



Established in 1936

The Doon School

WEEKLY



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REGULARS

2

FOR A CAUSE

2

CHOIR SHOW

3

VIDARBHA
CRISIS

4

Hockey Highlights

Kanishka Malik reviews the recently-concluded Inter-House Hockey Competition, 2010

Considering the kind of experience the School teamers had gained over the past few months, the School was keenly anticipating their performance in the Inter-House Hockey Tournament. Twenty-five to thirty players began practice in February. This gave them more time with the ball, and therefore a chance to improve their skills. This is probably why the tournament boasted better dribbling, pushing and other manoeuvres in comparison to the previous years. As the Master-in-Charge, ASH, pointed out, over the last two or three years, the style of playing at Doon has changed significantly. Earlier, we relied on long passes and frequent through-balls. In this tournament, the teams made games with shorter passes, much like the typical Indian style of playing hockey. The School Team's trip to Delhi to witness the World Cup reflected in their maturity in playing such a demanding sport. Most houses played attacking games, using three to four forwards and a strong line of midfielders in every match, except in one match, where Kashmir House played defensively with only two forwards.



The results were uncertain until the last day of the Competition. I remember the situation on the Main Field that Friday evening, on May 14: Oberoi House had its Leagues I match on Ground Two and the Hyderabad and Kashmir House XI teams faced off on Ground One. If Oberoi won their match, they would be the ones yelling the victory cheer, and if Hyderabad won theirs, they would win the trophy. Both House Hockey captains had a reason to call that May evening one of the most important evenings of the year because neither of them had celebrated a victory in the tournament in their six years at Doon. Oberoi House, led by Vahin Khosla, won their match 1 – 0, which was the last step to the cup, as they had won three of their four House XI matches already. On



Ground One, Hyderabad House, under Shivam Katyal's leadership, scored two goals in quick succession in the first half. Kashmir managed to cover up with one goal in the second half and towards the end, when everyone had decided that the match was Hyderabad's, Lakshit Joshi equalised in the last thirty seconds, ending the match 2 – 2. Kashmir House certainly had something to celebrate, but they gave Hyderabad something to lament. Nevertheless, Hyderabad's performance was one of the most laudable ones of the tournament. After an extremely eventful season, the School teamers returned to play for their respective houses and displayed what they had learnt in the Council's and Kandhari Memorial tournaments.

The School Hockey Captain, Karanbir Dhariwal, was specially recognized for his performance. Vahin Khosla was the highest scorer with five goals to his name. Also, the Jaipur House captain, Trivikram Singh, led from the front and was the most promising player of his house. Another notable aspect of this year's senior tournament is that it yielded results that were completely different from those of last year, with Oberoi and Tata in first and second places respectively. Other noteworthy performances were that of Shivam Katyal, Harsh Verma, Yuv Khosla, Lakshit Joshi, Siddhant Sachdev and Shiva Gururani.

On the other hand, the junior tournament produced a result similar to that of last year, with Hyderabad House securing the cup for the second consecutive year. The most notable performances were that of Shivaan Seth and Kabir Sethi. Hyderabad concentrated on their Juniors I team as well as their Juniors II, while Jaipur House put all their able players in Juniors I. The balance paid off for Hyderabad and earned them the cup.

Before the tournament had begun, many of the players were upset with the condition of the ground as, due to lack of rain, it was uneven and that would force the ball to rise and make play difficult. Fortunately, it rained a couple of times just before the tournament and that reduced the effect. Unlike last year, there were no facial injuries. The School saw participation of boys from all forms and that will, hopefully, raise our expectations for the following year. Although the tournament ended with Trials at our doorstep, there was no shortage of viewership or enthusiasm. It was a satisfying end to an eventful hockey season.

HOCKEY RESULTS

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Hockey Competition, 2010:**

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

Well done!

CHESS CHAMPIONS

The following are the results of the **Interactive Chess Gala** held on May 8:

Winner: Sarthak Gupta
Runner Up: Mukund Nyati
 Congratulations!

APPOINTMENT

Neel Madhav has been appointed the **School Gymnastics Captain** for the year 2010-11. We wish him a fruitful tenure.

MATHS WIZARDS

The following are the results of the **SL Sharma Maths Colloquium Prize Test for Juniors, 2010:**

Winner: Saumil Agarwal
Runner Up: Manas Poddar
 Congratulations!

ATTENTION!



There will be a Popular Band gala called **The Battle of the Bands**, which will feature bands comprising boys from across houses, on **Friday, May 28 at 6:30 pm** in the **Rose Bowl**.

Opinion oll

Do you feel the SSA form is redundant?



(311 members of the community were polled)

Next Week's Question: During the holidays, would you rather stay at home or go on a vacation?

Miss India Visits

Vivek Santayana reports on the interactive session of the prefects and editorial boards of various School publications with Miss India 2010, Manasvi Mamgai, on May 15 in the Kilachand Library

As the Deputy Headmaster remarked, we were unusually neat, dressed even better than we were for Socials. This was natural, given that Miss India 2010, Manasvi Mamgai, was visiting School. Nothing could dampen our excitement, not even the half-hour delay. We googled her frantically, doing our last-minute homework and brainstorming suitable questions to ask her. Even the Headmaster pitched in, suggesting (humorously, of course), "Who is your favourite existentialist philosopher?" She arrived, though not sooner than we would have preferred, and the interactive session (rather, cross-examination) was underway.

Beauty pageants were, in her opinion, active social organizations that gave women a platform to stand out and make themselves heard. Her crown and her celebrity status have given her the required publicity to spread awareness about the issues women face.

Manasvi Mamgai was born in Delhi and her mother in Nainital (which is the reason for her connection with Uttarakhand). It was her dream to be Miss World since she saw Aishwarya Rai wear the crown in 1994, when she was seven. She confessed that she was crowned Miss India only very recently, before which she was "another normal, self-absorbed girl who was unaware of what was going on around her." It was therefore too soon for us to question her on her past or current participation in community service. She herself felt she still had a long way to go and asked us to be patient till she found her feet. She had only recently begun her association with charitable organizations, starting with her becoming brand ambassador for *Teach for India* and *Aakashsha*, two NGOs dedicated to educating women.

She advocated women's empowerment and education, which, she believed, were the solutions to all social evils. This was why she was focussing on these issues. She believed that the Women's Reservation Bill was a good start, although she was not yet informed enough about its background or the resulting controversies. She was caught off-guard when we asked her about issues of farmer suicides and honour killings, and she said that she was focussing entirely on women's education. Beauty pageants were, in her opinion, active social organizations that gave women a platform to stand out and make themselves heard. She denied the many negative effects these pageants have on women, such as their objectification and anorexia, although many of us were not entirely convinced. Her crown and her celebrity status have given her the required publicity to spread awareness about the issues women face, which she intends to use to champion whichever cause she chooses.

Whether it was an honest compliment or polite

praise, she commended the School's body of journalists, which had kept her on her toes throughout, with its barrage of incisive questions. She was used to such cross-examinations, the many cameras flashing and penetrative lenses. At the same time, she condemned unacceptable and voyeuristic practices by the media and the many intrusions into the private lives of celebrities. As for criticism, she had learned how to take it: there was little one could do about one's critics, she said, but learn from their advice.

She is now preparing for the upcoming Miss World pageant, which is why she is involving herself in community service projects around Uttarakhand. It is her ambition to travel the world and work for the benefit of subjugated women, which she intends to do if she wins the crown. She was inspired to work for the community by many small, seemingly insignificant incidents that made her realise her position of privilege. The huge gap between the haves and the have-nots in our country has struck her and motivated her to do her bit to lessen it.

The session came to an end very soon and we proceeded for tea, and Manasvi, to her next crown.

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Tech Trip

Ishaan Khanna reports on the School's participation in the Suryoday IT Fest held at the Scindia School, Gwalior, between April 17 and 20

On April 17, Arjun, Arpan Agarwal, Akshat Kumar, Nivit Koccher, Aayush Tripathi, Utkarsh Jha and I, along with our escort VRW, left for New Delhi. After spending the night at a guest house in NOIDA, we left for Nizamuddin Station early the next morning and took the train to Gwalior. The train ride was an experience of its own with its predictable share of mishaps.

We reached Gwalior at noon and drove up to the fort, in which the school is located. We spent the day wandering around the impressive campus and visiting all the facilities. At night, we headed to the IT labs, where we practised and discussed, till late at night, our plans for the following days. As we were accustomed to the latest versions of software like *Photoshop* and *Dreamweaver*, we had a little trouble acclimatising ourselves to the old versions installed in the IT labs there.

The event started early the next morning, and we took photos of the various activities in which our School was participating. We expected a decent position in the Digital Photography and Editing category, considering the effort we put in.

While most members of our team participated in their respective events, some of us were 'busy' with other things: still getting used to the older versions of the software or playing *Counter Strike* in the neighboring lab.

The second day began at six in the morning with Website Designing and Programming competitions. Akshat and Utkarsh secured second position in the Digital Photography and Editing category and Arpan stood third in Programming. The Doon School stood fourth overall. Of course, we weren't as successful as we had hoped we would be, but it was nevertheless a fruitful experience from which, I am certain, we have brought back lessons to be used in the future.

| Report |

Choirs in Concert

Priya Chaturvedi reviews the choral concert held on May 3 in the Music School



The choral music concert saw an interesting variety, both in terms of repertoire and singers. The newest members of our community made their musical debut and the seasoned pros of the School Choir performed with evident enthusiasm, having long forgotten stage-fright. But for both, as well as for the C-form choir, the run-up to the concert had been hectic, with practice sessions snatched from a crowded schedule of inter-house competitions. Choral music requires, above all, coordination, and just getting a group together was harder than the actual singing and learning of bass and treble parts!

The D-formers had a challenging piece set in *Raga Bihag* with fast taans, and given the nature of the song, they showed a remarkable grasp of the rhythmic cycle as well as an ability to negotiate the ascent and descent of the degrees of the scale. Their instrumental accompanists provided both chorded and melodic reinforcement, making the entire production a pleasingly polished one. The C-formers who followed presented two songs: the rousingly patriotic *Hindustan Hamara* and the lilting Assamese folk song *Maati Re*. The first was well-harmonised, with a small group of singers for the bass part. This gave a rich tonal texture to the piece. The considerable instrumental and percussion back-up of keyboards, piano, violin, xylophone and tabla provided an orchestral feel, with interludes that were particularly effective fill-ins. The hummed start to *Maati Re* and the three-beats within the double-time pulse was a tricky rhythmic device that succeeded.

The 'big guns', the School Choir, took the stage for the second part of the concert (the 'little guns' having, however, given a good account of themselves). Conducted by the School Choir Leader, Siddharth Bathla, they rendered that ultimate anthemic song, *We Are The Champions*, with appropriate fervour and enthusiasm. The two-part harmony (bass and tenor; the erstwhile trebles having recently gone a 'voice' lower) made for some interesting nuances in this strophic song, especially in the verse sections. The upbeat mood was carried through to the katha-style ballad that told the story of the doughty *Jhansi Ki Rani*. Heavy percussive back-up and a rousing refrain that displayed word-painting to fine effect seemed to spur the singers on to give their best. The last song of the evening proved that they were certainly not short of breath (or lung-power). The Beatles' early classic *A Hard Day's Night*, sung at a galloping tempo in harmony, also saw pianist Sriyash Kishorepuria in his element with some nifty rock n' roll style keyboarding, ably supported by Rohan Shriram on the drums.

In all, a fine production by the Music Society, particularly laudable considering the wide participation involved.

3. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, May 22

A CAUSE FOR GRAVE CONCERN

Kanishka Malik and Yuv Khosla examine the situation of the farmers in the drought-afflicted zone of Vidarbha and lay the prospects of a social service project in the region

Our unprecedented growth rate and economic upliftment have been haphazard, and there are a number of regions and people that have been neglected. In most of these places, the story of the deprived is as follows: first, there is poverty; then there is protest; the protests fail to get a response and are followed by hopelessness. Hopelessness is then followed by suicide. This typifies the situation in Vidarbha (a large chunk of eastern Maharashtra) and numerous other rural areas of the country.

In the last few years, Vidarbha has been afflicted by drought and crop failure. Since the late nineties, it has been known for rampant farmer suicides. The state of Maharashtra has the highest number of suicides in the country – around 40,000 every year.

Out of all the economically deprived zones, Vidarbha seems to be one of the most significant (not to mention newsworthy) regions in Maharashtra. In the last few years, the region has been afflicted by drought and consequent crop failure. Since the late nineties, it has been

known for the rampant farmer suicides (which the state government has concealed) by those who are unable to repay their loans. The state itself has the highest number of suicides in the country – around 40,000 every year – which should cause us all grave concern.

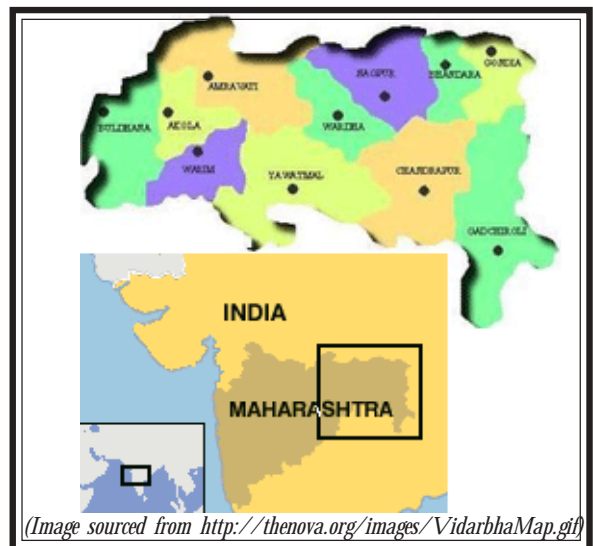
Out of the twenty thousand drought-hit villages in Maharashtra, the three thousand villages in Vidarbha are the most severely affected. The area has been in a critical condition over the past twelve years, having faced the worst condition between 2006 and 2008, with many of the water reservoirs and wells having dried up. The farmers have been rebuffed numerous times in their attempts to obtain loans. The loan interests, crop failures and rather futile attempts of the government to emancipate the farmers and recurring drought have exacerbated the condition of the farmers of this region.

The Possibility of School's involvement: a potential call for other Schools and organizations

In such a situation, our School should do what it is known for and offer to do social work in this area. We could adopt a village or initiate certain projects in the region. Operating in a place in Maharashtra will definitely be difficult and logistically challenging. It will certainly require collaboration with other schools in the region, various activists and NGOs. Nonetheless, it is possible. If we can send students to places like Thailand and Kenya for social work, we can surely work elsewhere within our country. The number of villages that require our attention is also staggering. We cannot undertake such a project alone, lest our focus be too narrow, restricted to only a couple of villages. Therefore, we could offer to be part of a bigger initiative.

A project like this would not only help in remedying the disparities in the region, but will also give us an insight into the impoverishment in our own nation, in regions we don't usually visit. After all, social service was introduced in School in order to make the students understand the condition of our fellow countrymen. Currently, we are focusing on certain regional social service projects or on undertaking international projects which are organized by the RSIS. The proposed undertaking will allow us to concentrate our efforts locally. It may even encourage the formation of an organization exclusively concerned with such places within the nation. It is somewhat surprising that we neglect the deprivation in regions in our nation, while focusing on development projects in other nations.

Our involvement might also be a call for other schools and organizations. Just as the way our idea of mid-terms was adopted by other schools and the concept of SUPW by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, such a step may encourage other institutions to join the cause. As a result, the organization mentioned above may even invite the involvement of many more schools. Mass participation would give a huge impetus to such a programme and also widen our coverage, a problem we may face if we were to venture into this alone. But then, our management and organization must also be far-sighted and diligent. The management shouldn't be a problem considering the way we have fulfilled our endeavours in the past. Our involvement in such a project won't be lauded just for our efforts but also for our leadership in such a movement. *(Statistics have been sourced from several articles in different issues of The Hindu)*



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