

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## 'THE DOON SCHOOL ON MY PLATE'

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Rocky Singh and Mayur Sharma, hosts of the popular NDTV show, 'Highway on my Plate', during their recent visit to School



**The Doon School Weekly: Did you like our school food?**

**Rocky Singh (RCK) and Mayur Sharma (MYR):** Yes, we honestly liked your school food. We have eaten at canteens in schools across the country while shooting for this program. This is the best food, which is available to students, according to our experience, which is vast.

**DSW: How far would you go to get your quota of food?**

**MYR:** Rocky and I have been friends for about thirty-six years and we have had quite a few experiences. Once we got up at around three o'clock in the morning and realized that we were feeling really hungry. We caught a bus to go to another state, just to have breakfast, and then we took a bus back. Another incident which has been stuck in our minds is when Rocky's daughter was really, really young- six-seven months old and had just started to eat Farex and Cerolac. We were watching movies and ran out of food. So we opened her two-litre bottle of Farex and finished the whole thing. So when Rocky's wife finally came down to feed the baby at four in the morning, there were only two very happy men and an empty bottle of Farex. Then we had to drive around for one and a half hours to find food for Rocky's daughter.

**DSW: What did you guys do before working in the media?**

**MYR:** I used to work in fashion and do outdoor sports, which is why I have such a keen sense of passion.

**RCK:** I used to do a whole bunch of stuff. I used to be a corporate trainer in a corporate training company. I ran a company in Dubai, which was also a corporate training company. I ran three companies, worked with airlines, but you get tired of working, especially when you keep getting fired.

**DSW: Why did you start 'Highway on my Plate'?**

**RCK:** I think it was purely because we wanted people to get exposed to a higher level of good looks and physique. I'm kidding. We get to travel with our best friend, travel all over the country, eat as much food as we can possibly eat and then eat some more. Plus, we weren't paying for it; the food was free. We have started hating each other now, because we have been hanging out for thirty-six years. Another reason is that we are retired now. Mayur retired in 2003 and I retired in 2004, so we are bums, professional bums. So three-four years ago, when we started, we had both the opportunity and the time. We had nothing pressing going on at the time. So we jumped into a car and drove across the country. And really when you think about it, what could be better than just travelling for a living?

**DSW: Why do you think your show is so successful?**

**RCK:** Is it? (Laughs) Seriously, one, it's been running for five years, it has won lots of awards, it's pretty high profile in terms of food shows and I think it's popular because we associate everything with passion and true respect and understanding for what our subject is. I think that if there is something you are sincere and passionate about, you will make it work, no matter what it is (barring the chasing of women when they can run faster than you).

**DSW: How many more seasons of the shows will we see in the future?**

**MYR:** We want to do as many as we can. One reason is that even after doing 200 plus shows and travelling all over the country, we still feel that the Indian cuisine has a lot more to offer. Secondly, now that finally after working so hard we are actually going to get paid for it, we would like to carry on eating free food and getting paid for it and enjoy ourselves.



**DSW: Which highway would you like on your plate?**

**RCK:** (Laughs) That's a well thought out question. It's tough, but I think it will be Arunachal Pradesh. It is a beautiful location and the food is simply brilliant.

**MYR:** The National Highway Eight. It runs through many food power houses, through Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat. It also has some beautiful scenery.

**DSW: Could you make a rhyme, like the ones you make for your shows?**

**MYR and RCK:** Post-lunch at The Doon School we met the editorial team; We didn't give them much information, because they offered us no ice cream. We were sitting and talking to them but they didn't really know what to do. So we decided to explain it all to them in our own interview.

## BOWLED OUT!

The **School Cricket Team** and the **School Cricket B Team** played matches against **Meerut Public School**. The School Team **lost** the match by **45 runs**. The School B Team **won** the match by **5 wickets**. Well tried!

## CRACKED

The **School Senior and Junior Hockey Teams** played friendly fixtures against the **Welham Boys School**. The Senior School team **lost** the match by **2-1**. The Junior Team **won** the match by **4-3**. Well done!

The **School Junior Hockey Team** played matches against **Punjab Public School, Nabha and YPS, Mohali**. They **lost** both matches. Well tried!

## DEUCE

The **School Tennis Team** played matches against **Punjab Public School, Nabha and YPS, Mohali**. They **won** all their matches. Well done!

## IAYP ACCOLADES

Rishabh Kothari completed the **Gold Level** of the **IAYP Award**.

The following boys have completed all three levels of the IAYP and have been awarded the **IAYP Blazer**: Mudit Agarwal, Madhavan Saklani, Neelhansh Khurana, Abhishek Pande, Arjun Khaitan, Shubham Dhingra  
Congratulations!

## MUN LAURELS

In the recently concluded **Mayo College Girls School Model United Nations**, **The Doon School** won the following awards:

**Best Delegate** – Udbhav Agarwal

**High Commendation**-Risabh Tusnial, Utkarsh Jha, Karan Kairon and Arnav Joshi

**Special Mention** – Devesh Sharma.

The Delegation of Israel comprising Risabh Tusnial, Vikramaditya Kapur, Karan Kairon, Utkarsh Jha and Arnav Joshi won the **Best Delegation Award**.

Congratulations!

## SHOOTING HOOPS

The **Doon School Basketball Team** lost the finals of the **Golden Jubilee Basketball Tournament** against **Welham Boys School**. The team emerged runners up in the tournament.

Well done!

## SPLASH!

The **Doon School Swimming Team** took part in friendly fixtures held at **Wynberg Allen School**. The school team **won** their relay events in the intermediate and senior category.

Congratulations!

## Unquotable Quotes

*The everything is being done.*

**Suhel Karara**, really?

*After me is me and before me is me.*

**Harshvardhan Singh**, personal pronoun expert.

*I want to say to you to go to out.*

**MNP**, keep wanting!

*He scored a brace on his hat-trick.*

**Rajkumar Vijay**, is he really that good?

*I don't play swimming.*

**Shreyansh Chheda**, nor do I.

*He told his friends of he getting retired.*

**Saksham Agarwal**, wishing for the best.

*There is no saying about his arrival.*

**Rakshit Sinha**, Psychic.

*I have not taken out a single money.*

**SKD**, we are sure about that.

*He got a gold IAYP blazer.*

**Ayush Tripathi**, scoping ?

## Opinion Poll

Yes 16%

No 84%

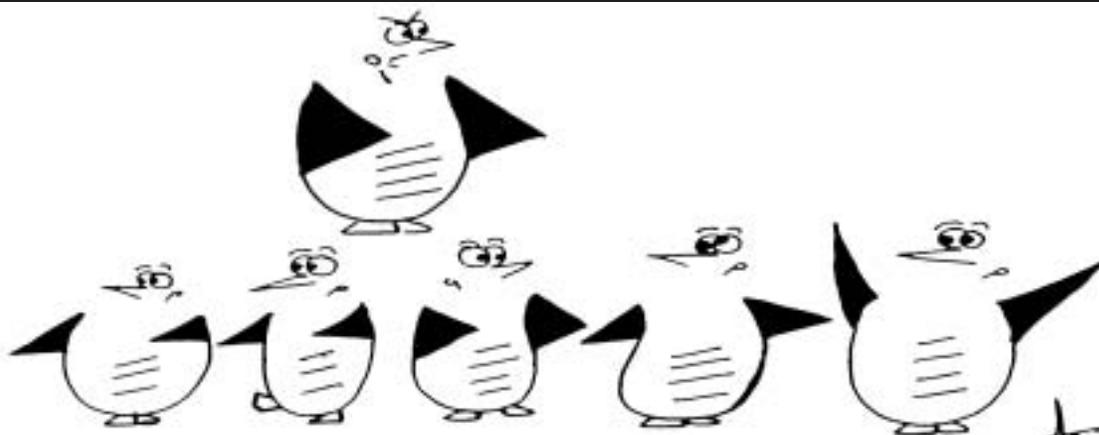
Are you in support of the new style of treatment D Formers are receiving?

Next Week's Question: Should serving in the CDH be counted as social service?

( 320 members of the School community were polled)

**Dosco Doodle**

**Abhishek Pai**



*There is still time*

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# Letters To The Editor

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## *Let us be Technically Sound*

Dear *Weekly*,

I write in response to the DoonSpeak: 'What are the problems with the repair of the IT equipment?' and the Opinion Poll: 'Do you think that the school needs to provide more support to the technological staff for better maintenance of computer equipment?'

The Doon School provides the members of the community with excellent IT facilities. The problems that arise are not with the facilities but with the maintenance of these facilities. Conveniently, members of the community blame the school's IT department without looking into the role they themselves are supposed to play in the maintenance of these facilities.

I have noticed that on numerous occasions hardware items have been stolen from the house computer rooms and teachers' classrooms. I have also noticed that some of the computers in main building classrooms are in a deplorable state; on the other hand there are classrooms like the ones of PKN, AKS and RMR where everything works perfectly. Now do we blame the technological staff for the difference of the qualities or do we blame the end-users?

One thing that we may all agree to (which is very evident by the DoonSpeak and the Opinion Poll) is that the technological staff of school has not been living up to the expectations and demands of the school community. However, we also have to realize that we have no right to level accusations against them if we cannot live up to the expectations of the technological staff regarding the basic maintenance of IT equipment. It is hypocritical of the school community to complain so much about the inefficiency of the technological staff when we cannot ensure the quality of IT facilities which have been entrusted to our care.

The reason why we are having IT maintenance problems is not only because of the technological staff but also because of the whole school community. We, the members of the school are the ones who do not take care of our IT equipment at a basic level and expect the IT staff to take care of it. However, it is also clear that the IT staff could be a little more efficient. It is clear to me that if we do our job by maintaining, they can do their job by repairing.

If it is felt that our expectations are too high, then we need to provide more support to the technological staff. It is time to stop playing this blame game and begin to do something about it.

Warm Regards,

Nivit Kochhar

Secretary, Technology Council

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## *A Matter of Taste*

Dear *Weekly*,

It seems that it has become one of the favourite pastimes of *The Doon School Weekly* to criticize the CDH.

Almost every week the CDH is picked on in 'The Week Gone By'. I would like to remind the school community and members of the Editorial Board that the Mess Committee tries its level best to implement whatever changes in the menu which the School community wishes to see. It has almost become routine for the *Weekly* to comment on each and every mistake made by the CDH. But what I fail to see is the due recognition for both the CDH and the Mess Committee. I feel that what we do is not met with enough appreciation.

However, it must not be forgotten that the CDH is one of the only places in Chandbagh where people work day and night, on national holidays or for that matter, on national strikes. No matter what happens the CDH bell rings on time without fail. The efforts made by the staff in arranging world cuisines in a small town must be noted. Sure, there are times when the food does not meet everyone's expectations, but one thing is certain, the quality is not compromised. I feel that many a time when we travel to other Indian schools for various events, we end up missing the CDH food. Also, like Rocky (host of the show, Highway on my plate) said, the CDH food is the best he has ever tasted in any institution. Time and again we see that CDH food is not bad as it seems.

I assure you that many visible changes have been incorporated into the menu and there are even more in the pipe-line. Understanding one thing is essential, people's tastes are extremely varied and it is the CDH's top priority to keep the school community satisfied. Thus it is only a matter of time when we will see more changes coming through. In the meantime, the CDH will continue to love all and serve all.

Warmly,

Shrish Srivastav

Secretary, Mess Committee



| Report |

# SWARYATRA

*Ayush Tripathi and Suyash Raj Shivam report on the 'Sankat Mochan Music Festival' that was recently held in Varanasi*

Pilgrims, tourists and travelers visit Varanasi for its antiquity, its famous ghats and temples and its unique culture. What many don't know is that Varanasi is also a destination of musical pilgrimage, being home to many eminent artistes; a city that has its own *gharana* [school of music] and hosts vibrant musical gatherings and festivals. It was the best known of these festivals, the Sankat Mochan Music Festival that a group of us, accompanied by PRY, attended from April 10 to 14.

The experience was one of many 'firsts' for us; the concerts began after sunset and continued uninterruptedly till dawn. Greeting the sunrise with music, even though the greeting was a rather drowsy one, was an unique experience. Witnessing such an array of diverse musical genius was also a rare privilege.

The very first evening we saw the renowned Kathak dancer, Pt. Birju Maharaj perform on *thumri* [a style of Hindustani classical music] with his vibrant and versatile eye movements and facial expressions. He was accompanied by Pt. Sanju Saha on the tabla. The magic of his dance belied his advancing years and it is no wonder that he is hailed as a 'living legend.' The next performer was Tripti Mukherjee, a well-known vocalist from Bengal who sang *Raga Bageshree*. She was accompanied by Pt. Ramkumar on the tabla. After her, Ustad Nishat Hussain Khan, nephew of the illustrious sitar maestro, Ustad Vilayat Khan and a fine musician in his own right, played *Raga Darbari Kanada* and *Raga Nayaki Kanada*. Accompanying him on the tabla was Pt. Shubhankar Banerjee, who is one of the best tabla players in India. Following him was Pt. Kadri Gopalnath on the saxophone. The saxophone is an instrument that we generally associate with jazz, but we found its sound wonderfully suited to this demanding classical style as well. We got to see and hear a very entertaining *jugalbandi* by him and his team on the mridangam, tabla, violin and morchang [mouth harp]. The last performer of the night, or rather dawn, was Pt. Jasraj, who is one of India's leading vocalists. We were enthralled by his scintillating performance which included a *bhajan* set in *Raga Bhairava* and a composition of *Raga Komal Rishabh Asawari*. His enchanting voice and command over the notes took our breath away.

Thereafter, we headed towards our hotel for a much-needed nap. After breakfast, we left for Sarnath, which is around 10km from Varanasi. There we got to see Buddhist stupas and some paintings depicting the different stages of Gautam Buddha's life. We also visited a Japanese monastery. We came back and went for a boat ride on the Ganga, past numerous ghats and also witnessed the evening aarti PRY told us that in the Manikarnika ghat, it is believed that for the past 300 years, one or the other funeral pyres keep burning; a testimony to the city's importance for Hindu rites and rituals.

In the evening, we headed for the concert venue. The first performer, Pt. Suresh Talvalkar, a renowned table maestro, played the *teen taal* [a taal of 16 beats] in the *khayal* style. Following him, Sunanda Patnaik, a veteran vocalist, performed a *bhajan* and a composition of *Raga Malshee*. After her, Pt. Sukhdev Mishra played *Raga Jog* on his violin. He was a familiar figure, having performed in school earlier this term. Pt. Rustam Sopori, a well-known santoor player, performed after him. Interestingly, he played a raga which he had composed himself. There were, of course, other performances which our busy schedule did not allow us to see.

We observed that people from all over India and the world were there to witness the concerts. It was heartening to see how the audience supported the performers with their whole-hearted appreciation and applause. Although we attended the festival for only a couple of days, the music that we experienced has left us musically enriched.

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| Interview |

## New Strings

The Doon School Weekly interviewed **Mr. Arun Kumar**, who recently joined the staff as a music teacher

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Tell us a bit about your background and schooling.**

**Arun Kumar (ARK):** I was born and brought up in Meerut. I studied there, at the Dayawati Modi Academy and went to Meerut College for my higher studies.

**DSW: What inspired you to choose music as your career?**

**ARK:** I realized my true passion for music when I took up the post of music teacher at St. Mary's Academy, where I taught for two years. I felt happy working with it.

**DSW: Which genres of music do you enjoy and wish to teach boys?**

**ARK:** I listen to and enjoy both classical and rock music. Amongst classical music I prefer the greats like Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. I love both hard and soft rock and have been following it for about ten years now.

**DSW: Why did you choose to play the guitar?**

**ARK:** Well, it is one instrument which needs you to have a flair for both melody and rhythm. The guitar can play many roles. It can be used for accompaniment, bass, lead, solos and rhythm itself. There is a lot of scope for the uses of this instrument and that is what intrigues me most.

**DSW: When did you first consider coming to The Doon School, and why?**

**ARK:** I first considered coming to Doon when an advertisement mentioned a vacancy and I applied for the post. First I got a part-time job and this year it was made permanent. The main reason I came here was because I had always seen the School from the other side of the wall, and here I was getting an opportunity to see it from within. I had always been fascinated by the School and now staying alongside the boys and learning with them will be an experience of its own.

| Short Story cont. |

# THE UNHEARD CRY

*Madhav Dutt*

The fear of his wife desiring another man was something he just couldn't bear. He tried to think of other possibilities that the evidence that could lead to the affirmation of his thoughts. He found none.

One day when Roma came back from work, Rohan decided he had had enough. "Who is the other guy?" he inquired more forcefully than he intended to.

"What guy Rohan?"

"Don't act like you don't know what's going on Roma? I've seen all your letters. I've even smelled a man's scent on your clothes, so don't you dare lie to me!"

"This is outrageous Rohan, you're accusing me of cheating on you? If only once you actually tried to understand what I'm going through!" she shouted while storming out of the room. Rohan followed her but she entered the bathroom and locked herself. For what seemed like forever, Rohan banged on the bathroom door, asking Roma to open it. After the frenzy, he gave up and slouched against the bathroom door, waiting for Roma to come out.

While sitting outside he suddenly heard voices from the bathroom. Roma must've called someone, thought Rohan. He could overhear the conversation but all he could decipher was that Roma was talking to a man on the phone, with the loudspeaker of the phone on. Rohan was sick and tired of this now. He quickly packed a suitcase full of his essentials and left the house.

A sleepless night later Rohan returned to his home in the afternoon to find the house devoid of habitation. There was a printed letter from the local government hospital, saying that Mrs. Roma had been admitted last night and that her relatives, if any lived with her, should arrive there as early as possible. Rohan drove to the hospital like he'd never driven before, breaking every traffic rule in the process. Upon reaching he went to the crowded Hospital lobby. The air hung heavy with a sterilized stench, a smell unique to most hospitals. He asked the nurse where he could find Roma. She gave him the directions and he ran, forgetting to thank her. Outside Roma's ward there were two doctors discussing something in a hushed tone. Once they saw Rohan they ended their conversation abruptly and asked how they could help him. He said he was the patient's husband.

The doctors looked at each other and then at Rohan. They had an identical expression on their faces, an expression which Rohan couldn't gauge. Was it sympathetic? Or was it one of sorrow? Maybe it was apprehension?

Rohan had no idea.

One of the doctors removed his rim-less spectacles, looked at Rohan in the eye with the same unpredictable expression and spoke. Last night your neighbors complained about loud voices and banging coming from your house, the police inspected and they found Mrs. Roma unconscious in her bathroom, it appears she had a breakdown of sorts, we brought her in last night, her condition was critical, we managed to save her, but in the process we realized ..."

Then the other doctor stepped in, "I'm sorry to inform you sir, but Roma has been diagnosed with an extreme case of split personality disorder"

Rohan stared at the doctor dumb-struck, glassy-eyed and shocked. As the reason for all her actions dawned upon him, he collapsed on the floor of the hospital corridor and wept. He should not have been so hasty in his judgement. He should have trusted Roma.

| Report |

## DEBATING AT DALY

*Karan Kairon reports on the held in Indore JK Kate Memorial Hindi Debates and the PG Miller Memorial Quiz which was held in The Daly College indore between April 13 and 15*

A group of five boys, escorted by MNP, left Chandbagh at five o'clock in the morning for the 3rd Annual JK Kate Memorial Hindi Debates and the PG Miller Memorial Quiz to be held at The Daly College, Indore. After a twenty-two-hour long journey we were exposed to high temperatures and heat waves that none of us had thought we would encounter. Due to some logistical complexities, we were the first participants to reach, as we came about one and a half days early.

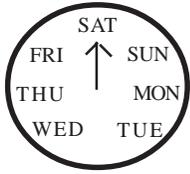
However, we were proved wrong. The next day, nearly twenty schools filled the campus and we met new people. and found our dorm-mates: boys from Mayo and Welhams.

The second day saw the preliminary rounds of the debates and quiz. Abhinav Kejriwal performed extremely well and Shubham Dhingra's questions showcased a distinct style, which helped us to qualify to the final round. Though our quiz team comprising myself and Aditya Bhattacharya had lacked preparation, due to our involvement in other activities, we still had some confidence. We managed to pull through to the final round as well.

The next day were the finals of the Quiz. Though we did try to prepare, we did so in vain and woke up the next morning, not feeling very confident. The eight rounds saw us jump the buzzer, lose points to negative marking and give some controversial answers, ending up with the third position, behind the hosts and MGD, Jaipur. The rest of the day was spent by letting off steam at the DC Café and exploring their campus by our team leader. In the evening we had The Principal's Dinner followed by the DJ night and we were all set to do what most of us wanted to: socialize!

The final round of the Hindi debates were held the next day. We were pitted against Mayo College Girls' School. While we were very confident, we had given in our best, we weren't sure if it would be enough. Fortunately though, their hard work paid off. Abhinav Kejriwal was adjudged the Best Speaker Trophy. Shubham Dhingra's questions as interlocuter, also furthered our stand as we were adjudged winners of the debate.

Well, after a long journey and an eventful trip, we found ourselves returning to Dehradun with some achievements to be proud of.



## The Week Gone By...

Arjun Kamdar



| Report |

## BOOKWORMS

Arjun Kamdar reports on the Cultural Programme held on the World Book and Copyright Day

On April 23, to commemorate 'World Book and Copyright Day', the School Library and the Senior Hindi Dramatics came together and held a cultural programme, 'Shruti-Poetree'. This programme consisted of the traditional forms of storytelling, such as the *Kahani ka Machan*, *Daastangoi*, Story Performance, Performance Poetry and Poetry Dramatized Performance.

Shashvat Dhandhanian recited Mark Anthony's famous speech from Julius Caesar, captivating the audience with the well-known line, "Friends, Romans, Countrymen..." He also did a reading of a translated piece of Rabindranath Tagore's 'Gitanjali'.

The next act was that of Saif Ali, Sanat Verma and Mihir Kiran, a short, funny stage performance of the story *Sari Raat* by Kamta Nath which displayed a society filled with male chauvinism. The following performance a Hindi adaptation of Julius Caesar by Sanat Kumar Thakur left the audience in awe, for though it was an adaptation, it was packed with passion.

*Rang Magadh*, based on Srikant Verma's poems (the script being written by Alkhanandan), was enacted by Aditya Dhingra and Rishabh Sharma who, with their faces painted, also managed to attract the audience's

attention. Another performance that demanded attention was Shivank Singh's Performance Poetry, 'Pyar' and 'Varsha', for they were composed by him.

Daastangoi by Saadat Hasan Manto, possibly the greatest storyteller of the continent, recommended by Salman Rushdie was performed by Shubham Khemka, Vidit Sidana, Ashim Bansal and Mihir Kiran. While acting it out, the traditional form was kept in mind and adhered to, thus giving the performance a different charm.

On the whole, it was the perfect way to celebrate the occasion and the minimalistic approach, in terms of the lights, choreography, rhythm (consisting of Vrindam Nagpal's pieces on the tabla and dholak) and the amount of props used just added to the charm of the programme. MHF, DNJ and SKD managed to keep the performances interesting as well as of literary and theatre value, including the aesthetics of stage and arts which is a tough balance to maintain.

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