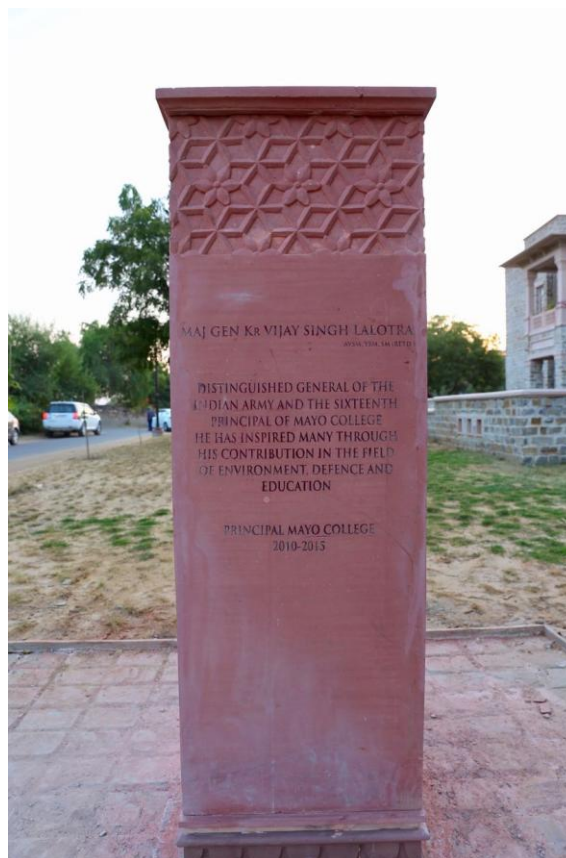
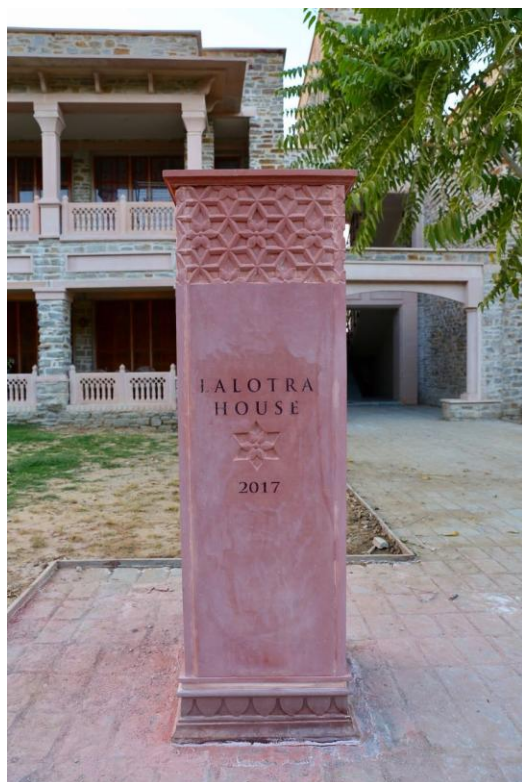


'LALOTRA HOUSE' AT MAYO COLLEGE

“An OS does his School Proud”



In 2010, Maj Gen Kanwar Vijay Singh Lalotra, AVSM, YSM, SM (Retd) (OS H 69 , Head Boy) set out on challenging journey. He accepted an assignment at Mayo College, Ajmer as its 16th Principal. Mayo College was founded in 1875 with the patronage of the British for educating princes of Central India.

With Maj Gen Lalotra's arrival, another chapter in Mayo College's history began to be scripted. For the next five years he went about his task with commitment and zeal for which he was known and respected in the Indian Army. Maj Gen Lalotra addressed every aspect of school life. He brought about vast improvements in pedagogy, improved infrastructure to international standards and enriched the school curriculum. Soon Mayo was transformed into a leading school in Asia. Maj Gen Lalotra struck a warm rapport with all on the campus. He endeared himself to students and led the staff by personal example. The support staff were skilled, equipped and enthused to perform with cheer.

Lt Gen Ajai Singh PVSM, (Retd) former Governor of Assam and himself a Mayoite had this to write about Maj Gen Lalotra on his leaving Mayo....

“Gen Lalotra made Mayo better than anyone else (including the British Principals) could have done. I can say that with confidence and authority, as a survival of that gone by era who has seen Mayo under three British principals including the much admired Mr Gibson.....The others in comparison to Vijay Lalotra, I call ‘they also ran’! Gen Lalotra has made history and if the entire Rajaputana does not acknowledge his invaluable contribution and pay homage to him, we will all be failing and get tarnished with the label of ‘ingratitude’.....In my estimate and eyes, he will always remain a ‘grand personality’.

Three year after Maj Gen Lalotra demitted headship at Mayo, the Mayo College Board of Governors, comprising former Maharajas and eminent Old Boys of the school, made a rare gesture in honouring him by christening a ‘**Lalotra House**’. The newly built splendid complex will house a record 16 members of teaching faculty. In doing this dedicatory, the Board has not only shown great altruism but respected the wishes of the school students, staff, parents and the alumni, including former Governor, Lt Gen Ajai Singh (Retd).



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[About Maj Gen Lalotra \(Retd\).](#)

- Maj Gen Lalotra (Retd) passed out from Sanawar in 1969 as the School Head Boy. His school leaving certificate, drafted by **Maj Som Dutt (Retd), Headmaster**, describes him as '**the ablest Head Boy in the last 14 years**' !

- His elder brother Lt Col Rajinder Singh (Retd) (OS H 1964) also served with distinction as Bursar Mayo College Girls' School for over 15 years. The main lounge in the Mayo College Girls' School Staff Club is named after him. A rare distinction for two brothers.

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Names of Houses at Mayo College. Initially the houses at Mayo were built by the Maharajas to house the princes and their retinue that accompanied to look after the royals. The first student was Mangal Singh of Alwar. Legend has it that he was accompanied by 300 staff for his care ! They were housed in Alwar House. Each princely state built a house for their princes. These were grand and majestic buildings and named after their states. With Mayo College opening its doors to all students in 1953, the houses built by the Maharajas were appropriated for many purposes. Today, the houses are utilised as under

Junior School. At Junior School, the three houses are named after Ajaipal, founder of Ajmer. Prithviraj, the great Chauhan King of Rajputana and Durgadas, the famous Rajput General credited with having preserved the rule of the Rathore dynasty over Marwar. These houses accommodate boys from Class IV to VI.

Senior School.

- In Senior School eight Houses accommodate boys from CI VIII to XII. These include Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner & Tonk, Kashmir, Bharatpur, Ajmer, Rajasthan and Colvin Houses. Colvin house was built for students of those states that could not build their own houses.

- Besides the above, the Sultan of Oman contributed the Oman House. It is a holding house and accommodates 120 boys of CI VII and five staff members.

- Kota and Alwar Houses now accommodate eight staff members each. Jhalawar and Udaipur House are being utilised as the School Museum and Art School and Hospital respectively.

- In 1876, two more buildings were constructed and named as Twiss House in honour of Lt Col Twiss, who served Mayo College for 27 years, taught English and was Vice Principal. It is the official residence of the Director cum Principal. Sherring is the residence of the Headmaster.

The act of eternalising Maj Gen Lalotra's name at Mayo is a testimony not only of his sterling contribution to the illustrious school but also speaks volumes of its Board.