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The Mind, Not the Matter

Madhav Dutt highlights the importance of the mindset of Indians today.

When you go to register yourself for a UID or Adhaar card, you consciously carry some extra money to jump the queue. When you get stopped by a police officer for speeding, the first thing that comes out of your wallet is a 500 Rupee note, not your driving license. When you sit down with your friends and family, the immediate topic of discussion is the ineptitude of our current government and how India is going to the dogs. Investor confidence is drooping drastically and all we do is curse the government. Women simply cannot go out after sunset in our country, and men can ride around on their motorbikes and shout expletives, late into the night. The aforementioned statements embody the average Indian citizen's opinion on India today.

It is safe to say that our country has seen better days. However, the amount we all complain and curse our country is shocking. Though the common presumption is that these voices are usually unheard, the fact of the matter is that public opinion and psyche have a significant effect on how our country performs: politically, economically and socially. The nation's voice is one riddled with cynicism and pessimistic views. We are always looking at the dark side of life. The media only informs the public about how several aspects are eating away at our country, and not how we are developing in other sectors in a genuine manner.

To be different and behave differently, we have to change our outlook towards our country. Indulging in corruption has become second nature to every Indian. To see a marked decrease in the performance of graft, theft, laundering and bribery, our conscience should speak to us and seek the safe and truthful path out. We have to cleanse the body that is our country: to successfully cleanse, the body needs to detox.

Our government is facing an extremely difficult time, but to add to these woes, our citizens criticize its inefficiency. The fact that the majority of the voters chose the parties that are currently in power says a lot: these parties, in their opinion, were fit to run the country. This is why we should look at the good (however small it is) that the government does for us.

The economy is currently in a very volatile state. Some days the sensx poses a loss and on other days it records significant jumps and profits. The BSE Index and the Nifty 50 are driven largely by investor confidence. Consumer and investor confidence is another aspect of the country that depends on it's citizens. If we leave our houses and go to work without the enthusiasm and drive that was characteristic of India in the early 2000s all the way till 2008, our country will be stuck in this current state of slow growth indefinitely. There will be no progress and the only people we will have to blame will be ourselves.

A perfect example of this state of mind is the recent event that unfolded in Delhi. After the brutal gang-rape, our country's mind-set has suddenly changed. Rape occurred at the same rate before this particular case, but people just looked at the headlines with some disgust and then moved their attention to the more 'interesting' news pieces. People realised that in a country where women are worshipped as deities, the atrocities committed against them were appalling. India woke up and the government was forced to take action; a clear example of how a change in the general opinion and attitude of the public led to a major change in our country.

Jim Morrison aptly stated that, "whoever controls the media controls the mind." The media is a mirror of society, and unfortunately, the Indian media doesn't paint an accurate picture of our country. To a certain extent, it is the media that has put our country into the current scenario. A large section of our population spends their waking hours with a cup of tea and a newspaper. If all they read about is death, poverty, rape, murder and corruption, wrapped and produced by the columnists in the most sensational and cynical manner, we can't expect anything positive from our country. We are an immensely talented nation, but our media clearly doesn't showcase this. There are barely any articles about the worthy actions of APJ Abdul Kalam who spoke on this very issue. He said, "Tell me, why is the media here so negative? Why are we, in India, so embarrassed to recognise our own strengths, our achievements? We are such a great nation. We have so many amazing success stories but we refuse to acknowledge them. Why?" If our nation is to flower, then this negativity must stop.

In no way am I saying we should ignore all the drawbacks and flaws in our country; constructive criticism is the backbone of a developing society. I believe what we need is a change of perspective. The entire atmosphere will be altered: it will be more conducive to thought and change. To develop this atmosphere India needs to find that true sense of patriotism. We, the citizens of India, need to have faith in our country. Looking at things in a different, more proactive and positive manner will change the way our country is run. Only if we ourselves believe that our country is capable will we see a successful and powerful India in the future.

EQUESTRIAN WIN

Govind Singh Sandhu took part in the **Annual Delhi Horse Show** where he won a **gold** medal in the Hacks event and a **bronze** medal in the Hunter trials. Congratulations!

BADMINTON

The School Badminton Team played friendly matches against **The Aryan School** on April 12. In the singles category the School Team **won** 9-7 and in the doubles category 3-1. Well done!

OLD BOYS HOCKEY

The School Senior Hockey Team played a match against the Old Boys on April 13 and **won** the match 4-0. The School Cricket team played a match against the Old Boys and **lost** by 4 runs. Well tried!

IH HINDI DEBATES

The following are the results of the first round of the **Inter House Hindi Debates, 2013:**

Jaipur House vs Hyderabad House

Winner: Jaipur

Best Speaker: Arnav Joshi

Most Promising Speaker: Arth Gupta and Yash Agrawal

Kashmir House vs Oberoi House

Winner: Oberoi

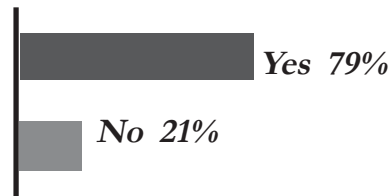
Best Speaker: Vrindam Nagpal

Most Promising Speaker: Arunabh Utkarsh

Well Done!

Opinion oll

Have you been following this season of the IPL?



(342 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Should boys be allowed to clap after assembly talks?

HINDI WRITING

The following are the results of the **BP Chandola Hindi Essay Writing Contest, 2013:**

Seniors:

1st: Shourya Agarwal

2nd: Vallavi Shukla

Juniors:

1st: Vansh Aggarwal

2nd: Chinmay Sharma

3rd: Rudra Srivastava and Mihir Gupta

Congratulations!

AFZAL'S

The following are the results of the matches played by the School Basketball Teams in the **23rd Afzal Khan Basketball Tournament:**

The Doon School A Team **won** against YPS, Mohali

The Doon School B Team **lost** to Mayoer School

The Doon School B Team **lost** to Woodstock School

The Doon School A Team **won** against PPS, Nabha

The Doon School B Team **lost** to YPS, Patiala

The Doon School A Team **lost** to Lawrence School, Sanawar

The Doon School B Team **lost** to Welham Boys School

The Doon School A Team **won** against DPS, Mathura Road

Well done!

MUSICAL SUCCESS

The **Doon School Orchestra** participated in the annual **Izhaar-e-Hunar Cultural Festival and Competition**, held at the **Hopetown Girl's School** on April 12. The Orchestra played in the 'Fusion Orchestra' section and was placed **second**.

Congratulations!

Unquotable Quotes

Dry water on wet ground.

Chaitanya Kediya, the magical ground *mali*.

He speaks France

Karan Sethy, we speak England

You not puddle the step

Arpit Chadda, walking on water.

The fan is not opening

Yasharth Goyal, we wonder why?

I love to the play

Varun Sehgal, what a player!

Give me the hockey bat

Rahul Agarwal, creating a new sport.

The British invaded Britian

Nikunj Agarwal, redefining history.

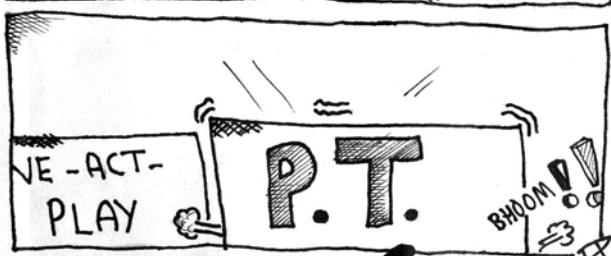


Around the world in 80 Words

This week, Kenya's new president, Uhuru Kenyatta, was sworn in. In South Sudan, five Indian U.N. Peacekeepers along with seven others were killed. 33 were killed when a bus tumbled into a river near Trujillo, Peru. An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.8 hit the Iran-Pakistan border. In Boston, during the annual Boston Marathon a bomb was detonated, which lead to the death of three people. In Iraq, 42 were killed and 257 were wounded in a bomb blast.

Dosco Doodle

Dhruv Pais



| Viewpoint |
The Tamil Issue

Husain Haider

India seems to be shrouded in controversial issues, the most recent being the speculated Lankan-Tamil controversy. The issue has been in the limelight off late, drawing excessive coverage and attraction from both print and visual media. A startling concern for the country at large, it involves various, often overlooked negative dimensions required to be analyzed prior to an inference. This article aims at exploring such integrities, in order to arrive at a clear projection for the general public to understand.

Foremost, it is essential to understand the purview of the problem. The primary reason is the differences between the Tamil and Ceylonese communities residing in Sri Lanka. Bitter rivalry has existed between the two communities over the years, owing to the fact, that the Ceylonese are indigenous while Tamils are immigrants. However, undue political and public involvement will not help the cause in any manner. On the contrary, it has negative associations polluting both the nations involved. Instead of aggravating the problem, we can look towards third party involvement to resolve the crisis. United Nations authorities such as UN Human Rights Council and The International Court of Justice can be effective in curbing such intense situations.

This controversy brings with it the ancillary problem of politicization of sporting culture. The recent developments with regards to this matter are impeding sporting activities. Politics has always been an integral part of sports, exercising its veto in terms of management of sport within a country. This is partially due to the public misconception that the quality of management would be better under powerful governmental authorities. However, this hierarchical structure is an inaccuracy within the system. Instead of improving sporting administration, politicization is diminishing the future prospects of sport in the nation. As it is, sporting authorities are faced with internal inefficiency issues due to excessive nepotism and corruption. The overflow of political dilemma into sport management only magnifies the problem being encountered.

The restriction imposed on the participation of Lankan players in this year's edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is a perfect example to consolidate this claim. Recently, due to the impractical but aggravated demands of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha, it was declared that Lankan players will not participate in the matches being held at Chennai. The official explanation was given to be possible threats with regards to the security of Lankan players. However, it is evident that Chennai houses the home ground of the franchise team 'Chennai Super Kings.' Also, the city is set to host certain significant knock-out matches in the tournament. Due to high Lankan participation as players and captains in the IPL teams, it is bound to have a negative impact on the quality of cricket and affect the audiences in Chennai.

Moreover, the issue is susceptible to hampering Indo-Lankan diplomatic relations. The countries are into a diplomatic and economic alliance through the South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation (SAARC). Such economic agreements have consolidated bilateral ties, with Indo-Lankan trade rising by 128% and reaching 2.5 billion dollars by 2008. It must be noted that Indian market is the fifth largest market in the world for Lankan goods.

Hence, it is evident from these facts that economic ties are of strategic importance to both parties. Therefore, such controversies are unwelcomed and unrequired in the development context of the countries at large.

* * *

The Week Gone By

Chaitanya Kediya

When I first sat down to write this Week Gone By, the only thing that came to mind was the looming danger, the Apocalypse, you can say, of the infamous PTM. Masters have woken up to the fact that the PTM is one place where even the *gundas* can become groveling infants in front of their parents. With this in mind, teachers have now begun to ~~blackmail~~ remind us students of this impending day. Anyway, to shift your focus off this apocalyptic topic, Hockey has now begun in full swing, and with shin guards becoming a rare species, Doscocs are being carried off the field with injured legs. 'Afzal's' ended this week, and though our team did their level best, they lost in the semi-finals. The matches were really worth watching, though most of the School was more interested in the over-enthusiastic coaches! My famous last words, sadly, end with having to mention the mind-numbing onslaught of P.T. The School is now in the vice-like grip of this event, and it seems to be getting more terrifying as 'D-day' approaches. P.T. will end, but after that, Doscocs, do not forget, we will soon be hearing the bell ring, not for P.T., but for Trials. Adios!



TakeTwo

The Doon School Weekly asked the actors of the *Junior English Summer Production* to describe their experience of preparing for the play

Rudra Srivatava - Being a part of the Summer Production was the start of a new adventure for a beginner like me. The audience, with their gleaming eyes, watching me, not a sound to be heard from the mass of beings of the authentic world unlike me who had become a part of the ancient Greek civilization, living in that theatrical heaven; I felt the lip biting nervousness of what it feels like to be the centre of attention, somewhat like a megalomaniac. After preparing for nearly two months, it was a Herculean task for us to put forward a mind-blowing performance. I believe being a part of a production is very necessary in one's life, it teaches one to be confident. The first experience has put me in such a stage when I can say that confidence has seized me.

Ishaan Kapoor - The hours of hard work and the blinding lights, which glared into our eyes as we stepped on stage for acting is what I remember the most about the Junior English Summer Production. When asked of what it felt like to be part of this play, I have just one word which strikes my mind: unforgettable. After one and a half months of hard work and long practice sessions I do feel that we managed to pull it off. As part of the cast, my experience was remarkable.

Madhav Bhardwaj - After our hardwork, spanning one and a half months, I can say that our performance was commendable. Having experienced the Junior Summer Production twice, I believe that not only the cast but also the crew members did a remarkable job. Personally, as an actor, I just enjoyed my time on stage and tried my best to entertain all. To find words to describe the entire experience is simply not possible.

The Music-Makers

Arnaav Bhavanani and Navraaj Randhawa report on the School Orchestra's performance at the *Izhaar-e-Hunar Cultural Festival* on April 12.

Music has always been an integral part of a Dosco's life. It is, essentially, part of The Doon School experience, and we feel it is safe to say that no Dosco has left the walls of this institution without a respectable amount of musical sense in them. Our most recent musical experience was set against the backdrop of the Hopetown Girls School. The annual *Izhaar-e-Hunar* Music and Cultural Festival was a massive event, and The Doon School participated in the challenging Fusion Orchestra section. We arrived at the School a bit early, so we set about taking our instruments to our allotted room, and then went to eat a biryani lunch in a spacious eating area where we met participants from eighteen schools. Straight after that was the Competition itself, and we were performing fourth. The participating schools put up a good show, and in between listening to them, we tuned our instruments and absorbed last-minute reminders and advice from our teachers, ABC, PRY, ARK and PCH. By the time we had to start moving our instruments to the stage, we weren't so calm anymore but the intense activity of putting mikes, instruments and ourselves in place helped to do away with stage fright. As the stereotype goes, we Doscos lived up to the occasion, and didn't miss—literally—a beat or a note. The criteria demanded that we maintain the purity of the ragas (in our case, Ragas Jog and Durga), while using elements of fusion creatively and convincingly. This we did through the layering of harmonies in the instrumentation and through the rhythmic patterns. The vocal fusion segment was particularly interesting, with a Hindustani music '*bandish*' sung by Siddhant Gupta which flowed seamlessly into a blues-style song with a rhythmic underpinning of syncopation, rendered by Navraaj Randhawa. We managed to produce a rich orchestral sound through great teamwork and co-ordination (the result of a few, but intensive practice sessions) and some memorable solo playing: Hamza's wizardry on the violin, Namanshree's versatile handling of sarod and guitar, Imaan's fantastic solo guitaring, Harsh Singhania's outstanding musicality through his harmonica and xylophone playing and Harsh Bansal's deft fingerwork on the synthesizer brought out the nuances of the music. Junior musicians like Smrithi on the santoor, Vishesh on the mandolin, and Rishabh Agarwal on the keyboards lent great support to the soloists. The percussion was provided, apart from myself on the drums, by Anant Mohan's brilliant playing on tabla and ghatam and Keshav Maliah who, though only in C form, handled his large pakhawaj with aplomb and produced an impressive sound volume. And, of course, we had our very own AV management through Shantanu. Having given our best, the results didn't seem too important, but we were happy to be placed second, with only one mark's difference between us and the winners, Mussoorie International School. This entire

musical event has been a bonding experience, and we now have something to relate to with each other. Making music together is an exhilarating feeling, and the warmth we received from our hosts and other participants was the icing on the cake.

Lest We Forget...

Arnaav Bhavanani

In the crowded School life of a Dosco, a holiday is rare, but a highly valued occurrence. April 13 was one such holiday, for as it fell on a Saturday, it gave us a long, leisurely, two day weekend. This day was a national holiday, the Harvest Festival, or Baisakhi, as it is more commonly known. On that day the School organized the Terry Fox Run, that brought together people from across the city for a noble cause; to raise funds for cancer research.

Yet, what many of us didn't know, and perhaps still don't, is that April 13 is also the day that the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre took place, in 1919. On this fateful day, General Dyer had been convinced of a major insurrection and banned all public meetings. Upon hearing that around fifteen thousand people had peacefully assembled in Jallianwala Bagh, a park in Amritsar, to celebrate the creation of the Kalsa Panth, a Sikh religious text, Dyer gathered his men and ordered them to shoot at the crowd. Almost four hundred people were killed, and several were injured. After this tragedy, the British authorities in India began to receive flak. The General was removed from duty by the House of Commons. The result of this unprecedented attack on the Indians was that the rules for crowd control in the British Raj were revised, and became more peace-friendly. This change was a firm step in the way to freedom. This ruthless act of power on an unarmed and defenceless people, is perhaps one of the most terrible moments of the Freedom Struggle. It marked a milestone in the long and bloody history of the Indian Freedom Movement and is a stark reminder of our weakness in the face of cruelty.

This day for us is not just a holiday, nor is it just a festival. It is a day that we Doscos, as the elite of this country, should spare a few moments, and remember the past. For it is the past that has shaped the future, and without this event and many others ever happening, that perhaps we would not be who we are, and not be doing what we are doing today.



Weekly Selects

The best articles, this week, from around the world

The America That Works - The Economist

Down to a Sunless Sea - The Guardian

We Have a Pope - Newsweek

The Informant - Washingtonian

Refugees of the Modern World - Slate

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