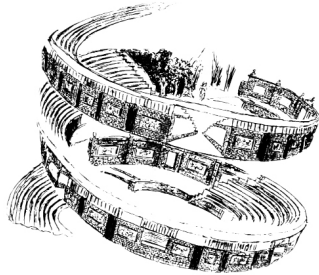


Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
November 28, 2020 | Issue No. 2589



THE QUINTESSENTIAL BENGALI

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Editorial

Aryan Agarwal

The predicate for the printed *Weekly* was rudely shaken this year once we were sent to our respective homes in the month of March. With School, the *Weekly* too stopped. After a week or two, the Board met to discuss how the *Weekly*, in its virtual avatar, would function until we were allowed to come back to School. To some of our Board members, there were no longer the competitions and events to be reported, and others were doubtful that a sufficient stream of contributions would be received. Yet, despite our own doubts, the first 'Pandemic *Weekly*' was sent out this year in April, and many more have followed since. This — a feat even for the Board members who are used to difficult deadlines — serves as a reminder to our community of the role of the *Weekly*. In its 84 years, the publication has bound our community by principally chronicling our shared experiences. It has been a platform for commentary, critique and inspiration, which has reached all of us each Saturday morning.

Notwithstanding the positive outlook, it would be untruthful to say that it has not been difficult. The fact that our engagement as a community has been restricted to the time we spend in online classes has meant that it is not as often that our readers are reminded of the *Weekly*. Although articles were never abundant while

everyone was in School either, their number is even less now. The task of producing the *Weekly* is in the hands of its Board only on a basic, catalytic level. It is up to the community to keep it running with a sustained contributions of writing of all kinds. Keeping this in mind, one should contribute to the *Weekly*: though it is a publication that has been running for over 80 years, it depends on

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each one of you, in each and every way. Until the time we can all pore through our copy of the *Weekly* as we have breakfast together again, it is the *Weekly* that will enable the community to be on the same page every weekend. So, as Advaita did, I ask you to write.

"What if it is not good enough?" Though we cannot promise that all articles will be published, we will try to attach feedback to your submissions, as we would like to see your articles and stories published in future issues. As with all things, it is unreasonable to expect to be the best from the

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very beginning. Regardless of whether your article is printed, endeavour to write more and more thoughtfully, in conjunction with reading material of richer quality and wider range. I can promise you that the satisfaction that one gets from having one's voice heard in the pages of the *Weekly* is indescribable.

Despite the fact that the gratification of publishing the *Weekly* is now much reduced, (as it takes just one member to click "send" for the *Weekly* to reach its readers) I take great pleasure in being part of a process that serves so integral a function now. I look forward to my time on the Board as the Editor. To think that I can contribute to something that has the potential to spark an idea or thought, or to add a previously ignored perspective has always driven me the most. Writing has given me a feeling of boundlessness, a certain sense of satisfaction that comes with knowing your voice. It may not give you the same feeling, but I urge you to try.

The Quintessential Bengali

The Doon School Weekly writes an obituary to the Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee.

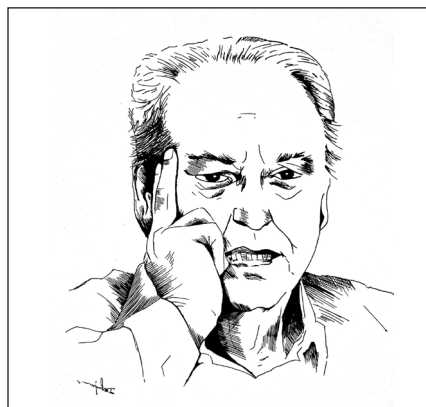


Soumitra Chatterjee, a Bengali actor known for his collaborations with Satyajit Ray, died of COVID-related complications in a Kolkata hospital on November 15, at the age of 85. Chatterjee was a legend of Indian cinema. In a career spanning six decades, Chatterjee appeared in nearly 300 feature films and was a recipient of numerous accolades, including the Padma Bhushan award, the Dadasaheb Phalke award, the *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*, the Sangeet Natak Akademi award, and three National Film awards¹.

Chatterjee was born in British-ruled Krishnanagar on January 19, 1935. As a child, Chatterjee enacted children's plays in the courtyard of his home using household items as props. He graduated from the University of Calcutta with a degree in Bengali literature and trained under legendary actors Sisir Bhaduri and Ahindra Choudhry. His primary mentor, however, was Satyajit Ray, who he said taught him acting and who would accompany him to Hollywood films, and would loan him books on cinema. He began helping Ray on set during his productions and

eventually made his debut as an actor in one of Ray's films.

Although during his career he collaborated with an array of directors such as Tapan Sinha and Mrinal Sen, Chatterjee was a fixture of Ray's work, appearing in 14 of his feature films, many of which were in sharp contrast to the gaudy melodramas characteristic of traditional Bollywood movies. Chatterjee often played wide-eyed young men, cocky intellectuals and suave detectives in movies that were widely admired for their visual poetry and emotional depth. Film critic Roger Ebert wrote of Ray's Apu Trilogy, in which Chatterjee made his debut, "it is about a time, place and culture far removed from our own, and yet it connects directly and deeply with



our human feelings. It is like a prayer, affirming that this is what the cinema can be, no matter how far in our cynicism we may stray." Chatterjee's work has the capacity to transcend time and culture to the extent that it has influenced film-makers as varied as Martin Scorsese and Wes Anderson.

"When I played Apu, I did not play myself, I played a generation," said Chatterjee, speaking of the protagonist, a poor but high-caste Bengali man who leaves home, tries to become a novelist and finds himself consumed by grief, in *The World of Apu* (1959), the final installment of the trilogy. Through his roles as a restless bachelor in *Days and Nights in the Forest* (1970), as a village Brahmin in *Distant Thunder* (1973) and as the beloved detective Feluda in *The Golden Fortress* (1974) and *The Elephant God* (1979), Chatterjee, in the words of filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan, "became the quintessential Bengali — intellectually inclined, of middle-class orientation, sensitive and likable."² With his passing, Indian cinema has not only lost a talented actor, but an entire gamut of characters played by him.

Chatterjee's final roles on stage included a Bengali adaptation of Shakespeare's play, *King Lear*. "I don't want to burden anyone when I die," Chatterjee said in a 2016 interview, "but the dream would be to pass away while I'm acting. Not everyone can be that fortunate. I would call such death an accidental gift of life."

¹ <https://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/regional/soumitra-chatterjee-dies-at-85-celebrities-mourn-demise-of-legendary-actor-6719967/>

² https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/soumitra-chatterjee-dead/2020/11/22/3af44326-2cda-11eb-bae0-50bb17126614_story.html

RANKING RACONTEUR

Aradhya Jain won the **Consolation Prize** in a **Story Telling Competition** held at **The Lawrence School, Sanawar** as a part of the **Sanawar Literary Festival** held on November 6, 2020.

Congratulations!

This Week in History

1497 C.E.: Portuguese navigator Vasco Da Gama leads a fleet of four ships and becomes the first to sail around the Cape of Good Hope.

1821 C.E.: Panama declares itself independent from Spain and joins the fledgling nation of Gran Colombia.

1859 C.E.: Charles Darwin’s book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* is published.

1936 C.E.: Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan sign the Anti-Comintern Pact, an agreement to jointly oppose the spread of Communism.

ERRATA

In the announcement printed on page 3 under the heading “**Curtain Call**” in **Issue No. 2588**, the *Weekly* incorrectly stated that Pratham Gupta completed Grade 6 in the Trinity Music Examinations, when, in fact, he has completed Grade 8 in the Rock and Pop category. The *Weekly* regrets this error.

THE WHO?

Who is Vera Mindy Chokalingam?

Raghuraaaj Sodhi: A clothing designer

Raghav Periwal: An actress

Aditya Gondalia: An author

Vera Mindy Chokalingam, known professionally as **Mindy Kaling**, is an American **actress, comedian, writer, and producer**. She first gained recognition starring as **Kelly Kapoor** in the **NBC sitcom The Office (2005–2013)**, for which she also served as a **writer, executive producer, and director**.

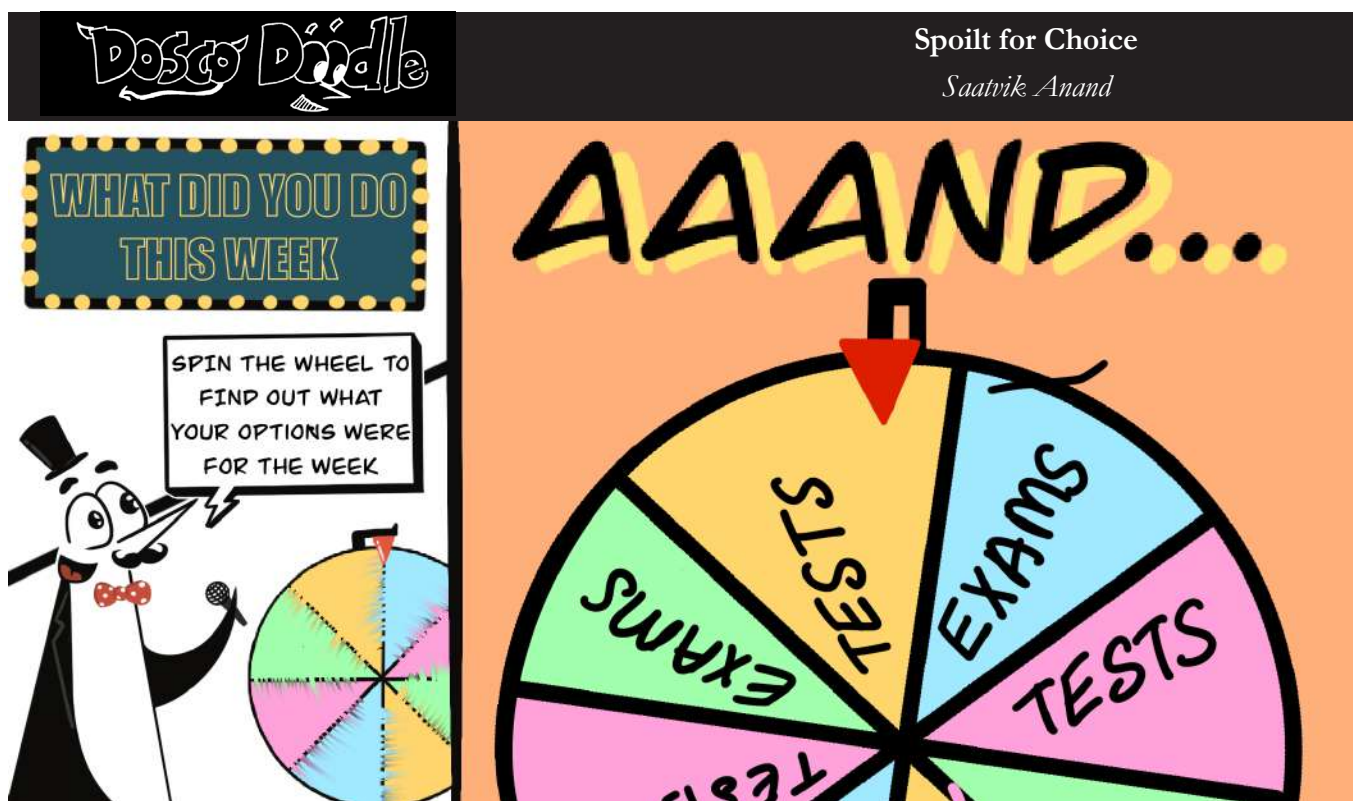
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In times like these, it helps to recall that there have always been times like these.

Paul Harvey

Around the World in 80 Words

Astra-Zeneca, a British-Swedish pharmaceutical company, announced that their COVID-19 vaccine has a 90% efficiency rate. Joe Biden appointed Antony Blinken the new Secretary of State of the USA. The creator of the ‘Ice Bucket’ challenge, Pat Quinn, died of ALS at the age of 37. It was announced that India will replace Indonesia as the host of the world’s next G-20 summit. Yemen’s Houthis attacked a Saudi Aramco facility in Jeddah. Burnley beat Crystal Palace 1-0 in the Premier League.



A Note on the Section

As the A and SC forms get ready to return to School, many of us may begin to wonder about School's preparedness when it comes to the Coronavirus and how the return process will take place. To help answer these questions, The Doon School Weekly interviewed Dr. Amar Lanka, the School doctor, Gp. Capt. Sandeep Sethi (Retd.), the Director of Administrative Affairs, and Ms. Stuti Kuthiala, the Deputy Head of Pastoral Care. The following is a compilation of those interviews. We hope you find them informative.

Conversations About COVID

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What are some of the main advancements School has made to adapt to COVID?

Director of Administrative Affairs (DAA): You know, earlier, Chandbagh was free. You could, between classes, walk around the garden, go back to your Houses, come back, and go again. That is no longer going to be possible. The basic concept is to create bubbles and ensure that the bio-bubble that you have is sanitized. Our goal is to prevent you from interacting with anyone who has COVID and you won't get COVID as long you are in that bubble. By 'bubble', I mean a physical bubble. If we barricade O-House, for example, people in O-House stay in O-House. And then inside O-House, the people you will meet are proven COVID negative. You will also not come within 6 feet of one another. If a student comes by air we will take him to School using our own taxi. You cannot go in your own taxi because we don't want to take any chances. Our taxi will be sanitised and there will be a curtain separating you from the driver. You will also not share taxis. The taxi will take you straight to School with no stops. Once you enter the gate, we take your temperature, and we sanitise all your stuff and follow all the protocols. Then, we take you to your respective Houses. We escort you to your House and minimize your contact with anyone for seven days. For the first seven days, you will be in your own bio-bubble. Things like locks and doors that you will touch a lot will be sanitised every two hours or so. Basic sanitisation will happen twice a day. Anyone who is going to meet you will have tested negative. After seven days, when you are well settled, we will have a COVID test to make sure that none of you are asymptomatic COVID carriers. This will be the norm for all students coming from now on.

DSW: Since COVID is dynamic and unpredictable, do you think the School is well equipped enough to maintain a student life without disrupting our School life too much, even as cases in the country rise and fall?

DAA: I can assure you that School is very well equipped. In fact, we have had two visits by the authorities who did a survey, and they were very happy

with the kind of systems we have in place. Another thing we have going for our School is that there is a large space and the more physical distance there is, the better it is. Also, primarily, if you have your masks on and you keep that physical distance, that is your main protection against COVID. We are prepared, and I would like to see that the boys are prepared as well. These are unprecedented times. Unprecedented times means that you have to change your behaviour. Physical distancing is the most difficult thing to do, because we want you to be together, to grow up together, to do things together, and now we tell you to still be together, but a bit far-off. We are prepared, and I can speak for all the teams. We have spoken to professionals and we have followed protocol as required. We have taken the best practices in India and abroad and implemented them. We wouldn't have asked you to come back if we weren't prepared.

DSW: How will the return process of the rest of the students (besides A and SC form) be initiated? What kind of quarantine will returning students be put into?

Deputy Head of Pastoral Care (DHP): When feasible, the return of the remaining forms will be scheduled similar to the return of SC and A form boys – in a phased manner, one week apart, in small cohorts, and with a complete quarantine on campus for a week in a designated boarding house.

During this quarantine week, all meals will be served in the boarding house. Classes will be online and not in the academic buildings. There will be no contact with the earlier population, already in residence on campus. After this period is over, meals in the CDH and classes in the academic spaces will begin, adhering to the necessary safety protocols.

DSW: Considering we see a lot of information regarding how cases suddenly escalate after schools reopen, how is Doon going to be uniquely placed to deal with this?

DHP: Doon is fortunate to have ample accommodation in the well ventilated and well - lit buildings, such as the boarding houses, dining hall
(Continued on the next page)

(Continued from the previous page)

and classrooms, to provide the requisite physical distancing. Our campus is also blessed with great outdoor spaces and a healthy and invigorating environment.

We are also relying on some sound administrative planning, coupled with the good sense and compliance of all members of the community, young and old, to take on this unique challenge and keep our School a safe haven.

DSW: Do you think that it is possible to have everyone in the school back any time before March?

DHP: Much as we would like all our batches to be back safely on campus and resume the regular life of a Dosco, the situation, as it appears at the close of November, does not appear promising for that scenario. We, in School, are continually monitoring the daily reports and deliberating over several contingency plans to enable your return and stay. As I speak, we are putting into place the final details to receive our first group of SC boys on November 29. We hope to be doing the same for all of the other forms, too, in time to come.

DSW: How has the Wellness Centre adapted for COVID and prepared for the students?

Dr. Amar Lanka (ALA): Earlier, students came in batches to the assistant, asked for medication and just stood in front of the table. Now all that is gone. Now, I have shifted to the physiotherapy centre, and all the other stuff has been put into Tata house. There are two waiting rooms. There is one respiratory room, where students with cough and cold problems come, and there is a non-respiratory waiting room. Every child will come to the hospital with the dame. COVID cases will have to go to Martyn House. We are also currently waiting for the main infrastructure to arrive: we have ordered oxygen cylinders and concentrators.

DSW: Do you have any advice for students returning to School?

ALA: Everyone should take the flu-vaccine. You should also consistently take Vitamin-D tablets, as advised in the mail sent by School. These have proven to be effective in preventing complications of COVID-19. Students should come prepared since you are coming into an open community, away from your family. Hand hygiene is very important, and you should wash your hands for 40 seconds. Also, try not to touch your nose, mouth, as well as your eyes. Uttarakhand has relatively few cases and we are faring better than other states in the country. Your immunity levels may be low as you have been confined to your rooms mostly, and since your germs are interacting with the germs of other children after so long, you should maintain a distance of 6 feet and cover your nose and mouth all the time.

DSW: What do you make of companies that have had a high success rates with COVID vaccines and how does this impact our prospects of returning to School?

ALA: We do not know how long and to what extent the vaccine will protect us, especially since these vaccines have been made so fast. These vaccines do not give 100% immunity and so we really do not know how effective they will be. We must be mentally prepared to follow social distancing norms for around a year, or at least till the end for 2021. I do not know when India will receive the vaccine. Even then, those at most risk will be vaccinated first. It'll first be given to the medical staff, and then the elderly, so it will take four to five months for children to receive it, and even after the vaccine is given, we will have to continue to take precautions for more than a year. Yes, vaccines will come, but let us not adopt the mindset that if vaccines come, automatically, we can come to school. We should not link vaccines with coming back to School. We have no clue when the vaccine will come to India or how long it will take to be distributed. For children to come back to School, preventive measures must be in place.

DSW: Would you say that we are adequately prepared to bring students back to School?

ALA: I have asked the school for certain things to be provided in a certain way. For example, I want transparent physical curtains so that the kids do not get bored not being able to talk to each other. Although cases in India are dropping, Diwali just got over, so we have a festive season going on and because of this, cases could rise again as a second wave in a week or two. For example, Delhi and Maharashtra, states that are causing a lot of havoc, might go under lockdown again. I really do not know about what will happen, but I think we are in a good position.

DSW: Since the Coronavirus doesn't really harm adolescents, what do you think is its main effect on adolescents?

ALA: The main problem with adolescents during the COVID lockdown is mental health, since children have not been able to go out and be in the company of their friends. If you look at major health organisations, they are saying that one of their main concerns is the state of mind of the adolescent because usually this is the age to be outdoors and with your friends and not cooped up at home. There is no social contact and that plays upon your psyche. As I have said before, COVID does not really affect adolescents in terms of the infection, but I don't know how you students have been handling lockdown. If you come back to school, it will be good for you, as you will see your friends again, because Coronavirus can still be kept at bay.

Match The Following

Match the countries to their most unknown celebrations.

- A. Bhutan
- B. Spain
- C. Canada
- D. Peru
- E. France
- F. Bermuda
- G. Italy
- H. Philippines
- I. South Korea
- J. The USA
- K. Bolivia
- L. Poland

1. This land-locked country celebrates the “Day of The Sea” by remembering the loss of its last ocean-front property.
2. This country celebrates “Blessed Rain Day” by bathing in mythically purified natural waters.
3. This country celebrates the traditional Incan festival Inti Raymi, the “Sun Festival.”
4. The famous “Running of Bulls” festival, which involves being chased by bulls down narrow streets, takes place in this country.
5. This country celebrates the “Boryeong Mud Festival”.
6. “National Whipped Cream Day” is celebrated in this country.
7. This country pays homage to the bagel, a dense and chewy bread, by celebrating “National Bagel Day”.
8. People in this country celebrate the frappe, a popular iced coffee, on October 7th.
9. The residents of this country wear their favorite ugly sweaters on “National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day”.
10. A holiday named after this country marks the first day its residents consider it acceptable to swim in the ocean and wear a certain style of shorts as formal business attire. These shorts are also named after the country.
11. The San Pedro Cutud Lenten Rites Festival takes place, which involves a re-enactment of Christ’s Passion and Death, takes place in this country.
12. The “Battle of the Oranges” celebrates the liberation from an evil Duke of a town in this country. It involves participants throwing oranges at one another.

G 12	I 9
H 11	J 5
F 10	B 4
C 9	D 3
E 8	A 2
L 7	K 1

Answers

What Have You been Reading During the Lockdown?

Shoe Dog

Author: Phil Knight

I find that most business memoirs are self-serving, boring, and poorly written, since most of them make the person writing the memoir seem like a business savant who always knows the right answers. Great business memoirs are different. They portray a business situation as it is. *Shoe Dog*, written by Phil Knight, the founder of Nike, is a great business memoir. It is about a constant struggle to gain funding. I think you should definitely give it a read.

- Advay Kajaria

What Have You been Watching During the Lockdown?

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Cast: Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly is a 1966, Clint Eastwood produced Spaghetti Western epic. The story is set during the American civil war and follows Joe and Tuco who, after forming an uncomfortable alliance, set out in pursuit of \$20,000. Meanwhile, a sadistic criminal, the Bad, also tracks the money and combats Joe and Tuco. In the end, the last man standing gets the \$20,000. The film explores the value of dollars and the culture of the Wild West.

- Anushtup Giri

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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