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The Doon School WEEKLY

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Raising My Game

Ms. Namrata Pandey bids farewell to the school community.



It's time for me to say goodbye! And as I sit to write this piece (after gentle reminders from the *Weekly* team) I realise, "It feels right. But it's emotional. Saying goodbye to anything you've done that long is hard" as Angela Ruggiero, a prominent ice hockey player once said.

I joined The Doon School in September 2007 and what a journey it has been! I was appointed as the first full-time career counselor and often was asked what I did for 'work', not only in School but also outside. People asked me "you are a career counselor, that's fine, but what do you teach?" Between breaking those mindsets and shifting offices it's been an eventful journey. The department was first housed in the Teacher's Centre, now known as the training centre, and I shared my office and computer with PRC. The Yoga room was the huge room adjacent to ANK's office. In

the initial days, I would have someone run up to me, throw a question, listen to my answer and run away. I got to know months later that the boys were testing my knowledge!

I then moved to the basement of the library, musty and dusty, but we had space, and we had our own computers! We were in one corner of the campus and boys took time to come to the office. We chased them for forms and essays! We still do that, but it's electronically now. We were then 'raised' to the ground and we found ourselves in front of the library. This was where our fate changed. I wonder if it was *Vaastu* or just plain visibility or that boys knew we were here to stay! Gradually, boys and parents began to see merit in career counselling and our work and responsibilities increased. With that, the department too grew in size. All along, as we were learning and growing, to provide the best to our boys, the journey has been quite rewarding. I am proud to be part of such a forward-thinking school and such inspiring boys.

I was part of Foot House for 7 long years. That too was an exciting, though sometimes an exhausting experience. The energy, the questions, the fun, and the incessant training of the new boys can be tiring! No one can match the energy of a 12-year-old. The crying, the homesickness, the fights, the fear is the same each year but yet so different. Stories that make me smile and also some that I shudder in disgust are such an integral part of my life at Doon. The range of issues that I was dealing with, between the SC form boys and the D form boys, was quite an enriching experience.

I was reading a book called *Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life* by William Deresiewicz where I came across the phrase "Never mind diversity. What we are getting is thirty-two flavors of vanilla." I would like to remind you all to celebrate your individuality. Do not be one of the thirty-two flavours of vanilla! Each one of you is a repertoire of talent; use every opportunity that comes your way. Make the most of the wonderful opportunities the School offers. Never look back at your life at School with regret, because if you do that you've wasted some time of the six beautiful years of your life.

The only feeling that I have today is that of gratitude towards the School and more importantly towards you, the boys. You have inspired me every day and the last 9 years have transformed me as a person. I will cherish every moment of my time spent here. With a heavy heart but a lot of excitement for the future:

"It's time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad and I'd much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure." – Ernie Harwell.



Regulars

Sapient

Shreyash Agarwal and Rudra Srivastava have been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.

Congratulations!

Distinct Orators

The following boys have been awarded **Distinctions** at the **Third Level** of **LAMDA Speaking Verse and Prose Examinations**:

Grade 6

Stanzin Namgyal, Advait Ganpathy, Ishaan Vaish, Shiven Dewan, Shikhar Trivedi, Shivraj Singh Bhatti, Tarush Bansal, Arjun Khanna and Anirudh Bazari.

Grade 7

Raj Sankla, Divij Mullick, Shreyash Agarwal, Rishabh Goel and Hitansh Nagdev

Grade 8:

Rahul Bhagchandani, Atrey Bhargava, Rudra Srivastava, Tejit Pabari and Anirudh Batra

Kudos!

The Final Rank

The School participated in the **All India IPSC Chess Championship, 2016**, held at **Emerald Heights International School, Indore**.

The **Under 17 Team** comprising Raghav Bagri, Anuman Goel, Amritansh Saraf, Aryan Kasera and Harshvardhan Agarwal won the **Bronze Medal**.

In the **individual** events, Divyam Saharia won the **Bronze Medal** in the **Under 14** category and Anuman Goel won the **Silver Medal** in the **Under 17** category. Anuman Goel, Divyam Saharia, Aryan Kasera and Naman Jain have also been selected to represent **IPSC** in **SGFI Nationals**.

Keep it up!

"Be like the fountain that overflows, not the cistern that merely contains."
- Paulo Coelho

Artistic Accolades

The School participated in the **Spectrum Art Competition** held at **Unison World School, Dehradun**. The results are as follows:

Yash Mittal and Umang Garg won **first prize** in the **Painting** category.

Nehansh Saxena and Tarang Garg won **second prize** in **'Making Craft Out of Waste Materials'** category.

Ashwath Madhok and Ojas Kharbanda won **second prize** in the **Photography** category.

Congratulations!

Target Down

The School was represented by **9 boys** in the **13th Boys IPSC Shooting Championship, 2016** held at **The Emerald Heights International School, Indore**.

Yuvan Jaidka won a **Silver Medal** in the **Under 19 Individual Category** with a score of **357** out of **400** points. In the **Under 19 Team Category**, the team comprising Yuvan Jaidka, Akshat Jha and Raihan Vadra won the **Team Silver Medal** with an aggregate of **1033** points.

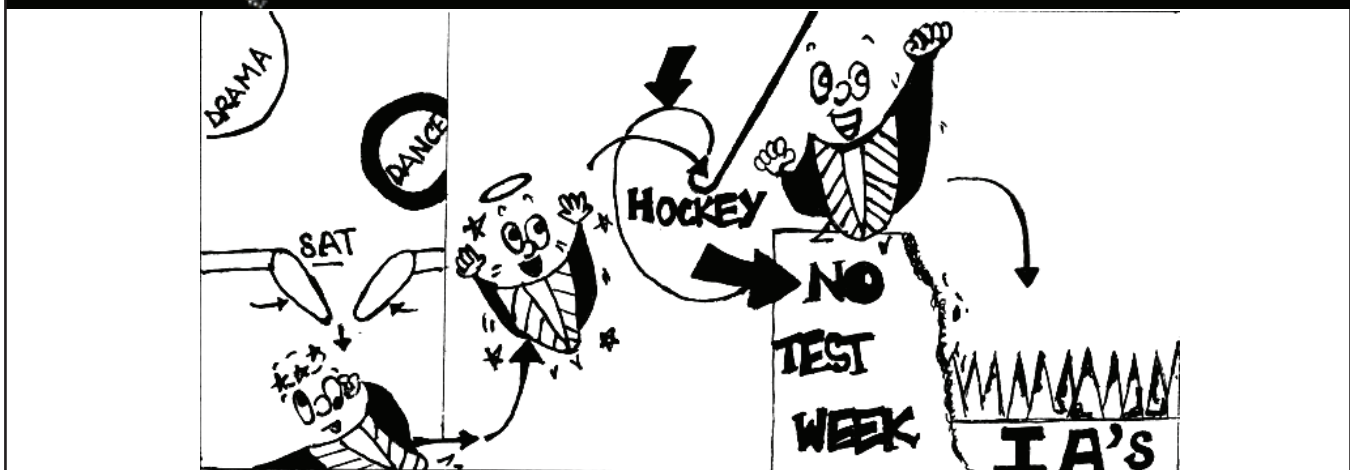
Well done!

Around the World in 80 Words

Prospective US presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump claimed wins in the West Virginia primary. China scrambled fighter jets in response to the presence of a US destroyer near their islands. Leicester City was declared the winner of the Premier League after a historic win over Everton. The Congress scraped through in Utrakhand, winning the trust vote by a small margin. The UK also conveyed to India that while they cannot deport Vijay Mallya, he was ready for extradition.

Dosco Doodle

The Week Gone By
Anirudh Popli



तू क्यों नहीं दिखता

- विशेष खेतान

ऐसे तुम पर मर मिटे हैं हम
कि अब दिल रोता है हमारा,
एक दिन तेरे बिन रह न पाऊँगा,
एक शाम तेरे बिन बिता न पाऊँगा,
रहना तुम हमेशा हमारे संग
सुबह की चांदनी हो,
शाम का ढलता सूरज,
या हो रात का अँधेरा,
देना हमें एक किरण,
जीने की एक वजह,
ऐ खुद,
तू मिलता कहाँ?
ढूँढता हूँ तुझे चारों दिशा,
फ़ज़ या मगरिब की नमाज़ों में,
क्यों नहीं तू दिखता वहाँ?

राष्ट्रवाद और देशभक्ति

-अनुभूति का अंतर

- अथर्व शुक्ला

सामान्य रूप से हम राष्ट्रवाद और देशभक्ति को एक समान मानते हैं, और हाँ, इन दोनों में कुछ तत्त्व एक दूसरे से अवश्य मिलते हैं, परन्तु, इन दोनों में अर्थ-भेद यह है, कि ये एक-दूसरे का पर्याय नहीं हैं। शब्दावली और परिभाषाओं में न जाकर मैं दोनों में भेद को मानव के चिंतन की प्रक्रिया एवं मनोभाव के माध्यम से समझाने का प्रयास करूँगा।

अपने राष्ट्र के प्रति अनुराग, प्रेम व प्रतिष्ठा की धारणाएँ जब एक भावनात्मक धरातल पर एकजुट होती हैं तो राष्ट्रभक्ति का जन्म होता है। जब ये भावनाएँ इतनी उग्र या तीव्र हो जाएँ कि हम अपने आप को श्रेष्ठ तथा अन्य को तुच्छ समझने लगे, तो आक्रामक राष्ट्रवाद का जन्म होता है। सामान्यतः इन को परिभाषित कर पाना कठिन है परन्तु हम यह ज़रूर कह सकते हैं कि राष्ट्रभक्ति हृदय से सम्बन्ध रखती है और राष्ट्रवाद वैचारिकताओं और अपेक्षाओं से।

आज ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि समाज में कुछ संस्थाओं ने राष्ट्रवाद को अपना सर्वाधिकार मान कर रख लिया है और किसी को राष्ट्रभक्त या राष्ट्रद्रोही घोषित करने का उत्तरदायित्व उठा लिया है। यह उचित नहीं है।

राष्ट्रवाद एक ऐसे इतिहास से आना चाहिए जिसमें सबका भाग हो और न ही किसी इकलौते का एकाधिकार।

अब अपने विद्यालय का ही उदहारण लें तो कई प्रमाण पाएँगे। विद्यालय में भी इसका फायदा किसी पक्ष को पोषित करने हेतु लिया जाता है। चाहे वो अपने आवास के लिए ही क्यों न हो या अपने आप को उच्च स्थापित करने के लिए चाहे मैदान पर किसी खेल के अंतर्गत, एक मनुष्य के नैतिक कर्तव्यों का उल्लंघन किया जाता जाता है।

कभी-कभी हम किसी पूर्वाग्रह के साये में दूसरों के व्यक्तित्व पर आक्रमण कर देते हैं। कई बार तो हमारा खंडन बिलकुल क्षणिक होता है। इन विषयों में जब मान्यता और विचारधारा की बात आती है तो हम सब उत्तेजित हो जाते हैं। लोगों के गुण-अवगुण पर वार न करके, विचारों पर वार्ता करना ज़रूरी है। सबसे महत्वपूर्ण यह है कि हम पर भी प्रश्न करें और किसी से मतभेद के दौरान दूसरों की अवधारणाओं पर धावा बोलने से पहले खुद के मत की भी आलोचना कर के देखें।

स्वच्छ हैं हम

- दिव्यांश पांडे

यदि किसी से भी हाल ही में बहुत लोकप्रिय हुए कुछ मुद्दे बताने को कहा जाए तो उनके जवाब में स्वच्छता का मुद्दा अवश्य शामिल होगा। स्वच्छता के बारे में जितनी बातें हो रही हैं उतना ही बार मन में सवाल उठ रहा है कि साफ-सफाई के लिए कोई अभियान चलाने की नौबत आखिर आई ही क्यों? क्या स्वच्छता बनाए रखने के लिए भी मुहिम चलानी पड़ेगी।

जब मैं इस बारे में सोच रहा था तो मन में कितनी ही बातें घूमने लगी कि अपनी व्यक्तिगत सफाई को बनाए रखने में तो हम भारतीयों का कोई जवाब नहीं। कई बार मैंने आस-पास देखा है कि यदि किसी ऐसे घर जाओ जहाँ किसी की मृत्यु हुई हो, तो घर आकर लोग नहाते हैं। यह भी कहा जाता है कि सूर्यग्रहण के बाद नहाना चाहिए। मैंने यह भी



सुना है कि पहले गाँवों में सुबह-सुबह ही घर को लीप-पोत कर साफ सुथरा कर दिया जाता था। आज भी व्रत त्योहार और उत्सवों पर तो साफ़-सफाई पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाता है।

ऐसा क्या कारण है कि व्यक्तिगत साफ-सफाई पर जरूरत से ज्यादा ध्यान देने वाले देश को साफ-सुथरा नहीं माना जाता? कड़वा सच भी यही है कि आमतौर पर हमारे आस-पास के वातावरण में आज भी गन्दगी और अस्वच्छता दिखाई दे ही जाती है। बहुत सोच-विचार के बाद में इस नतीजे पर पहुँचा हूँ कि हमारी कथनी और करनी में अंतर है और हम दो मुखौटे पहन कर चलते हैं। यही कारण है कि ब्रह्म मुहूर्त में नहाने वाली कोई महिला अपने घर का कूड़ा सड़क पर फेंकने में नहीं हिचकिचाती। दीवाली पर अपने घर के रंग-रोगन पर हज़ारों रुपए खर्च करने वाला इंसान इधर-उधर किसी सरकारी इमारत की सीढ़ियों पर बड़ी आसानी से पान की पीक थूक देता है। आपने पालतू कुत्ते को सुबह शाम टहलाते हुए किसी को यह ध्यान नहीं आता कि वह आम रस्ते को गन्दा कर रहे हैं। आज भी मौका देखकर कुछ लोग अपनी गाड़ियों का शीशा थोड़ा सा नीचा कर के 'कोल्ड-ड्रिंक' की बोतल एवं 'चिप्स' और 'चॉकलेट' के खाली पैकेट कहीं भी फेंक देते हैं।

अब समय आ चुका है कि हम व्यक्तिगत और सामाजिक सफाई में फर्क करना बंद कर दें। मुझे लगता है कि फिर हमारे देश को किसी और स्वच्छता अभियान की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी। अपने मन को साफ़ रखो, सोच को साफ़ रखो, देश अपने-आप स्वच्छ हो जायेगा।

तेरी खुशबू

• शिखर त्रिवेदी

बिना मुड़े तुम चली गई
मेरे रास्ते से जुदा होकर।
यह याद ना रहा तुमको
मैं अब भी ज़िंदा हूँ।
कुछ यादें तो छोड़ ही गई
मगर साथ में छोड़ गई
तुम
एक ऐसी खुशबू,
जो उतर गयी तुम चुपचाप
मेरे ज़हन में।
जब कभी पानी बरसता,
तो लगता
जैसे तुम चलती आ रही हो।
जब कभी ज़मीन महकती

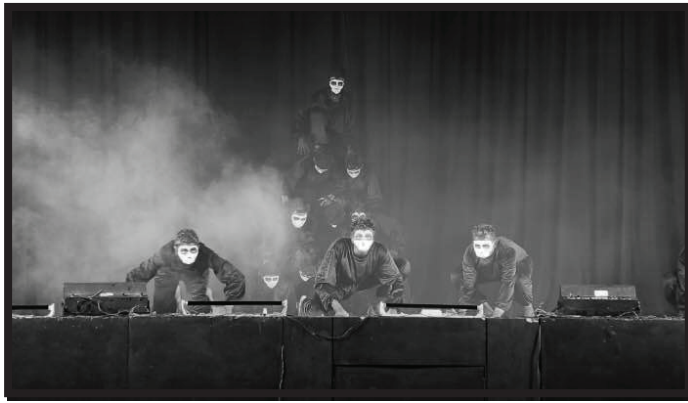
तो महसूस होती तुम्हारी मौजूदगी।
कई बार, कई बार भूलना चाहा
मगर इस दिल से वह निकली नहीं।
जम कर रह गई दीवार पर लटकी
एक गंदी मैली तस्वीर की तरह।
हर रात इसी खुशबू को ओढ़े
मैं नींद में जगता हूँ।
हर रात यही खुशबू,
मुझे मेरे ख्वाबों से जग देती है।
तेरी खुशबू।
बिखरे हुए सपनों
की खुशबू।
हकीकत की खुशबू।

ज़िन्दगी का सफ़र

• नन्द सिंह दहिया

फंस गया इस चक्रव्यूह में तू,
जीवन के जाल में,
कभी मत भूलना जैसा है तू,
वैसा कोई और नहीं।
कोई रास्ता फूलों से
सजा नहीं होता,
मुश्किलें जरूर आएँगीं,
पर रुकना मत तू।
नीचा भी कई दिखाएँगे,
तुझे न के बराबर पाएँगे,
पर टूटना मत तू,
अपना अस्तित्व खोना मत तू।
मनुष्य बना है तू,
किसी कारण से,
उस कारण को भूलना मत तू,
कभी अपने कर्तव्य से भागना मत तू।
कभी तू खुद से ही रूस जाएगा,
तो कभी तेरे मन में चिराग जल जाएगा,
कभी तू असफलताओं का भार उठाएगा,
पर कुछ भी हो जाए, रुकना मत तू।
मकसद पाने में रुकना मत तू,
अपने अस्तित्व के लिए झुकना मत तू।

Trip the Light Fantastic!



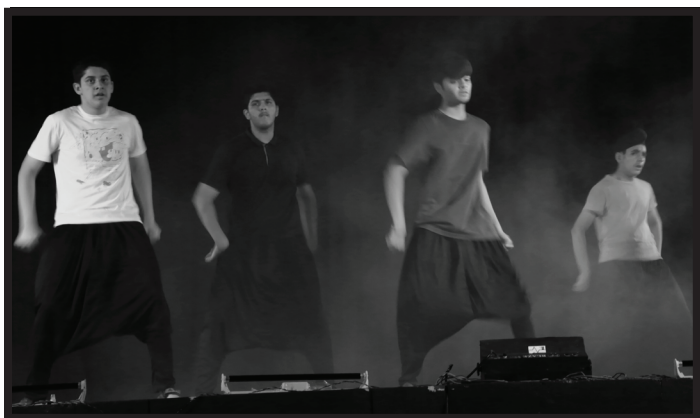
Kashmir House - A strict theme performance, K-House rendered us speechless by its impeccable footwork and alluring theme. Using all parts of the stage, the house managed to enhance its very captivating performance which went on to win the cup.

Oberoi House - The Oberoi House dance had delightfully mixed musical arrangement and strict co-ordination. With an attractive mixing of colours, the highlight of the dance was when the three core dancers came up on to stage.



Jaipur House - With one of the best openings the school has ever seen, Jaipur House had everyone on their feet with their master choreography and effortless style.

Hyderabad House - Hyderabad House charmingly depicted the intricacies of love, lust and friendship. The comical wigs though, seemed to catch the larger part of the audience's attention!



Tata House - With a spirited performance, Tata House mixed both Indian and Western songs adding great versatility and drama to their show.

Theatrical Nights

Ms. Malvika Kala

The word 'theatre' comes from the Greek word *theasthai*, which means to behold. The spectator or the audience sets out to behold a performance and not just perceive the intellectual content of the script. This very aspect of theater makes it the most immediate of all literary genres. However, like all works of art, theater also demands an equal participation from the spectator. So it was with a unique sense of responsibility that I accepted the invitation to be one of the in-house judges for this year's Inter-House English One Act Play Competition. I was to carry out the responsibilities of the beholder, the interpreter and the examiner at the same time.

The programme was held over the course of two days - 6th and the 7th of May. It had been a long drawn out week, one that saw students participate in hockey and basketball matches as well as inter-house dance and poetry recitation competitions; finally culminating in a historic "double" with the School surpassing its previous year's ICSE and ISC averages. The boys barely managed to have complete run-throughs due to lack of time and people involved with different activities. Having been a part of the theater community during school and university, I know how critical practice is for a quality performance. Despite that, and the looming rain (which fortunately didn't come pouring down), the actors gave solid performances.

The first play was Kashmir House's adaptation of Vijay Tendulkar's *Ardh Satya*. The actors demonstrated good blocking and movement on stage. Madhav Bhardwaj as the anguished protagonist was convincing if slightly exaggerated. He was assisted, very ably, by a team of devoted actors who tried their best to deliver believable performances. The performance was, quite literally – dazzling, as there were many fade-ins and fade-outs (I lost count after 30).

The second play of the evening was Tata House's rendition of the famous 19th century play *Cyrano de Bergerac*. The rakish lead character was played to great effect by a flamboyant Smayan Sahni. He was the soul of the play and provided the evening with the much-needed "panache". He was supported by a fairly convincing cast of actors who took on their roles as Frenchwomen and soldiers very seriously.

The third play of the evening was Hyderabad House's adaptation of Ayn Rand's *Night of January 16th*. The intense courtroom drama had many twists and turns and went down as a valiant effort by its lead cast. Divij Kapoor's script portrayed the conflict between an absolute objective truth and truth as a construct stemming from a conformist society. The conflict and the crisis could have been further explored but given the time constraints, it was a worthy performance.

The next day started with Jaipur House presenting Arthur Miller's *Incident at Vichy*. The leading characters tried to create an atmosphere of tension and fear. The human inability to accept responsibility and evade any confrontation was brought to the fore here. The play called for more gravity and an element of darkness, something which the actors, despite their best efforts were not quite able to capture on stage.

The competition ended with Oberoi House's self-scripted play - *The Death of Art*. In the Director's Note, Ishaan Kapoor stated how the metaphorical play sought to demonstrate how Art is throttled by mercantile pursuits in today's increasingly materialistic world. The play also explored the notion of functionality of art versus the argument of *l'art pour l'art* (art for art's sake). Although the play concluded with the narrator ending on a slightly patronizing note, the play worked for the most part because of its personification of purely abstract ideas into relatable everyday characters.

The evening concluded with Oberoi House winning the award for the Best Play, with Kashmir being adjudged a close second. Abhyanshu Utkarsh and Smayan Sahni won the Best Supporting Actor and the Best Actor awards for their powerful acting style, while the award for Best Director went to Madhav Bhardwaj.

These two days have proven to me how the spirit of theater is very much alive in The Doon School, and I can't say it better than John Steinbeck who believed that theatre is the only institution in the world that has been dying for four thousand years and has never succumbed. It requires tough and devoted people to keep it alive. The Doon School abounds with such individuals and may they continue to be the bearers of the humble yet mighty pen and stand on the stage with heads held high.

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