

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

Vivaan Sood *addresses the need for basic education and vocational training to propel India's progress and inclusivity.*

There is no doubt that School was founded with the idea of producing skilled young men who would one day lead the country: an idea born prior to our country's independence. A young India would most certainly require a cadre of skilled, talented individuals who would be apt at leading a country so large and incredibly diverse; individuals who would be the representatives of a new India. Certainly, our School has succeeded in doing the same; among our alumni are numerous politicians, including a Prime Minister. Even if we extend the definition of leaders beyond a strictly political definition, we will find an impressive list of CEOs, army officers, actors, doctors... the list is rather long. However, some eighty-odd years on, our School remains much the same in the things that matter. The question that now arises is about what the need of the hour is. In an India where hundreds of millions of young people do not have the necessary basic education to secure a job, and where millions more do not have any form of education whatsoever, do the problems stem from the top?

It is doubtless that success simply cannot be measured from the top. Even if the senior-most bureaucrats of our country are simultaneously the most educated people in the country, their qualifications do not translate into a thriving nation. We are failing to equip people with the

necessary skills to lead a productive life. Rather than solely bringing them out of poverty, we must work to push them toward a sustainable livelihood. If we fail at this, we run the risk of having a population that lives a precarious existence, which manifests through anxiety-ridden existential conditions, resulting from things such as job insecurity, involuntary employment, and even parochial and communal mobilisation of the unemployed.

To put this point into perspective, 22.7% of India's population is illiterate according to the National Statistical Commission, and are largely unemployable in most jobs. That is more people than there are in the entire country of Japan, the world's third-largest economy. Imagine, for a moment, what potential lies in educating these hundreds of millions of people to a level where their well-being, as well as the country's, is improved. Therefore, it is imperative that our country invests in basic education, and more vocational training for the masses to readily and easily access.

However, there may be the counter-argument that educating people who can lead effectively, and people who can be employed in high positions with high-paying and high-skill jobs would also help the country as a whole. We can see two refutations to this point. Firstly, it is practically impossible for most people in India to access education that would enable them to secure

high-level jobs, such as a bureaucrat or senior businessperson. Largely, we see people from upper-class, urban backgrounds pursuing such high-level education since they can afford it. In India, where 900 million people (a large majority of the population too) live in rural areas, it is hard for them to gain a level of education that empowers them to secure powerful jobs.

Secondly, even if it were possible for them to access this level of education, another problem would occur. If almost everyone (or at least a significant majority of the population) is educated in an institution (such as ours) that prepares them for the same jobs, then there would be fewer people employed in more vocational jobs, which are essential to any economy. One only needs to look to South Korea to see the effects of such a problem. Most students pursue higher education in the hopes of securing a job at a large company or in the public sector, and fewer people are employed in vocational jobs.

The effects of this are two-fold: higher competition for the same jobs pushes some people into other careers they aren't trained for due to the low supply of those same jobs, thus negating any form of social mobility they achieved by pursuing higher education; secondly, fewer people trained in vocational jobs means a country loses people able

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This Week in History

1915 CE: In one of the worst maritime disasters in American history, the passenger liner *SS Eastland* capsizes in the Chicago River, killing more than 840 people.

1974 CE: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that President Richard M. Nixon had to provide transcripts of Watergate tapes to special prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

1984 CE: Soviet cosmonaut Svetlana Yevgenyevna Savitskaya becomes the first woman to walk in space.

2007 CE: Indian lawyer and politician Pratibha Patil is sworn in as President of India, becoming the first woman to hold the office.

READER'S CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been reading this week:

Abhyuday Rana: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Nabhij Singhal: *The Cobra* by Frederick Forsyth

Agniv Acharjya: *The Great Gatsby* by Scott Fitzgerald

LISTENER'S CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been listening this week:

Sai Arjun: *Meltdown* by Travis Scott

Abir Garg: *Ego Death* by Polyphia

ARD: *Maeri* by Euphoria

Shaurya Luthra: *Keep Ya Head Up* by Tupac

Krishiv Jaiswal: *See You Again* by Tyler, the Creator

“

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

—
Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE WHO?

Who is Stefani Joanne?

Hridhaan Gupta: A content creator

PRC: A tennis player

Jansher Grewal: A painter

Enaith Habibullah: A ballerina

Jason Patel: An actor

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, known professionally as **Lady Gaga**, is an **American singer, songwriter, and actress**. She is known for her image reinventions and versatility in the entertainment industry. Some of her songs include **Poker Face**, **Shallow** and **Million Reasons**.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

I have imaginary thoughts.

Neil Sahni, thinking before speaking.

I'm not hungry, I just want to eat.

Krish Ghai, chewing his words.

This is hard plastic, not plastic.

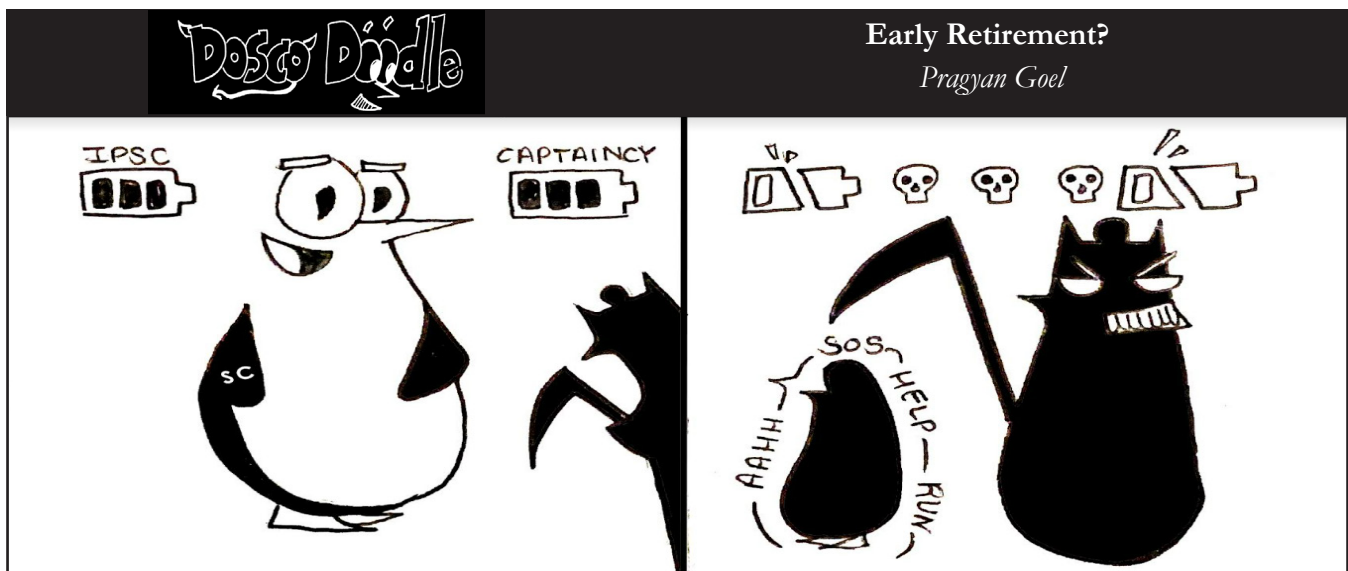
Prabhav Jain, new revelations.

It is impossible to fix my grammar.

Samarveer Bisen, man of his words.

Around the World in 80 Words

China replaced foreign minister Qin Gang with Wang Yi after a prolonged mysterious disappearance. Over fifty still missing as authorities called off the search for survivors in landslide-hit Maharashtra. Porsche extended its commitment to the all-electric Formula world championship until the end of 2026. Qurans were burned in Denmark outside Turkish and Egyptian embassies in anti-Islam protests. Cambodia's Prime Minister, Hun Sen, has announced he will resign and be replaced by his son in August after serving for 40 years.



(Continued from Page 1)

to fulfil the other, more direct needs of society, for what use is your ability to buy a car, if there's no one to be able to fix it.

When we promote narratives of individual success being measured solely by your pay grade and the level of your education, we simultaneously allow societal discrimination and economic disparity to perpetuate. Instead of pushing students towards education that trains them to be leaders (an ideal that I have noticed numerous schools advertise) that would only further the inertia brought on by the bureaucracy in the country. We

should instead, seek to encourage vocational education, which both provides basic as well as specialized skills to people, regardless of unique talents would be better used their economic background. According to the Financial Times, companies say only around 20% of Indian engineering graduates are employable due to poor quality education or lack of communication skills. We should seek to bolster such forms of education as they are more accessible to most and satisfy the country's needs.

What role, then, does our School play in all of this? Is it to become

obsolete, an archetype of pre-independt India? I think that if we truly are individuals dedicated to a 'meritocracy of service', then our few. If our School wishes to avoid the danger of redundancy, then we must rethink what the goal of our education is. Where do our duties lie? I think that what has always distinguished our School from the rest is our ability to produce a variety of individuals who can serve all needs of society. If that is the case, then in this new climate, we must satisfy these ever-pressing needs.

Bridging Horizons

Yanglem Singh reflects on his experience of representing School in an exchange programme.

As I fondly recollect my time at Hilton College in South Africa as an ambassador of The Doon School, I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the incredible experiences I had during my stay. While I did have a few apprehensions about South Africa, they were dispelled the moment I stepped foot in Kwa-Zulu Natal, where I was welcomed, quite literally, with open arms. Soon, I was immersed in a world of diverse cultures, stunning landscapes, and the warmth of new-found friendships.

My academic journey was enriched by multiple courses, each offering unique insights and perspectives. Dramatics allowed me to explore my creativity and express myself on stage, all while collaborating with talented individuals to stage a play. The English classes honed my language skills and appreciation for literature, and the teacher appreciated a newly-found prolific poet. Economics and History, on the other hand, provided me with a deeper understanding of global affairs and the rich heritage of South Africa. The dedicated teachers and enthusiastic classmates made the learning environment ever so stimulating. As the exchange came to a close, I was also drafted into Hilton's Inter-House Debates to represent Lucas House, despite never having debated before. Despite the topic being a prime example of sophistry, "The Potato is nobler than the Grape," I thank my lucky stars for whatever words I may have uttered, as it earned me a standing ovation, loud cheers, and a large packet of Snickers. Quite a *lekker* experience, I must say.

Beyond the classroom, I had the privilege of

discovering the wonders of South Africa and of Hilton. Each "adventure" I embarked on only further contributed to breaking my preconceived notions and broadening my horizons. Whether it was ziplining through the majestic Drakensberg Mountain Range, howling under the influence of adrenaline, or strolling along the pristine beaches of Durban, only to get seasick along with my friends on a boat and further be blessed with the sight of a majestic herd of dolphins, each place has left an indelible mark on my mind.

To that end, the social aspect of Hilton was definitely a lesson to learn from. In stark comparison to the life of a Dosco, the average Hiltonian, and I as a temporary one, were immersed in social gatherings and events that celebrated the rich tapestry of identities present at Hilton College. The DoscOs were blessed with the opportunity to immerse themselves in events considered uncharted territory up until then: cultural nights, a pseudo candlelight dinner with the ladies of St. Anne's, and a "tumultuous" break from everyday life with the students of Michaelhouse (the eternal rival of Hilton) in Nambiti, where we went on safari tours in temperatures much akin to the bleak winters here. But these are just a few examples of what we were exposed to, and sharing these experiences while enjoying casual conversations during tea will remain etched in my memory; for these experiences provided me with a unique opportunity to forge connections with individuals who shared their very own stories, traditions, and values. And what remains undocumented, I, as the writer, leave it to the audience's imagination.

The Week Gone By

Vinesh Uniyal

I'm increasingly convinced that the average Dosco would have had plenty of time during the vacation to recollect his thoughts and dwell on the future ahead. And perhaps that's why the 'intellectual' train of thought of an average Dosco on returning to School was perhaps, "I need a damn umbrella"; "Why do we have to wear these taxi driver uniforms"; "What happened to the pantry?"; "What is the minimum entry requirement to go for Socials?", and my favourite, "What happens if I "accidentally" divert the trajectory of a hockey stick onto a CCTV camera? (If you ever thought of the last one, justice will be served.)

Of course, I may be completely wrong, and the average Dosco might have successfully reached enlightenment, but regardless it truly feels great to be back on our lush green campus, where time always seems to be fleeting.

Though the incessant rains might seem dull sometimes, it hasn't yet deterred the Main Field from coming to life once again, as the Football Season kicked off with muddy boots, muscle cramps, and the harmonious groans of the School Team under NTC's infamous regime.

But the most important event of this week was the Headmaster's Assembly, which will perhaps set the tone for not only the rest of our Autumn term but also the School's foreseeable future.

It first introduced some new members to our family here at Chandbagh; we, on the Board, wish them a fruitful tenure too! More

importantly, however, it highlighted a shift in the way School will function, prompting the prioritisation of academics after an unexpected academic result. And though the decision was arguably necessary, the sudden nature of it all has impacted the Batch of '24 more than most, as some were left disillusioned. But fret not, for this is all just a means to prove that you were always capable of the greatest academic comeback in history (albeit one delayed by your own laziness).

But, let's cast aside any dreary thoughts, at least for the time being, as this term is certain to be an action-packed and long one with plenty of events in store. So be excited, wear a smile, and remember that one will have to carry the boats and the logs.

Wordsearch | Film Directors

Clues:

1. This director is known for his practical use of visual effects and never makes his movies in 3D.
2. This director directed *Reservoir Dog* and *Death Proof* and is known for his unique storytelling and love for action.
3. This director made history, becoming the first non-English film director to win the Best Picture Oscar.
4. With a career spanning decades, this legendary director is known for working with Leonardo DiCaprio on several hit movies.
5. Responsible for bringing some of the most iconic superheroes to life on the big screen, these brothers share the same last name.
6. Rejected by film school, this director is one of the greatest of all times, known for movies such as *Jurassic Park*.
7. With a passion for creating intense, action-packed films, this director brought us *The Martian*.
8. This is the only director to have three films gross over 1.5 billion dollars.

A L B Z N O R V C C C U P B E M A J Y B
 N E T F C O U F C P Q E L O C G Q T C F
 I O A T N I S D A Z K A C N Y J C B W Z
 L H L U O P B K T V V V O G Q C D X M B
 Z K T A I C O P C M V Y S J B U F K M A
 B L N F N X S V B A J S S O P U K N E W
 G T M E S H N Y S I J X U O Q E T U E K
 J S L E M B B Q E L W Z R N L J P T W F
 O N I T N A R A T L D B W H N Y Q V V R
 M L X M X L S V Q F D Y O O I W Q T E Y
 B D H X E U Z P Z G F I H A E R B H F K
 S O Y P X S I E G N L V R T E M C A S S
 Y R M U L C A M E R O N Y A N N U U J
 U R W L W X E S D S T L K P I J M W C E
 K C U I O Q E G F H H M N F R J S K Y O
 F D G O K S T E V E N S P I E L B E R G
 M N S E R E H N R T L W R V G O R W G C
 F W D O V A E H O G F T B M Y F X G L Z
 A H C A W K U T I I O X E D R B Y I G O
 J S S C G T T F X A G Y C F S V N T Z N

1. Nolan
 2. Tarantino
 3. Bong
 4. Scorsese
 5. Russo
 6. Steven
 7. Ridley Scott
 8. Cameron
 9. Spielberg
 10. John Ho

Answers to this week's wordsearch:

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