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DSMUN'13

Kunal Kanodia reports on the recently concluded DSMUN conference.

The Doon School Model United Nations 2013 was everything that we wanted it to be, and much more. The frenzied activity over the course of many months finally culminated on the evening of the eighteenth. From student officials running around with chit pads (containing both diplomatic and rather undiplomatic messages), to chairpersons strutting around the campus in suits, the run up to DSMUN 2013 invited so much excitement that it almost seemed to have become a gala event. The magnificent (and rather expensive) tent which covered the Old Basketball Courts added to the growing anticipation in the first few weeks of this term. As the rains continued to intensify and everyone from the AV squad to the DJs at the Delegate Dance began to work harder, one could sense that DSMUN was around the corner.

This year, owing to greater number of participants as last year from across national and international boundaries, DSMUN began on Friday morning, instead of in the evening, thus giving the delegates and their chairpersons many more hours of constructive time for debate and deliberation. As the Hospitality Heads braved sleep and entered with delegates, reality began to sink in. It had started. There was a short opening ceremony in the morning at which a welcome note by the Secretary-General and presentation of gavels to all chairpersons was made.

The first day of DSMUN 2013 saw intense discussion and debate unfold across committees, with crisis simulations and resolution making evolving in a positive manner. The United Nations Security Council saw discussions intensify over the status of North Korea. Being a rather contentious topic there was extremely heated debate over the issue. The Historical General Assembly simulated the United Nations General Assembly of 1958, and sought a solution to the Taiwan Straits Crisis. Interesting proposals and solutions to the conflict were put forth and allegations and accusations continued to fly through the course of committee proceedings. A particularly interesting committee was the 'North Atlantic Treaty Organization – Shanghai Cooperation Organization Peace Summit, 2020' which was a futuristic committee in which the world is on the brink of a third world war. The two rival blocs of the SCO and NATO came together to try and resolve the crisis. Although in the end they were unable to find a solution to the simulation, the quality of debate in this committee is worth appreciating. The 'Special Political and Decolonization Committee' debated and accepted the State of Palestine as a United Nations member state after much contention. The United Nations Environment Program discussed the harmful effects of pesticides and although it was hampered by the fact that many delegates were first time MUNners, important decisions were made nevertheless. The G20 summit called upon world leaders to resolve the growing crisis of Unemployment, while the Disarmament and International Security Committee talked about the dangers of proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Joint Crisis Cabinets of Iran and Iraq, set during the Iran-Iraq War of 1980-1988, saw delegates vying for war, not peace: a role that can sometimes be much tougher to execute. The Human Rights Council saw emotionally heated debates on birth control and the rights of women, and the committee emerged as one of the most successful committees at DSMUN in terms of solutions, resolutions and working papers.

The opening ceremony in the evening was graced by India's Minister for External affairs Salman Khurshid as Chief Guest and Wajahat Habibullah, the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities. Their speeches and words of encouragement were particularly inspiring and the high regard in which they were held was evident in the manner in which most delegates' jaws dropped open as the minister and chairman took rounds of different committee sessions. The second day of the conference saw longer working hours but the participants were propelled by the thought of the Delegate Dance in the evening. After a fantastic dance and dinner, (during which intensive lobbying took place), we geared up for the final day of the conference.

In the morning, there was one last formal committee session. After most resolutions passed (or failed!) across different committees, photographs were taken, placards were signed, and contact details were exchanged. The General Assembly was convened later in the day with the aim of allowing representation of the BRICS nations at the United Nations Security Council as a permanent member. An unexpected crisis unfolded, which not only caught delegates off guard but also had an unexpected twist.

No sooner had the General Assembly been dissolved upon passing of the resolution, than the Closing Ceremony was upon us. Jairam Ramesh, Minister for Rural Development was the Chief Guest for the Ceremony and he invited questions from the audience. His opinions and remarks regarding the United Nations and the power of the youth were appreciated. The chairpersons of various committees were invited to present their awards and talk about the manner in which their committees had progressed and the personal significance of the sessions. As the Closing ceremony ended, DSMUN 2013 was declared

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DEBATING

Following are the results of the **Inter-House Hindi Debating Competition, 2013:**

Kashmir vs Hyderabad
Hyderabad **won** the debate.

Best Speaker: Mihir Kiran and Kunal Kanodia
Most Promising Speaker: Vibhav Gupta

Jaipur vs Tata
Jaipur **won** the debate.

Best Speaker: Ritesh Shinde
Most Promising Speaker: Arth Gupta

FOOTBALL

The School Football Team played the Central School IMA and **won** 2-1.

The School Under 15 Football Team participated in the **3rd Brother Keogh Memorial Inter School Football Tournament**. The following are the results:

The Doon School played **Hilton School** and **drew** 1-1.
The Doon School played **Carman School** and **won** 3-1.
The Doon School played **Wynberg Allen School** and **lost** 2-0.

HELPING HANDS

The following social service projects were undertaken this term:

A Form:

K House, J House and Foot House - Helped construct and develop the school in Rasoolpur Village

O House - Volunteered with People For Animals

T House - Conducted tree plantation in Raipur

H House - Helped needy children in their studies through the Street Smart project.

S Form:

K House and J House - Worked with the Oakham School students and also set up a Medical Camp in the village

O House - Worked with the Nijaat Foundation

T House - Undertook projects in *Bihari Basti* to help its residents

H House - Helped needy children in their studies through the Street Smart project

D Form:

Martyn House - Undertook a project with People For Animals at the Mansi Deer Park

B Form:

K House and J House - Worked with the Waste Warriors in developing an area.

O House and T House - Worked with an initiative named Green Doon on tree plantation in the Rajpur Road area

H House - Helped needy children in their studies through the Street Smart project

Independence Day Activities:

Boys of different forms and houses visited the Vatikas (Sapera Basti, Balbir Road, Nanda Ki Chowki, Panchayat Ghar and Bindal); schools (John Martyn School, Government School); and villages (Mulookchand, Dandapur) to celebrate Independence Day and distribute sweets.

MUN

Pranay Raj Kapoor, Yash Upadhaya and Pulkit Agarwal were awarded the **Best Delegate Awards** at the **7th Doon School Model United Nations Conference** in their respective committees.

BADMINTON

Following are the results of the **District Badminton Tournament** held between August 11 and 18:

Under 13:

Atrey Guruprasad and Ashish Pandey reached the **Semi-finals** in the **Doubles Category**.

Ashish Pandey reached the **Semi-finals** in the **Singles Category**.

Atrey Guruprasad and Lakshman Santhanam reached the **Quarter-finals** in the **Doubles Category**.

Under 15:

Vansh Agarwal reached the **Quarter-finals** in the **Singles Category**.

Vansh Agarwal and Akarsh Tibrewal reached the **Quarter-finals** in the **Doubles Category**.

Under 19:

Akarsh Tibrewal and Kartikey Garg reached the **Finals** in the **Doubles Category**.

SQUASH

The **School Squash Team** participated in the IPSC Squash Tournament held at Daly College, Indore from August 9th to 12th. The positions are:

Under 19: 4th

Under 17: 5th

SHOOTING

Samarjit Singh was chosen to be the flag bearer for the **Indian National Team** at the **Asian Youth Games in Beijing** on August 21.

(contd. from page 1)

officially closed. With 42 schools from six countries across Asia-Pacific participating at the conference, DSMUN 2013 was India's largest high school MUN conference organized by a high school, in terms of number of schools participating. The conference embodies the principles of the United Nations in terms of idealism and a zeal for peace, but it also embodied – perhaps more importantly – the change our generation can help realize.



Around the world

In 80 Words

Three hundred tons of contaminated water leaked from a storage tank at the ravaged Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant on Japan's Pacific coast. Additionally, Syrian rebels accused their government of a chemical attack in Damascus which has reportedly killed hundreds. In Egypt, former President Hosni Mubarak was released from prison. Meanwhile, in the US, Bradley Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison on charges of espionage and theft. Closer to home, in China, the trial of Bo Xilai also resumed.

HMUN INDIA REPORT

Arnaav Bhavanani reports on the HMUN India trip to Hyderabad

Many people who have been for an MUN will tell you that it was good, it was a learning experience, it was great. However, it is impossible for a newcomer to know what MUNing is really like without ever having been for one. The sheer thrill of walking in for the opening ceremony, the incessant lobbying before the beginning of Committee, staying till late making Draft Resolutions, and most importantly, speaking at every chance you get in committee: that is what really makes a good MUNner. That is what makes an MUN experience truly worthwhile.

This year's HMUN India was a grand affair, with more than 1000 delegates, each one of them working towards the coveted awards at the end of the Conference. It was amazing how the second we walked into the conference venue, people were upon us like moths to light, asking us which committee we were in, and lobbying hard to get people onto their blocs. It wasn't too long before we too joined the crowd and began circling around the newcomers. It was on the very first day that we forged new blocs, not to mention relationships, and by the time we walked into committee on the second day for our first session, we already knew each other. HMUN India's SG, Divya Seth, had promised us that this conference would be like no other. It truly wasn't. Committees like DISEC and SOCHUM had all 193 countries of the UN, with double delegations, bringing the total number of delegates in those committees close to four hundred. Similarly, others, like the UNSSP (UN Special Summit on Petroleum) had all 193 countries, but with only single delegations. However, there also existed smaller committees like the Security Council with just fifteen delegations. It was in these small committees, however, that the competition was the fiercest. In the larger committees, more than six blocs were formed, and there was so much to do in those committees that they lived in a perpetual state of Unmoderated Caucus. Committee itself lasted for six hours every day, divided into two three hour sessions. Many adapted to the rigorous regimen, but quite a few were really tired by the end of it. It took some time, but by the end of Day 1, everyone was aware of what was to come. At this MUN, the bar was raised higher than ever before, and got even the most experienced and serious delegates something to worry about. Then came the closing ceremony. A thousand nervous minds walked into that hall and took their seats. Judgement was about to be delivered. Though many won, and many lost 'by this much', the closing ceremony proved to be interesting, with delegates holding on to each word, looking to see who had won.

In the end, it wasn't really about who had lobbied the hardest, or worked the hardest, or even given emotional speeches. This might seem corny and old, but the strength of this MUN wasn't just in the competition, or the way it was carried out. It was the way people from across 8 nations came together, and each one of them played such a great part in the HMUN India experience. As the bands most delegates bought there says, "I'm HMUNed!"

HIS STORY

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mohit Sinha, who recently joined School as a History master.

Doon School Weekly (DSW): Could you tell us a little about yourself? Why and when did you start teaching?

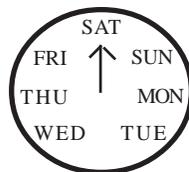
Mohit Sinha (MHS): My name is Mohit Sinha and I studied at the Lawrence School, Lovedale. I used to work with the government before becoming a teacher at Welham Boys'. I also worked with the Government and then moved to the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi.. Later I joined IIM, Bangalore. I have always thought about getting into politics or teaching in a public school.

DSW: What sports and co-curricular activities are you looking forward to taking part in?

MHS: I used to play basketball, hockey, badminton and run cross country for my school. Debating and MUN are also a few activities which I look forward to.

DSW: What differences do you find between Doon and Welham ?

MHS: It's still too early to say but from my point of view there are more similarities than differences. Like the ideas of self-development, independent work etc is what you would find in most boarding schools. The differences are the independent identities of schools. For example, the study time here in school is called toye, something which isn't very common in other public schools.



The Week Gone By...

Utkarsh Jha

DSMUN concluded on Sunday and needless to say, it was a grand affair. With banners, flags and *Taras*, it almost seemed like a mini-Founders. As per our calculations, hundreds of students were involved in the extravaganza; however a few more did find their way to the food and the delegate dance. Also worth noting were the chairpersons, strutting along School in their suits; umbrellas and gavels in hand. They sure did play the role of the busiest people on campus with ease! The next batch has an almost impossible challenge of making DSMUN bigger. Firstly, they need to find their Chairs and *Dipty* Chairs.

In other news, this year's Inter House Dance competition seemed to be one massive checklist. "Tata House had lights last year. Do we have them? Check," "Oberoi House won because they incorporated PT exercises? Double mark time? Check," and "Neon lights and glow in the dark clothes? Check." Additionally, most houses attempted to add a story line to their performances. Whether the myriad styles that each house performed had any 'synergy' is a different question altogether. Hyderabad House, went a step further, attempting to sneak in a TOK presentation with their play on 'death and life and dance.' After all, what is dance? Finally, credit must be given to Tata House for their rather short but breathtaking attempt at ... Skateboarding in space? Whatever, the floating men and glowing skateboards were meant to signify, it was a breathtaking performance indeed.

| Interview |

A WRITER'S LIFE

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Preeti Shenoy, a writer who visited School.

Doon School Weekly (DSW): How did you get into writing as a career from the varied interests that you had?

Preeti Shenoy (PTS): Well, I used to write for the publications in my school and college, though the thought of taking up a career as a writer had never occurred to me. A few years back, I started a blog and as luck would have it, the blog became very popular after it got picked up by a radio show host in the United States. Following which I had a host of people visiting my blog. That was when I realized that whatever I was writing had managed to transcend boundaries. What this meant was that people from different countries could relate to my works. This fact motivated me to start writing for a local newspaper, following which I wrote for The Times of India, Readers' Digest and several other magazines. Some of my pieces, both verse and prose, also got published in Chicken Soup for the Soul. The natural progression of all this was to write a book, because by then I had already been writing for a long time. In brief, that is an outline of my career till now.

DSW: Where do you get your inspiration from and how do you overcome a writer's block?

PTS: I get my inspiration from daily life. For example, once I had chanced upon a yellowed leaf fallen on the ground. That leaf, which seemed neglected and weary, was the stimuli I needed to write a poem. In short, everything I do is based on daily life. Sometimes, I also read about what seemingly ordinary people have achieved in their lives. Their stories are usually touching as they have overcome many odds. Reading about someone in the newspaper can set off your imagination. As for the writer's block, I would have to thankfully say that I have not yet fallen prey to it. However, there are times when I draw portraits or sketch if I am not feeling upto the task.

DSW: I hear that you have mentioned The Doon School in one of your books. So can you tell us about how it got in there?

PTS: I believe Doon features in the book because I wanted the boy to attend a 'nice' school. To be honest, I did not do much research on Doon, or put much thought behind sending the character to Doon. It is probably the editor who recommended that I send my character to Doon. I am pleasantly surprised that I am able to visit a location that I have mentioned in the book as the location was not a conscious or deliberate effort on my part.

DSW: What is your advice to the younger generation as a writer?

PTS: I would encourage everybody to read as much as they can. Secondly, if anyone wishes to take on writing as a career then I recommend that one write at least five hundred words every single day. You could write about anything you wanted. For example, you could write about your day or about the conversations you have had.

DSW: What would you say are the five steps to success?

PTS: Listing them in order; step one would probably entail identifying your passion whether it is writing or dancing. Step two would require you to start taking baby steps towards improving your passion. It would require you to be dedicated. Step Three involves shedding your inhibitions and your fear of failing, because if you are afraid, you will hesitate and therefore will not be able to succeed. Step four is probably hard work and discipline. You can not do anything well without hard work and long hours. Therefore, step four is probably extremely important. Lastly, the final step to success, according to me, is persistence. With persistence, one can reach wherever he desires.

DSW: Could you tell us a bit more about your next project?

PTS: My publishers would probably not want me to reveal much. However, I can say that it is again a story about a relationship and will be meaningful to anyone who has gone through the pain of a break up. I have recently completed the third draft of the book and hope that the final book will be published in three months time. However, I cannot elaborate more on this.

DSW: What do you think is the solution for violent crimes on women lately?

PTS: Crimes against women is probably one of the bigger problems that the country faces today. I believe this problem arises from the mindset of certain people. The mindset of some men in India is completely different from that of men in other countries. It is sad that a large number of people in India judge a woman by what she is wearing or how she is dressed. Therefore, I think the mindset of men has to change. Additionally, I also believe that there is a need for a faster judiciary and a more responsive police force to stem this issue. I feel we have a long way to go.

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