



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY



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## 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. I personally did not even take heed of the matter and it was only my trip to Delhi that made me aware of the interest generated by this issue.

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.

## RSC Thailand

*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, Gursahaj, 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 Gursahaj'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. The following day we headed off to The Regent's School.

The school is located on the outskirts of Pattaya and it looked magnificent with its huge buildings and a lush green field surrounding it. 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 *barazza* groups in which we discussed the various issues brought up by the keynote speakers. These *barazza* 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)*

## 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:** Prateek Agarwal  
Congratulations!

## 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, Dilsher Brar.

The individual results are as follows:

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

Dilsher Brar was placed 3rd in the **Gaming Category**. Ishaan Khanna and Utkarsh Jha were placed 3rd in **Debating**.

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

Nivit Kochhar stood 1st in the **Website Designing Event**.

Akshat Kumar 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:** Shreshta Khaitan, Dhruv Goel, Madhav Dutt, Aditya Vikram Gupta, Shivam Goyal, Himanshu Todi.

**Silver:** Vikram Kejriwal, Shubham Dhingra, Saib Ahmed, Vatsal Modi, Sanchit Thakral, Arjun Khaitan, Rohan Shriram, Yashashvi Havelia.

**Gold (and IAYP Blazer):** Vinayak Agarwal, Netesh Dev, Aayush 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 Editorial Board of the **Yearbook** for the forthcoming year is:

**Editor-in-Chief:** Anmol Jamwal and Udai Bothra

**Chief of Production:** Rohan Nath Behl

**Editors:** Vigya Singh Dhiman, Sachit Taneja and Rohan Shriram.

**Associate Editors:** Arjun Khaitan, Sanchit Thakral, Siddhant Sachdev and Eeshat Tiwary.

**Special Correspondents:** Devesh Sharma, Agni Raj Singh and Rahul Srivastava.

**Correspondents:** Guruansh Singh and Ritvik Kar.

The Editorial Board of the **Circle** for the following year is:

**Editor-in Chief:** Shashvat Dhandhanian

**Editor:** Revant Nayar

**Chief of Production:** Abhinav Mittal, Sachit Taneja

**Senior Editors:** Udai Bothra, Yash Johri

**Associate Editor:** Aditya Gupta

**Senior Correspondents:** Adarsh Lanka, Manas Poddar

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

## 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.

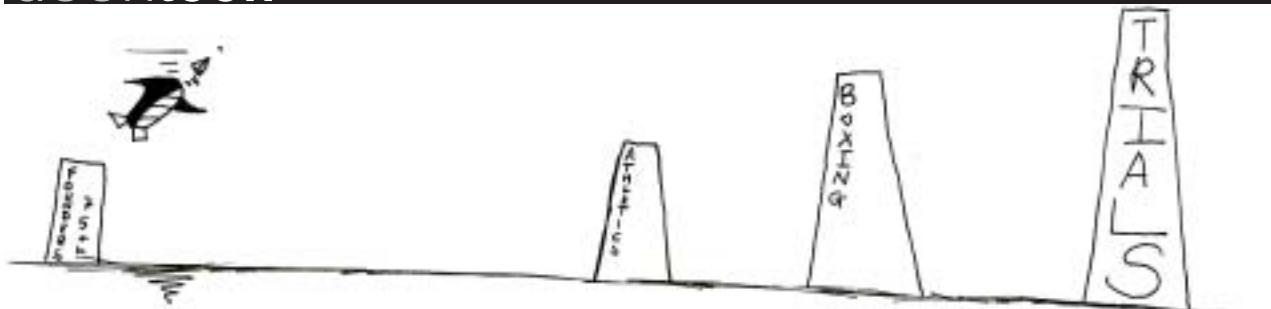
**Under-18 Singles Category:** Kanav Mehra won the State Championship.

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

**Under-18 Doubles Category:** Kanav Mehra and Divij Budhraj won the event.

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

The School team also won cash vouchers worth Rs.7500  
Well played!



# Chairman's Founder's Day Address

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

Good evening The Doon School, Mr. and Mrs. Kapil Sibal, Dr. Sanjiv Chopra and his wife, ladies and gentlemen. I hope you have had an enjoyable time and appreciated the splendour of nature and Chandbagh!

I would like to take the next fifteen minutes or so and share some information about the working of the School, the Indian Public School's Society, and related matters concerning the governance and management of the School.

Let me begin by saying that after almost thirty-eight years, we have an expatriate Headmaster, Dr. Peter McLaughlin. Mr. C.J. Miller was the last English Headmaster back in 1970. Last year, I did not have an opportunity to formally introduce our new Headmaster and his wife Elizabeth as the Founder's Day celebrations had to be cancelled due to swine flu. Dr. McLaughlin and his wife joined School full-time on July 14, 2009, prior to which Peter made three short visits to Dehra Dun.

I would now like to say a few words about governance-related matters of The Doon School:-

Mr. Mahesh Sahai and Mr. Vikram Lal will be completing their six year term at the close of this Founder's Day and 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.

Abha Adam's replacement is yet to be identified. It is likely that a person with international experience will be identified to fill this vacancy which necessarily must be filled with a person from an education stream. For your information, about 40 to 50% of our passing out class goes abroad for college education and therefore, reasonable integration and compatibility with school education abroad is important.

Let me add that whilst we continue to aim at sending our boys to leading colleges in India, similar emphasis has recently been given to international placements of our students in America and the U.K. If the Private University Bill and Foreign University Bill ever sees light of day, perhaps the emphasis on our kids going overseas may come down. The second member of the Board of Governors, with an education background is Prof Dipankar Gupta. Dipankar has offered himself for re-appointment and I am pleased he will continue for three more years.

Vipin Malhotra is a co-opted member on the Board as the President of The Doon School Old Boys' Society and will be leaving the Board on the closing of the DSOBS AGM tomorrow. In his place, we welcome Kishore Lahiri, the President-elect of the DSOBS.

I would now like to share some information about the working of the Board of Governors:-

First, let me say that the role of a Governor, since my predecessor, Mr. Dhruv Sawhney served as the Chairman of the Board, has changed significantly. From being more of an informal Board, this forum now works like a serious governing and managing body. Considerable time and energy is spent at Board Meetings, offline as also on various visits to the School.

Why has the role and responsibility of the Board and the Headmaster changed considerably? Think of the pressure on academics and results; placement of students; stringent and meritocratic-based admission process; challenge of attracting, developing and retaining faculty; regulatory and compliance issues; continuous improvements in infrastructure and technology; reporting standards; security matters, and of course fund-raising and so on. All these matters require close discussion and review.

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.

Sub-Committees aside, I wish to thank Mr. Vikram Lal again and Mr. Vikram Mehta for their wise counsel. These two gentlemen have been solid advisors and I depend on speaking off-line with them very often, on complex matters. It's sort of "Let me call the 'Vikrams'"!

Dipankar, thank you for your usual 360 degree view and it is great to have someone who provides one with a 'life' view of things. And of course, Prof. A Lakshminath, who has a great way to cut to the chase and often gives me his input saying, '*Dekho, Sahib - - aisa hai*'. And last, but not the least, Vipin Malhotra, who has been instrumental in creating a renewed collaboration between the DSOBS, IPSS and School.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give them a big round of applause.

Now, coming to the year ahead of us:

Gautam Thapar will take over from Mahesh Sahai as Honorary Secretary and head the Finance Committee. 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. Sanjeev Mehra will hereon serve as Head of Fund-Raising from New York.

Mr. Ranjit Sikand will head the APC Committee and being local, this will help considerably, for close monitoring and review of projects.

Mr. Vivek Pandit will continue to head the Roadmap Sub-Committee working closely with the Headmaster and the Board. Now about the School:

1. An exhaustive review of the current landscape makes it clear that we cannot rely on the legacy of our history, our past accomplishments and the brand of The Doon School. This alone is not sustainable. This has been born out of the Roadmap exercise and the process of appreciative inquiry that started in late 2008.

2. At the same time let me assure you that the bedrock of the School and its fundamentals will remain the same. For example, we will continue to focus on an all-round education and comprehensive development and growth of the boy through focus on pastoral care, community living, sports, team-play and social mindfulness by stressing on the correct thinking, correct speech and correct ideology packaged with compassion and sympathy.

3. The erstwhile strength of the School of very high quality faculty will necessarily have to be recreated considering the challenge of scarce talent pool, retention, and distinguishing teachers from masters.

4. Regarding our ICSE / ISC / IB programme we had the best-ever ICSE and ISC results in the School's history this past year and I can assure you this will not lead to any complacency. The IB had a strong start with the first batch in 2009. The experience of the second batch threw up some challenges which the HM is actively addressing. Both programmes will run parallel and be strengthened, starting immediately.

5. For the first time, a proactive marketing initiative of the School is being launched. We will be working towards setting a targeted profile for admissions of new boys to attract that category of boy who would best benefit from a School like ours. This will also help bolster the application-admission ratio which currently stands at 1:4.5

6. Further, a brand-new emphasis on placement of our students, both domestic and international, is an imperative in the current times. This process has just begun.

7. A renewal of comprehensive authority of Housemasters supported by Dames has to be revitalized. The boys must go to them first and not bypass the system by going to Mom through the internet!

8. Similarly, leadership and integrity of boys with responsibility must come through and not get marginalized and confused with team-play and temptation to be branded a nice chap to attain false popularity.

9. Accelerating our infrastructure programme is a must so we can be done with it. Pending works are renovation of Tata, Hyderabad, Kashmir and Oberoi Houses; construction of a brand new Chemistry Laboratory; renovation of the Main Building and modernisation and upgradation of classrooms; renovation of the Swimming Pool Complex and Squash Courts including solar heating of the pool; provision of a centralised power backup, and upgradation and modernization of our water supply and delivery system.

This will follow on the back of the following projects already completed:

- Re-construction of the Chakrata Road boundary wall
- Construction of Kilachand Music School
- Several Tennis Courts
- Glass-back Squash Courts
- Computer Networking Project
- Basketball Courts
- Martyn House re-construction
- Foot House re-construction
- Masters' Houses at Chestnuts, Hathi Khana and off the Main Field
- Extensive renovation of Jaipur House

- Renovation of the Library
- Repair and renovation of the CDH
- Renovation of Chemistry Laboratory for IB
- Provision of a vermi-compost facility
- A brand new Art and Media School
- Installation of a hydro-pneumatic system
- Renovation of the Rose Bowl
- Re-construction of the School Boundary Wall
- Effluent Treatment Plant
- Vacation of Staff Quarters at Tata Field and Jaipur Lines
- A brand new Cricket Pavilion.

10. And finally, whilst a rather sharp rise in fees will be unavoidable, fund-raising will be critical to support the above future development of the School. No education institution can survive on revenue from fees alone. A substantial part of the fund-raising will be focused on scholarships to make the School accessible for kids from diverse backgrounds. We all know and appreciate that this is one of the key strengths of the School which must be preserved, i.e. the diversity of the student body.

11. A few comments about the necessity and rationale of fund raising:

- School ran on a deficit for sixteen out of the previous twenty years.
- In a sense we went through School at a discounted rate of fees. Depreciation was not provided for and increase in fees during the '60s - '70s - '80s - '90s were negligible, not even accounting for inflation.
- This imbalance came to haunt us in the early 90s as we began to face competition, challenges from an ageing infrastructure in School, higher operating costs due to steep inflation and sharply increasing personnel costs.
- Therefore, fee hikes were inevitable, supported by fundraising etc. These are natural milestones of the School's journey and seldom are these holes-in-one.

Just to give you a feel of our fund raising effort:

- Collections now stand at approx Rs.22 crores and a fresh collection drive is afoot towards a new target of collecting an additional Rs. 45 crores in the next twelve months. In this regard, I am pleased to announce, that a sum of Rs. 35 crores has already been pledged to the School of which Rs. 10 crores will be received by the School by November 15. This is now! The balance, in twelve months from now. Major donors to this fresh fundraising effort have been DSOBS, Gautam Thapar, Anoop Bishnoi, Sanjeev Mehra, Sanjiv Sharma, Jaideep Khanna, Supreet Suri, Analjit Singh, contributing between 1 crore to 4.5 crore each. In 2008 - 2009 some of the major donors were the House of Tata's, Vodafone, The Oberoi Group, Vikram Malhotra, Mr. Tishi Khanna, Vinit, Nalin and the Khanna family, Dhruv Sawhney, Hong Kong Old Boys and Varun Berry, the Kilachand family, R.P. Goenka and the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.

Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, let me say that whilst the agenda for the improvement of the School is, and feels large, your School is in good hands with the Headmaster and the Board of Governors.

Thank you for coming to DS 75 and I hope your being here has rekindled your continuing bond with The Doon School.

Thank you, Headmaster, Philip, Jayant, Samir and all our staff and boys for your tremendous effort behind putting DS 75 together. A sincere thanks to all the panelists who participated in The Chandbagh Debates; Dhruv Sawhney and Old Boys and of course all our BOGs for their support in so many areas relating to the School.

Enjoy the rest of your time and God bless you!

# Under the scanner INDIA 'State'ly Issues

*Shashvat Dhandhanja and Raniz Bordoloi remark on the political atmosphere prevalent in three states in India.*

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 sixteen legislators under Anti-Defection 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 gubernato-

**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.**

rial 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 min-

ing 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. 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.

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 Bihar depends entirely on the forthcoming elections.**

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 Bihar depends entirely on the forthcoming elections. The Bihar elections are another essential political issue of India. The competition is between the ruling Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United)-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coalition and the principal opposition, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)-Lok Janshakti 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 grooming his son for the post) of becoming the Chief Minister.

There are political problems in several other states too. A number of them are to witness elections soon, such as West Bengal and Bihar. The Maoist insurgency is another issue in the eastern states, but the moot point is that politically, some of our most populated states are in a vulnerable position. Hopefully, through the awareness spread by the media and different state mechanisms such as the RTI, citizens will be able to gauge the politicians and make better choices.

# | Short Story | On the Brink

Harshvardhan Singh

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, OK?" 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.

"Cheeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeese!" He said while his jaws locked in fear. "Come on, say cheeeese!" Aishwarya pleaded.

"Cheeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeese!" 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.

## ERRATA

In issue no. 2265 of the *Weekly*, in the article titled 'Basketball Highlights', Abhinandan Rajan's name was printed as the Basketball Captain of Oberoi House in place of Shekhar Bishnoi's. The error is regretted.

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(contd. from page 1)

was applauded for its performance on the theme *Vande Mataram*, which had been choreographed by Gursahaj. Other schools also put on praiseworthy shows, especially the host school which performed a 'glove dance' based on the theme of the conference.

An exhibition of art pieces also took place and the money raised was to go to the Prince Alexander Fund for Round Square International Service projects. On the last day of the conference, I, on behalf of the School went for the Prince Alexander Fund lunch (I had to starve there as there was nothing except sea-food and I am vegetarian!) to present our School's contribution to the fund and was thanked by HM King Constantine.

The last event was a party at Nung Noch Resort in Pattaya. The night was characterized by delicious food, friends and a band. The night drew to a close with everyone promising to keep in touch, clicking photographs and exchanging email addresses and *Facebook* contacts. The Round Square family had to break up now.

Next day we travelled back to Bangkok where we spent our last two days 'relaxing' and shopping. We returned to School just two days before the commencement of DS-75 and threw ourselves once again in its final preparations.

\* \* \*

## Unquotable Quotes

*Arya is a lady and Aryan is a Leda.*

**MNP**, he or she?

*Life is a circle with four corners.*

**Jai Ahuja**, geometry explained.

*Cheaters never prosperous.*

**Raghav Bansal**, what's the moral?

*Shout shouter!!*

**Shaurya Sinha** explores the world of acoustics

*Don't fidget while marking!*

**SSM's** take on boot camp.

*Mexico is the crime capital of India!*

**Pranay Raj Kapoor**, elementary.

*You'll become Boy-in-Charge of The Weekly!*

**Shubham Sikaria**, by appointment only.

## Opinion oll

**Do you think other Inter-House Competitions to be held this term will affect your performance in Trials?**

**Yes**  **79%**

**No**  **21%**

(340 members of the community were polled)

**Next week's question:** What pursuit in School gives you the maximum satisfaction: academics, sports, extra-curricular activities or social service?