

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, August 20, 2011 - Issue No. 2288

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## DSMUN, 2011

### *Headmaster's Address*

Welcome to DSMUN, 2011!

With each advancing year, I believe the United Nations becomes ever more important as a vehicle for solving the world's problems. The historical reality of the past century has been that most countries have believed in bilateral solutions to their ambitions, conflicts, disputes and difficulties. But globalization and the complexity of the twenty-first century challenges mean that there are too many concerned players and interested parties in any arena of international diplomacy for bilateralism to be really effective, be it in the politics of water sharing and conservation, the release of carbon emissions into the atmosphere or the NATO-led decision to intervene to protect human rights in an internal revolt such as that in Libya.

It has been a tumultuous and testing year since delegates last gathered at The Doon School for our Model United Nations. The 'Jasmine Revolution' has swept the Middle East and toppled decades-old tyrannies; populations have insisted on their rights as enshrined in the UN Charter of Human Rights, but some despotic rulers have shown extraordinary resilience. The UN mandate for NATO to intervene in Libya has not yet forced Colonel Gaddafi to surrender his grip on power, while the Syrian regime has continued to massacre its own citizens with impunity. The gigantic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the persistence of the threat of a global financial meltdown, the tsunami and earthquake in Japan, the approaching extinction of tigers in our own land to meet demand for their body parts in the international market, the agony of Afghanistan and the strength of the Taliban there as well as in Pakistan, along with the assassination of Osama bin Laden, are just tiny samples of the pointing up the vital necessity of cooperation that transcends national borders.

Despite its many setbacks, imperfections and failings, it is my firm belief that the United Nations remains the greatest hope for the human race to put its house in order and for us to live in the peace, decency, prosperity and harmony that still eludes so many. The birth of a new nation, Southern Sudan, under the auspices, care and nurture of the United Nations after four decades of civil war has shown the UN at its best and most effective, and has renewed my optimism in the future. Southern Sudan's liberated citizens need all of us to see over its development from infancy to prosperous and peaceful nationhood; equally, we all need Southern Sudan as a beacon of hope and a validation of the effectiveness of UN-led multilateral actions, in which we all pull together as fellow human beings. Few things gave me more pleasure this past year than to see a contingent of Indian troops in the blue berets of the UN arriving at Terminal 3 at IGI Airport after a tour of duty in Africa.

Consequently, it is always a joy to see delegates gathering at The Doon School from far and wide to practise the arts

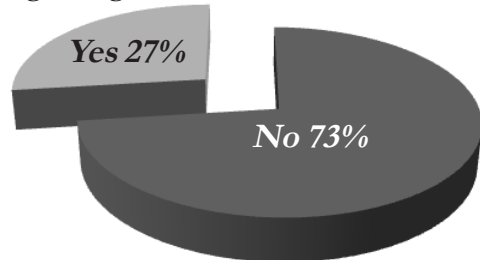
**"It is always a joy to see delegates gathering at The Doon School from far and wide to practise the arts of diplomacy and to gain experience in solving seemingly intractable problems through the MUN movement."**

**"Despite its many setbacks, imperfections and failings, it is my firm belief that the United Nations remains the greatest hope for the human race to put its house in order and for us to live in the peace, decency, prosperity and harmony that still eludes so many."**

of diplomacy and to gain experience in solving seemingly intractable problems through the MUN movement. I wish all of the delegates the very best of luck in the days ahead. Nothing would give me greater satisfaction than one day to see one of you representing your country as an ambassador to the United Nations. But wherever destiny leads you, I would also be delighted if you were to leave us after your brief sojourn at The Doon School feeling readier to play your part as wise and principled leaders and active global citizens of the twenty-first century, with friendships renewed or newly made, and with your optimism and faith in the future of humanity undimmed.

## Opinion oll

Are you happy with the new selection process for the Exchange Programme?



(327 members of the community were polled)

Next week's question: Should DSMUN be held every year?

## doontoon

Madhav Dutt



The Sorting Hat

## Unquotable Quotes

*Now my askings begin.*

**ANC**, ok.

*Give me a couple of five minutes.*

**ANC**, granted!

*They used to dug up the ground.*

**DEB**, the archeologist

*I will study for the next minute and half hours.*

**Ujjwal Singhal**, determined

*It has been raining since tomorrow.*

**Sai Swayam Samal**, weatherman

*Oye! My son suicide.*

**Sai Swayam Samal**, we grieve your loss

*Is it a figure of 'spitch'?*

**SNA**, maybe

*You just hogging doing.*

**Sudhansh Agarwal**, ravenous

*My computer is not so happening.*

**Kumar Sambhav Sethia** wants entertainment

*Queer me not.*

**Yash Jalan**, really?

*My pug grew into a boxer.*

**Sagar Karnavat**, dog breeder.

## Letter To The Editor

### In Memory of...

Dear Friends,

Recuperating from a Coronary bypass surgery, I am so overwhelmed by the large number of spontaneous condolence e-mails I have received at the tragic loss of Ratna that I am at a total loss to acknowledge them individually. The only solution I can find is this open letter to reach all of you.

I had no idea how fondly Ratna was regarded by all of you, whose souls she touched. I wish I could convey these sentiments to her wherever she is now.

I have to be brave and carry on after 59 years of happy married life and with your blessing I shall manage.

Thank you all for your sympathy and concern.

-Gulab Ramchandani

### OLD VS NEW

The School Soccer Team played against the Old Boys' Team on Saturday, August 13, 2011. The match ended in a 3-3 draw. Well played!



## ERRATA

In Issue No. 2287 of the *Weekly*, dated August 13, 2011, the news under the title 'Talks' was reported incorrectly. The correct information is that Mr Rahul Kumar from Maple Leaf Edu Connect came for a presentation on Business Simulation Exercise. Mr Kumar also represents Kings University College at the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

Also, in Issue No. 2287 of the *Weekly*, dated August 13, 2011, a clause of the School Council Meeting was reported incorrectly. The correct clause is given below:

**e) After the ICSE examination, students must be allowed to go home:** Nabeel Shah suggested that there should be a break for students after their board examinations. He stated that social service projects and mid-terms make students even more fatigued after a long month of examination. Mr. Nair stated that this was apt only if the boys followed the deadlines, and that they had failed to do so when they had been given this liberty. The Chairman ended the matter saying that it would be reviewed in the next meeting.

The *Weekly* regrets these errors.

# | Report | EBC Once Again!

*Eshat Tiwary reports on the School's expedition to Everest Base Camp from May 29 to June 13, 2011*



Conquering Everest Base Camp, the highest base camp in the world, is an experience worth the effort; it comes as no surprise that this year, the School participated in this expedition for the third time. The group was led by Dr Shukla, Mr Bali, Mr Swamy and Mr Chamola and comprised seventeen students, including myself.

After numerous group meetings and fitness sessions, we were ready for the adventure. We flew to Kathmandu on May 29 and reached at noon. We drove down to Thamel, where our hotel was situated and were introduced to our expedition guides, Lalit and Kiran. After a day of exploring Thamel, we flew to Lukla, where we encountered one of the most exciting touchdowns. The runway, situated in the midst

of three mountain sides, ends at a cliff; the approach scared all of us, especially when we saw that the runway ended at a cliff.

From Lukla, we trekked towards Phakding, a trek of three hours. The next day, we trekked six hours to Namche Bazaar (3440m), the Sherpa capital, with a quick break en route at Jhorsale. At this height, acclimatization was necessary and we had to spend the next two days acclimatizing by trekking within the Namche region. Only after that could we trek to Phortse (at a height of 3700m), followed by the trek to Dingboche. We reached Dingboche after nine hours and to our relief, Dr Shukla announced that we were to spend the following day resting. Our leader also advised the group to go for a short trek to further acclimatize itself. We trekked to the nearest hill and from there, we had another view of Mt Ama Dablam. After we returned, we got down to playing 'Quote Piece', the popular card game. Seeing the popularity amongst the group, Dr Shukla decided to create a tournament, with a grand prize of two bottles of coke! Mr Bali named it 'EPL', short for Expedition Premier League. To everyone's surprise, the team of Mr Swamy and Neelansh emerged victorious.

After this short break, we headed for Lobuche in the morning. We stopped for a short break at Memory Hill, a place dedicated to the people who had died during various expeditions. We reached Lobuche in about six hours and from a height of 4930m, we could see Everest Base Camp as well as Kala Patthar; we were now very close to our destination. After a quick check on everyone's health, we called it a day.

A few members of the team could not participate in the trek to Gorak Shep due to acute altitude sickness (they had to trek back to Lobuche). The rest of us reached Gorak Shep in three hours. On the way, we saw the Khumbu glacier and the top of Mt Everest. After a quick lunch, we started our climb towards Everest Base Camp. Slowly and steadily, the group reached the final destination, which was at a height of 5550m. We celebrated our achievement with a few pictures with the School flag. All of us were satisfied. After a while, we headed back to Gorak Shep. At the lodge, we noticed a T-shirt pinned on the wall by the previous group from School which had reached the Everest Base Camp. One of us made some designs on a spare T-shirt and put it up.

The next day, very early in the morning, a small group left for Kala Patthar, but had to abandon the climb midway due to sudden deterioration in weather conditions. At that point we realized how wrong a trek could go, if not planned meticulously. Later in the day, we trekked down to Pheriche (4370m), where we joined the rest of the group. We completed the descent of 900m in about seven hours. To everyone's delight, we were served pancakes with Nutella for breakfast, the next morning. After breakfast we trekked down to Namche Bazaar. On the way, we stopped at Thyangboche (3867m.), where the famous Kopan monastery is located. We completed our last trek the following day, after reaching Lukla.

Finally, we boarded the plane for Kathmandu. While some prayed for a safe flight, others could not get over the expedition's success and the part they had played in it. At Kathmandu, we had three days to enjoy the capital city. We visited the Pashupati Nath temple, Bhaktapur and Patan cities. On the last day, we went to Rum-doodle, a restaurant dedicated to Himalayan mountaineers.

After our fair share of *Dal-Bhat*, momos and eggs, we finished our expedition. Content with our achievement, we congratulated each other on a safe and exciting expedition. We flew back to Delhi, and everyone headed in different directions, cherishing the same memories.



# The Chief Guest's Views

The Doon School Weekly interviewed **Sir Mark Tully**, the Chief Guest for the School's Independence Day celebrations

**Doon School Weekly (DSW):** In your address, you spoke about how consumerism has affected the environment. Do you believe that India is moving in a direction in which consumerism is being encouraged at the cost of the environment?

**Sir Mark Tully (MKT):** If you look at the malls which are coming up or even the advertisements, you can see that India is becoming a consumerist society; I do not believe this consumerisation is in accordance with Indian traditions. Indian tradition encourages people and society to look for economic stability, and I must say that this is one of the remarkable aspects of the tradition. However, the tradition does not encourage people to procure goods in excess or have the greed to buy more and more.

**DSW:** You left the BBC because you believed the BBC of the nineties was not a place for you to work in. Was this because the BBC was developing political leanings?

**MKT:** No; my resignation had nothing to do with editorial policy. I was more concerned with the management of the BBC and its inability to take the middle road. The BBC needed some modernization, but this modernization was causing the ethos and purpose of the BBC to be swept aside. However, according to me, the BBC still has editorial independence and is politically balanced. I know people argue about the leanings of the BBC; this is mainly because everyone has a different idea of balance.

**DSW:** Do you think coalition politics stands in the way of effective governance?

**MKT:** No. I think the most dangerous situation that India could face is the falling of too much power into one person's hands. Therefore, I oppose the presidential system. If you look at the time when Indira Gandhi was most powerful, that was the time when the worst mistakes were made. That is why I believe that coalition governance is a good thing. If the Vajpayee-led government had not come into power as a coalition, there would have been a disaster. People believe this government was one of the better governments and I sincerely believe coalition politics is what saved us from the BJP's Hindutva agenda.

**DSW:** Do you believe India will be able to get a permanent seat in the Security Council?

**MKT:** There are a lot of reasons why India would not be able to get a permanent seat in the Security Council. Pakistan and China would not be supportive of India's bid to get a permanent seat. To assume that India has a right to be a part of the Security Council because of its size is an invalid argument. However, I believe that we should not have any permanent members at all.; we should have an elected Security Council. I

must also add that though I understand why India is pursuing this, I feel India has many more pressing things on its agenda and that it should solve its internal problems first.

**DSW:** What are your views on the Lokpal Bill?

**MKT:** I think that there is a problem with all this. I agree with the view that the regulation of corruption is essential and that there must be campaigns against corruption. Lokpal is only the beginning. What is needed is a large scale reconstruction of the Indian institutions like the CBI and the Income Tax Department. What we see nowadays is that the minute someone campaigns against the government, there are large scale CBI investigations or income tax raids. The CBI and other organizations need to become autonomous and free from political control.

**DSW:** One of the most debated issues in diplomacy is the role of Wikileaks. Do you believe Wikileaks has had an adverse impact on diplomatic procedures?

**MKT:** Yes; you cannot have diplomacy without having an element of secrecy. One can view this in the same way as one views the situation in which journalists have to protect the identities of their sources. Diplomacy requires a fine balance between secrecy and transparency.

**DSW:** What would you have to say about the credibility of Wikileaks in comparison to the corporate controlled mass media?

**MKT:** People are now able to get their news through Wikileaks and social networking sites. Even media houses controlled by corporations quote what citizens have said on social networking sites like Twitter. However, I still think there is a very important role for old fashioned journalism. This is because the information posted on the internet cannot always be trusted and is often sensationalised. The point of having organizations like the BBC is that their news can be trusted and is not sensational.

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**DSW:** On a lighter note, which is your favourite newspaper in India?

**MKT:** Well, I think it would be the *Indian Express*. It presents news in a lively way and has original and interesting articles. I also read *The Hindu* and *The Business Standard*.

**DSW:** Could you recommend some books which would help us understand Modern India?

**MKT:** I would recommend *Inspite of the Gods* by Edward Luce for a general overview of India, *Argumentative Indian* by Amartya Sen for its openness and challenging nature. Dr Radhakrishnan's book *It's the Hindu View of Life* also makes a good read. I would also recommend all works of Rabindranath Tagore and also the books on Mahatma Gandhi by his grandson, Gopal Gandhi.

**DSW:** What is your impression of The Doon School?

**MKT:** I am indeed honoured to have spoken here. I have met a number of people who have been educated at The Doon School and all of them are very happy with their education. However, I must say that there is increasing elitism in India and that students of The Doon School should not contribute to this elitism.

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# Lokpal and Other Issues

The Doon School Weekly interviewed **Kalikesh Singh Deo** (Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Bolamgir Constituency) on Saturday, August 13, 2011. Mr Deo visited the School to conduct a talk on the 'Lokpal Bill', on Saturday afternoon



The Doon School Weekly (DSW): There has been a heated debate taking place over the issue of the Prime Minister coming under the ambit of the Lokpal Bill. What is your stand on this issue?

**Kalikesh Singh Deo (KSD):** In my opinion, the Prime Minister, while in office, should be kept out so that he or she can play his role without having to worry about allegations. The PM's actions must be disputed by the Lokpal after leaving office, similar to the system in the United States.

**DSW: Speaking about the campaign against corruption, are there any particular demands of the campaign leaders which you think are unreasonable?**

**KSD:** A campaign against corruption is needed. We have to congratulate not only the so-called 'five-member civil society', which has been in the public glare, but also many other institutions which have worked towards creating a transparent system. As far as Anna Hazare's demands of having an overarching Lokpal (which would cover not only the legislative and the executive, but also the judiciary under one umbrella) are concerned, I feel that such an overarching institution is capable of threatening the powers vested in the three bodies it will cover.

**DSW: What contentions do the campaign leaders hold against the current Bill that is being discussed in Parliament?**

**KSD:** The jurisdiction of the Lokpal, according to Anna Hazare's team, should include the Prime Minister. The campaign leaders want the judiciary to be under the purview of the Bill while he is still in office; they believe that even lower officers of the bureaucracy should be included. Secondly, they believe that more people from the judiciary should be on the panel selection committee; they also want the CAG and two members of civil society to be involved in the selection process. In essence, they want a more broad based selection committee.

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**I think India's potential for growth is being undermined by issues of land acquisition.**

**DSW: Are there any changes required in the Indian bureaucracy?**

**KSD:** Yes; we must have a merit-based system of bureaucracy. The linkage between performance and promotion needs to improve.

**DSW: After the various disputes regarding the Posco Steel Project, do you think that Orissa's potential as an industrial power, considering the amount of steel and raw materials it possesses, is being undermined by pressing issues of land acquisition?**

**KSD:** I think India's potential for growth is being undermined by issues of land acquisition. Land has always been a sensitive issue for Indians, especially rural Indians. It is a form of financial and emotional security; land acquisition now involves a lot of political interests. Even water and environmental disputes are emerging. India must find the right balance between agriculture, development and industries.

**DSW: Could you indicate some of the deficiencies in our agricultural system?**

**KSD:** Firstly, we have very scattered land holdings which makes mechanization and investment on a large scale difficult. Secondly, farmers don't have access to finance and markets. Innovation and cropping technologies are not used widely; information is not easily available to farmers.

**DSW: Speaking of the Land Acquisition Act, are there any clauses of this act which you think need revision?**

**KSD:** Since it is an Act that was passed in 1894, it is completely outdated. It doesn't reflect the needs of the present. The government is expected to table a new Land Acquisition Act soon. As per the new Act, the government will acquire and fix a price for land only if 80% of its occupants agree to sell it to the builders. This will ensure that the acquisition system is favourable towards the farmers.

**DSW: Do you see a way forward for the Posco project or is it heading towards cancellation?**

**KSD:** I don't think the project is heading towards cancellation at all. As long as Orissa has its mineral reserves, companies will be interested in Orissa. It may be delayed, but it won't be denied.

**DSW: Do you think this will be very similar to what happened in Singur, West Bengal?**

**KSD:** The difference between Orissa and West Bengal is that in Orissa, majority of the land has already been acquired by the government; there is a little bit remaining. Singur became a hotbed for coercive action by the political parties. In the Posco project, there has been no direct coercive action by any political party.

# MUN in the East

**Kunal Kanodia** reports on the School's participation in the **WE Model United Nations Expo**, held at Beijing from August 4 to 7



Many perceive China as a closed society with limited rights, possessing economic and technological capabilities surpassing those of India. Though these stereotypical opinions may have been a product of popular media, they were nevertheless embedded in the heads of all sixteen of us who travelled to Beijing for the WE Model United Nations Expo, escorted by MMR and MHF. When we arrived, we first proceeded to the Silk Market in downtown Beijing, where we got the true taste of Chinese shopping; the most careful shoppers fell for fake products. That is the essence of shopping in China - it gets impossible for anyone to resist the experience.

The next day, we were driven to the Great Wall; the expanse of this structure was unnerving. Soon after, we proceeded to the venue of the WEMUN Conference, Grand Epoch City, a hotel township modelled on old Beijing. The conference was an Expo, and was not being hosted by any particular organization. Eminent conferences such as the Berkeley, Harvard, Yale, Ivy League and North America Invitational MUN conferences had sub-conferences at the conference. At the opening ceremony, the Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations inaugurated the conference, which was an exquisite assortment of nations, languages and cultures.

The Doon School Delegation had been given the opportunity to represent the host country by itself. Soon after the first committee session commenced, I noticed that committees remained in constant communication with the proposed contemporary world, a quality that was a result of press releases, communiqués and directives. All committees were linguistically handicapped; although English was the working language, it was difficult to converse with Belgians, Chinese, Russians or Colombians, for whom English was a secondary language. This, however, did not undermine the earnestness

with which all committees proceeded. Passion and factual correctness mattered a lot more than mere public speaking skills. In the evening of the second day, we walked into the famed Global Village of the WEMUN Expo. With the Swiss handing out Lindt chocolates to the Indians distributing *Chaat* and *Bhujia* in the backdrop of a Colombian cultural performance on stage, it was truly a global experience.

The next day, a resolution drawn up by Sookrit and Vikram was nominated for being presented to the policymakers in New York. The confidence of the entire delegation was unparalleled, but our enjoyment was short-lived as the last day at the conference came too soon. We had all suddenly become irritable and sullen. The flight tickets had been booked in such a way that we were unable to witness the closing ceremony. It was at the airport that we found out about how well we had all fared at the conference. Our School won the Best Delegation in the Medium Size Category (this category alone comprised 170 schools from all over the world). After a short yet exhilarating experience, we left Beijing with a heavy heart.

\*\*\*

## | Poetry |

### Propaganda

**Kanishka Malik**

Sheep get slaughtered,  
So I come along,  
Profiteering through their sheepishness.

There is dirt in my mind!  
I make them believe it.  
The herd follows the dirt,  
with passion and love.

Dirt becomes gold!  
Crime becomes an honour  
Terrorism and Patriotism,  
Silently exchange their gowns!

The dirt is praised,  
And praise is all they hear.  
Titles are twisted, flaws rejected,  
The herd just marches on.

Illusions are embraced!  
And I go on feeding dirt,  
The dirt controls you,  
I control dirt  
And I control what you see,  
Even all that you want to see.

But one day,  
When the skeletons are discovered,  
And the mind loses faith in faith,  
We'll vomit it all out.

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