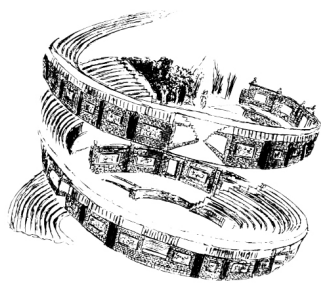


Established in 1936



# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot  
September 25, 2021 | Issue No. 2618



## A MASTERCLASS IN MELODIES

A report on a recently-concluded guitar workshop by Ms Thu Le

Page 2

## SPORTS AND POLITICS

Sports and politics: A contested cocktail

Page 4

## PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Can you solve this week's maths problem?

Page 6

## Unbreakable Bonds

*The Doon School Weekly bids farewell to Mr. Ravi Kumar. On this occasion, his friends, students, and colleagues share their thoughts on their time spent with him.*

Perhaps what makes RKM Sir truly unique extends beyond the vast expanse of knowledge he brings to class. 'Chemgiant', as he is fondly known, has embedded within us concepts that are more than just theories and definitions. With quirky phrases that are hard to forget, Sir addressed our apprehensions in a manner that was both instinctive and approachable and, in the process, made learning Chemistry seamless. It is often said that if you want to treat someone well, treat them like family. Sir did not treat us like family. In class, he created one.

- Agam Bhatia



Being with RKM Sir has been one of the best experiences of my life. Although mostly online, the interactions with him have been just amazing. He made Chemistry so much fun that I was driven to study Chemistry by myself. His way of teaching and putting forward his points utterly deviate from conventional teaching. His vocabulary is something that I am sure was admired by each and every person in the class. I would like to thank him on behalf of the whole class for making Chemistry HL so much fun and seamless.

- Abhisar Sudhakar

It gives me a mixed feeling that Ravi Kumar is leaving us after five years of service to Doon. He is a good educator who loves his subject - Chemistry - and shared his knowledge with boys and girls in classrooms. In such a short span he established a good rapport with his students. Thank you for everything you have given to the department. We will miss you as a person for all the good humour you brought whenever we conversed. I wish you all the best!

- AKM

My first interaction with RKM Sir was in B Form, when he was my IGCSE Chemistry teacher. Who knew our first in-person class would be one of our last, because one week later School closed down and we shifted online. Sir has been an amazing teacher, and most importantly a mentor, who, despite the challenges of the online platform, helped us grasp the complexities of Chemistry. Sir's intuitive teaching method and dedication helped us overcome various challenges over the course of this online learning period. He helped me truly understand Chemistry and I wish this farewell could be in a physical setting. Nevertheless, I wish RKM Sir all the best for his future endeavours and hope we remain in touch.

Thank you Sir for everything, your presence will truly be missed by everyone in the School community.

- Svanik Garg

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I did not have many interactions with RKM Sir until C Form but was lucky enough to be in his Chemistry class in B Form. Despite the entire class persuading him to give free schools repeatedly, he never gave us a single one in two years and I think that defines the hard-working character of RKM Sir. He always looked to bring the most out of every student in the class and constantly motivated us to do so. As an assistant housemaster, Sir was open to us ringing his doorbell at any time, even if it was just some boys requesting him to order pizzas. RKM Sir has greatly influenced my life at Doon and I wish him the best in his future endeavours. We all will miss you, Sir!

- Harsh Tibrewala

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## Sports and Politics

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*Vihan Ranka discusses the growing connection between sports and politics.*

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The world is plagued with various issues, and help arrives in forms you would never expect it to take. Such is the case with the NBA pushing for accountability and the eradication of racial or other possible prejudices from the law enforcement departments of the USA. The coalescence of sports and politics has always affected major events in human history. From fixing international relations to pushing for reform, sportspersons often use their positions to voice their political stances and be the ones who deliver the change instead of waiting for a few hundred odd people to vote on it.

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The recent declaration made by retired boxing phenom Manny Pacquiao to run for the Philippine Presidency in 2022, has sharply divided the Filipinos. While some believe that his role as sportsman and senator seemed more appropriate, others oppose him for his support for incumbent president Duterte's deadly war against drug dealers and his comments regarding the LGBT community. However, Pacquiao is not the only sporting legend involved in politics. Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Navjot Singh Sidhu and Ballon D'Or winner George Weah have all held positions of political power. The present Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, was a renowned

cricket player. The list of such personalities is endless. One thing is evident: sportspersons have a significant impact on the lives of the masses, be it in their performance on the sports field or their involvement in Parliament. However, does their influence necessarily translate to satisfactory political results? A common argument presented by several people critical of sportspersons becoming politicians is that they may not be aware of what would be in the best interests of the people they represent, or that they might not be that great leader off-field who can bring about constructive changes in the society, economy or polity of the state they represent.

There are yet others who want sports and sportspersons to keep away from the highly-polarised world of politics. They believe that it is not the right place for sportsmen to be involving themselves in political and societal issues. Furthermore, they claim that there is a possibility of a lack of knowledge and experience about politics and legislation among sportsmen as compared to other politicians whose sole focus is politics, which can cause more harm than good.

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However, the involvement of sportsmen in politics does not end here. LeBron James, Jaylen Brown and Colin Kaepernick are a few well-known examples of

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## This Week in History

**1690 C.E.:** The first American newspaper is published. A single edition of Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick appears in Boston, Massachusetts.

**1810 C.E.:** Chile declares its independence from Spain after 269 years of being under Spanish Colonial control.

**1862 C.E.:** Otto von Bismarck becomes premier of Prussia.

**1939 C.E.:** The Soviet Union invades Eastern Poland, meeting little resistance and taking over 200,000 prisoners. This is done in accordance with the Nazi-Soviet Pact.

**1947 C.E.:** The US Air Force is established as a separate military service.

**1949 C.E.:** The People's Republic of China is proclaimed by its Communist leaders.

**1994 C.E.:** US troops invade Haiti with the stated goal of restoring democracy.

“

There is only one way to avoid criticism; do nothing, say nothing and be nothing

—  
Aristotle

# THE WHO?

Who is Rajiv Hari Om Bhatia?

**Gursanjan Singh Natt:** Actor

**Rafay Singh Habibullah:** Race car driver

**Himanshu Manglik:** Indian Politician

**Rajiv Hari Om Bhatia**, better known as **Akshay Kumar** is an Indian-Canadian actor, film producer, and martial artist known for movies such as **Gold**, **Kesari** and **Jolly LLB 2**. He has received several prestigious awards including the **National Film Award for Best Actor** in 2017 and the **Padmashree**.

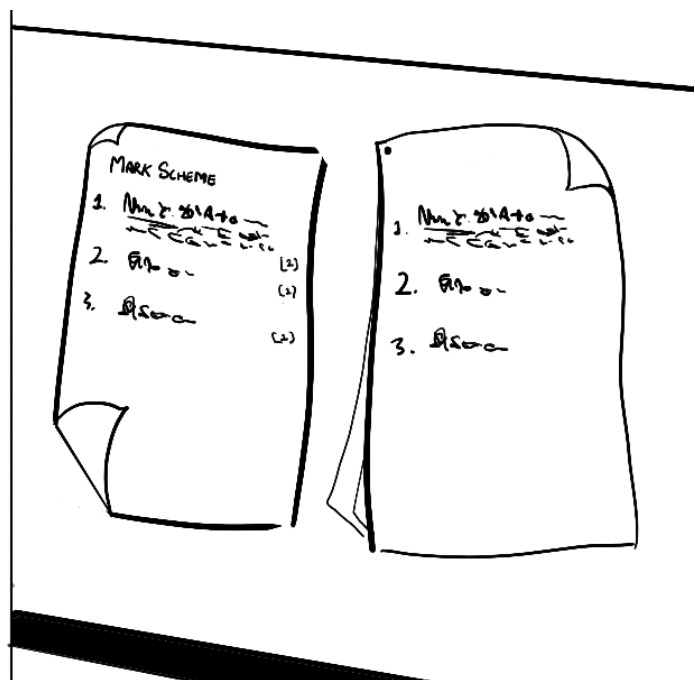
## Around the World in 80 Words

In India, an ‘at home’ vaccine for people with special needs got government approval. Tensions continued to rise in Korea as North Korea rejected the South’s calls for end-of-war declarations. In a joint media appearance with US Vice President Kamala Harris, Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about improving Indo-American relations, at the White House. Apple announced the release of their iPhone 13 series. To everyone’s joy, IPL 2021 resumed earlier this week in the UAE.

*Dosco Doodle*

Seeing Double

Roban Taneja



*(Continued from Page 4)*

American sportsperson who voiced their opinions against racial discrimination in law enforcement and propagated the Black Lives Matter movement after the unfortunate deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor at the hands of the police. Several sportspersons then went on to encourage the Movement and since then, constructive reforms have been made to prevent the repetition of such unfortunate situations. However, famous footballer Zlatan Ibrahimovic had a different opinion on the various press conferences, protests and gestures that expressed a political stance. He called it a “mistake”. Several people seemed to agree with this, as LeBron’s involvement in politics was faced with a simple four-word statement: “Shut up and dribble.”

There are innumerable examples of sportspersons trying to bring about change and deliver a message. However, they are often ridiculed or met with phrases such as “stick to sports.” This might seem like the better option to take, but it denies them the chance to be anything other than sports personalities

whose political leanings do not hold any value to the populace. Often, we forget that even from a position of privilege, sportspersons do care about the people around them and wish to see a world where they can thrive with others. Marcus Rashford at the young age of 22 has made it possible for millions of British children to have access to food on a daily basis, and that goes on to show how a single footballer can positively impact society. Several sportspersons are known to be the ones who give back to their community regardless of how challenging the situation is. Nevertheless, there is obviously an extent to which sportspersons ideally should get involved with politics. Often, such people might not be in a position to realise the gravity of certain situations and their words might affect several people negatively. Sentiments might be hurt, opinions can be impacted in undesirable ways and in many other ways such comments or actions hurt society. The very duality of the sheer influence that sportspersons have on the people helps us realise that Uncle Ben was right when he said, “With great power comes great responsibility.”

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## A Masterclass in Melodies

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**Rohan Taneja** reports on a recently concluded guitar workshop by Ms Thu Le.

From September 20 to 21, the Music Department organized a virtual guitar workshop and invited Ms Thu Le, a Vietnamese classical guitarist with over two decades of experience, as the guest speaker. Over the course of the two-day workshop, Ms Le touched upon various essential concepts, but focused her content on the history of classical music, effective practice, and techniques for delivering convincing performances for guitarists and non-guitarists alike.

The session began as Ms Le took the audience through the rich history of classical music. She elaborated on the multiple eras of music and through her playing gave a variety of examples to show the way music has evolved over the centuries. Her talent and expertise were well reflected in her performances of iconic musical pieces such as *Für Elise* and *Libertango*. This section of the workshop was of particular

interest to me because musicians seldom acknowledge the deep underlying history behind a piece of music. Ms Le repeatedly laid emphasis on the importance of understanding the socio-economic situation of the composer, the era the piece was composed in, and similar music at the time. She claimed and depicted, through her guitar skills, the role of historical knowledge in ensuring a successful performance. Additionally, Ms Le stressed the importance of ‘warming up’ before practising or performing a piece and showed the students multiple exercises to help them in their guitar journey. As this aspect of music is one that is often shadowed by a musician’s interest in perfecting an actual piece, this section certainly came across as fresh information for many. She listened to each individual’s rendition of a piece and gave constructive personal feedback on the ways in which their performance could be improved.

This was immensely helpful for both beginners and intermediate students to improve their playing.

On the second day, Ms Le walked the audience through a series of tips and tricks to ensure both effective practice and engaging performance. She touched upon commonly asked questions such as strategy, time management and the exploration of new music. Her tips, backed by her experience, certainly cleared many doubts musicians, especially beginners, usually have regarding practice and improvement. The second half of the session was exclusively focused

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on performance, and tackling problems commonly faced by musicians such as nervousness, blackouts and mistakes. After some brilliant insights into combatting such occurrences, the session culminated in a series of

performances by guitarists of the School community. Even though glitchy Zoom audio could not match the atmosphere of a live performance, the performances were certainly welcomed as a much needed post-trials relief by the audience.

The session by Ms Le was one that would benefit attendees for years to come in terms of both their learning and performing skills. All in all, the workshop was certainly an enjoyable experience for guitarists and non-guitarists alike.

# CLARIFIED



## Texas Abortion Laws

Abortions, defined as the medical termination of a pregnancy before the completion of its full term, were made legal in the US in 1973 after the landmark decision of the US Supreme Court in the famed *Roe v Wade* ruling. It clearly stated that women had the right to have abortions performed on themselves if they so wished, without too many governmental restrictions.

Recently the issue of the legality of abortions has taken centre stage once again: Texan lawmakers passed a legislation on May 21, 2021, that made abortions after six weeks of pregnancy illegal. The new law even has provisions that try to lure commoners with cash incentives to sue those performing such procedures. However, it allows only for the doctors performing the procedure, and not the women on whom it is performed, to be sued. Subsequently, the law has drawn much criticism.

Simply put, with the passing of the Texan legislation, many women who may wish to have an abortion can no longer do so, meaning that they no longer have complete autonomy over their bodies, and have lost an integral “reproductive” right, making this law an infringement on basic human rights and freedoms.

As with any issue, there are, of course, two sides to this law as well. On the one hand, there are those who support the pro-life argument, mainly based on religious beliefs and sensibilities. On the other hand, there are people who advocate women having autonomy over their own bodies. Whatever one’s conviction may be, the concern that this recent law raises is that it takes away the right to freedom of choice from half of Texan society, apart from it possibly being a symptom of a larger issue of a growing trend of right-wing politics influencing lawmakers in this American state.

The sharp divide between opinions on this matter becomes even clearer when we turn to Mexico where a legislation concerning abortions has raised a similar spate of protests. Except that there, the protests are against the legalization of abortions as a whole. The ruling in favour of abortions hurt the sentiments of the majority since Mexico has a large Catholic community. People in Mexico are against the legalization of abortions as in their opinion, a foetus is a living, breathing, sentient being and that therefore it is unacceptable to kill it. Then there are the people who believe that by banning abortions, a government bans fundamental freedom, that of choice, thereby making such rulings unacceptable.

Recently, Dr Alan Braid, a Texas physician who has been practising medicine for over 50 years, wrote an article in the Washington Post admitting that he has violated the new law while outlining his reasons for doing so. Two lawyers have since filed a lawsuit against the doctor. Interestingly, however, both doctors have declared that they are not against abortion but are suing the doctor to test the legality of the new legislation. In fact, one of the lawyers, Felipe Gomez, has said that the law is “illegal as written and as applied”. No anti-abortion activists have filed any lawsuits as of yet, as to how well the law holds up in court, it remains to be seen.

### Sources

- 1 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/10/us/politics/texas-abortion-law-facts.html>3
- 2 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-58633515>
- 3 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/09/18/texas-abortion-provider-alan-braid/>

## Problem of the Week

Mrs A likes to pose interesting problems to his Mathematics classes. Today, she started with the expression  $6^{2020} + 7^{2020}$ . She stated that the expression was not equivalent to  $13^{2020}$  and that she was not interested in the actual sum. Her question to her class and to you is, “What are the final two digits of the sum?”

Source: Cmc Resources

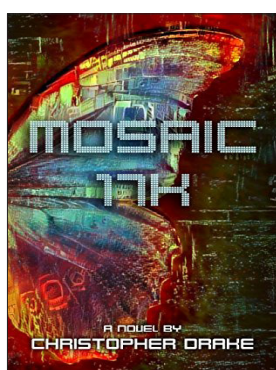
### What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown?

**Mosaic 17K**

**Author: Christopher Drake**

**Publisher: Independently Published**

**Published: April 6, 2017**



*Mosaic 17K* is an enthralling story by Christopher Drake. It follows the life of a small-time hacker named Sophie Locke in the year 2036, when the world is in despair and is possibly nearing its end. It takes place in the wake of a geomagnetic storm, and a lot of inexplicable things start happening, such as black butterflies appearing around dead bodies. Sophie is curious about the murder of her friend and decides to inquire about the same to figure out the motive. She recruits a crew and faces a set of challenges along the way, including getting dragged into something much bigger – a plan by a conspiracy group to end the world. The book has quite a few unexpected twists which kept me intrigued. Overall, I enjoyed the book thoroughly.

- Vir Mehta

### What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown?

**Your Name**

**Director: Makoto Shinkai**

**Producers: CoMix Wave, Toho Corp. Ltd.**

**Release Date: August 26, 2016**



Set in 21st century Japan, *Your Name* revolves around two people: Taki, a carefree middle-class city-boy and Mitsuha, the daughter of the head of a village. They frequently have vivid realistic dreams about living each other's lives. The plot revolves around Taki and Mitsuha eventually realising that their dreams are a reality and desperately trying to find each other in the real world, which proves to be a herculean task for they cannot even confirm if they both exist in the same era. This romantic comedy brings its characters to life through brilliant choreography and animation. Nail-biting and exhilarating, *Your Name* promises to take the viewer on a rollercoaster ride and is must-watch for everyone.

- Anshul Khakhar

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