



Established in 1936  
**The Doon School**  
**WEEKLY**

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**R Square**  
**OUN**  
**D Up**



**An 'IDEAL' Conference**

*Kartic Sharma reports on the International Round Square Conference held between October 9 and 15 at Mayo College, Ajmer*

While some were busy preparing for test week or Founder's, a group of eight boys, escorted by AKC, left for Mayo College, Ajmer, on October 9 to represent the School in the International Round Square Conference, 2009.

We reached our destination after a night-long drive followed by an exhausting train journey. On the way, delegates of other schools, with whom we were travelling, and we, began socializing almost immediately. As soon as the bus rolled into Mayo, we were impressed by their imposing Main Building. After registering ourselves for the conference, we were taken for a guided tour of the campus. Seeing the enormous size of their campus truly left us short of words. By now it was late in the evening and time for tea. Most schools had arrived and we could actually feel the excitement of the conference. Doscos were, as usual, a bit shy initially, but a few of us managed to break the ice, and started mingling, and, most importantly, enjoying ourselves. That night there was the unofficial opening ceremony at the Bikaner Pavilion. Introductions were given by the 85 participating schools through a video clip, which was followed by a speech by the School Captain of Mayo on the agenda of RSC '09.

The next day, as early as six in the morning, we had an optional yoga session. It sounded pretty boring, but as the event was in Mayo Girls' School, people seemed interested! Later that morning, there was the official opening ceremony, which included speeches by Prince Alexander and the Chairman of RSS, Rod Frazer. The ceremony was followed by a talk by the keynote speaker, Aruna Roy, who spoke on the motto of RSC '09 'Lead us from the darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge'. A phrase there rang familiar to Dosco ears! Next on the schedule was the 'barazza' session. A 'barazza' is a discussion group comprising student delegates from different schools and nationalities, where we discussed the various interpretations of the keynote speaker's address and on democracy in their respective schools and countries. It was an interesting experience to discuss such things on a global scale. Later in the evening, we had another talk by Mallika Sarabhai, who spoke passionately on the basic motive of enlightening the non-Indian delegates about the struggle against poverty, and the future of India. The day ended with a spectacular performance by the Mayoites, a dance depicting the typical Rajasthani traditions and their way of life.

Our keynote speaker the following day was Sachin Pilot, who spoke optimistically about the state of Indian politics, which was followed by the usual barazza session. The focus was primarily on the political scenario in different countries. Later that evening, we left for a social service trip to a village which was adopted by the Mayo community. For us, it may not have been a new experience, but the foreign delegates were thrilled. The sun was setting by then, but it did not look as though the delegates were going to! After that, we were notified that the various schools would be divided into various zones, and each zone had to put up a performance the following day. The Asian schools decided to dance to *Jai Ho*, which was both popular and easy to choreograph. Though it was a difficult affair to coordinate 100 students, we all felt our continent's reputation was at stake! It took us three hours, but we managed to prepare a worthy dance in the end.

The following day was very different. We were to visit the places near Ajmer. The designated places were Chittorgarh, Pushkar, Jaipur, Amber Fort and Nasirabad. I went to Nasirabad, and I found it an experience that I will not forget easily. It included a tank ride, a demo war display, a camel ride and, to add the icing to the cake, shopping in Pushkar. By the time we reached Mayo, it was almost dark and we all were dead-tired. But even fatigue couldn't dampen our spirits. After a quick shower and some refreshments, we were there on stage, dancing to *Jai Ho*. All biases aside, our performance was received very well.

October 14 was very similar to the first day of the conference, with Shiv Khera addressing us on the motto of the conference, which was again followed by another barazza session. The only difference was that in the evening we had a fete, which included food stalls, games' stalls and traditional shops. The fete

*(contd. overleaf)*

## Regulators

### THE TROPHY KEEPER

Shivam Katyal has been appointed Boy-in-Charge of the **Trophy Squad** for the forthcoming academic year.

### YOUNG ACHIEVERS

The following have completed various standards of the **IAYP**:

**Bronze Standard:** Sagar Karnavat, Mudit Agarwal, Raghav Dhanda, Ujjwal Dahuja, Kumar Sambhav Sethia, Sanchit Thakral, Abhishek Pande, Neelansh Khurana, Shreshtha Verma, Arjun Khaitan, Raghav Nath, Ritvik Gilhotra.

**Silver Standard:** Apurv Aggarwal, Yash Vardhan Singhania, Ishaan Nagpal, Varun Gupta, Sumaer Sandhu

**Gold Standard:** Vishnuu Mallik.

Vishnuu Mallik has completed all three levels of the IAYP and is awarded the **IAYP blazer**. Congratulations!

### NET CHAMPS

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Badminton Competition, 2009**:

#### Juniors:

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

Well done!

#### Seniors:

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

## Unquotable Quotes

*Does Jupiter come out every night?*

**Aditya Sukhia**, star-struck.

*Why is your weight so small?*

**Abhinav Kejrival** asks a heavy question.

*History repeats its help.*

**Rohan Gupta** sends an SOS.

*He is my friendly enemy.*

**Lanka Adarsh**, both friend and foe.

*Don't lose but don't win.*

**Rishabh Kothari**, what?

*You're not a funny when you act like one.*

**Piyush Upadhyay**, neither are you.

*If you think you're studying in a good school behave like one.*

**SMB**, should we?

## doontoon



The LAMDA Exams – OHT

### ECO FRIENDS

Arvind Sharma and Arjun Verma have been appointed Boys-in-Charge of the **Paper Recycling SUPW** and **STA** respectively. Congratulations!

### MUSIC MAKERS

**Music Colours** for the year **2009** have been awarded to the following:

Vedant Chandra  
Sriyash Kishorepuria  
Aditi Joshi  
Nikhil Sardana  
Arjan Vir Singh Maini  
Vidur Yadav  
Ankan Dutta  
Yashvardhan Jain  
Congratulations!

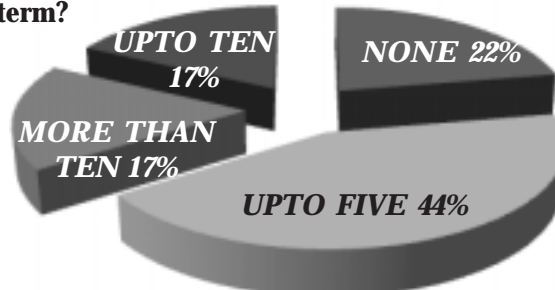
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## ERRATA

**Vedant Chandra's** name was omitted from the list of the **Games' Blazer** awardees in issue number 2331 (dated October 17, 2009). The *Weekly* regrets the error.

## Opinion Poll

How many books have you read for leisure this term?



(312 members of the community were polled)

**Next Week's Question:** Do you think Delhi will be ready to hold the Commonwealth Games next year?

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(contd. from page 1)

ended with the 'desi' jam session where people enjoyed themselves to the hilt.

The following day was the last day of the conference. We were all a little emotional, promising to add each other on *Facebook*, exchanging gifts and hugging each other. We only had one main event that day: the closing ceremony. The highlights and resolutions of the conference were discussed. The last event of RSC '09 was the official jam session, and it was surely the most memorable one.

The next morning, most of the schools left home-ward by the early morning train, whereas we went to Agra and Delhi for the post-conference session with Regent School, Thailand. In the end, all I would like to say is that all eight of us had the most memorable (rather, 'insane') time of our lives, and we would also like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who made this possible for us.

| Report |  
**Ditched!**

*Vivek Santayana* reviews the Junior Hindi Dramatics Street Play, staged on Founder's Day (October 10) on the Martyn House lawns

Keeping up with the tradition of street theatre, the Founder's Day junior Hindi dramatics production this year of Shri Krishn Chander's *Gaddha*, took a satirical look at bureaucracy, corruption, religious dogma and general human insensitivity. The plot was simple: a poor farmer falls into a hole and keeps shouting for help, and a number of passers-by, each in their own fashion, let him suffer there. But behind that apparently farcical situation was a very blunt attack on a number of things. A crowd, as all great Indian crowds do, gathered around the distressed man with hypocritical offers of help. No one wanted to dirty their hands by rescuing a man trapped in a fifteen-foot-deep pit. They would rather do their respective jobs (for a change). It came to a point of absurdity when the poor farmer was accused of being a Naxalite. Again and again, people came by, saying that it wasn't their duty to pull people out of holes. They dug, inspected or filled up holes and pits, but helping poor, trapped men simply did not feature in their agenda. Desperate cries for help by the farmer made no difference.

The staging was commendable, and immense practice was evident, with the cast speaking with perfect fluency, although some may not be so fluent in Hindi otherwise. The timing was good and the execution was commendable, with the narrator's dialogues matching the rhythmic *dholak* beats that sounded in the background. Although the initial song wasn't delivered with much zest, it did suffice as an overture and managed to convey a message of selflessness, the underlying value of the play. Vidit Sidana's performance as the man in the hole was commendable, with his strong voice and convincing gestures. He, along with the rest of the cast (naming them would take far too long, as there were so many boys involved) forgot who he really was. All of them, for that brief span of time, *became* their characters and developed the appropriate lack of propriety, gestures, accents, habits and diction that their respective roles called for. The costumes were most appropriate.

The play was well directed, and DKM had indeed put in tremendous effort to ensure the execution of even the most minute inflections. It was indeed a pity that the play did not have too big an audience to perform to. Such entertaining yet meaningful plays are what we need, and street theatre in School should become a more frequent venture by students, organized independently and frequently, rather than only as a Founder's exhibition directed by a master. Such performances display immense potential, and this could become a fortnightly attraction, both in English and in Hindi. The simplicity such productions require actually allow for original scripts and for students to take an initiative.

| Viewpoint |  
**Cattle Class**

*Tanuj Kumar* on the misunderstanding behind Shashi Tharoor's comments and the subsequent controversy

Are you flying economy class this winter? Well, you'd better be prepared because you might find yourself amidst sheep and cows. Dumbfounded?

It all began with the famous 'cattle class' remark made by Shashi Tharoor (Minister of State for External Affairs). He posted the comment on the famous networking site *Twitter*, and it spread like wild fire. To the members of the Congress Party, these remarks were unacceptable. It shattered the entire idea of the austerity drive initiated by the government. Sonia Gandhi had just landed after flying economy class and her son, Rahul Gandhi, following her example, bought a four-hundred-fifty-rupee Shatabdi ticket to Ludhiana. Tharoor's comment shocked Sonia Gandhi and was as hard hitting to Rahul as the stones which were hurled at the train during the journey.

Tharoor, on the other hand, justified the comment by saying that it was meant for the airlines that herded in the passengers like cattle. Whatever he meant, the comment did strike a blow to the people of India and, definitely, a large number of Congress members. It can be easily observed how difficult it is for a person like Tharoor, who had been away from his homeland for years, to sink into the Indian political environment. He has probably failed to understand the working of the political machinery in India. Perhaps he did not know that the Indian media makes a mountain out of a molehill.

Tharoor was asked if he would fly economy class to Kerala, to which he replied "Absolutely, in cattle class, out of solidarity with all our holy cows". He may have hurt the sentiments of some people but the fact is that he did apologize for the remark publicly. His tweets really seemed to 'move' India. Recently on Gandhi Jayanti, he wrote on *Twitter* – "Gandhiji said work is worship and we enjoy a holiday on his birthday". This comment made many question whether Gandhi Jayanti should be a holiday or not. I wonder why the bigshots of India are reacting with such outrage to the caustic words of a man who is a political newcomer. The holiday on Gandhi Jayanti has been there for years to commemorate his contribution to the struggle for independence, and I bet even Gandhiji wouldn't mind taking a day off! But either way, it's not worth making a big deal about.

To put it in a nutshell, the man who has just stepped into the roller-coaster of Indian politics may have just been a little too naive. His ride has just begun and to end it safely he definitely ought not to jump seats. Perhaps he underestimates the Indian media, and, in a country like ours – so prone to mass hysteria and media hype – his tweets were not appreciated, no matter how wittily acrid they were. He bears a great deal of responsibility, being the eminent figure he is, and he should handle his opinions with greater delicacy in public forums such as a social networking site. Personally, I enjoy hearing an occasional witticism or satirical take on the country.

## PLACEMENTS - 2009

SAURAV SETHIA	<b>USA</b>
SALIL GUPTA	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL
GURBAAZ SINGH SIDHU	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
MEHUL MEHROTRA	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS- URBANA CHAMPAIGN
VIKRANT JAIN	SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
KUSHAGRA AGARWAL	EMORY UNIVERSITY
DUSHYANT RAJ SAPRA	GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MANAV BHATIA	SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
PRATHAM MITTAL	GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
NAVEED A. CHOWDHURY	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
HAMZA IQBAL	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
RACHIT KHAITAN	EMORY COLLEGE
AKSHAT JAIN	CLAREMONT McKENNA COLLEGE
RISHABH BIR SINGH	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA- BERKELEY
DILSHER DHILLON	KNOX COLLEGE
MANSHER DHILLON	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
AYYAPPA P. VEMULKAR	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA- BERKELEY
ABHAAS SHAH	HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE
YASH LALWANI	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA- BERKELEY
MAYAPATI TIWARI	MUSKINGUM COLLEGE
DIVYANG PRATEEK	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS- URBANA CHAMPAIGN
ABHIMANYU CHANDRA	VIRGINIA TECH
KESHAV PRASAD	YALE UNIVERSITY
	GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
	<b>CANADA</b>
RUSHIL SINGH	UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
VIKRAM A. CHAUDHURI	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
AADHAR SHARMA	Mc GILL UNIVERSITY
	<b>UK</b>
JASPREET SINGH	UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
MANAV KOCHAR	UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
KENILWORTH YAMBEM	UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
AKSHAT KHANDELWAL	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
DIVISH SABHLOK	UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER
ARMAAN MALHOTRA	UNIVERSITY OF EXETER
	<b>SINGAPORE</b>
AYUSH AGARWAL	NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
RAJ KHOSLA	SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>
AMBAR SIDHWANI	SYDNEY INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY
	<b>INDIA</b>
HIMMAT SINGH	SD COLLEGE- CHANDIGARH
PRAMAN NARAIN	AMITY UNIVERSITY, DELHI
ANIRUDH GUPTA	HINDU COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY
KANISHKA AGARWAL	NARSEE MOINJEE INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES
YASH AGARWAL	HANSRAJ COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY
SHAURYA KUTHIALA	ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY
ANGAD SINGH	DAV COLLEGE, DEHRADUN
SHIVAM NAGALIA	SRI VENKATESHWARA, DELHI UNIVERSITY
KSHITIJ PALIWAL	SRI VENKATESHWARA, DELHI UNIVERSITY
SAKSHAM SINHA	BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY , RANCHI

(Courtesy: Careers Department)

(The remaining placements will be published in the next issue)

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