



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## EDITORS CONFERENCE

*Udayan Sinha reports on the Editors Conference held at Scindia School, Gwalior.*

Perhaps it is the people in front of the camera who steal the show, but what the public sometimes fails to appreciate is that, “the written word is set in stone.” Hence, with every word written there is a sense of responsibility, of duty, that a journalist fulfills. This is the cherished lesson we imbibed as participants of the second Editors Conference held at the Scindia School in Gwalior, from the 11th to the 14th of August. The Doon School delegation was escorted by PDT and comprised Ritvik Kar (Reporter), Guruansh Singh (Reporter), Nihal Sharma (Page Designer), Aditya Vikram Dhingra (Photographer) and myself (Illustrator).

When we arrived at Scindia School late on the 10th, we were quickly registered and then divided. Unlike typical inter-school events, each of us spent the conference as a member of a separate group. There were eleven groups in all, and each group had five members (two reporters, a page designer, a photographer, and an illustrator). These were to be our work-groups for the next day.

The task at hand was enormous. We had to publish a four-page newsletter (like *The Weekly*) in just one day! The newsletter had to include articles, photographs and cartoons. So we headed to our rooms to rest, as the next day was going to be a long one.

On the morning of the 11th we assembled in our workgroups. We then set out into the town of Gwalior to visit various local markets and other attractions to collect news and photographs for our newsletters. It was a hot day but each group was adamant that they would publish the best newsletter. In our search for stories, we visited: Victoria Market, the Town Hall, Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education, and other locations as well. Not only were we able to gather amazing stories and myths about the city, but we also developed an insight into the lives of the locals, and saw first-hand the types of problems that they faced. We ended our news-gathering treasure hunt with a visit to the local mall.

When we returned to campus, we had less than two hours to decide upon a plan for our newsletter. All the groups were brainstorming topics for articles, layouts and other details. Come evening, the delegates were falling asleep, but sleep was far away. Although we returned to our accommodations, we were in for a long haul. It was both surprising and inspiring to see the delegates fight their sleep and work late into the night.

On the morning of the 12th we were understandably drowsy. But there was still so much work to be done. And we were just three hours away from publishing our four-page newsletter!

The delegates pulled through and worked with diligence and composure. All the groups scrambled to get the job done. At the end of the last three excruciatingly mind-boggling hours, every single group managed to meet the deadline for publication. A soft copy of each newsletter was sent for publishing. Our once-chaotic workstations were now quiet.

A long break was spent in anticipation of the newsletter. Though this was not a ranked competition, our work was still going to be judged.

Judging took place in Scindia School’s auditorium. The judges were harsh and they did not hesitate to criticize the work. It was a long session, but we were grateful for their feedback.

That night, the school had organized a delegate dance. We thoroughly enjoyed the event, which was followed by a lavish dinner. Now the long day had come to an end. The next morning we attended the closing ceremony where each delegate received a memento. We still had a little time before our train back to Doon, so we wandered around the Fort Walls to take in the amazing city from a bird’s eye view. We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We learned more than we had imagined possible. We gained a real insight into the world of journalism. We met and worked with our peers from other schools around the country. We went out and we saw, and we came back and we reported. And believe me when I tell you, it is a tough world out there.

## FOOTBALL

The **School Soccer Team** played a match against **The Woodstock School** and **won 2-1**. The goals were scored by Zahaan Qureshi and Suraj Bishnoi. Congratulations!

The **School Sub-Junior Soccer Team** played a match against **K V IMA** and **lost 6-4**. Well tried!



### Around the world In 80 Words

This week many countries, including the US, UK and Russia considered carrying out military operations or strikes in Syria. This news comes at a time when UN observers in Syria were targeted by snipers. In other news, China also unveiled its ambitious plans of landing a probe on the moon this year, taking its space program to the next orbit. Additionally, researchers from Lund University in Sweden created a new element with the atomic number of 115, unofficially called ununpentium.

### Unquotable Quotes

*Put the line on the ball!*

**NTC**, then how will we play?

*Get it on lunch.*

**Nikhil Fatehpuria**, I sure will!

*I am feeling dizzyiness.*

**Nihal Singh Mann**, so am I.

*Can I get up one by one?*

**Udaivir Singh Jaijee**, yes you may.

*Why did he say to me?*

**Manan Pradhan**, why did he say what?

*I is thinking loudly!*

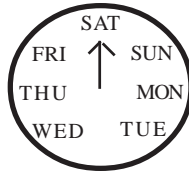
**Nikunj Agarwal**, keep the volume down!

*What day of the time is it?*

**Devang Mehra**, why don't you check the dictionary?

*Myself never said Unquote!*

**Raniz Bordoloi**, never?



## The Week Gone By...

**Vireshwar Singh Sidhu**

S and Sc forms had their PTM on Saturday, and yes, they survived. However, it should be noted that though all boys survived, most returned back to school with a sigh of relief. We wish them a speedy recovery from their outing!

Additionally, the Inter-House Music and Dance Competition continued this week. Rather shockingly, a member of one of the house bands seemed rather bored of his house's performance. He managed to maintain a poker face throughout, while singing a song about a castle made out of glass in an Indian accent. Seriously, in an Indian accent? Also worth mentioning is the fact that Tata House knew the lyrics of the songs they performed and never, ever did they cast a glance on a cheat sheet. H House however, stole the show. Not only did H House win this week's segment of the competition, their *TOK Dance* moves proved sufficient enough for a victory.

This week saw another Inter House Competition, with swimming getting under way. It saw mass participation, great swimming and countless broken records. The School also hosted an Invitational Football Competition. While there were many boys who were much smaller than the football itself, a certain school fielded a side of elephants (pun intended).

Many boys also decided to study in Canada, a.k.a. *second Punjab*, either that, or there were certainly some good looking girls at the fair. All in all, it has been a hectic week and with more Inter-House Competitions to get underway, the School either doesn't want us to study, or they think we are super-humans who can pull off great results on the final days of preparation. Just kidding, Doscocs pull off great results by not preparing in advance. After all, we are super-humans.

### ERRATA

*The Weekly* (Issue No 2350) incorrectly mentioned that Kartikey Garg and Akarsh Tibrewal reached the finals of the District Badminton Tournament. It should have read that Kartikey Garg and Akarsh Tibrewal reached the main draw. *The Weekly* regrets this error.

## doontoon

**Madhav Dutt**



# Justice Interview

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia who was the chief guest on Independence day.

**The Doon School Weekly(DSW):** Could you tell us a bit about yourself?

**Sudhanshu Dhulia(SHD):** Right from when I was a student at the University, I wanted to be part of a system where people could be heard and understood. That is why I chose the legal profession. Being a lawyer helps a person to know the problems faced by the people of a country. I started my practice at the Allahabad High Court and gradually shifted to practicing on my own. Later, I was offered a job in Nainital when Uttarakhand was created. I began my job by giving legal inputs to the Administrative Training Institute located in Nainital which was renowned at that time. In 2008, I was offered to become a judge and I took the post.

**DSW:** What is the most memorable or significant experience of your career?

**SHD:** I think the most significant case that came my way was when Uttarakhand was not created and people were agitating for a new state. Several people were killed in various places and there was a lot of violence everywhere. During that time I made a legal inquiry into that matter. I visited the places affected by the violence and interviewed several people. This case actually gave me a load full of experience and made me a better lawyer.

**DSW:** What goes on in your mind when you give a verdict? How do you feel when you convict someone?

**SHD:** There are two kinds of basic cases. The first one deals with the granting of bail to a person in jail. The other deals with the eviction of a person. Usually there are no problems with these kinds of cases. But sometimes, one or two problems might arise. In these cases, I just look out for the truth. That is my endeavor.

**DSW:** What are your views on Justice Katju stepping in to help Sanjay Dutt?

**SHD:** What I felt is that there are many others like Sanjay Dutt. If he is to be defended by a person like Justice Katju then others should also be defended in the same manner. But otherwise, Justice Katju is doing this because he is convinced about it and those are his views on the matter.

**DSW:** Do you think that the judicial process is becoming redundant due to the amount of time it takes, as the popular saying goes, "justice delayed is justice denied"?

**"More judges, courts and infrastructure would help immensely"**

**SHD:** This is the biggest problem with the legal system today. Due to the number of cases pouring in at all times, quick disposal of cases is not happening. Though recently, there have been a lot of amendments to the procedures and cases are being decided much quicker than they were before. There has been a big improvement.

In Uttarakhand most of the criminal cases which happened before 2007 have been disposed of. But this has happened because the cases which appeared before the high court were easy to tackle and this was a smaller high court. The only solution as per my point of view would be to increase the number of judges per high court. More judges, courts and infrastructure would help immensely.

**DSW:** Do you think the media plays a role in influencing any verdict?

**SHD:** The media has not been a very responsible one in terms of its role in influencing verdicts. Let me give you an example. There is a bomb blast in Delhi and four Muslims are picked up and are accused of being the culprits behind the blasts. What happens later is that they are accused falsely and are not guilty. But now the police can't leave them because there is so much of media hype behind these bomb blasts. So the conclusion is that there must be some control on the electronic media. Preferably, there should be a regulatory body.

**DSW:** The Supreme Court recently decided that anyone who has a criminal case against them could not be a member of parliament. What are your views on that?

**SHD:** Firstly, Supreme Court judgments are the law of the land and must be respected. I totally agree with the judgment. However, there are a few people who disagree with the judgment and they have reasons behind it. They say that the Supreme Court has gone beyond its powers and has no right to make this judgment. I personally have no problems against this statement.



## Weekly Selects

*The best articles, this week, from around the world*

*Academy Fight Song – Against the American College*

**The Baffler**

*The AK47 and the Kashmiri Boy*

**Tabletmag**

*A Declaration of Cyber War*

**Vanity Fair**

*460 Days in Captivity*

**The New York Times Magazine**

| Report |

# RSIS ROMANIA

*Lanka Adarsh reports on the RSIS trip to Romania in the holidays*

It's always one of the saddest things leaving behind the most amazing people in the most amazing country. Yes, there is always the sense of fulfillment, and I believe firmly that it is this sense of fulfillment that we will remember, no matter how many years come to pass. It seems like yesterday when I arrived in Cluj Napoca, Romania, not knowing what to expect. Soon enough, we had our first 'group' meeting. There was not a single person who was not enthusiastic and excited, even if it was in silence. On the 11th, we left for Baisoara, a village of about 2500 people, for which we were to build a Youth Community Center. On the 12th we examined the project site closely for the first time.

Progress was fast as well as of a sufficient quality. We were able to finish the exterior walls for the main building in about two days time (with a bit of help from the experts). Thereafter, we split into two groups.

One group was assigned the responsibility of finishing the interior walls of the main building, while the other worked on building a boiler room adjacent to the main building. And in such fashion, we finished these tasks (and hence the building) in good time before the mid-project break started.

The mid-project wasn't precisely true to its name. It was a phase of tired excitement that lasted a good three days, and relieved us from the monotony of project work. On the first day, we took a rather strenuous and taxing 11 kilometer hike. The second day involved a good seven hour bus ride to see The Bear Caves.

The third day was, by far, the most interesting of all on the mid-project break. The daughter of the Mayor of Baisoara was getting married, and we had been invited personally to witness the spectacle. We made our way into the Mayor's house (and later the community church) neatly dressed, combed, done up and mostly hungry. We left the church wiser and over-fed.

On the first day of the second half of project work, we salvaged as many rocks from the remains of the wall as time would allow us and arranged them in piles. We then started the actual work for the foundation by making a few long layers of stone and concrete. On the second day, we carried about 55-60 bags of cement, each weighing around 42.5 kilograms over a slope of 50 meters, using wheelbarrow and some serious strength. On the last day of project work ever, we completed the foundation, working an hour longer than we had actually planned. The rest of the day was spent getting ready for (and dreading) the four day long hike.

On the first day of the hiking phase, we walked 8.5 kilometres uphill to our campsite. On the second, we trekked up to a glacial lake 7 kilometres away, on the third we tried to conquer two peaks, but complications arose, as a result of which we had to return. The group simply could not wait to leave the next day. And so, in under 2.5 hours, we were at the pick-up point to be transported to a bigger bus (in two trips). After a 6-hour bus journey, we reached Brasov. We checked into our hostel at about 11:30 in the night, and feasted on pizzas for dinner. Cultural phase had begun.

We spent two nights at Brasov, visiting Bran Castle during the first full day of the cultural phase. On the second day we shopped and went sightseeing on the second day – in Sighisoara, a medieval town. An hour's bus journey took us to Malinkraff, where we stayed two nights. On the last day of the cultural phase, we took the dreaded 3-hour long bus ride to Cluj. After having an exquisite lunch, we made our way to Transylvania College for our last night together as a group. We put up skits, stuffed ourselves with food, did the group cheer one last time, and then said the first of many goodbyes to everyone.

The next morning, there were words of advice and consolation, and our final goodbyes.



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