

"Sir Ivan Menezes, IIMA Student Yearbook, 1980-1981"



THE SIXY CHORUS

(To be sung to the tune of Inky Pinky Parlez Vous)

Ivan Menzes rolled his way Parlez Vous
Ivan Menzes rolled his way Parlez Vous
Ivan Menzes rolled his way
Right thru the Convo Day
Inky Pinky Parlez Vous.

D-15

Tucked away, in the suburbs of Kahnland is this bastion of joi-de-vivre D-15. To the iminitiated it's perhaps the den of prodigals and wayward iconoclasts but for us life was a never ending cycle of dorm parties, yoga, play, reading, birdge, intellectual discord, religious debates, Cordon Bleu meals, Morris maintenanc and existential problems. The male-female ratio has never remained a lament what with all those NID girls who made D-15 their 2nd home. To top it all we bought a CAR - a 1948 Morris - a near vintage that fulfilled a dream. There were no more of those dreary walks to the Saturday movie at ATIRA; no more of those last minute dashes for breakfast, NID is now only a couple of minutes away; and Drive-in became our 2nd home. Fittingly we are situated, in Gray's words, "far from the madding crowd", transcending the murdane city slicking world of social climbers, managerial careerists and case collecting drips. Let's then meet these guys who made history at the Institute.

There's Ivanorich (Ivan), a scrable maniac who has this enviable habit of dropping off to sleep in almost any position and at almost any time, and a firm advocate of the religion of dissipation. Vish (V.S. Sowani) of the 'Karvaya' fame, is a man of diverse interests who dabbles in palmistry (restricted to reading only girl's hands), orthology (mainly of the unfeathered kind), and music - a truly lethal combination that makes most girls beat a path to his door. Then there is Bordie - 'a widely travelled' person who has this distinction of managing more than 2 terms mainly away from campus. Super, who has his finger in every pie - be it Basket Ball, Cricket, Compering, JAM, or what have you initiated us into the Yoga experience - a session which saw a quite few D-1 enthusiasts as eager participants. And if you happen to run into a guy who spouts involved, esoteric O. B. jargon, be sure it is Manoj whose pet theme nowadays is 'Entrepreneurship'. That leaves Shunker, the topless wonder, who is seen mainly in 'briefs' and got his ESP to warn him in time when the fairer sex came in (which was quite often).

Coming to PGP ones, we have the lover boy Pradeep Chandra - our permanent representative in D-1, who has recetly taken to the gym, handling the bar bells there with a scant respect, that surprised many of us. Then there's Ashutosh (the Planning Commission, aspirant). Initially D-15's eccentric recluse who spent half his time reading or writing letters, he underwent a stunning transformation as he ventured into the world of bull sessions. Deepak who loves Harvard dinners, Foreign Policy, (not forgetting the lady, of course!) is the source of many ribald utterances. His room serves as the haven for most Bull session - and hijacked newspapers. And of cours, there is Sunny, with a flaunted empathy for the illiterate rustic, obsessed with T. A. and sharing Manoj's interest in the O. B. business. The day would be unusual if he didn't miss his breakfast.

If you now tramp up one more flight of stairs you come across a crowd which serve as D-15's steadying influence. We have our car whiz Sastry (Daddy) who with all the insight of an aficionado, set to work on the Dorm Car; and Presto! It purred into life. Then we have 'Bhoju and his one man Army' who has this penchant for adding more adipose tissue to an ever increasing girth, and is synonymous with fun and laughter. There is Lal who is incessantly talking bridge or computers. Samir has the 'Lever' to the corporate world with his urbanity and his prowess in the cricket field. Then there's calamity Jain who is either getting his room washed or cultivating closer ties with R. A.'s (of the fairer kind); and of course Bajjal Sa'ab who after a disastrous attempt at running the pantry, considered it more palatable than contributing to the Year Book.

The PGP ones on his floor are all potential 1-Schols. We have Raju - always immaculately turned out - whether it be baddy court, hockey field or Class and who travels in style on his Scooter (even to SAP stores). Then there is Nandu who right from his initial days at IIM, made inroads into D-1 and fills the role of being their friend, philosopher, guide and confidant; apart from being their Project Partner tutor, and what have you. Ramanathan (loudee, loudir, jame) is a chronic case of ebullience both in class and on the field; and there's Gaurav Shingal who altho' rumoured to the staying this dorm, is found only in D-8 and has managed at times to frighten even some of us with his raucous laughter.

Source: IIMA Archives

“Sir Ivan Menezes, 1959-2023”

Sir Ivan Menezes

1959 – 2023

It is with great sadness that Diageo announces that Sir Ivan Menezes has passed away following a brief illness, with his family at his side.



Source: From the Diageo website (See link: <https://www.diageo.com/en>)

“From the Press Release of Diageo, dated June 7, 2023”

Diageo plc announces that Sir Ivan Menezes has passed away

7 Jun 2023 | Press release

Notes to editors:

- *Ivan joined Diageo at its creation in 1997 and held many senior positions in a career spanning over 25 years at the company. He had been the Strategy Director for Guinness plc. When Diageo was subsequently created through the merger, Ivan was appointed Group Integration Director tasked with integrating this ‘merger of equals’.*
- *Ivan was appointed to the board as an Executive Director of Diageo in July 2012 and served as Chief Executive Officer since July 2013. He was due to retire on 30 June 2023.*
- *Ivan was an inspirational champion for both women and ethnic minorities in business. In 2008 there were no women on Diageo’s Executive Committee, today over half are women, including his successor as CEO, the CFO and the Presidents of Diageo’s largest Markets - North America, Europe and India, and almost half of the Executive Committee are ethnically diverse.*
- *Over 40% of Diageo’s senior leadership positions globally are held by women, while 37% are ethnically diverse, well on the way to his target to achieve gender parity in senior leadership and 45% of our leadership to be ethnically diverse by 2025.*
- *Beyond Diageo, Ivan was Chairman of ‘Movement to Work’ between 2017 and 2020, a UK voluntary collaboration of businesses committed to tackling youth unemployment, in partnership with government, unions and charities, delivering 100,000 structured work placements for young people in the UK, with over 55% of participants securing permanent jobs.*
- *Ivan had a long involvement with the Pratham charity as an ongoing donor. Pratham is a charity which promotes literacy and provides education to underprivileged children in India.*
- *Ivan is a Non-Executive Director of Tapestry Inc.; Chairman of the Council of The Scotch Whisky Association; and a member of the Global Advisory Board at Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University.*

Prior to his career with Diageo, Sir Ivan worked across a variety of sales, marketing and strategy roles for Whirlpool in Europe, Booz Allen & Hamilton in North America, and Nestlé in Asia.

Read more: <https://www.diageo.com/en/news-and-media/press-releases/2023/diageo-plc-announces-that-sir-ivan-menezes-has-passed-away>

Source: From the Press Release of Diageo, dated June 7, 2023

**“Coverage of Sir Ivan’s Prestigious Award (highlighted) from
The Gazette: London Gazette, published on December 31, 2022”**



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NEW YEAR HONOURS
LIST—UNITED KINGDOM

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London SW1

31 December 2022

The KING has been graciously pleased to signify his intention of conferring the honour of Knighthood upon the undermentioned:

KNIGHTS BACHELOR

John AKOMFRAH, C.B.E., Visual Artist. For services to the Arts.

Professor James Louis John APPLEBY, C.B.E., Professor of Psychiatry, University of Manchester and Chair, National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group. For services to Medicine and Mental Health.

Ian BAUCKHAM, C.B.E., Chair, Ofqual. For services to Education.

Professor Vernon Bernard BOGDANOR, C.B.E., F.B.A., Professor of Government, King's College London. For services to Political Science.

Christopher John BRYANT, M.P., Member of Parliament for Rhondda and Chair, Commons Committee on Standards. For Political and Public Service.

Professor Ian Trevelyan CHAPMAN, Chief Executive Officer, UK Atomic Energy Authority. For services to Global Fusion Energy.

John Rawcliffe Airey CRABTREE, O.B.E., D.L., Chair, Organising Committee, 2022 Commonwealth Games. For services to Sport and to the community in the West Midlands.

Roland Francis Kester KEATING, Chief Executive, The British Library. For services to Literature.

Professor Mayur Keshavji LAKHANI, C.B.E., Chair, Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management and General Practitioner, Highgate Medical Centre, Loughborough. For services to General Practice.

The Right Honourable Dr. Julian Murray LEWIS, M.P., Member of Parliament for New Forest East and Chair, Intelligence and Security Committee. For Political and Public Service.

Professor Peter William MATHIESON, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Edinburgh. For services to Higher Education.

Dr. Brian Harold MAY, C.B.E., Musician, Songwriter and Animal Welfare Advocate. For services to Music and to Charity.

Ivan Manuel MENEZES, Chief Executive Officer, Diageo plc. For services to Business and to Equality.

Robin John Christian MILLAR, C.B.E., Founder and Group Chair, Blue Raincoat Chrysalis Group. For services to Music, to People with Disabilities, to Young People and to Charity.

Grayson PERRY, C.B.E., Artist, Writer and Broadcaster. For services to the Arts.

Dr. Martin Peter READ, C.B.E., Chairman, Wincanton plc. For services to Industry and for Public and Voluntary Service.

Luke Philip Hardwick RITTNER, C.B.E., Chief Executive, Royal Academy of Dance. For services to Dance and the Arts.

William George ROBERTSON, C.B.E., D.L., Executive Chairman, Robertson Group. For services to the Construction Industry and to Charity in Scotland.

Norman Keith SKEOCH, lately Chair, Investment Association and Ring Fencing and Proprietary Trading Review. For services to the Financial Sector.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London SW1

31 December 2022

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Honourable Order of the Bath:

ORDER OF THE BATH

(MILITARY DIVISION)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (ROYAL NAVY)

K.C.B.

To be Ordinary Members of the Military Division of the Second Class, or Knights Commander, of the said Most Honourable Order:

Vice Admiral Keith Edward BLOUNT, C.B., O.B.E., Royal Navy, C031931J.

Vice Admiral Nicholas William HINE, C.B., Royal Navy, C031981V.

C.B.

To be Ordinary Members of the Military Division of the Third Class, or Companions, of the said Most Honourable Order:

Vice Admiral Paul MARSHALL, C.B.E., Royal Navy, C034843Y.

Major General James Andrew John MORRIS, D.S.O., Royal Marines, N028223M.

Vice Admiral Guy Antony ROBINSON, O.B.E., Royal Navy, C032009Q.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (ARMY)

K.C.B.

To be an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the Second Class, or Knight Commander, of the said Most Honourable Order:

Lieutenant General Charles Roland Vincent WALKER, D.S.O., 536349.

C.B.

To be Ordinary Members of the Military Division of the Third Class, or Companions, of the said Most Honourable Order:

Major General Ludwig Karl FORD, C.B.E., 521380.

Major General Simon John Malise GRAHAM, V.R., 525168.

“A Fireside Chat with Ivan Menezes”

IIMA Alumnus, Volume 47, Issue 2, June 2015, p. 56

A Fireside Chat with Ivan Menezes: The London Chapter organized a sold out fireside chat with **Ivan Menezes**, PGP

1981 and Chief Executive of Diageo. The event was held at the Diageo offices in Central London on May 11, 2015. Ivan was in conversation with **Nikhil Rathi**, Chief of Staff and Director of International Development

at the London Stock Exchange Group, who has also previously been a Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of the UK. Ivan braved a barrage of questions in the 55-strong gathering that followed Chatham house rules. Menezes later took a number of personal questions including his favourite personalities in business and sports.

Source: IIMA Archives

**“Newspaper article on Sir Ivan Menezes by Mr. Arvind Subramanian (PGP 1981),
June 7, 2023”**

Ivan Menezes (1959–2023): A personal recollection of his journey

Over-successful men tend to inflict two types of collateral damage

Arvind Subramanian |



Ivan Menezes Diageo's Chief

6 min read Last Updated : Jun 07 2023 | 10:34 PM IST

The St Stephen's College Economics (Honours) batch of 1979 is considered as one of the more accomplished cohorts, delivering, as someone quipped, a CJI, CEOs, CMDs and a CEA. A class of just 75 students counted in its midst — and I am sure I am committing serious sins of omission — Dhananjaya Chandrachud and Sanjay Kaul (Chief Justice and Justice respectively in today's Supreme Court), Ajay Banga (former head of Mastercard and now president of the World Bank), Abhishek Singhvi (leading Supreme Court lawyer and Congress politician), Sarita Nayyar (World Economic Forum), Vinayak Chatterjee (an infrastructure entrepreneur), and K P Krishnan and Manjeev Puri (illustrious civil servants). One can make the case, however, that the Chuppa Rustam, the hidden jewel, in that illustrious roster was Ivan, or Sir Ivan, Menezes, the recently knighted CEO of the beverage company Diageo, who has just passed away.

Full disclosure: I think my first obsessive, possessive and only half-required — as we would joke — “love” was Ivan. I saw him first slouching down the corridor of St Stephen's College nearly 50 years ago and was instantly smitten (as was everyone else around him). We were bridge partners, colleagues on the college humour magazine Kooler Talk (me as passenger, Ivan as a real wit), nearly inseparable for five years. Ivan was one of only two people with whom I have shared juvenile, tear-welling, rib-hurting laughter.

Just the thought of us preparing for our BA exams together in the hot summer of Lutyens' Delhi, erupting as we read aloud in the early morning hours the incomprehensible economics textbook, which rambled “twelfthly...thirteenthly...sixteenthly”, brings a surge of emotions today. Those moments and the memories they have morphed into will be irreplaceably priceless. The friendship with Ivan, even if time, distance and temperaments precluded complete intimacy, has gratifyingly now travelled across generations to our children.

A brief bio would track Ivan's steady, heady climb from St Stephen's Delhi to IIM Ahmedabad to Nestlé, his first corporate job in India and then on to the Kellogg School of Management in the USA. This was followed by a long stint in the consulting company Booz Allen to Whirlpool, Guinness and eventually to the top of the global corporate pole of Diageo, the world's iconic beverage company, where he presided over ten years of solid success. But success was only one-half of what made Ivan Menezes special.

In the St Stephen's of our time, the halo-ed ones were the 5-pointers (the maximum score then in the school-leaving ISC exam). Mostly products of places such as Doon School, Mayo College, St. Columba's, St. Xavier's and La Martiniere, you could identify them by their strutting confidence as if "5-pointer" was etched on their foreheads. Ivan was referred to as the fraud 5-pointer not because he was any less bright than his preening peers or that he did not come from one of those elitist bastions, but because he didn't draw attention to his brilliance and behaved as if he thought himself unworthy of that distinction. All of St Stephen's — girls and guys, batchmates and seniors, Anglophiles and Biharis — flocked to that easy, low-key modesty and charm.

Not only did he not flaunt his accomplishments, Ivan did not flaunt his antecedents, either. Son of a highly regarded civil servant and chairman of the Railway Board, and brother of arguably the first high-profile Indian success in corporate America way back in the 1970s, Ivan's pedigree was sterling. But you wouldn't know it unless you got to know him well. In the scarcity era that was pre-liberalisation India, owning a pair of Levis jeans was a measure of your standing. For most Stephanians they were an advertisement, for Ivan they were just another accessory. (On my first courting outing, Ivan generously lent me a pair to save me from my ill-fitting, out-of-fashion bell-bottom trousers stitched in the backstreets of Triplicane in Madras.)

Over-successful men tend to inflict two types of collateral damage. They leave behind a residue of resentment within their neglected families and their inevitably competitive, professional climb leaves a trail of embittered or jealous peers. Ivan avoided both. A true "family" man, the Menezes household exuded hospitality and warmth to scores of relatives and friends. At the core of that hospitality is his bubbly, generous wife Gopa and the collective of the Menezes household with its strong internal bonds. Youngsters would flock there for shelter, gossip and food with Bartender and Chef Ivan fussing over the guests while mixing Diageo-only cocktails and executing the meal; but they would flock above all for the enveloping warmth and hospitality.

I did not keep close track of Ivan's corporate career but I am confident that he made many friends and few, if any, enemies. Quiet achievement that could speak for itself rather than self-promotion and throwing sharp elbows was Ivan's deserved way to the top.

From very early on it was clear that Ivan's unique ability was dispassionate and decisive decision-making, an almost Solomonic ability to weigh, assess and judge. The quantity of utterances from Ivan was low and the ratio of good sense to drivel in them was infinitely high.

The paradox of Ivan was that his wide circle of friends and well-wishers was not the result of a proactively outgoing personality; nor did it reflect the magnetic pull of a scintillating raconteur easily dispensing ideas and insight. Rather, it was simply the result of an indefinable "presence" that combined phenomenal success uncontaminated by vanity or self-assertion. That presence carried the calm and groundedness of someone with apparently no troubled past to afflict the present and no ghost of schoolyard bullies to slay. You wanted to be close to and bask in that wholesome presence devoid of edge or undercurrent.

At the pinnacle of success but on the verge of a rich and new inning of his life, Ivan's passing away seems tragically premature. The family will be inconsolable. Yet, it was such a fulfilled life. One might say that Ivan had and did it all — phenomenal conventional success; a close, loving family; a wide circle of friends and acquaintances; and a record of unostentatious generosity to friends and causes. In short, a life, enjoyed to the hilt, and well and honourably lived. Aristotle would have envied Ivan. Good night, sweet prince.

Arvind Subramanian belonged to the St Stephen's Economics (Hons.) class of 1979

Topics : Obituary

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