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Scientifically Speaking

Shoumitra Srivastava reports on the proceedings of the Regional Round Square Conference held at RIMC from July 27-30

The fact that I was taking part in a Round Square Conference for the first time made me a bit nervous and also excited. The conference took place in RIMC, a school round the corner from Doon. It promised to be a good experience. The six of us, namely, Aashray Batra, Chandrachuda Shukla, Nilanjan Brahma, Nipun Mohan, Shashank Peshawaria and I, accompanied by MTS, set off on a journey to something which we knew nothing about.

There were nine schools taking part in the event, with one from Dubai. We familiarized ourselves with the campus and the delegates coming from various parts of the country. The sheer length of the conference was quite daunting. The theme to be discussed was 'Science for human excellence,' which involved talks by eminent environmentalists and scientists from all over the world; we also got a chance to interact with them on various occasions. Keeping in mind the topic of discussion, there was a display of models by the participating schools. Since most of our research was last-minute, we often had to extemporize. Missing PT was definitely covered up for by our sixteen km cycling expedition to the Kasiga School, one of the newly-established schools in the foothills of the Himalayas. Cycling downhill was thrilling, especially since the brakes had no effect on the winding roads! I personally enjoyed cycling with newly-made companions and got to know a bit more about their personalities and likings.

The RIMC cadets put up a cultural show for us where weeks of hard work and preparation paid off, and their dance troupe was the highlight of the show. We, too, put up an impromptu show and Shashank was heartily applauded for his rendition of *Raga Yaman*.

The fourth and final day included an excursion to Fatehpur, a village regularly visited by many DoscOs. I was especially proud when Dr. Anil Joshi, a prominent environmentalist, pointed out to the rest of the schools that the people of this village were now progressing to a more prosperous life after The Doon School began its social service projects there. He also noted that other schools should derive inspiration from The Doon School which was actively participating in social service.

From my point of view, the most fundamental part of each Round Square Conference is the interaction with students
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Debating SemiS

Bharat Ganju reports on the semi-final round of the senior Inter-House English Debates

The debate started off with the JAM session with an unusual range of topics, namely: *Downpour*, *Billboard*, and *Style*. Judging by the fact that the participants had only one minute to prepare, they all spoke exceedingly well. The chief reason why the contestants may have lost marks were when they ran out of ideas and/or ways of expressing them.

Vivaan Shah opened the JAM very confidently by telling us how billboards remind us of things we have to do and how expensive it is to advertise. Sachin Uppal, who talked on style acquainted us with how it projects a person's image and perspective. He also gave some pointers on how to look stylish. Anindya Vasudev, the last speaker of this round spoke about downpours and expanded the meaning to also include emotions.

The JAM round was followed by the Turncoat round, in which the speakers had to posit their arguments, both for and against the motion. Each of the topics were capable of being argued both ways. The great thing about such a round is that it makes the speaker present opposing viewpoints, and hence gives a true picture of his debating skill. The speakers all spoke with great passion and persuasion. Shikhar Singh's organised and structured argument, I think, appealed to the judges. His witty comments just put the icing on the cake, as he was, unanimously, adjudged the Best Speaker of the round.

The last round was the Face-off round, in which each speaker had to answer questions, apart from taking a stand on the issue at hand. The topic read: *Military training should be made compulsory for the youth of India*. Ashish Mitter's articulate speech and thoughtful dissection of the topic definitely turned this round to his favour. Saurav Sethia's debate was well-framed and his content was, I thought, managed well. The most impressive factor about Akshit Batra's debate was his delivery. More than his content, I think, it was his manner that won him his points.

I was surprised to note that the audience at the debate was far less than one would have expected, given the exciting nature of verbal duelling. I think it just reflects, to a certain extent, on how much interest we take in activities such as debating that are intellectually challenging.

REGULARS

RSC AT RIMC

Shoumitra Srivastava, Aashray Batra, Shashank Peshawaria, Nilanjan Brahma, Chandrachuda Shukla, and Nipun Mohan represented the school in the **Junior Regional Round Square Conference** held at RIMC from July 27 to July 30. They discussed 'Science for human excellence'. A report runs in this issue.

AWARDED

Aryaman Sengar and Tanveer Singh have been awarded their **Games' Blazers**. Congratulations!

DEBATING NEWS

Akshit Batra and Saurav Sethia represented the school in the **Inter-School English Extempore Debate** held at the Convent of Jesus and Mary on July 31. Ten schools participated and The Doon School was placed second in the debate. Well done!

In the semi-final round of the **Inter-House Senior English Debates** held on July 28, Hyderabad and Tata qualified for the finals. The following were adjudged **Best Speakers** in their respective rounds:

Vivaan Shah (**JAM**)

Shikhar Singh (**Turncoat**)

Ashish Mitter (**Face-Off**)

A report runs in this issue.

APPOINTED

With effect from August 1, Himmat Dhillon has been appointed **Head of the English Department**. Congratulations!

WELCOME

The community extends a warm welcome to Meenakshi Tripathi, who has been appointed **Dame of Hyderabad House**.

We also welcome Bradley Gill (**St. Philips College, Australia**), Harry Mc Hugh (**St. Edwards, England**), and Rahul Batta (**Southridge School, Canada**), the exchange students who will be with us for part of this term. We wish them a happy stay.

JUST FOR KICKS

The following soccer matches were played this past week:

School Team	Under 17
vs Staff (1-1)	vs Asian School (0-1)
vs Under 17 (5-0)	Mediums 1
vs Clement Town Club (4-1)	vs Juniors (6-0)

Vahin Khosla represented the Simla Youngs in the **Welsh International Super-cup**, held at Aberystwyth, Wales. The tournament took place from July 21 to 28. The team was eliminated early in the tournament. Vahin scored one of the three goals for the team. Well played!

CAREER CALL

The careers' notice board will focus on **The Indian Navy** as a career this week. All aspiring naval officers should drift towards it. The notice board will also feature **SAT** updates this week.

Opinion Poll

Do you think the dignity of Assembly is being compromised by the way it is being conducted in the CDH?



Yes
77%



No
23%

346 people participated in the poll

Next Week's Question: Do you think the six-year jail sentence given to Sanjay Dutt is a fair one?

Gastronome

This week, we will concentrate on eating hotspots in **Delhi**, as recommended by Avanindra Singh:

Nanking- There is more to Chinese than noodles and fried rice, and this is the perfect place to experience the delicious secret of Chinese food. *Must try: Corn curd, Mock chicken.*

China Club- The true flavours of China. *Must try: Double fried lamb, Salt and pepper prawns.*

Ego- The aroma of crispy crust and mozzarella wafting across the restaurant makes for an amazing Italian experience. *Must try: Thin crust Venetian pizza.*

Coriander Leaf- Mouth-watering Pakistani food and a breath-taking ambience ensures a great meal. *Must try: Lahori chicken, Patthar kebab.*

Rodeo- It brings the spices of Mexico to India. *Must try: Fajita, Cowboy chicken.*

Swagat- Welcome to the perfect non-veg South Indian restaurant. *Must try: Lobster in Lemon Butter with Appams.*

La Piazza- Overseen by an Italian chef, this restaurant's food is authentically Italian. *Must try: Pasta Bolognese, Pepperoni pizza.*

The Monk- A complete contrast of what the name suggests, it is an epicurean's paradise. *Must try: Chinese lamb, Mutton momos.*

Bukhara- The world famous Indian restaurant. *Must try: Dal Bukhara, Raan and naan.*

Have More- Once you eat here, you will want to have more. *Must try: Murg malai tikka, Brain curry.*

360- A classy multi-cuisine restaurant, it serves everything, from Italian to Japanese. *Must try: Sushi, Chilli sesame toast.*

Royal Dakshin- The perfect amalgam of sea-food and South Indian cuisine, this restaurant has a unique menu. *Must try: Prawn dosa, Chicken dosa, Fish Malabar.*

TGIF- Tex-Mex cuisine in a head-turning interior. *Must try: Spare ribs with apple sauce, Mud pie.*

Splroof- Sea-food haven in the land of tandoori cuisine. *Must try: Grilled prawns, Squid rings.*

Karim's- One of Delhi's culinary landmarks. *Must try: Barra kebab, Mutton ishtoo.*

India's Tryst with Destiny Walking an Environmental Tightrope

Skand Goel

Since 1947, a lot has changed about the way people perceive the environment. The responses to the idea of environmental problems, too, have mutated with time. What earlier was limited to saving trees, and later came to encompass large dams, agriculture and tribal people, has now infiltrated our daily lives in the form of consumerism and climate change. The emphasis has shifted from far-flung places to our very doorstep, and this transition has led to two assumptions about our future – one that is based on our fears, and the other, on our hopes.

Fear has induced a section of society to picture the result of environmental degradation as an apocalyptic end. Hope, on the other hand, manifests itself in Utopia – persistent optimism in the power of technology to help us cope with any impending disaster. It is needless to say that what we really need is a middle path. However, it is more essential to understand that actually achieving this balanced standpoint, walking this tightrope, becomes all the more difficult as political and other socio-economic concerns grasp national attention.

The environment has always been less significant as compared to matters such as caste and poverty, but it is vital to realize that it is one of the key factors underplaying these issues. In fact, historically, many of the great structural changes of modern India have coincided with major ecological watersheds. The first of these was the advent of railways and the start of scientific forestry in India that led to mass deforestation across the country and facilitated further exploitation of natural resources. The second, more recent one occurred when economist Norman Borlaug visited India, and Mexican 'miracle seeds' unveiled an agricultural revolution. The Green Revolution has left an indelible mark on the environment of the areas that it has, directly or indirectly, affected. The third is happening now, even without us realizing it, in our homes and workplaces. The burgeoning middle class is indulging itself in a sort of conspicuous consumption which is a potential threat to the environment, some of whose effects are already visible.

Looking at technology as a solution to environmental problems: if government-backed projects are considered, they are marred by obstructive bureaucracy and there is an obvious public distrust in them. The private sector, too, faces public distrust to some extent, though it is gradually reducing. But a greater deterrent to private sector initiative is government distrust. After all, sixty years ago, the man who headed our government, and did so for seventeen long and crucial years, was extremely suspicious of profits.

This twofold distrust has levelled the playing field for NGOs and people's groups that have entered, and are entering, into the business of protecting the environment, locally as well as globally. Many of these organizations are, however, advocates of the doomsday theory. This has driven public minds to put more faith in the idea of an apocalyptic calamity befalling the earth if we don't stop guzzling its resources.

While the willingness to leave nature to itself settles in our minds, we also demand further development. And, undoubtedly, improving the standard of living of millions who live in utter poverty, offering everyone better economic opportunities and seeing our nation developed is high priority on the country's agenda. The result: a creeping duality in public minds, a dilemma that the common man faces every day when he has to choose between lesser traffic congestion and roadside trees, a situation that almost guarantees inefficiency. If we are to find a final solution, it is the contradiction in our minds that has to be resolved. Again we come back to adopting a plan of action that is always easier said than done; the tightrope I mentioned earlier, a middle path.

The future still remains a bundle of questions that are easy to ask, and much more difficult to answer. There are certainties – we can anticipate the problems we will face; we can expect better solutions and easier implementation with the spread of knowledge and the growth of information; we can already see people coming together. It is also certain that politics and international relations will become the axis of a lot of environment-related policies, especially those having global implications such as climate change. But there will remain questions whose answers will be demanding; questions that will endlessly baffle us, the answers to which will always seem elusive.

Tricky Trivia

Vedant Chandra



Arrange seven coins such that they form six lines comprising three coins in each line.

**BOOT
+ BOND
= JAMES**



Replace each letter in the above equation with a digit from 0 to 9, so as to prove the equation true. Remember that each repeated letter carries the same value each time.

(contd. from page 1)

from various places across the globe. We were divided into different groups called Barazzas where each student was picked up from a different school so the interaction could take place on a more practical basis. In this way you get to learn about different cultures and customs, and on top of everything, their ways of life. We took part in various fun-filled activities such as horse riding, parasailing (our escort, MTS, too, tried this sport), and shooting, where we got to know each other both formally and informally.

The memories which I take back from this conference are of the chat sessions which took place in the dormitories, wandering around the RIMC campus and coming close to the army way of life (of the cadets), insightful speeches and friends I will never forget.

Viewpoint | Ad Addicts

Naman Goel

The 'idiot box' as it is called, is the favourite pastime of a majority of the large number of idiots we have in the world. And, just as the idiot population of the world is growing at an alarming rate, so is the idiocy of the 'idiot box'.

Whenever someone gets some free time, he panics as if it were the calamity of all calamities, till he gets the remote control in his hand and switches on the television, to watch something...anything. More often than not, this 'anything' consists of advertisements more than anything else. But, I'm not complaining. While the daily soaps move at a pace that would make even a snail feel fast, and reality shows have enough *dramabaazi* and tears to flood entire Mumbai even without the rains, it's the advertisements that give a break to our minds, which are so desperately looking for some entertainment. That is why it comes as no surprise, that people on the street are as fascinated by the ad jingles, as they are by the latest Bollywood hits.

There was a time, when the advertisements used to provide breaks between programmes, but today, they seem to have exchanged their roles. The viewers are mainly watching the ads. It is the programme that provides the breaks. The entertainment content of shows has got lost somewhere in the greed to make more money. And, so, we now get our entertainment from a different source.

After the overdose of advertisements on television, it isn't an easy thing to not get affected by it. Unknowingly, we're becoming like zombies under the control of advertisements. Whenever there is a new product in the market, the first thing we do is go try the product, because the ads look attractive and we just can't stop ourselves.

Instead of just a medium of communication, ads have become a way to brainwash society. Even in today's world, when it's been some time since man reached the moon, the country is full of superstitious people who have blind faith in virtually everything. These people are crazy enough to worship Bollywood stars, as if they were some holy deities, so its no wonder that they believe every word they say on television. If Amitabh Bachchan comes on the screen and says a particular hair oil is amazing, half the country will go buy it because he says so, and half of those would even like the oil just because Amitabh likes it! Common sense isn't all that common after all.

All of us may be really stupid when it comes to advertisements, but we like to believe otherwise. Personally, I like to believe that I only watch advertisements for their entertainment content. However, I cannot deny that I find

it a mammoth task to stop myself from trying every new product in the market, which has an attractive advertisement.

To sum it all up, I think that we should be more sensible while viewing advertisements, and not let them control us. I think that watching advertisements for their entertainment content is completely worth it. After all, what else is there on TV these days?

Poetry | A Question of Beauty

Rishiraj Neog

Mystical madness hovering around the sun.
An influx of its progeny,
Falls upon ripples, such as
Consequential when a stone is thrown directionlessly,
With precise carelessness, into a vast ocean;
Accepted much as an element of poison,
In a peaceful society;
It sets ablaze consecutive waves.
Fluttering darts of light,
Pierce our minds, giving rise to
Thoughtful arguments,
Whether it is the work of beauty,
Or the vacuum of our emotions.

Unquotable Quotes

Have you seen Pirates and the Order of the Phoenix?

Vansh Nathani, movie-masher.

Take physics in your ISC form and you will get a hundred percent.

Shreyardhan Swaroop, the diligent student.

Don't speak to me with that attitude full of voice.

Kaustubh Verma means business.

I have got Windows Advance SP.

Shekhar Bishnoi buys a new computer.

J.K. Rowling dies in the last Harry Potter.

Anant Jangwal, stricken by Potter mania.

Let me complete karne do!

PKN, the complete man.

I looks like Salman Khan.

Shoumitra Srivastava, hideously handsome.

I will shot you!

Abhijeet Karwa threatens.

You two of them.

Arafeen Chowdhary the gangster.

I have black holes under my eyes.

Ashwath Kunadi, spaced out.

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weekly@doonschool.com



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