

Established in 1936



# The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, November 10 • 2012 • Issue No. 2329

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## The Headmaster's Speech

Although we can never rest on our laurels, and complacency is the enemy of the best, the school is doing well in many spheres. Much of the success of the school has been down to the vision and drive of our Chairman, Mr. Analjit Singh, for forging a new mission and sense of purpose in the school. After serving on the Board since 2004 and as Chairman since 2007, he is demitting office after this Founder's weekend, but will leave an enduring legacy to the school. A man of great warmth and generosity, not only to this school, but to all who come within his orbit and embrace, his heart and soul have been in Doon for the best part of a decade now.

The world does not owe this or any other school a living; many schools far, far older than Doon have closed their doors because of a lack of vision on the part of the governors, or the headmaster and senior leaders, or the entire school community. Ensuring that a school does not languish, but maintains its pre-eminence, meets new challenges and surges forward, while remaining true to its history, heritage and ethos, is a difficult art. This is not easy to accomplish in a world in which many of us prefer to be spectators, to look on at the endeavours of others, or to be critics. When I think of Mr. Analjit Singh I think of what one of America's great Presidents said in 1894:

"Criticism is necessary and useful; it is often indispensable; but it can never take the place of action, or be even a poor substitute for it. The function of the mere critic is of very subordinate usefulness. It is the doer of deeds who actually counts in the battle for life, and not the man who looks on and says how the fight ought to be fought, without himself sharing the stress and the danger."

Theodore Roosevelt elaborated this earlier sentiment in his famous lecture at the Sorbonne in 1910 when he declared: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Analjit, I hope that we have not left you with too much dust, sweat and blood on your face, but we shall certainly miss you in your work on the Board and Chairman, but know that you will continue to be a life-long friend of The Doon School. The Doon School, is a young school, so it will grow and change in the next century and beyond – in 2112 it will certainly not be the same as it is today. We have not even made it to one century yet, and the legislative framework in India has rarely been so hostile to private schools, whether it is the attempt to impose taxes on us, or the implications of the RTE Act, and the market for private schools is demolishing what I would call quality boarding education all over the world. We must ensure that we still exist for generations to come to enjoy a Doon School education, and when future histories of The Doon School come to be written, I am convinced that Analjit Singh's legacy will loom large in their pages. On behalf of the entire Doon School community, I should like to thank him for all that he has done for the school – and for appointing me to what I consider to be the best job that a man can have in education. Analjit, we shall say thank you but, as it is hard to imagine the workings of the Doon School without you, we shall not say goodbye, but rather *au revoir*.

As I said a moment ago, boarding education is declining across the globe, but all-round education, whether it is in day or boarding schools, is also under serious threat. Very few schools are doing what I would consider full, genuine and serious all-round education: some neglect academic work, some neglect sport, some neglect cultural activities, some neglect adventure and teaching risk-taking, some neglect aspects of the curriculum such as science or the humanities. But for me the great crisis in education is that so many schools are neglecting to teach the *good* values that will help our national and global societies to flourish in a healthy way. And this is not just an "India" problem; it is a crisis across the globe.

We talk about "teaching values", or about providing "a values-led education", and we think we know what we mean. But we are teaching young people "values" on a scale never before possible. I fear that we adults are teaching the young too many values, and we need to stop and pause. And I mean this in the sense that the preponderance of values being taught is beginning to lie with the values that are morally rotten, not the good and the true and the wise and the beautiful values we cherish.

We have lost our way. Post-modernism, with its moral relativism (all opinions are equally valid, all behaviours and cultures, whether it is high culture or popular culture, are of equal value), and the digital age, with its seemingly limitless possibilities for both good and evil, have smashed 'values' into atoms, atoms spinning around the centre of the universe and what seems to be becoming everyone's favourite topic of conversation, "me, myself and I", rather than "we, ourselves and us". Every day, in the increasingly powerful digital media, and in the behavior of adults paraded for our information or entertainment, our children are being relentlessly taught values that are destructive of family and community life and civil

(contd. on page 3)

## GRANDMASTERS

Shaurya Agarwal, Akshat Jha, Sarthak Gupta and Parth Khanna participated in the **National School Chess Championships, 2012**, held between October 26 and November 1. In the Individual Event, Akshat Jha scored 4.5 out of 9 points, Parth Khanna scored 4 out of 9 points, Sarthak Gupta scored 5 out of 9 points and Shaurya Agarwal scored 3.5 out of 9 points. In the Team Event, the School was ranked **4th** in the **Under-17** category.

Well done!

## IISPSC

Udbhav Agarwal, Arnav Joshi and Ashutosh Goyal represented the School at the **International Individual School's Public Speaking Competition** held at the **Stratchona-Tweedsmuir School in Calgary, Canada** from October 24 to 29. The Team won the **Best Overseas Team Award** and the **Best Overseas School Rolling Shield**. Udbhav Agarwal was among the top ten speakers and the School was among the top 15 schools of the tournament.

Congratulations!

## IAYP ACCOMPLISHED

The following students have completed various levels of the **IAYP Award Programme**:

**Bronze Award:** Dhananjay Bansal, Parth Khanna

**Silver Award:** Ashutosh Goyal, Preetham Mohan, Aditya Gupta, Sachin Mehra, Vibhav Gupta, Shubham Sikaria, Gaurav Kothari, Digvijay Gupta, Sai Swayam, Arush Sood, Parth Vohra, Sarthak Gupta

**Gold Award and IAYP Blazer:** Ujjwal Dahuja

Well done all!

## KINGS OF THE BOARD

Parth Khanna, Tanmay Kapoor, Nivit Kochhar, Sarthak Gupta and Ujjwal Dahuja have been awarded **Chess Colours**.

Congratulations!

## ATHLETICS

The results of the **66th Annual Districts Athletics** are as follows:

Siddarth Sarin won **Gold** in **Discus Throw (U-20 category)**, **Bronze** in **Discus Throw (Men's category)** and **Silver** in **Shot Put Throw (U-20 category)**.

Suyash Bishnoi won **Silver** in **High Jump (U-18 category)**.

Arjun Parmar won **Gold** in **Long Jump (U-20 category)**.

Arjun Midha won **Silver** in **800m (U-20 category)**.

Well done all!

## IH TABLE TENNIS

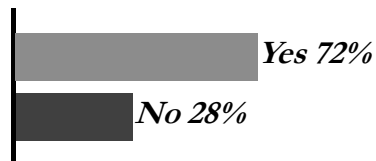
Following are the results of the **Inter-House Table Tennis Competition, 2012**:

<b>Juniors:</b>	<b>Seniors:</b>	<b>House:</b>
<b>1st:</b> Jaipur	<b>1st:</b> Tata	<b>1st:</b> Jaipur
<b>2nd:</b> Hyderabad	<b>2nd:</b> Oberoi	<b>2nd:</b> Oberoi
<b>3rd:</b> Oberoi	<b>3rd:</b> Jaipur, Kashmir	<b>3rd:</b> Tata
<b>4th:</b> Kashmir	<b>5th:</b> Hyderabad	<b>4th:</b> Hyderabad
<b>5th:</b> Tata		<b>5th:</b> Kashmir

Congratulations!

## Opinion oll

Did you follow the American presidential elections?



*(364 members of the School community were polled)*

**Next Week's Question:** Do you think that some sports in the Autumn Term should be shifted to the Spring Term?

## BADMINTON

Following are the results of the **Inter-House Badminton Competition, 2012**:

**1st:** Oberoi

**2nd:** Hyderabad

**3rd:** Jaipur, Tata and Kashmir

Well done all!

## IH DEBATING

Following are the results of the **Inter-House English Debating Competition, 2012**:

**Juniors:**

**1st:** Tata

**2nd:** Oberoi

**3rd:** Jaipur

**4th:** Kashmir

**5th:** Hyderabad

**House:**

**1st:** Tata

**2nd:** Hyderabad, Oberoi and Jaipur

**5th:** Kashmir

Congratulations!

## YEARBOOK

Following are the appointments for the **Yearbook** for the forthcoming year:

**Editors-in-Chief:** Agni Raj Singh and Devesh Sharma

**Editor:** Rahul Srivastava

**Chief of Production:** Rishabh Tusnial

Congratulations!

## A.V.

Shantanu Singh and Varun Pais have been appointed **Boys-in-Charge** of the **A.V. Squad** for the forthcoming year.

Congratulations!



## Around the world in 80 Words

*News from around the world:* Presidential Elections came to an end in the United States of America this week with Obama reclaiming his position in the White House. There is another storm heading towards the US just a week after it was struck by Sandy. Gautemala has been hit by a fatal earthquake, taking the lives of 48 people. There have also been statements coming from the Chinese President Hu Jintao urging party members in China to refrain from corruption

(contd. from page 1)

society – and I mean civil in more than one sense of the word – as well as some of the fundamentals of the educational process.

Confusion over the teaching of values and beliefs lies in the neutrality of the word ‘value’. Values are principles or standards of behaviour; one’s judgement of what is important in life. A ‘value’ is something that is up to *me* (again *me, myself* and *!!*). “If it feels good, do it”, is one of the values underpinning hedonism, as is “selfishness is good”. Who can forget Gordon Gecko, the character in the Hollywood film *Wall Street* who summed up 1980s values with his utterances that “Lunch is for wimps”, and “Greed is good”. See where that has led us. “Success at any price” is yet another value, but a destructive one, as is “It is all right to steal a little, if you work hard”. Cynicism and lack of trust have become too common a part of too many people’s value systems. If today you are wondering why you are sitting so far away from this podium, there is a reason that shows what is actually going on around us. When I stood on this spot in 2010, the President’s security authorities decreed that the front row had to be thirty feet away. Now, because more people are throwing things, mainly shoes, at politicians, and their aim is getting better as a result of a welcome growth in interest in sport in the country, you have to be sixty feet away; I hope all you Dosco cricketers and javelin throwers are at the back! If things go on like this, in 2014, I shall still be standing here speaking to you, but you will be sitting on Skinner’s wondering where this disembodied voice is coming from.

So, there are many values being taught to the younger generation by the older generations. Young people are watching and listening and absorbing and they are learning certain lessons: crime pays; no-one can be trusted; everyone is out for him or herself, so you had better join in or be left behind; tigers cannot be saved from extinction; the Ganga cannot be kept clean, so why bother to think of the environment? Naturally, we do not want our young people to imbibe these values and states of mind which seem to be so rampant, so why do we teach them by being such poor examples? Is it any wonder our young people are confused by us and our behaviour, and are switching off from education and politics and the creation of civil societies?

And we are so careless with the truth ourselves that in a recent C-For survey of young people for *The Hindustan Times*, 70% said it was acceptable to be dishonest in order to become successful. The HT expressed shock and horror! How can this be? And then you read the rest of the newspaper, including the sections about celebrities and their tawdry behaviour, and then we see why this is so. Recently, 125 Harvard undergraduates were caught for suspected cheating in an examination that required honesty and truthfulness (they are given the paper three days in advance but not allowed to discuss it with anyone else). How can we expect them not to cheat, you may ask? To which I reply, why should we not challenge them and expect them to behave honestly? The Lance Armstrong case is another shocking example of the values being taught to youngsters. Many Doscos taking the Scholar’s Blazer interview, and others looking for inspiration, have read his books because he was an icon (which is an image venerated as sacred). Now that icon has been ripped to pieces. One thousand pages of witness testimony show that success and glory and money were to be had at any price. But there he is, still denying guilt, still popular. And so it goes...

So, because so many of the “values” that we now teach the young are base or de-valued, I want to abolish talk of “teaching values” because we are not very good at it. Do I want moral anarchy and nihilism to reign in its place? Not at all. I want us to replace the word “values” with “virtues”, because you cannot mess around with the word “virtue” - which is what we used to mean when we talked of a “values-led education”. But post-modernism, with its insistence that value systems are the artificial constructs of power elites, and that all values are equal, prompts us to abdicate our responsibilities and deny the accumulated wisdom of hundreds of generations of our ancestors.

So how does a “virtue” differ from a “value”? A virtue is behaviour showing high moral standards: it is a quality considered morally good or desirable in a person. So virtues are defined by moral good in a way that “values” are not. Ah, but you say, what is morally good and desirable - and that is a good question? Virtues are indeed created by consensus, but we seem to have lost the ability to do so in a post-modernist, digital age.

But the good news is that we used to be good at it. As soon as humans settled into towns and cities and began to build complex societies and then civilizations, debate on virtue emerged and consensus emerged on what virtue was and what virtues should be taught to the young by the elders of society.

I am going to read out something that I think is quite a good set of virtues. How about these for starters? : Fearlessness, purity of heart, cultivation of spiritual knowledge, charity, self-control, sacrifice, study of the great writings, austerity and simplicity, nonviolence, truthfulness, absence of anger, renunciation, tranquility, aversion to fault-finding, compassion and freedom from greed, gentleness, modesty, steady determination, courage, vigour, forgiveness, fortitude, cleanliness, freedom from envy and a passion for honour. This list comes straight from the *Bhagavad Gita*, Chapter 16, verse 3. I first saw those words in December 2008 on the wall of a temple in Delhi on the way to my first visit to The Doon School, and I could not think of a better way to describe the fruits of a public school education, and that that this is what we do and teach in the best of the best schools.

Now, some say that virtue is a soft word, a little “wimpish” perhaps, but any boy or man or who masters those virtues will be pretty tough (austerity, determination, sacrifice, courageous, fortitude, fearlessness), tough enough to make his way in the world, but soft enough (charity, compassion, gentleness), to love his wife and his mother and his grandparents, and his fellow citizens – he will also be nice to be around (tranquility, modesty, forgiveness) and smell pretty good because of the virtue of cleanliness. And you cannot pick and choose the ones that suit you – they are all written together because they constitute a balanced and nutritious meal – so we turn our backs on this great cafeteria or buffet of values – (“I like this, I’ll take that, this suits me, that does not”) and we shall sit down together, and eat a meal of virtues together, as a community, around the table just like our forefathers did.

Now that was thousands of years ago, and the elders of society recognized a need for them then, and there is a need for them now. Instead we allow anarchy to reign in the great, chaotic marketplace of ideas, cut and pasted into people’s value systems. And we wring our hands and say there is nothing we can do – as with so many of the problems that beset us. So, if we take the Gita 16:3 as a starting point, in what sort of school are virtues best taught and developed and lived out?

(contd. on page 6)

## Santana

*Aditya Bhattacharya*

Every aspiring musician's dream is to watch one of his favourite artistes, or those who inspired him to be a musician perform live. For four enthusiastic guitarists (and an enthusiastic guitar teacher as well!), this dream was realised on Sunday evening, amidst a crowd of nearly eight thousand people. Right in front of the stage, standing next to a row of partially deafening speakers were Namanshree Jain, Imaan Mehta, Daksh Bhatia, ARK and I, waiting to be enthralled by Santana, the eponymous band fronted by Carlos Santana. Having driven down from Dehradun earlier in the day, we were anticipating the legend that is Carlos Santana, at Galgotias University in Greater Noida. However, before we could be enthralled by the Mexican maestro, a rather challenging trial lay before us. It came from the band Soulmate, from Shillong, that took the stage for the next one hour or so and presented some of the finest blues music to have originated from India. The trial we underwent was to resist falling in love with Tipriti 'Tips,' Kharbangar's powerful yet beautiful vocals and Rudy Wallang's intricate and powerful riffs and solos. They were accompanied by session players Sam Shullai on the drums and Ferdy Dkhar on the bass guitar. With songs like 'If you were my guitar', 'A cup of tea' and 'Blues is my Soulmate' (all of which are original works), they had us craving more and more of them. But, before we had even realised it, Santana had taken centre stage.

Words can simply not describe the emotions one feels when Santana, a band you have grown up listening to takes the stage, barely fifteen feet away from you. David Mathews started off the evening with the intro of *Black Magic Woman* on his Hammond organ, and Karl Perazzo, Dennis Chambers and Raul Rekow set the pace for the night on the calypso drum kit, drums and congas respectively. Backing Santana's licks and solos were Benny Rietveld on the bass and Tommy Anthony on the rhythm guitar. The vocalists for the evening were Andy Vargas and Tony Lindsay, and 'Tips' also sang with them upon Santana's invitation. Jeff Cressman and Bill Ortiz on the trombone and trumpet respectively added to this musical fusion. The band played their hit numbers *Black Magic Woman*, *Oye Como Va*, *Smooth*, *Jin Lo Bab* and *Maria Maria*, amongst many others. The closest I can come to describing the emotions we felt is thrill, mingled with adrenaline and euphoria, with a tinge of longing. Unforgettable moments included Carlos' sermons on peace and love, the drum solos by Dennis Chambers and one by Mrs. Santana aka Cindy Blackman, the former finishing the entire drum solo without having opened his eyes more than three times, and the latter pounding the living daylight out of the drum kit. Other memorable moments of the concert included us watching transfixed as David Mathews played the organ with the side of his face, Perazzo throwing a drumstick almost fifteen feet in the air (nearly hitting a stage light in the process), the joy on Benny Rietveld's face as he performed the Bass solo, and the ending, *Make Somebody Happy*, which left us begging for an encore and them responding to the request. Special thanks are due to Preeti Pariat Mehta, without whom this trip would not have been possible. As Santana exited the stage, I felt my heart break; how many artistes are there in the world that can match the legacy of Santana and his generation? How many artistes are left who still use traditional means of music-making and have not given in to technology? And then I thought of Soulmate. And I felt reassured.

## Motorsport Mania

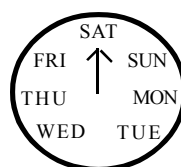
*Shubham Khemka*

Vettel-Webber, Webber-Alonso, Alonso fifth to second, Webber-Hamilton, Hulkenburg's top 10 finish for the third time in a row and Schumacher's forgettable last place finish! This year's Airtel Indian Grand Prix had a lot in store for all the fans there to watch it. Every year around this time the champion is decided, and when the defending champion, Vettel, crossed the finish line, he made it a difference of 13 points between him and challenger Alonso, taking him that much closer to the coveted title of being the best driver in the world.

Seconds before the start of the race the engines had begun to roar and the rubber ready to burn. Though the noise was deafening, we were quite prepared to sacrifice a bit of hearing for the spectacle we were about to behold. We did not want to miss a single moment. From the red lights going out to the podium finishers spraying champagne, every bit of the race was memorable for all those who witnessed it. Moreover, it was Schumi's last race in India and irrespective of where he finished in the race, it was a privilege for us to watch a driver who will be known as one of the most formidable drivers in the history of the sport.

Whether you watch F1 or not, watching a race live is an experience you are sure to enjoy: especially on the world's second fastest track. I, on behalf of the whole team would like to thank the Motor Mechanics STA for letting us witness such a spectacular event for the second year running and hope that they keep organizing such trips. In the future, we could even witness races on different tracks in the world! The fighting attitude of the drivers as well as the speed and teamwork of the whole pit crew is something to learn from. The grandstand memory will surely remain with me for quite some time and I am looking forward to the Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi where Alonso is all set to give Vettel a run for the championship one last time.

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## The Week Gone By...

*Arnaav Bhavanani*

This week, a distinguished member of our student body broke the record for the most stage appearances, going up four times to shake hands with the Headmaster (and in the process also challenging Guy Fawkes). Speaking of massive success, Wednesday night held a surprise for the School, with everyone expecting the 'musical evening' to be a bore. But with the guest singer churning out amazing music with relative ease, people were clapping along, enjoying Mexican Waves and cheering their hearts out to renditions of Adele and Bruno Mars, much to the dislike of our Prefects. Basketball this year did not fail to enthrall, with Jipur House clinching the Senior Cup as well as the House Cup in a nail biting finish. The Junior Cup was whisked away by Tata House, in a massive showdown on Thursday. The match, having been postponed for two days due to the rain and tight timings made both sides even hungrier for the glory of holding the Cup. So Dossos, this week may have been eventful and one to remember, but if books remain shut, we will be 'Rolling in the deep', and our loving parents will not like our marks 'just the way they are'...

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# Letters To The Editor

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## *Too Critical*

Dear Editor,

I write after having read some of the past issues of the *Weekly* as well as the Special Edition which was published on Founder's. There has been an air of criticism around School over the last few weeks; and there is a reason I write 'weeks' and not 'months' or 'days.' I believe this criticism has a lot to do with the *Weekly* and what is being printed in it. In no way am I trying to point fingers at anyone in the School community, leave alone members of the Editorial Board of the *Weekly*. Nevertheless, there has been a general tendency of people to use the *Weekly* for pouncing onto anything new within our system, and what is worse, is the fact that it is usually done wrongly. This does not imply that people are criticizing falsely, but that the critics do not understand that to err is human, and at times the person who has made a mistake shouldn't be picked on and torn to bits for doing so: that is when criticism becomes negative.

We need to realize that at Doon, we are privileged to have a forum like the *Weekly* to voice our opinions. It has, ever since its inception, been the flagship publication in School, considering which, it is not only supposed to encourage students to build their writing skills, but also serve as a platform for aspiring journalists of the future. Therefore, it is essential that these 'journalists' of our community "embrace reality," which is, that Doon for all its drawbacks, remains a happy community.

It was heartening though to read the 'School under the Scanner' section of the Special Edition of the *Weekly*, where DoscOs, past and present, have been able to put forward various perspectives as to how School is functioning. While Dhruv Velloor in his article 'The Dosco Philistine' encapsulates a harsh reality of School, a few articles, I perceive, were stretched a bit too far.

Yes, I agree that DoscOs are subjected to a lot of stress in School, but that is the reason why Doon is a perfect miniature model of our society. That is also the reason why Doon produces individuals who are able to make a name for themselves on the world stage.

On the contrary, I believe that this equilibrium which exists on campus is in fact disturbed, only too often, when an article concerning a small issue is printed in the *Weekly*, and the problem ends up drawing far too much attention; attention it is not even worthy of.

To sum it up, I feel that School, for whatever it is, doesn't need to have people critiquing it for every little action taken, otherwise, it just leaves me to question, is this criticism just for the sake of it?

Yours truly,

Pulkit Agarwal

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## *Truly 'Social' in Spirit*

Dear Editor,

As I walked towards the House, a brush in my hand, a bottle in another, I thought about the days start. Yes, it had started a 'little earlier than usual for I had been woken up at 6 and dragged outside School with eyes half open. But that was not what I was thinking about.

The morning had changed my views on a lot of things. I had realized that my point of view on social service was very different than what I had felt today. Till now, social service for me had been nothing more than a medium to get the necessary hours. However, now, it was a whole new activity.

This morning, with 15 other zombies, I had walked out of Chakrata Gate to make a difference. Elections had just ended, and since campaigning in India has never been a walk in the park; politicians had painted countless walls with posters instructing the masses to vote. The Government of India has banned putting posters of any kind on walls of any private or Government property. But since it is meaningless to preach Law to the 'Law Preachers, the politicians, themselves; the society chooses to ignore that. And what they do, instead, is, put a big board telling everyone to not put posters on 'their walls. This, in turn, provokes them even more to do what they have 'kindly been told not to. So, this morning, we all thought of cleaning some walls, with a much bigger message.

As we stepped out, into the wild, we began searching for a destination. It wasn't tough and we were soon facing a wall covered with layers of posters. As we began our work, many people came up to us, to encourage us, to tell us that they were happy that at least someone was trying, and some, to even help us. By the end of an hour, the work was almost done. Five other people had joined us in the work. And it was only when the work was done, did the first wave of victory took over. The feelings were all mixed. I wasn't sure if I was satisfied or simply happy.

It is amazing how quickly instances can change people. I, for one, till now thought that social service was pointless. The reason for that being my selfishness. Satisfaction was something I never got from social service. But when I saw the difference we can make from the little things we do; I realized that every little form of Social Service we do, makes a difference and is truly 'Social in spirit.

Warm regards,

Vrindam Nagpal

## | Viewpoint |

# Under The Scanner : UN

*Husain Haider comments on the state of the United Nations Organisation today*

The world was in ruins after the Second World War. Acute problems such as poverty, unemployment and economic breakdown needed the immediate attention of world leaders and entire cities needed to be rebuilt. The world was in dire need of an effective organization to work towards finding possible solutions to this crisis. Keeping this in mind, the United Nations Organization was founded in August, 1945 with the primary objective of promoting international peace and security. The United Nations Charter of 1946 was formulated on the principles of equality, collaboration and mutual consensus in striving to reconstruct the world.

However, the UN seems to have lost track of its initial objectives and purpose. Eminent activists and writers such as Dore Gold and Alan Dershowitz believe that the United Nations is slowly losing its influence and relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This belief owes to the fact that the organization has been shrouded in controversies, with doubts being expressed over its membership structure, effectiveness of functioning and biased decision-making. The various organs and programmes of the United Nations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Oil-Food Programme are funded by member nations. However, there have been reports which point towards utilization of funds for personal gain. The 'Oil-Food programme' is a perfect example. A Reuters report claims that the Oil-Food programme has been prone to high levels of corruption by the authorities concerned. Furthermore, it has been reported that a handsome share of the profits was diverted into the Iraqi treasury and Saddam Hussein's pockets. There has been no comprehensive explanation provided by the concerned authorities in response to allegations so critical in nature.

The 'United Nations Population Fund' has been continuously accused by social organizations of funding and encouraging government reforms to curb population control through forced contraception and birth control methods all over the world. The sub-organization was criticized for financially supporting the Peruvian government's programme to check population growth by forced sterilizations in the country in 2011. Ironically, such actions violate the fundamental principles of the 'United Nations Declaration of Human rights'.

Moreover, UN peacekeeping forces have regularly been under the hammer for issues ranging from sexual misconduct to exploitation in countries such as Mozambique, Senegal and Somalia. Graca Machel, the former first lady of Mozambique pointed out in her book 'The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children', that there had been a significant increase in the level of child prostitution in the country since military intervention by the UN.

The Security Council, by far, is the most powerful organ of the United Nations. The United Nations mandate has vested legislative, executive and even judicial powers to the

council. However, the veto power provision itself restricts the purview of effectiveness of the council. Due to its partial administrative structure, the productivity and effectiveness of the system has been constrained considerably. Personal enmities within the P-5 inhibit the working procedures of the organization as even one nation's objections can halt a possible peaceful or military response to a crisis situation. Critic John J. Mearsheimer has claimed that "since 1982, the United States of America has vetoed 32 Security Council Resolutions critical of Israel, which is even more than the total number of vetoes cast by all the other Security Council members". This, quite evidently, signifies the ineffectiveness and unproductiveness of the system at large.

Therefore, the question that ultimately arises is whether it is pragmatic to consider the United Nations as being equipped to maintain global peace, security and harmony. The answer is a plain 'no'. The United Nations has followed a pattern of failures ever since the Second World War ended. The UN has failed to act comprehensively to curb the Arab-Israeli conflict or the Syrian civil war. The organization was spineless while reacting to the genocides in Sierra Leone and Somalia. The UN has been unable to curtail mass human rights violations throughout the world, particularly in North Korea and China. The organization has not even taken any legal action in response to the nuclear ambiguity stand of Israel and North Korea.

To conclude, it would not be wrong to say that the United Nations has become a mockery. Therefore, in some ways, it can be said that the UN has been ineffective over the past few years.

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*(contd. from page 3)*

Why, a school such The Doon School, of course. Look at a few - austerity, sacrifice, courage, vigour, fortitude, forgiveness, a passion for honour—and you will see that these flourish at Doon. But so few other children have opportunities to do this. You cannot approach the task in this way: here is a list of 25 virtues; you, read them out; learn those; there will be a test tomorrow; the 'topper' will get a Headmaster's Cup for virtue, and woe betide the loser at the bottom. You cannot teach good values or virtues in that way; we have to live out the classical virtues – we, ourselves and us - day in and day out in communities of a shared understanding of what it means to live a serious and virtuous life.

So we need to take a little time out from our relentless lives, this technological tyranny that eats our time together, and go back several thousand years in time and start again and build a set of virtues that we all agree upon and that we teach our children and pass on from generation to generation – and we should stop being timid about this, and we should stop being pushed around by fears of being seen as cranks or old-fashioned or "out of touch" if we take a stand. If we are leaders, we shall do this thing, because it is good and necessary to do so. Adolescents have the golden beauty and power of youth, but the adults have the responsibility to guide and mentor them and channel their power, and not to bow down before it. So let us begin the work...all of us together... we, ourselves and us.

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



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