



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY



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WORD JUMBLE

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DINING  
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We welcome all guests attending the Kamla Jeevan Inter-School Hindi Debates, 2010

## Editorial

### Indian in Language and Spirit

*A debate, as we all know, is a test of one's knowledge, eloquence, wit, quick thinking and rhetoric. It requires skill with the language, knowledge of issues and an ability to engage each other in intense arguments. Naturally, we have to be able to think of arguments, present them convincingly, argue vehemently (while simultaneously following protocol) and, most importantly, hold our own and defend our argument against inevitable refutation. It requires an academic disposition: a debater must be willing to learn. But the Kamla Jeevan Inter-School Hindi Debates have a greater significance than being merely another debate. It certainly is a showcase for the activities of Bharat Vani, and a major inter-school Hindi debate on home ground. But being a Hindi debate, it assumes even greater significance.*

*In a time of globalisation and internationalism, we run the risk of forgetting our own culture and identity. While in principle, having a global outlook and being 'global citizens' sounds promising, we must understand that, at some level, we compromise a national identity and lose touch with our own culture. In such an age, it is imperative for us to celebrate our indigenous languages. Already, I hesitate to designate Hindi, or even Bangla or Oriya for that matter, as my mother tongue. Academically, English has always been my first language (and it is ironic that I write in this regard in English, the language of our erstwhile colonists). Our education system, by virtue of following a post-colonial archetype, promotes English as the primary medium of education. English is still our first language. It is imperative that we give ourselves a platform to develop an academic bent in an Indian language, in this case, Hindi.*

*Hindi, has a corpus of literature that reflects Indian culture, history and reality. It is the language of Premchand, Jainendra and the countless other authors who tell stories of the nation. The vast body of literature offers more than a stock of aphorisms and quotations, thus codifying the history of a people. So, in debating in Hindi, let us attempt to engage with such a history. I hope that, over the course of the debates, we shall focus on Indian culture and Indian identity by arguing through an Indian language. It is time for us to be unabashedly Indian, unabashedly nationalistic. This year, the Kamla Jeevan Debates promise to be intriguing for the audience and harrowing for the participants, shifting to the Cambridge style and having multiple rounds. Debates will be deeper, focussed and more intense. We should look forward to the competition and take from it as much as we can.*

## STORM AND STRESS

*Shashvat Dhandhanian and Abhinav Mittal discuss the weather concerns India faces every year and our ill-preparedness to address them*

Every year, we have problems in the country regarding the weather - from floods to landslides to the cultivation of crops. Year after year, we suffer either droughts or floods (sometimes both in different parts) in the country. Knowing that the monsoon is at our doorstep, why is it that we need to resolve the recurring issues at the last moment? We must prepare in advance for the problems the monsoon brings with it. While last year's monsoon was rather dismal, this year's excessive rainfall in Uttarakhand has created a bigger problem in the State. The debate over the construction of the Tehri Dam has once again come to the fore. The water levels in the dam have already exceeded the critical limit and there is rumoured to be a crack in the dam as well. Haridwar and Rishikesh are now flooded, and the situation is grim.

Let us first explore why the Government had not taken measures before the arrival of the rains.

The Government is always caught up with 'pressing' matters that need to be sorted out immediately. This year, it took the shape of the separatist movement in Telangana, besides the Women's Reservation Bill and the preparation for the Commonwealth Games. This prioritisation of short-term matters over long-term issues is also the reason why such an issue evades public and media attention. Likewise, such an issue is not raised in the Parliament either.

The monsoon is an essential factor for our agro-based economy because of the lack of development of dependable irrigation facilities in the larger part of the country. Our farmers still depend on the monsoon for their harvest. With irregularities in weather patterns witnessed over time, we can no longer be dependent on the monsoon. In this scenario, monsoon planning must be an essential part of all manifestos of parties and an integral part of parliamentary debate, pre-monsoon. For a long-term solution, we must move towards greater dependence on irrigation rather than the monsoon. Also, water may be transported through canals from the flooded areas to drought-affected areas, thereby solving the problem in both areas.

In defence of the Government, matters such as homeland security, separatist movements, terrorist attacks and other pressing matters cannot be overshadowed by monsoon planning. Still, the Government has numerous branches and ministries to control different matters. The formation of a separate department to deal with issues that the monsoon brings with it is imperative. Thus, there is no excuse for the lack of planning on the part of the Government which causes problems in the monsoon season every year.

## Soccer Update

**Seniors:**

**House XI:**

T vs O: 0 – 4

T vs J: 4 – 1

H vs J: 1 – 1

J vs K: 2 – 0

**Leagues I:**

T vs O: 0 – 1

H vs K: 0 – 2

O vs K: 1 – 0

O vs H: 2 – 0

**Juniors:**

**Juniors 1:**

H vs T: 6 – 1

O vs K: 5 – 0

H vs K: 6 – 0

J vs H: 1 – 1

**Juniors 2:**

H vs O: 1 – 1

T vs O: 0 – 0

T vs K: 2 – 0

J vs K: 8 – 0

## Opinion oll

**Do you think the School should introduce 'specialisation'?**

 **Yes 59 %**

 **No 41 %**

*(437 members of the community were polled)*

**Next week's question:** Are you enjoying your involvement in the Founder's Day preparations?

## VOTALYSIS

Despite a majority supporting the introduction of specialisation, we cannot accept the proposal as a large percentage is still against it.

As for the response we got, a number of voters inquired as to what context we were discussing specialisation in, despite a point-counterpoint in the previous issue elucidating that. Others had certainly considered the counterpoint when they suggested that not all Doscos had the talent needed to specialise.

A lot of students pointed out that specialisation in certain areas is unfeasible as the School did not possess the facilities to do so. Someone also pointed out that it would be going against an inherent aspect of School and would be too difficult to carry out. However, questioning tradition is not an uncommon phenomenon these days.

Most of the proponents of specialisation seemed far-sighted in their decision as they took a professional view of it. They said it would be beneficial for selecting a career. The opponents were on the one hand giving the lack of talent as a reason and on the other, criticising the boredom specialisation brought about.

Many other issues stemmed from this basic point of argument. There was a debate about the cancellation of many compulsory activities as that would be a corollary of specialisation. That debate has its own aspects and hopefully some member of the community will address them in the near future.

Some were even dissatisfied with the definition of specialisation and considered academics, sports and co-curricular activities as categories in which one could specialise. I agree if we are to offer specialisation in School, it must be in a variety of disciplines, so that every Dosco has a chance at it, provided he/she has the ability.

On the whole, we witnessed a healthy debate and hope to receive written responses.

## |Viewpoint|

# ON BEING MISLED

*Kanishka Malik reflects on Shrey Nagalia's article in Issue No 2258 of The Doon School Weekly, dated August 11, 2010*

In the recent issue of the *Weekly*, Mr. Nagalia's article not only stressed on an important national issue but also on the ignorance of the mass media. I was particularly pleased because I attempted to address the same issue last term. My proposal was to visit Vidarbha and in some way, serve the farmer community. That this proposal was not taken up may have been because of our community's limitations or the impracticality of the solution. Either way, I will drop that proposal and discuss the ignorance of the mass media, in light of recent events.

Recently, the organisation of the Commonwealth Games has received much attention from the press. The issue is certainly pertinent and must be addressed. However, what I have been wondering is whether this issue's days are numbered. The behaviour of the mass media in the past certainly suggests they are. About three months back, Ajmal Kasab's death sentence received unrelating attention from the newspapers. Now, we receive no updates on the status of that case, at least not from the newspapers. The criticism of food inflation and grains mismanagement is dying out. Probably the CWG issue will fade away in the same manner.

The capacity of the mass media to forget (and perhaps forgive) will lead to a national amnesia. It is this 'forgiveness' that corrupt individuals take advantage of and which leads to the undermining of public opinion. The mass media possesses the potential for making the authorities answerable, but this potential is wasted by such an attitude. As a student, I can merely comment on an irresponsible, breaking-news-hungry media, but hopefully, people will pay a bit more attention to the issue and not be misled.

As for the future, I can see the CWG issue being dropped and the Ayodhya verdict receiving a lot of attention and then being dropped too. On some occasion, I hope I am proved wrong.

## JLBUME

*The following are the jumbled names of prominent writers in Hindi*

DAMERCNPH

LAINAR

ANEDJINAR

AJSIHANRAK ARSDAP

VANAHIHRS AIR CBHACANH

ACARAHY BOAVIN BEAVH

## | Viewpoint |

# MINDING OUR MANNERS

*Vivek Santayana* comments on the table etiquette lessons organised for the Sc form

All of us can say with great pride that The Doon School now gives us an even wider spectrum of education, complete with finishing school. When I first heard that we were to have organised lessons on table etiquette for the Sc form, I was not too pleased. These etiquette classes imply, bluntly, that the boys of the Sc form, are all boorish louts, ignorant of table manners and, most importantly, not “taught these things at home”. I find such a generalisation to be too sweeping; boys will, after all, be boys: sometimes loud, sometimes boisterous, though still capable of carrying themselves formally as and when the situation requires. And one cannot expect us to display picture-perfect manners all the time. While we are noisy and, at times, unruly in the CDH, we are that much more restrained and well-behaved during Golden Night, House Feasts, Founder’s Day dinners or dinners with the Headmaster.

As far as table manners are concerned, masters and prefects sitting at our tables would check us in our junior forms and ensure that we knew the etiquette. It was a matter of common sense (and violations were often improvisations owing to the lack of cutlery or crockery). No need was felt for etiquette lessons and formal meals organised solely for the sake of instructing boys about table manners. These ‘classes’ convey a different message. I am honestly disappointed to know that boys of The Doon School are regarded as ill-mannered. Is this the stereotypical notion that we have of ourselves? It is damaging to our self-esteem that members of our community are convinced that we cannot sit through one formal dinner without making fools of ourselves.

My initial apprehension cast aside, the fact stands that such social graces are a necessity. We, as the youth in general (not only in Doon) are increasingly becoming in-front-of-TV eaters – a solitary activity where such etiquette plays no part. Dining in company and ‘breaking bread’ together in any society demands sensitivity to the comforts of others. Dropping, spilling, slurping food are frowned upon. Doing so invades the personal space of our fellow diners. Whether we eat with a fork and knife, our hands or chopsticks, there are expectations that these ‘implements’ will be wielded in a way so as not to cause discomfort. Dining does not equal eating. It is a whole experience in which conversation also plays a part. Therefore, risqué and vulgar talk is a strict no-no, especially at the table. Yet, I still feel these are social skills that will be picked up eventually. Most of it is, as we were told, common sense: we will learn these things as our tutors, Housemasters, teachers and even peers who sit at our tables check us as and when we make mistakes. We will learn as we realise that certain kinds of behaviour are inappropriate at meal tables.

In having such elaborate etiquette lessons, I sometimes jest we are catering to a tight-lipped and prim Victorian society that requires its youth to be trained on matters of etiquette as part of their schooling. It’s almost like a management class to cultivate wealthy corporate executives whose social lives will comprise elaborate five-course meals with rows of cutlery to work through. Our School admits boys of diverse backgrounds. For some, such etiquette is absolute necessary as it is inevitable that they will be attending formal, sit-down dinners. One can expect such people to know the difference between a salad fork and a fish fork before joining School. The rest will learn, and learn fast. I wonder if it is a critical necessity that merits instruction over a School week and, occasionally, warrants questioning our upbringing.

| Art Interview |

## Textile Teacher

The Doon School Weekly interviewed *Sanjiv Kumar Kalsi*, a new member of the art faculty in School

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Why did you choose art as a career?**

**Sanjiv Kumar Kalsi (SKK):** Art has always interested me since my childhood and my parents were also very supportive. I wanted to paint and sculpt since my early youth and it was inevitable that I would choose art as a career. I went to The Bolpur College, Shantiniketan, and chose to do textile design. In the same category, I went on to do the Certificate Course in Textiles from Vishwa Bharati. After this, I took a break, when I had a part-time job in Panajar Kendriya Vidhayalaya, and later, did my BFA (Bachelor in Fine Arts) and my MFA (Masters in Fine Arts) From Vishwa Bharati.

**DSW: Why did you choose to come to The Doon School?**

**SKK:** As my colleagues will have informed you, this institution is very similar to our university. The teacher-student relations are friendly. The desire of the students to learn is very encouraging. The atmosphere here also provides a great atmosphere for both teaching and learning. The senior-junior relationships, as they wish to help each other and spread the knowledge they have, is also motivating.

**DSW: Why did you decide to continue your profession in textile designing?**

**SKK:** As a child, I always enjoyed painting and sculpture. But, when I got an opportunity to choose the medium in which I would like to excel, there were a few aspects about this which made me choose it. Firstly, it was a growing area in art and had the scope for development. Secondly, I would get an opportunity to utilise my knowledge about various mediums and thirdly, it would be challenging- adapting to the modern beliefs, with reduced traditional background.

**DSW: What do you plan to do for the Art exhibition at this year’s Founders’ Day celebrations?**

**SKK:** I will be working with boys on batiks, block printing, tie-and-die, tapestry and frame murals, painting and stitching.

**DSW: What are your thoughts about modern art?**

**SKK:** I prefer to work with modern art techniques over the traditional methods. It is mainly as I get the scope to diversify from conservative techniques. For me, any form of art which is a modification over the traditional type is modern art.

**DSW: How are you influenced by the Bengali style of art?**

**SKK:** Coming from Bengal, my thoughts and what reflects from it in my work, is influenced by it. Whether it is the choice of colour, style or even the use of the brush, it comes from the heart of Bengal. The scenes that I like to depict in my paintings are ones which have conventionally been defining art from Bengal. The season of Durga Puja, which is celebrated in much style in the state, has especially influenced the posture and movements of my figures, much like the depiction of gods and goddesses from art in Bengal.

## BULLETS FOR STONES

*Tanuj Kumar discusses the reasons for and possible solutions to the ongoing crisis in Kashmir*

As you read this, over a hundred days have passed since the death of a young 17-year old Kashmiri boy, Tufail Mattoo, who was caught in a stone-pelting mob and was struck by a teargas shell, on his way back from tuition. What was his fault? Just that he was at the wrong place at the wrong time! Even before the tears of his family members could dry up, Kashmir was engulfed in violence. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Much has been said and written about the issue thereafter, but it is essential to analyse the problem from its root level. What drives a regular boy, just like you and I, to pick up stones and hurl them at the armed forces? The situation is becoming worse day by day: there is no milk for babies, no medicines, no emergency aid for the critically ill, no business and work, no birthday celebrations and no weddings. The prolonged curfew has paralyzed Kashmir and all one can hear from the Valley are slogans like “Go India, Go Back!” .The place which we proudly called ‘*jannat*’ once, is now turning into a ‘*jahannum*’. Every Kashmiri yearns for *azadi*: freedom from India. People are displaying their discontentment through violent protests. The burning question before us is: why do they hate India so much? And how will this bullets-for-stones battle solve the issue? I believe that tackling this issue in such a manner is a futile act and can yield no solution. We must, instead, listen to the demands made by Kashmiris and tackle the issue accordingly.

Firstly, one demand of Kashmiris is to amend the AFSPA (The Armed Forces Special Powers Act). Introduced in 1989, the AFSPA gives the army or any other military force deployed by the Indian Government the right to interrogate a civilian without having to furnish evidence at the time. Special Forces had been deployed in the Valley to control violence, and this freedom was considered for the special forces. While no one would like to stay with an army in their state, keeping a watch over them 24x7, interrogating civilians as they are perceived to be a threat without any concrete proof, and imposing curfews frequently, (the reason for which the army was deployed in the first place) cannot be ignored. It was only in 1989 that the army intervened after mass violence erupted in the Valley, and thousands of lives were lost. Further, it is believed that the ISI (Inter Services Intelligence) of Pakistan was involved in training the Mujahideen to fight in Kashmir at the time. If the army had not moved in then, the map of Kashmir would have been different today. Now, even if we draw the forces out from Kashmir, and amend or do away with the AFSPA altogether, it is uncertain whether the desire of *azadi* will die out or not. Moreover, violence in the Valley shall increase manifold as separatist leaders may well take the opportunity to carry on with individual political agendas.

Secondly, if India allows Kashmir to be independent, how will we deal with cries for secession from other states? In the past, we have witnessed states such as Punjab (Khalistan), Tamil Nadu (Dravidistan), Andhra Pradesh (Telangana) and the North-Eastern Provinces, demanding secession. By ‘freeing’ Kashmir, India will refresh the separatist sentiments of people in these areas, leading to more complications where handling the issue will become even more difficult on the national front. Also, Kashmir itself has no major sustaining industry to boast of and although Kashmiris believe that India has not done enough for economic development in the area, imagining an independent Kashmir at this stage is impossible!

The third point to be considered is giving Kashmir away to Pakistan. I feel that separatist leaders, in their marked preference towards political alignment with Pakistan over India, represent a minor fraction of the Kashmiri community. Considering the development in India and its further potential (as compared to Pakistan), it would undoubtedly be in the Kashmiris’ economic interest to stay aligned with India. Although development on the same plane as in several other parts of the country is yet to take place in Jammu & Kashmir, one cannot rule out the scope of a brighter future now that the Government has declared the prospect of development in the state. Furthermore, Pakistan is reeling under poverty, another secessionist movement in Baluchistan and has a greater terrorist threat to deal with on the border it shares with Afghanistan. Considering the ‘injustice’ Kashmiris have gone through in terms of unequal development in the country, I really don’t understand why the average Kashmiri would want Kashmir to join Pakistan, after looking at India’s success story and also the way Pakistan has been devastated by terrorism and corrupt governments.

Considering all the aforementioned reasons, I believe that Kashmir’s continued alignment with India would be the most beneficial idea, essentially for Kashmir, as well as for India. The Indian government will have to come up with a plan to extinguish the fire raging in every Kashmiri heart as well as to prevent the state’s secession. Further, India must control the rising anti-India sentiment in the region, and make an effort towards enforced schooling for children in the area. We must replace the guns in the hands of innocent children with books. At this juncture, peace is imperative for any solution to be considered. No one wants to see more Mattoos killed.

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