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On behalf of the School community, the Weekly welcomes all teams participating in the 55th Annual Chuckerbutty Memorial Inter-School English Debates

Anna Hazare's Movement: Popular or Misleading?

Kanishka Malik remarks on the shortcomings of the protest staged by Anna Hazare

Considering the present state of affairs, Mr Farooqi's article in last week's issue is a manifestation of growing critical awareness of Mr Anna Hazare's movement, a movement that has been called "undemocratic" and which has received much criticism from many prominent writers and political commentators. Mr Farooqi pointed out that those labelling the government as corrupt have refrained from any kind of introspection and instead of correcting their own actions, are passing the buck entirely onto the government. Following this line of argument, I would like to dispute the cause of the movement, especially the notion of it being an 'anti-corruption' movement.

Firstly, corruption is a vague term and has no parameters. After all, corruption is not confined to what happens between a few ministers and businessmen; such an idea of corruption is undoubtedly stereotypical and narrow. When a civilian bribes a policeman to destroy all evidence of a car accident or when a banker invests in a company which has profited from corruption, doesn't that also qualify as an act of corruption? What about the whole idea of being morally corrupt? Why aren't there nationwide protests against acts which are just as pervasive as the corruption Hazare is talking about?

Moreover, will the Jan Lokpal Bill really be an effective deterrent to corruption? Indeed, the intentions behind drafting the Jan Lokpal Bill seem unquestionable, but will these intentions really pave the way for its implementation? Many political parties (including the much maligned DMK and BSP) and government institutions were established with the right intentions and values, but do these organizations have the same credibility today? How can we ensure that the Lokpal won't meet with the same fate? It is highly possible that the Lokpal will add to the red-tapism, rather than reduce it.

Most importantly, why does the movement for the Lokpal Bill receive nationwide attention while issues like illegal mining and farmer suicides stay in the background? There have been more than 200,000 farmer suicides in the last fifteen years; why doesn't the urban middle class or even the mass media communicate the gravity of this situation with the same fervour? Mr Anna Hazare

"Labels such as 'anti-corruption', 'patriotic' or even 'Gandhian' can make any movement seem progressive, even if those labels are remotely associated with that movement."

belongs to Maharashtra, the state with one of the highest number of farmer suicides; how come there has been no fast-unto-death for that?

The movement against the Lokpal Bill has gathered huge support, but it has also roused umpteen questions and accusations directed against the nature of the movement. We all want corruption to end, but why aren't any of us pointing fingers at ourselves? Should we point fingers at all? Although I might sound ambivalent here, I do believe that we need a strong Lokpal Bill. It is better to have a Lokpal Bill that might stand some chance of reducing corruption in the government rather than not endorsing any reform at all. If Mr Hazare's protest is confined to passing the Jan Lokpal Bill, the cause might seem justified. But if we call it an 'anti-corruption' movement, then the protest has a narrow scope, considering that the definition of corruption itself is so unclear. We all know that labels such as 'anti-corruption', 'patriotic' or even 'Gandhian' can make any movement seem progressive, even if those labels are remotely associated with that movement.



Anna Hazare's Movement...

Misguided - PKB

Confused - DEB

The best thing since independence - Vikramaditya Kapur

A just cause yet an aspiration for an unachievable dream - Uday

Bothra

David (Anna) vs Goliath (corruption) - Angad Singh

A non-democratic movement aimed at creating a parallel power

without responsibility - MHF

A people's movement - SSW

Unprincipled - Anshuman Bhargav

ON EXCHANGE

We welcome Herman De Beer, a student on exchange from **St Stithians College, South Africa**. Herman is staying in Hyderabad House and attending classes with S-form. We wish him a fruitful stay!

WESTERN BAND

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Music Competition** for the **Popular Band Category** (A report runs in a forthcoming issue):

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

CHANDIGARH MEET

The **School Under-15 Soccer, Tennis and Squash Teams** visited Chandigarh between August 25 and August 27, 2011 and played against YPS, Mohali and St John's School, Chandigarh. The Soccer Team **won** 4-1 in the match against YPS, Mohali while the Tennis Team **drew** 2-2. The School Soccer Team **lost** 1-4 against St John's School and the Squash Team **won** 4-0. Well done, all!

ADVENTURE TALK

Mr Ajeet Bajaj, the only Indian to have completed an expedition to the North and South Pole in the same year, conducted a talk on Saturday, August 27, 2011.

IH SWIMMING

The following are the results of the recently concluded **Inter-House Swimming Competition**:

Junior Cup:

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

Senior Cup:

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

Medium's Cup:

- 1st:** Oberoi House
 - 2nd:** Jaipur House
 - 3rd:** Hyderabad House and Tata House
 - 5th:** Kashmir House
- Well done!

House Positions:

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

CHESS ACCOLADES

The **School Chess Team** participated in the **2nd International Rating Chess Tournament** held at Sanskriti School, New Delhi. The following were the results: Sarthak Gupta was awarded the **first prize** in the **Juniors Category**.

Gopal Singh Mann was awarded the **third prize** in the category for the **Best Unrated Player**. The team was placed **fourth** overall.

Chess Colours have been awarded to Sarthak Gupta and Gopal Singh Mann. Congratulations, all!

| Report |

RLSS, 2011

Agni Raj Singh reports on the RLSS Workshop held in May, 2011

An air of ambiguity envelops a Dosco in the final days of a term after Trials. The newly acquired freedom either gives one the time to do everything, or nothing. Luckily, for a small group of students including myself, the last days of Spring Term were full of learning and swimming. The RLSS training session was held after trials and it was attended by swimmers of the School over a span of four days. The workshop was conducted by Admiral Purshottam Sharma, who is the President of the Rashtriya Life Saving Society. After a short presentation on life saving, we immediately shifted to the swimming pool. There, we learnt different techniques of reaching drowning victims and rescuing them. We were briefed about one of the most important components of life saving - CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) - and were shown a demonstration on a dummy.

We took part in numerous activities over the next few days. We regularly practiced CPR and learnt different lifesaving strokes. The presentations shown had topics ranging from fractures and heatstrokes to snake bites. We had intense learning sessions which familiarized us with the basics of First-Aid.

On the final day, we had a display of the lifesaving techniques and everyone got a clear picture of all that we had learnt. We also had our endurance, CPR and written tests on the same day. Almost everyone did well in these tests and attained the standard of 'Lifesaver'. Finally, we all took the Lifesaving Oath in which we swore to help anyone in need and live up to the duties we had trained for.

It was a productive way of spending the last few days of the term. All credit is due to Ms Anez Katre for arranging the workshop and a special note of thanks to Admiral Sharma for conducting the workshop so professionally.

SOCCER UPDATE

The **Under-17 School Soccer Team** participated in the **Senior Councils Tournament** held at St Joseph's Academy on August 28. The team played against Doon Presidency School, Prem Nagar and **won** the match 6-0. It played its second league match on Wednesday, August 31 against Raja Ram Mohan Roy Academy and **won** the match 3-0. Congratulations!

Opinion oll

Are you happy with the rescheduling of the Inter-House Music Competition?

 **Yes 58%**

 **No 42%**

(317 members of the community were polled)

Next week's question: Do you believe that Anna Hazare's method of protest was justified?

| Report |

Swimming Round-Up

Kunal Kanodia reports on the recently-concluded Inter-House Swimming Competition



The recently-concluded Inter-House Swimming Competition was defined by the lack of dominance by any one competing House; the competition that ensued kept everyone on their toes.

In the Juniors category, budding talents in the form of Kismat Chopra, Varun Sehgal, Shaurya Kishorepuria and Rishabh Agarwal were well appreciated. The skill and agility of junior swimmers was up to the mark but their dexterity and eagerness clearly pointed to the contrary. The juniors tried their level best to strike a balance between the demands of the swimming practices and other activities in the preceding weeks. An intrinsic aspect of the three tier system of contest is that it allows a C former to be at the helm of his team, helping him develop leadership qualities. In this section, Jaipur House stole the show, followed closely by Hyderabad House.

The Mediums category comprised B and A forms. Many bystanders observed the consistency and nimbleness that defined nearly every swimmer who participated in this section of the competition; no one was willing to give up or let his House down and even more unanticipated was the way sheer determination made even seasoned swimmers succumb to the novices. In the Breaststroke category, Shivaan Seth and Nipurn Datta were appreciated for their delightful performance while Sumer Sehgal dominated the scene in the Freestyle category. The Backstroke and Butterfly events saw Agni Raj Singh and Divyant Sapra at the helm of the contest.

The Seniors category was arguably the centre of attraction. In this category, Charlie Fry, an exchange student from Belgrade Grammar School, Australia, who represented Oberoi House, broke the School record for the 200m freestyle event by nearly five seconds. Charlie went on to break two more records, the 400m and 800m freestyle and received special mention from the Headmaster. Angad Singh, Sambuddha Naha, Apurv Aggarwal, Nivit Kochar, Aditya Vikram Gupta, Rana Chowgule and Suyash Agarwal clearly outshined the rest in this year's competition. The Seniors category had no clear victor even at the beginning of the last day of the contest and there was much frenzy and excitement about the results. In my view, the 12x25 metre event was the highlight of the swimming competition. Not only did this event permit scores of swimmers to take part, it also managed to reverse the fate of some houses who were on their way to winning the cup, given the large number of points the event carried. Setting a new record, Oberoi House won this race but was disqualified when the judges confirmed

that one of its swimmers had dived into the pool early. As a result, Oberoi could not claim points for this race (which has a lot of weightage) and Jaipur House won the House Cup.

In September 2009, in Issue No 2227 of the *Weekly*, a report on the Inter-House Swimming Competition that year stated: "the standards have (had) not kept up with its (the swimming competition's) status". In the report, the writers argued that the contest was dominated by members of the School Swimming Team and "emerging talent" was not conspicuous. This year, however, I maintain that the Inter-House Swimming Competition, especially after the performance by the students on exchange, had something in store for all.

| Viewpoint |

SLUTWALK

Vikramaditya Kapur comments on the concept of the 'Slutwalk' as a form of protest against sexual assault

A group of girls marches down the road, wearing short skirts and carrying banners which read: 'I'll dress the way I want, it's not an invitation.' Could anyone have thought that this way of voicing protest against sexual assault would ever become popular? Moreover, could one ever have imagined that this kind of protest would be seen on Indian roads? As improbable as it sounds, the 'Slutwalk', which is the unusual name given to this unusual form of protest, is one of those western ideas that has now found expression in India.

Although the practicality of this form of protest in India is debatable, one mustn't ignore the message that the organisers hoped to convey. The message is that no matter how women dress, it is not an invitation for men to take undue liberties with the opposite sex. The protests first began in Canada, when a police officer advised women to "stop dressing like sluts" in order to avoid sexual assault. This advice, if it can be called that, instigated people to question this perception of women being indirectly responsible for sexual attacks. The form of protest was designed to follow the tactics of 'shock and awe'!

However, the fundamentals of the movement are challengeable. Firstly, sexual assault is a very serious offence and when the campaign is termed 'Slutwalk', the participants cannot hope to be taken seriously. This movement, as several commentators have pointed out, might instead trivialize the issue. Although the participants of this walk are genuine protestors trying to spread awareness against sexual harassment, a 'Slutwalk' may not come across as the best way of doing that.

Moreover, while this liberal form of protest may be culturally acceptable in the West, in India the idea has different ramifications. A large section of our society is not westernized and hence, the protest fails to touch the right chord as far as the huge non-urban masses are concerned.

While innovation in forms of protest is wanted, scantily clad women walking on the roads, at least in India, might not be the best method of avoiding or discouraging assaults, or even upholding women's rights for that matter. Campaigns against sexual harassment must communicate a no tolerance policy and demand harsher punishments for offenders. Unlike the 'Slutwalk', which is not directed towards any particular legislation, campaigns against sexual harassment or assault should target laws or issues concerned with governance. However, we can't ignore the fact that the 'Slutwalk' sends out an essential message to civil society: a woman has the right to dress the way she wants, and her attire is in no way an excuse to cross boundaries.

Exchange Reforms: Mixed Reactions

Madhav Dutt comments on the new selection process for the Exchange Programme

In my D-form, most believed that selection for the Exchange Programme was a “one way ticket to prefect-ship”. Now, due to the reformed selection process, it appears that Exchange no longer holds those implications.

Everyone in School has heard of the new system of sending students for the Exchange Programme and not surprisingly, the last few weeks have thrown up mixed reactions. The new system involves the usual application process for selection at the house level, after which the names of the selected boys will be written on chits of paper and put into a ‘sorting hat’ (reference to Issue No. 2288). The names which are randomly picked out will be the ones dispersed to different schools of the world in order to “contribute to the reputation and good standing of The Doon School”. So the question I would like to ask is: Is the new selection process a fairer way to select boys for the Exchange Programme?

Like any other system, this system of selecting students for Exchange has its upside and downside. The upside is that the process is less time consuming. Last year, the applicants had to fill an extensive application, full of questions ranging from ‘What are your achievements in School?’ to ‘What are your subject choices for ISC/ IB?’ In the new application form, questions have been condensed into asking one basic question (apart from the usual details): ‘Why do you want to go for exchange?’ So, we now have a more straightforward and a less taxing system.

The downside, which is of greater significance keeping in mind the many ‘probable’ outcomes, is that the School is leaving this crucial decision to chance. While it might benefit certain boys who would otherwise not qualify, it hampers the chances of other, more accomplished students. Again, accomplishments may not deem someone fit for Exchange, but accomplishments give a rough idea as to who is suitable for representing the School and who is not. The boys selected by School are supposed to uphold its values before others and represent its ethos and traditions to the best of their abilities. Under the new system, the School might be risking its reputation by leaving its representation to chance.

However, we must keep in mind that the entire process is not as arbitrary as it seems not been left to mere chance. After all, those eight candidates who participate in the lottery are selected by the Housemasters. Only in the second half of the process is the dice being rolled. We must not forget that one of the foreseeable merits of this system will be that those involved in the selection process will not be blamed for bias or partiality, since all the short-listed candidates would have equal opportunity for selection. Contrary to previous years, those who don’t have luck on their side will also not have anyone’s decisions to contemplate.

Piano Recital

Yuv Vir Khosla reports on the piano recital held on August 16, 2011, by the musicians of the World Appreciation of Music

The Music Society hosted its first workshop and concert of the term on the 16th of last month. Young musicians from the Worldwide Appreciation of Music, based in the UK, made their annual trip to Doon to give a piano recital and assist the students who are learning the piano and violin. Over the course of the few days that they were here, they managed to conduct individual classes with many of us and provide valuable technical and stylistic insights. We worked on refining our Trinity examination pieces, and even beginners on the piano benefited from the lively lessons. But what was most awaited by all Doscocs was the recital that was scheduled to introduce us to the many facets of Western classical music.

The repertoire of the concert had a varied selection of composers from the great master of Western art music - Beethoven - to one of the most famous composers of the Romantic era – Schumann. The first performer of the day was Alice Elms - a student from Oxford University - performing the first four pieces from the *Colored Leaves Op. 99* by Schumann. The pieces chosen were very different from one another and her soulful playing effectively depicted the emotions and thoughts of the composer. The following segment of the performance intrigued most of us in the audience as it was the first time we listened to works for the piano written for four-hand playing. Performing together, Alice Beckwith (also a graduate of Oxford University) and Jenny Larsen (from Newcastle University) kept us enthralled with Dvořák’s lively *Slavonic Dance, no. 4, Op 46* and Moszkowski’s *Bolero, no. 5* from Spanish Dances. The Bolero, a slow-tempo Latin dance, was played with impeccable coordination and certainly made the audience appreciate the hours of practice gone into putting it together. The last performer of the day was Gabriel Jones, a student of the Trinity College of Music, London, playing the first movement of Beethoven’s *Sonata in F minor Op. 57* (commonly known as the *Appassionata*). This piece is considered to be one of the greatest works of music written for the piano. Stormy and, as its nature suggests, passionate in mood, the ‘Appassionata’, with its crashing chords and brilliant arpeggios, as well as its singing melody line, taxes both the physical and musical abilities of its performer. Gabriel did full justice to this demanding piece, and that too on our vintage Schiedmayer grand piano.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all – be it to witness the proficiency of piano playing or the introduction to four-hand works. I’m sure each one of us took back more than just the echoes of the music from the concert.

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