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## On Your Mark...

*Vivek Santayana reviews the recently-concluded Inter-House Athletics Competition, 2008*

When I wonder which experience or which moment I will remember from this year's Athletics Competition, I realize that, in reality, there is not one specific moment, but the competition as a whole that was the highlight. I guess this athletics season, its surprises and all its disappointments, has tried, tested and exhausted me. We didn't get much practice. Personally, Founder's preparations had taken their toll, bearing further testimony to the fact that practically everything calendared was calendared to apparently test our stamina (no offence to anyone, it's just that things were so).

One quality of Doscos is to be able to pull off a good show or to pose stiff competition regardless of how little they practise. Did we train harder this year because, somehow, we realized in time that we didn't have much of it? Anyway, whatever little time we had with the track and the field, we managed to make good use of it. There is no doubt that the 800m run and 5000m run kept us either on the edge of our seats or cheering the participants. As for the sprints, they seemed to be over before you could even blink an eye. Regretfully, some participants failed to report at the venues on time. But, otherwise, the competition was most interesting. Pretty much all of us could feel the tension and the excitement from alongside the track. People standing up (whether they were allowed to or not) shouting "Pull!", then crossing their fingers and waiting till the end. For those of you who still think 'athly' is an individual sport, I could safely say that the sport may be individual, but to a Dosco, it's still a matter of the House. I guess one could say "That's the spirit." Every year, we have someone fighting injuries and physical limitations. Honestly, I feel it's less because they are forced to, and more because they are driven from within. Nonetheless, at the end of the fray, every athlete is congratulated, commended or consoled. I guess this is what makes losing a whole lot harder and winning a whole lot more memorable.

This year, we undoubtedly saw a lot of promise. Ambar Sidhwani was literally 'promised' that he would win the sprints. Piyush Upadhyay proved his mettle (and, above all, his endurance and will power), with his come-from-behind win of the 5000m run. That last leg, as I mentioned earlier, was intense, with Saarthak Singh losing out in the last few seconds. In the Mediums section, in most of the track events, Udai Bothra was everyone's bet. Quite obviously, he won his events hands down. Kabir Chatrath and Adhiraj Thakran jointly got a well-deserved Best Junior Athlete award. The same goes for Ayyappa Vemulkar and Amit Gupta, who too jointly won the Best Senior Athlete award. Amit Gupta won one of the most coveted trophies, the Pentathlon,

proving his mettle once again. On the whole, I guess the biggest surprise was that Tata House won – and most deservedly – the Marching Brownies. The cups went where they were supposed to. Govind Singh did lighten the mood, once in a while. But, nonetheless, as our Chief Guest put it (as every Chief Guest puts it, as a matter of fact), even those who were losing put in their hundred percent. As Hanumant Singh, the School Athletics Captain said, it's all about how well you can challenge your own limits.

On the track, I regret not being able to deliver. I wonder what makes it worse, the fact that I didn't deliver or that I could have. I'm pretty sure everyone would have had moments like this, moments of disappointment, moments of discovery. Each and every one of us must have learnt something, something that will stay longer than the memories of winning or losing. In the end, that's all that really matters.

### *The School Athletics Captain's Address, 2008*

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Athletics is a quint-essential sport that requires immense fitness, speed, stamina, agility, skill and above all the burning desire to succeed. This year at the 73rd Inter-House Athletics Championship, I can say that the standard of athletics breached horizons. We all have witnessed budding talent emerge and athletes putting in more toil and more grit than ever before.

Athletics is all about competing with your own body and taking it to its limit. Be it a field or track event like discus throw, long jump, a 100m or a 5000m race, results in athletics are defined by the effort and hard work put in them. It is only after months of hard work that one gets to reap the benefits in the form of podium finishes.

In addition, this year, the School Athletics Team will shortly be taking part in the District Athletics Meet at the Raipur Sports College. It is at these events that the best athletes of the School get to unleash their full potential.

I would now like to extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the field of Athletics - Mr Deepak Sharma, Mr Nitin Chauhan and Mr Michael James for their invaluable support, guidance and advice; all the masters-in-charge of various events, referees, time keepers and recorders for their efficiency, accuracy and help run this athletics championship smoothly. Thanks are also due to the ground *malis* for maintaining the fields in perfect condition; all the officials and the AV Squad for all their help. Sincere thanks to Colonel Pandey for getting us the band. I would also like to thank the Chief Guest, Mr Harbans Kapoor, for taking time out of his busy schedule and gracing us with his presence. Lastly, I would like to thank all the athletes themselves for their immense dedication to this sport. Thank you.

– Hanumant Singh

## Regulars

### DSIR 2008-09

The following are the appointments for the **Editorial Board** of the **DSIR** for the forthcoming year:

**Editor-in-Chief:** Yashwardhan Jain

**Senior Editor:** Aditya Sukhia

**Chief of Production:** Shoumitra Srivastava

**Associate Editors:** Uday Shriram, Vivek Santayana, Bharat Ganju, Shashank Peshawaria

**Correspondents:** Shashvat Dhandhania, Kanishka Malik, Shaurya Sinha

Congratulations!

### HOOPING HIGH

The following were the results in the **Inter House Basketball Competition, 2008:**

**Seniors:**

**1st:** Jaipur

**2nd:** Oberoi

**3rd:** Kashmir

**4th:** Tata and Hyderabad

**Juniors:**

**1st:** Oberoi

**2nd:** Kashmir

**3rd:** Tata

**4th:** Jaipur

**5th:** Hyderabad

### PT JERSEYS

The following were awarded the **PT Jerseys:**

Mehtab Singh Chima, Salil Gupta, Himmat Singh, Rishiraj Neog, Shantanu Garg and Akshit Batra.  
Congratulations!

### FLYING HIGH

Vishnu Mallik and Sookrit Malik have jointly been awarded the **Best Aeromodeller** for the year 2008.  
Kudos!

### Unquotable Quotes

*Karzzzzz is the English version of Godfather.*

**Akshay Nihalani**, definitely not a movie buff.

*Aren't there six quarters in a basketball match?*

**Kanishka Gupta** divides.

*He has a zero-calorie figure.*

**Saarthak Singh**, weight-watching.

*You don't have time to revision.*

**RLR** revises.

*His face has a deformality.*

**Divish Sabhlok** paints the picture of ugliness.

*He was established in 1929.*

**Abhishek Jain**, the historian.

*I was a playboy for the Indian Cricket Team.*

**DKM**, master 'blaster'.

*They walk around with topless banyans.*

**Shreyvardhan Swaroop** puts it fashionably.

*He got the Nobel Peace Prize for Literature.*

**DES** in a fix.

*Who's the toga?*

**Angad Bawa**, still wondering.

*You'll ask for have a bite.*

**Ayush Jain** soothsays.

*Can I have for a bite?*

**Ayush Jain**, unable to control hunger.

*Where is you right now?*

**Uma Shankar Goswami**, needs to find out.

*Flavius is the tributary of Rome.*

**Mukund Nyati**, changing courses.

### SPEAKING OUT

The following were the positions in the **Gombar Speech Trophy Contest** this year:

**Seniors:**

**1st:** Saksham Sharda

**2nd:** Saurav Sethia

**3rd:** Mansher Dhillon

Congratulations!

**Juniors:**

**1st:** Revant Nayar

**2nd:** Shashvat Dhandhania

**3rd:** Arjun Badal

### CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS

The following are the results of the **73rd Inter-House Athletics Competition, 2008:**

**Seniors:**

**1st:** Tata

**2nd:** Kashmir

**3rd:** Oberoi

**4th:** Jaipur

**5th:** Hyderabad

**Mediums:**

**1st:** Kashmir

**2nd:** Oberoi

**3rd:** Tata

**4th:** Hyderabad

**5th:** Jaipur

**Juniors:**

**1st:** Tata

**2nd:** Hyderabad

**3rd:** Jaipur

**4th:** Kashmir

**5th:** Oberoi

**The Marching Cake** was awarded to Tata House.

Ayyappa Vemulkar and Amit Gupta were jointly adjudged **Best Senior Athlete**.

Amit Gupta also won the **Pentathlon**.

Piyush Upadhyay won the **5000m Run**.

Kabir Chatrath and Adhiraj Thakran were jointly adjudged **Most Promising Junior Athlete**.

Well done!

### LIB COUNCIL

Pranjal Singh has been appointed **Secretary** of the **Library Council** for the forthcoming year. We wish him the best of luck for his tenure.

### LET'S RECYCLE

Amarinder Sodhi and Harnareh Singh have been appointed joint Boys-in-Charge of the **Paper Recycling SUPW** for the forthcoming year.

Congratulations!



### Opinion Poll

Do you think the Inter-House Boxing Competition should be held during the day, instead of in the evening?

**Evening 62%**

**Day-time 38%**

(324 members of the school community were polled)

| Poetry | Shashank Peshawaria

### Peace

Sounds of silence swirl in the air.

The mist is pale as fleece.

The doves above fly toward me,  
As to a distressed man comes peace.

### Squirrels

Quickly the squirrels cross the road,  
To bury their nuts in the garden grass.  
How they run back with equal speed,  
To seek more nuts once all men pass!

## The Headmaster's Address Founder's Day 2008

Lord Patten, Governors of the School, ladies and gentlemen, and students of The Doon School: Welcome to our Founder's Day celebrations. Let me begin with a brief introduction of the Chief Guest, Lord Patten. Lord Patten is currently Chancellor of Oxford University and of the University of Newcastle, and has had a most distinguished career in politics and public affairs. Lord Patten joined the Conservative Research Department, a think-tank for the Conservative Party in the UK, in 1966. In 1974, he became Director of the Department, the youngest person to hold that post; and in 1979, he was elected to Parliament as a Conservative Party MP, where he served for the next 13 years.

During this time, he held a series of senior positions in Conservative Party governments: Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Northern Ireland Office; Minister of State, Department of Science and Education; Minister for Overseas Development at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and Secretary of State for the Environment. In 1990, he became Chairman of the Conservative Party. Two years later, Lord Patten was asked to go to Hong Kong as Governor. The future of Hong Kong was a vital issue by this time. In 1997, he presided over the return of Hong Kong to Mainland China, a complicated task, both politically and diplomatically.

In 1997, in recognition of his astute handling of the Hong Kong issue, Lord Patten was made Chairman of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland, which was set up under the Good Friday Peace Agreement. In 1999, he became the European Commissioner for External Affairs: in effect, the Foreign Minister of the European Union.

Lord Patten has played a role in education. You will recall my saying that he was Minister of State in the Department of Education and Science. In 1999, he was elected Chancellor of Newcastle University, and in 2003 he became Chancellor of Oxford University. Lord Patten continues to be involved in international politics. In 2007, he was a founding member of the European Union on Foreign Affairs and became Co-Chair of the non-governmental organization, the International Crisis Group (ICG). He is also the UK Co-Chair of the Indo-UK Round Table.

Lord Patten is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, and Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, his old college. He has several books to his name, including: *The Tory Case, East and West*, and *Not Quite the Diplomat*. His newest book, *What Next?—Surviving the Twenty-First Century* will be published later this month. In 2005, Lord Patten was made a life peer and took his seat in the House of Lords.

May I also introduce the Board of Governors and welcome them to Founder's: Mr. Analjit Singh is Chairman of the Board of Governors. Dr. Krishnamoorthy Srinivas has helped the School with medical and counselling issues. Mr. Vikram Lal helps the School on human resources and finance issues. Mr. Vikram Mehta advises us on financial issues and Founder's Day. Mr. Mahesh Sahai helps the school with financial and tax matters. Mrs. Abha Adams, former Principal of the Shri Ram School, has brought to the Board her considerable experience in school education. Professor

A. Lakshminath, the nominee of the Association of Indian Universities and Vice Chancellor of the Chanakya Law School in Patna, has kept us abreast of higher education. Mr. Gautam Chadha is President of the Old Boys Society and a Special Invitee to the Board. He helps coordinate between the Old Boys and the School on a range of issues.

It is also a great pleasure to welcome all IPSS members, visiting parents, Old Boys, and other friends of the School. May I extend a special welcome to those Old Boys who have come to celebrate their jubilees and get-togethers. These are the batches of 1958, 1973, and 1983.

I would like to recognize my former teacher and a revered master of the School, Mr. Gurdial Singh, who is here every Founder's Day and is a most gracious and distinguished presence. I would also like to recognize my former teacher and legendary master, Mr. Sheel Vohra, who continues to assist and guide us. Finally, as always, may I welcome back into our midst my predecessor, Mr. John Mason, who is always supportive of the School and lends his energies and expertise to our cause.

The Annual Report, in its entirety, will be on the School website. I will, therefore, turn to some of the highlights of the year.

Let me begin with the Board examination results. We had an excellent year. The ISC batch averaged 87.14%, and 25 boys out of 67 scored over 90%. In the ICSE, we averaged 87.75%, and 46 boys out of 92 scored over 90%. Gaurav Sood topped the ISC batch with an average of 99% and was placed first in India. Vibhas Pahuja and Abhishek Sharma both got 96% in the ICSE and topped the ICSE batch.

The School began the IB Diploma in April 2007. We have made a reasonably good start. Boys and teachers alike are enjoying the challenge of the IB which is demanding and rigorous. Our first IB batch will take the examination in May 2009 and our second batch in May 2010.

College placements this year have been very good, with the majority of boys electing to stay in India, mostly in Delhi University, including St. Stephen's College and the Shri Ram College of Commerce. Seven boys went to engineering colleges including BITS Pilani and the Delhi College of Engineering. Two boys are in medical colleges and one has gone to the National Law School in Bhopal.

The other major college destinations have been the US, Canada and Singapore, with boys going to Yale University, New York University, Syracuse University, the University of Southern California, the University of California, Los Angeles, Georgia Tech, Ohio State, the School of Visual Arts, New York, McGill University, the University of Toronto, and National University, Singapore.

As important as academic excellence is excellence in sports and other co-curricular activities. It has been a busy and fulfilling year for the School in this regard.

In sports, we continue to excel at basketball. The School won the Win Mumby Tournament at Woodstock School, Mussoorie, beating a team from Delhi that had not lost a match in eight years! This is only the second time that Doon has won the tournament.

In cricket, the highlight of the year was our first-ever

*(contd. overleaf)*

tour of England. The school played Bedford, Charterhouse, Millfield, Oratory, St. Edward's, Stowe and Wellington. We beat Stowe, gave away winning positions in three other matches, and lost three outright. We hope to play in England again, but will be much more mindful of the schedule, which was too hectic – seven 40-over matches in twelve days!

Soccer is also very popular. Our school team had an excellent season, winning 11 matches and losing only 5. The boys played a stylish brand of football, with excellent passing, good movement off the ball, and some robust defence. I want to mention in particular the play of Ayyappa Vemulkar, Amit Gupta, and the captain, Rishab Bir Singh.

Tennis and the racquet sports continue to do well. In the 8th Uttarakhand State Ranking Tennis Tournament, we featured in the doubles and singles semi-finals. Shantanu Garg won the under-18 singles category. At the IPSC Badminton Tournament at Modern School, Barakhmaba Road, the School stood Second in the under-14 category.

Swimming and life saving are vital skills. In the inter-house swimming competition, eight records were broken this year—which, in itself, is probably a record! Amongst the seniors, Pratham Mittal, the school swimming captain, broke the 50 m backstroke record, and Dushyant Sapra set the record for the 200 m butterfly. The Jaipur House senior 4x100 m freestyle relay team broke a record that has stood for 15 years! Young Zorawar Whig set a record in the 50m backstroke. Our school swimming team won the Council's Swimming Meet for the third time in a row. In life saving, 6 boys became Life Guards and 14 became Life Savers under the Rashtriya Life Saving Scheme.

Art and music continue to flourish. You have seen the art exhibition earlier today. The art students went to various festivals and workshops and continue to experiment with materials and technique. Music attracts a large number of students. They are particularly drawn to Indian and Western percussion and stringed instruments.

Debating had an excellent year again. We thought we were in a rebuilding period, but our team continued to be finalists and to win debates. The inter-house debating format broadened the base of debating, bringing in a lot of new talent. Amongst the seniors, Abhaas Shah was a standout; and Saurav Sethia was a relentless force in the expansion of debating.

Our quiz team also rebuilt very quickly after last year's 'dream team' graduated. Armaan Malhotra, Gurbaaz Sidhu and Mansher Dhillon anchored this year's team.

The climax to the year's efforts was winning our own Chuckerbutty inter-school English debate, our own inter-school Hindi debate (the Kamla Jeevan), and the Doon School Quiz. This is the first time ever, as far as we can tell, that we have won all three in the same year!

The LAMDA Speech examinations attracted a large number of boys again: 29 boys got Distinctions and 45 got Merits in the Gold, Silver, and Bronze categories. The LAMDA examination is conducted by a special examiner who comes out from England.

The Model United Nations or MUN continues to attract a lot of students. The School held its own MUN which was attended by 16 schools and 150 delegates from various parts of India and involved nearly 200 of our boys in various capacities. Doon went to the international MUN in

Sri Lanka and came back with a bagful of awards. The junior boys went to Cathedral School, Mumbai, and stood second in the competition. In the coming years, we will go to more international MUNs and hold an international assembly ourselves.

Our publications continue to grow. We have over one dozen publications if you include the House magazines, and more than a hundred boys are involved in publishing.

The School continues to be active in mountaineering. Five boys and two masters went to Rumbak and Tsailung in Ladakh in December 2007 and climbed a pass at over 16,000 feet. This summer, fifteen boys and four masters went to the Everest Base Camp and Kala Pathar, both of which are over 16,000 feet high.

The list of House and individual awards this past year, as always, is lengthy. Let me just report two items, the Scholars' Blazer and the Games' Blazer.

The following were awarded the Scholar's Blazer: Vivaan Shah, Ramakrishna Pappu, Gaurav Sood, Eshaan Puri, Chinmay Sharma, Mehul Goyal, Nikunj Nagalia, Tushar Raturi, Arpit Panjwani, Dilsher Khanna, Saksham Sharda, Abhaas Shah, Ankur Saxena, Shantanu Garg, Ayyappa Vemulkar, Akshit Batra, Dilsher Dhillon, Salil Gupta, Pranjal Singh, and Vibhas Pahuja.

The Games' Blazer went to the following: Chitwanjot Singh, Aryaman Sengar, Anirudh Kapur, Eeshaan Puri, Rishab Bir Singh, Keshav Prasad, Amit Gupta, Ayyappa Vemulkar, Vishesh Kocher, Himmat Singh, Shantanu Garg, Saket Mahajan, and Ambar Sidhwani. Four boys won both the Scholar's and Games' Blazer: Dilsher Khanna, Eeshaan Puri, Ayyappa Vemulkar and Shantanu Garg. They join an elite group of 16 other boys who have won both blazers since the Scholar's Blazer was instituted 37 years ago.

The School continues to be involved in a variety of social and community service projects: village development is our biggest commitment, but we also work with the elderly, with the mentally challenged, and with leprosy rehabilitation. Over the past year, we have sent boys abroad as well—to Kenya and Thailand—to do community service. The most important new initiative this year has been to begin work in the slum areas of Dehra Dun. We are working with the Gyanoday Trust, run by Avinash Alag, an Old Boy from Meerut, to establish a school for slum children. We will help fund the teachers at the school and will send Doon School teachers in the afternoons to do some teaching and to work with the local teachers. The Doon School is very much a part of Dehra Dun, and while we have been working in neighbouring villages since 1937, it is time to be more involved in the city which is our home. You will be glad to know also that, as in the past, we have responded to national emergencies. The boys and staff contributed towards the Prime Minister's Fund for Bihar through their pocket money and salaries, respectively. They stopped eating all desserts for a week and ate simpler food. The savings from these meals were part of the School's contribution to the relief fund. In addition, we have contacted the Bihar Government and local NGOs to see how staff and students can do rehabilitation work in the December holidays.

Ladies and gentlemen, students: that ends my review of some of the highlights of the year. I want to conclude with

my thanks to those who have helped the school. This year the School has attracted a number of generous donations. I would like to take this opportunity to express our very great thanks for these gifts, including from the Class of 1983. I also want to thank the Class of 1982 who have handed over their final contribution just a couple of hours ago! Three years into our fundraising programme, we have received Rs. 17 crores or 170 million, from our Old Boys and from corporate houses.

Before I close, may also I take this opportunity to thank the entire Doon School community for its cooperation and good humour: the students, who are the life and soul of the School, my colleagues on the teaching staff, who are tireless and dedicated to the cause, Housemasters and Deans, without whom there would be no residential life, the Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Philip Burrett, who does so much with good humour and sympathy, the Heads of Department who look after academic life, the Head of Administration, Head of Finance, Head of Human Resources, and Head of Projects who allows us to get on with schoolmastering. A profound thanks also to the administrative, technical, and subordinate staffs, who serve the School with such diligence and affection. Finally, there is the Hospital staff and the School Doctor who have coped marvellously with all the sickness that has hit the School this term.

This year we would like to give special thanks to those teachers who have been with us for many years. Traditionally, we at Doon have not recognized long-serving masters in any formal way. The Board of Governors felt that the time had come to acknowledge those who have contributed so much to the School and to do so in front of the entire community.

The Board has instituted three long-service awards: a 30-year, 25-year, and 20-year award. Today, we honour six teachers who, between them, have given nearly 150 years of service to the School. I will ask them to come up, one by one, but before they do so, I would like to say a few words about each of them—I say “a few words” because I know anything more will embarrass them!

In the 30-year category, we have Mr. S.D. Bhatia and Mr. M.C. Joshi. Mr. Bhatia teaches Mathematics, has been Head of Department and a Housemaster, and looked after hockey for many years. Mr. M.C. Joshi teaches Hindi, has been Head of Department and a Housemaster, is currently Dean of Social and Community Service, and has looked after STAs and plantation on the estate.

In the 25-year category, we have Mr. D.C. Bhatkoti. Mr. Bhatkoti teaches Biology, is Head of the Science Department and has been a Housemaster, and has looked after the ICSE and plantation on the estate.

In the 20-year category, we have three teachers: Mr. Philip Burrett, Mr. Deepak Sharma, and Mr. P.K. Nair. Mr. Burrett teaches Geography (but has also taught English), has been a Housemaster and Dean of Student Welfare, has looked after cricket, soccer and athletics, and, for the past three years, has been Deputy Headmaster. Mr. Deepak Sharma teaches Economics, is Head of Department and also Dean of Sports, is an avid sportsman, and has looked after squash. Mr. P.K. Nair teaches Geography, is Dean of Studies, has been involved in social and community service, and looks after student admissions.

May I now ask the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Analjit Singh, to address you.

## High Hoops

*Arjun Parmar and Arifeen Chowdhury report on the Inter-House Basketball Competition, 2008*

Basketball is one of the most entertaining and popular sports in school. It is also a sport which requires immense dedication and practice. There was certainly no shortage of either when the teams took centrestage for this year's competition. The Inter-House Basketball Competition helps to fish out new talent and this year we reeled in a very large catch. This year we witnessed new levels of fitness and skill, mainly due to the vigorous practices held by the House teams well in advance. With the teams finally ready, come end October, the competition began. As in most sports in School, each team had its fair share of stars, both in the senior and junior categories. With both cups up for grabs, every match was played with extreme intensity and determination. Every point was crucial towards attaining victory. As expected, Jaipur dominated in the senior category, mostly due to the indomitable duo of Rishab Bir Singh and Ayyappa Vemulkar.



They were given a good fight by all teams but did not disappoint, even when they came up against other senior players like Shaleen Chikara, Pranav Kapur, Shivam Nagalia, Pururava Jamwal or Shivaj Neupane. Rishabh Chatterjee and Aseem Kumar who were participating in the senior category for the first time also impressed the crowds with their skills. Jaipur emerged victorious in the senior category. Some matches in the senior category were eye-openers for the juniors, showing what hard work and dedication can do. The standard of the game in the juniors category only shows that we can expect great things in the future. Tushar Gupta and Anmol Jamwal took Kashmir House to four Juniors A victories. Jaipur, Hyderabad, and Tata posed a big threat but the cup was to be decided between Kashmir and Oberoi at the end. After their domination in Juniors A, Kashmir had high hopes of winning the Junior Cup for the third time in a row, but it was stolen from under their noses by Oberoi. Their consistent Juniors B team along with their Juniors A team took home the cup. Incidentally, the victor was to be decided on the last day of the competition by the final fixtures of both sides. After winning the cup you could see the ecstasy on the winners' faces and the agony on the faces of their opponents. Many new juniors tried out which is a positive sign for the future. Refereeing in this competition was very fastidious and maintained a high level of discipline. This year's Basketball Competition has really raised the bar of basketball played in School and bodes well for the future.

## तन्हाई

तरंग खुराना

पैरों के नीचे गीली रेत,  
हराबर में फैला विराट सागर,  
सोचूँ मैं....  
गहरा मेरा मन या यह सागर?  
लाचार भटकता हुआ यह तन,  
वेबसी में डूबा  
तड़प रहा है, डूब रहा है।  
कहते हैं -  
कुछ पाने के लिए  
कुछ खोना भी पड़ता है।  
जीवन के संघर्ष में बहुत खोया  
और बहुत पाया भी,  
मगर अंतिम क्षणों में कुछ साथ होता है,  
तो बस -  
तन्हाई!

## साक्षात्कार

(इस सप्ताह हम साक्षात्कारों की श्रृंखला प्रारम्भ कर रहे हैं। हमारे नवोदित पत्रकार शिवांक सिंह ने इस बार श्री हम्माद फारुकी का साक्षात्कार लिया। कुछ व्यक्तिगत प्रश्न पूछे तो कुछ आज के समय के ज्वलंत प्रश्न भी पूछे। उस साक्षात्कार के महत्वपूर्ण अंश यहाँ दिए जा रहे हैं)

प्रश्न - आपको स्कूल काफी समय हो चुका है। इतने वर्षों में स्कूल में कुछ बदलाव तो आये ही होंगे, उनके बारे में कुछ बताइये।

उत्तर - स्कूल में काफी बदलाव आये हैं। बाहरी बदलाव सी. डी. एच. से लेकर मार्टिन हाउस तक आये हैं। बातचीत और शिष्टाचार में भी बदलाव आया है। अब छात्र पहले से ज्यादा अनौपचारिक हैं, अब उनका व्यवहार ज्यादा सहमतिपूर्ण नहीं है। उनकी भाषा में भी बदलाव आया है, जो कि अब पहले से ज्यादा बिगड़ गयी है। छात्र अब अपने बचपन का लुफ्त सही तरीके से नहीं उठाते। ऐतिहासिक मिडटर्म का भी मज़ा नहीं लेते। और तो और अब तो बच्चे डी. फॉर्म से ही परिपक्व होने लगते हैं जो कि बहुत जल्दी है। अब बच्चों की शरारतों पर भी हँसी नहीं आती क्योंकि उनमें अब सहजता

की कमी दिखाई देती है।

प्रश्न - आप स्कूल और परिवार के बीच इतने समय तक संतुलन बनाकर कैसे चल पाये?

उत्तर - देखिये, पहली बात तो यह है कि मैं और मेरी पत्नी दोनों ही शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में ही कार्यरत हैं। बच्चे भी दून स्कूल में ही पढ़े हैं इसलिये परिवार और स्कूल के बीच संतुलन बनाना थोड़ा आसान रहा। मुझे कभी बच्चों से खीझ होती है पर, कभी उनपर क्रोध नहीं आता।

प्रश्न - स्कूल में आपको क्या अच्छा लगा और क्या बुरा लगा और क्यों?

उत्तर - अच्छी बात तो यह है कि बच्चों की सोच रचनात्मक होती है और इसी कारण अध्यापक भी हमेशा उनसे कुछ न कुछ सीखते ही रहते हैं।

कमियाँ ये हैं कि सरलीकरण और सतहीपन से यहाँ संतोष है। मिडटर्म लोग मज़े के लिये नहीं आई.ए.वाई.पी. के लिये करते हैं। इसी तरह हर कार्य के पीछे एक उद्देश्य रहता है। लेकिन फिर भी दून स्कूल सर्वश्रेष्ठ है, और बच्चों की रोच और अधिक व्यापक हो सकती है।

प्रश्न - आपकी ज़िन्दगी में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण क्या है?

उत्तर - मेरी ज़िन्दगी में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण है कि हम ईमानदारी, खुशी और आत्मसम्मान के साथ जी सकें।

प्रश्न - आपके अनुसार किसी का जीवन कैसा होना चाहिये?

उत्तर - मेरा मानना है कि एक आदमी को जीवन में अपने प्रति ईमानदार होना चाहिये। उसे अपना आचरण ऐसा रखना चाहिये जिससे जो उसे प्राप्त हो वो दूसरों को भी प्राप्त हो सके। उससे दूसरों को भी खुशी और फायदा हो और उसे बच्चों की शरारतों पर भी मुस्कुराना चाहिये।

प्रश्न - आपने अपने जीवन में जो चीज़ें किया है, क्या आप उनसे संतुष्ट हैं?

उत्तर - जी हाँ, मैं पूरी तरह संतुष्ट हूँ।

## मुट्टी भर चाँदनी

उमा शंकर गोस्वामी

मैंने मुट्टी भर चाँदनी माँगी थी,  
तपते अंगारे मिले,  
मैंने स्वतंत्र वायु में साँस लेनी चाही थी,  
खिड़की - विहीन कोठरी मिली।  
मैं खग सम उड़ान भरना चाहता था,  
मेरे पंख कतर दिये गये।  
आसमान में  
अपनी स्वतंत्रता के परचम  
लहराने थे मुझे,  
ख़ाई में धकेल दिया गया।।  
मैंने शीतला गंगा में स्नान किया,  
पापनाशिनी की स्तुति भी की थी,  
पाप की कीचड़ में सना बाहर आया।  
जो मांगा छिन गया मुझसे,  
तब अहसास होता है कि जो मांगू वही न मिलेगा  
इसीलिये अब मन में अंगारे मांगता हूँ,  
ताकि मुट्टी भर चाँदनी मिले...।।

## मानसिक दृढता

अदिति जोशी

पुरानी कहावत है - हारिए न हिम्मत विसारिए न राम, अर्थात् किसी भी कार्य को करने के लिए हिम्मत और ईश्वर पर भरोसा आवश्यक हुआ करता है। इन दोनों के लिए ही मानसिक दृढता भी आवश्यक होती है, विशेष रूप से हिम्मत तो बिना मानसिक दृढता के बनी ही नहीं रह सकती।

मेरा मानना है कि जीवन में सफलता के लिए मानसिक दृढता होना बहुत ज़रूरी होता है। चाहे यह सफलता किसी छोटे से काम में हो या किसी विराट क्षेत्र

में, मानसिक दृढ़ता एक आवश्यक गुण है। जैसे तो सफलता पाने के साथ साथ असफलता को सहने के लिए भी मानसिक दृढ़ता समान रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है। आदमी का दृढ़ मस्तिष्क उसे हर परिणाम के लिए तैयार रखता है, चाहे वह हार हो या जीत हो। सच्ची मानसिक सफलता सुख और दुःख में समभाव रहना ही है। एक हार से मनुष्य दूट जाता है तो भविष्य में जीत की सम्भावना ही धूमिल हो जाती है।

सफलता हर प्राणी के लिए जीवन दायिनी शक्ति होती है। सफलता के भी कई अर्थ हैं, कुछ लोगों के लिए अमीर होना सफलता है तो कुछ लोगों के लिए सुख - चैन और स्वस्थ शरीर के साथ जीवन बिताना ही सफलता है। मेरे विचार में सफलता की एक सामान्य परिभाषा इस प्रकार हो सकती है - अपने इच्छित लक्ष्य को पाना ही सफलता है।

सफलता पाने का अकेला रास्ता है जी तोड़ मेहनत और इसके लिए चाहिए मानसिक प्रबलता। अब एक प्रश्न पूछा जा सकता है कि मानसिक प्रबलता क्या है? मानसिक प्रबलता मनुष्य की इच्छाशक्ति का ही दूसरा नाम है। मानसिक दृढ़ता सकारात्मकता को जन्म देती है जो प्रगति का कारण बनती है। कुछ लोगों का यह भी मानना है कि सफलता के लिए मानसिक प्रबलता के स्थान पर परिश्रम और प्रतिभा का होना जरूरी होता है। पर, परिश्रम करने की दृढ़ता भी मानसिक प्रबलता के बिना विकसित नहीं हो सकती है? रही बात प्रतिभा की तो वह भी बिना परिश्रम के मनुष्य को नहीं पहचानती।

मानसिक प्रबलता के बिना मनुष्य कहीं नहीं पहुँच सकता। इसका एक उदाहरण हम सभी की जानकारी में है, गाँधीजी को दक्षिणी अफ्रीका में बहुत सताया गया। कोई और होता तो दूट जाता, पर गाँधीजी भारत लौटे और देश को आतताइयों से आज़ाद कराया। स्टीफन हार्किंग जो कि बचपन से ही शारीरिक रूप से विकलांग थे और उनमें प्रतिभा भी थी जिसे उन्होंने अपनी मेहनत और मानसिक दृढ़ता के बल पर विकसित किया और उस मुकाम पर पहुँचे जो किसी भी वैज्ञानिक का सपना होता है।

इसी लिए मेरा मानना है कि बिना मानसिक मज़बूती के कोई भी कभी भी लगातार सफल नहीं हो सकता।

## प्राइवेट आउटिंग

कार्तिक शर्मा

क्या जूते पॉलिश हैं? नया वाला पर्फ्यूम है ना? इन्हीं प्रश्नों को लेकर शुठ होता है एक डॉस्को प्राइवेट आउटिंग का दिन। इस दिन को लेकर हर एक सीनियर डॉस्को (दसवीं कक्षा से लेकर बारहवीं कक्षा तक) बहुत उत्सुक होता है। मैं अपने लेख में एक आदर्श डॉस्को आउटिंग के बारे में बताने की कोशिश करूँगा।

चार या पाँच लोगों का दल, और जब में कुछ सौ रुपये लेकर हम (डॉस्को) स्कूल से खाना होते हैं। ऑटो वाला केवल पच्चीस रुपये में कृष्णा पैलेस एवं प्रभात तक और चालीस में न्यू अंपायर तक पहुँचा देता। पहुँचने पर पिक्चर शुठ होने वाली ही होती है, इसीलिये ज्यादा देर तक इंतजार करने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती। फिल्म डॉस्को आउटिंग का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा होती है। अगर फिल्म

अच्छी है तो हम आउटिंग को 'रॉकिंग' मानते हैं और अगर वह अच्छी नहीं है तो हम उसे 'वेल्ला' मानते हैं। फिल्म करीब दो बजे तक खत्म हो जाती है और इस समय तक सबके पेट में चूहे कूद रहे होते हैं। डॉस्कोज की खाने की जगहें निर्धारित हैं। पीज्जा हट या फिर प्रेसिडेंट में से किसी एक जगह पर हम जाते हैं। इन जगहों पर तो ऐसा लगता है कि पूरा सी. डी. एच. ही यहाँ पर आ गया हो। ऐसा इसलिये क्योंकि सारे डॉस्को इन्हीं जगहों पर आते हैं।

इसके बाद डॉस्कोज के पास खाली समय होता है। इस समय का उपयोग हम सामाजिकता निभाने में करते हैं। मेल-जोल बढ़ाने का इससे अच्छा अवसर कहाँ हो सकता है। कुछ लोग इस समय में बरिस्ता और सी. सी. डी. जैसी जगहों के चक्कर काटते रहते हैं। स्कूल जाने की उस समय तक कोई सोचता भी नहीं। अंत में बचे खुचे पैसों को जहाँ तहाँ खर्च करके हम स्कूल के लिये खाना होते हैं अगली आउटिंग की प्रतीक्षा में लग जाते हैं।

## आतंक की कहानी

ऐश्वर्य करण

आँसू की हर एक बूँद से,  
खून की हर एक लकीर से छोड़ गया न जाने,  
कोई कितने निशान,  
मिट्टी की मीठी खुशबू से, पानी की लहर से,  
मिटा गया न जाने कोई कितनी मुस्कान।  
रात के सन्नाटे में,  
सूरज की कड़कती धूप में,  
फटे पुराने कपड़े पहने,  
निकल पड़ा एक राही,  
तलाशने खोई यादों की पहचान,  
रेत न भुला पाती,  
उसके पंजों के निशान।  
गली शहर बस्ती न भूल पाते,  
उसकी करतूतों के अंजाम,  
मारामारी, धोखा, पैसे की बीमारी,  
और घर की किरायेदारी,  
ले गयी उसे जाने किस ओर,  
मेल-मिलाप हो गया अंधेरे से,  
बेच डाली अपनी आत्मा उसने,  
बेच डाला अपना सम्मान।  
दिमाग पर हुआ,  
कुछ ऐसा असर जिसका दर्द,  
महसूस होता था रात-भर।  
मानी न उसने एक बात और,  
चुपचाप बन बैठा दर्द का बाशिन्दा,  
जग-जग कर रात भर की उसने तैयारी,  
कि कैसे मचाये तबाही।  
अगले ही दिन खबर आयी,  
आतंक के नंगे नाच की।  
किसी ने कुछ दिन बाद देखा,  
खून के दागों के बीच,  
बने उन रेतीले निशानों को,  
जिन्हें छोड़ गये हैं,  
एक जोड़ी पाँव कहीं।

## More than 'Mugging'

*Revant Nayar responds to Vivek Santayana's 'Mugged Up', published in Issue No. 2202, by saying that we are being too critical of the Indian educational system*

Issue number 2202 of *The Doon School Weekly* featured an article titled 'Mugged Up', which expounded a notion that many Indians today bear. It is a belief which has been voiced quite often, especially in the recent past. And the misconception is that the Indian educational system is completely rote-based, and that it suppresses free thinking, reasoning and originality. This is a sweeping statement and one that does not stand up to scrutiny. True, the system has its own strengths and its own flaws, its own pluses and minuses. Yet, does it deserve all the criticism that we choose to heap upon it? Think about it. Today, many people may tell you that ours is a system which deals solely with the acquisition of factual knowledge. They may tell you that it fails to promote reasoning and a questioning attitude in students. A rather convenient assumption. To all those of you who have blindly chosen to believe, let me ask you to take a look around you. No piece of knowledge is imparted to the students without sufficient reasoning to support it. Agreed, an Indian student may be required to cram a statement or a concept. But not without also being required to know its causes and effects, as well as sufficient examples from his life which will support the assertion.

Unlike many other systems, the Indian system is known to be methodical and organized. Notice, with hardly any exceptions, how neatly and concisely everything in your ISC or ICSE textbook is arranged. Education is imparted to the Indian child systematically and logically, something which gives rise to a high degree of skill at logic-oriented professions, such as software engineering. A large number of Indian students excel in the sphere of mathematics and that is due to their ability to reason logically; to be able to derive conclusions from the given axioms. Through this system, Indians learn to draw meaning out of complex data and information provided to them, and to think analytically. Hence, the assertion that the Indian system of education does not provoke thought at all, is hardly true. As a matter of fact, it is just a casual oversight of the many benefits of the Indian system.

The truth is that the ISC allows the student to specialize in their own fields and to drop others. And it is highly prudent of them not to 'experiment' with their subject choices and consequently risk pursuing an inappropriate academic course at college level and beyond. It is the tried and tested path that ensures a safe, successful life. Moreover, activities such as debating, working for the *Weekly*, and Model United Nations are skills that supplement classroom education. These have to be carried on alongside academics, but cannot substitute it. Just

as you do not study while debates are going on, you do not debate while the examinations are on. It is but natural and correct. The major advantage of the system, however, is that it induces a relatively larger amount of diligence and sincerity in the student, and this unconditional habit of working hard is what he carries with him for the rest of his life. Indians working abroad are widely known for their industrious habits; more so than most others.

To call the system completely obsessed with only learning the facts would also be a hasty assumption. Students in India study the works of the greatest writers and poets, and are supposed to discover their own interpretations of these. Ask any Board examiner. They will probably tell you that the Board indeed does encourage unconventional ways of interpreting literature. We say that the Indian system suppresses creativity, but the fact is that an increasing number of Indians have begun to write in both English and Hindi, and very successfully at that. The most notable of the recent authors are perhaps Amitav Ghosh, Samit Basu, Arundhati Roy and Aravind Adiga. Moreover, Indian creativity also reflects in the movies made by Indian directors and producers, as well as the advertisements on television; all products of the innovation that flourishes under the current system of education. If you think that the Indian systems of education shape one into a conforming and unthinking individual, then think again. I would like to refer again to that article. Alluding to us Indians, it stated "We learn to know, and not to grow." We acquire knowledge, learn how to apply it, and also learn to think and innovate. How then do we not grow?

\* \* \*

| Poetry |

## Empty Philosophy

Arjun Badal

Sometimes while thinking,  
I am hit by a vague, philosophical thought.  
It does not concern my chain of thinking,  
Yet I plunge into its deep abyss.  
Abysmal, because my thinking,  
Proves to be but empty.  
Instead of enlightening me,  
It dims me with ambiguity.  
It makes me sit and wonder,  
Why did I think this?  
When will I get an answer?  
What will happen if I don't?  
Will I forever be cast in this ignorance?  
And I experience thought after thought,  
Without any retort,  
And finally give up, saying  
"I'll think about this later."

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