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# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## Political Opines

*The Weekly interviewed Union Minister Arun Jaitley, who was the Chief Guest on Founder's Day this year.*

**DSW:** A lot of proficient Indian students currently choose to go to foreign universities instead of those in India. Do you think that this leads to a loss of the intelligentsia of the country?

**Arun Jaitley (ARJ):** You see, there was a time, where we were deeply constrained by what used to be referred to as the 'brain drain', that you have a very large part of bright people moving out of the country. If you now look at the demographical differential which has taken place all over, India has more people than its economy can absorb. The rest of the world, particularly developed countries, had lesser number of people than what their economies can involve and one of the reasons being that the replacement percentage in India is much higher, compared to the rest of the world and therefore, the consequences of the 'brain drain' which used to worry us, are not as grievous today because you see India will, because of this demographic differential, always, in a free market economy, be a big man power exporter. Of course it's always a loss for a country to lose the brightest minds, but then people have made their presence felt all over as the Indian diaspora, and that has had its own impact.

**DSW:** As both a lawyer and a cabinet minister, what is your take on the method that should be used for appointing judges to both the Supreme Court and the High Courts?

**ARJ:** I am a severe critic of the present system. The present system, I have described in the past as a system where judges appoint judges. So, the only place where this rule applies is the Gymkhana clubs, where existing members of the club recruit new members and no outsider is involved. You cannot have public appointments to judicial offices made in a non-transparent manner, by a group of individuals, which was never conceived in the Constitution of India. Even though this system has been devised through a judicial pronouncement of the Supreme Court, I believe that pronouncement runs completely contrary to the language of the Constitution.

**DSW:** Considering the GST Act is about to be implemented, how do you plan to build a consensus between non-cooperating states and stakeholders?

**ARJ:** The bill has been passed by both houses of Parliament, as well as the Constitutional amendment, which is an enabling provision. I think a much greater consensus was required for that purpose. Today, there is a Constitutional amendment which states that before September 16, 2017, everybody has to switch over to the new system and if you do not switch over to the new system, under the old system, you lose your right to tax. Therefore, there is a constitutional necessity under which you have to switch over to the new system. I have had three meetings of the GST Council, which includes both the Centre and the states, and I must say that this has, so far, been a very pleasant experience in what I call 'deliberative democracy'. That is, you have over thirty people assisted by their officers, jointly deciding the taxation regime of India. Earlier, this could be decided between the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister and then just a formal approval of the cabinet before the budget, and of course the Lok Sabha will ratify what the government says. So I think that this has made a big difference itself. We are carrying on this exercise and I am fairly optimistic that we will arrive at a conclusion. The only state which had formally opposed the GST was Tamil Nadu and having opposed it, they are also bound by the Constitutional Amendment, that is the law of the land and I must say that the representative of Tamil Nadu is also very actively participating in the Council.

**DSW:** As a private citizen, what is your take on the controversial topic of the criminalisation of homosexuality?

**ARJ:** I have already expressed my views on this subject, about three years ago, and my opinion is very clear, that it takes time for a social thought in a society to evolve, but in terms of criminal consequences, I always said that the Delhi High Court judgement was correct, because they did not quash Section 377. They said it is inapplicable in a consensual relationship. The Supreme Court reversed it. I always believe that the Delhi High Court judgement was more correct and eventually, I am quite certain that on a reconsideration, probably, that may become a broader view.

*(Contd. on Page 4)*



## Regulars

### Top-spin

The **School Table Tennis Team** participated in the **12th Manorite Table Tennis Tournament**, held at **St. George's College, Mussoorie** from October 22-23, 2016.

In the **Under-14 individual category**, Kanish Agarwal was declared the **runner-up**.

In the **Under-16 individual category**, Shyamal Singhal was declared the **runner-up**.

In the **Under-19 individual category**, Anuman Goel was declared the **runner-up**, while Vineet Puri was adjudged the **winner**.

In the **Boys doubles category**, Anuman Goel and Vineet Puri were the **winners**.

Congratulations!

### UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*Don't dare you put unquote mine.*

**Chaitanya Kediya**, one last time.

*Earth is dying and men will wipe.*

**Ansh Raj**, out.

*Think of unquote.*

**Arjun Singh**, 'working' hard.

*He has been working since five years ago.*

**Nehansh Saxena**, aspiring much?



**Black to White**  
Aryaman Saluja

*Victory belongs to the most persevering.*

- Napoleon Bonaparte

### Athletics

The **School Athletics team** participated in the **70th Annual Dehradun District Athletics Meet** held at **RIMC** from November 5-6, 2016.

In the **Under-16 Girls category**, Neveditta Ghughtiyal won a **gold medal** in the **800 metres** event, while Ananya Shukla won a **gold medal** in the **100 metres** and **200 metres** events. In the same category, the team comprising Neveditta Ghughtiyal, Tanisha Ahuja, and Aadita Chauhan finished **third** in the **4 x 100 metres Relay** event. For her exceptional performance, Ananya Shukla was adjudged the **Best Athlete** in the **Under-16 Girls Category**.

Well done!

The **School Athletics team** participated in the **All India IPSC Athletics Meet** held at **Punjab Public School, Nabha** from November 5-7, 2016.

Jaideep Gill won a **Bronze** medal in the **High Jump** event. Adhiraj Singh Palaitha won a **Bronze** medal in the **Shot Put** event. Yajwin Tandon and Yashvansh Chawla finished **fourth** in **Javelin Throw** and in the **Shot Put** event respectively. Keshav Maliah finished **fifth** in the **200 metres** event and **sixth** in the **100 metres** event.

Kudos!

### THE WHO?

Who is Jared Kushner?

**Kushagra Kar**: A doctor

**Nehansh Saxena**: 'The Joker' in 'Suicide Squad'

**Ranvijay Singh**: A Disco-jockey

**Shiv Sharma**: A footballer

**Jared Kushner** is an American businessman and son-in-law of US President-elect Donald Trump.

### Around the World in 80 Words

Donald Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States of America. All schools in New Delhi were closed for three days due to intense smog. Currency notes in the denomination of 500 and 1000 rupees were withdrawn from circulation. Five men, suspected of being Islamic State sympathisers, were arrested in Germany. South Korea Prime Minister allowed the parliament to choose the President. China prohibited two lawmakers in Hong Kong from retaking their oaths after they read them incorrectly.

# Tides of Intolerance

**Atrey Bhargava and Salman Mallick** *examine the growing intolerance towards Muslims in India.*

Living in a pluralistic society, we often do contemplate on Islamophobia, but many a times forget to understand the dilemma of a general Muslim person in India. The growth of the ISIS and other jihadist groups has garnered public upheaval, which has given legitimacy to extreme right wing parties like the RSS, the Shiv Sena, and the Hindu Mahasabha. These parties play on communal party lines and seek for India to be a theocratic State. Right from Veer Sarvakar, who stood for 'Hindu Nationalism' in the 1920's, to the rise of the BJP-a strongly nationalistic Hindu dominated right wing party- there has been a growing sense of insecurity in the Muslim populace in India. Contrary to Jinnah's claim that Hindus and Muslims could never live together, especially until the time the latter are in the minority, Nehru provided an alternative model where he collaborated with Muslim Parliamentarians and more than being secular propagated for equality between the two religions. However, through the decades, Nehru's aim to provide for an equal footing for both Hindus and Muslims has failed to pass the tide. It seems the power of the Preamble of our Indian Constitution has been weathered over the years, leaving the word secular unclear. Be it the Dadri lynching case, the Babri Masjid-Ayodhya controversy, the infamous Batla House encounter, or even the recent cow-slaughter dissensions, Hindus have exploited their powers as the majority in the country.

The existence of this ideology of Saffron Terror activities motivated by Hindu nationalism stands to prove that terror is not limited to the Muslims. "Saffron Terror" is a term coined by the Frontline magazine, which labelled the bombing of a predominantly Muslim village, Malegaon, in 2008 as a terrorist attack by Hindu nationalists. The Hindu nationalists have slowly grown in power during the last decade, and are now indirectly in power through Narendra Modi's BJP government. We in no way feel that Muslim extremist terrorist groups do not pose any threat. However, what we write against is the marginalization of Muslims because of the Hindu nationalists or the pretext of their supposed sympathies towards terrorist outfits. In fact, it is the marginalization of Muslims in our society that closes all paths to them, except one: terrorism. When something gets pushed to a corner, only then does it fight back, recklessly, without fear, in a do-or-die fashion. It is the same with Islamic terrorism. Islamic terrorism is simply a culmination of all the stereotyping and discrimination that Muslims have faced at the hands of the media and the propaganda of the governments.

Indian Muslims, however, have been relatively unexposed to most terrorist groups for quite a while. This is owing to the more secular and protective nature of the Indian government all this time, along with the relative poverty of the Indian Muslims, which has insulated them from the events of the world.

However, now, the winds of change have begun to blow. The majority that the BJP has gained in the central government, and the growth of the RSS, the Shiv Sena, and the Hindu Mahasabha abeing given leverage, thus marginalizing more and more of the Muslim populace. Programs like "Ghar Wapsi", which is a system of conversion of Muslims who "strayed" from their path of Hinduism, are showing what the government's extremist forces are turning to. There are people who believe that with the onset of the Modi government, India will "finally" be the Hindu nation it was "supposed" to be. The growing power of these groups, which is shown by the aforementioned cases are leading several Muslims into joining the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq, the most high-profile case being the sixteen missing Muslim youths from Kerala, who have allegedly gone and joined the Islamic State. Atrocious activities such as the rejection of Muslims from jobs and living spaces are now even creeping into metropolitan cities where the virus of communalism has even infected the educated minds. India has, today, regressed from its golden ages, in which both Muslims and Hindus would live in harmony. At a point of time, Islam and Hinduism could be called "the two eyes of the beautiful bride,". Now, we have to turn to another quote to describe today's situation: "It is safer to be a cow in India than a Muslim."

Parallels of such cases can be seen in the United States and France, (the California shooting and the mass killing in Nice) in which local Muslim nationals have been influenced by the Islamic State, mainly because of their growing frustration from the discrimination that they face in their workplaces and their localities.

However, the problem in India hasn't gone that far yet. It seems as if Indian Muslims are ready to handle more than what their Western counterparts have done. Legislation in India has taken a turn for the worse for Muslims; yet, there hasn't been much of a protest against the government by the Muslims, mainly because of the general lack of education that Muslims in India have. Right now, most governments haven't turned against Muslims simply because they are powerful vote banks, and cannot be upset. However, with the onset of the RSS, one has to be a real optimist to predict a bright future for Muslims under the BJP government, which hardly takes any action against the unconstitutional and unsecular activities of its extremist counterpart. It is in these challenging times that the strength of our secular Indian Constitution, which has withstood years of al-Qaeda terrorism and been true to its Muslims, will truly be tested. It is upon us Indians to not only be secular but oppose communalism in all its forms.

*(Contd. from Page 1)*

**DSW: For the past twenty years, leaders like Prakash Karat have been saying that there is no qualitative difference between the policies of the BJP and Congress. What is your view on that?**

**ARJ:** I think Prakash Karat represents an ideology that is globally rejected in the last several decades. The economic system which the left had envisaged, collapsed. It collapsed in the erstwhile Soviet Union, it collapsed in Eastern Europe, it collapsed in China. It is thus clear that the political system of a single party dictatorship that the Marxist had envisaged has been globally rejected. They are trying to hold on to that system and therefore, I am glad that India, in 1991, decided to deviate from a system which was closer to a state regulated system. India is a happier place since then and I am glad that more and more political parties, within the narrow arena of their differences, subscribe more to the post 1991 ideology, rather than Prakash Karat's obsolete ideology.

**DSW: You were once the President of the Delhi University Student Union. What is your take on the emergence of such student leaders like Kanhaiya Kumar from Jawaharlal National University?**

**ARJ:** A very large part of student politics now is losing its steam and this is happening across the country. There may be isolated cases where there is some ideological politics going on, but I don't see any virtues in making a cause out of slogans, which weaken the country.

**DSW: What advice will you give to the boys of our school who are interested in public policy and who wish to enter the realm of politics? In your experience, what is some advice which you think they must have?**

**ARJ:** It's extremely important to have a social commitment for that purpose. Unless you have a social commitment relevant for that purpose, you will not be able to do it and therefore social commitment is absolutely necessary. For those wanting to enter this area, that is the course they will have to follow.

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## Changing is Challenging

*Mr Supratim Basu writes on developments in education*

One of the hallmarks of a great school that has an already-established legacy in the education galaxy is that it offers a child an experience of panoptic pursuits that range from academics to cultural, national to global, and from individual to shared. A cascade of events; socially and intellectually relevant, where young minds in a school take part happily to satisfy their curiosity, in fact, contributes to transform a cooperative climate into a collaborative realm. These limitless possibilities that construe the delicate fabric of collaborative mindset also contribute to form a larger identity of a school, namely, "Evolution."

Being a teacher, I can attempt to record the rapidly changing educational ambience that defines the current thrust of teaching and learning. As I perceive it, during the last two decades, education has evolved significantly and responded fitly to the technological shifts, globalization, demographic pressures and emerging user expectations. With this shift of paradigm, the common framework of thoughts, ideas, and acquired knowledge that allow students to look beyond the defined local and national boundaries, has also undergone a change, or should I say, "It has been adjusted to suit the client demands." Global economy has become the driving force behind this newly formed identity of education and public education is today largely controlled by corporate, multinational, transnational and non-governmental organizations. In fact, a new benchmark has been set to popularize the market value of the institutions: certifications for specific skills by profit organizations, funding and job placement offer by numerous businesses, reward with scholarships and assistance etc. As a result, student-success is now measured in a way that it confirms their abilities as defined, governed, supported and developed by these new avatars which eventually attest educational merits as their requisites. With this, one cannot ignore the fact that education is shifting from a 'public good' to a 'private good.' As for teachers, they are also becoming instruments of this metamorphosis. Explorations, thoughts, and investigations are replaced by the expectations that teachers become managers (and multi-taskers).

Most of the National Curriculums are designed so to feed the current needs of skill acquisition and not to focus on the overall development of cultural, democratic and analytical aspects of education. In essence, teachers' freedom to instruct freely has become limited to syllabus-based pedagogy. This recurring emphasis on success and failure has, in turn, created a greater social stratification and more discrimination in society. The idea of educational freedom is fallen apart under the globalised and competitive juggernaut invading the school system. This emergence of corporate branding has created a state of alienation where students have evolved from being a mere participant of education to consumers of a privatized industry.

However, to pass any judgment with an apparent wish to pantomime progressivism is rather unsettling in the face of challenges that so many of our generations would have faced today had this educational movement not been adopted. This new educational ideals reinforce the shaping of mind which is immune to any global meltdown and in fact, it has built a dynamic task force of realistic, responsible and resistant leaders where the intellectual pleasures have made room for administrative rigours. In anticipation I end saying, this educational reform, as long as it invites good, is an imperative. After all, there is no substitute for sustained innovation.

# Young Scientists

**Atrey Guruprasad and Advait Ganapathy** report  
on the recently concluded International Students' Science  
Conference, hosted at School during the recent holidays.

On October 25th, young scientists from five nations gathered outside the Chemistry Lab along with their respective flags to inaugurate the 13th International Student Science Conference. This included delegates from Italy, Australia, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, as well as our own Doscocs from India. Apart from this, observers from Welham Boys' School, Welham Girls' School and Unison World School attended the event. The conference started off with a thrilling lecture on tiger conservation by an avid wildlife conservationist. It emphasized on how tiger conservation could make an impact on global biodiversity conservation efforts since saving a tiger requires vast acres of undisturbed forest land. A workshop on familiarizing the young generation to bird calls followed the event. The schedule was packed with intense scientific discussions. Presentations ranging from methods of conserving the spin of a table tennis bat (Australia) to acts of mealworms in consuming plastic (Hong Kong) left the audience spellbound. Increased heat dissipation of microchips in electronic gadgets using a graphite film (China) was the highlight for the second day of presentations. The common thread that connected these projects, however diverse they might be, was the message of promoting sustainable development. Presentations by students stimulated scientific discussion through the question-answer sessions. The scientific discussions were accompanied by hands-on scientific experience various trips and workshops. The LED Bulb workshop enabled delegates to provide electricity to a village during Diwali. The talks on agriculture sensitized the students to the depleting diversity of seeds and the alarming use of chemical fertilizers in the country. This was followed by a visit to the Navdhanya Organic Farm where we had an opportunity to interact with a famous environmental crusader Vandana Shiva. The scientific spirit of the conference was accompanied by a spiritual one. A trip to Rishikesh, the World Yoga Capital, was a highlight for most of the international delegates. An afternoon of rafting in the rapids of the Ganges evoked the adventurous spirit among those rafting for the first time. In contrast, this was followed by the famous *aarti* on the river bank. The last evening of the conference saw various 'henna' designs on most of the delegates (boys included!) as well as a grand dinner. The conference not only spread scientific ideas but also created lasting friendships. Several unforgettable memories were made. Bidding

farewell was tough but overall, this conference left a lasting impression of amity on each and every one of us.

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| Poetry |

## Who am I?

**Gunvir Paintal**

If you take away my name

My fame

Who am I?

If you take away this body

Remove these quirks

Who am I?

I am not my family

Nor this body that holds me

For it is but an empty vessel without me

I am not my favourite book

Nor my most heard playlist

They are but my taste

My likes and dislikes

I am not the last page doodles

Of my Mathematics book

Nor the scribbles on loose sheets

They are but my creativity

My pin-hole view of the world.

I am not my writing

Nor am I the late night conversations I have

They are just my views

I am quintessential

And worthless at the same time

There is no I

Just a part, a small part

Of a system, a design

The Grand Design

A design which embodies

Light and Darkness

A system

As big as the sun

As tiny as a speck of dust

As naive as a babe's laughter

As tired as a veteran's eyes

Felt

In the caressing of the wind

In the destruction by a hurricane

In all its beauty

In all its scarring ugliness

Stands out a plan

A Grand Design

# The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

Not many people felt like leaving their bed on Monday when they realized this was another one of the many winters which had to be spent without the comfort of heaters or electric blankets. To top it off, we have the unique distinction of being provided with cold water to bathe in and drink, in the houses through the day. Our authorities then wonder why we are constantly down with fever, colds and the other set of diseases winter has to offer. The boys looked as grey as the weather that greeted them at Chandbagh.

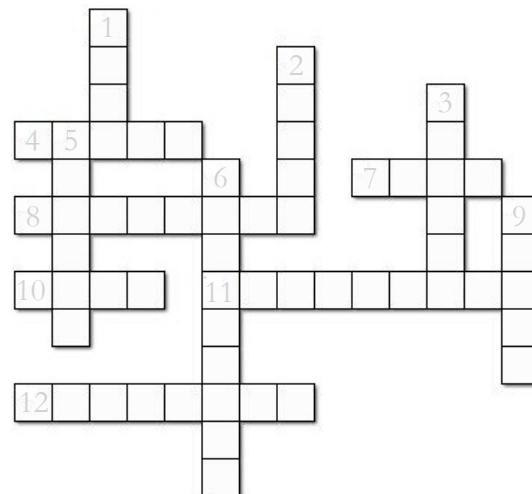
Pollution did not affect our town that much as it did to the capital. Masks were brought out and were a common sight on the streets of Delhi. Dehradun on the other hand was saved due to the considerable amount of greenery still left on the outskirts of the town. We hope that whatever is left of the greenery in Doon does not disappear too soon as they have at our very own campus over the past few years.

Our government has come down heavily on black money holders in our country who have been forced to discard 'old money' create new currency notes. What is more important is that for the first time, will learn the value of making the most of what little they have. Outing plans have been drastically cut down in order to give way for priorities such as food. One wonders why such measures were not introduced during the holidays so that we could have come better prepared for outings.

Finally, I think it is necessary to stress on one of the greatest moments that history has witnessed this past week. A man who I feel is misunderstood in many ways, United the States of America to shock the world and take control of the American Presidency. One can only wait and see what he plans to do with the world. Here in Chandbagh, our American College goers who have planned out their futures up to a decade later were especially fretting over how this decision would affect them in their run to get their dream jobs in Las Vegas. Most boys have been wondering about how they would manage an outing with illegal tender as their home dough too qualifies as illegal in more ways than one!

# Crossword

Famous Quotes



Note: All hints are quotes said by the person referred to in the answer and all people referred to in this crossword are done so by their surnames.

### Across

4. "Man needs his difficulties because they are necessary to enjoy success."
7. "I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."
8. "Logic can take you from A-Z, imagination can take you anywhere."
10. "Stay hungry, stay foolish."
11. "Democracy is the worst form of government, sadly its the best one we have."
12. "The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing."

### Down

1. "If you are the smartest man in the room you are in the wrong room."
2. "It ain't what we don't know that hurts us; its what we know for sure that's just ain't so."
3. "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."
5. "People who think they know everything are a great annoyance for those who do."
6. "Cogito ergo sum" (I think therefore I am).
9. "Experience is simply the name we give to our mistakes."

10. Jobs	5. Asimov
8. Einstein	3. Gandhi
7. King	2. Twain
4. Kalam	1. Dell
12. Socrates	9. Wilde
11. Churchill	6. Descartes
<b>Down</b>	
<b>Answers to This Week's Crossword</b>	

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

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