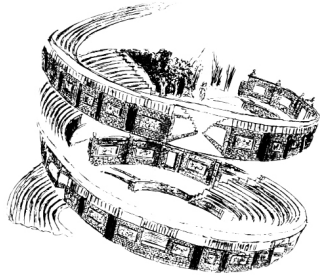


Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
October 9, 2021 | Issue No. 2620



WILDLIFE WEEK

Recounting the experience of participating in Wildlife Week

Page 2

A CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE

A report on the recent session with Mr Naseeruddin Shah

Page 4

CLARIFIED

An explanation of the Pandora Papers scandal

Page 5

Counselling Our Souls

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

Ajay and I have been very dear friends for the last ten years but I sincerely believe that we truly connected as if we were childhood friends. We both worked together at the Indus School before joining The Doon School. We first met at Bangalore where we were attending a leadership retreat together. Over those three days we became good friends, with a bond that remains till today, and we will remain good friends forever. Ajay and I have enjoyed many opportunities to get to know and appreciate each other, be it trips to Hyderabad, Bangalore and Delhi or spending the last three memorable years in School as colleagues and neighbours. Ajay and I also tutored at Hyderabad House together, and we shared many impactful learnings knowingly and unknowingly. I think the most divine aspect of Ajay's nature is the openness with which he wins over people's hearts. Ajay deserves the love and respect that he received from his students and peers in School. He worked very efficiently with our students to help them search for and get into the colleges of their choice and has left an indelible mark on all of our hearts. I wish Ajay a prosperous future and hope that we will meet again soon in the subsequent phase of our life's journey.



- DKY

AYT Sir may be known to most of the School community as a career counsellor, but to the Sc Form of Kashmir House, he was one of our first tutors, a guiding oracle, and a skilled conversationalist. On one evening during the A Form midterms, a friend and I were deliberating upon the different possible paths we could take in our futures. AYT Sir approached us with his trademark smile and started talking about how he realized, after pursuing computer science for years, that he enjoyed working in a more interpersonal manner and engaging in conversations. Thus, he switched to a career in counselling. That incident encapsulated AYT Sir's impact on all the students he has interacted with. He added a human essence to the cut-throat world of college admissions, knowing when and to what extent one must apply pressure to the students so that they may work in an optimal manner. His ability to know his students from their emotional impulses to the third line on their resumes in a seemingly effortless manner is what made him such a special member of our community. His ever-curious nature along with his generosity when it came to food will be dearly missed by all those who have had the opportunity to interact with him. I wish him the best of luck for the future and thank him for all that he has done for the School.

- Keshav Tiwari

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

Though my interaction with Ajay Tayade (AYT Sir) has been for a very short period, during this time, I found him to be a genuine and straightforward person. He took out time from his busy schedule to make sure that my transition was smooth. On behalf of the Careers Department, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

- SLS

Wildlife Week

Karan Agarwal *recounts the events of the recently-concluded Wildlife Week.*

Wildlife week is a week-long celebration of our country's natural heritage and is a means to raise awareness about the importance of conservation efforts. The theme for this year's edition of wildlife week was 'Exploring Human-Animal Relationships' and we put our own spin on this by celebrating the beauty of nature in School as well as the world. We understood various environmental problems and why they affect us through a series of small activities and sessions.

The celebrations kicked off with a screening of *Our Planet*, a critically-acclaimed documentary which not only had some remarkable footage of beautiful wild animals in their natural habitat, but also taught us about the importance of saving these animals while we still can. Our young nature enthusiasts watched the documentary keenly and absorbed all the information they could. When asked later about what they learned from the film, they spoke about concepts such as coral bleaching, glaciers melting and over-fishing in seas as well as the impact these have on the environment. The documentary combined excellent footage of animals with information about global warming and the animals themselves.

The next morning featured a bird watching session organized by SSW Sir. Our young naturalists assembled in the early morning with cameras and binoculars. It was a day-long friendly photography competition in which we saw our participants take some fantastic pictures and learn about various birds through information provided by Avi Sahni and SSW Sir. The contestants could really bring out their best work in the spirit of the competition. I sincerely believe that these sort of bird walks are one of the best ways to learn more about the natural heritage on campus. Only when students leave their rooms can they truly fall in love with the wild. Seeing a sunbird feed on nectar is very different from reading about it or even watching it.

On the third day, we organized two sessions that covered everything that had to do with butterflies. Ms Poorva Swami held a session about butterflies, which included information like the life cycle of a butterfly in addition to a vibrant gallery of butterflies

that are common on campus and where they are found. The session also featured an online quiz on butterfly identification, which got everyone engaged and kept the session lively and fun. A second talk was given by Vedant Gattani regarding his experience on raising butterflies during quarantine. The talk was accompanied by photos, videos and funny anecdotes. Vedant managed to capture stunning clips and timelapse videos of caterpillars turning into butterflies, and explained processes such as the girdling of silk. He showed us some of the butterflies after they came out of their cocoons, which were truly stunning. I personally learnt a lot from these two sessions and loved the passion and zeal with which they were conducted.

The last day ended the celebrations with a blast, as the NEST society partnered with two naturalists, Mr Vikrant and Ms Deepti, to conduct a 'virtual safari' of Dudhwa National Park. While I myself was sceptical at the start, it turned out to be a wonderful journey through a bustling park filled with all sorts of wildlife. Right from the start, Deepti Ma'am generated excitement and curiosity in the audience by asking fun questions and being our very own tour guide. Some of the more memorable sightings included smooth-coated otters, crocodiles, and various species of deer. The presentation was particularly memorable because of the numerous stories and the in-depth knowledge that both speakers offered on topics ranging from forest flooding to termite hills and their value to the ecosystem. The session ended with a question and answer round in which students fired off their most burning questions and received detailed feedback and explanations to everything and anything they asked. I would have never imagined that I could enjoy a safari, much less a virtual safari, as much as I did, and I am sure others did as well.

Wildlife has always been a very important yet overlooked and somewhat niche topic in School. It was usually just a few of us that would wake up on Sunday mornings and search like madmen for birds in the khud. By contrast, seeing the many excited faces come for all the events that were organized was a

(Continued on Page 4)

MARKER CUPS

The following S Form students were awarded various cups for receiving the highest marks in their respective subjects:

ISC

Marker Cup for English Literature: Aditya Saraff

Marker Cup for Mathematics: Aditya Saraff

Headmaster's Cup for Economics: Aaryaman Goyal

Headmaster's Cup for Commerce: Archit Oberoi

Headmaster's Cup for Accounts: Harshit Gupta

Headmaster's Cup for Chemistry: Imaad Moonis

Headmaster's Cup for Physics: Harshvardhan Maskara

Marker Cup for Computer Science: Harshvardhan Maskara

Headmaster's for Political Science: Dhairyajit Singh

Headmaster's Cup for Psychology: Dhairyajit Singh

IB

Marker Cup for English Lit. and Lang. SL: Agam Bhatia

Marker Cup for Mathematics HL: Agam Bhatia

Headmaster's Cup for Physics HL: Agam Bhatia, Varyam Gupta, Arnav Choudhary

Headmaster's Cup for Chemistry HL: Agam Bhatia

Marker Cup for Economics SL: Agam Bhatia

Marker Cup for Economics HL: Varyam Gupta

and Aditya Jain

Marker Cup for Mathematics SL: Advaita Sood

Headmaster's Cup for Physics SL: Kabir Subbiah

Headmaster's Cup for Chemistry SL: Samar Kumar

Headmaster's Cup for Hindi B SL: Keshav Tiwari

Headmaster's Cup for History SL: Pranav Lohia

Marker Cup for Computer Science HL: Prithvi Panicker

Headmaster's Cup for Psychology HL: Vikram Gupta

Headmaster's Cup for Psychology SL: Lorcan Conlon

Headmaster's Cup for Geography SL: Abhisar Sudhakar

Marker Cup for Spanish ab initio: Vedant Gattani

Congratulations!

Around the World in 80 Words

Tropical cyclone Shaheen hit Oman and Iran this week causing floods and landslides that resulted in the deaths of 13 people. A former Facebook employee testified in front of the US senate revealing how Facebook knowingly allows its algorithms to spread misinformation. A major report commissioned by Catholic bishops in France found that the clergy has sexually abused more than 200,000 children over 70 years. A malaria vaccine developed by GlaxoSmithKline is 30% effective at preventing severe malaria.

Do Sco Doodle

History Won't Repeat Itself

Roban Taneja



(Continued from Page 2)

delight. The audience did not go unappreciated and in fact, it was very often audience members who kept the discussion going, which reinforced the spirit of exploration and thirst for knowledge that we all have within us.

All the events ran like clockwork and there was never a moment when I was bored. All in all, it was a great effort on the part of the NEST society and I can only hope that Wildlife Week is conducted next year with the same enthusiasm and gusto we saw this year.

A Cinematic Experience

Aryan Baruah reports on the session with Mr Naseeruddin Shah which was organized by the Film Society

Naseeruddin Shah is a personality who needs no introduction. He has been at the forefront of the Indian film industry for over four decades, with his first major film in 1980, *Hum Paanch*. In commemoration of the 75th year of Independence, School was fortunate to host him for a short session in which he covered various topics such as the evolution of cinema, Hindi cinema in particular, and his thoughts on freedom and independence.

The session began on a nostalgic note, with Mr Shah talking about the origins of Indian cinema. He made a very important distinction between the start of Indian cinema and the Independence of our country, stating that the Indian cinema bloomed not post, but rather pre-independence. This was followed by a few comments on the types of Indian cinema which prospered during the time: mythological movies such as renditions of the Ramayana or the story of Krishna, and action movies, typically those featuring cowboys and gunslingers.

A very important assertion Mr Shah made was about the types of characters in these movies. Typically, movies would feature protagonists played by Indians and antagonists who were blatantly westernised with regard to their origins, their clothing, and their style of speaking. This transformed into a discussion about the usage of cinema as a medium of communication to the masses and as a political tool. He cited, as examples, the villainization of Russians in James Bond movies made during the Cold War period, and how they acted as forms of propaganda.

Mr Shah then spoke about his childhood and how, at the age of five, he saw his first movie, a technicolour Hindi film. At the time, technicolour films were rarities and he considered himself extremely lucky to have been able to watch these films. Subsequently, the discussion moved to theatre and its evolution in India. Mr Shah spoke about theatre as a form of unrefined art during the 1960s and 1970s. The sets were more unconvincing than the acting and when sound came to cinema, most of the set artists, producers, and directors left the theatre business to start making films. This is why theatre has been on its deathbed ever since the advent of cinema in India.

As a child, he did not have the courage to confess that he wanted to be an actor. Luckily, the stigma related to it has been eradicated today, but at that point, his father, an orthodox Indian, wanted him to be a doctor. Mr Shah said that acting was the only thing which he was skilled at, so he took initiative on his own and began creating plays, slowly gaining confidence in his own ability. He then moved to Ajmer where he developed his skill through training, even more, all against his father's wishes. The confidence to be happy in his own skin was the reason he decided to go into the cinema industry.

When asked about the responsibility of filmmakers, Mr Shah said that it was to make films that are true reflections of the times that they live in. In order to effectively accomplish this, he said, every art form, whether it be music or paintings or dance, has to go into abstraction. Cinema is unique because it has the ability to capture life exactly as it is and according to him, that is the burden a filmmaker has to carry.

Later in his career, as colour and sound began to advance by leaps and bounds and combined forces to transform cinema, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas rose to prominence in his mind. Mr Abbas was a ray of authenticity in a cinematic world that was shrouded by cheap imitation and inauthenticity. His films were loud visual appeals against the injustices being perpetrated on the Indian citizens. Mr Abbas' films included those that brought up social issues, topics that were tough to talk about or had been labelled taboo by society. He, however, knew that these issues could not be ignored, for they were real and had to be talked about.

With regard to the quality of modern cinema, in his opinion, cinematography has taken a backseat, which began around the time colour was introduced into the world of cinema. He said that the quality of the visuals and the cinema during the black and white era of filmmaking was unparalleled. He pointed out that many of today's protagonists are depicted to be infallible, which is an unrealistic depiction of life and takes away from the value of the story.

One of the main highlights from the Q&A section

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

was Mr Shah's perspective on freedom. Unlike most of us who view it as simply being free, he had a slightly different viewpoint. According to him,

freedom is the ability to do what you love without hindrance, obstruction or deviation, regardless of the consequences. This made for an insightful end to an extremely profound session.

CLARIFIED



The Pandora Papers

The Pandora Papers are leaked files that have now become the centre of a massive global investigation. They represent the largest major leaks of financial data since 2013 and are the latest in a string of leaks over the past seven years. This series of leaked financial data was obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) following the work of 600 journalists across 117 countries, finding out and compiling data from 11.9 million sources including images, emails, spreadsheets, letters and other documents. The Pandora Papers are part of a series of similar leaks in the past such as the FinCen Files, the Paradise Papers, the Panama Papers and LuxLeaks. They were first leaked to the ICIJ in Washington which has shared its access to this data to several media partners. These papers give us a deeper insight into the hidden operations and financials that are associated with the world's richest people, who have been accused of tax fraud on multiple occasions. This secret economy is known to have allowed them to evade taxes. From celebrities and rock stars to business leaders and politicians, more than 100 billionaires are said to feature in this major data leak. What these powerful people thought were privately secured assets, has now become common knowledge accessible to the general public.

The ICIJ has allegedly obtained these confidential documents from 14 global corporate service firms which set up 29,000 off-the-shelf companies and private trusts for their clients around the world. This leak reveals a staggering amount of controversial data that is likely to raise a storm within the political world. For example, the leak has revealed how the King of Jordan secretly amassed £70m of UK and US property. It also links Russian President Vladimir Putin to hidden assets in Monaco and shows that the Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis failed to declare an offshore investment company he used to purchase two villas for £12 million in the south of France. It also reveals that Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was among the individuals who asked for the liquidation of his offshore entity after the Panama leak, along with 380 individuals of Indian nationality. The documents reveal the owners of 95,000 offshore firms, who have been known to legally set up companies to buy property.

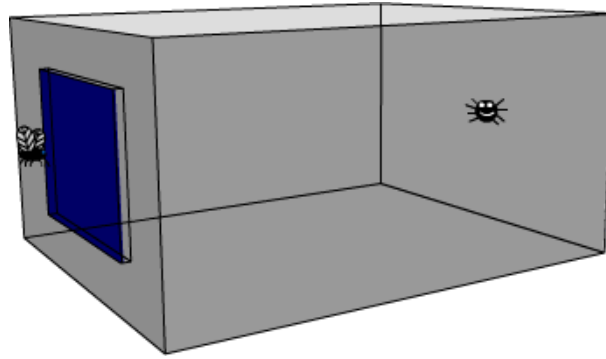
The papers serve two main purposes. First, to hide the client's real identities in an attempt to distance themselves from offshore entities (outside their country of residence) so that it becomes near-impossible for the tax authorities to find them. Second, to safeguard their valuable investments from the creditors and law enforcers. What separates this data leak from the ones in the past is that the Pandora Papers investigations hint at additional concerns of money laundering and terrorism funding, besides simply tax evasion. The papers display how trust funds and offshore companies are set up to hold the assets of these wealthy families or individuals. These fiduciary trusts are usually set up in places that offer higher tax advantages, such as Samoa, Belize, Panama and Singapore. These countries have been dubbed 'tax havens'. It is easier to operate in these places because various privacy laws prevent countries in which the clients live from exercising jurisdiction in the tax havens, since they are overseas trusts, thereby protecting the clients from the law. The legality of such operations, including the setup of offshore companies, has been questioned on several occasions by the international media. As stated by the Indian trusts act of 1882, there is a legal basis for the concept of trusts. India officially recognises offshore trusts as trusts set up in other tax jurisdictions. However, when these trusts are used to hide income, avoid taxes, and participate in criminal activity, it becomes a harm to an entire economy.

The central government of India has said that it will investigate cases pertaining to the massive leak of financial documents and take appropriate action as per the law. The Ministry of Finance has recently stated that the Indian government is a part of an intergovernmental group that will effectively address these tax risks.

Problem of the Week

A spider is sitting in the middle of one of the smallest walls in my living room and a fly is resting by the side of the window on the opposite wall, 1.5m above the ground and 0.5m from the adjacent wall. The room is 5m long, 4m wide and 2.5m high. What is the shortest distance the spider would have to crawl to catch the fly? If the fly walks down the wall, is there a point at which the spider would be better off changing its route?

The only concept to use is Pythagoras Theorem.



Source: *nrich resources*

What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown?

The Wise Man's Fear
Author: Patrick Rothfuss
Publisher: DAW
Published: April 2, 2013

The Wise Man's Fear is the second iteration of Patrick Rothfuss' Kingkiller Trilogy. The book has an interesting yet complex plotline. The protagonist, "Kote", narrates anecdotes from his life to The Chronicler, who records the story. Rothfuss engages readers by forcing them to decipher the true meaning of the text and subtly foreshadowing events. The author has done an excellent job building an immersive world with its own poetry and lore. I would honestly say that The Kingkiller Trilogy, though unfinished, is one of the best high-fantasy series I have ever read, and I recommend it to everyone.

- Vir Mehta

What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown?

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
Director: Ben Stiller
Producer: Samuel Goldwyn Films
Release Date: January 3, 2014

The movie follows the life of Walter Mitty (Ben Stiller) a manager of negative images for a magazine. To deal with his life's difficulties, he escapes into daydreams of heroism and impossible adventures until he is forced to actually do such things when a cover photo goes missing. The ensemble of actors with backgrounds in comedy complements the lighthearted nature of the movie, despite the obvious underlying messages it conveys. It is a vibrant, feel-good adventure movie with a runtime of under two hours and is perfect to unwind with a couple of snacks.

- Mayank Agrawal

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

Online Edition: www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/ weekly@doonschool.com

©IPSS: All rights reserved. **Published by:** Kamal Ahuja, The Doon School, Dehradun.



Editor-in-Chief: Advaita Sood **Editor:** Aryan Agarwal **Senior Editors:** Aditya Jain, Kabir Singh Bhai
Hindi Editor: Keshav Tiwari **Associate Editors:** Ahan Jayakumar, Armaan Rathi, Saatvik Anand, Shreyan Mittal, Vihan Ranka **Special Correspondents:** Anshul Khakhar, S.J Akhilesh, Tarun Doss, Abhay Jain, Aryan Baruah, Yashovat Nandan **Correspondents:** Arjun Prakash, Neelotpal, Saachin Ramasami, Sriyash Tantia, Vivasvat Devanampriya, Vivaan Sood **Cartoonists:** Saatvik Anand, Rohan Taneja **Webmaster:** Kritika Jugran **Assistant Managers:** Arvindanabha Shukla, Moulee Goswami, Purnima Dutta **Technical Assistant:** KC Maurya **Sources for Clarified:** Indian Express, Times of India, The Guardian, ICIJ, Business Standard, Financial Times