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Hoop-La!

Bharat Ganju reports on the recently concluded Inter-House Basketball Competition

Basketball is not just about shooting hoops and blocking shots. It is the dedication, hard work, and practice of the teams that makes them what they are on the final day. No matter how much one complains about the gruelling warm-ups, at the end of the day, they do make a difference. Most of the teams played extremely well with a lot of zest and vigour. This year there were many nail-biting finishes and close matches, which really spiced up the tournament.

In the junior section, Kashmir House emerged winners with a well-deserved twenty-two points. The key factors to their success were their amazing team work and outstanding shots from outside the three point line. Harsh Verma played exceptionally well and held the team together. Oberoi and Jaipur House followed in second and third position respectively. They each had a strong Juniors B team, which consolidated their ranking. The Juniors A teams, in both cases, need to come together as a team and sharpen their defence tactics. Hyderabad and Tata followed and even though they played with much passion, their performance on paper was disappointing.

In the senior section, Jaipur House had a clean sweep, losing only four points. Their Seniors A, consisting of four school team players, didn't lose a single match and beat every House by a formidable margin with Eeshaan Puri leading the way with great determination. Rishabh Bir Singh, Ayyappa Vemulkar and Dhruv Singh also showed why they are considered the best in the school. Their Seniors B had the same form and beat every House except Oberoi, to whom they lost fighting. Siddharth Kapur stood out by scoring innumerable three pointers to clinch Jaipur House many victories.

Tata came second and showed their skill and hard work.

Oberoi House was quite unlucky this year, with as many as seven of their players in hospital due to the ever-spreading conjunctivitis.

Hyderabad tried their best on court and fought hard, but their offence broke down easily many a time.

On the whole, this year's Inter-House Basketball Competition displayed a high standard of the game, and hard work, which is what really matters.

Doon MUN

Abhimanyu Chandra writes about the first Inter-School Model United Nations Conference held at Doon
"Diplomacy is to do and say the nastiest thing in the nicest way." - Isaac Goldberg

The Doon School Model United Nations (DSMUN) Conference, the first of its kind being conducted at The Doon School, was an exciting venture. Immaculately organized, the event was an inter-school one, with participation from Woodstock and RIMC, with Welham Girls' being an observer school.

On Friday, deliberations began in the three committees - UNSC (Chairperson: Rohan Gupta), UNEP (Chairperson: Dilsher Dhillon) and the ECOSOC (Chairperson: Skand Goel). Shikhar Singh took on the role of Secretary-General. The presence of the media, led by Vivaan Shah, added yet another dimension to the event with regularly updated headlines, press conferences and interviews. The topics for each of the committees were relevant to the contemporary world.

In the UNSC, after the policy statements were read out and the question-answer session was held, the Council was thrown open to resolution-making and it was here that we all realized the difficulty that arises when countries with varying agendas try to reach a consensus. It truly is a mammoth task. We all learnt the importance of quick-thinking and the confidence required to make statements on behalf of one's country.

The UNEP witnessed thought-provoking discussions, with representatives from eighteen countries negotiating with fervour throughout the course of the two days. Through the deliberations, the delegates realised how difficult it is to negotiate the most important contemporary environmental issues, with each country having their own vested interests to look after.

ECOSOC, like the other committees followed all formalities required during the progression of the deliberations. 'Outprocessing' and its implications and validity were discussed proficiently with resolutions being passed on it.

The activity was not only an amazing way of learning about how the UN functions, but also about how generalised, diplomatic and non-committal a majority of the UN resolutions are.

(contd. on page 5)

REGULARS

DIPLOMACY AT DOON

The Doon School Model United Conference was held on September 21 and 22. Sixty delegates from three different schools participated in the conference. In the **Security Council**, Abhimanyu Chandra and Saurav Sethia emerged as Best Delegates, in the **United Nations Environment Programme**, Saurabh Tiwary and Akshit Batra were adjudged the Best Delegates. In the **ECOSOC**, Arnav Sahu and Vishnukaant Pitty were conferred the Best Delegates award. In the crisis situation, the UK team, represented by Saurav Sethia, Vishnukaant Pitty and Keshav Prasad, won the Best Delegation award. Overall, the US delegation, represented by Akshit Batra, Abhimanyu Chandra and Salil Gupta, won the Best Delegation award.

DEBATING DUES

Nathan Cosgrove and Shrivats Chandra represented the School at the **Brother Bergin Gold Medal Inter-School Debate** held at St. George's, Mussoorie on September 21. The School was placed second.

Shikhar Singh and Ashish Mitter represented the School in the final round of the **Frank Anthony Memorial Inter-School English Debates, 2007**. While Shikhar Singh was adjudged the Third Best Speaker of the debate, The Doon School was placed second overall.

Congratulations!

SHOOTING HOOPS

The final positions of the **Inter-House Basketball Tournament, 2007** are as follows:

Junior Cup

- 1st: Kashmir House
- 2nd: Oberoi House
- 3rd: Jaipur House
- 4th: Tata House
- 5th: Hyderabad House

Senior Cup

- 1st: Jaipur House
- 2nd: Tata House
- 3rd: Kashmir House
- 4th: Oberoi and Hyderabad Houses

House Cup

- 1st: Jaipur House
- 2nd: Kashmir House
- 3rd: Oberoi House
- 4th: Tata House
- 5th: Hyderabad House

MATHS PUBLICATION

Akshit Batra has been appointed boy-in-charge for the next publication of the **Infinity**. Congratulations!

BLAZING BLAZERS

Rituraj Raizada, Samaay Mangalgi, Dilshad Sidhu, Tanuj Bhramar, and Suryajit Singh have been awarded their **Games' Blazers**.

Akshit Batra was awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**. Congratulations!

Career Call

The Careers' notice board will focus on **Actuarial Science** as a career this week. All those interested should look it up.

Unquotable Quotes

What is your favourite coke?

Gaurav Sood, brand ambassador.

Sorry, what is your favourite Diet Coke?

Gaurav Sood persists.

I make girls go weak on their knees.

Dhruv Gupta, standing tall.

No, I do.

Sachin Uppal, standing taller.

I am not mentally prepared for the House Feast.

KLA needs more time.

Can I go for drink water.

Dhruv Agarwal permission asks.

It was a wrong misconception

Ashvath Kunadi rights two wrongs.

I am king of Main Field.

MLJ surveys his domain.

It is the intake and out take of air

Nikhil Narain redefines breathing.

The full form of Canji is canjivitis.

Aseem Sahni cuts it short.

Bulbs give out X-Rays.

Vishesh Kochher, charged with information.

This wasn't un-quoted from me.

Vishesh Kochher sheds more light.

Can we shut the fans?

Saurav Sethia wants to close the switch.



Trophy Flash

Bawa Bali Ram Memorial Trophy for Basketball was presented by Bawa Gurbaksh Singh. The first recipient of the Cup was Hyderabad House in 1968.

The **Inter-House Basketball Junior Cup** was presented by the CIBA. It was introduced on November 27, 1968.



A word root

Know your alphabet

K: The eleventh letter of the alphabet, representing the Greek *kappa* and the Hebrew *kaph*. The Egyptian hieroglyphic for K was a bowl. The Romans, after the C was given the K sound, used the latter only for abbreviated forms of a few words from Greek. Thus, false accusers were branded on the forehead with a K for *kalumnia* (English 'calumny').

L: In Phoenician and Hebrew, the letter represents an ox goad, called *lamed*; in Egyptian hieroglyphic, a lioness. The pound sterling sign represents the initial of the Latin *Libra*, 'pound'.

(Sourced from Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable)

The following members were present:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. Kanti Bajpai | Headmaster (Chairman) |
| 2. Mr. Philip Burrett | Deputy Headmaster (PBR) |
| 3. Dr. Mohan Chandra Joshi | Dean of Activities (MCJ) |
| 4. Mr. Deepak Sharma | Dean of Sports (DKS) |
| 5. Mr. Prabhakaran Nair | Dean of Academics (PKN) |
| 6. Mr. Simon Ezekiel | Head of Finance |
| 7. Mr. Arvind Chalasani | Housemaster's Representative (AKC) |
| 8. Mr. Sanjiv Bathla | Master's Representative (SJB) |
| 9. Ashish Mitter | School Captain |
| 10. Shikhar Singh | Hyderabad House Senior Representative (Secretary) 1 |
| 11. Eshaan Puri | Prefect's Representative |
| 12. Ankit Durga | Hyderabad House Senior Representative 2 |
| 13. Ashray Batra | Hyderabad House Junior Representative 1 |
| 14. Tejasvi Mathur | Hyderabad House Junior Representative 2 (Stand-in) |
| 15. Kaustabh Verma | Jaipur House Senior Representative 1 |
| 16. Dhruv Singh | Jaipur House Senior Representative 2 |
| 17. Bharat Ganju | Jaipur House Junior Representative 1 |
| 18. Arnav Sahu | Jaipur House Junior Representative 2 |
| 19. Harsh Mall | Kashmir House Senior Representative 1 |
| 20. Saket Mahajan | Kashmir House Senior Representative 2 |
| 21. Shoumitra Srivastava | Kashmir House Junior Representative 1 |
| 22. Devashish Agarwal | Kashmir House Junior Representative 2 |
| 23. Dilshad Singh Sidhu | Oberoi A Senior Representative |
| 24. Vivek Santayana | Oberoi A Junior Representative |
| 25. Kshitij Paliwal | Oberoi B Senior Representative |
| 26. Vahin Khosla | Oberoi B Junior Representative |
| 27. Vivaan Shah | Tata House Senior Representative 1 |
| 28. Anant Johri | Tata House Senior Representative 2 |
| 29. Gursahaj Oberoi | Tata House Junior Representative 1 |
| 30. Naushad Khan | Tata House Junior Representative 2 |

(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Eshaan Puri (Prefects Representative) and seconded by Ankit Durga (Hyderabad House Senior Representative) and accordingly passed.

(2) Pending Issues from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) Water Coolers in the Science Block: The Chairman informed members that the Head of Projects had surveyed possible locations for the placement of a water cooler in the Science Block. Several members gave suggestions, and it was decided that a Sub-Committee comprising Head of Projects, Dr. Joshi (Dean of Activities), Mr. Devendra Singh, Eshaan Puri and Gursahaj Oberoi would finalize a location.

(b) New Phone Chits: In the previous meeting of the Council, it had been decided that phone chits would have a calling time of five minutes printed on it. However, several members noted that these chits were not in circulation. Mr. Simon Ezekiel (Head of Finance) noted that new phone chits had been sent to House Matrons and that Housemasters may be using the old phone chits.

(c) Increase in Number of Telephones: The Chairman asked members for their views on the congestion at the phone booth and the usefulness of a third telephone line. Dilshad Singh felt that, while a third connection definitely reduced the congestion, students preferred to use the other two lines as they were placed in booths. Mr. Chalasani (Housemasters' Representative) proposed that a service provider be approached for telephone connections and the booth. The Chairman referred the matter to the Head of Finance.

(d) Regulation on Dental Outings: The Chairman informed members that new rules were in place to govern dental outings. The Deputy Headmaster said that only sophisticated orthodontic treatment, approved by the School Doctor, would be considered for leave and that the dentist must certify the treatment.

(e) Cooking as an STA: Mr. Sanjiv Bathla (Masters Representative) informed members that compulsory training for private party-leaders would be conducted, before the midterm break, on how to cook.

(f) New Vision Statement: The Chairman informed members that the Board of Governors was informed of the need for a new Vision Statement and the work conducted by the School Council in that regard. The process of adopting

the new vision statement was also laid before the Council wherein its suggestions would also be considered while finalizing the document. The Chairman also informed members that a special Board Meeting would be convened on August 14 to look into the matter

(3) Proposals for the Current Meeting

(a) Hospital Kitchen should be refurbished: Vivek Santayana informed members that the Hospital Kitchen needed urgent renovations as it was unkempt and the crockery was old and chipped. Other members also complained of a seepage problem in the Hospital. The Chairman asked the Head of Projects to immediately renovate the Hospital Kitchen from the Maintenance budget.

(b) Change in Founder's Day Schedule: Saket Mahajan felt that the existing Founder's Day schedule was monotonous and could be reworked to make the event more interesting. He also suggested that sport galas, performances by well-known personalities and campus-tours could be included in the itinerary. In particular, a large number of members felt that the Founder's Day Exhibitions were repetitive and could be done away with. However, the Chairman felt that exhibitions provided everyone with the opportunity to contribute to the occasion and were not a specialized event. It was therefore decided that a Sub-Committee comprising Mr. Burrett, Mr. Nair, Saket Mahajan, Kshitij Paliwal and Dhruv Singh would look into the matter and provide suggestions for next year's Founder's Day celebrations.

(c) Better Accommodation for Air Party Boys in Delhi: Anant Johri informed the Council that the youth hostel in Delhi did not provide suitable accommodation for the air party boys as it was not close to either the airport or a market. Dr. Joshi (Dean of Activities) disagreed with this view and felt that the youth hostel provided safe, economical and clean accommodation. The Chairman asked Mr. Madan Kothari to visit Delhi and survey any alternate arrangements.

(d) Broader Benches in the Chemistry Lab: Kshitij Paliwal raised this issue and informed members that the writing and sitting space in the benches of the Chemistry Lab and ABJ's classroom were too narrow. Kaustabh Verma also informed members that several SC formers had up to five classes in ABJ's classroom. The Chairman asked the Dean of Studies to change the classroom for such students and informed the members that new furniture would be introduced in classrooms that allowed for more movement. This would however take some time. The school would try to get some new furniture for one or two classrooms so it could be tested.

(e) Repair of Water Cooler near Skinners: Ankit Durga informed members that the water cooler near Skinner's was not functioning properly due to water shortage and cooling problems. The Chairman attributed this problem to the construction activity around the Main Field and the use of the coolers by the construction worker. He asked boys to cooperate till it was over.

(f) Improvement in the Quality of Soccer Shoes in the General Store: Vahin Khosla felt that the soccer shoes available in the General Store were of poor quality and needed improvement. The Deputy Headmaster felt that the Fenta shoes were economical and sturdy. He asked Khosla to show him the problem with the current shoes and he would get back to the Council on the issue.

(g) Improvement in the Catering of Café: Vivaan Shah explained that it was not the frequency of café but the quality and products served that needed change. He asked the Council for variability in the menu and the introduction of non-vegetarian items. Mr. Arvind Chalasani informed members that non-vegetarian items were unsafe in the monsoon season and that centralized catering from the Tuck Shop ensured every House received the same café.

(4) Any Other Matter with the Permission of the Chair

(a) Dietary Report: The Chairman felt that the students' diet lacked milk and felt that once the dietary report was submitted, at least four servings of milk would be ensured. Mr. Arvind Chalasani also felt that the CDH should not provide limited shares of the most important foods. The Chairman referred the matter to the Mess Committee.

(b) Graduation Ceremony for SC Formers: Ashish Mitter proposed that a graduation ceremony, instead of a farewell assembly be held for SC formers. He also thought that it could be conducted at the end of autumn term with participation from parents. Mr. Arvind Chalasani felt that instead of a graduation ceremony, the S Form entertainment could be postponed till the end of term. The Chairman felt that this was not an apt farewell, and dates for such an event would be difficult to find because the SC leavers left at various times during March, as they finished the Board examinations. He wondered also whether or not the SC leaver parents would come to such a ceremony. The student representatives thought that quite a number of parents would come. In the US, where a graduation ceremony was prevalent, these events were after the students had received their final high school results. This would be difficult to do in India given that the results were declared two months after the departure of students. In Delhi, the so-called "conti parties" had become a feature of school life, but these were often raucous and undignified events with a lot of money thrown around. The school could plan its farewell differently. Perhaps the SC formers could come up with ideas.

(c) I-Pods for S Formers: Dhruv Singh requested the Chairman to consider whether S formers could be allowed to keep iPods in school. The Chairman rejected this idea, saying that it was still very much an experiment in respect of the SC formers and the experiment had not been without its problems.

(Secretary)
Shikhar Singh

(Chairman)
Kanti Bajpai

India's Tryst with Destiny

The Contradictions Remain

Dhruv Velloor

Welcome to India: a land whose influence and contribution to the world is unmatched; where millionaires are being made every day. A nation that is still based on socialist principles while trying to adopt a capitalist outlook; the world's largest democracy. This is the place everyone wants to be, the rising world power. But is this entirely India?

Sure, India may be all of this and more, but only a part of India has truly prospered. Let us start with something more relevant to us. The Indian education system may be one of the cheapest and most cost-effective in the world, but the literacy rate in India is still only 65.38%, and students are still compelled to act as photocopying machines, vomiting out facts on an examination paper without needing to actually comprehend them. According to a recent UN report, a quarter of India's teachers simply do not even show up for work. The entire system is also roughly as exciting as a lamp post, and there is rarely an incentive for exceptional work. Students are also placed in an environment where they receive pressure from both sides—teachers as well as parents—to do well, while they are pitted against their peers in a battle for supremacy. An ideal way to produce the leaders and great minds of tomorrow, I am sure.

The other major issue is that of our widespread poverty. "Our independence will be complete only when we remove poverty", PM Manmohan Singh said. Poverty has actually risen in absolute terms since our Independence, and it is startling to note that our neighbour and economic rival, China, has only about one-fifth of our poverty. According to a 2002 estimate, the poverty rate in India is a staggering 25%. The per capita income, on the basis of which developed and developing nations are categorised, is US\$885 in India, putting it in the 'underdeveloped' category. The *zamindari* system, contrary to claims, still exists here and once struggling farmers fall into this baited trap, there is no escape, save for death. In 2003 alone, 17107 farmers committed suicide due to this.

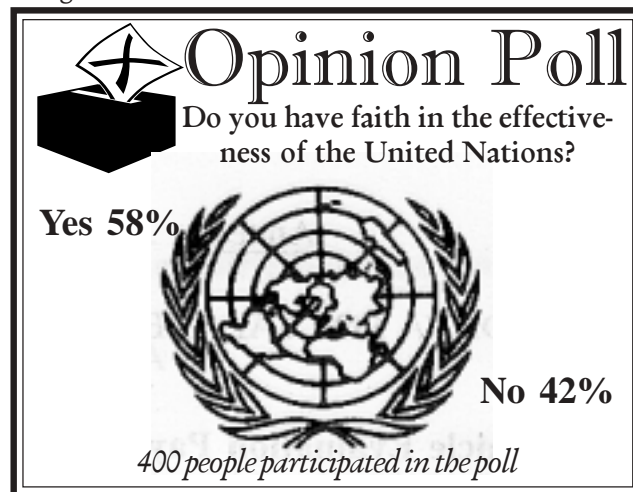
A major contributor to our poor standard of life, on the whole, has been our population. This is our greatest boon and greatest bane – a truly double-edged sword. It has done so much for our total production and yet the fact that most of the population is poor, means that most of India does not earn a sustainable income. India's population rose by 21.34% between 1991 and 2001, aggravating our problems and making sure that whatever progress we had made was cancelled out.

Another observation at this point would be the widening of the rich-poor divide, as the rich get richer and the poor, poorer. As of 1995, the poorest 20% of India's population had only 8.1% of the consumption of our produce. It seems that India's economy is flourishing only due to the middle and upper classes.

The last problems I shall elaborate upon are our casteism,

religious discrimination and racism. For those who say that casteism has been abolished from India, I say this in reply: just turn to the 'Matrimonials' section of the *Times of India* or the *Hindustan Times* for a revelation. It really is chilling. What does being a Brahmin or a Kshatriya or a Rajput have to do with anything? What are *Mallus*, *Marus*, *Punjus* and *Gujjus* and why do we continue to hold stereotypes against them? Why is it that we continue to crack Sardar jokes at each other when our own, greatly admired Prime Minister is one himself? Why is it that we have dramatically differing feelings towards people from other races, or even people who live in different countries? Why is an American or Briton always given the utmost care and a Chinese or Malaysian neglected? As an e-mail, supposedly from our former President, APJ Abdul Kalam asks, why is it that we shamelessly dirty our country when we do not even think about doing so overseas? The answers to all these questions, I think, lie within us.

So to conclude, I ask again: What exactly is India? As a political and economic journalist working for the Singapore-based *The Straits Times*, pointed out, the contradictions just won't go away. India is a land where massive skyscrapers and one-man huts are not too far apart, where superstition is prevalent and yet the country keeps pushing the limits of scientific progress. A place where some schools are battling obesity even as more than half the population under the age of five suffers from malnutrition. It is a shame to see that, being the world's largest democracy, we are still the most divided. The contradictions are all there. India may have come of age in a few ways, but it definitely has not yet come of age.

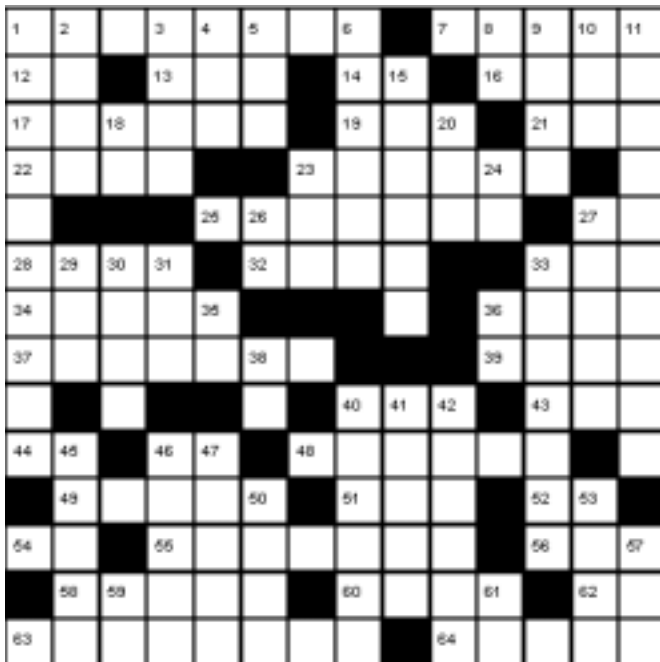


(contd. from page 1)

All would agree that the Crisis Situation was the highlight of the event. As the name suggests (and the US delegation would whole-heartedly agree) teams were faced with a critical, continuously escalating international development regarding which they had to reach a viable decision. This had to be done in fifteen minutes. It was surely the most challenging part of the conference with teams attempting to gain points at this last opportunity, yet held back by their hesitation to commit themselves. We understood then, how top diplomatic decisions are made: not only through formal meetings and conferences but also through interaction on an individual level, away from the negotiation table.

Cruciverbalist's Corner

Vishnukaant Pitty



Bird of flight 29. External Memory 30. Exclude 31. Currency of Japan 33. Middle Eastern food 35. Musical note 36. Element 38. Refusal 40. Applied on the body 41. Missing 42. Clear, sweet, sound 45. Soccer club 46. Colonial name for Pune 47. Harry's mentor 50. Half 53. Grows into a plant 57. Measured in years 59. Not vegetarian 61. Either.

Across: 1. Residents of Mt. Olympus 7. A brand 12. A musical note 13. Type of wood 14. That is, in short 16. The Loch___monster 17. Anagram-one rag 19. Conjunction 21. Fitting 22. Method 23. Discrimination based on age 25. One of the body's smallest bones 27. ___ Garde 28. Achilles fell here 32. Boast 33. Present tense of 'had' 34. Blind poet 36. Hermit 37. Renowned 39. Edison's invention 40. Latitude 43. ___odrama 44. South West (abbr.) 46. Closest employee 48. A popular game 49. Found in the temples 51. Metal 52. Osama's enemy 54. A millionth of a kg 55. A tall rock structure 56. Water body 58. Year 60. Capital of Norway 62. Example 63. Attack 64. Abrade.

Down: 1. Titan 2. ___dynamics 3. Shade 4. Old woman 5. Use sparingly 6. Tourist waterfall 8. Applicable before vowels 9. Prone to tearing 10. Internet Service Provider 11. Seeming 15. Need this to work 18. After Christ 20. Daman & ___ 23. A free commodity 24. Superintendent of Police 26. Tuberculosis (abbr.) 27.

IPSC ARTI-CULTURE

Vishnukaant Pitty recounts his participation in the IPSC Cultural Festival held in Jaipur

As our car sped up the hill, through the vast expanse of the hillside, Amber Fort of Jaipur unfolded in all its splendour before our eyes. Towering watchtowers and the fortified walls had us enraptured as we proceeded towards the Pink City. The majestic Ajmeri Gate with the hustle and bustle of the city opened up to us— a grand welcome indeed to the city of Jaipur!

Shashank Mittal, Sujai Banerjee, Samkit Sethia, Angad Singh, Subhojit Chattopadhyay, Arun Kothari and I, along with our escort, ATB, went for the IPSC Cultural Festival held at the MGD Girls' School, Jaipur, from September 18 to 20. The festival included many categories like folk dance and *bhajans* but we contested only in the Art section (comprising poster making, cartooning, artificial flower-making and arrangement, traditional *mehendi* and *rangoli*).

The cultural festival, true to its name, had a rich blend of culture. More than thirty schools from all over India (even from places as far away as Gangtok) came for the cultural festival. What followed was a dazzling display of art, dance, drama and music. Each school, as could be seen clearly, had given their heart and soul into preparing for this meet. We were truly left spell-bound by the sheer skill of the participants. As far as our events were concerned, we gave in our very best, only to discover that other schools were not to be outdone.

In the Cartooning section, Sujai Banerjee very comically depicted the Indo-US nuclear deal, but due to the high level of competition, came fourteenth in his category. In the Imaginative Composition category, Shashank Mittal painted a beautiful picture of a festival (his topic). In the Poster-Making category, I was to make a poster on female infanticide, for which I was awarded the fifth place. Subhojit participated in the *Mehendi* section and, to our surprise, came 8th, after facing stiff competition from the girls. Angad and Arun did the *Rangoli* event and made a *rangoli* on ornamental design, but came fourteenth, losing to the practised hands of the girls' schools. Artificial flower-making and arrangement was done by Samkit and Shashank. Both did very well with their flowers and came 5th in their category.

The competition was tough, and although we contested to the best of our abilities, we found that we were a notch behind. Apart from the competition, we also toured the city of Jaipur, savouring its many delights: ancient and modern. The Jaigarh Fort, situated on top of a hill, is a huge fort reputed to contain the largest cannon in India – the Jaivan. All in all, the trip was one to remember. I am sure this year's IPSC Cultural Festival served as a good experience for all of us.

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