DSW: A lot of proficient Indian students currently choose to go to foreign universities instead of those in India. Do you think that this leads to a loss of the intelligentsia of the country?

Arun Jaitley (ARJ): You see, there was a time, where we were deeply constrained by what used to be referred to as the ‘brain drain’, that you have a very large part of bright people moving out of the country. If you now look at the demographical differential which has taken place all over, India has more people than its economy can absorb. The rest of the world, particularly developed countries, had lesser number of people than what their economies can involve and one of the reasons being that the replacement percentage in India is much higher, compared to the rest of the world and therefore, the consequences of the ‘brain drain’ which used to worry us, are not as grievous today because you see India will, because of this demographical differential, always, in a free market economy, be a big man power exporter. Of course it’s always a loss for a country to lose the brightest minds, but then people have made their presence felt all over as the Indian diaspora, and that has had its own impact.

DSW: As both a lawyer and a cabinet minister, what is your take on the method that should be used for appointing judges to both the Supreme Court and the High Courts?

ARJ: I am a severe critic of the present system. The present system, I have described in the past as a system where judges appoint judges. So, the only place where this rule applies is the Gymkhana clubs, where existing members of the club recruit new members and no outsider is involved. You cannot have public appointments to judicial offices made in a non-transparent manner, by a group of individuals, which was never conceived in the Constitution of India. Even though this system has been devised through a judicial pronouncement of the Supreme Court, I believe that pronunciation runs completely contrary to the language of the Constitution.

DSW: Considering the GST Act is about to be implemented, how do you plan to build a consensus between non-cooperating states and stakeholders?

ARJ: The bill has been passed by both houses of Parliament, as well as the Constitutional amendment, which is an enabling provision. I think a much greater consensus was required for that purpose. Today, there is a Constitutional amendment which states that before September 16, 2017, everybody has to switch over to the new system and if you do not switch over to the new system, under the old system, you lose your right to tax. Therefore, there is a constitutional necessity under which you have to switch over to the new system. I have had three meetings of the GST Council, which includes both the Centre and the states, and I must say that this has, so far, been a very pleasant experience in what I call ‘deliberative democracy’. That is, you have over thirty people assisted by their officers, jointly deciding the taxation regime of India. Earlier, this could be decided between the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister and then just a formal approval of the cabinet before the budget, and of course the Lok Sabha will ratify what the government says. So I think that this has made a big difference itself. We are carrying on this exercise and I am fairly optimistic that we will arrive at a conclusion. The only state which had formally opposed the GST was Tamil Nadu and having opposed it, they are also bound by the Constitutional Amendment, that is the law of the land and I must say that the representative of Tamil Nadu is also very actively participating in the Council.

DSW: As a private citizen, what is your take on the controversial topic of the criminalisation of homosexuality?

ARJ: I have already expressed my views on this subject, about three years ago, and my opinion is very clear, that it takes time for a social thought in a society to evolve, but in terms of criminal consequences, I always said that the Delhi High Court judgement was correct, because they did not quash Section 377. They said it is inapplicable in a consensual relationship. The Supreme Court reversed it. I always believe that the Delhi High Court judgement was more correct and eventually, I am quite certain that on a reconsideration, probably, that may become a broader view.

(Contd. on Page 4)
Top-spin

The School Table Tennis Team participated in the 12th Manorite Table Tennis Tournament, held at St. George’s College, Mussoorie from October 22-23, 2016.

In the Under-14 individual category, Kanish Agarwal was declared the runner-up.
In the Under-16 individual category, Shyamal Singhal was declared the runner-up.
In the Under-19 individual category, Anuman Goel was declared the runner-up, while Vineet Puri was adjudged the winner.
In the Boys doubles category, Anuman Goel and Vineet Puri were the winners.

Congratulations!

UNQUOTEABLE QUOTES

Don’t dare you put unquote mine.
Chaitanya Kediyal, one last time.
Earth is dying and men will wipe.
Ansh Raj, out.
Think of unquote.
Arjun Singh, ‘working’ hard.
He has been working since five years ago.
Nehansh Saxena, aspiring much?

Black to White

Athletics

The School Athletics team participated in the 70th Annual Dehradun District Athletics Meet held at RIMC from November 5-6, 2016.

In the Under-16 Girls category, Neveditta Ghughtiyal won a gold medal in the 800 metres event, while Ananya Shukla won a gold medal in the 100 metres and 200 metres events. In the same category, the team comprising Neveditta Ghughtiyal, Tanisha Ahuja, and Aadita Chauhan finished third in the 4 x 100 metres Relay event. For her exceptional performance, Ananya Shukla was adjudged the Best Athlete in the Under-16 Girls Category.

Well done!

The School Athletics team participated in the All India IPSC Athletics Meet held at Punjab Public School, Nabha from November 5-7, 2016.

Jaideep Gill won a Bronze medal in the High Jump event. Adhiraj Singh Palaitha won a Bronze medal in the Shot Put event. Yajwin Tandon and Yashvansh Chawla finished fourth in Javelin Throw and in the Shot Put event respectively. Keshav Maliah finished fifth in the 200 metres event and sixth in the 100 metres event.

Kudos!

THE WHO?

Who is Jared Kushner?

Kushagra Kar: A doctor
Nehansh Saxena: ‘The Joker’ in ‘Suicide Squad’
Ranjay Singh: A Disco-jockey
Shiv Sharma: A footballer

Jared Kushner is an American businessman and son-in-law of US President-elect Donald Trump.

Around the World in 80 Words

Donald Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States of America. All schools in New Delhi were closed for three days due to intense smog. Currency notes in the denomination of 500 and 1000 rupees were withdrawn from circulation. Five men, suspected of being Islamic State sympathisers, were arrested in Germany. South Korea Prime Minister allowed the parliament to choose the President. China prohibited two lawmakers in Hong Kong from retaking their oaths after they read them incorrectly.

Victory belongs to the most persevering.
- Napoleon Bonaparte
Living in a pluralistic society, we often do contemplate on Islamophobia, but many a times forget to understand the dilemma of a general Muslim person in India. The growth of the ISIS and other jihadist groups has garnered public upheaval, which has given legitimacy to extreme right wing parties like the RSS, the Shiv Sena, and the Hindu Mahasabha. These parties play on communal party lines and seek for India to be a theocratic State. Right from Veer Savarkar, who stood for ‘Hindu Nationalism’ in the 1920’s, to the rise of the BJP-a strongly nationalistic Hindu dominated right wing party- there has been a growing sense of insecurity in the Muslim populace in India. Contrary to Jinnah’s claim that Hindus and Muslims could never live together, especially until the time the latter are in the minority, Nehru provided an alternative model where he collaborated with Muslim Parliamentarians and more than being secular propagated for equality between the two religions. However, through the decades, Nehru’s aim to provide for an equal footing for both Hindus and Muslims has failed to pass the tide. It seems the power of the Preamble of our Indian Constitution has been weathered over the years, leaving the word secular unclear. Be it the Dadi lynching case, the Babri Masjid-Ayodhya controversy, the infamous Batla House encounter, or even the recent cow-slaughter dissensions, Hindus have exploited their powers as the majority in the country.

The existence of this ideology of Saffron Terror activities motivated by Hindu nationalism stands to prove that terror is not limited to the Muslims. “Saffron Terror” is a term coined by the Frontline magazine, which labelled the bombing of a predominantly Muslim village, Malegaon, in 2008 as a terrorist attack by Hindu nationalists. The Hindu nationalists have slowly grown in power during the last decade, and are now indirectly in power through Narendra Modi’s BJP government. We in no way feel that Muslim extremist terrorist groups do not pose any threat. However, what we write against is the marginalization of Muslims because of the Hindu nationalists or the pretext of their supposed sympathies towards terrorist outfits. In fact, it is the marginalization of Muslims in our society that closes all paths to them, except one: terrorism. When something gets pushed to a corner, only then does it fight back, recklessly, without fear, in a do-or-die fashion. It is the same with Islamic terrorism. Islamic terrorism is simply a culmination of all the stereotyping and discrimination that Muslims have faced at the hands of the media and the propaganda of the governments.

Indian Muslims, however, have been relatively unexposed to most terrorist groups for quite a while. This is owing to the more secular and protective nature of the Indian government all this time, along with the relative poverty of the Indian Muslims, which has insulated them from the events of the world.

However, now, the winds of change have begun to blow. The majority that the BJP has gained in the central government, and the growth of the RSS, the Shiv Sena, and the Hindu Mahasabha abeing given levarage, thus marginalizing more and more of the Muslim populace. Programs like “Ghar Wapsi”, which is a system of conversion of Muslims who “strayed” from their path of Hinduism, are showing what the government’s extremist forces are turning to. There are people who believe that with the onset of the Modi government, India will “finally” be the Hindu nation it was “supposed” to be. The growing power of these groups, which is shown by the aforementioned cases are leading several Muslims into joining the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq, the most high-profile case being the sixteen missing Muslim youths from Kerala, who have allegedly gone and joined the Islamic State. Atrocious activities such as the rejection of Muslims from jobs and living spaces are now even creeping into metropolitan cities where the virus of communalism has even infected the educated minds. India has, today, regressed from its golden ages, in which both Muslims and Hindus would live in harmony. At a point of time, Islam and Hinduism could be called “the two eyes of the beautiful bride”. Now, we have to turn to another quote to describe today’s situation: “It is safer to be a cow in India than a Muslim.”

Parallels of such cases can be seen in the United States and France, (the California shooting and the mass killing in Nice) in which local Muslim nationals have been influenced by the Islamic State, mainly because of their growing frustration from the discrimination that they face in their workplaces and their localities. However, the problem in India hasn’t gone that far yet. It seems as if Indian Muslims are ready to handle more than what their Western counterparts have done. Legislation in India has taken a turn for the worse for Muslims; yet, there hasn’t been much of a protest against the government by the Muslims, mainly because of the general lack of education that Muslims in India have. Right now, most governments haven’t turned against Muslims simply because they are powerful vote banks, and cannot be upset. However, with the onset of the RSS, one has to be a real optimist to predict a bright future for Muslims under the BJP government, which hardly takes any action against the unconstitutional and unsecular activities of its extremist counterpart. It is in these challenging times that the strength of our secular Indian Constitution, which has withstood years of al-Qaeda terrorism and been true to its Muslims, will truly be tested. It is upon us Indians to not only be secular but oppose communalism in all its forms.

3. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, November 12
**Changing is Challenging**

Mr Supratim Basu writes on developments in education

One of the hallmarks of a great school that has an already-established legacy in the education galaxy is that it offers a child an experience of panoptic pursuits that range from academics to cultural, national to global, and from individual to shared. A cascade of events; socially and intellectually relevant, where young minds in a school take part happily to satisfy their curiosity, in fact, contributes to transform a cooperative climate into a collaborative realm. These limitless possibilities that construe the delicate fabric of collaborative mindset also contribute to form a larger identity of a school, namely, “Evolution.”

Being a teacher, I can attempt to record the rapidly changing educational ambience that defines the current thrust of teaching and learning. As I perceive it, during the last two decades, education has evolved significantly and responded fitly to the technological shifts, globalization, demographic pressures and emerging user expectations. With this shift of paradigm, the common framework of thoughts, ideas, and acquired knowledge that allow students to look beyond the defined local and national boundaries, has also undergone a change, or should I say, “It has been adjusted to suit the client demands.” Global economy has become the driving force behind this newly formed identity of education and public education is today largely controlled by corporate, multinational, transnational and non-governmental organizations. In fact, a new benchmark has been set to popularize the market value of the institutions: certifications for specific skills by profit organizations, funding and job placement offer by numerous businesses, reward with scholarships and assistance etc. As a result, student-success is now measured in a way that it confirms their abilities as defined, governed, supported and developed by these new avatars which eventually attest educational merits as their requisites. With this, one cannot ignore the fact that education is shifting from a ‘public good’ to a ‘private good.’ As for teachers, they are also becoming instruments of this metamorphosis. Explorations, thoughts, and investigations are replaced by the expectations that teachers become managers (and multi-taskers). Most of the National Curriculums are designed so to feed the current needs of skill acquisition and not to focus on the overall development of cultural, democratic and analytical aspects of education. In essence, teachers’ freedom to instruct freely has become limited to syllabus-based pedagogy. This recurring emphasis on success and failure has, in turn, created a greater social stratification and more discrimination in society. The idea of educational freedom is fallen apart under the globalised and competitive juggernaut invading the school system. This emergence of corporate branding has created a state of alienation where students have evolved from being a mere participant of education to consumers of a privatized industry. However, to pass any judgment with an apparent wish to pantomime progressivism is rather unsettling in the face of challenges that so many of our generations would have faced today had this educational movement not been adopted. This new educational ideals reinforce the shaping of mind which is immune to any global meltdown and in fact, it has built a dynamic task force of realistic, responsible and resistant leaders where the intellectual pleasures have made room for administrative rigours. In anticipation I end saying, this educational reform, as long as it invites the post 1991 ideology, rather than Prakash Karat’s obsolete ideology.

**DSW:** You were once the President of the Delhi University Student Union. What is your take on the emergence of such student leaders like Kanhaiya Kumar from Jawaharlal National University?

**ARJ:** A very large part of student politics now is losing its steam and this is happening across the country. There may be isolated cases where there is some ideological politics going on, but I don’t see any virtues in making a cause out of slogans, which weaken the country.

**DSW:** What advice will you give to the boys of our school who are interested in public policy and who wish to enter the realm of politics? In your experience, what is some advice which you think they must have?

**ARJ:** It’s extremely important to have a social commitment for that purpose. Unless you have a social commitment relevant for that purpose, you will not be able to do it and therefore social commitment is absolutely necessary. For those wanting to enter this area, that is the course they will have to follow.

***

4. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, November 12
On October 25th, young scientists from five nations gathered outside the Chemistry Lab along with their respective flags to inaugurate the 13th International Student Science Conference. This included delegates from Italy, Australia, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, as well as our own Doscos from India. Apart from this, observers from Welham Boys’ School, Welham Girls’ School and Unison World School attended the event. The conference started off with a thrilling lecture on tiger conservation by an avid wildlife conservationist. It emphasized on how tiger conservation could make an impact on global biodiversity conservation efforts since saving a tiger requires vast acres of undisturbed forest land. A workshop on familiarizing the young generation to bird calls followed the event. The schedule was packed with intense scientific discussions. Presentations ranging from methods of conserving the spin of a table tennis bat (Australia) to acts of mealworms in consuming plastic (Hong Kong) left the audience spellbound. Increased heat dissipation of microchips in electronic gadgets using a graphite film (China) was the highlight for the second day of presentations. The common thread that connected these projects, however diverse they might be, was the message of promoting sustainable development. Presentations by students stimulated scientific discussion through the question-answer sessions. The scientific discussions were accompanied by hands-on scientific experience various trips and workshops. The LED Bulb workshop enabled delegates to provide electricity to a village during Diwali. The talks on agriculture sensitized the students to the depleting diversity of seeds and the alarming use of chemical fertilizers in the country. This was followed by a visit to the Navdhanya Organic Farm where we had an opportunity to interact with a famous environmental crusader Vandana Shiva. The scientific spirit of the conference was accompanied by a spiritual one. A trip to Rishikesh, the World Yoga Capital, was a highlight for most of the international delegates. An afternoon of rafting in the rapids of the Ganges evoked the adventurous spirit among those rafting for the first time. In contrast, this was followed by the famous aarti on the river bank. The last evening of the conference saw various ‘henna’ designs on most of the delegates (boys included!) as well as a grand dinner. The conference not only spread scientific ideas but also created lasting friendships. Several unforgettable memories were made. Bidding farewell was tough but overall, this conference left a lasting impression of amity on each and every one of us.

| Poetry |

**Who am I?**

**Gunvir Paintal**

If you take away my name  
My fame  
Who am I?  

If you take away this body  
Remove these quirks  
Who am I?  

I am not my family  
Nor this body that holds me  
For it is but an empty vessel without me  
I am not my favourite book  
Nor my most heard playlist  
They are but my taste  
My likes and dislikes  

I am not the last page doodles  
Of my Mathematics book  
Nor the scribbles on loose sheets  
They are but my creativity  
My pin-hole view of the world.  
I am not my writing  

Nor am I the late night conversations I have  
They are just my views  
I am quintessential  
And worthless at the same time  

There is no I  
Just a part, a small part  
Of a system, a design  
The Grand Design  
A design which embodies  
Light and Darkness  

A system  
As big as the sun  
As tiny as a speck of dust  
As naive as a babe’s laughter  
As tired as a veteran’s eyes  
Felt  
In the caressing of the wind  
In the destruction by a hurricane  

In all its beauty  
In all its scarring ugliness  
Stands out a plan  
A Grand Design
The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

Not many people felt like leaving their bed on Monday when they realized this was another one of the many winters which had to be spent without the comfort of heaters or electric blankets. To top it off, we have the unique distinction of being provided with cold water to bathe in and drink in the houses through the day. Our authorities then wonder why we are constantly down with fever, colds and the other set of diseases winter has to offer. The boys looked as grey as the weather that greeted them at Chandbagh.

Pollution did not affect our town that much as it did to the capital. Masks were brought out and were a common sight on the streets of Delhi. Dehradun on the other hand was saved due to the considerable amount of greenery still left on the outskirts of the town. We hope that whatever is left of the greenery in Doon does not disappear to soon as they have at our very own campus over the past few years.

Our government has come down heavily on black money holders in our country who have been forced to discard ‘old money’ create new currency notes. What is more important is that for the first time, will learn the value of making the most of what little they have. Outing plans have been drastically cut down in order to give way for priorities such as food. One wonders why such measures were not introduced during the holidays so that we could have come better prepared for outings.

Finally, I think it is necessary to stress on one of the greatest moments that history has witnessed this past week. A man who I feel is misunderstood in many ways, United the States of America to shock the world and take control of the American Presidency. One can only wait and see what plans to do with the world. Here in Chandbagh, our American College goers who have planned out their futures up to a decade later were especially fretting over how this decision would affect them in their run to get their dream jobs in Las Vegas. Most boys have been wondering about how they would manage an outing with illegal tender as their home dough too qualifies as illegal in were ways than one!

Crossword

Famous Quotes

Across
4. “Man needs his difficulties because they are necessary to enjoy success.”
7. “I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”
8. “Logic can take you from A-Z, imagination can take you anywhere.”
10. “Stay hungry, stay foolish.”
11. “Democracy is the worst form of government, sadly its the best one we have.”
12. “The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.”

Down
1. “If you are the smartest man in the room you are in the wrong room.”
2. “It ain’t what we don’t know that hurts us; its what we know for sure that’s just ain’t so.”
3. “The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”
5. “People who think they know everything are a great annoyance for those who do.”
6. “Cogito ergo sum” (I think therefore I am).
9. “Experience is simply the name we give to our mistakes.”

Answers to This Week’s Crossword

Across
4. Kalam
11. Churchill
7. King
12. Socrates

Down
1. Dell
6. Descartes
2. Twain
9. Wilde
3. Gandhi
5. Asimov

Online Edition: http://www.doonschool.com/old-boys/past-weeklies/
weekly@doonschool.com

©IPSS: All rights reserved. Printed by: The English Book Depot, 15 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand– 248009, India. Published by: PK Nair, The Doon School, Dehradun.

Editor-in-Chief: Chaitanya Kediyal
Senior Editors: Atrey Bhargava, CC Chengappa, Varun Sehgal
Associate Editors: Arjun Singh, Aryan Chhabra, Nehansh Saxena, Omar Cäsli, Salman Mullick
Hindi Editor: Rahul Bhagchandani
Senior Hindi Editor: Vishesh Khetan
Special Correspondents: Aayush Chowdhry, Devang Laddha, Kanishkh Kanodia, Kushagra Kar, Zoraver Mehta
Correspondents: Ansh Raj, Karan Sampath, Samarth Mehra
Cartoonist: Leonardo Pamei
Webmaster: Vishal Mohla
Assistant Managers: Shrey Nagalia, Anamika Ghose, Arvindanabha Shukla
Technical Assistant: KC Maurya

6. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, November 12