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The Doon School WEEKLY



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Editorial

As the season changes so does the editorial board of the Weekly. This edition of the Weekly marks the beginning of a new journey for the Editorial Board. Over this year, the board will make its way through uncharted territories, reporting on new events and writing on various sightings. We will probably bear and brace innumerable storms and waves and fight against possible mutinies. No wonder this voyage we embark on is tiring and strenuous but yet very, very exciting.

I am certain that previous Editors-in-Chief have been nervous about their tenure on the Weekly. Well, so am I. I am nervous because, well ... quite humbly... the title of Editor-in-Chief adds a huge burden on your shoulder. Suddenly, from a lost C Former you are metamorphosed to the head of an institution that has been entertaining and informing Doscos for over seventy six years! Yet I am confident. Confident that we will be able to rise and face the difficulties and challenges that are bound to greet us. Confident, because I have faith in myself and I have faith in the capabilities of the board.

As for my plans of action- I have many. However, space constraints will only allow me to mention a few. Firstly, the Weekly will continue to publish a well-tempered collection of articles. I do not plan to allow the Weekly to become a current affairs magazine or change into a purely creative outlet. It is very important that we, as the Weekly, continue to tap into a plethora of genres and continue to broaden our list of contributors. Keeping that in mind, I also hope to garner a longer and wider list of contributors for various editions of the Weekly, who for various reasons have not been given a chance to voice their opinions.

This year you will also hopefully bear witness to a host of new columns, both serious and light hearted. Some of them include 'Around the World in 80 Words', 'What's Happening, Weekly?' and 'Departmentalized'. With that, we must get back to work, for we have a lot to cover! I hope you continue to have memorable Saturday mornings!

Questions and Answers

Following are excerpts from the question and answer session during the 77th Founder's Day celebrations with the Honourable Vice President of India, Mohammed Hamid Ansari

Shashvat Dhandhanian: Considering the opposition the government faced when signing the Indo-US nuclear deal, and in light of the opposition the government is facing with its Kodaikanal nuclear plant, how is the Government of India justified in the introduction of nuclear energy?

Mohammed Hamid Ansari (MHA): Well the answer is very simple; you have to look at the energy requirements of the country now, and twenty to fifty years from now. It is a well known fact that we do not have energy resources; we never have had energy resources in the country, and therefore, one has to look at the possible alternatives and among those alternatives, nuclear energy has a very high priority. Therefore, the government and the political system took a very careful decision that from the present 3% nuclear energy that we have in our energy component, we have to move to a higher figure. The present target is 10%, which will take some time. There are a number of nuclear plants under construction; more will have to be constructed. The political process of debate and opposition is part of being a democracy and one should not be unduly worried about it. But the short answer to your question is that we simply do not have any option; we have to go on that road, and we are not the only ones, a lot of other countries are doing it, countries like France, for example, get 80% of their energy from a nuclear source.

Aahan Menon: What do you think of the Congress' decision to appoint Mr. Pranab Mukherjee as the President, despite him being one of their staunchest decision makers?

MHA: Well the first thing to remember is the sanctity of the political process. Decisions are taken as per the political requirement. The Honourable Rashtrapatiiji is a very senior statesman who has spent a long time in politics and has great experience in all aspects of political life. The decision that was taken is a decision to which all citizens are bound.

Neelansh Khurana: How will the addition of Sachin Tendulkar added to the debate in the Rajya Sabha?

MHA: I'm sure he would make many runs, going by his past records. The point is that the Constitution does make provisions for people who have distinguished themselves in different walks of life. Mr. Tendulkar has certainly distinguished himself in the field of sports and his presence in the Rajya Sabha would greatly help to focus our attention in the political system and through the political system on sports. It is a statistical absurdity that we cannot win an Olympic gold in a population of 1.2 billion. So there is something very wrong with the way we address the requirements of sports in the country and I am sure Mr. Tendulkar with his experience would be of assistance to the system and to the Minister of Sports, specifically.

Vikramaditya Kapur: Do you feel the secular nature of the Constitution is upheld during debate in Parliament?

MHA: Absolutely, every Member of Parliament before he or she takes up his or her responsibility as a member has to swear by the Constitution and it is the Constitution which provides for the secular structure in the country. Yes, debates are debates, but I have not heard in my five years anybody arguing against the secular principle. Some may argue more vociferously, some may introduce an element of sophistry into it, but the principle itself has never been questioned and I hope that none of us will live to see the day when

(Contd. on page 4)

SMUN

The School was represented by Shrish Srivastava, Kunal Kanodia, Siddharth Kaul, Rishabh Tusnial, Arnab Joshi, Madhav Dutt, Karan Kairon, Shivaan Tandon, Divyansh Goel and Prabnur Bal at the **Sanskriti School MUN** held from October 10 to 13. The results are as follows:
Best Delegate: Kunal Kanodia in the Security Council
Most Outstanding Delegate: Madhav Dutt in DISEC and Arnab Joshi in JCC. The School was awarded the **Most Outstanding Delegation**.

Well done!

COLOURS & BLAZERS

Debating Colours have been awarded to Shashvat Dhandhania.

Dramatics Colours have been awarded to Devesh Sharma.

The following students have been awarded **Hindi Debating Colours**:

Sanat Kumar Thakur, Shubham Dhingra, Ritesh Shinde

The following students have been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**: Siddharth Kaul, Ritesh Shinde and Aditya Gupta

The following students have been awarded the **Games Blazer**: Yuv Vir Khosla, Khalid Alawneh and Nivit Kocchar

Congratulations!

SHOOTING HOOPS

Sehaj Singh Jouhal represented the Uttarakhand Basketball Team at the **29th Youth National Basketball Championship** held at **Indore**. The Team was placed **10th** overall.

Well done!

IPSC

The School Soccer Team participated in the **IPSC Soccer Tournament** and **won** for the second year in a row, beating **M.N.S.S, Rai**.

Congratulations!

OLD BOYS

The School Cricket Team played the **Annual R.L. Holdsworth Cricket Match** against the Old Boys and **lost** by 2 runs.

Well played!

LAMDA

The results of the **LAMDA** examinations are as follows:

The following students were awarded **Merit Certificates**:

Yasharth Goyal, Vibhav Gupta, Manan Pradhan, Devansh Agarwal, Rishabh Sharma, Vrindam Nagpal, Yuvraj Nathani, Karan Sethy, Anshul Tibrewal, Madhav Dutt, Nipurn Dutta, Yuvan Kumar, Harsh Vardhan Bansal, Aviral Gupta and Pulkit Agarwal.

The following students were awarded **Distinctions**:

Yash Dhandhania, Jai Khanna, Abhinav Kejriwal, Pulkit Agarwal, Shivam Sharma, Pranay Raj Kapoor, Devesh Sharma and Nabeel Shah.

Well done all!

ESSAY PRIZE

The results of the **Kanwar Rani Taradewi Hindi Writing Competition** for seniors are as follows:

1st: Tanmay Kapoor

2nd: Jaskrit Singh

Congratulations!

Opinion Poll

Do you think Founder's Day exhibitions should be department specific?

 **Yes 49%**

 **No 51%**

(348 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Was Founder's Day a success?

SHANTI SWAROOP

Following are the results of the **Inter-House Shanti Swaroop Science Essay Competition, 2012**:

1st: Oberoi

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Jaipur

4th: Tata

5th: Kashmir

Harshvardhan Singh of Oberoi House was given the award for the **Best Essay**.

Congratulations!

LTTE

Bodoland Breakdown

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the article "India Under the Scanner: Bodoland Conflict" (Issue Number 2325). The recent conflict between the indigenous Bodos and the immigrant Muslims in Assam is a reason for concern. For a developing and diverse nation, like India, such conflicts can only inhibit the progressive economic and social development that our country desperately needs.

In this letter I would like to mention that there are some aspects, which were missed in Raniz's article, which we need to ponder upon. Firstly, reports compiled by various NGOs suggest that the communal violence was actually pre-planned ethnic cleansing initiated by the National Democratic Front of Bodoland and not just a sudden flare of anger. These reports visualize the riots in different prospective- as planned attacks on the Muslim community to curb Islamic influence in the region.

Additionally, a report of the National Minorities Commission needs to be looked into. This report hints at the possibility of Muslims being financially supported by fundamentalist elements in Pakistan. Although, I feel that such allegations only aggravate the problem we currently face, I acquiesce with the fact that the general public has the right to hear different opinions.

We, as a nation, need to think and act fast. There is a dire need to work towards avoiding the development of such circumstances in the future. A possible way to tackle the menace of communal discord is through the introduction of legal forums. Using these platforms, matters can be resolved through the mutual consensus of both parties in the presence of trained government officials. Initiating such proactive measures will not only improve the situation, but curb violence and loss of property.

Yours truly,

Husain Haider Abbas

2. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, October 27

[Viewpoint]

Founder's Review

Madhav Dutt gives his views on the recently concluded Founder's Day celebrations

The stage is dismantled, the myriad banners removed and the campus deserted. And just when you think life cannot get worse, Domino's decides to head back to base, and you are left with just the C.D.H. Yes, it's that time of the year, the time when the Founder's day celebrations end and boys realize that the next big thing in the term are Trials! Founder's is an event which every Dosco holds dear to his heart and over the past few years in School, I have personally seen Founder's grow and evolve to massive proportions. With this apparent ending, there comes many new beginnings. On one side we see Sc's counting their days here, while on the other, the S Formers are enthusiastically awaiting their time on the throne. It marks the beginning of a leg in the 'spiritual journey' of a Dosco.

In my opinion, this year's Founder's celebration had its own subtle appeal. This year's Hindi Play, Court Martial, was definitely the highlight of Founder's. Superb acting, coupled with even better direction, made the play one of the best plays the community has ever seen. A noteworthy element of this drama was Saif Ali's acting, which made the audience hang onto every word he said in the play. Though, over the past years, Doscos have preferred the English productions over the Hindi ones, this year we saw a huge change in the boys' opinion.

The other highlight of Founder's was the breathtaking musical production, titled 'Confluence'. This production was a symphony crafted with the assistance of practically every musical instrument on earth! The exhausted orchestra received some much needed breaks, in the form of two highly entertaining dance routines. One of the two routines (and I won't mention which one) really shocked the spectators, as no one was expecting that particular dance style from Doscos! Although ev-

ery event was a success, the limited number of food stalls was an evident letdown, as food is something every Dosco holds close to his heart!

The Pagal Gymkhana was enormous in every way. The Tata House boys made sure that all the students and guests had a great time, with some innovative games and a whole lot of prizes! The raffle was the one event that brought everyone together, because everyone wanted to win something, some people having bought as many as ten booklets! The auction was a ceremonious affair and successful, as the Warriors made sizeable dents in many pockets as they fetched sums heavily exceeding the true price of the products.

No Founder's Day celebration is complete without the usual round of speeches, and fortunately, most of this year's speeches didn't disappoint. The proceedings began with the Chief Minister's speech. Both Nipun Mehta and Hamid Ansari made some thought provoking statements, even though some of the ideas Nipun Mehta introduced were Greek to the consumer oriented generation of today!

What actually made this Founder's successful was the atmosphere in the School at the time. Everyone wore a smile on their face during the day, which made the entire event peaceful and happy. This year, barely any person compared the celebrations with those of DS75, and rightly so. All in all, DS77 had its fair share of entertainment and surprises, and one to be remembered.

Unquotable Quotes

My suspicious belief tells me that the earth will fall down.

Samarjit Singh, sounds suspicious

This toast isn't even audible!?

Devansh Agarwal, but it is edible, isn't it?

My driver preaches me driving.

Shaurya Kishorepuriya, but can you drive?

Increase the temperature of the fan please.

Devansh Agarwal, how about 24 degrees?

What a grass!

Raniz Bordoloi, horticulturalist.

Study must I?

Ritesh Shinde, not really!



3. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, October 27

| Viewpoint |
Really, Gentlemen?

Aditya Bhattacharya

Over the Founder's weekend, I heard many stories of chivalrous DoscOs and their gentlemanly behaviour. And I asked myself, is it still true that we all are gentlemen? Of course, all I had to do was look around, and I found the answer. No, we are not really the gentlemen we think we are. At least not all of us were true gentlemen at Founder's this time, including myself.

Not many of us greeted parents or masters at Founder's. In fact, some of us even tried to avoid contact, walking far from masters and parents.

Also, during mealtimes at the stalls and at the Founder's dinner, I noticed that boys did not offer their place in line to those elder to them which is the conventional practice. During the Pagal Gymkhana, a boy was seen using his parents' laptop or and others were seen using phones (not for calling people, to be clear) which was rather disappointing to see; the Tata House boys had worked so hard yet this sight undermined their efforts. The epitome of our indifference was reached when during our honourable ex-chairman's speech a sizeable part of the audience proceeded to leave their seats and stand by the dinner area. I cannot blame the DoscOs alone for this, yet they also hold a certain responsibility for their company.



**The Week Gone
By...**

Devansh Agarwal

Yes, dear reader, it is that time of the year which the Dosco despises the most. That *Founder's Walla Smell* seems to have blown away into thin air, taking with it the various 'nutritional' food stalls. Even the rarely sighted text books seem to be making a comeback, though after a few centuries! For a Dosco, what is not to hate? Oh, did I forget to mention that Trials are around the corner?

In other news, there have also been major changes on the *Weekly*. The Chief Editor that I did not like so much (let's keep that a secret between you and me!) has been replaced by a far nicer man (this description was added on the behest of the current *CEd*). Even other members on the board have received their promotions, though some who were scoping remain unsatisfied! Let's hope that this board (which includes me) can pull off great issues to come.

We are also awaiting the start of the much delayed Inter-House Athletics competition. After some grueling training, which included campus rounds, long jumps and snacks at Domino's during Founder's, I expect to see high caliber performances from the athletes. Here's wishing them luck for their events! We will also bear witness to the much awaited marching. Let us hope that the long hours of practice the various houses have put in do not go in vain.

Basketball also seems to have taken over the lives of many tall and strong DoscOs, who can be seen practicing their shots early in the morning and in the afternoon. Also, the School Basketball team has made their way to Gwalior to participate in the IPSC basketball competition! Let us hope that they reach Doon with a trophy in their hands. Talking about IPSC trophies also reminds me of the amazing feat pulled off by our School Soccer Team. They have managed to win the IPSC Soccer Trophy two years in a row now. Now, there is absolutely no pressure on next year's team (for those not inclined to sarcasm, it means next year's team has to pull off a hat-trick. Has to!)

The weeks to come will see people jump higher hurdles, throw more balls and dive into their books. Truly, an eclectic mix!

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secularism would be questioned because then we would be questioning one of the fundamentals of our existence as a pluralist society.

Pulkit Agarwal: Is the Indian economic prowess on the global stage dimming or do you think the recent reforms are going to help boost the economy?

MHA: Well, economic prowess is always a matter of degrees. A few years back we were growing at 9% plus and we were number two in the rate of growth in the world. Today we are growing at a rate of about 6% and we are still number two in the world. If you look at the rest of the world, anyone who is registering 1.5-2% growth is very happy about their rate. The point is that the world is undergoing an economic crisis. We are part of the world, we have consciously globalised sectors of our economy, and we benefitted from it, so by the same token we cannot live in a cocoon isolated from the world. We are reasonably confident that we have tided over the current pressure, we have come down to about 6.5% or so, we are hopeful that we will go back to 8.5% or 9, by the time we finish the twelfth five-year plan. It is just a phase; it is nothing to be alarmed at. Yes, of course it requires very serious adjustments. But those are hard decisions which need to be taken, one cannot get emotional about these matters, one has to be extremely practical about it.

Shubham Khemka: How and when will the food security bill be implemented, and looking at the current coalition politics, do you think it will be difficult to do so?

MHA: Again, we go back to fundamental human rights. Do we have a choice? Can anyone seriously argue that a section of our citizen body should not get the basic ingredients by which they can keep on living? So it's not a question of this or that. Food security has to be provided just like environmental security has to be provided; national security has to be provided. So the principle is not disputable; it must not be disputed. Now, the how and why of it is an ongoing debate. It is a good debate, but I think we are getting there. There is little difference of opinion about the quantum and all that, but I don't think that is going to be a major obstacle.

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