

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot

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## TIME OF DEATH

A creative piece about death and grief.

Page 2

## ON AFGHANISTAN

An analysis of the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.

Page 4

## BAKHLE LITERATURE

The winning essay of the Bakhle Essay Writing Competition.

Page 5

## The Twelfth Man

Arjun Prakash writes about the nature of motivation.

In eleven a-side sports, the 12th Man is a name given to the heartbeat of the stadium - the supporters. It refers to those who are not using their feet or hands to kick or catch a ball, but instead, using every ounce of their vocal strength to cheer on their team and provide them with an advantage. No matter how much an athlete refines his skills on the training ground, this source of motivation is simply priceless. One may think that this motivation is derived from the team management and coaching staff. However, the atmosphere of a stadium with thousands of passionate fans cheering a player's name, and the player reciprocating that passion with an extraordinary performance, is the true motivation of every player.

No matter how big a role you play in the result, the competitive atmosphere of School's sporting events brings out the best in each and every Dosco. In my Dosco sporting experience, albeit limited due to COVID-19, I experienced this phenomenon first hand. We were playing in the final match of the Junior Inter-School Football Competition, against a team twice our size, when a flood of Doscos surrounded the field. The outburst of passionate cheers and the synchronous clapping gave us the boost we did not know we needed. It was that sudden adrenaline rush that hit us at that moment, a

feeling which cannot be put into words, that motivated us to score the winning goal just before the final whistle.

I could have never imagined a world where matches would be played without the authentic buzz and atmosphere that came with a packed stadium full of sporting cheer. Who would have thought the Champions League final would be played without the fans, shoulder-to-shoulder, shouting their lungs out, singing anthem songs, hugging strangers who sat beside them, crying in disappointment or anticipation, and closing their eyes at crucial moments? Who would have thought that the Olympics or the Euros would have to be delayed by an entire year, only for them to be hosted in lifeless stadia for the opening ceremony and the subsequent events? Although the 12th Man was banned from these stadia during the pandemic, it did not stop the sport from being played at a professional level.

The "new normal" for these athletes had arrived in the form of empty seats and artificial crowd noises blaring on the sound system. It took a while to get used to, not only for the players but local fans too, who usually savoured their trips to their home stadia after a long week of work. The players looked weary and uncomfortable on TV screens, as if they were missing the boundless energy

that comes from performing for an exuberant crowd. After such radical changes, there are bound to be interesting results. A post mortem of match statistics soon proved this.

The idea of a 'home advantage' has been rooted in culture from the days of the gladiatorial combats of Ancient Rome. The advantage a home team has over the visiting team is largely attributed to the psychological superiority that comes with playing in familiar surroundings, backed by your 12th Man in his natural habitat. This benefit became so clear that the Champions League introduced a new rule where if scores were level in the two-legged knockout matches, the team which scored more away goals would be awarded the win. Since fans were not allowed to come to the grounds during the pandemic, this idea no longer held the same value as it had in previous instances. Recent statistics show that the empty grounds witnessed an overall decrease in the number of 'home' wins for teams, which clearly shows the impact of the absence of the 12th Man.

It has been almost two years since the vibrant 'stadium' of Chandbagh was at full capacity with its own 12th Man, the students. The heartbeat of Doon has been missing. The teachers, acting like the players in this case,

(Continued on Page 2)

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have had to perform in this empty stadium without the energy the students usually provide. As stadia have started to open their gates to fans once again,

School has also opened its gates to students, which will hopefully reignite that special buzz of excitement and motivation after a long time spent away from campus.

# Time of Death

Yashovat Nandan

The very first death on your watch is not even your fault, but you always remember it. The scary silence sticks around longer than you would expect. You are just one of the numerous interns who rush to the side when the alarm is sound, peering at the doctors frantically crowding around. As the patient weakly gasps and chokes, you too gasp and choke as each electric shock blasts through the body . The doctors are grim-faced but determined, yet the feeling of helplessness is contagious. You frantically wonder why they bother. Again and again, the voltage is increased, but even thunderbolts can only do so much. The solemn doctor holding the paddles slowly turns away from the flaccid flesh and another silently inquires, “Time of death?” You back away, feeling as if the defibrillator was actually meant for you as your heart pounds out of your chest. A devastated father takes your wrist. “Time of death?” he mutters, thinking you are a doctor, someone who tried his best to revive his beloved son, someone who knew exactly what he was doing, someone able to challenge death. Not an inexperienced first-year intern who never could memorise which number was the systolic for blood pressure, nor someone who could not even draw blood from a patient for a blood test. “I’m extremely sorry for your loss,” you mumble, telling him that he can talk to the doctors in a minute. He bites his quivering lip and nods, releasing the scrubs that you should not be wearing, the scrubs reserved for those who save lives, not for those who do not even know how to tenderly break the news of the death to a loved one. The third death is similar, only this time you have been dragged along for menial scut work. You are the one slamming your hands into the sternum, trying to force the fluttering heartbeat into your rhythm. You are the one leaping out of the way of the cold defibrillator paddles, leaping back to start compressions again and again. The patient bottoms out, but after the paddles thunder the last time, you can feel the steady thump of the heart, matching yours as you collapse against the wall, arms shaking with strain. The immense emotion you feel cannot be comprehended as you shudder with relief, you brought him back. You saved him. You.

The eighteenth death is the hardest. That baby in premature care should never have been compelled to live on machines. Each breath is a fight, and the

medications are flowing in a toxic concentration for such a little body, yet the parents insist on continuing the farce of life. They are unwilling to bear any pain while their baby boy wheezes and flails weakly, seeking comfort but receiving only the hard embrace of the hospital walls and the noise of machines.

The mother cries, “He’s blue! Do something!” you rush to the crib and motion the team away, beckoning to the mother and father. “It would be best to take him off the machine,” you say. The dad glares and blurts out, “You want us to lose him.”

Sadly, as though their grief has formed a barrier between their hopes and the reality, they turn a blind eye as they do not understand the torture they have put him through. “If he even survives a year, he will be severely physically and mentally disabled. For life,” I persist. The mother groans, “He’s blue! It doesn’t matter. Just save him! Now!”

You signal the emergency team, moving yourselves around the tiny crib and pulling off the oxygen mask, trying to fit your big palms against the baby with his face scrunched up in a silent wail. The drugs to restart his heart are not having any effect due to the amount of medication already flowing through his tiny body. “Use the shocker!” the mother wails. “That’s impossible!” you snarl, trying to give compressions to a feeble chest and an even weaker heart. “Your baby is too small and his heart is deformed! If we do, we’ll kill him!” The emergency code leader shakes his head. “Time of death 3:36 p.m.”

The thirty-third death, some would argue, was the worst. You are the one leading. If an emergency is called, you will control the defibrillator, intrepidly call out “Clear!” You have the ultimate say on the time of death should it occur. No, you will not let those fateful words pass your lips. But she smiles at you through her white hair. “I’m ready to move on. Are you ready to let me go?” You sob, throw away the clipboard. “No, Mom! I don’t want you to.” She still has that tender smile of years past as her body wanes and shrivels to a mere fraction of her vitality. “But it’s necessary. I need you to. And you know it.”

“Mom ...”

And she brushes her hand against yours, squeezing it once before closing her eyes. “You’re ready.”

You take one last glimpse at her lifeless body, then note: “Time of death: 9:12 a.m....”

## This Week in History

**1189 C.E.:** During the third crusade, the Crusaders begin the Siege of Acre under Guy of Lusignan.

**1789 C.E.:** The French National Assembly issues the "Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen".

**1883 C.E.:** Krakatoa volcano, west of Java in Indonesia, erupts with a force of 1,300 megatons and kills approximately 40,000 people.

**1928 C.E.:** 60 nations agree to condemn 'recourse to war for the solution of international controversies', known as the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

**1937 C.E.:** General Franco's Nationalist troops conquer Santander during the Spanish Civil War.

**2008 C.E.:** Barack Obama becomes the first African-American to be nominated by a major political party for President of the United States.

## THE WHO?

### Who is Alicia Augello-Cook?

**Rohan Kailath:** Chef

**Aaron Ashdhir:** Pianist

**Maadhavan Gupta:** Singer

**Alicia Augello-Cook**, or **Alicia Keys** is an **American singer-songwriter**, and **entrepreneur** known for songs such as If I Ain't Got You and Empire State of Mind. She has founded a skin-care company and is the co-founder and Global Ambassador of the NGO Keep a Child Alive

## AAJ TAK DEBATES

The Doon School participated in the Aaj Tak Debates from **August 17 to August 19**. The School team comprising **Aadi Jain, Satvik Petwal** and **Vishwavijay Rathore** won the tournament.

Congratulations!

## BAKHLE ESSAY COMPETITION

The following are the results of the **Bakhle Essay Contest**:

**1st Place:** Aditya Gupta

**2nd Place:** Avi Bansode

**3rd Place:** Arjun Mitra

Kudos!

## Around the World in 80 Words

For the first time in 30 years, a hurricane made landfall in the New England region. The Turkish government made plans to extend its border wall to keep out refugees from Afghanistan. Suicide bombings outside the Kabul Airport killed over 150 people and injured hundreds of others. The bombers are suspected to be affiliates of the Islamic State terrorist group. Spencer Elden, the naked baby depicted on the cover of Nirvana's Nevermind album, has filed a lawsuit against the band alleging child pornography.

“

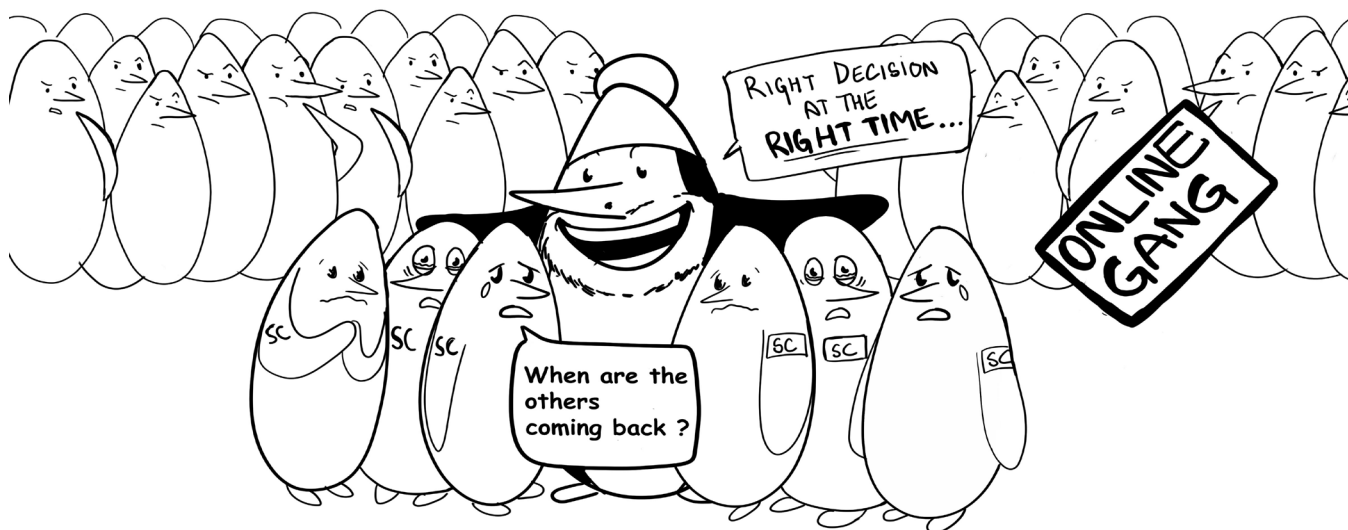
There is no such thing as the voiceless. There are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard.

Arundhati Roy

**Dosco Doodle**

### The Right Decision?

Rohan Taneja





# On Afghanistan

**Aryan Baruah and Svanik Garg** *comment on the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan*

On the April 11, Joe Biden, the President of the United States, announced that the country would completely remove their troops stationed in Afghanistan by September 11. Repeated press conferences with intense questioning followed; the argument given in support of the decision to withdraw was that doing so would remove the burden of such a crisis from the next president in office. The action was further heralded as a positive move for the demoralized military in Afghanistan. In context, after the events of 9/11, the US had invaded Afghanistan as the Taliban-controlled region had given refuge to Al-Qaeda and its leader. Under the leadership of George W Bush, the US took control of the entire country, ousting the Taliban and effectively setting up a Western-leaning democracy. However, after 19 years and a whopping \$2.26 trillion spent, they have left, without any major success bar the death of Osama Bin Laden. Many experts call the US' decision catastrophic and premature, and many others agree that the intervention has left Afghanistan in a worse position than they found it in 2002.

When the US invaded Afghanistan, the objective was to kill one man, but slowly they realized the country was in much deeper peril. President Bush decided it was best to stay back and rebuild the country. During the 2000s, the US was the only dominant power in the world, and therefore they wanted to set up an Islamic stronghold to maintain stability in the Middle East. Since 2016, when President Trump took office, there had been talks regarding the exorbitant amounts of unjustified money and the lives being lost without any avail. Steps were taken to propagate a peace deal and it was signed in 2018. However, a problem arose when President Trump was not re-elected and the Biden administration wanted something completely different. President Biden decided it was necessary to immediately retract troops, given the conflict was stuck in a stalemate, but little did he know that a humanitarian crisis would follow. Put in simple words, the retraction can be described as 'careless' and 'pre-emptive' based on minimal logic and study of implications.

Sensing an opportunity with the US gone, the Taliban rapidly started advancing into the country. On the July 9, the first major provincial capital fell, and when the US almost completely left on the August 7, the Taliban swiftly gained control of the nation. They swept the country, taking control of cities like Kandahar, Herat, and Jalalabad within four days. However, the advance into Kabul was the final

nail in the coffin for the setup of democracy. After the Taliban took the capital Kabul, the President of the country, Ashraf Ghani fled to the United Arab Emirates. People flocked to the international airport, in the desperate hope of leaving the country, causing chaos and stampedes. Concerning visuals from the city followed, and the UN declared it to be a humanitarian crisis. This essentially upended the following negotiations for who would govern the country. Another contributing factor to the negotiations was that the Taliban was in control of extensive swaths of territory in the country. The allied forces still hold control of the Hamid Karzai International Airport and military base. However, the Taliban have given them a deadline of vacating the base by 31st August. The Americans may decide to stay back, however, one thing is clear: the Taliban are the new face of Afghanistan.

The Americans' thoughtless and hasty withdrawal from the area has resulted in the killing of thousands of innocent Afghans who worked in institutions such as the US embassy. The Taliban have already begun to suppress peaceful protests by utilizing violent methods and although they have publicly stated that the condition of women's rights and freedom will be improved, there are already signs of the 'old order' beginning to reimpose itself. The 'old order' refers to the Sharia Laws under which women were heavily discriminated against in terms of jobs, access to education, healthcare, etc.

One aspect which is not being talked about enough is the economic aspect of the Taliban and how they have access to over one trillion dollars of mineral resources. Although poor countries being unable to leverage their resources to prosper is nothing new, the case in Afghanistan is a bit different. Afghanistan is rich in lithium, cobalt, copper, and nickel. In case you were wondering why these metals sound familiar, it is because they are quintessential to the production of electric cars in foreign countries, which is in turn fuelling the fight against climate change. When the Americans hastily withdrew from the region, they gave up all claim to these mineral resources and as a result, the role that the Taliban could play in the battle against climate change might be much larger than anybody ever expected. The US also opened up the opium plantations they had captured, giving Afghanistan access to wealth rivalling many countries in the region, essentially setting up a provisional economy for them.

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It may be possible that the Biden administration may have single-handedly claimed responsibility for this decade’s largest refugee crisis. Hundreds of thousands have already been confirmed dead and over four million people have been displaced. The aftereffects of the refugee crisis have already been considered a possibility by Europe and countries like Germany and France have already made it clear that they do not wish for a repeat of the Syrian crisis in 2015 and have begun to accept only moderate amounts of asylum seekers into their countries.

In conclusion, while it should be common knowledge that the US would eventually be deserting the country, we feel that the method through which Biden did so, in such a speedy and careless manner should be heavily scrutinized and reflects upon the broken judgment upon which his administration has built itself in regards to its foreign policy. The only logic given to the public is not enough to justify such a move, and with the Sharia Laws slowly coming into action, this might just be that decision that affects the geo-political landscape of the Middle East, for decades to come.

# Bakhle Literature

Aditya Gupta’s prize-winning essay for the Bakhle Essay Writing Competition

Could we have ever imagined spending an entire YEAR at our homes? No. Nobody could have even thought about working, studying or even relaxing (for a privileged few) at home in their wildest dreams. This was one of the many firsts we experienced last year in our various capacities as students, leaders, policymakers or employees of various firms. The entire notion of a global epidemic was in itself an amusing idea that made us laugh right up until COVID-19. We had read, seen, and heard about this in movies, books and shows but never spent a second pondering over its likelihood in our present lives for we too were immersed in our illusioned sense of reality. I think it was the pandemic, ironically, which brought forth a wide gamut of issues like the Black Lives Matter Movement and Climate Change to the forefront of our attention too. So, are we, as a race, so distracted from the harsh reality that it took us one devastating pandemic to realize the true extent of the ramifications of our fitful march towards global dominance? Yes.

It would be safe for me to say that unanimously we can all agree that the human race is standing on the precipice of a fragile sheet of ice. A year of solitude hasn’t tamed our hatred, tensions are still on the rise, and the widespread poverty perpetrated by the pandemic has made the political environment in every country a ticking time bomb. We have officially converged on madness as can be seen in American retail shops where helpless employees have been harassed, beaten up and shot dead for petty egoistic reasons. Trump’s hysterics during the US Presidential Elections last year were unbecoming of a man with the responsibility of steering the nation responsible for the global economy, and up until him, nobody had disparaged the good name of the American Presidency through childish antics.

The black lives movement was so full of energy and

oomph that protestors trashed cities, denounced the law, and propagated rebellious propaganda across the globe. We have seen movements in the past but never had we seen one of the scales of BLM. It truly was a spectacle that has brought the much-needed realization that there is a hidden demon inside every one of us. The world had never seen such widespread injustice, inequality, and impoverishment as it did during the pandemic. Hundreds of thousands of people have died, and there is still no end to this widespread destruction that is haunting the sanctity and existence of the human populace.

**We had read, seen, and heard  
about this in movies, books  
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a second pondering over its  
likelihood in our present lives  
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our illusioned sense**

The world has truly fallen to sheer madness as every sense of normalcy has been taken over by a sense of recklessness that is spreading faster than COVID-19 itself. We are all preaching to the inner darkness we all harbour and this is doing little to help our sublime situation. It is truly a mad world where we have lost all sense of dignity that we had developed over the course of the last few centuries, and today we are no different from our ancient ancestral brethren. We are in dire need of a moral beacon who can steward mankind to a semblance of peace and rationality. The nation we all looked towards once has been decimated to ashes, setting nothing short of a bad example for the rest of us.

## Problem of the Week

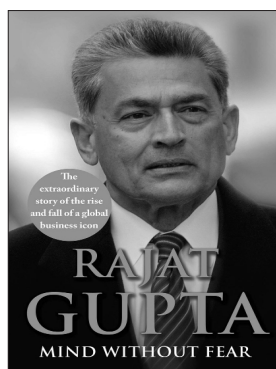
The highest common factor of two positive integers  $m$  and  $n$  is 12, and their lowest common multiple is a square number.

How many of the five numbers  $n/3$ ,  $m/3$ ,  $n/4$ ,  $m/4$  are square numbers?

Source: *rich resources*

### What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown

**Mind Without Fear**  
Author: Rajat Gupta

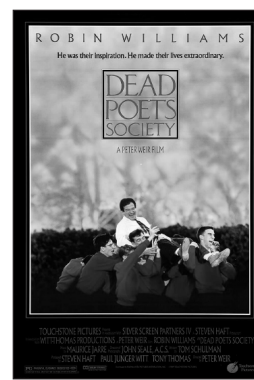


This book is the autobiography of Rajat Gupta, the former head of the management consultancy firm McKinsey & Co and one of the co-founders of the Indian Business School, Hyderabad. Orphaned early on in his childhood, he emigrated to the US and had to adjust to a new cultural setting. Despite these challenges, he was able to become an international icon. Unfortunately, following allegations of insider trading, his illustrious career was cut short. The most interesting part about this book is that Rajat Gupta did not testify in his defence during his trial, and so, this book gives us an insight into not only his life, but the situation that gave rise to the allegations. The book is a scintillating read and I highly recommend it.

- Ahan Jayakumar

### What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown

**Dead Poets Society**  
Director: Peter Weir



Placed in the setting of a conservative, all-boys boarding school in the America of the 1980s, *Dead Poet's Society* shows John Keating (Robin Williams) as a free spirited, creative and passionate teacher who inspires his class to look at literature and life with the intent to grasp their beauty. The story entails a dramatic shift in the school's culture when the students of Keating's class chance upon the 'Dead Poet's Society', a remnant from Mr. Keating's days at the same school as a student. The students, lead by Neil (Robert Sean Leonard) decide to restart the society as they try "to suck the marrow out of life" to see the beauty in poetry and life and live to the fullest. It is truly a heart-warming and inspiring movie that I recommend to everyone.

- Anshul Khakhar

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