**A Trip to be Remembered**

This was my first ever trip away from Mumbai and from my parents, and the most awaited one at that time. I wasn’t selected for the trip, but a miracle happened, and my sports teacher asked me, "If you could join them for the trip?" An unfortunate injury happened to me a week before the trip. "My index finger broke while trying to take a very high catch during the inter-class cricket match." I had a 7-day temporary fracture where I wasn’t supposed to do anything, not even any adventure activity. A decision had to be made as the trip was coming closer. I went on the trip despite having a broken finger.

We were 10 boys and 10 girls, with RN Kamble Sir and Kaveri Mam each. Our train was from Mumbai Central railway station, which is 40-45 minutes away from my home at 17:00 hours, to Amritsar via Punjab Mail (24 hr) journey. The whole trip was so adventurous that, from cab to train, it was full of very different experiences. The train journey started with 20 students and 2 teachers, with a total of 14 confirmed seats. In any case, we adjusted ourselves to each other. Some of them were new to me, some were my childhood friends, and some were also a couple. We played dumb charades with nine of us sitting on the upper berth, crossing our legs with each other. I came to know a few things about some people; how they do, how they talk, how they interact, how they behave. I enjoyed the very first night with them by playing the above game and using powerful green and red-coloured torches to misguide the train’s pilots and torch the people shitting on railway tracks, which was quite a hilarious thing to do. But, now that I think about it, it was somehow a yes and somehow a no. We and the train managed to reach Amritsar station on time even after causing such a nuisance.

The second step was to reach Kangra, HP, which was 200 KM away. We reached Kangra via Volvo bus & from there we booked a bolero to reach Shri. Atal Bihari Bajpayee, Regional Mountaineering Camp, McLeodGanj. After reaching there, we were given a little brief about what we were going to do here and what would be the itinerary for the next 10 days of our life. We were allocated our rooms, where girls' and boys' rooms were separated. We headed towards our room (dorms-4 double-storeyed beds) where we saw the canteen where we were supposed to have our breakfast, lunch, and dinner and an area where we would be washing our dishes daily.