feel one thing does stand out – we respected our teachers enormously despite being beaten for good and bad reasons. Looking back the memories of school are intimately linked to personalities of teachers and classmates. I am sure many of us will have trouble recalling what we learnt in Set Theory. But Pendharkar sir we will remember forever. Similarly, I will have trouble recalling the textbooks we studied for Marathi, Hindi, English but the respective and respected teacher will remain in our memories.

Technology has revitalized the loose connections and we have started enjoying each other’s company again in Whatsapp. I try to read it regularly but am mostly able to actively participate on Saturday or Sunday. Response or not, I appreciate the ability to connect virtually. I enjoy Dhanya’s postings in Oxford English as well as Sushya’s postings in Hindi/English, Chaturyakathas from Vishwas and Bhakadkathas from the “Forward kings” not to mention some of the Freudian Slips due to the use of Roman script for Hindi, remembering which I still break into laughter.

**Nothing replaces face to face interaction**, of course. So I hope you enjoy the golden moments and interactions. It is hard to believe that many of us have now become grandparent and yet when we meet, **potteshahi** kicks in. Hope you guys do lots masti and maskari over two days. **And please leave behind nothing but garbage and bring along nothing but fond memories and photographs.**

Yours Truly,

**Narendra Deshpande**

