



Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, May 21 | Issue No. 2436



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A Final Reflection

Mr. Vinay Pande *bids farewell to the School community.*

If Sanawar equipped me with various skills in the fields of teaching, public speaking, trekking, dramatics and sports, it was Doon that gave me the platform to hone my skills in all these fields. What is great about both these institutions is the opportunities available and the freedom to explore, experiment and benefit from them. I first joined The Doon School as a Chemistry teacher in August 1997 after having served at The Lawrence School, Sanawar for eight years. Besides teaching Chemistry at The Doon School, I was attached as a tutor in Kashmir House. I did not waste any time and plunged into the School life. I enjoyed playing with the boys and loved the staff versus boys matches. While in School, I went for some memorable midterms with my tutorial groups including Nagtibba, Har-ki-doon, Dodital, Darbatop, Yamnotri, Kedarnath and Gangotri.

In those initial years I also looked after the Junior School Cricket team and was also the master-in-charge of stage committee. My involvement with the stage committee kept me involved with dramatics and I was closely involved with some great productions such as Chanda, Court Martial, Fire Raisers, *Taj Mahal ka tender* and Androcles and the Lion. I was also associated with 'Theatre Space', a group committed to good and clean entertainment in Dehradun and did many plays under Dr. Hammad Farooqui's direction. I also acted in three staff plays.

Apart from being associated with the stage committee, I also worked with the trophy squad, paper recycling, junior chemist STA and the LPO. I have always been active in sports and other activities. I have umpired Inter-House matches in hockey, football and cricket and handled swimming and athletics responsibilities. I have been judging Hindi and English debates, including the Chuckerbutty debates.

In 1999 I moved to Hyderabad B as a tutor and later took over as the Housemaster of Hyderabad A first and later the combined Hyderabad House. In 2003 I moved to Sarala Birla Academy, Bangalore as Headmaster only to be back in The Doon School in 2006. The IB DP was born in School in March 2007 and I took over the responsibility of entrenching this new curriculum. The coming of IB DP to The Doon School triggered the process of internal reflection and in the subsequent years we saw lots of changes in the academic life of the School. I personally gained a lot through my association with the IB DP. I attended many IB Conferences and workshops, many in India and some in far off places such as Beijing, Singapore, Melbourne, Athens, Kuala Lumpur, Kathmandu and Macau.

Doon gave me many opportunities to travel abroad and consequently broaden my horizon. I went on a teacher exchange programme to Millfield School, UK in 2001. I have been on educational trips to CERN at Geneva and NASA at Orlando. I have also been to a Round Square International Conference to Florida.

In my capacity as the Senior Deputy Headmaster my work was guided by the Japanese business philosophy of '*kaizen*' (continuous improvement of working practices and personal efficiency). In the last three years many academic areas have been strengthened. Uniform marking schemes for all examinations, uniform criteria for internal assessment, sampling of the answer scripts, replacement of 'free schools' with 'study periods', institution of the 'Students Study Council' (mooted by Ujjwal Dahuja), redefining the 'Red Card', uniform criteria for deciding the academic achievements (subject grade average instead of the percentage), emphasizing the importance of the effort grade in academics and introduction of setting in Mathematics to strengthen differentiated learning.

I enjoyed every moment spent in Chandbagh. My sons Ateendra (batch of 2012) and Rishabh (batch of 2013) blossomed in the School. For my mother and my wife the campus was their home. I consider myself blessed to have worked here.

And to all of my students and colleagues I would say: "*Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you have imagined.*" -Henry David Thoreau



Regulars

Cracked It

The **School Senior Hockey Team** participated in the **D.M. Swing Memorial Hockey Tournament** held at **Oak Grove School, Mussoorie**. The team **won** their first match against **Wynberg Allen School** by **3-0**, the second match against **Oak Grove** by **4-1**, and the third match against **St. Agnes Inter College** by **4-2**.

Kudos!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

It is very easy to lose of touch.

Arth Gupta, it seems we have lost you too.

He got drowned.

JKA, our sympathies.

Can somebody tells me?

MPT, curious.

Make sure I am awaked.

Rohin Agarwal, we wouldn't want to!

I am thee bro.

Shantam Gilra, William Shakespeare Jr.

I am multi-purpose.

Dhruv Jindal, clearly not at speaking.

The building falled.

Ujjwal Jain, on your head?

It is more easier to break fossils.

SBL, if you say so...

Corruption has no exist.

Raihan Vadra, politically correct.

I need a pointy stuff.

Dilip Maurya, perforated.

How did that closet come out of you?

Kushagra Kar, disturbing much?

Queen save the God.

Aryan Bhattacharjee, needs salvation.

"You will not be punished for your anger, you will be punished by your anger."
- **Buddha**

Ne Plus Ultra

Anirudh Batra, Atrey Bhargava, Chaitanya Kediyal, and Smriti Nair have been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.

Congratulations!

THE WHO?

Who is Aliaune Thiam?

Arjun Singh: A politician

Aryaman Khosla: An astronaut

Naman Khurana: An NBA player

Yash Dewan: An African abolitionist

Vansh Gandhi: An author

Aru Vashisht Maratha: A South-Indian model

Rajveer Singh Machre: A terrorist

Aliaune Damala Badara Thiam is the famous American singer, rapper and songwriter popularly known by his stage name; **Akon**.

Around the World in 80 Words

An earthquake of magnitude 5.6 shook Japan. NASA reports showed that last month was the hottest April ever recorded. Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump confronted UK Prime Minister David Cameron, warning him of an unfriendly relationship. Philippine president-elect Rodrigo Duterte called for the re-introduction of the death penalty. Houthi rebels in Yemen carried out a wave of arbitrary arrests of their opponents. 31 athletes, who failed the doping tests, risk a ban by the IOC from the Rio Olympic Games.

Dosco Doodle

Amen

Kushagra Bansal



Rancour of the Right

Devang Laddha explores the rise of global intolerance.

'Unity in diversity'. The phrase for long has been used as a description of India, representing the country's vast diversity of people that live in harmony. This unity for long has defied expectations of the entire global community, which predicted that these religious and ethnic divides would surely fragment the nation into different 'countries'. However, today a great problem hangs over the nation which, once more, has put this unity under scrutiny; the problem of intolerance.

Over the course of the last five years our nation has experienced nearly 3400 communal incidents, which have laid significance to the problem of intolerance. Staunch religious beliefs along with extremist factions have led the people to create divides amongst themselves. Radical political groups such as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Shiv Sena, the Bajrang Dal and the Vishva Hindu Parishad have garnered great support and have created massive intolerance amongst the people towards each other. Their demands of banning beef and making statements such as that "Muslims should stop eating beef if they wanted to stay in India", are some of their radical ideologies that have seeped into the nation. These sentiments have often manifested themselves in the communal riots like those experienced in Muzzafarnagar.

The apogee of such sentiments was reached last year with the infamous lynching at Dadri, where a Muslim was beaten to death due to suspicion that he 'might' have eaten beef. Another expression of the problem was seen by the reaction of the country's intellectuals who have returned their national awards in protest against the unchecked growth of this intolerance. The icing on the cake, however, came from the public's reaction towards those who spoke out against this intolerance. Two such persons - actors Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan, were criticized for their views and had their movies boycotted, some of the consequences of supporting the democratic concept of tolerance. Unfortunately however, the disease of intolerance does not end here.

Like India, Europe too has been a victim of intolerance, with the natives showing great intolerance to refugees entering the region, following a mass exodus from the Middle East and North Africa. Despite having escaped the dangers of their homeland, where human rights ceased to exist and their lives were constantly threatened, Europeans haven't sympathized with these people, instead showing resentment. The cause of this intolerance has been the dire economic situation in Europe. With rising youth unemployment rates - nearly 50 percent in Spain and 25 percent in France - these refugees are seen as hostile people who come in and seize the already limited jobs. The natives seem to be ignorant of the problems that the refugees are facing, which are far worse than just unemployment.

This intolerance has manifested itself in a massive rise of support for right wing parties prevalent throughout Europe; spanning from Britain and France in the west to Austria and Poland in the east. Even Germany, the country accepting the most number of refugees has been subject to this change with the 'Alternative für Deutschland' (AfD), a primarily right-wing party making remarkable gains to Angela Merkel's ruling coalition. In countries which already have established right wing parties in power, as in Hungary and Poland, the parties saw massive rise in support while even those parties which are not in power as in France and Austria, also saw massive gains being made. The gains made in Austria were overwhelming, that the Chancellor himself had to resign. This growing intolerance threatens to fracture the European community. The massive resentment caused by this amongst the refugees have made them desperate leading to the ransacking of European towns but also furthers the dire economic condition.

Furthermore, intolerance has risen among the ranks of America, where this change is highlighted by the support of the incessant rhetoric of the presumptive Republican nominee, Donald Trump. Advocating policies such as constructing a wall around the Mexico-US border (funded by the Mexicans no less) and banning Muslims from entering America, the intolerance among Americans has also risen. Another indication of American intolerance is the consistent attitude Americans have towards African-Americans. They are regarded; despite having lived in America for nearly 300 years, as outsiders, while Caucasian immigrants living for just 60 years are treated differently. It seems today, that the only qualifications needed for being an American are being white and being intolerant.

Thus, intolerance has culminated into a pandemic. Beginning from religious feuds and differences in India, to the racial discrimination in America to the attitude towards refugees in Europe, intolerance has indeed taken over the world. The ability to be empathetic and sympathetic has dissolved; being replaced with the feeling of apathy, of not caring. While intolerance is not often highlighted, it is a fundamental flaw in our society. Intolerance has already caused several divides in society, will continue to do so. In Europe, refugees and Europeans fight with each other, in America, it is racial discrimination and in India religious factions continue to grapple for power. In the midst of all this we need to find the 'humaneness' in humanity.

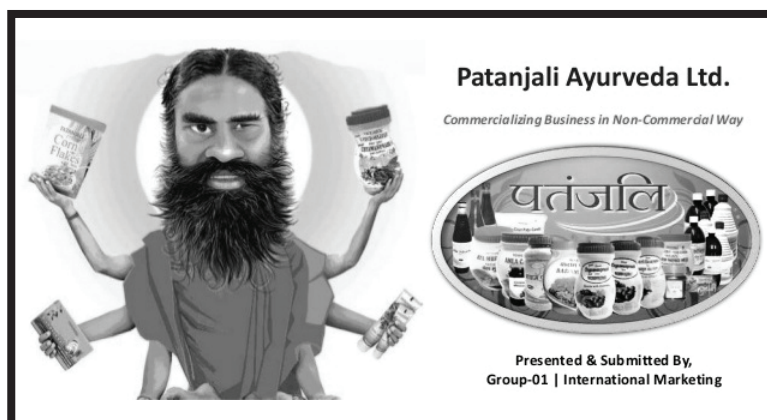
From Yoga to Yoghurt

Samarth Mehra chronicles the rise of Baba Ramdev's business venture 'Patanjali Ayurveda'.

From an exalted yoga guru to a flourishing businessman, Baba Ramdev's journey has been quite a success. The last five years have been extremely lucrative for his business venture, 'Patanjali Ayurved'. Set in 2006, by Acharya Balkrishna and Baba Ramdev, with the intention to promote the science of 'Ayurveda', 'Patanjali Ayurved' has been through a drastic upsurge in its revenues. Their annual turnover jumped from 450 crores, in 2012, to a whopping 5000 crores, in 2016. At present, it sells around 400 variants of toothpaste, soaps and food items among its long list of products. Furthermore, it sells more than 300 medicines that, it claims, can cure AIDS and swine-flu.

Its early years were overlooked, as during that time, its rival companies were at the peak of their profits and success. But with every increasing follower of yoga and Baba Ramdev, 'Patanjali Ayurved' also began to expand. Today, it has over 15,000 exclusive outlets across the nation. Baba Ramdev has thousands of followers, students and disciples, who come to him to learn yoga. With such a huge fan following, it was indeed quite a clever and smart move to open such a brand like 'Patanjali Ayurved' that encourages people to leave International products and use not only Indian but also natural and Ayurvedic products. With the motto of its products being wholly natural, ayurvedic and promoting 'Make in India', it has managed to knock-out many FMCG companies and rule over the Indian markets.

On the other hand, multinational Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies such as Dabur, Hindustan Unilever, Nestle India and Colgate-Palmolive India, are trying their best to launch new policies and offers so as to attract the public that is leaning towards Ayurvedic products. They have been left flabbergasted by the unforeseen decrease in their sale and revenues caused their strict competitor, 'Patanjali Ayurvedic'. They are still in awe by the massive business that the Ayurvedic brand does, without even spending a penny on advertising, but only by hosting over a lakh, free yoga classes across the nation. Baba Ramdev has been quite victorious in filling his followers' as well the consumers' mind with the shortcomings in the 'unnatural'



products of other FMCG companies. According to various observations conducted by eminent publications, it was revealed that the greater part of the consumers who buy the so claimed 'Ayurvedic and Natural' products of 'Patanjali Ayurved' belong to the urban middle class.

Surprisingly, the brand does not have a set business plan for the future and the company doesn't even know the various strategies of marketing, as Acharya Balkrishna claims. With such a claim and a statement, one usually wonders if the huge success of this company is a miracle! Nonetheless, lacking business plans does not let the duo's spirit weaken. "In five years, I will take swadeshi products of Patanjali Ayurved to such great heights that the foreign companies will dwarf in front of them." Said Ramdev, "Patanjali will shut the gates of Colgate and make the bird in Nestle's logo fly away". After such a threat and an open challenge, 'Patanjali Ayurved' plans to focus on some big products so as to expand its business further, such as - cornflakes, 'healthy' noodles, ghee, Kesh Kanti (hair care) and Dant Kanti (oral care). It, bit by bit, is increasing its wide range of products and is gradually expanding its horizons into ready-to-eat food products too.

The company's shrewd managing director's move to launch their 'healthy noodles' during the absence of Maggi noodles in the market shows their potential to be a tough competition otherwise. Keeping in mind, the blind faith that the followers of Baba Ramdev had on him and his brand, he, in no time launched 'Patanjali Atta Noodles', which he claimed were made with vegetables and healthy rice bran oil. As usual, like his other 'Natural' products, this was a big hit too and consumers were inclined towards buying 'Patanjali Atta Noodles' and giving up 'Maggi'. Moreover, 'Patanjali Ayurved' also launched a medicine that ensures a baby boy. Knowing that gender discrimination still prevails among the middle class, it indeed was a sly, unethical and immoral move to promote such a medicine.

With the backing of an extremely influential 'celebrity' such as Baba Ramdev, who is also a devious businessman, it is but natural for the brand to rise to top of the list and keep all the multinational brands under its thumb. It now remains for us to see how other multinational FMCG brands plan to put 'Patanjali Ayurved' out of their way and business. This race to be the top brand will certainly give us something to think about.



Under the Scanner

Intolerance in Bangladesh | Kanishkh Kanodia

The terror and horror of East Pakistan has returned back to the streets of Bangladesh. The rise of religious extremism in the nation has evaded the sense of pluralism that once prevailed with a majority of Bengali Islamics. The extremists have claimed the lives of at least sixteen activists, including a gay rights activist, university professors, secular bloggers, an Italian priest, a Sufi Nationalist leader and now, a Buddhist monk. The Awami League government has done nothing to stop the impending carnage.

The string of murders in the heart of the capital, Dhaka, and the suburbs, has not only imperilled the lives of foreigners in the nation but has also put the nation amongst those with the worst human rights. The hacking of these scholars showcases Bangladesh's impending fate. Even though the ISIS and the Bangladeshi affiliate of the al-Qaeda have claimed responsibility for these barbaric acts, the government has strictly denied the presence of such groups on their land, instead blaming local militants abetted by the Opposition who are supposedly attempting to destabilise the government.

However, the main question is not about who is committing these atrocities but rather why are liberals - in a society that once fought for democracy - now being hacked to death? The answer lies in the inefficiency of the government and its policies. A few years ago in the famous Shahbag protests, students demanded death penalty for those who collaborated with the West Pakistani Army during the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971. In view of this event, the Awami League stands accused of targeting leaders and senior officials of the Opposition parties such as the Bangladeshi Nationalist Party and the Jammat-e-Islami, arraigning them of war crimes committed during 1971. This coupled with the Bangladeshi Liberation Party's boycott of polls in the 2014 elections has created a vacuum in the opposition, only to be filled by religious extremism.

The official response to these killings has been appalling as well, with only seven people being convicted so far. Leaders from around the world have echoed criticism for the government's inability and unwillingness to stop the massacre. Moreover, it is rumoured that the Awami League (allegedly) marginalised the opposition and over-controlled the national political discourse. Their accusation of the nexus of the opposition parties stands contrary to the evidences provided so far. Also, the lack of Opposition in the democratic nation has resulted in the death of Bangladeshi reformers, emphasizing on the need of an opposition in any democratic machinery in the world. This deluge of blood also highlights the threat to secular thought caused by hard-line Islamists in a nation that is filled mostly with tolerant Sunni Bengalis.

These attacks signal a war against critical thinkers in a country that secured its freedom in a bloody battle a few decades ago. Currently, Bangladesh is characterized with an over-bearing government, divided opposition and grinding poverty. All these factors have resulted in the growth of an intolerant society that once gasconaded of having established a liberal society. Bangladeshi leaders need to rise above their petty politics if the ideals of democracy and freewill are to be conserved in the nation.

Riverside Renditions

Raghav Bagri and Kartik Subbiah report on the recently concluded Sankat Mochan Music Festival.

The musical highlight of the year in the historic city of Varanasi is the Sankat Mochan Festival, which takes place in the precincts of one of the city's best-known shrines. This year, nine of us, all aspiring musicians from A to C forms, accompanied by PRY and ASA, got to be part of the highly discerning and knowledgeable audience at this festival. We set out from school on the 27th of April and after a gruelling day of travel, redeemed by a sumptuous dinner, we went to the Sankat Mochan temple and met with the piercingly sweet notes of Shri S. Akash's flute. Soon, we realized that the festival was a truly interactive one, with a resounding 'Har har Mahadev' from the audience greeting each performance. We also became conscious that we were growing tired by the hour, as the concerts started at sunset and finished at dawn, thus reversing our circadian rhythm and making us 'nocturnal creatures'. The second concert for the day was of Shrimati Kaushki Chakarvarthy. We were enthralled by her melodious rendition of *Raga Jog*. She sang a traditional *Bandishes* (compositions) based on *teen taal* with brilliant



(Contd. overleaf)

(Contd. from page 5)

command of the *raga* and a unique interpretation through improvisations that were both virtuosic and deeply thoughtful of these compositions. She was accompanied on the tabla by Pt. Sanju Sahai, a young exponent of the Banaras *gharana* (stylistic school). While her voice was still echoing in our heads, we were given a musical treat by the 'Taal *Yogi*' tabla maestro Pt. Suresh Talwarkar. He first performed the *Jhaptaal* (rhythmic cycle of 10 beats) and then moved on to *Teen Taal*. The uniqueness of this performance was that he was mainly accompanied by a vocalist for keeping the *Labara* (melodic frame) for the solo recital. The final performance of day one began pre-dawn with most appropriate early morning *Raga Lalit* by Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar. This rendition and the early morning breeze wafting through the temple revitalized us, despite having been listening to music non-stop throughout that night!

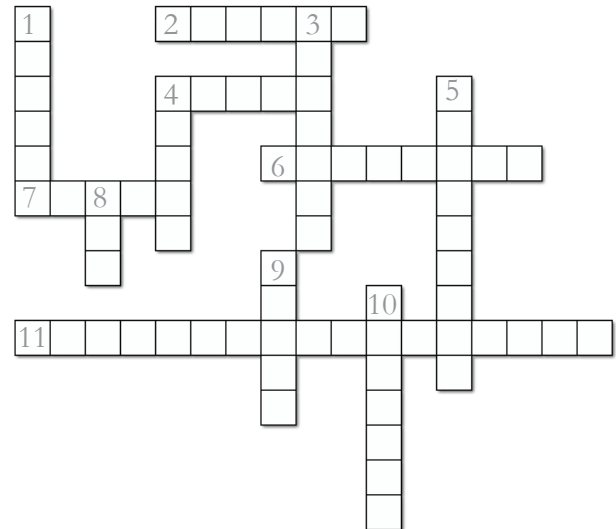
On the second day, our evening began with a visit to the acclaimed Kashi Vishwanath temple followed by a taste of the local cuisine: Banarasi *Dum Aloo* with various accompanying dishes. The evening's concert began with a flute performance by the renowned Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia. He was accompanied on the *pakhawaj* by Pt. Bhavani Shankar and on the tabla by Pt. Shubhankar Banerjee. He decided to play *Raga Bibag* and his unparalleled rendition was greeted by the audience with their repeated chants of 'Har Har Mahadev'.

The performances on the third day started with the much anticipated Pt. Shivamani's solo on the drums. He was accompanied by Pt. U Rajesh on the mandolin and by Pt. Ronu Majumdar on the flute. They played well known melodies such as *Vaishnava Jana* (No.12 in our school's song book) and the bhajan *Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram*, transforming these simple melodies - with various improvisations - into a works of art with their profound wisdom and experience. This concert certainly raised the spirits of those who suffered from a lack of sleep. The last concert that we witnessed was vocal duet by the Mishra brothers - Pt. Ritesh and Rajneesh - accompanied on the tabla by Pt. Kumar Bose. The *raga* for the evening was *Basant Mukhari*, a unique fusion of *Raga Bhairav* and *Bhairavi*, one being a *raga* which is most suitable to start the day (*Bhairav*) and another which is known as the closing *raga* for any concert in the Hindustani Classical format (*Bhairavi*).

Apart from the divine music we also enjoyed the sightseeing and the Banarasi delicacies. The discussions about music with PRY and ASA over lassi, chaat and thandai were a lot of fun and in the entire trip was a memorable and exciting one.

Crossword

The Sportsman's Corner



Note: All persons mentioned in this crossword are with reference to their surnames.

Across

2. Saul scored a magical away goal against ____ in the UEFA Champions League Semi-Final match (first leg).
4. The final match of the UEFA Europa League took place here.
6. Mascot of the 2016 Rio Olympics.
7. Andy Murray beat ____ in the 2016 Spanish Open semi-final game.

Down

1. NFL's Most Valued Player of 2016.
3. This team broke the Golden State Warriors's home winning streak of 54 games.
4. Creator of Parkour.
5. The first athlete to ever represent India at the Olympic Games.
8. This golfer currently ranked as the World No. 1.
9. Apart from Harbhajan Singh, he is the only player who has remained in the same franchise since for all nine seasons of the IPL.
10. Bangladesh's national sport.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	Down
2. Munich	1. Newton
4. Basel	3. Celtics
6. Vinicius	4. Belle
7. Nadal	5. Pritchard
11. Srivaddhanaprabha	8. Day

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/old-boys/past-weeklies/>

weekly@doonschool.com



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