

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## DIPLOMACY IN CHINA

*Armaan Imam reports on the Harvard Model United Nations, China, 2012, held between March 15 and 18*

A delegation comprising twelve inexperienced boys, including myself, set out to take part in one of the biggest Model United Nations, being held in China. All of us hoped to do better than the delegation that visited Beijing last year. Despite our lack of experience, we were confident of putting up a good show. A large part of this confidence fizzled out when we reached the Beijing Convention Centre. There we realized that this was no ordinary MUN, but the most prestigious one being held in Asia, with over 1200 delegates from 25 countries. While we were thrilled to be part of such an event, especially since this was going to be the first time that The Doon School was participating in this particular MUN, we were also a bit unnerved.

One of the good things about this trip was that we had a local guide to receive us at the airport and stayed with us for the rest of our time there. Other than the MUN, we were also able to absorb the sights and smells of Beijing. On venturing into the city, we were surprised to see that everything, from the number-plates on the cars to the names of restaurants was written in Mandarin. And the real dilemma that we faced was food. We had heard about the trouble the previous delegation had had with authentic Chinese cuisine. Nonetheless, we decided to try some of it, and thank god we did. I did feel bad for the vegetarians that were in our group though.

We visited the Tiananmen Square but the historic site, which had been the epicenter of student unrest back in 1989, was closed. So we headed towards the 'Forbidden City'. Truly a magnificent 'city', we stood in awe of the endless historical landmarks.

What we did over the next few days was with great purpose. After registering for the Model United Nations, all of us got busy with the first session of the conference that went well for everyone. Over the next few sessions though, performances seemed to dip. Most of us were representing South Korea in our respective committees. Yash Upadhyay was dealing with the issue of human migration, as a delegate in the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Ishan Sandhu and Prabnur Singh Bal were providing solutions for food security in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation. Banda Mann Singh Lamba was trying to broker peace in the Middle-East in the United Nations Summit on Special Peace Keeping, while Siddharth Kaul worked towards providing preventive measures for human settlements and industries in earthquake prone areas in the United Nations Development Program. Jai Kairon was trying to resolve the issue of land mines in the DISEC. Gopal Singh Mann passed a resolution to prevent the use of children for terrorist activities in the United Nations International Children's Fund, and Jaskrit Singh was providing solutions to different parts of the world trying to encourage in sustainable development as part of the World Trade Organization. Alawi Singh and Shreshta Verma were representing China in the Security Council, promoting the need to put an end to human trafficking. Siddharth Sarin was looking towards a possibility of a new drug as part of his efforts in the World Health Organization. And I was promoting nuclear energy, emphasising on the need for safety and security from the dangers of this form of energy.

Everyone was seen working on 'Working Papers' and 'Resolutions', even if it meant skipping meals or sacrificing sleep. Our participation in our respective committees was certainly commendable but, in my opinion, we lacked a good execution when it came to certain procedures being followed. Some of us were unlucky to get a committee comprising of as many as 180 delegates, while others were lucky to be placed in committees with not more than 30 delegates. At the end of the five sessions, each lasting three hours. Ishan Sandhu and Prabnur Singh Bal were recognized as 'Outstanding Delegates'. After all the congratulations, heartbreaks and goodbyes, we left the Convention Centre, that marked the end of the MUN.

With the unexpected snow, our attempts to communicate with the local people, our tryst with the food trail, we were proud of our performance at the MUN.



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## CRICKET

The **Junior School Cricket Team** played 2 matches against **Modern High School, Dubai** and **won** both the matches.

The **School Cricket Team** played a match against **Pinegrove School**. The team **won** the match by a margin of six wickets. The Team also played a match against the masters and won.

Congratulations!

## IAYP

There was a talk on the **International Award for Young People (IAYP)** by **Mr Dinesh Gajendran**, the Asia-Pacific Youth Representative of the award, on February 22.

## HINDI PLAY

A **Dramatized Reading Performance** of the Hindi Adaptation of the play 'The Just Assassin' by Albert Camus was staged on March 27, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the World Theatre Day.

## HINDI DECLAMATION

Following are the results of the **Inter-House Junior Hindi Declamation**:

House Positions:	Individual Positions:
1st:Kashmir	1st place:Nikunj Agarwal
2nd:Jaipur	2nd place:Aviral Garg
3rd:Oberoi	3rd place:Arth Gupta
4th:Hyderabad	
5th:Tata	

Well done!

## BP CHANDOLA

Following are the results of the **BP Chandola Hindi Essay Writing Contest**:

1st:Vidit Sidana
2nd:Sanat Kumar Thakur
3rd: Jaskrit Singh

Congratulations!

## doontoon

*Nivit Kochhar*



*The D-Former*

## OBITUARY

**Nilandri Kumar Banerji, (ex- 258 H, Batch of '55)** passed away in New Delhi on 9 March, 2012. He leaves behind his wife Gloria, daughter Pia and her husband Anand and their daughters Sanjana and Meghna. May he rest in peace and the Almighty give his family strength to bear this loss.

### |Junior Poetry|

## BREVITY

**Arnaav Bhavnani**

All my mistakes,  
Now feel so worthless.  
My failures, sorrows,  
Now so meaningless.

All my forgotten dreams,  
How do they matter?  
As they've been pushed out of the window,  
To fall and shatter.

My mind is blank,  
But agony and pain  
Still remain,  
As I jump off the train.

It is insanity,  
But it makes me feel alive.  
The wind howls in my ears,  
As I take my final dive.

## Unquotable Quotes

*What if my Jet-pack doesn't revolve with the world?*

**Arth Gupta**, tough luck.

*Just stand up in your place and go to two corners.*

**PSM**, split choice.

*It's what hindi's have adopted.*

**Ritesh Devnani**, provides his expertise.

*I'll cut you in half and put you in three places.*

**DEB**, magician.

*I have the whole time of the world.*

**Rishi Raj Khan**, at leisure.

*Where is the hell that circuit?*

**RMR**, furious.

*He was trouble me.*

**Arush Sood** reports the matter.

*Udaipur is gooder than Jaipur.*

**Gaurav Kothari** stating his case.

## Opinion oll



**Are you looking forward to mid-terms?**

**Next Week's Question:** Do you think that the School needs to provide more support to the technological staff for better maintainence of computer equipment?

*( 344 members of the School community were polled)*

## Minutes of the School Council Meeting

Saturday, February 11, 2012, 3:00pm in the Nandlal Kilachand Library

The following were present for the meeting:

1. Dr. Peter McLaughlin	Headmaster (Chairman)
2. Mr. Philip Burrett	Deputy Headmaster
3. Mr. Sameer Katre	Director of Administrative Affairs
4. Dr. MC Joshi	Dean of Activities
5. Mr. Deepak Sharma	Dean of Sports
6. Mr. PK Nair	Dean of Studies
7. Mr. Piyush Malaviya	Dean of Public Affairs
8. Mr. A Qezilbash	Dean of Students' Welfare
9. Mr. Sanjiv Bathla (Stand-in for Debashish Chakrabarty)	Housemasters' Representative
10. Mr. AK Mandhian	Teachers' Representative
11. Mrs. Sarabjeet Sandhu	Dames' Representative
12. Yuv Vir Khosla	School Captain
13. Siddhant Sachdev	Prefects' Representative
14. Shivam Goyal (Stand-in for Nabeel Shah)	'H' House Senior Representative
15. Abhishek Bansal	'H' House Senior Representative
16. Rohan Chaudhri	'H' House Junior Representative
17. Saksham Goyal	'H' House Junior Representative
18. Dhruv Aggarwal (Stand in for Karan Singh)	'J' House Senior Representative
19. Karan Pratap Singh Kairon	'J' House Senior Representative
20. Rahil Chamola	'J' House Junior Representative
21. Sahir Chaudhary	'J' House Junior Representative
22. Aditya Vikram Gupta (Stand in for Abhijeet Karwa)	'K' House Senior Representative
23. Madhav Dutt	'K' House Senior Representative
24. Devansh Aggarwal	'K' House Junior Representative
25. Ashvin Solanki	'K' House Junior Representative
26. Raj Surana	'O' House Senior Representative
27. Nakul Talwar	'O' House Senior Representative
28. Manan Pradhan	'O' House Junior Representative
29. Shourya Kishorepuria	'O' House Junior Representative
30. Shashvat Dhandhanian	'T' House Senior Representative
31. Aviral Gupta (Stand-in for Arjun Parmar)	'T' House Senior Representative
32. Nikhil Saraf	'T' House Junior Representative
33. Smayan Sahni	'T' House Junior Representative

### 1. Election of the Secretary of the School Council

The Chairman introduced the first point on the agenda: the election of the Secretary of the School Council. There were two nominees: Shashvat Dhandhanian (nominated by Aviral Gupta and seconded by Aditya Vikram Gupta and Raj Surana) and Siddhant Sachdev (nominated by Abhishek Bansal and seconded by Dhruv Aggarwal). Voting commenced in secret ballot. Shashvat Dhandhanian was voted in as the Secretary of the School Council for the year 2012-2013. Mr. A Qezilbash informed the Council that Tata House would now have to send another senior representative.

### 2. Reviewing whether ScLeavers should be allowed to play any Inter-House Competition

Siddhant Sachdev informed the Council that a decision about allowing ScLeavers to participate in the Inter-House Cricket Competition was necessary. He said that they should not be allowed to participate as it might give an unfair advantage to some Houses, whereas the others might be at a loss. Also, this might result in the current seniors (A, AT, Sc formers) not getting a fair chance to participate in the Inter-House Cricket Competition. Also, he believed that they have played their part, and the present Sc formers should be given the opportunity to lead their respective teams. Also, the present A form boys would be deprived of the chance to represent their Houses. Mr. Deepak Sharma informed the Council that according to the decision taken by the Games Committee, which was held earlier in the term, two Sc-Leavers were allowed to participate in two House XI matches. The Secretary requested the Council to take a unanimous decision for all other activities that would take place while the Sc-Leavers were in School, like the Inter House Senior English Debating Competition and the Inter-House One Act Play. Mr. Sanjeev Bathla was of the opinion that each House would field their best team, which might include the boys of ScLeavers. The Chairman told the Council that if the matter was to make the Sc-Leavers feel more a part of the School, then there could be other ways in which it could be done. Aditya Vikram Gupta brought to the notice of the Council that a match between the School Cricket Team and a team of the Sc-Leavers could be organized, instead of involving them in the Inter-House Competitions. The Council finally decided to exclude the Sc-Leavers from the various Inter-House Competitions to give a fair chance to the present seniors in the House.

*(contd. overleaf)*

(contd. from page 3)

### 3. Review of the resurfacing of Skinners

Sahir Chaudhary asked the Council when the Upper Skinners would finally be ready for use. Mr. Samir Katre informed the Council that there had been some problems with the resurfacing of the Upper Skinners, and this was why the process of rooting the grass had to be redone. This was the reason why the process had taken slightly longer than expected and might even extend till the beginning of April. Mr. Katre told the Council that the Upper Skinners would be ready by the beginning of the hockey season.

### 4. Concise scheduling of the calendar

The Secretary told the Council that there had been lots of events that were overlapping in the School calendar, and many other events were taking place, which had not been calendared. He requested the Council to decide on what should be done regarding this matter. He added that this would lead to many boys not following the calendar as they are supposed to be at multiple events at the same time. Mr. Joshi told the Council that this was also the case for STAs and SUPWs, and boys would have to inform their whereabouts during STA time if they did miss their STA or SUPW. Aditya Vikram Gupta gave a suggestion to the Council that the timing of the STAs could be changed to immediately after lunch, but it was decided that a decision on timing of STA's would be taken in the following meeting. Abhishek Bansal told the Council that this was also the case regarding Career Talks where boys would be unable to attend talks even if they were interested. The Chairman brought to the notice of the Council that college representatives understood that not all boys would want to join their university and would not be able to listen to the talk. Mr. Burrett told the Council that necessary boys could choose between two activities that were taking place at the same time, but they would be required to inform the respective authorities about it.

As there were no other matters, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary  
(ShashvatDhandhania)

Chairman  
(Dr. Peter McLaughlin)

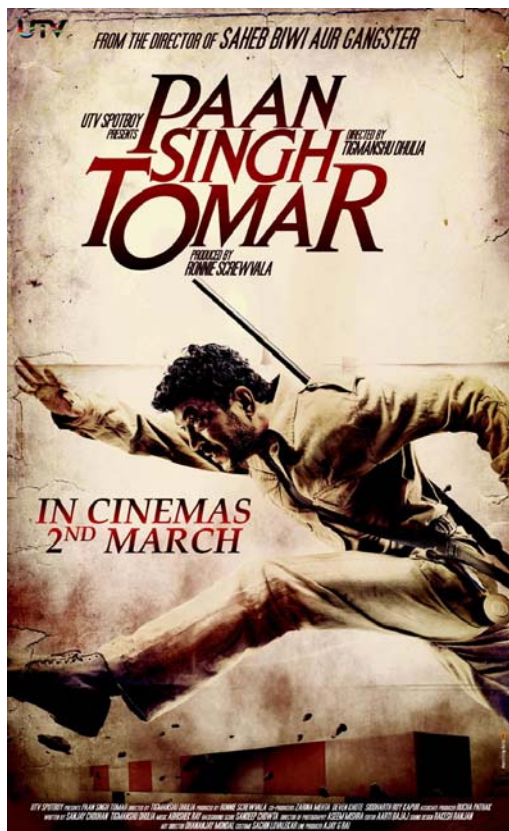
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## | Movie Review |

# 'PAAN SINGH TOMAR'

*Abhishek Bansal reviews the movie 'Paan Singh Tomar'*

The Doon School Film Society and the IB Hindi students went to watch the movie 'Paan Singh Tomar',



inspired by the true story of an athlete in the Indian Army. Tigmanshu Dhulia's directorial is a glance into the life of a patriot and an extraordinary athlete who was forced to become a dacoit or rather, a *baaghi*, as claimed in the movie. The direction, along with the dialogues, cinematography and characterization made the details of this story sharp. The director preserved the authentic essence of characters and their belonging by choosing *bundelkhandi* as the language for majority of the conversations. The music too, was used in a traditional and dramatic style and impacted the overall essence of the movie. We saw Mahi Gill (as Indra) play the role of a traditional Indian village wife. Her husband, the central character (Paan Singh Tomar) being played by Irrfan Khan. The casting was cleverly done; all actors from Irrfan Khan (Paan Singh Tomar) to Bijendra Kala (the journalist) did justice to the nuances of their characters. The film captured the natural beauty of Uttaranchal and the dusty ravines of Chambal. Through crisp dialogues, meticulous acting and subtle humour, the beauty of life in the Chambal region was well projected.

The movie is mostly in flashback, seen through the eyes of Paan Singh Tomar (a dacoit at the time of the interview), trying to justify his present status to the journalist, while recounting the incidents of his life. The central paradox of the plot- that Paan Singh Tomar receives recognition for being a dacoit and being able to trick policemen of various states instead of being recognized for his efforts and achievements as an international athlete- looks at the level of beauracracy, faced by rural residents. It is Paan Singh Tomar's quest for justification and the denial of justice that drives him to become a rebel. Paan Singh Tomar is potrayed as an epic character who is tolerant, thoughtful and someone who sticks to his decision.

In my opinion, the second half of the movie could have been further edited, in order to retain the audience's attention and its commercial appeal. Moreover, the film failed to convey a single, strong and sharp message, although it vaguely expressed a number of themes which have been discussed.

**Photo Credit:** <http://www.travelindia-guide.com/bollywood-movies/moviesbanner/paan-singh-tomar.jpg>

| Short Story |

# Stuck

*Shashvat Dhandhania*

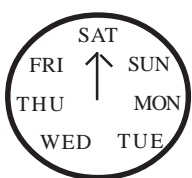
The silence was nerve wrecking. He had never imagined the sound of silence to be so painful. He had been stuck in the elevator for eleven hours now. He still doubted whether anyone had noticed him being missing. He wondered what his wife was thinking of him. Was she even bothered?

He remembered the day of his marriage. The two of them had not even seen each other in person. He had always hoped that he had had a beautiful bride. Though disappointed, he had learnt to accept her.

In the first few years of their marriage, he was still embarrassed to take her along with him, whenever he went out with friends. She didn't mind. She too would make herself busy, after she had completed her daily chores. It had only been recently that they were able to move around in public with each other. He was always a lot more shy than her. She wanted to drink and dance in clubs at night. All of that was new to him. Whenever he went out, he would go a friends house play cards and eat dinner there. He had no idea of how he was going to tell her that he was not comfortable with all of it and wanted her to at least reduce her wish of going out every second night. He had got into the elevator with the same purpose, to return home from the storage space he was in-charge of and talk to her over dinner.

He had sat on the wooden floor of the elevator through the day. The chocolates he had had in his pockets were now consumed. The plastic bottle had nothing in it. He had sequestered every drop of water from within it. The night had finally fallen.

\* \* \*



## The Week Gone

By...

*Arjun Kamdar*

Chandbagh seems to be relatively empty as of now. The departure of the Sc Leavers and A transitioners has not only left the campus a bit quieter, but also lacking in energy. The past week has been quite relaxed, with toys being frequently cancelled due to various talks, play practices and the last cricket matches of the season. The high point of the week was surely the excitement around the shifting of C formers into main houses. Fresh faces and pizzas are always a welcome sight. We hope the new comers settle in quickly and get used to the pace of life in the main houses.

On Saturday, the C, B, A and Sc formers went to the Army *Mela* being held in the cantonment. One thing became very clear. Most Doscocs don't seem to be cut out for the tough life an Army Officer has to lead. And I can say this because a mere 25-minute walk was enough to cause most of them to complain of tiredness and the heat due to the sun. Well, firstly, considering that we live in India, the role played by the Sun shouldn't really come as a surprise. And secondly, we wonder if the same complaints would have been voiced if the 25-minute walk had been in the direction of KFC.

The week also saw some Doscocs benefit hugely from the 5-day theatre workshop conducted by Lushin Dubey and Bubbles Sabharwal. The sheer energy of the two theatre personalities was enough to make everyone shed their inhibitions and participate wholeheartedly in every activity that was on offer. We hope to see both of them in S chool again.

Yet again, we address one of our favorite topics at Doon- food. This time, we have nothing but praise. From shepherd's pie (that too unlimited!) to the delicious chocolate cereal, the Mess Committee has surely worked hard. Now we guess who is to be given the credit?

## Training for Trainers

*Skand Bali reports on the IAYP Train for Trainers Workshop held between 23 and 25 March*



The first all India National Training for Trainers (T4T) workshop was held at The Doon School between March 23 and 25. Nineteen participants attended the Workshop from all over India. Two teachers from our school, Meeta Sharma (MTS) and Manu Mehrotra (MMR) attended the workshop, which had been inaugurated by the Headmaster.

Rob Oliphant, the Asia Pacific Programme and Training Head was the resource person for the workshop. This was his first visit to the School and Mr. Skand Bali, Master-in-Charge of the IAYP award at The Doon School was the co-presenter of the workshop.

This workshop was an initiative towards making the National Training Panel of IAYP. All Award leaders were trained to equip them as future trainers for the International Award for Young People, India. These trainers will be conducting the future Award leader training workshops in India.

At the workshop, Mr Skand Bali was appointed as the Head of the National Training Panel of IAYP, India.

At the closing programme dinner, the Headmaster awarded certificates of participation as well as felicitated Mr Rob Oliphant on behalf of the School.

| Interview |

## Actors Paradise

The Doon School Weekly interviewed **Lushin Dubey** and **Bubbles Sabharwal**, who recently conducted a dramatics workshop in School

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What is your opinion of dramatics in School?**

**Lushin Dubey and Bubbles Sabharwal (LDB):** Evidently it is given a lot of importance. Every student should try and progress in this field, as it will help them in every sphere of life. Drama is all about self-awareness. If you want to become big in this field, there are only two ways. Either you are born an actor or you work on the skills you have.

**DSW: What do you think about the situation of drama in India?**

**LDB:** Well, frankly I think its leaping forward. We are currently undergoing a change from a predominantly Indian form of dramatics to a more western style. I think this approach will not only benefit the country, but also the people, as there is a lot to learn from plays set in the West. Well, taking that into consideration, I also think we shouldn't completely forget about our heritage and continue to do our own thing in India.

**DSW: Would you prefer conducting workshops, as such, or a large-scale production?**

**LDB:** Workshops are much easier, that's a given. The major factor involved in a production is that of a sponsor. However, the thing is that before one moves onto a production, a workshop is essential. This is because in a way, it tells us the skills that every student has. After all, it is all about self-amplification.

**DSW: What productions have you done in the past or which would you like to do in the future?**

**LDB:** As far as scripts are concerned we prefer performing our own scripts or edited versions of famous scripts. One of our favorite productions is 'Peter Pan'. A play that I would very much like to do in the future is 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams.

**DSW: If given an opportunity, would you like to come back to Doon?**

**LDB:** Absolutely! We would love to come back. We would like to come back for a workshop, which in time accelerates into a full-scale production. This brief meeting was only like a handshake.

| Report |

## A NIGHTOUT TO REMEMBER

**Aditya Bhattacharya** reports on the recently held tutorial night out where they were taught how to plan a private midterm.

92 boys of A form were bundled into three buses last Saturday, accompanied by their tutors and headed towards Dhanolti to get to 'Jwarna'. Once we reached Jwarna we were informed that our destination was a kilometre from there and we had to trek to the camp. That didn't seem too bad, considering the fact that we were all there to be trained for private midterms. Honestly, even two days prior to our nightout we were all clueless.

At the camp we were divided into four groups. Each group was going to do different activities. The most-useful ones were tent-pitching and the basics of cooking. But our day had more in store for us; with a few torches to be shared we embarked on a night trek. While walking on a narrow, rugged mountain path many of us slipped and luckily no one was injured. This exercise was to enable us to be prepared for anything and everything while on midterms. At the end of this trek, our reward was cooked maggi, though I expected some of us to do the cooking. There was complete chaos as all of us queued up to get our share.

We were then informed that the next morning was going to be an early start. We had to wake up at 6:00 a.m., that too on a Sunday! We realised that this was going to be a Sunday of sorts. Eventually we retired to our tents.

Despite all our resistance we got our acts together and prepared for a 2.5 kilometer trek. The distance was not what bothered us, it was the time and day. It didn't seem like our usual Sunday fair back in school. We were led to an exciting activity and we soon forgot about how Sundays were meant to be. Our rock climbing experience was truly exhilarating. Initially, some of us struggled but as soon as we overcame our shortfalls and got the hang of the rock climbing drill, we felt a sense of achievement. Following this activity we were guided on how to plan for a midterm and the key aspects of putting it all together.

Personally I wish we had this nightout session a little later, as we only get to go on a private midterm next term, but I hope that all that we have learned and experienced does make our first private midterms a memorable one.

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