Editorial

On my trip to Vasant Valley School last week for the debates, I was amused by what the representatives of other schools had to say. This does not refer to the debates, but to the similarity in my conversation with all the students I met. The same question was being posed by students of all schools (Scindia, Welham Boys, Vasant Valley School, Mayo Boys et cetera): “Did you guys turn down an offer to turn co-ed?”

Well, the answer is obviously no, simply because there was no such offer. It’s not that some referendum or something similar was held. Of course the question of the School turning co-educational has existed for years, but we are well aware of the logistical difficulties of making a transition of that sort in the Chandbagh, something the Chairman firmly addressed.

What is more notable is the perception outsiders have, thanks to our newspapers, have of DS-75. Although, one realizes that the national media would give priority to covering the President’s and Governor’s address, we know that coeducation was not the issue worth receiving the maximum attention in news reports.

Firstly, the discussion of the School turning co-educational was not even at the centre of events. Personally I did not even take heed of the matter and it was only my trip to Delhi that made me aware of the issue. This does not refer to the debate, but to the similarity in my conversation with all the students I met. The same question was being posed by students of all schools (Scindia, Welham Boys, Vasant Valley School, Mayo Boys et cetera): “Did you guys turn down an offer to turn co-ed?”

Secondly, contrary to what students of other schools think, the students along with other associates of the School know that there are no prospects of the School turning co-educational because of the logistical difficulties on the Chandbagh estate, and not because the community has some prejudice against it.

From what I noted, our decision has become a source of humour and amusement in other schools around the country. Outsiders closely observe our School and that makes it imperative for us to be even more careful about our conduct. DS-75 brought about a phase of positive publicity. For us, it showcased the School’s values and achievements, as it was meant to.

Utkarsh Garg recounts his experience at the Round Square Conference held at Regents School, Thailand from October 7 to 17.

Last month, seven S-formers– Suyash, Vigya, Rishi, Sagar, Gursahej, Divij and I were selected to represent the School at the Annual Round Square Conference at The Regent’s School, Pattaya. We were being escorted by MCJ and AKS and were really looking forward to the ten-day outing, especially after the intense DS-75 preparations at School. However, after reaching the airport, we were disappointed to discover that the expiry date of Gursahej’s passport was not too far away. Sadly, he headed home and we boarded the flight without him.

We spent the first day exploring Bangkok and its exquisite temples. We were then escorted to our comfortable boarding houses where we stayed with delegates from other schools. Following this was the welcome ceremony in which the host school put up a great music and dance performance after which the schedule of the conference was discussed.

The opening ceremony was held the next day in which our school flag was held high by Divij Budhiraja. The patron of Round Square, HM King Constantine of Greece, along with a Headmaster of The Regents School then introduced the theme of the conference We Walk Together.

All the key speakers, Mr. Dalgish, Mr. Louis, Mr. Khun Mechai and Father Joe gave inspirational talks and shared their varied experiences. We were also divided into baraza groups in which we discussed the various issues brought up by the keynote speakers. These baraza groups gave us a chance to voice our opinions and make suggestions on how to address problems. Later that evening, the Annual General Meeting was held, during which the programmes and activities undertaken by the Round Square were presented and discussed.

The second and the fourth day of the conference were the service days as this year the theme of the conference was based on the ‘S’ of the ideals (i.e. Service) of the Round Square. Everyone was assigned to a group and I went to the Camillian Social Centre in Rayong on the first day where I met with HIV patients. I was extremely disturbed to learn of their hardships yet heartened to know that I could be of some use.

On the second day I went to the Pattaya orphanage where more than 800 children of different age groups lived together. All of the delegates carried presents for the children there and we interacted and played with them.

We also had an evening named We Express Together in which the interested schools were asked to put up a performance. Our School (cont. on page 6)
**Regulare**

**HINDI CREATIVITY**

The following are the winners of the various results of Hindi creative writing competitions held this year:

Shrimati Mirchandani Hindi Essay Competition for Juniors: Ishu Lather

B P Chandola Memorial Hindi Essay Prize Contest: Aviral Gupta

Kanwar Rani Tara Devi Hindi Essay Contest for seniors: Revant Nayar

Hindi Poetry Competition: Priteek Agarwal

Conratulations!

**DEBATING NEWS**

The School was represented by Kanishka Malik, Abhinav Mittal and Sachit Taneja at the India Today Cup, Vasant Valley Debates held on October 28 and 29 at the Vasant Valley School, New Delhi. The team reached the semi-finals and Kanishka Malik was adjudged Best Speaker in the Preliminary Round.

Well tried!

**IT FEST**

The following boys represented the School in the Computer Festival held at SAJS, Kanpur: Arpan Agarwal, Akshat Kumar, Nivit Kocchar, Madhav Dutt, Ishaan Khanna, Rohan Nath Behl, Sparsh Batra, Utkarsh Jha, Disher Brar.

The individual results are as follows:

Madhav Dutt was placed 3rd in the T-Shirt Designing event.

Disher Brar was placed 3rd in the Gaming Category.

Ishaan Khanna and Utkarsh Jha were placed 3rd in Debating.

Ishaan Kanna was placed 3rd in the Case Study and Discussion Category.

Nivit Kocchar stood 1st in the Website Designing Event.

Akshat Kuman and Arpan Agarwal were placed 1st in the Surprise Event.

Congratulations!

**APPOINTMENTS**

Apurv Aggarwal has been appointed the Boy-in-charge of the HAM Radio Club for the forthcoming year.

Raghav Puri has been appointed the Boy-in-charge for the English Dramatics STA for the forthcoming year.

Ujjwal Dahuja has been appointed School Chess Captain for the following year.

Viren Chabra and Saib Ahmad have been appointed Boys-in-charge of the Paper Recycling SUPW and STA respectively.

We wish them a fruitful tenure.

**IAYP**

The following students have successfully completed the following IAYP levels:

**Bronze:** Shreshtha Khaitan, Dhruv Goel, Madhav Dutt, Aditya Vikram Gupta, Shivam Goyal, Himanshu Todi.

**Silver:** Vikram Kejriwal, Shubham Dhingra, Saib Ahmed, Vatsal Modi, Sachit Thakral, Arjun Khaitan, Rohan Shiriram, Yasheshvi Havalia.

**Gold (and IAYP Blazer):** Vinayak Agarwal, Netesh Dev, Ayush Jain, Shivam Katyal. Well done!

**BOYS IN BLUE**

The following boys have been awarded the Games’ Blazer: Karanbir Dhariwal, Trivikram Singh, Shivam Katyal and Arvind Sharma.

Congratulations!

**NEW SCRIBES**

The following are the winners of the various results of Hindi creative writing competitions held this year:

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B P Chandola Memorial Hindi Essay Prize Contest: Aviral Gupta

Kanwar Rani Tara Devi Hindi Essay Contest for seniors: Revant Nayar

Hindi Poetry Competition: Priteek Agarwal

Conratulations!

**TENNIS**

The School Tennis Team participated in the Uttarakhand State Open Junior Tennis Championship held at the Shanti Tennis Academy and ONGC Tennis Courts

The following were the results:

**Under-14 Singles Category:** Arush Sood won the Finals.

**Under-18 Singles Category:** Kanan Mehra won the State Championship.

**Under-14 Doubles Category:** Arush Sood and Devang Mehra won the event.

**Under-18 Doubles Category:** Kanan Mehra and Divij Budhraja won the event.

Kanan Mehra was also chosen to represent Uttarakhand in the National Championship.

The School team also won cash vouchers worth Rs.7500. Well played!
Gentlemen and ladies, please give them a big round of applause.

Creating a renewed collaboration between the DSOBS, IPSS and School.

His input saying, ‘Dekho, Sahib – aisa hai’.

In some sense, both go hand-in-hand and both of you have done an outstanding job. Thank you.

Ms. Abha Adams has opted out of her second three year term due to preoccupation with other activities.

Mr. Ranjit Sikand, 247 T, class of 1956 and Mr. Sumit Bose, 364 J, class of 1970, have been appointed as new members on the Board of Governors in place of Mr. Mahesh Sahai and Mr. Vikram Lal. I welcome them.

Mr. Rohit Handa has been a very active Head of the Architecture and Project Committee, with unparalleled attention to detail of capturing historical elements of design, costs etc. He has worked painstakingly in recreating and building a lot of the infrastructure you see in School.

However, in view of DS 75 accounts, we have requested Mr. Mahesh Sahai, and he has agreed, to continue as an invitee to the Finance Committee till December 31, 2010.

Mr. Rohit Handa has been instrumental in creating a renewed collaboration between the DSOBS, IPSS and School.

In some sense, both go hand-in-hand and both of you have done an outstanding job. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking the entire Board for the effort each one of them has made giving readily of their time and involvement.

I am most thankful to Mr. Mahesh Sahai for serving as the Honorary Treasurer and as Head of Finance Committee for two years. We admire him for his experience and proficiency as he leaves the Board and Vikram Lal for his wise counsel and guidance relating to a wide variety of matters. The integrity of their opinion has always been most valuable and we will truly miss both of them.

Mr. Rohit Handa has been a very active Head of the Architecture and Project Committee, with unparalleled attention to detail of capturing historical elements of design, costs etc. He has worked painstakingly in recreating and building a lot of the infrastructure you see in School. Thank you, Rohit.

Please also thank Mr. Vivek Pandit for painstakingly driving the initiative on the future roadmap of The Doon School, and Mr. Gautam Thapar for leading the fund raising effort over the past two years. In some sense, both go hand-in-hand and both of you have done an outstanding job. Thank you.

The following is an excerpt from the speech delivered by the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Analjit Singh on the evening of Saturday, October 23 on the Main Field.

Chairman’s Founder’s Day Address
Doon School.

Thank you, Headmaster, Philip, Jayant, Samir and all our staff and boys for your tremendous effort behind putting DS75 together. A sincere thanks to all the panelists who participated in The Chandigarh Debates; Dr. Sahu and Old Boys and of course all our B.O.Gs for their support in so many areas relating to the School.

Enjoy the rest of your time and God bless you!

4. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, November 6
The year 2010 has been a controversial political year for state parties. Corruption, horse trading and the struggle for power have been instrumental in bringing about the political instability that is prevalent in certain states.

**Karnataka:**

In Karnataka, the Yeddyurappa-led BJP government has resorted to brazen expressions of political opportunism by adopting the most unconstitutional methods to remain in office. BJP first sowed the seeds of instability when it first lured some independent and JD(S) candidates to resign and contest again as BJP candidates in 2008 assembly elections. This resulted in major internal motion problems. Later on, another move by the Yeddyurappa government was a cabinet reshuffle in which three ministers were dropped and another six were inducted. The reshuffle left several many hopeful candidates aspiring for ministerial portfolios, angry and resentful.

Recently these candidates rebelled against the party. To win the Trust Vote, the support of these candidates was crucial. So the best move to win the Trust Vote was of course to disqualify these members from voting completely. That is probably why on October 11, the Speaker (who himself is a member of the BJP) disqualified these six legislators under Anti-D efction Law, creating a difficult situation for Yeddyurappa. The Governor then stepped in and sent a letter to the Speaker asking him to retain the “existing configuration of the House” in the interest of a “free and fair election”, a move that was decried by the ruling party as being a case of gubernatorial interference and overreach. Moreover, to win the support of the remaining legislators, corruption or what is popularly known as ‘poaching’ was used. The day of the voting was one of the worst the Karnataka legislature has ever seen. Violence ensued as the JD(S)-promoted expelled members created violence in the Assembly. The Speaker took a voice-vote, which announced to the House that the BJP had marginally won their majority in the House.

However, the exclusion of the sixteen legislators from the voting by the Speaker remains a controversial issue. A few days back the Karnataka High Court upheld the decision of the Speaker, so CM Yeddyurappa is in a safe position.

Another issue in Karnataka is the corporate-political nexus that has existed. The Reddy brothers (who are disputed for the rebellion they conducted in 2009), the magnates of the area, have vital political interests in the BJP and are ministers in the Government. The entire horse trading that takes place is probably supported by these billionaires. There were recommendations made by several opposition party members to remove the brothers from Government posts. Moreover, most of the ministers of this Government have been involved in numerous scams. The Chief Minister himself has been a part of several scams, most notably the BDA land scam.

**Maharashtra:**

Maharashtra’s leadership is witnessing similar instability. In the much-publicised Adarsh Housing Scam, the Chief Minister has been linked to the issue, through his relatives. Following the publicity of this issue, Ashok Chavan has offered his resignation while at the same time maintaining his declaration of being absolutely innocent. Currently, senior Congress leaders are deciding on the prospect of his resignation.

Moreover, Maharashtra has not seen much development under the leadership of Ashok Chavan. Farmer suicide rates have escalated and the state is facing myriad agricultural problems. Clearly the state leadership is in a vulnerable position.

**Bihar:**

Bihar, on the other hand, is one state that has demonstrated unprecedented economic growth over the past five years, under the leadership of Nitish Kumar. However, the fate of Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United)-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coalition and the principal opposition, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)-Lok Janshakthi Party (LJP) combine. The track record of the Nitish Kumar government has been comparatively impressive in terms of ensuring development in Bihar. The issue in Bihar is that Nitish Kumar has been accused of not protecting the interests of the upper-caste Hindus, the category that gave him the most number of votes. So there are possibilities of his losing elections on these grounds. Also, considering that it is a coalition Government fighting for power, there are always internal disputes such as that of Jharkhand. Hopefully, if this government regains power, its second tenure will resemble the first. Also, it will practically reduce any prospect of Lalu Prasad (who is now groomed by his son for the post) of becoming the Chief Minister.

Three of the flats were allotted to his relatives. Following the publicity of this issue, Ashok Chavan has offered his resignation while at the same time maintaining his declaration of being absolutely innocent. Currently, senior Congress leaders are deciding on the prospect of his resignation.
Aishwarya and Rohan worked in the same office. They had been in a relationship for almost three months. It was a pleasant Sunday morning. He decided to take her out on Sunday because he felt that it was time to propose to her. Rohan and Aishwarya reached the hill top and sat admiring the view. Aishwarya took out her camera and started taking pictures. Rohan walked slowly towards the edge of the cliff.

He looked down once he was at the end of the cliff. A gust of wind brushed his face and he raised his hand and felt its force.

Suddenly he felt a deep fear of the place. People had jumped off the cliff at this point. Why? Because they were stupid. “Rohannnn!” When Aishwarya called him, it sounded like an echo. No one else was around.

“Turn around, and stay still, Rohan! I want to take a snap of you. Be careful, O.K?” Rohan turned around and faced Aishwarya. He placed his feet carefully. He was afraid. What if he fell down? Would he die in a second? Would he have the chance to look at an undiscovered world? People are so small, yet they think so big, thought Rohan.

He closed his eyes for a moment, thinking of what was over his shoulders. One wrong step and he would be history. His brains, his body, dashed on the rocks below.

“Come on, say cheeeese!” Aishwarya asked again. “Cheeseeeeeseeeeese!“ He said while his jaws locked in fear. “Come on, say cheeseee!” Aishwarya pleaded.

“Cheeeeseeeeeeese!” he said. He was trembling now.

“Rohan, open your eyes, and say cheese!” Aishwarya almost screamed.

“Click!”

He took two hasty steps forward. He felt a great sense of relief.

He wanted to live. Life is valuable. He wanted to love, have a family, be more and more happy, enjoy every moment of his life for as long as he lived. He had learnt a lesson of life that day. He laughed loudly as he raced towards her, hugged her and holding hands, walked away from the brink.