



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, April 30 • 2011 • Issue No. 2281



REGULARS

2

AVIATION  
TRIP

2-3

ART REPORT

4

REST-HOUR  
CRISIS

4

## Editorial

### *The PTM Initiative*

*Until last year, PTMs would take place once a term with parents of all forms meeting masters on the same day. They would have to move from one classroom to another, depending on where the master was seated. Often there would be long queues of parents outside classrooms, waiting for their chance to speak with the master. The sessions would be overstretched and often parents would not even be able to meet everybody concerned.*

*Now the exercise is far more congenial for everyone involved. The new arrangement is completely centralised, with all masters being seated in the MPH. This makes it much more convenient for parents as they do not have to move from one classroom to another. Also, by having two forms per PTM, masters have to deal with fewer parents each time.*

*It is also more eventful for parents, with an optional workshop being held before the session and a lunch with the students of the respective forms.*

**Now the exercise is far more congenial for everyone involved.**

### | Interview |

## To the Point

The Doon School Weekly interviewed **Karan, Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea**, who conducted a talk in the Rose Bowl on Thursday, April 21



*Addressing the students of The Doon School, Lord Karan Bilimoria spoke passionately about the tough decisions one has to make while facing business challenges. He spoke about how, during the latter half of the last century, when Indian cuisine became extremely popular in the UK, he saw an opportunity to introduce a beer that was more suitable for drinking with curry. This is how he founded Cobra Beer in 1989.*

*His talk was exceptionally inspirational and it was a pleasure listening to an entrepreneur who has made it all by himself.*

**DSW: After twenty years of economic liberalization, what are your views on the Indian economy?**

**Lord Karan Bilimoria (KBM):** The Indian economy was opened in a measured way, unlike the USSR's. Liberalization brought more investments to the economy. However, there are still problems in India. Corruption is pervasive and there are a number of restrictions that are hampering growth. For instance, foreign lawyers are still not allowed to practice in India, even though they would not be taking away jobs from Indians. Education is also facing major setbacks.

**DSW: When you launched Cobra Beer in India, what were some of the hurdles that you had to overcome?**

**KBM:** The biggest problem in India is the bureaucracy. There are still traces of the *License Raj*. Each state has its own set of laws and the import and export duties make it even more challenging. With incidents like the 2G scam, corruption has gone too far and it affects everyone. I am glad to see people taking corruption head on and would say that despite heavy odds, it is admirable how the Indian economy is doing well and growing at 9% per annum.

**DSW: Is GDP (Gross Domestic Product) the most accurate way of measuring a country's prosperity?**

**10% of the academics in British universities are foreigners. In universities like Oxford and Cambridge, about 30% of the academics are foreigners and international students indirectly spend 8 billion pounds on their education in the UK.**

*(contd on page 3)*

**OBITUARY**

The School community mourns the untimely and tragic passing away of **Yashwardhan Pokhriyal (ex-394 J)** on April 23, 2011

**HOCKEY OUTCOME**

The **School Hockey Team** played their first match of the season against the **Old Boys** and **won** 4-3. Dhruv Agarwal and Siddhant Sachdev scored two goals each.

The **School Hockey Team** played a practice match against the **Welham Boy's School** and **lost** 0-1.

The **School Hockey Team** played its first match in the **S Khandari Memorial Tournament** against **Welham Boys School** and **won** 2-0. The team also played a match against the **School Staff Team** and **won** the match 3-1. Well played!

**BASKETBALL**

The Doon School played **Aryan School** and **St. Thomas School** in the **District Basketball Tournament** on April 17, 2011 and **won** 35-24 and 23-10 respectively. In the **quarter-finals**, the team played **Kasiga School** and **won** 32-24. In the **semi-final** round, the team played the **Summer Valley School** and **won** 41-27. In the **finals**, the School defeated **Hilton School** and **won** the tournament.

In the **first match** of the **25th All India Golden Jubilee Basketball Tournament**, The Doon School played **YPS Patiala** and **won** 58-18. In the **quarter-final** round, the School played against **Shri Ram School, Aravali** and **won** 50-26. Well played!

**POETIC**

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Poetry Recitation Competition**:

**Best Speaker:** Tarang Saxena

**Second Best Speaker:** Karan Gulati

**Third Best Speaker:** Prabhjot Singh

Oberoi House won the competition. Congratulations!

**DEBATABLE**

The School was represented by Vikramaditya Kapur and Rahul Srivastava in the **First-Round** of the **Frank Anthony Memorial All India Debates**. Vikramaditya Kapur was adjudged the **Most Promising Speaker**. The School qualified for the next round.

The School was represented by Shashvat Dhandhanian, Kunal Kanodia and Madhav Dutt at the **Hugh Catchpole Debates** held at **RIMC**. The School reached the **semi-final** round. Well done, all!

**CRICK-UPDATE**

The **Senior School Cricket Team** played a cricket match against the **Old Boys** on April 16, for the **AMQ Memorial Trophy**. The senior team scored 143 runs in 25 overs and **won** the match by 13 runs. Ashwin Dokania was adjudged the **Most Valuable Player**. Well played!

**QUIZ**

The School was represented by Shubham Agrawal, Udai Bothra and Aditya Bhattacharya in the **Eleventh RIMC All India Challenge Quiz**. The team emerged **Runner-up** after a closely contested buzzer round. Well done!

**RECOGNIZING ARTISTS**

Vaibhav Gupta and Shreshtha Verma have been awarded **Art Colours**. Well done!

**Top Gun**

*Alawi Singh reports on the School's visit to an Air Force Base from April 25 to 27*

At dawn, on Monday, just as the sunlight began to illuminate the main field and sleepy boys scrambled out of bed for the usual morning P.T., we left campus with ANK as our escort and headed towards a strategic Air Force Base (whose location cannot be disclosed because of security reasons).

After five hours of traveling on a rather bumpy road, we navigated our way through the cantonment till we managed to find our way to the Air Force headquarters. Our two cars came to a halt at the military checkpoint as we waited for our Air Force escort to join us. We were then led to our accommodation. After a quick freshening up, we reported downstairs where our escort was waiting to show us around. We then proceeded to visit a church which had been bombed out in the 1965 Indo-Pak war. After seeing the remnants of this once beautiful church, we moved to the conference room where we were treated to *samosas* and other snacks. We were then led to the underground Air Traffic Control centre where we learnt about communication systems such as RADAR and HUD which are used to communicate with pilots on their various sorties. But the most exciting moments were when we were standing only a few feet away from the tarmac and witnessed several fighter jets take off and land at close range. We watched in awe as they deployed parachutes to slow down or fire up their engines to take off into the sky. A training exercise had been specially arranged in which two planes were meant to bomb a target while another was to intercept these planes and prevent the attack. We were then taken to see a fighter jet in its hangar where we got a chance to see it up close and learn about the basic cockpit controls. Having seen the real plane, we then set off to get a feel of flying in the simulator. I tried my hand at 'flying', aiming at targets as well as manoeuvring the plane. Sparsh had a successful take off and landed with a bit of help from an IAF instructor.

After an extremely exciting morning, we headed back to the mess where we were served lunch. Having gorged on rice, dal and paneer, we retired to our rooms



(contd from page 2)

to take a short break before our evening session. We were later given the opportunity to attend a briefing session in which pilots were provided with all the necessary technical data and information before they took off for their sorties. We were then escorted to see the night flying sessions. Seeing fighter jets take off in the day is no doubt astounding, but seeing them do the same at night left me dumbstruck. The sheer beauty and raw power of these flying machines cannot be described in words. Having witnessed this spectacle we returned to our rooms and got ready to go out for dinner. We had opted to go out into the city to find a place to eat. After finishing our meal we got back to our rooms as we had had a long day and had to set out early the next morning.



(contd from page 1)



**KBM:** You can't get too stuck on GDP growth but I think it is the growth that helps create the taxes and eventually public services. The United Kingdom spends 50% of its GDP on public services.

**Being a member of the House of Lords, what do you think of the British Government's new policies on education and immigration (with respect to college students)?**

**KBM:** I have been speaking very openly in Parliament about the Government's immigration policy. I think it is important to bring in international students because it is great for universities to have a multi-cultural setting. After

all, 10% of the academics in British universities are foreigners. In universities like Oxford and Cambridge, about 30% of the academics are foreigners and international students indirectly spend 8 billion pounds on their education in the UK. What I am against are the illegal immigrants who enter with the help of bogus institutions and abuse the welfare state. Skilled immigrants should not be barred as they are important for the economy. For instance, the Indian restaurant industry is desperately in need of chefs. I fought for the policy which allowed international students to work for 2 years after graduating.

I don't agree with what the British Government is doing with education either. Our expenditure on education is 1.3% of the GDP while the United States spends over 3%. Education is almost completely publicly-funded and if we chip away at that, we will be harming our higher education system. I am completely against the cut on education spending in the UK and the increase in the fees of the local students.

**DSW: Do you think the Conservative Government's decision to cut down on public spending is an effective method of reducing the fiscal deficit?**

**KBM:** I have been speaking about this quite regularly in Parliament. You have to tackle the problem of fiscal deficit. At the moment, it is very high (at 170 billion pounds) and will further increase due to massive public expenditure. Our expenditure on public services used to be 40% of the GDP but now it is 50%. The budget for the NHS ( National Health Service) has doubled over the past ten years. Our welfare spending is extremely high and a lot of it is being abused. What is dangerous is when you start cutting the expenditure in areas like education and defence.

**DSW: Do you think military intervention by the international community in Libya was justified?**

**KBM:** It was right because it was done after the UN Resolution of 1973. Had the international community not intervened, there would have been a massacre. However, I think we are making a mistake by not thinking about the long-term effects of our intervention or what some of the consequences of international intervention might be. It is the same mistake that was made in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have not learnt our lessons.

**I think we are making a mistake by not thinking about the long-term effects of our intervention or what some of the consequences of international intervention might be. It is the same mistake that was made in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have not learnt our lessons.**



# An 'Art'istic Time

*Shreshtha Verma and Jaskrit Singh report on the Art Workshop conducted with the Hopetown Girls' School on April 10 and 17*

On April 10 and 17, The Doon School and Hopetown Girls' School came together for the first time to organize a joint Art Workshop. The workshop on April 10 was held at the Art and Media Centre in The Doon School. Students from both schools were divided into groups. The boys and girls got together and started working on different genres which included painting, ceramics, textile, sculptures and glass work. The following Sunday we visited Hopetown Girls' School and spent the day there. This time we had to choose from glass work, canvas and textiles. While the younger students got a chance to improve their skills and learn from their experience, the senior students showed their expertise in their respective genres. Sixteen of us were escorted by the Art faculty and we worked with eighteen students from the host school.

After two Sundays of intense hard work and fun, we left, content with what we had created and the new friends we had made. An exhibition will be organised on May 7 in the Art and Media Gallery and we look forward to our exhibits being on display.

On the whole, it was a memorable experience and we learnt a lot. We created unique pieces of art which, we hope, will speak for themselves at the exhibition.

## Unquotable Quotes

*Sparsh had a successful take off when he took off.*

**Kunal Kanodia**, the aviator.

*Please pass the assaulted pakodas.*

**Dhruv Sirohi**, here they are.

*You five feet five inches, me five feet five inches.*

**Vikram Kejriwal**, you know this!

*Keep shut your mouth!*

**Harsh Singhania**, silence is golden.

*He do trouble others.*

**Gaurav Kothari**, weeds out trouble.

*Do not trouble to others!*

**MNP**, keeps his eyes out for trouble.

*Sharing is squaring!*

**SSM**, shows his care through mathematics.

*You don't listen the answers!*

**AKM**, demands attention.

*Return it to me back after lunch!*

**Arjun Midha**, punctual.

# Compromising Rest

## Opinion oll

Has rest hour become a myth?

**Yes 67%**

**No 33%**

(312 members of the community were polled)

**Next week's question:** Are you in favour of social service being compulsory?

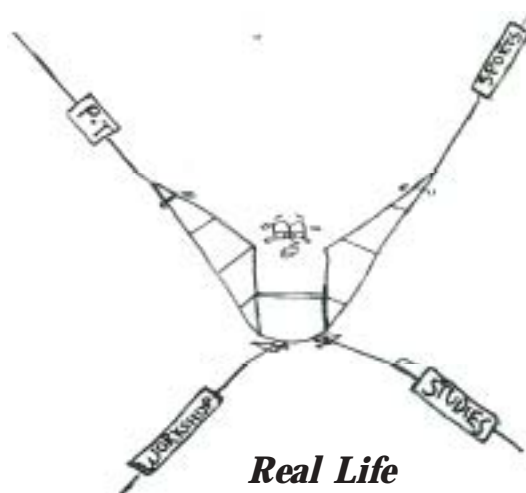
Rest Hour has been a part of the School's daily schedule for as long as one can remember. It was conceived with the purpose of allowing boys to take some time off from their busy schedules. While this might have been the case a few years ago, today the Rest Hour is like the Big Foot; sightings are often reported but never confirmed.

The unwillingness of students to enforce the Rest Hour upon themselves is not the only reason behind this change; many times, there are activities that need to be attended to after lunch. More often than not, career talks, workshops, choir practices and play rehearsals take up a considerable amount of time and make the Rest Hour a rather strenuous affair. Moreover, due to sheer lack of time, a number of important house activities eventually end up taking place after lunch.

Not surprisingly, most of the 'No's' in the poll above came from the D formers who maintained that Rest Hour is very much in practice in the holding houses and is enforced religiously. This can be attributed to the fact that D-formers have been here for less than a month and are not involved in many activities that are time consuming.

Rest Hour remains a luxury that most Doscocs cannot afford, especially when other important obligations require their time and presence. If Rest Hour is to be followed seriously, all activities after lunch must be stopped or at least reduced to a bare minimum. This integral part of the curricula needs to be given priority over other activities whenever and wherever possible. Hopefully, the proposed reduction in school activities will ease some of the pressure and allow students to put their feet up for a bit after lunch.

doontoon Ishmam Chowdhary



Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue>

[weekly@doonschool.com](mailto:weekly@doonschool.com)



IPSS® All rights reserved. **Printed by:** The English Book Depot, 16 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – 248009, India. **Published by:** Philip Burrett, The Doon School, Dehradun.

**Editor-in-Chief:** Kanishka Malik **Editor:** Abhinav Mittal **Senior Editor:** Raghav Puri **Hindi Editor:** Shivank Singh **Associate Editors:** Shashvat Dhandhania **Special Correspondents:** Madhav Dutt, Vikramaditya Kapur, Raniz Bordoloi, Kunal Kanodia, Utkarsh Jha **Correspondents:** Mihir Kiran, Arjun Kamdar, Harshvardhan Singh, Aditya Bhattacharya **Junior Correspondents:** Manan Pradhan, Devansh Agarwal **Webmaster:** Vishal Mohla **Assistant Managers:** Shrey Nagalia, Aaron Jacob, Arvandanabha Shukla **Technical Assistant:** KC Maurya **Photo Credit:** Vikramaditya Kapur (page 1) Sparsh Batara (page 2 and 3 - *Top Gun*) PMC (page 3 - second photo)