



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, November 12 • 2011 • Issue No. 2299

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## EDITORIAL

*It is daunting to take up the responsibility of any legacy. And being the Editor-in-chief of the Doon School Weekly, now 75 years old, it is a task that is often not given its due importance. But whatever the level of responsibility one needs to assume, and whatever the criticism one expects to hear, one still feels that it is indeed an honour to be a part of this publication and to lead it forward, simply for what it has always stood for and what it means to the School community. Every new Editor-in-chief writes in his debut editorial about the pressures that come with the job and whether or not he will be able to live up to the expectations everyone has of him. I am no exception. I too have my doubts and fears, but I also have the self-belief and complete faith in my board to confidently say that the Weekly would continue coming out week after week, with its quality and purpose intact.*

*The Weekly is no exception when it comes to change. Every Editor brings with him his own ideas and opinions. Furthermore, the current of contemporary thought and times at school nudges one to make changes that would keep the Weekly close to its readers. Nevertheless, some things don't change and won't change. Firstly, the Weekly remains iconic. Its masthead hasn't changed and neither has its black and white look. Even with changing editorial boards, the Weekly remains what it is and stands resolute. It serves, primarily, to record the activities that take place in and around Chandbagh. But that is not all. The Weekly also serves as a 'vehicle for creativity and balanced critical commentary'. With every new editorial board what changes is its interpretation of this. We have seen in the past how the Weekly has had more creative pieces, at other times, the contemporary issues have been stressed upon; but it is essential for us to try and strike a balance. Most importantly, the Weekly would continue serving as a medium of expression for the school community, whether this expression is critical or appreciative.*

*One of the things we wish to do this year is revive the previous 'Roving Eye' which would write on the week gone by; serving both as a recapitulation of the week as well as paying attention to the events that did not make it to the forefront. We will also be exploring new avenues of making the Weekly more entertaining. But that does not imply that you shall be seeing a section of 'Unquotable Quotes' every week. Neither will we indulge in any sort of talk that might be entertaining at the cost of an individual or the school at large. But we shall certainly try and engage more people from the community and encourage them to contribute to the Weekly.*

*In our efforts with this publication, there is always the possibility and fear that our efforts might not succeed. Please do not stop yourself from criticizing us or giving suggestions wherever you think fit. Help us to define your Saturday breakfast, the way you want it!*

## DRIVE, DRIBBLE AND PASS

**Aditya Vikram Gupta** and **Adhiraj Thakran** report on the recently concluded Inter-House Basketball Competition

This year, the lead up to the Inter-House Basketball Competition did not witness the usual round of tiring practices because three of the four courts in School were unavailable. Both the news courts could not be used because they were being resurfaced while the first Foot House court was being used for DS-76 preparations. However one could still see all five houses coordinating amongst themselves to work out a system of sharing that one last court to practice on. The Inter-House Basketball eventually commenced on the 1st of November after much deliberation and numerous changes to the schedule. In this regard, Mr Ashish Dean and Mr Durgesh Bhatia have to be given credit for their tireless work in organizing the entire tournament in a short span of time.

In the Juniors Category, much like their counterparts in the Seniors Category, Jaipur House managed to stamp their authority over every other House. The school witnessed one of the most convincing performances by the Yash Upadhyay led Jaipur House team, which managed to amass a total of 22 points out of a possible 24 in Juniors Category. An extremely close match was contested between Oberoi and Kashmir with the final score reading in favor of Kashmir House by just one point! We saw budding talent in the form of Yash Upadhyay, Shourya Kishorepuria, Vatsal Agarwal, Atharva Matta and Raghav Bansal.

The Senior teams were more or less equally matched with none of the houses being the hot favorites. However, the very first day saw two very surprising results. Adhiraj Thakran scored a basket in the last second in the Tata vs Hyderabad Seniors A match to help Tata House win by a



(contd. overleaf)

### APPOINTMENTS

The following are the various appointments for the forthcoming year:

**Boys-in-Charge of the Entertainment Society:** Shawn Krishan Kapur and Kumar Sambhav Sethia

**Boys-in-Charge of the Stage Committee:** Abhijeet Karwa and Aditya Vikram Gupta

**Boys-in-Charge of the Weather Reporting SUPW:** Shawn Krishan Kapur and Banda Mann Singh Lamba

Editorial Board of *The Yearbook*:

**Editors-in-Chief:** Arjun Khaitan and Eeshat Tiwary

**Chief of Production:** Siddhanth Sachdev

Editorial Board of *The Doon School Weekly*:

**Editor-in-Chief:** Shashvat Dhandhanian

**Editor:** Yuv Vir Khosla

**Hindi Editor:** Shivank Singh

**School Chess Captain:** Ujjwal Dahuja (re-appointed)

**Boy-in-Charge of the English Drama STA:** Karan Singh

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

### DRAMATICS

Saud Amin Khan, Raghav Puri, Dhruv Sirohi, Akshay Sharan, Varun Gupta and Rohan Shriram have been awarded **Colours in Drama**.

Congratulations!

### VISITING GUESTS

We welcome Mr Rory Newbery and Edward Long from the Thomas Hardy School in Dorset, UK, which is our partner school in the 'Olympic Dreams' program (a BBC initiative).

### SHOOTING ACES AGAIN

Samarjit Singh participated in the **31st North Zone Shooting Championship** held in Delhi from November 1 to 5 and received a **silver medal** in the **under 18 category**.

Congratulations!

### ESSAYISTS

The following are the results of the **BP Chandola and Srimati Meer Chandani Hindi Essay Writing Competitions, 2011**:

**Seniors:** Revant Nayar

**Juniors:** Abhinav Kejriwal

Well done!

margin of a single point and Jaipur House surprised Kashmir House by beating them by a rather large margin. With this victory the Jaipur House juggernaut began to roll once again. The traditional Kashmir vs Oberoi rivalry was seen once again this year, albeit for the fact that this time it was for the 3rd position and was won by Kashmir House despite a spirited Oberoi House comeback in the last quarter. The final match between Tata and Jaipur was an enthralling match, with both teams grabbing the lead every now and then till the third quarter when Jaipur House raced ahead and never looked back. We saw a variety of post moves displayed by Raghav Puri, Khalid, Vikram Gill, Siddhant Dixit, Adhiraj Thakran and Prabhjot Singh. On the defensive end we saw breathtaking blocks and smart defensive play by Anmol Jamwal, Sharan Seth and Adhiraj Thakran. The offensive show was dominated by Tushar Gupta, Shivaan Seth, Arjun Midha and Vihaan Khanna. We saw the surprise inclusion of Sohail Karara in the Kashmir House Senior Team and he managed to live up to the expectations.

### The WHO?

*Who is Rupert Murdoch?*

An artist- **Zorawar Singh**

A chef- **Tanmay Kapoor**

A therapist- **Arjun Midha**

A F1 driver- **Arjun Midha**

President of Bangladesh- **Shawn Kapur**

A doctor- **Kunal Kanodia**

A wrestler- **Rishav Raj Das**

A scientist- **Suhel Karara**

Owner of Lamborghini- **Uday Rathore**

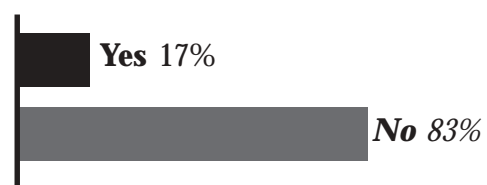
A writer- **Sidharth Pahuja**

A journalist- **Divyant Sapra**

**He is a media mogul**

### Opinion Poll

**Do you pay attention to the political events of Uttarakhand?**



(329 members of the community were polled)

**Next week's question:** Are you getting enough time to study for the upcoming trials?

### doontoon

Madhav Dutt



In H, O, T and K...



# Headmaster's Founder's Day Address

There are hard acts to follow, but His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, has to be one of the hardest speakers on earth to follow – however, we shall try manfully, in true Dosco spirit, to rise to the occasion.

My first duty and pleasure is to introduce to you the members of the Board of Governors who have been able to join us today:

Our Chairman, Mr. Analjit Singh, Mr. Vivek Pandit, Mr. Kishore Lahiri, President of the DSOBS, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Gautam Thapar, Mr. Vikram Singh Mehta, Mr. Ravi Katari, and Mr. Sumit Bose, Secretary to the Government of India.

I should like to thank them for all the work they do for the school. As I shall allude to a little later, the face of public service often painted for us in the media today is not a pretty one, but we often forget that public service is also about the hundreds of thousands, even millions of volunteers such as our Board members, who give their services freely and without financial compensation to advise, support and assist NGOs, trusts, charities and societies such as our own IPSS. On behalf of the boys and all the other stakeholders of The Doon School, gentlemen, thank you most sincerely. I should also like to thank the faculty for all they have done for the boys and the school over the past year. It is the teachers who make a school what it is: without teachers a school would be just a youth club with some empty classrooms attached, in the same way that, without students, it would be an empty building fit only to be turned into apartments or offices. Sadly, this year Dr. Deepak Arora retired from The Doon School. He joined us in August 1984 and left us at the end of March 2011. During over a quarter of a century of service to us, Dr. Arora was not only a teacher of German but also a great friend of The Doon School and the masters. The warmth that is palpable in his own school, Ann Mary School, he and his wife Sylvia have shown to The Doon School community, and they were always willing to admit and accommodate the children of our teachers at short notice, or no notice at all. I should like to ask Dr. Arora to come up and receive a token of our appreciation for all that he has done for The Doon School over the past quarter of a century and more.

I should also like to thank all of the Administrative, Technical and Support staff for their work throughout the year, but also in particular for all they have done to prepare the school for Founder's Day. My thanks go to the DSOBS and all the other friends of the school, many of whom are here today as our guests, who support us and encourage us in so many different ways.

When I look at the year since DS-75 in retrospect, a huge amount has been achieved by our boys under the tutelage and guidance of their masters. It is a matter of great pride for all of us to see so many young men flourishing within these seventy acres and going out into the world confident and ready to continue lives of accomplishment and success. You can read about their many achievements under the direction and guidance of their masters in *The Weekly*, on our website or in the many fine publications produced by the boys for this Founder's and in the rest of the year.

But the wider context within which the school is situated is rapidly changing. The full force of globalization has been hitting every society and economy on Earth, including India. As the Prime Minister said recently at the United Nations, the positives of globalization have been taken for granted, but now we are experiencing the less attractive aspects of it, and we find the challenges and implications overwhelming and even frightening.

In my mind, one of the greatest challenges to all of us who inhabit communities as small as this school or as large as this nation and beyond is two-fold: one is the problem of leadership, the other of citizenship.

Strangely, as more and more is written about leadership – airport bookshops are full of books with titles such as *How to Become a World Class Leader in Five-and-a-half Minutes a Day* – the question has arisen as to how relevant it still is to educate 'leaders', in the broadest and most genuine sense, in boarding schools such as The Doon School. Should we not, the question is asked, all just become examination factories dedicated to attaining the best possible percentages for our boys and girls – and what used to be called education can fly out of the window and take care of itself somehow and somewhere else? Contrary to the emerging spirit of the times, I would argue that an all-round education for leadership has never been more relevant because the world is no longer a simple place: the art of leadership has become so taxing and so complex, especially with the huge power we have given to the old media and the new social media, that we need far more, and far deeper, leadership education. Note that I have used the word 'education' and not 'training'. We live in the age of the half-day or one-day workshop: all across the world training companies and organizations are coming into schools, giving a lecture or two, conducting a few team-building exercises and then handing out certificates proving that the boy or girl is now a "world class leader". Regrettably, such quick fixes do not work; if they did, the world would be a very different place from the one that we see and experience around us.

Our children do need training days, but above all else they need immersion over time in the experiences that forge good leaders - and I would argue that, as more and more schools become grades factories or places you go to before you head for your tuition sessions later in the day, so the deficit in leadership will become more acute and our troubles will multiply. As yet another crisis of leadership erupts across the globe – from Gaddafi's murderous last stand to Obama's slick but ineffective tele-prompted speeches, to Syria to the Yemen, to the irresponsible actions of many of our banks and corporations – everywhere we look children grasping their certificates of 'world class leadership' are not actually being given the opportunity through a proper, sustained all-round education to become qualified, intelligent, responsible, dutiful – and above all, effective, leaders.

And I think the reason we have this crisis in leadership is not because we do not have enough lectures or books or podcasts about leadership, it is because we are missing the fundamental point. The foundation of all good leadership is good citizenship: to be a good leader you have to be first and foremost a good citizen. Hitler was an extraordinary leader by any standards, but he was one of the worst citizens Germany has ever had the misfortune to produce, and led his own country, as well as a large part of the globe, into utter desolation and mass death. When we all end up as

*(contd. overleaf)*

*(contd. from page 3)*

“leaders”, who will be the followers, the dutiful citizens?

We hear a great deal about our rights and other humans’ rights today, and that is a good thing because so many are still denied them everywhere we look. But we often overlook the duties of the citizen. We do not hear a great deal about ‘duty’ these days - unless it is the ‘duty free’ zone of airports, which is a rather apt metaphor for where we find ourselves today; consumer society encourages us to think of ourselves as shoppers first and citizens second. The mantra is, if it feels good, do it; if it looks good, buy it. My rights as a consumer of goods and services overshadow my duties, responsibilities and accountability. The whole of life becomes ‘duty free’ in this consumer paradise. It is not surprising therefore that the Gaddafis of this world see themselves as entitled consumers of their nations’ wealth. It is remarkable how many luxury goods are found in the trashed palaces of former dictators of poor countries – just look at Imelda Marcus’s shoe collection in the Philippines or Saddam Hussein’s palaces stuffed with luxury. Louis Vuitton and Jimmy Choo seem to rule the world. (I apologize to anyone here today who is holding or wearing anything from their ranges, or has the franchise for those brands – I am just trying to make a point and there is nothing personal in it!)

The Doon School is renowned for producing leaders in many fields and will continue to do so in the decades ahead. But we also need to ensure that our boys are schooled in citizenship and the values that underpin it so that they form just, decent and principled foundations for the exercise of their talents.

So what are the duties of the citizen? First and foremost, if he goes on to marry after he leaves school (this is not compulsory and Old Boys will be relieved to hear that boys are still not allowed to get married in school; it is an automatic YC offence if they do!) – and I hope most will marry because regrettably marriage is dying out in some parts of the world – a Dosco must be a good husband and a good father. The values he transmits at home will either make the job of his children’s teachers easier or harder once they go to school, especially in their teenage years, and the values some children are taught at home and on TV are so bad these days that schools can no longer cope, especially day schools. The foundations of good citizenship and a sound education are laid down in the home – and that is fact, not opinion.

Furthermore, a boy must be taught at school to be courageous, honest, straightforward and manly, which means not strutting and posturing like Hollywood and Bollywood stars, unshaven and scowling, but facing up to his responsibilities for himself and his community.

He must learn to be loyal to something bigger than himself, whether it is the team, his House, or his school and its values. He must not see himself just as a passive consumer of educational services or fun or entertainment or school experience, but as part of a community of common interest and service to one another that must be supported and preserved. So many people talk patriotically but for so many of what we call ‘global citizens’ their country is just a place where they live – for the time being – and their school was just a place they went to to hang out with their friends. A boy who leaves The Doon School must be prepared to lay his life on the line when his country calls him to defend it. If he is not prepared to defend his country, then he should either go into exile or help to fix it. He should not take what he pleases from living in his country and give nothing back. It is worrying how few young people in the wealthier, educated, urban classes around the world are prepared to vote in local, state or national elections. All those leadership workshops cannot persuade them to carry out one of the fundamental acts of citizenship, voting. It may be our right not to vote, but perhaps it is our duty, and if we feel that our vote is useless, we have the education, the talent, the wealth and connections to start to fix it so that it does count. Everywhere, except in newly liberated countries, young educated people are opting out of the political process: cynicism and apathy prevail. Everywhere in the world our forefathers fought and died for the right to vote, whether it was under colonial oppression or within our own countries – several hundred years ago almost no-one on earth had a vote; today too many will not even get out of bed to use that vote so hard won by our ancestors to shape the political process, even though they will spring out of bed to hurry to a shopping mall.

It is the duty of the citizen to treat his fellow citizens with respect and consideration and to see the world through their eyes. A Dosco should not leave here convinced that might is right and that power and authority is best used for his own advancement. He should not believe that being wicked and cruel is manly and the foundation of effective leadership. Gaddafi was often called Libya’s ‘strong man’, and posed and postured as such, but he did not look very strong when the mob murdered him. Our founding Headmaster was very clear on these matters and it is well on Founder’s Day to remember the words cast in stone at the foot of the stairs in Main Building. A Dosco is only strong if he respects others and does good work amongst them. He must not only understand the difference between right and wrong, but also understand the consequences on others, his family and his community of his doing wrong. The strengths he develops here, whether they are physical strength, mental resilience or intellectual prowess, are only worth anything if they are deployed on the side of what is right, decent, honourable and just. A boy’s bravery should extend beyond the playing fields or the highest reaches of a mid-term trek to supporting, encouraging and developing those who are weaker than he is, and to standing up to injustice and evil. We cannot have freedom and justice and prosperity for all in the world without striving and even suffering for it. We can no more win these prizes than we can become a superb sportsman or win success as a soldier, a civil servant, a businessman, an academic, a banker or a lawyer without labour and effort and sacrifices made when we are young and at school.

Fortunately, as the record of the past year demonstrates our boys do have myriad opportunities inside and outside the classroom not only to enjoy success for themselves, their team, their house, their school and even their state and country, but also to become fine citizens of India and the world, and therefore to take up a rightful place in leading us on towards new horizons and new worlds of possibility in the decades ahead. And if we become fine citizens of our own countries, we shall become good citizens of the world. By daring to be great in spirit as well as accomplishment, and by being exemplary citizens in school and after they leave us, the boys who are sitting here today will, in my firm opinion, become great leaders and great men.

| Report |

# Debating during Halloween

*Utkarsh Jha reports on the recently concluded IISPS held at York House School between November 27 and 30, 2011*

A 'competition of a lifetime' cannot adequately describe the International Independent Public School's Speaking Competition. When Shashvat Dhandhanian, Vikramaditya Kapur, Madhav Dutt, Rahul Srivastava, Vishal Tumala and I were selected to represent the School, we were clueless as to what we were signing up for. But as we started preparing, we realized the level of competition we were expected to face. Our expectations were never sky high, but we did set forth for a long journey with the slight hope that we might be able to achieve, through some miracle or the other, a spot in the finals. During the two months at School, we were not able to practice enough due to other priorities. So on our flight from Hong Kong to Vancouver, most of us were busy practicing and memorizing our speeches. On landing in Vancouver, all of us split to move around with our respective billets, who were more than welcoming. On our second day we toured the city, visiting the 'Vancouver Art Gallery' and roaming around the less popular, 'Grandville Island'. More interestingly, some of us carved pumpkins as a celebration for Halloween.

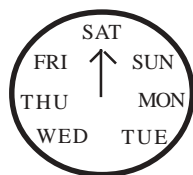
The next day, being the first day of the competition was very tiring. Our events began after dinner (which was at six o'clock) and a heartwarming opening ceremony. That day most of us had two events- the categories of Persuasive Speaking, Cross-examination Debating and Interpretive Reading. We immediately understood the standard of debate we were going to be looking at. We also saw the first round of Impromptu Speaking, which was one of the most difficult categories. But that was not the end of the evening. Thanks to the hospitality of the students at York House School, the host school, we experienced what they called the 'Carnival Bistro' and also saw an incredible performance put together to entertain us.

The next day was devoted primarily to Parliamentary Debating, although a round of Impromptu Speaking also took place. All of us were participating in this category. The debates were exciting indeed with debaters using more logic and style than elaborate matter and aggression. The debates were challenging to say the least, as we were paired randomly with individuals from different Schools from across the world, debating topics such as



"Quotas should be imposed for women in national parliaments" and "Environmental protection should come second to economic development". After the debates, we spent the rest of the day roaming around Downtown Vancouver, picking up possible souvenirs and eating what we generally would not find back home. We also caught a glimpse of some extremely entertaining Halloween costumes.

The next day we made our way into the School auditorium, wondering whether any of us had made it to the finals of any event. Remarkably, Vishal made it to the finals of Interpretative Reading. We spent the day watching the finals of various categories, and in the process learnt a lot about public speaking. Though none of us, other than Vishal made it to the finals of any event, I can confidently say that we learned more than we ever thought possible. Throughout the course of the debates we made some really good friends, had unforgettable experiences and learned a lot. Looking at our performance and exposure, I see a brighter future for us on the international debating circuit.



## The Week Gone

By...

Vikramaditya Kapur

A week seems inconsequential to most, but in Doon, where every week is differentiated by a myriad activities taking place, you see that each week does have its place in our precise calendar. After all, if each week wasn't interesting, how could the *Weekly* have survived for 75 years?

The first thing that struck me about this week was the number of Doscocs discussing their weight. I lost a couple of kilos myself (*Ed-in-Chief: Yeah right!*). I was under the impression that Doscocs were all hoping to become size zero models, but then someone explained to me that most of these slim jims are hoping to beat up, or better yet, not get their noses broken during bouts. Boxing being the flavour of the week, diets and other weight loss techniques were hastily adopted over a month ago.

Another highlight of the week (most importantly for Jaipur House) was the Inter-House Basketball Competition. While most Houses tried to keep the Cup out of Jaipur House's grasp, they failed. But, I wonder, what on Earth have these people eaten? Thinking of Jaipur House, I think of what Mani Shankar Aiyer once said, 'The nutcases are sent to Jaipur...' It further goes to show that not all Doscocs are generous. After winning a number of trophies, the least Jaipur House could have done, apart from the dinner they gave us, was to leave this one for someone else. But well done to them!

And finally, we had dinner for intellectuals, rather pseudo-intellectuals, with the actual intellectuals. The 'lavish affair' began in a sophisticated manner, but gradually, one witnessed the true colours of Doscocs. The conversations ended mid-sentence, queues were made and eventually broken as we grabbed our plates. It just proves that no matter what type of Dosco you are, the first love of your life will always remain the same: food. And yes, the ones who enjoyed the dinner the most were undoubtedly our very own gatecrashers (don't get under the impression that there were none)!

Well that's all for this week. As a 'parting thought', Doscocs have finally started studying (I mean they have started staring at their books). See you next week!



| Viewpoint |

# Air of Criticism

Ujjwal Dahuja

Though Chandbagh after Founder's looks its very best, an air of intense criticism envelopes the campus.

The school communities, especially the students, have begun to indulge in criticism to the point of utmost pessimism. With school policies undergoing change on a number of issues, members of the community have responded like cynics to almost all these changes. It is true that criticism has a very important place in any society and certainly constructive criticism has helped ratify the problems of society in the past. However, I still feel that the criticism pervading the community has been negative and baseless at large. Also, the community must understand that there are certain limits to being cynical about issues. One can't expect to go on ranting about every second issue and then be taken seriously.

This attitude essentially implies two things: either there is something extremely wrong with the policies being framed, or that the community is not open to change in legislation. In the former case, if something is really wrong with the legislation, the members unhappy with the decision must muster up the courage to voice their concerns in relevant forums. But, at least to my knowledge, this has not happened in the recent past. Criticism without following action is really the worst kind of armchair attitude. If the latter were considered, the community must rethink about the need to change in this every day changing world. As clichéd as it may sound, 'Change is the only constant.'

Every authority that has ever taken charge over anything has always been criticized. It is almost a law that anyone in power faces criticism and this in fact is essential to the one in power too. But, I feel at times that we as a community have failed to look beyond the negatives and sight the positives. A great number of positive changes have happened and there certainly has been a lot to celebrate. But the criticism has pushed some members of the community into a sort of pessimism, to the point that they feel that nothing will ever turn out to be good. This is quite saddening because the school's prime motives have been the happiness and safety of its members.

I would also like to make a reference to one of the key arguments Alexander Pope makes in his "Essay on Criticism". Pope, in this work, puts forward the notion that a critic must be guided. He/She must serve through his/her criticism the one being criticized. He goes on to further provide examples of critics who have erred by continuously attacking the one being criticized and he finally concludes that it is the most critical sin to be continuously erring in criticism.

As a case in point, instead of cribbing about the mandatory nature of attendance at this year's Boxing

competition, we should just go and enjoy the intense bouts and support the boxers. One must learn to accept changes with grace and humanity and where criticism is due then to present it in front of the concerned authority without fear. Sitting and cribbing is certainly not going to achieve anything.

| Report |

## F1 Number One

Yasharth Goyal sheds light on the inaugural Grand Prix, held at the Buddh International Circuit, Noida



Being a member of the Motor-mechanics STA, I was thrilled when I found out that we would be going for the inaugural Indian Formula One Grand Prix race to be held in Greater Noida at the Buddh International Circuit. After days of excitement and anticipation, six boys including myself left for Delhi on October 29, with PVD as our escort. The excitement amongst us boys was palpable and we could hardly wait to see the cars and their drivers.

On reaching the venue, we saw quite a large crowd of F1 enthusiasts waiting for the race to commence. The race teams had set up stalls where they were selling team merchandise. Needless to say, the biggest crowd was at the Ferrari stall, buying the Red Ferrari caps, shirts and even umbrellas.

Soon we were sitting in our seats overlooking the track, anxiously waiting for our favourite drivers to burn rubber in front of us. And then the moment arrived. Sachin Tendulkar flagged off and the race was on. The reigning F1 Champion, Sebastian Vettel of the Renault Red Bull team took an early lead and maintained it right till the end. The cars were extremely powerful and loud and by the time the race concluded, our ears were ringing with the sound of engines. No wonder the cars were finishing one lap (5.14 km) in less than a minute and a half. I was particularly proud of the fact that the Indian Grand Prix team, Force India did well in the race and added to my excitement of witnessing the race.

I am glad that I was there to witness the race, especially because it was India's first Grand Prix. Now I hope to be there next year as well.

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