



Established in 1936

# The Doon School

# WEEKLY

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## Editorial

The freshly-cut grass of the Main Field, small pools of muddy water, glistening leaves washed by the rains, and the sultry weather, announced another monsoon. The season is often associated with lethargy and inanimation but the world outside is moving fast. Over a hot summer, where the mercury broke records in several parts of the country, happenings in the political, entertainment and economic world transformed our surroundings. The only constant it seems is the incomplete sea-bridge at Bandra, an acute power crisis in the north and flooding in several coastal regions. However, there were many changes as well. For one, the Blair era in England came to an end when Gordon Brown took over as Prime Minister, in what critics called the smoothest transfer of power in recent history. An attempted bombing at Glasgow airport revealed, for the first time, Indian links to global terrorism and invoked introspection into religious extremism. In other areas, the Indian stock exchange marked another milestone, as did Sachin Tendulkar, when both crossed 15,000. The theatres this summer offered an interesting palette of films, especially a series of trilogies (*Oceans 13*, *Shrek 3*, *Pirates 3*) and the much-awaited *Harry Potter 5*. While Bollywood releases saw a setback with several high-banner films declared flops, the regional industry saw the much-awaited and much-hyped release of Rajnikant's *Sivaji*. 'The Queen' also reached theatres, and provided an entertaining commentary on the British political scenario in the period which witnessed the death of Princess Diana and the royal stand-off. Interestingly, the History Channel broadcast the 'Yes Minister' series, a satire on the bureaucracy.

School reopened a fortnight earlier than usual and another term of hectic activity is ahead of us. For the Weekly, it is a term of innovation and change too. A host of new features are on the cards; for one, a series on India's 'tryst with destiny' as it completes sixty years of independence will bring into focus interesting developments and debates that have engrossed modern India. The Weekly is also introducing a Guest Editor who will work with the editorial team for a month, adding to the textual and visual appeal of the publication. You will also find new sections on food, holiday experiences, movie and book reviews, besides increased attention on school debates and discussions through its regular columns. The graphics section will also be working closely with the team to liven up the pages of the publication and adopt a more reader-friendly layout.

We have a line-up of activities ahead of us and a term full of creative space and new challenges waiting to be explored. As life moves on, the Weekly will accompany its ever-changing pace and we hope you acknowledge, participate in and support its endeavours.

## An Aussie Chronicle

Pratham Mittal writes about his experiences in Australia while on a student exchange at Hutchins School

The time during holiday is undoubtedly full of fun, but my holidays had something more to offer. Throughout the summer vacations I have been in Australia, attending my exchange school, Hutchins. Situated in Tasmania, it is a highly reputed school with a distinguished alumnus. It would be true to call Hutchins The Doon School of Australia.

As I got on my flight from Delhi I thought it would be a great journey. I was travelling alone for the first time, after all. From flight delays due to bad weather, to the emergency landing at Adelaide on the way to Sydney, it turned out to be quite an adventure. It took me nearly one and a half days to reach Hobart. Then I was transferred to my host family with whom I was to stay for the holiday period.

At the home stay, I came across a Greek father, an Australian mother, a German school mate, a Chinese girl accompanied by the two siblings; a graduate daughter and a son. So there were seven of us in a big house situated deep in the hospitable Australian countryside, surrounded with paddocks, race horses, hills, creeks, Australian sheep and, of course, the ubiquitous kangaroos. Apart from the ordinary housework, the time with the family saw me doing a range of activities which I hadn't even heard of, like bushwalking at night, forest and mountain biking, kayaking and many others. I was also engaged in organised excursions to national parks, zoos, far-away southern Antarctic islands and exploring the miniature city of Hobart. I had the opportunity of witnessing the snowfall extravaganza on a mountain close to Hobart. I visited the community church and also got a chance to dine on sushi with one of the family's friends.

When the holidays got over the students seemed unwilling to head back to school, quite contrary to my desire to explore the school. As I reached Hutchins, I was greeted very warmly by the boarders on an unbelievably cold evening. The school, as I observed, was somewhat like ours. Apart from many common traditions, there were several familiar practices, such as the power invested in the prefects, the tutor system and the sporting spirit on the games

(contd. on page 6)

# REGULARS

## REACHING HEIGHTS

The following group of eleven boys and three masters led an **expedition to Dhumdhar Kandi Pass** from May 27 to June 7:

Abhimanyu Chandra, Abhimanyu Malik, Saket Mahajan, Mayapati Tiwary, Keshav Prasad, Dushyant Sapra, Divish Sablok, Shashvat Sikroria, Sujai Bannerji, Rachit Khaitan, Ankur Saxena, ASH, AKC and AKS.

## SOCIAL SERVICE

Naveed Chowdhury, Akshat Khandelwal and Ramkrishna Pappu have gone to **Ladakh** for a social service project, being held from July 6 to 29.

Angad Singh, Seif Khan, Anant Jangwal and Yadavalli Aditya went for the **Scottish Nature Reserve Project** between June 22 and July 12.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

With effect from July 12, Nargish Khambatta and K V Arjun Rao took on responsibility as Housemaster and Assistant Housemaster of **Oberoi House**, respectively. We wish them a fruitful tenure.

## Gastronome

The *Weekly* surveys some good restaurants that Doscocs tried during their summer vacations. This week, we focus on eating haunts of **Mumbai** as recommended by Vivaan Shah:

**All Stir Fry**- This is the place where you can choose from the raw ingredients and have them made to your taste. *Must try: Quick Wok*

**Britannia**- Best Parsi food you can probably get in Mumbai; will also not burn a hole in your pocket. *Must try: Berry Pulao*

**Mainland China**- This place is specially recommended for Chinese food foodies. *Must try: Corn Cubes, Crispy Spinach, Mustard Fish.*

**Gajali**- The most economical place if seafood suits your palate. *Must try: Crab Butter Garlic*

**Haji Ali Juice Centre**- A hotspot for all the juice guzzlers, the shakes here are famous as well. *Must try: Fresh juice at midnight!*

**Out of the Blue**- The sizzlers and the fondue are worth trying out.

**Thai Connection**- Authentic Thai cuisine is available here at a reasonable price.

**Natural Ice-cream**- Multi-flavoured way to stay cool, naturally! *Must try: Custard Apple, Watermelon, Chickoo.*



## CAREER CALL

The careers' notice board will feature information on **Fashion Designing**. All those who would like to have a career in haute couture should look up the board for details.



## doonspeak

Restarting Callover on Sundays

Revival of tradition – **Anindya Vasudev**.

Wastage of an hour before dinner – **Angad Singh**.

It won't really help – **Vansh Nathani**.

Over-crowding in the Main Building – **Rohan Gupta**.

It will be a waste of time and there are better ways of ensuring that parents are out of school on time – **Ankit Durga**.

Never attended one! It should be an interesting experience – **Shoumitra Srivastava**.



## Opinion Poll

Are you looking forward to the release of the last Harry Potter book?

**Yes**

63%



**No**

37%



*408 people participated in the poll*

Next Week's Question:

Which of the following would you support for the office of President?

APJ Kalam, B.S. Shekhawat, Pratibha Patil

# g

The *Weekly* has decided to involve a student member of the community, each month, as **Guest Editor**, to encourage student participation and bring new opinion and innovation to its pages. This month, **Skand Goel** will work with us.

## Unquotable Quotes

*Have you fallen to these heights?*

**Saurav Sethia** stoops to conquer.

*My age is eight o'clock.*

**Shoumitra Srivastava** rues the passing of time.

*This costed rupees ten dollars.*

**Anirudh Khanna**, mobile money changer.

*Can I bio your borrow book?*

**Siddhant Mittal** pleads.

*I will give your project to me.*

**SBL** takes possession.

*He was laughing very badly.*

**Jayant Mukhopadhy**a is not amused.

*I can dig my nose upside-down.*

**Tejasvi Mathur**, we advise you not to.

*Send him to there.*

**Sharad Lal** gives directions.

**The Minutes of the School Council Meeting**  
**1 May 2007, 2:30 PM, in the Nandlal Kilachand Library**

The following members were present:

1. Dr. Kanti Bajpai	Headmaster (Chairman)
2. Dr. Mohan Chandra Joshi	Dean of Activities (MCJ)
3. Mr. Deepak Sharma	Dean of Sports (DKS)
4. Mr. Sanjiv Bathla	Masters' Representative (SJB)
5. Ashish Mitter	School Captain
6. Shikhar Singh	Hyderabad House Senior Representative (Secretary)
7. Eshaan Puri	Prefects' Representative
8. Ankit Durga	Hyderabad House Senior Representative 2
9. Aashray Batra	Hyderabad House Junior Representative 1
10. Udai Shriram	Hyderabad House Junior Representative 2
11. Kaustabh Verma	Jaipur House Senior Representative 1
12. Dhruv Narain Singh	Jaipur House Senior Representative 2
13. Bharat Ganju	Jaipur House Junior Representative 1
14. Arnav Sahu	Jaipur House Junior Representative 2
15. Harsh Mall	Kashmir House Senior Representative 1
16. Saket Mahajan	Kashmir House Senior Representative 2
17. Shoumitra Srivastava	Kashmir House Junior Representative 1
18. Devashish Agarwal	Kashmir House Junior Representative 2
19. Dilshad Singh Sidhu	Oberoi A Senior Representative
20. Vivek Santayana	Oberoi A Junior Representative
21. Kshitij Paliwal	Oberoi B Senior Representative
22. Vahin Khosla	Oberoi B Junior Representative
23. Vivaan Shah	Tata House Senior Representative 1
24. Anant Johri	Tata House Senior Representative 2
25. Gursahej Oberoi	Tata House Junior Representative 1
26. Naushad Khan	Tata House Junior Representative 2

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Kaustabh Verma (Jaipur House Senior Representative) and seconded by Ankit Durga (Hyderabad House Senior Representative) and accordingly confirmed.

**(2) Matters arising out of the previous Minutes**

**(a) Update on School Policies**

The Chairman informed the Council that not many of its members had returned suggestions to the Secretary, as decided in the previous meeting. However, a couple of these suggestions were incorporated into the existing documents. The Chairman listed the Basic Rules alphabetically for convenience in reading and accepted the addition of a Dean's Representative on the Discipline Committee. He also informed the members of two additional documents: the Code of Etiquette and Mr. Arthur Foot's note on Education. Since no objections or further concerns were raised, the Chairman concluded the debate passing all the documents.

**(b) Placement of the new telephone connections**

The Secretary informed the Council that the new telephone equipment should be placed in the existing telephone booth at the Rose Bowl, as almost every short-listed location had either distance or noise disadvantages. The Chairman agreed that additional telephone lines would be placed in the Rose Bowl.

**(c) Regulation of House Council Meetings**

The Chairman informed the members that each House Council would be required to meet at least twice a term and that they should begin work on codifying rules of procedure, composition and function to avoid ambiguity.

**(d) Standard printed time on Phone Chits**

The Secretary informed the members that the Head of Finance had been informed of the Council's decision and that the new Phone Chits (with printed timing of five minutes) would be circulated next term onwards.

**(e) Sc form attendance at movies**

The Secretary informed the Council that previous Minutes confirmed that Sc formers were excused movies in the Autumn Term; however, attendance was compulsory in the Spring Term.

**(f) Regulating Dental Outings**

The Chairman informed the members that permission for Medical Leave would only be granted if the School

Doctor and visiting Dentist medically certify the purpose of the visit.

**(3) Proposals and Issues for the current Meeting**

**(a) Morning Toye should be restarted next term**

Dhruv Singh explained to the members that initiating Morning Toye would provide free time in the evening for bathing and relaxing after IB Classes. However, Mr. Deepak Sharma felt that it would be difficult to account for boys in the free time and that many senior boys did not attend Morning Toye. The Chairman thought that restoring PT was essential for better health and prevented late-marks in first school. It was thus concluded that Morning Toye would not be restarted and that the existing system would continue.

**(b) Water coolers in the Main Building and Science Blocks**

Kshitij Paliwal believed that a water cooler on the first floor of the Main Building would reduce movement. Harsh Mall also informed the members that the Physics Lab water cooler was crowded and insufficient for the entire Science Block. The Chairman agreed to the placement of a water cooler in the Biology Lab outside DCB's classroom.

**(c) Spraying in Houses should be done more frequently**

Vivek Santayana informed the members that the mosquito sprays were ineffectual and a short-term remedy. He therefore proposed that the frequency of the sprays be increased. The Chairman informed the members that there were health implications to this and that after proper consultation the school would take an appropriate decision on its frequency.

**(d) A Students' Sub-Committee for Academics in the School Council**

Ankit Durga felt that a Students' Sub-Committee for Academics should be created to ventilate student feelings on academic matters. The Chairman felt that it was inappropriate for the inclusion of students in academic decision-making as it related to syllabus designing, academic awards and teacher appraisals. He added that even at college level, students usually remained outside the academic decision-making. The Chairman thought that adequate forums like the School Council already existed to discuss such issues.

**(e) IB Classes after lunch should be rescheduled**

Saket Mahajan informed the Council that several free-schools existed in the IB Timetable that could be used to accommodate afternoon and evening classes. The Chairman clarified that the free-schools were dead-spaces in the time schedule and that as such, the afternoon and evening classes were not straining the students. He agreed that as the system finds its feet in school, the routine could be fine-tuned. However, currently, all efforts were being made to provide Internet access and other IB requirements.

**(f) Assignment days should be strictly followed**

Dhruv Singh complained of teachers not following the pre-set assignment days. Eshaan Puri also explained that the recent weak performance of the A form was because they had several assignments during Test Week. The Chairman agreed that the matter was serious and would be discussed in the next Chambers Meeting.

**(g) Extension of official Toye during Test Weeks and Trials**

Ankit Durga felt that Toye for all forms should be extended till 10:00 pm during Test Weeks and Trials. The Chairman disagreed as he felt this would interfere with lights-out. It was therefore decided that the current Toye schedule would be followed.

**(4) Any other matter with the permission of the Chair**

**(a) Cookery should be started as a STA**

Arnav Sahu proposed that a Cookery STA be started for interested boys as there were many boys who would pursue the activity. The Chairman informed the members that it would be an additional burden on the CDH in terms of time and resources. It was however felt that if a Matron could volunteer to initiate such an activity then it may be started. The Secretary was asked to approach the Matrons on the subject and get back to the Council.

**(b) Parents entering Houses on Sundays/Outings**

Ashish Mitter expressed concern at parents entering boarding facilities during Sundays and Outing days. The Headmaster added that several parents stayed beyond 6:30 pm, as against school rules. He agreed to write on the subject to all parents and stated that Call-Over would be re-started next term at 6:30 pm on Sundays.

**(c) School Evaluation**

The Secretary informed the Council of a scheme that would involve School Council members in evaluating school infrastructure, boarding and other facilities to provide internal evaluation of the school. The Chairman believed that the current scheme was rigorous and detailed, and therefore asked the Secretary to simplify the scheme to fifteen basic indicators and circulate it in the next meeting.

As there were no other matters, the meeting was adjourned.

**Secretary**  
(Shikhar Singh)

**Headmaster**  
(Dr. Kanti Bajpai)

# India's Tryst with destiny

Sixty years ago, India gained independence from the British. A lot has changed since and much remains unchanged. This series aims at covering India's political, economic, social and cultural milestones and challenges

## Kashmir: Looking Forward *Shikhar Singh*

*"People are trapped in history and history is trapped in them"*  
- James Arthur Baldwin

This is no understatement for the Kashmir region, which, for over half-a-century now has served as the locale for the political impasse between India and Pakistan. In fact, many an attempt to bring peace, normalcy and order in the region has had no significant result. Therefore it is prudent not to use the contested history of the region as a premise or supporting pillar for a proposed solution to the dispute.

Let me begin by first of all identifying the problem itself. As I see it, there are primarily two areas of dispute: political and socio-economic. While the political battle is fought in parliaments, diplomatic enclaves and certain local outfits, it largely remains aloof from the 'real concerns' of the people of the region. Most political debate is centred on territorial disputes, terrorism, violence and often religious extremism. I focus not on the politics behind the dispute but the root cause of unrest: an underdeveloped and stagnating economy, growing unemployment and social disharmony leading to the break-down of constitutional mechanisms and the rise in terrorist activities. In essence, this is the problem of Kashmir and not what the politicians make it out to be; and the only real solution is to have an empowered local government that embodies democratic values and effectively executes the role of a state agency.

The Kashmiri is not affected by the exchange of pleasantries across negotiation tables. The main concern is the disconnect between the people and the government and the lack of belief in the system itself. Therefore, the first priority to normalize Kashmir is to build faith and trust in the democratic system. Elections need to be free and fair and should reflect the real political will of the people. Often, critics argue, militancy plays a crucial role in poor voter turnout and mass-rigging. This is true only to a certain extent; we do not need to get disheartened and disillusioned by militancy and its intervention in the electoral process. What we need to change is the political will, which does not often support an entirely free electorate that can make its verdict. More so, the governments in Delhi and Islamabad are wary about giving greater power to the people of Kashmir, fearing the choices they make might often be contrary to their

foreign policy and pre-conceived national interests. Perhaps, the plebiscite promised by Nehru contributes to this centralization of power and overly cautious approach to democratic matters in the region. Now, when the people see that the choices they make take form in the type of governing ideology, they expect it to be vested with real powers. This, therefore, is my second point: devolution of power and adherence of federal values as laid down by the Constitution.

The government of Kashmir is often crippled and a puppet in the hands of the central government. With a large military presence that invariably controls the streets of the state, a crippled economy and interfering foreign office, vital state subjects like law enforcement, civil order, vigilance, finance and industrial policy remain outside the purview of the state government. Therefore, it is essential to empower the Kashmiri government. Decisions taken in North Block do not generate the same confidence and effectiveness as compared to those taken in the Srinagar Secretariat. The Centre can maintain military hold over Kashmir, but its day-to-day administration and effective, progressive governance must come from the people themselves. At the end of the day, it is the grass-root level state agency that implements policy and if it is not a part of the decision-making process, the implementation is bound to be weak.

In essence, one aspect of the solution is administrative and a reorganization of the system. It involves instilling democratic trust and the quid-pro-quo between the people and the government they elect. This includes direct responsibility and developmental functions. When the system is malfunctioning, it is not the structure at fault but its present method of functioning. A revamp will take time and needs to be given breathing space. If today,

the state government is empowered, it cannot be expected to exercise financial prudence in a week. However, over time, it will gain maturity and begin to turn the wheels of progress. A classic example of this approach to conflict resolution is the Irish and Scottish devolution in United Kingdom, formulated during the tenure of Tony Blair, wherein local political entities were empowered and used as a means to reinstate faith in democratic values.

The new government needs to set priorities. High on the list must be employment, economic expansion and development and, above all, social harmony. For this purpose, the fallen handicrafts industry and agriculture need to be given a boost. More so, local industry and through special economic zones (SEZ) and tax holidays, investments should be attracted. A more sound and accessible education and social service system needs to be established with affordable and up-to-date healthcare and social security.

Tourism as a revenue-earning industry must be given  
*(contd. on page 6)*

(contd. from page 1)

field. During my stay there I was involved with hockey mainly, where I managed to get the school jersey. It was great to understand the Aussie gameplay and the perfectly maintained turf grounds were a pleasure to play on. I had also planned to indulge myself in swimming but I was unlucky because of the extraordinarily low temperatures this year. Of course there was a heated pool but paying nearly a thousand rupees per hour did make me a bit reluctant.

As far as academics are concerned, one outstanding aspect of Hutchins is the wide variety of subjects offered, ranging from religion and philosophy to ancient sciences, from audio design to modern languages. I chose some of these and the experience in the classroom was remarkable. I do suggest introducing some of these courses in Doon as well. They certainly provide career opportunities and widen an Indian's horizon which has been narrowed down to business and technology. Apart from the extensive use of technology and media, an interesting concept there is the practice of co-operational study. This means that for some subjects a Hutchins student will have to visit one of the two nearby girls' schools, Fahan and St. Michael's Collegiate. I got the opportunity to attend German classes in the Collegiate. Being the only boy in the class did make me a little uneasy, but slowly and steadily I got used to it. This experience gave me a chance to expose myself to high-level German and also better understand members of the opposite sex.

Hutchins, being an Anglican school, there is a tradition of visiting the chapel frequently. As a part of the school, I too attended. No doubt I sang the hymns out of tune but it was a great learning experience. I also participated in one of the inter-house debates, and surprisingly for me, I performed well.

All in all, I think there is much more to an exchange programme than just having fun; it is the relationships that you make, the interaction that you have and, most substantially, the learning experience that make it so valuable and memorable.

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desired attention and impetus to expand. These, as I say, are initiatives any effective government should undertake. However, one thing I feel the government of Kashmir, the day it is empowered, must do, is to follow the Singapore experiment by providing affordable housing and secure property ownership to its citizens. The principle behind this is that people who have invested in land have actually invested in peace and stability.

Land is tied to the state and therefore, for lasting peace

and progress, it is essential that local people invest in the state and are share-holders of its future: be it political, economical or social.

Therefore, I conclude by stating that the solution to Kashmir is not settling boundary disputes, negotiating peace deals and confidence-building measures (CBMs) but in making the pre-existing system work. When systems are in place, the redressal of the people finds a platform. Militancy, separatism, rioting and civil disorder are landmarks of a failing system and resulting frustration within the people which finds no legal outlet, thus taking on a revolutionary character. No amount of international involvement can spark off social disharmony if a resilient system can address the grievances and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Unless we correct ourselves, we may find several other parts of this diverse land suffering from similar symptoms, with trouble already brewing in the North East. Politics has removed the focus from the root cause to a bubbling cauldron of statements, sanctions and diplomatic fallout. We must understand that the distinct ethnic and cultural identity called 'Kashmiriyat' and the provisions of Article 370 make Kashmir, and therefore, its problems, unique. However, there must be an effort at greater integration into mainstream national life.

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## The Final Question

*Kenilworth Yambem*

*I feel an emptiness inside,  
Cold and smiting at the edges.  
Shadows beyond the doors of the unknown.  
I feel dank and dark.  
It seems as if I am caged  
Inside an empty hall of existence.  
Embraced by a pool of silence  
I awake within my consciousness.  
In the depth of this slumber  
It isn't the cold air,  
Nor the silence that envelops  
Me and my fear  
That causes me to shiver,  
But the empty spaces of my mind  
Burdened with but one question,  
"What is it that they call 'the end'?"  
Every lore that is rooted  
In the core of all faiths  
Does confer on it the title 'Death'  
But what is it truly?*

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