

Largest ever 10th Annual Doon School MUN Conference begins

By OUR STAFF
REPORTER

DEHRADUN, 12 Aug: In its 10th session, the annual Doon School Model United Nations Conference kicked off on Friday. MP Pawan Verma was the Chief Guest and the opening ceremony was attended by Headmaster Matthew Ragget, Phillip Burret, PK Nair, P Malaviya and the organiser, Mohit Sinha.

Pawan Verma, currently representing Bihar in the Rajya Sabha and a former IFS officer, enlightened the audience with his comments on the foreign



affairs of India, and the experience he had amassed throughout his career. The audience was impressed with the profundity of Verma's speech and his responses to questions during the ensuing interactive session.

Over 450 student delegates from 45 schools across India and abroad are participating in the conference, making it the biggest such event held at the school to date.

The day began with the

Plenary Session, which followed the arrival of delegates. The Secretary-General of the Conference, Ishaan Kapoor, warmly welcomed all participants and guests in addition to introducing the Committee Chairpersons. Following this, all delegates were escorted to their committee chambers where they promptly began discussions on their topics. The day saw a wide variety of motions being raised for debate, ranging from the ongoing dispute in the South China Sea to human rights violations in the Middle East, to

— in a Historical Committee — actions taken by Nazi Germany over 70 years ago! On the whole, delegates appeared comfortable while participating in these debates despite the numerous challenges posed to them.

Owing to evening showers, the audience was provided an entertaining performance by the host school.

The delegates retired for the night with plans to prepare for more sessions the following day, where their knowledge, skill at lobbying and overall diplomatic acumen will be further tested to its greatest limits.

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Dehradun

10th Doon School MUN Conference begins today

By OUR STAFF REPORTER DEHRADUN, 11 Aug: The 10th Doon School Model United Nations Conference starts on 12 August in the Multi Purpose Hall.

The Chief Guest on the occasion will be Pawan Verma, ex-Ambassador and Rajya Sabha Member. As many as 35 schools from India and abroad with 410 delegates are participating.

The Doon School Model United Nations Conference is India's biggest and most reputed high school MUN conference. Inaugurated in 2007, the Doon School Model United Nations Society has consistently hosted a series of annual engaging, entertaining and intellectually

stimulating conferences, with each leaving a unique legacy behind it. Ranked amongst the top 25 high school MUN conferences in the world by BestDelegate.com, DSMUN has grown to be one of the key entries in every MUNning calendar. DSMUN has a history of attracting the best of, both, the Indian and the international delegates from the Pan-Asiatic Region. Over the years, DSMUN has never failed to surprise, with an array of committees ranging from the orthodox to specialised and unconventional simulations, from the regional to the international and covering a range of time periods.

दून स्कूल में मॉडल यूएन शुरू

देहरादून। दून स्कूल में शुक्रवार को दसवें मॉडल यूनाइटेड नेशन सम्मेलन शुरू हो गया। सम्मेलन का शुभारंभ बिहार के राज्य सभा सांसद पवन वर्मा ने किया। लेखक, राजनीतिज्ञ व भूटान में भारत के राजदूत रहे पूर्व आइएफ एस वर्मा ने विदेश नीति पर भावी पीढ़ी का ज्ञानवर्धन किया। उन्होंने अपने जीवन के अनुभवों को आधार बना कई महत्वपूर्ण बातें साझा की। आयोजन में देश-विदेश के 45 स्कूलों से 450 छात्र प्रतिनिधि हिस्सा ले रहे हैं। जिनके यहां ज्ञान व सृजनशीलता के दर्शन होंगे। प्रथम दिन महासचिव ईशान कपूर ने सभी प्रतिभागियों का गर्मजोशी से स्वागत किया। इसके बाद विभिन्न समितियों के अध्यक्षों का परिचय कराया गया। प्रतिभागियों ने कई वैश्विक व समसामयिक मुद्दों पर चर्चा की। दक्षिण चीन सागर, मिडिल ईस्ट में मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन, इतिहास में दर्ज जर्मनी में नाजी जनसंहार सहित कई मसलों पर बात हुई। अंत में मेजबान स्कूल ने सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से प्रतिभागी छात्रों का मनोरंजन किया। इस दौरान स्कूल हेडमास्टर मैथ्यू रग्गेट, फि लिप बर्रेट, पीके नायर, पीयूष मालवीय, मोहित मौजूद रहे। ब्यूरो

'There is no financial barrier in way of coming to Doon School'

JASKIRAN CHOPRA ■
DEHRADUN

The Doon School's new headmaster, Matthew Raggett says that for meritorious students, joining the Doon School need not be an impossibility due to financial constraints.

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer* here on Monday, he said that almost half the boys at the Doon School receive some financial aid which may include scholarships and bursaries. "These bursaries help the boys travel to and from the school, get uniforms and go on school trips," said the new headmaster. "Some students receive complete bursaries while 47 per cent students receive aid. We wish to raise this to 50 per cent."

He said teachers and other students did not know which of the students were receiving this financial aid. He said that the fact that students were being aided financially broke the myth that only the children of the rich and elite could find admission here.

Raggett said that from April 2017, the school would be intro-



ducing the two-year IGCSE programme of Cambridge to replace the ICSE programme. "For this, we will need to pay more attention to the teaching of French, Spanish and German and also create a new time-table. Class nine will begin with this programme in April next year."

Describing the school as a "tranquil paradise", he said that he had been mostly in office since the day he arrived here (July 11). "I have been around the city a bit and found it quite interesting and dynamic. I look forward to some mountain biking as soon as I can get some time out," said Raggett who is a keen mountain biker.

A passionate teacher, Raggett has some refreshing

views some of which he shared with this correspondent. He said he was completely against the idea of "holiday homework" and felt that the best ways for students to spend their holidays was with their parents "on a holiday".

"If we make the children work all year round, they will burn out. We do not want tired and unhappy students as that would not make for a proper foundation for good learning", said the headmaster. "Holidays cannot be called holidays if they are spent in tuitions".

He said parents should trust the teachers in school completely and avoid resorting so much to tuitions.

The headmaster said the founder's day celebrations of

the school would be held from October 22 this year. A Hindi play "Muafza" was being prepared by the boys for the celebrations.

Raggett recently assumed office and has brought with him vast experience in international education which spans over twenty years in various capacities and countries. He said he was offered this position in October 2015 and was sure he would take it.

He said he had great regard for the value system of The Doon School and was happy to share it. "The Doon School works at making students go ahead and excel at various things-becoming a political analyst, a sports captain, a writer," said the headmaster.

He said coming to the Doon School was also due to personal reasons for him. "I wanted to move with my family to a different and interesting place", he said adding that he had had many Indian friends and students in countries where he was earlier posted.

Raggett grew up in England and did his Bsc. In Math and

Applied Physics from the University Of Newcastle, a PGCE in Education from the University Of Worcester and went on to do an MBA in Educational Leadership from Charles Sturt University, Australia. His tryst with education began with Yarm School in UK as a Physics teacher in 1995. From Yarm he moved to Vienna International School as Head of Physics and later to Pearson United World College, Canada. In the years to follow, besides teaching he handled pastoral and boarding life of students in United World College, Singapore where he was a House Parent and later in Kings College, Madrid where he was Boarding Head. Before coming to Doon, Raggett was the Principal of Secondary School of Leipzig International School, Germany for the last seven years.

Raggett is very fond of gardening.

He is joined by his wife Lindsay who also happens to be a German teacher by profession. The Raggetts have two sons Hugh and William and a daughter Eve.