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Living the Change

Kanishka Malik provides an insight into the impact of the economic independence on career choices.

If there is any event which I feel is at par with our political independence, it is our economic independence (1991). Our booming corporate sector, the IT revolution, the banking bubble, the rise of the new middle class and the current growth rate can be accredited to the economic reforms of 1991. However, what I personally find most interesting about this national landmark is how it has affected DoscOs in their choice of careers.

We have often heard visitors, ex-DoscOs, masters and even students conducting Assembly talks lament the fact that DoscOs today, unlike in the past, choose to opt for jobs in the private sector instead of participating in the administration and bureaucracy. Indeed, when The Doon School was first set up, it aimed at producing students who would lead the government as parliamentarians, civil servants and armed forces officers. That is perhaps the reason why a large number of DoscOs chose to join the civil services and even politics. But if we take a deeper look into the economic policies of India, before the 1991 reforms, we will discover a number of other reasons as to why the administrative service was one of the favourite choices of profession.

During the pre-economic independence era, Nehruvian socialism defined our polity. Due to flawed economic policies and a restricted private sector, the best jobs were in the administration. The trend of the 'sarkari naukri' was at its peak then. The 'License Raj' and certain policies of the government had stultified the growth of entrepreneurship, business and privatisation. The bureaucracy was the most powerful organization then and innumerable DoscOs participated in it. If anyone wanted to be involved in the private sector, the probability of finding a good job in India was extremely low, and migrating to other countries or handling some established family business was the only other method to fulfill such an ambition. Once the reforms came and the economy opened up, our private sector received a huge impetus and is today one of the major players in the global market.

Nineteen years after the reforms, trends have certainly changed. The ideal job these days is to work for a multinational corporation or some other organization in the private sector in India itself. My generation has more opportunities in business and entrepreneurship than our predecessors. When the circumstances are so favourable, it is quite likely that one would choose a career in business management, investment banking or engineering, rather than getting into the politically-influenced spheres of government and administration.

Now the question which has been frequently asked is whether this sudden departure of DoscOs from the administration and bureaucracy is lamentable or not. I do not think this is a cause for concern. The School's founder and other prominent members of our community desired to see DoscOs leading the country in the political and administrative sphere. I feel it is as important for us to lead the country's private sector and be

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a key player in our rather new and potent economy. In the same way that the School likes to take pride in alumni like Rajiv Gandhi, Digvijay Singh and other prominent political leaders, it would today love to boast of a Warren Buffet or a Sunil Mittal. Why shouldn't the School be proud of the time when DoscOs will be the strength of one of the strongest corporate communities in the world? Why shouldn't DoscOs, twenty-five years down the line, count amongst its old Boys a successful, first-generation billionaire who has made full use of the opportunities that we have right now?

I am in no way undermining the quality of the jobs we once preferred. The administration and the civil services are still some of the best jobs in the market. But at a time like this, when our corporate sector is booming and opportunities are abundant, it is necessary for DoscOs to join this boom now and strive for strong positions, in order to dominate it in the future. This would not only strengthen one's own position but would also strengthen our alumni in a new, powerful and important sphere of the country.

DEBATE UPDATE

The Doon School was represented by Sachit Taneja, Piroune Balachandran and Arnav Sahu at the **Saroj Srivastava Debates** held at Welham Girls' School, Dehradun, on April 26 and 27. The School was placed first and secured the Cup. Arnav Sahu was adjudged the **Best Overall Speaker**.

The School was represented by Kanishka Malik and Piroune Balachandran in the **Asian Challenge Debate** held at The Asian School, Dehradun. The School was placed **First Runner-Up** and Kanishka Malik was awarded the **Best Rebuttal** prize.

Well done!

MUSIC SOCIETY UPDATE

Aditi Joshi and Hamza Khan gave a **violin recital** in the Music School on Thursday, April 22. A report runs on Page 3.

HOCKEY

The School Hockey Team played against Moravian Institute in the **Council Schools' Hockey Tournament** finals, and won 2-0.

The School Hockey Team played against the MKP College for Women, Dehradun, and won 6-0.

Congratulations!

WORD CELEBRATION

The **Shruti-Poetree Reading Session** by students and faculty members was held on April 23 in the AV Room to celebrate World Book Day. A report will run in the forthcoming issue.

Q TIME

The School Quiz Team comprising Shoumitra Srivastava, Aayush Jain and Yash Johri took part in the quiz organised by the **Doon Library and Research Association**. The team finished **Second** and qualified for the semi-finals. Tanuj Kumar and Shrish Srivastava represented the School at the **Indore Invitational Quiz** held at the Daly College, Indore. They stood **fourth** overall.

Well tried!

KINGS AND QUEENS

The **First Shriram Bansidhar Chess Tournament** was held in the Kilachand Library between April 22-24 and 14 teams from all over the country participated in it. The results are as follows:

1st: RIMC

2nd: The Doon School Team B

3rd: The Doon School Team A

Congratulations!

PT TABLE TALLY

The following are the house standings of the **74th Annual Inter-House PT Competition** are as follows:

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Tata

3rd: Hyderabad and Oberoi

4th: Kashmir

Best PT-Leader: Shreyvardhan Swaroop

Well done!

PUPPET SHOW

Mohan Lal, an internationally-renowned puppeteer who has taken part in many India Mahotsava Festivals held abroad, conducted a puppet show for the D-form in the Music School on Saturday, April 24.

COSMIC TALK

KB Bhatnagar, Director of CFRSC gave a talk on **Cosmology and Black Holes** on Saturday, April 24, in the AV Room.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

He is keeping on eating, so will he process food?

DSY, maybe the biology teacher knows?

Check the name of your spelling.

PDT spells it out.

All non-serious candidates get out of class.

MNP dismisses.

I have being here.

Utkarsh Jha, the has-been.

Yesterday, we won toy!

Utkarsh Jha finally wins over his books.

There is a luck of fate.

DEB consults the stars.

There will also be one unseen poem passage in your Paper Two.

DEB does the disappearing act.

Are you playing in the play tonight?

Kanishka Malik's word-play.

| Poetry |

One

Shivam Goyal

One heart,

Yet to be loved,

One soul,

Yet to be immortal,

One ambition,

Yet to be achieved,

One desire,

Yet to be fulfilled,

One love,

Yet to be revealed,

One voice,

Yet to be noticed,

One god,

Yet to be seen,

One culture,

Yet to be explored,

One hope,

Yet to be trusted,

One sacrifice,

Yet to be appreciated,

One world,

Yet to be utopian,

One feeling,

Yet to be felt,

One man,

Yet to exist.

| Midterms |

Conquering Jaundhar

Vivek Santayana

Destination: Jaundhar Glacier

Party Leader: Vivek Santayana

Party Members: Milind Pandit, Abhyun Chatterjee, Darshdeep Hora, Manik Garg, Rachit Malik

Despite my acrophobia, I love the mountains. I love the climb. It is at times like these that I truly understand the meaning of the proverb “*Hard work is its own reward*”, and the significance of a line from one of our School prayers, “*Bring us to our resting beds weary and content, and grant us in the end the gift of sleep.*” The rewards at the end of the trek are few, but fulfilling: contentment with our efforts, deep sleep, persisting memories and positive after-thoughts.

There were two parties going to Jaundhar Glacier (one of which reached the destination). Our plan was to drive to Taluka on the first day, where we stayed the night in a GMVN guesthouse. We trekked onwards to Osla the following day. The third day had the toughest trek in store for us, from Osla to Har Ki Dun, then further up to the Glacier after lunch, and back to Har Ki Dun for the night. The fourth day was the last leg of the trek, in which we were to descend to Taluka.

Our trek was difficult, even harrowing. The climbs were painfully steep. But there was nothing unachievable about the trek: we still made it. Six of us reached the destination, having traversed smaller glaciers, tracks of ice, a river (which all of us took turns to fall into!) and spent a night in a tent that swayed dangerously with the wind.

What I will always remember is cooking outdoors on a wood fire at night in Har Ki Dun aided by a flashlight. Predictably, our stoves did not ignite. Three of us were fatigued by the trek, which left the other three to prepare dinner and clean up. Hora, on the other hand, still felt weak the following day. We left Har Ki Dun early in the morning, skipping breakfast, hoping we would reach Osla in time to eat. But Hora’s condition forced the party to split up: he and I went slowly with the guide, while the rest of the party went ahead to organize the mules and our journey back. They even sent back food for us when we were stranded. We managed to delay the plan by four hours, but, in such a crisis, when one of our party members was nearly unconscious, we pulled through.

| Music |

Raga Recital

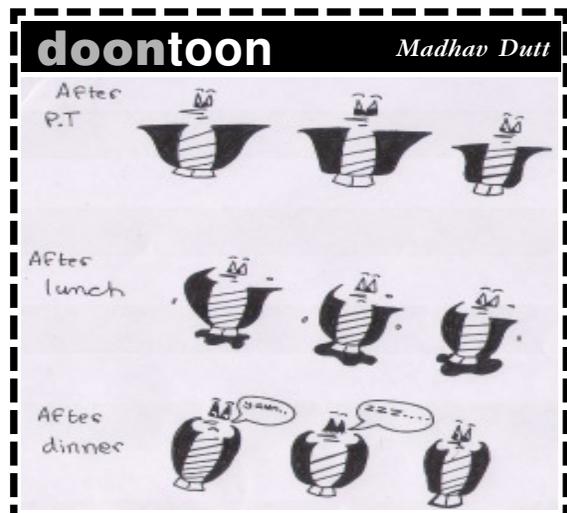
Akshay Sharan reports on the violin recital given by Aditi Joshi and Hamza Khan on Thursday, April 22

It was a much-anticipated event as everyone was aware of the playing ability of the two violinists who were performing on that day - Aditi Joshi, last year’s School Orchestra Leader, and Hamza Khan, our junior artiste for the evening. Both of them had been adjudged Best Musicians of their forms in 2009. The audience poured into the Music School Hall, eager for a musical treat.

After a brief introduction from Priya Chaturvedi, Director - Music, Hamza Khan took his place on stage, accompanied by Kartikeya Pande on the tabla. He was going to play Raga Bageshree, and he explained the various characteristics of this composition, such as its theme, origin, musical techniques, etc. After demonstrating the important notes (vadi and samvadi swar) and scale of the raga, he proceeded to the ‘alaap’ or introduction. This was a slow, melodious tune followed by the ‘gat,’ or the body of the composition. This was in two parts, ‘madhya laya’ (medium speed), with the improvisation of taans and then the ‘drut laya’ (fast speed). Hamza then came to the final section of the raga, the ‘jhaala.’ This part picked up in terms of volume and tempo, just before reaching the crescendo.

Hamza received a huge round of applause, and then, our main performer of the evening, Aditi Joshi, took the stage. Her accompanist was the School Orchestra Leader, Divyam Aggarwal, on the tabla. This was the moment everyone had been waiting for. She first introduced us to the two ragas she was going to perform, Raga Jog and Raga Bairagi. Once she picked up her violin and laid her bow across the strings, it was pure magic. Her ragas followed in the same sequence as Hamza’s, with an additional ‘savaal-javaab’ in which the two instrumentalists had a spirited dialogue along imitative lines.

The entire performance was electrifying. Sadly, this performance was Aditi’s last as a Dosco. She thanked all the students and teachers for their constant support throughout the six years of her school life. It was a very poignant moment, but as one senior musician leaves, it makes space for junior artistes to fulfill their potential. We have seen many musicians come and go through School and each one has left a legacy of excellence and dedication to the art.



| Report |

Checking Chess

Ujjwal Dahuja recounts the recently-concluded Shriram Bansidhar Chess Tournament held between April 22-24

This tournament, sponsored by the Shriram family and organized by the 64 Squares Chess Academy, kicked off on Thursday, April 22. Prior to this, most of the organization had been done and a workshop had been conducted with our boys by Mr. K.C. Joshi from the 64 Squares Chess Academy. The workshop was attended by various players from School and it helped them to understand the game in greater depth. The tournament got going the next day with fourteen registered teams battling it out for the beautiful (and rather heavy!) trophy. Two rounds took place on the first day and the second round proved to be a challenging one for one of the host teams; probably a decider for their team standing. Some really exciting games took place and the day at the Library seemed very successful both organizationally and participation-wise. In the evening, the two teams staying on campus were invited to watch the movie *Orphan* which made sure that they were awake all night! The next day, the participants began to calculate their points and figure out their probable team-standings by the end of the tournament, especially when a fourth round in the evening was called off. This led to some very competitive chess moves. That night there was a gala dinner for all participants. The next morning saw the final draw of teams put up. There lay only one mathematical possibility for one of the host teams to make it to the top. But this was not to be. An excellent display by RIMC against St. George's College ensured them the trophy. The School teams ended up with the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

The tournament certainly gave a fillip to chess in School and was a great learning experience for all participants. There was a lot of fun (especially for the escorts), there was a lot to learn, but, most importantly, a foundation was laid for the game and a new inter-school event was added to the School calendar.

OLD BOY'S NEWS

Madhav Bahadur (ex-153 K' 09) has been selected to represent the University of Delhi in the U21 Summer School at the University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China, in July this year by the Centre for Science Education & Communication, University of Delhi.

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| Viewpoint |

The Feast

Tanuj Kumar exposes the motive behind the manners.

Menu set, M-10s lit and chairs arranged, the most perfect setting for a House Feast imaginable. If you're like me, fill your stomach with substantial amounts of food. Otherwise, it's just another opportunity to leave a good impression on our guests.

Flattery begins with sartorial etiquette. As they say, the first impression is the last impression. Spotless shirts, shiny shoes, well-gelled hair, a cloying fragrance of colognes and a fixed smile are the only things in common, as everyone varies significantly in their powers of flattery. As the *hors d'oeuvres* are brought forth, these *scopats* seize the opportunity to escort the waiters to every guest present at the soiree, thereby showing their *deep* concern and fine manners. At least this averts a stampede.

It is interesting to observe what makes us Doscos good at multi-tasking. As boys engage in a conversation, they simultaneously oversee the shipment of food to other houses, coordinating everything with their hands almost-literally tied behind their backs. It is done so seamlessly that the person they are conversing with doesn't even get a hint of the covert operation in progress. As all this goes on, I just sink into the centrally-placed couch, and let it pass as vaudeville.

I sometimes muse: *scopats* might just score well in the flatter-o-metres but in real life, they will fail to survive, as there is the big bad world waiting out there, to expose their tactics. As the next scoping season is around the corner, I would just give one advice to all. Be yourself.

CAREER CALL

The Careers' Notice Board will feature **Financial Analyst** as a career option this week.

Opinion Poll

Does the prospect of acting in the DS-75 Commemorative Film enthuse you?

 **Yes 40%**

 **No 60%**

(367 members of the community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Are you annoyed by the number of student-forwards on your doscomail account?